



**VINAY KUMAR G B**  
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,  
INSIGHTS IAS

# ANANYA SAADHANA

COMPREHENSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

**JUNE 2026**

IAS

KAS

GROUP C

FDA

SDA

PSI

PG

**TRENDING**



**RCB**  
won their second consecutive  
Indian Premier League (IPL) title



**D. K. Shivakumar** is the new Chief Minister of Karnataka

**IN FOCUS**



**Elevate NEXT:**

Karnataka Government's  
₹150 Crore State-of-the-Art  
Deep-Tech Initiative



**PM SHRI**

Upgrading and Developing  
More Than 14,500 Schools  
Across the Country Under the  
Union Ministry of Education



**PM Modi Visits Sweden**

PM Modi was conferred the  
'Royal Order of the Polar Star'  
and the 'Commander Grand  
Cross' honour



**One Case One Data & SU-SAHAY Initiative**

A digital initiative of the Supreme  
Court to seamlessly interconnect  
all levels of the judiciary

**TOP HIGHLIGHTS**



**Ecocide**

Vietnam became the first  
country in the world to  
recognize ecocide as a  
crime



**Pulitzer Prize, 2026**

Indian journalists Anand RK  
and Suparna Sharma won the  
2026 Pulitzer Prize



**Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**

Lt. Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani  
is the newly appointed Chief  
of Defence Staff (CDS) of  
India



**Mission Drishti**

world's first multi-sensor  
Earth observation satellite  
launched by GalaxEye, an  
Indian space-tech startup

# EDITOR'S PAGE



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

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

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

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



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To the future administrators of Karnataka,

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

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

Let's shape a prosperous Karnataka, together.

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

# SOURCES



## ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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

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

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

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

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

## THE TEAM

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

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**KEY ANSWERS**

- NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
- MISCELLANEOUS
- KARNATAKA DARSHANA

TOP CURRENT AFFAIRS

# UPI COMPLETES 10 GLORIOUS YEARS



CONTEXT



- The Unified Payments Interface has completed 10 years since its launch in April 2016.

## UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE (UPI)

Launched by	Objective	International expansion
<p>UPI was designed and launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016.</p>	<p>multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application</p> <p>seamless fund routing</p> <p>merging several banking</p> <p>merchant payments into one hood.</p>	<p>Singapore (PayNow), UAE, France, Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and others.</p>

## NPCI National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

<p>Established in - It serves as an umbrella body for the operation of retail payments in India.</p>	<p>Established by:</p> <p>Reserve Bank of India</p> <p>Indian Bank's Association.</p> <p>They have jointly established it.</p>	<p>Established under</p> <p>It was set up under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.</p>
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## Products of NPCI

<p>RuPay</p>	<p>National Common Mobility Card</p>	<p>Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)</p>	<p>Unified Payments Interface (UPI)</p>	<p>Bharat Bill Payment System</p>
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# INDIA'S E-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.



## WHAT IS 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.**



## IMPACT OF IMPROPER E-WASTE MANAGEMENT



- 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



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.**



# FRP FOR SUGARCANE FOR 2026-27 SEASON

## IN NEWS

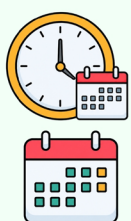


The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for 2026-27 at ₹365 per quintal for a 10.25% recovery rate.



### SUGAR PRODUCTION IN INDIA

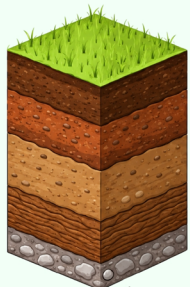
#### growth Conditions



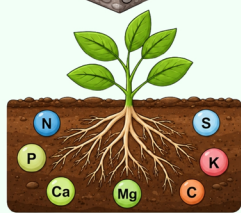
- **Crop duration: 10-15 months, and even 18 months** to mature, depending upon geographical conditions.



#### 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).**




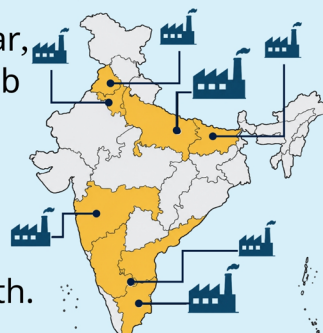
### GOVERNMENT STEPS

- 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.**



### 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:
  - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab in the north and
  - Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in the south.



- India has become the 3rd largest country in the world in ethanol production after the USA and Brazil.



# CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF



## CONTEXT

- The Government of India has appointed Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- He will also function as the Secretary, Department of Military Affairs (DMA).



## CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF (CDS)



- The post of CDS was created in 2019 following recommendations of the **Kargil Review Committee** and subsequent defence reforms.
- The first CDS of India was **General Bipin Rawat**.

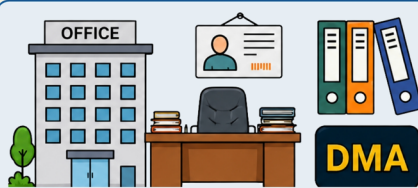


## ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CDS:



### Principal Adviser:

Acts as the primary military adviser to the Defence Minister on all tri-services matters.



**Department of Military Affairs:** Functions as the Secretary to the Government of India for the Department of Military Affairs.



**Military Reform:** Focuses on enhancing synergy, jointness in operations, and modernization of the armed forces.



- **Theater Commands:** Drives the restructuring of military commands into integrated theater commands.



- **Strategic and Nuclear Role:** Serves as an important **military adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority**.

# 11 YEARS OF JAN SURAKSHA SCHEMES



## 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**.



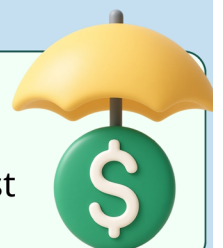
- In case of the death of the account holder, the benefits of the scheme can be availed by his/her nominee.

- This scheme can be availed by any individual aged between **18 years to 70 years**.



## 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**

### Eligibility

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



**Administered By**  
PFRDA through NPS.



### Objective

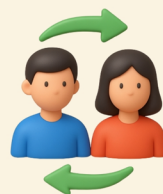
- To create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector.



## 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.



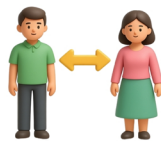
- In the event of death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee.

## PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA



**Launched in**  
**9th May**  
**2015**

### Eligibility



This scheme can be availed by people aged between **18 years to 50 years**.

### Objective

To provide life insurance security to the poor and low-income section of the society.



**Implementation**  
**Ministry of Finance**



### 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

## 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**



## 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.



# BAIGA TRIBE



## CONTEXT

- Children belonging to the Baiga tribe rescued from bonded labour in Chhattisgarh.

## BAIGA TRIBE



- Found in** - The Baiga are an ethnic group found in central India primarily in the state of Madhya Pradesh, and in smaller numbers in the surrounding states of Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.



The name Baiga means “sorcerer-medicine man”.

- The Baigas in Chhattisgarh are classified as Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) by the Government due to their declining population and low level of literacy.



- They traditionally practiced shifting cultivation, locally called “Bewar” cultivation.



## PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS (PVTGS)

- PVTGs are the most marginalized and extreme backward sections among Scheduled Tribes (STs).

### THE CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBAL GROUPS ARE:

- Pre-agricultural level of technology,
- Low level of literacy,
- Economic backwardness,
- A declining or stagnant population.



### HISTORY OF PVTGS:

1

- In 1975, acting on the Dhebar Commission report, the government identified Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category and listed 52 tribal groups as PTGs.



2

- As per 2001 census, there are 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) with a total population of 27,68,322, living in 18 States and Union Territory.



3

- In 2006, PTGs were renamed as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).



### RECENT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- The PM-PVTG Development Mission program - The programme envisions connecting all 22,544 PVTG villages to basic government services like



communications, electricity, public education, healthcare, water supply, and connectivity.



- Pradhan Mantri-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan** - It will focus on 11 critical interventions like Provision of pucca houses, Connecting roads, Piped Water Supply, Community water supply, Mobile Medical Units with medicine cost, etc.



# KARNATAKA SCHEDULED CASTES (SUB-CLASSIFICATION) BILL, 2025

## CONTEXT



- The Karnataka Cabinet approved a revised internal reservation formula within the existing 15% quota for Scheduled Castes (SCs).
- The decision divides the 15% allocation proportionately to ensure equitable distribution of education and employment opportunities across SC sub-groups.



## THE REVISED QUOTA MATRIX IS DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

- "left-hand" groups (Madigas and allied castes)



5.25%



- "right-hand" groups (Holeyas and allied castes)



5.25%



- other SCs, including nomadic communities (Bhovi, Lambani, Koracha, Korama)



4.50%



## KARNATAKA SCHEDULED CASTES (SUB-CLASSIFICATION) BILL, 2025



- It is a landmark piece of legislation enacted to divide the 101 Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Karnataka into smaller sub-groups.



- The bill fulfills a decades-long demand to prevent relatively advanced communities from cornering reservation benefits and ensures that more oppressed, nomadic, and backward sub-castes receive an equitable share of education and state public employment.



## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT



**Legal Backing:** The legislation follows a historic August 1, 2024, Supreme Court ruling that granted states the constitutional authority to sub-classify Scheduled Castes.



- **Commission Basis:** The sub-classification framework relies primarily on empirical demographic data compiled by Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission.



### Legislative Timeline:



**2025 DECEMBER 11**

- The State Cabinet cleared the bill



**2025 DECEMBER 18**

- the Karnataka Legislative Assembly

**2026 FEBRUARY 28**

Following clarifications requested by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, the bill received Governor's official



# KARNATAKA DARSHANA

## 1. Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025

### Context-

- The Karnataka Cabinet approved a revised internal reservation formula within the existing 15% quota for Scheduled Castes (SCs).
- The decision divides the 15% allocation proportionately to ensure equitable distribution of education and employment opportunities across SC sub-groups.

### The revised quota matrix is distributed as follows:

- 5.25% for “left-hand” groups (Madigas and allied castes)
- 5.25% for “right-hand” groups (Holeyas and allied castes)
- 4.50% for other SCs, including nomadic communities (Bhovi, Lambani, Koracha, Korama)

### Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025

- It is a landmark piece of legislation enacted to divide the 101 Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Karnataka into smaller sub-groups.
- The bill fulfills a decades-long demand to prevent relatively advanced communities from cornering reservation benefits and ensures that more oppressed, nomadic, and backward sub-castes receive an equitable share of education and state public employment.

### Background and Context

- **Legal Backing:** The legislation follows a historic August 1, 2024, Supreme Court ruling that granted states the constitutional authority to sub-classify Scheduled Castes.
- **Commission Basis:** The sub-classification framework relies primarily on empirical demographic data compiled by Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission.
- **Legislative Timeline:** The State Cabinet cleared the bill on December 11, 2025, and the Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed it on December 18, 2025. Following clarifications requested by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, the bill received Governor’s official assent on February 28, 2026.

## 2. Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)

### News -

- The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will now directly install Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) systems for non-compliant properties and recover the installation costs through monthly water bill installments.



### Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)

- **Status:** It is a statutory body established under the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board Act, 1964.
- **Jurisdiction:** Serves the entire Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) area covering 800 sq. km.
- **Mandate:** Responsible for providing drinking water supply, managing the sewerage network, and safe disposal of sewage across Bengaluru.
- **Funding Model:** Operates on a “no loss, no profit basis” by levying and collecting water charges to maintain system sustainability.
- It provides several mobile applications for Bengaluru residents to streamline water management, pay bills, and log complaints.
  1. **BWSSB CMS and Payment App:** The primary consumer app for logging/tracking **complaints and paying water bills** using your RR number.
  2. **Jala Doota:** Allows users to **report water and sewerage complaints** by submitting **geo-tagged photos directly** to the board.
  3. **Antharjala & Jalamithra:** Additional consumer apps designed to apply for **borewell No Objection Certificates (NOCs)** and **monitor leakages or drainage issues**.

## 3. Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru

### Context

- “Bengaluru’s Soul”, a monumental 16-foot public



art sculpture by world-renowned Spanish artist **Jaume Plensa**, has been officially unveiled at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru.

### Kempegowda International Airport

- It is an **international airport serving Bangalore**, the capital of Karnataka
- It is owned and operated by **Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL)**, a public-private consortium
- It is **named after Kempe Gowda I**, the founder of Bangalore.
- Kempegowda International Airport became **Karnataka's first fully solar powered airport, developed by CleanMax Solar**
- KIA's **Terminal 2** also secured **second position as the World's Best New Airport Terminal** for terminals opened in 2023
- Since opening in 2023, **Terminal 2 has also received a UNESCO Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airport award** along with a Special Prize for its interiors, LEED platinum certification, and more

### 4. State Finance Commission (SFC)

#### News -

- The State Finance Commission (SFC) in Karnataka has recommended a high-level inquiry into electricity billing and payments for gram panchayat installation

#### The State Finance Commission (SFC)

- It is a **constitutional body** created under the **73rd and 74th Amendments** to ensure the financial health of local governments.

#### Constitutional Basis

- **Article 243-I:** Governor appoints an **SFC every 5 years for Panchayats**.
- **Article 243-Y:** Applies the **same rule to Municipalities**.

#### Core Functions (Recommendations to Governor)

- **Tax Sharing:** Dividing state tax revenues between the **state and local bodies**.
- **Tax Allocation:** Deciding which **taxes, tolls, and fees local bodies can collect**.
- **Grants-in-Aid:** Allocating funds to **local bodies from the Consolidated Fund of the State**.

### 5. 'Aditya' High-Speed Rail Complex

#### News -

- Union Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated the **'Aditya' High-Speed Rail Complex** at the **BEML Thippasandra campus** in Bengaluru.



