

ANANYA SAADHANA

COMPREHENSIVE **CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH** MONTHLY MAGAZINE

ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS IN

KAS, FDA/SDA/PDO/GROUP C,
PSI/PC, TEACHER'S EXAMS

IMPORTANT TOPICS

- ◆ **US-Israel-Iran War**
- ◆ **Missile Defence Systems**
- ◆ **Paid Menstrual Leave May Hurt Women's Careers: SC**
- ◆ **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**
- ◆ **India's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity**
- ◆ **Karnataka & Andhra to Ban Social Media Use by Children**
- ◆ **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026**
- ◆ **Jnanpith Award**



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EDITOR'S PAGE



What began in June 2013 as a small Daily Answer Writing Challenge soon grew into the Secure Initiative – connecting aspirants worldwide to learn and improve together. Over time, Insights IAS has become a trusted friend and guide for lakhs of UPSC aspirants, helping thousands achieve success. Your feedback, support, and trust have shaped our journey.

As we continue to evolve, our goal remains the same – to simplify your preparation, remove distractions, and help you give your best effort with confidence and clarity.

That's what matters most to us – your growth and satisfaction.

**Best Regards,
Vinay Kumar GB
Founder & Director, Insights IAS**



To the future administrators of Karnataka,

Success in KPSC and other state exams demands more than facts—it requires a Karnataka-centric mindset: understanding how state schemes shape districts, how budgets affect people, and how heritage connects to progress.

Ananya Sadhana is your focused companion in this journey—delivering analytical, state-specific content to strengthen your preparation for Prelims, Mains, and Interview. Your goal isn't just to clear an exam, but to help build Karnataka's future.

Let's shape a prosperous Karnataka, together.

**Best Regards,
Sharath Kumar S
Managing Director, Insights IAS | Insta KAS**

SOURCES



ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

The magazine is a must-read for competitive exam aspirants of KAS, FDA/SDA, PSI/PC, Group C, PDO, Teacher Recruitment & Asst Prof Exams. It provides a 360-degree overview, covering both the current and the static part of the topics.

This magazine has been divided into two main parts. The first part consists of the analysis of the current affairs topics and associated information. The topics have been divided into different sections like Polity and Governance, Economy, Science and Technology etc for focussed approach.

The second part consists of fact oriented current affairs which is useful for all exams. This will act as a ready reckoner for most important facts.

The USP of the book is presentation of information in crisp format. Efforts have been made by the team to provide information in a very precise way.

The content of this magazine has been taken from various sources as listed above. Team Ananya Saadhana has made all efforts to verify the information published in various sources. If you come across any mistakes in the information provided, please inform us at 080 69 405 206.

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TOP CURRENT AFFAIR

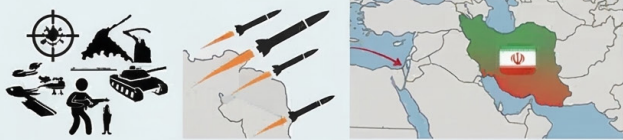
1. US-Israel-Iran War

US-ISRAEL-IRAN WAR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CONTEXT

- Following the launch of Operation Epic Fury (U.S.) and Operation Roaring Lion (Israel), the geopolitical landscape has shifted fundamentally with the confirmed death of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.
- Iran retaliated through Operation True Promise 4, launching missile attacks against Israel and nearby Gulf states.



- Iran retaliated with missile and drone attacks on U.S. facilities in Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, and Jordan.



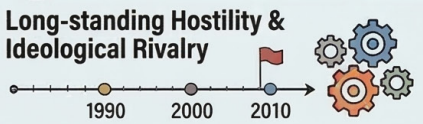
- Iran has effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz through threats and strikes on tankers, reducing shipping traffic by 70% and risking global oil supply disruptions.



BACKGROUND OF THE CURRENT ESCALATION

Long-standing Hostility & Ideological Rivalry

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the U.S. and Iran have been locked in a "Cold War" posture. This relationship has been defined by severe economic sanctions, the labeling of Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism.



Collapse of the Nuclear Deal (JCPOA)

The withdrawal of the U.S. from the 2015 Nuclear Deal in 2018 triggered a "maximum" campaign. Iran responded by gradually breaching enrichment limits, leading the U.S. and Israel to view a nuclear-armed Iran an imminent existential threat that could no longer be contained by diplomacy alone.



The "Gray Zone" and Proxy Warfare

For years, the conflict was fought in the shadows via proxies.

Iran's support for the "Axis of Resistance" (Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis) expanded its influence across Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.



GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS

Energy Shock & Inflation:

- Oil prices likely to surge beyond sustainable levels. (on inflation)
- Higher transportation and insurance premiums.
- Risk of global stagflation (slow growth + high inflation)



Global Supply Chain Disruption:

Oil, LNG, fertilizers, petrochemicals affected. Shipping rerouted via longer routes which led to increased freight costs.



China & Russia Factor:

China is the largest buyer of Iranian oil. Russia may benefit from high oil prices.

IMPACT ON INDIA



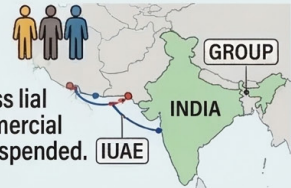
1. Energy Inflation:

As India imports 85% of its crude, the "war surcharge" on shipping and rising oil prices are putting immense pressure on the rupee.



2. Diaspora Safety:

With 8-9 million Indians in the Gulf, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has met to discuss liai large-scale evacuations as commercial flights to the region are being suspended.



3. Trade Disruptions:

Exports of agricultural goods and imports of essential fertilizers are currently at risk due to maritime insecurity.



4. Strategic Connectivity:

Chabahar Port (Iran) for Central Asia access; I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA grouping); IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Corridor); Gulf partnerships (UAE, Saudi Arabia), and Israel relations.



2. West Asia (Middle East)

West Asia (Middle East)

It is a subregion of Asia that is bordered by Europe to the west, Central Asia to the north, South Asia to the east, and Africa and the Arabian sea to the south.



Countries Included in the Region

- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Iran, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Reasons for Strategic Vitality

-  **Energy resources** (oil & gas reserves);
-  **Chokepoints:** Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, Suez Canal;
-  **Religious significance** (Jerusalem, Mecca, Medina);
-  **Geo-strategic location** linking Asia, Africa, and Europe;
-  **Major external power involvement** (US, Russia, China);
-  The region is currently undergoing **structural transformation** marked by power realignments, proxy wars, and strategic competition.

Important Maps and Key Features



Focus: Strait of Hormuz

- **Location** - The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran to the north and Oman and the United Arab Emirates to the south, linking the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. At its narrowest point it is about 33 kilometres wide, with shipping lanes just a few kilometres across in either direction.



- **Significance**- Nearly half of India's crude oil and around 60 per cent of its natural gas imports pass through the strait.



3. Missile Defence Systems

Missile Defence Systems

Context



The renewed hostilities between the United States-led coalition (including Israel and United Arab Emirates) and Iran have tested a newly integrated regional air and missile defence network in West Asia.



Missile defence system -

It is a sophisticated, multi-layered architecture designed to detect, track, and destroy incoming ballistic and cruise missiles.



India's Missile Defence Architecture

Multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system under DRDO:



The **Prithvi Air Defence (PAD)** interceptor is designed for exo-atmospheric interception to intercept incoming missiles at altitudes of 50 km to 180 km.



The **Advanced Air Defence (AAD)** interceptor is intended for endo-atmospheric interception during the terminal phase to neutralise threats within the Earth's atmosphere at altitudes up to 30 km.



Layered Air Defence Shield:



• **S-400 Triumf** is a highly advanced, mobile, Russian-developed surface-to-air missile (SAM) system inducted by India to enhance long-range air defence capability.



• **Medium-Range (70-100 km):** The Barak-8 (**MRSAM/LRSAM**), co-developed with Israel, provides **360-degree protection** for both land and naval assets.



• **Short-Range (25-50 km):** The indigenous **Akash system** and Israel's **SPYDER** protect strategic points and mobile army units.

Mission Sudarshan Chakra: Announced as a comprehensive vision for 2035, **Mission Sudarshan Chakra** aims to create an all-encompassing, AI-enabled national shield.



Key Air-Defence Systems of other countries

| Country/Region | Key Systems |
|--|--|
|  Russia | S-400 Triumph, S-300VM, S-350 Vityaz, S-500 Prometheus |
|  USA | THAAD, Patriot (PAC-3 MSE), Golden Dome (in development) |
|  Israel | Iron Dome, David's Sling, Iron Beam |
|  China | HQ-9, HQ-22, HQ-16 |
|  European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI) | Skyranger, IRIS-T SLM |

4. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)



The Iranian frigate **IRIS Dena** was reportedly sunk off the south-western coast of Sri Lanka after a torpedo strike by a United States Navy submarine.



INTRODUCTION







It is a comprehensive international treaty that establishes the legal framework for governance of oceans and seas.



Adopted in 1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica and entered into force in 1994.

UNCLOS DEFINES

1. Maritime boundaries of coastal states 
2. Rights and duties of states in maritime zones 
3. Rules for navigation, resource exploitation, and environmental protection  



Because of its extensive scope, it is commonly referred to as the **"Constitution of the Oceans."**

MEMBERSHIP



168 parties, including the **European Union**.

Countries such as **India, Japan, and China** are parties.

Note The United States has signed but not ratified the convention.



Territorial Sea:



Extends up to **12 nautical miles** from a coastal state's baseline. The coastal state has full sovereignty over these waters. Foreign ships enjoy the right of innocent passage.



Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):



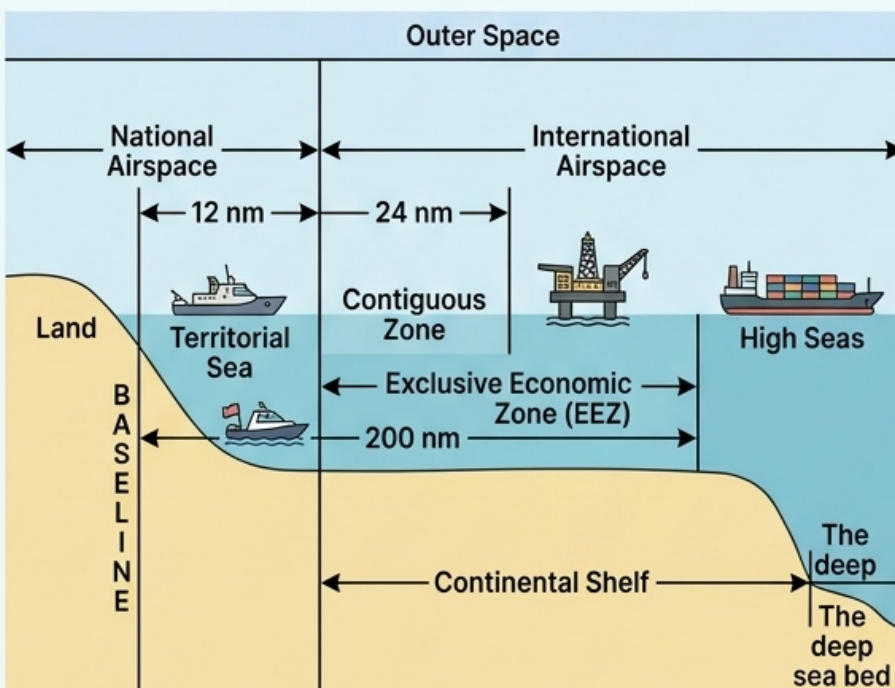
Extends up to **200 nautical miles**. The coastal state has exclusive rights over natural resources. However, other states retain freedom of navigation and overflight.



High Seas (International Waters):



Areas beyond the EEZ of any state. No country has sovereignty over them. Governed by international and UNCLOS principles.



5. India's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

India's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Environment

Context



India has submitted its **7th National Report** to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, assessing national progress toward biodiversity targets for 2030.

- The report evaluates India's performance against **23 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs)** aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).



Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** entered into force on **29 December 1993**.

The first session of the COP was scheduled in **1994** in the Bahamas.

Secretariat: Montreal, Canada.

Ratification: The CBD has been ratified by **196 nations**, making it one of the most widely adopted international treaties.



Note The **United States** is the only UN member state that has not ratified the convention.

It has **3 main objectives**;



1. The conservation of biological diversity



2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity



3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

- **Origin:** The Convention was opened for signature in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit).

- The governing body is the Conference of the Parties (COP), which meets every two years.

The **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** and the **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing** are supplementary agreements to the CBD.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was concluded at **COP15** of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, held in Montreal, Canada, in 2022.

It features **23 targets** to be met by **2030** and **four global goals** for **2050** to preserve biodiversity for current and future generations.

The agreement is **not binding** on members.

23 targets by 2030



4 global goals for 2050



Generations benefitting from a healthy planet



6. Karnataka & Andhra to Ban Social Media Use by Children

KARNATAKA & ANDHRA TO BAN SOCIAL MEDIA USE BY CHILDREN

- Karnataka has announced a ban on social media use by children under 16 in its latest Budget, and Andhra Pradesh is moving to introduce a measure that would prohibit those under 13 to use such service.
- **Objective** - to restrict social media access for minors to combat digital addiction and safeguard mental health.





State-Wise Proposed Restrictions

- **Karnataka:** The proposal aims to ban social media for children **under 16 years of age**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** to prohibit social media for children **under 13 years of age**,




Key Objectives and Context

- **Health and Safety:** The primary drivers are rising concerns over digital addiction, cyberbullying, and declining academic performance. 
- **Global Precedents:** These moves follow international trends, such as Australia's world-first nationwide ban for under-16s enacted in late 2025. 
- **Support Measures:** Karnataka has paired its proposal with the **"Mobile Bidi, Pustaka Hidi"** (Leave the phone, pick a book) campaign and plans to deploy mental health counselors in educational centers.

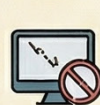



ABOUT - 'MOBILE BIDI PUSTAKA HIDI' (DROP THE MOBILE, PICK UP A BOOK)




- It is a statewide campaign launched by the Government of Karnataka in February 2026 
- **Objective** to combat mobile phone addiction and revive reading habits among schoolchildren.

Key Details of the Campaign




- **Primary Objective:** To reduce excessive screen time for children under 16 and encourage them to cultivate a love for physical books and libraries. 

50

- **Target Audience:** Approximately 50 lakh students across government, aided, and private schools in Karnataka. 



- **Implementation:** Overseen by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) and the Department of State Education Research and Training (DSERT). 



7. Paid Menstrual Leave May Hurt Women's Careers: SC



Context



The Supreme Court expressed apprehensions that a law making paid leave during menstrual pain compulsory may **damage the careers** of young women and deprive them of equal opportunities.



Menstrual Leave

- Menstrual leave refers to paid or unpaid leave granted to women during menstruation when they experience health issues such as:



Dysmenorrhea: painful menstrual cramps



Endometriosis: a disorder where tissue similar to uterine lining grows outside the uterus



Highlights of the SC Judgement



Such a move could create a psychological barrier among women that they are inferior to men as they can't work when they are menstruating.

The Court encouraged "voluntary" initiatives in this regard by States like Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala, which gives leave to students in State-run universities and institutions up to **60 days' leave** annually for menstrual pain.



Arguments in Favour of Paid Menstrual Leave

- **Promotes Gender-Sensitive Workplaces:** Recognises biological realities of women and promotes inclusivity and empathy in the workplace.



- **Aligns with Constitutional Principles:** Supports Article 42 of the Constitution of India, which directs the state to ensure just and humane conditions of work.



- **Improves Productivity and Well-being:** Allows women to rest during periods of pain or discomfort, leading to better overall performance and morale.



- **Health and Human Rights Perspective:** Upholds women's right to health, dignity, and bodily autonomy.



- **De-stigmatising Menstruation:** Recognising menstrual health in work-place policy can help break social taboos & promote gender equality.



- **Global Alignment:** Reflects global best practices, countries like Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Spain have similar policies.



8. Arguments Against Paid Menstrual Leave

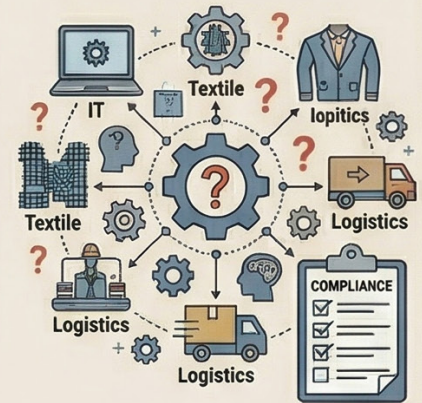
Arguments Against Paid Menstrual Leave



- **Risk of Workplace Discrimination:** Employers may become reluctant to hire or promote women, viewing them as less productive or more costly.



- **Informal Sector Dominance:** Nearly 88% of India's workforce is in the informal sector, where formal leave policies are largely absent.



- **Implementation Challenges in the Private Sector:** Ensuring compliance and monitoring across diverse industries could be difficult.

Existing Menstrual Leave Policies in India



- **No National Law:** India does not have a national law on menstrual leave, but some states have introduced policies.



- **Bihar Policy (1992):** Bihar was the first state to introduce menstrual leave (1992) for government employees.



- **Private Sector Voluntary Policies:** Some companies have introduced voluntary menstrual leave policies like Zomato, Swiggy.



Additional Information - Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy-2025



Women in the state of Karnataka will be entitled to up to **12 menstrual leaves** annually.



The **Dr. Sapna S committee** was appointed by the Karnataka government to study and recommend menstrual leave policy.

This development marks a significant step in **recognising menstrual health** at a workplace and rights issue.



Inclusive & Comprehensive: It aims to create a more inclusive and stigma-free workplace and is considered a landmark decision in India, as it covers both government private sectors comprehensively.

10. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026

The **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026** was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.

Major Highlights of the Bill



- The Bill aims to amend the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**.



- Definition of Transgender Person:** It seeks to narrow the definition of “**transgender person**” and clarifies that persons with different sexual orientations or self perceived sexual identities will not fall within the definition of transgender persons under the Act.



- Changes To Recognition Of Gender Identity:** The District Magistrate will issue a certificate of identity after examining the recommendation of a designated medical board headed by a Chief Medical Officer or Deputy Chief Medical Officer.

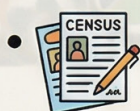


Additional Information - LGBTQIA+

LGBTQIA+ is an umbrella term for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual persons, with “+” representing other identities that are not specifically included in these letters.



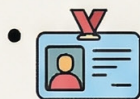
India's Position on LGBTQIA+ Rights



As per census 2011, there were 4.87 lakhs persons in India who opted for “**other**” in gender category.



Decriminalisation: Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018) decriminalised consensual homosexual acts (Section 377 partially struck down).



Transgender Rights: NALSA v. Union of India (2014) recognised the right to self-identify gender.



It recognises transgender as the “**third gender**” upholding their fundamental rights.



Constitutional Provisions: **Article 14** - Right to equality, **Article 15** - No discrimination on grounds of sex and **Article 21** - Right to life and personal liberty.



Legislation: The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) **Act, 2019** provides legal recognition of transgender identity.



11. Challenges Faced by the Transgenders

Challenges Faced by the Transgenders



- **Societal Issues:** Trans persons face deep-rooted societal prejudices, leading to ostracisation from families and communities.



- **Lack of Access to Education:** High school dropout rates due to bullying, harassment, and gender-based violence.



- **Barriers in Employment:** Trans persons face widespread discrimination in hiring and the **workplace**. Often forced into **informal, unsafe, and exploitative sectors, like begging or sex work**, due to lack of opportunities.



- **Healthcare Exclusion:** They face **lack of gender-affirmative healthcare, discrimination by medical staff, and unavailability of hormonal and surgical services in public hospitals**. High mental health burden due to **social rejection and isolation**.



- **Violence and Abuse:** Prone to verbal, physical, and sexual violence both in public and private spaces.



- **Political Underrepresentation:** Low political **visibility** and representation in mainstream parties and institutions. Lack of **policy-making participation** hinders the **articulation of their needs**.

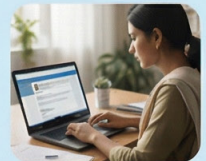


Government Initiatives



2020

- **National Portal for Transgender Persons** – launched in **2020**, enables online applications for **identity certificates** and **access to benefits**.



2022
SMILE

- **SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme**, introduced in **2022**, provides livelihood, skill training, and shelter support through **Garima Greh** centres and **Ayushman Bharat TG Plus** health coverage.



NCTP

- **National Council for Transgender Persons:** It serves as a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to safeguard and promote the rights of transgender persons in **India**.



13. Jnanpith Award

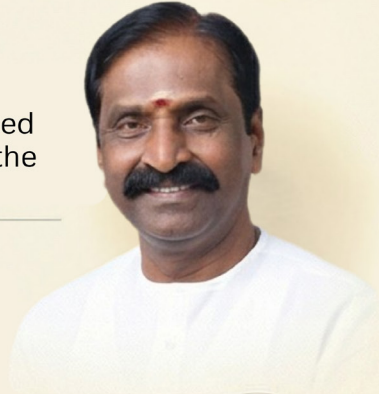
Jnanpith Award



Context



Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu has been selected for the Jnanpith Award for the year 2025.



- He is the **third Tamil litterateur to receive the award** after Akilan (1975) and Jayakanthan (2002), and **the first to be honoured for Tamil poetry, while the earlier awardees were recognised for prose.**



- He has written over 8,000 songs, won seven National Film Awards for lyrics, and earned the honorific “Kaviperarasu” (Emperor of Poets).



The award, however, has been met with sharp criticism from some writers, artists and activists who point to sexual harassment allegations made against him during the #MeToo movement in India.



About Jnanpith Award (also spelled Gyanpeeth Award)

- Instituted in 1961 by the Bharatiya Jnanpith,



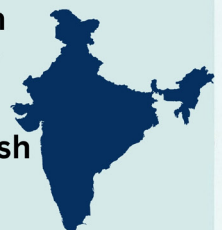
- Bharatiya Jnanpith is a literary and research organization founded by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain and Rama Jain.



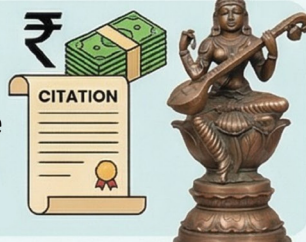
- It is India’s highest literary honour, awarded annually to an Indian author for outstanding contribution to literature.



- It is awarded for the work in 22 languages recognized by the Constitution of India and, from 2013, in the English language.



- The award carries a ₹11 lakh cash prize, citation, and a bronze statuette of Vagdevi (Saraswati).



- The first recipient was Malayalam writer G. Sankara Kurup in 1965 for Odakkuzhal.



KARNATAKA DARSHANA

1. Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0

News -

- ◆ Centre allocates ₹2,245.30 crore to Karnataka under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.
- ◆ **Significance of the move** - The funds aim to strengthen urban infrastructure, focusing on making cities garbage-free and **improving waste treatment processes across Karnataka.**

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

- ◆ **Launched on - October 1, 2021.**
- ◆ It is aimed at making **all Indian cities "Garbage Free" by 2026.**
- ◆ It is implemented by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**

Key Objectives & Vision

- ◆ **Garbage-Free Cities:** Achieving **100% scientific processing of municipal solid waste** in all statutory towns.
- ◆ **Sustaining ODF Status:** Moving beyond Open Defecation Free (ODF) to **ODF+ (functional/hygienic public toilets) and ODF++ (complete faecal sludge management).**
- ◆ **Water+ Certification:** Ensuring no untreated wastewater is discharged into open environments or water bodies.
- ◆ **Remediation of Legacy Waste:** Processing waste at all legacy dumpsites (landfills) to reclaim land and prevent environmental hazards.
- ◆ **Circular Economy:** Promoting the **3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)** to treat waste as a resource.

2. Asha Kirana: Karnataka State Eye Care Programme

News -

- ◆ **Asha Kirana initiative reaches 1.4 cr. people across Karnataka**
- ◆ 393 permanent vision centres have been established across district hospitals, taluk hospitals, and community health centres

Asha Kirana: Karnataka State Eye Care Programme

- ◆ It refers to a **major eye-care initiative by the Government of Karnataka,**

- ◆ **Launched by the Department of Health and Family Welfare,**
- ◆ **Objective** - this is a **comprehensive vision care programme aimed at eradicating avoidable blindness across the state.**
- ◆ **Key Services** - It Provides free eye screenings, spectacles for vision correction, and free cataract surgeries.

3. Kusuma Sanjeevini programme

News -

- ◆ In a significant step toward improving the quality of life for those with rare genetic blood disorders, the Karnataka government launched the 'Kusuma Sanjeevini' programme.

Kusuma Sanjeevini programme

- ◆ **Uniqueness** - It is **India's first statewide prophylaxis programme dedicated to providing free, advanced treatment for patients living with haemophilia.**

Key Objectives and Benefits

- ◆ The scheme aims to **shift haemophilia care from reactive (treating bleeds after they occur) to preventive (prophylactic),** ensuring a better quality of life and a "Zero Bleeds" state for patients.
- ◆ **Free Advanced Medication:** Eligible patients receive **Emicizumab, a high-end monoclonal antibody injection, entirely free of cost.**
- ◆ **Ease of Treatment:** Unlike traditional factor replacements that require frequent painful infusions, this breakthrough **drug is administered just once a month as a subcutaneous (under-the-skin) injection.**
- ◆ **Financial Relief:** The treatment typically costs around **₹5 lakh per patient annually,** a burden now fully covered by the state government.
- ◆ **Emergency Support:** The programme includes a **dedicated, free 108 ambulance service for the rapid emergency transport of haemophilia patients** across the state.
- ◆ **Infrastructure:** Treatment is available at **36 Integrated Treatment Centres for Haemoglobinopathies and Haemophilia (ICHH)** located in district and taluk hospitals

Additional Information - Haemophilia

- ◆ It is a **rare genetic bleeding disorder** where the **blood does not clot properly** due to a

deficiency in specific clotting factors.

Core Characteristics

- ♦ **Inheritance Pattern:** It is an **X-linked recessive disorder**. The defective gene is located on the X chromosome, making males much more vulnerable.
- ♦ **Prevalence:** It affects approximately **1 in 10,000 people globally**.
- ♦ **India Scenario:** India has the highest number of patients in the world (~19,000–20,000 registered).

Types of Haemophilia

| Type | Notes |
|----------------------|---|
| Haemophilia A | The most common form ("Classic Haemophilia"), accounting for ~80% of cases. |
| Haemophilia B | Also known as Christmas Disease . |
| Haemophilia C | A rare autosomal form that affects both genders equally. |

Treatment & Innovations

- ♦ **Replacement Therapy:** The standard treatment involving **regular intravenous infusions of the missing clotting factor**.
- ♦ **Gene Therapy Breakthrough:** India recently conducted its first human clinical trial for Haemophilia A gene therapy using a lentiviral vector to insert a functional gene into a patient's stem cells.
- ♦ **Prophylaxis:** A shift from **"on-demand" treatment (after bleeding starts) to preventive care to avoid long-term joint damage**.

Key Observances

- ♦ **World Haemophilia Day:** Observed on April 17th annually.
- ♦ **2025 Theme:** "Access for All – Women and Girls Bleed Too"

4. Karnataka launches State Action Plan on snakebite and rabies

News -

- ♦ Karnataka has launched the **State Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (SAPSE)** and the **State Action Plan for Rabies Elimination**

(SAPRE).

- ♦ It is the **first state in India to implement a comprehensive action plan specifically for snakebites**, aiming to drastically reduce fatalities.
- ♦ **Both plans aim for zero rabies deaths and reduced snakebite incidents by 2030.**

Key Aspects of the Action Plans

SAPSE (Snakebite Action Plan):

- ♦ **Notifiable Disease:** Snakebite cases are now **notifiable in Karnataka**, ensuring mandatory reporting.
- ♦ **Treatment:** Ensures availability of **anti-snake venom (ASV)** and **free, immediate, no-advance-payment treatment at all health facilities**.
- ♦ **Measures:** Focuses on strengthening surveillance, training medical staff, and strengthening public awareness.

SAPRE (Rabies Action Plan):

- ♦ **Target:** **Eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by 2030.**
- ♦ **Rabies-Free Cities:** Initiating the **"Rabies-Free Cities" project in 11 major urban centres** focusing on mass dog vaccinations and population management.
- ♦ **Health Initiatives:** **Free anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin are provided at government hospitals.**
- ♦ **Notifiable Disease:** Rabies was declared a **notifiable disease in 2022** to strengthen surveillance.
- ♦ **Significance -** These initiatives are guided by a **"One Health" approach, integrating human health, animal health, and environmental departments.**

5. HPV vaccination drive to prevent cervical cancer

News -

- ♦ The **Karnataka government**, in alignment with a nationwide initiative, officially **launched a major Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive** on February 28, 2026, to prevent cervical cancer among adolescent girls.

Key Details of the Vaccination Drive

- ♦ **Target Group:** The campaign primarily targets girls who have completed **14 years of age but are below 15 years.**

- ◆ **Scale of the Initiative:** Approximately 6 lakh girls in Karnataka have been identified as eligible beneficiaries, contributing to a national target of nearly 1.15 crore girls.
- ◆ **Vaccine Type & Dosage:** The drive uses the quadrivalent Gardasil-4 vaccine, which protects against four common HPV strains (6, 11, 16, and 18). Under the current national guidelines, it is administered as a single-dose intramuscular injection.
- ◆ **Cost:** The vaccine is provided free of cost at government health facilities.
- ◆ **Duration:** The initial intensive campaign is set for three months (90 days) in mission mode, after which the vaccine will be integrated into routine immunization days

6. Two integrated solid waste management parks in Bengaluru

News -

- ◆ **Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML)** has officially identified over 100 acres of land on the city's outskirts to establish two integrated solid waste management (ISWM) parks.
- ◆ These facilities are designed to scientifically process the approximately 6,000 metric tonnes of municipal waste the city generates daily.

Facility Locations & Specifications

- ◆ The two parks are strategically located in the North and South corridors to streamline waste logistics:
- ◆ **Gollahalli (Bengaluru South):** Planned on government-owned land. Earlier reports indicated a processing capacity of approximately 2,999 tonnes per day (TPD).
- ◆ **Doddabelavangala (Doddaballapur/North):** Earmarked near the Terra Farm area in Gundalahalli village. This facility is expected to handle approximately 3,073 TPD.

Key Project Details

- ◆ **Land Acquisition:** For the Doddabelavangala site, 70 acres of private land are being acquired, with farmers set to receive compensation of ₹1.57 crore per acre.
- ◆ **Operational Model:** The projects are being executed under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**.
- ◆ **Supporting Infrastructure:** To support

these mega-plants, **BSWML is constructing 30 modern transfer stations across the city to replace roadside waste loading.**

- ◆ **Waste-to-Resource Focus:** The parks will use various technologies to convert organic waste into biogas, compost, and power, while dry waste will be processed for Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)

7. Second official language status to Tulu

News -

- ◆ In March 2026, a high-level committee officially recommended that the Karnataka government grant Tulu the status of the state's second official language.
- ◆ This move is a major step toward fulfilling a decades-old demand from the Tulu-speaking population, primarily concentrated in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi.

Key Developments in the Recognition Process

- ◆ **Committee Recommendation:** A six-member panel led by K.M. Gayatri, former Director of the Kannada and Culture Department, submitted its report to the Secretary of the Kannada and Culture Department on March 4, 2026.
- ◆ **Adoption of the Andhra Pradesh Model:** The committee specifically studied the administrative and legal framework used by Andhra Pradesh to grant Urdu second official language status to ensure a smooth implementation for Tulu.
- ◆ **Constitutional Basis:** The state aims to accord this status under Article 345 of the Constitution of India, which allows state legislatures to adopt one or more languages for official purposes.

Significance and Impact

- ◆ **The move aims to protect the linguistic heritage of Tulu,** which has a documented history of over 2,500–3,000 years and its own distinct script.

Official status would:

- ◆ **Improve Administrative Access:** Facilitate the use of Tulu in government offices, public interfaces, and education within the coastal regions.
- ◆ **Boost Cultural Preservation:** Provide more institutional support for Tulu literature,

research, and development.

- ◆ **Support Federal Demands:** Strengthen the long-standing push to include Tulu in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Affected Regions

- ◆ **The recognition is most significant for the “Tulu Nadu” region, which includes:**
 1. Dakshina Kannada District (Karnataka)
 2. Udupi District (Karnataka)
 3. Kasaragod District (Northern Kerala—where Tulu is also widely spoken)

8. Rural Smart Village Center Project

News -

- ◆ GNA India Private Limited, in collaboration with BSNL and Acer India, has launched **high-speed Wi-Fi 7 in remote tourist spots of Uttara Kannada, including Yana, Sahasralinga, Sathodi Falls, and Magod falls.**
- ◆ **This initiative eliminates “blind spots” in forested areas, facilitating digital payments, safety, and connectivity for visitors.**
- ◆ **Goal:** To enhance tourist experiences, bolster rural digital infrastructure, and support the “Rural Smart Village Center Project”.

