

DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)

Date: 30th October, 2024

1. PM rolls out health cover for persons aged 70 and above

#GS 3 - Health



- In a major expansion of the Union government's flagship scheme, the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced that health coverage under the scheme will now be available to all senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of their income.
- The scheme was introduced to “overcome the despair of the poor when illness strikes”, Mr. Modi said, noting that the government bears the cost of

hospitalisation for beneficiaries up to ₹5 lakh.

- “With the expansion now, every elderly person above 70 years of age in the country will get free treatment in the hospital with the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card. With an Ayushman Vaya Vandana card for the elderly in the house, the out-of-pocket expenditure will be reduced to a great extent,” he said.
- Mr. Modi also launched other health sector projects worth around ₹12,850 crore on the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti and the ninth Ayurveda Day, at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).
- Ayurveda Diwas is being celebrated in more than 150 countries today, Mr. Modi said, offering this as proof of the growing attraction of Ayurveda.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for projects worth more than ₹13,000 crore, including the creation of four centres of excellence under the Ayush Health scheme, expansion of health services with the use of drones, helicopter services at AIIMS,

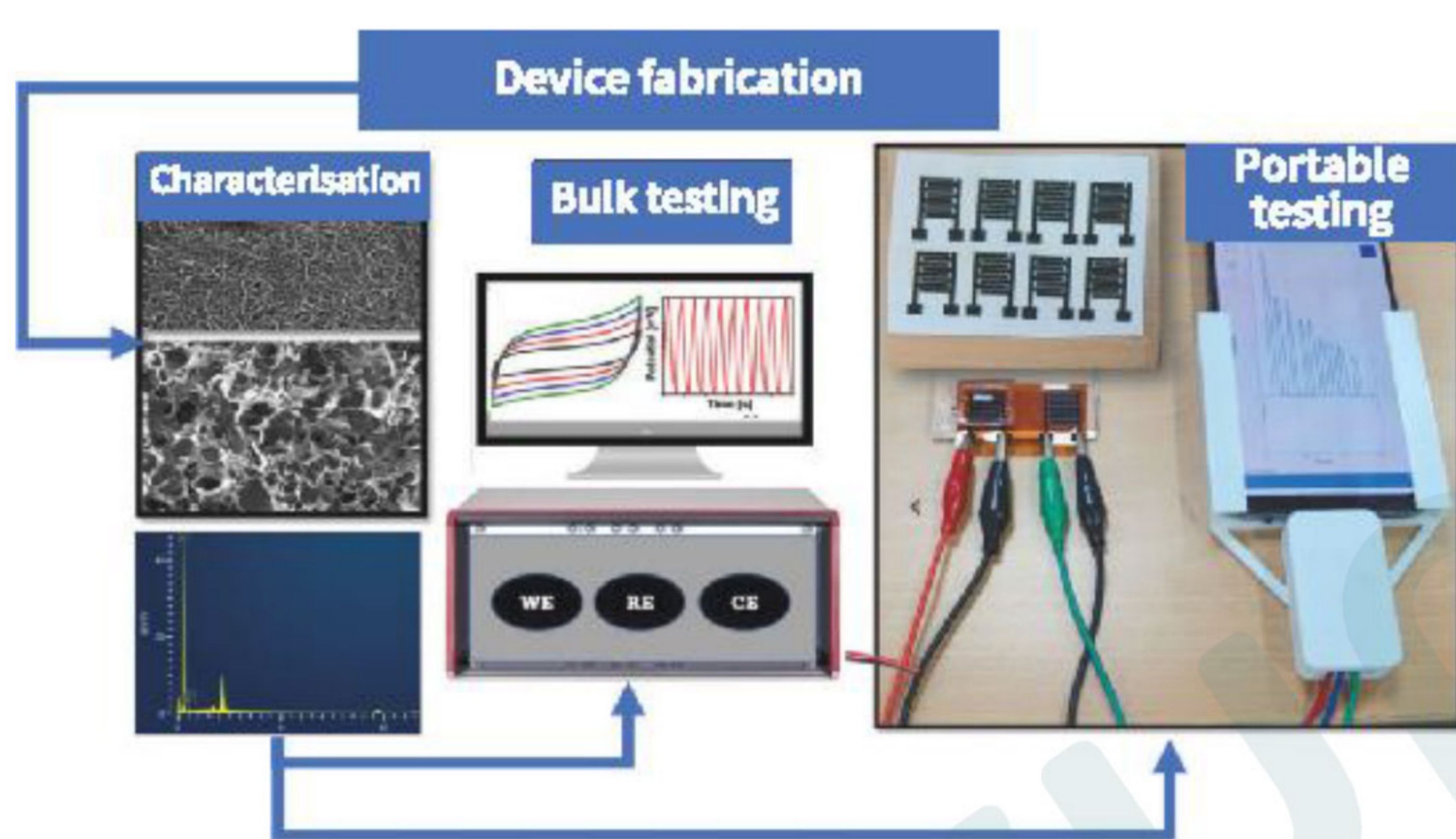
DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)