#### 'Aditya' High-Speed Rail Complex

- It is a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Bengaluru established by BEML
- Mandate - to build India's first indigenous bullet train,

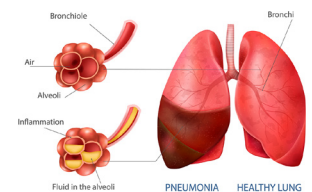
#### Key Project Details

- **Location:** **BEML Thippasandra Campus, Bengaluru.**
- **Flagship Project:** The B-28 high-speed trainset, designed in collaboration with the Integral Coach Factory (ICF).
- **Capabilities:** Features advanced robotic laser welding and universal hydraulic jigs.
- **Production targets an operational speed of 250km/hr.**

### 6. Pneumonia

#### News -

- Pneumonia remains the single largest identified cause of infant mortality in Karnataka



#### Pneumonia

- It is an **acute respiratory infection causing inflammation in lung air sacs (alveoli)**.
- **Mechanism:** Alveoli fill with **fluid/pus, restricting oxygen intake**.
- **Transmission:** **Airborne droplets, surface contact, or blood during childbirth**.
- **Vulnerable groups:** **Children under 5 and adults over 65**.

#### Causative Agents

1. **Bacteria:** *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (most common), *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib).
2. **Viruses:** RSV, Influenza, Coronaviruses.
3. **Fungi:** *Pneumocystis jirovecii* (targets HIV/immunocompromised patients).
4. **Atypical:** *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* (causes mild "walking pneumonia").

#### India's Schemes & Initiatives

- **PCV Vaccine:** Rolled out under the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**. Protects against **pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis**.
- **SAANS Campaign: Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully.** Drives early identification in under-5 children.
- **Integrated Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhea** - Integrated strategy targeting India's two highest under-5 child killers: pneumonia and diarrhea.

### Global Frameworks

- **Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD)** : WHO/UNICEF plan aiming for fewer than 3 child pneumonia deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **World Pneumonia Day: Observed every year on November 12.**

## 7. Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

### News -

- The Union Government's **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) allocates ₹1 lakh crore in Central Assistance to promote market-led, reform-driven urban transformation across India.**
- Out of this nationwide fund, **Karnataka expects a baseline allocation of approximately ₹5,000 crore to ₹5,500 crore**

### Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)


- **Objective** - It is a flagship scheme designed to transform **India's urban landscape by shifting from traditional grants to market-linked, reform-driven infrastructure financing.**
- **Financing** - Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- **Timeline:** FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31

### Three Strategic Verticals

- **Cities as Growth Hubs:** High-impact transit-oriented development (TOD), economic corridors, and greenfield townships.
- **Creative Redevelopment:** Retrofitting congested city cores, heritage sites, and regenerating brownfield areas.
- **Water and Sanitation:** Modernizing solid waste management, legacy waste remediation, and clean water supply grids.

## 8. Pan-IIT Bangalore Summit 2026

### News -

- The Pan-IIT Bangalore  **Bengaluru Summit 2026**

Summit 2026 took place on May 16, 2026, at the Taj Yeshwantpur in Bengaluru,

### About

- **Organised by** - Government of Karnataka and the **Pan-IIT Alumni India Association.**
- **Theme: Centered strictly on "Technology Sovereignty"**
- **Mandate** - to foster national self-reliance and **deep-tech innovation.**
- **Core Focus Tracks:** Featured specialized independent sessions on **AI, deep-tech, semiconductors, defense, energy, mobility, and healthcare.**
- **Massive Hackathon:** Included a competition with over 12,000 participants focused on solving real-world digital governance challenges provided directly by the state government.

## 9. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

### News -

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has urged the Union Government to release pending due of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

### Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- **Launched in** - 2019
- **Objective** - to provide Functional Household Tap Connections
- **Significance** - to ensure 55 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water to all rural households by 2024.
- **However, due to implementation challenges, the deadline has now been extended to 2028.**
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Financing** - Central sponsored scheme

## 10. Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015

### News -

- The Kannada Development Authority (KDA) submitted a landmark report titled **"Why do children fail in Kannada?" to the state government.**
- **It recommends making Kannada learning compulsory across all school boards (including CBSE and ICSE)**

### Key Recommendations & Policy Measures

- **Mandatory Across All Boards:** Kannada must be taught as a compulsory **first or second language in all schools in the state**, regardless of the curriculum.
- **25% Government Job Quota:** At least **25% of**

state government jobs will be reserved for children who have studied in Kannada medium up to at least Class 10.

- **Bilingual Policy:** The committee has advised replacing the three-language formula with a bilingual policy to reduce the academic load on students. Early
- **Childhood Learning:** The report demands that Kannada be made mandatory at all levels, starting from Anganwadi and pre-primary, with heavily language-focused textbooks instead of content-based ones
- **Legal Backing:** These suggestions align with the broader implementation of the Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015, which has been in effect since 2017.

### Additional Information - The Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015

- **Mandate** - It is a Karnataka state law mandating that Kannada be taught as a compulsory subject (either as the first or second language) in all schools from Standards I to X.
- The act applies to all schools across the state, including CBSE, ICSE, and state board institutions.

## 11. Data Parks to be setup in Karnataka

### News -

- The Karnataka government will establish three sustainable data parks to decentralize tech infrastructure outside Bengaluru.

### About

- **Bengaluru:** A 500MW park will be developed near Hoskote. It will be powered directly by solar energy from the Pavagada Solar Park and utilize 60 MLD of secondary-treated water supplied by the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).
- **Mangaluru:** Around 350 acres of Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) land have been identified in the Baikampady Industrial Area.
- **Mysuru:** Earmarked as the state's second major IT hub, suitable land parcels are currently being evaluated and finalized for the third part.

## 12. Greater Bengaluru Integrated Satellite Township (GBIST)

### News -

- The Karnataka Cabinet has officially approved the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Satellite Township

(GBIST) in Bidadi, Ramnagara district.

- Greater Bengaluru Integrated Satellite Township (GBIST)
- It is also known as the Greater Bengaluru Innovation and Tech City (GBIT).
- It is an upcoming Rs 18,133-crore futuristic “work-live-play” metropolis.
- Located in the Bidadi region about 30 km from central Bengaluru,
- Area - the project spans approximately 7,481 acres across nine villages.
- Significance - to serve as Bengaluru’s second Central Business District (CBD) to alleviate urban congestion.

### Key details of the project include:

- **India’s First AI City:** Dedicated space—roughly 2,000 acres—is earmarked to house AI-driven industries, tech hubs, and next-generation innovation centers.
- **Design & Concept:** Built on the “work-live-play” model, the smart-green city will feature residential zones, world-class medical and educational hubs, commercial spaces, and interconnected blue-green infrastructure (restored lakes and parks).
- **Connectivity:** The township features a “zero-traffic” layout integrated with high-speed transit. It will be directly connected to major highways like the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, NICE Road, and the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), with planned extensions for metro and suburban rail.
- **Compensation:** Land acquisition spans villages including Byaramangala, Bannigiri, Hosuru, and Vaderahalli.
- Landowners are provided a choice between direct cash compensation or 9,693 sq. ft. of developed residential plot per acre acquired.



## 13. Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System for gig workers

### News -

- Karnataka government became the first state in India to launch and



operationalize a dedicated digital grievance redressal system for platform-based gig workers.

#### Basic term -

- A gig worker is an individual who performs **short-term, project-based, or on-demand tasks** as an **independent contractor** rather than a traditional full-time employee.

#### Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System for gig workers

- **Launched by** - Government of Karnataka.
- **Target Audience** - 12 lakh platform-based gig workers.
- **Eligible Issues** - Account deactivation, payment withholding, and penalties.
- **Company Timeline: Platforms must rule on disputes within 45 days.**

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

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

#### Key Features

- **Welfare Board & Fund:** Establishes a **tripartite Gig Workers Welfare Board** headquartered in Bengaluru to oversee registrations and schemes.
- It also creates a **dedicated Welfare Fund** financed by a “welfare fee” of 1% to 5% of the payout per transaction, levied on aggregator platforms.
- **Registration:** All gig workers must be registered and assigned a **Unique ID** applicable across all platforms to access benefits.
- **Algorithmic Transparency:** Platforms are required to **disclose details about their automated monitoring and decision-making systems (algorithms)** in simple language to ensure fairness in task allocation and earnings.
- **Grievance Redressal:** A **two-tier mechanism is mandated:** first through an **Internal Dispute Resolution Committee (IDRC)** at the platform level, followed by an appeal to the **Welfare Board.**
- **Termination Protections:** Platforms **cannot deactivate or terminate a worker without providing a valid written reason and a 14-day prior notice** (except in cases of bodily harm).

## 14.Statewide respiratory health surveillance program for traffic police

#### News -

- The Karnataka Home Department launched a **first-of-its-kind Statewide respiratory health surveillance program** for traffic police and frontline personnel.
- This expansion follows a **rigorous two-year screening project in Bengaluru involving 3,287 traffic police**, which identified significant risk factors associated with constant urban air pollution exposure.
- **Implementation Agency:** The government has **officially partnered with the Vaayu Respiratory Foundation** as the primary technical agency to drive the programme.



## 15. India's first state-led space technology incubator.

#### News -

- Karnataka launched the **CoE SpaceTech Foundation** in Bengaluru to serve as **India's first state-led Centre of Excellence for Space Technology.**



#### About

- **Location** - Aerospace Park, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- **Launched by** - Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) and Satcom Industry Association (SIA-India).
- **Goal:** **Commercialize deep-tech space innovations into scalable businesses.**
- **Focus:** Incubates startups, trains talent, and builds cross-sector solutions for agriculture, climate, and defense.

## 16. ELEVATE NxT

#### News -

- Karnataka's **₹150-crore deep-tech initiative, is drawing massive national interest.**
- Out of 983 total applications, 213 originated from outside Karnataka, reflecting a nearly 23% out-of-state participation rate.

**ELEVATE**

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

**Key Funding & Support Tracks**

- **ELEVATE (General):** Offers a one-time grant of up to ₹50 Lakhs to **help startups develop prototypes, conduct market trials, and scale their business.**
- **ELEVATE Unnati:** **Specifically targets startups led by SC/ST entrepreneurs, providing up to ₹50 Lakhs in seed funding to foster social inclusion.**
- **ELEVATE NxT (Deeptech):** A flagship program under the LEAP framework **focused on scaling high-potential Deeptech and AI startups.**
- **ELEVATE Women:** **Dedicated to accelerating women-led startups**
- **ELEVATE Minorities:** A specialized track to **support and fund entrepreneurs from minority communities.**

**17. Namma Smaraka' initiative**

**Adopted monuments**

■ Nalknad Palace, Kakkabe	■ Gagan Mahal, Vijayapura
■ Venkatappa Art Gallery, Bengaluru	■ Aravattu Kambada Gudi, Nagavi
■ Shri Yoganandeeswara Swami Temple, Nandi Hills	■ Nandi Bhavi Temple complex, Chittapur taluk
■ Kalyani, Nandi Hill Station	■ Mallikarjuna Temple complex, Chittapur taluk
■ Rangasthala, Chickballapur	■ Mullayyanagiri, Chittapur taluk
■ Sri Venkataramana Temple, Alambagiri	■ Basavakalyana Fort, Bidar
■ Sri Bheemeshwara/ Nakuleshwar Temple, Kaiwara	■ Yadgir Fort
■ Fort Wall and Entrance Gate at Nandi Hills	■ Manyakheta/Malkhed Fort, Sedam taluk
■ Taj Bawdi, Vijayapura	■ Sri Ramadevaru Seetha Devi Temple, Kudlur, Channapatna

*The list includes only adopted monuments and not those awaiting approval.*

**News -**

- **Karnataka's 'Namma Smaraka' initiative has struggled to attract private interest** due to the high annual maintenance costs (approx. ₹5 lakh/

year) and the lack of visibility or footfall at many sites

**Namma Smaraka**

- **Mandate-** It is a Karnataka government platform launched in 2023 for adopting state-protected heritage monuments.

**Key Points**

- **Goal:** Protects and develops local historical sites.
- **Partners:** Corporates, NGOs, and individuals can adopt.
- **Funding:** Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds pay for upgrades.
- **Upgrades:** Adds visitor centers, restrooms, drinking water, and signage.
- **Impact:** Boosts tourism and creates local jobs.

**18. Karnataka state schemes for curbing women related crimes**



**News -**

- Bengaluru recorded the second-highest crime rate against women among major metropolitan cities in India

**The most prominent crime categories include:**

- **Cruelty by husbands or relatives:** The single largest category, accounting for nearly **897 cases.**
- **Assault on women with intent to outrage modesty: 180 reported cases.**
- **Rape: 168 reported cases.**
- **Kidnapping and abduction: 109 cases**

**karnataka state schemes for curbing women crimes**

1. Akka Pade: Deploys women Home Guards to stop public harassment.
2. Akka Helpline: WhatsApp (8277951185) handles cybercrime and legal counseling.
3. Santhwana Scheme: 24/7 taluk-level centers for domestic abuse victims.
4. Gelathi Units: Hospital-based centers providing

medical and legal aid.

5. Stairya Nidhi Yojane: Financial relief and rehabilitation for crime victims.
6. Helpline 181: 24/7 toll-free emergency and police response line.

## 19. Bengaluru ranks as the 2nd most congested city globally

### News -

- The **global average traffic congestion index has risen from 20% to 25%**, marking a 5 percentage point increase worldwide, according to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and data from the TomTom Traffic Index.
- **Global Ranking: Bengaluru ranks as the 2nd most congested city globally, trailing only Mexico City.**
- Bengaluru is tackling traffic through targeted infrastructure, expanded transit, and policy shifts.

### Infrastructure Overhaul

- **Elevated Corridors:** Building 11 new flyovers across major municipal zones.
- **Underground Tunnels:** Planned 170-km network to connect core hubs.
- **Peripheral Ring Road:** 117-km bypass corridor to divert heavy vehicles.

### Public Transit Expansion

- **Metro Expansion:** Scaling Namma Metro lines to key tech hubs.
- **Suburban Rail:** Connecting distant towns to reduce daily city entry. Bus
- **Decentralisation:** Shifting outstation bus terminals to the city outskirts.

### Policy & Local Fixes

- **Corporate Shifts:** Incentivising tech firms to move to Tier-2 cities.
- **Junction Fixes:** Redesigning bottlenecks and synchronising traffic signals.
- **Parking Enforcement:** Reviving strict towing and fine systems for blockages.

