

# 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

- ◆ Buddhist Circuits
- ◆ India-US Signed Trade Agreement
- ◆ International Space Station (ISS)
- ◆ CAR T-cell therapy
- ◆ PM CARES vs. PMNRF
- ◆ India Records Highest-ever Tea Exports in 2025
- ◆ Ministry of Home Affairs Guidelines on Vande Mataram
- ◆ First Road-cum-rail Tunnel Under Brahmaputra River
- ◆ India Joins Pax Silica
- ◆ India AI Impact Summit 2026
- ◆ Padma Awards 2026



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# EDITOR'S PAGE



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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**



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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**.

## THE TEAM

- ✓ **Nandan R** (Faculty for Current affairs and Environment)
- ✓ **Dinesh** (Mentor)
- ✓ **Vishwaprasanna Kumar** (Linguistic Resource)
- ✓ **Santosh Nidagundi** (Linguistic Resource)

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1. MCQ's on National and International Issues
2. MCQ'S on karnatka darshana
3. MCQ'S ON MISCELLANEOUS

## KEY ANSWERS

1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL:
2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA:
3. MISCELLANEOUS

# RAKSHAKA 2026

(PSI / ESI / FDA / SDA  
ALL GROUP C TEST SERIES)

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TIME TABLE

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(FOR GROUP A & GROUP B POSTS)

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# TOP CURRENT AFFAIR

## 1. Buddhist Circuits

# BUDDHIST CIRCUITS

### CONTEXT

The Union Budget announced a pilot scheme for upskilling 10,000 guides in 20 iconic tourist sites and setting up of a National Institute of Hospitality to train professionals in the sector.

### ABOUT

- A National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid to digitally document all places of cultural, spiritual and historic significance would be set up.
- The government also proposed a scheme for the development of Buddhist circuits in the region.

### BUDDHIST CIRCUITS

In 2016, the Ministry of Tourism announced the Buddhist Circuit as the country's first transnational tourism circuit, covering sites in Nepal and Sri Lanka alongside those in India.

**Bodhi Tree**

**Vaihalhi**

**Stupa**

The main sites covered under the circuit span the life of Buddha from his birth to his Parinirvana and comprise Bodh Gaya, Vaishali, Rajgir, Kushinagar, Sarnath and Shravasti, along with Kapilavastu and Lumbini.

The Buddhist Circuit seeks to help tourists and pilgrims experience first-hand the teachings of Lord Buddha and trace the footsteps of Buddha.

### FOUR HOLIEST BUDDHIST SITES (Chaturmahāsthāna)

**Lumbini (Nepal):**  
Birthplace of Gautama Buddha.

**Bodh Gaya (Bihar):**  
Attained Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.

**Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh):**  
First sermon (Dhammachakra Pravartana).

**Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh):**  
Mahaparinirvana (death).

## 2. India-US Signed Trade Agreement

# India-US Signed Trade Agreement

### IN NEWS

India and the United States have announced a new trade deal, lowering tariffs and setting ambitious targets for bilateral trade.

**August 2025**

the US had levied tariffs up to 50% (25% reciprocal + 25% additional duty) linked to India's Russian oil imports.

### ABOUT THE INDIA-US TRADE DEAL

#### TARIFF REDUCTION

**BEFORE**

25% Reciprocal + 25% Additional

(Total 50%)

**AFTER**  
(Effective Immediately)

18% Reciprocal

Duty Withdrawn

US reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods reduced from 25% to 18%, effective immediately. Additional 25% duty withdrawn, which had earlier been imposed.

#### US CLAIMS ON BROADER COMMITMENTS

The US asserts the deal includes zero tariffs and non-tariff barriers for US goods and that India committed to buy over \$500 billion of US products across energy, tech, agriculture, coal, etc.

India will progressively reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers against US goods.

### IMPORTANCE OF THE DEAL

- It strengthens India-US ties amid global geopolitical shifts, especially regarding China.
- Helps counter China's dominance in global trade and manufacturing.
- Lower tariffs could improve competitiveness for Indian exporters (farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs) and attract investment.
- This would support Make, Design and Innovate in India for the world.
- Diversifying oil imports may reduce India's dependence on Russia, though at higher costs.
- It would help stabilize the rupee amid global economic uncertainty.
- It will position India as a key partner in US-led trade and security frameworks.

### 3. Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS)

#### IN CONTEXT

A recent controversy erupted over alleged misuse of MPLADS funds and critics demanding the scheme should be discontinued.

#### KEY PROVISIONS & ALLOCATION

- Funds allotted:** Each MP is entitled to ₹5 crore per year under MPLADS.
- The funds are intended to supplement existing development schemes and address local gaps.
- It requires MPs to recommend at least 15% of funds for SC-inhabited areas and 7.5% for ST-inhabited areas annually.
- Non Lapsable Fund:** MPLADS funds are non-lapsable, meaning unutilised funds are carried forward to subsequent years, ensuring continuity of projects.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE & EXCEPTIONS

- Lok Sabha MPs can recommend works within their constituencies,
- Rajya Sabha MPs within their state of election
- nominated MPs anywhere in the country.

#### EXCEPTIONS:

- MPs may recommend up to ₹25 lakh per year outside their constituency/state, and up to ₹1 crore for an affected district during natural calamities.

#### SCHEME OVERVIEW

- It is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 1993,
- Implementation** - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- Objective:** To enable Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend works for the creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs such as drinking water, sanitation, roads, public health infrastructure.

### 4. International Space Station (ISS)

# International Space Station (ISS)

#### International Space Station (ISS)

- It is a modular, habitable, microgravity laboratory in low Earth orbit, orbiting 400 km above Earth.
- It was launched in 1998, and has been continuously inhabited since 2000, making it one of the longest-running human space missions in history.
- It is operated collaboratively by five major space agencies: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), ESA (Europe), JAXA (Japan) and CSA (Canada).

#### Key Features:

- It is the largest human-made structure in space, with a mass exceeding 400,000 kg, and a structure nearly 109 meters long.
- Power is supplied by solar arrays generating tens of kilowatts of electricity.
- The ISS plays a crucial role in studying the effects of long-term space radiation and microgravity on the human body, helping scientists understand bone loss, muscle atrophy, and immune system changes.

#### Context

2030

The International Space Station (ISS) is scheduled to be de-orbited in 2030, marking the end of nearly three decades of continuous human presence in space.

400 km above Earth

## 5. CAR T-cell therapy



# CAR T-CELL THERAPY

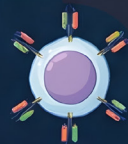
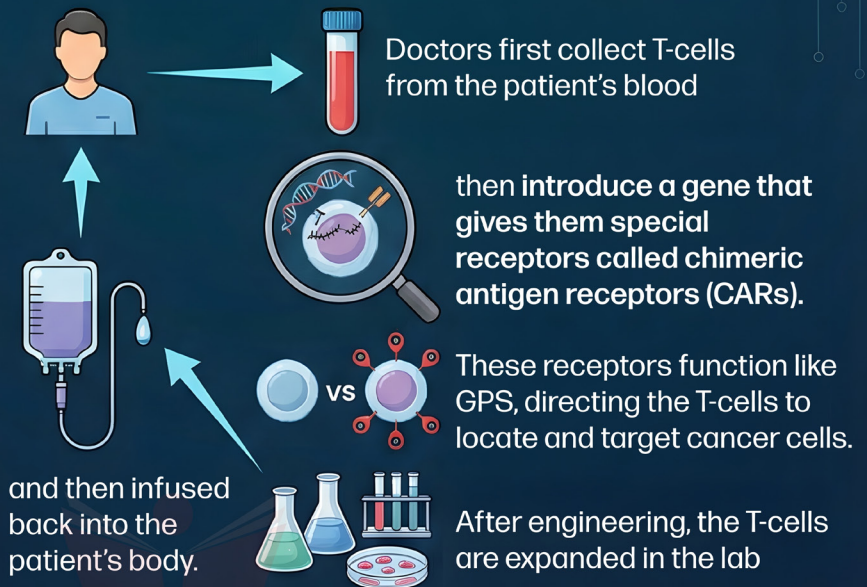


Researchers at IIT Bombay addressed a critical challenge in CAR T-cell and other adoptive T-cell transfer (ACT) therapies.

### CAR T-cell therapy

#### T-Cells

They are white blood cells that act as the body's frontline defenders, detecting and destroying infections or abnormal cells like cancer, and coordinating other immune cells to respond—making them crucial for immunotherapy.



### NexCAR19



NexCAR19 is the world's first humanised CAR-T therapy developed in India by ImmunoACT.

## Benefits



**Targeted Precision:** CAR-T cell therapy Specifically attacks cancer cells while sparing healthy cells, reducing side effects compared to chemotherapy.



**Personalised Treatment:** CART-cell therapy Uses the patient's own T-cells, engineered to target their unique cancer, enhancing effectiveness.



**Long-Lasting Effects:** Engineered T-cells can persist in the body, providing extended protection against cancer recurrence.



**Reduced Hospitalisation & Costs:** Fewer hospital stays and less supportive care needed, leading to potential cost savings.



**Technological Evolution:** Continuous development of CAR constructs allows targeting of diverse cancers and combination therapies.



**Affordability:** Indigenous therapies like NexCAR19 in India make CART treatment more accessible and cost-effective.

## 6. Hakki-Pikki tribe



# Hakki-Pikki Tribe

### In News

The Embassy of India assisted Hakki-Pikki community members from Davangere, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagaluru districts, who were at risk of imprisonment in Chad.



### Hakki-Pikki Tribe



It is a tribe that lives in several states in west and south India, especially near forest areas.



Hakki Pikkis (Hakki in Kannada means 'bird' and Pikki means 'catchers') are a semi-nomadic tribe, traditionally of bird catchers and hunters.



Hakki Pikki people are believed to hail originally from the bordering districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan.



Hakki Pikkis in Karnataka follow Hindu traditions and celebrate all Hindu festivals.



They are non vegetarians. The eldest son in a family is not supposed to cut his hair so that he can be identified easily.





The tribe prefers cross-cousin marriages. The society is matriarchal, where the groom gives dowry to the bride's family.



Monogamy is the norm.

## 7. Seychelles

# Seychelles



### Context

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a \$175 million Special Economic Package for Seychelles during the visit of Seychelles President Dr. Patrick Herminie to India.

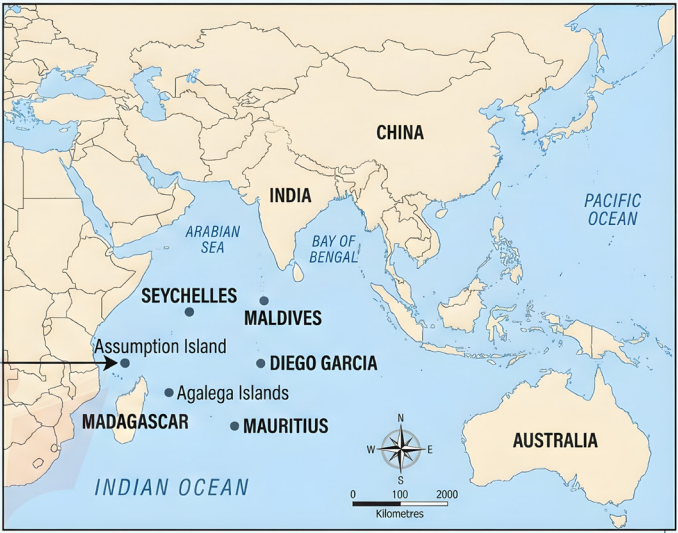
### Seychelles: Archipelago Nation


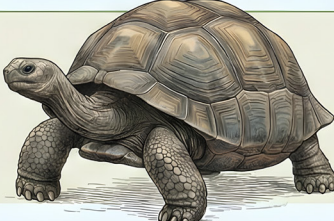

It is an archipelago nation of 115 islands in the western Indian Ocean, northeast of Madagascar, known as Africa's smallest and least populous country.

- Its capital is Victoria on Mahé island.

### Biodiversity

It is known for rare species like the Coco de Mer, the Aldabra giant tortoise, and the rare black parrot.



## 8. Greater Flamingos



# Greater Flamingos



### Context

Nearly 70 Greater Flamingos were recorded for the first time at Hope Island in the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kakinada Bay, Andhra Pradesh.

### Greater Flamingos

(*Phoenicopterus roseus*)

#### Description:



The greater flamingo is the most widespread and largest species of the flamingo family, averaging 110–150 cm tall and weighing 2–4 kg.

#### Diet and lifespan:



Average lifespan is 30–40 years, and they feed on small fish and other aquatic organisms.

#### State Bird:



The greater flamingo is the State bird of Gujarat.



#### Description:

They are found in Northern (coastal) and Sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian subcontinent (south of the Himalayas), the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean countries of Southern Europe.



Greater flamingos usually migrate to India from Israel, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

#### Threats:

The primary threats to flamingo populations are bacteria, toxins, and pollution in water supplies, which is usually run-off from manufacturing companies, and encroachment on their habitat.



### Types and IUCN status:



The greater flamingo

Least Concern



Chilean flamingo

Near Threatened



American flamingo

Least Concern



Lesser flamingo

Least Concern



Andean flamingo

Vulnerable



James's flamingo











Near Threatened

**9. PM CARES vs. PMNRF**


# NO QUESTIONS ON PM CARES, RELIEF AND DEFENCE FUNDS: PMO



**Context:** The Prime Minister's Office has informed the Lok Sabha Secretariat that parliamentary questions and discussions related to the PM CARES Fund, Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), and the National Defence Fund (NDF) are not admissible under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

 Feature	PM CARES Fund	PMNRF
 Purpose	Established to tackle emergency and distress situations (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic and future emergencies).	Originally created to support refugees from Partition (1948); now used for disaster relief and medical assistance.
 Date of Establishment	March 27, 2020	January 1948
 Governance	PM, Home Minister, Finance Minister, and Defence Minister as trustees.	Initially managed by a committee (until 1985). Now, the Prime Minister has full control.
 Utilization of Funds	Primarily for pandemic response, healthcare infrastructure, and disaster relief.	Assists victims of natural disasters, accidents, riots, and medical treatments.
 Tax Benefits	Eligible for 80G tax exemptions and CSR deductions.	Eligible for 80G tax exemptions but not for CSR deductions.
 Foreign Donations	Permitted under FCRA, 2010.	Also accepts foreign contributions.
 Audit	Audited by M/S SARC Associates Chartered Accountants, New Delhi.	Audited by an independent auditor (currently M/S SARC Associates Chartered Accountants).
 Right to Information (RTI)	Not covered under RTI.	Not covered under RTI.
 Government Oversight	Not controlled by Parliament or CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India).	Not controlled by Parliament or CAG.

## 10. India Records Highest-ever Tea Exports in 2025

# India Records Highest-ever Tea Exports in 2025

### Context

India recorded its highest-ever tea exports in 2025, touching 280.40 million kg during January–December 2025, marking a significant increase from 256.17 million kg in 2024.

### Geographical Condition for Tea production

**Temperature:** The average annual temperature for tea plants to grow well is in the range of 15-23°C.

**Precipitation:** The rainfall needed is between 150-200 cm. Frequent showers evenly distributed over the year ensure continuous growth of tender leaves.

**Soil:** It requires deep and fertile well-drained soil, rich in humus and organic matter.

**Major tea producing states** are Assam, hills of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Apart from these, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura are also tea-producing states in the country.

### Indian Tea Industry

India is the 2nd largest tea producer and largest black tea producer.

**Export destinations** - Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia etc. India is the 4th largest tea exporter in the World.

**Employment** - The Indian tea Industry is employing 1.16 million workers directly.

**Note** - Assam grows about 55% of the teas produced in India. India's tea production has increased by 39% in 2022 from 2008.

### Asia Tea Alliance

**Member countries** - It is a coalition of tea associations from major tea-producing countries in Asia like India, China, Sri Lanka, Japan etc.

**Objective** - It aims to promote the collective interests of member nations within the global tea market.

## 11. PM CARES vs. PMNRF

# Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati

**Context:** The Prime Minister paid tributes to Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati on his birth anniversary.

### EARLY LIFE & FOUNDATION

He was born on **February 12, 1824**, in Tankara, Gujarat. He later became a **disciple of Swami Virajananda**.

He founded the **Arya Samaj** in 1875 to counter social inequities and promote social reform.

**1875**

### SLOGAN & CORE IDEAS

**“Back to the Vedas”**

He issued the slogan “Back to the Vedas” and emphasized two core ideas:

- the infallible authority of the Vedas and monotheism.

### MAJOR BELIEFS & SOCIAL REFORM

Among his major beliefs were the rejection of idolatry and overly ritualistic traditions, support for women's education, denunciation of child marriage, and opposition to untouchability.

He also advocated the idea of shuddhi, supporting reconversion into the Hindu fold.

**Publications:** Satyarth Prakash, Sanskar Vidhi, and Yajurved Bhashyam.

### PUBLICATIONS

### LEGACY

Inspired by his beliefs, teachings, and ideas, his disciples established the **Dayanand Anglo Vedic College Trust and Management Society** after his death in 1883.

## 12. Biosecurity Threat in India



# Biosecurity Threat in India



**Context:** In 2025, the Gujarat ATS uncovered an alleged ricin-based bioterror plot, marking India's first suspected ricin-linked bioterror case with possible international links.



2025

## Biological Weapons

- Biological weapons use pathogens (bacteria, viruses, fungi) or toxins (like ricin, botulinum toxin) to cause disease or death in humans, animals, or crops.



- They are classified as Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) due to their potential for large-scale harm.



## India's Existing Biosecurity Architecture



The Department of Biotechnology oversees research governance and safety frameworks for labs.



The Plant Quarantine Organisation of India regulates agricultural imports and exports.



The National Disaster Management Authority has issued detailed guidelines for the management of biological disasters.

### Key legal instruments include:



The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, governing hazardous microorganisms and genetically modified organisms.



The Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005, which criminalises biological weapons.



The Biosafety Rules, 1989, and guidelines issued in 2017 for recombinant DNA research and biocontainment.

## International Measures



### Biological Weapons Convention (BWC):

- It entered into force in 1975
- It prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons.
- It was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).



### 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.



### Australia Group:

- The Australia Group is an informal forum of countries that seeks to prevent the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons.



## 13. Ministry of Home Affairs Guidelines on Vande Mataram



MINISTRY OF  
HOME AFFAIRS



# Ministry of Home Affairs Guidelines on Vande Mataram



### Context

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued guidelines directing that the national song Vande Mataram be sung/ played before the national anthem when both are played at official events.

## Key Guidelines



### Occasions for Playing or Singing:

- ✓ Arrival and departure of the President at formal State functions.
- ✓ Before and after Presidential addresses to the nation.
- ✓ Arrival and departure of Governors/Lieutenant Governors at State functions.
- ✓ When the National Flag is brought on parade.
- ✓ Other occasions specified by the Government of India.



### Protocol

- The official version of approximately 3 minutes and 10 seconds shall be used.



All six stanzas of Vande Mataram, including the four stanzas that were set aside by the Congress Working Committee in 1937, will be played.

## Constitutional and Legal Framework



- **Status of National Symbols:** On 24 January 1950, the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram were adopted as India's National Song.



- While the Constitution does not explicitly define "National Song," its recognition flows from Constituent Assembly discussions and executive practice.

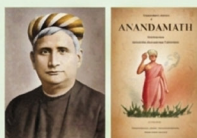


- **Article 51A(a) Fundamental Duties:** Mandates every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.



- Vande Mataram is not explicitly protected by any constitutional provision.

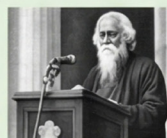
## Additional information - Vande Mataram



Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in Sanskrit and first appeared in the novel Anandamath in 1882.



Anandamath is set against the backdrop of the 1769-73 Bengal famine and the Sanyasi Rebellion.



First sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Indian National Congress session gave it national exposure.

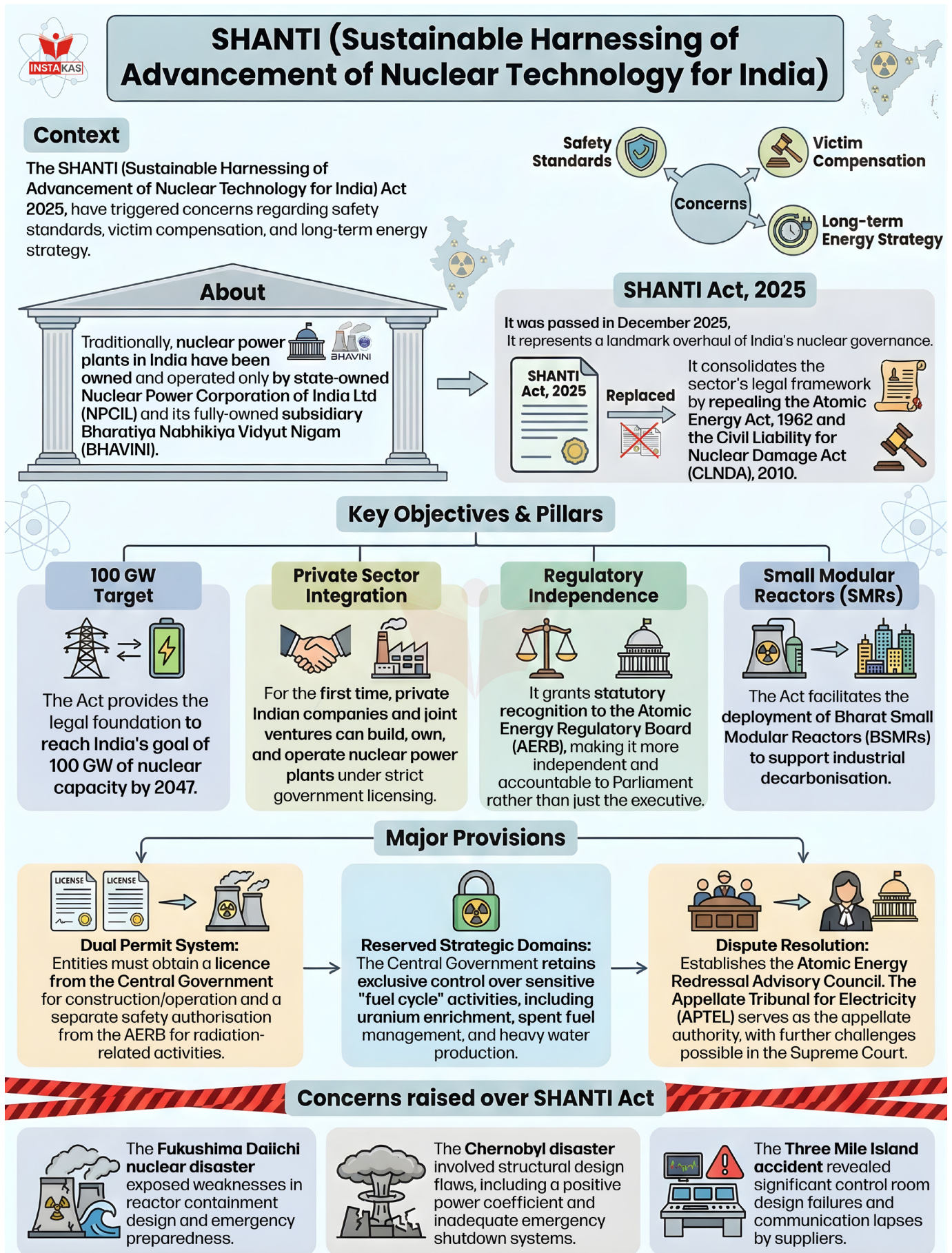


During the Swadeshi Movement of 1905, Vande Mataram emerged as the anthem of civil resistance.



Vande Mataram, as a political slogan, was first used on 7 August 1905.

# 14. SHANTI (Sustainable Harnessing of Advancement of Nuclear Technology for India) Act



## 15. First Road-cum-rail Tunnel Under Brahmaputra River

### First Road-cum-rail Tunnel Under Brahmaputra River

#### In News

Recently, the Union cabinet has approved the construction of the country's first underwater twin tube road-cum-rail tunnel project under the Brahmaputra River in Assam at an estimated cost of Rs 18,662 crore.



#### About the Project

##### Length

It is a around 34 kilometre-long four-lane access-controlled Greenfield connectivity project.

34 km

##### Features

It will feature two parallel tunnels, designed to facilitate smooth and high-capacity movement of both road and rail traffic.



##### Connectivity

The stretch will connect Gohpur on NH-15 and Numaligarh on NH-715 in Assam, cutting short the distance between the two Assam cities to just 34 kilometres from the current 240 kilometres.



Travel Time Reduced:



Currently: 6 Hours

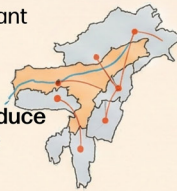


With Tunnel: 20 Minutes

#### Importance

The project will provide significant benefit to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and other North -Eastern States.

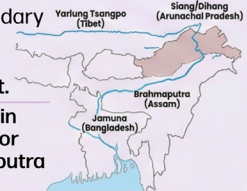
It will enhance connectivity, reduce logistics costs and accelerate growth across Assam and the entire Northeast.



#### Additional Information- Brahmaputra River

The Brahmaputra is a major transboundary river in Asia. It originates from the Chemayungdung Glacier near Lake Manasarovar (Mapam Yumco) in Tibet.

It is known variably as Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet (its longest upper stretch), Siang or Dihang in Arunachal Pradesh, Brahmaputra in Assam & Jamuna in Bangladesh.



## 16. Government Launches "PM RAHAT"

### Government Launches "PM RAHAT"

**Context:** Prime Minister Modi has approved the launch of the PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) Scheme.



#### PM RAHAT

(Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment)

It is a newly launched initiative by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.



##### Objective

to provide immediate, cashless medical treatment to road accident victims across India.



##### Significance

it aims to reduce fatalities during the "Golden Hour" (the critical first hour after an accident).

Golden Hour - Critical First Hour



#### Key features of the scheme



##### Cashless treatment

up to ₹1.5 lakh for up to 7 days.



##### Stabilization care

It offers stabilization care for a maximum of 24 hours in cases that are not life-threatening and 48 hours in life-threatening situations.



##### Universal coverage

The scheme covers all road accident victims on all types of roads.



##### No advance payments

Hospitals cannot ask for advance payments for emergency stabilization.



##### Emergency response link

Implementation is linked with the 112 helpline for emergency response.



##### Empaneled hospitals

Treatment is available at hospitals empaneled under Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY).

#### Support & Infrastructure



A digital system connects the eDAR and TMS 2.0 for reporting and claim processing.



Funding comes from the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA Fund).



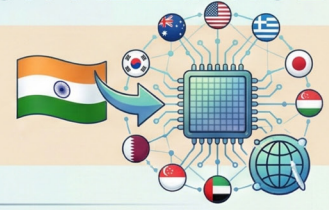
Grievances are handled by a Grievance Redressal Officer at the district level.

## 17. India Joins Pax Silica, a US-led Tech Alliance

# INDIA JOINS PAX SILICA, A US-LED TECH ALLIANCE

### Context

- Recently, India has formally entered the US-led Pax Silica coalition, marking a significant moment in the geopolitics of semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and critical mineral supply chains.



## 'Pax Silica'



launched in:  
**December, 2025**

- It is a coalition comprising the
  - United States
  - Australia
  - Greece
  - Israel
  - Japan
  - Qatar
  - Republic of Korea
  - Singapore
  - UAE
  - UK
  - India

### Objective



It is a US-led strategic initiative to build a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain from critical minerals.

### Etymology



- The term 'Pax Silica' derived from Latin 'Pax' (peace) and 'Silica' (a core compound in semiconductors).



### Significance

- It symbolizes the pursuit of technological peace and prosperity through resilient, transparent, and cooperative supply chains.

## 18. India and France upgrade ties to Special Global Strategic Partnership

# India and France upgrade ties to Special Global Strategic Partnership

### Context



The French President arrived on a three-day official visit to India to participate in the AI Impact Summit.

### Major Outcomes



PM Modi announced the establishment of a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' with France.



Inauguration of H125 Helicopter Final Assembly Line at Vemagal, Karnataka.



India has asked France to increase "indigenous content" in the Rafale by up to 50%, and also expand the Rafale's maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in India.



Launch of the India-France Year of Innovation & India-France Innovation Network.



Joint Venture between BEL and Safran to produce HAMMER missiles in India.

### Additional Information - India-France Relations

#### Strategic Partnership & Defence (Air)



**India-France Strategic Partnership:** It was launched on 26 January 1998 and is India's first-ever Strategic Partnership.

**Rafale Fighter Jets:** India procured 36 Rafales from Dassault Aviation.

Recently both nations formally concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) to procure 26 Rafale-M fighter jets for the Indian Navy.

#### Defence (Maritime & Exercises)



**Scorpene Submarines (Project P-75):** Collaboration with France's Naval Group, 6 submarines built in India; latest is INS Vaghsheer.



**Joint Exercises:** Shakti, Varuna, FRINJEX-23.

#### Digital & space Cooperation



The process of enabling Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has been successful in France.



**Joint space missions:** TRISHNA (satellite mission), MDA systems, ground station support.

#### Climate & Energy



**International Solar Alliance (ISA):** Co-founded by India and France in 2015 to promote solar energy worldwide.

## 19. Project Vault



### Context



- The United States unveiled Project Vault, an independently governed and operated public-private partnership. It is aimed at establishing a strategic domestic reserve of critical minerals in the United States.



**Significance -**

to reduce dependence on foreign-controlled supply chains.



### Critical Minerals

LIST OF CRITICAL MINERALS (30 Total for India)



- These are minerals that are essential for economic development and national security.

The lack of availability of these minerals could potentially lead to "supply chain vulnerabilities and even disruption of supplies".

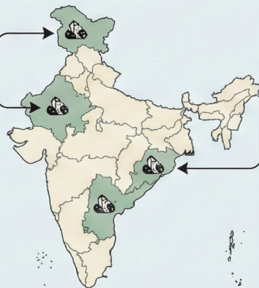
Antimony <b>Sb</b>	Beryllium <b>Be</b>	Bismuth <b>Bi</b>	Cobalt <b>Co</b>	Copper <b>Cu</b>	Gallium <b>Ga</b>	Germanium <b>Ge</b>	Graphite <b>C</b>	Hafnium <b>Hf</b>	Indium <b>In</b>
Lithium <b>Li</b>	Molybdenum <b>Mo</b>	Niobium <b>Nb</b>	Nickel <b>Ni</b>	PGE Platinum Group Elements	Phosphorous <b>P</b>	Potash <b>K</b>	Rare Earth Elements <b>REEs</b>	Rhenium <b>Re</b>	Silicon <b>Si</b>
Strontium <b>Sr</b>	Tantalum <b>Ta</b>	Tellurium <b>Te</b>	Tin <b>Sn</b>	Titanium <b>Ti</b>	Tungsten <b>W</b>	Vanadium <b>V</b>	Zirconium <b>Zr</b>	Selenium <b>Se</b>	Cadmium <b>Cd</b>

### India's Policy Push for Mineral Exploration



#### DOMESTIC RESERVES

- India has vast untapped mineral potential, with lithium in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Rajasthan, and REEs in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh



#### POLICY INITIATIVES:

**National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016**  
**Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2021** have accelerated exploration through private participation and advanced



#### NATIONAL CRITICAL MINERAL MISSION (NCMM)

- KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd)** is acquiring overseas mineral assets to ensure supply security.
- National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** - It aims to strengthen the value chain from exploration to recovery.

## 20. ISA Launches Global AI-for-Energy Mission



### News



- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) launched the Global Mission on AI for Energy at the India AI Impact Summit 2026

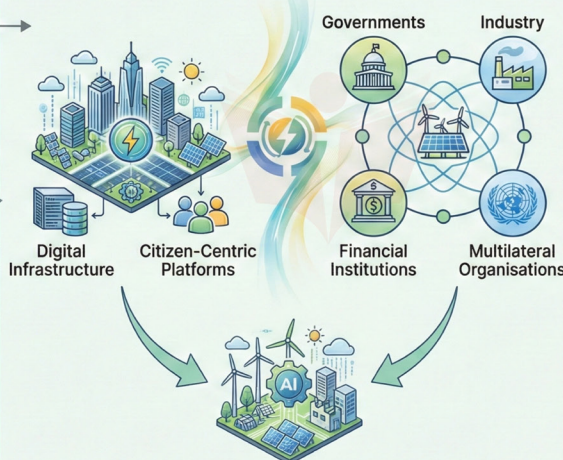


#### Objective -

to accelerate AI adoption in clean energy across 120+ member countries, emphasizing digital infrastructure like India's Energy Stack.