Rishikesh, new infrastructure at AIIMS, New Delhi and AIIMS, Bilaspur, expansion of services in five other AIIMS in the country, establishment of medical colleges, the launch of nursing colleges, and other projects related to the health sector.

- Mr. Modi inaugurated the second phase of India's first All India Institute of Ayurveda, and three medical colleges at Mandsaur, Neemuch and Seoni in Madhya Pradesh, and laid the foundation stones for five nursing colleges, and 21 critical care blocks.

2. Graphene supercapacitors fuel next-gen wearables

#GS 3 – Science & Technology



- Flexible and wearable electronics are being touted as the next generation technology, showing a wide variety of uses including diagnostics. But, researchers say these devices will reach their full potential only when the energy systems powering them are just as adaptable.
- The future of wearable and portable devices depends on energy storage that can bend, stretch, and conform without limits. In this context, the potential of graphene-based supercapacitors is attracting attention from major tech hubs worldwide.
- Key applications for such devices are for portable, miniaturised energy storage for wearables, medical implants, environmental sensors, consumer applications, and low-power electronics.

- “Graphene supercapacitors could become a cornerstone in the future of sustainable energy storage as demand for greener and faster energy solutions grows.”
- The research team, developed an energy storage solution using flexible, laser-induced nanographene supercapacitors, poised to revolutionise low-power applications.
- Using laser engraving techniques, the research team fabricated supercapacitors on flexible substrates or underlying surface like ‘polyamide’ (LIG or laser induced graphene) and paper substrate (‘LrGO’ or laser induced graphene dioxide).
- These materials offer significant advantages: LIG exhibits a highly porous structure, ideal for ion transport, while paper-based LrGO is recyclable and environmentally friendly, he says. The supercapacitors have demonstrated remarkable electrochemical performance, with those made from polyamide showing superior capacitance and energy density compared to those made from paper. They also exhibited behaviour characteristic of Electrical