## 20. Six-member Cabinet sub-committee to review the State Education Policy (SEP)

### News -

- The Karnataka government formed a **six-member Cabinet sub-committee to review the State Education Policy (SEP) report and plan its rollout.**



### Key Details

- **Chairman: Home Minister G. Parameshwara.**
- **The Task:** Review the **8-volume SEP report submitted by Prof. Sukhdeo Thorat.**
- **Main Focus:** Assess the ₹10,000+ crore annual budget requirement and university reforms.

### Karnataka State Education Policy (SEP) Commission,

- It is led by former UGC Chairman **Prof. Sukhdeo Thorat,**
- It serves as the **state's alternative to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020,**

### Key Recommendations of the SEP Report

- **New School Structure (2+8+4 Model) -** The commission **rejected the federal NEP's 5+3+3+4 design.**
- Instead, it recommended a 2+8+4 structure to simplify school scaling
  1. **2 Years: Pre-primary education.**
  2. **8 Years: Elementary education,** standardising the Class 1 admission age to 6 years.
  3. **4 Years: Secondary education.**
- **RTE Extension:** Recommends extending the Right to Education (RTE) Act to cover children from ages 4 to 18 (pre-primary through secondary).

### Two-Language Policy

- The report discards the conventional three-language formula in favour of a strict two-language framework
- **Medium of Instruction:** Mandates Kannada or the student's **mother tongue as the medium of instruction up to Class 5,** and highly encourages it up to Class 12 (II PUC).
- **Bilingual Framework:** The curriculum will balance the local language/mother tongue alongside English.

## 21. Wisdom Valley

### News -

- The Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission (KSPPC) has formally proposed the creation of 'Wisdom Valley', a world-class hub spanning Bengaluru Airport City.
- Estimated project cost of ₹10,000 crore.



### About

- **Objective -** this mega-hub aims to transform North Bengaluru into a global center for education, research, and high-tech innovation, mod-

eled after prominent global tech hubs like Silicon Valley.

### Wisdom Valley

- It is a proposed **₹15,500 crore global Knowledge City**.
- **Where:** Near Devanahalli, within the Bengaluru Airport City ecosystem.
- **Why:** To create a global hub for education, R&D, and deep-tech innovation.
- **Core Focus Sectors:** Focuses on **AI, aerospace, biotech, and green energy**.
- **Education:** Houses **international university campuses and research centers**.
- **Business:** Features **startup incubators, business parks, and a convention center**.
- **Impact & Benefits Decongestion:** Shifts economic growth northward to relieve central Bengaluru.
- **Logistics:** Leverages direct proximity to Kempegowda International Airport.
- **Execution:** Led by the state planning commission in partnership with BIAL.

## 22. Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988

### News -

- According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Karnataka recorded the third-highest number of registered corruption cases (334) nationally.

### The Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988

- It is a federal law enforced in Karnataka **primarily by the Karnataka Lokayukta**.

### Core Offences & Penalties

- 1. Taking Bribes (Section 7):** Public servants face 3 to 7 years in prison plus a fine.
- 2. Giving Bribes (Section 8):** Bribe-givers or companies face up to 7 years in prison.
- 3. Criminal Misconduct (Section 13):** Misappropriation of property or illicit enrichment carries 4 to 10 years in prison.

### Strict Legal Conditions

- **Demand & Acceptance:** The Karnataka High Court rules that prosecutors must prove both a demand was made and a bribe was accepted; missing either invalidates the case.
- **Prior Sanction (Section 17A):** Police cannot

**investigate a public servant's official decisions without prior approval from the government.**

### Key Enforcement Authority

- **Karnataka Lokayukta:** The state's independent anti-corruption ombudsman handling traps, raids, and prosecutions.

## 23. BMTC launches a centralised Commercial Asset Management Platform

### News -

- The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is launching a centralised **Commercial Asset Management Platform (CAMP) to streamline and monitor its non-fare revenue stream**.

### About-

- The digital system and mobile application will centrally **track real-time income from rentals, advertising, stalls, and open spaces** across its 52 depots to eliminate revenue gaps.

### Key Features of CAMP

- **Unified Tracking:** Integrates data from the central office down to individual depots.
- **Asset Monetisation:** Centralizes lease and rental details for commercial stalls, ATM counters, and telecom towers.
- **Gap Analysis:** Identifies collection deficiencies and tracks demand status organisation-wide.

### Boosting Non-Fare Revenue

- Beyond land and stall rentals, BMTC is significantly expanding its advertising footprint to bolster non-traffic revenue, which surpassed ₹811 crore.

### New monetisation efforts include:

- **Ticket Advertisements:** Rights granted to display artwork on the reverse side of passenger Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM) rolls.
- **Digital Integration:** The platform will be maintained by a selected IT service provider, complete with mobile and hosting services.

## 24. HPV vaccination campaign

### News -


- **Karnataka's Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for adolescent girls has crossed a major milestone by securing 2,00,028 beneficiaries, accounting for 29% of its total target population of 6.89 lakh girls aged 14 to 15 years.**

### Key findings -

- **Kalaburagi (Leader):** Emerged as the best-

## HPV vaccination coverage in Karnataka

(% of target achieved)

Highest coverage areas		Lowest coverage areas	
Kalaburagi: <b>68.5%</b>		GBA: <b>10.4%</b>	
Yadgir: <b>60.7%</b>		Bagalkot: <b>17.5%</b>	
Shivamogga: <b>50.9%</b>		Dakshina Kannada: <b>20.9%</b>	
Hassan: <b>45.7%</b>		Belagavi: <b>21.7%</b>	
Ballari: <b>41.5%</b>		Tumakuru: <b>22.0%</b>	
<b>Target population:</b> 6.89 lakh girls aged 14 and 15 years	<b>Total coverage till May 11:</b> 2,00,028 beneficiaries (29%)	<b>Vaccine stock allocated to Karnataka:</b> 5,08,025 single-dose vaccine vials	

performing district, vaccinating 20,511 girls to reach 68.5% of its target while utilizing 94.2% of its vaccine stock.

- **Yadgir:** Ranked second by achieving 60.7% of its target population.
- **Shivamogga:** Stood third with a 50.9% coverage rate.
- **Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) (Trail):** Recorded the lowest progress in the state.

### Key Details of the Vaccination Drive

- **Target Group:** The campaign primarily targets girls who have completed 14 years of age but are below 15 years.
- **Scale of the Initiative:** Approximately 6 lakh girls in Karnataka have been identified as eligible beneficiaries, contributing to a national target of nearly 1.15 crore girls.
- **Vaccine Type & Dosage:** The drive uses the quadrivalent Gardasil-4 vaccine, which protects against four common HPV strains (6, 11, 16, and 18). Under the current national guidelines, it is administered as a single-dose intramuscular injection.
- **Cost:** The vaccine is provided free of cost at government health facilities.
- **Duration:** The initial intensive campaign is set for three months (90 days) in mission mode, after which the vaccine will be integrated into routine immunization days.

## 25. Kartavya-KAAMS (Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System)

### News -

- The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) in Karnataka has launched the Kartavya-KAAMS (Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System) mobile app
- **Objective** - to monitor the



attendance of permanent teaching and non-teaching staff.

### How the App Works

- **Technology:** Integrates Artificial Intelligence, Facial Recognition, and GIS-based geo-fencing to verify attendance.
- **Usage:** Staff are required to click a “selfie” to mark their “In Time” (arrival) and “Out Time” (departure) twice daily from their assigned duty location (e.g., school, training, or exam center).
- **Verification:** The system uses liveness detection and geofencing to ensure employees are within a 100-meter radius of their designated workplace.

### Important Rules & Timelines

- **Mandatory Rollout:** Effective from the 2026-27 academic year, it is completely mandatory for all teaching, non-teaching staff, and headmasters.
- **Salary Disbursement:** The old biometric attendance systems have been replaced, and only attendance registered via the Kartavya-KAAMS app will be considered for payroll processing and salary release.
- **System Integration:** The platform links directly to the state’s Human Resource Management System (HRMS) and the Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS).

## 26. ‘Bhu Guarantee’ scheme (Nanna Khata, Nanna Hakku)

### News -

- The Karnataka state government has officially launched the ‘Bhu Guarantee’ scheme (also known as Nanna Khata, Nanna Hakku), slashing the B-Khata to A-Khata property conversion fee from 5% down to 2% of the property’s guidance value.



### ‘Bhuo Guarantee’ (Nanna Khata, Nanna Hakku) scheme

- **Objective** - It is Karnataka’s sixth welfare initiative, designed to provide secure, digitized property records to 23 lakh owners in Bengaluru.

### Major Financial Savings

- **60% Fee Cut:** B-Khata to A-Khata conversion fees dropped from 5% to 2% of the guidance value.
- **100-Day Window:** The discounted fee is a one-time offer valid for 100 days from mid-May 2026.

### Key Features

- **Doorstep Delivery:** Officials deliver digital e-Khatas directly to homes for free.
- **Tamper-Proof:** Records feature **GPS mapping, Aadhaar linking, and owner photos to stop fraud.**
- **Violation Regularisation:** Relaxes minor building violations to allow legal water and power connections.

### Weekly Camps

- **When:** Every Saturday for three months. **Where:** Open-house camps in all Assembly constituencies.
- **Purpose:** On-the-spot help for conversions, corrections, and tax issues to eliminate middlemen.

## 27.e-Khata

### News-

- The Karnataka High Court issued a set of guidelines to local authorities and executing courts, directing them to process e-Khatas without delay.
- The court ruled that municipal bodies cannot refuse an e-Khata solely because the application was not filed by the original owner or judgment-debtor.

### e-Khata

- It is a **digital property ownership and taxation record for properties under BBMP jurisdiction** in Karnataka.
- **It replaces manual registers, bringing transparency to property transactions, registrations, and building approvals.**

### Key Features & How It Works

- **Where to Access:** You can search, track, and download your e-Khata **directly on the official BBMP e-Aasthi portal.**
- **Usage:** The e-Khata system is **entirely faceless and contactless.** It serves as your **official document for buying/selling properties, paying taxes, or applying for bank loans.**
- **Searching Your Property:** You can look up your draft e-Khata using your SAS Property Tax ID or property ePID

## 28. First-of-its-kind digital drug surveillance system

### News -

- Karnataka recently rolled out India's first

technology-driven drug surveillance system in Bengaluru to monitor the pharmaceutical market in real-time.

### First-of-its-kind digital drug surveillance system

- **Introduced by - Karnataka State Food Safety and Drug Administration (FDA),**
- **Objective -** this initiative establishes a **real-time, technology-driven regulatory framework designed to enforce drug quality standards** and control the tracking of critical medications.
- **The newly launched digital initiative operates through two dedicated surveillance portals:**
- **Substandard Medicine Block System:** Automatically locks and halts the sale of Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) batches identified in the supply chain. It tracks real-time inventory and oversees the return of recalled products to suppliers.
- **NDPS Monitoring System:** Tightly regulates the **dispensing of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS).**

## 29.Decentralized climate action plans in Karnataka

### News -

- **Karnataka is the Indian state moving forward with a first-of-its-kind model to formulate decentralized climate action plans** at the individual Gram Panchayat (GP) level.

### About -

- **Objective - to devolve climate accountability to the grassroots level.**
- **Significance -** It ensures everyone from local panchayat leaders to rural farmers actively owns their role in India's target of reaching Net-Zero emissions.

### Key Features of the Decentralized RoadmapStrategic

- **Integration:** Rooted in the **Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (KSAPCC),** aligning grassroots efforts with India's Paris Agreement commitments.
- **Cross-Departmental Tracking:** Uses 105 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) spanning 50 government sectors like agriculture, forestry, and horticulture.
- **High-Level Accountability:** The apex-level monthly progress is monitored directly by the state's Chief Secretary.
- **Capacity Building:** Active rollout of district-level training modules targeting local stakeholders to

understand and act upon climate KPIs

### Additional Information - The Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (KSAPCC)

- **Mandate** - It is a state policy framework designed to address climate risks and align with India's national climate goals.
- **Timeline:** Active phase covering 2024–2030.
- **Budget:** Projected funding requirement of ₹52,827 crore.
- **Agency:** Led by the Environment Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI)
- **Scope:** Mandates climate targets across 13 state departments.

### Key Sector Targets

- **Agriculture:** Deploying drought-resistant crops and local weather warning tools.
- **Water:** Scaling up rainwater harvesting and artificial aquifer recharge.
- **Forestry:** Protecting the Western Ghats through target-driven afforestation.
- **Energy:** Accelerating solar power grid integration and reducing transmission losses.
- **Urban:** Implementing localized green master plans, such as the Bengaluru Climate Action Plan.
- **Tracking Progress Monitoring:** Progress is tracked via a dedicated, public KSAPCC Monitoring Dashboard.
- **Local Level:** Targets are built directly into village-level Gram Panchayat development plans.

## 30. Lakkundi

### News-

- **The Karnataka state government is actively pushing to permanently bring back over 150 rare antiquities from the ancient heritage town of Lakkundi that are currently housed at the National Museum in New Delhi.**



### Key Details of the Historic Repatriation Push

- **The 1976 Handover:** On October 16, 1976, local leaders **D.K. Hebboor** and **T.K. Nayak** formally handed over the artifacts to then-Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi** to guarantee their long-term preservation.
- **The Priceless Collection:** The repository reflects Karnataka's medieval legacy and includes **ancient weapons, inscriptions, manuscripts, jewelry, and gold and silver coins.**
- **The Proposed Destination:** The state plans

to display the returned treasures locally in **Lakkundi (located in the Gadag district)**, which is currently being developed into one of India's largest open-air museums.

- **The UNESCO Strategy:** The repatriation push strongly aligns with Karnataka's intensified campaign to secure UNESCO World Heritage status for Lakkundi.

### Additional Information - Lakkundi

- **Location:** Gadag district, Karnataka.
- **Ancient Name:** Lokkigundi.
- **Dynasties:** Kalyana Chalukyas (Western Chalukyas), Kalachuris, Seunas, and Hoysalas (10th–13th century).
- **Economic Role:** Major commercial hub; hosted a Tankashale (royal mint).
- **Prehistoric Links:** ASI excavations found Neolithic human habitation relics near Kote Veerabhadreshwar Temple.
- **Gold Discovery:** Treasure trove of ancient gold ornaments found during house construction.