### AI-for-Energy Mission

- It places digital infrastructure and citizen-centric platforms at the centre of the energy transition.



- It aims to bring together governments, industry, financial institutions and multilateral organisations to scale digital and AI-enabled clean energy systems.

### Additional Information - 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.



**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.



**Headquarter** - National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) campus, Gurugram.

## 21. India AI Impact Summit 2026



# India AI Impact Summit 2026

**Context :** The India AI Impact Summit 2026 concluded in New Delhi recently.

### Background of AI Summits



**2023 Bletchley Park Summit (UK):**

The first global AI summit was held at **Bletchley Park** and focused on safety. It brought together countries and experts to discuss AI risks and resulted in the Bletchley Declaration.



**2024 Seoul Summit (South Korea):**

The second summit was held in Seoul in May 2024, building on the discussions from the Bletchley Park meeting and broadening to include innovation and inclusivity alongside safety.



**2025 AI Action Summit (Paris, France):**

In February 2025, the AI Action Summit took place at the Grand Palais in Paris. It was co-chaired by France and India and followed the earlier Bletchley Park and Seoul events.



**2026 India AI Impact Summit (New Delhi):**

This is the next major summit in the series, held in India in February 2026.

### India-AI Impact Summit 2026



▶ Hosted by - the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

▶ It will be the first-ever global AI summit hosted in the Global South.

### The Three Sutras



**The Three Sutras:** Three foundational pillars, known as 'Sutras' i.e. People, Planet and Progress, define how AI can be harnessed through multilateral cooperation for collective benefit.

### Outcomes of the summit

#### New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact



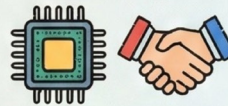
- Endorsed by 89 countries and international organisations (including the US, China, and France).
- It is a **non-binding agreement** focused on the democratisation of AI.
- It is guided by the philosophy of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (Welfare for all, Happiness for all).

#### MANAV Vision



- India unveiled the MANAV governance framework, which stands for **Moral and ethical systems, Accountable governance, National sovereignty, Accessible and inclusive, and Valid and legitimate.**

#### Pax Silica Initiative



- India formally joined this US-led coalition aimed at securing resilient supply chains for semiconductors, advanced hardware, and critical minerals.

#### New Delhi Frontier AI Commitments



- A voluntary framework signed by global tech giants (Google, OpenAI, Microsoft, Anthropic) to ensure AI systems are effective across diverse languages and cultures, particularly for the Global South.

### Technological & Social Deliverables

#### Indigenous Sovereign AI



- Launch of several "Made in India" Large Language Models (LLMs):
- **Sarvam AI:** Unveiled multi-billion parameter open-source models trained on Indian data.
- **BharatGen:** A 17-billion-parameter multilingual foundational model.
- **Gnani.ai:** Launched a multilingual voice model supporting 12 Indian languages

#### Sectoral Impact



- **Sectoral Impact:** Showcased AI applications like Kisan E-Mitra (agriculture), Qure.ai (healthcare diagnostics), and the Bhashini platform for real-time translation.

### Strategic Framework: Sutras & Chakras

The summit's architecture was built on: **3 Sutras** and **7 Chakras**.

#### 3 Sutras (Pillars)



22. Padma Awards 2026



# PADMA AWARDS 2026



## WHY IN NEWS:

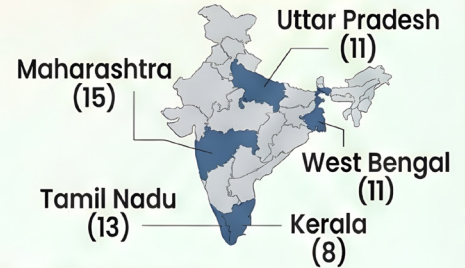
Ahead of Republic Day 2026, the Government of India announced the Padma Awards, continuing its recent tradition of recognizing grassroots changemakers and "unsung heroes."

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Total Awardees: **131** individuals.



### TOP 5 STATES



## HISTORICAL & CONSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

**Establishment:** Instituted in 1954 alongside the Bharat Ratna.



**Evolution:** Originally named Pahela, Dusra, and Tisra Varg. Renamed to their current forms via Presidential Notification in 1955.

**Constitutional Status (Article 18):** These are civilian honors, not titles. They strictly cannot be used as name prefixes or suffixes.



**Financial Grant:** There is no monetary benefit. Recipients receive only a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion.



## HIERARCHY & SCOPE

**Fields Covered:** Art, Social Work, Public Affairs, Science, Medicine, Literature, Education, and Sports.

CATEGORY	CIVILIAN RANK	AWARDED FOR
Padma Vibhushan	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Highest	Exceptional and distinguished service
Padma Bhushan	3 <sup>rd</sup> -Highest	Distinguished service of a high order
Padma Shri	4 <sup>th</sup> -Highest	Distinguished service in any field

## RESTRICTIONS

- Universal Eligibility:** Open to all individuals irrespective of race, gender, occupation, or position.
- Government Servants:** Strictly ineligible, with a specific exception made only for doctors and scientists.
- Posthumous Awards:** Generally avoided, but permitted in highly deserving cases.
- Annual Cap:** Strictly capped at a maximum of 120 awards per year.
- Cap Exemptions:** Posthumous awardees, NRIs, foreign nationals, and OCIs do not count toward the 120-award limit.



## SELECTION & ADMINISTRATION

Constituted annually by the **Prime Minister** and headed by the **Cabinet Secretary**,

Padma Awards receive final approval and presentation from the **President of India**.



## 23. Padma Awardees from Karnataka 2026

## Padma Awardees from Karnataka 2026

Eight distinguished individuals from Karnataka were honored with Padma Awards. The list includes 1 Padma Bhushan and 7 Padma Shri recipients, recognizing a mix of eminent personalities and grassroots 'Unsung Heroes.'

Awardee Name	Award	Field	Key Association / Contribution
Shatavadhani R. Ganesh	Padma Bhushan	Art	Revived Avadhana (ancient literary art)
S.G. Susheelamma	Padma Shri	Social Work	Founder, Sumangali Seva Ashrama
Dr. Suresh Hanagavadi	Padma Shri	Medicine	Founder, Karnataka Haemophilia Society
Anke Gowda M.	Padma Shri	Social Work	Creator of Pustaka Mane (Mandya library)
Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar	Padma Shri	Science & Engineering	Developed DRISHTI Transmissometer
Prabhakar Basavprabhu Kore	Padma Shri	Literature & Education	Led KLE Society for 40 years
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Padma Shri	Literature & Education	Former CEO, Prasar Bharati
T.T. Jagannathan (Posthumous)	Padma Shri	Trade & Industry	Chairman Emeritus, T.T.K. Prestige

## 24. Anugraha scheme



## ANUGRAHA SCHEME



**NEWS** - Congress member Ivan D'Souza urged the State government in the Legislative Council to expedite delayed compensation payments to dairy farmers under the Anugraha scheme.

### ANUGRAHA SCHEME

It is a social security initiative by the Government of Karnataka designed to provide financial relief to farmers and shepherds in the event of the accidental death of their livestock.



After being temporarily suspended, the scheme was revived in 2023.

### KEY BENEFITS & COMPENSATION (BUDGET 2025-26)

As per the recent Karnataka State Budget 2025-26, the compensation amounts have been enhanced to better support rural livelihoods:

**Cattle (Cows, Buffaloes, Bullocks):** Increased from ₹10,000 to ₹15,000.

**Sheep & Goats (Adult):** Increased from ₹5,000 to ₹7,500.

**Lambs & Kids (Aged 3-6 months):** Increased from ₹3,500 to ₹5,000.

### ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ **Eligible Beneficiaries:** Farmers and shepherds residing in Karnataka.
- ✓ **Verification:** An autopsy must be conducted by a veterinarian.
- ✓ **Documentation:**
  - Post-mortem report.
  - GPRS-tagged photographs of the deceased animal (taken before and after the autopsy).
  - Aadhaar-linked bank account details for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
  - Self-attested application form and vouchers.

### IMPLEMENTATION



The scheme is managed by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and the Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation.



For assistance, farmers can contact their local veterinary clinics or the Karnataka Sheep & Wool Development Corporation helpline at 8277 100 200.

**25.Lakkundi Heritage Restoration**

# Lakkundi Heritage Restoration

**Objective** - The project aims to uncover buried architectural wonders and restore historical significance to secure a spot on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites tentative list.



## Historical Significance

- Formerly known as **Lokkigundi**, the village was a major hub under the **Chalukya, Yadava, and Hoysala** dynasties and is renowned as the "village of hundred wells."
- It served as the capital for Hoysala king **Eradane Ballala** in 1192 A.D. and was famous for its "**tankashale**" (mint).
- Renowned as the "village of hundred wells," it was the **Karmabhoomi** of the philanthropic Jain queen **Attimabbe**.



## Recent Discoveries

- Excavations at the **Kote Veerabhadreshwar temple** have yielded **Neolithic relics**, pushing the site's history back thousands of years.



## Protection & Expansion

- Currently featuring **7 ASI-protected** and **16 State-protected** structures, plans are underway to add **8 more monuments** by **February 2026**.







## Community Initiative

- A massive relic collection drive gathered **1,050 historical items** from local households, with residents also donating land for an **open-air museum**.



## UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Karnataka

UNESCO World Heritage Site	Year Inscribed	Location (District)	Historical & Ecological Significance
 <p>Group of Monuments at Hampi</p>	1986	Vijayanagara	The grand capital of the <b>Vijayanagara Empire</b> , situated on the banks of the <b>Tungabhadra River</b> . Famous for its <b>Dravidian architecture</b> , the <b>Virupaksha Temple</b> , and the <b>Vijaya Vittala Temple</b> (known for its iconic stone chariot and musical pillars).
 <p>Group of Monuments at Pattadakal</p>	1987	Bagalkot	Represents the pinnacle of <b>Chalukyan architectural art</b> (7th-8th centuries). It uniquely blends both <b>Nagara</b> (North Indian) and <b>Dravidian</b> (South Indian) building styles. The standout structure here is the <b>Virupaksha Temple</b> , built by <b>Queen Lokamahadevi</b> .
 <p>Western Ghats (Sahyadri)</p>	2012	Spans Western Karnataka	A UNESCO natural heritage site and one of the world's hottest biodiversity hotspots. Out of the 39 protected properties making up this site across India, <b>10 are located in Karnataka</b> (including <b>Kudremukh National Park, Agumbe, and Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary</b> ).
 <p>Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas</p>	2023	Hassan & Mysuru	The newest addition to Karnataka's list. Showcases the stellar star-shaped, soapstone architecture of the <b>Hoysala Empire</b> . This specifically includes three sites: the <b>Chennakeshava Temple (Belur)</b> , <b>Hoysaleswara Temple (Halebidu)</b> , and <b>Keshava Temple (Somanathapura)</b> .

## 26. Karnataka forms gig workers' welfare development board

# Karnataka forms gig workers' welfare development board

**News:** The Karnataka government has officially constituted the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers' Welfare Development Board to implement social security and welfare measures.



### Key Features of the Welfare Board

**Composition:** The board consists of 16 members, chaired by the State Labour Minister. It includes:



- 5 government representatives.
- 4 representatives from aggregator platforms (including Uber, Zomato, Amazon, and Porter).
- 4 representatives from gig worker unions.
- 2 civil society members and technical experts.



#### Welfare Fee:

Aggregators are mandated to contribute a welfare fee between 1% and 1.5% of the payout made to gig workers per transaction. This fee is capped at ₹0.50 per transaction for certain sectors like food and grocery delivery.



#### Registration Mandate:

Both aggregators and gig workers must register with the board. Aggregators have 45 days from the notification to complete their registration and share worker data.



#### Unique ID:

Each registered gig worker will receive a Unique Identification Number to track and disburse social security benefits.

### Additional information - Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025

Mandate - to provide legal recognition and social protection to approximately 400,000 gig workers.

It replaces the earlier ordinance promulgated in May 2025 and was formally notified on September 12, 2025.

### Key Features



#### Welfare Board & Fund:

Establishes a tripartite Gig Workers Welfare Board headquartered in Bengaluru to oversee registrations and schemes.



It also creates a dedicated Welfare Fund financed by a "welfare fee" of 1% to 5% of the payout per transaction, levied on aggregator platforms.



#### Registration:

All gig workers must be registered and assigned a Unique ID applicable across all platforms to access benefits.



#### Algorithmic Transparency:

Platforms are required to disclose details about their automated monitoring and decision-making systems (algorithms) in simple language to ensure fairness in task allocation and earnings.



#### Grievance Redressal:

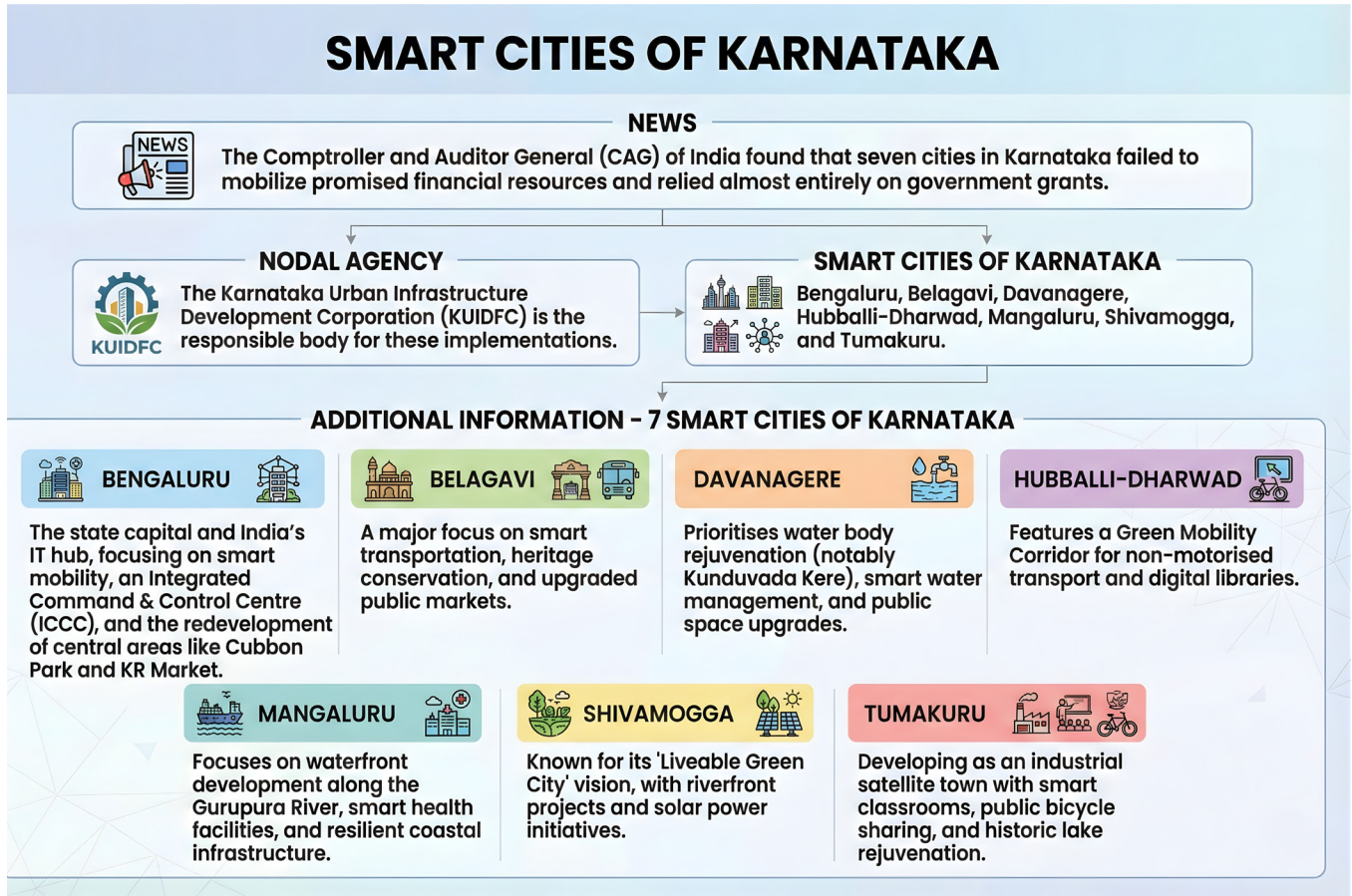
A two-tier mechanism is mandated: first through an Internal Dispute Resolution Committee (IDRC) at the platform level, followed by an appeal to the Welfare Board.



#### Termination Protections:

Platforms cannot deactivate or terminate a worker without providing a valid written reason and a 14-day prior notice (except in cases of bodily harm).

## 27. Smart Cities of Karnataka



## 28. Union Cabinet approves renaming Kerala as Keralam

### Union Cabinet approves renaming Kerala as Keralam

**Context:** The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to rename the State of Kerala as Keralam, following resolutions passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 2023 and 2024.

#### 1. About Union Cabinet approves renaming Kerala as Keralam: What it is?



- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to alter the official name of the State of Kerala to Keralam.
- The change seeks to replace the English-adopted constitutional term "Kerala" with the traditional Malayalam usage "Keralam."
- After Cabinet approval, the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 will follow the constitutional process before becoming law.

#### 2. Articles associated:



**Article 3 of the Constitution:** Empowers Parliament to form new states or alter areas, boundaries, or names of existing states.



- Proviso to Article 3:**
- A Bill altering a state's name can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President.
  - The President must refer the Bill to the concerned State Legislature to seek its views.



**First Schedule of the Constitution:** Contains the list and names of states and Union Territories; amendment required here for renaming.

#### 3. Procedure for renaming a state:

- State Legislature Resolution:** Kerala Assembly passed resolutions requesting the name change.
- Examination by Union Government:** Ministry of Home Affairs scrutinizes the proposal and consults relevant ministries/agencies.
- Union Cabinet Approval:** Cabinet clears the proposal for legislative action.
- President's Reference:** President refers the Bill to the State Legislature for its opinion (Article 3 proviso).
- Parliamentary Approval:** Bill introduced in Parliament after Presidential recommendation and passed by both Houses.
- Notification & Amendment:** First Schedule amended; new name come into legal effect.

## KARNATAKA DARSHANA

### 1. APMC to build state-of-the-art fruit and vegetable market

#### News -

- ◆ The Karnataka Department of Agricultural Marketing is set to build a modern fruit and vegetable wholesale market to replace congested city markets and upgrade infrastructure.

#### About fruit and vegetable market

- ◆ **Objective:** To create a **spacious, hygienic, and well-organized trading hub with modern facilities** like cold storage to benefit both farmers and traders.
- ◆ **Location:** The project is located on 42 acres and 12 guntas of land at **Singena Agrahara in Anekal taluk (off Hosur Road)**, situated strategically on the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR).
- ◆ **Decongestion Plan:** By moving wholesale operations to the city outskirts, the government aims to **stop heavy trucks from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh from entering the core city, reducing traffic chaos.**

### 2. Development of Turtle Trails Along Karnataka Coast

#### News -

- ◆ In the Union Budget 2026-27, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the development of ecologically sustainable “Turtle Trails” along key nesting sites in coastal Karnataka, Odisha, and Kerala to boost eco-tourism.
- ◆ These trails aim to **protect, monitor, and showcase the nesting sites of sea turtles** that flock to the beaches between December and March.

#### Key Details of the Announcement:

- ◆ **Objective:** The initiative aims to **promote responsible wildlife tourism while ensuring the conservation of marine biodiversity.**
- ◆ **Focus Species:** The trails specifically **target nesting sites for Olive Ridley turtles, which are globally vulnerable.**
- ◆ **Karnataka Locations:** Experts have identified **18 beaches in Karnataka for this project, including 15 in Uttara Kannada, two in Udupi, and one in Mangaluru.**

#### Additional Information - Olive Ridley Turtles

- ◆ **About:** They are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- ◆ **Scientific name:** *Lepidochelys olivacea*; also known as the Pacific ridley sea turtle.
- ◆ **Major nesting sites in India:** Rushikulya rookery coast (Odisha), Gahirmatha beach (Bhitarkanika National park) and the mouth of the Debi River.
- ◆ **Presence:** Found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.
- ◆ **Features:** Known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
  - ◆ These are carnivores and feed mainly on jellyfish, shrimp etc.
  - ◆ The eggs hatch in 45 to 60 days, depending on the temperature of the sand and atmosphere during the incubation period.
- ◆ **Threats:** Hunted for meat, shell and other anthropogenic factors like fishing trawlers etc.
- ◆ **Conservation Status:**
  - ◆ **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
  - ◆ Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
  - ◆ CITES Appendix I

#### Steps Taken

- ◆ Operation Olivia of the Indian Coast Guard
- ◆ Mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) to prevent accidental killing

### 3. Sandalwood Revival Plan for Karnataka

#### News -

- ◆ The Union Finance Minister announced a partnership between the Centre and States to boost sandalwood cultivation and post-harvest processing to restore India’s global market dominance.

#### Revival plan of sandlewood

- ◆ **Objective:** To restore the “glory of the Indian sandalwood ecosystem” by focusing on large-scale cultivation and addressing supply shortages.
- ◆ **Current Supply Crisis:** Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL) requires 7,000–8,000 tonnes of sandalwood annually, but domestic production currently meets only 30% of this demand.
- ◆ **Import Paradox:** To cover the shortfall, Karnataka currently imports sandalwood oil

from Australia. Ironically, Australia is producing this oil from native Indian sandalwood species they began cultivating 25 years ago.

#### **Additional Information - Indian Sandalwood (Santalum album)**

- ◆ **Known as “Liquid Gold” or Chandan**, this is one of India’s most valuable commercial crops.
- ◆ **Forest Type:** It is primarily found in **Tropical Deciduous Forests (Monsoon Forests)**.
- ◆ **Biological Nature:** It is a hemi-parasite (partial root parasite), meaning it derives some nutrients from the roots of host plants.
- ◆ **Distribution:** Found mainly in the **Western Ghats, Deccan Plateau, and states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.**
- ◆ **Conservation Status:** Classified as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.**
- ◆ **Key Threats:** **Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD), caused by phytoplasmas**, is a major threat with no known cure.

### **4. Karnataka’s “Orange Economy” and AVGC Sector Growth**

#### **News -**

- ◆ IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge highlighted Karnataka’s decade-long leadership in the “Orange Economy” and announced the Bengaluru GAFX 2026 expo.

#### **Basic terms - Orange Economy,**

- ◆ It is also **known as the Creative Economy**
- ◆ It refers to knowledge-based economic activities where **individual creativity, skill, talent, and cultural heritage are transformed into economic value** through Intellectual Property (IP).
- ◆ **Origin:** Coined by **Colombian economists Felipe Buitrago and Iván Duque (former President of Colombia)** in their 2013 book, *The Orange Economy: An Infinite Opportunity*.
- ◆ **Symbolism:** The **color orange was chosen** as it has historically been **associated with culture, creativity, and identity.**
- ◆ **Core Sectors:** Includes **film, music, gaming, animation, visual effects (AVGC), fashion, publishing, software development, and cultural tourism.**
- ◆ **Recent developments - Karnataka’s AVGC-XR Policy 3.0 (2024–2029)** is a strategic framework designed to **establish the state as a global**

**leader in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality**

### **5. UNESCO Concerns on Hampi Infrastructure Projects**

#### **News -**

- ◆ **The Karnataka government is preparing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report to be submitted to UNESCO by February 1, 2026,** regarding development at Anjanadri Hills.
- ◆ **UNESCO World Heritage Site (designated in 1986),**

#### **Historical Significance**

- ◆ **Capital City:** Hampi was the **14th-century capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, founded in 1336 by brothers Harihara I and Bukka Raya I.**
- ◆ **Golden Era:** It reached its peak under **Krishnadevaraya (1509–1530),** becoming one of the world’s largest and wealthiest medieval cities.
- ◆ **Decline:** The city was pillaged and abandoned following the empire’s defeat by the **Deccan Sultanates in the Battle of Talikota (1565).**
- ◆ **Literary Accounts:** Travellers like **Domingo Paes (Portuguese) and Niccolò de’ Conti (Italian)** described it as more beautiful than Rome.

#### **Architectural Highlights**

- ◆ **Style:** Primarily **Dravidian,** characterized by massive enclosures, high **gopurams (gateways), and ornate Kalyana Mandapas (marriage halls).**
- ◆ **Virupaksha Temple:** One of **India’s oldest functioning temples (7th century), dedicated to Lord Shiva.** A portion of its “Saalu Mandapa” recently required restoration after collapsing due to heavy rains.
- ◆ **Vittala Temple:** Famous for its **Stone Chariot (depicted on the ₹50 currency note) and musical pillars that produce melodic notes when tapped.**
- ◆ **Secular Structures:** Includes the **Lotus Mahal, Elephant Stables, and the Queen’s Bath,** showcasing Indo-Islamic influences

### **6. Namma 112 Helpline**

#### **News -**

- ◆ **Bengaluru’s emergency response system, Namma 112,** reported a massive surge in usage and technological improvements, alongside a

9% reduction in crime cases.

### 📄 Namma 112

- ♦ **It is the unified emergency helpline for Bengaluru**, integrating police, fire, and ambulance services into a single point of contact.
- ♦ **Managed by - Bengaluru City Police.**
- ♦ **Objective - it aims to provide rapid assistance during critical “golden hours”.**

### 📄 Key Services & Features

- ♦ **Unified Support:** Replaces or integrates traditional numbers like 100 (Police), 101 (Fire), and 108 (Ambulance).
- ♦ **Mental Health Support:** Recently integrated with Tele MANAS (14416) to handle psychiatric emergencies directly via the Namma 112 system.
- ♦ **Rapid Response:** Hoysala patrol teams typically reach complainants within 5 to 10 minutes in urban areas.
- ♦ **Privacy & Anonymity:** Callers can request to remain anonymous by stating, “Please keep my data anonymous” during the call.
- ♦ **WhatsApp Integration:** Citizens can also reach the helpline via WhatsApp at 9480801000.
- ♦ **Multilingual Support:** The system is being upgraded to include multilingual features to help diverse residents communicate in their preferred language.

## 7. Prof. S. Sadagopan committee

### 📄 News -

- ♦ **In February 2026, the Karnataka Higher Education Department officially constituted a 10-member expert committee to address the alarming decline in engineering admissions and employability.**
- ♦ **The committee is chaired by Prof. S. Sadagopan, the founding director of IIIT-Bangalore**

### 📄 Key Objectives of the Reform

- ♦ **Curriculum Revamp:** Aligning basic engineering courses (Mechanical, Civil, Electrical) with current industrial and employment requirements.
- ♦ **Intake Review:** Assessing the surplus of seats in Computer Science and related branches, where over 9,000 seats remained vacant in the 2025-26 academic year.
- ♦ **Boosting Demand:** Identifying strategies to

attract students back to core engineering disciplines that are currently facing potential closure in some private institutions.

- ♦ **Employability Gap:** Addressing reports that only 17% of engineering graduates in the state are successfully securing jobs.
- ♦ **Committee Members -** The 10-member committee features a mix of high-profile academic experts from IISc and UVCE, along with key representation from VTU, industry leaders, and government officials.

## 8. Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee

### 📄 News -

- ♦ **The Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee, chaired by eminent economist M. Govinda Rao**, submitted its final report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on January 31, 2026.
- ♦ **The 2026 report highlights a troubling trend:** despite Karnataka’s robust overall economic growth, regional disparities have worsened since the landmark Nanjundappa Committee report of 2002.

### 📄 Key Findings & Classification

- ♦ **The committee evaluated all 236 taluks in the state** and found that **backwardness is heavily concentrated in North Karnataka.**
  1. Most Backward: 93 taluks (primarily in the Kalaburagi and Belagavi divisions).
  2. More Backward: 36 taluks.
  3. Backward: 43 taluks.
  4. Developed: 64 taluks.
- ♦ **Regional Concentration:** Roughly 60% of all backward taluks are located in North Karnataka.

### 📄 Major Recommendations

- ♦ The committee proposed a major structural overhaul of how Karnataka addresses regional development:
- ♦ **Abolition of Boards:** The panel recommended **abolishing the Malnad Area Development Board and the Bayaluseeme Development Board**, citing their failure to make a meaningful impact on infrastructure over three decades.
- ♦ **KKRDB Overhaul:** It called for a complete **revamp of the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB)** due to operational failures and ad-hoc planning.
- ♦ **Funding:** The committee recommended a specialized **allocation of ₹29,009 crore for the**

**KKRDB from 2026-27 to 2030-31.**

- ♦ **Education Reform:** Noting **severe teacher shortages in the Kalaburagi division**, it suggested rationalizing and consolidating schools with low enrollment (fewer than 25 students).

## 9. 'Justice for Karnataka – Fair Share, Strong Federalism' Campaign

### News -

- ♦ Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah officially launched a public outreach **campaign titled "Justice for Karnataka – Fair Share, Strong Federalism"** on January 30, 2022
- ♦ It aims to **inform citizens about the state's financial demands and alleged "injustice" in tax devolution** by the Union Government.

### Key Campaign Objectives

- ♦ The campaign focuses on several **critical demands placed before the 16th Finance Commission:**
- ♦ **Restoration of Tax Share:** Reclaiming the state's share of **central tax devolution, which fell from 4.71% to 3.64%** under the previous commission, **causing an estimated loss of ₹80,000 crore.**
- ♦ **Revised Devolution Formula:** Correcting "flawed" criteria that penalise development and population control. The state seeks a reduction in income distance weightage from 45% to 25% and a return to using 1971 population data.
- ♦ **Divisible Pool Expansion:** Increasing the states' overall share of divisible taxes to 50% and placing a 5% cap on central cesses and surcharges.
- ♦ **Infrastructure & Regional Support:** Seeking ₹1.15 lakh crore for Bengaluru's infrastructure and a ₹10,000 crore special package for the backward Kalyana Karnataka region.

## 10. FICCI FLO Women-Led Industrial Park in Gauribidanur

### News -

- ♦ **The FICCI FLO Women-Led Industrial Park in Gauribidanur was formally inaugurated on February 4, 2026.**
- ♦ This **50-acre facility is a first-of-its-kind initiative in Karnataka**, specifically designed to support women entrepreneurs in the manufacturing sector and large-scale

enterprises.

### Park Details

- ♦ **Location:** Situated in **Gauribidanur, Chikkaballapur district**, approximately 75 km from Bengaluru.
- ♦ **Scale:** The park spans **50 acres of dedicated industrial land.**
- ♦ **Target Audience:** Exclusively for members of FLO Bangalore, with a **focus on first-generation women entrepreneurs.**
- ♦ **Partnerships:** Developed in collaboration with the **Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) and Karnataka Udyog Mitra (KUM).**

## 11. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Karnataka) Rules, 2026

### News -

- ♦ The Karnataka government published the draft **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Karnataka) Rules, 2026** on **January 23, 2026.**
- ♦ These rules, along with the draft Code on Wages (Karnataka) Rules, 2021, aim to **operationalise central labour codes within the state.**

### Key provisions and deadlines for the draft rules include:

- ♦ **Public Consultation:** The government has invited **objections and suggestions from stakeholders (employers, unions, and HR practitioners)** within 45 days of publication.
- ♦ **Working Hours:** **Daily working hours are capped at 10.5 hours, with a weekly limit of 48 hours.** Certain sectors may be extended to 12-hour workdays if notified.
- ♦ **Safety and Health:** Mandates **annual health examinations for eligible workers and the appointment of qualified Safety Officers** in specified establishments.
- ♦ **Digital Compliance:** Introduces a **common electronic registration and licensing system** through portals like Karmika Spandana to promote ease of doing business.
- ♦ **Worker Welfare:** Includes special provisions for inter-state migrant workers, contract labour, and gig/platform workers.

### Additional Information - Karmika Spandana

- ♦ It is the **official online e-Services portal of**

the Department of Labour, Government of Karnataka.

