



ANANYA SAADHANA

COMPREHENSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

VINAY KUMAR G B
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,
INSIGHTS IAS

MAY 2026

KAS

FDA

SDA

PDO

PSI

PC

GROUP C



First Digital Census

India is conducting the census in a digital format for the very first time, and this process is expected to be completed by March 2027.

-  First census (under the leadership of W.C. Plowden).
-  First census of independent India.
-  Managed by the 'Registrar General and Census Commissioner' under the Ministry of Home Affairs

IN FOCUS



West Bengal's "Sunderbans"

UNESCO World Heritage Site, Biosphere Reserve, Ramsar site.



OPEC Plus (OPEC+)

Produces 50% of the world's total crude oil.



Qdenga (Qdenga - TAK-003)

Developed by Japan's 'Takeda Pharmaceutical Company'.



Memflation

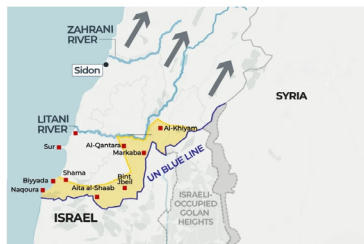
Semiconductor memory prices rise rapidly and continuously over time

TOP HIGHLIGHTS



Namo Drone Didi Scheme

Training women members of Self-Help Groups as drone pilots.



Yellow Line between Israel and Lebanon:

Israel shares a similar yellow line with 'Gaza'



Bharat Tribal Festival-2026

Exhibition of India's tribal heritage and unique products.



Aditya-L1 Mission

India's first space-based observatory to study the Sun.



EDITOR'S PAGE



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

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

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

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



To the future administrators of Karnataka,

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

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

Let's shape a prosperous Karnataka, together.

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

SOURCES



ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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

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

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

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

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

THE TEAM

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

INDEX

TOP CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. India's Push for Piped Natural Gas
2. Sanand as India's Semiconductor Hub
3. FCRA Amendment Bill 2026
4. OPEC+
5. Aditya-L1 Mission
6. Bharat Tribes Fest 2026
7. Namo Drone Didi Scheme
8. Sundarbans Losing Ability to Recover
9. Light Pollution
10. Sentinel Species.

KARNATAKA DARSHANA

1. Karnataka Cybersecurity Policy 2024
2. Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)
3. Karnataka's First Spring Census
4. CALM-Brain initiative
5. KSRTC honored with the 2025 SKOCH National Award
6. UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme
7. Karnataka Sets Up Panel to Strengthen Palliative Care
8. World HRD Congress Award 2026
9. Karnataka secured the second-highest GST collection
10. Yettinahole Drinking Water Project.
11. Karnataka second-largest hub in India for public charging infrastructure,
12. Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)
13. e-Swathu 2.0
14. Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) 2.0
15. Yana Caves
16. 2025-26 Karnataka state literary and cultural awards
17. Building Small Town Water Resilience in Chikkaballapur District
18. Karnataka Tourism Policy 2020-26
19. Four South African cheetahs to Bengaluru
20. K.C. Valley project

NATIONAL ; POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. FCRA Amendment Bill 2026
2. Bharat Tribes Fest 2026
3. Custodial Deaths in India
4. Supreme Court Hearing on Sabarimala Case
5. Government Notifies Two Institutions as Repositories
6. Constitution of India in Sindhi Language
7. India's New Deportation Policy
8. River Basin Management Scheme
9. National Medical Commission (NMC)
10. 18th Civil Services Day
11. Paternity Leave
12. Census 2027
13. Redistribution of Lok Sabha Seats Based on 2011 Census

ECONOMY

1. Sanand as India's Semiconductor Hub
2. Cooperatives of India
3. Parliament Passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill, 2026
4. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026
5. Kar Saathi
6. Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI)
7. Coal Gasification Incentive Scheme
8. Major Ports in India Surpass Cargo Target
9. Stagflation
10. Credit Guarantee Scheme
11. Soil Sakhis
12. Cabinet Clears 12% Hike in P&K Fertiliser Subsidy
13. Skills Outcomes Fund
14. RBI Holds Repo Rate at 5.25 per cent
15. National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)
16. Memory Price Inflation (Memflation)
17. India's First Large-Scale Private Gold Mining Project

18. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
19. PRISM-SG Portal
20. West Asian Crisis Disrupts India's Coffee Exports
21. 14th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) Completed 10 Years
2. NCERT Granted Deemed University Tag
3. Yuva Sangam
4. Namo Drone Didi Scheme
5. 11 Years of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)
6. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)
7. SMILE Scheme
8. Atal Pension Yojana

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

1. Qdenga (TAK-003)
2. GLP-1 Therapy
3. FSSAI Cannot Regulate Animal Feed
4. Cancer-Fighting Herbs of Konyak Naga Tribe
5. World Tuberculosis Day

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Bab el-Mandab Strait
2. Additional Information - SUMED (Suez-Mediterranean) pipeline
3. Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026
4. Rice's Whale
5. E20 Petrol
6. India's Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System
7. Indonesia
8. Additional Information - Ring of Fire
9. Tar Balls Management Rules
10. Sundarbans Losing Ability to Recover
11. Decline of Lakes in Jammu & Kashmir
12. Phasing Down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in India
13. India Withdraws Bid to Host COP 33 in 2028
14. Plan for Great Nicobar Island Projects
15. Light Pollution

16. Sentinel Species
17. Project HIM SAROVAR
18. Ghaggar River
19. Andaman Sea
20. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)
21. Marine Heatwaves
22. Amazon Rainforests
23. Kerala Botanist's Innovation in Tackling Invasive Species
24. Shahtoosh Wool
25. State of India's Bats, 2024-25 Report
26. Odisha: 1st State to Launch Marine Spatial Plan
27. Lumpongden Island
28. Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary Designated as New Ramsar Sites
29. Dolphin Friends Initiative
30. India's Nationally Determined Contribution (2031-2035)
31. Olive Ridley Turtle Conservation in Andhra Pradesh
32. Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle
33. PM e-DRIVE Scheme
34. Zojila Pass
35. PM-KUSUM 2.0

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)
2. Ammonium Nitrate
3. India's Push for Piped Natural Gas
4. Aditya-L1 Mission
5. BioNEST
6. India Achieves Milestone in Nuclear Energy Programme
7. Mission MITRA
8. Lunar Ring Project
9. Glufosinate
10. Indian Space Situational Awareness Report 2025 (ISSAR-2025)
11. Artemis 2 Mission

HISTORY AND CULTURE

1. Samrat Samprati
2. Babu Jagjivan Ram
3. Elephanta Caves
4. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
5. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule

6. Ambedkar Jayanti
7. Jagadguru Basaveshwara
8. Adi Shankaracharya
9. World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026

DEFENCE

1. E-3 Sentry AWACS
2. INS Taragiri
3. INS Aridhaman
4. Project Chetak celebrates 47th Raising Day
5. Central Armed Police Forces
6. 9th Indian Ocean Conference
7. TRAWL Assembly
8. Tunguska Air Defence Missile System
9. GRSE Delivers 3 Frontline Naval Platforms to Indian Navy

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. OPEC+
2. United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
3. India Rejects China's Fictitious Naming of Places in Arunachal Pradesh
4. BRICS and Quad Groupings
5. AZEC Plus and Maritime Security
6. Israel's 'Yellow Line' in Southern Lebanon
7. Indo-Lanka Accord (1987)
8. The Druzhba Pipeline
9. GlobE Network
10. Iranian Parliament Mulls Possible Exit from Nuclear Treaty
11. Arab League

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Operation Numkhor
2. India's First Water Neutral Coaching Depot
3. QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

AWARDS

1. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar
2. 19-Year-Old Sheetal Devi Honoured as World Archery's Para Archer of the Year, 2025
3. Nandamuri Balakrishna Receives Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFD 2026 in Delhi
4. Sayani Gupta Honoured with Harvard

South Asian Person of the Year Award, 2026

5. Sadhvi Satish Sail Crowned Femina Miss India World 2026
6. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao Receives 9th Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award in Hyderabad
7. Prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 Held in Madrid
8. India's Samridh Gram Initiative Nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026
9. Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 Honours First All-Women Cohort

SPORTS

1. Inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games 2026: Karnataka Emerges Victorious
2. Aditya Birla-Times Consortium Acquires RCB for \$1.78 Billion
3. MCA Launches First State Player Contract Model
4. India Tops Global Track & Field Doping Suspensions
5. Sawan Barwal Breaks 48-Year Indian Marathon Record
6. About the Athlete: Sawan Barwal
7. Payal Nag Wins Historic Gold in Para Archery
8. Anahat Singh Retains India Open Squash Title
9. Bhuvneshwar Kumar First Pacer to 200 IPL Wickets
10. Abhishek Sharma Sets Sub-50 Ball IPL Century Record
11. IOC Mandates SRY Gene Test for 2028 Olympics
12. First National Indoor Athletics Championships Kicks Off
13. Gurjant Singh Retires from International Hockey
14. Sreeshankar Wins Indian Athletics Series Long Jump
15. Indian Duo Secures Gold at Asian Wrestling Championships
16. IIT Madras Introduces 'OmegaBall' to India

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

1. World Tuberculosis (TB) Day
2. World Theatre Day

3. World Autism Awareness Day
4. World Health Day
5. Ambedkar Jayanti
6. World Hemophilia Day
7. World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites)
8. National Civil Services Day
9. Earth Day (International Mother Earth Day)
10. World Book and Copyright Day
11. National Panchayati Raj Day

MILITARY EXERCISES

1. Exercise IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026
2. Exercise Dweep Shakti 2026
3. Exercise Cyclone IV (4th Edition)
4. Exercise DUSTLIK (7th Edition)
5. Exercise IN-SLN DIVEX 2026
1. World Happiness Report 2026
2. Tracxn India Tech Annual Funding Report 2026
3. IRENA Renewable Energy Capacity Report 2026

MCQ'S ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

MCQ'S ON STATE ISSUES

TOP CURRENT AFFAIRS

India's Push for Piped Natural Gas



Context

India is accelerating the expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections to reduce import dependence, improve energy security, and transition towards a cleaner fuel mix.

Types of Gases

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG):



-  **Composition:** Propane and Butane.
-  **State & Storage:** Stored as a liquid under moderate pressure in cylinders.
-  **Usage:** Domestic cooking, water heating, and small-scale industrial applications.
-  **Key Characteristic:** Heavier than air; collects on the ground if leaked.

Piped Natural Gas (PNG):



-  **Composition:** Primarily Methane.
-  **State & Storage:** Delivered as a gas through underground pipelines.
-  **Usage:** Residential kitchens, commercial cooking, and industries.
-  **Key Characteristic:** Continuous supply; no need for cylinder storage.





Compressed Natural Gas (CNG):



-  **Composition:** Primarily Methane.
-  **State & Storage:** Compressed to high pressure (200-250 bar) in tanks.
-  **Usage:** Vehicles (cars, buses, autos) and low-pressure industrial burners.
-  **Key Characteristic:** Cleaner burning than petrol/diesel.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):



-  **Composition:** Primarily Methane.
-  **State & Storage:** Cooled to roughly -160°C to become a liquid for transport.
-  **Usage:** Transporting natural gas over long distances by sea, power generation.
-  **Key Characteristic:** Volume is reduced by 600 times, making it easy to store in bulk.

India's Shift Towards Piped Natural Gas (PNG)



Reducing Import Dependence:

India imports nearly 60% of its LPG requirement, with a large share coming from West Asia and supply routes like Strait of Hormuz are geopolitically vulnerable.



Economic Efficiency:

PNG eliminates logistics costs associated with cylinder transportation and storage. Pricing can be more stable compared to LPG, which is sensitive to global oil prices.



Environmental Benefits:

Natural gas burns cleaner than LPG, producing fewer pollutants and greenhouse gases.



Sanand as India's Semiconductor



Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated a semiconductor assembly and test facility by Kaynes Semicon in Sanand, Gujarat.



The project is part of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)



It marks India's push toward becoming a global semiconductor manufacturing hub.



Sanand is being positioned as a critical link in the global semiconductor supply chain.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)



Launched in - December 2021



Implementation- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Launched in December 2021



Objective - to build a sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem

India-Semiconductor Mission 2.0



It was unveiled in the Union Budget 2026-27,



It focuses on semiconductor equipment and materials to create a "full-stack Indian semiconductor ecosystem.

Additional Information - Government Schemes



Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme: Financial and infrastructure support for chip design startups; target of 100+ domestic semiconductor design firms.



PLI Scheme for Electronics Manufacturing: Boosts demand-side ecosystem, linked with mobile manufacturing growth.



Chips-to-Startup Programme: Access to EDA tools and fabrication support; covers 300+ institutions.



National Critical Minerals Mission & Rare Earth Corridor: To reduce dependence on China (rare earths) and Taiwan (fabs).

Global Supply Chain & Strategic Positioning



India's membership in Pax Silica — a U.S.-led initiative — aims to secure supply chains for critical technologies including semiconductors and AI.

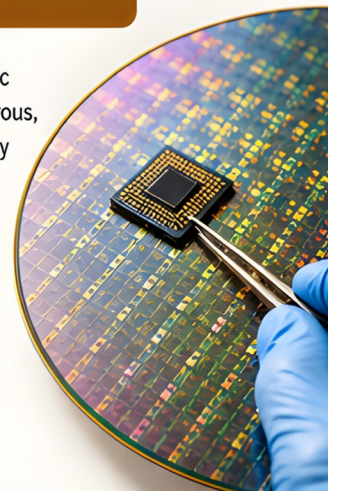
Pax Silica Initiative



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



Members - Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Australia.



FCRA AMENDMENT



Recently, the Union Government has deferred discussion on the FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 which triggered political controversy, especially ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections.



Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

Mandate-

- It is a key legislation that regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign funds by individuals, NGOs, and associations in India.
- It is administered by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

Significance

- It aims to ensure foreign contributions do not affect national interest, sovereignty, or public order.

Provisions of FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026

01


New "Designated Authority" to Take Over Assets

- **What it does:** If an NGO's registration is cancelled, surrendered, or even if it simply expires and isn't renewed, this authority can step in and take control of all its foreign funds and assets (like buildings or equipment bought with foreign money).
- **Permanent Takeover:** If the registration is not restored within a certain timeframe, the government can permanently take these assets, sell them, or transfer them to other government departments.

02


Personal Liability for "Key Functionaries"

- The Bill expands the definition of "key functionary" to include directors, partners, trustees, and anyone in a management role.

03


Automatic Ending of Registration

- **How it works:** Under the new rules, an FCRA registration will automatically lapse if it expires and hasn't been renewed, or if a renewal request is rejected.
- **Strict Timelines:** The Bill also sets fixed timelines for how quickly organisations must use the foreign funds they receive.

04


Changes to Investigations and Penalties

- **Centralised Approval:** Local police or state agencies now need prior approval from the Central Government before they can even start an investigation into an FCRA-related complaint.
- **Reduced Prison Time:** The maximum jail term for breaking FCRA rules is being reduced from five years to one year, though fines still apply.



OPEC+ International

CONTEX

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries group decided to increase oil production by 206,000 barrels per day amid rising global energy tensions.



OPEC and OPEC+



The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in September 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.



OPEC Members (12 Nations): The core organization includes Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.



Non-OPEC Partners (10 Nations): The extended "Plus" group consists of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan, and Sudan



OPEC is headquartered at Vienna, Austria.



In 2016, OPEC formed an alliance with other oil-producing nations to create OPEC+. The 10 countries now in OPEC+ include Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Mexico, and Oman.



Member states of OPEC hold more than **80%** of the world's proven oil reserves.



OPEC produces about **40%** of the world's crude oil and its members' exports make up around **60%** of global petroleum trade.

ADITYA-MISSION



Uniqueness - Aditya-L1 is the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun. It will be launched by the PSLV-C57.



Note - The solar mission will not see the spacecraft actually go to the sun, it will instead create a space observatory at a point from which the sun can be observed even during an eclipse.



The spacecraft is planned to be placed in a **halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1)**, around 1.5 million km from the Earth, of the Sun-Earth system.



MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION


















The mission will focus on study of the Solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics.



It will also identify what drives space weather, along with the origin, composition and dynamics of the solar wind.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - INTERNATIONAL SOLAR MISSIONS

Mission	Space Agency	Key Feature
 Parker Solar Probe (2018)	 NASA	 Closest mission to the Sun; first spacecraft to "touch" the corona.
 Solar Orbiter (2020)	 ESA & NASA	 Focuses on high-resolution images of the Sun's poles.
 SOHO (1995)	 ESA & NASA	 An older observatory at L1 that has provided over two decades of solar data.
 PUNCH (2025)	 NASA	 A constellation of four small satellites studying how the corona becomes solar wind.
 ASO-S (Kuafu-1) (2022)	 CNSA (China)	 Studies the relationship between the solar magnetic field, solar flares, and CMEs.

BHARAT TRIBES FEST 2026



CONTEXT

Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 was concluded recently.



ABOUT

It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised in association with TRIFED.



OBJECTIVE

The 19-day festival brought together tribal artisans, entrepreneurs, and self-help groups from across the country, showcasing India's diverse tribal heritage and products.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – TRIBES OF KARNATAKA



Karnataka is home to approximately **50 notified Scheduled Tribes**, representing about **6.95%** of the state's total population.



These communities are primarily concentrated in the districts of **Bellary, Raichur, Mysore, Chitradurga, and Belgaum.**



MAJOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES



Naikda / Nayaka / Bedar: This is the largest tribal group in Karnataka. Historically a warrior and hunter community, they are also known by names like Valmiki and Beda.



Gond: The second-largest tribal group in the state, primarily settled in northern districts like Bidar and Uttara Kannada.



Jenu Kuruba: Their name literally translates to “honey people” (Jenu means honey), reflecting their traditional expertise in honey gathering in the Western Ghats.



Soliga (Sholaga): Primarily inhabiting the Biligiriranga Hills (BR Hills), they have a deep spiritual connection to the forest and are known for practicing shifting cultivation.



Hakkipikki: Historically semi-nomadic “bird catchers” (Hakki means bird, Pikki means catch), they claim ancestral links to the warrior clans of Rajasthan.



Siddi: A unique ethnic group of African descent, brought to India centuries ago. They are mostly found in the forests of Uttara Kannada and are known for their distinct culture and “Kawandi” quilting art.



Koraga: Identified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), they are native to coastal districts like Udupi and Dakshina Kannada and are traditional basket weavers and drum beaters.



Yerava: Mostly found in Kodagu and Mysore, they are traditionally forest-dwellers who now often work in coffee and tea plantations.

NAMO DRONE SCHEME



CONTEXT

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation a total of **1,094** SHG members have been trained as drone pilots in the country.



NAMO DRONE DIDI



Launched in - **2023**



Aim - to empower rural women by making them "Agri-tech" entrepreneurs.



Objective - It aims to provide **15,000** drones to selected Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across India between **2024** and **2026**.



Financing - It is a Central Sector Scheme (**100% funded by the Union**)



Implementation - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare



Key features



Women Empowerment: Transforming women in SHGs into skilled drone pilots and service providers.



Modernizing Agriculture: Promoting precision farming—using drones to spray liquid fertilizers (like Nano Urea) and pesticides accurately, which reduces waste and health risks for farmers.



Livelihood Generation: Creating an additional annual income of at least **₹1 lakh** for each SHG through drone rental services.



LIGHT POLLUTION



CONTEXT

- A study published in the journal Nature has found that artificial light at night increased by 16% globally between 2014 and 2022.
- The sharpest rise has been observed in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, with India and China emerging as major contributors in Asia.



NATURAL NIGHT SKY



LIGHT POLLUTED SKY



LIGHT POLLUTION

Definition - It is the excessive or inappropriate use of artificial outdoor light, which disrupts natural darkness and has adverse effects on human health, wildlife, and the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH IMPACTS



Biodiversity & Wildlife:



Navigation: Disorients migratory birds and sea turtle hatchlings that rely on natural light (moon/stars) for guidance.



Reproduction: Interferes with the mating calls of fireflies and the hatching of species like clownfish.



Ecosystem Flow: Hardens tree leaves, making them less suitable for herbivorous insects to eat, which disrupts urban food chains.



Human Health:



Circadian Rhythm: Disrupts the body's natural 24-hour sleep-wake cycle.



Melatonin Suppression: Inhibits the production of melatonin, which is essential for sleep and has been linked to increased risks of insomnia, stress, and certain cancers (e.g., breast cancer).



Neurodegenerative Diseases: Recent studies have suggested a correlation between night-time light pollution and the incidence of Alzheimer's disease.



Economy & Energy:

Wastes billions of units of electricity annually, contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO CURB LIGHT POLLUTION



Energy Conservation Building Code (2017):

The ECBC is a set of standards established by India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to promote sustainable design and reduce energy consumption by 25–50% in new commercial buildings.



Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP):

Launched in 2015, to replace conventional street lights with smart and energy-efficient LED streetlights across the country.



Smart Cities Mission:

Adaptive lighting is a core component of India's Smart Cities Mission, designed to optimize energy consumption and reduce light pollution by dynamically adjusting street lamp intensity based on real-time traffic and time conditions.



Environmental Protection Act 1986:

Provides umbrella power to the Central Government to regulate environmental pollution of all kinds.

Sundarbans Losing Ability to Recover



Context

A recent study shows that around 10–15 percent of the Sundarbans is undergoing a “critical slowing down” process from environmental stress.



Sundarbans in West Bengal



Geographical location

- It is a vast contiguous mangrove forest ecosystem present in the coastal region of Bay of Bengal
- It spread over India and Bangladesh on the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna delta.



Conservation efforts



UNESCO World Heritage site - Sundarbans National Park was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987.



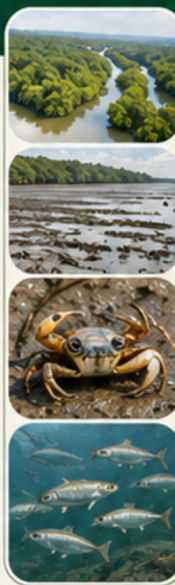
Biosphere Reserve - Sundarbans was designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2001.



Wetland of International Importance - Sundarban Wetland, India was recognised as the 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention in January 2019.



Flora and Fauna - Sunderban National Park is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species and is home to the Royal Bengal tiger,



SENTINEL



CONTEXT

- Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) upgraded from Near Threatened to Endangered on the IUCN Red List, driven by climate-induced sea-ice loss.
- As a sentinel species, its decline signals broader Antarctic ecosystem stress, populations projected to halve by the 2080s.



WHAT IS A SENTINEL SPECIES

It is a plant or animal whose health reflects the overall condition of the ecosystem it inhabits.



They respond quickly and visibly to environmental stressors such as pollution, disease, and climate change.



They act as early warning systems, allowing detection of ecological imbalance before it becomes widespread.

EXAMPLES OF SENTINEL SPECIES



Amphibians (Frogs): Frogs have permeable skin, making them highly sensitive to pollutants and pathogens. Decline in frog populations is often an early indicator of ecosystem stress.



Canaries in Coal Mines: Historically used to detect carbon monoxide poisoning. They showed distress before humans due to faster metabolism.



Honeybees: Used to monitor agricultural chemicals and pesticide loads. Decline in bee populations signals ecosystem imbalance and pollination crisis.



Polar Bears: Indicators of Arctic ecosystem health and contaminant accumulation. Reflect impacts of climate change and ice loss.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATION OF NATURE



-  **Establishment** - 1948.
-  **Set up in** - Gland, Switzerland.
-  **Objective** - To promote international cooperation and to provide scientific knowledge and tools to aid conservation action.
-  **IUCN Red List** - It established the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 1964.

IUCN CLASSIFICATION OF SPECIES

EX

Extinct (EX)


EW

Extinct in the Wild (EW)


CR
Critically Endangered (CR)

EN
Endangered (EN)

VU
Vulnerable (VU)

NT
Near Threatened (NT)

LC
Least Concern (LC)

DD
Data Deficient (DD)

NE
Not Evaluated (NE)


IUCN RED LIST



It is a list compiled by the IUCN, which contains the world's most comprehensive information on the conservation status of plants, animals, and fungus species.



Species in the IUCN Red List - There are 143000 species on the Red List.



India's membership in IUCN - India became a member in 1969



The IUCN classification - The IUCN classification of species is based on their extinction/conservation status. They are as follows



KARNATAKA DARSHANA

1. Karnataka Cybersecurity Policy 2024

News -

- The **Centre of Excellence for Cybersecurity - Karnataka (CySecK)** annual compendium report confirmed that **Karnataka accounted for nearly 9% of India's total ransomware cases during 2025-26.**

Karnataka Cybersecurity Policy 2024

- **Objective - to create a secure, resilient digital ecosystem for government services (G2G, G2B, G2C).**
- The policy, aimed at strengthening **data protection, fostering startup innovation, and creating 35,000+ jobs**, earmarks over ₹100 crore for implementation over five years.

Key pillars of the policy:

- **Skill Development & Awareness:** Partners with CISCO to train 40,000 individuals in cybersecurity, with a 50% focus on women.
- **Startup Incentives:** Offers up to ₹50 lakh in matching grants for R&D projects and up to ₹1 lakh reimbursement for cybersecurity audits.
- **Infrastructure Protection:** Focuses on strengthening cyber resilience of state IT assets and protecting critical infrastructure.
- **Collaboration:** Engages with industry, academia, and organizations like Meta for public awareness
- **Centre of Excellence for Cybersecurity (CySecK) is a flagship initiative by the Government of Karnataka established in 2017 to strengthen the state's digital ecosystem.**

Connect with the basics - Types of Cyber Attacks

- **Malware** - It is **short for malicious software**, refers to any kind of software that is designed to **cause damage to a single computer, server, or computer**

network.

- **Example - Ransomware, Spy ware, Worms, viruses, and Trojans** are all varieties of malware.
- **Phishing** - It is the method of **trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.**

Types of Malware

- **Spyware** - Spyware is software that spies on you, **tracking your internet activities** in order to send advertising (Adware) back to your system.
- **Virus** - A virus is a **contagious program or code that attaches itself to another piece of software, and then reproduces itself when that software is run.** Most often this is spread by sharing software or files between computers.
- **Worm** - **A program that replicates itself and destroys data and files on the computer.** Worms work to "eat" the system operating files and data files until the drive is empty.

Recent Steps Taken in India regarding Cyber Security

- **Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative** - It was launched in 2018 with an aim to spread **awareness about cybercrime and building capacity** for safety measures for IT staff across all government departments.
- **National Cyber security Coordination Centre (NCCC)** - In 2017, the NCCC was developed to **scan internet traffic and communication** metadata coming into the country to detect real-time cyber threats.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra** - In 2017, this platform was introduced for internet users to clean their computers and devices by wiping out viruses and malware.
- **Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-IN)** - It is the nodal agency which deals with cybersecurity threats like hacking and phishing.

Legislation

- Information Technology Act, 2000.
- Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019.

International Mechanisms

- **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** - It is a specialised agency within the United Nations which plays a leading role in the standardisation and development of telecommunications and cyber security issues.

Budapest Convention on Cybercrime

- It is an international treaty that seeks to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.
- It came into force on 1st July 2004.
- India is not a signatory to this convention.

2. Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)

News -

- **Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) is constructing a 25-meter-high, eco-friendly public observation tower on Mirza Hill in collaboration with Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies**



Key Features of the New Observation Tower:

- **Location:** Situated on Mirza Hill within the BBP premises.
- **Structure:** A 25-meter-high tower designed to accommodate 50–70 visitors
- **Sustainability:** The project will incorporate eco-conscious design elements, including solar energy systems and rainwater harvesting.
- **Views:** It offers a panoramic view of the Bannerghatta National Park, the surrounding forests, and the Bengaluru city skyline.
- **Objective:** To improve safety in wildlife observation and boost conservation awareness.

Additional Information - Bannerghatta

Biological Park (BBP)

- It is a **major wildlife conservation and eco-tourism hub** located about **22 km south of Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- It was **carved out of the larger Bannerghatta National Park (BNP)**, which was declared a **national park in 1974**.

Key Facts

- **Administration:** BBP is governed by the **Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK)** and follows the guidelines of the **Central Zoo Authority (CZA) of India**.

Unique Features:

- **India's first Butterfly Park:** Inaugurated in 2006, it features a conservatory with a polycarbonate roof, a museum, and a research laboratory.
- **Fenced Elephant Sanctuary:** It was the **first biological park in India to have a dedicated, solar-fenced, forested elephant sanctuary**.

Geography & Ecology:

- **Location:** Situated in the **hills of the Anekal range**.
- **Vegetation:** Includes **Dry Deciduous Scrub Forests, Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests, and Southern Tropical Moist Mixed Forests**.
- **Hydrology:** The **Suvarnamukhi stream** runs through the center of the park and serves as the **primary water source for wildlife**.
- **Wildlife Corridor:** BNP forms a **vital corridor for elephants, connecting the Biligirirangan (BR) Hills and the Sathyamangalam forests**.
- **Key Fauna:** Home to the endangered **Asian Elephant, Bengal Tiger, Indian Gaur, Leopard, Sloth Bear, and the Southern Birdwing (Karnataka's state butterfly)**.

3. Karnataka's First Spring Census

News -

- The **Karnataka Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department**, supported by the Directorate of Groundwater, **has completed the state's first-ever**

digital census, identifying 274 natural springs across 31 districts to enhance water conservation.



Key Findings of the Spring Census:

- **Total Count:** 274 springs documented, with the **majority located in hilly districts like Belagavi, Uttara Kannada, Chamarajanagar, and Kodagu.**
- **Unique Feature:** The census identified one hot spring, “**Bendru Theertha,**” in the Dakshina Kannada district.
- **Data Usage:** The data will be used to **protect and manage spring-fed water sources,** which are critical for water security in rural areas.
- **Top Districts:** Belagavi reported the highest number of springs with **59,** followed by Uttara Kannada (31), Chamarajanagar (23), and Kodagu (23).
- **Ecological Health:** Of the 274 springs, **144 are perennial (year-round flow), 114 are seasonal, and 16 have dried up.**
- **River Origins:** The report specifically mapped springs that serve as the **birthplaces of major rivers, including the Cauvery at Talakaveri, the Hemavati at Javali, and the Sharavati at Ambutheertha.**

Connect with the basics - Springs

- They are **natural outflows of groundwater onto the Earth’s surface,** common in fractured, karst, or faulted terrains.
- They are **crucial for water security in the Himalayas,** though they are **drying due to climate change.**

Key Aspects

- **Types & Formation:** Formed when the water table hits the surface or through fractures. They occur in permeable layers restricted by impermeable rocks (contact springs).
- **Hot Springs in India:** Found along deep

faults, such as in the Himalayan region (**Manikaran, Puga Valley, Yumthang**).

- **Significance:** Provide water for **irrigation, drinking, and are vital for biodiversity.**
- **1000 Springs Initiative:** A **Tribal Affairs Ministry** project using GIS-based spring mapping to **provide sustainable water and livelihoods in rural areas.**
- **Threats: Climate change and over-extraction** are leading to the reduction of perennial springs, particularly in the Himalayan belt.

4. CALM-Brain initiative

News -

- **Launched in Bengaluru, CALM-Brain is India’s first digital repository for major psychiatric disorders,** including **addiction, bipolar disorder, dementia, OCD, and schizophrenia.**
- It compiles **multi-modal data (clinical, imaging, behavioral, and genetic) from over 2,000 participants** to improve diagnostic accuracy and personalize treatments.