### Architecture Highlights

- **Style:** Kalyana Chalukya style—the bridge between Badami Chalukya and Hoysala styles (Vesara school).
- **Material:** Chloritic schist (soapstone), allowing intricate carving.
- **Monuments:**
  1. **Brahma Jinalaya:** Oldest Jain shrine here, built by Queen Attimabbe (~1007 CE).
  2. **Kasi Visvesvara Temple:** Most ornate double-shrine temple.
- **Water Heritage:** Over 101 historic stepped wells (Kalyanis), like Musukina Bavi.



### Religious Significance

1. **Pluralism:** Co-existence of Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and Jainism.
2. **Bhakti Movement:** Associated with 12th-century Sharana saints (Ajaganna and Muktayakka) of the Virashaiva movement

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## 1. Election of UN Secretary-General

### Context

- The election of the next UN Secretary-General is underway.

### Secretary-General as the UN

- The Secretary-General is the **UN's Chief Administrative Officer**, who oversees the **work of the UN Secretariat** and fulfills any other functions entrusted by the organisation's principal organs.

### Elections:

- **Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.**
- This means that the Permanent Members of the **Security Council – China, France, Russia, the U.K., and the U.S.** have a significant say in who gets elected.

### Key Principal Organs of the UNO:

- **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):** The main deliberative, **polymaking**, and representative organ, where all **193 member states have equal representation.**
- **United Nations Security Council (UNSC):** Responsible for maintaining international **peace and security**, with **15 members (5 permanent with veto power, 10 non-permanent).**
- **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** Coordinates **economic, social, and environmental work of the UN system**, overseeing **specialized agencies.**
- **International Court of Justice (ICJ):** The principal judicial organ, settling **legal disputes submitted by states**, located at **The Hague.**
- **Secretariat:** Carries out the **day-to-day work of the UN**, administered by the **Secretary-General.**
- **Trusteeship Council:** Established to supervise trust territories, it suspended operations in 1994 after Palau gained independence.
- **Headquarters:** New York (UNGA, UNSC, ECOSOC, Secretariat, Trusteeship Council) and The Hague (ICJ).
- **Membership:** **193 member states (all part of UNGA).**

## 2. Girmityas

### 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.**
- 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.

### 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.**

### 3. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

#### 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.**

### 4. World Migration Report 2026

#### Context

- The **International Organization for Migration released the World Migration Report 2026.**

#### Key Findings of the Report

- International migrants accounted for **3.7% of the global population** in 2024, compared to 2.9% in 1990.
- The **largest migration corridor globally remains Mexico–United States Corridor with nearly 11 million migrants.**
- **Other major corridors include: Afghanistan–Iran Corridor, Syria–Türkiye Corridor and Russia–Ukraine Corridor.**

#### Additional Information - The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- It is the **principal UN agency for migration.**
- **Established in - 1951**
- **Headquarter - Geneva, Switzerland.**
- **Objective** - It promotes humane, orderly migration and **provides humanitarian assistance to migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons.**
- **India has been an official member state of the IOM since 2008**

### 5. Prime Minister's Visit to the UAE

#### Context

- PM Modi made a landmark diplomatic stopover in UAE, first stop in his five-nation trip to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy.

#### Key Outcomes

- MoU on Strategic Collaboration between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).
- Strategic Collaboration Agreement between Indian Oil Limited (IOCL) Company and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) on supplies of Liquefied Petroleum gas (LPG).

#### Framework for the Strategic Defence Partnership:

- MoU between Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Drydocks World (DDW) on setting up a Ship Repair Cluster at Vadinar, Gujarat.
- Cooperation includes offshore fabrication, under the Maritime Development Fund Scheme launched by the Government of India.

#### Additional Information - India and UAE

- **Political:** India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) established **diplomatic relations in 1972.**
- Relationships were upgraded to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2017.**
- **Trade and Investment Ties:** Bilateral merchandise trade between the two countries crossed US\$100 billion for the first time.
- **Space Cooperation:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the UAE Space Agency signed an MoU regarding cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes in 2016.
- **Indian Community:** Indian expatriate community of approximately **3.5 million is the largest ethnic community in UAE constituting roughly about 35% of the country's population.**
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** India and the UAE are currently part of several plurilateral platforms such as **India-Middle East EU Economic Corridor (IMEC), I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) and UFI (UAE-France-India) Trilateral, etc.**

### 6. Chahbahar port

#### Context

- Iranian Foreign Minister described Chahbahar port a "golden gateway", expressing the hope that India will continue to develop the strategic port.

### Chabahar Port

- **Location:** It is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- It consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
- It is only about 170 kilometers west of the Pakistani port of Gwadar.
- **Strategic location:** India needs access to iron from Afghanistan’s Hajigak mine and other natural resources from the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, which is made possible by the Chabahar port.
- **INSTC:** The port is also part of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal transport project to connect the Indian Ocean to Northern Europe.

## 7. India-Sweden Upgrade Ties to Strategic Partnership

### Context

- India and Sweden elevated their bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership, during an official visit of PM Modi to Sweden.



### Key Highlights of the Visit

- PM Modi received Sweden’s Royal Order of Polar Star and Commander Grand Cross, the highest recognition and honour that can be conferred upon a head of government.

### India-Sweden Relations

- **Diplomatic Relations:** India and Sweden established diplomatic relations in 1948.
- Sweden hosted the first India-Nordic Summit in 2018, strengthening India’s engagement with the Nordic region.
- India and Sweden jointly launched the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.
- LeadIT promotes low-carbon industrial transition and sustainable manufacturing practices.

## 8. Indus Waters Treaty

### In Context

- India has rejected the latest ruling of the Court of Arbitration (CoA), a five-member arbitral panel set up in 2023 at Pakistan’s request to settle a dispute over the



design of India’s Kishenganga and Ratle hydro-electric projects in Jammu & Kashmir.

### Indus Waters Treaty

- **Background -** In 1947, the partition had cut the Indus river system into two between India and Pakistan.
- **Mediated by -** The World Bank
- **Signed in -** it was signed in 1960 by former PM Jawaharlal Nehru and then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan.
- **Transboundary river -** The Indus River is a transboundary river that flows through Pakistan (47%), India (39%), Tibet (8%), and Afghanistan (6%). It is the longest river in Pakistan.
- **Note -** In India, the Indus basin spreads over J&K, HP, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Chandigarh.

### Major tributaries of the Indus River are:

River	Source	Joins
Jhelum	Spring at Verinag, Kashmir Valley	Chenab at Trimmu, Pakistan
Chenab	Chandra and Bhaga streams near Bara Lacha Pass	Satluj after receiving Jhelum and Ravi
Ravi	Kullu hills near Rohtang Pass	Chenab near Rangpur, Pakistan
Beas	Near Rohtang Pass	Satluj at Harike Barrage, India
Satluj	Manasarovar-Rakas Lakes, Tibet	Indus a few kilometres above Mithankot, Pakistan

### Provisions of Indus Water Treaty

- It allocated the three western rivers (i.e., Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum) to Pakistan for unrestricted use, barring certain non-consumptive, agricultural and domestic uses by India.
- It allocated the three eastern rivers, (i.e., Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) to India for unrestricted usage.
- This meant that 80% of the share of water went

to Pakistan, leaving 20% of water for use by India.

### Annexure C and D

- Though Pakistan has rights over waters of Jhelum, Chenab and Indus, but:
  1. Annexure C of the IWT allows India certain agricultural uses
  2. Annexure D allows India to build ‘run of the river’ hydropower projects (projects not requiring live storage of water).

### Permanent Indus Commission

- The treaty also required that both countries should **establish a Permanent Indus Commission constituted by permanent commissioners of both sides.**
- It functions as the first stop for resolution of conflicts.
- It should meet at least once a year.

## 9. Prime Minister’s Visit to Netherlands

### Context

- PM Modi paid an official visit to the Netherlands.
- **Elevation to Strategic Partnership:** India and the Netherlands upgraded bilateral relations to a “Strategic Partnership”.



### India- Netherlands Relations

- **Diplomatic relations:** India and the Netherlands established **diplomatic relations in 1947**, with 2026 marking 79 years of bilateral diplomatic ties.
- **Economic Cooperation:** India and the Netherlands formalized the **Joint Trade & Investment Committee (JTIC) in 2025**, strengthening bilateral trade, two-way investment cooperation, and collaboration in technology, MSMEs, and emerging sectors.
- **Cultural Cooperation:** India and the Netherlands signed an MoU in 2025 for cooperation in the **development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.**

### Additional Information - The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

- It is a **world-class tourism facility under construction in Lothal, Gujarat** to showcase India’s 4,500-year-old maritime history.
- **Location:** Lothal, Gujarat (**Ancient Indus Valley Civilization port city**).

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) under the Sagarmala Programme.
- Scale: Spread over 400 acres; set to be the **world’s largest maritime museum complex.**
- **Key Feature:** Will host the world’s tallest lighthouse museum.
- **Executing Agency:** Indian Port Rail Corporation Limited (IPRCL).

## 10.PM Modi Visit to Norway

### Context

- Prime Minister Modi lands for the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Norway after 43 years.

### Key Highlights of the Meet

- **Green Strategic Partnership:** India and Norway formally declared the upgrade of bilateral ties to a Green Strategic Partnership to **ensure increased collaboration in sectors ranging from Clean Energy to Climate Resilience, Blue economy to green shipping.**
- **Norway Joins Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI):** Norway formally joined India’s IPOI framework (launched 2019), which **promotes a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.**
- **Triangular Cooperation Agreement:** India and Norway will jointly offer India’s **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) (the Aadhaar-UPI-CoWIN stack)** to countries of the Global South.
- **Diplomatic Outcomes:** Norway reaffirmed support for India’s permanent seat in a reformed UN Security Council.
- PM Modi awarded the **Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit by King Harald V, Norway’s highest civilian honour** for foreign heads of government.

### India – Norway Bilateral Ties

- India and Norway established **bilateral relations in 1947.**
- The **India-Nordic Summit format** allowed more regular and structured interactions at Prime Ministerial levels.
- The **first summit was held in 2018 at Stockholm.**
- Norway has been **supporting India’s perusal to become a permanent member** of a reformed UN Security Council.
- **Arctic/ Polar:** India set up its first permanent research station ‘Himadri’ in the Arctic in 2008 at Svalbard, Norway.
- The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean**

Research (NCPOR) carries out multiple scientific expeditions to the Arctic every year.

- India has also been an Observer State in the Arctic Council since 2013.
- Space: ISRO uses Norway's Svalbard ground station on commercial terms to receive data from IRS satellites.
- KSAT is also setting up ISRO's antenna in Svalbard.

## 11. India-South Korea Ties

### In News

- The Indian Defence Minister's visit to Seoul after the South Korean President's visit to India highlights the growing strength and strategic importance of India-South Korea relations.

### India-South Korea

- **Special Strategic Partnership:** Upgraded in 2015; links India's Act East Policy with South Korea's Indo-Pacific strategy.
- **Defense Success:** Shifted from buyer-seller to co-production via the K9-Vajra self-propelled artillery guns.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Jointly working to de-risk supply chains and reduce economic over-reliance on China.
- **Climate Alignment:** South Korea joined the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA).

### Challenges

- **Trade Imbalance:** India's widening trade deficit causes economic friction.
- **China Dilemma:** India is structurally assertive against Beijing, while South Korea remains economically tied to China.

## 12. Oslo Summit

### Context

- PM Modi participated in the Third India-Nordic Summit held in Oslo.

### Oslo Summit

- The summit brought together leaders of the five Nordic countries; Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland.
- **Objective** - The summit aims to strengthen cooperation between India and Nordic countries in trade, investment, clean energy, technology, innovation, maritime affairs and sustainable development.
- The first India-Nordic Summit was held in Stockholm in 2018 and the second summit took

place in Copenhagen in 2022.

### Significance of Nordic Countries for India

- **Technological Cooperation:** Nordic countries are global leaders in clean technologies, innovation and digital governance.
- **Green Energy Partnership:** Nordic expertise in offshore wind, green hydrogen and sustainable technologies supports India's energy transition goals.
- **Maritime Cooperation:** Nordic countries possess advanced capabilities in shipbuilding, maritime logistics and sustainable port infrastructure.
- **Arctic Significance:** Nordic cooperation is important for India's climate research and Arctic engagement.
- **Research and Innovation:** Collaboration in research, education and start-up ecosystems can strengthen India's knowledge economy.

## 13. Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA)

### Context

- Iran has established a new regulatory body named as Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA).

### About

- **Aim:** To oversee and manage operations in the strategically significant Strait of Hormuz.
- Under the new system, vessels will be required to follow directives issued by the authority and secure transit permits before entering the Strait of Hormuz.
- The US, Gulf states, and European nations have all rejected the legality of Iran's fee regime.

### Strait of Hormuz

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

## 14. India and Italy Ties Upgraded to Special Strategic Partnership

### Context

- India and Italy upgraded their ties to a special strategic partnership.

### India and Italy bilateral relations

- **Partnership:** Elevated to **Special Strategic Partnership**, focusing on the Indo-Mediterranean corridor.
- **Initiatives:** Enhanced cooperation on the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.
- **Tech:** Collaboration through the **INNOVIT hub** focusing on AI and space
- **Cultural Focus:** Italian involvement in India's **National Maritime Heritage Complex**.



4. to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;

## 16. 2026 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting

### Context

- Speaking at the **SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Kyrgyzstan**, the Defence Minister called for unified SCO action against terrorism and warned against double standards.

### Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **Founded in** - The SCO is an intergovernmental organization founded in **2001 with six members**.
- **Objective:** To enhance **regional cooperation** for efforts to curb **terrorism, separatism, and extremism** in the Central Asian region.
- **Members:** China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus and the four Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
- **Secretariat:** Beijing
- **Official languages:** Russian and Chinese
- **Observer status:** Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia
- The SCO has been an observer in the UN General Assembly since 2005.