- ◆ It serves as a **centralized platform for employers and workers to access various labour-related services**, including registrations, licensing, and grievance redressal.

#### 📖 Key Services and Features

- ◆ **Mandatory Registration:** Factories with more than 20 workers and commercial establishments with more than 10 workers **must register through the Karmika Spandana Portal or the e-Suraksha portal.**
- ◆ **Licensing:** The portal facilitates **online registration and licensing for various sectors**, including construction, plantations, and general manufacturing, under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (Karnataka) Rules.
- ◆ **Worker Welfare Schemes:** It provides access to **benefits managed by the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBOCWVB)**, such as:
  - ◆ **Educational Assistance (Kalike Bhagya):** Financial aid for the children of registered workers, ranging from ₹2,000 for primary school to ₹30,000 for medical courses.
  - ◆ **Medical Assistance (Karmika Chikitsa Bhagya):** Coverage up to ₹2,00,000 for major ailments like heart surgery, kidney transplants, and cancer.
  - ◆ **Marriage and Maternity Benefits:** Financial aid of ₹50,000 for marriage and specific assistance for maternity (Thayi Lakshmi Bond).
- ◆ **Compliance and Reporting:** Employers use the portal to comply with the Karnataka Minimum Wages Rules, ensuring proper wage payments and working hour regulations.
- ◆ **Grievance Redressal:** While “e-Spandana” is a broader public grievance system for districts like Ballari, Karmika Spandana specifically addresses labour-related issues and maintains a dedicated helpdesk at 1902

## 12. Karnataka Information Commission (KIC)

### 📖 News -

- ◆ The Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) has claimed to be the fastest in India for disposing of second appeal petitions under the

RTI Act.

### 📖 Karnataka Information Commission (KIC)

- ◆ It is an autonomous **statutory body established on March 2, 2006**, under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.**
- ◆ It serves as the **final appellate authority for citizens seeking information from public authorities** within the state of Karnataka.

### 📖 Key Leadership & Structure

- ◆ **State Chief Information Commissioner (In-Charge):** Dr. H.C. Sathyan.
- ◆ **Information Commissioners:** The commission includes several State Information Commissioners (SICs), such as Shri. Raman K., Dr. Harish Kumar, Sri. Rudranna Harthikote, and Sri. Rajashekara S..
- ◆ **Benches:** In addition to its main headquarters in Bengaluru, the KIC operates regional benches in Belagavi and Kalaburagi to improve accessibility.

### 📖 Core Functions & Powers

- ◆ **Adjudication:** The KIC hears **Second Appeals and Complaints regarding the refusal of information** or delays by Public Information Officers (PIOs).
- ◆ **Penalties:** The commission has the authority to **impose financial penalties—up to ₹25,000—** on officials who delay information.
- ◆ **Judicial Authority:** It possesses the powers of a **Civil Court**, including the ability to summon witnesses, require oral or written evidence under oath, and inspect public records.

## 13. AI-Powered Software to Combat Misinformation and Hate Speech

### 📖 News -

- ◆ The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the **deployment of advanced AI-based software to identify and track hate speech, deepfakes, and misinformation on digital platforms.**
- ◆ **Project Cost:** The initiative will be implemented at an estimated cost of **₹67.26 crore.**
- ◆ **Primary Aim:** To **strengthen public safety—specifically for women and children—**by detecting harmful narratives, disinformation, and Subject-Based Manipulations.

## 14. 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) Awards

### News -

- ◆ The 17th edition of BIFFes concluded in Bengaluru, celebrating global and local cinema with a focus on women's empowerment.

### 17th edition of BIFF

- ◆ **Best Indian Film:** The **Marathi film Sabar Bonda, directed by Rohan Parashuram Kanawade**, won the top honor in the Indian Cinema competition.
- ◆ **Best Kannada Film: Vanya, directed by Badiger Devendra**, was adjudged the best film in the Kannada segment. The movie depicts a father and daughter's struggle to protect their forest from corporate and political exploitation.
- ◆ **Lifetime Achievement Award: Renowned music composer and lyricist Hamsalekha** was honored for his massive contribution to the industry.

### Other Notable Winners:

- ◆ **Indian Cinema:** Malayalam films Moham and Kaadu took second and third places, respectively.
- ◆ **Kannada Cinema:** Nam Saali (2nd place) and Ravana Rajyadalli Navadampatigalu (3rd place).
- ◆ **Special Mentions:** Gondhal (Marathi) won the FIPRESCI Award; The Republic of Pipolipinas (Philippines) received a Special Jury Mention.

### Festival Statistics:

- ◆ **Duration:** 8 days (began January 29, 2026).
- ◆ **Scale:** Screened 300 films from 70 countries.
- ◆ **Attendance:** Witnessed a footfall of over 1 lakh people.
- ◆ **Theme:** "Stree Yendare Ashte Sake" (Is it enough to be a woman?), focusing on women's empowerment.

## 15. Karnataka Cybercrime Coordination Centre (K4C)

### News -

- ◆ The State government is set to establish the Karnataka Cybercrime Coordination Centre (K4C), modeled after the Union Home Ministry's Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).

### Karnataka Cybercrime Coordination Centre (K4C)

- ◆ It is a state-level initiative designed to serve as the **nodal agency for combating digital crimes**

in Karnataka.

### K4C is planned to house four primary units:

1. **Cybercrime Tackling Unit:** For active investigation and detection.
2. **Cyber Security & Capacity Building:** Focused on training police, prosecutors, and judicial officers.
3. **Information Disorder Tackling Unit (IDTU):** Using AI to monitor and address misinformation.
4. **Anti-CSAM Unit:** Dedicated to tackling Child Sexual Abuse Material.
  - ◆ **Predictive Policing:** The centre aims to use Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to predict vulnerabilities and reduce incident response times by up to 40% by 2030.

## 16. Sustainable Tourism Development in Udupi

### News -

- ◆ The Union Tourism Ministry has identified **four destinations in Udupi district to be developed under the National Mission for Developing Globally Competitive Tourism Destinations.**
- ◆ **Identified Destinations:** The four locations under consideration are **Kodi-Kanyana, Kodi-Kundapur, Barkur Port area, and Trasi-Maravanthe.**
- ◆ **Final Selection:** One of these four destinations will be selected for **comprehensive development to meet international standards.**
- ◆ **Objective:** The project aims to **develop more than 50 global-level tourist spots across India**, focusing on sustainable and responsible tourism that protects natural and cultural resources.

### Key Features: The chosen site will feature:

1. Use of renewable energy.
2. Infrastructure developed to global standards.
3. Environmentally friendly facilities.
4. Global marketing campaigns to attract international tourists.
5. **Funding & Model:** The Union government has allocated a ₹300 crore grant for this pan-India scheme.

## 17. ARAI Research Centre in Mandya

### News -

- ◆ Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy announced that a world-class **Automotive Research**

**Association of India (ARAI) centre will be set up in Mandya.**

- ◆ **Investment:** The project will be established at a total cost of ₹500 crore,

**Key details regarding the project include:**

- ◆ **Location:** The Karnataka government has identified 105 acres of land in Muddanaghatta and Heggadithihalli villages, located in Basaralu Hobli.
- ◆ This site is roughly 30 km from Mandya and 500 metres from the Mandya–Nagamangala State Highway.
- ◆ **Specialisation:** While it serves the broader automotive sector, it is proposed as India’s first dedicated Construction and Infrastructure Equipment Testing facility.
- ◆ **Regional Impact:** Announced by Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, the centre is expected to boost the automobile industry across Karnataka, specifically benefiting the Mandya and Mysuru regions.

**18. Bhoo Guarantee**

**News-**

- ◆ The Chief Minister of Karnataka launched the “Bhoo Guarantee” scheme during a mega convention in Haveri, marking the state government’s 1,000 days in office.

**Bhoo Guarantee**

- ◆ **Ownership Rights:** The scheme grants legal ownership (title deeds or hakku patra) to marginalized communities, including Dalits, Adivasis, and agricultural laborers who have lived on government or private land for years without legal documentation.
- ◆ **Mass Distribution:** At the launch event in Haveri, title deeds were distributed to over 1.06 lakh (106,000) beneficiary families.
- ◆ **Doorstep Delivery:** Updated land records are being delivered directly to farmers’ doorsteps through a streamlined process managed by the Revenue Department.
- ◆ **Digital Integration:** The initiative includes scanning millions of pages of land records and Aadhaar-seeding land parcels to ensure a clean, modern database.

**Context of the “Sixth Guarantee”**

- ◆ This scheme joins the five original guarantees launched by the Congress government in 2023:

1. Shakti: Free bus travel for women.
2. Gruha Jyoti: Up to 200 units of free electricity per household.
3. Anna Bhagya: 10 kg of free food grains for BPL families.
4. Gruha Lakshmi: ₹2,000 monthly allowance for female heads of families.
5. Yuva Nidhi: Unemployment stipends for graduates and diploma holders.

**19. Karnataka Introduces 10% Women’s Quota in Fire Services**

**News -**

- ◆ The Karnataka government has proposed changing the official designation from “Fireman” to “Firefighter” and introducing a 10% reservation for women to promote gender inclusivity in the state’s fire department.
- ◆ **Union Government Directive:** This decision follows instructions from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to encourage greater participation of women in fire services across India.
- ◆ **New 10% Women’s Quota:** Under the new policy, women will receive a 10% reservation in direct recruitment for the posts of firefighter and station officer.
- ◆ **Legal Framework:** These historic changes will be officially implemented by amending the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Rules, 2013.
- ◆ **Department Background:** Established in 1964, the state fire department handles fire accidents, natural disasters, floods, and animal rescues.

**20. Free Bicycle Scheme in Karnataka (2026)**

**News -**

- ◆ The Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission, headed by Deputy Chairman B.R. Patil has submitted a 210-page report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recommending major educational reforms to be included in the 2026–27 State Budget.
- ◆ **Reviving the Free Bicycle Scheme:** The panel strongly advises restarting the free bicycle distribution program for girl students in government high schools to provide safe, last-mile transportation where bus connectivity is poor.

### Free Bicycle Distribution Scheme in Karnataka

- ♦ **Objective-** It was originally launched to improve school attendance and reduce dropout rates among students in rural and hilly areas.

### Current Status

- ♦ **Discontinued:** The scheme was officially paused after the 2019–20 academic year.
- ♦ **Alternative:** The government currently provides free bus passes to rural students to facilitate their travel to school.

## 21. 'Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi' Campaign

### News -

- ♦ The Karnataka State government is launching the 'Mobile bidi pustaka hidi' (Put down your mobile and pick up a book) campaign to reduce children's screen time and systematically develop a habit of reading.

### '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).

### Core Strategies & Initiatives

- ♦ **Digital Detox for Parents:** The campaign urges parents to lead by example by putting away their own phones when children are at home and reading books instead.
- ♦ **School Integration:** Teachers are instructed to organize regular parent-teacher meetings to discuss the negative effects of gadget addiction and set healthy limits on mobile use.
- ♦ **Holistic Development:** Beyond reading, the campaign promotes physical activities, sports, and hobbies to distract children from digital

devices.

- ♦ **Inter-Departmental Support:** The education department plans to collaborate with the Library, Health, Police, and Women and Child Welfare departments to raise awareness about cybercrimes and online safety.
- ♦ **Note -** The campaign was inspired by a grassroots movement led by a government school teacher, T.N. Chikkaveeraiah, from Ramanagara, who initially started the "Mobile Bidi Pustaka Hidi" effort to pull his students away from screens

## 22. Export of Karnataka's GI-Tagged Produce to the Maldives

### News -

- ♦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently highlighted the first-ever air-shipment of three Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged agricultural products from Karnataka to the Maldives during his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast.
- ♦ **Export Statistics:** The successful trial shipment included 500 kg of Nanjangud Rasabale (bananas), 250 kg of Mysuru betel leaves, and 500 kg of Indi lemons.

### Nanjangud Rasabale (Banana):

- ♦ **GI Status:** Awarded in 2006.
- ♦ **Region:** Grown in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts of Karnataka.
- ♦ **Unique Features:** Known for its unique aroma, thick pulp, and medicinal properties (believed to cure neurological ailments).
- ♦ **Soil Requirement:** Thrives specifically in black clay alluvial saline soil found on the banks of the Kapila River.
- ♦ **Threat:** Susceptible to Panama Wilt disease.

### Mysuru Betel Leaves (Veelyadele):

- ♦ **Region:** Primarily grown in and around Mysuru.
- ♦ **Characteristics:** Locally known as Chigurele, they are prized for their smooth texture, taste, and quality.

### Indi Limons (Lime):

- ♦ **Region:** Cultivated in the Indi region of Vijayapura (Bijapur) district, Karnataka.
- ♦ **Export Value:** Hailed as "superfoods" in international markets like the Maldives due to their high quality

## 23. Karez Water System

### News -

- Recent unauthorized digging has damaged the centuries-old Naubad–Aliyabad karez in Bidar, causing the district administration to halt activities to protect this ancient water system.

### Karez (Qanat):

- It is an **ancient underground water-harvesting system**.
- It uses a gently sloping horizontal tunnel to bring groundwater from higher areas to the surface using gravity.
- Key Design Features:** The system includes vertical shafts at regular intervals for air and maintenance. **Because the water flows underground, it highly minimizes water evaporation and contamination.**
- Historical Background:** It was built in the 15th century during the Bahmani Sultanate. It is one of India's earliest adaptations of Persian-Central Asian water technology.
- Unique Geology:** The Bidar karez is extremely rare because it is **carved entirely through laterite rock**, unlike most others globally that are built in limestone or soft soil.
- Ecological Importance:** It is not just a monument, but a living groundwater recharge system that can help solve Bidar's chronic water shortage. If properly conserved, it has the potential to become a UNESCO World Heritage site.

## 24. New 'Sahyadri Sindhura' Red Rice Variety

### News -

- The Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences in Shivamogga recently launched a highly popular, nutrient-rich red rice variety named "Sahyadri Sindhura."

### 'Sahyadri Sindhura' Red Rice Variety

- The Cross-Breed:** This new rice is a hybrid created by crossing two popular traditional rice varieties: Jyothi and Biliya.
- Nutritional Benefits:** This fine-grain red rice is packed with high protein, iron, and zinc. It also has a low glycaemic index, making it a much healthier dietary option.
- High Crop Yield:** It gives an impressive yield of 53 to 54 quintals per hectare in irrigated lands,

easily outperforming traditional varieties that only yield 40 to 45 quintals.

- Fast Maturation:** The crop grows relatively fast and is ready to harvest in just 120 days.
- Disease and Pest Resistance:** Farmers benefit greatly because the crop is naturally resistant to blast disease and can tolerate common agricultural pests like leaf folders and stem borers.
- Extra Benefits for Farmers:** Along with fetching a strong market price (₹70 to ₹80 per kg), the crop produces high-quality straw that serves as excellent fodder for cattle.
- Official Recognition:** Developed after five years of rigorous research by a team led by Dr. B.M. Dushyantha Kumar, the variety is officially registered with the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources in New Delhi.

## 25. Tulu language

### News -

- The Karnataka government has expressed support for declaring Tulu as the State's second additional official language.

### Tulu language

- Historical Roots and Geography:** Boasting a recorded history of over 3,000 years, Tulu is predominantly spoken in the coastal Karnataka districts of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada.
- Linguistic Heritage:** Featuring its own distinct script, Tulu holds the distinction of being one of only five literary Dravidian languages, alongside Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.
- Constitutional Recommendation:** A state-constituted committee in 2023, headed by educationist Mohan Alva, officially recommended declaring Tulu as the State's second official language under Article 345 of the Indian Constitution.

# NATIONAL

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### 1. Enforcement Directorate (ED)

#### Context

- ◆ The Supreme Court agreed to examine whether the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is entitled to invoke the writ jurisdiction of constitutional courts to seek relief.

#### Enforcement Directorate

- ◆ **Established in** - On 1st May 1956, an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed. In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.
- ◆ **Established under** - It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- ◆ **Functions** - ED enforces the following laws
- ◆ Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
- ◆ Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)

### 2. Gita Mittal Committee

#### In News

- ◆ The Supreme Court extended the tenure of the Justice Gita Mittal Committee by six months till July 31, 2026, to continue overseeing humanitarian relief for Manipur violence victims.

#### Justice Gita Mittal Committee

- ◆ **Constituted by** - It was constituted by the Supreme Court of India
- ◆ **Objective** - to intervene and monitor relief and rehabilitation, and restoration of homesteads, religious places of worship, and to oversee relief and rehabilitation of victims of violence in Manipur.
- ◆ **Members** - It is a three member committee, headed by former Jammu and Kashmir high court Chief Justice Gita Mittal. It has Justices Shalini Phansalkar Joshi and Asha Menon, as other two members.

### 3. Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0

#### Context

- ◆ NITI Aayog launched Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0 campaign.

#### Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0

- ◆ It is aimed at achieving saturation of critical development indicators in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks across the country.
- ◆ The campaign targets 112 Aspirational Districts and 513 Aspirational Blocks to achieve specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

#### For Aspirational Blocks (6 KPIs):

- ◆ **Nutrition:** Regular supplementary nutrition for children (6 months to 6 years) under ICDS.
- ◆ **Monitoring:** Monthly measurement efficiency of children at Anganwadi Centres.
- ◆ **Infrastructure:** Operational Anganwadi Centres with functional toilets and drinking water.
- ◆ **Education:** Adequate girls' toilet facilities in schools.
- ◆ **Agriculture:** Vaccination of bovine animals for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

#### For Aspirational Districts (5 KPIs):

- ◆ Focuses on health, nutrition, and education, including increasing the number of babies weighed at birth and improving tuberculosis (TB) case reporting.

#### Additional Information - Aspirational Districts Programme

- ◆ It was launched in 2018
- ◆ **Objective** - to quickly and effectively transform 112 districts across the country.
- ◆ **Focuses on five themes:** Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development and Infrastructure.

#### Aspirational Blocks Programme

- ◆ It was launched in 2023
- ◆ It aims for the saturation of essential government services in 513 Blocks (329 Districts) across the country.
- ◆ **Focuses on five themes:** Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied Services, Basic Infrastructure and Social Development.

### 4. Menstrual Health Fundamental Right under Article 21: SC

#### Context

- ◆ In Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Union of India, the Supreme Court has ruled that the right to menstrual hygiene is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

### Key Highlights of Judicial Intervention

- ◆ **Fundamental Right: Menstrual health is now legally recognized** as an essential facet of the **Right to Life (Art. 21) and the Right to Education (Art. 21A)**.
- ◆ **Free Bio-degradable Pads:** All government and private schools must provide **free bio-degradable sanitary napkins to girl students (Classes 6–12)**.
- ◆ **Mandatory Infrastructure:** Schools must have functional, **gender-segregated toilets with water connectivity**. Non-compliance can lead to the de-recognition of private schools.
- ◆ **Stigma Reduction:** The court mandated NCERT to incorporate gender-responsive curricula to educate both boys and girls, breaking the “hushed whispers” culture.

### Article 21 of Constitution

- ◆ **Article 21 is part of the Fundamental Rights, Part III of the Constitution.**
- ◆ It is **guaranteed to all persons, citizens and non-citizens** alike.
- ◆ No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
- ◆ It places a restriction on the state from arbitrarily interfering with a person’s life and liberty.
- ◆ **Expanded scope through Supreme Court judgments:** Over time, courts have interpreted it to also impose positive obligations on the state to ensure a dignified life.
  1. Right to live with human dignity;
  2. Right to privacy (Puttaswamy, 2017);
  3. Right to livelihood (Olga Tellis);
  4. Right to health and medical care;
  5. Right to clean environment;
  6. Right to legal aid and speedy trial;
  7. Right to education (later made explicit via Article 21A);
  8. Protection against custodial torture;
  9. Right to sleep, shelter and food.

### Menstrual Health Related Policy of Government of India

- ◆ **Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS):** Supported by National Health Mission (NHM). ASHAs distribute packs of 6 napkins (Freedays) at a subsidized rate of ₹6.
- ◆ **PM Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna:** Over 16,000 Kendras provide ‘Suvidha’ (Oxo-

biodegradable pads) at ₹1 per pad.

- ◆ **Samagra Shiksha:** Funds the installation of vending machines and incinerators. States must now prioritize bio-degradable options following the 2026 SC ruling.
- ◆ **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase 2:** Focuses on Menstrual Waste Management (MWM) using small-scale incinerators and deep burial pits to prevent environmental clogging.
- ◆ **Menstrual Hygiene Policy (2024-25):** Formulated by the Ministry of Health, it streamlines access to low-cost products, prioritizes “Green” (biodegradable) initiatives, and integrates MHM into the formal school curriculum.
- ◆ **Standardization of Products:** The Department of Health Research is studying sustainable alternatives like menstrual cups and recyclable pads to evaluate their safety and feasibility among rural women.

## 5. Kavach 4.0

### In News

- ◆ Indian Railways commissioned 472.3 route kilometres (Rkm) of Kavach Version 4.0.

### About

- ◆ Originally known as the **Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)**,
- ◆ **Developed by the RDSO**,
- ◆ Objective - **it prevents train collisions by automatically applying brakes if the loco pilot fails to do so** (e.g., Signal Passed at Danger - SPAD) and provides real-time speed monitoring.
- ◆ Note - **Kavach 4.0 creates a “digital shield” by integrating several high-tech components:**

## 6. Indian Railways Deploys Humanoid Robot ‘ASC ARJUN’

### In Context

- ◆ Indian Railways has deployed a humanoid robot named ‘ASC ARJUN’ at Visakhapatnam Railway Station.

### About

- ◆ ASC ARJUN is a humanoid robot that works with the Railway Protection Force (RPF) for security, surveillance and assistance at the station.
- ◆ It is fully designed and developed in Visakhapatnam using indigenous, home-grown

technology by a dedicated technical team.

### Significance

- ◆ Enhance safety and security of passengers at a busy station.
- ◆ Optimise manpower by taking over routine patrolling and monitoring tasks so RPF staff can focus on critical work.
- ◆ Use emerging technologies (AI, IoT, robotics) to improve service delivery and modernise rail operations.

## 7. Congestion Index

### Context

- ◆ According to the latest 2025 TomTom Traffic Index, ranked India as the fifth most traffic-congested country globally and second in Asia.

### Congestion Index

- ◆ The index evaluates cities worldwide based on average travel time, congestion levels and vehicle speeds.
- ◆ The index is widely used to track changes in urban mobility and compare congestion trends across regions and countries.
- ◆ Bengaluru emerged as India's most traffic-congested city, recording an average congestion level of 74.4%
- ◆ Bengaluru and Kolkata were both listed among the world's five slowest cities.
- ◆ Of the top 10 cities with the highest congestion in Asia, six were from India: Bengaluru (1), Pune (2), Mumbai (6), New Delhi (7), Kolkata (9), and Jaipur (10).

## 8. FM Tables 16th Finance Commission Report

### In News

- ◆ The 16th Finance Commission, constituted in 2023 under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya has had its key recommendations accepted by the Government for implementation during 2026–27 to 2030–31.

### Finance Commission

- ◆ **Constitutional Body:** Established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
- ◆ **Formation:** Constituted by the President of India every five years (or earlier).
- ◆ **Composition:** A Chairman and four other members.

- ◆ **Core Function:** It serves as a **balancing wheel of fiscal federalism** by recommending:

1. **Vertical Devolution:** The distribution of net tax proceeds between the Centre and the States.
2. **Horizontal Devolution:** The allocation of these proceeds among the States themselves.
3. **Grants-in-Aid:** Principles governing financial assistance to States from the Consolidated Fund of India (Article 275).
4. **Local Bodies:** Measures to augment State Consolidated Funds to support Panchayats and Municipalities.

- **Nature of Recommendations:** Advisory (not legally binding), though traditionally accepted by the Government.

## 9. National Integration Council

### Context

- ◆ Recently, there was a demand for the revival of the National Integration Council during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha.

### National Integration Council

- ◆ **Established in - 1961.**
- ◆ **Objective:** To promote national integration, communal harmony, and unity in diversity, and to address issues that threaten the country's social cohesion.
- ◆ **Composition:** Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of States and UTs, Leaders of major political parties, Eminent public figures, thinkers, and representatives of civil society.

### Key Functions:

- ◆ Discusses and recommends measures to combat communalism, casteism, regionalism, separatism, and extremism.
- ◆ Advises the government on policies to strengthen constitutional values, secularism, and social harmony.
- ◆ Acts as a forum for consensus-building on sensitive national issues.
- ◆ **Nature:** It is an **advisory body (not statutory, not constitutional)**.
- ◆ Its recommendations are non-binding.
- ◆ **Meetings:** Not held regularly; convened as and when required depending on national circumstances.
- ◆ **The National Integration Council has not had a meeting since 2013.**

## 10. Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority

### In News

- ◆ The Government of India, the Government of Nagaland, and representatives of the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) have signed a historic agreement for the creation of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA).

### Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority

- ◆ FNTA will cover six districts — Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator inhabited by eight major Naga tribes.
- ◆ **Objective** - The agreement provides for devolution of powers enhancing administrative and developmental autonomy.
- ◆ **Mini-Secretariat** - It is headed by an Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary-level officer.
- ◆ **Significance** - It aims to promote balanced regional development, financial autonomy, and participatory decision-making in a historically underdeveloped region.
- ◆ **Note** - However, the arrangement does not dilute Article 371(A) of the Constitution, which safeguards Naga customary practices, land rights, and social institutions.

## 11. Supreme Court Allows Abortion of 30-week Pregnancy of a Minor

### Context

- ◆ The Supreme Court has permitted the medical termination of a 30-week pregnancy of a minor, emphasising that no woman can be compelled to carry a pregnancy to full term against her will.

### Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021

- ◆ The Act permits abortion up to 20 weeks in the opinion of one registered medical practitioner.
- ◆ Between 20–24 weeks, termination is allowed for specified categories of women (including minors, rape survivors, and differently-abled women) on the opinion of two doctors.
- ◆ Beyond 24 weeks, termination is permitted only in cases of substantial fetal abnormalities as diagnosed by a Medical Board.

### Key Observations of the Supreme Court

- ◆ The Court reiterated that reproductive

autonomy is an integral part of personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.

- ◆ The Court observed that the pregnancy of a minor is “ex facie illegitimate” because she lacks legal capacity to consent to sexual relations.

## 12. The AYUSH Sector in India

### In News

- ◆ India's new free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union opened the door for Indian doctors and products to enter the European market more easily.

### AYUSH Sector in India

- ◆ AYUSH encompasses traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy.

### Key Initiatives

- ◆ **National AYUSH Mission (NAM):** Core policy instrument to integrate AYUSH into public healthcare through:
- ◆ **Institutes of National Importance:** All India Institute of Ayurveda (New Delhi), National Institute of Homoeopathy (Kolkata) & Dedicated national institutes for Siddha, Unani, Yoga, and Naturopathy.
- ◆ **Regulatory and Research Bodies:** Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), National Commission for Indian System of Medicine & National Commission for Homoeopathy.
- ◆ **Medicinal Plant Promotion:** National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) working with 32 State Boards to support quality cultivation, value chains, and exports.
- ◆ **Flagship Schemes:** AYURGYAN (Education and capacity building), Ayurwashthya Yojana (Community health and preventive care using AYUSH systems).

## 13. Bonded Labour Abolition Act 1976: 50 years of abolition law

### Context

- ◆ February 9, 1976, marked an important milestone in equality in Indian society with the enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act (BLSA).

### Bonded Labour Abolition Act 1976

- ◆ Bonded labour (or debt bondage) is defined as a

condition where money is lent in such a way that the debtor is forced to pay back through labour instead of money.

- ◆ It was enacted to give effect to Article 23 of the Constitution (prohibition of trafficking and forced labour).
- ◆ Bonded labour was deeply entrenched due to poverty, caste hierarchies, landlessness, and indebtedness.
- ◆ India ratified ILO Convention No. 29 (Forced Labour) in 1954, strengthening the legal obligation.

#### Objectives:

1. Abolish the bonded labour system.
2. Free bonded labourers and extinguish their debts.
3. Prevent economic and social exploitation.
4. Provide a legal framework for rehabilitation.

## 14. Corruption Perceptions Index

#### Context

- ◆ Transparency International recently published 2025 Corruption Perception Index (CPI).
- ◆ Corruption Perceptions Index
- ◆ Published by - Transparency International
- ◆ Objective - It measures levels of public sector corruption in 182 countries.
- ◆ Methodology: It uses a scale from zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- ◆ Best performing countries: Denmark (89) followed by Finland (88) and Singapore (84).
- ◆ Worst Performing Countries: South Sudan and Somalia
- ◆ India's Performance: In 2025, India ranked 91st globally on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), scoring 39 out of 100, which is a slight improvement from the previous year.

## 15. Kerala Declares Bacillus Subtilis 'State Microbe'

#### Context

- ◆ Kerala has become the first Indian state to designate an official "State Microbe," selecting Bacillus subtilis, a beneficial, soil-dwelling bacterium.

#### Bacillus subtilis

- ◆ It is a non-pathogenic, rod-shaped, gram-positive bacterium.
- ◆ It is found commonly in soil, water, and the

human gut.

- ◆ Bacillus subtilis is a probiotic or good bacterium that plays a vital role in improving gut health and strengthening immunity.
- ◆ The bacterium is widely used in agriculture as a biofertilizer and biocontrol agent to enhance crop productivity and suppress plant diseases.
- ◆ Due to its resilience and spore-forming ability, it has significant industrial and biotechnological applications.

#### Do You Know?

Centre of Excellence in Microbiome

- ◆ It is established by the Government of Kerala located in Thiruvananthapuram,
- ◆ It is India's first dedicated multi-domain research institution for microbiome studies.

## 16. Seva Teerth

#### In News

- ◆ The Prime Minister inaugurated the Seva Teerth complex in New Delhi, along with Kartavya Bhavan-1 and 2.

#### Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan-1 and 2

- ◆ Seva Teerth houses the Prime Minister's Office, the National Security Council Secretariat, the Cabinet Secretariat, all of which were previously located across different locations.
- ◆ It consolidates administrative functions within modern, and future-ready facilities.
- ◆ Kartavya Bhavan-1 and 2 accommodate several Key ministries including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ◆ Both building complexes feature digitally integrated offices, structured public interface zones and centralised reception facilities.

#### Importance

- ◆ These features will foster collaboration, efficiency, seamless governance, improved citizen engagement and enhanced employee well-being.

## 17. Bhu-Aadhaar

#### Context

- ◆ The Government of Delhi has initiated the assignment of a 14-digit Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN), popularly

termed 'Bhu-Aadhaar', to every land parcel in the Capital.

#### ULPIN (Bhu-Aadhaar)

- ◆ It is part of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).
- ◆ It is a 14-digit identification number accorded to a land parcel based on the longitude and latitude coordinates of the land parcel.
- ◆ The system integrates GIS mapping, drone surveys, and Ortho Rectified Images (ORI) for accuracy.
- ◆ It functions as a digital land identity, similar in concept to Aadhaar for individuals.

#### Significance

- ◆ The initiative aims to enhance transparency, curb fraudulent transactions, and modernise land records through geospatial technology.
- ◆ It complements the SVAMITVA Scheme, under which 48 villages in Delhi have already been covered.

## 18. SAHI and BODH Initiatives

#### Context

- ◆ The Union Health and Family Welfare Minister launched two digital health initiatives—SAHI (Secure AI for Health Initiative) and BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI)—during the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

#### SAHI (Secure AI for Health Initiative)

- ◆ It is also referred to as the Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India.
- ◆ **Objective** - to ensure the safe, ethical, and evidence-based adoption of AI across the country's healthcare system.

#### BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI)

- ◆ **Developed by** - IIT Kanpur in collaboration with the National Health Authority,
- ◆ **Objective** - It is a specialized digital infrastructure which validates AI models before they are deployed at a national scale.

## 19. Closure of FRA Cells in Odisha Triggers Central Scrutiny

#### Context

- ◆ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has initiated inquiries into the directives given by the

State government of Odisha to shutdown of Forest Rights Act (FRA) Cells at multiple administrative levels.

#### Forest Rights Act, 2006

- ◆ The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, popularly known as the Forest Rights Act (FRA).
- ◆ It legally recognizes the rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land and resources they have traditionally used for generations.

