

1. Who Will Find the Next Dalai Lama? Role of the Gaden Phodrang Trust Explained

Introduction

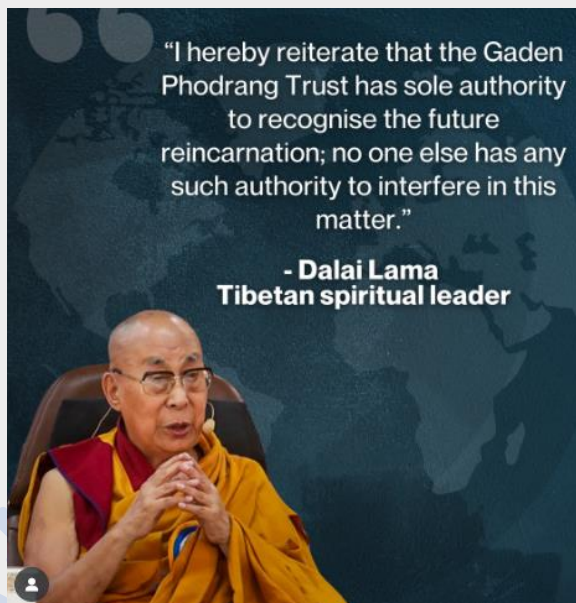
As the 14th Dalai Lama approaches his 90th birthday, he has reaffirmed that the Gaden Phodrang Trust will be the sole authority to recognize his reincarnation — the future 15th Dalai Lama. This declaration reasserts a 2011 statement and emphasizes that no outside body, including governments, can interfere in the selection process.

What is the Gaden Phodrang Trust?

- **Name origin:** "Gaden Phodrang" originally referred to the residence of the Dalai Lamas at Drepung Monastery in Lhasa, Tibet.

Key Facts About the Trust

- Established in 2011 in Dharamshala, India.
- It is a registered body and functions from the Dalai Lama's office.
- Headed by the Dalai Lama himself and managed by Prof Samdhong Rinpoche, a former Tibetan Prime Minister in exile and a senior monk.
- Its main mandate is to recognize the next Dalai Lama based on Tibetan Buddhist tradition.



Why This Matters

This announcement challenges China's claim that it must approve the Dalai Lama's successor and reinforces that the decision lies solely within the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, through the Gaden Phodrang Trust.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Issues

Source: Indian Express

2. Punjab's Land Pooling Policy: Goals, Benefits, and Controversy

What Is the Land Pooling Policy?

The Punjab Land Pooling Policy, 2025 is a government initiative to acquire over 40,000 acres of farmland for planned housing and urban development. Unlike traditional land acquisition where land is bought with compensation, this model is voluntary and aims to include landowners as stakeholders in future development.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the policy is designed to:

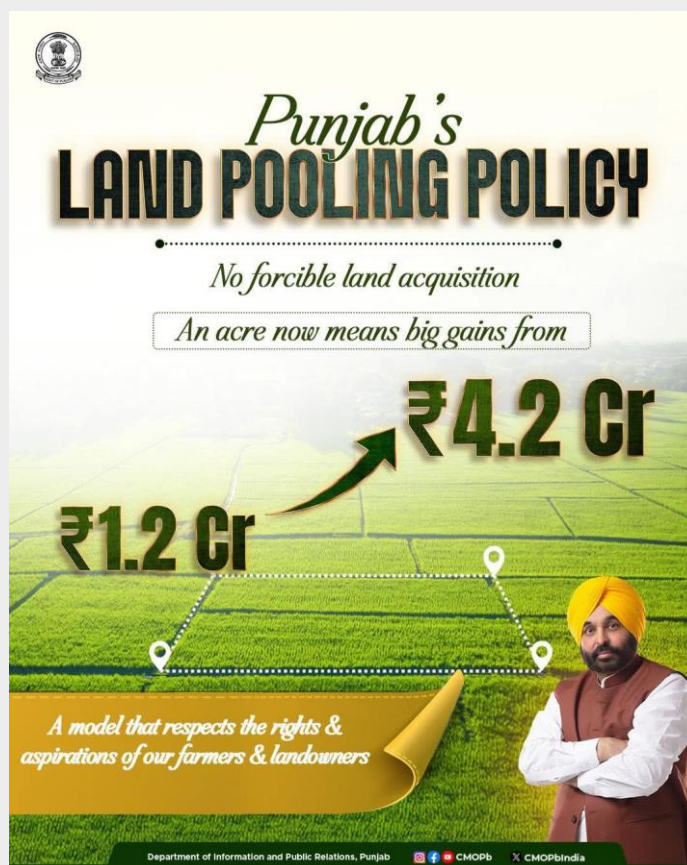
- Curb illegal colonies and unplanned urban growth
- Offer landowners a share in developed land, not just cash

What Do Landowners Get?

- For every 1 acre pooled:
 - 1,000 sq yards residential plot
 - 200 sq yards commercial plot
- For every 9 acres:
 - 3 acres of developed group housing land
- For 50 acres pooled:
 - 30 acres of developed land

Why Is the Government Doing This?

- To avoid lengthy legal delays tied to forced land acquisition
- To raise an estimated ₹20,000–25,000 crore for the cash-strapped state
- Likely to fund pre-election promises, such as a ₹1,000 monthly payment to all women
- With elections due in March 2027, the government has limited time to show results



Criticism and Protests

Despite being called “voluntary,” the policy has triggered farmer protests and political backlash:

- Experts warn of loss of fertile farmland and 1.5 lakh tons of paddy annually
- Critics argue the policy lacks compensation and resettlement safeguards found in the 2013 Central Land Acquisition Act

In Summary

While the Punjab government promotes land pooling as a tool for planned development and economic revival, critics fear it will lead to agricultural loss, exploitation of farmers, and private profiteering.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: Indian Express

3. INS Tamal Commissioned: India's Last Imported Warship and a Milestone in Naval Self-Reliance

What Is INS Tamal?

INS Tamal is a Talwar-class multirole frigate built in Kaliningrad, Russia, and commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 2025. It is likely to be the last foreign-built warship inducted by India, as the Navy shifts fully to indigenous shipbuilding.

Why INS Tamal Is Significant



INS Tamal commissioned in Kaliningrad, *marks end of foreign built Indian Navy warships*

- Marks the end of India's dependence on imported warships
- Contains 26% Indian-made components, showing partial localisation
- Predecessor INS Tushil was also built in Russia
- The final two ships in this series (Triput and Tavasya) are being built in Goa Shipyard Limited, using Russian designs with Indian manufacturing

The Current Picture

- Most current warships have 75% or more Indian components
- Between 2011–21:
 - 40 warships added, 33 built in India
- As of 2021:
 - 37 of 39 ships on order were Indian-made
- INS Tamal and Tushil are the only recent imports

Conclusion

INS Tamal symbolizes both an end and a new beginning: the last of imported warships, and a bold step into an era where India builds its own navy — in design, parts, and production.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Science & Technology

Source: The Hindu

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