



# INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ

**A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative**

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

**ಕನ್ನಡ & English**

**By- Nandan Sir**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> Week 2026**

- Girmityas
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- 11 Years of Jan Suraksha Schemes
- Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle system
- Survey records 143 Odonata species across Western Ghats
- 546 Die Every Day in Traffic Accidents: NCRB Data
- Kerala's Oil Spill Contingency Plan
- JANANI Platform
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)
- Vadinar Ship Repair Facility
- Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026-31)
- India's e-waste Management
- Teesta River
- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0
- UDGM Portal
- FRP for Sugarcane for 2026-27 Season
- Jamaica
- Pulitzer Prize 2026

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**INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ**  
**WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
**MAY 1<sup>st</sup> Week 2026**

**Girmityas**  
**International**



- The term “Girmitya” is derived from the word “agreement,” which referred to the indenture contracts signed by Indian labourers during the colonial period.
- Girmityas were sent to countries like **Fiji, Mauritius, Seychelles, Réunion, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, British Guiana (now Guyana), Suriname, Malaysia, and Kenya.**

**Migration to Trinidad and Tobago**

- Approximately **143,000 indentured labourers migrated from India to Trinidad between 1845 and 1917** and most migrants came from northern India and Bihar.
- Their descendants today constitute **nearly 40–45% of Trinidad and Tobago’s population** and play a major role in its political, economic, and social life.

**Additional Information - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

- It is a crucial **15-member regional bloc (formed 1973)** aimed at economic integration and foreign policy coordination.
- **Members (15):** Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Location:** Southeastern Gulf of Mexico, east of Central America, and north of South America.

**Context**

- External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar visited Trinidad and Tobago** to strengthen **India’s engagement with the Caribbean nation** and preserve the legacy of the Girmitya community.

**Girmityas**

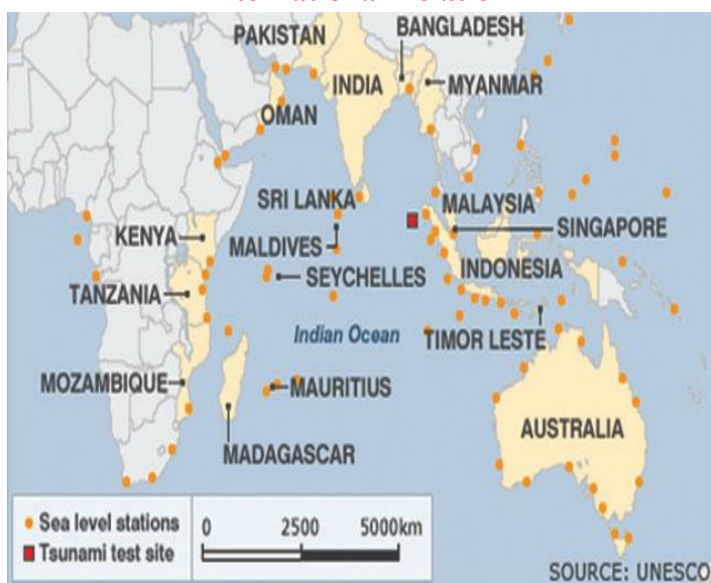
- The Girmityas were **indentured laborers from British India** who were transported to work on plantations in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

**India-CARICOM Relations:**

- **2nd Summit (2024):** Held in **Georgetown, Guyana**, enhancing ties, as discussed in.

- **Areas of Cooperation:** Climate change, disaster management, renewable energy, and financial technology (UPI).
- **Flagship Initiative:** Trinidad and Tobago became the **first Caribbean nation to adopt India's UPI.**

### **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** **International Relation**



#### **In News**

- **The 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) was held in New Delhi under the theme “Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World.”**

#### **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**

- It is an **intergovernmental organisation for regional cooperation among 23 member states** bordering the Indian Ocean.
- **Established: March 7, 1997** (formerly IOR-ARC).
- **Secretariat: Ebène, Mauritius.**
- **Membership: 23 Member States** and 12 Dialogue Partners (e.g., China, USA, Japan).
- **Chairship: India is the current Chair for the 2025–2027 term**, having taken over from Sri Lanka.
- **Origin: Inspired by Nelson Mandela's 1995 visit to India, advocating for socio-economic cooperation.**