CALM-Brain initiative:

- **Developers:** The project was **developed by the Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind (CBM),** a partnership between **NIMHANS** and the **National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS).**
- **Objectives:** The repository aims to **identify biomarkers, understand disease progression, and aid in personalized, data-driven treatment strategies.**

Additional Information -

- **Bipolar Disorder:** Characterized by alternating periods of **depression and mania** (elevated mood, high energy, reckless behavior).
- **Dementia:** A neurodegenerative condition leading to cognitive decline, including **memory loss and impaired thinking, with Alzheimer’s** being the most common type. Studies show bipolar disorder and schizophrenia increase the risk of developing dementia.
- **OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder):**

Involves persistent, **unwanted thoughts (obsessions) and repetitive behaviors (compulsions)**. It is often comorbid (occurring together) with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

- **Schizophrenia:** A severe, **chronic mental disorder** characterized by **distortions in thinking, perception, emotions, language, and sense of self (hallucinations, delusions)**

5. KSRTC honored with the 2025 SKOCH National Award

News -

- **The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) was honored with the 2025 SKOCH National Award** in New Delhi for its **“Transparent Recruitment and Training Programme”**.
- The award recognizes **technology-driven, transparent hiring practices, including automated driving tests and online exams, along with extensive employee training initiatives.**



Key details regarding the award include:

- **Award Ceremony:** The SKOCH National Award 2025 was presented on March 28, 2026, in New Delhi.
- **Recruitment Methodologies:** KSRTC implemented automated driving tests, online examinations, digital document verification, and webcasting to minimize human intervention and ensure transparency.
- **Achievements:** The initiative facilitated the recruitment of 2,000 drivers/conductors, 300 technical staff, and 441 candidates under compassionate grounds, while training over 12,000 employees in six months.
- **Award Recipient:** The award was received by **KSRTC Managing Director Akram Pasha.**
- **Significance:** The **SKOCH Group, a New Delhi-based think tank, presents these awards to recognize excellence in governance and technology adoption**

6. UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme

News -

- The **Union Ministry of Civil Aviation** has utilized ₹146.89 crore to operationalize **seven regional airports in Karnataka under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme.**
- These airports, which include **Bidar, Mysuru, Vidyanagar, Hubballi, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, and Shivamogga,** have 118 routes.

UDAN Scheme

- It is a regional connectivity scheme **launched in 2016.**
- The first UDAN flight operated between Shimla and Delhi in 2017.
- **Ministry: Ministry of Civil Aviation.**
- **Aim:** To make **air travel affordable and accessible to the common citizen** by connecting Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to major hubs.

Implementation:

- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** Financial support to airlines to ensure affordable fares.
- Airfare Cap to ensure affordability.

7. Karnataka Sets Up Panel to Strengthen Palliative Care

News -

- The Karnataka government has established a **State-level Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to plan and monitor palliative care services, focusing on improving the quality of life for patients with serious illnesses.**

Key details of the initiative:

- **Objectives:** The TAC will advise on **policy, treatment protocols, infrastructure, and ensure the availability of essential narcotics.**
- **Structure:** The panel includes members from health departments, experts from leading Bengaluru medical institutions, and NGOs.
- **Goal:** **The initiative focuses on integrating palliative care into the existing health system** (consistent with

the **National Programme for Palliative Care**) to enhance access and quality.

- **Best Practices:** The initiative is looking to implement models that incorporate home-based and community-based care.

8. World HRD Congress Award 2026

News -

- The **Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been awarded the prestigious World HRD Congress Award 2026** for “Best in Training and Organisation Development”.
- Recognized for enhancing operational **safety and efficiency**, **KSRTC has trained over 12,000 employees in six months** using **simulation and fuel-efficiency modules**.

Key Details of KSRTC’s Training Initiatives:

- **Recognition:** KSRTC won the award for excellence in training, demonstrating a commitment to upgrading workforce skills.
- **Key Training Modules:** Programs focus on simulator-based training, accident-free driving, road safety, and fuel efficiency.
- **Staff Development:** Over 12,000 staff members have received training in the past six months.

9. Karnataka secured the second-highest GST collection

News -

- Karnataka secured the second-highest GST collection among Indian states for the 2025-2026 period

Goods and Service Tax (GST)

- Goods and Services Tax is an **indirect tax used in India on the supply of goods and services**.
- It is a value-added tax **levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption**.
- It was **launched in India in 2017 as a comprehensive indirect tax for the entire country**.

It is of three types i.e.

1. CGST to be levied by the Centre,

2. SGST to be levied by the States and
3. IGST a tax levied on all Inter-State supplies of goods and/or services.

GST Council

- **Legal status** - It is a **Constitutional body under Article 279A**, introduced by the Constitution (**One Hundred and First Amendment**) Act, 2016.
- **Mandate** - It is empowered to modify, reconcile or to procure any law or regulation based on the context of GST in India.
- **Federal body** - It is also considered as a **federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation**.
- **Functions:** It makes recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to GST.
- **Composition**
 - ♦ **Chairperson:** Union Finance Minister.
 - ♦ **Members:** Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

10. Yettinahole Drinking Water Project.

News -

- The MoEFCC has granted approval to **divert 111.02 hectares of forest land in Hassan and Tumakuru districts for the Yettinahole Drinking Water Project**.

Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Supply Project

- **Project Purpose:** The project aims to supply drinking water to over 75 lakh people in Kolar, Chickballapur, Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Bengaluru Rural, and Chikkamagaluru districts.
- **Capacity:** Originally intended to divert 24.01 TMC of water, though concerns exist over actual yields.
- **Components:** Involves constructing weirs, pump houses (including at Sakleshapur), and a 260 km gravity main canal.

11. Karnataka second-largest hub in India for public charging infrastructure,

News -

- Karnataka has emerged as the **second-largest hub in India for public charging infrastructure**, often surpassing Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in deployment.

Karnataka Clean Mobility Policy 2025-2030

- **Launched in - February 2025**
- **Objective** - to position Karnataka as Asia's premier hub for clean mobility innovation and manufacturing.
- It targets **₹50,000 crore in investments and the creation of 1,00,000 new jobs by 2030.**

Key Objectives and Targets

- **Infrastructure Expansion:** Aims to install 2,600 additional charging stations through public-private partnerships (PPP), bringing the state's total to over 8,000.
- **Sectoral Transition:** Encourages 100% conversion of e-commerce delivery fleets to electric or hydrogen-powered vehicles by 2030.
- **Manufacturing Clusters:** Development of **world-class mobility clusters in Gauribidanur, Dharwad, and Harohalli** to integrate OEMs, suppliers, and R&D centers.
- **Sustainable Public Transport:** Promotion of e-rickshaws for last-mile connectivity and expansion of shared bus services outside major urban centers.

12. Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)

News -

- Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) achieved its highest-ever hydropower generation, producing 15,509 million units (MU) in the 2025-26 financial year.

Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)

- It is a **premier power generation company owned by the Government of Karnataka.**
- **Established in July 1970**, it is responsible for the **investigation, design, construction, and operation of major power projects** across the state.

Power Generation Portfolio

- KPCL operates a diversified fleet with a **total installed capacity of approximately 8,846.305 MW**

Power Type	Major Stations / Projects	Installed Capacity (MW)
Thermal	Raichur (RTPS), Belary (BTPS), Yeramarus (YTPS)	~5,020 MW
Hydel	Sharavathi, Nagjhari, Varahi, Almatti, Kadra	~3,600+ MW
Renewable	Wind (Kappatagudda), Solar (Yel Sandra, Itnal, etc.)	~24+ MW
Other	Gas (Yelahanka CCCP), Waste-to-Energy (Bidadi)	~381.5 MW (Ongoing)

Major Ongoing & Proposed Projects

- **Sharavathy Pumped Storage:** A massive 2,000 MW project aimed at grid stabilization and energy storage.
- **Yelahanka Combined Cycle Plant:** A 370 MW gas-based project in its final stages of commissioning.
- **Bidadi Waste-to-Energy:** An 11.5 MW project converting municipal waste into power.

13. e-Swathu 2.0

News -

- Minister Priyank Kharge announced crucial upgrades to the **e-Swathu 2.0 platform** to resolve technical glitches and improve user experience



E-Swathu 2.0

- It is an upgraded digital platform launched by the Karnataka government in late 2025 to manage rural property records.
- Mandate** - It aims to eliminate land fraud by mandating geo-tagging (GPS mapping) for every property before issuing essential documents like Form 9 and Form 11.

Key Features of E-Swathu 2.0

- Mandatory Geo-Tagging:** Properties must be physically mapped with GPS coordinates to link digital records to their exact spatial location.
- Unique PID Number:** Every verified property receives a unique **Property Identification (PID) number**, creating a “digital fortress” against fake claims.
- Simplified Applications:** Supports Aadhaar-based verification and online tracking for property ownership and tax data.

14. Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) 2.0

News -

- The Karnataka government will launch **Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) 2.0** on April 17, 2026, in New Delhi during the ‘Bridge to Bengaluru 2026’ event.

Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) 2.0

- Objective** - This initiative aims to strengthen international technology partnerships, support startups with global market access, and deepen sector-specific collaborations in areas like AI and deep tech.
- The event will feature over **80 countries**,

aiming to position Karnataka as a global innovation gateway.

15. Yana Caves

News -

- The **Yana Caves**, located in Karnataka’s Uttara Kannada district, were officially declared a **Geo-Heritage Site of National Importance** by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in April 2026.



Key Geographical & Geological Features:

- Location:** Situated in the **Western Ghats** near Gokarna, within the **Kumta forest range** of the **Sahyadri mountains**.
- Composition:** Composed of **solid, black dolomitic limestone** that has been shaped by **karstification** (dissolution of rock by water).
- Geo-Heritage Status:** **Recognized by the GSI** for their scientific and cultural value, featuring 61 distinct karst formations in the surrounding 3 km radius.
- Geological Age:** The rock formations are estimated to be around **2,700 million years old**.

Mythological & Cultural Significance:

- Bhasmasura Legend:** Local lore associates the blackened appearance of the rocks with the fire from the episode where **Lord Vishnu (as Mohini) tricked the demon Bhasmasura into burning himself**.
- Temple Site:** A cave temple dedicated to **Lord Shiva (Bhairaveshwara)** exists at the base of the larger peak, attracting many pilgrims.
- A **small stream called Chandihore**, believed to be sacred, originates from the roof of the caves and **flows into the Aghanashini river**.

Significance

- Environment & Biodiversity:** The site is nestled in the **biodiversity-rich Western Ghats** (a **UNESCO World**

Heritage Site).

- **Geography:** Excellent example of **karst topography (fissures, caves, sinkholes) in a tropical region.**
- **Culture:** Represents the intersection of geology and mythology.

16. 2025-26 Karnataka state literary and cultural awards

News -

- The **Karnataka Kannada and Culture Department, led by Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, has announced the 2025-26 state literary and cultural awards, highlighting eminent achievers**

**Key Award Highlights (2025-26):**

- **Pampa Award:** Noted writer **Devanuru Mahadeva** has been selected for this prestigious award.
- **Basava National Award:** Awarded to religious personality **Siddarama Sharana of Beldale.**
- **Bhagwan Mahaveer National Peace Award:** Awarded to **BhanuKeerthi Bhattaraka Swami** of the Jain Mutt in Kambadahalli.

Literary & Theatre Awards:

1. K.G. Kundanagara Gadinada Sahitya Award: Allabhaksh Meerasaheb Mirji
2. Danachintamani Attimabbe Award: Sukanya Maruthi
3. Dr. Gubbi Veeranna Award: G.V. Sharada
4. B.V. Karanth Award: Prasanna
5. Dr. Siddalingaiah Literary Award: Gangarama Chandala
6. Kumaravyasa Award: Kallinatha Shastry

Art & Dance Awards:

1. Varna Shilpi Venkatappa Award: V. Hari Ram
2. Jakanachari Award: Ashok Gudigar
3. Natyarani Shantala Award: Prathibha Prahlad

Folklore & Social Awards:

1. Janapadasri Award: M. Mahadevaiah and B. Lakshmana
2. Sangolli Rayanna Award: Siddanagouda Patil

3. Akka Mahadevi Award: K. Neela
4. Kayakayogi Siddarameshwara Award: S.G. Siddaramaiah

Additional Information - Pampa Award (Pampa Prashasti)

- It is the highest literary honour in Karnataka.
- Established in 1987. It is named after Adikavi Pampa, the first great Kannada poet.
- **Focus:** Exceptional lifetime contribution to Kannada literature.
- **Prize:** ₹5 lakh cash, a citation, a memento, and a shawl.
- **Latest Winner (2025-26):** Devanuru Mahadeva has been selected for the upcoming cycle.
- **Historical Fact:** The first recipient was Kuvempu in 1987 for his epic Sri Ramayana Darshanam.

17. Building Small Town Water Resilience in Chikkaballapur District

News -

- The “Building Small Town Water Resilience in Chikkaballapur District” project, was launched in April 2026

About -

- It aims to improve **water security for 300,000 residents across six drought-prone towns** (Chikkaballapura, Bagepalli, Gowribidanur, Shidlaghatta, Gudibande, and Chintamani) in Karnataka.
- **Supported by the CDRI and implemented by IIHS,**
- **Significance - This initiative focuses on risk-informed planning, water audits, and treated wastewater reuse to combat water shortages.**

18. Karnataka Tourism Policy 2020-26

News -

- Karnataka’s tourism industry experienced a massive post-pandemic boom, with total visitor numbers exceeding 30.21 crore in 2025.

Karnataka Tourism Policy 2020-26

- **Objective** - It aims to position Karnataka

as a top global tourism destination by focusing on safety, high-quality experiences, and sustainable socio-economic development.

Core Vision & Strategic Focus

- The policy adopts a 360-degree marketing strategy under the brand **“One State, Many Worlds”**.
- **Safety & Hygiene:** Emphasizing “new normal” standards to restore tourist confidence post-pandemic.
- **Infrastructure:** Developing **“World-Class” infrastructure** at key destinations and creating standardized Wayside Amenities along major tourism routes.
- **Digital Initiatives:** Leveraging a user-friendly mobile app, website, and analytics-driven decision-making to improve visitor experience.

The policy identifies 18 distinct themes to diversify offerings:

- **Adventure & Coastal:** Focus on land, water, and air-based activities and achieving **“Blue Flag” certification for beaches**.
- **Culture & Heritage:** Positioning Mysuru as a **global cultural hub** and establishing **heritage tourism zones around UNESCO sites like Hampi**.
- **Nature & Wellness:** Using Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) as the nodal agency for Eco-Tourism.
- **Specialty Themes:** Including **Agri-Tourism, Caravan Tourism, Film Tourism, and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions)**

19. Four South African cheetahs to Bengaluru

News -

- **Four South African cheetahs—two males and two females—arrived at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.**
- This arrival marks the return of cheetahs to Karnataka after



roughly 70 years.

Key Details of the Arrival

- **Source & Exchange:** The animals were sourced from South Africa’s Induna Primate and Parrot Park as part of a formal exchange programme.
- **Quarantine:** The cheetahs are undergoing a 30-day quarantine at the **Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP)**.

About

- India declared the cheetah **extinct in 1952**, after decades of **over-hunting, habitat fragmentation, and depletion of prey species**.
- The launch of **Project Cheetah in 2022** and the **arrival of cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa** created the **world’s first intercontinental relocation programme for a large carnivore**.
- **Botswana** - It’s a landlocked country with nearly 70% of its landmass covered by the Kalahari Desert, and holds **one of the world’s largest wild cheetah populations**.

Project Cheetah

- **Overview:** Project Cheetah is **India’s ambitious attempt to reintroduce the cheetah in suitable open forest and grassland ecosystems**.
- **Launched By:** **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, a statutory body under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (amended 2006)**.
- **Uniqueness** - It is the **world’s first intercontinental translocation of a large wild carnivore**.

Translocations So Far:

- 8 cheetahs from Namibia in 2022
- 12 cheetahs from South Africa in 2023
- 8 cheetahs from Botswana (2025 announcement)

Cheetah(Acinonyx jubatus)

- It is the **world’s fastest mammal** and the **only large carnivore to have gone extinct in India (1952)**.
- **Unlike other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.**
- **There are two main species:** the **African cheetah (Vulnerable)** and the **Asiatic**

cheetah (Critically Endangered), found only in eastern Iran and parts of Africa.

20. K.C. Valley project

News -

- The groundwater level in parts of Kolar has risen significantly under the K.C. Valley project.



Koramangala-Challaghatta (KC) Valley project,

- **Launched by** - Karnataka government in 2018,
- **Objective** - It treats 440 million litres of sewage daily from Bengaluru and transports it through pipelines to refill 122+ dried lakes in the drought-prone Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts.
- **Significance** - By 2026, it increased groundwater levels by 50-100 ft in Kolar.

Key Details of the KC Valley Project:

- **Goal:** To mitigate water scarcity in rural districts while addressing sewage treatment for Bengaluru.
- **Process:** Secondary-treated wastewater is piped to local tanks, where natural soil filtration acts as a tertiary treatment to replenish groundwater.
- **Project Cost:** Estimated at over ₹6,000 crore, funded partially by a World Bank loan and a matching central government contribution.
- **Recharged Regions:** Primarily benefits rural areas in Kolar and Chikkaballapur.

Benefits and Impact:

- **Groundwater Recharge:** Significant rise in water tables within the targeted districts.
- **Agricultural Support:** Farmers are accessing the replenished water for irrigation.
- **Environmental Rehabilitation:** Aims to revive ecosystems in previously dried-out tanks.

NATIONAL

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. FCRA Amendment Bill 2026

Context

- Recently, the Union Government has deferred discussion on the **FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026** which triggered political controversy, especially ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

- **Mandate**- It is a key legislation that regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign funds by individuals, NGOs, and associations in India.
- It is administered by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Significance** - It aims to ensure foreign contributions do not affect national interest, sovereignty, or public order.

Provisions of FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 New “Designated Authority” to Take Over Assets

- **What it does:** If an NGO’s registration is cancelled, surrendered, or even if it simply expires and isn’t renewed, this authority can step in and take control of all its foreign funds and assets (like buildings or equipment bought with foreign money).
- **Permanent Takeover:** If the registration is not restored within a certain timeframe, the government can permanently take these assets, sell them, or transfer them to other government departments.

Personal Liability for “Key Functionaries”

- The Bill expands the definition of “key functionary” to include directors, partners, trustees, and anyone in a management role.

Automatic Ending of Registration

- **How it works:** Under the new rules, an FCRA registration will automatically

lapse if it expires and hasn't been renewed, or if a renewal request is rejected.

- **Strict Timelines:** The Bill also sets **fixed timelines for how quickly organisations must use the foreign funds they receive.**

Changes to Investigations and Penalties

- **Centralised Approval:** Local police or state agencies now need prior approval from the Central Government before they can even start an investigation into an FCRA-related complaint.
- **Reduced Prison Time:** The maximum jail term for breaking FCRA rules is being **reduced from five years to one year, though fines still apply.**

2. Bharat Tribes Fest 2026

Context

- Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 was concluded recently.

About

- It is a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** organised in association with **TRIFED.**
- **Objective** - The 19-day festival brought together tribal artisans, entrepreneurs, and self-help groups from across the country, **showcasing India's diverse tribal heritage and products.**

Additional Information - Tribes of Karnataka

- Karnataka is **home to approximately 50 notified Scheduled Tribes**, representing about **6.95% of the state's total population.**
- These communities are primarily concentrated in the districts of **Bellary, Raichur, Mysore, Chitradurga, and Belgaum.**

Major Tribal Communities

- **Naikda / Nayaka / Bedar:** This is the **largest tribal group in Karnataka.** Historically a warrior and hunter community, they are also **known by names like Valmiki and Beda.**
- **Gond:** The **second-largest tribal group in the state**, primarily settled in northern districts like **Bidar and**

Uttara Kannada.

- **Jenu Kuruba:** Their name literally translates to "honey people" (**Jenu means honey**), reflecting their traditional expertise in honey gathering in the Western Ghats.
- **Soliga (Sholaga):** Primarily inhabiting the **Biligiriranga Hills (BR Hills)**, they have a **deep spiritual connection to the forest** and are known for practicing shifting cultivation.
- **Hakkipikki:** Historically semi-nomadic "bird catchers" (**Hakki means bird, Pikki means catch**), they claim ancestral links to the warrior clans of Rajasthan.
- **Siddi:** A unique **ethnic group of African descent**, brought to India centuries ago. They are mostly found in **the forests of Uttara Kannada** and are known for their distinct culture and "**Kawandi**" quilting art.
- **Koraga:** Identified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**, they are native to coastal districts like **Udupi and Dakshina Kannada** and are traditional **basket weavers and drum beaters.**
- **Yerava:** Mostly found in **Kodagu and Mysore**, they are traditionally forest-dwellers who now often work in coffee and tea plantations.

3. Custodial Deaths in India

Context

- A trial court in Madurai sentenced 9 Tamil Nadu policemen to death for the brutal 2020 custodial killing of a father and son, P. Jayaraj and J. Benicks.

Custodial Death

- Custodial death refers to the **death of an individual while in police or judicial custody.**
- This **may occur before trial, during police interrogation, or after conviction.**
- The death may be **caused by torture, negligence, denial of medical aid, or even under suspicious circumstances.**

It violates the Constitutional Rights

- **Article 20(1): No person shall be punished beyond what is prescribed in law.**
- **Article 20(3): Right against Self-Incrimination**, stating that “No person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.
- **Article 21: Ensures protection of life and personal liberty, including in police/judicial custody.**
- **Issue of Custodial Death in India:** According to parliamentary data, **11,656 custodial deaths were recorded between 2016-17 and 2021-22**, across India.
- **Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 2,630 deaths**, while Tamil Nadu (490) reported the highest number among the southern States.

International Legal Frameworks for Protection

- **United Nations Charter (1945):** It sets out the purposes and principles of the UN, including the **promotion of human rights**.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):** It **prohibits torture and ensures** the presumption of innocence.
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966):** It protects right to life and prohibits torture.
- The **Nelson Mandela Rules**, officially known as the **UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners 2015**, establish minimum standards for the humane treatment of all individuals deprived of their liberty.
- **European Convention on Human Rights (1950):** It recognises individual dignity and access to justice mechanisms.

4. Supreme Court Hearing on Sabarimala Case

Context

- A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India has begun **hearings on petitions concerning women’s entry into religious places, including the Sabarimala Temple.**

Background

- In **2018**, a **Constitution Bench (4:1 majority)** allowed **entry of women of menstruating age into the temple, declaring the restriction unconstitutional.**
- Due to widespread protests, in 2019, the matter was referred to a larger bench.
- **Significance:** The issue **reflects tension between Fundamental Rights on equality/non-discrimination (Articles 14, 15, 17) and Religious Freedom (Articles 25, 26).**
- It also raises questions on **Judicial activism vs restraint and Secularism in India** (principled distance model).

Additional Information - Sabarimala Temple

- **Location and Deity:** The Sabarimala Temple is located in the **Pathanamthitta district of Kerala** on the **banks of the sacred Pamba River** (also known as Pampa), **within the Periyar Tiger Reserve** in the Western Ghats.
- It is **dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, also known as Dharmashasta.**
- The temple is situated on a hilltop at an **elevation of about 1,260 metres.**
- **Religious Significance:** It is one of the **largest annual pilgrimage centres in the world.** Devotees undertake a **rigorous 41-day ‘Vratham’ (penance)** before visiting.
- **The temple symbolises celibacy (Naishtika Brahmacharya) of Lord Ayyappa.**

5. Government Notifies Two Institutions as Repositories

Context

- **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** officially **notified two premier scientific institutions as designated repositories** under **Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**

Referral Centres

1. ‘Bhavasagara’ (at the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi) - A specialized national facility dedicated to deep-sea biodiversity.

2. MACS Collection of Microorganisms (at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune) - An expert hub for microbial and fungal diversity, which also includes the National Fungal Culture Collection of India.

Key Significance of the Notification

- **Expansion of National Network:** This addition brings the **total number of designated national repositories in India to 20.**
- **Scientific Support:** The notification facilitates innovation by making biological materials accessible for research under transparent and accountable scientific conditions.

Connect with the basics - Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- **Enacted** - The act was enacted in **2002**
- **Objective** - It aims at the **conservation of biological resources, managing its sustainable use and enabling fair and equitable sharing benefits** arising out of the use and knowledge of biological resources with the local communities.

The act envisaged a three-tier structure to regulate the access to biological resources:

1. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
2. The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)
3. The Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) (at local level)

National Biodiversity Authority

- **Established in** - The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in **2003** by the Central Government to **implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002).**
- **Statutory body** - It is a Statutory body that **performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for the Government of India on the issue of Conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.**
- **Headquarter** - The NBA has its Headquarters in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.**

Functions

- **Monitoring and prevention of actions prohibited** under the Act.

- Providing **advice to the government** on how best to **conserve biodiversity in India.**
- Prepare a report on how the government can **select biological heritage sites.**
- Make concrete steps to **prevent the grant of intellectual property rights regarding locally used biological resources** or allied traditional knowledge

6. Constitution of India in Sindhi Language

In News

- Recently, the Vice-President released the latest version of the Constitution of India in the Sindhi language in both Devanagari and Persian scripts.

About Sindhi

- It is an **Indo-Aryan language spoken in Pakistan and in India**, with smaller communities worldwide.
- It was **officially included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India by the 21st Constitutional Amendment Act 1967.**
- It is **one of the oldest and most melodious languages with a rich literary tradition blending Vedantic and Sufi philosophies** that promote unity, love, and brotherhood.

7. India's New Deportation Policy

In News

- **Recently, the new deportation policy was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.**

Deportation

- It is a formal legal process where **foreigners suspected of staying illegally in India are detained, tried in court, and deported only after all legal steps are completed** and their identity is confirmed with their home country.
- Under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, an **"illegal migrant"** is defined as a foreigner who either entered India without valid travel documents, or entered legally but remained beyond the permitted period.

Key Features of the New Policy

- **30-Day Verification Deadline:** States/UTs must **identify and verify the credentials of illegal migrants within 30 days**, triggering automatic deportation upon failure to meet the deadline.
- **District-Level Special Task Forces (STFs):** Newly established district-level police units are dedicated **to identifying and holding undocumented migrants**, often in designated, fenced centres.
- **Biometric & Data Tracking:** Mandatory digitization of biometric data via the **Foreigners' Identification Portal (FIP) is enforced for tracking, with data shared between UIDAI (Aadhaar), the Election Commission of India, and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** to prevent identity fraud.

Statutory Changes (Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025)

- The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, active from September 1, 2025, replaces colonial-era laws, including the 1946 Foreigners Act.
- **Expanded Authority:** The Bureau of Immigration receives statutory status, granting officials greater powers to deny entry based on “adverse security reports”.
- **Stricter Penalties:** Penalties for illegal entry increase to up to 5 years of imprisonment and fines up to ₹5 lakh.
- **Exemptions:** Aligned with the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025, spares specific religious minority groups from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who entered before 2025.

8. River Basin Management Scheme

News

- The Government of India has **approved the continuation of the River Basin Management (RBM) Scheme** for the 16th Finance Commission period spanning 2026–27 to 2030–31 with financial outlay of ₹2,183 crore.

River Basin Management Scheme

- **Financing** - Central Sector Scheme
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Objective** - It adopts a holistic approach, managing entire river systems— including tributaries and groundwater— as integrated hydrological units.

Key Developments (2026–2031)

- **Enhanced Funding:** The budget for the 16th Finance Commission period (2026–2031) has been increased to ₹2,183 crore.
- **Strategic Focus:** Priority is placed on the North Eastern Region and the Indus Basin (J&K/Ladakh) for national security and transboundary management.
- **Modernization:** The project utilizes technologies such as GIS, LiDAR, and drones for improved planning.

9. National Medical Commission (NMC)

Context

- **The National Medical Commission (NMC) has proposed amendments to the Registration of Medical Practitioners and Licence to Practice Medicine (Amendment), Regulations, 2026**, aiming to expand medical education capacity while strengthening quality standards.

National Medical Commission (NMC)

- It is **India's apex statutory body** responsible for **regulating medical education, professionals, and institutions**.
- **It was established in 2020**, under the **National Medical Commission Act, 2019**, replacing the **Medical Council of India (MCI)** to streamline governance and improve the quality of healthcare nationwide.

It operates through four autonomous boards;

1. Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB)
2. Post-Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB)
3. Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB)
4. Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB)

Structure of NMC: The NMC consists of;

- **A Chairperson.**
- **10 ex-officio members** (including representatives from ministries and institutions).
- **22 part-time members** (including State representatives and experts).

10. 18th Civil Services Day

Context

- **The 18th Civil Services Day was celebrated on April 21, 2026.**
- This day is observed annually in India to recognize the contributions of civil servants and to allow them to recommit themselves to public service.
- **2026 Theme - Viksit Bharat: Citizen-Centric Governance and Development at the Last Mile”.**
- **Significance:** The day (instituted in 2006) honors Sardar Patel’s 1947 address to the first IAS batch, where he dubbed civil servants the “steel frame of India”.
- **Organiser:** The event is conducted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)

Constitutional Provisions of Civil Services

- **Article 309** empowers Parliament and State Legislatures to regulate recruitment and conditions of service.
- **Article 310** of the Constitution states that civil servants of the Union and the States hold office during the pleasure of the President or the Governor, respectively.
- **Article 311** provides safeguards for civil servants against arbitrary dismissal.
- **Article 312** outlines the process for creating All India Services, such as the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Police Service (IPS), and the Indian Forest Service (IFoS).
- **Articles 315 to 323** of the Indian Constitution establish Public Service Commissions (PSCs) for both the Union (UPSC) and each state (SPSC).

History of Civil Services in India

- **Lord Cornwallis** is considered as ‘Father

of Civil Services in India’.

- **Lord Wellesley founded the College of Fort William in Calcutta** in 1800 to educate young recruits for the Civil Services.
- **Note - Satyendranath Tagore was the first Indian to clear ICS in 1864.**

Governance reforms to enhance efficiency of bureaucracy

- **Mission Karmayogi National Program:** It is a flagship programme of Government of India launched in 2020 for training of civil servants.
- **e-Governance Initiatives: Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)** for grievance redressal, SPARROW for performance appraisal, and digitization of service records.

11. Paternity Leave

Context

- The Supreme Court called on the Union government to examine the need for a formal law recognising paternity leave for all fathers, adoptive or biological.

Paternity leave

- It is a leave granted to a male employee (father) to take care of his newborn or adopted child and support the mother after childbirth.
- **Note - India does not have a universal paternity leave law.**
- However, under the **Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972** male government employees are entitled to 15 days of paternity leave, which they can take within six months of their child’s birth or adoption.

The Supreme Court of India in 2026 urged the government to:

- Enact a dedicated law on paternity leave.
- Recognize it as a social security benefit.
- **Countries like Sweden, Iceland and Germany provide paid parental leaves.**

12. Census 2027

Context

- **India is set to conduct its next population Census digitally**, with the exercise scheduled to commence in 2026 and conclude by March 1, 2027.

Census in India

- **Definition** - A census is a **survey of the population of an area that includes collecting details of a country's demographics** including age, sex and occupation.
- **History**: Under **W.C. Plowden**, the **Census Commissioner of India**, first census was conducted in 1881.
- **Independent India's first census** was held in 1951 and since then it has happened in the first year of every decade.
- The **Constitution mandates that enumeration** is carried out but the **Census of India Act of 1948 does not specify its timing or periodicity**.
- **Census is conducted by - Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** which functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

13. Redistribution of Lok Sabha Seats Based on 2011 Census

Context

- The Union Government has proposed the **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill and the Delimitation Bill to enable redistribution of Lok Sabha seats based on the 2011 Census**.

Present distribution of seats in Lok Sabha

- **Total Strength**: The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is 550 seats (530 from States, 20 from Union Territories) as per the Constitution.
- **At present, the effective strength is 543 elected members;**
- **530 members from States**
- **13 members from Union Territories.**
- **Basis of Distribution**: The allocation of seats among States is **based on the 1971 Census and the division of constituencies within States is based on the 2001 Census**.

- The freeze on the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha is valid until the first census conducted after 2026.

Key Features of the Proposed Bills

- The Bills propose to remove the constitutional freeze on inter-State seat allocation.
- The Delimitation Commission will be required to reallocate seats based on the latest Census figures (2011).
- **The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is proposed to be increased from 550 to 850 seats.**
- **Out of the total seats, 815 will be allocated to States and 35 to Union Territories.**
- The proposals also indicate a possible uniform increase of around 50% in seats for each State, with assurances that no State will lose its existing proportional share.