Rural Smart Village Center Project

- ◆ **Objective -** The project aims to improve safety and connectivity for tourists in the dense forest regions of the Western Ghats, supporting digital payments and real-time information access

Additional Information -

Yana Rocks & Caves

- ◆ It is famous for its **two massive, pitch-black limestone monoliths—Bhairaveshwara Shikhara and Mohini Shikhara—**rising sharply above the **dense Sahyadri forest.**
- ◆ **Highlight:** A cave temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is located at the base of the Bhairaveshwara rock.

Sahasralinga

- ◆ **Located on the banks of the Shalmala River,** this is a **unique pilgrimage and heritage site where thousands of Shiva Lingas and Nandi statues are carved directly into the rocks** of the riverbed.
- ◆ **Highlight:** During the low-water season,

the intricate carvings are fully visible, while the monsoon makes the site look ethereal with water flowing over the lingas.

- ◆ **Vibe:** Calming and spiritual, accessible via a short walk and stairs leading to the river.

Sathodi Falls

- ◆ **Often called the “Mini-Niagara of Karnataka,”** this 15-metre-tall waterfall is formed by several unnamed **streams that eventually join the backwaters of the Kodalalli Dam.**
- ◆ **Highlight:** Unlike many falls, the pool at the bottom is generally safe for a dip, making it a popular picnic spot.

Magod Falls

- ◆ A dramatic, **two-tiered waterfall where the Bedti River plunges from a height of nearly 200 metres (650 feet)** into a deep, rocky valley.
- ◆ **Highlight:** The falls are viewed from well-maintained viewpoints across the valley
- ◆ **Nearby:** Visit the **Jenukallu Gudda** viewpoint nearby for a panoramic sunset over the Western Ghats

9. Tripartite panels for Labour Code Rules in Karnataka

News -

- ◆ **The Karnataka government has established four tripartite committees—one for each central labour code—to revise and finalize state-specific rules.**
- ◆ These panels, comprising officials, union members, and employer representatives, **will review draft rules for the codes on wages, industrial relations, social security, and safety, aiming to implement them by April 1, 2026.**

Key details:

- ◆ **Purpose:** To refine the state’s draft rules following feedback, addressing concerns from trade unions about working hours and strikes.
- ◆ **Committees:** Four separate committees were formed to address the specific nuances of the four codes
 1. Code on Wages,
 2. Industrial Relations Code
 3. Social Security Code,
 4. Occupational Safety, Health and Working

Conditions Code

- ♦ **Context:** These actions align with the Central Government's direction to implement the new laws, which seek to streamline labor regulations and enhance technology in enforcement.
- ♦ **Significance** - The initiative aims for a consensus-driven approach to implementing the new labor regime in Karnataka.

10. mVahan app

News -

- ♦ Karnataka's Transport Department has launched the geo-fencing-based mVahan Fitness Mobile App across all 66 RTOs to prevent irregularities in issuing fitness certificates (FCs) to commercial vehicles registered and operating in the state.

mParivahan app (often referred to as the "Vahan app")

- ♦ It is the official mobile application from India's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) for vehicle and driver services.
- ♦ It provides a digital platform to access services previously requiring a visit to a Regional Transport Office (RTO).

Key Features

- ♦ **Digital Documents:** You can create and carry legally valid virtual versions of your Registration Certificate (RC) and Driving Licence (DL) on your phone.
- ♦ **Vehicle Search:** By entering a registration number, you can instantly find details like the owner's name, vehicle age, fuel type, insurance validity, and fitness status.
- ♦ **Challan Status:** Check and pay traffic violation fines (eChallans) directly through the app.
- ♦ **Safety & Verification:** It is used to verify the details of second-hand vehicles before purchase or to identify vehicles in case of accidents or theft.

11. Sharavathi Pumped Storage Hydroelectric project.

News -

- ♦ The Karnataka High Court has issued notices to both the State and Central

governments following a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that challenges the wildlife boards' approval for the ₹10,000 crore Sharavathi Pumped Storage Hydroelectric project.

- ♦ The court has also directed the State government and Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL) to halt all on-ground work within the forest areas of the Sharavathi Valley Lion Macaque Sanctuary and its eco-sensitive zone until further orders

Sharavathi Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project

- ♦ **Location** - It is a pumped storage power project on the Sharavathi River in Karnataka.
- ♦ **Total power generation capacity** - 2000 MW
- ♦ **Uniqueness** - It stands as the largest pumped storage power generation unit in the country.

It will be built between two existing reservoirs.

- ♦ The Talakalale dam, which stands at 62.48 meters tall, will be the upper reservoir.
- ♦ This dam currently helps balance water for the existing Sharavathi hydroelectric project.
- ♦ The Gerusoppa dam will be the lower reservoir, and it is about 64 meters tall.
- ♦ **Water will be pumped uphill during the off-season** using grid power and released downhill during peak demand to generate electricity.
- ♦ **Modelled on the lines of Telangana's Kaleshwaram project**, it also aims to supply drinking water to Bengaluru.
- ♦ **Concerns** - This project will destroy the ancient monuments of the 16th century that are the legacy of Rani Chennabhairadevi.

Rani Chennabhairadevi

- ❏ She ruled from 1552 to 1606 from her capital Gerusoppa.
- She is the longest reigning queen in Indian history.
- ❏ She also fought the Portuguese who gave her the title 'Rainha de Pimenta' that translates into 'The Queen of Pepper' as her kingdom
- She was known for exporting spices to European and Arab countries.

Additional Information - Sharavathi River

- ♦ It is a west flowing river of Karnataka state.
- ♦ A large part of the river basin lies in the Western Ghats.
- ♦ **Course - Rising in the Western Ghats, it flows in a northwesterly direction to the Arabian Sea at Honavar in Uttara Kannada District.**
- ♦ **Length - The length of the river is 128 km, and the river basin covers 2,985 sq km.**
- ♦ **Waterfalls - On its way, the Sharavathi forms the Jog Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in India, where the river falls from a height of 253 m.**
- ♦ **Major Tributaries: Nandihole, Haridravathi, Mavinahole, Hilkunji, Yennehole, Hurlihole, and Nagodihole.**

12. Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary

News -

- ♦ In March 2026, the Karnataka High Court directed the state government to issue a new notification for Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gadag district.
- ♦ A Division Bench, led by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha, ruled that reducing the sanctuary's size to 244.15 sq. km in the 2019 notification was "ex facie arbitrary".

Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS)

- ♦ It is located in the Gadag district of Karnataka.
- ♦ Often referred to as the "Western Ghats of North Karnataka,"
- ♦ **Uniqueness - It is unique for being the only sanctuary in the state declared specifically for the conservation of wild flora.**
- ♦ **Establishment:** Originally a reserve forest, it was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in May 2019.
- ♦ **Geography:** Features a dryland ecosystem with scrub jungles, grasslands, and dry deciduous forests.
- ♦ **Hydrology:** It Serves as a major catchment area for the Tungabhadra River.
- ♦ **Flora:** Renowned for its medicinal value, hosting over 400 species of medicinal plants. Dominant vegetation includes Teak, Butea monosperma, and Acacia scrub.
- ♦ **Fauna:** Home to leopards, Indian wolves, striped hyenas, blackbucks, and the rare

four-horned antelope (Chousingha).

- ♦ **Cultural Significance:** Contains ancient ruins and temples from the Chalukya and Rashtrakuta dynasties, including the 12th-century Dambala Temple.

Recent Developments (2025–2026)

- ♦ **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ):** In June 2025, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified an ESZ area of approximately 323 sq km around the sanctuary.
- ♦ **Boundary Expansion:** In March 2026, the Karnataka High Court directed the state government to include an additional 55 sq km of reserve forest that had been arbitrarily omitted from the original 2019 notification, restoring the sanctuary to its intended size of roughly 300 sq km.
- ♦ **Rare Sightings:** The rare White-naped Tit (*Parus nuchalis*) was recently recorded in the sanctuary's scrub-thorn habitat.

Threats and Conservation

- ♦ The sanctuary faces pressure from mining interests (gold and iron ore), illegal firewood collection, overgrazing, and habitat fragmentation.

13. Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) annual report

News -

- ♦ The Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) annual report for FY 2024-25 highlights a significant expansion in the state's technology sector, specifically through the addition of 50 new Global Capability Centres (GCCs)

Key Highlights from the KDEM Annual Report

- ♦ **GCC Distribution:** Of the 50 new centres, 40 were established in Bengaluru, while 10 were set up in "Beyond Bengaluru" clusters.
- ♦ **Employment & Talent:** The state's GCC talent pool has surged to 6.5 lakh professionals in FY 2024-25, up from 3.5 lakh in 2021.
- ♦ **Startup Growth:** The number of DPIIT-registered startups in Karnataka reached 16,700, with over 3,300 of these registered outside Bengaluru.
- ♦ **Infrastructure:** Over 1.1 million sq. ft. of IT park infrastructure is now available

in “Beyond Bengaluru” clusters to support decentralized growth.

- ♦ **Nipuna Karnataka:** The report notes progress on this **skilling initiative, with four corporate proposals approved to train approximately 10,000 beneficiaries in emerging tec**

Additional Information - The Karnataka Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy 2024–2029.

- ♦ It was **launched on November 19, 2024.**
- ♦ It is India’s first dedicated framework to attract and scale **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**
- ♦ **Objective - The policy aims to double the state’s existing 500+ GCCs to 1,000 by 2029, generating \$50 billion in economic output and creating 3.5 lakh new jobs.**

14. Karnataka Electric Bus Program (KEBP)

News -

- ♦ The Karnataka government, as part of the 2026–27 state budget, announced a **₹2,000 crore electric bus programme** supported by World Bank aid to modernize public transport.
- ♦ This initiative, known as the **Karnataka Electric Bus Program (KEBP), includes inducting 4,000 electric buses** into state-run transport fleets and developing 94 charging depots.

Karnataka Electric Bus Program (KEBP)

- ♦ **Capacity Expansion:** The initiative aims to **modernize fleets for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC)** and other state road transport corporations.
- ♦ **Infrastructure Development:** The program includes the **development of 32 BMTC electric bus depots and 62 depots** for other state road transport corporations.
- ♦ **Rural Focus:** A significant portion, including nearly **1,950 electric buses, is expected to enhance connectivity in rural areas.**
- ♦ **Objectives:** The project aims to **reduce pollution, lower fuel costs, and improve connectivity throughout the state.**

15. New Aerospace Common Facility Centre in Bengaluru

News -

- ♦ The Karnataka Budget 2026 announced the

establishment of a **new Aerospace Common Facility Centre (CFC) at the KIADB Aerospace Park in Bengaluru (₹30 crore)** and a **Flight Training School at Shivamogga and Vijayapura airports**

- ♦ The projects focus on **enhancing aeronautical manufacturing, assembly, and training, with 25% of seats at the training school reserved for local and women candidates.**

Key Details of the Aerospace Initiative:

- ♦ **Aerospace Common Facility Centre:** Located in the **KIADB Aerospace Park, Bengaluru, this facility will support manufacturing and assembly units** with a ₹30 crore budget, backed by a ₹10 crore initial allocation.
- ♦ **Flight Training School:** To be established under a PPP model, the **school will be at Sogane (Shivamogga) and Vijayapura airport.**
- ♦ **Focus Areas:** The initiative aims to support **R&D, maintenance, repair & overhaul (MRO), and aircraft manufacturing.**
- ♦ **Projected Benefits:** This move aims to **boost Shivamogga as a key aviation training hub.**

16. Karnataka’s ELEVATE

News -

- ♦ The share of women-led startups in Karnataka’s ELEVATE grant-in-aid program has seen a steady rise, growing from 16.96% in 2017 to nearly 43% in 2025

ELEVATE

- ♦ It is a flagship initiative by the **Department of Electronics, IT, Bt, and S&T, Government of Karnataka.**
- ♦ It is designed to **identify and nurture innovative early-stage startups.**
- ♦ It provides **comprehensive support, including grant-in-aid funding, mentoring, and access to venture capital.**

Key Funding & Support Tracks

- ♦ **ELEVATE (General):** Offers a one-time grant of up to ₹50 Lakhs to **help startups develop prototypes, conduct market trials, and scale their business.**
- ♦ **ELEVATE Unnati:** Specifically targets startups led by **SC/ST entrepreneurs, providing up to ₹50 Lakhs in seed funding to foster social inclusion.**
- ♦ **ELEVATE NxT (Deeptech):** A flagship

program under the LEAP framework **focused on scaling high-potential Deeptech and AI startups.**

- ♦ **ELEVATE Women:** Dedicated to accelerating women-led startups
- ♦ **ELEVATE Minorities:** A specialized track to support and fund entrepreneurs from minority communities.

17. Multi-purpose indoor sports complex at V.C. Farm in Mandya

News -

- ♦ Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, laid the **foundation stone for a ₹14-crore multi-purpose indoor sports complex at V.C. Farm in Mandya, Karnataka, on March 14, 2026.**

Project Details

- ♦ **Location:** The facility is being constructed within the campus of the University of Agricultural Sciences at V.C. Farm.
- ♦ **Funding:** Sanctioned under the Government of India's Khelo India scheme to strengthen grassroots sports infrastructure.

Additional Information - Khelo India programme.

- ♦ **Launched in 2018,**
- ♦ **Financing - Central Sector Scheme**
- ♦ It is aimed at **reviving the sports culture at the grassroots level.**
- ♦ It is **implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.**

Core Objectives & Features

- ♦ **Twin Goals:** To achieve mass participation and promote excellence in sports.
- ♦ **Talent Identification:** Promising athletes are identified and provided with an annual financial assistance of ₹5 lakh for 8 years.
- ♦ **Structure:** It merged previous schemes like the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS), and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS).

18. Shakuntala Grants on International Women's Day 2026

News -

- ♦ On International Women's Day 2026, Bengaluru-based Pixxel launched the Shakuntala Grants under its new

Shakuntala Initiative,

- ♦ It provides micro-grants for women researchers focused on climate resilience and environmental studies.
- ♦ The program supports field studies, data collection, and equipment purchases for early-career researchers.

Key details of the Shakuntala Grants and Initiative:

- ♦ **Purpose:** To address funding gaps for women researchers and foster long-term STEM community building.
- ♦ **Partnership:** The program is in collaboration with Escape Velocity Grants.
- ♦ **Target Areas:** Research projects related to climate change, environment, and earth observation.
- ♦ **Inspiration:** The initiative honors the first Pixxel Pathfinder satellite (Shakuntala) and the famous female mathematician, Shakuntala Devi

19. QpiAI Indus

News -

- ♦ The Karnataka government has installed the **QpiAI Indus, a 25-qubit superconducting quantum computing system,** at the Quantum Computing Centre of Excellence (QCCE) located at IIIT-Dharwad.

Objectives and Usage

- ♦ **Academic Integration:** Used for curriculum development, faculty-led research in quantum algorithms, and hands-on student training.
- ♦ **Commercial Access:** The centre offers Quantum Computing as a Service (QCaaS), allowing enterprises to experiment with use cases in logistics, finance, and pharmaceutical discovery.
- ♦ **Regional Strategy:** Part of the Karnataka Quantum Roadmap, which aims to establish a \$20 billion quantum economy by 2035.

Additional Information - Quantum computing

- ♦ It is a new way for computers to process information using the strange rules of physics that govern tiny particles like atoms and electrons.
- ♦ While regular computers (like your phone or laptop) use bits to store information as either a 0 or a 1 (like a light switch being on or

off), **quantum computers use qubits**

- ◆ Quantum computers are **expected to solve massive problems that would take today's fastest supercomputers thousands of years.**

📄 Applications -

- ◆ **Medicine:** They can simulate **how new drugs will interact with the human body at a molecular level.**
- ◆ **Cybersecurity:** They could **potentially crack almost all current internet encryption**, which is why experts are already building "quantum-proof" security.
- ◆ **Climate & Energy:** They can help design better batteries or **find ways to remove carbon from the air by simulating complex chemical reactions**

20. Responsible AI Committee (Kris Gopalakrishnan committee)

📄 News -

- ◆ The Government of Karnataka has constituted a Committee on Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI), chaired by Kris Gopalakrishnan.

📄 Objectives

- ◆ to develop a framework for safe, ethical, and transparent AI adoption in public services, according to this Facebook post.
- ◆ The panel, comprising industry experts and officials, met in Bengaluru to discuss AI ethics, risk classification, and data privacy to ensure accountability in AI systems.

📄 Key Aspects of the Responsible AI Committee:

- ◆ **Mandate:** Develop a policy and implementation roadmap within **90 days for responsible AI adoption in government.**
- ◆ **Focus Areas:** Establish AI principles, create risk classifications for government AI applications, and **set up guidelines for data governance, privacy, and cybersecurity.**
- ◆ **Committee Structure:** Led by Infosys Co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, with the Managing Director of the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) serving as the Member Secretary.
- ◆ **Key Sectors:** The framework will cover AI deployment in **citizen-centric areas like healthcare, education, welfare delivery, and policing**

21. Eva Nammava Eva Nammava Bill

📄 News -

- ◆ The **Eva Nammava Eva Nammava Bill—officially titled the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition Act, 2026**—is a landmark piece of legislation passed by the Karnataka State Legislature in March 2026.

📄 Eva Nammava Eva Nammava Bill

- ◆ **Mandate** - It is specifically designed to **prevent "honour killings" and protect the freedom of adults to choose their life partners without interference from family, caste, or community bodies.**

📄 Key Features of the Bill

- ◆ **Right to Choose:** Guarantees that **every adult has the autonomy to choose their partner.** It explicitly states that **no family member, caste group, or community body has the authority to interfere in this decision.**
- ◆ **Broad Definition of Crimes:** **Beyond physical violence, the law criminalises social and economic boycotts, psychological terror (such as performing death rites for living persons), and forcing separation.**

📄 Institutional Support:

- ◆ **Eva Nammava Vedike:** A **district-level platform or committee (including retired judges and police officers) to solemnise marriages and provide counselling.**
- ◆ **Safe Houses & Helplines:** **Mandates 24/7 helplines and state-funded safe houses in every district for threatened couples.**
- ◆ **Rapid Response:** **Police are required to provide protection within six hours of receiving a complaint.**
- ◆ **Strict Penalties:** Offences are classified as **cognizable and non-bailable. Punishment for honour killings includes a minimum of five years in prison, while causing hurt can lead to 2-3 years of rigorous imprisonment.**

22. UDAN scheme

📄 News -

- ◆ Karnataka's Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil recently stated that **airports in tier-II cities are not financially viable after the three-year incentive period**

under the UDAN scheme.

UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme

- ◆ **Launched in - October 2016**
- ◆ It is India's flagship **regional connectivity program designed** to make air travel affordable and accessible for the common citizen.
- ◆ The scheme focuses on connecting underserved and unserved airports in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Key Features of UDAN

- ◆ **Affordable Fares:** Airfares are **capped for approximately 50% of the seats on each flight**. For example, a one-hour flight (~500 km) is capped at roughly ₹2,500 (subject to indexation).
- ◆ **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** To encourage airlines to fly less profitable regional routes, **the government provides financial subsidies (VGF) to cover the gap between operating costs and capped fare revenue.**

23. Kalyana Karnataka

News -

- ◆ Karnataka Economic Survey 2025-26 revealed that **Kalaburagi occupies the lowest rung in the state's per capita income (PCI) grid**, underscoring the widening **regional disparity in the Kalyana Karnataka.**

Region-Specific Initiatives

- ◆ These schemes are **specifically targeted at the districts of Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Bidar, Koppal, Vijayanagara, and Ballari:**
- ◆ **Kalyana Patha:** A ₹1,000 crore project to develop 1,150 km of rural roads across 38 assembly constituencies.
- ◆ **Kalyana Karnataka Comprehensive Health Scheme:** A ₹873 crore initiative that includes setting up a Cancer Diagnosis Unit in Bidar and a super-speciality hospital in Koppal.
- ◆ **ELEVATE Kalyana Karnataka:** A specialized startup funding program to encourage entrepreneurship within the region.
- ◆ **Nanna Guruthu:** Aimed at securing government documents for SC/ST rural residents via the DigiLocker app in 1,000 Gram Panchayats.
- ◆ **Education & Skill Training:** Includes the establishment of new nursing colleges in Yalburga, Jevargi, and Yadgir, plus skill training for unemployed youth aged 18 to 35.

Major Welfare & State Schemes

- ◆ Residents in this region also have access to **Karnataka's flagship "Five Guarantee" schemes and other departmental programs:**

Five Guarantees:

- ◆ **Gruha Lakshmi:** ₹2,000 monthly for women heads of households.
- ◆ **Gruha Jyothi:** Free electricity for households using up to 200 units.
- ◆ **Anna Bhagya:** 10 kg of free food grains for BPL families.
- ◆ **Shakti:** Free bus travel for women within the state.
- ◆ **Yuva Nidhi:** Unemployment stipend for graduates and diploma holders.
- ◆ **Ganga Kalyana Scheme:** Provides borewells, pumps, and electrification to small and marginal farmers from SC/ST and minority communities.
- ◆ **Udyogini Scheme:** Offers up to 50% subsidy on loans for women entrepreneurs to start small businesses

24. Sakala scheme

News -

- ◆ Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda announced that 99.35% of applications under the state's Sakala scheme have been processed within the stipulated timeline during the current year.

Sakala Scheme

- ◆ It is officially known as the **Karnataka Guarantee of Services to Citizens Act, 2011.**
- ◆ **Objective - to ensure the timely delivery of government services.**
- ◆ **The name "Sakala" translates to "at the right time" or "in good time" in Kannada.**

Key Features of Sakala

- ◆ **Time-Bound Delivery:** Every service under the scheme has a **specific, pre-defined time limit for completion.**
- ◆ **Guaranteed Service Number (GSC):** Upon submitting an application, **citizens receive a unique 15-digit GSC number.**
- ◆ **Tracking and Accountability:** Citizens can use their **GSC number to track the status of their application** online via the Official Sakala Portal.
- ◆ **Penalty for Delays:** If a service is not provided

within the stipulated time, the designated officer may be fined. **Under the proposed Sakala 2.0, this penalty is approximately ₹250 per day of delay.**

- ♦ **Wide Coverage:** The scheme covers over 725 services across various departments, including Revenue, Transport, Education, and Health.

25. Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025

Context:

- ♦ **On March 16, 2026, the Sahitya Akademi officially announced its prestigious annual awards for 2025,** recognizing outstanding literary contributions across 24 Indian languages.

Key Highlights

- ♦ **Total Awardees:** 24 authors across 24 languages.
- ♦ **Award Package:** An engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹1,00,000.
- ♦ **Field: Literature (across multiple genres).**

Key Achievements:

- ♦ **Diverse Genres:** The 2025 honors celebrate a wide array of literary works, featuring 8 books of poetry, 4 novels, 6 short story collections, 2 essays, 1 literary criticism, 1 autobiography, and 2 memoirs.
- ♦ **Notable English Winner:** Former diplomat Navtej Sarna won the award in the English category for his acclaimed historical novel *Crimson Spring*.
- ♦ **Notable Hindi Winner:** Renowned author Mamta Kalia was honored in the Hindi category for her moving memoir *Jeete Jee Allahabad*.

Sahitya Akademi Awards:

- ♦ **Started:** 1954.
- ♦ **Event Category:** India's National Academy of Letters / 2nd highest literary honor (after the Jnanpith Award).
- ♦ **Specialty:** Conferred annually to writers of the most outstanding original books published in the preceding five years.
- ♦ **It covers 24 languages: the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, plus English and Rajasthani.**
- ♦ It acts as a major platform to promote regional literature and preserve India's linguistic diversity.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 Award for Kannada

- ♦ Name - Amaresh Nugadoni
- ♦ Work - Dada Seerisu Tande (Short Stories)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. PM Visit to Israel

Context

- ♦ **The Prime Minister paid an official visit to Israel.**
- ♦ In a historic first, Prime Minister Modi addressed the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to do so.
- ♦ Major Outcomes
- ♦ Both nations **elevated their relationship to Special Strategic Partnership.**
- ♦ India and Israel also discussed the **implementation of the India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** and cooperation under the framework of **I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA).**

India and Israel Bilateral Relations & Evolving Ties

- ♦ **Bilateral Relations: India announced its recognition of Israel in 1950. Regular embassies opened in 1992** when full diplomatic relations were established between the two countries.
- ♦ The bilateral relations were elevated to strategic partnership in 2017 and were upgraded to Special Strategic Partnership after this visit.
- ♦ **Defense & Security: Israel has been a key supplier of advanced technology from AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) radars and drones to missile and surveillance systems** making it one of India's largest defense suppliers.
- ♦ **Bilateral Trade: India is Israel's 2nd trading partner in Asia and the 7th largest globally.**
- ♦ **Multilateral Cooperation: Both are active members of the I2U2 group (India, Israel, USA, UAE),** focusing on economic and space collaboration with projects like food parks and space-based environmental tools.

2. Hexagon Alliance

Context

- ◆ A new geopolitical grouping, the Hexagon Alliance, has been proposed by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with India at its centre.

Hexagon Alliance

- ◆ It would include **Israel, India, Mediterranean partners such as Greece and Cyprus, along with other unnamed Arab, African and Asian states.**
- ◆ The framework is designed to **operate across three tracks: economic cooperation, diplomatic alignment and security collaboration.**
- ◆ For India, participation would reflect its expanding strategic footprint in the Mediterranean and West Asia, **complementing initiatives like India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).**
- ◆ However, deeper alignment in such a bloc could **complicate India's ties with Iran, a key energy and connectivity partner.**

3. India Bhutan Cooperation on HydroPower Projects

Context

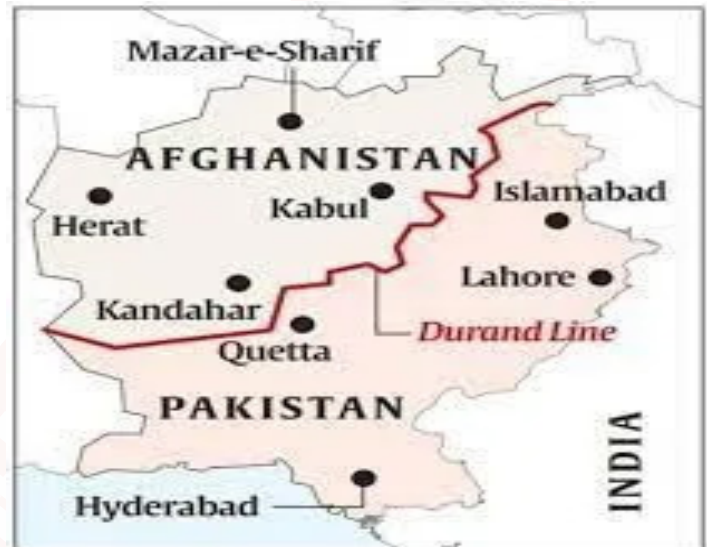
- ◆ India and Bhutan have reaffirmed their longstanding partnership in water resources management and hydropower development during a high level visit by an Indian delegation to Bhutan.

India-Bhutan Relations

- ◆ **Geographical Connection:** Bhutan shares its border with four Indian states, **Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim with a length of 699 km** and serves as a buffer between India and China.
- ◆ **Diplomatic relations - Established in 1968.**
- ◆ **Treaty of Friendship** - The basic framework of India Bhutan relations is the **Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949 and was renewed in February 2007.**
- ◆ **Four major bilateral projects are launched in Bhutan from India,**
- ◆ Hydroelectric projects - Punatsangchhu and Mangdechhu Hydro Project,
- ◆ Ground Earth Station of ISRO
- ◆ RuPay Card
- ◆ National Knowledge Network of India

- ◆ **Economy** - India is Bhutan's top trade partner both as an import source and as an export destination.
- ◆ **Bhutan became the second country to launch the BHIM app.**
- ◆ **Cultural and Buddhist Links:** A number of Bhutanese pilgrims travel to **Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Sikkim, Udayagiri, and other Buddhist sites in India**

4. Durand Line



In News

- ◆ Pakistan recently launched Operation Ghazab lil-Haq, a series of cross-border strikes against Afghan Taliban targets along the disputed Durand Line.

Durand Line

- ◆ The **2,640 km Durand Line, drawn in 1893 by British diplomat Sir Mortimer Durand and Afghan Amir Abdur Rahman Khan,**
- ◆ **It separates Pakistan from Afghanistan but splits Pashtun tribes.**
- ◆ Afghanistan has never fully recognized it as a legitimate border, viewing it as a colonial imposition.
- ◆ **Disputes over the line have fueled decades of tensions, including fencing efforts and militant crossovers.**

5. US-Israel-Iran War

Context

- ◆ Following the launch of **Operation Epic Fury (U.S.) and Operation Roaring Lion (Israel),** the geopolitical landscape has shifted fundamentally with the confirmed **death**

of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

- ♦ Iran retaliated through **Operation True Promise 4**, launching missile attacks against Israel and nearby Gulf states.
- ♦ Iran retaliated with **missile and drone attacks on U.S. facilities in Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, and Jordan.**
- ♦ Iran has effectively **closed the Strait of Hormuz** through threats and strikes on tankers, **reducing shipping traffic by 70%** and risking global oil supply disruptions.

US-Israel-Iran war

Background of the Current Escalation

- ♦ **Long-standing Hostility & Ideological Rivalry:** Since the **1979 Islamic Revolution**, the **U.S. and Iran have been locked in a "Cold War"** posture. This relationship has been defined by severe economic sanctions, the **labeling of Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism.**
- ♦ **Collapse of the Nuclear Deal (JCPOA):** The **withdrawal of the U.S. from the 2015 Nuclear Deal in 2018** triggered a **"maximum pressure"** campaign.
- ♦ Iran responded by gradually breaching enrichment limits, leading the U.S. and Israel to view a nuclear-armed Iran as an imminent existential threat that could no longer be contained by diplomacy alone.
- ♦ **The "Gray Zone" and Proxy Warfare:** For years, the conflict was fought in the shadows via proxies. **Iran's support for the "Axis of Resistance" (Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis)** expanded its **influence across Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.**

Global Implications

- ♦ **Energy Shock & Inflation:** Oil prices likely to surge beyond sustainable levels. Higher transportation and insurance premiums.
- ♦ **Risk of global stagflation (slow growth + high inflation).**
- ♦ **Global Supply Chain Disruption:** Oil, LNG, fertilizers, petrochemicals affected. Shipping rerouted via longer routes which led to increased freight costs.
- ♦ **China & Russia Factor:** China is the largest buyer of Iranian oil. Russia may benefit from high oil prices.

Impact on India

- ♦ **Energy Inflation:** As **India imports 85% of its crude**, the **"war surcharge"** on shipping and rising oil prices are putting immense pressure on the rupee.
- ♦ **Diaspora Safety:** With **8-9 million Indians in the Gulf**, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has met to discuss potential large-scale evacuations as commercial flights to the region are being suspended.
- ♦ **Trade Disruptions:** Exports of agricultural goods and imports of essential fertilizers are currently at risk due to maritime insecurity.
- ♦ **Strategic Connectivity:** Chabahar Port (Iran) for Central Asia access; I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA grouping); IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Corridor); Gulf partnerships (UAE, Saudi Arabia), and Israel relations.

Additional Information - West Asia (Middle East)



- ♦ It is a subregion of Asia that is **bordered by Europe to the west, Central Asia to the north, South Asia to the east, and Africa and the Arabian sea to the south.**
- ♦ The region of West Asia roughly includes **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Iran, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.**

It is strategically vital due to:

1. **Energy resources** (oil & gas reserves);
2. **Chokepoints: Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, Suez Canal;**
3. **Religious significance** (Jerusalem, Mecca, Medina);
4. Geo-strategic location **linking Asia, Africa, and Europe;**
5. Major external **power involvement** (US, Russia, China);
6. The region is currently undergoing structural transformation marked by power realignments, proxy wars, and strategic competition.

Important maps -



Strait of Hormuz

- ◆ **Location** - The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran to the north and Oman and the United Arab Emirates to the south, linking the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- ◆ At its **narrowest point it is about 33 kilometres wide**, with shipping lanes just a few kilometres across in either direction.
- ◆ **Significance**- Nearly half of India's crude oil and around 60 per cent of its natural gas imports pass through the strait.

6. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Context

- ◆ The Iranian frigate IRIS Dena was reportedly sunk off the south-western coast of Sri Lanka after a torpedo strike by a United States Navy submarine.