### **11 Years of Jan Suraksha Schemes** **Governance**

#### **Context**

- Recently, PM Modi highlighted the impact of flagship social security schemes launched by the Union Government **11 years ago, including the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).**

#### **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana**

- **Launched in - 9th May 2015**
- **Implementation - Ministry of Finance**
- **Objective - It provides an insurance policy to the people belonging to the underprivileged sections of society.**

#### **Key features of the scheme**

- It offers a **life cover of Rs. 2 lakhs** for one year to all its account holders. This life cover is provided in case of **accidental death or permanent disability.**
- **A life cover of Rs. 1 lakh** is provided to the beneficiary in case of **partial disability.**
- This scheme can be availed by any individual aged between **18 years to 70 years.**
- In case of the death of the account holder, the benefits of the scheme can be availed by his/her nominee.
- **Premium - The scheme provides an annual premium of Rs. 12 per annum per member.** This premium is auto-debited in one instalment on or before 1st June of every year.

#### **Atal Pension Yojana**

- **Launched in - May, 2015**
- **Objective - To create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector.**
- **Administered By - PFRDA through NPS.**

- **Eligibility** - Any citizen of India can join the APY scheme. The age of the subscriber should be between 18-40 years.

### Benefits

- It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.
- The amount of pension is **guaranteed for lifetime to the spouse on the death of the subscriber.**
- In the event of death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee.

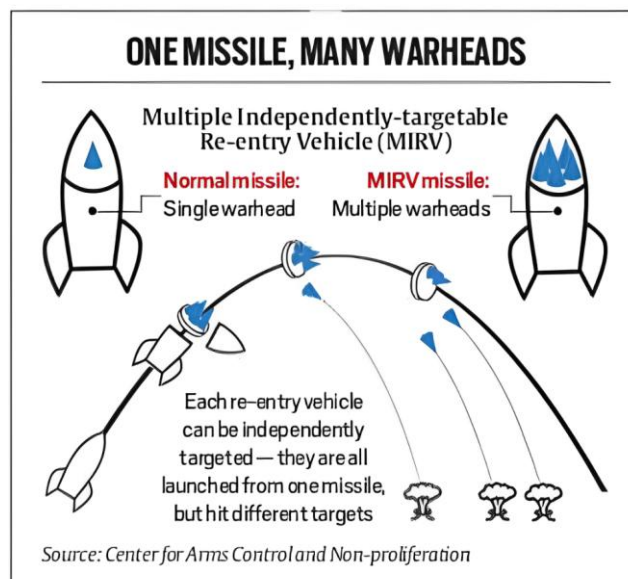
### Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

- **Launched in** - 9th May 2015
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Finance
- **Objective** - To provide life insurance security to the poor and low-income section of the society.
- **Eligibility** - This scheme can be availed by people aged between 18 years to 50 years.

### Key features of the scheme

- The scheme offers a **maximum assured amount of Rs.2 lakhs.**
- In case of the death of the insured person, the next eligible beneficiary is provided with a death benefit including a death coverage of Rs. 2,00,000.
- **Premium** - The premium for this scheme is Rs. 330 per annum

### Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle system Defence



### In News

- **India conducted the successful flight-trial of an Advanced Agni missile with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.**

### MIRV technology

- **Abbreviation** - Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle
- **Uniqueness** - The technology has the capability that allows multiple warheads to be loaded on a single missile delivery system and programmed to hit different targets, thus greatly enhancing the missile's destructive potential.

### Agni Missiles

- The Agni missile class is the **backbone of India's nuclear launch capability.**
- **Developed by** - Agni-1 to 5 missiles are designed & developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**

### Other Ranges of Agni Missiles

- **Agni I:** Range of 700-800 km.
- **Agni II:** Range more than 2000 km.
- **Agni III:** Range of more than 2,500 Km
- **Agni IV:** Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.

- **Agni-V:** The longest of the Agni series, an **Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** with a range of over **5,000 km**.

### **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**

- **Launched in** - 1983
- **Conceived by** - IGMDP was conceived by Dr. APJ. Abdul Kalam in the 1980s.
- **Objective** - To enable India to attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.