### Areas of Concern

- **Ongoing Border Tensions** - Incidents in **Doklam (2017), Galwan Valley (2020), and northeastern states (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh)**.



- **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** India has expressed reservations about China's Belt and Road Initiative, especially regarding the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, which passes through the territory of India.

## 17. UAE Exit from OPEC and OPEC+

### Context

- The United Arab Emirates announced its withdrawal from OPEC and OPEC+ (effective May 1, 2026).

### Reason

- **UAE blamed fellow Arab states for not doing**

## 15. SAARC Currency Swap Framework

### Context

- India has approved the **first withdrawal of 30 billion rupees for the Maldives under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework**, reinforcing its ongoing financial support to the island nation.

### Currency Swap Framework

- A currency swap framework is a bilateral or multilateral agreement **that allows countries to exchange their currencies**.
- It serves as a **financial safety net, providing immediate short-term liquidity**, helping stabilize foreign exchange reserves, and averting balance of payments crises without exposing nations to open-market risks

### SAARC

- **Abbreviation** - South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- **Established:** 8 December 1985 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the signing of the SAARC Charter.
- **Headquarters:** Kathmandu, Nepal (Secretariat established in 1987).
- **Member States (8):** India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives, and Afghanistan (joined in 2007).
- **Observer States (9):** Australia, China, the European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Korea, and the United States

### Objectives -

1. to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region;
2. to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;
3. to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;

enough to protect it from numerous Iranian attacks during the war and decided to exit the grouping.

## 18. OPEC+

- **Brief:** It is a coalition of oil-producing countries that includes members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and several non-OPEC nations. A partnership between OPEC and 10 non-OPEC oil-producing countries.
- **OPEC Established:** 1960 by Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria.
- **Members:**
  1. **Founding Members:** Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela.
  2. **Additional Members:** Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, UAE.
  3. **Non-OPEC members of OPEC+:** Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Malaysia, Oman, South Sudan, and Sudan.
- **Significance of OPEC+:** Controls around 40% of global oil supply.

## 19. World Food Programme

### Context

- The World Food Programme is assisting to deliver food and nutrition to the people across South Sudan.

### About

- It is the **food assistance branch of the United Nations** and the **world's largest humanitarian organization** addressing **hunger and food insecurity**.
- It was **established in 1961** by the **UN General Assembly** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
- WFP has a **presence in over 120 countries** and territories.
- **It is fully funded by voluntary donations.**

### Major Functions:

1. Provides food during conflicts, natural disasters, and pandemics.
2. Nutritional support to pregnant women, children, and vulnerable groups.
3. Tackles malnutrition and stunting.
4. Provides meals to children to boost attendance and learning outcomes.
5. It was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize 2020** for efforts in combating hunger and preventing hunger from being used as a weapon of war.

## 6. Headquarters: Rome

## 20. INS Sunayna

### Context

- INS Sunayna has arrived at Changi Naval Base in Singapore.



### INS Sunayna

- **Class & Type:** Second ship of the Saryu-class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs).
- **Commissioning Year:** 2013. Displacement: 2,200 tonnes.
- **Speed:** Exceeds 25 knots (~46 km/h) powered by two KOEL/Pielstick diesel engines.
- **Armament:** Equipped with one 76mm main gun (electro-optic fire control system), Close-in Weapon Systems (CIWS), and CHAFF launchers.
- **Core Roles:** Fleet support operations, coastal and offshore patrolling, ocean surveillance, and monitoring Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs)

## 21. India's Cultural Diplomacy Through Gifts

### Context

- **PM Modi gifted traditional Indian handicrafts, textiles, and regional artefacts to world leaders** during his five-nation diplomatic tour covering the United Arab Emirates, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, and Italy.



### Gifts Presented to World Leaders

- Italian PM **Giorgia Meloni** received a **Muga silk stole from Assam** and an off-white **Shirui Lily silk stole from Manipur**.
- **Muga silk, known as the "golden silk" of Assam**, is a rare textile produced in the Brahmaputra Valley without artificial dyes.
- The **Shirui Lily silk stole** derives inspiration from the **Shirui Kashong Peak of Manipur** and the rare **Shirui Lily flower**.
- **Queen Máxima of the Netherlands** was gifted **Meenakari and Kundan earrings** from Rajasthan.
- **Norwegian Leader Jonas Gahr Støre** received a **pressed orchid painting** and orchid paperweights made from real pressed orchids and ferns of Sikkim.
- **Harald V** was presented with a **silver sailboat**

model crafted using **Tarakasi**, the traditional silver filigree art of Cuttack, Odisha.

- Swedish Prime Minister **Ulf Kristersson** received a **Santiniketan messenger bag** from West Bengal along with works of Rabindranath Tagore.
- **UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** received a **Rogan painting** featuring the “Tree of Life” motif from Gujarat.
- **Rogan art is a rare textile painting tradition from the Kutch region** of Gujarat.
- A **box of Kesar mangoes** from Junagadh, Gujarat, was also presented.

## 22. India Backs Ethiopia’s WTO Entry

### Context

- India and Ethiopia signed a bilateral accession protocol in Geneva as part of Ethiopia’s process of joining the World Trade Organization (WTO).

### 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.

## 23. PM Modi Receives Agricola Medal

### Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the prestigious Agricola Medal by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at its headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- The medal was presented by FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu.

### About Agricola Medal

- The Agricola Medal is the **highest honour conferred by the Director-General of the FAO**.
- The **medal is named after Georgius Agricola**, a German scholar widely considered the “father of mineralogy” and a pioneer in agricultural and mining sciences.
- It is **awarded to distinguished world leaders and individuals for exceptional and long-term contributions to global food security, sustainable agriculture, poverty reduction and improved nutrition**.

### Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts **to defeat hunger and improve food security**.
- It was **founded on 16 October 1945**.
- **Members**: The FAO comprises **195 members**, including 194 countries and the European Union.
- **Headquarters**: Rome, Italy.

## NATIONAL

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### 1. Fugitive Economic Offenders

#### Context

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has declared 21 individuals as Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEOs).

#### Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO)

- A Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO) is an individual against whom an **Indian court has issued an arrest warrant for a specified economic offence involving ₹100 crore or more**, and who has either left India to evade criminal prosecution or refuses to return from abroad to face the law.
- This legal status was established under the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA) to deter economic offenders from evading justice by staying outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts**

#### Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018

- **Confiscation of Property**: The Act empowers authorities to attach and **confiscate properties of the offender located both in India and abroad**.
- The law also **covers benami properties and assets indirectly controlled by the offender**.
- **Bar on Civil Claims**: The Act disallows declared FEOs from initiating or defending any civil claims in Indian courts.
- **Special Court Mechanism**: The Act provides for adjudication of cases through special courts established under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002**.

#### Enforcement Directorate

- **Established in**- On 1st May 1956, an ‘Enforcement Unit’ was formed. In the year **1957**, this Unit was renamed as ‘Enforcement Directorate’.
- **Established under** - It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of

### Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

- **Functions - ED enforces the following laws**
  1. Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
  2. Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)
  3. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA).

## 2. 11 Years of Jan Suraksha Schemes

### 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**

## 3. 546 Die Every Day in Traffic Accidents: NCRB Data

### 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.

## 4. 'One Case One Data' and 'Su Sahay initiative

### In News

- Recently, the Supreme Court launched '**One Case One Data' and 'Su Sahay initiative.**
- One Case One Data initiative
- It is a major **digital initiative to connect all levels of courts — from taluka and district courts to High Courts and the Supreme Court** through a unified database system.
- It aims to **improve case management** by creating a comprehensive and **interconnected digital judicial information system.**

### 'Su Sahay' Chatbot

- It is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered assistance chatbot .
- It is integrated with the Supreme Court website to **facilitate easier access to justice and court-related services for litigants.**
- It has been **developed by the National Informatics Centre** in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry

## 5. National Panchayat Awards 2025

### In News

- **Kawrthah North Village Council in Mizoram** has

secured the top rank at the national level under the "**Clean and Green Panchayat**" category of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025, for its work in sustainable rural development and environmental conservation.

### National Panchayat Awards

- **Conferred by - Ministry of Panchayati Raj**
- It is annually conferred to **recognize and incentivise best-performing Panchayats** and promote inclusive, participatory, and sustainable development in rural India.
- Winning Panchayats receive **financial incentives ranging from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 5 crore per awardee**, depending on tier and category.

### Categories

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar awards** - It recognises outstanding Gram Panchayats for their performance across themes linked to **Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty-free livelihoods, health, water sufficiency, sanitation, women-friendly governance and social justice.**
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, awards** - It will be given to the **best-performing Panchayats at the district, block and gram levels.**

### Latest winners

- **Karnataka** has secured the highest number of awards with six Panchayats being selected, followed by **Andhra Pradesh** and **Odisha** with five awards each.

## 6. Speedy Trial a 'Human Right'

### Context

- The Supreme Court of India, while hearing a **criminal case pending for nearly 35 years in Uttar Pradesh**, declared that the **right to speedy trial is not only a constitutional guarantee under Article 21 but also a human right.**

### Article 21 of the Constitution

- **Article 21** guarantees the **protection of life and personal liberty** except according to procedure established by law.
- **Judicial interpretation** has expanded **Article 21** to include **fair trial, legal aid, humane prison conditions, and speedy justice.**

### Judicial Evolution

- **Hussainara Khatoun v. State of Bihar:** The Supreme Court first recognised speedy trial as

a fundamental right under Article 21. The case highlighted the plight of undertrial prisoners languishing in jails for years.

- **A.R. Antulay v. R.S. Nayak:** The Court laid down principles to determine violation of the right to speedy trial. It clarified that delays caused by systemic inadequacies also violate constitutional rights.

## 7. Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)

### Context

- The Union Ministry of Education has issued a fresh reminder regarding the pending **implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme to West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.**

### PM SHRI Schools

- **Abbreviation - PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI)**
- **Nodal Ministry - Ministry of Education**
- **Type - Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
- **Aim - To upgrade and develop more than 14,500 Schools across the country by strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.**
- **Features - PM-SHRI schools will have a modern, transformational and holistic method of imparting education.**
- The focus of these schools will be on **modern infrastructure including latest technology, smart classrooms, sports and more.**
- They will also be developed as **“green schools” with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of an organic lifestyle in the curriculum.**
- Hence, these schools will **showcase all components of the National Education Policy 2020 and act as exemplar schools and also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.**

## 8. NEET Paper Leak Controversy

### Context

- The **National Testing Agency (NTA) stated that the 2026 NEET examination had been “compromised”** and announced that a re-test would be conducted for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).
- **NEET paves the way for admission to medical**

colleges.

### Radhakrishnan Panel

- Following the NEET-UG 2024 controversy, the **Ministry of Education formed a high-level committee headed by former ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan.**

### National Testing Agency (NTA)

- **Established: In 2017.**
- It is an autonomous body of the **Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education of India.**

### NTA conducts major entrance examinations such as the

1. **Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main** for engineering;
2. **National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test- Undergraduate (NEET-UG)** for medicine;
3. **Common University Entrance Test (CUET)** for general Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes in central universities.
4. It also conducts recruitment exams for several government agencies including **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), Delhi High Court, Employment Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** and for several posts in central government universities.

### Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means ) Act, 2024

- **It was passed in 2024 and is aimed at curbing leaks, malpractices in recruitment examinations like UPSC, SSC etc and entrance tests such as NEET, JEE, and CUET.**
- **The Act broadly defines “unfair means” to include various malpractices, such as:**
  1. Leaking question papers or answer keys,
  2. Assisting candidates during exams (unauthorized communication, providing solutions),
  3. Tampering with computer networks or resources,
  4. Impersonating candidates,
  5. Conducting fake examinations or issuing fake documents,
  6. Tampering with documents for merit lists or ranks.

### Penalties and Punishments:

#### Individuals:

- Imprisonment ranges from 3 to 10 years depend-

ing on the offense's severity.

- Fines up to Rs. 1 crore for organized crimes.

#### Service providers:

- Fines up to Rs. 1 crore for involvement in malpractices.
- Barring from conducting public examinations for 4 years.
- Personal liability for directors/management involved.

#### Organized crimes:

- Harsher penalties, with imprisonment between 5 and 10 years and a minimum fine of Rs. 1 crore
- The institution involved can face property attachment and forfeiture

#### Investigation:

- All offences under the Act are cognisable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable.
- An officer not below the rank Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police will investigate the offences under the Act.
- The Central Government may transfer the investigation to any Central Investigating Agency.

## 9. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

#### Context

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a **one-year extension in the tenure of Praveen Sood as Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.**

#### Central Bureau of Investigation

- **Set up in** - It was set up in **1963** by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- **Established under** - It comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.**
- **Recommended by** - It was established on the recommendation of the **Santhanam Committee.**
- **Legal status** - The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.**

#### Functions

1. The CBI is the main **investigating agency of the Central Government.**
2. It also provides **assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.**
3. It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates **investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries.**

## 10. Sikkim Becomes India's First Paperless Judiciary State

#### Context

- The Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant, declared Sikkim as the first paperless judiciary state in India.

#### About -

- **Significance** - This initiative drastically **reduces dependence on physical files, minimizes logistical delays, ensures transparency,** and aids in reducing case pendency.
- **Technology Integration:** The system includes **e-filing, digital case management, and virtual hearings, aligning with the broader e-Courts Mission Mode Project** and the Digital India vision.
- **Relevance to Hilly Terrain:** Digitalization facilitates easier access to justice for litigants and lawyers, **overcoming geographical barriers in the region.**

## 11. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026

#### Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India flagged the critical issues like Self-identification vs State verification and Welfare targeting vs individual dignity in Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026.

#### Background: Legal Evolution of Transgender Rights in India

- **NALSA Judgment, 2014:** It recognised **transgender persons as the 'third gender',** and affirmed **right to self-identification without medical intervention.**
- It established self-determination as a core constitutional value.
- **It is linked gender identity to Article 21 (Right to Life and Dignity).**
- **Transgender Persons Act, 2019:** It defines transgender persons, mandates the right to self-perceived identity, **prohibits discrimination in employment and education, and establishes the right to reside in the household.**
- **It introduced certification by District Magistrate.**
- **Amendment Act, 2026:** It mandates **medical board certification before legal recognition; removes explicit recognition of self-perceived identity;** and introduces stricter definitions and penal provisions.