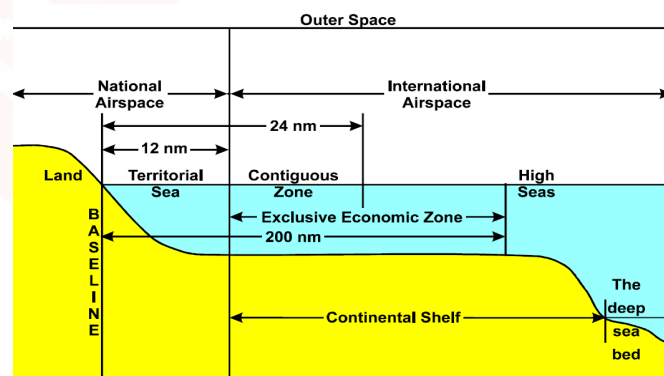
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- ◆ It is a **comprehensive international treaty** that establishes the **legal framework for governance of oceans and seas.**
- ◆ **Adopted in 1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica** and entered into force in 1994.

It defines:

1. Maritime boundaries of coastal states
2. **Rights and duties of states in maritime zones**
3. **Rules for navigation, resource exploitation, and environmental protection**
4. Because of its extensive scope, it is commonly referred to as the **"Constitution of the Oceans."**
5. **Membership: 168** parties, including the European Union.
6. Countries such as **India, Japan, and China** are parties.
7. **Note** - The United States has signed but not ratified the convention.

Maritime Zones under UNCLOS



- ◆ UNCLOS divides the oceans into several legal zones, each with different rights and responsibilities.
- ◆ **Territorial Sea:** Extends up to **12 nautical miles** from a coastal state's baseline. The coastal state has **full sovereignty over these waters.** Foreign ships enjoy the right of innocent passage.
- ◆ **Contiguous Zone:** Extends **12-24 nautical miles** from the baseline. Coastal states can enforce laws relating to Customs, immigration, sanitation & security.
- ◆ **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** Extends up to **200 nautical miles.** The coastal state has **exclusive rights over natural resources.** However, other states retain freedom of navigation and overflight.

- ♦ **High Seas (International Waters):** Areas beyond the EEZ of any state. No country has sovereignty over them. Governed by international law and UNCLOS principles.

7. India renews Bilateral Swap Arrangement with Japan

In New s

- ♦ India has renewed its Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) with Japan with effect from 28th February, 2026.

Basic terms -Currency swap

- ♦ It is a **financial agreement where two parties exchange the principal and interest of a loan in one currency** for the equivalent in another.
- ♦ These are typically medium- to long-term contracts used by multinational corporations and central banks to manage risks or reduce borrowing costs.

Additional Information - India & Japan relations

Defence and Security

- ♦ **Military Exercises:** Malabar, Dharma Guardian, and JIMEX exercises enhance interoperability and Indo-Pacific security.
- ♦ **Trade:** Bilateral trade reached **approximately \$23 billion in 2023-24.**
- ♦ **FDI:** Japan is India's fifth-largest source of FDI
- ♦ **Bullet Train:** The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail exemplifies flagship India-Japan transport cooperation.
- ♦ **Energy: Clean Energy Partnership (2022)** expands hydrogen, renewables, and climate cooperation.
- ♦ **Quad:** Quad coordination ensures Indo-Pacific stability through collective maritime commitments.
- ♦ **SCRI: Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)** reduces dependency on China for the supply of critical goods.
- ♦ **Forums:** India and Japan cooperate in G20, International Solar Alliance (ISA), CDRI, and IPEF, strengthening multilateral governance.
- ♦ **Space:** ISRO-JAXA LUPEX mission exemplifies frontier collaboration in space exploration.

8. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

News

- ♦ The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said that there has been no evidence of Iran building a nuclear bomb.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- ♦ It was **established in 1957 as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organisation within the UN.**
- ♦ It serves as the UN's **nuclear watchdog, promoting peaceful atomic energy use while verifying safeguards against proliferation.**
- ♦ **Headquartered in Vienna, the body got the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize** for non-proliferation efforts.
- ♦ **The IAEA has 178 member states, India being one of the founding members of it.**

9. Iranian Kurds

Context

- ♦ U.S. President Donald Trump encouraged Iranian Kurdish forces to launch attacks against Iran as conflict in West Asia widened.

Kurds

- ♦ Kurdish people are an **ethnic minority group in the Middle East without an independent state.**
- ♦ The **population ranges between 25 million and 45 million** worldwide, with most living in the mountainous region across parts of **western Iran, eastern Turkey, northern Iraq and Syria, and Armenia.**
- ♦ They **speak various Kurdish dialects**, not related to Turkish or Arabic; and are mostly **Sunni Muslims.**
- ♦ **Turkey has the largest population** of approximately 15 to 20 million people while Iran has 8-12 million Kurds.
- ♦ **Concerns of Kurds:** They were **promised a nation post-WWI, but never granted.**
- ♦ They faced rebellions, state suppression of language and culture.
- ♦ **Kurdistan Regional Government:** Following years of conflict and the 1991 Gulf War, the Kurds established the Kurdistan Regional Government (K.R.G.) in Iraq, which is now a constitutionally recognised autonomous region.

10. Raisina Dialogue 2026

Context

- ◆ PM Modi attended the inaugural session of the Raisina Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi.
- ◆ The theme for 2026 edition is “Samskara: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement.”

Raisina Dialogue

- ◆ The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.
- ◆ It brings together global leaders, policymakers, diplomats, scholars, and strategic experts to discuss major international challenges.
- ◆ The first session was held in 2016.
- ◆ It is hosted by the Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation, in collaboration with the External affairs ministry of India.

11. India – US Defence Ties

Context

- ◆ India has denied reports that it assisted the United States in targeting an Iranian vessel near Sri Lankan waters.

India – US Military Exercises:

- ◆ **Yudh Abhyas:** Land forces.
- ◆ **Malabar:** Naval quadrilateral with US, India, Japan, Australia.
- ◆ **Cope India:** Air exercise.
- ◆ **Tiger Triumph:** Tri-service HADR exercise.
- ◆ **Vajra Prahar:** Special forces.

12. US F-1 Visas for Indian Students Drop 69%

In News

- ◆ In 2025, F-1 visa issuances to Indian students fell by 69% in June-July (12,776 visas) compared to 41,336 in 2024.

F-1 visa

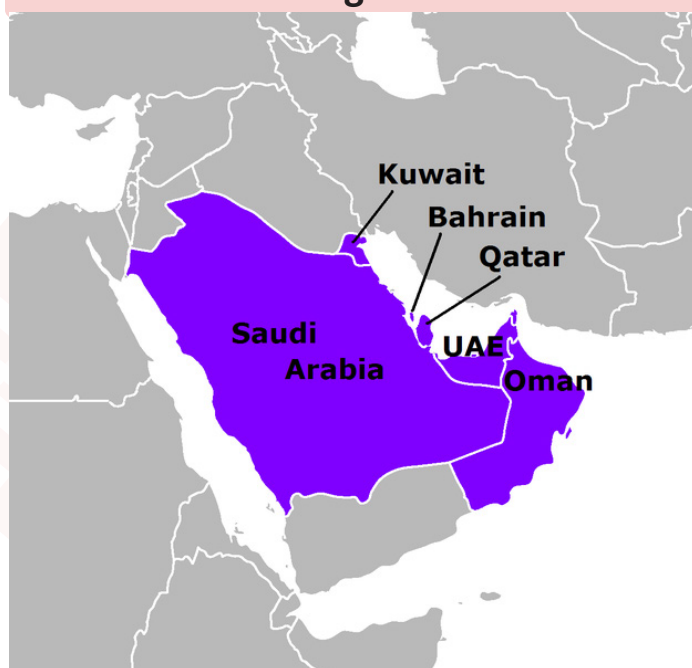
- ◆ The F-1 visa permits foreign students to study full-time in the U.S.
- ◆ It has long served as a key talent pipeline for the US. Created under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952,
- ◆ It allows students to remain temporarily in the US after graduation.
- ◆ This route has helped American universities and technology firms attract global talent,

particularly from India and China.

How is the F-1 visa different from an M visa?

- ◆ There are two types of US study visas — F and M.
- ◆ The ‘F’ category visa is used for university or college, high school, private elementary school, seminary, conservatory, and other academic institutions, including a language training programme.
- ◆ The ‘M’ category visa is used for vocational or other recognised nonacademic institutions, other than a language training programme.

13. UNSC Condemning Iran Attacks on Gulf



Context

- ◆ India co-sponsored a resolution at the UN Security Council that condemned the attacks by Iran against Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan.
- ◆ India along with 134 countries that demanded the “immediate cessation of all attacks by Iran” against GCC countries Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan.
- ◆ The resolution was passed with 13 UNSC members voting in favour while Russia and China abstained.
- ◆ It also condemned “any actions or threats by Iran aimed at obstructing international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz”.

Additional Information - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- ◆ It is a **political and economic union of six Arabian Peninsula countries**
- ◆ **Members:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- ◆ **Establishment: Founded on May 25, 1981**, through an agreement signed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ◆ **Objectives:** To achieve unity and coordination among member states in all fields, including economic, security, cultural, and social cooperation.
- ◆ **Headquarters:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

14. Global Pandemic Agreement

News

- ◆ India is pushing for a fair benefit-sharing framework for developing countries in the **upcoming pandemic agreement negotiations in Geneva.**

Global Pandemic Agreement

- ◆ It was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2025.
- ◆ It seeks to establish a **legally binding international framework to address global gaps and inequalities in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.**
- ◆ Its **Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system** is being negotiated to regulate how biological samples and genetic data are shared internationally.
- ◆ It is **expected to be adopted by May 2026**, will then be open for countries to sign and ratify, and will enter into force 30 days after 60 ratifications.

15. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

Context

- ◆ US President Donald Trump has warned of leaving the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) after its allies declined to assist in securing the Strait of Hormuz.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- ◆ NATO, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an **intergovernmental military alliance.**
- ◆ **Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium**
- ◆ **Background:** It was established by 12

countries from Europe and North America with the signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty (also known as Washington Treaty) in 1949 in Washington, D.C** to provide collective security against the Soviet Union attack in the aftermath of World War II.

- ◆ **Collective Defense:** According to **Article 5, NATO works on the principle of collective defense**, where an attack on any NATO member is considered an attack on all NATO members. So far, **Article 5 has been invoked once - in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001.**
- ◆ **Members:** It comprises **32 member states.** Sweden became the 32nd member.

16. RELIEF Scheme

In News

- ◆ The Centre has launched the RELIEF Scheme to support exporters affected by disruptions due to the West Asia crisis.

Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) Scheme

- ◆ It is a ₹497-crore initiative launched by the Government of India on March 19, 2026.
- ◆ **Objective - It is designed to support Indian exporters—particularly MSMEs—facing extraordinary freight hikes, insurance premium spikes, and logistical disruptions due to geopolitical tensions in West Asia.**
- ◆ **Mission: Launched under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).**
- ◆ **Nodal Agency for implementation - Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India.**
- ◆ **Target Region:** Consignments destined for or transshipping through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel, and Yemen.
- ◆ **Significance - To mitigate financial risks, prevent order cancellations, and safeguard employment in export-linked sectors during maritime disruptions**

NATIONAL

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. 'PRAHAAR', India's First National Counter-terror Policy

- ◆ Context
- ◆ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) unveiled India's inaugural **National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy**, titled 'PRAHAAR'.

'PRAHAAR', India's First National Counter-terror Policy

- ◆ It is this principled approach which informs the **Indian policy of 'zero tolerance' against terrorism**.

The counter-terrorism strategy of India, 'PRAHAAR', flows from these ideals:

- ◆ **Prevention** of terror attacks to protect Indian citizens and interests;
- ◆ **Responses**, which are swift and proportionate to the threat posed;
- ◆ **Aggregating internal capacities** for achieving synergy in a whole-of-government approach;
- ◆ **Human rights and 'Rule of Law'** based processes for mitigation of threats;
- ◆ **Attenuating the conditions** enabling terrorism, including radicalization;
- ◆ **Aligning and shaping** the international efforts to counter terrorism;
- ◆ **Recovery and resilience** through a whole-of-society approach.

2. 'Rah-Veer' scheme

In News

- ◆ The Delhi government is going to implement the Centre's '**Rah-Veer**' scheme to **motivate citizens to assist seriously injured road accidents**.

'Rah-Veer' scheme

- ◆ The scheme, **aligned with the Good Samaritan Rules under the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019**.
- ◆ It provides **legal protection and financial incentives to encourage prompt humanitarian action**.
- ◆ **Features:** citizens who help seriously injured road accident victims within the "golden hour" will receive a **₹25,000 cash reward**.

- ◆ A district-level committee will evaluate cases, and the **reward will be directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts**.
- ◆ Additionally, **10 outstanding Rah-Veers annually will receive ₹1 lakh and a certificate**.
- ◆ **Significance** - It aims to overcome citizens' hesitation to assist accident victims due to legal or procedural fears.

3. Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)

In News

- ◆ The Supreme Court dismissed a plea filed by an overseas citizen of India (OCI) seeking to be treated at par with NRIs for the purpose of practising law and obtaining state bar council membership.

Overseas Citizen of India

- ◆ **Introduced in** - OCI scheme was introduced by the Indian government in **2005**.
- ◆ A registered OCI is **granted multiple entry, multi-purpose life-long visa for visiting India**.
- ◆ They are exempted from **registration with Foreign Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) or Foreign Registration Officer (FRO)** for any length of stay in India.
- ◆ OCI cardholders **can open special bank accounts in India**. They can **buy non-farm property** and exercise ownership rights. They can also apply for a driver's licence and PAN card.
- ◆ However they are required to **seek permission or a permit to visit protected areas in India**.

4. RAMP Programme

Context

- ◆ The 5th National MSME Council has reviewed the progress of the World Bank supported RAMP Programme.

Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)

- ◆ It is a **World Bank-assisted Central Sector Scheme** launched in June 2022
- ◆ **Implementation** - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ◆ **Objective** - It is aiming to enhance the competitiveness and productivity of MSMEs.

Primary Objectives

1. **Market & Credit Access:** Improving MS-

MEs' ability to reach domestic and global markets and secure formal financing.

2. **Institutional Strengthening:** Building capacity and improving governance at both Central and State levels.
3. **Greening MSMEs:** Promoting environmentally sustainable practices and green investments.
4. **Addressing Delayed Payments:** Scaling up online dispute resolution (ODR) mechanisms to tackle liquidity issues caused by payment delays

5. RailTech Portal and e-RCT System

Context

- ◆ The Union Minister for Railways announced the **RailTech Policy and the complete digitisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT)** under Indian Railways' flagship "52 Reforms in 52 Weeks" initiative.

Rail Tech Policy Reform

- ◆ This policy aims to **engage innovators, startups, industry and institutions to promote innovation in Indian Railways.**
- ◆ The new policy simplifies the selection of innovators and introduces a **dedicated "Rail Tech Portal" for innovation.**

Key innovation areas include:

1. AI-based Elephant Intrusion Detection System (EIDS),
2. AI-based fire detection system in coaches,
3. drone-based broken rail detection system,
4. rail stress monitoring system,
5. sensor-based load calculation device on parcel vans (VPUs) etc.

Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT)

- ◆ It is a **quasi-judicial body in India** established under the **Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987**
- ◆ **Objective** - to provide a faster and more specialised mechanism for **settling claims against the Railway Administration**
- ◆ The E-RCT system will enable **end-to-end computerisation and digitisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal.**
- ◆ Earlier, claimants had to physically visit tribunal benches for filing and case tracking, causing delays, travel burdens, and jurisdictional confusion.

6. Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)

Context

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to review the evolving situation in West Asia.

Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)

- ◆ It is the **apex decision-making body in India responsible for matters related to national security and defence.**
- ◆ It is **chaired by the Prime Minister**, it typically includes key ministers such as the **Home Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister, and External Affairs Minister.**
- ◆ The **National Security Advisor (NSA)** acts as a **secretary-level coordinator** for issues within its purview.

7. Karnataka & Andhra to Ban Social Media Use by Children

Context

- ◆ Karnataka has announced a **ban on social media use by children under 16** in its latest Budget, and **Andhra Pradesh is moving to introduce a measure that would prohibit those under 13** to use such service.
- ◆ **Objective** - to **restrict social media access for minors to combat digital addiction and safeguard mental health.**

State-Wise Proposed Restrictions

- ◆ **Karnataka:** The proposal aims to ban social media for children under 16 years of age.
- ◆ **Andhra Pradesh** - to prohibit social media for children under 13 years of age,

Key Objectives and Context

- ◆ **Health and Safety:** The primary drivers are rising **concerns over digital addiction, cyberbullying, and declining academic performance.**
- ◆ **Global Precedents:** These moves follow international trends, such as **Australia's world-first nationwide ban for under-16s enacted in late 2025.**
- ◆ **Support Measures:** Karnataka has paired its proposal with the **"Mobile Bidi, Pustaka Hidi" (Leave the phone, pick a book) campaign** and plans to deploy mental health counselors in educational centers.

Additional Information - 'Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi' (Drop the Mobile, Pick up a Book)

- ◆ It is a statewide campaign launched by the Government of Karnataka in February 2026
- ◆ Objective - to combat mobile phone addiction and revive reading habits among schoolchildren.

Key Details of the Campaign

- ◆ **Primary Objective:** To reduce excessive screen time for children under 16 and encourage them to cultivate a love for physical books and libraries.
- ◆ **Target Audience:** Approximately 50 lakh students across government, aided, and private schools in Karnataka.
- ◆ **Implementation:** Overseen by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) and the Department of State Education Research and Training (DSERT).

8. Essential Commodities Act Invoked

News

- ◆ The Centre invoked the Essential Commodities Act in response to the oil crisis following Israel-U.S. strikes on Iran.
- ◆ Centre directed oil refining companies to prioritize LPG production using propane and butane streams, supply it exclusively to domestic consumers, and not use these streams for other petrochemical products.

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

- ◆ It has been a tool used by the government through the years to offset rising food prices, prevent hoarding and maintain food security.
- ◆ The list of essential commodities includes drugs and medicines, fertilizers, foodstuffs (including edible oils), hank yarn, petroleum and petroleum products, raw jute and jute textiles, and various types of seeds such as those for fruits, vegetables, and cattle fodder.
- ◆ The 2020 amendment to the Essential Commodities Act limited the Centre's powers to regulate key food items only under extraordinary circumstances and
- ◆ It allowed stock limits on agricultural produce only if prices rose sharply—100%

for horticultural goods and 50% for non-perishable foodstuffs.

9. Uniform Civil Code

Context

- ◆ The Supreme Court of India reiterated its support for a Uniform Civil Code, observing that a common civil law framework would help address complexities arising from multiple personal laws governing marriage, divorce, and succession across communities.

Supreme Court's Observations

- ◆ The petition before the court challenges provisions of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, arguing that it discriminates against Muslim women in matters such as inheritance.
- ◆ The Court stated that striking down personal law provisions may create a legal vacuum regarding inheritance rules.
- ◆ It emphasised that a Uniform Civil Code would provide a clearer and more comprehensive solution to ensure equality in personal laws, which requires legislative action, not only judicial decisions.

Uniform Civil Code

- ◆ Article 44 of the Directive Principles of the State Policy (DPSP) states that it is the duty of the State to secure Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for the citizens throughout the country.
- ◆ It mainly aims to replace Personal Laws based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community in India with a common set of rules governing every citizen.
- ◆ "Uniform" in UCC signifies
 - ◆ Uniformity of laws between communities.
 - ◆ Uniformity of laws within communities ensuring equalities between the rights of men and women.

Efforts Towards UCC in India

- ◆ Special Marriage Act, 1954: The Special Marriage Act of 1954 provides for civil marriage for any citizen irrespective of religion, thus, permitting any Indian to have their marriage outside the boundaries of any religious personal law.
- ◆ Shah Bano Case 1985: In this case, Shah Bano

was refused her claim for maintenance. The Supreme Court ruled in her favour under Section 125 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which applied to all citizens the order for maintenance of wives, children and parents.

- ◆ The Supreme Court further **recommended that the long pending Uniform Civil Code should be finally enacted.**
- ◆ The **Supreme Court** also called on the government to implement the UCC in the **1995 Sarla Mudgal judgement** as well as in the **Paulo Coutinho vs Maria Luiza Valentina Pereira case (2019).**

Arguments in Favour of UCC

- ◆ **Accommodating the Aspirations of the Youth:** As the world transitions into the digital age, the **social attitude and aspiration of the young population** is shaping by **universal and global principles of equality, humanity and modernity.**
 - ◆ Thus, the **enactment of Uniform Civil Code will help in utilising their full potential** towards nation building.
- ◆ **Support National Integration:** **The Constitution guarantees all citizens equal treatment in courts of law whether it is criminal laws or other civil laws (except Personal Laws).**
 - ◆ Thus, the implementation of Uniform Civil Code will grant an equal set of personal laws to all, resulting in the **end of politicization of issues of the discrimination or concessions** or on the **other hand exceptional benefits appreciated by a specific community on the basis of their specific religious personal laws.**
- ◆ **The Rise Above the Patriarchal Mindset:** The existing personal laws of most religions are based upon the **upper-class patriarchal notions of the society.** Thus, the codification and implementation of the Uniform Civil Code will **destroy the sanctity of the patriarchal orthodox.**
 - ◆ Thus, the Uniform Civil Code will **promote gender equality** and will bring both **men and women at par.**
- ◆ **Convenient for Judicial Process:** There exist many personal laws, including **Hindu Code, Sharia Law, etc.** The presence of so

many laws leads to **confusion, complexity, and inconsistencies** in the adjudication of personal matters, sometimes resulting in **delayed or incomplete justice.**

- ◆ UCC will help the judiciary deliver justice efficiently and within a **reasonable time-frame.**

Arguments Against UCC

- ◆ **21st Law Commission Report :** The **Law Commission of India** has opined that a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is neither necessary nor desirable to reconcile conflicts in personal/family laws.
 - ◆ It stated that **many countries are now moving towards recognition of difference,** and the mere existence of difference **does not imply discrimination, but is indicative of a robust democracy.**
 - ◆ Therefore, the **Commission has suggested amendments to existing family laws** to tackle discrimination and inequality in personal laws, rather than do away with differences between them altogether.
- ◆ **Against Cultural Diversity India:** Practical difficulties due to **diversity in India,** it is difficult to come up with a uniform set of rules for personal issues like marriage due to the tremendous diverse culture in India across the **religions, sects, castes, states, etc.**
- ◆ **Encroachment on Religious Freedom:** **Articles 25 to 28 of Indian Constitution** provide the **Right to Freedom of Religion.** The Uniform Civil Code is viewed as a **threat to religious freedom (Article 25)** by many communities, especially the minority communities.
 - ◆ According to them, the **Uniform Civil Code will neglect their traditions and impose rules** which will be mainly influenced by the **majority religious communities.**
 - ◆ **Against the Indigenous Rights of Tribes:** The **Naga Community** has claimed that the implementation of UCC would bring about clear trouble for their **culture and dignity.**
 - ◆ It can potentially cause **social disorder,** as the **personal and social life of the tribes are quite distinct from the rest of the people in the country.**

Conclusion

- ◆ **The goal of a UCC should ideally be reached**

in a piecemeal manner through a brick-by-brick approach rather than an omnibus approach. A just code is far more important than a uniform code.

10. National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)

In News

- ♦ The new office of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) was inaugurated at R.K. Puram, New Delhi.

National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)

- ♦ The NDSA is a statutory body established under the Dam Safety Act, 2021.
- ♦ Functions under - Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ♦ Objective - It acts as the national-level regulator for dam safety in India

Key Digital Initiatives Launched

- ♦ NETRA, NDSA Engine for Tracking and Review using AI. It is connected with DHARMA Dam Safety Database.
- ♦ Rashtriya Bandh Suraksha Darpan (RBSD), developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) for visualization of Dam Break Analysis (DBA).

11. Rajasthan's Property Bill

Context

- ♦ The Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property in Disturbed Areas Bill was passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.
- ♦ Rajasthan becomes the second state in India, after Gujarat, to implement such a bill.

Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property in Disturbed Areas Bill

- ♦ Aim: To regulate property transactions in areas that the government declares as "disturbed".
- ♦ Under the proposed law, Section 3(1,2) states that the State government may declare any area within the State as a 'disturbed area' if it considers that communal violence, riots, or public disorder exist or are likely to occur.
- ♦ Once a locality is notified, any transfer of immovable property, including land, houses or commercial establishments, would require prior approval from the District Magistrate.
- ♦ Property transactions carried out without

such permission would be treated as legally invalid.

- ♦ The law also provides penalties for property transfers carried out without the required permission.
- ♦ Concern - The Bill has also drawn attention in relation to Article 14, which guarantees equality before the law.

Do you Know?

- ♦ Note - The right to property was removed as a fundamental right by the 44th Amendment to the Constitution in 1978.
- ♦ It remains protected under Article 300A, which states that no person can be deprived of property except by authority of law.

12. Adoptive Mothers Get Equal Maternity Rights

Context

- ♦ The Supreme Court of India held that all female employees adopting children are entitled to 12 weeks of paid maternity leave, regardless of the child's age.

Background

- ♦ The legal framework governing maternity benefits in India originates from the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and through the 2017 Amendment for the first time, adoptive and commissioning mothers were granted 12 weeks of maternity leave.
- ♦ However, a restrictive condition was introduced that maternity leave was available only if the adopted child was below 3 months of age.

Supreme court ruling

- ♦ Concern: India's adoption process, governed by Central Adoption Resource Authority guidelines, rarely permits adoption of children below three months.
- ♦ As a result, most adoptive mothers were effectively denied maternity benefits, rendering the provision largely illusory.
- ♦ The court ruled that age-based classification was discriminatory and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, emphasising that adoption is an equally valid pathway to parenthood and cannot be treated differently from biological childbirth.

13. Fiscal Health Index 2026

Context

- ◆ NITI Aayog has released the second annual edition of Fiscal Health Index (FHI 2026).

Fiscal Health Index

- ◆ **Mandate** - It assesses the fiscal health of states in India.
- ◆ **Parameters** - Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability.
- ◆ Data for the index is sourced from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

Key Highlights of FHI 2026

Overall State Rankings:

- ◆ **Odisha** remains the top-performing state, further improving its fiscal score.
- ◆ **Goa and Jharkhand** also feature among the Achiever states.
- ◆ **Gujarat and Maharashtra** continue to remain in the top five.
- ◆ Haryana shows a notable improvement by gaining three ranks.

States Showing Recovery:

- ◆ **Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana** demonstrate moderate improvement in fiscal performance.

Low-Performing States:

- ◆ **Punjab, West Bengal, and Kerala** continue to remain at the bottom of the rankings, reflecting persistent fiscal stress.

NE and Himalayan States:

- ◆ Evaluated separately for the first time, **Arunachal Pradesh** tops as Achiever (strong revenue growth), followed by **Uttarakhand**;

14. National Shipping Board (NSB)

News

- ◆ The government held a high-level interaction with the **National Shipping Board (NSB)** to address emerging challenges in India's shipping sector amid evolving global geopolitical dynamics.

National Shipping Board (NSB)

- ◆ It is **India's apex advisory body** on shipping and maritime matters, **constituted under Section 23 of the Merchant Shipping Act,**

1958.

- ◆ It works **under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.**
- ◆ **Objective** - Its primary role is to advise the central government on shipping policies and maritime development.
- ◆ Its chairperson is appointed by the Central Government.

15. Removal of the Chief Election Commissioner

Context

- ◆ Opposition parties are considering an impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Article 324 of Constitution

- ◆ **Article 324** of the Constitution states that the **Election Commission will comprise the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of Election Commissioners (ECs), as the President may decide.**
- ◆ The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is responsible for managing the preparation of electoral rolls and **conducting elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President.**
- ◆ The Constitution specifies that the **President will appoint the CEC and ECs, subject to the provisions of an Act of Parliament.**

Constitutional Provisions for Removal of the CEC

- ◆ **Article 324(5)** of the Constitution of India provides that the **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) can be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.**
- ◆ **A motion seeking the removal of the CEC may be introduced in either House of Parliament** and must specify the grounds for seeking removal.

The motion must be supported by:

1. At least 100 members of the Lok Sabha, or
2. At least 50 members of the Rajya Sabha.
3. Once the motion is admitted, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha constitutes an inquiry committee to investigate the allegations.
4. If the committee finds the charges proven, the motion is taken up for voting in Parliament.

5. Both Houses must then pass the motion with a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. After both Houses approve the motion, the President issues the final order for removal.

16. Autonomous District Councils in Meghalaya

Context

- ◆ The election to the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) in Meghalaya has been postponed due to ongoing violence and disturbances in the West Garo Hills district.

About

- ◆ **The Sixth Schedule (Articles 244(2) and 275(1)) of Constitution provides autonomous administrative arrangements for tribal areas** in certain northeastern states like Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- ◆ **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** in Meghalaya are **special local self-governing institutions created under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India to protect the political, cultural, and economic rights of tribal communities.**
- ◆ **These councils enjoy legislative, executive, judicial, and financial powers.**

Objectives

1. Protect tribal land and customs.
2. Provide self-governance to indigenous communities.
3. Prevent exploitation by external groups.

17. Inquiry and Prosecution Wing of Lokpal

In News

- ◆ A Parliamentary Standing Committee has sought details on the operationalisation of inquiry and prosecution wings provision in the **Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013, highlighting delays even after a decade of enactment.**

Lokpal

- ◆ **Status & Mandate: Statutory anti-corruption body (Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013).** It became functional in 2019. Mandated to inquire into corruption allegations against public functionaries.
- ◆ **Structure: Consists of a Chairperson (former CJI, former SC Judge, or eminent**

person) and eight Members (four Judicial). At least 50% of Members must be from SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/women.

- ◆ **Appointment & Term: Appointed by the President based on the recommendation of a selection committee chaired by the Prime Minister.** The term is 5 years or until 70 years of age.
- ◆ **Jurisdiction: Covers current or former PM, Union Ministers, MPs, and Union Government officials (Groups A, B, C, D).** Also includes heads and members of bodies funded by Union/State or receiving foreign contributions over ₹10 lakh.
- ◆ **Powers: It has powers to superintendence over and to give direction to the CBI.** Can refer complaints against Central government servants to the CVC.
- ◆ **PM Exemptions: Cannot inquire into allegations against the PM regarding international relations, security, public order, atomic energy, or space.** Initiation of a PM inquiry requires consideration by the full Lokpal bench and approval by at least 2/3rds of the members.

ECONOMY

1. National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0)

Context

- ◆ Recently, the **Union Finance Minister has launched the National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0).**

National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0)

- ◆ It is the **second phase of India's asset monetisation programme, covering the five-year period from FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30.**
- ◆ **Objective - it aims to unlock value from existing (brownfield) public infrastructure by leasing it to private players for a fixed period while the government retains ownership**

National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)

- ◆ It is the Indian government's plan to **lease out existing public infrastructure—like highways, railways, and power lines—to private companies for a specific period.**
- ◆ The government retains ownership, while

private firms operate the assets and pay the government for the right to earn revenue from them.

Key Aspects of NMP:

- ◆ **Goal: To unlock funds from underutilized, built assets** (“brownfield” projects) to invest in new infrastructure development.
- ◆ **Mechanism: Rather than selling, the government uses public-private partnerships (PPPs)** to transfer operating and maintenance rights.
- ◆ **Sectors: Major sectors included are roads, railways, power pipelines, telecom, and airports**

2. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Context

- ◆ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will enhance surveillance and enforcement on market manipulators and cyber fraudsters through technology and use Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- ◆ It is the **regulatory authority for the securities and capital markets** in India.
- ◆ It was **established in 1988** and given statutory powers through the **SEBI Act of 1992**.
- ◆ It falls under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Finance**.

Objective:

1. **Protect the interests of investors in securities.**
2. **Promote the development of the securities market.**
3. **Regulate the securities market** in India.

Composition: SEBI consists of:

1. A Chairperson (appointed by the Central Government).
2. Two members from the Ministry of Finance.
3. One member from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
4. Five other members (at least three whole-time members).

3. PM Inaugurates India’s First Semiconductor Plant

Context

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s first semiconductor facility at Sanand in Gujarat.
- ◆ The semiconductor plant has been set up by Micron Technology (an American chipmaker) as an Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) facility, with an investment of ₹22,516 crore at Sanand, Gujarat.

Semiconductor Chips

- ◆ These are materials which have a **conductivity between conductors and insulators**.
- ◆ **Example** - They can be pure elements, **silicon or germanium or compounds; gallium, arsenide or cadmium selenide**.
- ◆ **Significance of Semiconductor Chips** - They are the basic building blocks that serve as the **heart and brain of all modern electronics** and information and communication technology products.
- ◆ **Applications** - These chips are now an integral part of contemporary **automobiles, household gadgets and essential medical devices such as ECG machines**.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- ◆ **Launched by** - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ◆ **Aim** - **To build a vibrant semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem** to enable India’s emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design.