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

- **The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023** also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provides **33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.**
- The Act states that women's reservation can be implemented only after two steps are completed.
- First, a national Census must be conducted.
- Second, a delimitation exercise must be carried out based on that Census.
- The proposals are linked to the implementation of 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

ECONOMY

1. Sanand as India's Semiconductor Hub

Context

- Recently, the **Prime Minister of India inaugurated a semiconductor assembly and test facility by Kaynes Semicon in Sanand, Gujarat.**
- The project is **part of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**
- It marks India's **push toward becoming a global semiconductor manufacturing hub.**
- Sanand is being positioned as a critical link in the global semiconductor supply chain.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- Launched in - December 2021
- Implementation- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Launched in December 2021
- Objective - to build a sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem

India-Semiconductor Mission 2.0

- It was unveiled in the **Union Budget 2026-27,**
- It focuses on semiconductor equipment and materials **to create a "full-stack Indian semiconductor ecosystem."**

Additional Information - Government Schemes

- **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:** Financial and infrastructure support for chip design startups; target of 100+ domestic semiconductor design firms.
- **PLI Scheme for Electronics Manufacturing:** Boosts demand-side ecosystem, linked with mobile manufacturing growth.
- **Chips-to-Startup Programme:** Access to EDA tools and fabrication support; covers 300+ institutions.
- **National Critical Minerals Mission & Rare Earth Corridor:** To reduce dependence on China (rare earths) and Taiwan (fabs).

Global Supply Chain & Strategic Positioning

- **India's membership in Pax Silica** — a U.S.-led initiative — aims to **secure supply chains for critical technologies including semiconductors and AI.**

Pax Silica Initiative

- Objective - It is a **US-led strategic initiative to build a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain from critical minerals.**
- **Members - Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Australia.**

2. Cooperatives of India



Context

- Centre has informed Lok Sabha that only 3.49 lakh cooperatives are in profit.

Connect with the basics - Cooperatives

- A cooperative (or co-op) is an **organization or business that is owned and operated by a group of individuals who share a common interest, goal, or need.**
- The main purpose of a cooperative is **to meet the economic, social, or cultural needs of its members, rather than to maximize profits** for external shareholders.

Benefits of Cooperatives

- **Democratic Control:** Members have a voice in decision-making.
- **Economic Participation:** Profits are distributed based on usage or contribution, not capital invested.
- **Community Focus:** Co-ops often aim to benefit local communities by keeping resources and profits within the group.
- **Better Services/Prices:** By pooling resources, cooperatives often offer better services or prices than for-profit businesses.

97th Constitutional Amendment Act 2011

- It established the **right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right (Article 19)**.
- It included a **new Directive Principle of State Policy on the Promotion of Cooperative Societies (Article 43-B)**.
- It added a new **Part IX-B to the Constitution titled "The Co-operative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT)**.

Legal Framework and Support for Cooperatives:

- In India, **cooperatives are governed by the Cooperative Societies Act**, which is implemented at both the state and national levels.
- The **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act (2002)**: This law regulates cooperatives that operate in more than one state.
- The **National Cooperative Policy (2002)**: Aimed at creating an enabling environment for the cooperative movement, it focuses on improving governance, member participation, and financial sustainability.
- The **Ministry of Cooperation**: Established in 2021, this ministry focuses on supporting the growth of cooperatives in India, including reforming their governance and providing financial support.
- **National Cooperation Policy 2025**: It aims to build on the unique strengths of **India's cooperative tradition, promote economic democratization, and uplift rural economies through collective participation**.

3. Parliament Passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill, 2026

Context

- The Parliament has passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016

- **It provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals.**
- **Insolvency definition - It is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.**
- **Bankruptcy definition - It is a situation whereby a court of competent jurisdiction has declared a person or other entity insolvent, having passed appropriate orders to resolve it and protect the rights of the creditors. It is a legal declaration of one's inability to pay off debts.**
- **Significance - It aims to remove bottlenecks, streamline the corporate insolvency resolution process and protect the last mile funding in order to boost investment in financially distressed sectors.**

Adjudicating authority

- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for companies and LLPs.
- Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for individuals and partnership firms.

Key Features of IBC (Amendment) Bill, 2026

- **Timelines for liquidation:** The Bill adds that **NCLT must pass the order for liquidation within 30 days from the date of the application or intimation.**
- It also specifies that **liquidation proceedings must be completed in 180 days**, extendable by up to 90 days.
- **Mandatory Admission:** The bill mandates that the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) must admit an insolvency application within 14 days** if the default is proven and the application is complete, removing judicial discretion on this timeline.

- **Cross-Border Insolvency:** Introduces a framework to deal with insolvency cases involving foreign assets/creditors.

4. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

In News

- The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026**, was passed by the Parliament of India on April 2, 2026.
- This legislation is a significant expansion of the government's decriminalisation initiative, following the original Jan Vishwas Act of 2023.

Key Objectives & Impact

- **Mandate** - The Bill aims to enhance Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living by transitioning from a punitive to a trust-based governance model.
- **Decriminalisation:** It decriminalises 717 provisions across 79 Central Acts.
- **Scale:** In total, the Bill amends 784 provisions administered by 23 different Ministries.
- **Offence Rationalisation:** More than 1,000 minor offences have been rationalised, shifting from criminal imprisonment to civil penalties, administrative fines, or warnings.

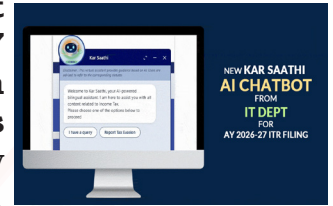
Major Provisions

- **Adjudication Mechanism:** It provides for the appointment of Adjudicating Officers to handle inquiries and determine penalties, and Appellate Authorities to hear appeals, thereby reducing the burden on the court system.
- **Graduated Response:** For first-time or minor lapses, the Bill introduces “warning-first” principles.
- **Dynamic Penalties:** Most fines and penalties will see a 10% increment every three years to maintain their deterrent effect.
- **Key Acts Amended:** Major laws affected include the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

5. Kar Saathi

Context

- An AI-enabled digital chatbot platform launched by the Income Tax Department to provide 24×7 guidance on direct tax matters under the new Income Tax Act, 2025 framework.



Kar Saathi

- It provides round-the-clock assistance for queries related to ITR filing, tax provisions, forms, notices, deductions, refunds, and compliance.
- It brings all direct tax-related resources such as forms, challans, e-payment, e-verification, and FAQs under one platform.
- Supports taxpayer grievance resolution and compliance queries.

Connect with the basics -

Direct Tax

- A direct tax is paid straight to the government by the person or business that earns the income or profit.
- The burden of this tax cannot be shifted to anyone else; you are solely responsible for paying it.
- **Governing Body:** Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Key Examples:

- **Income Tax:** Paid by individuals on their annual earnings.
- **Corporate Tax:** Paid by companies on their yearly profits.
- **Capital Gains Tax:** Levied on profits from selling assets like property or stocks.
- **Securities Transaction Tax (STT):** Charged on the sale and purchase of securities on stock exchanges.

Indirect Tax

- An indirect tax is levied on the consumption of goods and services.
- Unlike direct taxes, the burden is transferable; a shopkeeper pays the tax to the government but recovers that cost

from you through the selling price.

- **Governing Body: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).**

Key Examples:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST):** The primary indirect tax in India that replaced multiple older taxes like VAT and service tax.
- **Customs Duty:** Imposed on goods **imported into or exported out of India.**
- **Excise Duty:** Still applicable to limited items like **petroleum products and alcohol**

6. Purchasing Manager’s Index (PMI)

Context

- The West Asia crisis has led to India’s Manufacturing PMI falling from 56.9 in February 2026 compared to 53.9 in March 2026.

Comparison: PMI vs. IIP

Feature	Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI)	Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
Source	Private (S&P Global)	Government (NSO, MoSPI)
Basis	Perception-based survey	Actual physical output data
Coverage	Manufacturing & Services	Broad Industrial Sector (Mining, Mfg, Elec)
Timing	Monthly, at the start of the month	Monthly, with a 6-week lag

7. Coal Gasification Incentive Scheme

In Context

- The Union Minister has unveiled India’s roadmap to address this through domestic coal utilisation, with the Coal Gasification Incentive Scheme as a central instrument.

Coal Gasification

- Coal gasification is the process of

converting coal into syngas (synthesis gas) — a mixture primarily of hydrogen (H₂) and carbon monoxide (CO) — through a reaction with steam and oxygen at high temperatures.

Syngas serves as a feedstock for producing:

- **Ammonia** → used in **fertiliser** manufacturing
- **Methanol** → used as **fuel** and chemical feedstock
- **Hydrogen** → **clean energy** carrier
- **Synthetic natural gas** → substitute for imported **LNG**.

8. Major Ports in India Surpass Cargo Target

Context

- The major ports of India handled 915.17 million tonnes (MT) of cargo in FY 2025–26, exceeding the target of 904 MT and recording a 7.06% year-on-year growth.

About

- There are **14 major ports out of which 12 Major Ports are in Operation and 200 non-major ports (minor ports) in the country.**
- **New ports: Vadhavan Port in Maharashtra and Galathea Bay Port in Andaman and Nicobar Islands,** have been **notified as Major Ports.**
- While the Major Ports are under the administrative **control of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways,** the non-major ports are under the jurisdiction of respective State Maritime Boards/ State Government.

Operational Major Ports in India

Western Coast Ports	Eastern Coast Ports
Deendayal Port (Kandla, Gujarat)	Paradip Port (Odisha)
Mumbai Port (Maharashtra)	Visakhapatnam Port (Andhra Pradesh)
Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT, Maharashtra)	Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu)
Mormugao Port (Goa)	Kamarajar Port (Ennore, Tamil Nadu)

New Mangalore Port (Karnataka)	V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu)
Cochin Port (Kerala)	Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata-Haldia, West Bengal)

9. Stagflation

In Context

- The ongoing **US-Israel vs Iran conflict has triggered a sharp energy supply disruption, reviving fears of stagflation.**

Stagflation

- Definition:** Simultaneous occurrence of **stagnant/negative economic growth + high unemployment + high inflation.**
- Term Coined By:** **British politician Iain Macleod (1960s).**
- Why It's Dangerous:** Normal monetary policy tools fail, **raising interest rates fights inflation but worsens unemployment; cutting rates boosts growth but fuels inflation further.**

10. Credit Guarantee Scheme

Context

- The government is considering a ₹2.5 lakh crore **credit guarantee scheme to support businesses, especially MSMEs impacted by the West Asia crisis.**

About

- The scheme will be **an expansion of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) framework.**

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

- It was **launched in 2020** as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan
- Objective - to support eligible MSMEs and other eligible business enterprises due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- ECLGS covered **almost all the sectors of the economy.**

The structure of the scheme permitted

- Easy access to credit

- Interest rate was also capped to lowest.
- Credit and loans were sanctioned without any processing charges.

11. Soil Sakhis

Context

- The **“Soil Sakhis” initiative in drought-prone districts of western Maharashtra is empowering women while improving soil health and agricultural productivity.**

Soil Sakhis

- Launched in 2023** under the Mann Deshi Foundation’s Agriculture and Climate Action Programme.
- Trains rural women as **“Soil Sakhis” to promote soil testing and scientific farming practices.**
- Implemented in Satara, Sangli, Solapur, Kolhapur, and Pune districts.

Key Features

- Soil Sakhis **collect samples and facilitate soil testing through laboratories.**
- Farmers receive actionable **reports for improved crop and nutrient management.**
- Soil Sakhis earn about **₹8,000–₹10,000 per month (excluding petrol allowance).**

12. Cabinet Clears 12% Hike in P&K Fertiliser Subsidy

In News

- The Union Cabinet has approved a **12% increase in Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the Kharif Season 2026.**

Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme

- Launch:** Introduced in **2010** by the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.**

Objectives

- Encourage balanced fertilizer application across nutrients.
- Rationalise and contain the government’s subsidy burden.
- Promote efficient nutrient management in agriculture.

Key Features:

- Subsidy is nutrient-centric, i.e., calculated based on the content of:
 1. Nitrogen (N)
 2. Phosphorus (P)
 3. Potassium (K)
 4. Sulphur (S)
- Covers **28 notified grades of P&K fertilisers**, including commonly used products such as DAP and SSP (Urea is not under NBS and remains under a separate subsidy regime).

13. Skills Outcomes Fund

In Context

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has launched a campaign to **establish the Skills Outcomes Fund**.

Skills Outcomes Fund

- **Objective** - This initiative is designed to **create better career opportunities for young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds**.
- **Implementing Body:** It is managed by the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
- **Financing Model:** Uses a **blended finance approach**, combining government funding with capital from private sector CSR, philanthropic organizations (like the Gates Foundation), and development agencies.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Aims to support over **2 lakh youth from low-income backgrounds over four years**, with a significant **focus on low-income women**.
- **High-Growth Sectors:** Training is demand-driven and employer-led, focusing on sectors like **BFSI, IT-ITeS, Green Jobs, Healthcare, Logistics, and Electronics**.

14. RBI Holds Repo Rate at 5.25 per cent

Context

- The Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India decided to **keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%**.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- **Established under** - The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) constituted by the Central Government under **Section 45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934**.
- **Meeting** - The MPC is required to **meet at least four times in a year**.
- **Composition:** The committee comprises **six members**.
- Out of the six members, **three are internal -including the RBI governor who chairs the committee**.
 - ♦ **RBI's deputy governor is the second internal member.**
 - ♦ **The third member is one RBI official who is nominated by the central board of RBI.** Usually, it is the executive director in-charge of monetary policy.
 - ♦ **The other three are external members who are appointed for four years.**
- **Voting:** Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the **Governor has a second or casting vote**.
- **Significance of constituting the MPC:** MPC was set up consequent to the agreement reached between Government and RBI to **task RBI with the responsibility for price stability and inflation targeting**.
 - ♦ The Reserve Bank of India and Government of India signed the **Monetary Policy Framework Agreement**.
 - ♦ **Functions:** The MPC determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target. It acts as a benchmark for all other interest rates in the economy.

Monetary Policy Tools in India

- **Repo Rate:** Rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to banks against collateral.
- **Reverse Repo Rate:** Rate at which RBI absorbs liquidity from banks.
- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):** Portion of deposits banks must keep with RBI in cash.

- **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):** Portion of deposits kept in liquid assets (gold, cash, securities).
- **Open Market Operations (OMO):** Buying/selling of government securities to control liquidity.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** Emergency borrowing by banks at a penal rate.
- **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF):** Framework for repo/reverse repo operations.
- **Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS):** Bonds issued to absorb excess liquidity.

15. National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)

Context

- The **e-NAM portal reflects increasing market integration**, with the number of connected mandis rising from 1,389 in 2024 to 1,656 as of March 2026, spanning 23 States and 4 Union Territories.

National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)

- It is a **pan-India electronic trading portal** launched on April 14, 2016.
- It functions as a **“central sector scheme”** fully funded by the **Central Government via the Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF)**.
- Its primary goal is **to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities** by networking existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis.

Core Objectives

- **Unified National Market:** Integrating state-level markets to facilitate pan-India trade, moving towards the vision of “One Nation, One Market”.
- **Transparent Price Discovery:** Enabling real-time price discovery based on actual demand and supply through transparent online auctions.
- **Reducing Intermediaries:** Minimising the role of middlemen to ensure farmers receive a larger share of the final consumer price.
- **Quality Assuring:** Implementing quality assaying and grading so that prices are

commensurate with produce quality.

16. Memory Price Inflation (Memflation)

In News

- Gartner’s 2026 global semiconductor revenue forecast of \$1.3 trillion cited memflation as a key driver of the industry’s third consecutive year of double-digit growth.

Memflation

- Inflation refers to a general rise in the overall prices of goods and services in an economy over time.
- **Memflation refers to a structural economic trend where prices of semiconductor memory rise rapidly and persistently over time.**

17. India’s First Large-Scale Private Gold Mining Project

In News

- The launch of **India’s first large-scale private gold mine at Jonnagiri, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh**, has brought renewed focus on India’s gold reserves, production deficit, and the strategic importance of domestic mining.

Gold

- It is a **soft, dense, highly ductile, and corrosion-resistant precious metal** found in nature in its native form.
- **Gold is India’s second-largest import after oil**, with nearly 1,000 tonnes imported annually to meet domestic demand.
- **Bihar dominates reserves at ~43%, followed by Rajasthan (~25%) and Karnataka (~20%).**
- **Karnataka accounts for approximately 97% of India’s total gold output**, primarily through the **Hutti Gold Mines in Raichur**.
- **China leads global gold production with approximately 10% of world output, followed by Russia and Australia.**
- **Switzerland is the world’s largest gold importer.**

18. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Context

- The Decade of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) was highlighted by the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- **Established under - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**, Government of India.
- It is established by the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016** which came into effect on 12 October 2017.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi.**

Functions:

- Formulation of **Indian Standards (IS)** across many sectors.
- **Product Certification Schemes**, both voluntary and compulsory.
- Release of **Quality Control Orders (QCOs)**: Making compliance with certain Indian Standards mandatory for some products.
- **The schemes operated by BIS are**, Product Certification (**ISI mark**), Management Systems Certification, **Hall Marking of Gold and Silver Jewellery/Artefacts** and Laboratory Services for the benefit of the industry and in turn aiming at consumer protection.

19. PRISM-SG Portal

In News

- The PRISM-SG Portal was recently launched **to improve coordination in highway and railway infrastructure projects.**

PRISM-SG

- **Abbreviation - Portal for Rail-Road Inspection & Stages Management – Steel Girders.**
- It is a **digital platform that streamlines approval and inspection processes for bridge construction.**
- **Specifically covers construction of:** Road Over Bridges & Railway Bridges
- **Significance -** The portal brings all key players onto a **single platform like road owning departments, Indian Railways,**

contractors etc.

20. West Asian Crisis Disrupts India's Coffee Exports

Context

- The **ongoing crisis in West Asia has severely disrupted Indian coffee exports**, stalling approximately 15–20% of shipments near the Persian Gulf, impacting key markets in West Asia and Europe.

Coffee Board of India

- **Legal Act -** The 'Coffee Board' was established through a Constitutional act "**Coffee Act VII of 1942.**
- **Administrative control:** The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- **Structure:** The Board comprises **33 members including the Chairman** and the Secretary & Chief Executive Officer.

Mandate -

- **Enhancement of production, productivity & quality;**
- **Export promotion** for achieving higher value returns for Indian Coffee and
- Supporting the **development of the domestic market.**

Historical Context

- **Origin:** The word coffee came from **Ethiopia, where they called it kahve.**
- **Introduction in India:** **Arabs introduced coffee plantations in South India and Sri Lanka.**
- **A Sufi, Baba Budan brewed coffee plants around Chikamagaluru, Karnataka.**
- **Coffee arabica at high altitudes, and Coffee robusta in lower reaches.**

India's Coffee Industry

- **Production:** India is among the **top 10 coffee-producing countries**, with about **3% of the global output in 2020.**
- **Two types of coffee: Arabica and Robusta.** Arabica has higher market value than Robusta coffee due to its mild aromatic flavor.
- **Robusta is the majorly manufactured coffee with a share of 72% of the total production.**

- **Uniqueness:** India's coffee is unique in the sense that **it is shade-grown.**
- **Major producers: Coffee is largely produced in the southern part of India.**
 - ♦ Karnataka is the largest producer accounting for about 70% of the total coffee production in India.
 - ♦ Kerala is the second-largest producer accounting for about 23% and Tamil Nadu only 6%.
- **Employment:** The industry provides **direct employment to more than 2 million people in India.**
- **Exports:** The country **exports over 70% of its production.** According to FAO statistics, **India is the eighth largest exporter of coffee by volume.**

21. 14th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization

Context

- The **14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) of the World Trade Organization concluded in Yaoundé.**

Key Outcomes and Decisions

- Despite the lack of consensus on major items, ministers adopted several decisions, collectively referred to as the **"Yaoundé Package,"** which will be further refined at the General Council in Geneva:

World Trade Organization

- **WTO Reform:** Approved a roadmap aiming for a more modernized and efficient organization by 2028.
- **Small Economies & Development:** Formally adopted packages **to improve the integration of Small and Vulnerable Economies (SVEs)** into global trade and enhanced the **implementation of Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT).**
- **LDC Support:** Agreed on measures **to support Least Developed Countries (LDCs),** particularly regarding their transition after graduating from LDC status.
- **Fisheries Subsidies:** Committed to continuing negotiations with the

goal of presenting comprehensive recommendations for additional disciplines at MC15.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- **Mandate** - It is the only global international organization responsible for **regulating and facilitating trade between nations.**
- **Established on - January 1, 1995, as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT),** which had governed global trade since 1948.
- **Member countries- 166** representing over 98% of global trade
- **Headquartered in - Geneva, Switzerland.**

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) Completed 10 Years

In News

- **PMAY-G completes 10 years of implementation in 2026,** marking a decade of India's flagship rural housing mission.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)

- **Aim: Provide "Housing for All" in rural areas** — financial assistance to eligible rural households, including **houseless families and those living in zero, one, or two-room kutcha houses,** to construct pucca homes with basic amenities.
- **Beneficiary Selection:** Using housing deprivation parameters from the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011, verified by Gram Sabhas.
- **Funding Pattern:** 60:40 (Centre:State) in plain areas; 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan states.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

Financial Assistance:

- **Minimum unit size of 25 sq. m.**
- **₹1.20 lakh in plain areas; ₹1.30 lakh in hilly/North-Eastern states.**
- **Additional ₹12,000 for toilet**

construction via convergence with Swachh Bharat Mission.

Reforms in the Scheme

- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Financial assistance released directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts, eliminating middlemen.
- **Geo-tagging:** Time and date-stamped photographs uploaded at every construction stage for real-time monitoring.
- **AI-driven monitoring:** AI and Machine Learning tools for **anomaly detection; Aadhaar face authentication (including eye-blink detection) to verify beneficiaries and prevent fraud.**
- **Village-level Functionaries:** Each sanctioned house is tagged to a local **functionary** who follows up with the beneficiary.
- **Social Audits:** Every Gram Panchayat conducts a formal social audit at least once a year.

2. NCERT Granted Deemed University Tag

In News

- The **Ministry of Education** has declared the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** an **Institution Deemed to be a University.**

Impact of the Decision

- NCERT can now start courses and academic programmes and also award degrees.
- It has also been asked to begin **research programmes, doctoral programmes, and innovative academic programmes.**
- NCERT should also gradually expand into other academic domains in line with UGC norms and regulations, and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Additional Information - The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

- It is an autonomous organisation **established in 1961**
- **Mandate** - It assists and advises Central and State governments on policies and programmes **aimed at improving the**

quality of school education.

Key Roles and Functions

- **Curriculum Development:** NCERT is the **nodal agency for developing the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**, which sets the standard for school education in India.
- **Textbook Publication:** It publishes model textbooks for **Classes I to XII in English, Hindi, and Urdu.**
- **Educational Research & Training:** It promotes **research in school education** and provides pre-service and **in-service training for teachers.**
- **Digital Initiatives:** Through platforms like **ePathshala** and **DIKSHA**, it offers **free digital access to textbooks, audio, and video resources.**

3. Yuva Sangam

Context

- Registrations for institution-led exposure tours under **Yuva Sangam Phase-VI were held**, covering 22 States and Union Territories.

Yuva Sangam

- It is an initiative by the Government of India **to strengthen people-to-people connect between youth belonging to different States/UTs of India.**
- It was **conceptualised by the Ministry of Education** and was **launched under the banner of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB).**

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB)

- It is a landmark initiative **to celebrate the country's unity in diversity.**
- It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi **on 31st October 2015**, coinciding with the **140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**

Key Initiatives Under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- **Yuva Sangam:** A **youth exchange program** that allows students and off-campus youth to travel to paired states, focusing on five pillars: **Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Tradition), Pragati (Progress), Paraspasampark**

(People-to-people connect), and Devshakti (Spiritual connection).

- **Bhasha Sangam:** An initiative to encourage people to learn basic sentences in different Indian languages, promoting linguistic harmony.
- **Educational Integration:** Schools and universities across the country conduct EBSB clubs, student exchange trips, and cultural festivals like Kala Utsav.
- **Special Events: Celebration of Statehood Days** and integration of cultural themes in national events like Bharat Parv.
- **Implementation - The Ministry of Education** serves as the nodal ministry for coordinating the program

4. Namu Drone Didi Scheme

Context

- According to the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** a total of **1,094 SHG members** have been trained as drone pilots in the country.

Namu Drone Didi

- **Launched in - 2023**
- **Aim - to empower rural women by making them “Agri-tech” entrepreneurs.**
- **Objective - It aims to provide 15,000 drones to selected Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** across India between 2024 and 2026.
- **Financing - It is a Central Sector Scheme** (100% funded by the Union)
- **Implementation - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**

Key features

- **Women Empowerment:** Transforming women in SHGs into skilled drone pilots and service providers.
- **Modernizing Agriculture:** Promoting precision farming—using drones to spray liquid fertilizers (like Nano Urea) and pesticides accurately, which reduces waste and health risks for farmers.
- **Livelihood Generation:** Creating an additional annual income of **at least ₹1 lakh for each SHG** through drone

rental services.

5. 11 Years of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)

Context

- The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) has completed 11 years.

About

- **Launched: In 2015.**
- **Aim: To support small-scale business ventures.**
- **Target Group:** New entrepreneurs, small shopkeepers, women entrepreneurs, street vendors, artisans, fruit/vegetable vendors, and small manufacturing units.
- These loans are given by **Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, MFIs and NBFCs.**

MUDRA has created four products namely:

- **Shishu:** Covering loans upto Rs. 50,000/-
- **Kishor:** Covering loans above Rs. 50,000/- and up to Rs. 5 lakhs.
- **Tarun:** Covering loans above Rs.5 lakh and upto Rs.10 lakhs.
- **TarunPlus:** Covering loans above Rs.10lakh and upto Rs.20 lakhs.

6. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)

Context

- The Union Cabinet has extended the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) beyond March 2025 till 2028–29.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)

- **Launched in - 2000**
- **Financing - Centrally Sponsored Scheme,**
- **Implementation - Ministry of Rural Development**
- **Objective - It is aimed at providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations in rural areas .**

PMGSY has evolved through multiple phases:

- PMGSY-I (2000) focused on providing

- connectivity to unconnected habitations;
- PMGSY-II (2013) aimed at upgradation of existing rural roads;
- PMGSY-III (2019) focuses on consolidation of rural road networks;

Significance

- The extension will help complete targeted rural road upgradation.
- It improves market access for agricultural and non-farm products while reducing transportation costs.
- It will enhance access to education and healthcare services, particularly in remote areas, and contribute to inclusive growth by bridging the rural-urban divide in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

7. SMILE Scheme

Context

- The SMILE Scheme is transforming lives across India by promoting inclusive rehabilitation and social reintegration of vulnerable communities.

Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)

- **Launched in - 2022**
- **Implementation - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
- **Objective - to support vulnerable groups at every stage, from identification and rescue to healthcare, rehabilitation, education, counselling, skill development, and long-term economic independence.**

Features -

- One of its components was the sub-scheme to identify, profile, and **rehabilitate individuals engaged in the act of begging** with their consent.
- The other component of the scheme is for the **empowerment of transgender persons.**

8. Atal Pension Yojana

Context

- **The Atal Pension Yojana (APY), has achieved a historic milestone by surpassing total gross enrolments**

of “9 crore” subscribers on 21st April, 2026.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- **It was launched in 2015**
- **Objective - to provide old-age income security to workers in the unorganised sector.**
- **Target Group:** Initially available to all **citizens of India between 18 and 40 years of age.**
- **Scheme Features:** APY offers a guaranteed **minimum pension of Rs.1,000 to Rs.5,000 per month** starting at age 60, based on contributions.
- **Administering Body: Administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).**
- **Managed under the National Pension System (NPS) architecture.**
- **Progress:** As of January, 2026, over 8.66 crore subscribers have been enrolled, making APY a cornerstone of India's inclusive social security framework.

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

1. Qdenga (TAK-003)

Context

- **Qdenga, developed by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, has received clearance from the Drugs Controller General of India for individuals aged 4–60 years.**

Qdenga (TAK-003)

- TAK-003 is a **live-attenuated, tetravalent dengue vaccine, containing weakened forms of all four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4) to stimulate immunity.**



India's first indigenous dengue vaccine

- **DengiAll is an indigenous, tetravalent, single-dose dengue vaccine candidate being developed by Panacea Biotec in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).**

- **It is designed to fight all four serotypes and is currently in Phase III trials.**

Additional Information - Dengue

- **Pathogen** - Dengue is a viral infection caused by the **dengue virus (DENV)**.
- **DENV is an RNA virus of the Flaviviridae family** with four serotypes (DENV-1 to 4).
- **Symptoms:** **High fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands, rash.**
- **Transmission:** The virus is transmitted to humans through the **bites of infected female mosquitoes, primarily the Aedes Aegypti mosquito.**
- There is a **possibility of maternal transmission of Dengue** (from a pregnant mother to her baby), transmission via blood products, organ donation and transfusions.
- **Prevention:** **There is no specific antiviral treatment for dengue,** so prevention relies on controlling mosquito populations and raising public awareness.
- The mosquitoes that spread dengue are active during the day. The best way of protection is to protect yourself from mosquito bites.

2. GLP-1 Therapy

Context

- **Multiple variants of GLP-1 drugs have been recently introduced in the Indian market,** and concerns have emerged regarding their on-demand availability.
- GLP-1 medication was approved by the United States' Food & Drug Administration in 2005.

GLP-1 drugs

- **Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists** are medications developed to treat **both type 2 diabetes and obesity by correcting hormonal imbalance.**
- They **slow down the gastric emptying, increasing the feeling of fullness.**
- This decreases patients' appetites and



thereby leads to their weight loss.

- To ensure ethical pharmaceutical practices in the supply chain of GLP-1, the **Drug Controller General of India has intensified its regulatory surveillance against the drug's unauthorised sale and promotion.**
- In India, the **drug can be prescribed only by endocrinologists, internal medicine specialists and cardiologists.**

Additional Information - Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)

- **Established under** - It is the Central Drug Authority and is responsible for carrying out duties entrusted by the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**
- **Responsibilities:**
 - ♦ **Adoption of drugs.**
 - ♦ **clinical trials, please.**
 - ♦ **establishing the criteria for drugs.**
 - ♦ **control over the country's imported drugs' quality.**
 - ♦ **Coordination of state drug control organizations' efforts.**

Other Drug Regulatory Bodies in India

- **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI):** It is in charge of approving licenses for specific kinds of medications. He or she also serves as the **head of the CDSCO department of the Indian government.**
- **Drug Price Control Order (DPCO):** To keep certain necessary medications in India accessible for the general people, the DPCO **controls their prices.**
- **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:** **This act regulates domestic drug use.**

3. FSSAI Cannot Regulate Animal Feed

Context

- The Delhi High Court **struck down a Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulation** that prohibited the **sale of animal feed containing meat or bone meal of bovine or porcine origin for milk-producing animals.**
- FSSAI banned the **use of meat or bone**

meal in feed meant for milk- and meat-producing animals, except poultry, pigs and fish.

- The Delhi High Court held that FSSAI is not empowered to prescribe standards for food meant for animal consumption and its **mandate is limited to food for humans.**

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- It is an **autonomous statutory body** established under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- It was created by the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.**
- **Composition:** Led by a Chairperson (rank of Secretary to the Government of India) and **22 members, of whom one-third must be women.**
- **Structure:** Headquartered in New Delhi with 6–8 regional offices (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Guwahati, Kochi).

Functions:

1. Laying down science-based standards for food.
2. Licensing and registration of Food Business Operators (FBOs).
3. Monitoring manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import of food.
4. Accrediting food testing laboratories across India.

4. Cancer-Fighting Herbs of Konyak Naga Tribe

Context

- A recent study by Nagaland University has identified the **anti-cancer potential of traditional herbal medicine used by the Konyak Naga tribe.**

Konyak Naga Tribe

- **Habited in** - It is one of the **largest Naga tribes of Nagaland, inhabits mainly the Mon district of Nagaland.**
- Konyaks were **historically known for the practice of headhunting**, which was **linked to warrior status and prestige.**
- The traditional **political system** is headed by **hereditary chiefs known as Anghs.**
- Konyak language belongs to the **Tibeto-**

Burman language family.

- **The primary occupation is jhum (shifting cultivation).**
- **Major festival: Aoleang Festival**, celebrated in April to mark the New Year and sowing season.

5. World Tuberculosis Day

Context

- **World Tuberculosis Day is celebrated on March 24** to educate people about tuberculosis.