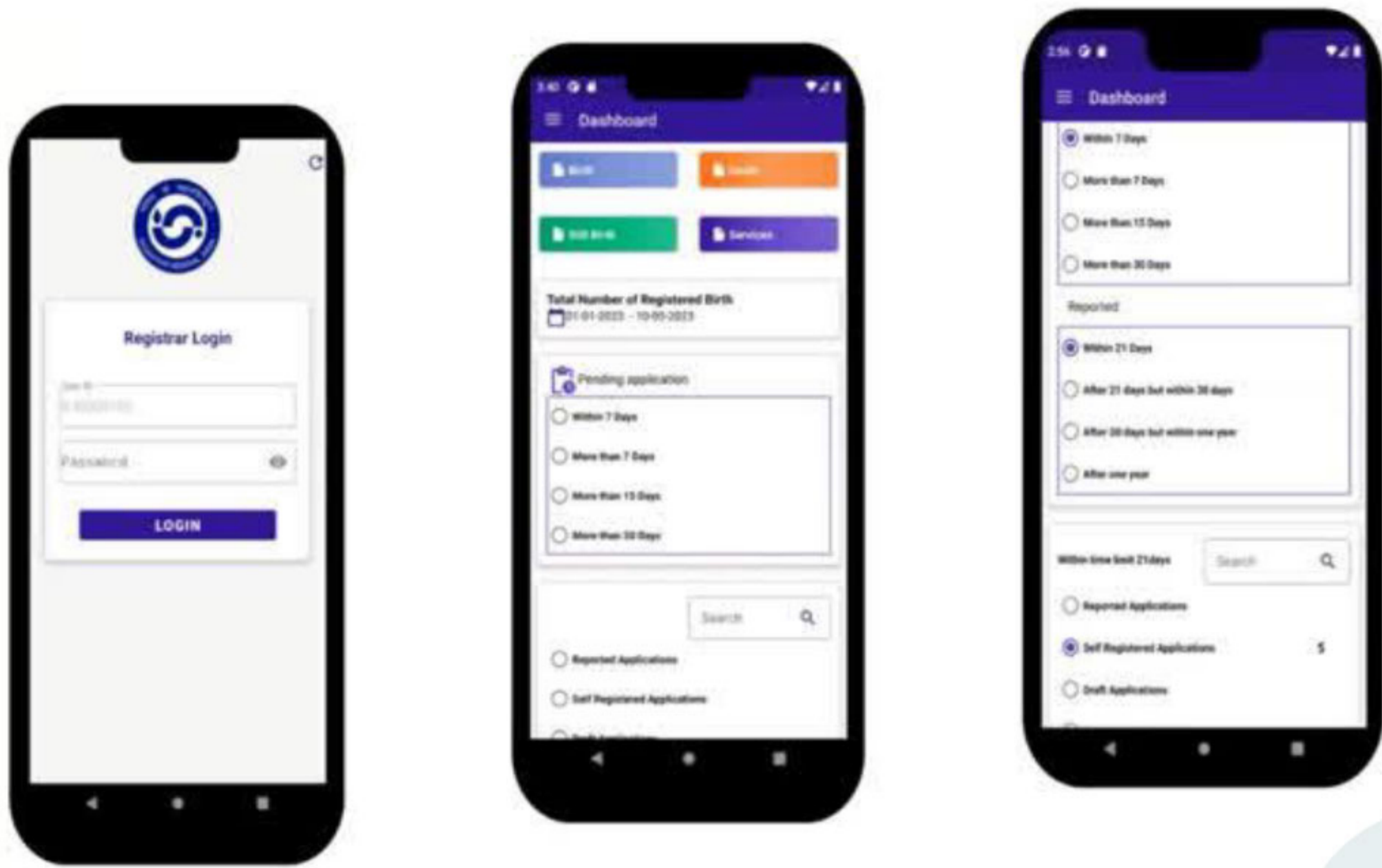
DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)

Double-Layer Capacitors. Graphene supercapacitors are expected to experience rapid growth, driven by increasing investments in renewable

energy and electric mobility apart from the flexible electronics market. Material properties of both were examined using electron microscopy and spectroscopy.

3. Shah unveils mobile app for birth and death registration

#GS 2 -Governance



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched the Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application to “integrate technology with governance”.
- Mr. Shah said the application would make registration of births and deaths seamless and hassle-free by allowing citizens to register at any time, from any place, and in their State’s official language.
- “It will significantly reduce the time required for registration,” said.

- According to the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, all reported births and deaths in the country occurring from October 1, 2023, are to be digitally registered through the Centre’s portal dc.crsorgi.gov.in.
- The digital birth certificates will be a single document to prove the date of birth for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs and marriage registration.
- The centralised database will also help update the National Population Register (NPR), ration cards, property registration and electoral rolls.
- Data for the NPR, first collected in 2010 and updated in 2015 through door-to-door enumeration, already includes information on 119 crore residents. NPR is the first step to the creation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), as per the Citizenship Act.

4. General Electric may deliver engines for LCA by March or April; India invokes penalty clause

#GS 3 - Science & Technology



- After several delays, the F-404 jet engines, meant to power the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A, are expected to be delivered by the U.S. engine manufacturer General Electric (GE) by March or April 2025, according to sources in the know. The contractual obligations in terms of penalty for

DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)

delayed deliveries have been invoked, sources have said.