4. Rice fortification Scheme Suspended

In News

- ◆ The Government of India has decided to **temporarily discontinue rice fortification under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and other welfare schemes after a review of its implementation**.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

- ◆ **Launched in** - It was announced as part of the **relief package during the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- ◆ **Aim** - **To ensure sufficient food for the poor and needy during the coronavirus crisis**.

- ♦ **Ministry** - The department of Food and Public Distribution under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.
- ♦ **Beneficiaries** - Under the scheme, about **80 Crore beneficiaries** are eligible for foodgrains (free-of-cost).

📖 **Additional Information - Food fortification**

- ♦ **Definition** - Food Fortification is the practice of increasing the content of one or more micronutrients (i.e., vitamins and minerals) in a food.
- ♦ **Significance** - To improve the nutritional quality of the food and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health.
- ♦ **Rice fortification** - It involves the addition of micronutrients (Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B 12).
- ♦ **Milk fortification** - It involves the addition of vitamins A and D, which helps in combating deficiencies linked to these vitamins.
- ♦ **Salt fortification** - It involves the addition of iodine (iodized salt) to prevent iodine deficiency disorders.

5. International Energy Agency (IEA)

📖 **Context**

- ♦ **India is not going to join the International Energy Agency (IEA) initiative to release strategic oil reserves** as part of an effort to cool oil prices.
- ♦ **India is the world's third-largest oil-importing and consuming nation**, and has 5.33 million tonnes of underground strategic reserves. But they are only 80% filled currently.
- ♦ **India is not a full member of IEA and does not have an obligation to follow the mandate of the international body.**

📖 **India's Oil Imports**

- ♦ **India imports nearly 88% of its crude oil requirements** from around 41 countries.
- ♦ **Roughly half of those supplies in February passed through the Strait of Hormuz.**

📖 **International Energy Agency (IEA)**

- ♦ **Established: In 1974.**
- ♦ **Founding members** - Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and the United States.

- ♦ **Reason:** It was created when **major oil-exporting countries drastically reduced oil supplies, causing severe economic disruptions** in industrialized nations.
- ♦ **Mandate:** IEA's original mandate was to **ensure that oil supplies were kept stable**, and potential disruptions in future were anticipated and prevented through timely action.
- ♦ **Members:** The membership was kept open only for OECD countries.
- ♦ There are now **33 full members with Colombia being inducted as 33rd members recently.**
- ♦ **Associate Members:** In 2015, IEA opened the doors for non-OECD countries to become associate members.
- ♦ Note - The associate members participate in the policy discussions and activities, but do not have decision-making rights.
- ♦ **India became an associate member in 2017. There are 13 associate members right now.**

📖 **Additional information - Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD)**

- ♦ It is an intergovernmental organisation that **promotes economic development, policy coordination, and global cooperation.**
- ♦ Motto: "Better Policies for Better Lives."
- ♦ **Established in 1961**, succeeding the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC).
- ♦ **Headquarters: Paris, France.**
- ♦ **Membership: 38 member countries** (mainly developed economies). India is not a member.

6. Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)

📖 **News**

- ♦ **India's chairmanship of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) offers a strategic opportunity to India to strengthen the global diamond governance.**

📖 **Conflict Diamonds**

- ♦ 'Conflict diamonds', also **known as blood diamonds**, are the rough diamonds **mined and used by rebel movements or their allies to finance armed conflicts aimed at undermining legitimate governments.**
- ♦ The term was introduced in the 1990s when international attention turned to the **role of**

diamonds in financing violence in African countries like Angola, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Liberia, etc.

- ◆ These diamonds entered the global market through informal and illegal trade networks, making it difficult to trace their origin.

Kimberley Process

- ◆ The Kimberley Process is a **multilateral, voluntary certification mechanism aimed at preventing the trade of conflict diamonds.**
- ◆ It represents over **99% of global rough diamond trade.**
- ◆ Every shipment of rough diamonds between participating countries **must carry a Kimberley Process Certificate.**
- ◆ The certificate **guarantees that the diamonds are conflict-free.**
- ◆ **Trade with non-participants is prohibited.**

India's Diamond Industry

- ◆ **India is the world's largest diamond cutting and polishing hub.**
- ◆ It is a **major importer of rough diamonds & top exporter of cut and polished diamonds** (\$13.3 billion in 2024–25).
- ◆ It is the **second-largest diamond market after the United States.**
- ◆ **Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is the nodal agency for implementing Kimberley Process Certificate.** It works under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

7. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund

In News

- ◆ The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has raised \$750 million for its Second Private Market Fund (PMF-II).

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

- ◆ **Established in 2015** as India's sovereign wealth fund.
- ◆ **Objective - to provide long-term capital for the country's infrastructure sector.**
- ◆ It functions as an investor-owned fund manager, anchored by the **Government of India (49% stake) in partnership with leading global and domestic institutional investors (51% stake)**

8. International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026)

Context

- ◆ The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026).
- ◆ **Workforce shift:** Rural men are moving to non-farm jobs leading to women replacing them in agriculture.

Government Initiatives for Women in Agriculture

- ◆ **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP):** Under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), supports women farmers in sustainable agriculture, livestock, and NTFP (non-timber forest produce).
- ◆ **Joint Land Titles:** States encouraged to issue land pattas in joint names of husband and wife.
- ◆ **Priority Sector Lending (PSL):** Mandates credit flow to women farmers.
- ◆ **Rural women SHGs & FPOs:** Supported through NABARD and DAY-NRLM.
- ◆ **Agri-Clinics & Agri-Business Centres (ACABC):** Special provisions for women agri-entrepreneurs.
- ◆ **Digital Literacy:** Initiatives like Digital Sakhi, BHASHINI platform for multilingual access to agri-services.
- ◆ **Maternity Benefits & Health Schemes:** Support women farmers' welfare indirectly.
- ◆ **Support for Women FPOs:** Encouraged under the 10,000 FPOs Scheme (2020) with special provision for women-led groups.
- ◆ **GI Tags, Branding, and Export Facilitation:** Helps women producers in spices, tea, millets, organic produce.

9. Purple Potatoes



Context

- ♦ A young farmer from Punjab has gained attention for cultivating purple potatoes using seed tubers imported from Bolivia.

Purple potatoes

- ♦ **Cultivated in - Andean region of South America, especially Peru and Bolivia.**
- ♦ Purple potatoes are **naturally pigmented potato varieties with deep purple skin and flesh.**
- ♦ The tubers are deep purple both externally and internally **due to a high concentration of anthocyanins**, natural antioxidants responsible for the colour.
- ♦ The **thicker peel gives them a longer shelf life than conventional potatoes.**
- ♦ The **crop duration is around 90–100 days**, with sowing generally done in October–November.
- ♦ They are **rich in vitamin C and antioxidants**, and are considered **beneficial for people managing conditions such as diabetes or joint pain.**

Do You Know?

- ♦ **India has developed its own purple potato variety Kufri Jamunia**, launched in 2024 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Potato Cultivation

- ♦ India is the **world's second top producer and consumer of potato after China**; in 2020, it saw a **production of 51.30 million tonnes.**
- ♦ Among the states in India, **Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal lead the production, followed by Bihar.**
- ♦ **Potato is a cool-season crop and best suited to well-drained sandy loam soils.**

10. Assam's GI-tagged Joha Rice



Context

- ♦ India has facilitated the export of 25 metric tonnes of Assam's GI-tagged Joha Rice to the United Kingdom and Italy.

Joha Rice

- ♦ It is an **aromatic indigenous rice variety**, which received its Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2017.
- ♦ It is gaining recognition in premium global markets for its **distinctive fragrance, fine grain texture and rich taste.**
- ♦ **The leading districts in Joha rice production are: Nagaon, Baksa, Goalpara, Sibsagar, Majuli, Chirang and Golaghat.**
- ♦ This strong production base provides a good opportunity to create a surplus for exports and enhance farmers' income.

Connect with the basics - Geographical Indication or GI Tag

- ♦ It is a name or a sign given to certain products related to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town, or country.
- ♦ **A certification for unique products - GI Tag** may be regarded as a certification for a particular product with certain specific qualities or has a specific reputation because of its geographical origin.
- ♦ **GI Tags can be issued** for wine and spirit drinks, foodstuffs, agricultural products, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- ♦ **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** - At the International level, GI is governed by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- ♦ **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act** - In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in September 2003.
- ♦ **Darjeeling tea** - The first product in India to be accorded with the GI tag was Darjeeling tea in 2004-05.

11. NMDC Iron Ore Production

Context

- ♦ **NMDC Limited has become India's first**

mining company to achieve 50 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore production in a single financial year (FY 2025–26).

Iron Ore

- ◆ Iron ore refers to rocks and minerals from which metallic iron is extracted.
- ◆ Iron ore is **categorized into four main types** based on iron content and quality:
 1. Magnetite (best quality, >70% iron)
 2. Hematite (most important industrial ore, 60-70% iron)
 3. Limonite (lower grade, 40-60% iron)
 4. Siderite (poor quality, <40% iron).
- ◆ India is the 4th largest producer, after Australia, Brazil, and China.
- ◆ Odisha leads in production, followed by Chhattisgarh and Karnataka.

About NMDC

- ◆ **Established in 1958** to develop India's iron ore resources.
- ◆ India's largest iron ore producer and a **Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Steel.**
- ◆ **It Supports India's target of 300 MT steel production capacity by 2030.**

12. India's Bioeconomy Moving Towards \$300 billion

Context

- ◆ **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said India's bioeconomy has witnessed a remarkable surge from around \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$195 billion in 2025.**

BioEconomy

- ◆ It is the **knowledge-based production and use of biological resources to provide products, processes and services in all economic sectors** within the framework of a sustainable economic system.
- ◆ It encompasses **sectors like agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food production, biotechnology, and bioenergy.**

Subsectors of the BioEconomy in India are;

- ◆ **BioPharma or BioMedical:** It includes the **development and production of medical products and services, such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and lab-grown organoids.**
- ◆ **BioAgri:** It includes the **development and production of genetically modified**

crops and animals, precision agriculture technologies, and bio-based products. EX: Bt Cotton

- ◆ **BioIndustrial:** It includes the **development and production of biobased chemicals and products using enzymes, biosynthetic routes, and recombinant DNA technology.**

Major Government Initiatives

- ◆ **BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment):** Promotes sustainable biomanufacturing and bio-based industries.
- ◆ The focus areas include smart proteins, precision therapeutics, and climate-resilient agriculture.
- ◆ **Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund:** ₹1 lakh crore corpus aimed at supporting deep-tech innovation and scaling startups.
- ◆ **Startup and Incubation Support:** Strengthening biotech clusters and innovation hubs across India.
- ◆ **Inclusive Talent Development:** Special focus on tier-2 and tier-3 cities, women entrepreneurs, and young researchers.

13. World Happiness Report 2026

Context

- ◆ **The World Happiness Report 2026 highlights that heavy social media use is adversely affecting the well-being of young people across many countries.**

World Happiness Report 2026

- ◆ The annual report is **published by the University of Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre in partnership with Gallup, and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.**

Six factors for evaluation of happiness ranking:

1. GDP per capita,
 2. Life expectancy,
 3. Social support,
 4. Freedom to make life choices,
 5. Generosity,
 6. Perceptions of corruption.
- ◆ **Top 3:** Finland (1st, since 2018), Iceland (2nd), and Denmark (3rd).
 - ◆ **Bottom 3:** Malawi (145th), Sierra Leone (146th), and Afghanistan (147th).
 - ◆ **India:** Ranked 116th (improved from 118th in 2025).

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. PM Surya Ghar scheme

In News

- Recently, the Prime Minister praised 30 lakh households adopting rooftop solar under the PM Surya Ghar scheme, marking a key clean energy milestone.
- Gujarat leads in adoption, followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, with widespread participation across other states and UTs.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

- Launched in - 2024**
- Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Objective:** Installing rooftop solar (RTS) & providing free electricity for up to 300 monthly units for 1 Crore households.
- Uniqueness -** It is the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative, transforming India's energy landscape
- Subsidy:** The scheme offers a subsidy of up to 40% to households.

2. State Innovation Mission (SIM)

Context

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog, launched the first State Innovation Mission (SIM) in Tripura.

State Innovation Mission (SIM)

- It is launched by NITI Aayog under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) 2.0.
- First Implementation:** Tripura became the first state in India to launch its State Innovation Mission on February 26, 2026.
- Objective:** To decentralise innovation by providing states with the tools to design their own innovation strategies, support local startups, and strengthen school-level innovation (via Atal Tinkering Labs).
- Significance:** It promotes cooperative and competitive federalism by allowing states to lead innovation in their own unique socio-economic contexts

3. Coconut Promotion Scheme

Context

- The 2026-27 Union budget announced a

'Coconut Promotion Scheme'.

Coconut Promotion Scheme

- Aim:** Improving productivity by rejuvenating old, non-productive gardens with high yielding coconut varieties and establishing new plantations along the coast.
- Nodal agency -** Coconut Development Board (CDB)

Additional Information - Coconut (Cocos nucifera)

- It is a major perennial horticultural plantation crop of India, predominantly grown in the humid tropics and coastal regions.
- It thrives in well-drained sandy loam soils, high humidity, and temperatures between 27-32°C. It requires plenty of sunlight.
- India is one of the leading producers of coconut globally. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka together contribute about 82-83% of India's coconut production.

4. Orunodoi Scheme

News

- The Assam Chief Minister announced plans to transfer ₹9,000 to approximately 40 lakh beneficiary families under the Orunodoi scheme through direct benefit transfer (DBT).

Orunodoi scheme

- Orunodoi' or Arunodoi Scheme** is a new scheme of the Government of Assam launched in 2020.
- Objective -** It envisages women empowerment, poverty alleviation and socio-economic inclusion of financially vulnerable women of the state through sustained financial assistance on a monthly basis, so that they are assured of minimum monthly cash flow.

Benefits

- The Assam government's Orunodoi 3.0 Scheme provides financial support of ₹1,250 per month to women from low-income families via Direct Benefit Transfer.
- The amount covers various essential expenses.

5. SWAMIH

Context

- ◆ The **Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Investment Fund (SWAMIH)** has emerged as a key policy initiative for India's Housing Sector.

Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Investment Fund (SWAMIH)

- ◆ **Launched in 2019,**
- ◆ It provides **last-mile financing to housing projects affected by financial constraints.**
- ◆ The fund is **sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India,** and is managed by SBICAP Ventures Ltd., a State Bank Group company.
- ◆ **Impact and Outcomes:** Over 58,596 homes completed so far under SWAMIH, with more than 1 lakh homes expected, benefiting over 2.38 lakh people.

6. PM POSHAN Scheme

News

- ◆ A Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended the inclusion of breakfast in the **PM POSHAN Scheme & extension of coverage up to Class 12.**

PM-POSHAN

- ◆ **Earlier known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and renamed as PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) in 2021.**
- ◆ It operates under the **Ministry of Education** and is approved for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ◆ It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** (jointly funded by Centre and States) **providing one hot cooked meal to students in government and aided schools up to Class 8.**
- ◆ It aims to **address hunger (lack of adequate food intake) and educational outcomes (attendance, retention, learning) simultaneously.**

7. Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)

Context

- ◆ The Union Cabinet approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA), with an allocation of ₹33,660 crore.

Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)

- ◆ **Aim:** To create 100 "future ready" industrial parks that will integrate with the PM GatiShakti programme so that they can avail of that programme's multi-modal connectivity and last-mile access.
- ◆ These parks will **set new benchmarks in industrial infrastructure, ensuring reliability, reducing inefficiencies, and enhancing productivity** across sectors.
- ◆ **Land Use:** Industrial parks ranging from 100 to 1,000 acres will be taken up for the development.
- ◆ **Funding:** While the **Central government will provide funding of up to Rs 1 crore per acre,** the scheme is meant to include the involvement of the respective State governments as well as the private sector.
- ◆ **Infrastructure:** Core infrastructure like internal roads, underground utilities, drainage, common treatment facilities, ICT and administrative systems.
- ◆ The **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC),** under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, will play a key role in **implementing the initiative.**
- ◆ The **scheme duration would be for six years starting in 20 26-27.**

Additional Information - PM GatiShakti

- ◆ It was launched in - 2021
- ◆ **Objective** - to enhance the country's infrastructure and promote seamless connectivity across various sectors.
- ◆ **Significance** - It is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development which is driven by seven engines – **railway, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport and logistics infrastructure.**
- ◆ **Implementation:** PM Gati Shakti will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like **Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc.**

8. Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

News

- ◆ **The Union Cabinet has approved the Small**

Hydro Power Development Scheme for 2026–31 to boost clean energy (low-emission renewable power) and rural development.

Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme

- ◆ It is a **centrally sponsored initiative** approved by the Union Cabinet in **March 2026**
- ◆ **Objective - to boost clean energy generation in remote and rural areas.**
- ◆ **Implementation** - It is managed by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**
- ◆ **Target - Approximately 1,500 MW of capacity between FY 2026-27 and FY 2030-31**

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

1. Free HPV Vaccination Drive for Adolescent Girls

Context

- ◆ The Union government is set to launch a **nationwide immunisation drive against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) targeting girls aged 14 years**, marking a major **preventive step against cervical cancer.**

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

- ◆ HPV is a common **sexually transmitted infection.**
- ◆ **Most infections are asymptomatic and self-limiting.**
- ◆ **Nature:** HPV is a **DNA virus** from the Papillomaviridae family.

Additional Information - Cervical Cancer

- ◆ Cervical cancer develops in a woman's cervix **(the entrance to the uterus from the vagina).**
- ◆ **Spread:** Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk **human papillomaviruses (HPV), an extremely common virus transmitted through sexual contact.**
- ◆ **Prevalence:** Cervical cancer is the **fourth most common cancer in women.**
- ◆ It is the **second most common type of cancer in India for women.**
- ◆ **Treatment:** When diagnosed, cervical cancer is one of the **most successfully treatable forms of cancer**, as long as it is detected early

and managed effectively.

- ◆ **Vaccination:** There are, at present, two vaccines available in the country against the human papillomavirus (HPV) which causes cervical cancer, namely **Merck's Gardasil and Serum Institute of India's Cervavac.**

2. Global Mind Health 2025 Report

Context

- ◆ The Global Mind Health 2025 Report, released by Sapien Labs, highlights a **significant mental health crisis among young adults in India** and reveals a sharp generational divide in mind health outcomes.

About the Report

- ◆ Formerly known as the **Mental State of the World Report**, it is published under the Global Mind Project.
- ◆ The study **assesses emotional, social, cognitive and functional capacities required to manage life, work and relationships**, using the Mind Health Quotient (MHQ) as a composite indicator.

The study identifies four key drivers behind declining youth mental health:

1. Weakening family bonds
2. Decline in spirituality
3. Early exposure to smartphones
4. High consumption of ultra-processed foods.

Key Findings

Global Trends:

- ◆ **Young adults in economically developed countries show poorer mind health outcomes compared to those in less developed regions.**
- ◆ Notably, **Finland ranks high in happiness but not proportionately in mind health**, suggesting that life satisfaction and mental resilience are distinct measures.

India's Position:

- ◆ Age 18–34: Ranked 60th globally with an MHQ score of 33.
- ◆ Age 55+: Ranked 49th globally with an MHQ score of 96.

3. Progress Toward an Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) Vaccine

In News

- ◆ Researchers are developing monoclonal antibodies that could prevent EBV infection.

Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV)

- ◆ It is also known as **Human Herpesvirus 4 (HHV-4)**.
- ◆ It is one of the **most common human viruses, infecting nearly 95% of the global population**.
- ◆ It is a **double-stranded DNA virus belonging to the herpesvirus family**
- ◆ **Highly Contagious:** It primarily spreads through **bodily fluids, especially saliva, earning it the nickname “the kissing disease”**. It can also spread through blood transfusions and organ transplants.

Complications - While often harmless, EBV can lead to serious conditions:

- ◆ **Infectious Mononucleosis (Mono):** Characterized by **fever, sore throat, extreme fatigue, and swollen lymph nodes**.
- ◆ **Cancer (Oncogenic):** Linked to several malignancies, including **Burkitt’s lymphoma, Hodgkin’s lymphoma, and nasopharyngeal carcinoma**.
- ◆ **Autoimmune Disorders:** Recent research strongly links EBV to **Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), and Rheumatoid Arthritis**.
- ◆ **Vaccine Research:** As of early 2026, there is no **approved vaccine for EBV**, but researchers are making breakthroughs using monoclonal antibodies targeting viral proteins (gp42 and gp350).

4. Meningococcal Disease

In News

- ◆ The Meghalaya government has sounded a high-level health alert after two **Agniveer trainees at the Assam Regimental Centre in Shillong died from a suspected meningococcal infection**.

Meningococemia Infection

- ◆ It is a severe, rapidly progressing disease **caused by the bacterium Neisseria meningitides**.
- ◆ It leads to life-threatening **meningitis**

(infection of the lining of the brain) or **meningococemia (blood poisoning)**.

- ◆ It infects meninges, the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord to become **inflamed**.

Transmission

- ◆ **People spread meningococcal bacteria to other people by sharing respiratory and throat secretions (saliva or spit)**.
- ◆ They are **not as contagious as germs** that cause the common cold or the flu.
- ◆ **Symptoms:** It includes **high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, and a non-blanching rash**.
- ◆ **Treatment:** It is treated with antibiotics.

5. World Obesity Atlas 2026

Context

- ◆ **India ranks second globally in the number of children who are overweight or living with obesity**, according to the World Obesity Atlas 2026 released on World Obesity Day (4 March).

World Obesity Atlas

- ◆ **Published by - World Obesity Federation**.
- ◆ It provides global data, projections, and policy insights on **obesity trends and related health risks**.
- ◆ The report highlights that the global target to halt the **rise in childhood obesity by 2025 has been missed, and the deadline has now been extended to 2030**.

Government Initiatives

- ◆ **POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission):** Focuses on improving **nutritional outcomes for children, adolescents, and women** through convergence of nutrition-related schemes.
- ◆ **Fit India Movement:** Launched to **promote physical activity, fitness culture, and behavioural change** among citizens.
- ◆ **Eat Right India:** Initiative by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to **encourage healthy diets, food safety, and reduction of unhealthy food consumption**.
- ◆ **School Health and Wellness Programme:** Promotes health education, physical activity, and lifestyle awareness among school students.

6. SHINE App for Women Employees

In News

- ◆ Recently, the **Indian Railways** launched the **SHINE app on International Women's Day to enhance safety and empowerment at work.**

Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment (SHINE) App

- ◆ It is **mobile app for women employees to lodge complaints about sexual harassment in the workplace.**
- ◆ It is **designed to maintain confidentiality and ensure complaints are addressed quickly** by the **Internal Complaints Committee**, in line with Visakha guidelines (1997) and government instructions.
- ◆ Complaints can be filed through the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) and the Employee Self Service portal.

Additional Information- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (PoSH)

- ◆ **Sexual harassment defined** - Sexual harassment includes "any one or more" of the following "unwelcome acts or behaviour" committed directly or by implication: Physical contact and advances, a demand or request for sexual favours, sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, any other unwelcome physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.
- ◆ **Obligation** - Every employer is required to constitute an **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** at each office or branch with **10 or more employees.**
- ◆ **Complaint Committees** - ICC has powers similar to those of a civil court in respect of summoning and examining any person on oath and requiring the discovery and production of documents.
- ◆ **Time** - The complaint must be made "**within three months from the date of the incident**".
- ◆ **Conciliation** - The ICC may (at the request of the aggrieved woman) allow the matter to be settled through conciliation (but no monetary settlement allowed)
- ◆ **Punishment** - **Non-compliance with the provisions of the Act shall be punishable with a fine of up to Rs 50,000.**

7. India's First Passive Euthanasia Case

Context

- ◆ The **Supreme Court** practically applied the **principles of passive euthanasia for the first time** by permitting the withdrawal of clinically-assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH) to 32-year-old Harish Rana.
- ◆ **Note - Karnataka is the second State after Kerala to implement the directive.**

Supreme Court Ruling

- ◆ **Common Cause vs. Union of India & Anr. (2018) case** - It recognised
- ◆ right to die with dignity as a fundamental right under Article 21 and upheld legal validity of passive euthanasia.
- ◆ **Definition of Euthanasia** - It is an act of deliberately ending a person's life to relieve suffering from painful and incurable disease or disorder.

Passive euthanasia v/s Active euthanasia

- ◆ **Passive euthanasia** - It is withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for terminally ill patients undergoing prolonged medical treatment with no hope of recovery and do not have decision-making capacity.
- ◆ **Active euthanasia** - It is the intentional act

8. Paid Menstrual Leave May Hurt Women's Careers: SC

Context

- ◆ The **Supreme Court** expressed apprehensions that a law making paid leave during menstrual pain compulsory may damage the careers of young women and deprive them of equal opportunities.

Menstrual Leave

- ◆ Menstrual leave refers to paid or unpaid leave granted to women during menstruation when they experience health issues such as:
- ◆ **Dysmenorrhea:** painful menstrual cramps
- ◆ **Endometriosis:** a disorder where tissue similar to uterine lining grows outside the uterus

Highlights of the SC Judgement

- ◆ Such a move could create a **psychological barrier among women that they are inferior to men as they can't work when they are menstruating.**

- ◆ The Court encouraged “voluntary” initiatives in this regard by States like Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala, which gives leave to students in State-run universities and institutions up to 60 days’ leave annually for menstrual pain.

Arguments in Favour of Paid Menstrual Leave

- ◆ **Promotes Gender-Sensitive Workplaces:** Recognises biological realities of women and promotes inclusivity and empathy in the workplace.
- ◆ **Aligns with Constitutional Principles:** Supports Article 42 of the Constitution of India, which directs the state to ensure just and humane conditions of work.
- ◆ **Improves Productivity and Well-being:** Allows women to rest during periods of pain or discomfort, leading to better overall performance and morale.
- ◆ **Health and Human Rights Perspective:** Upholds women’s right to health, dignity, and bodily autonomy.
- ◆ **De-stigmatising Menstruation:** Recognising menstrual health in workplace policy can help break social taboos & promote gender equality.
- ◆ **Global Alignment:** Reflects global best practices, countries like Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Spain have similar policies.

Arguments Against

- ◆ **Risk of Workplace Discrimination:** Employers may become reluctant to hire or promote women, viewing them as less productive or more costly.
- ◆ **Informal Sector Dominance:** Nearly 88% of India’s workforce is in the informal sector, where formal leave policies are largely absent.
- ◆ **Implementation Challenges in the Private Sector:** Ensuring compliance and monitoring across diverse industries could be difficult.

Existing Menstrual Leave Policies in India

- ◆ India does not have a national law on menstrual leave, but some states have introduced policies.
- ◆ Bihar was the first state to introduce menstrual leave (1992) for government employees.
- ◆ Some companies have introduced voluntary menstrual leave policies like

Zomato, Swiggy.

Additional Information - Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy-2025

- ◆ Women in the state of Karnataka will be entitled to up to 12 menstrual leaves annually.
- ◆ This development marks a significant step in recognising menstrual health at a workplace and rights issue.
- ◆ The Dr. Sapna S committee was appointed by the Karnataka government to study and recommend menstrual leave policy
- ◆ **Significance - It aims to create a more inclusive and stigma-free workplace** and is considered a landmark decision in India, as it covers both government and private sectors comprehensively.

9. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026

News-

- ◆ The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.

Major Highlights of the Bill

- ◆ The Bill aims to amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- ◆ **Definition of Transgender Person:** It seeks to narrow the definition of “transgender person” and clarifies that persons with different sexual orientations or self perceived sexual identities will not fall within the definition of transgender persons under the Act.
- ◆ **Changes To Recognition Of Gender Identity:** The District Magistrate will issue a certificate of identity after examining the recommendation of a designated medical board headed by a Chief Medical Officer or Deputy Chief Medical Officer.

Additional Information - LGBTQIA+

- ◆ LGBTQIA+ is an umbrella term for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual persons, with ‘+’ representing other identities that are not specifically included in these letters.

India’s Position on LGBTQIA+ Rights

- ◆ As per census 2011, there were 4.87 lakhs persons in India who opted for “other” in

gender category.

- ◆ **Decriminalisation:** Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018) decriminalised consensual homosexual acts (Section 377 partially struck down).
- ◆ **Transgender Rights:** NALSA v. Union of India (2014) recognised the right to self-identify gender.
- ◆ It recognises transgender as the “third gender” upholding their fundamental rights.
- ◆ **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 14 – Right to equality, Article 15 – No discrimination on grounds of sex and Article 21 – Right to life and personal liberty.
- ◆ **Legislation:** The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 provides legal recognition of transgender identity.

📖 Challenges Faced by the Transgenders

- ◆ **Societal Issues:** Trans persons face deep-rooted societal prejudices, leading to ostracisation from families and communities.
- ◆ **Lack of Access to Education:** High school dropout rates due to bullying, harassment, and gender-based violence.
- ◆ **Barriers in Employment:** Trans persons face widespread discrimination in hiring and the workplace. Often forced into informal, unsafe, and exploitative sectors, like begging or sex work, due to lack of opportunities.
- ◆ **Healthcare Exclusion:** They face lack of gender-affirmative healthcare, discrimination by medical staff, and unavailability of hormonal and surgical services in public hospitals.
- ◆ **High mental health burden due to social rejection and isolation.**
- ◆ **Violence and Abuse:** Prone to verbal, physical, and sexual violence both in public and private spaces.
- ◆ **Political Underrepresentation:** Low political visibility and representation in mainstream parties and institutions.
- ◆ **Lack of policy-making** participation hinders the articulation of their needs.

📖 Government Initiatives

- ◆ **National Portal for Transgender Persons** - launched in 2020, enables online applications for identity certificates and access to benefits.
- ◆ **SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise)**

Scheme, introduced in 2022, provides livelihood, skill training, and shelter support through **Garima Greh centres and Ayushman Bharat TG Plus health coverage.**

- ◆ **National Council for Transgender Persons:** It serves as a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to safeguard and promote the rights of transgender persons in India.

10. National Vaccination Day

📖 Context

- ◆ **India marked National Vaccination Day (March 16) to highlight achievements in immunisation.**
- ◆ The day is observed to **commemorate the first dose of the Oral Polio Vaccine administered in 1995** under the Pulse Polio Programme.

📖 Government Initiatives

- ◆ **The Universal Immunisation Programme:** Launched in 1985 and implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, it aims to **provide free vaccines to children and pregnant women against various diseases.**
- ◆ **Mission Indradhanush:** It was launched in December 2014 by the Government of India to **reach children and pregnant women who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.**

📖 Recent Initiatives (2026)

- ◆ **HPV Vaccination Campaign:** Targets ~1.15 crore girls (14 years) for cervical cancer prevention.
- ◆ **Indigenous Td Vaccine:** Manufactured at CRI, Kasauli; ~55 lakh doses planned for supply.

📖 Digital Initiatives:

- ◆ **eVIN:** Real-time vaccine stock and temperature tracking;
- ◆ **U-Win:** Digital vaccination registry and tracking platform;
- ◆ **CoWIN:** Enabled administration of 220+ crore COVID vaccine doses.

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Green Ammonia

In News

- ◆ India's energy transition is increasingly focusing on green hydrogen and its derivatives, with green ammonia emerging as a crucial pathway.

Green ammonia

- ◆ It is **produced using green hydrogen**, and is emerging as a **leading clean fuel for fertilizers, energy, and marine applications**.

Benefits of Green Ammonia

- ◆ **Decarbonization of Fertilizers:** India's fertilizer sector, heavily dependent on imported ammonia, can significantly cut emissions by adopting green ammonia.

Additional Information - Green Hydrogen

- ◆ **Green Hydrogen:** It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.
- ◆ **Benefit:** It is a clean burning element that can decarbonise a range of sectors including iron and steel, chemicals, and transportation.
- ◆ Hydrogen can be stored for long periods of time which can be used to produce electricity using fuel cells.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- ◆ **Aim:** To make India a **global hub for the production of green hydrogen**.
- ◆ **Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE)

Hydrogen

- ◆ **Symbol and Atomic number** - Hydrogen is the chemical element with the **symbol H and atomic number 1**.
- ◆ Hydrogen is the **lightest element and the most abundant chemical substance in the universe**, constituting roughly 75% of all normal matter.
- ◆ It is **colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, and highly combustible gas**.

2. Pangolins



Context

- ◆ CITES report revealed that over 500,000 pangolins were seized globally between 2016 and 2024.