World Tuberculosis Day

- The day is observed **to commemorate the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of the TB bacteria in 1882.**
- **2026 Theme - Yes! We can end TB**

Tuberculosis

- **Caused by** - It is caused by bacteria called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis.**
- **Transmission** - It **spreads from person to person** through the air when people cough, sneeze or spit.
- **Symptoms** - **Cough, chest pain, weakness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats.**
- **Treatment** - TB is a treatable and curable disease by antimicrobial drugs.
- **Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)** is a form of TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to isoniazid and rifampicin, the two most powerful, first-line anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB is treatable and curable by using second-line drugs.

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

6. Bab el-Mandab Strait

BAB EL MANDEB



In News

- Concerns have risen over the **possible disruption of the Bab el-Mandab Strait**, following the entry of the **Iran-backed Houthis of Yemen** into the ongoing Middle East conflict.

Bab el-Mandab Strait

- It is also known in Arabic as the **“Gate of Tears,”** is located at the **southern tip of the Red Sea.**
- It **lies between Yemen on one side and the Horn of Africa on the other.**
- It **connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden**, and further with the Indian Ocean.
- It is **one of the world’s most important maritime chokepoints.**

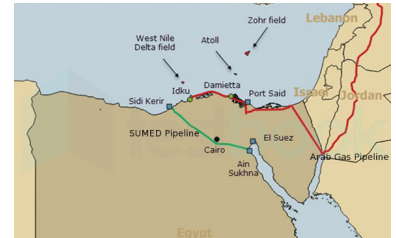
Strategic Importance

- The Bab el-Mandab accounts for roughly **10–12% of global oil and natural gas shipments.**
- It is **strategically important because it connects with the Suez Canal**, which further links it to the **Mediterranean Sea.**
- It is also linked to the **SUMED pipeline**, making it a vital corridor for **global energy and trade flows.**

7. Additional Information - SUMED (Suez-Mediterranean) pipeline

- It is a 200-mile pipeline in **Egypt connecting Ain Sukhna on the Red Sea to Sidi Kerir on the Mediterranean.**
- It is a **strategic alternative to the Suez**

Canal for transporting Persian Gulf oil to Europe and North America,



Key Details :

- Purpose:** Key crude **oil transportation route to bypass the Suez Canal**, vital for energy security during congestion.
- Route:** Connects **Ain Sukhna (Gulf of Suez, Red Sea) to Sidi Kerir (near Alexandria, Mediterranean).**
- Capacity:** Roughly **2.5 million barrels per day.**
- Ownership:** Operated by the **Arab Petroleum Pipeline Company (joint venture between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, and Qatar).**

8. Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026

Context

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



The Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026

- Notified by - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**
- It will come into **full effect on April 1, 2026.**
- These rules supersede the **SWM Rules, 2016** and aim to transition India toward a **Circular Economy** and a **“Zero Waste”** model.

Key Provisions of SWM Rules, 2026

- Source Segregation:** Mandates separating waste into four streams: **wet, dry, sanitary, and special care (hazardous).**
- Bulk Generators:** Entities producing **100 kg/day** must handle wet waste locally or **adopt Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).**
- Fuel Usage:** Industries and cement plants **must increase Refuse Derived**

Fuel (RDF) usage from 5% to 15% within six years.

- **Digital Monitoring:** A centralized **CPCB portal will track the entire waste life cycle.**
- **Compliance:** Stricter “Polluter Pays” enforcement and mandatory, time-bound remediation of legacy landfill sites.

9. Rice’s Whale

Context

- The US expansion of oil and gas drilling could push the Rice Whale to extinction.



Rice’s Whale (*Balaenoptera ricei*)

- Belonging to the baleen whale family **Balaenopteridae.**
- **It is one of the rarest whale species, with fewer than 100 individuals remaining.**
- **Range and Habitat:** It is **endemic to the northern Gulf of Mexico** and lives year-round within this region without undertaking long migrations.
- **Diet: Primarily feeds on small fish and squid.**
- **Threat: Oil drilling, vessel strikes, and climate change.**
- **Conservation status: It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.**

Do you know?

- The **International Whaling Commission (IWC) was established in 1946** as the global body responsible for management of whaling and conservation of whales.
- Currently, the **IWC has more than 80 member countries, including India**

10. E20 Petrol

Context

- India has officially mandated the nationwide rollout of E20 petrol at all

fuel stations from April 1, 2025.

E20 petrol

- It refers to a **fuel blend of 20% ethanol and 80% petrol.**
- **Objective - It is a critical part of India’s Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme, which aims to reduce reliance on crude oil imports and lower vehicular emissions.**
- **Target Advancement:** The initial target for 20% blending was 2030, but it was advanced to 2025–26 under the amended National Policy on Biofuels (2022).



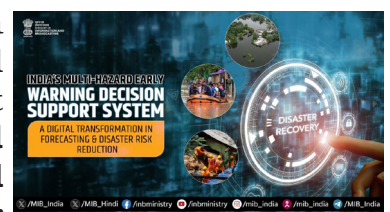
Significance for India

Category	Impact
Energy Security	Reduces dependence on imported crude oil (~85% of India’s needs are imported).
Economic	Saves roughly ₹30,000–₹50,000 crore in foreign exchange annually.
Environment	Lowers carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter emissions by 30–50%.
Agriculture	Boosts rural income by creating demand for crops like sugarcane, maize, and damaged food grains.

11. India’s Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System

Context

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD) received the National Award for e-Governance 2025** for its indigenously developed **Multi-Hazard Early Warning**



Decision Support System (MHEW-DSS).

Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System (MHEW-DSS)

- **Launched in 2024**, it is a digital platform that automates **decision-making in critical weather forecasting processes** and provides forecast and warning services to the public, government, and non-government agencies, as well as specific stakeholders.
- **Developed under Mission Mausam**, the system has automated 90% of weather data processing and improved forecast accuracy by 30%, while reducing preparation time from six hours to three.
- It **integrates real-time data from satellites, radars, and ground and upper air-based sensors** into a centralized GIS-enabled platform, replacing outdated manual workflows.

India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- It was **established in 1875** and completed 150 years of service in 2025.
- **Functions under - Ministry of Earth Sciences.**
- **Objective** - It is a government agency responsible for **meteorological observations, weather forecasting, and seismology in India.**

Mission Mausam

- It is an ambitious multi-faceted initiative **launched by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**
- **Objective** - to transform the country into a **“weather-ready and climate-smart” nation.** It aims to dramatically **improve the accuracy and lead time of weather and climate forecasts.**

12. Indonesia

Context

- A magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck the Northern Molucca Sea off Indonesia's Ternate island.



Indonesia

Basic Geography:

- **World's largest archipelagic state**, located between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, off mainland Southeast Asia.
- **Major islands: Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan (Borneo), Sulawesi, Papua.**
- It shares land borders with **East Timor (Timor-Leste), Papua New Guinea, and Malaysia.**
- **Capital: Jakarta** (on the island of Java); new capital being developed — Nusantara in Kalimantan

Tectonic Setting:

- **Located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, the seismically active belt where ~90% of the world's earthquakes occur.**
- The **Molucca Sea** — where the recent earthquake originated — is a highly active tectonic zone in Indonesia's northern region.

13. Additional Information - Ring of Fire

Context

- **Known as** - The Ring of Fire **also referred to as the Circum-Pacific Belt** is present along the land borders of the **Pacific Ocean.**
- **Features** - It is characterized by **active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.**
- **Significance** - It consists of **75% of Earth's volcanoes i.e. more than 450 volcanoes are located along the Ring of Fire.**
- **Reason for the occurrence** - The abundance of volcanoes and earthquakes along the Ring of Fire is **due to the frequent movement of tectonic plates in this area.**



Volcanoes in India

- Barren Island, Andaman Islands (India's only active volcano)
- Narcondam, Andaman Islands
- Baratang, Andaman Islands
- Deccan Traps, Maharashtra

India Achieves Highest-ever Annual Wind Energy Addition

Context

- India has achieved the highest-ever annual wind energy capacity addition of 6.05 GW in 2025-26, taking cumulative installed capacity to over 56 GW.

India's Energy Share

- As of 2025, the country's total installed electricity capacity has crossed 500 GW, reaching 509.6 GW.
- The total non-fossil power installed capacity has reached 262.74 GW in 2025 which is 51.5% of the total installed electricity capacity in the country.
- The solar energy installed capacity has reached 132.85 GW in 2025.
- Fossil-fuel-based sources: 244.80 GW, about 49 % of the total.
- Globally, India stands 3rd in Solar Power installed capacity, 4th in Wind Power capacity and 4th in total Renewable Energy capacity.

India's Energy Targets

- **Emissions Intensity Reduction:** India has committed to reducing the emissions intensity (CO₂ per unit of GDP) of its GDP by 47% by 2035 from 2005 levels.
- **Expansion of Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity:** India has committed to achieving 60% of its installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2035.
- **Creation of Carbon Sink:** India has committed to creating a carbon sink of 3.5 to 4 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through forest and tree cover by 2035.

Government Initiatives

- **National Solar Mission (NSM):** It was launched in 2010, it has set ambitious targets for solar capacity installation, including grid-connected and off-grid solar power projects.
- **National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF):** It was established to support research and innovation in clean energy technologies and projects that help in reducing

greenhouse gas emissions.

- **National Wind Energy Mission:** Focuses on the development and expansion of wind energy in India. The target for wind energy capacity is set at 140 GW by 2030.

14. Tar Balls Management Rules

Context

- The Centre has, for the first time, proposed dedicated rules to manage tar balls that cause on-shore and off-shore marine pollution.



Connect with the basics- Marine Tar balls

- They are sticky, dark-colored lumps of weathered oil that form after oil spills, leaks, or natural seepage in the marine environment.

Formation

- **Weathering Process:** They form through weathering, where lighter oil components evaporate, leaving behind heavier hydrocarbons that mix with sand and marine debris.
- **Size & Texture:** Their size varies from pea-sized globules to basketball-sized lumps.
- **Composition:** They contain toxic contaminants like heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Impact of Tar Ball Pollution

- **Marine Life:** Marine animals like sea turtles and seabirds may ingest them, leading to death. They also clog the pores of mangroves and coral reefs.
- **Human Health:** Direct contact can cause skin irritation, and toxic chemicals can enter the human food chain through contaminated seafood.
- **Economy:** Significant negative impact on tourism (due to oily beaches and odor) and fisheries (fouling of fishing nets).

Tar-balls Management Rules, 2026

- Framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, these rules establish India's first dedicated

regulatory framework for tar balls.

Feature	Description
Polluter Pays Principle	Facility owners are liable to pay compensation for environmental damage caused by leaks or improper handling.
Disaster Classification	Coastal states are required to declare tar ball pollution as a “State Disaster” .
Institutional Roles	The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) implements the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP); district administrations manage local cleanup.
Circular Economy	Tar balls with high calorific value (>1,500 kcal) can be repurposed as fuel in the cement industry .

15. Sundarbans Losing Ability to Recover

Context

- A recent study shows that around **10–15 percent of the Sundarbans is undergoing a “critical slowing down” process from environmental stress.**

Sundarbans in West Bengal

Geographical location

- It is a vast contiguous mangrove forest ecosystem present in the **coastal region of Bay of Bengal**
- It spread over **India and Bangladesh** on the **Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna delta.**

Conservation efforts

- **UNESCO World Heritage site** - Sundarbans National Park was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987.
- **Biosphere Reserve** - Sunderbans was designated as a Biosphere Reserve by

UNESCO in 2001.

- **Wetland of International Importance** - Sundarban Wetland, India was recognised as the ‘Wetland of International Importance’ **under the Ramsar Convention in January 2019.**
- **Flora and Fauna** - Sunderban National Park is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species and is **home to the Royal Bengal tiger, Gangetic dolphins and Estuarine crocodile**

16. Decline of Lakes in Jammu & Kashmir

Context

- Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) finds nearly half of Jammu and Kashmir’s lakes have vanished since 1967, warns of ecological crisis.

Major Causes

- Unchecked human activities and encroachment;
- Weak institutional coordination;
- Absence of a unified regulatory framework, leading to land-use changes.

Major Lakes of J&K, Ladakh UT

- **Dal Lake:** Famous freshwater lake known for houseboats, shikaras, and floating gardens (Raad).
- **Wular Lake:** Wular Lake is the **largest freshwater lake in India** and has been formed due to tectonic activity. It is **fed by the Jhelum River and is recognized as a Ramsar site.**
- **Pangong Tso:** It is a high-altitude brackish water lake extending into Tibet, known for its changing colors and strategic importance.
- **Tso Moriri:** It is another **high-altitude brackish lake** and a Ramsar site.
- **Manasbal Lake:** It is considered one of the **deepest freshwater lakes in the region** and the **Mughal garden Jaroka Bagh, built by Nur Jahan,** overlooks the lake.
- **Hokersar Wetland:** Often referred to as the **“Queen of Wetlands”**.
- **Surinsar Lake and Mansar Lake:** They are **twin lakes** and are Ramsar sites.

17. Phasing Down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in India

Context

- The Government of India has directed that **no new environmental clearances will be granted for hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) production projects beyond December 31, 2027.**
- It is aligned with **India's commitments under the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment.**

Montreal Protocol

- **Enforcement** - It was agreed upon in 1987 in Montreal, Canada and entered into force in 1989.
- **Objective** - To protect the Ozone layer by reducing the production of substances that are supposed to be responsible for Ozone layer depletion.
- **Kigali Agreement** - The protocol was further strengthened with the ratification of the legally binding Kigali Agreement in 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda.
- **Significance** - It seeks to phase out the production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that are potent greenhouse gases by the late 2040s.

Kigali Amendment

- The Kigali agreement is an amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
- **Objective** - To phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by curbing both their production and consumption.
- **Target** - To achieve over 80% reduction in HFC consumption by 2047 which will curb a global increase of temperature by up to 0.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

Connect with the basics - Basics - Ozone Layer (O₃)

- It is a highly reactive molecule containing three oxygen atoms.
- **Found in** - It is present between 10 and 50 km above the earth's surface, called the stratosphere, and is present in a thin layer of ozone.
- **Function** - This ozone layer serves as a natural filter for blocking deadly incoming UV radiation from the sun.

- **Significance** - This ozone shield is necessary for the survival of human life on the earth.

OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

- **Definition** - The decrease in ozone concentration in the middle layers of the atmosphere – mainly in the stratosphere is referred to as the depletion of the ozone layer.
- **Caused by** - It is caused by emissions of anthropogenic halogenated hydrocarbons such as CFCs, HCFCs, Halons, Carbon tetrachloride and Methyl bromide.
- **Ozone hole** - Since the early 1970s, the levels of stratospheric ozone have thinned markedly over certain regions of the earth, particularly over the Antarctic region.

18. India Withdraws Bid to Host COP 33 in 2028

Context

- India has withdrawn its candidature to host COP33 (2028) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process.

Possible Reasons for Withdrawal

- **Administrative Burden:** Hosting a COP event requires substantial infrastructure, security, and financial expenditure.
- Preparations for other large-scale international events, such as the **proposed 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad**, will require similar administrative and financial resources.
- **Political Timing:** The year 2028 falls close to the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, which is a period marked by intense administrative, political, and logistical engagements.

COP (Conference of Parties)

- The Conference of Parties (COP) is the **annual supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).**
- It brings together nearly 200 countries **to negotiate global climate action,**

climate finance, and emission reduction commitments.

- The **first COP session was held in Berlin, Germany, in March 1995.**
- **Meeting: The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise.**

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- It is **one of the three Rio Conventions**, which were adopted at the **Earth Summit 1992** alongside the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** and the **Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**.
- The convention entered **into force in 1994.**
- **Objective - to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations** in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.
- **Secretariat:** The UNFCCC secretariat is **headquartered in Bonn, Germany.**
- **Major Instruments:** It is the parent treaty to two major legal agreements:
 - 1. Kyoto Protocol (1997):** Set the **emission targets for developed countries.**
 - 2. Paris Agreement (2015):** A landmark universal agreement aiming **to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C**, above pre-industrial levels.
- **Financial Mechanisms:** Manages and coordinates funds such as the **Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Adaptation Fund** to assist developing nations.

Recent COP Meetings

- **COP27:** Held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt (2022).
- **COP28:** Held in Dubai, UAE (2023), resulting in the “UAE Consensus” focused on transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- **COP 29:** held in Baku, Azerbaijan (2024)
- **COP 30:** Held in Belém, Brazil (2025)
- **COP 31:** Scheduled for Antalya, Türkiye (2026)

19. Plan for Great Nicobar Island Projects

Context

- The draft master plan for developing the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) has proposed to focus on tourism as the “primary economic driver” of growth.



The Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project

- It is conceived by **NITI Aayog and launched in 2021.**
- It is a **₹72,000–₹81,000 crore mega-infrastructure initiative.**
- It is **aimed at transforming India’s southernmost island into a major strategic and economic hub.**
- **Significance** - The project is a centerpiece of **India’s Maritime Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.**

Core Components

- **International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT):** At Galathea Bay, aiming to handle 14.2 million TEUs to capture regional cargo.
- **Greenfield International Airport:** A dual-use facility for tourism and defense.
- **Integrated Township:** Planned development **to accommodate a projected population of 6.5 lakh by 2050.**
- **Power Plant:** A 450 MVA gas and solar-based facility.

Facts Related to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- The **Southernmost Island is Great Nicobar** whose southernmost tip is only **150 km away from Sumatra, Indonesia.**
- The **highest point is Saddle Peak in North Andaman (732 metre), Mount Thullier in Great Nicobar (642 metre).**
- **Pandanus or Nicobar Breadfruit** is a **rare fruit** found in the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- **Barren Island** of the Andaman & Nicobar Island group is the only **confirmed**

active volcano not just in India but the whole of South Asia.

- **Indira Point in Great Nicobar is the Southern-most point of India.**

20. Light Pollution

Context

- A study published in the journal Nature has found that artificial light at night increased by 16% globally between 2014 and 2022.
- The sharpest rise has been observed in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, with India and China emerging as major contributors in Asia.

Light pollution

- **Definition** - It is the **excessive or inappropriate use of artificial outdoor light**, which **disrupts natural darkness and has adverse effects on human health, wildlife, and the environment.**

Environmental and Health Impacts

Biodiversity & Wildlife:

- **Navigation:** Disorients migratory birds and sea turtle hatchlings that rely on natural light (moon/stars) for guidance.
- **Reproduction:** Interferes with the mating calls of fireflies and the hatching of species like clownfish.
- **Ecosystem Flow:** Hardens tree leaves, making them less suitable for herbivorous insects to eat, which disrupts urban food chains.

Human Health:

- **Circadian Rhythm:** Disrupts the body's natural 24-hour sleep-wake cycle.
- **Melatonin Suppression:** **Inhibits the production of melatonin**, which is essential for sleep and has been linked to increased risks of **insomnia, stress, and certain cancers (e.g., breast cancer).**
- **Neurodegenerative Diseases:** Recent studies have suggested a correlation between night-time light pollution and the incidence of **Alzheimer's disease.**
- **Economy & Energy:** Wastes **billions of units of electricity annually, contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.**

Government Initiatives to Curb Light Pollution

- **Energy Conservation Building Code (2017):** The ECBC is a set of standards established by India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to promote sustainable design and **reduce energy consumption by 25–50% in new commercial buildings.**
- **Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP):** Launched in 2015, to **replace conventional street lights with smart and energy-efficient LED streetlights** across the country.
- **Smart Cities Mission: Adaptive lighting is a core component of India's Smart Cities Mission**, designed to **optimize energy consumption and reduce light pollution** by dynamically adjusting street lamp intensity based on real-time traffic and time conditions.
- **Environmental Protection Act 1986:** Provides umbrella power to the Central Government to **regulate environmental pollution of all kinds.**

21. Sentinel Species

Context

- Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) upgraded from Near Threatened to Endangered on the IUCN Red List, driven by climate-induced sea-ice loss.
- As a sentinel species, **its decline signals broader Antarctic ecosystem stress**, populations projected to halve by the 2080s.

What is a Sentinel Species

- It is a **plant or animal whose health reflects the overall condition of the ecosystem it inhabits.**
- **They respond quickly and visibly to environmental stressors such as pollution, disease, and climate change.**
- **They act as early warning systems**, allowing detection of ecological imbalance before it becomes widespread.

Examples of Sentinel Species

- **Amphibians (Frogs):** Frogs have permeable skin, making them highly

sensitive to pollutants and pathogens. Decline in frog populations is often an early indicator of ecosystem stress.

- **Canaries in Coal Mines:** Historically used to detect carbon monoxide poisoning. They showed distress before humans due to faster metabolism.
- **Honeybees:** Used to monitor agricultural chemicals and pesticide loads. Decline in bee populations signals ecosystem imbalance and pollination crisis.
- **Polar Bears:** Indicators of Arctic ecosystem health and contaminant accumulation. Reflect impacts of climate change and ice loss.

Additional Information - International Union of Conservation of Nature

- **Establishment - 1948.**
- **Set up in - Gland, Switzerland.**
- **Objective - To promote international cooperation and to provide scientific knowledge and tools to aid conservation action.**
- **IUCN Red List - It established the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 1964.**

IUCN Red List

- It is a list compiled by the IUCN, which **contains the world's most comprehensive information on the conservation status of plants, animals, and fungus species.**
- **Species in the IUCN Red List - There are 143000 species on the Red List.**
- **India's membership in IUCN - India became a member in 1969**
- **The IUCN classification - The IUCN classification of species is based on their extinction/conservation status.**

They are as follows

- Extinct (EX)
- Extinct in the Wild (EW)
- Critically Endangered (CR)
- Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)
- Near Threatened (NT)
- Least Concern (LC)
- Data Deficient (DD)
- Not Evaluated (NE)

22. Project HIM SAROVAR

Context

- Project Him Sarovar has been launched in Ladakh.

Project Him Sarovar

- It is a **scientific water conservation initiative launched on April 10, 2026,**
- The project aims to **address chronic water scarcity in the region by creating 50 small water bodies to capture and store annual snowmelt and rainwater.**

Key Objectives & Impact

- **Water Security:** To provide **year-round water availability for irrigation and rural needs in the high-altitude cold desert,** where melting snow often goes to waste.
- **Climate Resilience:** Serving as a “shield” against the visible impacts of climate change, such as receding glaciers and falling water tables.
- **Infrastructure Plan:** The goal is to construct 50 reservoirs—30 in Leh and 20 in Kargil—within the next year.
- **Restoration Goals:** Aligns with the national vision of restoring 2.6 crore hectares of degraded land by 2030

23. Ghaggar River

In News

- **Villages near the Ghaggar River report rising cancer cases linked to polluted water,** but lack of data and poor healthcare hinder action.

Ghaggar River in northern India

- The Ghaggar River is an intermittent, monsoon-fed river in northern India.
- It **originates in the village of Dagshai in the Shivalik Hills of Himachal Pradesh** at about 1,927 metres elevation and **flows through Punjab and Haryana into Rajasthan.**
- Its main **tributaries include the Kaushalya, Markanda, Sarsuti, Tangri, and Chautang rivers.**

24. Andaman Sea

In News

- A boat carrying Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi nationals from Bangladesh to Malaysia capsized in the Andaman Sea.



Andaman Sea

- The Andaman Sea is a **marginal sea in the northeastern Indian Ocean**.
- It is **bordered by Myanmar to the north and east, Thailand and Malaysia to the east, Indonesia to the south, and India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the west**.
- It **connects to the South China Sea through the Strait of Malacca** and serves as an important international shipping route, especially between India and China.

Additional Information - Rohingya Crisis

- **Rohingya** - They are an **ethnic group largely comprising Muslims who predominantly live in the Western Myanmar province of Rakhine**.
- In Myanmar, they are classified as illegal migrants and foreigners residents.

Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

- It is also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- It is a **United Nations multilateral treaty which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom**.
- **India's membership** - India is not a signatory to this Convention.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

- **Adopted in** - It is a multilateral treaty adopted by the **United Nations in 1966**.
- The covenant commits its parties to **respect the civil and political rights of individuals including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of**

speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial.

India's Stand on Rohingyas

- **Operation Insaniyat:** In 2017, India launched "Operation Insaniyat" to **provide relief assistance for the refugee camps in Bangladesh**.

25. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

Context

- The European Commission has proposed expanding the scope of the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** to include around 180 additional products from January 1, 2028.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- It is a **carbon tariff on carbon intensive products, such as cement and some electricity, imported by the European Union**.
- **Significance** - As a price on carbon, it discourages emissions. As a trade-related measure, it affects production and exports.

26. Marine Heatwaves

Context

- Tropical cyclones passing over marine heatwaves (MHWs) cause 60% more billion-dollar disasters through rapid intensification, warns a new study.

Marine Heatwaves

- It is a **prolonged period of anomalously high ocean surface temperatures in a specific region**.

They are characterised by two key parameters:

- **Duration:** Lasting anywhere from several days to several months.
- **Intensity:** Measured as a deviation from the long-term seasonal average, known as a temperature anomaly.

Key Drivers

- **Climate Change:** Oceans absorb 90%+ of excess atmospheric heat, raising baseline temperatures

- **Ocean Currents:** Warm water pools shift into cooler regions.
- **Atmospheric Systems:** High-pressure systems like the North Pacific High trap surface heat
- **El Niño:** Elevates Pacific sea surface temperatures, triggering the largest recorded MHWs.

27. Amazon Rainforests

Context

- A recent study shows that consecutive droughts in 2023–2024 pushed **Amazon rainforest moisture and biomass to their lowest levels in over three decades**, indicating severe ecological stress.

Amazon Rain Forests

- **Location:** The region belongs to **nine nations of the South American continent**.
- **Surrounded by** - It is bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.
- **Area Covered:** The majority of the forest, **60%, is in Brazil, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and with minor amounts in Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela.**
- **Climate:** Hot and humid climate with temperatures of **26-30°C throughout the year**. There are no periodic seasons. The precipitation ranges from **2,000 mm to 10,920 mm annually**.
- **Tribes:** **Yanomamo, Kayapo, Akunt-su, Matses, Tupi etc.**
- **Fauna:** **Anaconda, Jesus lizard, howler monkey, golden lion tamarin, jaguar, sloth, spider monkey, Amazon River dolphin, toucan and the scarlet macaw, poison dart frog and the glass frog.**
- **Flora:** Moist broadleaf tropical rainforest like myrtle, laurel, palm, acacia, rosewood, Brazil nut, rubber tree, mahogany and Amazonian cedar.

Significance of the Rainforests

- **Lungs of the planet:** Rainforests generate about **20% of the world's oxygen** and its trees play a key role in reducing pollutant levels.
- **Fight climate change:** They act as a crucial buffer in the global fight against climate change as it holds **tremendous capacity to store carbon**.
- **Medicinal Properties:** Many of these plants contain bioactive compounds capable of treating diseases that are not yet curable, especially cancer.

Threat to the forests

- **Climate Change:** Due to climate change the forests are witnessing various challenges like changes in rainfall patterns, pollution etc.
- **Deforestation:** The size of the Amazon forest shrank dramatically as a result of settlers' clearance of the land to obtain lumber and to create grazing pastures and farmland.
- **Wildfires:** It causes threat to the survival of ecosystems and biodiversity. The 2019 forest fires in the region have led to widespread devastation in the region.

Additional Information - Amazon River

- It is the **largest river by volume of water and second longest river after the Nile river of Africa** in the world.
- **Source:** River has its source in the **Peruvian Andes, at an elevation of 5,598 m**.
- **Length:** **6400 km**.
- **Basin:** The basin includes the greater part of Brazil and Peru, some parts of Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia and a small area of Venezuela.
- **Tributaries:** Japurá, Juruá, Madeira, Negro, Purus, and Xingu rivers.
- **Mouth:** Atlantic Ocean on the **northeastern coast of Brazil**.

28. Kerala Botanist's Innovation in Tackling Invasive Species

Context

- **N. Alim Yusuf, a botanist from Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences, has received the World**

Wide Fund for Nature National Award for developing an **application to detect invasive plant species in Kerala.**

About the Innovation

- The application, **Neophyte ID**, is an **AI-powered mobile tool that enables users to identify invasive plant species by capturing images.**
- The app can identify nearly 100 invasive plant species found in Kerala.
- It integrates geospatial tracking to map the spread of invasive species, aiding scientific research and policy intervention.

Connect with the basics - Definition:

- **Definition** - Invasive species are non-native organisms (animals, plants, fungi, microbes) that establish self-sustaining populations and cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health.
- **Impacts** - They contribute to biodiversity loss, ecological disruption, and can lead to significant economic losses in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.
- **Causes** - Globalization (increased trade and travel), human activities, and climate change facilitate their spread and establishment.
- **Indian Context** - India has several widespread invasive species, including plants like **Lantana camara** and **Water Hyacinth**, and animals such as the **African Catfish** and **Nile Tilapia**.

29. Shahtoosh Wool

Context

- A Delhi court has convicted a Jaipur-based art gallery owner for attempting to illegally export Shahtoosh shawls.

Shahtoosh Wool

- It is derived from the hair of the Tibetan Antelope, also known as Chiru.
- The animal is killed to obtain the wool.
- Trade in Shahtoosh is strictly prohibited in India and has also been banned globally.

Tibetan Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*)

- The Chiru is a **medium-sized bovid endemic** to the **high-altitude alpine**

steppes of the Tibetan Plateau (3,250–5,500m).

- **Habitat:** They inhabit the arid, cold grasslands of Tibet, Qinghai, and Xinjiang in China, with a small population in Ladakh (Changthang belt), India.
- **Appearance:** They have a pale fawn to a reddish-brown coat with a white belly.
- Males have black markings on their faces and legs, which are absent in females.

Conservation Status:

- IUCN Red List - Near Threatened (NT)
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 - Schedule I
- CITES convention - Appendix I

30. State of India's Bats, 2024-25 Report

Context

- The **first-ever national assessment titled "State of India's Bats, 2024–25" has been released by the Nature Conservation Foundation**, in collaboration with Bat Conservation International, World Wide Fund for Nature, and the Centre for Wildlife Studies, highlighting the status, diversity, and threats to bats in India.

Key Findings

- **Geographical Distribution: India hosts around 135 bat species.**
- **West Bengal leads with 68 bat species**, followed by 66 in Meghalaya, 52 in Uttarakhand 41 each in Kerala and Karnataka and 43 in Sikkim, denoting diversity.
- Among cities, Delhi had 15 bat species, despite pressures of urbanisation.

Endemism & Threat Status:

- 16 species are endemic to India
- 7 species are listed as threatened by the IUCN
- 35 species are either Data Deficient or not assessed
- **Major Threats:** Urbanisation, deforestation, land-use change and climate change impacts.

Key Facts about Bats

- Bats are mammals belonging to the **order**

Chiroptera and are the **only mammals capable of sustained powered flight**, with wings made of stretched skin over elongated finger bones.

- There are over **1,400 species of bats worldwide**.
- They **inhabit almost every continent except Antarctica**, thriving mainly in tropical regions.
- **Bats are crucial for ecosystems as pollinators for many plants**, agents of seed dispersal, and natural controllers of insect populations, including agricultural pests.
- **Most bats use echolocation**—high-frequency sound waves—for navigation and hunting in the dark, a unique adaptation that allows them to exploit nocturnal ecological niches effectively.
- Unlike birds, bats cannot take off from the ground easily; they hang upside down to launch into flight.
- They rest during daytime, often in caves or hollow trees, forming colonies that can range widely in size.
- The Indian flying fox (*Pteropus giganteus*) is among the largest bats in India and a critical species for pollination and ecosystem health.
- **Bats are known reservoirs of numerous viruses**, including coronaviruses, Nipah virus, and Ebola, yet they exhibit remarkable immunity and longevity which is a subject of scientific research.

31. Odisha: 1st State to Launch Marine Spatial Plan

Context

- The **Odisha government** recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Centre for Coastal Research under the **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences to launch a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) in the state for integrated coastal and marine planning**.

About

- The **plan covers Odisha's 550+ km coastline**, aiming to **balance economic activities with the protection of**

ecologically sensitive zones like Chilika Lake, Bhitarkanika, and Gahirmatha.