### **The missiles developed under IGMDP are**

- Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile – Prithvi
- Intermediate-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile – Agni
- Short-range low-level surface-to-air missile – Trishul
- Medium-range surface-to-air missile – Akash
- Third generation anti-tank missile – Nag

### **Survey records 143 Odonata species across Western Ghats Environment**



#### **In News**

- A recent study in the **Western Ghats** highlights a significant biodiversity gap in **dragonflies and damselflies**, documenting only about **65% of historically recorded species**, suggesting a possible **35% decline**.

- The **Western Ghats** is a **1,600-km mountain chain** along India's west coast and a globally recognised **biodiversity hotspot**.

### **Odonata**

- Odonata is an insect order that includes **dragonflies (suborder Anisoptera)** and **damselflies (suborder Zygoptera)**.
- They are characterized by **transparent wings, long slender bodies, and a sloping thorax**.
- Usually found near water, odonates are **active daytime predators**, and both adults and aquatic larvae feed on other

### **Western Ghats**

- **Forests** - The region of **Western Ghats** has **moist deciduous forests and rainforests**.
- **Endemism** - The region shows high species diversity as well as high levels of endemism.
- **Nearly 77% of the amphibians and 62% of the reptile species** found here are found nowhere else.

### **Facts on Western Ghats**

- **Location** - Western Ghats of Sahyadri run parallel to the west coast of the Indian peninsula through six states (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala).
- **Also known as** - It is also known as 'The Great Escarpment of India'.
- **Designated as** - It is designated as **UNESCO World Heritage Site** as well as a **Biodiversity Hotspot** due to the presence of a large number of endemic flora and fauna species along with several undiscovered species.
- **Tribes** - It is home to a large number of tribes such as **Adars, Kotas, Badagas, Todas, Kurumbas, and Paniyas** etc.
- **Biodiversity conservation** - The Government of India has established many protected areas including **2 biosphere reserves, 13 National parks** to restrict human access to protect specific endangered species.

## Additional Information - Committees related to Western Ghats

### Sanjay Kumar Committee:

- **Objective** - It is formed to review state objections on Ecologically sensitive zones demarcations and validate proposed exclusions.
- **Significance**- It seeks to finalize the ESA status for villages, restricting activities harmful to biodiversity.

### Madhav Gadgil Committee (2011):

- **Objective** - to propose protection measures for the Western Ghats.
- It recommended designating the entire Western Ghats as ecologically sensitive.
- It proposed the creation of a dedicated ecological authority to regulate development.
- The Report suggested rigorous conservation, but its recommendations were not fully adopted.

### Kasturirangan Committee (2012):

- It is formed as a follow-up to the Gadgil Committee to provide a more moderate approach.
- It recommended demarcating 37% of the Western Ghats as eco sensitive zones.
- It emphasizes a balance between conservation and developmental needs, allowing limited activity in specific areas.

**546 Die Every Day in Traffic Accidents: NCRB**  
**Data**  
**Polity**

### Context

- According to the latest report by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, 1.99 lakh people died in traffic accidents in 2024, an increase of 0.79% compared to 2023.

## Major Findings

- **Traffic accidents include road accidents, railway accidents, incidents on railway tracks or railway premises, and accidents at railway crossings.**
- **Road Accidents:** Out of 1.99 lakh traffic-related deaths recorded in 2024, 1.75 lakh (88%) were due to road accidents.

## Government Initiatives

- **National Road Safety Policy India, 2010:** It emphasized the need for better road infrastructure, stricter enforcement of traffic rules, enhanced emergency medical services, public awareness campaigns, and improved post-crash care.
- **Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019:** The act brought about higher penalties for traffic violations, including speeding, drunk driving, and not wearing helmets or seat belts.

## Additional Information - National Crime Records Bureau

- **Set-up in - 1986**
- **Functions under - Ministry of Home Affairs**
- **Objective** - It acts as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- **Headquarter - New Delhi**

## Projects being implemented by NCRB

- **Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project**
  - **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)**
  - **Reports** - NCRB brings out three annual reports i.e. These reports are principal reference points for police officers, researchers, media & policymakers.
1. **Crime in India**
  2. **Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India**
  3. **Prison Statistics India.**

## Kerala's Oil Spill Contingency Plan Environment



### In News

- **Kerala began preparing an Oil Spill Contingency Plan** following the 2025 shipwrecks incidents off Kerala coast to address marine pollution and coastal environmental risks.