Pangolin

- ◆ Pangolins are **mammals covered in keratin scales, the only such mammals on Earth**.
- ◆ They **feed on ants, termites, and larvae** using their long sticky tongues.
- ◆ When threatened, they **use volvation (rolling into a ball) to protect themselves** with their armor-like scales.
- ◆ They are considered **“ecosystem engineers” due to their role in soil aeration and pest control**.
- ◆ **There are eight recognised species of pangolins globally** — four species are found in Africa (Black-bellied, White-bellied, Giant Ground, and Temminck's Ground pangolins) and four species are found in Asia (Indian, Philippine, Sunda, and Chinese pangolins).

3. Him-CONNECT

Context

- ◆ **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is organising Him-CONNECT** in New Delhi as part of The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS).

'Him-CONNECT'

- ◆ It links researchers from the **Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) with start-ups, investors and policymakers**.
- ◆ It will showcase more than **24 technologies and innovations developed under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies**

(NMHS).

- ◆ The platform aims to facilitate commercialisation, on-ground deployment and wider adoption of Himalayan-focused solutions.

4. International Climate Initiative (IKI)

In News

- ◆ Germany and India have launched a €20 million (approximately ₹180 crore) Large Grant project under the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

International Climate Initiative (IKI)

- ◆ It is a key funding programme by the German government in 2008.
- ◆ Objective - to support international climate and biodiversity projects in developing and emerging economies.

Core Funding Areas

- ◆ It focuses on four main pillars to help partner nations meet their Paris Agreement and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) goals:
 - 1. Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Transitioning to renewable energy, sustainable mobility, and low-carbon industrial processes.
 - 2. Adapting to Climate Change Impacts:** Increasing resilience through ecosystem-based adaptation and risk management strategies.
 - 3. Preserving and Restoring Natural Carbon Sinks:** Focused on forest conservation, peatland protection, and ending land-use changes (REDD+).
 - 4. Conserving Biological Diversity:** Implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and managing protected areas

5. Bureau of Energy Efficiency Commemorates 25th Foundation Day

Context

- ◆ The 25th Foundation Day of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) was celebrated at the India Habitat Centre.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

- ◆ It is an Indian statutory body under the Ministry of Power.
- ◆ Established in 2002 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001,
- ◆ Objective - to reduce the energy intensity of the Indian economy through market-

driven initiatives and self-regulation.

Major Programs & Initiatives

- ◆ **Standards & Labelling (S&L) Scheme:** Provides star-rating labels on appliances (e.g., refrigerators, ACs) to inform consumers about energy efficiency and savings potential.
- ◆ **Perform, Achieve & Trade (PAT):** A market-based mechanism under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) that incentivizes large energy-intensive industries to meet efficiency targets.
- ◆ **Energy Conservation Building Codes (ECBC):** Guidelines for efficient building design.
- ◆ **Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries and Establishments (ADEETIE) Scheme:** Assists MSMEs in adopting energy-efficient technologies with technical and financial support.
- ◆ **National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA):** Annual recognition for exemplary energy efficiency achievements.

6. High Chances of El Niño After July: WMO

In News

- ◆ The World Meteorological Organization forecasts a high likelihood of El Niño developing in the latter half of 2026, following the fading of the current La Niña into ENSO-neutral conditions.
- ◆ El Niño and La Niña are complex weather patterns resulting from variations in ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Region.

Difference between El Niño and La Niña

| Feature | El Niño (Warm Phase) | La Niña (Cold Phase) |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Meaning | Spanish for "Little Boy" | Spanish for "Little Girl" |
| Ocean Temp. | Abnormal warming of eastern Pacific | Abnormal cooling of eastern Pacific |
| Trade Winds | Weaken or reverse direction | Become unusually strong |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Indian Monsoon | Weakens monsoon; often leads to droughts | Strengthens monsoon; brings heavy rainfall |
| Winter in India | Generally warmer/milder winters | Severely cold winters in North India |
| Frequency | Occurs every 2-7 years; lasts 9-12 months | Occurs every 2-7 years; can last 1-3 years |

7. Project HANUMAN

News

- ◆ Project HANUMAN is a new initiative by the Andhra Pradesh government to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts through advanced rescue, monitoring, and community protection measures.

Project HANUMAN

- ◆ Acronym - Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife.
- ◆ Objective - It targets forest-fringe areas prone to incidents like elephant raids and snake bites, promoting coexistence via scientific tools and local involvement.

Key Features

- ◆ 100 GPS-enabled vehicles, 93 rapid response units and 7 wildlife ambulances for quick rescues and aid.
- ◆ Four rescue centers in Visakhapatnam, Rajamahendravaram, Tirupati, and Birluti (or Byrluti).
- ◆ 'Vajra' volunteer teams at village level for minor incidents like snake rescues.
- ◆ AI systems for tracking animal movements and early warnings to settlements.
- ◆ HANUMAN app for reporting conflicts and coordination.
- ◆ Enhanced compensation like ₹10 lakh for human deaths, ₹2 lakh for injuries, market value for livestock.

8. India's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Context

- ◆ India has submitted its 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), assessing national progress toward biodiversity targets for 2030.

- ◆ The report evaluates India's performance against 23 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- ◆ Origin: The Convention was opened for signature in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit).
- ◆ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force on 29 December 1993.
- ◆ The first session of the COP was scheduled in 1994 in the Bahamas.
- ◆ Secretariat: Montreal, Canada.
- ◆ Ratification: The CBD has been ratified by 196 nations, making it one of the most widely adopted international treaties.
- ◆ Note - The United States is the only UN member state that has not ratified the convention.

It has 3 main objectives;

1. The conservation of biological diversity
 2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
 3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- ◆ The governing body is the Conference of the Parties (COP), which meets every two years.
 - ◆ The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing are supplementary agreements to the CBD.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- ◆ The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was concluded at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Montreal, Canada, in 2022.
- ◆ It features 23 targets to be met by 2030 and four global goals for 2050 to preserve biodiversity for current and future generations.
- ◆ The agreement is not binding on members.

9. Anavaran-Deforestation Alert System

Context

- ◆ The Forest Survey of India (FSI) has reportedly halted the fortnightly alerts

generated by its **AI-based Anavaran-Deforestation Alert System**, which monitored forest cover loss in near-real time.

Anavaran-Deforestation Alert System

- ◆ It is an AI-enabled deforestation monitoring platform developed by the Forest Survey of India.
- ◆ It uses satellite imagery and machine learning algorithms to detect forest cover loss and send alerts to state forest departments every 15 days.
- ◆ Significance- to strengthen real-time forest monitoring.

10. Bull Sharks in Iran’s Karun River



Context

- ◆ Recent discussions about unusual wildlife habitats have **highlighted the presence of bull sharks in Iran’s Karun River near the city of Ahvaz.**

Karun River

- ◆ The Karun River is the **largest and only navigable river in Iran.**
- ◆ It originates in the **Zagros Mountains.**
- ◆ It flows through southwestern Iran and **eventually joins the Shatt al-Arab**, which is formed by the confluence of the Tigris River and Euphrates River.
- ◆ The Shatt al-Arab then empties into the Persian Gulf.

Bull Sharks (Carcharhinus leucas)

- ◆ **Biological Features:** Bull sharks are **one of the few shark species capable of surviving in both saltwater and freshwater.**
- ◆ They possess specialised **osmoregulation mechanisms that allow them to control**

salt concentration in their bodies.

- ◆ This adaptation enables them to **travel far inland through river systems.**
- ◆ **Global Distribution:** Bull sharks have been recorded in several rivers across the world, like; **Mississippi River (USA), Amazon River, Zambezi River and Ganges River.**
- ◆ **Conservation Status:** It is listed as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.**

11. Western Tragopan: King of Birds



Context

- ◆ The Western Tragopan, a rare Himalayan pheasant, faces increasing threats due to forest loss and human pressures.

Western Tragopan (Tragopan melanocephalus),

- ◆ It is also **known as Jujurana or “king of birds,”** is one of the rarest and most stunning pheasant species in the world.
- ◆ **Habitat and Distribution:** Found in temperate and subalpine forests at 2,400–3,600 m (occasionally down to 2,000 m in winter).
- ◆ **From Swat Valley (Pakistan) across Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to Uttarakhand.**
- ◆ **Diet:** They are omnivores, feeding on berries, seeds, buds, shoots, and insects.
- ◆ **Major Threats:** Forest degradation, climate change, and human disturbances.
- ◆ **Conservation Status:** It is listed as **Vulnerable by BirdLife International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).**

Do you know?

- ◆ **The bird is also the state bird of Himachal Pradesh,** highlighting its cultural and ecological value.

12. Kharg Island



Context

- Recently, U.S. forces struck military targets at Kharg Island in Iran.

Kharg Island

- It is often referred to as the 'Orphan pearl'.
- It is a small island in the northeastern Persian Gulf, approximately 25 kilometres off the coast of Iran's Khuzestan Province.
- Despite its modest size, it is the single most important oil export terminal in Iran and one of the most strategically significant energy chokepoints in the world.
- Almost all Iranian crude destined for international markets is loaded here before passing through the Strait of Hormuz into global shipping lanes.

Do you know?

- Iran is the third-largest producer in Organization Of The Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), accounting for roughly 4.5% of global oil supply.

13. National Chambal Sanctuary

In News

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India took suo motu cognisance to protect the National Chambal Sanctuary from rampant illegal sand mining that threatens the habitat of Gharial.

National Chambal Sanctuary

- Location-** It is situated in a large arc of the Chambal River, covering nearly 1800 km across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- It is the first and only tri-state riverine protected area in India.
- It is a major habitat of the critically

endangered Gharial.

- Species** - Besides Gharials, the sanctuary hosts a rich biodiversity of Marsh Crocodile Muggers, several species of freshwater turtles, including the endangered Red Crowned Roof Turtle, Smoothcoated Otters, Gangetic River Dolphins, Indian Skimmer, Black-bellied Tern, Sarus Crane and Black-necked Storks.

Additional Information - Gharials

Characteristics:

- They show **Sexual Dimorphism** means males and females differ significantly in size and appearance.
- Unlike crocodiles, gharials **feed exclusively on warm-blooded species and are not man-eaters.**

Habitat Distribution:

- Gharials are strictly **riverine species**, requiring deep, clear, fast-flowing waters with steep, sandy riverbanks.
- Mainly found in **Chambal River, Girwa River, Ken River, Yamuna River, Brahmaputra River, Ghaghara River, Bhagirathi-Hooghly River.**

Conservation Status:

- IUCN Status: Critically Endangered
- It is listed under **Schedule 1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**

Conservation programmes

- Project Crocodile (1975):** Initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and focused on captive breeding.

14. International Solar Alliance

News

- Recently, the Government highlighted the growing global momentum behind solar energy and ISA's role in advancing the clean energy transition.

International Solar Alliance

- Started** - The ISA, is an Indian initiative that was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris.
- Solar powered countries** - It is an initiative with 124 solar resource rich countries lying

fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.

- ♦ **Objective** - To collectively address key common challenges to the **scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.**
- ♦ **Headquarter** - **National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) campus, Gurugram.**
- ♦ **Members:** As of March 2026, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) **has expanded to include 125 member and signatory countries.** Of these, approximately **107 countries have officially ratified the ISA Framework Agreement to become full members.**

15. Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)

Context

- ♦ The **COP30 held in Belém** brought global attention that effective **forest conservation requires not only financial commitments but also a redistribution of decision-making power.**
- ♦ Brazil introduced the **Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)** as a new model of **forest finance** aimed at transforming conservation efforts.

Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)

- ♦ It is a performance-based **financial mechanism that seeks to reward countries for maintaining standing forests** rather than merely reducing deforestation rates.
- ♦ **It is designed to generate financial returns while supporting long-term forest conservation.**
- ♦ **The fund has already secured more than \$5.5 billion** in initial commitments, including a **significant contribution of \$3 billion from Norway.**

16. Gynandromorphy

Context

- ♦ A rare case of **gynandromorphy has been reported in a freshwater crab species Vela carli** from Silent Valley National Park in the Western Ghats.

Gynandromorphy

- ♦ Gynandromorphy refers to the **presence of both male and female characteristics in a single organism.**

It occurs due to;

- ♦ Errors in cell division (mitosis/meiosis).

- ♦ Chromosomal anomalies during early development.

It is different from;

- ♦ **Hermaphroditism:** Organism has functional reproductive organs of both sexes.
- ♦ **Intersex conditions:** Mixed sexual characteristics but not distinct male/female halves.

Additional Information - Silent Valley National Park

- ♦ It is located in the **Nilgiri hills, Kerala.**
- ♦ Silent Valley was declared as a **National Park in 1984** and formally inaugurated in the year 1985.
- ♦ **Rivers** - The **Bhavani River, a tributary of the Kaveri River, and Kunthipuzha River, a tributary of Bharathapuzha river,** originate in the vicinity of Silent Valley.
- ♦ **Tribals** - The indigenous tribal groups that live within park boundaries **include Irulas, Kurumbas, Mudugas and Kattunaikkars.**

17. India's First National Report (NR1) on Nagoya Protocol

In News

- ♦ India recently submitted its **first National Report (NR1) on Nagoya Protocol implementation to the CBD Secretariat,** marking a key milestone in biodiversity governance.

Nagoya Protocol

- ♦ **Adopted on** - October 29, 2010, in Nagoya, Japan
- ♦ **Enforced in** - October 12, 2014
- ♦ **Objective** - **it ensures fair access to genetic resources**
- ♦ **India ratified it in 2012, aligning with its Biological Diversity Act, 2002.**

18. Ladakh Magmatic Arc



News

- ◆ Scientists from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology have recently **decoded the evolution of the Ladakh Magmatic Arc (LMA) in the North-West Himalaya.**

Ladakh Magmatic Arc

- ◆ It is a belt of igneous rocks **located in the Trans-Himalayan region of India (mainly Ladakh).**
- ◆ It represents a **long-extinct volcanic arc system.**
- ◆ The present-day Ladakh region once lay above the Neo-Tethys Ocean.
- ◆ Beneath this ocean, the oceanic crust of the Indian Plate was moving towards the Eurasian Plate.
- ◆ The denser oceanic plate subducted (sank) beneath the Eurasian Plate.
- ◆ This process led to melting of mantle material, formation of magma & rise of magma to form volcanic arcs.

19. Methane Emission Hotspot
Context

- ◆ Recent satellite-based research by the Stop Methane Project (UCLA) has revealed that a small number of oil and gas sites account for disproportionately high methane emissions.

Connect with the basics - Methane

- ◆ Methane (CH₄) is a **colorless, odorless, and highly flammable gas**, and it is the **primary component of natural gas.**
- ◆ It has a relatively short **atmospheric lifetime of about 12 years**, compared to carbon dioxide.
- ◆ **Methane as a Greenhouse Gas:** Methane is a **highly potent greenhouse gas** with a strong short-term warming impact.
- ◆ It is over **80 times more effective than carbon dioxide** at trapping heat over a 20-year period.
- ◆ It is responsible for around **30% of the current global warming since the pre-industrial era.**
- ◆ **Major Sources:** Human-driven emissions arise mainly from **oil and gas production, coal mining, livestock enteric fermentation (burps), and decomposing waste in landfills.**

- ◆ **Natural sources include Wetlands, marine sediments** and hydrates and geological Sources like **volcanoes.**

20. Aravalli hills
In News

- ◆ The central empowered committee of the Supreme Court (SC) has assigned the task of **mapping mining areas in the Aravalli hills of Rajasthan** to the Forest Survey of India.

Aravalli hills

- ◆ **Origin:** Formed during the **Proterozoic era (Precambrian period)** by the Aravalli-Delhi Orogeny.
- ◆ It is a **Fold Mountain system, now reduced to "residual hills" due to millions of years of erosion.**
- ◆ **Extent:** Stretches approximately **670-800 km from Gujarat (Ahmedabad) through Rajasthan and Haryana to Delhi.**
- ◆ **Highest Peak:** **Guru Shikhar (1,722 m) on Mount Abu, Rajasthan.**
- ◆ **Major Rivers:** Source of the **Banas, Luni, Sabarmati, and Sahibi rivers.**
- ◆ **Mineral Wealth:** Rich in **copper, zinc, lead, silver, marble, and granite.**

Ecological & Strategic Significance

- ◆ **Climate Regulator:** Acts as a **barrier guiding the South-West Monsoon** towards the Himalayas, **nourishing the North Indian plains.**
- ◆ **"Green Wall":** Serves as a **natural shield preventing the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert** into fertile Indo-Gangetic plains.
- ◆ **Groundwater Recharge:** A **vital source of water for the National Capital Region (NCR) and surrounding areas.**
- ◆ **Biodiversity:** Home to 300+ bird species and wildlife like **leopards, striped hyenas, and golden jackals**

Additional Information - Forest Survey of India

- ◆ **Established in - 1981**
- ◆ **Functions under - Ministry of Environment and Forests**
- ◆ **Function -is the premier national body for monitoring India's forest resources.**
- ◆ **Significance - Its core mandate includes publishing the biennial State of Forest Report to assess cover changes and**

maintaining a **comprehensive inventory of tree resources in forest and non-forest areas.**

21. Black Rain in Tehran

Context

- ◆ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has warned of **“black rain” and toxic air pollution in Tehran**, following attacks on oil facilities.

Black Rain

- ◆ It refers to **rainfall contaminated with soot, ash, oil particles, and chemical pollutants** that are released into the atmosphere after large fires or explosions.
- ◆ Instead of clear water droplets, the rain carries dark, oily particles, giving it a black or grey appearance.
- ◆ **Such rain usually occurs when massive fires release pollutants into the air** and rainfall absorbs these particles before reaching the ground.
- ◆ Historically, **similar phenomena were observed after the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945**, when radioactive soot and debris mixed with rainwater.

22. CITES

Context

- ◆ Recently, the **Supreme Court of India** has dismissed a petition alleging violation of **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** parameters.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

- ◆ **Objective** - It is a **legally binding agreement** aimed at **ensuring that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.**
- ◆ It does not ban trade completely, but regulates it through a system of permits and classifications.
- ◆ **Signed: 1973 (Washington Convention)**
- ◆ **Entered into force: 1975**
- ◆ **Administered by: UNEP (Secretariat in Geneva)**
- ◆ **Parties: 180+ countries; India is a member**
- ◆ **Nature: Binding on countries, but**

implementation via national laws;

- ◆ **Institutional Structure: Conference of Parties (CoP): Highest decision-making body (meets every 2–3 years)**
- ◆ **Secretariat: Geneva**

Three Appendices

- ◆ **Appendix I:** Species threatened with extinction; Trade allowed only in exceptional cases;
- ◆ **Example:** Tiger, Elephant (certain populations), Rhino
- ◆ **Appendix II:** Species not immediately threatened, but may become so; controlled trade allowed.
- ◆ **Example:** Many timber species, marine species (e.g., sharks)
- ◆ **Appendix III:** Species protected in at least one country; other countries help regulate trade.

India & CITES

- ◆ India is a signatory since 1976; Implemented via Wildlife Protection Act, 1972;
- ◆ **Key Authorities:** MoEFCC (Management Authority); Wildlife Institute of India (Scientific Authority).

23. Nilgiri Tahrs

Context

- ◆ The Chokramudi hills near Munnar in Idukki (Kerala) have now transformed into a thriving natural habitat for the Nilgiri tahr.

Nilgiri Tahr

- ◆ **Description:** A stocky mountain goat (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) with short, yellowish-brown fur, and the **state animal of Tamil Nadu.**
- ◆ **Habitat and Distribution:** Endemic to a **400 km stretch of the Western Ghats**, primarily across **Kerala and Tamil Nadu.**
- ◆ **Diet:** A **herbivore** feeding on over 120 species of grasses, herbs, and shrubs.
- ◆ **Threats:** Key threats include **habitat loss (deforestation, plantations, hydroelectric projects), competition with domestic livestock, and hunting.**
- ◆ **Conservation Status:** Listed as **Endangered (IUCN Red List)** and protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.**
- ◆ **Note - The Nilgiri tahr is the state animal of Tamil Nadu, and Eravikulam National Park**

hosts the largest surviving population and highest density of the species.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. SUJVIKA Portal

Context

- On the 40th Foundation Day of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), “SUJVIKA”, an AI-driven Biotech Product Data Portal, was launched highlighting biotechnology as a key driver of India’s future economic growth.

SUJVIKA Portal

- It is an AI-driven trade intelligence platform launched by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) on 24 February 2026.

Key Features and Purpose

- AI-Powered Analysis:** The portal uses artificial intelligence to provide authenticated and structured data on biotechnology product imports.
- Sectoral Insights:** It offers detailed information on specific categories such as biochemical products and industrial enzymes.
- Indigenisation:** By identifying high-value and high-volume imports, it helps researchers and startups prioritise domestic manufacturing (Atmanirbhar Bharat) to reduce foreign dependency.
- Significance -** The launch of SUJVIKA aligns with India’s goal of reaching a \$1 trillion bioeconomy by 2047.
- It supports the BioE3 Policy, which focuses on high-performance biomanufacturing for the economy, environment, and employment

2. National Science Day 2026

Context

- National Science Day is celebrated every year on 28th February to commemorate the discovery of the ‘Raman Effect’ made by the physicist Sir C.V. Raman.

Sir C.V. Raman

- He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930 for the discovery of the Raman Effect.
- The objective of the observation of National Science Day is to spread the message of the

importance of science and its application among the people.

- Theme for 2026: “Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat”

About C V Raman

- He founded the Indian Journal of Physics in 1926.
- He became the first Indian director of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in 1933.
- He established the Raman Research Institute in 1948.
- In 1954, the Government of India honored him with the Bharat Ratna.

Raman Effect

- When a beam of light passes through a transparent medium (such as a liquid or gas), a small fraction of the scattered light changes in wavelength.
- This change occurs due to the interaction of light with the vibrational and rotational energy levels of the molecules in the medium.

3. Gravity Bomb

Context

- US Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth announced that the US would be shifting to ‘gravity bombs’, marking a major tactical pivot in the ongoing campaign against Iran.

Gravity Bomb

- A gravity bomb (or free-fall bomb) is an unpowered munition dropped from an aircraft.
- Unlike cruise missiles such as the Tomahawk cruise missile, it has no engine and falls toward the target under gravity, guided by the aircraft’s speed and altitude.
- Modernisation:** Many gravity bombs are fitted with Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits, which use GPS and steerable fins to convert them into precision-guided munitions.
- Key Feature:** Gravity bombs are relatively cheap but require aircraft to fly close to targets, making them effective mainly when air superiority is achieved.

4. IISc launches “Moonshot” Project on Brain Co-processors

Context

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

launched a moonshot project to develop brain co-processors that combine neuromorphic hardware and AI algorithms to enhance or restore brain function.

Brain Co-Processors

- Brain co-processors are **advanced devices designed to interact directly with the human brain.**
- They **decode neural signals, process them using AI algorithms,** and re-encode them back into the brain through neural stimulation or neurofeedback.
- They **enable cognitive and motor rehabilitation,** particularly for stroke survivors who lose sensorimotor abilities such as reaching and grasping objects.

5. LIGO-India: India’s Gravitational Wave Observatory

Context

- The construction of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)-India in Hingoli district, Maharashtra has faced delays

LIGO-India

- LIGO-India is a major mega-science project aimed at **detecting gravitational waves, ripples in spacetime, predicted by Albert Einstein** in his Theory of General Relativity (1915).
- These waves are produced by phenomena such as Black hole mergers, Neutron star collisions and Supernova explosions.**
- The project is part of the global LIGO network, working in **coordination with facilities in the United States.**

6. White Phosphorous

In News

- Human Rights Watch have now accused Israel of “unlawfully” using white phosphorus in Lebanon.

White Phosphorous

- It is a **highly reactive chemical substance** used mainly in military applications for smoke screens, illumination, and incendiary effects.
- It is a translucent yellowish-white waxy solid & glows faintly in the dark due to slow oxidation when exposed to oxygen.
- It is stored under water or inert environments to prevent ignition.

- White phosphorus is extremely toxic and hazardous as it causes deep chemical burns when it comes into contact with skin.**
- It is not explicitly **banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention** but prohibited under International Humanitarian Law.

Additional Information - Chemical Weapons Convention

- Mandate** - It is an international treaty aimed at **eliminating the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons** and their precursors.
- Adoption and Enforcement** - The Treaty was **adopted on September 3, 1992,** and entered into **force on April 29, 1997.**
- Member countries** - It currently has **193 member states.**
- Legally binding** - It makes it mandatory to destroy old and abandoned chemical weapons.
- India’s ratification** - India signed the treaty in January 1993.

7. Asteroid 2024 YR4

Context

- NASA has confirmed that asteroid 2024 YR4 poses no collision risk to the Moon in 2032,** based on observations from the James Webb Space Telescope.
- 2024 YR4 is classified as a Near-Earth Asteroid (NEA),** indicating its orbit brings it close to Earth’s orbital path.

Asteroid vs. Meteoroid vs. Meteorite:

- Asteroid:** Small rocky body orbiting the Sun.
- Meteoroid:** Smaller particle from an asteroid or comet orbiting the Sun.
- Meteor:** A meteoroid that enters Earth’s atmosphere, creating a streak of light (shooting star).
- Meteorite:** A meteor that survives its passage through the atmosphere and lands on Earth’s surface

Additional information - Global Asteroid Missions

- DART Mission (NASA, 2022):** The first planetary defense test aimed at changing an asteroid’s trajectory by crashing a probe into it, specifically targeting the binary asteroid Didymos.
- OSIRIS-REx (NASA, 2016-2023):** Sample return mission to asteroid Bennu, providing

insights into the solar system's formation.

- ♦ **Hayabusa2 (JAXA, 2014-2020):** Successfully collected samples from asteroid Ryugu, including essential ingredients for life.
- ♦ **Lucy Mission (NASA, 2021-Present):** A 12-year journey to study multiple Jupiter Trojan asteroids.
- ♦ **Hera Mission (ESA, 2024 Launch):** Will study the impact crater produced by DART to analyze its deflection success.
- ♦ **Tianwen-2 (China, 2025 Planned):** A mission to sample the near-Earth asteroid Kamo'oaewa

8. India's Renewable Energy Sector

Context

- ♦ At the Bharat Climate Forum 2026, energy experts highlighted a critical risk in India's energy transition that renewable power generation is increasing rapidly, but grid and institutional constraints are preventing its efficient utilisation.

India's Renewable Energy Sector

- ♦ India's **total renewable energy capacity reached 253.96 GW in November 2025**, representing an increase of over 23% from 205.52 GW in 2024.
- ♦ **Solar installed capacity reached 132.85 GW followed by Wind at around 53.99 GW.**

India's Global Position:

- ♦ India ranks **3rd globally in solar power** installed capacity.
- ♦ India ranks **4th in wind power** installed capacity.
- ♦ India ranks **4th in total renewable energy** installed capacity worldwide.
- ♦ The **leading states in India** for renewable energy capacity are **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.**
- ♦ **Target - The country aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030** as part of its climate commitments.

Government Initiatives to Improve Clean Energy Utilisation

- ♦ **Green Energy Corridor (GEC):** Aims to **strengthen the transmission infrastructure** to evacuate renewable energy efficiently from generation points to demand centres.
- ♦ **PM-KUSUM Scheme:** Promotes **installation**

of solar pumps and grid-connected solar power plants in rural areas to reduce diesel usage and support farmers.

- ♦ **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Seeks to **promote the production and use of green hydrogen to reduce reliance on fossil fuels** in sectors like refining, steel, and fertilisers.

9. Failure of Atomic Clock Cripples ISRO's NavIC

Context

- ♦ India's indigenous navigation satellite system **Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)** has suffered a setback after the failure of the **IRNSS-1F satellite** due to malfunction of its last operational rubidium atomic clock.

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)

- ♦ It was **launched in 2013.**
- ♦ **Established by - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**
- ♦ It is **India's autonomous regional navigation satellite system**, designed to fulfill both **civilian and military navigational needs.**
- ♦ NavIC was **erstwhile known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).**
- ♦ **Purpose - It provides precise Position, Velocity, and Timing (PVT) services within India and extends up to 1,500 km beyond the country's borders**, forming its primary service area.
- ♦ NavIC is designed with a **constellation of 7 satellites** and a network of ground stations operating **24 x 7.**
- ♦ **Three satellites of the constellation are placed in geostationary orbit and four satellites are placed in inclined geosynchronous orbit.**
- ♦ **Significance - It provides location accuracy better than 20 meters and timing accuracy better than 40 nanoseconds** across the core service area.

10. Thorium can Power India's 100 GWe by 2047 Mission

Context

- ♦ The **SHANTI Act 2025** represents a **watershed moment for India's atomic energy programme;** however, resolving the

challenges of thorium utilisation is urgent.

India's Thorium Reserves



- ♦ India has **one of the largest reserves of thorium** in the world.
- ♦ Together, **Kerala and Odisha account for over 70% of India's thorium.**
- ♦ **India has been developing a three-stage nuclear program**, with thorium-based reactors being a critical part of the third stage.
- ♦ **Challenges:** Extracting thorium from ores requires **high amounts of energy and creates significant waste.**
- ♦ It includes challenges such as the **need for advanced reactor technology and economic viability.**

Need for Thorium Utilization

- ♦ **Reduce Reliance on Imports:** The growth of nuclear generation capacity currently depends heavily on imported uranium.
- ♦ **Domestic uranium ores are lean and costly to extract**, though this does provide some insulation against supply disruptions.

Significance of Thorium for India

- ♦ **Resource Advantage:** India has limited uranium but abundant thorium reserves, mainly in coastal and riverine sands.
- ♦ **Nuclear Behaviour:** Thorium is not fissile like uranium; it is fertile and converts into uranium-233 after absorbing neutrons, which can then sustain nuclear fission.
- ♦ **Strategic Fit:** Integral to India's long-term three-stage nuclear power programme.

India's Three-stage nuclear programme

- ♦ India established the **Atomic Energy Commission in 1948.**
- ♦ In **1956, Asia's first research reactor, Apsara**, was commissioned at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Trombay.
- ♦ **Note - India was the second Asian nation to build a nuclear power plant** in 1969 at Tarapur, just after Japan and long before China.
- ♦ **India has a three-phase programme of**

nuclear power envisioned by **Dr Homi J Bhabha, the father of India's nuclear programme.**

1. First Stage (Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors – PHWRs)
2. Second Stage (Fast Breeder Reactors – FBRs)
3. Third Stage (Advanced Heavy Water Reactors – AHWRs)

11. Proton Accelerator Facility to Come up in Visakhapatnam

News

- ♦ **Andhra Pradesh will host a high-energy proton accelerator in Visakhapatnam** as part of India's long-term nuclear research programme.
- ♦ **A proton is a subatomic particle with a positive electrical charge.** It is found in every atomic nucleus of every element.

About the Project

- ♦ The high-energy proton accelerator in Visakhapatnam **will generate high-energy neutrons for converting thorium into uranium fuel.**
- ♦ The facility benefits from Visakhapatnam's technological ecosystem and sea access for cooling.
- ♦ Significance - The proton accelerator is being developed as part of India's long-term nuclear programme.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

1. Chakravarti Rajagopalachari

Context

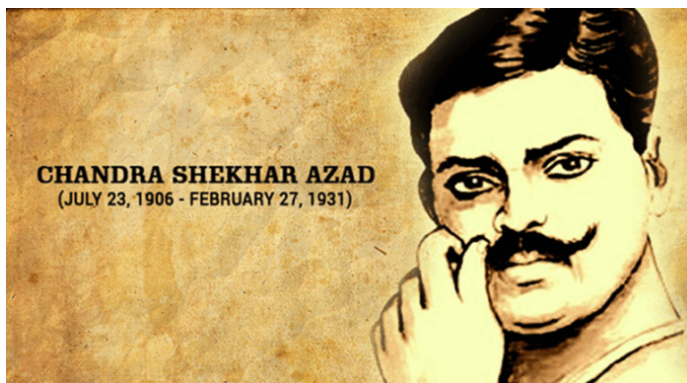
- ♦ **The President of India, unveiled a bust of Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, the first and only Indian Governor General of independent India** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

C. Rajagopalachari

- ♦ **Early Life:** Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, popularly referred to as **Rajaji**, was born in **1878 in Thorapalli, Tamil Nadu.**
- ♦ He participated in **agitations against the Rowlatt Act, the Non-Cooperation movement, the Vaikom Satyagraha, and the Civil Disobedience Movement** and was jailed five times between 1912 and 1941.
- ♦ **Post-independence, Rajaji served as the last Governor-General of India till 1950.**

- ◆ He briefly served as **Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister between 1952 and 1954.**
- ◆ **He founded the Swatantra Party in 1959,** representing classical liberal economic ideas.
- ◆ **Literary Contribution:** His most popular works include a **retelling of the Mahabharata and Ramayana in English, and Ramayana – Chakravarti Thirumagan in Tamil.**
- ◆ **In 1954 he was conferred with the Bharat Ratna for his contribution to Indian politics and literature.**

2. Chandrashekhar Azad



In News

- ◆ The Prime Minister paid tribute to the revolutionary Chandrashekhar Azad marking his Martyrdom Day.