Core Objectives

- **Blue Economy Growth:** Promoting sustainable development in sectors like fisheries, tourism, ports, and renewable ocean energy.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Reducing overlap and disputes between different stakeholders, such as traditional fishing communities and industrial port developers.
- **Climate Resilience:** Strengthening the protection of coastal ecosystems that serve as natural buffers against frequent cyclones and sea-level rise.
- **SDG Alignment: Supports Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water).**

32. Lumpondeng Island

Context

- After protests by conservation groups, the **Meghalaya government dropped the proposed luxury resort project on Lumpondeng Island.**

Lumpondeng Island

- **Location - It is located in Umiam Lake, a manmade reservoir formed in the early 1960s by damming the Umiam River** for a hydroelectric project, about 20 km from Shillong.
- **The island is characterised by coniferous vegetation and lies near the centre of the lake.**

33. Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary Designated as New Ramsar Sites

Context

- India designated **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh as its 99th Ramsar Site**, with Uttar Pradesh now having 12th sites on the list.

Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary

- **Location - It is a freshwater wetland ecosystem, formed by the Upper Ganges Canal in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.**
- It is a key habitat for migratory birds on

the Central Asian Flyway and wintering ground for species such as **Bar-headed Goose, Painted Stork and various species of ducks and waterfowl.**

India's Latest Additions in Ramasar site

- Siliserh Lake (Rajasthan): 95th Ramsar site
- Kopra Jalashay (Chhattisgarh): 96th Ramsar Sites
- Patna Bird Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh): 97th Ramsar Sites
- Chhari-Dhand Conservation Reserve (Gujarat): 98th Ramsar Sites

Connect with the basics - Ramsar Convention

- A Ramsar site is a **wetland designated as one of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.**
- **Ramsar Convention** - It is one of the inter-governmental accords to preserve the wetlands of international importance.
- **It was signed on February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran and came into force in 1975.**
- **India became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.**

34. Dolphin Friends Initiative

In News

- The **Forest Department, Prayagraj has launched the Dolphin Friends volunteer network.**
- **Objective - to strengthen conservation of the Gangetic dolphin** through community participation and river monitoring.

Ganges River Dolphin (Platanista Gangetica)

Characteristics

- **Functionally blind; relies on echolocation for hunting.**
- **Known as Susu due to the sound it makes while breathing.**
- Exclusively freshwater species, **inhabiting Ganga and Brahmaputra river basins in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.**
- **Threats:** Habitat destruction, pollution and hunting.

conservation Status

- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species): Appendix I
- CMS (Convention on Migratory Species): Appendix I
- IUCN Red List: Endangered

National & State Recognition

- Declared India's National Aquatic Animal in 2009.
- Recognized as the State Aquatic Animal of Assam.

Indus River Dolphin (Platanista minor)

Characteristics:

- **Functionally blind, navigates using echolocation.**
- **Locally called Bhulan in the region.**
- Found mainly in the Indus River System (Pakistan) with a **small population in India's Beas River.**
- **Threats:** Habitat fragmentation, Restricted range, leading to population isolation.

Conservation Status:

- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES: Appendix I
- IUCN Red List: Endangered.
- State Recognition: Declared the State Aquatic Animal of Punjab.

Do You Know?

- One more species of Dolphin i.e. **Irrawaddy dolphin found in India in Chilika Lake** (Asia's largest brackish water lagoon) in Odisha.
- Unlike the other two species, Irrawaddy dolphins are **not blind and have a bulbous head with no beak.**
- **IUCN Red List Conservation status: Critically Endangered.**

35. India's Nationally Determined Contribution (2031-2035)

Context

- The Union Cabinet approved India's updated **Nationally Determined**

Contribution (NDC) for 2031–2035 under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.**

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- They are **country-specific climate action plans** submitted under the **Paris Agreement.**
- They outline **targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.**
- **NDCs are revised periodically to enhance ambition.**

Key Targets in NDC 3.0 (2031-2035)

- **Emissions Intensity Reduction:** India has committed to **reducing the emissions intensity (CO₂ per unit of GDP) of its GDP by 47% by 2035** from 2005 levels.
- **India has already reduced its emissions intensity by about 36%** between 2005 and 2020.
- **Expansion of Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity:** India has committed to achieving 60% of its installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2035.
- **India has already achieved more than 52% non-fossil fuel capacity by 2026,** ahead of its earlier target.
- **Creation of Carbon Sink:** India has committed to creating a carbon sink of **3.5 to 4 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent** through forest and tree cover by 2035.

Major Government Initiatives for Achieving NDC Targets

- **PM Surya Ghar:** Muft Bijli Yojana aims to promote rooftop solar in households and reduce fossil fuel-based electricity consumption.
- **PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan)** promotes solar pumps and decentralised solar plants, reducing diesel use in agriculture.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** aims to decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors and position India as a global green hydrogen hub.

36. Olive Ridley Turtle Conservation in Andhra Pradesh

Context

- The officials of the **Wildlife Management Authority and Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary** have conserved nearly **20,000 eggs of Olive Ridley Turtles** on Hope Island in the Kakinada Bay.

Additional Information - Olive Ridley Turtles

- **About:** They are the **smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.**
- **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

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is **India's second-largest mangrove forest, located near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.**
- The **sanctuary lies in the Godavari estuarine region,** where the **Godavari River meets the Bay of Bengal.**
- **Keystone Species:** Fishing cat, smooth-coated otter, and golden jackal.

37. Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle

Context

- Once a jewel of the Ganga, the **Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle** now survives in a rapidly shrinking habitat.

Red-crowned roofed turtle

- Scientific Name:** Batagur kachuga
- Genus:** Batagur (one of three large freshwater species in India).
- Habitat:** Beyond **India, Bangladesh and Nepal** hold only marginal habitat, with no confirmed wild populations.
- Diet: Primarily herbivorous;** helps regulate aquatic vegetation and maintain nutrient cycling, supporting balanced freshwater ecosystems.
- Threats:** Rampant harvest of adults and eggs, illegal trade, and habitat degradation.



Conservation Status:

- Critically Endangered - IUCN Red List
- Schedule I - Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
- Appendix I - CITES.

38. PM e-DRIVE Scheme

Context

- The government has revised the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (**PM E-DRIVE**) **scheme to set new deadlines and unit caps for e-scooters and e-rickshaws.**

PM E-DRIVE Scheme

- Objective - To set up charging infrastructure and development of EV manufacturing ecosystem in India.**
- Duration -** The scheme shall be implemented from **October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026.**
- e-Vouchers: Ministry of Heavy Industries** is introducing e-vouchers for EV buyers to avail demand incentives under the scheme.
- Charging Stations:** The scheme addresses range anxiety of EV buyers by

promoting in a big way the installation of electric vehicle public charging stations (EVPCS).

Additional Information

- India's Electric Vehicle Policy -** To achieve the ambitious target of having EV sales penetration of 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial cars, 40% of buses and 80% of two and three-wheelers by 2030.
- National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP):** The NEMMP was launched in 2013 with the goal of achieving national fuel security by **promoting hybrid and electric vehicles.**
- FAME India Scheme:** The Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Electric Vehicles (FAME) India scheme was launched in 2015 to promote the manufacturing and adoption of EVs.

39. Zojila Pass

Context

- An avalanche at the Zojila Pass claimed multiple lives, raising concerns over traffic management and safety protocols on this high-risk mountain highway.



Zojila Pass

- It is **one of the most critical and challenging high-altitude passes in the world.**
- It is **located at 3,528 metres in Jammu and Kashmir.**
- It is a vital **link between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh.**
- It is **known for its strategic importance** and stunning Himalayan scenery.

Zojila Tunnel Project

- It is an **under-construction tunnel situated at an altitude of 11,578 ft** (around 3,500 metres) on the **Srinagar-Leh Highway in Jammu and Kashmir.**
- It will be India's longest road tunnel, and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel.**

Connect with the basics - Avalanche

- **Definition:** A rapid descent of snow, rock, ice, and other materials down a mountainside.

Difference Between Avalanche and Landslide

Aspect	Avalanche	Landslide
Definition	Rapid flow of snow, ice, and debris down a slope.	Mass of rock, soil, or debris sliding down a hillside.
Speed	Can reach speeds up to 320 km/h (200 mph).	Varies, typically slower than avalanches.
Causes	Weak snow-pack layers, weather, or human activity.	Heavy rainfall, earthquakes, or human activity.
Location	Snow-covered mountains or slopes.	Steep slopes in various terrains (forests, urban areas, hills).

40. PM-KUSUM 2.0

In News

- The government is considering adding a battery energy storage component under the revamped **PM-KUSUM 2.0 scheme**.

PM-KUSUM

- **Abbreviation** - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan.
- **Launched in** - 2019
- **Implementation** - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **Aim:** To provide **financial support to farmers for installing solar-powered irrigation systems like solar pumps and grid-connected solar plants.**
- **Significance-** To deliver **affordable and reliable solar energy** to the **agricultural sector, reducing irrigation costs and cutting pollution caused by diesel use.**
- **Target:** The scheme aims to add about **34,800 MW of solar capacity by March 2026.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)

In News

- The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)** has opened applications for the second edition of IN-SPACe's Model Rocketry Competition.

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)

- It is a single-window, autonomous nodal agency **under the Department of Space (DOS).**
- **Established** by the Government of India in **June 2020,**
- It acts as a **bridge between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs),** including private companies and academia.
- **Chairman:** Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka.
- **Headquarters:** Located in Bopal, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Key Functions & Roles

- IN-SPACe is responsible for **promoting, enabling, authorising, and supervising the space activities of private players in India:**
- **Facilitation:** Provides NGEs with **access to ISRO infrastructure and technical expertise** to build and launch space missions.
- **Promotion:** Focuses on expanding the Indian **space economy through initiatives like the ₹500 crore Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) and the Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS).**

2. Ammonium Nitrate

Context

- Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd. and Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. recently signed an agreement for a Coal to Ammonium Nitrate Project.

Ammonium Nitrate

- A **white, crystalline, water-soluble**

solid, not found in nature; synthetically produced by reacting ammonia with nitric acid.

- It is **hygroscopic** in nature and under high heat, it **decomposes explosively**, releasing **nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)**.
- **Example:** 2015 Tianjin (China) explosion and 2020 Beirut port explosion.
- One of the world's most widely used chemicals serving dual roles as a **fertiliser and an industrial explosive**.
- It is listed as a **hazardous chemical under Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989**.



3. India's Push for Piped Natural Gas

Context

- India is accelerating the expansion of **Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections to reduce import dependence, improve energy security, and transition towards a cleaner fuel mix.**

Types of Gases

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG):

- **Composition:** Propane and Butane.
- **State & Storage:** Stored as a **liquid** under moderate **pressure in cylinders**.
- **Usage:** Domestic cooking, water heating, and small-scale industrial applications.
- **Key Characteristic:** **Heavier than air; collects on the ground if leaked.**

Piped Natural Gas (PNG):

- **Composition:** **Primarily Methane.**
- **State & Storage:** Delivered as a gas through underground pipelines.
- **Usage:** **Residential kitchens, commercial cooking, and industries.**
- **Key Characteristic:** **Continuous supply; no need for cylinder storage.**

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG):

- **Composition:** **Primarily Methane.**
- **State & Storage:** Compressed to high pressure (200-250 bar) in tanks.
- **Usage:** **Vehicles (cars, buses, autos) and low-pressure industrial burners.**
- **Key Characteristic:** **Cleaner burning than petrol/diesel.**

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):

- **Composition:** **Primarily Methane.**
- **State & Storage:** Cooled to roughly **-160°C to become a liquid for transport.**
- **Usage:** Transporting natural gas over **long distances by sea, power generation.**
- **Key Characteristic:** Volume is reduced by 600 times, **making it easy to store in bulk.**

India's Shift Towards Piped Natural Gas (PNG)

- **Reducing Import Dependence:** India **imports nearly 60% of its LPG** requirement, with a **large share coming from West Asia** and supply routes like Strait of Hormuz are geopolitically vulnerable.
- **Economic Efficiency:** **PNG eliminates logistics costs associated with cylinder** transportation and storage.
- Pricing can be more stable compared to LPG, which is sensitive to global oil prices.
- **Environmental Benefits:** **Natural gas burns cleaner than LPG**, producing fewer pollutants and greenhouse gases.

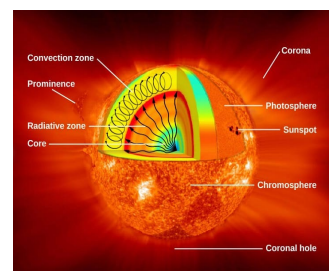
4. Aditya-L1 Mission

News

- ISRO invites proposals from the Indian solar physics community to analyse data from the Aditya-L1 mission.

Aditya-L1 mission

- **Uniqueness** - Aditya-L1 is the **first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun. It will be launched by the PSLV-C57.**
- **Note** - The solar mission will not see the spacecraft actually go to the sun, it will instead create a space observatory at a point from which the sun can be observed even during an eclipse.
- The spacecraft is planned to be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), around 1.5 million km from the



Earth, of the Sun-Earth system.

Major objectives of the mission

- The mission will focus on study of the **Solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics.**
- It will also identify what drives space weather, along with the origin, composition and dynamics of the solar wind.

Additional Information - International Solar Missions

Mission	Space Agency	Key Feature
Parker Solar Probe (2018)	NASA	Closest mission to the Sun; first spacecraft to “touch” the corona.
Solar Orbiter (2020)	ESA & NASA	Focuses on high-resolution images of the Sun’s poles.
SOHO (1995)	ESA & NASA	An older observatory at L1 that has provided over two decades of solar data.
PUNCH (2025)	NASA	A constellation of four small satellites studying how the corona becomes solar wind.
ASO-S (Kua-fu-1) (2022)	CNSA (China)	Studies the relationship between the solar magnetic field, solar flares, and CMEs.

5. BioNEST

Context

Probiotics and postbiotics

- Recently, the BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre was inaugurated at CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru.

BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre

- **Objective - to support food bioprocessing, biotechnology research, scale-up validation, and regulatory support.**
- Its main goal is **to convert scientific research into market-ready products.**
- **Focus Areas:** The startups are working in emerging areas such as **Nutraceuticals, Precision fermentation, CRISPR-based technologies** and Botanicals.

CFTRI	BIRAC
Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru	A not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise. It was established in 2012.
It is a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi.	Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
– It came into existence during 1950.	It came into existence during 2012.
– Its vision is to pursue in-depth research and development in the areas of food science and technology.	To foster, empower, and enable the emerging biotech enterprise
– Key areas of research CSIR-CFTRI include:	especially startups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)—to undertake strategic research and innovation. It bridges the gap between academia and industry.
a. Engineering Sciences	

b. Technology Development	
c. Translational Research	
d. Food Protection and Safety	
– CFTRI has its Resource Centres at Hyderabad, Lucknow and Mumbai.	Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)
- It is a not-for-profit Public Sector Enterprise, set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency.	- Acts as an interface agency providing funding, mentoring, and infrastructure support for product development.
- It strengthens and empowers the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.	

6. India Achieves Milestone in Nuclear Energy Programme

Context

- India has achieved a major milestone as the **indigenously built Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam has attained criticality.**

Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)

- PFBR is an advanced reactor **that generates more fissile fuel than it consumes.**
- India's PFBR is **located at Kalpakkam and operated by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited.**
- It uses **Uranium-Plutonium Mixed**

Oxide (MOX) fuel.

It is called a fast breeder because;

- It uses high-energy, fast neutrons to sustain the fission reaction, rather than the slowed-down thermal neutrons used in standard reactors.
- It converts fertile material (like Uranium-238) into fissile material (Plutonium-239).
- The criticality refers to the point at which a reactor achieves a self-sustaining nuclear fission reaction, where the number of neutrons produced is sufficient to keep the reaction going without external intervention.

Significance of the Achievement

- Advancement of India's Three-Stage Nuclear Programme: The PFBR marks progress in the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme.
- It enables the conversion of fertile material into fissile fuel.
- It lays the foundation for the third stage, which focuses on thorium utilization.
- Harnessing Thorium Potential: India possesses vast thorium reserves, and the PFBR helps generate the required fissile material (U-233) for thorium-based reactors.
- Thorium-232, is not fissile but can be converted into a fissile material.
- Technological and Strategic Significance: India becomes only the second country after Russia to develop a commercial fast breeder reactor.
- It demonstrates advanced indigenous capability in nuclear technology and engineering.

7. Mission MITRA

In News

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in collaboration with the IAF-Institute of Aerospace Medicine, has launched Mission MITRA in Leh, Ladakh.



Mission MITRA

- **Full Form:** Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment.
- **Agencies Involved:** Designed jointly by **ISRO and the Indian Air Force's Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM).**
- **Location:** Leh, Ladakh (~3,500 meters altitude).
- **Participants:** Includes the **four designated Gaganyatris (astronauts) for the Gaganyaan mission: Prasanth Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, and Shubhanshu Shukla.**

Objectives and Significance

- The mission is an “analogue mission,” meaning it **uses Earth-based environments that mimic the physical and psychological stressors of space.**
- **Human Factors Engineering:** Studies how hypoxia (low oxygen), extreme cold, and isolation affect crew decision-making and teamwork.
- **Interoperability:** Evaluates coordination between the crew and Ground Control Teams under operational stress and simulated communication delays.
- **Gaganyaan Preparation:** The data directly informs training protocols for the upcoming crewed Gaganyaan mission (expected in late 2026 or early 2027) and future long-duration stays at the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS).

8. Lunar Ring Project

Context

- **The Luna Ring Project, proposed by the Japan-based Shimizu Corporation.**
- It is a **futuristic, conceptual infrastructure project designed to address Earth's energy needs by creating a massive solar power ring around the Moon.**



Luna Ring Project

- **Concept:** The project involves **constructing 11,000 km (approx. 6,800 miles) long belt of solar panels along the Moon's equator.**

- **Mechanism:** These **solar panels will capture solar energy, which will be converted into microwaves or laser beams and transmitted back to Earth.**
- **Construction:** The project proposes using **automated construction robots** to process lunar soil (regolith) into concrete, bricks, and glass fibers, enabling In Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU).
- **Constant Power:** Unlike Earth, the **Moon has no atmosphere to block sunlight**, allowing for uninterrupted power generation 24 hours a day

9. Glufosinate

In News

- The government has imposed a six-month restriction on imports of glufosinate and its salts, a herbicide used in farming.

Glufosinate-ammonium

- It is a **herbicide used to control a broad range of weeds.**
- It is highly water-soluble and has low potential to leach into groundwater.
- It is considered **highly hazardous, with risks including neurotoxicity, reproductive harm, cardiovascular effects, and fetal damage**
- Its volatile nature exposes farmers and nearby populations through inhalation and skin contact.

10. Indian Space Situational Awareness Report 2025 (ISSAR-2025)

Context

- Recently, the **Indian Space Situational Awareness Report for 2025 (ISSAR-2025) was released by ISRO** during the inaugural session of the 2nd international conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations (SMOPS-2026) at Bengaluru.

Key Global and Indian Statistics for 2025

- **Global Activity - 2025 saw a record 315 successful launches deploying 4,198 satellites.**
- **Indian Scenario:** India recorded **5 launches, including the 100th mission (GSLV-F15/NVS-02).** Notable

achievements included the **NISAR joint mission, the SpaDeX autonomous docking test, and continued operations of Aditya-L1.**

- **Safety & Exploration:** ISRO launched NISAR, and is advancing its Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM) 2030.
- **Human spaceflight progress was marked by Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's command of the Axiom-4 mission.**

11. Artemis 2 Mission

Context

- NASA is going to launch the Artemis II mission.

Artemis II

- **Artemis II is part of NASA's Artemis programme, which aims to return humans to the Moon in a more sustained and strategic manner.**
- **The mission will send four astronauts on a journey around the Moon.**
- Artemis II is part of a broader effort to **establish a long-term human presence on the Moon.**
- **Significance** - The mission treats the Moon not just as a destination, but as a platform for deeper space exploration.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

1. Samrat Samprati

In News

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Sangrahalay (Jain Heritage Museum) at Koba Tirth in



Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Samrat Samprati

- A **Mauryan emperor and grandson of emperor Ashoka.**
- Also known by the names **Indrapalit, Sangat, and Vigatashok.**
- His life is described in Jain scriptures including Sampratikatha, Parishistaparva, and Prabhavakcharita.

- **Referred to as 'Jain Ashoka' for his pivotal role in spreading Jainism and the principle of ahimsa (non-violence) across the subcontinent.**
- PM Modi noted that **Samrat Samprati expanded ahimsa from the throne and propagated Satya (Truth), Asteya (non-stealing), and Aparigraha (non-possessiveness) with detachment and selflessness** — treating power as service and sadhana. Prime Minister of India
- **Known to have built and repaired many Jain temples across the subcontinent.**

2. Babu Jagjivan Ram

Context

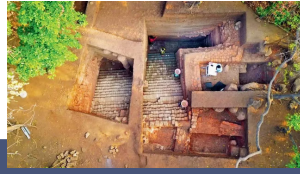
- PM Modi paid tributes to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his birth anniversary.

Babu Jagjivan Ram



- He was a **freedom fighter and social reformer born on 5 April 1908** in Chandwa village (present-day Bihar).
- He studied at **Banaras Hindu University and later graduated from University of Calcutta.**
- **Role in Freedom Struggle:** He was **inspired by Mahatma Gandhi** and actively participated in the national movement.
- He took part in the **Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement.**
- **Social Justice Contributions:** He founded the **Akhil Bharatiya Ravidas Mahasabha** and the **All India Depressed Classes League** to mobilize marginalized communities.
- He was instrumental in the **enactment of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.**
- **Political Career:** He was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India.
- As Food & Agriculture Minister, he is **credited with the Green Revolution** and as **Defence Minister he led India to the historic 1971 war, which saw the birth of Bangladesh.**

- He served as the **Deputy Prime Minister of India in 1979 under Morarji Desai.**



3. Elephanta Caves

Context

- A major excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on **Elephanta Island has revealed a 1,500-year-old stepped reservoir.**
- **The excavated structure is a T-shaped stepped reservoir, indicating a planned architectural design.**

Additional Information - Elephanta Caves

- The **Elephanta Caves, located on Elephanta Island** (historically known as **Gharapuri, meaning “city of caves”**), are a **UNESCO World Heritage Site situated in Mumbai Harbour.**
- The name **“Elephanta” was given by the Portuguese in the 16th century** after they discovered a large stone elephant near the island, while the **original name Gharapuri was used by local inhabitants.**
- Historically, the island was associated with multiple dynasties.
- The **Kalachuris of Mahishmati** are considered the main patrons of the caves during the **6th century CE**, as supported by recent coin discoveries of King Krishnaraja. Before them, the **Konkan Mauryas ruled the region**, followed by the **Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas** who maintained its importance.
- There are seven caves, of which **Great Cave no. 1 is the most prominent.** It houses the iconic **20-foot Trimurti sculpture.**
- A three-headed figure representing Shiva as Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer.

4. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

Context

- A **criminal defamation case involving remarks on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar** has brought attention to the

origin of the title Swatantryaveer, before a Pune court.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (1883–1966),

- He was popularly **known as Veer Savarkar**, was a prominent **freedom fighter, political thinker, and writer.**
- He is associated with the **development of the Hindutva ideology** and played a significant **role in revolutionary nationalism** during the freedom struggle.
- **Education:** Savarkar studied at **Fergusson College in Pune and later travelled to London to study law.**
- **Role in freedom struggle:** He founded the **Abhinav Bharat Society in 1904**, a secret organisation dedicated to **armed revolution against British rule.**
- While in London, **he led the India House and the Free India Society**, training Indian students in **methods of sabotage and assassination.**
- **Hindu Mahasabha:** He served as the president of the Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943, **advocating for a “Hindu Rashtra” (Hindu Nation).**
- **Social Reform:** Savarkar was a **staunch opponent of the caste system and untouchability.**
- **Literary Work:** He authored **The Indian War of Independence, 1857**, which was the first work to describe the 1857 rebellion as India’s first struggle for independence.

5. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule on his birth anniversary.

Jyotirao Phule

- **Birth:** On **11th April, 1827 in Khatgun village** which is today in the **Satara district of Maharashtra.**
- **Title:** His family belonged to the **‘mali’ caste** and their **original title was ‘Gorhay’.**
- On May 11, 1888, he was bestowed with the **title of Mahatma by a Maharashtrian social activist Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar.**

- **Ideology and influence:** His ideology centered around **liberty, egalitarianism, and socialism.**
- **Marriage:** He was married off when **he was only 13 with Savitribai.** The couple went on to establish the **country's first school for girls in Bhidewada, Pune, in 1848.**
- **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha:** In 1863, Jyotirao and Savitribai began Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha, **India's first home dedicated to prohibiting infanticide and supporting pregnant Brahmin widows and rape victims.**
- **Satyashodhak Samaj:** Phule along with his followers formed **Satyashodhak Samajin 1873** which meant 'Seekers of Truth' and was **dedicated towards the removal of the socio-economic backwardness of Dalits.**
- It is believed that it was **Phule who first used the term 'Dalit'** for the depiction of oppressed masses often placed outside the 'varna system'.
- **Literary works:** **Gulamgiri (Slavery), Shetkarayacha Aasud (Cultivator's Whipcord), and Tritiya Ratna.**

6. Ambedkar Jayanti

Context

- On April 14, India commemorates Ambedkar Jayanti, marking the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar.

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

- Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was a **social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot (knowing or using several languages), orator, a scholar and thinker of comparative religions.**
- **Birth** - He was **born in 1891 in Mhow, Central Province** (now Madhya Pradesh).

Brief Profile

- He is known as the **Father of the Indian Constitution and was India's first Law Minister.**
- He was the **Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution.**
- He was a **well-known statesman who fought for the rights of the Dalits and other socially backward classes.**

Contributions

- He led the **Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 against Hindus** who were opposing the decision of the Municipal Board which had barred the untouchables from using water from the mahad tank.
- In 1926, the Municipal Board of Mahad (Maharashtra) passed an order to open the tank to all communities.
- **He participated in all three Round Table Conferences.**
- **In 1932, Dr. Ambedkar signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhiji, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).**
- However, the **seats reserved for the depressed classes were increased from 71 to 147 in provincial legislatures and to 18% of the total in the Central Legislature.**
- **His ideas before the Hilton Young Commission served as the foundation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

Election and Designation

- In 1937, he was elected to the **Bombay Legislative Assembly as a legislator (MLA).**
- He was appointed to the **Executive Council of Viceroy as a Labour member in 1942.**
- **In 1947, Dr. Ambedkar accepted PM Nehru's invitation to become Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India.**

Shift to Buddhism

- He resigned from the cabinet in 1951, over differences on the Hindu Code Bill. He converted to Buddhism in 1956.
- He was awarded India's highest civilian honour the **Bharat Ratna in 1990.**

Important Works

Journals

- Mooknayak (1920), Bahishkrit Bharat (1927), Samatha (1929), Janata (1930).

Books

- Annihilation of Caste, Buddha or Karl Marx, The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables

- Buddha and His Dhamma
- The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women

Organizations

- Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)
- Independent Labor Party (1936)
- Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)

Death

- He died on 6th December 1956.
- Chaitya Bhoomi is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.

Relevance of Ambedkar in Present Times

- Caste-based inequality in India still persists. While Dalits have acquired a political identity through reservation and forming their own political parties, they lag behind in social (health and education) and economic dimension.

7. Jagadguru Basaveshwara

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Jagadguru Basaveshwara on the occasion of Basava Jayanthi.

About

- Basaveshwara, also known as **Basavanna**.
- He was a **12th-century philosopher, social reformer**, and key figure of the **Bhakti movement**, primarily active in the **Kalyana region of present-day Karnataka**.
- **Lingayata Movement**:- He is regarded as the **founder of Lingayatism** and advocated **equality, social justice, and the rejection of caste hierarchy and social discrimination**.
- He served as a **finance minister** under **King Bijjala II of the Kalachuri dynasty**, and his teachings are preserved in **poetic compositions known as Vachanas**.
- Basaveshwara **introduced the concept of Ishtalinga**, promoting a direct and personal connection with the divine, transcending social divisions.
- He also **established the Anubhava Mantapa** (often referred to as the first Parliament of the world), a pioneering forum for open dialogue, where people from diverse backgrounds, including women, could participate in discussions

on spiritual and social issues.

8. Adi Shankaracharya

In News

- The Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Adi Shankaracharya on his Jayanti.

Adi Shankaracharya (approximately 788–820 CE)

- **Born in Kalady, Kerala.**
- He is credited with **reviving Hinduism** and **unifying India's diverse spiritual strands through the philosophy of Advaita Vedanta**.

Core Philosophy: Advaita Vedanta (Non-Dualism)

- **Concept of Brahman:** Asserts that the ultimate **reality is Brahman, which is formless (Nirguna), infinite**, and the only truth (Brahma Satyam).
- **Atman and Brahman:** Taught that the **individual soul (Atman) is fundamentally identical to Brahman**. The perceived separation is an illusion.
- **Maya:** Explained the empirical world as **Maya (illusion)**, a creative power that makes the singular reality appear as a multitude.
- **Path to Liberation: Emphasised Gyan (knowledge)** over ritualistic actions as the primary means to achieve **Moksha (liberation)**.

Major Contributions & Legacy

- **Establishment of Mathas:** To unify the country and preserve Vedic thought, **he founded four primary monasteries (Mathas) in the cardinal directions:**
- **North:** Jyotir Math (Badrinath/Joshimath, Uttarakhand) — custodian of the Atharva Veda.
- **South:** Sringeri Sharada Peetham (Karnataka) — custodian of the Yajur Veda.
- **East:** Govardhana Math (Puri, Odisha) — custodian of the Rig Veda.
- **West:** Dwarka Sharada Peetham (Gujarat) — custodian of the Sama Veda.
- **Shanmata System:** Synthesised the worship of six major deities (Shiva, Vishnu, Shakti, Ganesha, Surya, and

Skanda), reducing sectarian conflicts.

- **Dashanami Sampradaya:** Organised a monastic order for renunciates, which remains influential today.

Important Literary Works

- **Commentaries (Bhashyas):** Wrote the **Brahmasutrabhasya (oldest surviving commentary on the Brahma Sutras)**, along with commentaries on the Bhagavad Gita and 12 major Upanishads.
- **Philosophical Treatises:** Includes **Viveka Chudamani, Atma Bodha, and Upadesa Sahasri.**
- **Devotional Hymns (Stotras):** Composed works like **Bhaja Govindam, Nirvana Shatakam, and Saundarya Lahari.**

9. World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026

Context

- Hyderabad hosted the inaugural of the World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026.

World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026

- **Organised by - Buddhavanam and Telangana Tourism Development Corporation,** in association with Vietnam Buddhist Sangha.
- **Aim: To showcase Buddhavanam as a Buddhist Heritage Theme Park to world Buddhist countries.**

Buddhavanam

- It is **located in Telangana,** and is **India's first Buddhist Heritage Theme Park.**
- It is located on the **banks of the Krishna River.**
- It **showcases the life and teachings of Lord Buddha** through art, sculptures, meditation zones, and thematic installations.
- It is **developed by the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation.**

DEFENCE

1. E-3 Sentry AWACS

Context

- Iran's missile and drone strike on Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Air Base has reportedly destroyed a US E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft.



E-3 Sentry (AWACS)

- The E-3 Sentry is an **airborne early warning and control aircraft developed by Boeing for advanced surveillance and battle management.**
- The aircraft is commonly known as **AWACS,** which stands for **Airborne Warning and Control System.**
- It is equipped with a distinctive **rotating radar dome mounted above** its fuselage that **enables long-range detection and tracking of aerial targets.**

Airborne Warning and Control System in India

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) operates three Israeli-origin **Phalcon Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) mounted on Russian Ilyushin Il-76 transport aircraft.**
- These systems, known as **“eyes in the sky,”** provide **360-degree radar coverage,** with capabilities to detect aircraft, cruise missiles, and drones at ranges of **370–500 km.**
- The **NETRA Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system** is an **indigenous, multi-sensor platform developed by DRDO,** primarily designed for **aerial surveillance, target identification, and command-and-control capabilities.**
- It is based on the Brazilian Embraer ERJ 145 aircraft.



2. INS Taragiri

Context

- INS Taragiri, a Nilgiri-class stealth guided missile frigate, has been commissioned into the Indian Navy.