## Key Issues Raised in the Supreme Court

- **Self-Identification vs Medical Gatekeeping:** Violates bodily autonomy and dignity (Art. 21), and creates ‘medical gatekeeping’ by the State. Clinical validation undermines identity autonomy.
- **Fear of Misuse vs Rights Protection:** Court flagged risk of ‘masquerading’ to access reservations/welfare.
- However, misuse probability is negligible, and concerns of misuse are often overstated compared to systemic exclusion.
- **Impact on NALSA Principles:** Amendment in 2026 dilutes self-identification doctrine, and reintroduces biological essentialism.
- It acts as a ‘regressive shift from rights-based to regulatory framework’.
- **Healthcare and Transition Rights:** It alleged that ongoing gender-affirming treatments will be disrupted.
- Access to healthcare is already limited and stigmatized in India.
- **Classification and Stigma:** Inclusion of victims of coercion alongside transgender persons leads to arbitrary and stigmatizing classification (Art. 14 violation).

## 12. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 Guidelines

### In News

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 Guidelines** at the recently concluded National Summit on Good Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare Service Delivery.

### Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)

- It is a national initiative **launched under the National Health Mission (NHM).**
- **Implementation - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- **Objective** - It focuses on **early identification and intervention for children** from birth to 18 years to manage conditions like **birth defects, deficiencies, diseases, and developmental delays.**
- **Target Beneficiaries** - The programme splits children into age-appropriate cohorts for structured tracking:
  1. **0 to 6 weeks:** Newborns screened at delivery points and through home visits by ASHAs.

2. **6 weeks to 6 years:** Pre-school children monitored at local Anganwadi centres.
3. **6 years to 18 years:** Students enrolled in government and government-aided schools.

- **The “4Ds” Strategy** - RBSK systematically screens and provides free treatment for 30 to 32 selected health conditions grouped under four major categories:

1. **Defects at Birth:** Down syndrome, congenital cataract, cleft lip/palate, club foot, and congenital heart diseases.
2. **Deficiencies:** Anaemia, Vitamin A or D deficiency, severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and goitre.
3. **Diseases of Childhood:** Skin conditions, otitis media, rheumatic heart disease, and reactive airway disease.
4. **Developmental Delays & Disabilities:** Vision impairment, hearing loss, autism spectrum disorder, and cerebral palsy.

## 13. RTI Act Does not Apply to Cricket Board: CIC

### Context

- The Central Information Commission (CIC) held that the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) does not fall within the ambit of a “public authority” under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.**

### Central Information Commission (CIC)

- Established - in 2005 by the Central Government under the provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- Objective - It hears appeals against public authorities who have not provided information satisfactorily to the public and also addresses major issues concerning the RTI Act.
- Annual report - CIC submits an annual report to the Union government on the implementation of the provisions of RTI Act.

### Composition of CIC

- **Head** - The CIC is headed by the **Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.**
- **Tenure** - The **Chief Information Commissioner holds office for five years or until he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. He is not eligible for reappointment.**
- **Appointment of the commissioner in CIC** – The commissioners are **appointed by the President**

on the recommendation of a selection committee.

- **Selection committee** - It consists of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

#### State Information Commission

- **The Right to Information Act of 2005 provides for the creation of a State Information Commission at the state level.**
- The State Information Commission is a high powered independent body which inter-alia looks into the complaints made to it and decides the appeals.
- It entertains complaints and appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc under the concerned state government.
- **Composition** - State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten State Information Commissioners appointed by the Governor.

### 14. Euthanasia for Rabid and Dangerous Stray Dogs

#### Context

- **The Supreme Court has allowed euthanasia for rabid, incurably ill, or demonstrably dangerous stray dogs**, citing the need to protect human life and public safety.

#### Key Observations of the Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court observed that the **State has a constitutional obligation to protect citizens from repeated stray dog attacks** and rabies threats.
- The Court upheld its earlier order directing the removal of stray dogs from schools, hospitals, markets, and other high-footfall public spaces.

#### Constitutional and Legal Dimensions

- **Article 21 and Human Security:** The judgment expanded the interpretation of Article 21 by linking public safety with the right to life and dignity.
- **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960:** The Act protects animals from unnecessary cruelty while permitting humane treatment in exceptional situations.
- **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023:** The Rules emphasise sterilisation, vaccination, and scientific management of stray dog populations.

### 15. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)

#### Context

- Delhi Police has suggested a larger SC Bench to review the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) bail curbs.

#### UAPA Act

- **Enacted:** 1967
- **Mandate:** It is aimed at “more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations for dealing with terrorist activities”.
- **Unlawful activity:** Unlawful activity means any conduct which constitutes a **crime or which contravenes any law**.
- **Terrorist act:** Section 15 of the Act defines “terrorist act” and is punishable with imprisonment for a term of at least five years and up to life.
- **Power to central government** - The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which the Centre deems an activity as unlawful.
- **Applicability:** The provisions of this Act apply also to—
  - ♦ (a) citizens of India outside India;
  - ♦ (b) persons in the service of the Government, wherever they may be; and
  - ♦ (c) persons on ships and aircrafts, registered in India, wherever they may be.
- ♦ Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) Amendment Act 2019
- The Act empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists.
- Under the Act, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation

### 16. Ayush Anudan Portal Under Ayush Grid Initiative

#### In News

- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare launched the Ayush Anudan Portal at Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi.

#### Ayush Anudan Portal

- It is developed by the **Ministry of Ayush under the Ayush Grid initiative**.
- **Objective** - It is a **paperless, centralized digital grant-management platform** launched by the Ministry of Ayush to **streamline the end-to-**

end submission, processing, appraisal, and monitoring of funding proposals

- It is **integrated with the NGO Darpan Portal** and it ensures faster and more reliable verification of applicant organisations.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Ayush, Government of India.**
- **Significance** - Replacing **manual, paper-heavy traditional grant workflows with an automated, transparent,** and easily accessible digital workflow.

### Ayush Grid Project

- It is **conceptualized by the Ministry of Ayush** for creating a **comprehensive Information Technology backbone** for the entire Ayush sector.
- It **envisages digitization of service delivery across the six functional areas** — Health Services, Education, Research, Drug Administration, Medicinal Plants, and Ministry of Ayush Oversight along with capacity building and media outreach.
- It is aimed at establishing an integrated, transparent, and citizen-centric digital ecosystem for the Ayush sector through the use of modern technology.

## 17. National Panchayati Raj Day

### In News

- The **National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD)** is **observed every year on 24 April** to mark the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system.

### About

- The day commemorates the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, which **came into effect in 1993** and gave **constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**.
- These provisions are included in **Part IX of the Indian Constitution**, strengthening grassroots democracy by empowering local bodies at the village, block, and district levels.

### Historical Background of Panchayati Raj System

- After independence, decentralised governance was promoted through the **Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957)**, which recommended a **three-tier Panchayati Raj system** which was **first implemented in Rajasthan in 1959**.
- Constitutional backing came through the **73rd Amendment Act, making PRIs mandatory and embedding them in Part IX (Articles 243–243O) of the Constitution.**

## 18. Project AI4WaterPolicy

### Context

- Project AI4WaterPolicy helped community-led development in Rajasthan.



### Project AI4WaterPolicy

- It is an innovative action-research pilot project designed **to strengthen rural water governance in India by using artificial intelligence** to actively listen to communities rather than just broadcast information.
- **Developed by** -International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- **Implemented in the water-stressed Sirohi and Pali districts of Rajasthan,**
- **Significance** - the **project demonstrates how lightweight tech applications can dramatically improve last-mile government responsiveness** and support community-led development.

## 19. E-PRAAPTI Portal

### In News

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** is **launching a new portal called E-PRAAPTI** to help resolve long-pending issues of unclaimed EPF deposits.

### E-PRAAPTI Portal

- It is a dedicated digital platform **to facilitate identification, tracking, Unique Account Number (UAN) linking, and activation of old EPF accounts.**
- **Significance** - It heavily utilizes Aadhaar-based authentication to resolve unclaimed deposits and streamline social security for workers.

## 20. Simultaneous Election Bill

### Context

- The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on **'One Nation, One Election'** has said that **simultaneous elections can save nearly 7 lakh crore rupees**, improve governance efficiency and increase India's GDP growth by up to 1.6%.

### Background

- To introduce simultaneous elections, the **Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024** and the **Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024** were introduced in Lok Sabha in 2024.

## Key Features of the Bills

- **Bodies Responsible:** The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 **empowers the Election Commission to conduct elections for Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies together (referred to as simultaneous elections).**
- The **Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024** extends **this framework to Union Territory (UT) Assemblies.**
- **Commencement of simultaneous elections:** The terms of all State and Union Territory Assemblies constituted after the date of the notification will expire with the expiry of the full term of Lok Sabha.
- Hence, elections to Lok Sabha and all State and UT Assemblies thereafter will be conducted together.
- **Premature dissolution of Lok Sabha or Assemblies:** If Lok Sabha or a State/UT Assembly is dissolved sooner than its full term of five years, a fresh election will be held for a term equal to the remainder of the five-year term.
- This will synchronise elections for Lok Sabha and all Assemblies every five years.
- **Deferring a state election:** If the Election Commission is of the opinion that the election for a particular State Assembly cannot be held as part of the simultaneous elections, it may make a recommendation to the President in this regard.
- Thereafter, the President may issue an order to conduct election for that State Assembly at a later date.
- The UT Laws Amendment Bill does not have such provisions.

## 21. Anti-Defection Law

### Context

- More than **two-thirds of the MPs of the Aam Aadmi Party in the Rajya Sabha have decided to merge with the Bharatiya Janata Party**, raising questions around the application of the anti-defection law.

### Anti-defection law

- **Aaya Ram Gaya Ram** was a phrase that became popular in Indian politics after a Haryana MLA Gaya Lal changed his party thrice within the same day in 1967.
- The **anti-defection law (Tenth Schedule of the Constitution) was inserted by the 52nd Amendment in 1985** to prevent political defections.

- **Constitutional Disqualifications [Articles 102(1) & 191(1)]:** A person shall be disqualified if he/she:
  1. Holds an office of profit under the Central or State Government;
  2. Is of unsound mind, as declared by a competent court;
  3. Is an undischarged insolvent;
  4. Is not a citizen of India, or has acquired citizenship of a foreign State, or shows allegiance to a foreign State;
  5. Is disqualified under any law made by Parliament.

### Features of the Anti-Defection Law

- **Disqualification on ground of defection:** A legislator belonging to a political party will be disqualified if he: (i) voluntarily gives up his party membership, or (ii) votes/abstains to vote in the House contrary to the direction issued by his political party.
- A member is not disqualified if he has taken prior permission of his party, or if the voting or abstention is condoned by the party within 15 days.
- Independent members will be disqualified if they join a political party after getting elected to the House. Nominated members will be disqualified if they join any political party six months after getting nominated.
- The decision to disqualify a member from the House rests with the Chairman/Speaker of the House.

### Exceptions

- The Tenth Schedule originally provided for two exceptions that would not render the members liable for disqualification.
- One-third members of the 'legislature party' split to form a separate group.
- Merger of their 'political party' with another party that is approved by two-third members of its 'legislature party'.
- However, the first exception (one-third split) was removed in 2003 to strengthen the law.

### Supreme Court Judgments

- **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992):** The decisions of the Speaker regarding disqualification under the Tenth Schedule (Anti-defection Law) are subject to judicial review by the High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- **Keisham Meghachandra Singh v. Speaker, Manipur (2020):** The Supreme Court set a clear outer limit of three months for the Speaker to

decide on a disqualification petition.

## 22. Prevention of Insults To National Honour Act, 1971

### Context

- The Union Cabinet gave the go-ahead to amend The Prevention of Insults To National Honour Act, 1971.

### About

- **Aim:** To make any insult or obstruction to the singing of National Song Vande Mataram a punishable offence.
- At present, insults to the National Anthem, the National Flag and the Constitution of India is mentioned in the 1971 Act and is punishable by an imprisonment of up to three years or a fine or both.

### Vande Mataram

- Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in Sanskrit and first appeared in the novel Anandamath in 1882.
- Anandamath is set against the backdrop of the 1769–73 Bengal famine and the Sanyasi Rebellion.
- First sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Indian National Congress session gave it national exposure.
- During the Swadeshi Movement of 1905, Vande Mataram emerged as the anthem of civil resistance.
- Vande Mataram, as a political slogan, was first used on 7 August 1905.
- National Song: On 24 January 1950, the Vande Mataram was adopted as India's National Song.

### Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 51A(a) Fundamental Duties:** Mandates every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- **Absence of Explicit Constitutional Protection:** Unlike the national anthem, Vande Mataram is not explicitly protected by any constitutional provision.
- Its status flows from Constituent Assembly resolutions, not from enforceable constitutional text.

## ECONOMY

### 1. 'Women and Men in India 2025' Report

#### In News

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the 27th edition of its publication titled "**Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data**".

#### Women and Men in India 2025' Report Brief

- It provides a comprehensive statistical **overview of gender-related conditions in India** using official data from multiple ministries and agencies.

#### Key Highlights of the publication:

##### Demography and Population

- **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):** The national SRB improved from **904 (2017–19) to 917 (2021–23)**, signaling improved survival rates for female children.
- **Regional Variations:** Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest sex ratio (1,085), while Jharkhand registered the lowest (899).

##### Health and Nutrition

- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** Documented a steady, long-term decline for both male and female infants between 2008 and 2023. **India's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is approximately 25 deaths per 1,000 live births**
- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):** Marked a steep decline from 254 (2004–06) down to **88 (2021–23)**.

##### EducationGender

##### Higher Education:

- The **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** for females rose to **30.2, surpassing the male GER of 28.9**.
- The **Literacy Gap:** A stark 14.4% gender gap persists, with **male literacy at 84.7% and female literacy at 70.3%.4**.