Chandrashekhar Azad

- ◆ He was a great Indian freedom fighter and **he was born on July 23, 1906 in Badarka village of Unnao district in Uttar Pradesh.**
- ◆ He actively participated in the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22)** launched by Mahatma Gandhi.
- ◆ When produced before a magistrate, **he declared his name as “Azad,” father’s name as “Swatantra,” and residence as “Jail.”** After being publicly flogged, he adopted the title Azad, meaning “Free,” as his permanent identity.
- ◆ After the **Chauri Chaura incident (1922) and the withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement, he shifted towards revolutionary activities.**
- ◆ On 27 February 1931, Azad was surrounded by police at Alfred Park in Allahabad (now Chandrashekhar Azad Park). After a gunfight in which he enabled his associate Sukhdev Raj to escape, he shot himself with his last bullet to avoid capture

Key Contributions

- ◆ **Kakori Train Robbery (1925):** As a leader in the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) with Ram Prasad Bismil, Azad helped rob a train to fund arms for independence. He escaped capture while others were jailed.
- ◆ **Lahore Assassination (1928):** Aided Bhagat Singh and Rajguru in killing British officer John Saunders, avenging Lala Lajpat Rai's death during a protest.
- ◆ **HSRA Formation:** He reorganised the **Hindustan Republican Association under the new name of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** after the death of its founder Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil. He was the chief strategist of the HSRA.

3. Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur



In News

- ◆ **The Prime Minister addressed the 350th Martyrdom Year (Shaheedi Samagam) of Guru Tegh Bahadur,** paying tribute to his sacrifice and highlighting India's legacy of bravery, harmony, and social unity.

Guru Tegh Bahadur

- ◆ He was **born in 1621 in Amritsar to Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru.**
- ◆ At age 13, his bravery in battle earned him the name **“Tegh Bahadur” (Brave of the Sword).**
- ◆ He spent years in meditation at Bakala before being **recognized as the ninth Sikh Guru in 1664,** after being identified by the trader Makhan Shah.
- ◆ **His son, Guru Gobind Singh, later honored him as one who gave his head but not his faith,** cementing his legacy as **“Hind di Chadar” — the protector of India's conscience and dharma.**

Contributions

- ◆ He founded **Chak Nanki (now Anandpur Sahib)** and travelled widely across North and East India, spreading **spiritual teachings that emphasized fearlessness (nirbhau), equality, and devotion to one God.**
- ◆ His message resonated widely during the reign of **Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, a period marked by religious tensions and forced conversions.**
- ◆ **When Kashmiri Brahmins sought his protection against persecution, Guru Tegh Bahadur stood up for their religious freedom, challenging Mughal authority.**
- ◆ **Death** - He was arrested in Delhi and, **after refusing to convert to Islam, was publicly executed in 1675 at Chandni Chowk** along with his companions.
- ◆ His martyrdom is remembered as a supreme sacrifice for religious liberty.

4. Golestan Palace



In News

- ◆ Tehran’s Golestan Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, sustained damage from shockwaves and debris caused by US-Israeli airstrikes.

Golestan Palace

- ◆ It is a **historic royal complex that served as the official residence of the Qajar dynasty** and is one of the oldest **historic monuments in Tehran.**
- ◆ The origins of the complex **date back to the Safavid Dynasty,** when Tehran first gained importance as a political centre. Later rulers expanded and renovated the palace complex.
- ◆ Golestan Palace reflects a **blend of traditional Persian architecture and Western influences** introduced during the

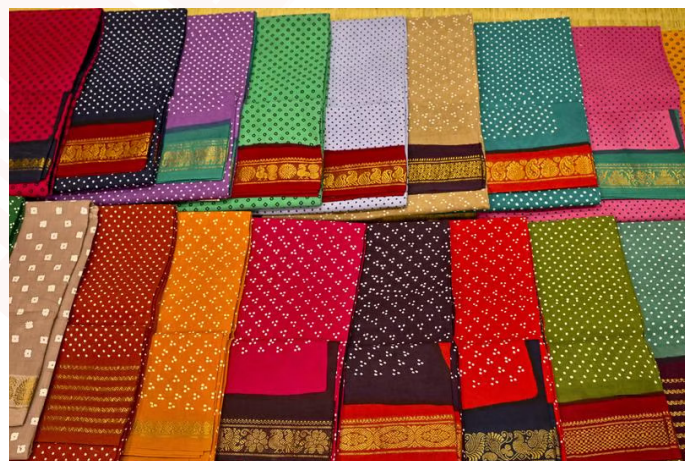
19th century.

- ◆ **Inscribed by UNESCO in 2013,** it preserves cultural archives, early Iranian photography, and sites of historic coronations.

Important Structures within the Complex

- ◆ **Shams-ol-Emareh (Edifice of the Sun):** One of the most famous buildings in the palace complex.
- ◆ It was built in the 1860s by Naser al-Din Shah Qajar.
- ◆ **Marble Throne Hall (Takht-e-Marmar):** Used for royal coronations and official ceremonies.
- ◆ **Mirror Hall:** Famous for extensive mirror mosaics and luxurious decoration.
- ◆ **Museum Buildings:** The complex houses several museums displaying Qajar-era paintings & royal gifts and artefacts.

5. Sungudi Saris



News

- ◆ Sungudi sarees are gaining popularity among consumers looking for distinctive and eco-friendly fashion.

Sungudi saris

- ◆ Sungudi saris are traditional cotton saris which are **Perfected by the Saurashtrian community, who migrated from Gujarat to Madurai (Tamil Nadu) in the 17th century.**
- ◆ It features **intricate tie-and-dye patterns inspired by the night sky.**
- ◆ It is **hand-knotted, dyed, washed, starched, and sun-dried,** often revealing over 15,000 delicate white dots.
- ◆ The process takes more than 15 days, producing breathable, culturally rich garments prized across generations.
- ◆ The Madurai Sungudi sari received the

Geographical Indication (GI) tag in December 2005.

6. Dandi March

Context

- ♦ The Vice President of India recently paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and the freedom fighters involved in the Dandi March (1930).

Dandi March

- ♦ The British colonial government had imposed a **monopoly on the production and sale of salt and levied a salt tax**, making even this basic necessity expensive for Indians.
- ♦ In **1930, Gandhiji declared that he would lead a march to break the salt law as it was sinful to tax salt** since it is such an essential item of food.
- ♦ Gandhiji with his 78 followers started **Salt Satyagraha March on 12th March 1930 from Sabarmati Ashram and reached Dandi after 24 days on 6th April 1930.**
- ♦ **He broke the salt law by picking up natural salt** from the seashore and boiling seawater to make salt.
- ♦ The Salt Satyagraha became the **starting point of the Civil Disobedience Movement.**
- ♦ The Dandi March inspired similar protests across different regions like in Tamil Nadu led by C. Rajagopalachari & in Kerala organized by K. Kelappan, popularly known as Kerala Gandhi.
- ♦ After Gandhi's arrest, Sarojini Naidu led a nonviolent protest at the Dharasana Salt Works on 21 May 1930.

7. India to Begin Mapping Its Manuscript Heritage

Context

- ♦ The Ministry of Culture has launched a first-of-its-kind, three-month **nationwide survey to map India's vast manuscript heritage.**
- ♦ The initiative is **part of the Gyan Bharatam Mission**, announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.

Significance of the initiative

- ♦ **Preservation of Heritage:** Digitisation and documentation will protect fragile manuscripts from deterioration and loss.
- ♦ **Research Accessibility:** A centralised repository will enable easier access for

scholars and the public.

- ♦ **Curbing Intellectual Piracy:** Proper records and metadata will help establish authenticity and prevent misuse.
- ♦ **Cultural Revival:** Greater visibility will promote India's literary and knowledge traditions.

Additional information - Gyan Bharatam Mission

- ♦ **Purpose - The mission aims to preserve and protect manuscripts found across the country.**
- ♦ **Objective:** To undertake the "survey, documentation and conservation" of more than one crore manuscript heritage lying with academic institutions, museums, libraries, etc.
- ♦ **Significance of Mission:** Preserving **historical value, unveiling ancient Indian knowledge to the world**, ensuring longevity and round-the-clock access to Manuscripts, etc.

Manuscripts

- ♦ **A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, palm leaf etc. dating back at least 75 years that has significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value.**
- ♦ **E.g. Bakhshali manuscript** (Third or fourth century A.D.), an **ancient Indian mathematical text written on birch bark**, is considered to be the **earliest recorded example of use of zero.**
- ♦ India possesses an estimated **10 million manuscripts in 80 ancient scripts** like **Brahmi, Kushan, Gaudi, Lepcha, and Maithili.**

Other initiatives for manuscript conservation in India

- ♦ **National Manuscripts Mission (NMM):** Launched In 2003, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to locate and preserve manuscripts.
- ♦ **National Library of India, Kolkata:** It has about 3600 rare and historically important manuscripts.
- ♦ **Asiatic Society of Bengal:** Founded on Jan. 15, 1784, by Sir William Jones, **undertakes digitization of ancient manuscripts.**
- ♦ **Abhilekh Patal** is an initiative of the National Archives of India **to provide online access** to over a million files, including a significant

collection of manuscripts, oriental records, and private papers.

- ♦ **Gyan-Setu:** It was launched as a national challenge to source AI-led solutions for manuscript preservation, decipherment, restoration and access.
- ♦ **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972:** It seeks to prevent the illegal export and smuggling of India's cultural heritage, including valuable manuscripts.

8. Tribal Arts in Conversation

Context

- ♦ The Tribes Art Fest 2026, held at Travancore Palace in New Delhi, showcased India's rich tribal artistic heritage.

Major Tribal Art Forms Highlighted

Warli Painting



- ♦ It originates from Maharashtra and is practised by the Warli tribe.
- ♦ It has roots possibly dating back to the Neolithic period (2500–3000 BC). Key features are;
- ♦ Use of white pigment made from rice paste on mud walls.
- ♦ Representation through basic geometric shapes (circles, triangles, squares).
- ♦ Themes include agriculture, rituals, hunting, and Tarpa dance.

Rabha and Tamang Masks:

- ♦ Mask-making is central to the Rabha tribe of Assam and North Bengal. Masks are made using wood, bamboo, gourd, or clay, and painted in vibrant colours.
- ♦ They depict gods, spirits, animals, and mythological beings, used in ritual dances and folk theatre.

Gond Art

- ♦ Gond painting originates from central India, especially Madhya Pradesh. It has received a GI tag, ensuring legal protection and recognition.

Key features are;

- ♦ Use of dots and lines to create intricate patterns.
- ♦ Themes rooted in folklore, animals, forests, and ecology.

Bhil Painting:



- ♦ It is practised by the Bhil tribe, one of India's largest indigenous groups mainly from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. It is considered among the oldest tribal art traditions.

Key features are:

- ♦ Use of thousands of coloured dots, symbolising seeds and nature's rhythm.
- ♦ Themes include deities, animals, forests, and daily life.

9. Gajapati Inscription in Guntur

Context

- ♦ A medieval inscription linked to the Gajapati Dynasty has been discovered at the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
- ♦ The inscription is engraved on a stone pillar in the temple mandapam.
- ♦ It mentions Kumaraguru Mahapatra, an officer serving under Purushottama Deva in the 15th century CE.
- ♦ The record indicates that the idol of Lord Narasimha and the mandapa pillars were relocated from Kondaveedu Fort following invasions in the region.
- ♦ The inscription was originally dedicated

to Lord Mallikarjuna of Kondaveedu but was later shifted to the Guntur temple.

Gajapati Dynasty



- ◆ The Gajapati Dynasty was a **powerful medieval kingdom that originated in Odisha** and flourished during the 15th–16th centuries.
- ◆ It was **founded by Kapilendra Deva** after the decline of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
- ◆ At its peak, the **empire extended from parts of present-day West Bengal to Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu**, with its capital at **Kataka (modern-day Cuttack)**.
- ◆ The Gajapati rulers were known for their **patronage of art, architecture, and literature**, and they maintained continuous rivalry with the Vijayanagara Empire.

10. Savitribai Phule

Context

- ◆ Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid tribute to Savitribai Phule on her death anniversary.

Savitribai Phule (1831 – 1897)

- ◆ **Born in** - Naigaon village of Maharashtra's Satara district.
- ◆ In 1840, at the age of nine, **she married Jyotirao Phule**, who was just 13 at the time.
- ◆ Formally recognised as **India's first female teacher**.
- ◆ In 1848, the **couple established the country's first school for girls in Bhidewada, Pune**.
- ◆ In 1863, **Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai began Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha, India's first**

home dedicated to prohibiting infanticide.

- ◆ She also advocated **inter-caste marriages, widow remarriage, and eradication of child marriage, sati, and dowry systems**, among other social issues.
- ◆ In 1873, the **Phule's set up the Satyashodhak Samaj** ('Truth-seekers' society'), a **platform open to all, irrespective of their caste, religion or class hierarchies**, with the sole aim of bringing social equity.
- ◆ **Literary works: Kavya Phule (Poetry's Blossoms) in 1854 and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (The Ocean of Pure Gems), in 1892.**

11. Kurumba Painting



In News

- ◆ The **Kurumba art tradition is facing the threat of extinction** due to declining practitioners.

Kurumba paintings

- ◆ It traces back over **3,000 years**, linked to **rock art sites like Ezhuthupaarai in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris**; they were practiced by the **Kurumba tribe**.
- ◆ The **Kurumba tribe is classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- ◆ Originally they were **painted over the house walls, temple walls or during festivals** and artists derive natural pigments from forest sources like tree resins.
- ◆ These folk paintings illustrate rituals, festivals, honey hunting, nature, animals, and daily community activities using simple linear motifs, dots, lines, and geometric patterns.

DEFENCE

1. IAF's Tejas Fleet Undergoes Maintenance Check

Context

- ♦ The Indian Air Force's (IAF) Tejas fighter aircraft fleet is undergoing a "maintenance check" to determine the reason for the recent incident that occurred while one of the fighters was taking off from a base.

Tejas fighter aircraft

- ♦ It is an indigenous, fourth-generation, multi-role supersonic fighter jet developed for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy
- ♦ Designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under DRDO and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Major Variants

| Variant | Features | Status |
|---------------|---|---|
| Tejas Mk-1 | Initial version; 4th-gen capabilities. | Operational in IAF. |
| Tejas Mk-1A | 4.5-gen; features AESA Radar (Uttam), Advanced Electronic Warfare Suite, and mid-air refueling. | First aircraft completed; mass production starting in 2026. |
| Tejas Mk-2 | Medium Weight Fighter; larger airframe, canards, more powerful GE F414 engine. | Prototype flight expected by mid-2026. |
| Naval Variant | Carrier-capable with strengthened landing gear and arrestor hook. | Prototype successfully tested on <i>INS Vikramaditya</i> . |

2. Mission Sudarshan Chakra

In News

- ♦ Indian PM visit to Israel boosted defence deal on advanced weapons tech and missile defence under Mission Sudarshan Chakra.

Mission Sudarshan Chakra.

- ♦ During Operation Sindoor, India faced drone and missile threats from Pakistan.
- ♦ To strengthen national security, the Sudarshan Chakra missile shield—planned for 2035 under Make in India.
- ♦ Mandate - It aims to integrate advanced defensive systems like Iron Dome, Iron Beam, Arrow, David's Sling, along with existing S-400, Barak, and Akash systems, covering India's borders and coastline.

Sudarshan Chakra

- ♦ It is a multi-layered, home-grown air defence initiative.
- ♦ It is named after Lord Krishna's divine disc, designed to protect key sites from missiles, rockets, drones, and swarms.
- ♦ It combines long-range systems like S-400 and Project Kusha, medium-range MRSAM/Barak-8, short-range Iron Dome, and future laser-based weapons like Iron Beam and DURGA-II for cost-effective drone and low-altitude threat interception.

3. INS Anjadip



In News

- ♦ INS Anjadip was formally commissioned into the Indian Navy.

INS Anjadip

- ♦ 'Anjadip', the third of eight ASW SWC (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft), indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

- ◆ The ASW-SWC corvettes are being built indigenously to replace the Navy's aging Abhay-class vessels.
- ◆ It is engineered to act as a 'Dolphin Hunter', focused on detection, tracking, and neutralisation of enemy submarines.

4. Missile Defence Systems

Context

- ◆ The renewed hostilities between the **United States-led coalition (including Israel and United Arab Emirates)** and Iran have tested a newly integrated regional air and missile defence network in West Asia.

Missile defence system -

- ◆ It is a sophisticated, multi-layered architecture designed to detect, track, and destroy incoming ballistic and cruise missiles.

India's Missile Defence Architecture

Multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system under DRDO:

- ◆ The **Prithvi Air Defence (PAD) interceptor** is designed for exo-atmospheric interception to intercept incoming missiles at altitudes of 50 km to 180 km.
- ◆ The **Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor** is intended for endo-atmospheric interception during the terminal phase to neutralise threats within the Earth's atmosphere at altitudes up to 30 km.

Layered Air Defence Shield:

- ◆ The **S-400 Triumf** is a highly advanced, mobile, Russian-developed surface-to-air missile (SAM) system inducted by India to enhance long-range air defence capability.
- ◆ **Medium-Range (70-100 km):** The **Barak-8 (MRSAM/LRSAM)**, co-developed with Israel, provides 360-degree protection for both land and naval assets.
- ◆ **Short-Range (25-50 km):** The indigenous **Akash system** and Israel's **SPYDER** protect strategic points and mobile army units.
- ◆ **Mission Sudarshan Chakra:** Announced as a comprehensive vision for 2035, Mission Sudarshan Chakra aims to create an all-encompassing, AI-enabled national shield.

Key Air-Defence Systems of other countries

| Country/Region | Key Systems |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Russia | S-400 Triumph, S-300VM, S-350 Vityaz, S-500 Prometheus |
| USA | THAAD, Patriot (PAC-3 MSE), Golden Dome (in development) |
| Israel | Iron Dome, David's Sling, Iron Beam |
| China | HQ-9, HQ-22, HQ-16 |
| European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI) | Skyranger, IRIS-T SLM |

5. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

Context

- ◆ The 57th Raising Day of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was observed recently.

Central Industrial Security Force

- ◆ It is a paramilitary force established in 1969, under the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.
- ◆ Every year, **CISF Raising Day is observed on March 10.**
- ◆ Operates under - **Ministry of Home Affairs of India.**

Functions - It provides security to the strategic establishment including

- ◆ Department of Space
- ◆ Department of Atomic Energy,
- ◆ Airports, Delhi Metro and ports.
- ◆ Historical monuments
- ◆ Basic areas of the Indian economy such as petroleum and natural gas, electricity, coal, steel and mining.

6. Minuteman III

Context

- ◆ As tensions continue to rise in the Middle East, the **United States conducted a test launch of a Minuteman III missile.**

Minuteman III

- ◆ It is nicknamed as 'doomsday' missile, and is an **intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).**
- ◆ Range - It reaches a **top speed of Mach 23**, or roughly **28,400 kilometres per hour**, and can travel over **9,600 kilometres.**

- ◆ **Developed by Boeing** in the 1950s
- ◆ **Purpose - to bolster American homeland protection,**
- ◆ Minuteman III is **stored and launched from a silo, a fortified underground bunker** designed to protect the missile from enemy attacks.
- ◆ Notably, a Minuteman III has **never been fired in actual combat,** making the weapon one of the most powerful things on Earth that has never actually been used in war.

Do you know?

- ◆ The Minuteman III was **originally supposed to be replaced in the 2030s,** but delays with the new Sentinel ICBM have led officials to consider **keeping it in service potentially until 2050.**

7. Darknet

In News

- ◆ The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted the ‘Team Kalki’ darknet drug network operating nationwide since January 2025.

Darknet

- ◆ The **darknet is a part of the internet that is intentionally hidden and cannot be accessed through standard web browsers or search engines.**
- ◆ It requires **specialized software (TOR), configurations, or authorization to access.**
- ◆ **Users remain anonymous, and their identities and locations are concealed through encryption. The darknet is a subset of the deep web.**
- ◆ **It is used for narcotics sale, exchange of pornographic content and other illegal activities.**

8. Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD)

Context

- ◆ Iran has reportedly struck a key radar associated with the **Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defence system** used by the United States and Israel in West Asia.

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)

- ◆ It is an **advanced missile defence system developed by the United States**

- ◆ **Purpose - to counter short-medium-and limited intermediate-range ballistic missiles.**
- ◆ THAAD can engage ballistic missile threats at **ranges of around 150–200 km.**
- ◆ The United Arab Emirates became the first foreign buyer in 2011, followed later by Saudi Arabia.
- ◆ **Note - India has opted for the S-400 Triumph air defence system from Russia instead of acquiring THAAD from the United States.**

9. Defence Forces Vision 2047

Context

- ◆ The Minister of Defence released the document **“Defence Forces Vision 2047: A Roadmap for a Future-Ready Indian Military”,** prepared by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.

Objectives

- ◆ **Future Warfare Preparedness:** The vision emphasises preparing the military for multi-domain warfare, including cyber, space, artificial intelligence and information warfare.
- ◆ **Alignment with National Development Goals:** The transformation of defence capabilities is linked with India’s broader objective of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Key Features of the Roadmap

- ◆ **Integrated and Multi-Domain Military:** The vision proposes **developing an integrated and agile military structure capable of conducting operations across land, sea, air, cyber and space domains.**
- ◆ **Enhanced joint operational planning** among the three services will **improve efficiency and response capabilities.**
- ◆ **Strengthening Self-Reliance in Defence:** The roadmap supports the government’s **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing.**
- ◆ **Technological Advancement:** It proposes the **greater use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber capabilities and advanced surveillance tools.**

10. SIPRI Report on Arms

Context

- ◆ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Arms Transfers Database

(1950–2025) was updated recently.

Major Highlights

- ◆ **The five largest suppliers of major arms in 2021–25** - the United States, France, Russia, Germany and China.
- ◆ **Top five importers are Ukraine, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Pakistan** accounted for 35% of global imports.
- ◆ **India accounted for 8.2% of total global arms imports between 2021 and 2025**, making it the **second-largest importer of major weapons systems**.
- ◆ The largest share of **Indian arms imports came from Russia, at 40%** a significantly smaller share than in 2016–20 (51%) and almost half that in 2011–15 (70%).

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI)

- ◆ It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- ◆ It was established in 1966 in Stockholm (Sweden).

11. Operation White Hammer

Context

- ◆ **The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) recently raided an illegal Alprazolam manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh** as part of Operation "White Hammer."

Alprazolam

- ◆ It is a **psychotropic substance regulated under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**.
- ◆ Alprazolam is a **benzodiazepine drug used to treat anxiety disorders and commonly marketed under brand names such as Xanax**.
- ◆ India is one of the **world's largest producers of generic medicines**, which sometimes leads to **misuse of pharmaceutical chemicals for illicit drug trade**.

Legal Framework in India

- ◆ **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985: Regulates production, possession, sale, transport, and consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances.**
- ◆ **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940: Regulates**

manufacture, quality, and sale of pharmaceutical drugs in India.

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

- ◆ It is India's premier **anti-smuggling intelligence agency & functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.
- ◆ **Headquarters: New Delhi.**

12. Operation Sagar Bandhu

Context

- ◆ The Indian Army has launched a Major Bridge Project in Sri Lanka under Operation Sagar Bandhu.

About

- ◆ The **bridge will connect Colombo, the capital city, with the key economic centre of Puttalam along a vital coastal corridor** passing through Chilaw District.
- ◆ The project reflects **India's engineering assistance to support Sri Lanka's infrastructure recovery and connectivity**.
- ◆ It is aligned with **India's Neighbourhood First Policy** and broader regional cooperation initiatives.

Background

- ◆ India launched **Operation Sagar Bandhu in November 2025** as a **First Responder following the devastating Cyclone Ditwah**.
- ◆ **The operation aimed to provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to Sri Lanka.**

13. KC-135 Stratotanker

Context

- ◆ A KC-135 Stratotanker refuelling aircraft crashed in western Iraq during an ongoing military mission Operation Epic Fury (code name mission against Iran).

KC-135 Stratotanker

- ◆ The KC-135 Stratotanker was **built by Boeing in the 1950s and early 1960s**.
- ◆ It has been a **backbone to the US military's air refuelling fleet**, and critical in allowing aircraft to carry out missions without having to land.
- ◆ **They were used extensively in the first Gulf War to extend the range of fighter jets and bombers.**
- ◆ It has a speed of 530 miles per hour at 30,000 feet (9,144 meters).

MISCELLANEOUS

AWARDS

1. Sangita Kalanidhi Award

Context

- ◆ Veena player Jayanthi Kumaresh has been announced the coveted Sangita Kalanidhi at the 100th Conference and Concerts of The Music Academy, Madras.
- ◆ Bharatanatyam dancer Narendra G will be conferred the Nritya Kalanidhi award.

Sangita Kalanidhi Award

- ◆ Instituted in 1942 by The Music Academy, Madras.
- ◆ It is regarded as the highest honour in Carnatic music, often described as the “Nobel Prize of Carnatic music.”
- ◆ The award comprises a gold medal and a ‘birudu patra’ (citation).

Additional Information - Music Academy, Madras

- ◆ It originated as an offshoot of the All India Congress Session of 1927 held in Chennai (then Madras).
- ◆ It was established to promote and standardise Carnatic music traditions.
- ◆ The Academy organizes the annual Music and Dance Festival, one of the most prominent cultural events in the Carnatic tradition.
- ◆ The Academy also confers several awards, including the Sangita Kala Acharya, TTK Award, and Musicologist Award.

2. Jnanpith Award

Context

- ◆ Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu has been selected for the Jnanpith Award for the year 2025.

Vairamuthu

- ◆ He is the third Tamil litterateur to receive the award after Akilan (1975) and Jayakanthan (2002), and the first to be honoured for Tamil poetry, while the earlier awardees were recognised for prose.
- ◆ He has written over 8,000 songs, won seven National Film Awards for lyrics, and earned the honorific “Kaviperarasu”

(Emperor of Poets).

- The award, however, has been met with sharp criticism from some writers, artists and activists who point to sexual harassment allegations made against him during the #MeToo movement in India.

About Jnanpith Award (also spelled Gyanpeeth Award)

- ◆ Instituted in 1961 by the Bharatiya Jnanpith,
- ◆ It is India’s highest literary honour, awarded annually to an Indian author for outstanding contribution to literature.
- ◆ Bharatiya Jnanpith is a literary and research organization founded by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain and Rama Jain.
- ◆ It is awarded for the work in 22 languages recognized by the Constitution of India and, from 2013, in the English language.
- ◆ The award carries a ₹11 lakh cash prize, citation, and a bronze statuette of Vagdevi (Saraswati).
- ◆ The first recipient was Malayalam writer G. Sankara Kurup in 1965 for Odakkuzhal.

3. Nominations for Padma Awards-2027 Begins

News

- ◆ The Centre has opened nominations and recommendations for the Padma Awards 2027, one of the country’s highest civilian honours.

Padma Awards

- ◆ The Padma Awards are among India’s highest civilian honours instituted in 1954.
- ◆ They are presented in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
 1. ‘Padma Vibhushan’ is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service;
 2. ‘Padma Bhushan’ for distinguished service of high order and
 3. ‘Padma Shri’ for distinguished service in any field.
- ◆ The awards recognise “work of distinction” and are given for exceptional achievements or service across a wide range of fields, including art, literature and education, sports, medicine, social work, science and engineering, public affairs, civil service,

trade and industry.

- ◆ **All individuals are eligible for the awards** regardless of race, occupation, position or gender.
- ◆ **Note** - However, **government servants, including employees of public sector undertakings, are generally not eligible**, except for doctors and scientists.
- ◆ The government is committed to transform Padma Awards into “People’s Padma”, encouraging citizens to nominate deserving individuals.
- ◆ **Self-nominations are also allowed.**
- ◆ The nominations must include detailed information about the nominee’s distinguished achievements in their respective fields
- ◆ nominations will be accepted only through the **online Rashtriya Puraskar Portal.**
- ◆ The awards are **announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.**
- ◆ These **Awards are conferred by the President of India** at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.

4. Manipuri Film ‘Boong’ Wins First-Ever BAFTA Children’s Film Award for India, 2026

 **Context:**

- ◆ In February 2026, the Manipuri film *Boong* made history at the 79th BAFTAs in London as the first Indian film to win the **Best Children’s and Family Film category.**
- ◆ **Award:** Best Children’s and Family Film (2026).
- ◆ **Awardee:** *Boong* (Directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi; produced by Excel Entertainment).
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
- ◆ **Purpose of Award:** Recognizes outstanding global filmmaking tailored for children and family audiences.

5. Mangaluru Airport Wins 2025 ASQ Best Arrivals Award

 **Context:**

- ◆ In early 2026, Airports Council International (ACI) World announced the 2025 ASQ Awards, crowning Mangaluru International Airport for having the best arrivals experience globally.
- ◆ **Award:** 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ)

Award - Best Airport at Arrivals (Globally).

- ◆ **Awardee:** Mangaluru International Airport.
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** Airports Council International (ACI) World.
- ◆ **Purpose of Award:** Recognizes global excellence in the inbound passenger journey (immigration, baggage, cleanliness) based entirely on real-time traveler feedback.

 **About the Achievement - A Global Milestone**

- ◆ **Second Consecutive Win:** The airport won this global title for the second year in a row (2024 and 2025) for its exceptional operational efficiency, quick turnaround times, and passenger-centric upgrades.
- ◆ **Global Standing:** It stands out as one of only six airports worldwide to receive this specific recognition for 2025.
- ◆ **Upcoming Ceremony:** The award will be formally presented at the ACI World Airport Experience Summit in Istanbul, Türkiye, on September 2, 2026.

6. KSRTC Wins National Award for Dhvani Spandana Innovation

 **Context:**

- ◆ In March 2026, KSRTC won a national award in New Delhi for “Dhwani Spandana,” a pioneering initiative making public transport more accessible for the visually impaired.
- ◆ **Award:** Governance Now 12th PSU National Award - Excellence in Innovation.
- ◆ **Awardee:** Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** Governance Now.
- ◆ **Purpose of Award:** Honors public sector undertakings for implementing technology-driven innovations that promote inclusive infrastructure and accessibility.

7. About the Achievement - An Inclusive Milestone

- ◆ **The Technology:** “Dhwani Spandana” is an audio-based navigation system that helps visually impaired commuters independently identify approaching buses and safely board them.
- ◆ **The Impact:** The system is currently deployed on 200 Mysuru City Transport buses, actively assisting over 400 trained visually challenged passengers and reducing their reliance on others.

- ♦ **The Partners:** It was successfully developed with technical support from the German agency GIZ and IIT Delhi's Raised Lines Foundation to champion smart, accessible mobility.

8. Homebound Shortlisted for Best International Feature Film at Oscars 2026

Context:

- ♦ In December 2025, AMPAS announced the 98th Oscars shortlists, featuring *Homebound* as the only Indian film among the 15 global contenders.
- ♦ **Award:** Best International Feature Film (Shortlist) - 98th Academy Awards (2026).
- ♦ **Awardee:** *Homebound* (Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan).
- ♦ **Issuing Authority:** Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).
- ♦ **Purpose of Award:** Honors outstanding non-US feature films with predominantly non-English dialogue

Oscars 226: Major Winners List

| Category | Winner(s) | Film/Work |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Best Picture | Adam Somner, Sara Murphy & Paul Thomas Anderson | <i>One Battle After Another</i> |
| Best Director | Paul Thomas Anderson | <i>One Battle After Another</i> |
| Best Actor | Michael B. Jordan | <i>Sinners</i> |
| Best Actress | Jessie Buckley | <i>Hamnet</i> |
| Best Supporting Actor | Sean Penn | <i>One Battle After Another</i> |
| Best Supporting Actress | Amy Madigan | <i>Weapons</i> |
| Best Original Screenplay | Ryan Coogler | <i>Sinners</i> |
| Best Adapted Screenplay | Paul Thomas Anderson | <i>One Battle After Another</i> |
| Best Cinematography | Autumn Durald Arkapaw | <i>Sinners</i> |
| Best International Feature | Joachim Trier (Director) | <i>Sentimental Value</i> (Norway) |
| Best Animated Feature | Maggie Kang (Director) | <i>KPop Demon Hunters</i> |

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Best Original Score | Ludwig Göransson | <i>Sinners</i> |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|

9. Gill and Mandhana Sweep Top Honours at BCCI Naman Awards 2026

- ♦ **Historic Achievement:** Smriti Mandhana won the Best International Cricketer (Women) award for a record fifth time following a stellar 2024-25 season.
- ♦ **Top Honours:** Shubman Gill secured the prestigious Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men) for the second time (previously won in 2023).
- ♦ **Lifetime Recognition:** Cricket legends Rahul Dravid, Roger Binny, and Mithali Raj were conferred with highest-honour Lifetime Achievement Awards for their unparalleled contributions to the game.
- ♦ **Team Milestone:** The BCCI felicitated five recent ICC trophy-winning Indian squads, including the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup and 2025 Women's ODI World Cup champions.
- ♦ **Final Outcome:** The ceremony successfully concluded in New Delhi on March 15, 2026, celebrating the best of the 2024-25 season.