INS Taragiri

- It is the 4th of the 7 Project 17A multi-mission stealth guided missile frigates.
- It was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- It is named after the Taragiri hill ranges of Uttarakhand.
- About 75% of the ship is indigenously built.

Key Features

- It is designed for multi-role operations across air, surface and sub-surface warfare.
- It is equipped with MF-STAR radar, MRSAM, Barak air defence missiles, and BrahMos missiles.

Additional Information - Project 17A (P-17A)

- Objective:** To build seven advanced stealth guided-missile frigates for the Indian Navy.
- Key Manufacturers:** The project is split between Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai (4 ships) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata (3 ships).
- Design:** Designed in-house by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB).
- Indigenization:** Approximately 75% of the content is indigenous, involving over 200 MSMEs, aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India) initiative.

List of Seven Frigates

- INS Nilgiri - Commissioned Jan 2025
- INS Himgiri - Commissioned Aug 2025
- INS Udaygiri - Commissioned Aug 2025
- INS Taragiri - Commissioned April 2026
- INS Dunagiri - Delivered March/April 2026
- INS Vindhya giri - Under sea trials/

outfitting

- INS Mahendragiri - Under construction/ outfitting

3. INS Aridhaman

In News

- INS Aridaman, part of India's Arihant-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) fleet, has been commissioned as a more advanced platform than its predecessors — INS Arihant (commissioned 2016) and INS Arighaat (commissioned 2024).



Key Features

- It is larger than INS Arihant and INS Arighaat, with a displacement of about 7,000 tonnes.
- It can carry up to 24 K-15 Sagarika missiles, or 8 K-4 / K-5 missiles.
- The K-4 missile has a range of about 3,500 km.
- These are nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).
- India's Nuclear Submarine Programme - It was developed through collaboration between DRDO, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), the Navy, and private defence firms, with technical assistance from Russia in the early phases.

4. Project Chetak celebrates 47th Raising Day

Context

- Project Chetak of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 47th Raising Day.



Project Chetak

- It is one of the largest projects of the BRO in terms of geographical area.
- Raised in 1980, it has played a key role in developing and maintaining road networks across Rajasthan, Punjab and northern parts of Gujarat.

- It **supports the Defence Forces by maintaining key feeder roads** towards the International Border.

Additional Information - Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- **Established in** - It was formed in **1960** by **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**
- **Objective** - To coordinate the **speedy development of an adequate road communication network of roads in the North and the North-Eastern border regions** of the country.
- **Functions under** - It works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Defence**.
- **Significance** - **Support the armed forces meet their strategic needs** by committed, dedicated and cost-effective development and sustenance of the infrastructure.
- **Recent and upcoming Projects:** This includes the construction of **Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh on Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang Road**.

5. Central Armed Police Forces

In News

- The Centre has notified the **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026**, which creates a **unified legal framework to regulate the recruitment, deputation, promotion, and conditions of service for officers**.

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)

- **Functions under** - **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Mandate** - They are responsible for **border guarding, internal security, counter-insurgency, and infrastructure protection**.
- **Significance** - The forces include **CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG, and Assam Rifles, designed to assist state police and maintain law and order**.

Key Components and Roles:

- **Border Guarding:** Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and Assam Rifles (AR) patrol borders.

- **Internal Security:** Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) acts as the primary force for counter-naxal and counter-insurgency operations.
- **Industrial Security:** Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) secures critical infrastructure and airports.
- **Special Operations:** National Security Guard (NSG) serves as a specialized commando unit.

6. 9th Indian Ocean Conference

Context

- The External Affairs Minister addressed the 9th Indian Ocean Conference, which was centered on the theme "Collective Stewardship for Indian Ocean Governance."

Indian Ocean Conference

- It is a **premier annual consultative forum launched in 2016** by the India Foundation
- **Objective** - to discuss **regional cooperation, maritime security, and economic development in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- **Significance** - It connects over **40 countries**—including ministers and experts—**focused on the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision**.
- The 9th edition was held in **Mauritius (April 2026)**, with the 8th held in **Oman**.

Additional Information - Government Initiatives

- **Sagarmala Programme**-Supports **port infrastructure, coastal development, and connectivity**.
- **Maritime India Vision 2030 (MIV 2030):** Aiming for India to become a **top 10 shipbuilding nation by 2030** and create a world-class, efficient, and sustainable maritime ecosystem.
- **Sagarmanthan Dialogue:** An annual maritime strategic dialogue **to position India as a global center for maritime conversations**.
- **Maritime Development Fund:** **₹25,000 crore fund for long-term financing**

to modernize ports and shipping infrastructure, encouraging private investment.

- **Launch of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth for All in the Region)** reflects India's strategic rebranding in the IOR.
- **Naval Modernisation and Indigenous Development:** India is modernising naval capabilities:
- Commissioning indigenous warships (e.g., INS Vikrant, INS Visakhapatnam).
- Boosting maritime domain awareness and power projection.

7. TRAWL Assembly

In News

- The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth approximately ₹975 crore with BEML and Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPHL) to procure indigenous TRAWL Assemblies for T-72 and T-90 tanks.

About -

- **TRAWL Assembly** - It is a mine-clearing device mounted on the front of a battle tank to safely detect and detonate anti-tank mines before the tank rolls over them.
- **T-72 (Ajeya)**-It is a Soviet-era main battle tank that entered service in 1973, with approximately 25,000 units built globally.
- **T-90 (Bhishma)** - It is a Russian main battle tank that entered service in 1992.

8. Tunguska Air Defence Missile System

Context

- The Ministry of Defence has signed contracts for the procurement of the Tunguska Air Defence Missile System.



Tunguska Air Defence Missile System

- The Tunguska is a Soviet-origin

(Inducted in early 1980s), tracked, self-propelled air defence system designed to protect ground forces from low-flying aerial threats.

- **Upgraded variants: 2K22M, 2K22M1** with improved fire control and missile capability.
- **It uniquely combines missiles and guns on a single platform.**

9. GRSE Delivers 3 Frontline Naval Platforms to Indian Navy

Context

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) delivered three frontline naval platforms, INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray, to the Indian Navy.

INS Dunagiri (P17A Stealth Frigate):

- The **second Project 17A stealth frigate** built by GRSE and the fifth in its class.
- Equipped with advanced weapons like **BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles and MF-STAR radar.**
- Designed with high **stealth features to reduce radar signature.**

INS Sanshodhak (Survey Vessel Large):

- **The fourth and final ship of the Survey Vessel (Large) project.**
- The primary role is to **conduct full-scale hydrographic surveys of coastal waters** and ports using autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).
- **Features over 80% indigenous content.**

INS Agray (ASW SWC):

- The **fourth of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft.**
- It is **one of the largest Indian warships** powered by waterjet propulsion, optimized for **detecting and neutralizing underwater threats in shallow coastal areas.**
- **Equipped with indigenous rocket launchers** and lightweight torpedoes

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. OPEC+

Context

- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries group decided to increase oil production by 206,000 barrels per day** amid rising global energy tensions.

OPEC and OPEC+

- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** is a permanent, intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in September **1960**, by **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela**.
- OPEC Members (12 Nations):** The core organization includes Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.
- Non-OPEC Partners (10 Nations):** The extended “Plus” group consists of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan, and Sudan
- OPEC is headquartered at Vienna, Austria.**
- In 2016, OPEC formed an alliance with other oil-producing nations to create OPEC+.** The 10 countries now in OPEC+ include Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Mexico, and Oman.
- Member states of OPEC hold more than 80% of the world’s proven oil reserves.**
- OPEC produces about **40% of the world’s crude oil** and its members’ exports make up around **60% of global petroleum trade.**

2. United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

In News

- Russia and China vetoed a UN Security Council resolution aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- It is one of the **six principal organs of the United Nations**
- Objective - to maintain international peace and security.**
- It is the **only UN body empowered to issue legally binding resolutions that all UN member states are obligated to comply with** under international law.
- Structure and Composition:** The Council has **15 members** divided into two categories:
 - Permanent Members (P5) with Veto Power: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**
 - A single veto from any P5 member is sufficient to block any substantive resolution, regardless of how many other members support it.
 - Non-Permanent Members (10 seats):** Elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms, distributed geographically.
 - Headquarters: New York, USA**

3. India Rejects China’s Fictitious Naming of Places in Arunachal Pradesh

In News

- India has strongly rejected China’s attempts to assign “fictitious names” to places it considers part of its territory, calling such actions “mischievous” and harmful to bilateral relations.



China’s actions

- China claims Arunachal Pradesh as “southern Tibet” (Zangnan)**
- It has issued multiple lists of renamed locations since 2017, which India consistently rejects as invalid.
- China is creating **administrative units such as He’an and Hekang counties in areas of Ladakh, including parts of Aksai Chin**, which is a long-standing border dispute region.
- China has also reportedly created a**

new county, Cenling.

Cenling

- It is located near the **Karakoram mountain range**, which falls in the vicinity of **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)** and **Afghanistan's Wakhan corridor**.
- **He'an** - It included parts of the **Aksai Chin plateau**, which has been in focus because of the long-running **India-China border issue**.
- **India's Response** - The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** reiterated that regions like **Arunachal Pradesh** and **other disputed areas** are “**integral and inalienable**” parts of India.

Line of Actual Control (LAC)

- The LAC is the **demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory**.
- India considers the **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 **Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim**, the middle sector in **Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh**, and the western sector in **Ladakh**.

4. BRICS and Quad Groupings

In News

- India is going to host major diplomatic meetings including the **BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting** and the **Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting**.

BRICS

- **Founded in** - 2009
- **HeadQuarters** - Shanghai
- It is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (included in 2010)**
- **Origin** - The term “**BRIC**” was coined by the **British Economist Jim O'Neill** in 2001 to describe the four emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.
- **Recent Expansion (BRICS+)**: In 2024–2025, the bloc expanded to include

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE, and Indonesia. Saudi Arabia has received an invitation but has not yet formalized its membership.

- **Share of BRICS** - BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries, representing **41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP, and 16% of the global trade** (By 2028, BRICS is expected to make up 35 percent of the global economy)
- **Chairmanship** - The chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members.

Initiatives of BRICS

1. New Development Bank (NDB)
2. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)
3. BRICS Payment System
4. Customs Agreements
5. Constellation of Remote Sensing Satellites

New Initiative

- BRICS is planning to launch its own “new currency” system, a major step towards de-dollarization (reducing dependence on the US dollar for trade).

India's 2026 Presidency

- **India assumed the BRICS Presidency on January 1, 2026**, taking over from Brazil.
- **18th Summit: India is set to host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.**
- **Theme: “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability”.**
- **Key Pillars:** Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Environmental Sustainability

5. AZEC Plus and Maritime Security

Context

- **India, raised concerns over disruptions in maritime energy routes at the AZEC Plus meeting**, amid tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy chokepoint.

Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)

- It is a Japan-led initiative launched in

2023

- **Objective-to promote decarbonisation, clean energy transition, and energy security in Asia.**
- It provides an alternative, **Asia-centric model of energy transition**, recognising diverse developmental needs of Asian economies.

AZEC focuses on:

- Facilitating **technology transfer in clean energy (hydrogen, ammonia, renewables).**
- **Supporting carbon neutrality goals** while maintaining economic growth.
- Strengthening energy supply chain resilience in the region.
- **AZEC Plus** is an expanded framework that **includes more Asian countries and global institutions such as Asian Development Bank and International Energy Agency.**
- It **addresses emerging challenges** like supply disruptions, critical mineral access, and maritime security.

6. Israel's 'Yellow Line' in Southern Lebanon

Context

- Recently, **Israel announced the establishment of a 'Yellow Line' in southern Lebanon**, shortly after a 10-day ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon.

Israel's new 'Yellow Line' in Lebanon

Israeli forces say they have established a "Yellow Line" in southern Lebanon, where entry is prohibited, similar to an Israeli military measure in the besieged Gaza Strip.



What is the 'Yellow Line'?

- It is a **military demarcation line created by Israel to separate areas of control in a conflict zone.**
- It is a **temporary operational boundary that marks the limit of Israeli troop deployment.**
- A threshold beyond which movement is treated as a potential security threat.

Comparison with Gaza

- A similar line has been used in Gaza since October 2023.
- There, **it effectively divided territory**

between Israeli-controlled areas and Hamas-controlled zones.

7. Indo-Lanka Accord (1987)

Context

- Tamil political parties in Sri Lanka have urged India to sustain pressure for full implementation of the Indo-Lanka Accord.

Indo-Lanka Accord (1987)

- The Indo-Lanka Accord was a bilateral agreement **signed in July 1987 between Rajiv Gandhi and J. R. Jayewardene**
- **Mandate - to address the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.**
- **Objectives:** The Accord aimed **to resolve the long-standing conflict between the Sinhalese-majority government and Tamil minorities.**

Key Provisions:

- It sought **to ensure the devolution of political powers** to provinces in order to provide greater regional autonomy.
- It **granted official status to the Tamil language** alongside Sinhala.

13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution (1987)

- The 13th Amendment was enacted in 1987
- **Objective - to operationalise the provisions of the Indo-Lanka Accord and provide a constitutional framework for devolution.**

Key Features:

- The Amendment **established Provincial Councils in all nine provinces to facilitate decentralised administration.**
- It introduced a three-fold distribution of powers through the Provincial List, Reserved List, and Concurrent List, broadly resembling the Indian federal structure.
- It enabled the transfer of several functional subjects such as education, agriculture, health, and local governance to the provincial level.

8. The Druzhba Pipeline

In News

- The resumption of Russian oil transit through the Ukrainian section of the Druzhba pipeline



on 22 April 2026 was the decisive factor in unblocking major financial and diplomatic aid for Kyiv.

Druzhba Pipeline,

- It is often called the Friendship Pipeline,
- It is one of the world's longest and largest crude oil pipeline networks.

Key Facts

- **Origin:** It starts in **Almetyevsk, Tatarstan (Russia)**, collecting crude from Siberia, the Urals, and the Caspian Sea.
- **Historical Context:** Built in the 1960s (operational since 1964) during the Soviet era to supply socialist bloc countries (COMECON).
- **Capacity:** It can transport between 1.2 to 2 million barrels of oil per day.
- **Total Length:** Approximately 4,000 to 5,500 km.

9. GlobE Network

Context

- India recently hosted the **12th Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities in New Delhi.**

GlobE Network

- **Abbreviation** - Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (the GlobE Network)
- **Established in** - 2021.
- **Mandate** - It is open to **anti-corruption law enforcement authorities of all UN Member States** and States parties to the **UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).**
- The Network is governed by its members

and is **supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** which provides the Network's secretariat.

- **India joined the Network in 2022**, with the **CBI and the ED** as its two designated member agencies.

10. Iranian Parliament Mulls Possible Exit from Nuclear Treaty

Context

- As per the Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Iran's Parliament is reviewing a possible exit from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).**

Nuclear Disarmament

- Disarmament refers to the act of eliminating or abolishing weapons (particularly offensive arms) either unilaterally or reciprocally.

Nuclear Powers in the World

- There are nine countries recognized as possessing nuclear weapons.
- These are United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel.

Treaties Related to Nuclear Disarmament

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT):

- Signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970.
- It aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):

- Adopted by the United Nations in 2017 and opened for signature in 2018.
- It aims to prohibit the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Comprehensive Nuclear - Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

- Opened for signature in **1996.**
- It aims to ban all nuclear explosions for both civilian and military purposes.
- The treaty has been signed by 185 countries and ratified by 170, it has not entered into force as nuclear-armed states

must ratify it to become operational.

Outer Space Treaty

- This multilateral agreement entered into force in 1967 and bans the siting of weapons of mass destruction in space.

India's Nuclear Weapon Program

- **Smiling Buddha:** In 1974, India conducted its first nuclear test code-named "Smiling Buddha, and since then, it has developed a nuclear triad consisting of land-based, sea-based, and air based delivery systems.
- **Operation Shakti:** In 1998, India conducted a series of nuclear tests at Pokhran, codenamed "Operation Shakti."

11. Arab League

Context

- The **Council of the League of Arab States has issued a strong condemnation of Iran's attacks on several Arab countries.**



Arab League

- It is **officially known as the League of Arab States was established in Cairo in 1945** initially with seven members.
- **Seven founding member states:** Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen.
- **Currently it has 22 member states.**
- **The member nations are located in the Middle East and North Africa.**
- It has pledged **to cooperate on economic and military affairs.**
- There are four nations that were conferred **observer status: Brazil, Eritrea, India, and Venezuela.**

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Operation Numkhor

Context

- **Operation Numkhor**, a nationwide crackdown on vehicle smuggling and forged registration rackets, is likely to be discussed in the upcoming Indo-Bhutan Joint Customs Group meeting.

Operation Numkhor

- **Launched by - Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, Kochi in September 2025.**
- **Mandate - to uncover a widespread racket involving the smuggling of high-end luxury vehicles from Bhutan.**
- The operation revealed over **15,000 illegally registered vehicles across India, bypassing heavy customs duties** and involving the use of forged documents

2. India's First Water Neutral Coaching Depot

In News

- The Kankaria Coaching Depot in Ahmedabad has become India's first water-neutral railway depot by adopting innovative wastewater treatment and reuse systems.

Kankaria Coaching Depot : India's first water-neutral railway depot

- It saves around **1.60 lakh litres of water daily** and about **5.84 crore litres annually, reducing dependence on freshwater.**
- It uses **phytoremediation, where plants help purify wastewater, followed by wetland treatment, carbon and sand filtration.**
- The water is further cleaned using filtration and UV disinfection, making it safe for reuse in operations instead of being discharged.
- **Importance - It reduces water consumption** and operational costs while promoting environmental sustainability, serving as a model for greener and more efficient railway infrastructure in India.

Connect with the basics - Phytoremediation

- It is a process in which **plants are used to clean contaminated soil, water, or groundwater by absorbing or breaking down pollutants like metals, pesticides, explosives, and oil.**
- It works best in areas with low contamination, as high pollution levels can slow plant growth.

3. QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

Context

- The 16th annual edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject has been recently published.

QS World University Rankings by Subject

- It is a **London-based higher education analytics firm.**
- It ranks universities not overall, but specifically for 55 individual subjects giving a more granular picture of academic excellence.

The 55 subjects are grouped into five broad areas —

1. Arts and Humanities
 2. Engineering and Technology
 3. Life Sciences and Medicine
 4. Natural Sciences
 5. Social Sciences and Management.
- **IIT-ISM Dhanbad (Indian School of Mines) has ranked 21st globally** in Mineral and Mining Engineering
 - **IIM Ahmedabad has featured as India's top-ranked institution** in both Business and Management Studies and Marketing.

AWARDS

1. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

Context

- The Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is a **prestigious National honour announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose.**

About

- **Aim: To recognise and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of individuals and institutions in the field of disaster management.**

Award Categories

- **Individual:** Scroll and Medal.
- **Institution:** Scroll and Plaque.
- **Both Indian citizens and institutions are eligible.**
- Nominations are open throughout the year.
- Applications must be submitted online through the National Awards Portal.
- **Self-nomination and third-party nomination are permitted.**

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

- He was a **prominent Indian nationalist and leader who played a crucial role in the Indian independence movement.**
- **Indian National Congress:** He was elected as the **President of the Indian National Congress twice, in 1938 and 1939.**
- **Azad Hind Radio 1942:** He established **Azad Hind Radio in Germany** to reach out to Indians and spread his vision of independence.
- **Slogans - "Jai Hind," "Dilli Chalo" (On to Delhi), and "Give me blood, and I will give you freedom,".**
- **Formation of Indian National Army (INA):** In 1942, he formed the INA with the help of Japanese forces.
- **Azad Hind Government:** In 1943, Subhash Chandra Bose **renamed the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as "Shaheed" (Martyr) and "Swaraj" (Self-Rule)** during his leadership of the Azad Hind Government.
- On October 21, 1943, Netaji declared the establishment of the **Provisional Government of Free India (Azad Hind Sarkar).**
- He was the **first person to call Mahatma Gandhi "Father of the Nation",** in his address from Singapore.
- **Legacy -** He is widely respected for his contributions to the nationalist movement, and his legacy continues to inspire people across India and beyond.

2. 19-Year-Old Sheetal Devi Honoured as World Archery's Para Archer of the Year, 2025

Context:

- Following a trailblazing international season, 19-year-old Indian para-archer Sheetal Devi was officially named the Para Archer of the Year.
- **Award:** Para Archer of the Year (2025)
- **Awardee:** Sheetal Devi (Indian para-archer and World Champion).
- **Issuing Authority:** World Archery.
- **Purpose of Award:** An annual international award recognizing the most outstanding performance, skill, and historic achievements by a para-archer on the global stage over the past season.

Note :

- **Unprecedented Feat:** The young archer from Jammu & Kashmir made history by becoming the first and only female armless archer to win an individual gold medal at the World Para Archery Championships.
- **Venue of Victory:** This groundbreaking achievement took place in Gwangju, South Korea.

3. Nandamuri Balakrishna Receives Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFD 2026 in Delhi

Context:

- Veteran Telugu actor and politician Nandamuri Balakrishna was honored at the International Film Festival of Delhi (IFFD) 2026.
- **Award:** Lifetime Achievement Award (2026)
- **Awardee:** Nandamuri Balakrishna (Legendary Telugu actor and 2025 Padma Bhushan recipient).
- **Issuing Authority:** International Film Festival of Delhi (IFFD).
- **Purpose of Award:** To recognize and honor an individual's immense 50-year service and contribution to Indian cinema, celebrating their enduring influence and dedication to the art of acting.

4. Sayani Gupta Honoured with Harvard South Asian Person of the Year Award, 2026

Context:

- The acclaimed Indian actress was recognized for her bold performances and commitment to inclusive storytelling that positively shapes global South Asian representation.
- **Award:** South Asian 'Person of the Year' (2026)
- **Awardee:** Sayani Gupta (Indian actress and filmmaker).
- **Issuing Authority:** Harvard South Asian Association (Harvard University).
- **Purpose of Award:** An annual honour recognizing individuals whose work has meaningfully influenced global perceptions of South Asian culture, talent, and identity in public life.

5. Sadhvi Satish Sail Crowned Femina Miss India World 2026

Context:

- The Goan model and entrepreneur showcased exceptional intellect, poise, and purposeful leadership to earn the prestigious opportunity of representing the nation at the upcoming Miss World 2027 pageant.
- **Award:** Femina Miss India World (2026)
- **Awardee:** Sadhvi Satish Sail (Indian model, entrepreneur, and state representative for Goa).
- **Issuing Authority:** Femina Miss India Organization.
- **Purpose of Award:** An annual national beauty pageant recognizing a blend of purposeful beauty, intelligence, and advocacy, officially selecting India's representative for the global Miss World competition.

Recent Titleholders (Last 3 Winners):

- **2024:** Nikita Porwal (Madhya Pradesh)
- **2023:** Nandini Gupta (Rajasthan)
- **2022:** Sini Shetty (Karnataka)

6. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao Receives 9th Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award in Hyderabad

Context:

- The eminent ICAR-IARI Director was recognized for his transformative lifetime contributions to climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management, bolstering India's food security in an era of unpredictable global climate challenges.
- **Award:** 9th Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award (2024–2025)
- **Awardee:** Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao (Agricultural scientist and Director, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute).
- **Issuing Authority:** Retired ICAR Employees Association (RICAREA) in collaboration with Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL).
- **Purpose of Award:** A prestigious national award honoring scientists for their lifetime achievements, outstanding innovations, and transformative impacts on India's agricultural development, food security, and sustainability.

Recent Titleholders (Last 3 Winners):

- **8th Edition (2021–2022):** Dr. P.V. Satyanarayana
- **7th Edition (2017–2019):** Dr. V. Praveen Rao
- **6th Edition (2015–2016):** Dr. R.R. Hanchinal

About the Award:

- **Instituted By:** RICAREA in partnership with Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL).
- **Significance:** Named after the legendary architect of India's Green Revolution, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, making it one of the most notable recognitions in India's agricultural science community.
- **Prize Details:** It carries a gold medal, a citation, and a cash prize of ₹2 lakh.
- **Frequency:** Awarded biennially (once every two years) to outstanding agricultural scientists.

7. Prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 Held in Madrid

Context:

- The “Oscars of Sport” celebrated 2025's global sporting excellence at Madrid's Cibeles Palace, where tennis stars and a historic football sextuple dominated the honors.
- **Award:** Laureus World Sports Awards (2026)

Winners List (2026):

Category	Winner	Sport/Region
Sportsman of the Year	Carlos Alcaraz	Tennis (Spain)
Sportswoman of the Year	Aryna Sabalenka	Tennis (Belarus)
Team of the Year	Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)	Football (France)
Breakthrough of the Year	Lando Norris	Formula One (UK)
Comeback of the Year	Rory McIlroy	Golf (Northern Ireland)
Action Sports person of the Year	Chloe Kim	Snowboarding (USA)
Sportsperson with a Disability	Gabriel Araújo	Para-swimming (Brazil)
Young Sports person of the Year	Lamine Yamal	Football (Spain)
Sporting Inspiration Award	Toni Kroos	Football (Germany)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Nadia Comăneci	Gymnastics (Romania)
Sport for Good Award	Fútbol Más	Social Org (Global)

Issuing Authority:

- Laureus World Sports Academy.

Purpose of Award:

- An annual global recognition honoring individuals and teams who demonstrate ultimate athletic achievement and the power of sport to inspire social change.

Recent Titleholders (Sportsman of the Year):

- **2025:** Mondo Duplantis (Athletics)

- **2024:** Novak Djokovic (Tennis)
- **2023:** Lionel Messi (Football)

About the Award:

- **Significance:** Known as the “Oscars of Sport,” it is the most prestigious global multi-sport award.
- **History:** Founded in 1999; inspired by Nelson Mandela’s quote: “Sport has the power to change the world.”
- **Prize:** A 2.5 kg silver and gold-finish statuette crafted by Cartier.
- **Selection:** Winners are voted for by the 71 members of the Laureus World Sports Academy, all of whom are sporting legends.

8. India’s Samridh Gram Initiative Nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026

Context:

- Built on the BharatNet backbone, this digital transformation project was selected as a global nominee for its “phygital” model that bridges the rural-urban divide through integrated community service hubs.
- **Award:** WSIS Prize 2026 (Nomination)
- **Nominee:** Samridh Gram Initiative (Integrated Phygital Service Delivery Model).
- **Issuing Authority:** International Telecommunication Union (ITU) / World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).
- **Purpose of Award:** A global recognition platform that honors innovative ICT projects contributing to sustainable development and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Key Features of Samridh Gram:

- **Category:** Nominated under **Action Line AL C6: Enabling Environment.**
- **The “Phygital” Model:** Combines physical infrastructure with digital platforms, ensuring rural citizens receive human assistance alongside online services at **Samridh Kendras.**
- **Core Backbone:** Leverages **BharatNet**, the world’s largest rural broadband project, to provide high-speed FTTH connectivity and public Wi-Fi.

- **Services Provided:** Offers a one-stop solution for telemedicine (e-Sanjeevani), smart classrooms, digital banking, e-governance, and IoT-driven agriculture.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Led by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**, Ministry of Communications, Government of India.

9. Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 Honours First All-Women Cohort

Context:

- For the first time in its 37-year history, the “Green Nobel” has recognized an exclusively female group of grassroots activists for their extraordinary bravery in protecting the planet’s most vulnerable ecosystems.
- **Award:** Goldman Environmental Prize (2026)

Awardees (2026 All-Women Cohort):

Region	Awardee	Key Achievement
Asia	Pema Choden (Bhutan)	Led a community movement to ban open-cast mining in pristine Himalayan forests.
Africa	Zainab Salbi (Egypt)	Successfully campaigned for a landmark law protecting the Nile Delta from industrial pollution.
Europe	Elena Santoro (Italy)	Organized a massive legal blockade against a major offshore gas pipeline in the Mediterranean.
North America	Sharon Lavigne (USA)	Stopped the construction of a multi-billion-dollar plastics complex in “Cancer Alley,” Louisiana.

South & Central America	Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador)	Secured a court ruling protecting 500,000 acres of Amazonian rainforest from oil drilling.
Islands & Nations	Katerina Teaiwa (Kiribati)	Spearheaded a global diplomatic initiative to secure "land sovereignty" for climate-displaced nations.

- **Issuing Authority:** The Goldman Environmental Foundation.
- **Purpose of Award:** Known as the "Green Nobel Prize," it honors grassroots environmental heroes from the world's six inhabited geographic regions who take great personal risks to protect the natural environment.

About the Award:

- **Significance:** It is the world's most prestigious award for grassroots environmental activism.
- **Prize Details:** Each of the six winners receives a financial award (currently \$200,000) to support their ongoing environmental vision.
- **Selection Process:** Winners are selected by an international jury from confidential nominations submitted by a global network of environmental organizations and individuals.
- **Impact:** The award provides global visibility to local struggles, often providing the political protection needed for activists to continue their work safely.

SPORTS

1. Inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games 2026: Karnataka Emerges Victorious

Context:

- The inaugural edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) concluded on April 4, 2026, with Karnataka securing the championship title through a dominant all-round performance, particularly in swimming.

Key Highlights

- **Who Won:** Karnataka (1st position).
- **Runners-up:** Odisha (2nd position) and Jharkhand (3rd position).
- **Event:** Multi-sport (Grassroots Tribal Sports).
- **Venue:** Chhattisgarh, India.
- **Key Achievements:**
- **Championship Title:** Karnataka clinched the top position with 23 Gold, 8 Silver, and 7 Bronze medals.
- **Discipline Dominance:** Karnataka's victory was heavily anchored by aquatic sports, winning 15 gold medals in swimming, alongside 5 gold in athletics and 3 in wrestling.
- **Individual Brilliance:** Manikanta L (Karnataka) emerged as a top performer with 8 gold and 1 silver medal. Other notables include Dhanush N (Karnataka) with 5 gold and 1 silver, and Anjali Munda (Odisha) with 5 gold.
- **Host State Performance:** Chhattisgarh finished 9th overall, with a notable silver medal finish in men's football after a narrow 0-1 defeat to West Bengal.

About the Event: Khelo India Tribal Games

- Started: 2026 (Inaugural edition).
- Event Category: National-level grassroots multi-sport initiative.
- Specialty:
- It is a unique initiative focused on showcasing the talent of tribal athletes from across the country and promoting inclusiveness.
- Chhattisgarh was selected as the front-

runner host state due to its strong cultural connection to sports and its demographic of over 32% tribal population.

Note: KITG 2026 Medal Tally Highlights

- (Karnataka dominated the standings, while the host state finished ninth)

Position	State	Gold Medals
1st	Karnataka	23
2nd	Odisha	21
3rd	Jharkhand	16
9th	Chhattisgarh (Host)	3

2. Aditya Birla-Times Consortium Acquires RCB for \$1.78 Billion

Context:

- The Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) franchise has been sold for a massive \$1.78 billion (₹16,660 crore), marking a historic shift in Indian cricket. Announced on March 25, 2026, the deal transfers ownership from United Spirits Limited (USL) to a powerful consortium of global and Indian investors.

Key Highlights

- Who Acquired: Consortium (Aditya Birla Group, Times of India Group, Blackstone, and Bolt Ventures).
- Seller: United Spirits Limited (USL) / Diageo.
- Sport: Cricket.
- Event: IPL Franchise Acquisition.
- Deal Value: \$1.78 Billion (₹16,660 crore).

Key Achievements:

- Historic Valuation: The deal value exceeds the combined valuation of the Lucknow and Gujarat Titans franchises (2021).
- Massive Growth: The franchise value surged from its initial purchase price of around \$111.6 million in 2008.
- Total Control: Following the acquisition, both the RCB men’s and women’s teams will be operated by the new consortium.
- Pending Clearances: The deal is subject to approval from key authorities, including the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Competition Commission

of India (CCI).

3. MCA Launches First State Player Contract Model

Context:

- The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has approved a structured remuneration system aimed at ensuring financial stability for domestic cricketers who do not feature in lucrative leagues like the IPL or international cricket.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).
- Beneficiaries: Mumbai Domestic Cricketers.
- Sport: Cricket.
- Event: Sports Governance & Administration.
- Venue: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Key Achievements:
 - Historic First: Becomes the first state cricket body in India to implement a graded salary system.
 - Dual Income Upgrade: This builds upon a 2024 reform where the association matched BCCI’s Ranji Trophy match fees (₹40,000 to ₹60,000 per day), allowing players to earn both match fees and these new contract retainers.