- The deal is between the GE and the defence public sector undertaking Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL). However, sources said there were no politics involved, and termed the delay in deliveries a “pure logistical issue”.
- In February 2021, the Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000-crore deal with the HAL for 83 LCA-Mk1A, a more capable fighter than the current LCA-Mk1 in service. Following this, in August 2021, the HAL signed a \$716-million deal with GE Aviation for 99 F-404 aircraft engines and support services for the LCA-Mk1A.
- As per contract, three jets were to be delivered to the IAF in February 2024 and 16 aircraft per year for subsequent five years.
- “The GE issue is purely logistical. There are no politics involved,” the first source said, saying that GE has supply chain issues with the engines and they are now trying that up to restart regular production.

- There are two engines available with GE for now that are being given to India, sources said. They will be used to deliver two jets to the Indian Air Force (IAF) while regular deliveries are awaited.
- The engines are now expected by March or April next year, which is a two-year delay from the contractual terms.
- A source said that contractual terms will have to be implemented. High-value defence contracts typically have a penalty clause for delays or violations. Another source confirmed that the penalty clause in the deal has been invoked.
- The Security of Supply Arrangement (SoSA) that India and the U.S. concluded recently enables this kind of cooperation.
- In addition to the 83 Mk1A aircraft on order, the Defence Ministry has given approval for procurement of another 97 of them.
- This would eventually make 180 LCA-Mk1A jets and 220 jets of the MK1 variant.
- The combined cost of the 180 Mk1As is an estimated at ₹1.15-lakh crore.

5. Rajnath flags off Sagarmala Parikrama to Thoothukudi

#GS 3 -Defence



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday virtually flagged off the Sagarmala Parikrama, a 1,500-km passage by an autonomous surface vessel

manufactured by Sagar Defence Engineering, from Mumbai to Thoothukudi.

- The vessel's journey, unveiled at Swavlamban, the annual event of the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIO), is an important technology demonstration especially as the Indian Navy looks to induct autonomous surface and underwater vessels in large numbers.
- The Minister formally unveiled the third edition of Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX

DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)

(ADITI 3.0) challenge and 13th edition of Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC 13) aimed to advance indigenous defence technologies and operational efficiencies.

- ADITI 3.0 features a challenge from the Navy to design a high-power microwave weapon system. DISC 13 presents seven challenges – three from the Army and two each from Navy and Air Force – in the domains of AI, military communication and autonomous bots among others.
- Navy chief reiterated that the Navy has resolved to become a “fully aatmanirbhar force” by 2047. “I am delighted to share that through constant conversation and

collaborative efforts of Defence Innovation Organisation and NIIO, 173 challenges presented to industry by the Navy, including all the 75 challenges launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi... have been converted into pragmatic solutions and positive outcomes,” he said.

- This, the Navy chief said, has resulted in fructification of more than 2,000 proposals, with an outlay of over ₹2,000 crore and conclusion of 171 contracts for an excess of ₹700 crore towards development of “swadeshi solutions” many of them being “global firsts, game changers and technologically futuristic”.

6. India granted long-term visas to 145 Pakistanis in Sept.

#GS 2 -International Relations



- The Union Home Ministry granted long-term visas to 145 Pakistanis in September, a senior government official has said.
- Long-term visas are typically granted to citizens of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who enter India on short-term visas, in a bid to acquire Indian citizenship. The majority of applicants for such visas are Pakistani Hindus, although the members of six non-Muslim communities – Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists,

Jains, Parsis and Christians – from the three neighbouring nations are eligible for five-year long-term visas.