#### Economic Participation

- **Rural Female LFPR:** The Labour Force Participation Rate for rural women witnessed a major surge, climbing from 37.5% (2022) to 45.9% (2025).
- **Agricultural Concentration:** 72.7% of all working rural females remain heavily concentrated in agricultural activities.

#### Major steps taken for women empowerment

- **Constitutional and Legal Framework:** The Indian Constitution guarantees gender equality through

provisions in its **Preamble, Fundamental Rights, and Directive Principles of State Policy.**

- **Article 14** ensures **equality before the law**, while **Article 15** prohibits **discrimination based on sex.**
- **Article 51(a)(e)** encourages citizens to **renounce practices derogatory to women's dignity.**
- The **Directive Principles, particularly Articles 39 and 42,** emphasize **equal livelihood opportunities, equal pay, and maternity relief.**
- **Poshan Abhiyaan:** It launched in 2018, is a flagship government programme aimed at **improving nutrition for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers** by reducing malnutrition
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** The scheme aims to **prevent gender biased sex selective elimination,** ensure survival and protection of girl child and also to **ensure education of the girl child.**
- The **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** provides **financial compensation** for loss of wages due to pregnancy and childbirth.
- The scheme, previously limited to the first child, has now been extended to cover the second child if the child is a girl—a progressive step towards promoting gender equality.
- **Mission Saksham Anganwadi :** to improve nutrition, health, and immunity and reduce malnutrition among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas (KGBVs)** are **residential schools for girls from socio-economically disadvantaged groups** in educationally backward areas, offering safe education from **classes VI to XII and supporting their transition to higher secondary schooling.**
- **Vigyan Jyoti,** run by the Department of Science & Technology, **encourages meritorious girls (classes IX–XII), especially in rural areas, to pursue STEM careers.**
- **Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls (NAVYA):** NAVYA, launched in 2025 is a **skill development programme for adolescent girls (16–18 years, Class 10 pass).**
- **Mission Shakti :** It aims at ensuring the safety, security, and empowerment of women through two key components: **Sambal (safety and security) and Samarthya (empowerment).**

## 2. UPI Completes 10 Glorious Years

### Context

- The Unified Payments Interface has completed 10 years since its launch in April 2016.

### Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- **Launched by** - UPI was designed and launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016.
- **Objective** - It is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.
- **Countries with operational or planned interoperability include:** Singapore (PayNow), UAE, France, Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and others.

### Additional Information - National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- **Established in** - It serves as an **umbrella body for the operation of retail payments in India.**
- **Established by** - **Reserve Bank of India** along with the Indian Bank's Association.
- **Established under** - It was set up under the provisions of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.**

### Products of NPCI

1. RuPay
2. National Common Mobility Card
3. Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)
4. Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
5. Bharat Bill Payment System

## 3. Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026–31)

### 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

### 4. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

#### 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.

### 5. UDGM Portal

#### Context

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

#### UDGM (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.

### 6. FRP for Sugarcane for 2026–27 Season

#### 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.

## 7. Foreign Exchange Reserves

### Context

- The appeal of **Prime Minister Modi to reduce the consumption of imported goods has reignited the debate on whether India should reduce consumption to save forex** or strengthen production and productivity to sustain long-term economic growth.

### Foreign Exchange Reserves

- Foreign exchange reserves **refer to foreign currency assets held by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- These reserves mainly consist of foreign currencies such as the **US dollar, gold reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and reserve positions in the International Monetary Fund (IMF).**
- **Significance:** Foreign exchange reserves are essential because **they help India finance imports, stabilise the rupee, maintain investor confidence, and meet external payment obligations** during periods of economic stress.

### Why Does India Need Strong Forex Reserves?

- **Dependence on Imports:** India depends heavily on imports for crude oil, fertilisers, edible oils, gold, electronics, and industrial machinery.
- Hence India requires adequate forex reserves to ensure uninterrupted trade and economic stability.

- **Protection from External Shocks:** Strong forex reserves help protect the economy during periods of global financial instability, rising oil prices, currency volatility and sudden capital outflows.
- Countries with weak forex reserves often face balance of payments crises and severe currency depreciation.

### Additional Information - Balance of Payments (BoP)

- The Balance of Payments (BoP) is a **record of all economic transactions between India and the rest of the world** during a particular period.

### Components of BoP:

- **Current Account:** It includes **trade in goods and services, remittances, and income transfers.** India generally imports more goods than it exports, which results in a Current Account Deficit (CAD).
- **Capital Account:** It includes foreign investments such as **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI), and external borrowings.**
- **India has traditionally financed its current account deficit through capital inflows from foreign investors.**

## 8. National Jute Board

### Context

- The **National Jute Board has been implementing the Jute Crop Information System project since 2023** in collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Jute Corporation of India.**



### Jute Crop Information System project

- **Aim:** To monitor jute cultivation using remote sensing and field data.
- As part of this initiative, two key tools have been developed:
  1. **BHUVAN JUMP** - A mobile app for **on-field jute monitoring**, and
  2. **PATSAN (Prospective Assessment of Jute Using Mobile App-Based Field Observations)** - a web-based platform that provides **near-real-time jute surveillance and analytics to support informed decision-making** by officials and stakeholders.

### Jute Production In India

- It is also called the **golden fibre**, in view of being a **natural, renewable, biodegradable and eco-**

friendly product.

- **India is the largest producer of jute followed by Bangladesh and China.**
- West Bengal, Bihar and Assam account for almost 99% of India's total production.

#### Conditions Required for Jute Production

- **Temperature:** A mean maximum and minimum temperature of **34°C and 15°C** and a mean relative humidity of 65% are required.
- **Rainfall: Around 150-250 cm.**
- **Soil:** Jute can be raised on **all kinds of soils from clay to sandy loam**, but **loamy alluvial soils are best suited.**

## 9. SEHAT Mission

#### In News

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, and Chemicals and Fertilisers launched the 'SEHAT Mission' in Delhi,

#### SEHAT (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation)

- It is a national mission aimed at linking agriculture, nutrition, and public health by converting agricultural innovations into better health outcomes for people in India.
- It is a joint initiative of the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).**
- **Objective** - It aims to **improve nutrition and public health through biofortified foods, integrated farming, better occupational health** for farm workers, and support for the One Health Mission.
- **Significance** - to address nutrition, preventive healthcare, non-communicable diseases, farmer welfare, and public health challenges.

## 10. Mizoram Ginger Mission

#### In News

- The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) launched the Mizoram Ginger Mission.

#### Mizoram Ginger Mission

- It is a **Ginger Cultivation & Value Chain Development for the State of Mizoram.**
- This mission is a **key component of the broader "Brand North East" vision**, which assigns specific USPs to states, such as **Sikkim (Organic State), Arunachal Pradesh (Kiwi), Tripura (Queen Pineapple), Nagaland (Coffee), and Meghalaya**

(Lakadong Turmeric).

- **Objective** - to improve farmer incomes by reducing price gaps, minimising post-harvest losses, and promoting better use of GI-certified ginger through coordinated efforts among multiple ministries.
- Mizoram is known for its Geographical Indication (GI)- certified ginger varieties.

#### Additional Information - Ginger

- It is **one of the oldest known spices**, and is esteemed for its **aroma and pungency. It originated in South – East Asia**

#### Climatic & Soil Requirements

- **Climate: Warm and humid tropical climate.**
- **Temperature:** Performs best in temperatures ranging between **19 - 28 degree celsius.**
- **Rainfall:** Requires moderate to high rainfall of about **150 to 250cm every year.** It does not tolerate frost or prolonged waterlogging.
- **Soil: Loose, fertile, well-drained sandy loam or clay loam rich in organic matter.**
- **Global Standing:** India is the largest producer of ginger in the world. Major producing states include Kerala, Odisha, Meghalaya, West Bengal, and Arunachal Pradesh

## 11. Government Banned Sugar Exports

#### Context

- The Government of India, through the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade, placed exports of raw, white, and refined sugar under the prohibited category** till September 30, 2026.

#### Reasons Behind the Sugar Export Ban

- **El Niño and Monsoon Concerns:** The government fears that a possible **El Niño event may weaken the monsoon, reduce sugarcane cultivation, and affect future sugar production.**
- **Fertiliser Supply Risks: Geopolitical tensions in West Asia** may disrupt fertiliser supplies, which is significant because sugarcane is a fertiliser-intensive crop.
- **Maintaining Adequate Domestic Stocks:** The ban aims to **preserve sufficient sugar stocks to control prices, prevent shortages, and ensure domestic food security.**

## 12. Assam Ships First Legal Agarwood Chips to West Asia

#### In News

- Assam legally approved export of agarwood chips

to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

### Agarwood

- It is also **known as oud**.
- It is produced from **resin formed in infected Aquilaria and Gyrinops trees**.
- Agarwood is a highly valued material used globally in **luxury perfumes, incense, cosmetics, and traditional products**.
- Agarwood is grown in countries such as **India, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, and Bhutan**.
- In India, key species like **Aquilaria malaccensis and Aquilaria khasiana** are found mainly in the **Northeast**, including Assam and surrounding states.
- Agarwood is conserved under **Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**.

## 13. Withholding Tax

### Context

- Amid the West Asia conflict, the government is reportedly **considering slashing the ‘withholding tax’ rate from 20% to the earlier 5% as it looks to revive overseas inflows**.

### Withholding Tax

- Withholding tax, or WHT, is a tax collected at the source of income.
- Instead of waiting for an investor or foreign company to pay taxes at the end of the financial year, the government requires the payer to deduct a portion of the income before it is remitted to the recipient.
- The deducted amount is then directly deposited with the government.
- **In simple terms**, whenever income is earned whether through employment, investments, royalties or other sources the government ensures tax collection in advance through withholding tax.
- **Hong Kong and Singapore don’t have a withholding tax**.

### Significance of Slashing Withholding Tax

- **Attracts Foreign Investment:** Lower withholding tax increases returns for foreign investors, encouraging greater FDI and portfolio investments.
- **Improves Ease of Doing Business:** Reduces tax and compliance burden on companies engaged in cross-border transactions.

- **Boosts Capital and Trade Flows:** Encourages international trade, technology transfer, and movement of global capital.
- **Supports Economic Growth:** Increased investment and business activity can generate employment, innovation, and higher economic productivity.

## 14. Jaggery Sector in India

### In News

- **Jaggery production in India is a key agro-processing sector that is supporting rural livelihoods**, farmer incomes, and value addition through cottage industries.



### Jaggery

- It is commonly **known as gur** and is a traditional, unrefined, natural sweetener.
- It is **produced by concentrating sugarcane juice without the use of chemicals**.
- It is widely consumed across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean under various local names.

### Jaggery Production in India

- **India produces over 70% of the world’s jaggery**, making it the **largest global producer**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** contributed 48.5 percent of total production, **followed by Maharashtra (24.1 percent) and Karnataka (10.5 percent)**.

## 15. Silver

### Context

- The government has shifted silver imports to the “restricted” category and **imposed a 15% import duty to curb rising imports and protect domestic interests**.

### Silver

- It is a **relatively soft, lustrous precious metal**.
- It has highest **electrical and thermal conductivity** among all metals, critical for **electronics, circuit boards, connectors, batteries, and automotive systems**.
- It is mainly found in **ores like argentite and chlorargyrite (horn silver)**.
- **Mexico is the largest silver producer in the world**.
- India imports silver mainly from the United Arab Emirates, Britain and China.

## 16. Project DANTAK

### In News

- Project DANTAK celebrated its Raising Day marking 65 years of its continuous service in Bhutan since 1961.



### Project DANTAK

- It is a premier **overseas infrastructure initiative in Bhutan** executed by India's **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.
- Implementing Agency** - Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Ministry of Defence.
- Timeline: Established April 24, 1961**, by PM Nehru and Bhutan's 3rd King.
- Mandate:** Construct strategic **infrastructure, roads, and bridges in Bhutan**.
- Key Projects:** Paro Airport, Yongphula Airfield, and the East-West Highway.
- Total Output:** Over **1,650 km of roads** plus schools and hospitals.

## 17. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)@2047 Roadmap

### In News

- NITI Aayog has launched DPI@2047 for Viksit Bharat**, a roadmap for India's next phase of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) aimed at driving inclusive and productivity-led growth.

### Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

- It refers to foundational digital systems that are **accessible, secure, and interoperable, supporting essential public services**.
- India's Digital Public Infrastructure began with the **JAM trinity—Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar identity, and mobile connectivity**—which linked citizens directly to government systems.
- Significance** - This enabled direct transfer of **welfare benefits, reducing intermediaries, delays, and leakages**, and laid the foundation for India's broader digital transformation.

### Importance of DPI

- Governance Efficiency:** DPI Enables direct benefit transfers, subsidy delivery, and e-governance platforms, reducing leakages and corruption.
- Financial Inclusion:** UPI has transformed payments, now operational in 8 countries,

supporting cross-border transactions.

- Economic Growth:** India is the world's 3rd-largest digitalised economy, with digital platforms embedded in daily economic and social life.

### Key Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and digital solutions are as follows

- Aadhaar** – A biometric-based digital identity platform that enables unique identification and authentication of residents for efficient service delivery.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** – A real-time digital payment system enabling instant, interoperable, and secure person-to-person and merchant transactions.
- UPI is now active in 8 countries, improving cross-border payments, remittances, and financial inclusion, and strengthening India's fintech influence globally.
- CoWIN** – A digital platform for end-to-end management of vaccination services, including registration, scheduling, and certification.
- API Setu** – A platform that enables secure and standardized sharing of government data and services through APIs.
- DigiLocker** – A digital document wallet that allows citizens to store, access, and share authenticated electronic documents.
- Aarogya Setu** – A digital health application providing risk assessment, health advisories, and access to health-related services.
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** – An online platform for transparent and efficient procurement of goods and services by government entities.
- UMANG** – A unified mobile and web platform providing single-window access to a wide range of government services.
- DIKSHA** – A national digital platform supporting teachers and learners with e-content, training, and academic resources.
- e-Sanjeevani** – A telemedicine platform enabling remote doctor-to-patient consultations, particularly in rural and underserved areas.
- e-Hospital** – A hospital management system providing online registration, appointments, diagnostics, and billing services.
- e-Office** – A digital platform for paperless governance enabling electronic file management and decision-making in government offices.
- eCourts** – A mission-mode project for digitising court processes and improving access to judicial

services.