About the Event: MCA Player Contract System

- **Started:** 2026–27 Domestic Season.
- **Event Category:** Player Welfare / Remuneration.
- Specialty:
- **Eligibility Exclusivity:** To ensure genuine domestic talent benefits, players must not have represented India or been part of any IPL team in the last two seasons.
- **Mandatory Requirements:** Must be registered with the body, meet minimum fitness standards, and be formally recommended by the selection committee.

Note: MCA Graded Salary Structure

- (Annual remuneration model for eligible domestic cricketers)

Category	Annual Salary Range
Grade A	₹12 lakh to ₹20 lakh
Grade B	₹8 lakh to ₹12 lakh
Grade C	₹8 lakh (Fixed)

4. India Tops Global Track & Field Doping Suspensions

Context:

- According to April 2026 data, India has recorded the highest number of athlete suspensions worldwide, highlighting a severe integrity crisis within domestic athletics that has prompted immediate reform efforts by national sports bodies.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: Indian Track & Field Athletes.
- Regulating Bodies: Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), WADA, NADA.
- Sport: Athletics (Track & Field).
- Event/Report: AIU Global Suspensions List & WADA 2024 Report.
- Venue: Global (Focus: India).
- Key Achievements & Findings:
- Unprecedented Scale: India is the only country with doping cases in triple digits, maintaining a 3.6% positivity rate from over 7,100 samples collected by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
- Scope of Offenses: Penalties were issued not solely for positive tests, but also for sample tampering, test evasion, and the trafficking of banned substances.
- Reform Initiatives: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is restructuring training by decentralizing national camps and collaborating with private organizations to improve monitoring systems.

About the Organization: Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)

- Started: Established by World Athletics in 2017.
- Event Category: Independent Global Integrity and Anti-Doping Body.
- Specialty:
- Operates independently to monitor fair play, investigate violations, and enforce

bans across global athletics.

- Extends its strict anti-doping framework and surveillance beyond just athletes to heavily monitor international-level support staff and coaches.

Note: AIU Suspension Rankings & Prominent Indian Bans

- (Showcasing the top-ranked nations for violations alongside high-profile Indian suspensions)

Country / Athlete	Suspension Status & Details
India	Ranked 1st Globally (148 Suspended Athletes)
Kenya	Ranked 2nd Globally
Russia	Ranked 3rd Globally (66 Suspended Athletes)
Dutee Chand	Serving a 4-year ban
Dhanalakshmi Sekar	Serving an 8-year ban (Repeated offense)
Parvej Khan	Banned until 2030

5. Sawan Barwal Breaks 48-Year Indian Marathon Record

Context:

- On April 12, 2026, a major milestone was achieved in India's track and field journey, ending the country's oldest national athletics benchmark and signaling a new era of global competitiveness for domestic endurance runners.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: Sawan Barwal (India).
- Previous Record Holder: Shivnath Singh.
- Sport: Athletics (Long-Distance Running).
- Event: NN Marathon Rotterdam 2026.
- Venue: Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Key Achievements:

- Secured the 20th position overall in a highly competitive international elite category.
- Surpassed a nearly five-decade-old barrier, reflecting significantly improved training methodologies and endurance

standards within the country.

6. About the Athlete: Sawan Barwal

- Age & Origin: 28-year-old from Joginder Nagar village, Mandi district (Himachal Pradesh).
- Athlete Category: Elite Marathoner.
- Specialty:
- Transitioned from a humble rural background to international prominence through consistent perseverance and dedicated training.
- Exemplifies the growing pipeline of world-class sporting talent emerging from India's smaller towns and districts.

Note: Men's National Marathon Record Progression

- (Comparison of the newly established benchmark against the historic 48-year-old record)

Parameter	Current Record	Previous Record
Athlete	Sawan Barwal	Shivnath Singh
Official Timing	2 hours 11 minutes 58 seconds (2:11:58)	2 hours 12 minutes 00 seconds (2:12:00)
Year Established	2026	1978

7. Payal Nag Wins Historic Gold in Para Archery

Context:

- On April 4, 2026, an Indian archer made global sporting history at her debut senior international competition, overcoming immense physical challenges to secure the top podium finish against her own idol.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: Payal Nag (India).
- Opponent: Sheetal Devi.
- Sport: Para Archery.
- Event: World Para Archery Series Final 2026.
- Venue: Bangkok, Thailand.

Key Achievements:

- **Historic Milestone:** Became the first

quadruple amputee globally to clinch an international gold medal in the sport.

- **Unique Technique:** Operates the bow using a prosthetic support, pulling the string via her shoulder and mouth utilizing a specialized trigger system.

About the Athlete: Payal Nag

- Age & Origin: **18-year-old** from Balangir district, **Odisha**.
- Athlete Category: Elite Para Archer.

Specialty:

- Lost all four limbs to a severe electric shock at age eight and initially rebuilt her life in an orphanage, gaining early recognition for painting with her mouth.
- Currently trains under coach **Kuldeep Kumar Vedwan** at the **Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Archery Academy** in Katra, utilizing highly customized training methods.

Note: Championship Match & Administration Data

- (Key metrics from the final bout and relevant governing bodies for para-sports)

Parameter	Details
Winner's Final Score	139
Runner-up's Final Score	136
Global Governing Body	World Archery Federation
Domestic Promotion Initiative	Khelo India Para Games

Context:

- Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali scripted history by securing the 2026 Women's Candidates title in Cyprus, earning the exclusive right to challenge reigning champion Ju Wenjun for the global crown.

Key Highlights

- Who Won: R Vaishali (India).
- Co-Leader/Rival (Final Day): Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kazakhstan).
- Sport: Chess.
- Event: Women's Candidates Tournament 2026.

- Venue: Cyprus.

Key Achievements:

- **Historic Qualification:** Becomes only the second Indian woman (following Koneru Humpy) to qualify for the World Chess Championship.
- **Dramatic Comeback:** Recovered from the bottom of the standings after five rounds to take the lead by Round 10.
- **Final Round Decider:** Clinched the title after compatriot Divya Deshmukh held Assaubayeva to a draw, allowing Vaishali to capitalize on her own game and secure the win.

About the Event: Women's Candidates Tournament

- Started: 1952 (Inaugural Women's Candidates).
- Event Category: World Championship Qualifier.

Specialty:

- It is the ultimate qualifying stage where the winner becomes the official challenger for the Women's World Chess Championship.
- Her brother, R Praggnanandhaa, also competed in the Open Candidates (finishing 7th), highlighting their unique status as a globally celebrated chess family.

Note: Vaishali's Recent Major Team & Individual Successes

- (Summary of prior major achievements leading up to the Candidates victory)

Tournament / Event	Achievement / Outcome
FIDE Grand Swiss	Two-time Winner
Women's Chess Olympiad (2024)	Team Gold / Winning Squad Member
Women's World Chess Championship (Upcoming)	Official Challenger

8. Anahat Singh Retains India Open Squash Title

Context:

- On March 22, 2026, India's rising athletic sensation successfully defended her domestic championship, demonstrating strong tactical resilience to mark a significant step toward her goal of breaking into the global top 10.

Key Highlights

- **Who Won:** Anahat Singh (India).
- **Opponent:** Hana Moataz (Egypt).
- **Sport:** Squash.
- **Event:** JSW India Open 2026.
- **Venue:** India.

Key Achievements:

- Secured her second consecutive trophy at this tournament, accelerating her momentum on the professional circuit.
- Highlighted complete domestic dominance alongside compatriot Abhay Singh, who successfully clinched the corresponding men's championship.

About the Event: JSW India Open

- Started: Annual fixture in the Indian squash calendar.
- Event Category: Professional Squash Association (PSA) Circuit Event.

Specialty:

- Acts as a critical platform for emerging domestic talents to accumulate ranking points and face seasoned international competitors.
- Demands high physical conditioning and adaptability to diverse global playing styles.

Note: Final Match Statistics

- (Crucial data points from the championship bout)

Parameter	Match Details
Winner's Age	18 Years
Opponent's Global Standing	World No. 29
Final Scoreline	11-5, 11-6, 9-11, 11-6 (3-1 victory)

9. Bhuvneshwar Kumar First Pacer to 200 IPL Wickets

Context:

- During a high-stakes franchise match against the Chennai Super Kings, an Indian veteran scripted history by achieving a monumental wicket-taking milestone, breaking the traditional dominance of spinners at the top of the tournament’s bowling charts.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: Bhuvneshwar Kumar.
- Milestone Dismissal: Ayush Mhatre (CSK).
- Sport: Cricket.
- Event: Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026.
- Venue: India.

Key Achievements:

- Historic Feat: Becomes the first fast bowler in the league’s history to breach the double-century wicket mark.
- Unmatched Record: Remains the only bowler to secure the Purple Cap (awarded to the season’s highest wicket-taker) in consecutive years.

About the Player’s IPL Journey

- Started: Tournament debut in 2011.
- Player Category: Pace Bowler.

Specialty:

- Maintained exceptional consistency across multiple franchises, including Pune Warriors India, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and Royal Challengers Bengaluru.
- Peak individual seasons yielded 23 dismissals (2016) and 26 dismissals (2017) to secure his back-to-back awards.

Note: Top 5 Highest Wicket-Takers in IPL History

- (Current leaderboard showcasing the elite wicket-takers across all seasons)

Rank	Player Name	Wickets Taken
1	Yuzvendra Chahal	223
2	Bhuvneshwar Kumar	202

3	Sunil Narine	193
4	Piyush Chawla	192
5	Ravichandran Ashwin	187

10. Abhishek Sharma Sets Sub-50 Ball IPL Century Record

Context:

- On April 22, 2026, a Sunrisers Hyderabad opener powered his franchise to a dominant victory by delivering one of the most destructive batting performances in T20 history against the Delhi Capitals.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: Abhishek Sharma.
- Opponent: Delhi Capitals.
- Sport: Cricket.
- Event: Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026.
- Venue: India.

Key Achievements:

- Historic Milestone: Becomes the first Indian batter to register multiple tournament centuries in under 50 balls.
- Elite Power Hitting: Recorded his 5th career T20 innings with 10 or more sixes, ranking second globally behind only Chris Gayle (18 innings).
- Unprecedented Knock: Set the record for the highest individual score against the Delhi franchise with an unbeaten 135 runs (including 10 fours), maintaining a strike rate above 200.

About the Innings: Match Details

- Date: April 22, 2026.
- Player Category: Opening Batter.

Specialty:

- The knock officially stands as the fastest century ever scored against the Capitals.
- He stylishly secured the three-figure milestone by hitting bowler Nitish Rana for a six, demonstrating a fearless tactical approach.

Note: Fastest IPL Centuries by Indian Batters

- (Top performers achieving the sub-50 ball milestone)

Rank	Player Name	Franchise	Balls Taken
1	Vaibhav Sooryavanshi	Rajasthan Royals	35
2	Yusuf Pathan	Rajasthan Royals	37
3	Priyansh Arya	Punjab Kings	39
4	Abhishek Sharma	Sunrisers Hyderabad	40 (in 2025) & 47 (in 2026)
5	Mayank Agarwal / Ishan Kishan / Tilak Varma	PBKS / SRH / MI	45

11. IOC Mandates SRY Gene Test for 2028 Olympics

Context:

- On March 27, 2026, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced a major policy shift, prohibiting transgender women and athletes with Differences of Sex Development (DSD) from competing in female categories starting at the Los Angeles Games to prioritize competitive fairness and safety.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- Target Group: Transgender and DSD Athletes.
- Sport: All Olympic Disciplines.
- Event: Policy Implementation for LA 2028 Olympics.
- Venue: Los Angeles, USA.

Key Achievements & Implications:

- Scientific Foundation: The restriction is grounded in medical consensus indicating that male biological development provides retained advantages in strength, endurance, and

power.

- Global Enforcement: All International Federations (IFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) are mandated to adopt this standardized eligibility framework.

About the Policy: SRY Gene Screening

- Started: Announced March 2026 (Effective for 2028 Games).
- Policy Category: Gender Eligibility Protocol.

Specialty:

- Introduces a mandatory, one-time screening process to detect the presence of the SRY gene (typically located on the Y chromosome).
- Utilizes non-invasive and scientifically reliable extraction methods, such as saliva, cheek swabs, or blood samples, replacing older, more subjective verification models.

Note: Historical Catalysts for the Policy Shift

- (Key controversies from recent Olympic events that fueled the global debate)

Olympic Games	Athlete(s) Involved	Incident / Catalyst
Tokyo 2021	Laurel Hubbard (New Zealand)	Became the first transgender woman to officially compete at the Olympics (Weightlifting).
Paris 2024	Imane Khelif (Algeria) & Lin Yu-ting (Taiwan)	Won Boxing gold medals amidst intense global scrutiny over gender eligibility concerns.

12. First National Indoor Athletics Championships Kicks Off

Context:

- On March 26, 2026, Odisha initiated a landmark two-day sporting event organized by the Athletics Federation

of India (AFI), serving as a strategic preparatory phase for the country's upcoming hosting duties on the global stage.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: Over 278 Domestic Athletes.
- Prominent Participants: Animesh Kujur (100m/200m NR holder), Mohammed Afsal (800m NR holder), and Praveen Chitravel (Triple Jump NR holder).
- Sport: Athletics (Track & Field).
- Event: 1st National Indoor Athletics Championships 2026.
- Venue: Kalinga Indoor Stadium, Bhubaneswar.

Key Achievements/Features:

- Historic Debut: Marks the country's first-ever indoor athletics competition, featuring 11 distinct events across men's, women's, and Under-20 categories.
- Specialized Infrastructure: The 1,700-capacity arena is equipped with dedicated field zones and a specialized 100m straight sprint track to accommodate specific indoor events.

About the Event: National Indoor Athletics

- Started: 2026 (Inaugural Edition).
- Event Category: Domestic Athletics Competition.
- Specialty:
- Serves as a direct infrastructure and operational testing ground ahead of Bhubaneswar hosting the prestigious World Indoor Athletics Championships in 2028.
- Introduces a completely climate-controlled racing environment, eliminating the impact of wind and weather conditions on athlete performance times.

Note: Indoor vs. Outdoor Athletics Variances

- (Fundamental differences defining the indoor competition format)

Feature	Indoor Athletics	Outdoor Athletics
Standard Track Length	200 meters (Banked curves)	400 meters (Flat)
Short Sprint Distance	60 meters	100 meters
Hurdles Distance	60 meters	100m / 110m

13. Gurjant Singh Retires from International Hockey

Context:

- During the Hockey India Awards ceremony in New Delhi, a 31-year-old veteran forward officially announced his retirement, concluding a nearly decade-long career that significantly contributed to the resurgence of the national men's team.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: Gurjant Singh.
- Role: Indian Men's Hockey Team Striker.
- Sport: Field Hockey.
- Event: Retirement Announcement.
- Venue: New Delhi, India.

Key Achievements:

- Historic Olympic Impact: Played a crucial role in securing back-to-back Olympic bronze medals (Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024), helping end India's 41-year Olympic medal drought.
- National Recognition: Conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award in 2021 in recognition of his individual talent and contributions to the sport.

About the Athlete: Gurjant Singh

- Started: Senior international debut in 2017.
- Player Category: Forward.

Specialty:

- Rose to national prominence after scoring a vital goal in the final of the 2016 Junior Hockey World Cup in Lucknow.
- Hailing from rural Punjab, his trajectory from grassroots hockey to the Olympic podium is widely regarded by administrators as an inspiring developmental blueprint.

Note: Career Statistics & Major Continental Titles

- (Summary of his international tenure and major gold medal achievements)

Parameter	Details
Total International Caps	130
Total International Goals	33
Asian Games Title	Gold (2022 Hangzhou)
Asia Cup Title	Gold (2017)
Junior World Cup	Gold (2016)

14. Sreeshankar Wins Indian Athletics Series Long Jump

Context:

- Marking a triumphant season debut, India's premier long jumper secured gold in his first competition of the year, signaling a strong return to elite form following a major career setback.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: Murali Sreeshankar.
- Runner-up: Sunny Kumar.
- Sport: Athletics (Long Jump).
- Event: Indian Athletics Series 2026.
- Venue: Kanteerava Stadium.

Key Achievements:

- Bounced back from a 2024 knee surgery—which forced him to miss the Paris Olympics—surpassing his previous season's best (8.13m).
- Executed the winning leap on his fourth attempt, standing as the only athlete in the men's field to breach the eight-meter benchmark.

About the Athlete: Murali Sreeshankar

- Started: Return to form following 2024 injury.
- Athlete Category: Elite Track & Field (Jumper).

Specialty:

- Known for his consistency and control, showcasing immense physical resilience after struggling during his initial return at the 2025 World Athletics

Championships.

Note: 2026 Indian Athletics Series Long Jump Podiums

- (Final medal standings and measured distances for both men's and women's categories)

Event Category	Gold (1st)	Silver (2nd)	Bronze (3rd)
Men's Long Jump	Murali Sree-shankar (8.15m)	Sunny Kumar (7.90m)	Purush-otham (7.87m)
Women's Long Jump	Ancy Sojan (6.54m)	Shaili Singh (6.52m)	Moumita Mondal (6.37m)

15. Indian Duo Secures Gold at Asian Wrestling Championships

Context:

- India delivered a commanding performance at the 2026 continental tournament, with two freestyle wrestlers securing top podium finishes to significantly boost the nation's overall medal tally.

Key Highlights

- Who Won: Sujeet Kalkal & Abhimanyu Mandwal (India).
- Opponents: Umidjon Jalolov (Uzbekistan) & Tomor Ochiryn Tulga (Mongolia).
- Sport: Freestyle Wrestling.
- Event: Asian Wrestling Championships 2026.
- Venue: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Key Achievements:

- Kalkal became the first Indian since Bajrang Punia (2019) to win his division, marking his third consecutive international gold of the year.
- Mandwal achieved a major career breakthrough by defeating an established Olympian through exceptional tactical awareness.
- The dual victories contributed to an impressive overall national tally of 14 medals (2 Gold, 4 Silver, 8 Bronze).

About the Event: Asian Wrestling Championships

- Started: 1979.

- Event Category: Continental Wrestling Tournament.

Specialty:

- Renowned as one of the most competitive stages in the sport, featuring top-tier grappling talent from powerhouse nations such as Iran, Kazakhstan, Japan, and Mongolia.

Note: Gold Medal Match Details

- (Final bout statistics for the Indian champions)

Champion	Weight Category	Final Score
Sujeet Kalkal	65kg	8-1
Abhimanyu Mandwal	70kg	5-3

16. IIT Madras Introduces 'OmegaBall' to India

Context:

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has debuted an innovative new sports format, marking its first-ever entry into the country alongside a proposal to establish a national-level governing club for nationwide expansion.

Key Highlights

- Key Entity: IIT Madras.
- Key Official: Director V. Kamakoti.
- Sport: OmegaBall (Football Variant).
- Event: Inaugural Inter-College Tournament (April 17, 2026).
- Venue: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Key Achievements:

- The launch competition successfully hosted prominent local institutions including Loyola College, Guru Nanak College, Dr. Ambedkar Law University, The New College, Saveetha University, and YMCA College of Physical Education.
- Further solidifies the institute's commitment to holistic student development, building upon its pioneering legacy of implementing sports-based admissions.

About the Sport: OmegaBall

- Global Adoption: Already gaining traction in the United States, Brazil, and Europe.
- Event Category: Alternative Fast-Paced

Sports Format.

Specialty:

- Reimagines conventional gameplay to maximize continuous action, ball interaction, and high-volume scoring opportunities for both players and spectators.

Note: OmegaBall Gameplay Mechanics

- (Fundamental structural differences from standard football)

Feature	OmegaBall Rule
Active Teams	Three playing simultaneously
Field Layout	Circular pitch with three goals
Target Structure	Each team attacks two goals while defending one

INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

1. World Tuberculosis (TB) Day

- **Observed Date:-** March 24
- **Observing Organisation:-** World Health Organization (WHO)
- **Objective:-** To raise public awareness about the devastating health, social, and economic consequences of tuberculosis, and to intensify efforts to end the global epidemic.
- **Theme:-** "Yes! We Can End TB! Led by Countries, Powered by People"

2. World Theatre Day

- **Observed Date:-** March 27
- **Observing Organisation:-** International Theatre Institute (ITI)
- **Objective:-** To celebrate the ancient art form of theatre as a vital force for global connection, empathy, truth, and mutual understanding.
- **Theme:-** "Theatre and a Culture of Peace"

3. World Autism Awareness Day

- **Observed Date:-** April 2

- **Observing Organisation:-** United Nations (UN)
- **Objective:-** To highlight the dignity, rights, and inherent worth of all autistic people and call for societies to move beyond basic awareness toward meaningful inclusion and empowerment.
- **Theme:-** “Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value”

4. World Health Day

- **Observed Date:-** April 7
- **Observing Organisation:-** World Health Organization (WHO)
- **Objective:-** To draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health and to mark the anniversary of the WHO’s founding in 1948.
- **Theme:-** “Together for health. Stand with science.”

5. Ambedkar Jayanti

- **Observed Date:-** April 14
- **Observing Organisation:-** Government of India
- **Objective:-** To commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, celebrating his life, legacy, and monumental contribution as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice.
- **Theme:-** “Empowering Marginalised Voices for an Inclusive India”

6. World Hemophilia Day

- **Observed Date:-** April 17
- **Observing Organisation:-** World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH)
- **Objective:-** To increase awareness of hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, and other inherited bleeding disorders to improve diagnosis rates and ensure equitable access to care.
- **Theme:-** “Diagnosis: First Step to Care”

7. World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites)

- **Observed Date:-** April 18
- **Observing Organisation:-** International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) & UNESCO

- **Objective:-** To promote awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage, its vulnerability, and the global efforts required for its protection and conservation.
- **Theme:-** “Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters”

8. National Civil Services Day

- **Observed Date:-** April 21
- **Observing Organisation:-** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Govt. of India
- **Objective:-** To acknowledge the contributions of civil servants to nation-building, recognize excellence in public administration, and encourage officers to rededicate themselves to serving citizens.
- **Theme:-** “Viksit Bharat: Citizen-Centric Governance and Development at the Last Mile”

9. Earth Day (International Mother Earth Day)

- **Observed Date:-** April 22
- **Observing Organisation:-** EarthDay.org & United Nations
- **Objective:-** To emphasize collective action, community mobilization, and the role of individuals in defending environmental protections and accelerating the global transition to clean energy.
- **Theme:-** “Our Power, Our Planet”

10. World Book and Copyright Day

- **Observed Date:-** April 23
- **Observing Organisation:-** UNESCO
- **Objective:-** To celebrate books and authors, promote a culture of reading across all age groups, and raise awareness about the legal and social importance of protecting intellectual property.
- **Theme:-** “Indigenous Voices: Literacy through Ancestral Languages”

11. National Panchayati Raj Day

- **Observed Date:-** April 24
- **Observing Organisation:-** Ministry of

Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India

- **Objective:-** To commemorate the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) which institutionalized grassroots democracy in rural India, and to honor the best-performing Panchayats.
- **Theme:-** “Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas” (Empowered Panchayats, Holistic Development)

MILITARY EXERCISES

1. Exercise IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026

- **Countries involved:** India & 12 IONS member navies (Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Timor-Leste)
- **Objective:** To tackle non-traditional maritime threats in the Indian Ocean Region and boost coordination and information sharing among member navies.
- **Event Place:** Maritime Warfare Centre, Southern Naval Command, Kochi, India

2. Exercise Dweep Shakti 2026

- **Countries involved:** India (Tri-service: Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force)
- **Objective:** To validate integrated combat skills, amphibious assaults, and rapid deployment capabilities for protecting island territories.
- **Event Place:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

3. Exercise Cyclone IV (4th Edition)

- **Countries involved:** India & Egypt (Special Forces)
- **Objective:** To improve interoperability and share best practices in counter-terrorism and tactical special operations in desert terrain.
- **Event Place:** Anshas, Egypt

4. Exercise DUSTLIK (7th Edition)

- **Countries involved:** India & Uzbekistan (Armed Forces)
- **Objective:** To enhance combined

capabilities for joint counter-terrorism operations and neutralizing armed groups in semi-mountainous areas.

- **Event Place:** Gurumsaray Field Training Area, Namangan, Uzbekistan

5. Exercise IN-SLN DIVEX 2026

- **Countries involved:** India & Sri Lanka (Navies)
- **Objective:** To strengthen maritime cooperation and interoperability in complex naval diving and submarine rescue operations.
- **Event Place:** Colombo, Sri Lanka

1. World Happiness Report 2026

- **Released By:** University of Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre, in partnership with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- **Key Observations:** India improved its position by two spots compared to its 2025 rank (118th). However, it still lags behind neighbors like Nepal (99th) and Pakistan (104th). Finland retained the top spot for the ninth consecutive year, while Afghanistan ranked last.
- **India's Rank:** 116th (out of 147 countries).

2. Tracxn India Tech Annual Funding Report 2026

- **Released By:** Tracxn.
- **Key Observations:** India retained its 4th position globally—behind the US, UK, and China—having raised USD 11.7 billion. Despite an 18% decline in overall funding from the previous year, the Indian ecosystem saw a massive 52% surge in IPOs and the creation of six new unicorns.
- **India's Rank:** 4th globally in tech sector funding.

3. IRENA Renewable Energy Capacity Report 2026

- **Released By:** International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
- **Key Observations:** India's high ranking reflects its rapid infrastructure expansion and strong progress under the National

Action Plan on Climate Change.

- **India's Rank:** 3rd globally in overall renewable energy capacity.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book Name	Author Name
Smarter Than the Storm: Championing the AI-Climate Nexus for a Truly Sustainable Future	Amitabh Kant and Siddharth Sinha
The Witch Without Memory (The Obsidian Throne #2)	Maithree Wijesekara
The Courtesan, Her Lover and I	Tarana Husain Khan
The Missing Piece	Parul Sharma

MCQ'S ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Sanand in Gujarat is emerging as a semiconductor manufacturing hub and the facility is established by Kaynes Semicon.
2. It is a part of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) launched in December 2021.
3. It is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
4. It also includes development of the display manufacturing ecosystem.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. All are correct

2. Consider the following statements regarding the 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011:

1. It made the right to form cooperative societies a Fundamental Right under Article 19.
2. It inserted Article 43B as a Directive Principle of State Policy.
3. It added Part IX-B dealing with cooperative societies applicable to both Union and States.
4. It mandated reservation of seats for SCs/STs and women in all cooperative societies.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Bab el-Mandab Strait:

1. It connects the Red Sea with the Arabian Sea directly.
2. It separates the Arabian Peninsula from the Horn of Africa.
3. It lies between Yemen and Djibouti/Eritrea.
4. It forms a critical link in the route connecting the Mediterranean Sea with

the Indian Ocean.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

4). Consider the following statements regarding Samrat Samprati:

- 1. He was a direct successor of Emperor Ashoka in the Mauryan empire.
- 2. He is regarded as a patron of Jainism and is often called the “Jain Ashoka.”
- 3. His life is described in Jain texts such as Parishistaparva.
- 4. He is believed to have actively promoted the principle of ahimsa.

Which of the above statements 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

5. Consider the following statements regarding IN-SPACe:

- 1. It is an autonomous agency functioning under the Department of Space and it acts as a single-window clearance agency for space-related activities.
- 2. It was established to regulate and promote private sector participation in the space sector.
- 3. It is working under the chairmanship of Pawan Kumar Goenka and located in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- 4. It has initiatives like the Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) and the Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS).

Which of the above statements 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

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026:

- 1. These rules replace the SWM Rules, 2016 and aims to promote a circular economy and zero-waste model.
- 2. They mandate segregation of waste into four distinct categories such as wet, dry, sanitary and hazardous.

- 3. Bulk waste generators producing 100 kg/day must process wet waste locally and adopt Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- 4. Industries and cement plants are required to increase Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) usage over time.

How many of the above statements is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. None

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016:

- 1. It provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency of companies and individuals.
- 2. Insolvency and bankruptcy are interchangeable terms under the Code and the Bankruptcy involves a legal declaration by a competent authority.
- 3. The Code aims to improve ease of doing business by resolving stressed assets efficiently.
- 4. The National Company Law Tribunal deals with insolvency cases of companies and LLPs, while

The Debt Recovery Tribunal handles insolvency of individuals and partnership firms.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

8. Consider the following statements regarding Qdenga (TAK-003):

- 1. It is a dengue vaccine developed by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company.
- 2. It is a live-attenuated tetravalent vaccine targeting all four dengue virus serotypes.
- 3. It has been approved by DCGI in India for individuals of all age groups to stimulate immunity by using weakened forms of the dengue virus.
- 4. DengiAll, India’s first indigenous dengue vaccine developed by Panacea Biotec in collaboration with the ICMR.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

9). Consider the following statements regarding PMAY-G:

1. It aims to provide pucca houses with basic amenities by providing financial assistance to rural households.
2. Beneficiaries are identified based on Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 data and are verified by Gram Sabha.
3. The funding ratio between Centre and State is 60:40 in plain areas and for North-Eastern and Himalayan states, the ratio is 90:10.
4. Financial assistance is higher in hilly and North-Eastern states compared to plain areas and it is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

10). Consider the following statements regarding applications of Ammonium Nitrate:

1. It is widely used as a nitrogenous fertilizer in agriculture.
2. It is a key component in ANFO explosives used in mining.
3. It is used as a reducing agent in pyrotechnics.
4. It is used in manufacturing nitrous oxide.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

11). Consider the following statements regarding the NETRA AEW&C system:

1. It is developed by the DRDO.
2. It is primarily used for aerial surveillance and early warning.
3. It is mounted on a satellite platform for space-based monitoring.
4. It provides command-and-control capabilities during operations.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

12. Consider the following passage:

A marine mammal belonging to the baleen whale group is among the rarest whale species in the world, with fewer than 100 individuals remaining. It is endemic to a specific region in the northern Gulf of Mexico and does not undertake long-distance migrations. It primarily feeds on small fish and squid and faces threats from oil drilling, vessel strikes, and climate change. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the following species is best described in the above passage?

- A. Blue Whale
- B. Rice's Whale (*Balaenoptera ricei*)
- C. Humpback Whale
- D. Sperm Whale

13. With reference to Kar Saathi, consider the following statements:

1. It is an AI-enabled chatbot platform launched by the Income Tax Department of India.
2. It provides assistance only during official working hours.
3. It integrates services such as e-payment, e-verification, and tax-related FAQs on a single platform.
4. It deals exclusively with indirect taxes under GST.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

14. Which of the following fuel gases are primarily methane-based fuels?

1. Piped Natural Gas (PNG)
2. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)
3. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
4. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

15. With reference to the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System (MHEW-DSS), consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenously developed AI-enabled digital platform by the India Meteorological Department that automates critical weather forecasting processes.
2. It integrates real-time data from satellites, radars, and ground as well as upper-air sensors into a centralized GIS-enabled platform.
3. It is developed under Mission Mausam, and has achieved complete automation of weather data processing and entirely eliminated manual workflows.
4. It has improved forecast accuracy by about 30% and reduced forecast preparation time from 6 hours to 3 hours significantly.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

16. With reference to the Molucca Sea, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the western Pacific Ocean between the islands of Sulawesi and Halmahera.
2. It lies along a tectonically active region associated with subduction zones and frequent earthquakes.
3. It connects the Indian Ocean directly with the South China Sea, forming a major international shipping route.
4. It is part of the Coral Triangle, known for exceptionally high marine biodiversity.

Which of the statements given above 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

17. With reference to Yuva Sangam, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Government of India aimed at strengthening people-to-people connect among youth from different States and Union Territories.
2. It was conceptualised by the Ministry of Education and implemented under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme.
3. The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative was announced by Narendra Modi on 31st October 2015, marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
4. Yuva Sangam primarily focuses on financial assistance to youth entrepreneurs across States.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

18. With reference to Syngas (Synthesis Gas), consider the following statements:

1. Syngas is used as a feedstock for the production of ammonia, which is widely used in fertilizer manufacturing.
2. Methanol produced from syngas can serve both as a fuel and as a chemical feedstock.
3. Hydrogen derived from syngas is considered a clean energy carrier.
4. Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) produced from syngas can act as a substitute for imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. All are correct

19. With reference to the Aditya-L1 mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first space-based observatory dedicated to studying the Sun.
2. The mission is planned to be launched using the PSLV-C57.
3. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange Point L2 of the Sun-Earth system.
4. It aims to study the dynamics of the Sun's upper atmosphere, including the

chromosphere and corona.