### Oil Spill

- **Definition** - It is the release of petroleum substances into the environment, especially oceans and coastal waters, due to human activities such as **tanker accidents, offshore drilling, or fuel leaks**, causing serious pollution.

### Consequences of oil spills

- **Marine Life:** Oil coats the feathers of birds and fur of mammals, destroying their natural insulation and buoyancy, leading to hypothermia or drowning.
- **Ecosystem Disruption:** Thick oil slicks block sunlight and oxygen, killing phytoplankton and smothering sensitive habitats like mangroves, coral reefs, and salt marshes.

- **Economic Loss:** Spills cause immediate and long-term damage to fisheries, tourism, and coastal livelihoods.
- **Human Health:** Contaminated seafood and toxic vapors pose serious health risks to coastal communities and cleanup workers.

### Methods used to clean up Oil Spills

- **Booms & Skimmers:** Floating barriers (booms) contain the oil, while skimmers (vacuum-like machines) remove it from the surface.
- **Dispersants:** Chemicals that break oil into smaller droplets, allowing them to mix with water and biodegrade faster.
- **Bioremediation:** Utilizing oil-degrading bacteria (e.g., Cycloclasticus or TERI's Oil Zapper) to break down hydrocarbons into less harmful substances.
- **In-situ Burning:** Setting freshly spilled oil on fire to remove up to 98% of it, though this creates air pollution

### Efforts to combat Marine pollution-

- **National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP):** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is the central coordinating authority for reporting and responding to spills.
- **Bunker Oil Convention (2001):** Ensures prompt compensation for damage caused by fuel oil spills from ships.
- **MARPOL 73/78 (Annex I):** An international treaty aimed at preventing marine pollution from ships.
- **Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986:** While **no dedicated oil spill law exists**, incidents are often prosecuted as "**accidental discharge**" under this act.

## JANANI Platform Government Schemes



### In News

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** launched **JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care)** at the recently concluded National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity.

### JANANI Platform

- It is a service-oriented digital platform designed to **comprehensively monitor and maintain digital health records of women during their reproductive age.**
- It is developed as an upgraded version of the existing Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal.
- It is a **digital maternal and child health platform that introduces QR-enabled digital Mother and Child Health (MCH) Cards** for easy and portable access to health records.
- It supports **real-time monitoring through high-risk pregnancy alerts**, supervisory dashboards, and due-list generation for timely interventions.
- It integrates with **national systems such as U-WIN and POSHAN to enable seamless data sharing** and coordinated beneficiary tracking.

## Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) Science and Technology

### Context

- The **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** has issued permission for “**major equipment erection**” at **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) Units 5 and 6.**

### Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

- It is India's premier regulatory body responsible for ensuring the safe use of nuclear energy and ionising radiation.
- **Established on 15 November 1983.**
- It derives its authority from the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**
- **Leadership & Structure**  
**Current Chairman:** Shri A.K. Balasubrahmanian.
- **Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- **Composition:** The board consists of a **full-time Chairman, an ex-officio Member (Executive Director), and four part-time eminent experts**

### Key Functions & Responsibilities

- **Safety Regulation:** Developing safety codes, guides, and standards for nuclear and radiation facilities across their lifecycle (siting to decommissioning).
- **Licensing:** Granting mandatory consents and licenses for Nuclear Power Plants, fuel cycle facilities, and industrial/medical radiation applications.
- **Inspections:** Conducting regulatory inspections to ensure compliance with safety requirements and license conditions.
- **Industrial Safety:** Administering the Factories Act, 1948 for industrial safety in units under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).  
**Public Awareness**

## Vadinar Ship Repair Facility

Syllabus: GS2/ Health



### In News

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the development of a ship repair facility at Vadinar, Gujarat, at a combined investment of ₹1,570 crore.

### Vadinar Ship Repair Facility

- Vadinar is on the western coast of Gujarat, in the Gulf of Kutch.
- It sits close to Kandla (Deendayal Port) and Mundra, two of India's busiest cargo ports and is well-positioned relative to major shipping lanes in the Arabian Sea.

## Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026–31)

Syllabus: GS3/Economy



### In News

- The Union Cabinet has approved Rs.5659.22 crore for the Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026–27 to 2030–31)

### Mission for Cotton Productivity

- It is also referred as **Kapas Kranti**
- **Objective** - it aims to address stagnant yields and improve fibre quality to make India a self-reliant and globally competitive textile hub.
- Focuses on high-density planting (HDPS), developing 24 climate-resilient varieties, promoting Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton, and branding ("Kasturi Cotton Bharat").
- **Modernization:** Includes upgrading 2,000 ginning units and integrating digital tools for better market access

### Connect with the basics - Cotton Cultivation in India

- It is often referred to as "White Gold,"
- It is a vital commercial crop that serves as the backbone of India's textile industry and sustains millions of livelihoods.

### Geographic & Climatic Requirements-

- It is a subtropical Kharif crop requiring 6–8 months to mature, cotton needs a warm, sunny climate (21°C–30°C) with at least 210 frost-free days.
- **Rainfall/Soil:** Requires 50–100 cm of water; best grown on moisture-retaining **Black Cotton Soil (Regur)**, though it thrives in alluvial/red soils with proper drainage to avoid waterlogging.
- **Production:** India is the world's top producer and holds the largest acreage.
- **Major producing states** - Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh
- **Key Challenges:** Pink Bollworm (PBW) resistance

## India's e-waste Management

### Syllabus: GS3/Environment/Waste Management

#### Context

- India generated 6.2 million tonnes of e-waste in FY24, projected to more than double to 14 million tonnes by 2030.

#### Connect with the basics- E-Waste

- E-waste refers to **discarded electrical and electronic devices such as computers, circuit boards, mobile phones, and appliances.**
- It contains hazardous materials like **lead, mercury, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants.**
- Improper disposal leads to **soil contamination, water pollution, and health hazards.**

#### Impact of Improper E-Waste Management

- **Water Pollution:** Toxic discharge from **cyanide and sulphuric acid** affects water bodies.
- **Air Pollution:** Emissions from **lead fumes and plastic burning** are severe.
- **Soil Contamination:** Hazardous substances **leach into the soil, damaging agriculture and biodiversity.**
- **Economic Loss:** India is estimated to forfeit over **₹80,000 crore worth of critical metals each year**, which could have been recovered and re-used in manufacturing.

#### Initiatives for E-Waste Management in India

- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Producers, importers, and brand owners are made responsible for managing their product's end-of-life waste.
- An online EPR E-Waste portal has been developed by **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** where entities such as producers, manufacturers, recyclers, and refurbishers of the e-waste are required to be registered.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has comprehensively revised the **E-Waste (Management) Rules,**

2016 and notified the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022.

- **India's first e-waste clinic was inaugurated in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**
- It's a facility for segregating, processing, and disposing of e-waste from both households and commercial units.
- The **Ministry of Mines** launched a Pan-India **E-Waste Recycling Drive** as part of Special Campaign 5.0 (in 2025), aimed at promoting Swachhata in government offices and ensuring scientific disposal and resource recovery from electronic waste.

#### Basel Convention

- The Basel Convention is a **global treaty aimed at controlling the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes** and their disposal, ensuring that such wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner.
- **It was adopted in 1989 and entered into force in 1992.**
- **India is a party to the Basel Convention.**

## Teesta River

### Syllabus: GS1/Geography



#### In News

- **Bangladesh has renewed its request to move forward on the long-pending Teesta water-sharing agreement.**

### Teesta River

- It is a **tributary of the Brahmaputra**
- It **originates from the Tso Lhamo Lake** in north Sikkim.
- It travels for about **150 km in Sikkim and 123 km in West Bengal**, before entering **Bangladesh**.
- It flows another **140 km in Bangladesh** and **joins the Bay of Bengal**.

### Agreement

- India and Bangladesh had reached an in-principle agreement in 2011 to **share the Teesta river waters**, but it was never **finalized due to coordination issues between the Centre and the West Bengal government**.
- Bangladesh has now expressed hope that the 2011 agreement can be reconsidered in the present political context.

### **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0**

#### **Syllabus: GS3/Economy**

### In News

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0**.

### **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0)**

- It will provide additional **financial support to businesses facing liquidity pressures due to the ongoing West Asia situation**.
- The scheme aims to facilitate an additional credit flow of ₹2,55,000 crore **to help MSMEs and the airline sector tide over financial instabilities**.

### **UDGAM Portal**

#### **Syllabus: GS3/ Economy**

### Context

- The Reserve Bank of India informed the Supreme Court of India that **30 banks have been integrated into the UDGAM portal**.