## 20. VoicERA Launched on BHASHINI National Infrastructure

#### In News

- ◆ The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched VoicERA.

#### India's National Voice AI Stack (VoicERA)

- ◆ It is an open-source, end-to-end technology framework designed as Digital Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)
- ◆ **Public Platform:** Deployed on the BHASHINI National Language Infrastructure to provide a national execution layer for multilingual voice services.
- ◆ **Purpose:** To enable government departments and innovators to build voice-based citizen services—such as agricultural advice, education support, and grievance redressal—in local Indian languages.

## ECONOMY

### 1. K22 albelia Community

#### In News

- ◆ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to the Rajasthan government over protests by the Kalbelia community in Barmer, who placed a dead body on the road demanding a designated burial ground.

#### Kalbeliyas

- ◆ Kalbelia are a snake charming folk community from the region of Rajasthan, India.

- ◆ Their traditional occupation used to be **catching snakes and trading snake venom**.
- ◆ They are **known for their vibrant dances and black embroidered attire**.
- ◆ **In 2010, their songs and dances were added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list**, recognizing them as a key marker of identity as the community adapts to changing social and economic conditions.

#### Do you know?

- ◆ The Kalbelia dance, also called Sapera dance, is a folk dance central to Kalbelia culture, a nomadic tribe traditionally known as snake charmers.
- ◆ The dance reflects their close association with snakes through movements and costumes.

## 2. One District One Product (ODOP)

#### Context

- ◆ The One District One Product (ODOP) initiative has completed 8 years of transformative impact by promoting traditional industries.

#### One District One Product (ODOP)

- ◆ It is a flagship initiative of the Government of India designed to **foster balanced regional development by identifying and promoting at least one unique product from each district**.
- ◆ It is **inspired by Japan's "One Village One Product" model**.
- ◆ **Objective** - it seeks to transform every district into an export hub and boost local economies.
- ◆ **Nationwide Scale**: Spearheaded by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the initiative has identified 1,241 products from 777 districts as of early 2026.
- ◆ **Product Diversity**: Covers a wide range of sectors including **agriculture (e.g., Alphonso mangoes), handicrafts (e.g., Banarasi silk), textiles, metalware, and food processing**.
- ◆ **Financial Support**: The PMFME Scheme provides **credit-linked subsidies (up to 35% of project cost)** for micro food processing units focusing on ODOP products.
- ◆ **Infrastructure**: The government is **establishing PM Ekta Malls (Unity Malls) in every state to provide dedicated retail space for ODOP and Geographical Indication (GI) products**.

## 3. Shri Narayan Ramachandran Committee

#### In News

- ◆ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) **constituted a high-level expert committee formally known as the Committee for Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG)**.
- ◆ **It was chaired by Shri Narayan Ramachandran**,
- ◆ **Mandate** - The committee is tasked with a comprehensive review to **modernise the investment framework of the National Pension System (NPS)**.
- ◆ National Pension System (NPS)
- ◆ It is a voluntary, market-linked **retirement savings scheme regulated by PFRDA for Indian citizens aged 18-70**.
- ◆ **It encourages systematic savings to provide a regular pension income post-retirement**.

## 4. Coconut, Chocolate, Cashew Get Special Attention in Budget 2026-27

#### Context

- ◆ The Union Budget 2026–27 places renewed **emphasis on high-value agriculture, with targeted support for coconut, cashew, cocoa, sandalwood, and select nut crops to enhance farmer incomes and export competitiveness**.

#### Coconut Production

- ◆ **Type of Plant**: Coconut is a **perennial** plantation crop and a **monocotyledonous** palm belonging to the **family Arecaceae**.
- ◆ Coconut is **native to the Indo-Pacific region**, with its **origin** commonly traced to **Southeast Asia**.
- ◆ **Climatic Requirements**: Coconut requires a warm and humid tropical climate for optimal growth. It grows best in regions with temperatures ranging between **25°C and 30°C** and **requires high and evenly distributed rainfall**.
- ◆ **Soil Requirements**: Coconut thrives in well-drained **sandy loam, alluvial, laterite, and coastal soils**.
- ◆ **Distribution in India**: It predominantly grows in **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, and West Bengal**.

#### Cocoa Production

- ◆ **Type of Plant**: Cocoa is an evergreen **perennial**

**tree crop** belonging to the family **Malvaceae**.

- ◆ Cocoa is **native to the Upper Amazon Basin of South America**. It was **introduced to Asia and Africa during the colonial period** for commercial cultivation.
- ◆ **Climatic Requirements:** Cocoa requires a warm, humid, and equatorial type of climate. It grows best in areas with temperatures between **21°C and 32°C** and with **well-distributed rainfall throughout the year**.
- ◆ **Soil Requirements:** Cocoa grows well in **deep, fertile, and well-drained loamy soils** rich in organic matter.
- ◆ **Cultivation Pattern in India:** Major producing states include **Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh**.

### **Cashew Production**

- ◆ **Type of Plant:** Cashew is an **evergreen tropical tree crop belonging to the family Anacardiaceae**.
- ◆ The cashew tree (*Anacardium occidentale*) is **native to the coastal regions of northeastern Brazil in South America**.
- ◆ **Portuguese explorers introduced it to India and Africa in the 16th century**.
- ◆ **Climatic Requirements:** Cashew requires a tropical climate with a pronounced dry season. It grows best in areas with temperatures between **20°C and 35°C** and **moderate to high rainfall**.
- ◆ **Soil Requirements:** Cashew can grow in **laterite, red sandy, and coastal soils** and performs well even on poor and degraded land.
- ◆ **Distribution in India:** **Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, and Tamil Nadu**.

## 5. Bharat-VISTAAR

### **Context**

- ◆ The Union budget 2026-27 has proposed 'Bharat-VISTAAR' (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources)

### **Bharat-VISTAAR**

- ◆ It is a multilingual AI tool that aims to **provide information to farmers in their own language on crop planning, packages of practices and pests**, weather forecasts, markets, scheme information, eligibility, application, and grievance.
- ◆ It shall **integrate the AgriStack portals and**

**the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) package on agricultural practices with AI systems.**

- ◆ **Significance** - This will **enhance farm productivity, will lead to better farmer decision making and reduce risk** through customized advisory support for the farmer.
- ◆ The Finance Minister allocated **Rs 150 crore for the Bharat-VISTAAR for the next financial year (2026-27)**.

### **Additional information - AgriStack portal**

- ◆ It is a **centralized digital ecosystem** developed by the Government of India to **streamline agricultural services**.
- ◆ It creates a **unique Farmer ID (similar to Aadhaar)** that links a **farmer's identity, land records, and crop data into one secure digital "passport"**.

### **Core Components**

- ◆ **Farmer Registry:** A database providing **unique digital identities to farmers**.
- ◆ **Crop Sown Registry:** A standardized **national database tracking seasonal crop patterns**.
- ◆ **Geo-referenced Village Maps:** Precision mapping that links land parcels with geographic coordinates.

### **Key Benefits**

- ◆ **Direct Benefits:** Faster access to **PM-KISAN subsidies, crop insurance (PMFBY), and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans**.
- ◆ **Paperless Access:** Once registered, **land records are digitally verified**, reducing the need for physical documents in future applications.
- ◆ **Market Connectivity:** Direct links to buyers and **real-time market price updates via platforms like e-NAM**.

## 6. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

### **In News**

- ◆ **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) has sanctioned ₹80,224.15 crore in loans for over 1.5 lakh projects**, mobilising investments of ₹1.27 lakh crore since 2020.

### **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**

- ◆ It is a **central sector scheme**
- ◆ **Objective** - to mobilize medium and long-term debt financing for the development of **post-harvest management infrastructure**

### and community farming assets.

- ◆ It focuses on strengthening agri-logistics, reducing post-harvest losses, promoting modern storage, processing and value-addition facilities and improving farm-gate level infrastructure for efficient supply chains.

## 7. Vizhinjam Port

### News

- ◆ Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala has risen to the 83rd position globally in container handling, reflecting the rapid scale-up of India's newest deep water transshipment hub.

### Vizhinjam Port

- ◆ Location: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- ◆ Key Features: One of the deepest ports in India.
- ◆ Capable of handling Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCVs).
- ◆ Developed under the Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) model.
- ◆ **Significance:** Efficient cargo movement, reduces India's dependence on foreign ports like Colombo (Sri Lanka), Singapore, and UAE for transshipment, strengthens India's maritime security

## 8. Network Readiness Index Report 2025

### Context

- ◆ India is placed at 45th rank (with score 54.43 out of 100) as per the Network Readiness Index 2025 report released in 2026.

### Network Readiness Index Report 2025

- ◆ **Published by** - Portulans Institute, an independent, non-profit research and educational institute based in Washington DC.
- ◆ **Objective** - The report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 127 economies based on their performance in four pillars: **Technology, People, Governance and Impact**, covering a total of 53 indicators.
- ◆ **Top Three Nations:** USA, Finland, Singapore

## 9. CPI January, 2026 (Provisional) at Base year 2024=100 Released

### Context

- ◆ The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation has released the provisional Consumer Price Index (CPI) with Base 2024=100.

### About

- ◆ The base has been revised from 2012 to 2024 using Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24.

### Consumer Price Index (CPI):

- ◆ It measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for a basket of goods and services over time i.e., it tracks retail inflation.
- ◆ Tracks cost of living and purchasing power.
- ◆ Includes items like food, housing, clothing, transport, etc.
- ◆ It is published monthly, the earlier base year: 2012 which is revised to 2024.
- ◆ Released By: NSO, MoSPI.

## 10. Lead Bank Scheme (LBS)

### In News

- ◆ The RBI's proposed guidelines aim to strengthen and streamline the Lead Bank Scheme by clearly defining the structure, membership, and roles of various committees

### Lead Bank Scheme (LBS)

- ◆ It is an institutional mechanism introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December 1969
- ◆ **Objective** - to coordinate banking and development activities at the district level.
- ◆ **Significance** - It aims to enhance credit flow to priority sectors like agriculture and MSMEs, reduce regional imbalances, and promote overall rural development.
- ◆ As of February 2026, the RBI has proposed a major overhaul of the scheme through new draft guidelines to modernize its operations for the digital age.

### Core Objectives

- ◆ Area Approach: Adopting a specific geographical area (the district) as the basic unit for intensive banking development.
- ◆ Financial Inclusion: Expanding banking services to unbanked and underbanked rural and semi-urban populations.
- ◆ Coordinated Planning: Acting as a "consortium leader" to align the efforts of commercial banks, regional rural banks (RRBs), cooperative banks, and government agencies.
- ◆ Credit Deployment: Ensuring credit reaches productive sectors to improve local income levels and productivity.

## 11. Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

### In News

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0) with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore
- Objective** - to mobilise venture capital for the country's rapidly expanding startup ecosystem.

### Venture capital

- Definition** - It is funding provided to emerging companies by wealthy individuals or institutional investors (venture capitalists) seeking long-term growth.
- It is **high-risk but potentially high-return** and can be provided through equity, debentures, or conditional loans.

### Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0)

- Objective** - to mobilise venture capital for the country's rapidly expanding startup ecosystem.

### Additional Information - Startup India

- Launched on** - January 16, 2016.
- Objective** - to promote entrepreneurship and enable investment-driven growth.

### India's Startup Ecosystem

- India has rapidly evolved into one of the world's largest startup ecosystems, with more than 2 lakh startups as of 2025 .
- India has the 3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world.
- Major hubs like **Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR** have been at the forefront of this transformation.
- India has over **120 unicorns with a valuation exceeding \$350 billion**.
- Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 ranking:** It provides performance metrics and ranks around 140 economies on their innovation ecosystems.
- India has made a steady climb from 48 rank in 2020 to 38 in 2025.

## 12. Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP)

### In News

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the **supply of rice in support of global**

humanitarian operations aimed at combating hunger.

### World Food Programme

- It was established in 1961.
- Mandate** - It serves as the United Nations' primary food-assistance branch and the world's largest humanitarian organization focused on combating hunger and enhancing global food security.

### Food Corporation of India (FCI)

- It is a statutory body established under the Food Corporations Act, 1964.
- It functions under India's Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Objective** - It ensures national food security via procurement, storage, distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS), and buffer stock management for contingencies like droughts or floods.
- Headquartered in New Delhi.**

## 13. Municipal Bonds

### In News

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) recently organized a high-level consultation to deepen India's municipal bond market, aligning with efforts to boost urban infrastructure financing.

### Municipal Bonds

- Municipal bonds are **marketable debt instruments issued by ULBs**, either directly or via intermediaries like corporate municipal entities or special purpose vehicles.
- First issued by Bengaluru in 1997, they finance capital projects (e.g., water supply, sewerage), refinance loans, and cover working capital needs.

## 14. Bharat GI

### In News

- 'Bharat GI', a national initiative to promote India's Geographical Indication-tagged products globally, was highlighted at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

### Bharat GI

- It serves as an **umbrella brand showcasing unique Indian GI products** like Coorg coffee and Darjeeling tea on international platforms.
- It is **launched by** the Department for Promotion

of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), **Ministry of Commerce**.

- ◆ It leverages digital tools, including AI-driven traceability and market analytics, to connect artisans directly with global buyers.

#### **Additional Information - 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.

### **15. International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)**

#### **In News**

- ◆ The US Supreme Court ruled that President Trump lacked authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 to impose broad import tariffs, citing limits on presidential power over taxation and the "major questions" doctrine.

#### **International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)**

- ◆ Enacted in 1977,
- ◆ It empowers the President to address "unusual and extraordinary" foreign threats to national security, foreign policy, or the

economy after declaring a national emergency.

- ◆ In response, the President invoked **Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974** to proclaim a **new 10% temporary tariff on goods from all countries**, effective immediately, as a balance-of-payments measure.

### **16. Prime Minister Launches Full Delhi-Meerut RRTS Corridor**

#### **News**

- ◆ The Prime Minister inaugurated India's first **Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** and dedicated the **82-km Delhi-Meerut Namu Bharat Corridor** to the nation.

#### **Namo Bharat**

- ◆ It is India's first **Regional Rail** connecting key urban nodes across the **National Capital Region** via high-speed rail corridors (82-km long corridor).
- ◆ It is a **rail-based, high-speed, high-frequency and sustainable transit system** with a design speed of **180 Kmph** and an average speed of **100 Kmph** which aims at bringing people and places closer to NCR.
- ◆ **Implementing agency** - **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)**.
- ◆ **Significance**- **Bharat will provide fast, safe, and comfortable regional commute** and encourage more people to switch to public transport by way of seamless integration among public transit systems in the region.

### **17. Biopharma Shakti**

#### **Context**

- ◆ India announced a massive investment of ₹10,000 crore in the Union Budget 2026-27 for the biotechnology sector.

#### **Biopharma Shakti**

- ◆ The aim is to **focus on boosting the production of biologics and biosimilars** through a new initiative called the Biopharma Shakti.
- ◆ The initiative aligns with the aim of **transforming India into a leading global biopharma industry and capturing 5% of the global biopharmaceutical market share**.
- ◆ The initiative is designed to support **domestic development and manufacturing of high-value biopharmaceutical products and medicines**, reduce import dependence, and enhance India's competitiveness in global

biologics supply chains.

- ◆ Biopharma involves production, manufacturing, or extraction of therapies through biological organisms, such as human cells, fungi, or microbes.
- ◆ Some examples of biopharmaceuticals include vaccines, antibody treatments, gene therapies, cell implants, modern insulin, and recombinant protein drugs.

## 18. India's First Musical Road

### Context

- ◆ Mumbai's Coastal Road has introduced India's first musical road

### India's First Musical Road

- ◆ A 500-metre stretch between Nariman Point and Worli, named **Sangeet Marg**, plays the Oscar-winning song "Jai Ho" when vehicles travel at a speed of 60–80 km per hour.
- ◆ The concept uses specially engineered rumble strips carved into the asphalt at precise intervals.
- ◆ As vehicles move over these grooves, vibrations are generated due to friction between the tyres and the road surface.
- ◆ These vibrations create sound waves that combine to reproduce the melody, which can be heard by passengers inside the vehicle.
- ◆ The concept is based on Hungarian technology and has previously been implemented in countries such as Hungary, Japan, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

### 1. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission

#### Context

- ◆ The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY NRLM) is transitioning into a new phase, often referred to as **NRLM 2.0**, and prepares for the next five-year cycle (2026–27 to 2030–31).

#### Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

- ◆ **Launch:** It was launched in 2010 by restructuring the earlier Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the initiative was renamed in 2016 as Deendayal Antyodaya

**Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).**

- ◆ **Financing - It is a centrally sponsored scheme.**
- ◆ **Aim - to reduce rural poverty through self-employment and skilled wage employment.**
- ◆ **Women Centric Model:** The mission promotes economic independence by **linking women to credit, markets, and technology through SHGs and federations.**

### 2. NAMASTE Scheme

#### In News

- ◆ For the first time, the **Union government has released nationwide enumeration data of waste-pickers under the NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme.**

#### National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)

- ◆ Launched in - July 2023
- ◆ **Financing - Central Sector Scheme**
- ◆ **Implemented by - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs,**

#### Objectives:

- ◆ Zero fatalities in sanitation work.
- ◆ All sanitation operations to be performed by skilled workers.
- ◆ No direct contact with human faecal matter.
- ◆ Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

#### Key Interventions:

- ◆ **Profiling:** Digital profiling of Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs).
- ◆ **Safety:** Providing PPE kits, safety devices, and training to workers.
- ◆ **Empowerment:** Capital subsidy for purchasing sanitation machinery to become "sanipreneurs".
- ◆ **Health:** Occupational safety training and health insurance.
- ◆ **Significance: Aligns with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and promotes the dignity and safety of sanitation workers.**

### 3. Jiyo Parsi Scheme

#### In News

- ◆ The Jiyo Parsi Scheme has supported the birth of over 490 Parsi children and provided ₹35.05 crore in financial assistance to Parsi couples

### 📄 **Parsi Community in India**

- ◆ According to the 2011 Census of India, the **Parsi population in the country was 57,264.**
- ◆ This represented a **significant decrease of approximately 22% from the 2001 census figure of 69,601.**

### 📄 **Jiyo Parsi Scheme**

- ◆ **Launched in - 2013-14**
- ◆ **Objective - to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population** by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions.

### 📄 **The scheme has three components:**

- ◆ **Medical Assistance:** Provides **financial aid for infertility treatments** such as IVF, ICSI, surrogacy, and post-conception care.
- ◆ **Advocacy:** Provides for **counselling of couples with fertility issues**
- ◆ **Health of the Community:** Offers monthly financial support to Parsi couples with children as well as to dependent elderly members.

## 4. GOBARDhan Scheme

### 📄 **In News**

- ◆ **The GOBARDhan scheme is contributing significantly to the rural economy** by creating employment opportunities, increasing farmers' income, developing a manure and bio-energy supply chain, and supporting rural infrastructure development.

### 📄 **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARDhan) scheme**

- ◆ It was **launched in 2018** under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)
- ◆ **Objective - It aims to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.**
- ◆ **Significance - The main focus of GOBAR-Dhan is to keep villages clean, increase the income of rural households, and generate energy and organic manure from cattle waste.**

## 5. Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)

### 📄 **In News**

- ◆ PM VIKAS has allocated targets to train about 1.51 lakh beneficiaries through Project Implementing Agencies across States and UTs.

### 📄 **Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)**

- ◆ **Financing - Central Sector Scheme**
- ◆ **Implementation - Ministry of Minority Affairs**
- ◆ It converges five erstwhile schemes viz. 'Seekho Aur Kamao', 'Nai Manzil', 'Nai Roshni' and 'USTTAD' & 'Hamari Dharohar'.
- ◆ **Aim - It focuses on upliftment of six notified minority communities through skill development; entrepreneurship and leadership of minority women; and education support for school dropouts.**

### 📄 **Do you know?**

- ◆ **Six officially recognized minority groups in India** —Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians (Parsis)—on socio-economic fronts.

## 6. Vibrant Villages Programme–II

### 📄 **In News**

- ◆ The Vibrant Villages Programme–II is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Union Home Minister at Nathanpur village in Assam's Cachar district.

### 📄 **Vibrant Village Programme(VVP)**

- ◆ **Launched by - Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**
- ◆ **Aim:** To enhance **infrastructure in villages along India's border** with China, in states like **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh.**
- ◆ **Activities under the VVP include:** building infrastructuresuchashousing,touristcentres, road connectivity, providing decentralized renewable energy, direct-to-home access for Doordarshan and educational channels, and support for livelihood generation.

## 7. Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Scheme

### 📄 **Context**

- ◆ The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament criticised the government for implementation of the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) scheme.

**SANKALP Scheme**

- ♦ **Implementation - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.**
- ♦ It was **launched in 2018,**
- ♦ It was designed to **strengthen short-term skill training through better institutional frameworks,** enhanced industry linkages, and targeted inclusion of marginalised communities.
- ♦ **Funding:** The scheme was slated to be **financed through a World Bank loan of ₹3,300 crore,** State leverage of ₹660 crore, and industry leverage of ₹495 crore.

**8. PRASHAD Scheme**

**In News**

- ♦ Union Civil Aviation Minister announced plans to **enhance pilgrimage tourism in Andhra Pradesh under the PRASHAD scheme.**

**Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Scheme**

- ♦ **Launched in - 2014–2015**
- ♦ **Financing - Central Sector Scheme**
- ♦ **Implementation - Ministry of Tourism**
- ♦ **Objective-** It focuses on **developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India** to enrich the religious tourism experience.
- ♦ **Significance - It improved infrastructure in tourism areas—roads, transport, sanitation, and utilities—and** enhanced both residents’ quality of life and the overall experience for tourists.

**HEALTH AND SOCIETY**

**1. Sickle Cell Disease**

**Context**

- ♦ The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) has granted Orphan Drug Designation (ODD) to treat Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

**Orphan Drug Designation**

- ♦ Orphan drugs are pharmaceutical agents developed specifically to **treat rare (orphan) diseases.**
- ♦ Once designated, orphan drugs receive several incentives to encourage their development, including market exclusivity, tax credits for research and development (R&D) expenses, and

fee waivers for regulatory applications.

**Sickle cell anaemia**

- ♦ **Disease - It is an inherited group of blood disorders that is genetic in nature.**
- ♦ **Cause - It is caused by a mutation in the hemoglobin- $\beta$  gene found on chromosome 11.** This mutation results in defective haemoglobin (Hb).
- ♦ **Characteristics - After giving up oxygen, these defective Hb molecules cluster together resulting in formation of rod like structures.**
- ♦ **The red blood cells become stiff and assume sickle shape.** (Haemoglobin (Hb) is a protein found in the red blood cells that carries oxygen in your body and gives blood its red colour)
- ♦ **Transmission - It is usually transferred from the parents to the child during birth** i.e. both parents can be carriers of SCDs.
- ♦ **Symptoms - Babies who are born with sickle cell anaemia might not show symptoms for many months.**
- ♦ **Extreme tiredness, fussiness and painfully swollen hands and feet and jaundice.**
- ♦ **Effects - The misshapen cells lack plasticity and can block small blood vessels, impairing blood flow.**
- ♦ The sickle cells die prematurely, resulting in a chronic lack of red blood cells (anaemia), often called sickle-cell anaemia.
- ♦ **Treatment - Medication, blood transfusions and rarely a bone-marrow transplant are done.**

**2. Kyasanur Forest Disease**

**In News**

- ♦ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is steadily progressing towards the development of an improved vaccine against Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD).

**Kyasanur Forest Disease**

- ♦ **Origin :** First identified in **1957 in Karnataka’s Kyasanur Forest,** it is commonly known as **Monkey Fever.**
- ♦ **Type:** It is a tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever caused by the **Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (family Flaviviridae).**
- ♦ **Transmission:** Spread to humans via **tick bites** (mainly Haemaphysalis spinigera) or **contact with infected animals,** particularly sick or dead monkeys.

- ◆ **No person-to-person transmission exists.**
- ◆ **Seasonality:** Epidemics usually last from October to June, with a peak period between January and April.
- ◆ **Symptoms: Sudden high fever, headache, and vomiting;** severe cases may involve bleeding (hemorrhagic) and neurological issues.
- ◆ **Mortality:** The disease has a **fatality rate of approximately 5% to 10%.**
- ◆ **Treatment: There is no cure;** management relies on supportive care (hydration, oxygen, and maintaining blood pressure).
- ◆ **Prevention:** A vaccine is available and widely recommended in affected regions of India.

### 3. Bihar's Ban on Open Sale of Meat

#### Context

- ◆ The Bihar government announced a ban on open-air and unlicensed meat sales in urban areas.

#### About

- ◆ **It prohibits the sale of meat and fish in open spaces, such as roadsides, weekly markets or public thoroughfares, within urban municipal areas.**
- ◆ **Sales are now restricted to licenced shops that comply with hygiene standards** such as proper waste disposal.
- ◆ Violations can **attract penalties under the Bihar Municipal Act, 2007,** including fines, seizure of goods and shop closures.
- ◆ **Other States:** Many states have regulations calling for licensed and enclosed sale of meat and fish. These states include Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand.

### 4. India's Indigenous Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine

#### Context

- ◆ The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched the **indigenously manufactured Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine** at the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh.

#### Td Vaccine

- ◆ **The Td vaccine protects against tetanus and diphtheria,** two potentially fatal bacterial diseases.
- ◆ **It replaces the earlier Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccine, expanding protection to include**

#### diphtheria.

- ◆ In 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that countries transition from Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccine to Td vaccine.

#### Tetanus

- ◆ Tetanus is a **non-contagious infection that affects the nervous system,** leading to **painful muscle stiffness and spasms.**
- ◆ **Cause:** It is caused by the bacterium **Clostridium tetani,** which is commonly found in **soil, dust, and animal manure.**
- ◆ **Transmission:** The bacteria typically **enter the body through a break in the skin, such as a deep cut, puncture wound** (like stepping on a rusty nail), or burn.

#### Diphtheria

- ◆ **Diphtheria** is a highly contagious infection that primarily **affects the mucous membranes of the nose and throat.**
- ◆ The **toxin released by the bacteria can travel through the bloodstream and damage the heart (myocarditis), kidneys, and nerves.**
- ◆ **Cause:** It is caused by **Corynebacterium diphtheriae** bacteria.
- ◆ **Transmission:** It spreads from **person to person through respiratory droplets (coughing or sneezing)** or by touching contaminated objects.

## GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Hirakud Wetland

#### Context

- ◆ The Hirakud wetland in Sambalpur district of Odisha has recorded the arrival of 4.21 lakh birds during the current migratory season.

#### Hirakud Wetland

- ◆ **Location:** The wetland is **part of the Hirakud Reservoir,** one of the largest man-made reservoirs in India, **built across the Mahanadi River** with a total length of almost 26 kilometres.
- ◆ The reservoir also produces around **350 megawatts of hydropower and irrigates 436,000 hectares of land.**
- ◆ **Biodiversity Hotspot:** It is a critical stopover for birds along the **Central Asian Flyway, hosting 128 species of birds.**

- ◆ **Birds Species - Pintail, Shoveler, Teal, Pochard, Bar-headed Goose, and rare Eurasian species like Ruffs.**
- ◆ **Ramsar Site:** It was designated a Ramsar site of global ecological importance in 2021.
- ◆ **Note -** As of February 2026, India has 98 Ramsar Sites, with the total rising following the addition of the Patna Bird Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh) and Chhari-Dhand (Gujarat).

## 2. Bactrian Camels



### Context

- ◆ Two majestic Bactrian camels named ‘Galwan’ and ‘Nubra’, were showcased at the Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path.
- ◆ ‘Galwan’ and ‘Nubra’ are named after places in the cold desert of Ladakh, the only place in India where this species is found.

### Bactrian camels (Camelus bactrianus)

- ◆ The name “Bactrian” comes from a region (former kingdom conquered by Alexander the Great) located between Afghanistan, Iran, and Kazakhstan.
- ◆ It is a double-humped camel, also called the Asian or Mongolian camel and is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- ◆ It is mainly found in Northern Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, India, with the largest domestic population in China.
- ◆ Bactrian camels are considered omnivorous; however, they are primarily herbivorous, feeding on a wide selection of vegetation, even those that other animals might refuse, such as thorny, tough, or dry plants.
- ◆ Bactrian camels, known as the ‘Ships of the Silk Road’, were crucial for crossing the harsh

trade routes of Central Asia.

## 3. Lonar lake

### Context

- ◆ There has been a steady water rise by 20 Feet in the water levels of Lonar Lake.

### Lonar Lake

- ◆ **Location -** Lonar Lake, also known as Lonar crater, is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument, saline, soda lake, located at Lonar in Buldhana district, Maharashtra.
- ◆ **Formation -** It is situated inside the Deccan Plateau—a massive plain of volcanic basalt rock created by eruptions.
- ◆ It is believed to have been created over 52,000 years ago when a meteorite hit the Earth.

### Did u Know?

#### Geo-heritage Monument

- ◆ Geo-heritage refers to the geological features which are inherently or culturally significant offering insight to earth’s evolution or history to earth science or that can be utilized for education.
- ◆ Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the parent body which is making efforts towards identification and protection of geo-heritage sites.

## 4. Carbon Capture Push in Union Budget 2026

### Context

- ◆ The Union Budget 2026–27 announced a ₹20,000 crore push for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) over five years to support India’s climate transition.

### Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)

- ◆ CCUS refers to technologies that capture carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes and power generation.
- ◆ The captured CO<sub>2</sub> is either stored underground in geological formations or utilised in products such as chemicals, fuels, or construction materials.

### CCUS supports India’s commitment to:

- ◆ Achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.
- ◆ To reduce emission from industries such as steel, aluminium, cement and fertilizers.

- ◆ If these industries decarbonise their production processes, they may escape the tax burden under Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

#### India's Emission Reductions Commitments

- ◆ India has launched the **LiFE mission (Lifestyle for Environment)** and updated its **NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions)** under the **Paris Agreement**.

#### Under its updated NDC 2022, India pledges:

1. 45% reduction in emissions intensity (amount of CO<sub>2</sub> per unit of GDP) by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.
2. 50% of installed electricity capacity will come from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
3. Creating a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (GtCO<sub>2</sub>e) by increasing forests and tree cover.

## 5. Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026



#### In News

- ◆ The **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has notified the **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026**, superseding the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

#### Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026

- ◆ The rules have been **notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** and will come into full effect from **April 1, 2026**.
- ◆ The rules provide for the **levy of environmental compensation** based on the **'Polluter Pays' principle for non-compliance**, including cases of **operating without registration, false reporting, submission of forged documents** or improper solid waste management practices.
- ◆ The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** will prepare the relevant guidelines, while **State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control**

**Committees will levy the environmental compensation.**

#### Major Features

- ◆ **Four-stream Segregation of Solid Waste at Source** has been made mandatory under the SWM Rules, 2026.
  1. **Wet waste** includes kitchen waste, vegetables, fruit peels, meat, flowers, etc., which shall be composted or processed through bi-methanation at the nearest facility.
  2. **Dry waste** comprises plastic, paper, metal, glass, wood and rubber, etc., and shall be transported to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for sorting and recycling.
  3. **Sanitary waste** includes used diapers, sanitary towels, tampons and condoms, etc., which shall be securely wrapped and stored separately.
  4. **Special care waste** includes paint cans, bulbs, mercury thermometers and medicines, etc., which shall be collected by authorised agencies or deposited at designated collection centres
- ◆ **Clear definition of Bulk Waste Generators:** Bulk Waste Generators include entities with a **floor area of 20,000 square metres or more, or water consumption of 40,000 litres per day or more, or solid waste generation of 100 kg per day or more.**
- ◆ **Faster Land Allocation for Waste Processing and Online Monitoring of Complete Solid Waste Management**
- ◆ **Duties of Local Bodies and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs):** Under the revised rules, **local bodies must collect, segregate, and transport solid waste in coordination with Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs).**

## 6. Sarus Cranes Census data



**In News**

- ♦ The population of sarus cranes in Uttar Pradesh has gone up by 634 or 3.1% in a year, as per a government census.