Which of the statements given above 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

20. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: INS Taragiri is an Arihant-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN).

Statement 2: INS Taragiri was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.

Statement 3: INS Aridaman is a Nilgiri-class stealth guided missile frigate.

Statement 4: INS Aridaman was built at the Ship Building Centre (SBC) in Visakhapatnam.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Statement 1 is correct, Statement 2 is incorrect, Statement 3 is correct, Statement 4 is incorrect.
- B. Statement 1 is incorrect, Statement 2 is correct, Statement 3 is incorrect, Statement 4 is correct.
- C. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct, but both Statement 3 and Statement 4 are incorrect.
- D. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are incorrect, but both Statement 3 and Statement 4 are correct.

21. Consider the following pairs:

- 1. Deendayal Port – Gujarat
- 2. Paradip Port – Odisha
- 3. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port – Andhra Pradesh
- 4. Kamarajar Port – Kerala
- 5. Jawaharlal Nehru Port – Maharashtra

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. Four only
- D. All Five

22. Consider the following statements regarding Stagflation:

- 1. It refers to a situation of high inflation accompanied by stagnant or negative economic growth.
- 2. It is usually associated with economic growth but rising unemployment levels.
- 3. It supports the traditional Phillips Curve relationship between inflation and unemployment.
- 4. It was first popularized by British politician Iain Macleod in the 1960s.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

23. Consider the following statements regarding Project Chetak:

- 1. It is one of the largest projects of the Border Roads Organisation in terms of geographical coverage.
- 2. It was raised in 1980 and operates primarily in the northeastern region of India.
- 3. It plays a strategic role in maintaining feeder roads towards India's International Borders.
- 4. It contributes to both defence logistics and regional connectivity in parts of Rajasthan, Punjab and northern Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

24. Consider the following tribes:

- 1. Naikda / Nayaka / Bedar
- 2. Gond
- 3. Jenu Kuruba
- 4. Soliga
- 5. Hakkipikki
- 6. Koraga
- 7. Yerava

How many of the above tribes do NOT belong to Karnataka?

- A. Only three
- B. Only four
- C. None

D. All seven

25. Consider the following statements regarding the Namo Drone Didi Scheme:

1. It was launched in 2023 with the objective of promoting drone technology in Indian agriculture.
2. It aims to provide 15,000 drones to Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) between 2024 and 2026.
3. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented jointly by the Union and State Governments.
4. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to empower rural women as agri-tech entrepreneurs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

26. Consider the following statements:

1. He participated in both the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement.
2. He founded organizations such as the Akhil Bharatiya Ravidas Mahasabha and the All India Depressed Classes League.
3. He was instrumental in the enactment of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 aimed at eliminating untouchability.
4. As Food & Agriculture Minister, he is credited with the Green Revolution and as Defence Minister, he played a key role during the Indo-Pak War of 1971 which led to the creation of Bangladesh.

Which of the following personalities is best described by the above statements?

- A. B. R. Ambedkar
- B. Jagjivan Ram
- C. Ram Manohar Lohiya
- D. Lal Bahadur Shastri

27. Consider the following statements regarding custodial deaths:

1. It includes the death of an individual occurring in both police or judicial custody.
2. The custodial deaths may occur before trial, during police interrogation or after conviction.
3. It may result from torture, negligence,

denial of medical care, or suspicious circumstances.

4. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of custodial deaths and Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of custodial deaths among the southern states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

28. Consider the following statements regarding marine tar balls:

1. They are formed due to weathering of crude oil after oil spills, leaks, or natural seepage in marine environments.
2. They are typically light-colored and dissolve easily in seawater.
3. They may contain toxic substances such as heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).
4. They are entirely harmless to marine ecosystems once formed.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

29. The Sabarimala Temple is located within which protected area?

- A. Bandipur National Park
- B. Periyar Tiger Reserve
- C. Nagarhole National Park
- D. Silent Valley National Park

30. Consider the following statements:

1. The proposed Credit Guarantee Scheme is an expansion of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) framework.
2. ECLGS was introduced to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Only large corporate firms were eligible under ECLGS.
4. The scheme provided guaranteed credit support to eligible borrowers.

Which of the statements given above 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

31. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Security Council:

1. China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States are permanent members of the UNSC.
2. Non-permanent members are directly appointed by the UN Secretary-General.
3. The UNSC can pass binding resolutions under international law.
4. A resolution can pass even if one permanent member votes against it.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Three only
- B. One only
- C. Two only
- D. All Four

32. Consider the following statements regarding Mission MITRA:

1. It stands for Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment.
2. It is jointly designed by ISRO and the Indian Air Force's Institute of Aerospace Medicine.
3. It is an actual space mission involving human spaceflight in orbit.
4. It uses Earth-based environments to simulate space-like conditions.

Which of the statements given above 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

33. Consider the following statements regarding the "Lunar Ring" project:

1. It has been proposed by Japan's Shimizu Corporation.
2. It envisages a belt of solar power plants along the Moon's equator.
3. The project aims to transmit solar energy from the Moon to the Earth.
4. It is an operational project currently generating electricity for Earth.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

34. With reference to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, consider the following statements:

- I. It was adopted at the Earth Summit 1992 and is one of the three Rio Conventions along with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- II. It imposes legally binding emission reduction targets on all member countries to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations.
- III. It serves as the parent treaty for the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- IV. It manages and coordinates financial mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, and Adaptation Fund to support developing countries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. I, II and III only
- B. I, III and IV only
- C. II, III and IV only
- D. I, II, III and IV

35. With reference to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, consider the following statements:

1. Great Nicobar Island is the southernmost island, and the Indira point is the southernmost point of India.
2. Saddle Peak is the highest point of the islands, while Mount Thullier is the highest peak in Great Nicobar.
3. Pandanus is a rare fruit endemic to these islands.
4. Barren Island hosts the only confirmed active volcano in India and the entire South Asia region.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. All are correct

36. Consider the following statements:

1. The title “Mahatma” was conferred on him by Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar.
2. He established the first school for girls in India at Bhide Wada in 1848.
3. He founded Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873 to eradicate caste-based socio-economic inequalities.
4. He established the Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha in 1863 to prevent infanticide and support vulnerable women.
5. He authored works such as Gulamgiri and Shetkarayacha Asud.

Which one of the following personalities is best described by the above statements?

- A. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- B. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- C. Jyotirao Phule
- D. B. R. Ambedkar

37. With reference to the Sindhi language, consider the following statements:

1. Sindhi is a Dravidian language predominantly spoken only within India.
2. It was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution by the 21st Constitutional Amendment Act 1967.
3. Sindhi has a rich literary tradition influenced by both Vedantic and Sufi philosophies.
4. Recently the Constitution of India has been released in Sindhi in both Devanagari and Persian scripts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

38. Consider the following species:

1. Emperor Penguin
2. Amphibians
3. Canary
4. Honeybee
5. Polar Bear

The above species are best categorized under which one of the following?

- A. Sentinel Species
- B. Endemic Species
- C. Keystone Species
- D. Invasive Species

39. Arrange the following events/ organizations associated with Dr. BR. Ambedkar in the correct chronological order:

1. Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha
2. Mahad Satyagraha
3. Poona Pact
4. Independent Labour Party
5. Scheduled Castes Federation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 2 - 3 - 1 - 5 - 4
- B. 2 - 1 - 3 - 4 - 5
- C. 1 - 3 - 2 - 4 - 5
- D. 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

40. With reference to the Indian Ocean Conference, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2016 by the India Foundation as an annual consultative forum.
2. Its objective includes promoting regional cooperation, maritime security, and economic development in the Indian Ocean Region.
3. It connects over 40 countries, including ministers and experts focused on the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
4. The 9th edition of the conference was held in Mauritius in April 2026, while the 8th edition was held in Oman.

How many of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. None

41. With reference to Project Him Sarovar, consider the following statements:

1. It is a scientific water conservation initiative launched on April 10, 2026.
2. It aims to create large multipurpose dams to store river water for hydroelectric power generation.
3. The project proposes to construct around 50 small water bodies to capture snowmelt and rainwater.
4. It seeks to ensure year-round water availability in high-altitude cold desert regions.

5. It aligns with India's broader goal of restoring 2.6 crore hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

42. With reference to National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal launched on April 14, 2016.
- 2. It operates as a centrally sponsored scheme with cost-sharing between the Centre and States.
- 3. It is fully funded by the Central Government as a Central Sector Scheme through the Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund.
- 4. It aims to create a unified national market by integrating existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee mandis.

Which of the statements given above 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

43. With reference to India's new deportation policy for illegal migrants, consider the following statements:

- 1. It mandates a 30-day deadline for States/UTs to verify the credentials of suspected illegal migrants, failing which deportation may be initiated.
- 2. District-level Special Task Forces (STFs) have been created exclusively under the Ministry of External Affairs to manage deportation proceedings.
- 3. The policy provides for dedicated district-level units to identify and detain undocumented migrants in designated centres.
- 4. It mandates biometric data digitization through the Foreigners Identification Portal with data-sharing involving the Unique Identification Authority of India and the Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

44. Consider the following:

- 1. New Development Bank (NDB)
 - 2. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)
 - 3. BRICS Payment System
 - 4. Customs Agreements
 - 5. Constellation of Remote Sensing Satellite
- How many of the above are the Initiatives of BRICS?

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. Only four
- D. All five

45. The Konyak Tribe is primarily found in which of the following states?

- A. Assam
- B. Nagaland
- C. Manipur
- D. Mizoram

46. "Glufosinate-ammonium" is best described as which of the following?

- A. Insecticide used to kill insects
- B. Fungicide used to control fungal diseases
- C. Herbicide used to control a broad range of weeds
- D. Fertilizer used to enhance soil nutrients

47. With reference to the Ghaggar River, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a perennial river fed mainly by glacial sources in the Himalayas.
- 2. It originates near Dagshai in the Shivalik Hills.
- 3. It flows through Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.
- 4. Markanda River and Sarsuti River are among its tributaries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

48. With reference to the Andaman Sea, consider the following statements:

1. It is a marginal sea of the northeastern part of the Indian Ocean.
2. It is bordered by Myanmar to the north and east, and Thailand and Malaysia to the east.
3. It is directly connected to the South China Sea through the Strait of Malacca.
4. It is bordered by Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the west and Indonesia to the south.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

49. With reference to the Asia Zero Emission Community, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Japan-led initiative launched in 2023 to promote decarbonisation and clean energy transition in Asia.
2. It primarily focuses only on nuclear energy cooperation among Asian countries.
3. AZEC Plus includes additional Asian countries and global institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the International Energy Agency.
4. One of its objectives is to enhance energy security in the Asian region.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

50. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) of the European Union is designed to:

- A. Provide subsidies to exporters of carbon-intensive goods.
- B. Impose a fair carbon price on imports based on emissions during production.
- C. Eliminate all trade barriers for developing countries.
- D. Promote fossil fuel consumption in Europe.

51. With reference to the Elephanta Caves, consider the following statements:

1. They are historically known as Gharapuri, meaning "city of caves".
2. They were primarily patronized by the Kalachuris of Mahishmati during the 6th century CE.
3. Cave No. 1, also known as the Great Cave, contains the famous Trimurti sculpture depicting Shiva as Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer.
4. The Elephanta Caves are recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. None

52. With reference to the Soil Sakhis initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2023 under the Mann Deshi Foundation's Agriculture and Climate Action Programme.
2. It aims to train rural women to promote soil testing and scientific farming practices.
3. It is implemented across all states of India as a centrally sponsored scheme.
4. Soil Sakhis collect soil samples and facilitate laboratory testing for farmers.
5. Farmers receive reports to improve crop and nutrient management based on soil analysis.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

53. With reference to the Nutrient-Based Subsidy Scheme (NBS), consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced in 2010 by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and it covers notified grades of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers.
2. Subsidy under the scheme is calculated based on the nutrient content of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Sulphur.
3. Urea is covered under the NBS scheme

along with other fertilisers like DAP and SSP.

4. The Union Cabinet approved a 12% increase in NBS rates for P&K fertilisers for the Kharif Season 2026.

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. 1, 2, 3 and 4

54. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, consider the following pairs:

Category	Loan Limit
1. Shishu	Up to ₹50,000
2. Kishor	₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh
3. Tarun	₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh
4. Tarun Plus	₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh

Which of the pairs given above 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

55. With reference to the Skill Outcomes Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to create better career opportunities for youth from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
2. It is implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation.
3. It follows a blended finance model involving government, CSR funds, philanthropic organizations, and development agencies.
4. It focuses only on traditional sectors like agriculture and handicrafts.
5. It aims to support over 2 lakh youth, with a significant focus on low-income women.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

56. Match List I with List II with reference to monetary policy tools of the Reserve Bank of India:

List I (Monetary Tools)	List II (Description)
a. Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	1. Buying and selling of government securities.
b. Open Market Operations (OMO)	2. Emergency borrowing at a penal rate
c. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	3. Portion of deposits kept in liquid assets
d. Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)	4. Repo and reverse repo framework
e. Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS)	5. Bonds issued to absorb excess liquidity

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. a-3, b-1, c-2, d-4, e-5
- B. a-1, b-3, c-2, d-5, e-4
- C. a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4, e-5
- D. a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5

57. Consider the following statements:

1. The Montreal Protocol primarily aims to reduce substances responsible for ozone layer depletion.
2. It mandates complete elimination of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by the late 2040s.
3. The Kigali Amendment focuses on curbing both production and consumption of HFCs.
4. The Kigali Amendment seeks to achieve more than 80% reduction in HFC consumption by 2047.

Which of the statements given above 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

58. Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Armed Police Forces function under the Ministry of Home Affairs and are tasked with both border and internal security duties.
2. Their mandate explicitly includes counter-insurgency operations and infrastructure protection.
3. They are intended to act as a substitute for state police forces in maintaining public order.
4. All CAPF forces are uniformly responsible

for both border guarding and internal security.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

59). Consider the following statements regarding the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism:

1. It is a carbon tariff imposed by the European Union on imports of carbon-intensive products such as cement and electricity.
2. It applies only to goods produced within the European Union and not to imports.
3. It acts as a price on carbon, thereby discouraging greenhouse gas emissions.
4. It has implications for international trade by affecting production patterns and exports.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

60. Consider the following statements regarding Marine Heatwaves:

1. Marine heatwaves are primarily driven by oceans absorbing a large share of excess atmospheric heat due to climate change.
2. Ocean currents can contribute to marine heatwaves by transporting warm water into relatively cooler regions.
3. High-pressure atmospheric systems, such as the North Pacific High, help dissipate surface heat and reduce the intensity of marine heatwaves.
4. El Niño events can elevate sea surface temperatures and trigger large marine heatwaves.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

61. Which of the following best describes Memflation?

- A. A temporary rise in food prices due to seasonal demand.
- B. A structural and persistent rise in

semiconductor memory prices.

- C. Inflation caused by increased government spending.
- D. A decline in prices of electronic goods over time.

62. Consider the following statements:

1. The Amazon Rainforest extends across nine countries of South America, with the largest share located in Brazil.
2. The forest is bounded by the Andes Mountains to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.
3. The climate of the Amazon is characterized by uniformly high temperatures and heavy rainfall throughout the year without distinct seasons.
4. Indigenous tribes such as Yanomamo and Kayapo inhabit the Amazon region.

Which of the above statements are correct regarding the Amazon Rainforest?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

63. Consider the following species:

1. Lantana camara
2. Water Hyacinth
3. African Catfish
4. Nile Tilapia

The above species are best categorized under which one of the following?

- A. Sentinel Species
- B. Endemic Species
- C. Keystone Species
- D. Invasive Species

64. Consider the following Paragraph:

A high-altitude mammal found in the cold arid grasslands of the Tibetan Plateau produces an extremely fine wool that is obtained only after killing the animal. Due to heavy poaching for this wool, its trade has been strictly banned in India and internationally. The species is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and under Appendix I of CITES, with an IUCN status of Near Threatened.

Which of the following species is being referred to?

- A. Snow Leopard
- B. Tibetan Antelope

- C. Himalayan Tahr
- D. Kiang

65. Consider the following statements regarding India's space activities in 2025:

1. Indian Space Situational Awareness Report 2025 was released by ISRO during the SMOPS-2026 conference held in Bengaluru.
2. The year 2025 recorded over 300 successful global launches, deploying more than 4,000 satellites.
3. India conducted more than 10 launches in 2025, including a milestone 100th mission.
4. India's space achievements included missions such as NISAR, SpaDeX docking experiment, and continued operation of Aditya-L1, along with efforts toward a debris-free space mission by 2030.

Which of the above statements 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

66. Consider the following statements:

1. The report titled State of India's Bats 2024–25 was released by the Nature Conservation Foundation in collaboration with multiple conservation organizations.
2. India hosts more than 200 species of bats, with the highest diversity found in West Bengal.
3. Bats belong to the order Chiroptera and are the only mammals capable of sustained powered flight.
4. Bats play an important ecological role as pollinators, seed dispersers, and controllers of insect populations.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

67. Consider the following statements regarding the River Basin Management Scheme:

- I. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented jointly by the Centre and States.

- II. The scheme adopts a basin-level approach by integrating surface water, tributaries, and groundwater as a single hydrological unit.

- III. The 16th Finance Commission period allocation for the scheme has been reduced compared to the previous cycle.

- IV. The scheme prioritizes the North Eastern Region and the Indus Basin for strategic and transboundary considerations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. II and IV only
- B. I, II and III only
- C. II, III and IV only
- D. I and IV only

68. Consider the following statements:

- I. He is regarded as the founder of a "Lingayata" movement that emphasized equality and rejected caste-based discrimination.

- II. He served as a "finance minister" under Bijjala II of the Kalachuri dynasty.

- III. His teachings are preserved in poetic compositions known as "Vachanas".

- IV. He introduced the concept of "Ishtalinga", promoting a direct and personal connection with the divine.

- V. He established the Anubhava Mantapa, considered the first Parliament of the world, encouraging open discussions on spiritual and social issues.

Which one of the following medieval Indian personality is best described by the above statements?

- A. Allamaprabhu
- B. Lord Basaveshwara
- C. Devara Daasimayya
- D. Shankaracharya

69. Consider the following statements regarding the "Yellow Line":

1. It is a military demarcation line created by Israel to distinguish areas of operational control in conflict zones.

2. It represents a permanent international boundary recognized under international law between conflicting parties.

3. It serves as a temporary operational limit marking the extent of troop deployment.

4. Crossing this line is treated as a potential security threat, triggering military response protocols.

5. It has been used in both Gaza and southern Lebanon contexts to delineate zones of control involving Hamas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

70. Consider the following statements regarding the Indo-Lanka Accord:

1. It was signed between Rajiv Gandhi and J. R. Jayewardene to address the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.
2. It provided for the devolution of powers to the provinces through the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution.
3. It led to the immediate disbandment of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and complete cessation of hostilities.
4. It resulted in the deployment of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka to enforce the agreement.
5. It recognized Tamil as the sole official language of Sri Lanka, replacing Sinhala.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Four only
- C. Three only
- D. All Five

71. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, and became operational in 2020.
2. It replaced the Medical Council of India with the aim of improving transparency and quality in medical education.
3. It functions through four autonomous boards, including the Medical Assessment and Rating Board and the Post-Graduate Medical Education Board.
4. The Commission consists exclusively of elected members representing State Medical Councils.

Which of the statements regarding the National Medical Commission is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

72. Consider the following statements:

- I. Odisha has become the first state in India to initiate a Marine Spatial Plan covering its entire coastline.
- II. The plan has been developed in collaboration with the National Centre for Coastal Research under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- III. The initiative aims to exclusively promote industrial and commercial use of coastal resources, without considering ecological conservation.
- IV. The plan aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 14 focusing on conservation and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources.

Which of the statements regarding Marine Spatial Planning in India is/are correct?

- A. I, II and IV only
- B. I and III only
- C. II, III and IV only
- D. I, II, III and IV

MCQ'S ON STATE ISSUES

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Koramangala–Challaghatta (KC) Valley Project aimed at groundwater recharge and drought mitigation through reuse of treated wastewater.
2. The project, funded entirely by the Government of Karnataka, is implemented under the Minor Irrigation Department and utilizes secondary treated wastewater from Bengaluru's Sewage Treatment Plants.
3. The scheme permits the direct use of treated wastewater for drinking purposes after meeting prescribed quality standards.
4. The project involves filling over 100 interconnected minor irrigation tanks in districts such as Kolar, Chikkaballapura, and Bengaluru Rural, and has significantly improved groundwater levels in parts of Kolar.

Which of the statements given above 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

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Karnataka accounted for nearly 9% of India's total ransomware cases in 2025–26, as per the Centre of Excellence for Cybersecurity (CySecK) report.
2. Government departments, education, and healthcare sectors together faced more than 6.8 million malware attacks in the state.
3. The DDoS attack on Kaveri 2.0 in February 2025 resulted in an estimated daily revenue loss exceeding ₹100 crore.
4. CySecK, established in 2019, is a state initiative collaborating with government, industry, startups, and academia to enhance cybersecurity preparedness.

Which of the statements given above 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

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The draft policy on 'Responsible Digital Use Among Students' has been released by the Karnataka Department of Health and Family Welfare to promote balanced digital habits among students.
2. The policy proposes a complete legal ban on social media use for all individuals below 18 years of age.
3. It was developed in collaboration with institutions such as NIMHANS and the Karnataka State Mental Health Authority.
4. Schools are expected to implement preventive strategies, including digital detox programs and identification of early warning signs of mental health issues.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. One only
- D. All Four

4. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting new observation tower at Bannerghatta Biological Park was signed between:

- A. Karnataka Forest Department and Greater Bengaluru Authority
- B. Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies and Bannerghatta Biological Park
- C. Greater Bengaluru Authority and Karnataka Tourism Department
- D. Ministry of Environment and Karnataka Forest Department

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Karnataka's first-ever census of natural springs was conducted by the Karnataka Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department.
2. A total of 274 springs were identified across all districts of the state, with Belagavi reporting the highest number.
3. The Western Ghats and Malnad region have a higher concentration of springs due to heavy rainfall and geological conditions.
4. Karnataka has one hot spring located at Bendru Theertha in the Dakshina Kannada district.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only

- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. None

6. Consider the following statements:

1. CALM-Brain is India's first digital database for brain data focused on major psychiatric disorders.
2. It has been developed by the Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind in collaboration with NIMHANS and the National Centre for Biological Sciences.
3. The database covers neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease as its primary focus.
4. The dataset is linked to a stem cell biorepository, enabling research into the biological basis of severe mental illnesses.
5. It is initiated in 2016 as part of the ADBS project, it was funded by the Department of Biotechnology and the Pratiksha Trust.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Karnataka government has provided a 60-day relaxation in the minimum age requirement for admissions to Class 1, LKG, and UKG for the 2026–27 academic year.
2. Under the relaxed rule, children who are at least 5 years and 10 months old by June 1 are eligible for admission to Class 1.
3. The relaxation was introduced as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to standardize school entry age.
4. The earlier rule requiring a minimum age of 6 years by June 1 was introduced in 2022 in alignment with NEP 2020 and the Right to Education (RTE) Act.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation was awarded the SKOCH National Award, 2025 in New Delhi for its "Transparent Recruitment and Training Programme."
2. The corporation has adopted a technology-driven recruitment system including automated driving tests and online examinations.
3. The recruitment process under this initiative relies entirely on manual document verification to ensure authenticity.
4. Digital document verification has been introduced to improve efficiency and security in the recruitment process.

Which of the statements given above 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

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the UDAN scheme, ₹146.89 crore has been spent to operationalize regional airports in Karnataka as of October 31, 2025.
2. A total of seven airports, including Bidar, Mysuru, Hubballi, and Shivamogga, have been functionalized under the scheme in the state.
3. Airports such as Vidyanagar and Bidar are among those operationalized under the scheme in Karnataka.
4. The UDAN scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to improve regional connectivity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The Karnataka government has constituted a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to strengthen palliative care services in the state.
2. The committee is chaired by the Union Health Secretary and includes only government medical institutions as members.

3. The initiative aligns with the National Programme for Palliative Care and draws inspiration from the community-based model followed in Kerala.
4. Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology acts as the nodal center, and the panel includes representatives from NGOs such as Pallium India and Karunashraya Trust.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

11. Consider the following statements:

1. The Karnataka Transport Department is integrating Pollution Under Control (PUC) records with the national VAHAN portal to address issues related to out-of-state fines.
2. The integration applies to all PUC certificates issued from April 1, 2026, while older certificates cannot be linked due to technical limitations.
3. Under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, driving without a valid PUC certificate attracts a penalty of ₹1,000.
4. The initiative is expected to streamline enforcement and prevent duplication of penalties across states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

12. Consider the following statements:

1. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation received the World HRD Congress Award 2026 under the “Best in Training and Organisation Development” category.
2. The award ceremony was held in Kochi, Kerala.
3. The training programmes of KSRTC are limited only to simulator-based driving techniques.
4. The training initiatives include fuel efficiency, refresher courses, accident-free driving, and road safety awareness.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

13. Consider the following statements:

1. Karnataka ranks second in India in terms of GST collections, following Maharashtra.
2. The state recorded a GST collection of ₹1.58 lakh crore with an 11.6% growth over the previous financial year.
3. GST rate rationalisation resulted in a revenue loss of ₹10,000 crore for Karnataka in 2025–26.
4. The state anticipates further revenue loss due to GST changes in 2026–27.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. One only

14. Consider the following statements:

1. The Yettinahole Drinking Water Project aimed at diverting water from the west-flowing streams from Western Ghats to water-scarce regions of the Netravathi river basin.
2. The project primarily seeks to provide drinking water to nearly 75 lakh people in the arid regions of Karnataka.
3. This project benefits seven drought-prone districts such as Kolar, Chickballapur, Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Bengaluru Rural, Chikkamagaluru, and Hassan.
4. The project is designed mainly for hydroelectric power generation in coastal Karnataka.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. All are correct

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Namu Drone Didi Yojana (NDDY):

1. Karnataka has trained the highest number of women SHG members as drone pilots in India.
2. Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh rank

second and third respectively under the scheme.

3. Koppal district, Kalaburagi district, and Mandya district are the top three performing districts in the state.
4. The scheme aims to empower women SHGs, improve farming efficiency using drones, enhance crop yields, and break traditional stereotypes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

16. Consider the following statements regarding kidney paired exchange transplant guidelines in Karnataka:

1. Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 explicitly permits multi-pair kidney swap transplants involving more than two donor-recipient pairs.
2. Karnataka allowed multi-pair kidney swaps based on the absence of prohibition in law, supported by the 2025 Supreme Court judgment in Indian Society of Organ Transplantation vs. Union of India.
3. Every donor in a swap must be a near relative of their original intended recipient, and incompatibility must be medically documented.
4. Approval for multi-pair swaps is granted by hospital-level committees without involvement of any state authority.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

17. Consider the following statements regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in India:

1. Karnataka is the largest hub in India for EV public charging stations installed by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
2. Out of the total EV charging stations installed by OMCs in India, a majority are operational.

3. Under the FAME-II Scheme, the amount released for EV charging infrastructure is less than the amount sanctioned.
4. The PM E-DRIVE Scheme has allocated funds for EV charging infrastructure, but no funds have been released so far.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

18. Consider the following statements regarding Karnataka's groundwater status as per the Groundwater assessment report, 2025:

1. The overall groundwater extraction in Karnataka declined from 68.44% in 2024 to 66.49% in 2025, indicating improved sustainability.
2. The annual groundwater recharge capacity increased from 18.74 BCM to 19.28 BCM during the same period.
3. The reduction in domestic groundwater extraction is mainly due to improved access to surface water under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
4. The improvement in groundwater conditions is solely due to good rainfall, with no role of policy interventions or conservation measures.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

19. Consider the following statements regarding hydropower generation in Karnataka:

1. Karnataka Power Corporation Limited recorded its highest-ever hydropower generation in 2025–26, surpassing the previous year's output.
2. The increase in hydropower output is solely attributed to favorable rainfall conditions.
3. The Sharavati and Varahi valleys together contributed a major share of the total generation, with Sharavati exceeding its target output.
4. The Varahi Hydroelectric Project not only exceeded its target but also surpassed its previous record generation.

**KEY ANSWERS****1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL:**

01). D	26). B	51). C
02). C	27). D	52). A
03). A	28). A	53). B
04). B	29). B	54). A
05). A	30). A	55). C
06). D	31). C	56). A
07). A	32). A	57). B
08). C	33). B	58). A
09). B	34). B	59). C
10). A	35). D	60). D
11). C	36). C	61). B
12). B	37). C	62). A
13). B	38). A	63). D
14). A	39). D	64). B
15). C	40). C	65). A
16). A	41). A	66). C
17). C	42). B	67). A
18). D	43). C	68). B
19). A	44). D	69). A
20). B	45). B	70). C
21). B	46). C	71). B
22). C	47). B	72). A
23). A	48). D	

2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA:

01). A	11). A
02). C	12). B
03). B	13). C
04). B	14). D
05). D	15). D
06). A	16). A
07). C	17). C
08). A	18). B
09). B	19). A
10). C	



MISSION SHIKHARA

INSTAKAS

[GS CRASH FOR GROUP B, C, & D POSTS]

Started On
4th June 2026

COURSE DURATION:
4 MONTHS



SUBSCRIBE HERE



Coverage of Syllabus by Experienced Faculties



High Priority Areas will be Discussed by our Experts



Covers GS, Mental Ability, & Current Affairs



Classes available both online & offline



Weekly Current Affairs Classes & Free Monthly Magazine

FEES - BOTH OFFLINE & ONLINE

~~₹ 20,000/-~~

₹ 15,000/-

EARLY BIRD
OFFER
DISCOUNT

**25%
Off**

MISSION AARAKSHAKA

FDA / SDA / PSI / PC / PDO: GROUP C & D EXAMS

SCHOLARSHIP TEST

FIRST 5 FREE

Test On
17th MAY 2026

RANKS: 6-10

50%

SCHOLARSHIP

RANKS: 11-25

30%

SCHOLARSHIP

RANKS: 26-50

20%

SCHOLARSHIP

BATCH- 6 25th MAY 2026

COURSE FEE:

~~₹ 25,000/-~~

**20%
OFF**

Early Bird Offer

₹ 20,000/-

For more Details Contact us: **08069405206**

BATCH - 5 | STARTS ON - 28th MAY 2026

FEATURES

- Integrated Coverage of Prelims & Mains by In-House Faculties
- Daily & Weekly Revision Tests for Prelims & Mains
- Personalized One-on-One Mentorship by Experts
- Weekly Current Affairs Classes & Daily Current Affairs Soft Copy

OFFLINE CLASSES

~~₹ 1,38,000/-~~
₹ 1,24,200/-
incl. taxes

ONLINE CLASSES

~~₹ 1,00,000/-~~
₹ 90,000/-
incl. taxes

TILL
22ND MAY 2026

**10%
OFF**

EARLY BIRD
OFFER

REGISTER HERE



UPSC CSE 2025 TOPPERS



Bengaluru Office: Nanda Ashirwad Complex, 3rd floor, Above Village Hyper Market, Chandra layout, Bengaluru-560072

For more Details Contact us:
08069405205

KPSC PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2026



INSTAKAS

PROGRAM AT BENGALURU

BATCH-4 STARTS ON
18th MAY 2026



SUBSCRIBE HERE

For more Details Contact us: **08069405206**

- Medium of Classes English & Kannada
- One-on-One Personalized Mentorship
- Offline & Online Classes & Prelims & Mains Test Series
- Integrated Classes for Prelims & Mains (8-9 Months)

FEE OFFLINE CLASSES: ~~₹ 60,000/-~~ **₹ 54,000/-**

**10%
OFF**

FEE ONLINE CLASSES: ~~₹ 50,000/-~~ **₹ 45,000/-**