- According to the Citizenship Act, 1955, one of the conditions to acquire citizenship by naturalisation is that the applicant should have lived in India for at least 11 years, including a continuous stay during the last 12 months before applying for citizenship.
- According to Seemant Lok Sangathan, a group that advocates for the rights of Pakistani minority migrants in India, nearly 500 Hindus have arrived in India on short-term visas in the past six months.
- The organisation has demanded the resumption of services of the Thar Express, the rail link between Jodhpur and Karachi. It was suspended by Pakistan in 2019 following the revocation

DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)

of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

- “The rail link should be restored as most Pakistani Hindus who arrive in Rajasthan live in Sindh province, across the border,” said SLS president Hindu Singh

Sodha. “Since only the Attari-Wagah immigration post is operational, people from Sindh have to travel all the way to Punjab. This involves money and time, and those who come here are from economically weaker sections.”

7. Maithili missed out on classical status as proposal did not come from Bihar govt.

#GS 1 -Art & Culture



- While five languages were accorded the classical status earlier this month, Maithili missed out as the Bihar government had not forwarded the proposal officially.
- The recommendation according classical status for a language is made by the Linguistics Expert Committee, which comprises representatives of the Union Ministries of Home and Culture and four or five linguistic experts at any given time. The panel is chaired by the president of the Sahitya Akademi. The recommendation then has to be approved by the Union Cabinet following which a Gazette notification is issued.
- Sources in the committee told The Hindu that the proposal for Maithili had been forwarded by the Patna-based Maithili Sahitya Sansthan, but the same had not been forwarded to the Home Ministry by

the Bihar government, which is the official procedure. Thus, though the 300-page proposal for Maithili was discussed at the meeting of the committee, it could not be considered due to this technicality.

- By the 2011 Census, there were approximately 12 million Maithili speakers in India. Maithili was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as a recognised Indian language in 2003. It is included as an optional paper in the UPSC exam. In March 2018, Maithili received the second official language status in Jharkhand. Besides, Jharkhand and Bihar, it is the second most spoken language in Nepal.
- “Conservation and promotion of the Maithili language has been my top priority from the beginning. Due to my efforts, the expert committee of Maithili scholars constituted by the Central government made 11 recommendations in its report, which was completed on August 31, 2018. The first recommendation was — the Maithili language is about 1,300 years old, and its literature has been developing independently and continuously.

DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)

Therefore, it should be placed in the category of classical language,” he said.

- Among the five languages given classical status on October 3, the proposals for

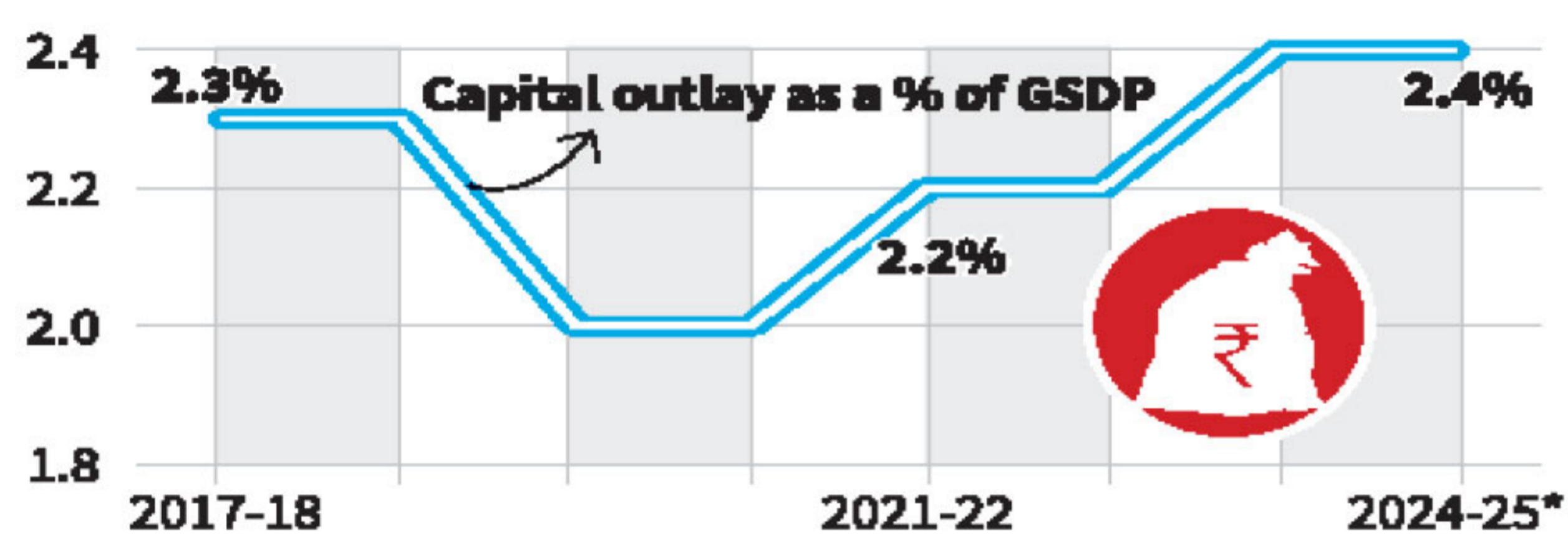
Assamese and Bengali had come from the respective State governments as had been the case for Marathi which has been pending since 2014.