**Sarus crane**

- ♦ It is the **tallest flying bird in the world standing 152-156 cm tall** with a wingspan of 240cm.
- ♦ **Nature:** It is a social creature, found mostly in **pairs or small groups of three or four.**
- ♦ It is **Known to mate for life with a single partner, its breeding season coincides with heavy rainfall in monsoon.**
- ♦ **Habitat and Distribution:** The Sarus habitat is outside protected areas, in **natural wetlands with low water depth, marshy and fallow areas and agricultural fields.**
- ♦ The Sarus crane has three disjunct populations in the Indian sub-continent, south-east Asia and northern Australia.
- ♦ In the Indian subcontinent, it is found in **northern and central India, Terai Nepal and Pakistan.**
- ♦ It was once a **common site in the paddy fields of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.**
- ♦ But **now it is mainly concentrated in Uttar Pradesh.**
- ♦ **Ecological Role :** They play a vital role in ecological balance by **controlling the population of harmful insects.** Sarus is **omnivorous, feeding on fish and insects, as well as roots and plants.**
- ♦ **Protection status :** Listed in Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and as **Vulnerable on IUCN Red List**

**7. NDMA’s First-ever Guidelines For Identification of Disaster Victims**

**In News**

- ♦ Recently, the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has released the country’s first-ever Standard Operating Procedure with **guidelines for the identification of victims in the event of “mass fatality incidents”.**

**National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**

- ♦ Headed by - Prime Minister of India.
- ♦ It is the apex body for **Disaster Management in India.**
- ♦ It was established under the **Disaster**

**Management Act, 2005.**

- ♦ **Objective** - It is responsible for **formulating policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management** and promoting an ethos of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response.

**8. Mountain Gorillas**

**Context**

- ♦ Rare twin mountain gorillas were recently born in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

**Mountain gorillas (Gorilla beringei beringei)**

- ♦ They are a **subspecies of the eastern gorilla**, one of the two gorilla species found globally (eastern and western gorillas).
- ♦ In the wild, **gorillas can live for over 40 years, and humans share nearly 98% DNA** with them.
- ♦ **Habitat and Distribution:** They live at **elevations of about 8,000–13,000 feet** and have **thicker fur than other great apes** to adapt to cold mountain climates.
- ♦ They are typically found in **Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa.**
- ♦ **Diet mainly includes leaves, shoots, and stems, along with insects, roots, bark, and decaying wood** as a source of minerals.
- ♦ **Conservation Status and Population:** **Endangered (IUCN Red List);** estimated population is around **1,063 individuals in the wild.**

**9. Reticulated Python**



**Context**

- ♦ Guinness World Records has confirmed a **7.22-metre female reticulated python named Ibu Baron or “The Baroness”,** from Sulawesi, Indonesia, as the longest measured snake in the world.

### **Reticulated Python**

- ♦ **Scientific Name:** Malayopython reticulatus
- ♦ The species is **native to South and Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and parts of India.**

### **Physical Characteristics:**

- ♦ It is the **longest snake species in the world.**
- ♦ It is among the **three heaviest snake species, after the green anaconda and Burmese python.**
- ♦ It has **distinctive net-like (reticulated) patterns on its scales.**
- ♦ **Human Predation:** Reticulated pythons are among the few snake species known to prey on humans.
- ♦ **They kill by constriction, suffocating their prey before swallowing it whole.**

## **10. Mangrove clam (Geloina erosa)**



### **In News**

- ♦ **ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute achieved a global first by inducing captive breeding of Geloina erosa (mangrove/mud clam), offering hope for restoring overexploited populations in Indian mangroves.**

### **About**

- ♦ Geloina erosa (also Polymesoda erosa) is a large bivalve (up to 10 cm shell width) inhabiting organic-rich, muddy intertidal zones of mangroves and estuaries across South and Southeast Asia.
- ♦ It is **known locally as “Kandal Kakka” in northern Kerala.**
- ♦ It acts as an **efficient filter feeder, improving estuarine water quality through nutrient recycling.**
- ♦ Its burrowing behaviour stabilises sediments, enhances nutrient cycling, and strengthens

mangrove ecosystem resilience.

## **11. Protest Against Ken-Betwa Linking Project**

### **Context**

- ♦ Protests against the Ken–Betwa River Linking Project (KBLP), highlighting tensions over the implementation of the river interlinking project.

### **Ken-Betwa Link Project**

- ♦ It is a project proposed to **transfer excess water from the River Ken to the Betwa basin** through the use of a concrete canal.
- ♦ **Objective** - to **provide irrigation to the Bundelkhand region of UP**, which is one of the worst drought-affected areas in India.
- ♦ **Beneficiary states** - **Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.**
- ♦ **Significance** - It will meet the **irrigation purposes, drinking water, and electricity needs** of 6 districts in both states.
- ♦ **Biodiversity Concerns** - Nearly 8,650 hectares of forest land including part of **Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh will be submerged if the project were to become a reality.**

## **12. Rajaji National Park**

### **In News**

- ♦ The Supreme Court cleared the metalling of the 11.5-km Laldhang-Chillarkhal road project through Rajaji National Park.

### **Rajaji National Park**

- ♦ It was **established in 1983** by merging the Rajaji, Motichur, and Chilla sanctuaries.
- ♦ It was **named in honor of freedom fighter and India’s first Governor-General, C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji).**
- ♦ **Location** - It is located in the **Himalayan foothills near Haridwar, Rishikesh, and Dehradun.**
- ♦ **Rivers** - It features diverse **vegetation and rich biodiversity**, with the **Ganga and Son rivers** flowing through it.
- ♦ It is home to **elephants, tigers, leopards, deer, ghorals, and numerous bird species**, making it a paradise for nature lovers.

## **13. ‘Anupam’ model of Waste Management**

### **Context**

- ♦ Following the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) decision to eliminate the household

waste, **Anupam Colonies** now segregate and process waste within their own premises.

#### 📖 **'Anupam' model of Waste Management**

- ♦ It is a **decentralized waste management strategy** launched by the **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)** in 2025
- ♦ **Objective** - to achieve **zero-waste, self-sustainable urban living**.
- ♦ The **Hindi word Anupam** was chosen to reflect that these colonies are **"incomparable" in their waste practices**.

#### 📖 **Core Principles & Features**

- ♦ **Uniqueness-** The model shifts the focus from **traditional centralized waste disposal to on-site resource management**.
- ♦ **100% Source Segregation:** Residents must divide waste into three primary streams: wet, dry, and sanitary.

#### 📖 **Scientific Processing:**

- ♦ **Wet Waste:** Composted on-site using wire-mesh bins or Organic Waste Converters (OWC).
- ♦ **Dry Waste:** Meticulously sorted into 12 different categories (e.g., paper, metal, glass, e-waste) at local Material Recovery Facilities (MRF).
- ♦ **Horticulture Waste:** Converted into compost or eco-friendly briquettes within the colony.
- ♦ **Community-Led Governance:** Management is handled by Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and NGOs rather than a top-down municipal approach.
- ♦ **RRR Centers & "Neki Ki Deewar":** **Dedicated hubs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)** where residents donate usable items like clothes and books for those in need.
- ♦ **Waste-to-Wealth:** Produced compost is distributed free of cost to residents, while income from selling recyclables often funds colony repairs

### 14. Japan's 'God's Crossing'



#### 📖 **Context**

- ♦ A centuries-old winter phenomenon known as **"Miwatari" (God's Crossing)** at **Lake Suwa** has failed to appear for several consecutive years, signalling the growing impact of climate change in East Asia.

#### 📖 **'Miwatari'**

- ♦ **"Miwatari"** refers to a **natural ice ridge that forms when the entire surface of Lake Suwa freezes**.
- ♦ It occurs after several days of **temperatures below -10°C**.
- ♦ **Thermal expansion and contraction of the frozen surface creates cracks; newly formed ice shards push upward, forming a raised ridge**.
- ♦ Traditionally, it is believed to mark the path of a deity crossing the lake to visit his consort.

#### 📖 **Evidence of Climate Change**

- ♦ **Miwatari appeared almost every winter until the 1980s**, but its frequency has sharply declined since then and it has **not appeared at Lake Suwa since 2018**.
- ♦ **Morning winter temperatures increasingly fail to drop** low enough for complete lake freezing.

### 15. Kamala Hydroelectric Project

#### 📖 **In News**

- ♦ Recently, the expert panel of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India** has recommended clearance for **Kamala hydroelectric project** in **Arunachal Pradesh**, which will require felling 23.4 lakh trees.

#### 📖 **Kamala Hydroelectric Project**

- ♦ It is a **multipurpose project** with the objectives of **power generation and flood moderation**.
- ♦ It is proposed by the **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited**.
- ♦ It is located on the **Kamla river**, a right-bank tributary of **Subansiri** which is **Brahmaputra's tributary**.

## 16. Cheer Pheasant



### In News

- ◆ BirdLife International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified the cheer pheasant as ‘Vulnerable’.

### Cheer Pheasant

- ◆ **Scientific name-** *Catreus wallichii*. It is also known as Wallich’s pheasant or Chir pheasant,
- ◆ **Habitat-** It is a **ground-dwelling bird endemic to the Western Himalayas**. It is found in Pakistan, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and central Nepal
- ◆ **Diet:** Feeds mainly on roots, tubers, bulbs, seeds, berries, and occasionally insects or worms.
- ◆ **Behaviour:** Known for high natal philopatry, meaning individuals often return to their birthplace to breed. They are predominantly monogamous.
- ◆ **Threats:** Hunting, habitat degradation (conversion of grasslands to agriculture), and forest fires during the breeding season (April–June) which destroy ground nests.
- ◆ **Conservation Breeding:** An exclusive breeding centre is located at Chail, Himachal Pradesh.

### Conservation Status

1. IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.
2. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I (highest legal protection in India).
3. CITES: Appendix I.

## 17. Bee Corridor

### In News

- ◆ In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has

unveiled an ambitious plan to create dedicated “bee corridors” along India’s national highways.

### Bee Corridor

- ◆ It aims to establish continuous **linear stretches of bee-friendly vegetation** featuring carefully selected flowering trees and plants.
- ◆ Unlike traditional decorative plantings, the **new corridors will be designed to provide year-round nectar and pollen**, ensuring sustained food sources for pollinators.
- ◆ The **NHAI plans to plant around 40 lakh trees along NHs** during the year 2026–27, around 60 per cent of which will be planted under the ‘bee corridor’ initiative.
- ◆ **Significance - The initiative will help reduce the increasing ecological stress faced by honeybees and other pollinators**

## 18. Malabar Pied Hornbill



### In News

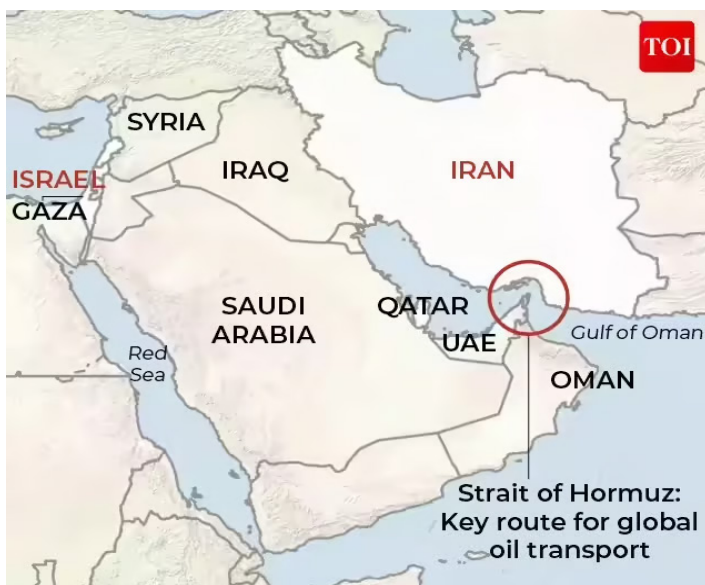
- ◆ The **Chhattisgarh Forest Department is setting up six “hornbill restaurants” in the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve** to provide a permanent habitat for the rare Malabar Pied Hornbill and promote forest regeneration.

### Malabar Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*)

- ◆ It stands **2 to 2.5 feet tall**, has a **large beak and vibrant plumage**.
- ◆ **Habitat - It inhabits moist evergreen and tall deciduous forests**, plantations, and low-altitude riparian areas
- ◆ Occurs in the **western Ghats, and in eastern/central India** from south-west West Bengal and Bihar, to Andhra Pradesh, India, as well as Sri Lanka

- ◆ They are recognised as **keystone seed dispersers in tropical forests.**
- ◆ IUCN Status - ‘Nearly Threatened’

### 19. Iran Shuts Strait of Hormuz



#### In News

- ◆ Iran temporarily closed parts of the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 20% of the world’s oil passes.

#### 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.

### 20. Loggerhead Turtles

#### Context

- ◆ According to a recent study, warmer oceans and declining food availability are affecting the reproductive and migratory patterns of loggerhead turtles.

#### Loggerhead Turtles (Caretta caretta)

- ◆ The loggerhead turtle is named for its large head, which supports powerful jaw muscles that enable them to feed on hard-shelled

prey, such as whelks and conch.

- ◆ **Distribution** - They are found across the Caribbean region, Atlantic Ocean, the eastern Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean and the North and South Pacific Oceans.
- ◆ The Loggerhead sea turtle is a large omnivorous marine reptile recognized as one of the seven extant species of sea turtles.
- ◆ They can live up to 80 years or more.
- ◆ IUCN conservation status - Vulnerable

### 21. Bela Gram Emerge as First Net-zero Village

#### News

- ◆ Recently, Bela Gram has become India’s first net-zero panchayat.

#### Basic term - Net zero

- ◆ It refers to achieving a balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere, effectively reducing human-caused emissions to a net value of zero

#### Bela Gram

- ◆ It is situated in the Bhandara district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.
- ◆ It was recognized as India’s first net-zero panchayat during Mumbai Climate Week 2026 for its sustainable and carbon-neutral initiatives.
- ◆ The panchayat leadership plays a vital role in shaping localised climate action and combating climate change.
- ◆ It planted over 90,000 trees, transitioned from smoky chulhas to LPG.
- ◆ It installed solar panels, promoted waste segregation, and eliminated single-use plastics.
- ◆ It received the 2024 Rashtriya Panchayat Puraskar.

#### Other panchayat-led climate initiatives across India

- ◆ Perinjanam, Kerala – “Solar Gramam” project: 850 households became rooftop solar prosumers, reducing bills by 80% and lowering emissions.
- ◆ Siyari, Jharkhand – Water conservation, revived lakes, solar irrigation, streetlights, and plantation of thousands of fruit and shade trees using District Mineral Fund support.
- ◆ Badakichab, Odisha – Indigenous women

mapped commons and planted over 16,000 trees on 10 hectares of unused land, restoring forests.

- ♦ **Garhi, Bihar** – Built 45 mud check dams, 90 boulder dams, and ponds to tackle water scarcity, flash floods, and soil erosion.
- ♦ **Kolar, Karnataka** – Revived lakes and groundwater, reduced chemical fertilizer use, and implemented climate-resilient agriculture practices.

## 22.Red Sanders

### Context

- ♦ The busy Tirupati pilgrimage route has made Red Sanders smuggling easier in southern Andhra Pradesh.

### Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*)

- ♦ **Endemic Species:** Found only in three districts of southern Andhra Pradesh — Chittoor, Nellore, and YSR Kadapa.
- ♦ **Largest Reserve:** Located in the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve, part of the Eastern Ghats, covering about 4,755 sq km.
- ♦ **Growth:** A slow-growing species that takes 25–40 years to reach maturity.

### Conservation Status:

- ♦ Listed as **Endangered on the IUCN Red List**.
- ♦ Included under CITES, which strictly regulates international trade.
- ♦ Protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. World Nuclear Outlook Report

#### In News

- ♦ According to the new World Nuclear Outlook Report, Five countries — China, France, India, Russia and the United States — could together account for nearly 980 GWe of global capacity in 2050.

#### World Nuclear Outlook Report

- ♦ It reviews national targets for nuclear capacity and assesses these against the global goal to triple nuclear capacity by 2050.

#### Key Findings

- ♦ **Global nuclear capacity could reach 1,446 GWe by 2050**, exceeding the tripling target of 1,200 GWe, with growth driven by reactors

under construction, planned projects, and proposed or government-driven programs.

- ♦ **China, France, India, Russia, and the USA would account for most capacity**, while newcomer nations aim for 157 GWe.
- ♦ **South Asia, led by India, is emerging as a key growth region** due to rising electricity demand, urbanization, and industrialization.

## 2. Agarwood

### In News

- ♦ The Union Minister laid the foundation stone of the ₹80 crore **Agarwood Value Chain Development Scheme in Tripura**.

### Agarwood

- ♦ Agarwood is a **rare, highly fragrant wood that forms inside certain trees (Aquilaria)** when they get infected or wounded, and the tree produces a special dark resin as a defence.
- ♦ **This resin-rich wood is then used to make high-value perfume oils (oud)**, incense and traditional medicines, and is traded globally, especially in West Asia and East Asia.
- ♦ It is mainly found in tropical, high-rainfall regions of **South and Southeast Asia, including Tripura and other parts of Northeast India**, where the climate and soils suit Aquilaria trees.
- ♦ **Only a small share of trees naturally develop resin**, and it can take decades, which is why agarwood is rare and expensive.

## 3. Inhaled Nitric Oxide

### Context

- ♦ A recent study by researchers has explored that the high-dose inhaled nitric oxide can significantly reduce multidrug-resistant Pneumonia.

### About

- ♦ **India faces a high burden of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** and hospital-acquired infections where **drug-resistant pneumonia is a serious threat in Intensive Care Units (ICUs)**.
- ♦ A significant contributor is **Pseudomonas aeruginosa, a bacterium responsible for nearly one-fifth of hospital-acquired pneumonias**.

### Nitric Oxide

- ♦ Nitric oxide (NO) is a **colorless, gaseous free radical molecule** composed of one **nitrogen and one oxygen atom**.
- ♦ **Production: It is a gas naturally produced**

by the human body from the amino acid L-arginine, a process that can be boosted by dietary intake of nitrate-rich foods like leafy greens, beets, and garlic.

- ◆ **Functions:** It acts as a neurotransmitter, immune system regulator, and aids in angiogenesis (new blood vessel formation).
- ◆ **Significance** - It improves oxygenation by widening blood vessels in the lungs.
- ◆ **Toxicity Risks:** High doses can lead to methemoglobinemia and potential lung injury.

#### 4. AI-Preneurs of India

##### In News

- ◆ **Atal Innovation Mission launches ‘AI-Preneurs of India’ at India AI Impact Summit 2026**, showcasing India’s purpose driven AI Ecosystem.

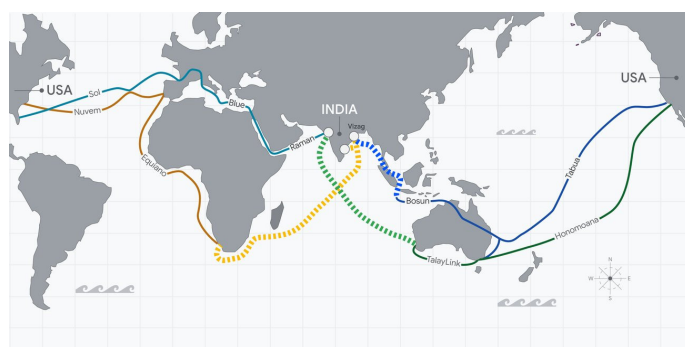
##### AI-Preneurs of India

- ◆ It is a flagship initiative launched by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), under NITI Aayog,
- ◆ **Objective** - to celebrate and document the journeys of pioneering artificial intelligence (AI) entrepreneurs in India.

##### Key Features of the Initiative

- ◆ **The Publication:** It is a flagship coffee table book chronicling 45 pioneering AI startups.
- ◆ **Founder-First Storytelling:** Unlike technical reports, it focuses on the “human element”—the motivations, challenges, and perseverance of the founders.
- ◆ **Sectoral Diversity:** Featured startups operate across 30+ domains, including **healthcare, agriculture, sustainability, education, mobility, and deep tech.**
- ◆ **Geographic Democratisation:** The initiative showcases innovators from a nationwide network of **Atal Incubation Centres (AICs)**, moving beyond traditional hubs like Bengaluru and Mumbai to include Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities

#### 5. Google’s America-India Connect Initiative



##### Context

- ◆ Google announced the collaborative infrastructure initiative named America-India Connect.

##### America-India Connect Initiative

- ◆ A new international **subsea gateway will be established in Vizag.**
- ◆ **Three new subsea paths connecting India to Singapore, South Africa, and Australia.**
- ◆ **Significance** - The new infrastructure is expected to support rising demand for cloud computing and AI services in India, while also strengthening connections with Africa, Australia and parts of Southeast Asia.

## HISTORY AND CULTURE

#### 1. Granth Kutir

##### Context

- ◆ The President of India inaugurated Granth Kutir.

##### About

- ◆ Granth Kutir is a **library at the Rashtrapati Bhawan which has the collection of around 2,300 books and about 50 manuscripts in 11 Indian classical languages:** Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali.
- ◆ The collection **reflects India’s cultural, philosophical, literary, and intellectual heritage.**
- ◆ Subjects include epics, philosophy, linguistics, history, governance, science, devotional literature, and the Constitution of India in classical languages.
- ◆ Several manuscripts are handwritten on traditional materials such as palm leaf, paper,

bark, and cloth.

- ◆ **Granth Kutir supports the vision of the Gyan Bharatam Mission, which aims to preserve, digitise, and disseminate India's manuscript heritage, blending tradition with modern technology.**

## 2. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

### Context

- The President of India, paid tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his birth anniversary, observed as Parakram Diwas.

### Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

- ◆ **Early Life:** He was an **Indian nationalist leader** who played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence against British rule.
- ◆ He was **born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Odisha**
- ◆ He studied at the **University of Calcutta and later went to England for the Indian Civil Services (ICS) exam.**
- ◆ **Political career:** He **abandoned ICS aspirations to join the Indian National Congress (INC),** advocating for complete independence rather than moderate reforms.
- ◆ He was **Elected INC President in 1938 and 1939** but resigned due to **differences with Mahatma Gandhi** and other leaders over non-violent strategies.
- ◆ **Contributions in Freedom struggle:** Bose's vision for India's freedom was to **leverage the support of Axis powers during World War II.**
- ◆ **He escaped from house arrest in India in 1941, travelling through Afghanistan to Germany, where he sought support from Adolf Hitler.**
- ◆ **In 1943, he went to Japan, where he took command of the Indian National Army (INA),** which had been formed by Indian prisoners of war and expatriates.
- ◆ The INA's actions and post-war trials had a strong psychological impact, weakening British authority.
- ◆ **Death:** He **died in a plane crash in Taiwan in August 1945; circumstances remain mysterious and controversial.**
- ◆ **Legacy:** He is remembered as a **symbol of courage and determination;** numerous institutions, monuments, and awards are named after him.
- ◆ In 2018, The Government of India, renamed

three islands of the **Andaman and Nicobar** archipelago as a tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. They are:

1. **Ross Island → Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island**
  2. **Neil Island → Shaheed Dweep**
  3. **Havelock Island → Swaraj Dweep**
- ◆ This was done to honor Netaji, who hoisted the **tricolour flag on Havelock Island** in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago and declared it as **India's first free territory.**

## 3. Sant Guru Ravidas

### Context

- ◆ To mark the 649th birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas the Adampur airport is renamed Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Airport, Adampur.

### Sant Ravidas

- ◆ He, **born in the 14th century,**
- ◆ He was a **prominent figure in the Bhakti Movement,** a socio-religious revolution that took place in India between the **14th and 17th centuries.**
- ◆ He was a **disciple of Sant Kabir and the founder of the Ravidassia religion. Mirabai was his pupil.**

### Life and Teachings

- ◆ He was a great **social reformer and messenger of peace, love, and brotherhood.**
- ◆ He worked tirelessly to **remove caste and religion-based discrimination** and worked for the **upliftment of the downtrodden.**
- ◆ His life is a unique example of sacrifice and penance, and wrote many compositions on different social issues.
- ◆ He gave a very broad message of 'karma' to society by coining in the popular Hindi saying 'Mann Changa to Kathauti Mein Ganga'.

### Legacy

- ◆ The Sikh scripture, **Guru Granth Sahib, contains forty-one of his devotional songs and poems.**
- ◆ **The Chief Architect of our Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar embodied the Constitutional principles around the values expressed by Guru Ravidasji.**

## 4. Thaipusam



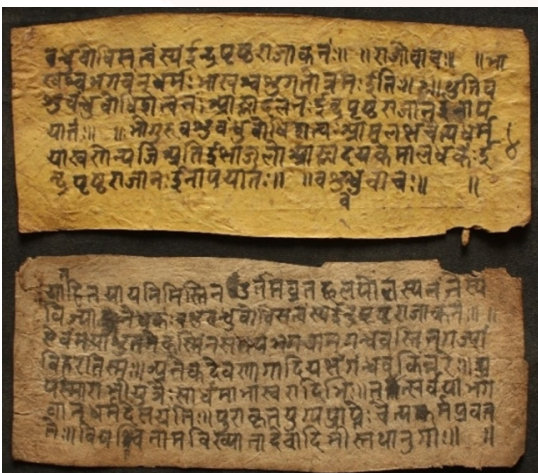
### News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted everyone with a blessed Thaipusam.

### Thaipusam

- The name “Thaipusam” is a combination of “Thai” (the Tamil month) and “Poosam,” the star at its highest point during the festival.
- It is celebrated on the full moon in the Tamil month of Thai.
- It is a Hindu festival celebrated to honour Lord Murugan (also known as Lord Kartikeya), the Hindu god of war, victory, and wisdom, while also being a symbol of courage, determination, and spiritual growth.
- It is widely celebrated by the Tamil community in Tamil Nadu India and across the world, especially in Sri Lanka, Singapore and Malaysia.

## 5. Gyan Bharatam



### In News

- Over 7.5 lakh manuscripts have been digitized under Gyan Bharatam, of which 1.29 lakh manuscripts are accessible on the Gyan Bharatam Portal.

### 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.

### Basic terms - 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.

## 6. Bastar Pandum Festival

### Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people of Chhattisgarh for the special celebration of ‘Bastar Pandum’ festival.

### About the Festival

- Celebrated in-** It is a cultural festival celebrated in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh showcasing

tribal heritage and cultural traditions.

- ◆ **Significance** - It has emerged as a major cultural platform highlighting Bastar's tribal identity through art, music, dance, handicrafts, and indigenous cuisine.

## 7. Ol Chiki Script

### Context

- ◆ President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the centenary celebration of the Ol Chiki script in New Delhi, emphasising its importance in preserving Santhal heritage.

### Ol Chiki Script

- ◆ Ol Chiki was developed in 1925 by Pandit Raghunath Murmu to provide a dedicated writing system for the Santhali language.
- ◆ It comprises 30 letters designed to capture Santhali phonetics with precision, allowing systematic documentation of its vocabulary and grammar.
- ◆ **Santhali**, a member of the Austroasiatic language family, is spoken across Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, and Bihar.
- ◆ It was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in 2003.

## 8. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

### Context

- ◆ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on his death anniversary (11 February).

### Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (1916–1968)

- ◆ He was a political thinker, economist, and leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
- ◆ He was an exceptional scholar and dedicated nationalist.
- ◆ **Ideology** - He was a visionary thinker, known for his doctrine of Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manav Darshan) which emphasized a balance between spiritual and material development and promoted decentralization and self-reliant village-based economy.
- ◆ **Contributions**- He contributed to ideological journalism by starting 'Rashtra Dharma' (monthly), 'Panchajanya' (weekly), and 'Swadesh' (daily).

## DEFENCE

### 1. Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM)



### Context

- ◆ The DRDO will showcase the Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM) along with its launcher during the 77th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path.

### Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM)

- ◆ **Developed by** - DRDO,
- ◆ It is a Hypersonic Glide Missile designed to meet the coastal defence and strike requirements of the Indian Navy.
- ◆ It is a first-of-its-kind indigenous system, equipped with indigenous avionics and high-accuracy sensor packages.
- ◆ It achieves speeds up to Mach 10, with an average hypersonic speed of Mach 5.
- ◆ **Significance** - Low-altitude flight, high speed, and manoeuvrability significantly reduce detection by enemy ground- and ship-based radars.

### 2. India has Entered an Elite Group of Possessing SFDR Technology

### In News

- ◆ DRDO successfully demonstrated Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha, advancing India's long-range air-to-air missile capabilities.

### Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)

- ◆ SFDR is a missile propulsion system that uses a ramjet engine to provide sustained thrust.
- ◆ Unlike traditional rockets, it is an air-breathing system, meaning it does not carry an onboard oxidizer, using atmospheric oxygen instead.
- ◆ Since ramjets only function at high speeds,

the missile is first launched using a nozzle-less solid booster to reach supersonic speeds (Mach 2+).

#### Strategic Significance for India

- ◆ **Long-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (LRAAM):** SFDR will power the **Astra Mark-3, enabling it to intercept high-speed,** maneuvering enemy aircraft at ranges exceeding 150–300 km.
- ◆ **Expanded “No-Escape Zone”:** Because the missile stays “powered” until the very end, it can perform high-G turns near the target, making it nearly impossible for an enemy jet to out-maneuver it.
- ◆ **Surface-to-Air Application:** It can be adapted for futuristic SAM systems (like the proposed SAM-X) to defend against hypersonic or highly agile cruise missiles.

### 3. Exercise KHANJAR

#### Context

- ◆ The 13th edition of the India–Kyrgyzstan joint military exercise KHANJAR has begun in Sonitpur district of Assam.

#### Exercise KHANJAR

- ◆ It is an annual training event conducted alternately between India and Kyrgyzstan since 2011.
- ◆ **Objective - to enhance interoperability between the Special Forces of both nations,** with a focus on joint operations in urban warfare and counter-terrorism scenarios under the United Nations mandate.

### 4. Agni-3 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile

#### In News

- ◆ **India successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable Agni-3 ballistic missile from Chandipur, Odisha,** with a strike range exceeding 3,000 km.

#### Agni-3 ballistic missile

- ◆ **Developed by - Defence Research and Development Organisation.**
- ◆ **Strike range- 3,000 km.**
- ◆ **Uniqueness - It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads.**

#### Agni

- ◆ It is India’s **indigenously developed long-range missile system** by DRDO

- ◆ **Agni-I to Agni-IV: Range 700–3,500 km, payload 12–40 kt,** developed in 1990s, deployed mid-2000s.
- ◆ **Agni-V: Three-stage solid-fuel, MIRV-capable, range up to 5,000 km,** potentially intercontinental (5,500+ km).
- ◆ **Agni-P: Two-stage solid-fuel, weight 11,000 kg, range 1,000–2,000 km,** incorporates advanced propulsion/navigation, **can carry high-explosive, thermobaric, or nuclear warheads.**

### 5. Emergency Landing Facility



#### Context

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a **4.2 kilometre Emergency Landing Facility on the Moran Bypass in Assam,** the first such facility in Northeast India.

#### About

- ◆ An Emergency Landing Facility is a reinforced highway stretch designed to act as an alternative runway for the Indian Air Force.
- Located about 300 kilometres from the Line of Actual Control, the **Moran ELF provides critical backup during conflict situations and strengthens disaster response in remote regions.**
- It can handle **fighter aircraft up to 40 tonnes and transport aircraft up to 74 tonnes.**
- With around **15 such facilities now operational,** this strategic grid stretches from the deserts of Rajasthan to the expressways of Uttar Pradesh and now to the strategic borders of the Northeast

### 6. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

#### In News

- ◆ India assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) from Thailand.

### Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- ◆ It is a **voluntary naval forum** launched by the Indian Navy in 2008
- ◆ **Mandate** - to boost **maritime cooperation among littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- ◆ IONS **promotes mutual understanding among navies** through biennial conclaves of chiefs, working groups, and activities like workshops and exercises.
- ◆ **Key focus areas** include maritime security (anti-piracy), Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and capacity building to address regional threats collaboratively.
- ◆ It features a **rotating chairmanship** (India held it multiple times) and divides 25 member states into four sub-regions: **South Asian (e.g., India, Bangladesh, Maldives), West Asian, Southeast Asian/Australian, and East African**.
- ◆ Nine observers participate; **no fixed headquarters exists**.

## 7. CERT-In

### Context

- ◆ In 2025, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) handled over **29.44 lakh cyber incidents**, reflecting large-scale national cyber response capability.

### Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

- ◆ CERT-In is the **national agency for cyber incident response in India**.
- ◆ **Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- ◆ Its mandate under **section 70B of the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000**
- ◆ It includes the **prevention of cyberattacks, real-time monitoring of cyber threats, and swift coordination** with stakeholders to mitigate and contain cyber incidents.

## 8. Assam Rifles to Induct More Indigenous Dog Breeds

### Context

- ◆ The **Assam Rifles is inducting two native Indian dog breeds, the Tangkhul Hui (Haofa) and the Kombai**, into its specialized dog squad.
- ◆ The induction is being managed by the Assam Rifles Dog Training Centre (ARDTC) in Jorhat, Assam.

### About the Indian Dog Breeds

- ◆ **Tangkhul Hui**: It is **indigenous to Ukhrul district of Manipur** and known for being **highly courageous, possessing unique tracking abilities, and having the stamina to track animals for up to 48 hours without food or water**.
- ◆ It is also **known for disease resistance and adaptability to hilly terrain**.
- ◆ **Kombai**: It is **native to Tamil Nadu and recognized for agility, guarding instincts, and loyalty**.

### Assam Rifles

- ◆ **Established in - 1835**
- ◆ **World War Participation**: It is the **only paramilitary force to have participated in both World Wars**, as well as the 1962 Sino-Indian War.
- ◆ **Headquarters** - Shillong, Meghalaya, and currently consists of 46 battalions.
- ◆ It is **one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**, primarily **guarding India's Indo-Myanmar border**, focusing on **border security, counter-insurgency, and law & order in Northeast India**.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 1. India welcomes Spain joining Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative

#### Context

- ◆ India has welcomed Spain joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

#### Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

- ◆ It was **launched by India in November 2019** at the ASEAN-led East Asia Summit (EAS) in Bangkok.
- ◆ It draws on existing regional cooperation architecture and mechanisms to focus on seven thematic areas, viz. :
  1. Maritime Security;
  2. Maritime Ecology;
  3. Maritime Resources;
  4. Capacity Building and Resource Sharing;
  5. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
  6. Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation; and
  7. Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport.

- ◆ **Objectives :** Its objective was to promote cooperation for a free and open Indo-Pacific and the rules-based regional order, which will contribute towards strengthening safety, stability and development in the maritime domain.

## 2. India-Saudi Arabia

### Context

- ◆ The 3rd India–Saudi Arabia Security Working Group meeting was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

### Key Highlights

- ◆ Counter-terrorism cooperation, including emerging threats.
- ◆ Countering extremism and radicalisation.
- ◆ Combating terror financing.
- ◆ Preventing misuse of technology for terrorist purposes.
- ◆ Addressing the nexus between transnational organised crime and terrorism.
- ◆ **Institutional Framework: The dialogue operates under the India–Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC),** providing continuity and predictability to cooperation.

### India Saudi Arabia Relations

- ◆ **Political Relations:** The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1947.
- ◆ The royal visit of 2006 resulted in the signing of the Delhi Declaration, which was followed in 2010 by the Riyadh Declaration that elevated bilateral ties to a strategic partnership.
- ◆ The **Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) Agreement was signed during the 2019 visit of the Indian PM to Riyadh,** which established a high-level council to steer the Indo-Saudi relationship.
- ◆ **Economic Relations:** India is Saudi Arabia's second-largest trade partner; Saudi Arabia is India's fourth-largest trade partner.
- ◆ **Energy Cooperation:** Saudi Arabia was India's third largest crude and petroleum products source for FY23.
- ◆ **Defence Cooperation:** Saudi Arabia has procured the 155mm Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) from Bharat Forge.

### Joint exercises:

- ◆ **Sada Tanseeq:** The inaugural Army exercise held in Rajasthan in January 2024.
- ◆ **Tarang Shakti:** Saudi Arabia participated as an

observer in India's largest air exercise.

- ◆ **Al Mohed Al Hindi:** Bilateral naval exercise initiated in 2022.
- ◆ **Indian diaspora:** As of 2025, there were 2.7 million Indians in Saudi Arabia. This is the second largest number of foreign workers in the country, after Bangladesh.

## 3. 2026 Delhi Declaration



### Context

- ◆ India hosted the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting

### India–Arab League Engagement

- ◆ The Arab League, officially known as the League of Arab States.
- ◆ It was established in Cairo in 1945.
- ◆ **Member states - 22.**
- ◆ The **India–Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting is the highest institutional mechanism guiding India's engagement with the Arab League.**
- ◆ India holds observer status in the Arab League, which represents countries across West Asia and North Africa.

### Highlights of the Delhi Declaration

- ◆ The Delhi Declaration reiterates support for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Sudan, Libya and Somalia.
- ◆ **Sudan:** UAE is accused of backing the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which has fought the Sudanese state since 2023 and formed a parallel government in 2025; the Declaration aligns with Sudan and condemns civilian atrocities.
- ◆ **Somalia:** Israel alone recognises Somaliland; UAE's 2025 recognition of Somaliland passports diverges from Arab League consensus. India firmly rejected recognition and backed Somalia's territorial integrity.
- ◆ **Yemen:** India and the Arab League explicitly

condemned Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, marking a shift from India's earlier indirect language post-2023.

- ◆ Support for Yemen's unity aligns with Saudi actions against the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council.

#### 4. New START Treaty

##### In News

- ◆ Experts caution that the expiry of the New START Treaty would eliminate the last remaining legally binding constraint on the nuclear arsenals of the world's two largest nuclear powers.

##### New START Treaty

- ◆ Abbreviation- Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.
- ◆ **START-I treaty** -
- ◆ It was signed between the **US and the former USSR in 1991 and came into force in 1994.**
- ◆ It **limited each side to 6,000 nuclear warheads and 1,600 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) but expired in 2009.**
- ◆ It was **succeeded by the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT, also called the Treaty of Moscow) and later by the New START treaty (signed in 2010 & entered into force in 2011).**

##### New START treaty

- ◆ It **caps the number of deployed strategic warheads at 1,550 on each side, with no more than 700 deployed ground- or submarine-launched missiles and bomber planes, and 800 launchers.**

##### Implications of Expiration

- ◆ Without a treaty, Russia and the US could freely expand their arsenals, risking a renewed nuclear arms race amid global tensions.
- ◆ The absence of a framework heightens nuclear risks and removes the transparency and stability that arms control agreements provide.

#### 5. FORGE Initiative

##### In News

- ◆ India has expressed support for the FORGE Initiative at the inaugural Critical Minerals Ministerial hosted by the United States in Washington DC.

##### FORGE Initiative

- ◆ It is a multilateral international cooperation framework **aimed at de-risking global critical**

**mineral supply chains by bringing together like-minded countries.**

- ◆ It has been created as a **successor to the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP).**
- ◆ **Significance - to reduce over-dependence on a few dominant suppliers, build trusted, transparent and resilient critical mineral ecosystems**

#### 6. Indian PM Visit to Malaysia

##### Context

- ◆ **India and Malaysia vowed to expand their ties in the high-priority sectors of trade and investment, defence, energy, advanced manufacturing and semiconductors.**

##### Major outcomes of the meet

- ◆ **A Framework Agreement on the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) was also finalised, reflecting shared commitment to biodiversity and sustainable development.**
- ◆ Both sides also received the **report of the 10th Malaysia-India CEO Forum, highlighting private sector perspectives on trade, investment and future collaboration.**

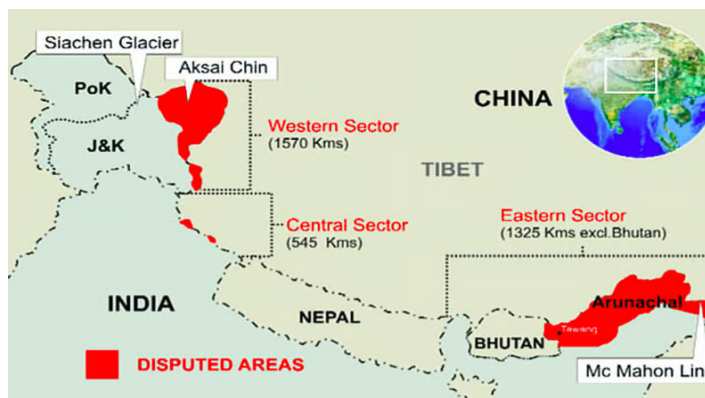
##### Additional Information - India and Malaysia Relations

- ◆ **Diplomatic Relations:** The two countries established **diplomatic relations in 1957**, and this was elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2024.**
- ◆ **Both countries are members of various international organizations, such as the United Nations, ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), and the Non-Aligned Movement.**
- ◆ **Trade and Economic Relations:** Malaysia is the **13th largest trading partner for India while India stands amongst the 10 largest trading partners globally.**
- ◆ **Defense and Security:** **Harimau Shakti** is the primary bilateral training **exercise between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army.**
- ◆ **ASEAN Centrality:** Malaysia holds a crucial position in expanding India's trade with ASEAN, aligning with **India's Act East Policy**, advancing **maritime connectivity in the Strait of Malacca and South China Sea**, and supporting **ASEAN's Indo-Pacific Perspective (AOIP) and the Indo-Pacific Initiative (IPOI).**
- ◆ **Tourism and diaspora:** India is the 5th largest

source country for inbound tourism to Malaysia.

- ♦ **Indian Community:** Malaysia has the third largest Indian diaspora in the world (2.9 million).
- ♦ **Cultural Ties:** Indian influence in Malaysia can be seen in various aspects of Malaysian culture, including language, religion (Hinduism and Buddhism), architecture, cuisine, and festivals.

## 7. Panchsheel Pact



### Context

- ♦ The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) mentioned that India believed the 1954 Panchsheel Agreement effectively addressed the northern boundary question, even though China viewed it differently.

### Panchsheel Agreement

- ♦ In 1954, India recognised Tibet as part of China, and both countries signed the Panchsheel Agreement.

### The Panchsheel Agreement stated the five principles as:

1. Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
  2. Mutual non-aggression.
  3. Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
  4. Equality and cooperation for mutual benefit.
  5. Peaceful co-existence.
- ♦ It was designed to promote trade and friendly relations, forming the basis of the bilateral ties.
  - ♦ With this, India assumed that it had settled its northern border.
  - ♦ In 2025 the Chinese President underscored that Panchsheel must be cherished and promoted by the two countries.
  - ♦ It came as India and China reset their ties and PM Modi visited China after seven years.

### The India-China Borders

- ♦ India considers the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to be 3,488 km long, while the Chinese consider it to be only around 2,000 km.
- ♦ It is divided into three sectors: the eastern sector which spans
  1. Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim,
  2. Middle sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh,
  3. Western sector in Ladakh.
- ♦ **Western Sector or Aksai Chin Sector:** The region is claimed by the Chinese government post-1962 war as an autonomous part of the Xinjiang region which was originally a part of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ♦ **Middle Sector:** It is the less disputed section of the Indo-China border but the recent Doklam standoff and Nathu La Pass trading issues have brought distress at all levels.
- ♦ **Eastern Sector or Arunachal Pradesh:** McMahon Line had differentiated India and China in this sector but in the 1962 war the People's Liberation Army covered 9000 sq. km. area.
- ♦ However, China has started to claim the whole of Arunachal Pradesh as their own.

## 8. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)

### Context

- ♦ Recent remarks from senior U.S. officials describing the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) as a "very important platform" and India as an "active participant".

### Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)

- ♦ It is the informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia.
- ♦ **Objective - To ensure and support a "free, open and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region.**

### Additional Information - Exercise Malabar

- ♦ **Started in -** It is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that was started in 1992. The exercise began as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States.
- ♦ **Participating countries -** From 2002 onward, the exercise has been conducted every year. Japan and Australia first participated in 2007. Since 2014, India, the US and Japan have participated in the exercise. In 2020 Australia too joined the Malabar Exercise.

- ♦ **Aim** - To support a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and remain committed to the rules-based international order.

## 9. African Union

### Context

- ♦ The **African Union is hosting its annual summit in Ethiopia** to discuss the future of the continent, as the organization faces widespread discontent.

### African Union

- ♦ It is a continental body **consisting of the 55 member states** that make up the **countries of the African Continent**.
  - It was **officially launched in 2002** as a successor to the **Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963-1999)**.
- ♦ **Aim:** to drive Africa's growth and economic development.
- ♦ Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### Initiatives

- ♦ African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement - It aims to create a single market for goods and services across the continent.
- ♦ **Agenda 2063** - It is a strategic framework for the **socio-economic transformation of the continent** over the next 50 years.

## 10. Trump's Board of Peace

### In News

- ♦ **India participated as an observer in the recent inaugural meeting of US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace on Gaza**, held in Washington DC and hosted at the Donald J Trump Institute of Peace.

### Board of Peace

- It is an **international body chaired by US President Donald Trump**, created to **oversee the October 2025 ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war** and manage Gaza's post-war transition.
- The initiative was **proposed in October 2025** and was endorsed the following month by the United Nations Security Council.

### Members

- ♦ Around **35 global leaders have agreed to join the proposed Board of Peace**, out of about 50 invited.
- ♦ Participants include key Middle Eastern allies

such as Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar and Egypt, along with NATO members Turkey and Hungary. Several other countries across Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America—including Pakistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Morocco, Armenia and Azerbaijan—have also joined.

- ♦ **Membership terms would run for three years**, with the option of renewal.
- ♦ **Countries seeking** to extend their participation beyond the initial term may be **required to contribute \$1 billion**, while **short-term participation would not involve any financial commitment**.

### Mandate of Board

- ♦ The Board will supervise a **transitional Palestinian technocratic administration in the Gaza Strip**, known as the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG).
- ♦ The Board's mandate also includes **efforts to disarm Hamas and oversee the deployment of an International Stabilization Force (ISF)**, a **multinational peacekeeping mission tasked with maintaining security** and training a new Palestinian police force.

## 11. India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce

### News

- ♦ India and the United Kingdom launched the India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce.

### India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce

- ♦ **Objective** - to provide strategic leadership and coordination for **building India's offshore wind ecosystem**.
- ♦ Significance- It is aimed at accelerating cooperation in **offshore wind development** as part of their broader clean energy partnership **under Vision 2035**.

#### Do you know?

- **Global Rank:** India ranks **4th in the world** for total installed wind power capacity after China, USA, and Germany.
- **Installed Capacity:** As of late 2025, India's cumulative wind power capacity reached approximately **54 GW**.
- **Top States:** **Gujarat** currently leads in installed capacity, followed by **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan**

# PLACES IN NEWS

## 1. Lake Urmia



### In News

- ♦ Iranian authorities have resorted to cloud seeding to induce artificial rainfall over the Lake Urmia basin amid Iran's worst drought in decades.

### Lake Urmia

- ♦ It is situated in the Azerbaijan region of northwestern Iran and lies between East Azerbaijan and West Azerbaijan provinces.
- ♦ High evaporation rates make it extremely saline.
- ♦ **Uniqueness** - It is the largest lake in the Middle East.
- ♦ Designated a Ramsar wetland and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the lake has shrunk dramatically since the 1990s.

## 2. Rafah border



### News

- ♦ Israel has reopened the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt for limited civilian movement after months of closure.
- ♦ The crossing has largely been closed since the Gazan side was captured by Israeli forces in May 2024.

### Why is Rafah important to Gaza?

- ♦ **Location:** Rafah border is located on the Gaza–Egypt border, which was recognized by the 1979 Egypt–Israel peace treaty.
- ♦ **Significance:** The Rafah Border Crossing or Rafah Crossing Point is the sole crossing point between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

## 3. Eritrea



### In News

- ♦ Recently, Ethiopia demanded that Eritrea immediately withdraw its troops from Ethiopian territory, highlighting renewed tensions in the Horn of Africa.

### Eritrea

- ♦ **Capital:** Asmara (Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- ♦ **Location:** Situated in the Horn of Africa (Northeast Africa). Lies along a crucial geostrategic corridor connecting Africa with West Asia.
- ♦ **Strategic Importance:** Controls the western coast of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a vital global maritime chokepoint linking the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.
- ♦ **Geographical Features:** Hot desert climate along the Red Sea coast. Temperate / Mediterranean-like climate in the central highlands.
- ♦ **Membership in International Groupings:**

**African Union (AU) & COMESA** (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### AWARDS

#### 1. Space Hero Shubhanshu Shukla Awarded Ashoka Chakra, 2026

##### Context:

- ◆ Ahead of the 77th Republic Day celebrations in 2026, **President Droupadi Murmu approved 70 gallantry awards for Armed Forces personnel**, highlighted by the conferment of the Ashoka Chakra to Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.
- ◆ **Award:** Ashoka Chakra (2026)
- ◆ **Awardee:** Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (Indian Air Force test pilot & ISRO Gaganyatri).
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** President of India / Ministry of Defence.
- ◆ **Purpose of Award:** India's highest peacetime gallantry award, given for most conspicuous bravery, self-sacrifice, or devotion to duty away from the battlefield.

##### About the Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla - Space Connection (Axiom-4 & Gaganyaan)

- ◆ Group Captain Shukla was honoured for his exceptional courage, leadership, and conduct during the **Axiom-4 (Ax-4)** space mission in June 2025.
- ◆ He made history by becoming the **first Indian to visit the International Space Station (ISS)** and the second Indian ever to travel to space (41 years after Rakesh Sharma in 1984).
- ◆ During his 18-day mission, he conducted crucial microgravity experiments that directly supported ISRO's upcoming indigenous **Gaganyaan** human spaceflight mission (scheduled for 2027) and the future Bharatiya Antariksha Station.

#### 2. Gallantry Awards 2026

- ◆ Along with the Ashoka Chakra, the President approved the following major peacetime decorations.
- ◆ **Kirti Chakra:**
  - ◆ Major Arshdeep Singh

- ◆ Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba
- ◆ Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair
- ◆ **Shaurya Chakra:** 13 personnel were conferred the Shaurya Chakra (including 1 posthumous award).
- ◆ **Other Service Medals:** 44 Gallantry Sena Medals, 6 Gallantry Nao Sena Medals, 2 Gallantry Vayu Sena Medals, and 301 military decorations for distinguished service (including 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals).

##### Gallantry Awards in India

- ◆ India's gallantry awards system honours acts of bravery and sacrifice within the Armed Forces and among civilians. They are announced twice a year (Republic Day and Independence Day).
- 1. **1. Wartime Gallantry Awards** (Given for bravery in the face of the enemy):
  - ◆ **Param Vir Chakra (PVC):** Highest military award.
  - ◆ **Maha Vir Chakra (MVC):** Second-highest.
  - ◆ **Vir Chakra (VrC):** Third-highest.
- 2. **Peacetime Gallantry Awards** (Given for bravery away from the battlefield):
  - ◆ **Ashoka Chakra:** Highest peacetime award (Equivalent to the PVC).
  - ◆ **Kirti Chakra:** Second-highest peacetime award.
  - ◆ **Shaurya Chakra:** Third-highest peacetime award.

#### 3. 2nd Banaras Lit Fest Book Awards, 2026

##### Context:

- ◆ The 2nd Banaras Lit Fest Book Awards 2026 celebrated the vibrant landscape of Indian literature by honoring veteran authors, linguists, and rising stars.
- ◆ The announcement, made in late January from **January 30 to February 1, 2026**. The winners were formally honored at the Hotel Taj Ganges (Nadesar Palace Grounds) in **Varanasi**.

##### Top Honours & Lifetime Achievement:

- ◆ **Bhartendu Harishchandra Lifetime Achievement Award:-** Conferred upon **Namita Gokhale** for her immense contribution to literature and her role as a cultural custodian (notably as the co-founder of the **Jaipur Literature Festival**).
- ◆ **Kalidas Award for Indian Languages:-** Awarded to Kurukh poet **Mahadev Toppo** for his work in scheduled Indian languages.

- ♦ **Vivekanand Award for Youth:** Awarded to **Parag Pawan** for his promising work as a young writer.

**English Language Category Winners:**

Award Name	Category	Winner	Winning Book
Ruskin Bond Award	Fiction	Shinie Antony	<i>Eden Abandoned: The Story of Lilith</i>
Sarojini Naidu Award	Poetry	Abhay K	<i>The Hanuman Chalisa (Translation)</i>
Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Award	Non-Fiction	Peggy Mohan	<i>Father Tongue, Motherland</i>
Rabindranath Tagore Award	Translation	Arunava Sinha	<i>Limited / Unlimited (from Bengali)</i>

**Hindi Language Category Winners:**

- ♦ The Hindi awards focused on contemporary narratives and the preservation of historical records through translation.

Award Name	Category	Winner	Winning Book
Premchand Award	Fiction	Mamta Kalia	<i>Doorasth Dampatya</i>
Kabir Award	Poetry	Udayan Vajpeyi	<i>Pagal Ganitagya Ki Kavitayein</i>
Rahul Sankrityayan Award	Non-Fiction	J Sushil	<i>Dukh Ki Duniya Bheetar Hai</i>
Mahadevi Verma Award	Translation	Rajgopal Singh Verma	Thomas Henry Kavanagh's <i>1857 Ki Kranti Ka Awadh.</i>

**Ceremony Details:**

- ♦ The event brought together a diverse group of thinkers and writers, offering a cash prize of

₹51,000 for category winners and ₹1,00,000 for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Note:** These awards are distinct from the **Bhartendu Harishchandra Awards** given by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**; they are a specific initiative of the Banaras Literature Festival to honor works across multiple languages.

**4. Wiley Research Heroes Prize, 2025**

**Context:**

- ♦ India's influence in global health governance received a significant boost as public health expert **Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya** became the first Indian to be honored with the Wiley Research Heroes Prize.
- ♦ The award underscores a shift toward "implementation science"—where research is judged by its ability to save lives and influence government policy rather than just academic citations.

**About the Wiley Research Heroes Prize, 2025:**

- ♦ Awardee : Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, a leading public health physician, health policy researcher, and former World Health Organization (WHO) staff member.
- ♦ Issuing Authority : **Wiley** (Global publishing and research organization)
- ♦ Purpose of Award : To recognize researchers who ensure their work is inclusive, innovative, and impactful, specifically bridging the gap between scholarly publication and real-world policy implementation.
- ♦ Prize Details: Winners receive a **cash prize (equivalent to \$2,000 USD in local currency), a certificate, and global exposure** for their research achievements.

**Key Contributions of Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya:**

- Dr. Lahariya was selected in the '**Impact Beyond Academia**' category for his role in translating scientific evidence into large-scale public health interventions.

**Note:** Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya is the first and only Indian recipient of this award to date. His work is primarily credited with helping India's full childhood vaccination coverage rise from 55% (2005) to approximately 94% (2023).

## 5. 68th Grammy Awards 2026

### Context:

The 68th Grammy Awards (2026) were held to celebrate **musical excellence, creativity, and cultural impact**. The ceremony honoured both **legendary and emerging artists** across diverse global genres.

- ♦ Winner:- Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness the **Dalai Lama**, won the Grammy for Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording for his release **“Meditations: The Reflections Of His Holiness The Dalai Lama.”**

### Major Categories & Key Winners:

Category	Winner	Song / Album
Song of the Year	Billie Eilish	<i>Wildflower</i>
Best New Artist	Olivia Dean	-
Producer of the Year	Cirkut	-
Songwriter of the Year	Amy Allen	-
Best Pop Vocal Album	Lady Gaga	<i>Mayhem</i>
Best Rap Album	Kendrick Lamar	<i>GNX</i>
Best Contemporary Country Album	Jelly Roll	<i>Beautifully Broken</i>
Best Rock Album	Turnstile	<i>Never Enough</i>
Best Global Music Performance	Tyla	<i>PUSH 2 START</i>

### Other Notable Genre Highlights:

- ♦ Pop Solo Performance: **Lola Young (Messy)**
- ♦ Pop Duo/Group: **Cynthia Erivo & Ariana Grande (Defying Gravity)**
- ♦ Música Urbana Álbum: **Bad Bunny (Debí Tirar Más Fotos)**
- ♦ Alternative Music Album: **The Cure (Songs of a Lost World)**
- ♦ Comedy Album: **Nate Bargatze (Your Friend, Nate Bargatze)**

### About the Grammy Awards:

- ♦ Presented by: **The Recording Academy (United States)**.
- ♦ First Awarded: May 4, 1959 (honouring the musical accomplishments of 1958).
- ♦ The Trophy: The trophy depicts a **gilded gramophone (the awards were originally**

**going to be called the “Gramophone Awards”**).

- ♦ Significance: It is considered one of the **“Big Four” major annual American entertainment awards**, alongside the Academy Awards (Oscars) for film, Emmy Awards for television, and Tony Awards for theater.

## 6. Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards, 2025

### In News:

- ♦ The **President of India** has approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards–2025 on **30 individuals for displaying exceptional courage in saving human lives**.

### About:

- ♦ The Jeevan Raksha Padak series are **civilian life-saving gallantry awards** that honour **people who risk their own lives to save others in emergencies** like drowning, fires, accidents, electrocution, mine incidents or natural calamities.
- ♦ It started in **1961 as a civilian offshoot of the Ashoka Chakra series to recognise brave, humane acts by ordinary people**.
- ♦ Its aim is to **reward civic courage, altruism and humanitarian values when someone voluntarily puts themselves in danger to save another person**.
- ♦ It is open to **all people**, any gender, any profession; can also be given **posthumously**.
- ♦ It is of 3 categories:
  - 1. Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak:** For saving life in situations of very great danger to the rescuer.
  - 2. Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak:** For courage and prompt action in situations of great danger.
  - 3. Jeevan Raksha Padak:** For courageous, quick action where there is serious risk of bodily injury to the rescuer.
- ♦ Each award consists of a medal and certificate, plus a one-time cash amount (approximately: Sarvottam – ₹2 lakh, Uttam – ₹1.5 lakh, Jeevan Raksha – ₹1 lakh).

## SPORTS

### 1. Djokovic Becomes Oldest Australian Open Finalist in Open Era at 38

- ◆ **Historic Achievement:-** Novak Djokovic (38) became the oldest men’s singles finalist in the Open Era at the **2026 Australian Open**.
- ◆ **Record Broken:-** Surpassed the **53-year-old record** held by **Ken Rosewall** (set in 1972).
- ◆ **Grand Slam Milestone:-** Achieved his **400th Grand Slam match win** during the tournament.
- ◆ **Tournament Record:-** Surpassed **Roger Federer** for the most match wins in Australian Open history, reaching **104 wins**.
- ◆ **Final Outcome:** Defeated in the final by **Carlos Alcaraz**.

#### 📄 Australian Open, 2026: Winners List

Category	Winner(s)	Runner-up(s)
Men’s Singles	<b>Carlos Alcaraz</b> (Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
Women’s Singles	<b>Elena Rybakina</b> (Kazakhstan)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
Men’s Doubles	<b>Christian Harrison</b> (USA) & <b>Neal Skupski</b> (UK)	Jason Kubler & Marc Polmans (Australia)
Women’s Doubles	<b>Elise Mertens</b> (Belgium) & <b>Zhang Shuai</b> (China)	Anna Danilina (Kazakhstan) & Aleksandra Krunic (Serbia)
Mixed Doubles	<b>Olivia Gadecki &amp; John Peers</b> (Australia)	Kristina Mladenovic & Manuel Guinard (France)

### 2. Devika Sihag Wins Maiden BWF Super 300 Title at Thailand Masters, 2026

#### 📄 Context:

In a historic achievement for Indian **badminton**, 20-year-old Devika Sihag clinched her first-ever BWF World Tour Super 300 title by defeating **Malaysia’s Goh Jin Wei** in the final of the Thailand Masters, 2026.

- ◆ **Winner:- Devika Sihag** (Score: 21-8, 6-3 in favor of Devika).
- ◆ **Runner up:- Goh Jin Wei** (Malaysia).

- ◆ **Sport:-** Badminton.
- ◆ **Event:-** Princess Sirivannavari Thailand Masters 2026.
- ◆ **Venue:-** Nimibutr Stadium, Bangkok, Thailand.
- ◆ **Key Achievements:**
  - ◆ **Maiden Title:** This is Devika’s first BWF World Tour Super 300 title.
  - ◆ **First Indian Winner:** She became the **first Indian shuttler** (male or female) to win a title at the Thailand Masters since its inception.
  - ◆ **Elite Club:** She is only the **third Indian woman** to win a BWF Super 300 title, joining legends **Saina Nehwal** and **P.V. Sindhu**.
  - ◆ **2026 Opener:** She is the first Indian to win a badminton title in the 2026 season.
  - ◆ **About the Event:** Thailand Masters
- ◆ **Started:** The tournament was established in **2016**.
- ◆ **Event Category:** It is a **BWF World Tour Super 300** event.
- ◆ **Specialty:**
  - ◆ The tournament is officially named the **Princess Sirivannavari Thailand Masters** in honor of **Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana Rajakanya**, who is a former badminton player herself.
  - ◆ It serves as a crucial early-season tournament for players to accumulate world ranking points.
- ◆ **Latest Winners (2026 Edition):**
  - ◆ **Men’s Singles:** Zaki Ubaidillah (Indonesia)
  - ◆ **Women’s Singles:** Devika Sihag (India)
  - ◆ **Men’s Doubles:** Leo Rolly Carnando & Bagas Maulana (Indonesia)
  - ◆ **Women’s Doubles:** Amallia Cahaya Pratiwi & Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti (Indonesia)
  - ◆ **Mixed Doubles:** Adnan Maulana & Indah Cahya Sari Jamil (Indonesia)

### 3. Milano Cortina 2026: Winter Olympics Return to Italy

#### 📄 Context:

- ◆ The XXV Olympic Winter Games, officially known as Milano Cortina 2026, mark the return of the Winter Olympics to Italy after 20 years. This edition is historic for being the first to officially feature two host cities, **Milan and Cortina d’Ampezzo**, reflecting a sustainable, decentralized hosting model.

### 📖 About the event:

- ◆ **Host Country:** Italy.
- ◆ **Host Cities:** Milan and Cortina d’Ampezzo (with venues also in Valtellina, Val di Fiemme, and Anterselva).
- ◆ **Dates:** February 6 – February 22, 2026.
- ◆ **Mascot:** **Tina** (Olympic) and **Milo** (Paralympic) – two stoats representing the host cities.
- ◆ **India’s Participation:**
  - ◆ **Key Athlete:** **Arif Khan** (Alpine Skiing) is the primary face of India’s campaign, targeting qualification and improved standings after his Beijing 2022 appearance.
  - ◆ **Contingent:** India’s presence remains limited, primarily focused on Alpine Skiing and potentially Luge/Cross-Country Skiing.

### 📖 About the Winter Olympics:

- ◆ **Started:** The first Winter Olympics were held in **1924** in **Chamonix, France**.
- ◆ **Event Category:** Premier international multi-sport event for winter sports.
- ◆ **Specialty of 2026 Edition:**
  - ◆ **Ski Mountaineering Debut:** This discipline makes its Olympic debut, adding a new test of endurance and technique.
  - ◆ **Dual Hosting:** For the first time, the **Games are named after two host cities**, spanning a wide geographic area (over 400km) to utilize existing infrastructure.
  - ◆ **Ceremonies:** The Opening Ceremony is at **San Siro Stadium (Milan)** (football stadium), and the Closing Ceremony is at the historic **Verona Arena** (Roman amphitheater).
- ◆ **Key Sports:**
  - ◆ **Alpine Skiing:** (Slalom, Giant Slalom, Down-hill)
  - ◆ **Ice Hockey:** (Men’s and Women’s tournaments)
  - ◆ **Figure Skating:** (Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance)
  - ◆ **New Events:** Ski Mountaineering, Dual Moguls (Freestyle Skiing), Women’s Doubles Luge.

### 📖 India at Winter Olympics (Till Date)

- ◆ India has not yet won a medal at the Winter Olympics. The participation has been symbolic of the growing winter sports culture in the Himalayas.

Year	Athlete	Sport	Achievement
2022	Arif Khan	Alpine Skiing	First Indian to qualify for two events (Slalom & Giant Slalom) in the same Games.
1998-2018	Shiva Keshavan	Luge	Six-time Olympian; Asian Champion (First prominent Indian Winter Olympian).

## 4. RCB Wins Second WPL Title

### 📖 Context:

- ◆ In a thrilling summit clash, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) secured their second Women’s Premier League (WPL) title by defeating **Delhi Capitals** (DC) by 6 wickets in the final of the 2026 edition.