### **UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) portal**

- **Developed by - Reserve Bank of India**
- **Objective - to provide a centralised search facility for unclaimed bank deposits**.
- It enables citizens to **identify unclaimed balances across multiple participating banks** through a single platform.
- The portal does not settle claims; instead, it facilitates the process by directing users to the respective banks where the deposits are held.

### **Unclaimed Financial Assets**

- Unclaimed financial assets arise **when money held with financial institutions is not claimed by the account holder or their legal heirs** for a prolonged period.
- If a bank deposit remains **unclaimed for 10 years or more**, it is transferred to the **Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEA Fund)**.
- Even after transfer to the DEA Fund, the **ownership of the money remains with the depositor**. There is no time limit for the depositor or their legal heirs to claim the funds.

### **FRP for Sugarcane for 2026–27 Season**

#### **Syllabus: GS3 /Economy**

### In News

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for 2026–27** at ₹365 per quintal for a 10.25% recovery rate.

### **Sugar Production in India**

- **India became the world's top sugar producer in 2021-2022**, surpassing Brazil.

- **Location of Sugar Industry in India:** Sugar industry is broadly distributed over two major areas of production:
  1. **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab in the north and**
  2. **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in the south.**

### Sugarcane - Uses

- It belongs to the bamboo family of plants and is indigenous to India.
- About two-third of the total sugarcane produced in India is consumed for making gur and khandsari and only one-third of it goes to sugar factories.
- It also provides raw material for manufacturing alcohol.
- **Bagasse**, the crushed cane residue, can be more beneficially used for manufacturing paper.
- **Ethanol production** - It is also an efficient substitute for petroleum products and a host of other chemical products.
- **India has become the 3rd largest country in the world in ethanol production after the USA and Brazil.**

### Conditions for growth

- **Crop duration: 10-15 months, and even 18 months to mature**, depending upon geographical conditions.
- **Soil:** Sugarcane can tolerate any kind of soil that can retain moisture. Examples - loams, clayey, black cotton soil, brown or reddish loam and laterites.
- It should be rich in **nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus.**
- **Climate:** Hot and Humid (**21-27 °C of temperature and 75-150 cm of rainfall**).

### Government steps

#### Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane

- **Recommended by** - Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)

- **Objective - to assure margins on account of profit and risk to farmers, irrespective of the fact whether sugar mills generate profit or not.**

## Jamaica

### Syllabus: GS1/Places in News



### Context

- **India and Jamaica signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in health cooperation, solarisation, and broadcasting** during the External Affairs Minister official visit.

### Jamaica

- Jamaica is a **mountainous island in the Caribbean Sea, situated south of Cuba.**
- It is part of the chain of Caribbean islands called the Greater Antilles, along with Cuba, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico.
- It is the **third largest island in the Caribbean Sea, after Cuba and Hispaniola.**
- Jamaica became independent from the United Kingdom in 1962 but remains a member of the Commonwealth.
- Jamaica was formed when the North American and Caribbean tectonic plates collided about 25 million years ago.
- **Major Mountain Ranges: Blue Mountains, John Crow Mountains, Don Figuero Mountains, Cockpit Country.**

- **Major Rivers: Black River, Rio Cobre, Rio Grande.**

**Pulitzer Prize 2026**  
**Syllabus: Miscellaneous**



powerful images capturing the human toll of COVID-19 in India.

**Context**

- **Two Indian journalists named Anand RK and Suparna Sharma along with Natalie Obiko Pearson won the Pulitzer Prize 2026.**

**Pulitzer Prize**

- The Pulitzer Prize was established in 1917, named in honour of newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, and is administered by America's Columbia University.
- There are 23 categories. In 22 of them, winners get a certificate and 15,000 US dollars. But only one category, Public Service, gets a gold medal.
- **It recognises excellence across journalism, literature and music composition.**

**Previous Indian Winners**

- **Gobind Behari Lal: First from India to win the Pulitzer Prize for journalism in 1937.** He was a member of the Ghadar Party in America.
- **Siddhartha Mukherjee:** Won the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction for his demystification of cancer in *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*.
- **Danish Siddiqui:** Photojournalist and a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, awarded in 2018 for Rohingya crisis coverage and in 2020 for his



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