8. Despite a slow start, States' capex likely to rise further this year

#GS 3 -Economic Development

Multiplier effects

Despite a slow start on public capex this year, 18 major States are expected to clock 7%-9% growth in capital spends with an outlay of ₹7.2 lakh crore, as per Crisil Ratings



States include: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand and Goa

*P: Projection

Source: State budgets, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India & CRISIL Ratings

- Capital expenditure by States, a key driver of India's economic growth in recent times, may have started on the backfoot in 2024-25 with the general elections taking up the first quarter, and States' capex dropping 7% from last year by August, but those spends may pick up steam in the coming months, rating agencies reckon.
- This positive prognosis is significant as the Finance Ministry in a review of the economy late September had identified lower capex spends by States as one of the 'incipient signs of strains in certain sectors', along with other cooling signals for the economy like the drop in passenger vehicle sales in the first few months of the year.
- In a report, Crisil Ratings said it expects the capex outlays of India's top 18 States that account for about 94% of the capital spending done by State governments, to

rise in the range of 7% to 9% and hit ₹7.2 lakh crore, compared with ₹6.7 lakh crore in 2023-24.

- Rating firm ICRA also recently said it expects the combined capital spending of 13 major States to rise 13% to ₹6.5 lakh crore this year, though that would be slightly lower than these States' ₹7.2 lakh crore Budget estimate for capex.
- ICRA economists attributed this to a dull start to capex in the initial months of 2024-25 and an anticipated undershooting in States' revenues. However, of the 13 States they analysed, ICRA expects Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to have enough fiscal space to meet their budgeted capex plans, said the firm's chief economist.
- CRISIL Ratings senior director expects a 7-9% growth in capital outlays, which translates to States achieving about 90% of their budgeted target this fiscal. "Though similar to last fiscal, it will be higher than the levels of 82%-84% achieved between FY2018 and FY2023," he pointed out.
- Mr. Sethi said their expectations of a pickup in the capital outlays for the remainder of this fiscal, were also backed by the evidence "from a step-up in States' borrowings, which have already surged

DAILY NEWS SNIPPETS (DNS)

about 26% year-on-year in the second quarter [July to September] after a 15% year-on-year decline in the first quarter”.

- These 18 States’ capital outlay as a share of their gross state domestic product

(GSDP) is projected at 2.4% this year, the same as 2023-24 when their capex grew 27%. Growth will vary across States, and a slowdown in economic activity or higher revenue spending would impact these estimates, Crisil underlined.

9. Classical Languages

#GS 1 -Art & Culture

Sl. No.	Languages	Year of Declaration
1.	Tamil	2004
2.	Sanskrit	2005
3.	Telugu	2008
4.	Kannada	2008
5.	Malayalam	2013
6.	Odia	2014

- Currently there are six languages that enjoy the ‘Classical’ status in India:
- Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).
- All the Classical Languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- The Ministry of Culture provides the guidelines regarding Classical languages.

- Guidelines for declaring a language as ‘Classical’ are:
- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
- The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community;
- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.