### 📖 Key Highlights:

- ◆ **Winner:** **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** (India).
- ◆ **Loser/Opponent:** **Delhi Capitals (DC)**.
- ◆ RCB chased down the target of 204 with 2 balls to spare (Score: DC 203/4 vs RCB 204/4).
- ◆ **Sport:** Cricket.
- ◆ **Event:** TATA Women’s Premier League (WPL), 2026.
- ◆ **Venue:** **Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) Stadium, Vadodara, Gujarat**.
- ◆ **Key Achievements:**
  - ◆ **Second Title:** This is RCB’s second WPL trophy (first won in 2024), making them the joint-most successful team alongside Mumbai Indians.
  - ◆ **Record Run Chase:** The target of **204** is the highest successful run chase in WPL history.
  - ◆ **Orange Cap (Most Runs):** Smriti Mandhana (RCB)
  - ◆ **Purple Cap (Most Wickets):** Sophie Devine (Gujarat Giants)
  - ◆ **Emerging Player:** Nandani Sharma (DC)

### 📖 About the Women’s Premier League (WPL):

- ◆ **Started:** 2023.
- ◆ **Event Category:** Premier Twenty20 (T20) cricket franchise league for women in India.
- ◆ **Specialty:**
  - ◆ Operated by the **BCCI**, it is one of the most lucrative women’s sports leagues globally.
  - ◆ It features **5 franchise teams** competing in a **double round-robin format** followed by **playoffs**.

WPL Winners List (Till Date)

Year	Winner	Runner-Up
2026	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Delhi Capitals
2025	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals
2024	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Delhi Capitals
2023	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals

### 5. Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh Win Silver in Mixed Team Pistol at Asian Shooting Championships, 2026

Context:

- In a closely contested final, the Indian duo of Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh secured the silver medal in the **10m Air Pistol Mixed Team** event at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship, 2026 in **New Delhi**.

Key Highlights

- Winner: Samrat Rana & Suruchi Singh** (India) - Silver Medal.
- Opponent: **Nigina Saidkulova & Mukhammad Kamalov** (Uzbekistan). The Uzbek pair won Gold with a score of **481.3** against India's **479.6**.
- Sport:** Shooting.
- Event:** Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship, 2026.
- Venue:** **Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi, India.**
- Key Achievements:**
  - Silver Success:** The duo clinched silver after a strong performance, having topped the qualification round with a score of **583**.
  - World Class Duo:** Samrat Rana is the reigning World Champion (Men's 10m Air Pistol), while Suruchi Singh is a World Cup finalist.
  - Team Dominance:** Their medal contributed to India's impressive tally, which included over 10 gold medals across senior and junior categories in the first two days.
  - New Format:** The final was conducted under a revised **four-team format**, where India led initially before Uzbekistan rallied in the latter half.

About the Asian Shooting Championships:

- Started: 1967.**
- Event Category:** Continental Championship organized by the Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC).
- Specialty:**

- It is the premier shooting event in Asia, often serving as a qualifying tournament for the Olympic Games.
- The 2026 New Delhi edition focused specifically on **Rifle and Pistol** events.
- It attracts top shooters from powerhouse nations like China, South Korea, and India.
- Latest Winners (2026 Mixed Team 10m Air Pistol):
  - Gold:** Uzbekistan (Nigina Saidkulova & Mukhammad Kamalov)
  - Silver:** India (Samrat Rana & Suruchi Singh)
  - Bronze:** Chinese Taipei (Cheng Yen-Ching & Hsieh Hsiang-Chen)

Indian Gold Winners at 2026 Championship

Category	Winner(s)
Women's 10m Air Pistol	Esha Singh
Women's 10m Air Pistol Team	Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker, Suruchi Singh
Junior Women's 10m Air Pistol	Rashmika Sahgal
Youth Women's 10m Air Pistol	Priyanshi Purva
Junior Women's Team	Rashmika Sahgal, Vanshika Chaudhary, Agam Grewal

### 6. India Lifts its 6th Title of ICC U-19 World Cup 2026 by defeating England

Context:

- In a dominant display of cricketing prowess, India defeated England by 100 runs in the final of the ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 to lift the trophy for a record-extending sixth time.

Key Highlights

- Winner: India.**
- Runner up: England.**
- India defended a massive total of 411, bowling England out for 311 (Score: India 411/9 vs England 311/10).
- Sport:** Cricket.
- Event:** ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026.
- Venue:** **Harare Sports Club, Harare, Zimbabwe.**
- Key Achievements:**
  - Sixth Title:** This victory marks India's **6th U-19 World Cup title**, extending their record as the **most successful team** in the tourna-

ment's history.

- ◆ **Record Total:** India's score of **411/9** is the highest team total ever recorded in an U-19 World Cup final.
- ◆ **Historic Knock:** Opener **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** was named Player of the Match for his blistering **175 runs off 80 balls**, the highest individual score in a U-19 World Cup final.
- ◆ **Captain:** The team was led by **Ayush Mhatre**, who also contributed a vital half-century in the final.

#### 📖 **About the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup:**

- ◆ **Started: 1988** (originally as the Youth Cricket World Cup).
- ◆ **Event Category: Biennial international cricket tournament** organized by the ICC for national Under-19 teams.
- ◆ **Specialty:**
  - ◆ It serves as the premier breeding ground for future international stars (e.g., Virat Kohli, Kane Williamson, Steve Smith).
  - ◆ The 2026 edition was co-hosted by **Zimbabwe and Namibia**.

#### 📖 **Indian Winners at U-19 World Cup (Till Date)**

- ◆ (India is the most successful nation in U-19 World Cup history)

Year	Host Country	Captain	Result
2026	Zimbabwe & Namibia	Ayush Mhatre	Champions
2022	West Indies	Yash Dhull	Champions
2018	New Zealand	Prithvi Shaw	Champions
2012	Australia	Unmukt Chand	Champions
2008	Malaysia	Virat Kohli	Champions
2000	Sri Lanka	Mohammad Kaif	Champions

## 7. Services defeated Kerala to Lift 8th Santosh Trophy Title

#### 📖 **Context:**

- ◆ In a pulsating final of the 79th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy (2025-26), Services defeated Kerala 1-0 after extra time to clinch their eighth title. The victory added another chapter to Services' dominance, denying Kerala the trophy in a tightly contested summit clash.

#### 📖 **Key Highlights**

- ◆ **Winner: Services.**

- ◆ **Runner up: Kerala.**
- ◆ Services broke the deadlock in extra time to win **1-0** after the match ended goalless in regulation time.
- ◆ **Sport:** Football.
- ◆ **Event:** 79th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy (2025-26).
- ◆ **Venue: Dhakuakhana Football Stadium, Assam.**
- ◆ **Key Achievements:**
  - ◆ This victory marks Services' **8th Santosh Trophy title**.
  - ◆ Striker **Abhishek Pawar** scored the decisive goal in the **109th minute** (Extra Time) off a cross from Shubham Rana.
  - ◆ Services goalkeeper and captain **Gagandeep Singh** was instrumental in keeping a clean sheet against sustained pressure from Kerala.
  - ◆ **Deja Vu:** This was a repeat of the **2012-13 final**, where Services had also defeated Kerala (that time via penalties) to win the title.

#### 📖 **About the Santosh Trophy:**

- ◆ **Started: 1941.**
- ◆ **Event Category: Premier inter-state national football championship for men** in India.
- ◆ **Specialty:**
  - ◆ Organized by the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)**.
  - ◆ It is named after **Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury**, the Maharaja of Santosh.
  - ◆ Traditionally the top prize in Indian domestic football, it now serves as a platform for scouting talent from state associations and government institutions (like Services and Railways).
  - ◆ The 2025-26 final round was hosted by **Assam**.

#### 📖 **Recent Santosh Trophy Winners**

Year	Winner	Runner-Up
2025-26	Services	Kerala
2024-25	West Bengal	Kerala
2023-24	Services	Goa
2022-23	Karnataka	Meghalaya
2021-22	Kerala	West Bengal

## 8. India defeated Bangladesh to Reclaim SAFF U-19 Women Football Title

#### 📖 **Context:**

- ◆ India produced a tactical masterclass to defeat defending champions Bangladesh 4-0.

**Key Highlights:**

- ◆ **Winner: India U-19 Women’s Team.**
- ◆ **Runner up: Bangladesh U-19 Women’s Team.**
- ◆ India registered a commanding **4-0** victory, completely outplaying their rivals after a goalless first 40 minutes.
- ◆ **Sport: Football.**
- ◆ **Event:** SAFF U-19 Women’s Championship 2026.
- ◆ **Venue: Pokhara Rangasala Stadium, Pokhara, Nepal.**
- ◆ **Key Achievements:**
  - ◆ This win was sweet revenge for India, who had lost 0-2 to Bangladesh in the round-robin stage earlier in the tournament.
  - ◆ India fielded their **U-17 World Cup probable squad** in this U-19 tournament to gain competitive experience, making the title win even more impressive against older opponents.
  - ◆ Captain **Julan Nongmaithem** opened the scoring (42’), followed by goals from **Elizabeth Lakra** (Penalty), **Pearl Fernandes**, and **Anwita Raghuraman** in the second half.
  - ◆ Goalkeeper **Munni** was named the Best Goalkeeper of the tournament, and India also won the Fair Play Award.

**About the SAFF U-19 Women’s Championship:**

- ◆ **Started: 2018** (originally as U-18, later switched to U-19/U-20 formats).
- ◆ **Event Category: International youth football championship for women in South Asia.**
- ◆ **Specialty:**
  - ◆ Organized by the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).**
  - ◆ It features youth teams from nations like India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.
  - ◆ The rivalry between India and Bangladesh has defined the tournament’s history, with both nations contesting almost every final.

**Recent SAFF U-19/U-20 Women’s Winners:**

Year	Winner	Runner-Up
2026	India	Bangladesh
2025	Bangladesh	Nepal
2024	India & Bangladesh (Joint Winners)	None (Final tied)
2023	Bangladesh	Nepal
2022	India	Bangladesh

**4. Magnus Carlsen Crowned 2026 FIDE Freestyle World Champion**

**Context:**

- ◆ In a historic moment for **chess**, world number one Magnus Carlsen secured the inaugural 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship title by defeating **American grandmaster Fabiano Caruana** in a highly dramatic final.

**About the FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship, 2026:**

- ◆ **Winner: Magnus Carlsen (Norway).**
- ◆ **Opponent: Fabiano Caruana (USA).**
- ◆ Carlsen won the four-game match with a final score of 2.5–1.5, highlighted by an incredible comeback in Game 3 where he won from a completely lost position.
- ◆ **Sport:** Chess (Freestyle / Chess960).
- ◆ **Venue: Schloss Weissenhaus Resort, Wangels, Germany.**

**Key Achievements:**

- ◆ **First Official Champion:** He became the first-ever champion of the newly minted, officially FIDE-recognized Freestyle Chess World Championship.
- ◆ **21st World Title:** This victory brings Carlsen’s staggering career total to 21 official FIDE world championship titles across all time controls and formats (Classical, Rapid, Blitz, and Freestyle).
- ◆ **The Missing Piece:** Carlsen finally captured an official Chess960/Fischer Random world title, a specific crown he had previously attempted to win but had fallen short of.
- ◆ **2027 Qualification:** By reaching the finals, both Carlsen and Caruana automatically secured their spots to compete in the 2027 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship.

**5. Smriti Mandhana Named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year, 2025**

**Context:**

- ◆ In a landmark recognition of her outstanding contributions to Indian cricket, 29-year-old star batter and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was crowned the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year for 2025 following her pivotal role in India’s historic Women’s World Cup triumph.

## 📖 About the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year for 2025:

- ♦ **Winner: Smriti Mandhana (India).**
- ♦ **Fellow Nominees Beaten: Harmanpreet Kaur (Cricket), Divya Deshmukh (Chess), Suruchi Singh (Shooting), and Jyothi Yarraji (Athletics).**
- ♦ **Event:** 6th Edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year (ISWOTY) Awards.
- ♦ **Venue:** New Delhi, India.

## 📖 Key Achievements:

- ♦ **Historic 2025 Season:** Mandhana was instrumental in India's victorious 2025 ICC Women's World Cup campaign (scoring 434 runs) and successfully led Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to their second consecutive Women's Premier League (WPL) title.
- ♦ **Record Breaker:** She amassed a staggering 1,703 international runs in the 2025 calendar year—the highest ever recorded by a woman in a single year—and crossed the 10,000-run mark in international cricket.
- ♦ **Elite Status:** She holds the record for the fastest 50-over international century by an Indian (50 balls) and currently ranks second worldwide for the most ODI centuries in women's cricket.
- ♦ **Unanimous Choice:** She was selected for the top honor by a distinguished grand jury comprising Indian sporting legends Leander Paes, Deepa Malik, and Anju Bobby George.

## 6. Harmanpreet Kaur becomes Most-Capped Player in Women's Cricket

### 📖 Context:

- ♦ On February 19, 2026, Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur etched her name into the history books by becoming the most-capped player in women's international cricket.
- ♦ She achieved this monumental milestone by making her 356th international appearance for India.

### 📖 Key Achievements:

- ♦ **Most-Capped Player:** With 356 matches across all formats, she holds the outright global record for the highest number of international appearances in the history of women's cricket.
- ♦ **Surpassed a Legend:** She overtook New Zealand veteran **Suzie Bates**, who previously held the top spot with 355 international matches.

- ♦ **Format Breakdown:** Her remarkable 17-year career longevity spans 189 T20Is, 161 ODIs, and 6 Tests since her international debut in March 2009.
- ♦ **Elite Company:** She now leads a legendary top-five list, sitting ahead of global stalwarts like **Suzie Bates (355), Ellyse Perry (349), Mithali Raj (333), and Charlotte Edwards (309).**

## IMPORTANT MILITARY EXERCISES

### 1. Exercise Agni Pariksha

- ♦ **Between:- Indian Army & Indo-Tibetan Border Police - ITBP**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To enhance inter-force combat synergy and operational integration by familiarising non-artillery personnel (Infantry & ITBP) with artillery procedures and firing missions in dynamic combat scenarios.
- ♦ **Event Place:- Arunachal Pradesh, India**

### 2. Exercise Khanjar (13th Edition)

- ♦ **Between which countries:- India & Kyrgyzstan**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To exchange best practices in counter-terrorism and Special Forces operations in urban and mountainous terrain, focusing on sniping, building intervention, and mountain craft.
- ♦ **Event Place:- Missamari, Assam, India**

### 3. Exercise MILAN 2026

- ♦ **Between which countries:-** Multilateral (Hosted by Indian Navy with participation from over 50 nations)
- ♦ **Objective:-** A flagship biennial naval exercise aimed at enhancing professional interaction, interoperability, and maritime cooperation among friendly foreign navies through Harbour and Sea phases.
- ♦ **Event Place:- Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India**

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

### 1. Parakram Diwas

- ♦ **Observed Date:- January 23**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:- Government of India**

- ♦ **Objective:-** To commemorate the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** and inspire the spirit of patriotism in the youth.
- ♦ **Theme:-** “**Honouring the Spirit of Fearless Leadership**”.

## 2. National Girl Child Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **January 24**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To raise awareness about the **inequalities** faced by girls and to promote their **rights, education, and health**.
- ♦ **Theme:-** “**Empowering Girls for a Viksit Bharat**”.

## 3. International Day of Education

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **January 24**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **UNESCO**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To celebrate the role of education for peace and development.
- ♦ **Theme:-** “**Learning for Lasting Peace**”.

## 4. National Voters' Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **January 25**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **Election Commission of India (ECI)**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To encourage, facilitate, and maximize enrolment, especially for new voters.
- ♦ **Theme:-** “**Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure**”.

## 5. National Tourism Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **January 25**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy.
- ♦ **Theme:-** “**Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories**”.

## 6. 77th National Republic Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **January 26**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **Government of India**
- ♦ **Objective:-** Marks the 77th Republic Day, commemorating the **adoption of the Constitution of India in 1950**.
- ♦ **Theme:-** “**Viksit Bharat**” (Developed India) and “**India – The Mother of Democracy**”.

## 7. International Customs Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **January 26**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **World Customs Organization (WCO)**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To recognize the role of custom officials and agencies in maintaining border security.
- ♦ **Theme:-** “**Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose**”.

## 8. Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas)

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **January 30**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **Government of India**
- ♦ **Objective:-** Commemorates the death anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi** (assassinated in 1948).
- ♦ **Significance:-** **A two-minute silence is observed nationwide at 11:00 AM** to honour those who sacrificed their lives for the country.

## 9. Indian Coast Guard Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **February 1**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**
- ♦ **Objective:-** Commemorates the **establishment of the ICG in 1977** to protect India's maritime interests.
- ♦ **Motto:-** “**Vayam Rakshamah**” (We Protect).

## 10. World Wetlands Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **February 2**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **Ramsar Secretariat**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and the planet.
- ♦ **Theme:-** “**Wetlands and Human Wellbeing**”.

## 11. World Cancer Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **February 4**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment.
- ♦ **Theme:-** “**Close the Care Gap**” (Focusing on equity in health care).

## 12. World Pulses Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:-** **February 10**
- ♦ **Observing Organisation:-** **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
- ♦ **Objective:-** To recognize the importance of

- pulses (dry beans, lentils, peas) as a global food.
- ◆ Theme:- “Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People”.

### 13. International Day of Women and Girls in Science

- ◆ Observed Date:- February 11
- ◆ Observing Organisation:- UNESCO / UN Women
- ◆ **Objective:-** To promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.
- ◆ Theme:- “Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against global challenges”.

### 14. National Women’s Day (India)

- ◆ Observed Date:- February 13
- ◆ Observing Organisation:- Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:-** Commemorates the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu (The Nightingale of India).
- ◆ **Significance:-** Celebrates her contribution to India’s freedom struggle and women’s rights.

### 15. World Radio Day

- ◆ Observed Date:- February 13
- ◆ Observing Organisation:- UNESCO
- ◆ **Objective:-** To celebrate radio as a medium regarding information, entertainment, and education.
- ◆ Theme:- “Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating”.

### 16. World Day of Social Justice

- ◆ Observed Date:- February 20
- ◆ Observing Organisation:- United Nations (ILO)
- ◆ **Objective:-** To promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, and unemployment.
- ◆ Theme:- “Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances”.

### 17. Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram

- ◆ Observed Date:- February 20
- ◆ Observing Organisation:- Government of India / State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram
- ◆ **Objective:-** Marks the day these two states were granted full statehood in 1987.

### 18. International Mother Language Day - February 21

- ◆ It was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1999, it was the initiative of Bangladesh.
- ◆ The UN General Assembly welcomed the proclamation of the day in its resolution of 2002.
- ◆ 2026 Theme:- “Youth voices on multilingual education”.

#### Mother languages in India:

- ◆ India as a Multilingual Society. According to the 2011 Census, India is home to more than 1,300 mother tongues and 121 constitutionally recognised languages.
- ◆ In 2022, in India, nearly 44% of children enter school speaking a language that is different from the medium of instruction, according to the NCERT.
- ◆ For these children, learning begins with the added burden of decoding an unfamiliar language before grasping academic concepts.
- ◆ Each year, UNESCO publishes the State of the Education Report for India, focusing on a specific theme.
- ◆ The 2025 edition, brought together global research, new national evidence and practical lessons to explore the state of Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education in India.

### 19. Uttar Pradesh Statehood Day

#### Context:

- ◆ The Prime Minister extended greetings to the people of Uttar Pradesh on the occasion of the state’s Establishment Day.

#### About:

- ◆ During the colonial period the region was called the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.
- ◆ The name was shortened to the United Provinces in 1935.
- ◆ On January 24, 1950 the United Provinces was renamed as Uttar Pradesh.
- ◆ The State is bound by Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in the north, Haryana in the west, Madhya Pradesh in the South and Bihar in the east.

- ◆ It has an international border with **Nepal**.
- ◆ It is the **most populous and 4th largest state of India**.
- ◆ It is recognized as the “**Sugar Bowl of India**” because it is the country’s largest producer of sugarcane.
- ◆ Major rivers: **Ganga, Yamuna, Ghaghara, Gomti, Rapti, Son, Betwa, Ken**.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS (CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM THIS MAGAZINE)

### 1. MCQ's on National and International Issues

#### 1). Consider the following statements about the 16th Finance Commission:

1. It was constituted in 2023 and its recommendations apply from 2026–27 to 2030–31.
2. It is chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya.
3. It recommends measures to strengthen the finances of Panchayats and Municipalities through State Consolidated Funds.
4. It directly allocates funds to local bodies bypassing State governments.

How many of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

#### 2). Consider the following statements:

1. Sant Ravidas is regarded as the founder of the Ravidassia religious tradition.
2. Forty-one hymns attributed to Sant Ravidas are included in the Guru Granth Sahib.
3. Mirabai is traditionally believed to have been influenced by Sant Ravidas.
4. His teachings were opposed by Sikh Gurus and excluded from Sikh religious canon.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only

- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

#### 3). Match the List-I (Buddhist Sacred Sites) with List-II (Associated Event) and List-III (Location):

List-I	List-II	List-III
a. Lumbini	1. Mahaparinirvana	i. Bihar
b. Bodh Gaya	2. Birth of Buddha	ii. Nepal
c. Sarnath	3. Enlightenment	iii. Uttar Pradesh
d. Kushinagar	4. First Sermon	iv. Uttar Pradesh

Correct Matching:

- A. a – 2 – ii, b – 3 – i, c – 4 – iii, d – 1 – iv
- B. a – 1 – ii, b – 2 – i, c – 4 – iii, d – 1 – iv
- C. a – 4 – i, b – 3 – ii, c – 2 – iii, d – 1 – iv
- D. a – 3 – ii, b – 2 – i, c – 4 – iii, d – 1 – iv

#### 4). Assertion (A): Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) is considered an important transitional technology for achieving net-zero emissions.

Reason (R): CCUS enables continued operation of hard-to-abate industrial sectors by preventing carbon dioxide emissions from entering the atmosphere.

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

#### 5). Consider the following statements:

1. Thaipusam is celebrated predominantly by Tamil-speaking communities.
2. It has significant public observance in countries with large Tamil diasporas.
3. The festival is officially recognized as a public holiday in Malaysia and Singapore.
4. In India, Thaipusam celebrations are confined only to Tamil Nadu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

6). With reference to DAY-NRLM, consider the following statements:

1. The mission focuses exclusively on self-employment and does not cover wage employment.
2. It seeks to mobilise rural poor households into self-managed institutions.
3. Financial inclusion is a core component of the mission.
4. The mission emphasises universal social security coverage for rural households.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

7). The Delhi Declaration was adopted in the context of:

- A. India–GCC Summit
- B. India–African Union Dialogue
- C. India–Arab Foreign Ministers’ Meeting
- D. NAM Ministerial Conference

8). Consider the following statements regarding the Gyan Bharatam Mission:

1. The mission focuses on the survey, documentation and conservation of manuscript heritage across India.
2. It primarily targets manuscripts preserved in religious institutions alone.
3. The mission envisages coverage of more than one crore manuscripts.
4. Digital access to manuscripts is a core outcome of the mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

9). The term “Bharat-VISTAAR” stands for:

- A. Virtual Interface for Sustainable Technology in Agriculture and Rural areas
- B. Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources
- C. Value-based Integrated System for Technology Adoption in Agriculture
- D. Virtual Infrastructure Scheme for Technology

and Agrarian Reforms

10). The GOBARdhan scheme aligns most closely with which of the following broader policy objectives?

1. Circular economy
2. Rural livelihood diversification
3. Climate change mitigation
4. Export-oriented agricultural growth

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3 only

11). Consider the following statements regarding the MPLADS:

1. Lok Sabha MPs can recommend works anywhere in the country.
2. Rajya Sabha MPs can recommend works anywhere in the country.
3. Nominated MPs can recommend works anywhere in India.
4. MPs are permitted limited flexibility to recommend works outside their normal jurisdiction.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

12). With reference to the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The rules have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The levy of environmental compensation under the rules is based on the “Polluter Pays” principle.
3. The Central Pollution Control Board is responsible for levying environmental compensation for non-compliance.
4. The rules come into full effect from April 1, 2026.

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

**13). The New START (Strategic Arms Reduction) Treaty was signed between which two countries?**

- A. USA and China
- B. Russia and China
- C. USA and Russia
- D. Russia and Ukraine

**14). The primary objective of PM VIKAS is to:**

- A. Provide universal scholarship to all minorities.
- B. Promote heritage tourism in minority-dominated areas.
- C. Support skill development, entrepreneurship and education of minority communities.
- D. Ensure reservation in government employment for minorities.

**15). With reference to Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion, consider the following statements:**

1. SFDR is an air-breathing propulsion system that uses atmospheric oxygen for combustion.
2. Unlike conventional solid rocket motors, SFDR allows regulation of thrust during flight.
3. SFDR engines can operate efficiently from standstill without any initial acceleration.
4. SFDR technology is particularly suited for long-range air-to-air missiles.

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

**16). The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) directly supports which of the following activities?**

1. Creation of modern storage and warehousing facilities.
2. Development of food processing and value-addition units.
3. Construction of large-scale irrigation dams.
4. Strengthening farm-gate level infrastructure.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, and 4 only

**17). Assertion (A): NAMASTE supports the rehabilitation of manual scavengers.**

**Reason (R): The scheme promotes skill development, safety training and alternative livelihood opportunities for sanitation workers.**

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

**18). With reference to Lake Urmia, consider the following statements:**

1. It is located in Iran and it lies in a tectonic depression associated with the Zagros mountain system.
2. It is an endorheic (closed basin) lake with no outlet to the sea.
3. It drains into the Caspian Sea during periods of high rainfall.
4. It is designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

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

**19). The “Rafah border” crossing connects:**

- A. Gaza Strip and Israel
- B. West Bank and Jordan
- C. Gaza Strip and Egypt
- D. Israel and Lebanon

**20). A large bird species, standing well over 1.5 metres tall, was recently reported from agricultural landscapes and shallow wetlands outside protected forest areas. It is known for its strong social bonding, lifelong monogamous pairs and a breeding cycle closely aligned with the monsoon season. The species feeds on insects, fish, roots and plant matter, playing an important role in maintaining ecological balance in farmlands. Although it was once widely distributed across several**

states in northern and central India, recent observations show that its population is now largely restricted to one particular state. The species is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and is protected under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The species described in the paragraph above is most likely:

- A. Demoiselle Crane
- B. Sarus Crane
- C. Siberian Crane
- D. Black-necked Crane

21). **The Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) has been created through an agreement involving:**

- A. The Government of India and Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO)
- B. Government of India, Government of Nagaland and Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO)
- C. Government of Nagaland and Naga insurgent groups
- D. Government of India, Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) and neighbouring countries

22). **Which of the following space agencies is NOT a partner in the International Space Station (ISS) programme?**

- A. NASA
- B. Roscosmos
- C. European Space Agency
- D. ISRO

23). **With reference to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), consider the following statements:**

- 1. NDMA derives its statutory authority from the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- 2. The Prime Minister of India is the ex-officio Chairperson of NDMA.
- 3. NDMA's guidelines are binding on State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

24). **With reference to NexCAR19, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a fully murine CAR-T therapy developed for use outside India.
- 2. It represents the first humanised CAR-T therapy developed indigenously in India.
- 3. Humanisation of CAR constructs helps reduce immunogenic reactions in patients.
- 4. Its development reflects India's growing capabilities in advanced immunotherapy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

25). **With reference to Agni-P (Agni-Prime), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a lighter, more compact missile compared to earlier Agni variants.
- 2. It incorporates advanced propulsion and navigation systems for greater accuracy.
- 3. It is designed exclusively for conventional warfare and cannot carry nuclear warheads.
- 4. Its range bridges the gap between short-range and long-range Agni missiles.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

26). **With reference to the Jiyo Parsi Scheme, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- 2. The scheme focuses exclusively on financial incentives for childbirth among Parsis.
- 3. Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) is a component under the scheme.
- 4. The scheme was launched during the 12th Five Year Plan period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

27). Indian teacher Rouble Nagi has won which international award in 2026?

- A. Ramon Magsaysay Award
- B. Global Teacher Prize
- C. UNESCO Peace Prize
- D. Padma Shri

28). Consider the following statements about the Hakki Pikki tribe:

- 1. They are traditionally bird catchers and hunters.
- 2. The society is matriarchal, and the eldest son is not allowed to cut his hair.
- 3. Cross-cousin marriages are preferred, and monogamy is the norm.
- 4. The tribe originally hails from the bordering districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- 5. In Karnataka, they strictly follow a vegetarian diet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. All of the above

29). Consider the following statements about the Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*):

- 1. It is the largest species of the flamingo family.
- 2. Average height ranges from 110–150 cm, and weight from 2–4 kg.
- 3. Its IUCN Red List status is Vulnerable.
- 4. It is the state bird of Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

30). Which of the following statements about Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is/are correct?

- 1. Red blood cells become rigid and sickle-shaped, causing blood flow blockage.
- 2. It is an infectious disease primarily transmitted via mosquitoes.
- 3. The most severe form of the disease is sickle-cell anaemia.
- 4. Haemoglobin in SCD patients can no longer carry oxygen.

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only

D. All of the above

31). Exercise Harimau Shakti is primarily conducted between:

- A. India and Indonesia
- B. India and Thailand
- C. India and Malaysia
- D. India and Vietnam

32). Consider the following statements about the Bab el-Mandeb Strait:

- 1. Connects the Mediterranean Sea directly with the Arabian Sea.
- 2. It is a critical chokepoint for oil shipments from the Persian Gulf to Europe.
- 3. Lies between Yemen and the Horn of Africa.
- 4. It is controlled entirely by Saudi Arabia and Eritrea.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

33). Consider the following statements regarding PM CARES and PMNRF:

- 1. Both funds are eligible for 100% tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.
- 2. Both funds accept foreign donations.
- 3. Both funds are subject to the RTI Act, 2005.
- 4. Neither fund is audited by the CAG of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

34). A large non-venomous snake species native to South and Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and parts of India, is recognised as the longest snake species in the world. Though not the heaviest, it ranks among the three heaviest snake species globally, after the green anaconda and the Burmese python. It has distinctive net-like patterns on its scales and kills its prey by constriction, suffocating it before swallowing it whole. In rare instances, it has also been reported to prey on humans.

Which one of the following species is described

above?

- A. Green Anaconda
- B. Burmese Python
- C. Reticulated Python
- D. Indian Rock Python

**35). Consider the following pairs:**

Festival	State
1. Bastar Pandum	Chhattisgarh
2. Hornbill Festival	Nagaland
3. Bhagoria Festival	Maharashtra
4. Wangala Festival	Meghalaya

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**36). With reference to bonded labour in India, consider the following statements:**

- 1. Bonded labour involves repayment of debt through forced labour.
- 2. The practice was historically linked to caste hierarchies and landlessness.
- 3. The Constitution explicitly permits bonded labour in cases of economic necessity.
- 4. Article 23 prohibits trafficking and forced labour.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

**37). Arrange the following island nations from West to East in the Western Indian Ocean:**

- 1. Comoros
- 2. Seychelles
- 3. Mauritius
- 4. Maldives

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- B. 2 – 1 – 3 – 4
- C. 1 – 3 – 2 – 4
- D. 2 – 3 – 1 – 4

**38). Consider the following statements:**

- 1. For tea cultivation annual rainfall between

150–200 cm and average annual temperature between 15°C and 23°C is required.

- 2. Deep, well-drained soil rich in humus and a long dry season for leaf maturation is required.
- 3. India is the second largest tea producer and largest producer of black tea globally.
- 4. India is the third largest tea exporter in the world and Assam accounts for more than half of India's total tea production.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4

**39). With reference to the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025, consider the following statements:**

- 1. India was ranked 45th with a score of 54.43 out of 100.
- 2. The report evaluates 150 economies across the world.
- 3. The index is based on four pillars – Technology, People, Governance and Impact.
- 4. The report is published by the Portulans Institute.