10. BCCI Naman Awards 2026: Complete Major Winners List

| Category | Winner(s) | Team / Association |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Polly Umrigar Award (Best Men's Cricketer) | Shubman Gill | Team India |
| Best International Cricketer (Women) | Smriti Mandhana | Team India |
| Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award | Rahul Dravid & Roger Binny | Team India (Veterans) |

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award (Women) | Mithali Raj | Team India (Veterans) |
| Best International Debut (Men) | Harshit Rana | Team India |
| Best International Debut (Women) | N. Sree Charani | Team India |
| Lala Amarnath Award (Best All-Rounder - Ranji Trophy) | Harsh Dubey | Vidarbha |
| Lala Amarnath Award (Best All-Rounder - Domestic Limited Overs) | Ayush Mhatre | Mumbai |
| Best Woman Cricketer (Sr Domestic One-Day) | Shafali Verma | Haryana |
| Best Cricket Association | Mumbai Cricket Association | Mumbai |

SPORTS

1. 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics

Context:

- ◆ In a spectacular conclusion to the XXV Olympic Winter Games, Norway once again established its winter sports supremacy by topping the final medal tally at the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics.

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Winner (Top Nation):** Norway.
- ◆ **Runner-up (2nd Place Nation):** United States.
- ◆ Norway secured the top spot on the overall medal table, driven by their sheer dominance in cross-country skiing, biathlon, and Nordic combined.
- ◆ **Sport:** Winter Multi-Sport.
- ◆ **Event:** XXV Olympic Winter Games (Milano Cortina 2026).

- ◆ **Venue:** Milan, Cortina d'Ampezzo, and surrounding Italian Alpine regions.

Key Achievements:

- ◆ **Historic Three-Peat:** This marks Norway's third consecutive time finishing first in the overall Winter Olympics medal table (following PyeongChang 2018 and Beijing 2022).
- ◆ **New Sport Debut:** Ski Mountaineering (SkiMo) made its historic Olympic debut at these Games, with the host nation, Italy, thrilling home crowds by claiming the first-ever gold medal in the sprint event.
- ◆ **Individual Brilliance:** Global icons like American alpine skier Mikaela Shiffrin added to their legendary status by securing further gold, cementing their legacies in Olympic history.
- ◆ **Host Nation Pride:** Italy put on a highly competitive showing fueled by passionate home support, comfortably finishing inside the top 10 of the overall standings.

About the Winter Olympics:

- ◆ **Started:** 1924 (Chamonix, France).
- ◆ **Event Category:** The premier international multi-sport championship for snow and ice sports.
- ◆ **Specialty:**
 - ◆ Organized and governed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
 - ◆ Held once every four years, entirely dedicated to sports practiced on snow and ice (like skiing, skating, bobsleigh, and ice hockey).
 - ◆ The Milano Cortina 2026 edition was celebrated as the most gender-balanced Winter Games in history, with record female athlete participation.

Winter Olympics 2026: Top 5 Final Medal Table

| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|---------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Norway | 17 | 12 | 11 | 40 |
| 2 | United States | 12 | 14 | 10 | 36 |
| 3 | Germany | 11 | 13 | 10 | 34 |
| 4 | Italy (Host) | 9 | 8 | 8 | 25 |
| 5 | China | 8 | 7 | | |

2. J&K Wins Maiden Ranji Trophy

Context:

- In a historic summit clash, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) secured their first-ever Ranji Trophy title by defeating Karnataka on the basis of a first-innings lead in the final of the 2025-26 edition.

Key Highlights

- Who Won:** Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) (India).
- Event:** IDFC First Bank Ranji Trophy 2025-26.
- Venue:** KSCA Stadium, Hubballi, Karnataka.
- Key Achievements:**
 - Maiden Title:** This is J&K's first-ever Ranji Trophy win, ending a 67-year wait since their entry into the competition in the 1959-60 season.
- Most Runs:** Ravichandran Smaran (Karnataka) - 950 runs
- Most Wickets / Player of the Series:** Auqib Nabi (J&K) - 60 wickets
- Player of the Match (Final):** Shubham Pundir (J&K)

About the Event: Ranji Trophy

- Started:** The tournament was started in 1934-35.
- Event Category:** Premier domestic first-class cricket championship in India.
- Specialty:**
 - Operated by the BCCI, it is the most prestigious domestic red-ball cricket tournament in the country.
 - It features 38 state and regional teams competing in a round-robin format followed by knockouts.

Note: Ranji Trophy Winners List (Recent)
(Mumbai is the most successful team in history with 42 titles)

| Year | Winner | Runner-Up |
|------|-------------------|-----------|
| 2026 | Jammu and Kashmir | Karnataka |
| 2025 | Vidarbha | Kerala |
| 2024 | Mumbai | Vidarbha |
| 2023 | Saurashtra | Bengal |

3. Indian Women's Cricket Team Earns Historic Nomination for 2026 Laureus World Team of the Year

Context:

- In a landmark moment for global cricket, the Indian Women's Cricket Team has been officially nominated for the prestigious 2026 Laureus World Team of the Year Award.

About the Event: Laureus World Sports Awards

- Started:** The awards were established in the year 2000.
- Event Category:** Global sports awards honoring the greatest sporting achievements of the year across all disciplines.
- Specialty:**
 - Often referred to as the "Oscars of Sport," it is one of the most prestigious honors in the international sporting world.
 - The winners are selected by the Laureus World Sports Academy, an exclusive jury comprising 69 of the greatest sporting legends of all time.

Note: Past Indian Athletes in Main Laureus Categories

(The India Women's Cricket Team is the first Indian team nominated for Team of the Year)

- 2025:** Rishabh Pant (Nominated - Laureus World Comeback of the Year)
- 2022:** Neeraj Chopra (Nominated - Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year)
- 2020:** Sachin Tendulkar (Winner - Laureus Sporting Moment Award 2000-2020)
- 2019:** Vinesh Phogat (Nominated - Laureus World Comeback of the Year)

4. India Wins T20 World Cup 2026

Context:

- In a thrilling summit clash, the India national cricket team secured their third ICC Men's T20 World Cup title by defeating New Zealand by a massive 96 runs in the final of the 2026 edition.
- Venue:** Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Key Achievements:**
 - Third Title:** This is India's third Men's T20 World Cup trophy (previously won in 2007 and 2024), making them the most successful team in the tournament's history.
 - Top Scorer (Final):** Sanju Samson (India)
 - Top Wicket-Taker (Final):** Jasprit Bumrah (India) - 4 wickets for just 15 runs.
 - Player of the Match:** Jasprit Bumrah (India)

📖 **About the Event: ICC Men's T20 World Cup**

- ◆ **Started:** The tournament started in 2007.
- ◆ **Event Category:** Premier Twenty20 (T20) international cricket world championship.
- ◆ **Specialty:**
 - ◆ Operated by the International Cricket Council (ICC), it is the most prestigious international tournament for the T20 format globally.
 - ◆ It features national teams competing through a group stage, Super 8s (or second group stage), and knockouts.

📖 **Note: ICC Men's T20 World Cup Winners List (Recent)**

(India becomes the first nation to win three T20 World Cup titles)

| Year | Winner | Runner-Up |
|------|-----------|--------------|
| 2026 | India | New Zealand |
| 2024 | India | South Africa |
| 2022 | England | Pakistan |
| 2021 | Australia | New Zealand |

5. George Russell Wins Australian Grand Prix 2026,

📖 **Context**

- ◆ In a thrilling season opener, George Russell secured victory at the 2026 Australian Grand Prix, leading a dominant Mercedes 1-2 finish ahead of teammate Kimi Antonelli.
- ◆ **Venue:** Albert Park Circuit, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

6. Shailesh Kumar Wins Gold at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026

📖 **Context:**

- ◆ In a triumphant start to his 2026 athletics season, reigning world champion Shailesh Kumar secured the gold medal in the men's high jump T63 event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix, leading a dominant Indian podium sweep.

📖 **Key Highlights**

- ◆ **Who Won:** Shailesh Kumar (India).
- ◆ **Opponent:** Ramsingbhai Gov Padhiyar (India). Shailesh secured the top spot with a clearance of 1.84 metres, comfortably ahead of Padhiyar's 1.65 metres (Score: Kumar 1.84m vs Padhiyar 1.65m).
- ◆ **Sport:** Para Athletics (High Jump).
- ◆ **Event:** World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026.

- ◆ **Venue:** Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, India.

7. India Creates Historic Record with 208 Medals at 2026 New Delhi Grand Prix

📖 **Context:**

- ◆ In a dominant and historic performance, host nation India topped the overall medal tally by securing a staggering 208 medals at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 in New Delhi.

📖 **Key Highlights**

- ◆ **Who Won (Top Nation):** India (208 Total Medals: 75 Gold, 69 Silver, 64 Bronze).
- ◆ **Runner-Up:** Russia. India finished with a massive 173-medal lead over second-placed Russia across the three-day competition (Score: India 208 vs Russia 35).
- ◆ **Sport:** Para Athletics (Track and Field).
- ◆ **Event:** World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 (New Delhi Leg).
- ◆ **Venue:** Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, India.

📖 **Key Achievements:**

- ◆ **Record Haul:** India's 208-medal haul is a historic milestone, driven by their largest-ever contingent of 219 athletes competing across multiple classifications.
- ◆ **Podium Sweeps:** Indian athletes recorded numerous clean sweeps (winning Gold, Silver, and Bronze) in several events, including the Men's Shot Put F57 and Men's 800m T53-T54.
- ◆ **Top Female Performer:** Preeti Pal (India) - Won double Gold in the Women's 100m and 200m (T35-T37).
- ◆ **Top Male Performer:** Sumit Antil (India) - Won Gold in the Men's Javelin Throw with a massive 69.25m mark.
- ◆ **Emerging Performer:** Shubham Juyal (India) - Won Gold in Men's Shot Put F57, improving his personal best by 0.73m in just five months.

📖 **About the Event: World Para Athletics Grand Prix**

- ◆ **Started:** The Grand Prix series was introduced in 2013.
- ◆ **Event Category:** International series of elite para-athletics track and field competitions.
- ◆ **Specialty:**
 - ◆ Operated by World Para Athletics, it serves as a crucial platform for athletes to achieve official international classification.

- ◆ The 2026 New Delhi leg offered vital qualification opportunities ahead of the 2026 World Para Athletics Championships and 2028 LA Paralympics.

Note:

- ◆ Top 3 Medal Standings (2026 New Delhi Grand Prix)

(India completely dominated the eight-nation competition)

| Rank | Country | Total Medals (Gold-Silver-Bronze) |
|------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st | India | 208 (75G - 69S - 64B) |
| 2nd | Russia | 35 (15G - 14S - 6B) |
| 3rd | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 3 (1G - 2S - 0B) |

8. India to Host World Athletics Indoor Championships 2028

Context

- ◆ In a landmark decision for Indian sports, the World Athletics Council unanimously awarded India the hosting rights for the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships during their meeting in Toruń, Poland.

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Host City:** Bhubaneswar, Odisha (India).
- ◆ **Sport:** Athletics (Indoor Track and Field).
- ◆ **Event:** World Athletics Indoor Championships 2028.
- ◆ **Dates:** Scheduled for March 3 – March 5, 2028.
- ◆ **Venue:** Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ◆ **Key Officials Involved:** Adille J. Sumariwalla (Vice-President of World Athletics) and Sebastian Coe (President of World Athletics).

Key Achievements

- ◆ **Historic First:** This marks the very first time India will host a senior global track and field world championship in the 115-year history of World Athletics.
- ◆ **Asian Milestone:** India becomes only the fourth Asian nation to host this prestigious

indoor event, joining Japan, Qatar, and China.

- ◆ **State-of-the-Art Venue:** The championships will be held at the Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium (built in 2024). It features a 200-meter synthetic track and stands as the largest indoor athletics stadium in South Asia.

About the Event: World Athletics Indoor Championships

- ◆ **Started:** The competition was first held in 1985 in Paris, France.
- ◆ **Event Category:** It is the premier biennial global indoor track and field championship.
- ◆ **Specialty:** * Operated by World Athletics, it features elite international athletes competing on a 200-meter banked indoor track.
 - ◆ The event consists of 26 disciplines (13 each for men and women).
 - ◆ Competitions are held in climate-controlled conditions, free from wind and weather interference, which often leads to highly consistent and record-breaking performances.

IMPORTANT EXERCISES

1. Military exercises

- ◆ Exercise Dharma Guardian (7th Edition)
 - ◆ **Between which countries:** India & Japan (Army)
 - ◆ **Objective:** To practice joint counter-terrorism and tactical drills under a UN mandate.
 - ◆ **Event Place:** Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan, India
- ◆ Exercise Samudra Laksmana (4th Edition)
 - ◆ **Between which countries:** India & Malaysia (Navy)
 - ◆ **Objective:** To enhance maritime interoperability and surface warfare skills.
 - ◆ **Event Place:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India
- ◆ Exercise Cutlass Express 2026
 - ◆ **Between which countries:** Multilateral (India, USA, East African nations)
 - ◆ **Objective:** To promote maritime security and law enforcement in the Western Indian Ocean.
 - ◆ **Event Place:** Port Victoria, Seychelles
- ◆ Exercise Dustlik (7th Edition)
 - ◆ **Between which countries:** India & Uzbekistan (Army)

- ◆ **Objective:** To conduct joint counter-terrorism and sub-conventional operations.
- ◆ **Event Place:** Termez District, Uzbekistan
- ◆ Exercise Sea Defencer 2026
 - ◆ **Between which countries:** India & USA (Coast Guard)
 - ◆ **Objective:** To focus on maritime law enforcement, anti-piracy, and search and rescue.
 - ◆ **Event Place:** Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India
- ◆ Exercise Lamitiye (11th Edition)
 - ◆ **Between which countries:** India & Seychelles (Army)
 - ◆ **Objective:** To train for counter-insurgency and semi-urban tactical operations.
 - ◆ **Event Place:** Victoria, Seychelles
- ◆ Exercise Tiger Triumph 2026
 - ◆ **Between which countries:** India & USA (Tri-Service)
 - ◆ **Objective:** To improve joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) readiness.
 - ◆ **Event Place:** Eastern Seaboard, India

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL DAYS

1. Central Excise Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** February 24, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), India
- ◆ **Objective:** To honour the service of Central Excise officers and promote equality and efficiency in the tax administration.
- ◆ **Theme:** Fostering efficient tax collection and honouring the dedication of excise officers.

2. World NGO Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** February 27, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Recognised internationally (Founded by Marcis Skadmanis)
- ◆ **Objective:** To recognise, celebrate, and honour the fundamental contributions of non-governmental organisations to society.
- ◆ **Theme:** “Restoring Dignity Through Inclusion”.

3. National Science Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** February 28, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** National Council

for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), India

- ◆ **Objective:** To commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by Sir C.V. Raman and promote scientific temper.
- ◆ **Theme:** “Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat”.

4. Rare Disease Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** February 28, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** EURORDIS (Rare Diseases Europe) and global partners
- ◆ **Objective:** To raise awareness and advocate for equity in healthcare for the 300 million people worldwide living with a rare disease.
- ◆ **Theme:** “More Than You Can Imagine”.

5. Zero Discrimination Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 1, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** UNAIDS
- ◆ **Objective:** To celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life with dignity, and combat all forms of discrimination.
- ◆ **Theme:** “People first”.

6. World Civil Defence Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 1, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO)
- ◆ **Objective:** To highlight the importance of civil protection and honour the skills and sacrifices of emergency and disaster relief services.
- ◆ **Theme:** Honouring civil protection heroes and advancing emergency technologies.

7. World Wildlife Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 3, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** United Nations (CITES)
- ◆ **Objective:** To celebrate and raise awareness of the world’s wild fauna and flora and the need for urgent conservation.
- ◆ **Theme:** “Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods”.

8. World Hearing Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 3, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** World Health Organization (WHO)
- ◆ **Objective:** To raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.
- ◆ **Theme:** “From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children”.

9. National Safety Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 4, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** National Safety Council (NSC), India
- ♦ **Objective:** To enhance safety awareness among people and prevent workplace and industrial accidents.
- ♦ **Theme:** “Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety”.

10. World Obesity Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 4, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** World Obesity Federation
- ♦ **Objective:** To promote practical solutions to end the global obesity crisis and eliminate the stigma surrounding the disease.
- ♦ **Theme:** Changing global perspectives and addressing the root causes of obesity.

11. International Women’s Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 8, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** United Nations
- ♦ **Objective:** To celebrate women’s achievements, raise awareness about discrimination, and take action to drive global gender parity.
- ♦ **Theme:** “Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls”.

12. CISF Raising Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 10, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** Central Industrial Security Force (India)
- ♦ **Objective:** To mark the foundation of CISF in 1969 and honour the personnel safeguarding India’s critical infrastructure.
- ♦ **Theme:** Celebrating the dedication, courage, and service of CISF personnel.

13. World Kidney Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 12, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and IFKF
- ♦ **Objective:** To raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease.
- ♦ **Theme:** “Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet”.

14. International Day of Mathematics (Pi Day)

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 14, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** International Mathematical Union (IMU) / UNESCO

- ♦ **Objective:** To celebrate the beauty, utility, and fundamental importance of mathematics in everyone’s daily life.
- ♦ **Theme:** Showcasing the universal language of mathematics in tackling global challenges.

15. International Day of Action for Rivers

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 14, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** International Rivers
- ♦ **Objective:** To raise voices in unison against destructive water projects and demand the equitable and sustainable management of watersheds.
- ♦ **Theme:** Securing clean and flowing water for all communities.

16. World Consumer Rights Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 15, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** Consumers International
- ♦ **Objective:** To raise global awareness about consumer rights, needs, and protections against market abuses.
- ♦ **Theme:** “Safe Products, Confident Consumers”.

17. National Vaccination Day (National Immunization Day)

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 16, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India
- ♦ **Objective:** To convey the life-saving importance of vaccination and commemorate the launch of India’s Pulse Polio Programme in 1995.
- ♦ **Theme:** Emphasising the critical role of vaccines in eradicating preventable diseases.

18. Ordnance Factories’ Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 18, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Ministry of Defence, India
- ♦ **Objective:** To commemorate the foundation of the first Ordnance Factory in colonial India and celebrate the nation’s defence manufacturing sector.
- ♦ **Theme:** Advancing self-reliance in the defence sector (Atmanirbhar Bharat).

19. Global Recycling Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** March 18, 2026
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:** Global Recycling Foundation
- ♦ **Objective:** To recognise and celebrate the importance recycling plays in preserving

primary resources and securing the future of the planet.

- ◆ **Theme:** Recognising “Recycling Heroes” and promoting sustainable circular economies.

20. International Day of Happiness

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 20, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** United Nations
- ◆ **Objective:** To recognise the relevance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of human beings.
- ◆ **Theme:** “Caring and Sharing”.

21. World Oral Health Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 20, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** FDI World Dental Federation
- ◆ **Objective:** To empower people with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to secure good oral health and reduce the burden of oral diseases.
- ◆ **Theme:** “A Happy Mouth is... A Happy Body”.

22. World Sparrow Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 20, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Nature Forever Society (India) and Eco-Sys Action Foundation
- ◆ **Objective:** To raise awareness about the house sparrow and the environmental threats facing common birds in urban ecosystems.
- ◆ **Theme:** “I Love Sparrows”.

23. International Day of Forests

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 21, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** United Nations (FAO)
- ◆ **Objective:** To celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and trees outside forests for the benefit of current and future generations.
- ◆ **Theme:** “Forests and Economies”.

24. World Down Syndrome Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 21, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Down Syndrome International / United Nations
- ◆ **Objective:** To raise public awareness of Down syndrome and advocate for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with the condition.
- ◆ **Theme:** “Together Against Loneliness”.

25. World Poetry Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 21, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** UNESCO

- ◆ **Objective:** To support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increase the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.

- ◆ **Theme:** Celebrating the power of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind.

26. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 21, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** United Nations
- ◆ **Objective:** To remind people of the negative consequences of racial discrimination and encourage action to combat it globally.
- ◆ **Theme:** Fostering global solidarity against racism and intolerance.

27. World Water Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 22, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** United Nations (UN-Water)
- ◆ **Objective:** To focus attention on the importance of freshwater and advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- ◆ **Theme:** “Water and Gender”.

28. Bihar Diwas

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 22, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Government of Bihar, India
- ◆ **Objective:** To commemorate the official formation of the state of Bihar in 1912.
- ◆ **Theme:** Celebrating the cultural heritage, progress, and historical legacy of Bihar.

29. World Meteorological Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 23, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- ◆ **Objective:** To showcase the essential contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to the safety and well-being of society.
- ◆ **Theme:** “Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow”.

30. Shaheed Diwas (Martyrs’ Day)

- ◆ **Observed Date:** March 23, 2026
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:** To honour the supreme sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar during the Indian independence

movement.

- ◆ **Theme:** Remembering and paying tribute to the heroes of the Indian freedom struggle.

MCQ'S ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:

1. Consider the following statements:

Statement-1: Gray Zone conflicts occur between the conditions of peace and full-scale war. Gray Zone tactics may include cyber attacks, disinformation campaigns, and economic pressure.

Statement-2: Proxy warfare involves indirect conflict between states. In proxy warfare, countries often support non-state actors or armed groups to fight their opponents.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement-1 and Statement-2 are correct and Statement-2 is the correct explanation of Statement-1
- B. Both Statement-1 and Statement-2 are correct but Statement-2 is not the correct explanation of Statement-1
- C. Statement-1 is correct but Statement-2 is incorrect
- D. Statement-1 is incorrect but Statement-2 is correct

2. The “Strait of Hormuz” connects which of the following water bodies?

- A. Red Sea and Arabian Sea
- B. Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea
- C. Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- D. Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea

3. Consider the following statements regarding the objectives of SEBI:

1. Protecting the interests of investors in securities.
2. Promoting the development of the securities market.
3. Regulating the securities market in India.
4. Managing India’s foreign exchange reserves.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. One only

4. Match the following Air-Defence Systems with their Country/Region:

| List-I (Air-Defence System) | List-II (Country/Region) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. S-400 Triumph | 1. Israel |
| b. THAAD | 2. Russia |
| c. Iron Dome | 3. United States |
| d. HQ-9 | 4. China |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- B. a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- C. a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
- D. a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1

5. Consider the following statements regarding India’s semiconductor initiatives:

1. The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. The aim of the India Semiconductor Mission is to build a semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem and make India a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design.
3. India’s first semiconductor facility/plant has been set up by Micron Technology at Sanand in Gujarat.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All are correct

6. Consider the following statements regarding Guru Tegh Bahadur:

1. He was born in 1621 at Amritsar to Guru Hargobind.
2. He was recognized as the ninth Sikh Guru in 1664 after being identified by the trader Makhan Shah Lubana.
3. He founded Anandpur Sahib (earlier known as Chak Nanki) and travelled widely spreading spiritual teachings of equality and devotion to one God.
4. He openly challenged the policies of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb by standing up for the religious freedom of Kashmiri Brahmins.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only

- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

7. With reference to the initiatives of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), consider the following statements:

1. The Standards and Labelling (S&L) scheme provides star-rating labels on appliances such as refrigerators and air conditioners.
2. The Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme is a market-based mechanism that targets large energy-intensive industries.
3. The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) provides guidelines for energy-efficient building design.
4. The PAT scheme primarily focuses on improving energy efficiency in household appliances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

8. Consider the following statements regarding the World Obesity Atlas:

1. It is published by the World Obesity Federation.
2. It provides global data, projections, and policy insights related to obesity trends.
3. It mainly focuses only on obesity trends in developed countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

9. Consider the following statements regarding El Niño and La Niña:

1. El Niño is associated with warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean.
2. La Niña is associated with stronger trade winds than normal.
3. Both phenomena significantly influence rainfall patterns across different parts of the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are wrong?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. All statements are wrong
- D. All statements are correct

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan:

1. It is a currency swap agreement between the central banks of the two countries.
2. It helps both countries address short-term liquidity shortages and stabilize foreign exchange markets.
3. It is aimed at strengthening financial cooperation between the two countries.
4. It allows the two countries to permanently exchange their currencies for trade settlement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

11. Consider the following statements regarding Madurai Sungudi Sari:

1. Sungudi saris are traditional cotton saris perfected by the Saurashtrian community that migrated from Gujarat to Madurai in the 17th century.
2. The saris feature intricate tie-and-dye patterns created through a hand-knotting technique that produces thousands of tiny white dots.
3. The Madurai Sungudi sari received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3 only

12. Which of the following statements about the Kurdish people is/are correct?

1. They are considered one of the largest stateless ethnic groups in the world.
2. They have an independent sovereign state recognized by the United Nations.
3. They have their own language known as Kurdish.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

13. With reference to the “Raisina Dialogue”, consider the following statements:

1. The conference focuses on issues related to geopolitics and geoeconomics.
2. The conference is organised by the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with India's Ministry of External Affairs.
3. The event is organised by a government ministry without the involvement of any think tank.
4. The 2026 edition carries the theme "Samskara: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement."

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

14. Consider the following statements regarding the Gravity Bomb:

1. It differs from cruise missiles such as the Tomahawk cruise missile in that it lacks an engine.
2. It is typically guided throughout its flight by onboard radar systems.
3. It can be upgraded with Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kits to improve accuracy.
4. JDAM kits use GPS guidance and steerable fins to convert unguided bombs into precision-guided munitions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

15. With reference to the 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, consider the following statements:

1. The report evaluates India's progress towards biodiversity targets set for 2030.
2. It assesses India's performance against 23 National Biodiversity Targets aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
3. It legally binds India to achieve all biodiversity targets under the Framework.
4. The report forms part of national reporting obligations under the Convention.
5. The targets assessed in the report are linked to global biodiversity goals for 2050.

Which of the statements given above is/are

correct?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

16. The moonshot project to develop brain co-processors has been launched by which institution?

- A. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- B. Indian Institute of Science
- C. All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- D. Indian Space Research Organisation

17. Consider the following statements regarding India's oil import trends:

1. India is among the world's largest importers of crude oil due to high energy demand.
2. The share of imports from Russia has fallen below one-fourth of India's total oil imports.
3. The increase in imports from the United States indicates diversification of India's crude oil sources.
4. India's dependence on crude oil imports has reduced to below 50%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

18. Which of the following military exercises are conducted between India and the United States?

1. Yudh Abhyas
2. Malabar
3. Cope India
4. Tiger Triumph
5. Vajra Prahar

How many of the given above is/are NOT correct:

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. Four only
- D. All are correct

19. With reference to student visas issued by the United States, consider the following statements:

1. The F-1 Visa is primarily meant for academic education and issued for students pursuing studies in universities, colleges, high schools,

and language training programmes.

2. The M Visa is issued for students enrolled in vocational or other recognised non-academic institutions.
3. The M visa category also includes students enrolled in language training programmes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

20. A Hydroxyl megamaser is primarily known as:

- A. A powerful emitter of microwave or radio waves in space.
- B. A type of asteroid found in the Solar System.
- C. A black hole at the centre of galaxies.
- D. A type of artificial satellite.

21. Consider the following statements regarding the LGM-30G Minuteman III:

1. It is operated by the United States.
2. It is designed to deliver nuclear payloads across intercontinental distances.
3. It is launched primarily from aircraft carriers.
4. It forms part of the strategic nuclear deterrence system of the United States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

22. With reference to Quantum Computing, consider the following statements:

1. It uses the principles of quantum mechanics for processing information.
2. Classical computers process information using bits that represent either 0 or 1.
3. Quantum computers use qubits that can exist in multiple states simultaneously.
4. Quantum computers process information strictly using classical binary logic.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. One only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

23. Assertion (A): The Essential Commodities Act helps in controlling inflation of essential goods.

Reason (R): The government can impose price controls and stock limits under the Act.

Options:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. A is false, but R is true

24. With reference to euthanasia in India, consider the following statements:

1. Passive euthanasia is legally permitted under certain conditions.
2. Active euthanasia is legalized in India after judicial interpretation.
3. The right to die with dignity is considered part of the Right to Life.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

25. Which of the following components are part of the modernization strategy under Defence Vision 2047?

1. Artificial Intelligence and autonomous systems.
2. Cyber and space warfare capabilities.
3. Exclusive reliance on manpower-intensive warfare.

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

26. Consider the following statements regarding removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC):

1. The CEC can be removed only on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
2. The procedure for removal is similar to that of a judge of the Supreme Court.
3. The Constitution explicitly details the step-by-step removal procedure.
4. The removal requires a special majority in both Houses of Parliament.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only

- C. All Four
- D. None

27. Consider the following statements regarding National Investment and Infrastructure Fund:

1. It is registered as an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with SEBI.
2. It is wholly owned by the Government of India.
3. It aims to attract both domestic and international investors.
4. It primarily finances short-term working capital needs of industries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

28. With reference to India in SIPRI reports, consider the following statements:

1. India is often among the top arms importers globally.
2. SIPRI data is used to rank countries based on military strength.
3. SIPRI identifies major suppliers to India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

29. Consider the following statements regarding National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI):

1. It is a satellite-based index to quantify vegetation along National Highways.
2. It uses chlorophyll-sensitive sensors to estimate green cover.
3. It measures vegetation within the Right of Way (RoW) of highways.
4. It expresses green cover as an absolute area in square kilometres.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3 only

30. Match the following:

| List I (Year) | List II (International Year) | List III (Focus) |
|---------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| a. 2021 | 1. Fruits and Vegetables | i. Healthy diets |

| | | |
|---------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| b. 2023 | 2. Millets | ii. Climate-resilient crops |
| c. 2024 | 3. Camelids | iii. Pastoral livelihoods |
| d. 2022 | 4. Glass | iv. Industrial innovation |

Codes:

- A. a-1-i, b-2-ii, c-3-iii, d-4-iv
- B. a-2-i, b-1-ii, c-3-iv, d-4-iii
- C. a-1-iii, b-2-ii, c-3-i, d-4-iv
- D. a-3-i, b-2-ii, c-1-iii, d-4-iv

31. Consider the following statements:

1. Savitribai Phule is regarded as the first female teacher of modern India.
2. She established the first girls' school in Pune in 1848.
3. She worked exclusively for upper-caste women's education.
4. She was associated with the Satyashodhak Samaj.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

32. Consider the following pairs:

| Art Form | Region |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Kurumba Paintings | Nilgiris |
| 2. Warli Paintings | Maharashtra |
| 3. Gond Paintings | Rajasthan |
| 4. Madhubani Paintings | Bihar |

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

33. With reference to "Fiscal Health Index" (FHI), released by NITI Aayog consider the following statements:

1. It promotes competitive federalism among States.
2. It provides a comparative framework for fiscal discipline.
3. It is a constitutional mandate under Article 280.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only

- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

34. Black rain differs from acid rain because:

- A. Acid rain contains soot particles, while black rain is chemically pure.
- B. Black rain occurs only in oceans, while acid rain occurs on land.
- C. Black rain contains visible particulate matter, while acid rain is mainly chemically acidic.
- D. Both are identical phenomena.

35. Which of the following groups are included under KCC beneficiaries?

- 1. Self Help Groups (SHGs)
- 2. Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)
- 3. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

Select the correct answer:

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

36. Consider the following paragraph:

A significant nationalist movement began with a march from an ashram and culminated in an act of breaking a colonial law related to an essential household item. The movement emphasized non-violence and civil disobedience and triggered nationwide protests, including demonstrations at salt production centers after the arrest of the leader.

Which of the following events is being referred to?

- A. Swadeshi Movement
- B. Dandi March
- C. Home Rule Movement
- D. Civil Disobedience Movement

37. Consider the following description:

An aquatic predator possesses the rare ability among its group to tolerate a wide range of salinity levels. This is made possible by physiological adaptations that help maintain osmotic balance. It is found not only in coastal marine waters but also deep within inland river systems across multiple continents, including Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Its conservation status is classified as "Vulnerable".

Which of the following species best fits the above description?