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

**40). With reference to the Ken–Betwa Link Project, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It aims to transfer surplus water from the Betwa River to the Ken basin.
- 2. The transfer is proposed through a concrete canal system.
- 3. The project primarily aims to provide irrigation to the Marathwada region.
- 4. The beneficiary states are Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

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

**41). Consider the following legal instruments related to biological weapons regulation in India:**

1. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
2. Biosafety Rules, 1989
3. Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, 2005
4. Atomic Energy Act, 1962
5. 2017 Recombinant DNA & Biocontainment Guidelines

How many of the above are directly related to regulation or prohibition of biological weapons or hazardous microorganisms?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. Four

**42). With reference to Vande Mataram, consider the following statements:**

1. The first two stanzas were adopted as India's National Song on 24 January 1950.
2. The Constitution of India explicitly defines the term "National Song."
3. Its recognition flows from Constituent Assembly discussions and executive practice.
4. It is explicitly protected under Article 51A(a) of the Constitution.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

**43). With reference to the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), consider the following statements:**

1. It is published by Transparency International and it measures levels of public sector corruption.
2. India scored 39 out of 100 and ranked 91st globally.
3. It covers more than 180 countries and uses a scale from 0 (very clean) to 100 (highly corrupt).
4. Denmark was the best performing country and Somalia was among the worst performing countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only

- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**44). India's first musical road has been introduced in:**

- A. Delhi
- B. Mumbai
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Ahmedabad

**45). The SHANTI Act, 2025 primarily aims to:**

- A. Nationalize all private power plants.
- B. Open the civil nuclear sector to greater private participation.
- C. Ban foreign investment in nuclear energy.
- D. Replace renewable energy with nuclear energy.

**46). Consider the following statements regarding Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati:**

1. He believed that the Vedas are the ultimate and infallible source of knowledge.
2. He rejected idol worship and elaborate ritualism.
3. He supported hereditary caste hierarchy based strictly on birth.
4. He advocated women's education and widow remarriage.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

**47). Consider the following statements regarding Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD):**

1. It is a tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever caused by a virus belonging to the Flaviviridae family.
2. It was first identified in 1957 in Karnataka.
3. Human-to-human transmission has been documented during outbreaks.
4. The disease is commonly known as Monkey Fever.

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

**48). Rajaji National Park is located in which State of India?**

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

**49). Which of the following is NOT a principle of Panchsheel?**

- A. Mutual non-interference in internal affairs
- B. Peaceful co-existence
- C. Equality and mutual benefit
- D. Pre-emptive self-defence

**50). Consider the following statements regarding the Quad:**

- 1. The Quad is an informal strategic dialogue among India, the USA, Japan and Australia.
- 2. It is a formal military alliance with a collective defence clause similar to NATO.
- 3. Its objective includes promoting a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific.
- 4. It conducts regular summit-level meetings among member countries.

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

**51). Consider the following statements regarding Seva Teerth:**

- 1. It houses the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- 2. It accommodates the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).
- 3. It houses the Cabinet Secretariat.
- 4. It was conceived to decentralize key executive offices into multiple locations across Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**52). Consider the following statements regarding the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in India:**

- 1. It measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for a basket of goods and services over time.

- 2. It is used as an indicator of retail inflation.
- 3. The base year has been revised from 2012 to 2024 using the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023–24.

4. CPI data are compiled and released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under MoSPI. How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. None are correct
- D. All are correct

**53). Consider the following statements regarding the Lead Bank Scheme (LBS):**

- 1. It was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India in December 1969.
- 2. It aims to coordinate banking and development activities at the district level.
- 3. Under the scheme, each district is assigned to a designated lead bank.
- 4. It functions under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Finance without RBI involvement.

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

**54). With reference to the Vaikom Satyagraha, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It was launched in the princely state of Travancore against restrictions on lower castes using public roads near a temple.
- 2. The immediate demand was complete temple entry for all castes.
- 3. Mahatma Gandhi directly led the protests from the beginning.
- 4. T. K. Madhavan was one of the key leaders associated with the movement.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All

**55). With reference to the Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, consider the following statements:**

1. The Act mandates Social Impact Assessment (SIA) before acquisition in all cases without exception.
2. It restricts acquisition of irrigated multi-cropped land except under exceptional circumstances.
3. It provides for the return of unused land after five years.
4. It provides for establishment of a Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Authority for grievance redressal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

**56). With reference to the Hirakud Wetland, consider the following statements:**

1. It forms part of the Hirakud Reservoir built across the Mahanadi River.
2. The reservoir is among the largest man-made reservoirs in India.
3. It was designated as a Ramsar Site in 2021.
4. It lies along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway.

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

**57). Which Indian state has designated *Bacillus subtilis* as its official State Microbe?**

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Maharashtra

**58). With reference to the Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a hypersonic glide missile designed to meet coastal defence and strike requirements of the Indian Navy.
2. It follows a quasi-ballistic trajectory and it employs a two-stage liquid propulsion rocket motor.
3. It is capable of engaging both static and moving maritime targets.

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

**59). With reference to the Sowmyanarayana Perumal Temple, consider the following statements:**

1. The temple is built in the Chola architectural style.
  2. It contains a three-tier sanctum representing different postures of Lord Vishnu.
  3. The ground level houses Vishnu in reclining (Sayana) posture.
  4. The shrine is crowned by an Ashtanga Vimana.
- 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

**60). Arrange the following events with respect to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the correct chronological order:**

1. Formation of the Forward Bloc
2. Election as President of the Indian National Congress at Haripura Session
3. Formation of the Provisional Government of Free India (Azad Hind Government)
4. Resignation from the Indian Civil Services (ICS)

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 4 – 1 – 2 – 3
- B. 2 – 4 – 1 – 3
- C. 4 – 2 – 1 – 3
- D. 2 – 1 – 4 – 3

**61). With reference to the “Prakash Ganga” tableau, consider the following statements:**

1. The theme symbolises the seamless and continuous flow of power across the interconnected national grid.
2. It highlights India’s transition from universal electricity access to becoming a global clean energy player.
3. The tableau focuses exclusively on thermal power expansion to ensure energy security.
4. It showcases digital and smart technologies in power management.

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
- 62). With reference to 'ASC ARJUN', consider the following statements:**
1. It is a humanoid robot deployed at Visakhapatnam Railway Station.
  2. It works in coordination with the Railway Protection Force (RPF).
  3. It has been developed using imported robotic technology under a foreign collaboration.
  4. It assists in security, surveillance and passenger assistance.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 4 only
- 63). The Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG) committee is chaired by:**
- A. Urjit Patel  
B. Narayan Ramachandran  
C. Shaktikanta Das  
D. N. Chandrasekaran
- 64). Why is ammonium nitrate considered a "dual-use" substance?**
- A. It is used in both agriculture and medicine  
B. It is used in both fertilizers and explosives  
C. It is used in food processing and mining  
D. It is used in textiles and pharmaceuticals
- 65). Which of the following correctly matches the category of the Jeevan Raksha Padak with its description?**
1. Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak – Saving life in situations of very great danger to the rescuer.
  2. Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak – Courage and prompt action in situations of great danger.
  3. Jeevan Raksha Padak – Acts involving minor risk to the rescuer.
- Select the correct answer:
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3
- 66). According to the TomTom Traffic Index 2025, which of the following Indian cities were among the top 10 most congested cities in Asia?**
1. Bengaluru
  2. Pune
  3. Chennai
  4. Jaipur
- Select the correct answer:
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 1, 2 and 4 only  
C. 2, 3 and 4 only  
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 67). The Sea of Japan connects to the Pacific Ocean through:**
- A. Suez Canal  
B. Tsugaru Strait  
C. Bosphorus Strait  
D. Gibraltar Strait
- 68). The Kurds are mainly spread across which of the following countries?**
1. Turkey
  2. Iraq
  3. Iran
  4. Syria
- Select the correct answer:
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 1, 2 and 3 only  
C. 1, 2, 3 and 4  
D. 2 and 4 only
- 69). EURATOM was established along with which major European agreement?**
- A. Treaty of Versailles  
B. Treaty of Rome  
C. Treaty of Lisbon  
D. Schengen Agreement
- 70). Consider the following description:**
- A medium-sized shark species found across the Indo-West Pacific region. It inhabits tropical and subtropical waters, commonly associated with coral reefs, rocky substrates, sandy plateaus, mangroves and seagrass beds. Its distribution extends from South Africa to Samoa and northward to Japan. The species is currently listed as "Endangered" on the IUCN**

**Red List.**

Which one of the following species is best described above?

- A. Great White Shark
- B. Whale Shark
- C. Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark
- D. Oceanic Whitetip Shark

**71). High concentrations of inhaled Nitric Oxide may lead to which of the following conditions?**

- 1. Methemoglobinemia
  - 2. Pulmonary tissue injury
  - 3. Increased oxygen-carrying capacity of blood
- Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**72). The country's first underwater twin-tube road-cum-rail tunnel is being constructed beneath which river and in which state?**

- A. Ganga, West Bengal
- B. Yamuna, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Brahmaputra, Assam
- D. Godavari, Andhra Pradesh

**73). Assertion (A): The Fund of Funds for Startups is managed by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).**

**Reason (R): SIDBI is a statutory body responsible for regulation of capital markets in India.**

Codes:

- 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

**74). With reference to the Ol Chiki script, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It was developed in the early 20th century by Pandit Raghunath Murmu specifically for the Santhali language.
- 2. It consists of 30 letters designed to accurately represent Santhali phonetics.
- 3. It was adapted from the Devanagari script to suit tribal languages and its creation enabled systematic documentation of Santhali vocabulary and grammar.

4. Santhali language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.

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

**75). Which of the following statements about ULPIN (Bhu-Aadhaar) is/are correct?**

- 1. It is a 14-digit identification number assigned to every land parcel.
- 2. It is based on the longitude and latitude coordinates of the land parcel.
- 3. It functions as a digital land identity, similar to Aadhaar for individuals.
- 4. It is applicable only to urban areas covered under Smart Cities Mission.

Options:

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

**76). Which of the following statements about PM RAHAT is/are correct?**

- 1. It provides immediate, cashless medical treatment to road accident victims.
- 2. The scheme covers only accidents on national highways.
- 3. Hospitals cannot ask for advance payments for emergency stabilization.
- 4. Funding comes from the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAFF).

Options:

- A. 1, 3, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**77). This is a ground-dwelling bird endemic to the Western Himalayas, found across Pakistan, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and central Nepal. It feeds mainly on roots, tubers, bulbs, seeds, berries, and occasionally insects or worms. The species exhibits high natal philopatry, meaning individuals often return to their birthplace to breed, and is predominantly monogamous. Its population faces threats**

from hunting, habitat degradation due to conversion of grasslands to agriculture, and forest fires during the breeding season (April–June) that destroy ground nests. Conservation efforts include an exclusive breeding centre located in Himachal Pradesh. It is classified as ‘Vulnerable’ by international conservation organizations, listed in Schedule I of India’s Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and included in Appendix I of CITES.

Which of the following species is described in the above paragraph?

- A. Himalayan Monal
- B. Cheer Pheasant
- C. Western Tragopan
- D. Satyr Tragopan

**78). India recently upgraded its bilateral ties to “Special Global Strategic Partnership” with which country?**

- A. Germany
- B. United Kingdom
- C. France
- D. Japan

**79). With reference to the “AI-Preneurs of India” initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a regulatory framework for artificial intelligence startups in India.
2. It is launched under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog.
2. It documents the journeys of selected AI startups through a flagship publication.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**80). A large forest-dwelling bird measuring about 2 to 2.5 feet in height, characterised by a massive curved beak and striking plumage, inhabits moist evergreen and tall deciduous forests, plantations, and low-altitude riparian ecosystems. In India, its distribution extends across the Western Ghats and parts of eastern and central India, including south-west West Bengal and Bihar, further ranging into Andhra Pradesh and Sri Lanka. Ecologically, it plays a crucial role as a keystone seed disperser,**

**significantly contributing to tropical forest regeneration. It is currently listed as ‘Near Threatened’ on the IUCN Red List.**

The species described in the above paragraph is:

- A. Great Indian Bustard
- B. Malabar Pied Hornbill
- C. Indian Grey Hornbill
- D. Oriental Darter

**81). With reference to the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, consider the following statements:**

1. It recognises individual as well as community rights over forest land and resources.
2. It applies only to Scheduled Tribes and excludes other traditional forest dwellers.
3. It aims to correct historical injustice done to forest-dwelling communities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**82). Municipal Bonds are primarily used for:**

1. Financing capital-intensive infrastructure projects
2. Refinancing existing loans
3. Meeting working capital requirements

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3 only

**83). With reference to the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), consider the following statements:**

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. It focuses on villages located along India’s border with China.
3. It aims at improving infrastructure and livelihood opportunities in border villages.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**84). The “Board of Peace” was created to oversee:**

- A. The ceasefire in the Russia–Ukraine war.
- B. The ceasefire in the Israel–Lebanon conflict.
- C. The ceasefire in the Israel–Hamas war.
- D. The ceasefire in the Syrian civil war.

**85). With reference to the Loggerhead Turtle, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It derives its name from its disproportionately large head.
- 2. It primarily feeds on hard-shelled marine organisms.
- 3. It is classified as ‘Endangered’ under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**86). The Global Mission on AI for Energy has been launched by:**

- A. International Energy Agency
- B. United Nations Environment Programme
- C. World Bank
- D. International Solar Alliance

**87). The term ‘Pax Silica’ refers to:**

- A. A UN peacekeeping operation
- B. A US-led strategic initiative for secure silicon supply chains
- C. A global treaty on rare earth minerals
- D. A WTO agreement on trade facilitation

**88). With reference to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It was enacted in 1977.
- 2. It empowers the U.S. President to act against unusual and extraordinary foreign threats.
- 3. It can be invoked without declaring a national emergency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**89). With reference to the concept of “Net Zero”, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It implies a complete elimination of all greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2. It refers to achieving a balance between greenhouse gases emitted and those removed from the atmosphere.
- 3. It results in reducing human-caused emissions to a net value of zero.
- 4. Bela Gram was recognized as India’s first net-zero panchayat for its sustainable and carbon-neutral initiatives.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**90). A tree species endemic to three districts of southern Andhra Pradesh—Chittoor, Nellore, and YSR Kadapa—is primarily found in the Eastern Ghats, with its largest reserve located within a biosphere reserve spanning about 4,755 sq km. It is a slow-growing species requiring 25–40 years to attain maturity, making it particularly vulnerable to overexploitation. The species is listed as ‘Endangered’ on the IUCN Red List, its international trade is strictly regulated under CITES, and it is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**

The species described in the above paragraph is:

- A. Sandalwood
- B. Teak
- C. Red Sanders
- D. Rosewood

**91). With reference to the indigenously manufactured Td vaccine, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is produced at the Central Research Institute.
- 2. It provides protection against tetanus as well as diphtheria.
- 3. It replaced the earlier Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccine, which protected only against tetanus.
- 4. The World Health Organization recommended in 2006 that countries transition from Td to TT vaccine.

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

**92). With reference to the Biopharma Shakti initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to boost the production of biologics and biosimilars in India.
2. It seeks to transform India into a leading global biopharma industry player.
3. It targets capturing 5% of the global biopharmaceutical market share.
4. It primarily focuses on increasing imports of high-value biopharmaceutical products to meet domestic demand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

## 2. MCQ'S on karnatka darshana

**1). Consider the following statements regarding the eligibility of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) candidates in professional courses in Karnataka:**

1. OCI candidates registered on or before March 4, 2021, are eligible for reservations meant for Indian citizens.
2. OCI candidates registered on or after March 5, 2021, can seek admission under NRI seats or supernumerary seats.
3. The amendment applies to the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Prohibition of Capitation Fee) Act, 1984, and the 2006 rules for government seats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

**2). Match the following 2026 Padma awardees from Karnataka with their fields:**

List I – Awardee	List II – Field
a. Shatavadhani R. Ganesh	1. Science & Engineering

b. S.G. Susheelamma	2. Social Work
c. Shubha V. Iyengar	3. Art & Literature
d. Anke Gowda M.	4. Literature & Education

Codes:

- A. a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4
- B. a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1
- C. a-3, b-4, c-1, d-2
- D. a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4

**3). The 1% reservation for transgender persons in Karnataka applies to:**

- A. Private sector jobs only
- B. Government services
- C. Central Armed Forces only
- D. Panchayat elections only

**4). Regarding the historical significance of Lakkundi (Lokkigundi), consider the following statements:**

1. It was an important centre under the Chalukya, Yadava and Hoysala dynasties.
2. It served as the capital of Hoysala king Eradane Ballala in 1192 A.D.
3. It was renowned for its “tankashale,” which functioned as a royal mint.
4. It is known as the “City of Thousand Temples.”

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**5). The new modern fruit and vegetable wholesale market is being developed at:**

- A. Yeshwantpur
- B. Singena Agrahara
- C. Kalasipalya
- D. Dasanapura

**6). With reference to the “Turtle Trails” initiative announced in the Union Budget, consider the following statements:**

1. The project aims to promote eco-tourism centered around sea turtle nesting sites.
2. In Karnataka, the initiative focuses on Uttara Kannada and Dakshina Kannada districts.
3. The project is limited only to Karnataka’s coastline.
4. The initiative seeks to balance tourism

development with marine conservation.  
How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

**7). With reference to the Orange Economy in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Orange Economy is based on intellectual property and creativity.
2. It includes sectors such as animation, gaming, visual effects, arts, and digital content.
3. Karnataka was the first Indian state to introduce a dedicated AVGC policy in 2012.
4. India's addressable creative economy market currently stands at around \$35 billion.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. All are incorrect
- D. All are correct

**8). With reference to the Guarantee Schemes implemented by the State government in 2024–25, consider the following statements:**

1. Around 1.37 crore families received direct financial benefits under the schemes.
2. The total disbursement under these schemes exceeded ₹1.13 lakh crore.
3. The schemes are conceptually linked to the idea of Universal Basic Income.
4. The schemes were targeted exclusively at Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**9). With reference to the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers' Welfare Development Board, consider the following statements:**

1. The Labour Minister serves as the ex-officio president of the board.
2. The board includes representatives from gig worker unions and aggregator companies in equal numbers.

3. The CEO of the board functions as its member-secretary.

4. The board consists exclusively of representatives from the Labour Department.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. 1, 2, and 3 only

**10). Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) has partnered with which company to develop advanced thermal materials for aviation batteries?**

- A. HAL
- B. Dreamfly Innovations Pvt. Ltd.
- C. ISRO
- D. BEL

**11). Hampi was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in:**

- A. 1982
- B. 1999
- C. 1986
- D. 2006

**12). Match the following:**

List I (Initiative)	List II (Features)
a. Namma 112	1. Supported by Nirbhaya Fund.
b. Safe City Project	2. Emergency response system.
c. Body & Dash Cams Integration	3. First Indian city to link cameras with command centre workflow.
d. Safety Islands	4. Installed emergency call boxes across the city.

Codes:

- a b c d
- A. 2 1 3 4
- B. 1 2 4 3
- C. 2 3 1 4
- D. 3 1 2 4

**13). With reference to the Smart City Projects in Karnataka, consider the following statements:**

1. The Smart City projects are being implemented in seven cities of Karnataka.
2. The Karnataka Urban Infrastructure

Development Corporation (KUIDFC) is the nodal agency responsible for implementation.

3. All district headquarters of Karnataka are covered under the Smart Cities Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**14). The integration of Tele MANAS with Namma 112 involved collaboration with:**

- A. AIIMS Delhi
- B. ISRO
- C. NIMHANS
- D. DRDO

**15). With reference to the initiative of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) to adopt government high schools, consider the following statements:**

- 1. The initiative seeks to adopt 680 government high schools across Karnataka.
- 2. The programme will be implemented through the National Service Scheme (NSS).
- 3. The primary objective is to improve educational quality in government schools.
- 4. The initiative mandates compulsory rural posting for all VTU faculty members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**16). The Engineering Education committee is chaired by:**

- A. Prof. K. Kasturirangan
- B. Prof. S. Sadagopan
- C. Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar
- D. Prof. M.S. Swaminathan

**17). With reference to the Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee (2026), consider the following statements:**

- 1. The committee was chaired by economist M. Govinda Rao.
- 2. The number of "Most Backward" taluks increased from 39 in 2002 to 93 in 2026.

- 3. More than half of the backward taluks are located in South Karnataka.

- 4. Kalaburagi and Belagavi divisions together account for over 70% of the most backward taluks.

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

**18). With reference to the M. Govinda Rao committee recommendations, consider the following statements:**

- 1. The committee recommended abolishing the Malnad Area Development Board and the Bayaluseeme Development Board.
- 2. The Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) was established under Article 371(J) of the Constitution.
- 3. The committee recommended strengthening KKRDB without any structural changes.
- 4. The overhaul of regional planning units aims to link them directly with Zilla Panchayats.

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

**19). With reference to the Anugraha Scheme, consider the following statements:**

- 1. The scheme was launched in 2013.
- 2. It provides financial relief to farmers for livestock lost due to diseases or accidents.
- 3. The compensation for cows, buffaloes, and bullocks has been enhanced to ₹15,000.
- 4. The compensation amount for sheep and goats is higher than that for cattle.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

20). With reference to the FICCI FLO Women-Led Industrial Park in Karnataka, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Gauribidanur in Chickballapur district and is spread over 50 acres.
2. It has been developed exclusively for women entrepreneurs.
3. The initiative aims to increase women's participation in manufacturing.
4. It was launched by the KIADB and Karnataka Udyog Mitra.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

21). With reference to the draft Code on Social Security Rules in Karnataka, consider the following statements:

1. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board will include equal representation from workers and employers.
2. The Labour Minister of the State will serve as the Chairperson of the Board.
3. The Construction Workers' Welfare Board will include Members of Parliament.
4. Employers are required to pay a cess of 1–2% of construction cost within thirty days of assessment.

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

22). The Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) recently declared which of the following as "public authorities" under the RTI Act?

1. Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF)
2. Electronic City Industrial Township Authority
3. Karnataka Examination Authority

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

23). Consider the following statements regarding the 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes):

1. The theme of the festival focused on women's empowerment under the slogan "Stree Yendare Ashte Sake."
2. The Marathi film Sabar Bonda won the Best Indian Film award.
3. Vanya, which won the Best Kannada Film award, deals with urban migration issues.
4. Hamsalekha was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

24). Consider the following statements regarding the Karnataka Cybercrime Coordination Centre (K4C):

1. K4C functions as a nodal agency to coordinate cybercrime investigations across the State.
  2. It works in coordination with law enforcement agencies and banks to prevent financial cyber fraud.
  3. It was established under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.
  4. One of its objectives is capacity building and training of police personnel in cyber forensics.
- 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

25). Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary is situated on the banks of which river?

- A. Tungabhadra
- B. Krishna
- C. Kaveri
- D. Sharavathi

26). Which of the following destinations were identified in Udupi district under the National Mission for Developing Globally Competitive Tourism Destinations?

1. Kodi-Kanyana
2. Barkur Port area
3. Trasi–Maravanthe
4. Malpe Beach

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**27). With reference to the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), consider the following statements:**

1. It functions under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and it is the apex authority for vehicle testing and certification in India.
2. It is responsible for conducting monetary policy for the automobile sector.
3. It plays a key role in emission standards and safety compliance.
4. The proposed new ARAI centre announced by the Union Minister is to be established in Mandya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

### 3. MCQ'S ON MISCELLANEOUS

**1). Match the following Padma Vibhushan 2026 recipients with their respective fields:**

Column A (Recipients)	Column B (Fields)
1. Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol	a. Literature & Education
2. Shri K. T. Thomas	b. Art
3. Shri P. Narayanan	c. Public Affairs

Select the correct options:

- A. 1-b, 2-c, 3-a
- B. 1-c, 2-b, 3-a
- C. 1-b, 2-a, 3-c
- D. 1-a, 2-c, 3-b

**2). Who was awarded the Ashoka Chakra in 2026 for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty away from the battlefield?**

- A. Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman

- B. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla
- C. Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan
- D. Captain Vikram Batra

**3). Consider the following statements regarding Gallantry Awards in India:**

1. The Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Shaurya Chakra are peacetime gallantry awards, while the Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, and Vir Chakra are wartime gallantry awards.
2. Both military personnel and civilians are eligible to receive peacetime gallantry awards.
3. The Ashoka Chakra can be awarded posthumously for acts of conspicuous bravery away from the battlefield.
4. Gallantry awards are exclusively conferred on Republic Day and cannot be announced on any other occasion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

**4). Match the awardees of the 2nd Banaras Lit Fest Book Awards 2026 with the awards they received:**

Column A (Awardees)	Column B (Awards)
1. Namita Gokhale	a. Vivekanand Award for Youth
2. Mahadev Toppo	b. Bhartendu Harishchandra Lifetime Achievement Award
3. Parag Pawan	c. Kalidas Award for Indian Languages

Select the correct options:

- A. 1-a, 2-b, 3-c
- B. 1-b, 2-c, 3-a
- C. 1-c, 2-a, 3-b
- D. 1-b, 2-c, 3-a

**5). Consider the following statements regarding the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development:**

1. It is awarded annually by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust and the 2025 award was conferred upon Graça Machel.

2. It recognizes contributions to global peace, development, and the promotion of a new international economic order.
3. The award is restricted only to Indian citizens/ organizations.
4. It includes a monetary grant of ₹1 crore along with a trophy and citation.

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

**6). Consider the following statements regarding the Wiley Research Heroes Prize, 2025:**

1. It is conferred by Wiley, a global publishing and research organization.
2. The award recognizes researchers whose work bridges scholarly research and real-world policy implementation.
3. The 2025 awardee Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya became the first Indian to receive this honour.
4. The award is administered by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**7). Which of the following pairs are correctly matched regarding the 68th Grammy Awards, 2026:**

1. Billie Eilish — Song of the Year
2. Olivia Dean — Best New Artist
3. Cirkut — Songwriter of the Year
4. Amy Allen — Producer of the Year

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**8). Consider the following pairs regarding the 2026 Australian Open winners:**

1. Men's Singles — Carlos Alcaraz
2. Women's Singles — Elena Rybakina
3. Men's Doubles — Christian Harrison & Neal

Skupski

4. Mixed Doubles — Kristina Mladenovic & Manuel Guinard

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. 2 and 3 only

**9). Consider the following statements regarding the Thailand Masters 2026:**

1. Devika Sihag won her maiden BWF World Tour Super 300 title at the tournament.
2. She became the first Indian shuttler to win the Thailand Masters title since its inception.
3. She defeated Goh Jin Wei of Malaysia in the final.
4. The tournament was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**10). Consider the following statements regarding the Winter Olympic Games:**

1. The first Winter Olympics were held in 1924 in Chamonix, France.
2. Winter Olympics are organized under the supervision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
3. Winter Olympics are held every four years, alternating with the Summer Olympics every two years.
4. The XXV Olympic Winter Games (Milano Cortina 2026) will mark the return of the Winter Olympics to Italy after two decades.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All are incorrect
- D. All are correct

**11). Consider the following statements regarding the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship:**

1. The Indian pair of Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh won the silver medal.

2. The gold medal was won by shooters from Uzbekistan.
3. The final score was 481.3–479.6 in favour of India.
4. The event was held in New Delhi.

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

**12). Consider the following statements regarding the ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup:**

1. India won the tournament by defeating the England team for a record-extending sixth time.
2. The final was played at Harare Sports Club, Zimbabwe.
3. India scored 411/9, the highest total ever recorded in a U-19 World Cup final.
4. The 2026 edition was hosted exclusively by Zimbabwe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**13). Consider the following statements regarding the Santosh Trophy:**

1. Services won their eighth Santosh Trophy title.
2. The final was played at Dhakuakhana Football Stadium, Assam.
3. Services defeated Kerala 1–0 in regulation time.
4. It is organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and it is India's premier inter-state national football championship for men.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All are not correct
- D. All are correct

**14). Consider the following pairs:**

1. Exercise Agni Pariksha — Indian Army & Indo-Tibetan Border Police
2. Exercise Khanjar — India & Kyrgyzstan

3. Exercise MILAN — India & Japan
- How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All Three
- D. None

**15). Match the following:**

List I (Day)	List II (Observed Date)	List III (Theme)
a. Parakram Diwas	1. January 23	I. Empowering Girls for a Viksit Bharat
b. National Girl Child Day	2. January 24	II. Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure
c. International Day of Education	3. January 25	III. Honouring the Spirit of Fearless Leadership
d. National Voters' Day	4. January 24	IV. Learning for Lasting Peace

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. a-1-III, b-2-I, c-4-IV, d-3-II
- B. a-2-III, b-4-I, c-1-IV, d-3-II
- C. a-1-IV, b-2-III, c-4-I, d-3-II
- D. a-1-III, b-3-I, c-4-IV, d-2-II

**16). With reference to the FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship, consider the following statements:**

1. The 2026 edition was won by Magnus Carlsen.
2. He defeated Fabiano Caruana in the final match.
3. The final score of the four-game match was 3–1 in favour of Carlsen.
4. The championship was held at Schloss Weissenhaus Resort in Germany.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. One only
- D. All Four

17). Who won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year for 2025?

- A. P.V. Sindhu
- B. Mirabai Chanu
- C. Smriti Mandhana
- D. Nikhat Zareen

18). With reference to the Anna Chakra initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is the initiative of the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) and won the 2026 Franz Edelman Award.
2. The Franz Edelman Award recognises excellence in operations research and analytics.
3. The initiative is designed to improve procurement prices for farmers.
4. The initiative applies analytical tools to improve efficiency in food grain movement under PDS.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

19). With reference to the tableau “Prakash Ganga: Powering an Aatmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat”, consider the following statements:

1. It is being showcased by the Ministry of Power at the Republic Day Parade of 2026.
2. The tableau highlights India’s journey from universal electricity access to becoming a global clean energy player.
3. The term “Prakash Ganga” symbolises the uninterrupted flow of electricity across the interconnected national grid.
4. The tableau primarily focuses on thermal power expansion as the backbone of energy security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

20). With reference to the Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards, consider the following statements:

1. It was instituted in 1961 as a civilian offshoot of the Ashoka Chakra series.
2. It recognises acts of bravery in life-saving situations such as drowning, fire, accidents, or natural calamities.
3. It is restricted to government servants and armed forces personnel.
4. It may be awarded posthumously.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

## KEY ANSWERS

### 1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL:

1)C	19)C	37)A	55)A
2)B	20)B	38)B	56)A
3)A	21)B	39)A	57)C
4)A	22)D	40)C	58)B
5)B	23)C	41)D	59)A
6)C	24)B	42)B	60)C
7)C	25)C	43)C	61)A
8)A	26)A	44)B	62)D
9)B	27)B	45)B	63)B
10)D	28)A	46)C	64)B
11)B	29)B	47)A	65)A
12)A	30)A	48)B	66)B
13)C	31)C	49)D	67)B
14)C	32)B	50)A	68)C
15)A	33)B	51)C	69)B
16)D	34)C	52)A	70)C
17)A	35)A	53)C	71)B
18)C	36)C	54)B	72)C

73)C	77)B	81)A	85)A	89)B
74)A	78)C	82)C	86)D	90)C
75)B	79)B	83)A	87)B	91)A
76)A	80)B	84)C	88)A	92)D

### 2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA:

1)B	6)C	11)C	16)B	21)A
2)A	7)D	12)A	17)A	22)B
3)B	8)A	13)B	18)A	23)C
4)A	9)A	14)C	19)C	24)A
5)B	10)B	15)A	20)D	25)C
				26)A
				27)B

### 3. MISCELLANEOUS

1)A	6)C	11)A	16)B	
2)B	7)A	12)A	17)C	
3)A	8)B	13)B	18)C	
4)D	9)A	14)B	19)A	
5)A	10)D	15)A	20)B	



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# KPSC ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣರಾದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂದರ್ಶನದ ವಿಶೇಷ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ

KPSC ಗಜೆಟೆಡ್ ಪ್ರೊಬೇಷನರ್ಸ್ 2023-24ರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ  
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Contact: 08069405206

## ನಮ್ಮ ಸಾಧಕರು



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TAHASILDAR  
KPSC TOPPER 2022



**HEMA P**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF  
CO-OPERATIVE AUDIT  
KPSC TOPPER 2022



**DR CHIKKAPPA NAYAK**  
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KPSC TOPPER 2022

## ಶಾಖೆಗಳು:

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಚೇರಿ:

#1134/1, 2nd Floor, Opposite to Attiguppe  
Metro Station, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar,  
Bengaluru, Karnataka-560040



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