- A. Tiger Shark
- B. Blue Shark

- C. Bull Shark
- D. Basking Shark

38. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Joha rice is an indigenous aromatic rice variety from Assam.
- 2. It received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2017.
- 3. It is primarily known for its high yield rather than quality.
- 4. It is gaining recognition in premium global markets.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

39. The Indian Army has launched a Major Bridge Project in Sri Lanka under which of the following operations?

- A. Operation Maitri
- B. Operation Sagar Bandhu
- C. Operation Samudra Setu
- D. Operation Rainbow

40. Consider the following statements:

- 1. NavIC was earlier known as IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System).
- 2. It ensures independence from foreign navigation systems.
- 3. All NavIC satellites are placed only in geostationary orbit.
- 4. It has both civilian and encrypted services.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

41. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Jayanthi Kumaresh has been announced as the recipient of the Sangita Kalanidhi award at the 100th Conference.
- 2. Narendra G has been conferred the Nritya Kalanidhi award.
- 3. Sangita Kalanidhi is awarded for excellence in both music and dance.
- 4. Both awards are conferred during the annual conference of the Music Academy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only

- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

42. Consider the following description:

A rare and visually striking pheasant species, often referred to as the “king of birds,” inhabits temperate and subalpine forests at elevations ranging from 2,400 to 3,600 meters, occasionally descending to about 2,000 meters during winter. It is distributed from the Swat Valley in Pakistan across Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to Uttarakhand. The species is omnivorous, feeding on berries, seeds, buds, shoots, and insects, and faces threats from forest degradation, climate change, and human disturbances. It is also recognized as the state bird of Himachal Pradesh and is listed as “Vulnerable” on the IUCN Red List.

- Which of the following species is being described?
- A. Himalayan Monal
 - B. Western Tragopan
 - C. Cheer Pheasant
 - D. Satyr Tragopan

43. Consider the following statements:

1. The scheme provides health coverage under Ayushman Bharat TG Plus.
2. It focuses on marginalized communities including transgender persons.
3. It does not include any provision for shelter support.
4. It aims at promoting livelihood and enterprise development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

44. Kharg Island is located in:

- A. Arabian Sea
- B. Bay of Bengal
- C. Persian Gulf
- D. Mediterranean Sea

45. Consider the following statements:

1. SWAMIH Fund focuses on affordable and mid-income housing projects.
2. It aims to ensure completion of housing projects stuck due to lack of funds.
3. It directly finances new greenfield luxury housing projects.
4. It is sponsored by the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

46. Consider the following statements:

1. The Global Pandemic Agreement was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2025.
2. It aims to create a legally binding international framework for pandemic preparedness and response.
3. It replaces the International Health Regulations (IHR) entirely.
4. It addresses global inequalities in pandemic management.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

47. Consider the following statements regarding the Gyan Bharatam Mission:

1. It aims to conserve more than one crore manuscripts across India.
2. It focuses only on manuscripts housed in government institutions.
3. It includes documentation as well as physical conservation of manuscripts.
4. It is a completely new initiative unrelated to earlier manuscript preservation efforts.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. One only
- B. Three only
- C. Two only
- D. All are correct

48. With reference to the National Manuscripts Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2003 under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.
2. Its primary objective is to digitize all manuscripts in India.
3. It aims to locate and document manuscript heritage across the country.
4. It deals exclusively with manuscripts written in Sanskrit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

49. Consider the following statements regarding the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF):

1. It incentivizes countries for preserving existing forest cover rather than only reducing deforestation rates.
2. It is structured as a grant-based mechanism with no expectation of financial returns.
3. It is introduced by Brazil and aims to align conservation outcomes with long-term financial sustainability.
4. It has already mobilized over \$5.5 billion in initial commitments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

50. Match the following art forms with their respective States:

| List I (Art Form) | List II (State) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Warli Painting | 1. Madhya Pradesh |
| b. Gond Art | 2. Maharashtra |
| c. Bhil Painting | 3. Assam / Northeast India |
| d. Rabha & Tamang Masks | 4. Rajasthan |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. a-3, b-1, c-2, d-4
- B. a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- C. a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- D. a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3

51. Consider the following statements:

1. NMDC Limited is the first mining company in India to achieve 50 million tonnes of iron ore production in a single financial year.
2. Magnetite contains more than 70% iron and is considered the best quality ore.
3. Hematite is the most important industrial iron ore and typically contains 40–60% iron.
4. Siderite is a carbonate ore with iron content less than 40%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only

- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

52. What does the term “Gynandromorphy” refer to?

- A. Presence of both male and female characteristics in a single organism and most commonly observed in Insects and birds.
- B. Ability of an organism to change sex during its lifetime and most commonly observed in Reptiles only.
- C. Presence of only male reproductive organs and most commonly observed in mammals.
- D. Absence of sexual characteristics and most commonly observed in Amphibians only

53. Consider the following statements regarding the Nagoya Protocol:

1. It was adopted in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan and it came into force in 2012.
2. It aims to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.
3. It is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
4. India ratified the protocol in 2012 and its provisions are aligned with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

54. Consider the following statements regarding nominations for the Padma Awards:

1. Any citizen of India can nominate a person, including self-nomination.
2. Nominations are submitted through an online portal managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. Only State Governments and Union Territories can recommend candidates.
4. The awards are announced annually on Republic Day.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

55. With reference to the Gajapati Dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. Kapilendra Deva was the founder of the Gajapati dynasty.
2. The empire reached its maximum territorial extent under Purushottama Deva.
3. Prataparudra Deva was a contemporary of Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara.
4. The dynasty had frequent conflicts with the Bahmani Sultanate and Vijayanagara Empire.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

56. Consider the following statements regarding the Ladakh Magmatic Arc:

1. It is composed primarily of igneous rocks located in the Trans-Himalayan region.
2. It represents an active volcanic arc system in present times.
3. It is associated with the subduction of the Indian Plate beneath the Eurasian Plate.
4. It formed due to the closure of the Neo-Tethys Ocean.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

57. Consider the following statements regarding digital initiatives in India's vaccination drive:

1. eVIN enables real-time tracking of vaccine stock and storage temperature.
2. U-WIN is designed as a digital registry for routine immunization tracking.
3. CoWIN was used exclusively for vaccine procurement and supply chain management.
4. CoWIN facilitated the administration of more than 220 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

58. Consider the following statements regarding NATO:

1. It was established in 1949 through the Washington Treaty.
2. It was formed primarily to counter the threat from the Soviet Union after World War II.
3. It is an economic and monetary union of North Atlantic countries.
4. Its headquarters is located in Washington, D.C.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

59. Consider the following statements regarding PM-POSHAN:

1. It was earlier known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Union Government.
3. It provides one hot cooked meal to students up to Class 8 in government and aided schools.
4. It is implemented under the Ministry of Education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

60. Consider the following statements regarding BHAVYA:

1. It aims to develop 100 "future ready" industrial parks across India.
2. It is integrated with the PM GatiShakti programme.
3. The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation plays a key role in implementation.
4. The scheme duration is proposed for six years starting from 2026–27.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. All Four are correct

61. With reference to the Aravalli Hills, consider the following statements:

1. Guru Shikhar is the highest peak located on Mount Abu.
2. The range acts as a major water divide influencing river systems in western India.
3. Rivers such as Luni and Sabarmati originate from this range.
4. The Aravalli range forms a continuous high barrier like the Himalayas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

62. Consider the following statements regarding India's bioeconomy:

1. India's bioeconomy has grown from about \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$165 billion by 2024 and it contributes around 4.25% to India's GDP.
2. The government aims to expand the bioeconomy to about \$300 billion by 2030.
3. The sector has recorded a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 17–18% in recent years.
4. States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh together account for a major share.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. One only
- D. All Four

63. Consider the following statements regarding the RELIEF Scheme:

1. It is designed to support Indian exporters facing logistics and freight-related disruptions in West Asia.
2. The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India is the nodal agency and it primarily targets large corporations engaged in global trade.
3. It is launched under the Export Promotion Mission and it addresses issues such as freight hikes and insurance premium spikes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

64. Consider the following statements:

1. The Small Hydro Power Development Scheme was approved in 2026.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Power.
3. It aims to promote clean energy generation in rural and remote areas.
4. It targets about 1,500 MW capacity addition by FY 2030–31.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

65. With reference to the World Happiness Report 2026, consider the following statements:

1. It is published by the University of Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre in partnership with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
2. The ranking is based on factors such as GDP per capita, life expectancy, social support, freedom, generosity, and perceptions of corruption.
3. Finland has been ranked as the happiest country since 2018, while Afghanistan ranks last in 2026.
4. India is ranked within the top 100 countries and has shown improvement from its previous year ranking.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

66. With reference to the SHINE App, consider the following statements:

1. It provides a digital platform exclusively for government women employees to report workplace harassment.
2. It ensures confidentiality of the complainant while allowing complaint tracking.
3. It is aligned with provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
4. It replaces the role of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) in organizations.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

67. Consider the following statements regarding India's crude oil imports:

1. India is the third-largest oil-importing and consuming nation in the world.
2. India imports more than 80% of its crude oil requirements from more than 40 countries.
3. Nearly half of India's oil imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz.
4. India is a full member of IEA and does have an obligation to follow the mandate of the international body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

68. The term "LIGO" stands for:

- A. Laser Interferometer Geophysical Observatory
- B. Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory
- C. Light Interference Global Observatory
- D. Laser Integrated Gravity Observatory

69. The "Kimberley Process Certification Scheme" regulates:

- A. Only trade of polished diamonds.
- B. Only trade of rough diamonds.
- C. Trade of both rough and polished diamonds.
- D. Only trade of synthetic diamonds.

70. With reference to the Darknet, consider the following statements:

1. It is a subset of the deep web.
2. It is indexed by conventional search engines but requires login access.
3. It ensures user anonymity through encryption and routing mechanisms.
4. It can be accessed using specialized software such as Tor Browser.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

71. White phosphorus is used in warfare primarily for:

1. Creating smoke screens
2. Illumination
3. Chemical poisoning as a nerve agent
4. Incendiary purposes

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

72. With reference to the Anavaran Deforestation Alert System, consider the following statements:

1. It is an AI-enabled platform for monitoring forest cover loss developed by the Forest Survey of India.
2. It is based on the Google Earth Engine (GEE) platform, and uses Sentinel-2 optical imagery and Sentinel-1 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) for monitoring during cloud cover or monsoon.
3. Both Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 depend on visible light for imaging.
4. It relies solely on optical satellite imagery for detection and it sends alerts periodically to State Forest Departments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

73. With reference to Kurumba paintings, consider the following statements:

1. They were traditionally painted on walls of houses and temples.
2. The paintings are closely associated with festival and ritual contexts.
3. The art form predominantly uses perspective and realism techniques.
4. Natural materials like tree resins are used for pigment preparation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

74. With reference to the NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index (FHI 2026), consider the following statements:

1. It is the second annual edition assessing the fiscal health of Indian states.
2. The index evaluates parameters such as Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability.
3. The data used for the index is compiled by the Finance Commission of India.
4. Odisha is the top-performing state, while Punjab, West Bengal, and Kerala are among the lowest performers.
5. States like Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana have shown moderate improvement in fiscal performance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 3 and 5 only

75. Which of the following effects can be associated with Black Rain?

1. Radiation sickness
2. Genetic mutations
3. Loss of Soil fertility

Select the correct answer:

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. None
- D. All

76. With reference to the proposed Proton Accelerator Facility in Visakhapatnam, consider the following statements:

1. It is a high-energy proton accelerator system used to accelerate charged particles.
2. It will support India's three-stage nuclear power programme, particularly thorium utilization.
3. It is based on Accelerator-Driven Systems (ADS) which enhance nuclear reactor safety.
4. The facility is primarily meant for weather forecasting and climate modelling.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

77. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. It provides autonomous administrative arrangements for tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
2. Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) are empowered with legislative, executive, judicial, and financial powers.
3. The provisions related to the Sixth Schedule are contained under Articles 244(2) and 275(1).
4. Autonomous District Councils in Meghalaya function only as advisory bodies without legislative authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

78. Consider the following description:

A stocky mountain ungulate with short yellowish-brown fur is endemic to a limited stretch of about 400 km in the Western Ghats, mainly across parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It is a herbivore feeding on a wide variety of grasses, herbs, and shrubs. The species faces threats from habitat loss due to deforestation, plantation expansion, hydroelectric projects, competition with domestic livestock, and hunting. It is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List and is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The largest population is found in Eravikulam National Park, and it is also the state animal of Tamil Nadu.

Which one of the following species is being described above?

- A. Malabar Pied Hornbill
- B. Lion-tailed Macaque
- C. Indian Gaur
- D. Nilgiri Tahr

79. Which of the following best describes the PRAHAAR Policy?

- A. To provide financial assistance to states affected by terrorism.
- B. To establish a legal tribunal system for terrorism cases.
- C. To lay down a comprehensive policy framework based on zero tolerance towards terrorism.
- D. To replace all existing anti-terror laws in India.

80. Which of the following are the benefits of adopting green hydrogen and green ammonia?

1. Reduction in dependence on fossil fuel imports.
2. Decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors.
3. Balancing the greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Energy storage and grid balancing.

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

81. With reference to the Rah-Veer Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is aligned with the Good Samaritan provisions under the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.
2. It provides both legal protection and financial incentives to individuals who assist road accident victims.
3. The scheme rewards citizens who help victims within the "golden hour" with a cash incentive of ₹25,000.
3. The reward is disbursed by a central-level committee after approval from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

82. With reference to the HAL Tejas, consider the following statements:

1. It is a fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft developed for both the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.
2. It has been designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency under the DRDO.
3. It is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
4. It is capable of performing both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

83. Consider the following paragraph:

A certain mammal is unique in being covered with protective keratin scales, a feature not found in any other mammalian group. It primarily feeds on ants, termites, and larvae using a long sticky tongue and lacks teeth. When threatened, it rolls into a tight ball to shield its vulnerable parts. It also plays an important ecological role by aerating soil and controlling insect populations.

Which of the following species is being described above?

- A. Armadillo
- B. Pangolin
- C. Aardvark
- D. Anteater

84. With reference to the RAMP Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a World Bank-assisted Central Sector Scheme.
2. It focuses on enhancing the competitiveness and productivity of MSMEs.
3. It provides direct capital subsidies to MSMEs for machinery purchase.
4. It includes measures to improve access to both domestic and global markets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

85. Mission Sudarshan Chakra is associated with which of the following?

- A. Naval anti-submarine warfare exercise
- B. Integrated air defence exercise
- C. Cyber security drill
- D. Space surveillance mission

86. With reference to SUJVIKA portal, consider the following statements:

1. It is an AI-driven digital platform developed by the Department of Biotechnology.
2. It provides authenticated data on biotechnology product imports.
3. It is designed to monitor exports of agricultural commodities.
4. It presents sector-wise insights into biochemical products and industrial enzymes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

87. With reference to the International Climate Initiative (IKI), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 2008 as Germany's primary mechanism for funding international climate projects.
2. It exclusively focuses on climate mitigation activities.
3. It supports projects related to adaptation and biodiversity in partner countries.
4. India is among the priority partner countries under the initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

88. With reference to CAFE norms in India, consider the following statements:

1. They were introduced by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in 2017.
2. They regulate fuel consumption and carbon emissions from passenger vehicles.
3. They apply only to petrol and diesel vehicles.
4. They cover vehicles with weight less than 3,500 kg.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

89. Consider the following events:

1. Non-Cooperation Movement.
2. Kakori Train Robbery.
3. Hindustan Republican Association.
4. Lahore Conspiracy Case.

Which of the above events are associated with Chandrashekhar Azad?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

90. The Hexagon Alliance is primarily associated with:

- A. Military cooperation
- B. Clean energy transition
- C. Space exploration
- D. Agricultural reforms

MCQ'S ON STATE ISSUES

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy, 2026:

1. The policy entitles women employees in Karnataka to a maximum of 12 days of menstrual leave annually.
2. It has been implemented only for employees in the organized private sector.
3. It recognizes menstrual health as both a workplace and rights-based issue.
4. It is based on the recommendations of a committee headed by Dr. Sapna S.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

2. With reference to the Karnataka Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy 2024–2029, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first dedicated policy framework aimed at attracting and scaling GCCs.
2. It promotes the development of GCCs in "Beyond Bengaluru" clusters and a majority of newly established GCCs are concentrated in Bengaluru.
3. It aims to increase the number of GCCs in the state from over 500 to 1,000 by 2029.
4. The policy targets generation of \$50 billion in economic output and creation of 3.5 lakh jobs.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. All Four are correct

3. Consider the following statements regarding bioeconomy in Karnataka:

1. The State contributes nearly one-fifth to India's bioeconomy.
2. The bioeconomy expanded from \$31 billion in 2023 to \$39.2 billion in 2025.
3. The growth rate during this period was less than 20%.
4. Karnataka added over 200 biotech start-ups in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

4. With reference to the Asha Kirana Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI).
2. The initiative primarily focuses on providing tertiary-level super-specialty eye care services in urban hospitals.
3. It involves doorstep screening of individuals through community health workers such as ASHAs.
4. It provides free spectacles and cataract surgeries to eligible beneficiaries through government and empanelled hospitals.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

5. With reference to the Kusuma Sanjeevini Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide prophylactic treatment and emergency transport services free of cost to haemophilia patients.
2. The programme introduces Emicizumab, which is administered intravenously on a daily basis.
3. Haemophilia is a genetic disorder caused by deficiency of clotting factors such as Factor VIII or Factor IX.
4. The use of Emicizumab under the programme helps in preventing recurrent bleeding episodes and associated joint deformities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only

- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

6. With reference to the AVGC-XR Policy (2024–29), consider the following statements:

1. The policy aims to position Karnataka as a global hub for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality.
2. It targets that exports from the AVGC-XR sector should constitute at least 80% of the total sectoral revenue.
3. The policy focuses on large enterprises and provides support for startups or MSMEs with the potential to create 20 lakh jobs in the next five years.
4. It includes provisions for skill development, infrastructure creation, and financial incentives to promote the AVGC-XR ecosystem.

How many of the statements given above is/ are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. All are correct

7. Assertion (A): Karnataka has launched the State Action Plan for Rabies Elimination (SAPRE) with a target of achieving zero human deaths due to dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

Reason (R): Rabies is a zoonotic disease that is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear, but is preventable through vaccination and timely post-exposure prophylaxis.

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. A is false, but R is true

8. Assertion (A): Karnataka became the first State in India to release a comprehensive State Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (SAPSE).

Reason (R): Snakebite envenoming and rabies are major public health concerns, and targeted state-level action plans help in reducing mortality through prevention, timely treatment, and awareness.

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct

explanation of A

- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. A is false, but R is true

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection is a necessary cause for the majority of cervical cancer cases.
2. HPV vaccines are prophylactic in nature and do not treat existing infections.
3. Cervical cancer can be effectively eliminated solely through vaccination without the need for screening programmes.
4. High HPV vaccination coverage among adolescent girls can contribute to herd immunity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

10. With reference to solid waste management initiatives in Bengaluru, consider the following statements:

1. Two new Integrated Solid Waste Management Parks are proposed at Gollahalli and Doddabelavangala.
2. These parks are being developed exclusively on privately owned land through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
3. The initiative is being undertaken by Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited.
4. Residents can report garbage issues through the Sahay 2.0 platform. A dedicated helpline number and WhatsApp chatbot are available for grievance redressal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

11. With reference to the “Tulu” language, consider the following statements:

1. Tulu belongs to the Dravidian language family.
2. It is predominantly spoken in coastal Karnataka and parts of Kerala.
3. Tulu is already included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
4. Recognition in the Eighth Schedule can promote preservation and development of the language.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

12. With reference to the mVahan app and ge-fencing of Fitness Certificates (FCs), consider the following statements:

1. Geo-fencing ensures that Fitness Certificates are issued only from designated Regional Transport Office (RTO) locations.
2. The mVahan app uses location-based technology to verify the physical presence of the vehicle at the testing site.
3. The system eliminates the need for any physical inspection of vehicles for issuing FCs.
4. The initiative aims to curb fraudulent issuance of Fitness Certificates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

13. With reference to the Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0, consider the following statements:

1. The mission is fully funded by the Central Government.
2. Karnataka has received ₹2,245.30 crore under the mission.
3. The mission promotes waste as a resource through a circular economy.
4. Water+ certification is linked to solid waste management efficiency.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

14. With reference to the Rural Smart Village Center Project, consider the following statements:

1. The project has been launched by GNA India Private Limited in collaboration with BSNL and Acer India.
2. It aims to provide high-speed Wi-Fi 7 connectivity in remote forest regions.
3. The project covers tourist destinations in Uttara Kannada such as Yana and Magod Falls.
4. One of its objectives is to support digital payments and real-time information access for

tourists.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. All are correct

15. With reference to the Sharavathi Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is located on the Sharavathi River in Karnataka and has a total installed capacity of 2000 MW.
2. It is the largest pumped storage power generation unit in India.
3. The Talakalale dam serves as the lower reservoir, while Gerusoppa dam serves as the upper reservoir.
4. It is modeled on the lines of the Kaleshwaram project of Telangana and it is intended to support drinking water supply to Bengaluru.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

16. With reference to Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the Gadag district and often referred to as the “Western Ghats of North Karnataka.”
2. It is the only sanctuary in the state declared specifically for the conservation of wild flora.
3. It represents a dryland ecosystem which includes scrub jungles, grasslands, and dry deciduous forests.
4. It serves as a catchment area for the Tungabhadra River.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. All are not correct

17. With reference to the “Karnataka electric bus programme”, consider the following statements:

1. It is announced in the Karnataka Budget 2026–27 with allocation of ₹2,000 crore and involves

financial support from the World Bank.

2. It aims to induct 4,000 e-buses into state-run transport fleets and development of 94 charging depots across the state.
3. A total of 32 e-bus depots are planned for BMTC and 62 depots are designated for other state road transport corporations.
4. Nearly 1,950 electric buses are specifically intended to improve rural connectivity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

18. With reference to the Aerospace initiatives announced in the Karnataka Budget 2026, consider the following statements:

1. A new Aerospace Common Facility Centre (CFC) is proposed at the KIADB Aerospace Park in Bengaluru with an outlay of ₹30 crore.
2. The Flight Training School will be established at Shivamogga and Vijayapura airport.
3. It aims to enhance aeronautical manufacturing and training capabilities with 25% of seats reserved for local and women candidates.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. None

19. With reference to the ELEVATE programme of Karnataka, consider the following statements:

1. It is a flagship initiative of the Department of Electronics, IT, Bt, and S&T, GoK.
2. It aims to support only mid-stage and large-scale enterprises.
3. It is designed to nurture innovative early-stage startups and provides grant-in-aid funding, mentoring, and access to venture capital.
4. The share of women-led startups rose from around 17% in 2017 to nearly 43% in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

20. With reference to, Consider the following statements:

1. Recently, the multi-purpose indoor sports complex has laid the foundation at V.C. Farm in Mandya.
2. It is sanctioned under the Khelo India Scheme of the Government of India.
3. The project aims to strengthen grassroots sports infrastructure and reflects a focus on rural and semi-urban sports development.
4. It is exclusively intended for international-level sporting events.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

21. With reference to the Shakuntala Initiative launched by Pixxel, consider the following statements:

1. It provides micro-grants to women researchers working in climate resilience and environmental studies.
2. It is exclusively funded and implemented by the Government of India.
3. It aims to address funding gaps and promote long-term STEM community building.
4. It is implemented in collaboration with Escape Velocity Grants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

22. With reference to the “QpiAI Indus”, consider the following statements:

1. It is a 25-qubit superconducting quantum computer
2. It is installed at the Quantum Computing Centre of Excellence (QCCE) at IIIT-Dharwad.
3. It is based on classical binary computing architecture using bits.
4. It represents an advancement in India’s quantum computing capabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

23. The Kris Gopalakrishnan Committee is related to:

- A. Space technology development
- B. Ethical use of Artificial Intelligence
- C. Agricultural reforms
- D. Banking regulation

24. With reference to the Eva Nammava Eva Nammava Bill, 2026, consider the following statements:

1. It is officially titled the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition Act, 2026.
2. It seeks to regulate marriages by requiring approval from community bodies.
3. It aims to prevent honour killings and protect the autonomy of adults in choosing their partners.
4. It criminalizes interference by family, caste, or community institutions in marriage decisions.
5. Eva Nammava Vedike, a district-level committee to facilitate marriages and provide counselling.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

25. With reference to Kalyana Patha, consider the following statements:

1. It is a ₹1,000 crore project aimed at rural road development in Kalyana Karnataka region.
2. It envisages development of 1,150 km of rural roads.
3. The project focuses on improving connectivity in 38 selected assembly constituencies.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All
- D. None

26. With reference to the “Sakala Scheme”, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented under the Karnataka Guarantee of Services to Citizens Act, 2011.
2. It aims to ensure time-bound delivery of government services.
3. It provides a unique 15-digit Guaranteed Service Number (GSC) for each application.

4. It covers only revenue and transport-related services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

27. With reference to the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025, consider the following statements:

1. Amaresh Nugadoni is the recipient of the award in the Kannada language category for his work titled Dada Seerisu Tande.
2. The Sahitya Akademi Award is given annually for outstanding literary works in 24 Indian languages.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Both
- D. None

MCQ'S ON MISCELLANEOUS

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Manipuri film Boong won the Best Children's and Family Film category at the 79th BAFTAs.
2. It became the first Indian film to win in this category.
3. The BAFTAs are held annually in the United States.
4. The award is issued by the British Academy of Film and Television Art (BAFTA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

2. With reference to the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The awards are announced by Airports Council International (ACI) World.
2. Mangaluru International Airport was recognized for the best arrivals experience globally.
3. The awards are based on real-time passenger feedback rather than administrative audits.
4. The ASQ Awards primarily evaluate aircraft operational efficiency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Governance Now 12th PSU National Awards:

1. The award recognizes innovation in public sector undertakings and is issued by the Governance Now.
2. KSRTC received the award under the "Excellence in Innovation" category for his "Dhwani Spandana" initiative
3. It promotes technology-driven solutions for inclusive infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

4. Consider the following pairs:

1. Polly Umrigar Award - Shubman Gill
2. Best International Cricketer (Women) - Shafali Verma
3. Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award - Rahul Dravid & Roger Binny
4. BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award (Women) - Smriti Mandhana

How many of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

5. With reference to the 60th Jnanpith Award (2025), consider the following statements:

1. R. Vairamuthu has been selected as the recipient of the award.
2. The award recognizes contributions exclusively in Tamil literature.
3. The award is conferred by the Bharatiya Jnanpith.
4. The announcement was made in New Delhi by the selection committee.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

6). With reference to the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics, consider the following statements:

1. It is the XXV Olympic Winter Games hosted in Italy, including Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo.
2. Norway topped the overall medal tally and the United States finished as the runner-up nation.
3. Norway's performance was weak in Nordic combined events.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

7. With reference to the Ranji Trophy 2025–26, consider the following statements:

1. Jammu and Kashmir secured their first-ever Ranji Trophy title.
2. The final was played at the KSCA Stadium in Hubballi, Karnataka.
3. The match was decided on the basis of a first-innings lead.
4. Karnataka lifted the trophy after outperforming J&K in the final.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

8. With reference to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, consider the following statements:

1. India won the tournament by defeating New Zealand in the final.
2. The final was held at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.
3. India became the most successful team in the tournament's history with three titles with previous T20 World Cup wins being in 2007 and 2022.
4. Sanju Samson was the top scorer in the final and Jasprit Bumrah was named Player of the Match.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

9. With reference to the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026, consider the following statements:

1. Shailesh Kumar won the gold medal in the men's high jump T63 event.
2. The event was held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
3. Ramsingbhai Gov Padhiyar secured the gold medal in the same event.
4. The T63 classification relates to athletes with lower limb impairments competing in track and field events.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

10. With reference to the World Athletics Indoor Championships 2028, consider the following statements:

1. India has been awarded the hosting rights by the World Athletics Council.
2. The event will be held in the Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium, Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
3. The event is scheduled from March 3 to March 5, 2028.
4. The World Athletics Indoor Championships are limited to Asian and western countries only

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

11. Match the following:

| Column I (Day) | Column II (Date) | Column III (Theme) |
|------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 1. National Science Day | a. February 28 | P. Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat |
| 2. Rare Disease Day | b. March 8 | Q. More Than You Can Imagine |
| 3. World Wildlife Day | c. February 28 | R. Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods |
| 4. International Women's Day | d. March 3 | S. Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls |

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1-a-P, 2-c-Q, 3-d-R, 4-b-S
- B. 1-c-P, 2-a-Q, 3-d-R, 4-b-S
- C. 1-a-Q, 2-c-P, 3-d-R, 4-b-S
- D. 1-a-P, 2-b-Q, 3-c-R, 4-d-S

12. Consider the following pairs:

- 1. Ex. Dharma Guardian - India and Japan
 - 2. Ex. Samudra Lakshmana - India and Malaysia
 - 3. Ex. Dustlik - India and Uzbekistan
 - 4. Ex. Sea Defencer - India and USA
 - 5. Ex. Lamitiye - India and USA
- How many of the pairs given above is/are correct?
- A. Two only
 - B. Three only
 - C. Four only
 - D. All Five

KEY ANSWERS

1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL:

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 01). B | 26). B | 51). C | 76). C |
| 02). C | 27). A | 52). A | 77). A |
| 03). B | 28). B | 53). C | 78). D |
| 04). A | 29). D | 54). A | 79). C |
| 05). D | 30). A | 55). B | 80). D |
| 06). C | 31). C | 56). D | 81). A |
| 07). A | 32). C | 57). C | 82). C |
| 08). B | 33). A | 58). A | 83). B |
| 09). D | 34). C | 59). C | 84). A |
| 10). A | 35). B | 60). D | 85). B |
| 11). C | 36). B | 61). B | 86). A |
| 12). B | 37). C | 62). D | 87). D |
| 13). A | 38). A | 63). B | 88). C |
| 14). C | 39). B | 64). A | 89). D |
| 15). A | 40). A | 65). C | 90). B |
| 16). B | 41). C | 66). B | |
| 17). C | 42). B | 67). D | |
| 18). D | 43). A | 68). B | |
| 19). B | 44). C | 69). B | |
| 20). A | 45). B | 70). A | |
| 21). C | 46). D | 71). A | |
| 22). C | 47). C | 72). B | |
| 23). A | 48). A | 73). A | |
| 24). B | 49). A | 74). A | |
| 25). C | 50). D | 75). D | |

2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA:

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 01). C | 12). C | 23). B |
| 02). D | 13). B | 24). A |
| 03). B | 14). D | 25). C |
| 04). C | 15). A | 26). A |
| 05). B | 16). C | 27). D |
| 06). D | 17). D | |
| 07). A | 18). D | |
| 08). B | 19). A | |
| 09). A | 20). B | |
| 10). C | 21). C | |
| 11). A | 22). A | |

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 01). A | 07). A |
| 02). C | 08). B |
| 03). D | 09). A |
| 04). B | 10). C |
| 05). A | 11). A |
| | 12). C |

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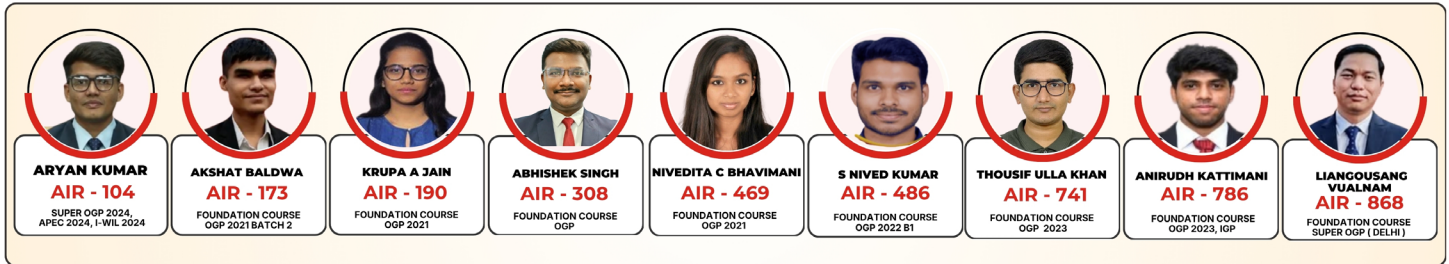
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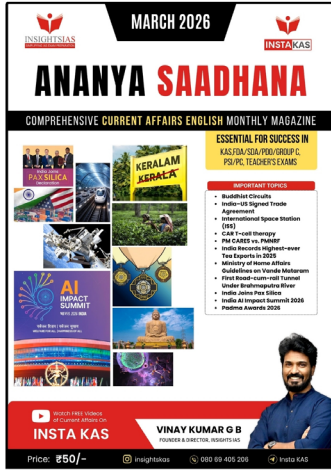
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