- **POSHAN Tracker** – A mobile-based application for real-time monitoring of nutrition service delivery under ICDS.
- **National Non-Communicable Diseases Platform (NCD)** – A digital platform for screening, diagnosis, and management of major non-communicable diseases.
- **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** – A unified digital platform integrating skilling, training, and employment-related services.
- **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** – A platform for end-to-end monitoring of government funds and direct benefit transfers.
- **PM GatiShakti** – A GIS-based digital platform for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure projects.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

### 1. JANANI Platform

#### 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.

### 2. Samagra Shiksha Teachers

#### Context

- Delhi Government has approved a substantial **increase in the salaries of vocational teachers and those working under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.**

#### Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- **Launched in** - 2018-19
- **Financing** - Centrally Sponsored Scheme

#### Subsumed erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
2. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and
3. Teacher Education (TE)

#### Objectives:

- To implement SDG 4, Right to Education and New Education Policy.
- to treat school education holistically from pre-school to Class 12
- **Coverage:** 1.16 million schools, over 156 million students and 5.7 million Teachers of Govt. and Aided schools.

### 3. BHAVYA Scheme

#### Context

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has released the operational guidelines for implementation of the BHAVYA Scheme.

#### Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)

- **Aim: To create 100 “future ready” industrial parks** that will integrate with the PM GatiShakti programme so that they can avail of that programme’s multi-modal connectivity and last-mile access.
- These parks will **set new benchmarks in industrial infrastructure, ensuring reliability, reducing inefficiencies, and enhancing productivity** across sectors.
- **Land Use:** Industrial parks ranging from 100 to 1,000 acres will be taken up for the development.
- **Funding:** While the **Central government will provide funding of up to Rs 1 crore per acre**, the scheme is meant to include the involvement of the respective State governments as well as the private sector.
- **Infrastructure:** Core infrastructure like internal roads, underground utilities, drainage, common treatment facilities, ICT and administrative

systems.

- The **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)**, under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, will play a key role in **implementing the initiative**.
- The **scheme duration would be for six years starting in 2026-27**.

#### Additional Information - PM GatiShakti

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

## HEALTH AND SOCIETY

### 1. Lift Abortion Time Limit for Minor Rape Survivors: SC

#### Context

- The Supreme Court has asked the Union government to **amend the abortion law to remove the time limit on medical termination of unwanted pregnancies in the case of minor rape victims**.

#### Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) in India

- The act was **passed in 1971 and was amended in 2021**,
- It **legalizes abortion in India under specific conditions**, promoting reproductive autonomy and health.

#### It allows termination up to

1. 20 weeks with one doctor's opinion,
2. 20–24 weeks for special categories with two opinions, and beyond
3. 24 weeks via medical boards for fetal abnormalities.

#### Key Features of MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021

- **Increased Limits:** Enhanced **gestation limits to 24 weeks for special categories**, including rape

survivors, victims of incest, minors, and women with disabilities.

- **Unmarried Women Included:** The 2021 amendment covers **unmarried women, allowing them to terminate pregnancies caused by contraceptive failure**.
- **Confidentiality:** The name and details of the woman must remain confidential.
- **Legal & Constitutional Basis Reproductive Autonomy:** The Supreme Court has ruled that the **right to reproductive autonomy is part of Article 21 (Right to Privacy and Dignity)**.
- **Prior Legal Framework:** Originally enacted in 1971 based on the **Shantilal Shah Committee (1964) to reduce high maternal mortality from unsafe abortions**.

### 2. Vadinar Ship Repair Facility

#### 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.

### 3. PCOS Renamed as PMOS

#### Context

- A global medical consensus has **renamed Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) as Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS)** after nearly 14 years of scientific consultations involving doctors, researchers, and patient advocacy groups across the world.

#### PMOS

- **PMOS, earlier known as PCOS, is a complex hormonal and metabolic disorder affecting women of reproductive age**.
- It impacts the **endocrine system, metabolism, reproductive health, and mental well-being**.
- The **disorder affects nearly one in eight women globally** and is among the leading causes of infertility and menstrual irregularities.

### Symptoms of PMOS:

- **Risk of Diabetes:** Insulin resistance can lead to Type-2 diabetes mellitus.
- **Cardiovascular Risks:** Women with PMOS are more vulnerable to hypertension and heart diseases.
- **Fertility Challenges:** The disorder affects ovulation and reproductive health.
- **Mental Health Concerns:** Long-term stress, body image issues, and hormonal imbalance may contribute to psychological disorders.

### Why Was PCOS Renamed?

- The earlier name **Polycystic Ovary Syndrome** was considered scientifically inaccurate and misleading, as many women diagnosed with the condition do not actually develop ovarian cysts.
- The earlier term primarily associated the disorder with reproductive organs, whereas the condition also significantly affects metabolism, hormones, cardiovascular health, and mental health.

## 4. Study on Malaria Vaccine

### In News

- A major study published in the **Lancet** found that the world's first approved malaria vaccine, RTS,S/AS01E, reduced overall child deaths by 13% in parts of Africa.

### Additional Information - Malaria

- **Responsible pathogen** - Malaria is an acute febrile illness caused by **Plasmodium parasites**.
- **Vector** - It spreads from people to people through the bites of infected female **Anopheles mosquitoes**. It is preventable and curable.
- **Transmission** - **Malaria is not contagious and cannot spread from one person to another;** the disease is transmitted through the bites of female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- **Five species of parasites can cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax – pose the greatest threat.**

### Symptoms

- **Infants, children under 5 years, pregnant women, travelers and people with HIV or AIDS are at higher risk.** Severe symptoms include:
  - ◆ extreme tiredness and fatigue
  - ◆ impaired consciousness
  - ◆ multiple convulsions
  - ◆ difficulty breathing
  - ◆ dark or bloody urine

- ◆ jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin)
- ◆ abnormal bleeding.

### Initiatives to Control Malaria by WHO

- **WHO's Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030** - It aims to **reduce malaria case incidence and mortality rates by at least 40% by 2020, at least 75% by 2025 and at least 90% by 2030** against a 2015 baseline.
- **'E-2025 Initiative':** The WHO has identified **25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025** under the initiative.
- **High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) initiative:** WHO has initiated the initiative in **11 high malaria burden countries, including India.**

### Indian Government Initiatives to Control Malaria

- **National target** - The Government of India set a target to **eliminate malaria in India by 2027.**
- **National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME)** - It has been developed and launched in 2016 aligned with the Global Technical Strategy (GTS) for **malaria elimination 2016-2030.**
- **Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India):** It was **established by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** as a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.

## 5. Revving up Immune Cells Might Help Fight HIV: Study

### Context

- Scientists are tweaking a powerful cancer therapy in hopes it could fight HIV instead, by supercharging patients' own immune cells.

### Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

- **Pathogen** - It is a chronic, potentially life-threatening health condition caused by the **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** which damages the human immune system.
- **Transmission:** Through direct contact with certain **body fluids (blood, semen, rectal fluid, vaginal fluid or breast milk)** from a person infected with HIV.

### Symptoms:

- ◆ Stage 1: Flu-like illness (Fever, chills, rashes, night sweats)
- ◆ Stage 2: Clinical latency (No particular symptoms)
- ◆ Stage 3: AIDS (Weakening of Immune System)
- **Prevention: Prevention is better than cure,**

using protective techniques, non-contaminated needles & preventing mother to child transmission.

- **Treatment: There is no cure for HIV infection. It is treated with antiretroviral drugs**, which stop the virus from replicating in the body. Untreated HIV can progress to AIDS, often after many years.

#### Steps taken by Government of India

- **National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) (Central Sector Scheme)**
- India has achieved the 6th MDG of halting and reversing the HIV epidemic.
- **Prevention from Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) programme**
- **HIV/AIDS Act 2017 (Prohibits discrimination against HIV-infected people on any grounds)**
- **90:90:90 strategy as adopted by UNAIDS (90% (diagnosed, treatment (by anti-retroviral treatment (ART)) & suppression)) by 2020. Extended by 10 years with the goal post of 95-95-95.**
- **Project ACCELERATE (John Hopkin & NACO initiative): To provide HIV Services through Safe Zindagi online portal.**
- **Mission Sampark: Its purpose was to “bring back” people living with HIV (PLHIV) who had stopped antiretroviral therapy (ART).**

## 6. Alzheimer’s Disease

### In News

- **Eli Lilly and Company has launched a new Alzheimer’s treatment in India called Lormalzi**, marking one of the first disease-modifying therapies for the condition in the country.
- **Lormalzi Drug** - It is a monoclonal antibody, is given as a once-a-month infusion and works by removing amyloid-beta plaques in the brain, which are linked to Alzheimer’s progression.

### Alzheimer’s Disease

- It is the most **common form of dementia**, a brain disorder that slowly destroys a person’s memory and thinking skills.
- **It is characterized by a loss of cognitive functioning** — thinking, remembering, and reasoning — and behavioral abilities to such an extent that it interferes with a person’s daily life and activities.
- Eventually, people with **Alzheimer’s lose the ability to perform simple daily tasks, such as eating or walking.**
- Drugs like **lecanemab and aducanumab** exist

**globally**, benefits are modest and come with **complexity, high cost, and safety concerns.**

## 7. Ebola Outbreak

### Context

- The **World Health Organization (WHO) has declared an international health emergency after an Ebola outbreak** in the Democratic Republic of Congo killed over 80 people.

### Ebola virus disease (EVD)

- It is formerly **known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever**. It is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans.
- **First found in - Guinea in December 2013..**
- **Transmission** - The virus is **transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population**(Zoonotic nature).
- **Host** - **fruit bats** of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts.
- **Symptoms** - **Fever, fatigue, muscle, pain, headache, sore throat.**
- **vomiting, diarrhoea, rash**, symptoms of impaired kidney and liver function.
- **Treatment** - The **Ervebo vaccine** has been shown to be effective in protecting people from the species Zaire ebolavirus. **Remdesivir** was also tested as an Ebola treatment

## 8. Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) Annex.

### Context

- The historic WHO Pandemic Agreement (WPA), adopted in 2025, still lacks the much-needed **Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) Annex.**

### Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS)

- It is a crucial, **legally binding component of the WHO Pandemic Agreement.**
- It establishes a **multilateral system designed to ensure the rapid, transparent sharing of pathogens** with pandemic potential alongside the fair and equitable distribution of medical countermeasures **like vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments.**

### WHO Pandemic Agreement

- It was **adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2025.**
- **Objective** - The aim is to negotiate a WHO convention on **pandemic prevention, preparedness and response**, that would

culminate in a **legally binding international instrument**.

- Following its adoption, the next crucial step is for an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the Pandemic Agreement to **negotiate the details of the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system**.
- The Agreement will officially **enter into force 30 days after 60 countries have ratified it**.

## 9. CAR-T Cell Therapy

### Context

- A recent study demonstrated that engineered **CAR-T cells can detect “faint” tumour signals, offering a breakthrough in treating solid tumours such as kidney, ovarian, and pancreatic cancers**.

### T-cells

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

### CAR T-cell therapy

- It is an advanced treatment that modifies a patient’s T-cells to more effectively attack cancer.
- Doctors first collect T-cells from the patient’s blood and then introduce a gene that gives them special receptors called chimeric antigen receptors (CARs).
- These receptors function like GPS, directing the T-cells to locate and target cancer cells.
- After engineering, the T-cells are expanded in the lab and then infused back into the patient’s body.
- NexCAR19 is the world’s first humanised CAR-T therapy developed in India by ImmunoACT.

### Benefits

- **Targeted Precision**: CAR-T cell therapy Specifically attacks cancer cells while sparing healthy cells, reducing side effects compared to chemotherapy.
- **Personalised Treatment**: CAR-T cell therapy Uses the patient’s own T-cells, engineered to target their unique cancer, enhancing effectiveness.
- **Long-Lasting Effects**: Engineered T-cells can persist in the body, providing extended protection against cancer recurrence.
- **Reduced Hospitalisation & Costs**: Fewer hospital stays and less supportive care needed, leading to potential cost savings.
- **Advances in Cancer Treatment**: Opens new

avenues in immunotherapy, expanding treatment options and research possibilities.

- **Technological Evolution**: Continuous development of CAR constructs allows targeting of diverse cancers and combination therapies.
- **Affordability**: Indigenous therapies like NexCAR19 in India make CAR-T treatment more accessible and cost-effective.

## 10. Sample Registration Survey 2024

### Context

- The recent Sample Registration Survey 2024 was released by the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI).

### The Sample Registration System (SRS)

- It provides reliable **annual estimates of Infant Mortality Rate, Birth Rate, Death Rate and other Fertility & Mortality Indicators** at the National and subNational levels.
- **Conducted by - Registrar General of India.**

### Major Findings

- **Birth Rate: It is live births per 1,000 population, it fell from 21 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024.**
- The number declined from 14.9 to 14.7 in urban areas and from 20.3 to 20.2 in rural areas.
- The highest Birth Rate was observed at 26.8 in Bihar, whereas Andaman & Nicobar Islands had the lowest Birth Rate of 9.9.
- **Death Rate: It is deaths per 1,000 people, it is down from 6.7 to 6.4.**
- In 2024, Chhattisgarh recorded the highest Death Rate of 8.4, whereas the lowest Death Rate was recorded in Chandigarh at 3.9.
- **Infant Mortality Rate**: The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births in a given year.
- **The present level of IMR (24 infant deaths per thousand live births, for the year 2024) is less than one-fifth as compared to 1971.** In the last ten years, IMR has witnessed a decline of about 38%.
- **In 2024, the maximum IMR was reported in Chhattisgarh (36) and the minimum in Manipur (2).**

### Government Initiatives to Curb Infant Mortality in India

- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** - It includes free drugs, consumables, free diet during the stay, free diagnostics, free transportation,

and free blood transfusion if required.

- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost, assured and quality antenatal checkup by a Specialist/Medical Officer on the 9th day of every month.
- **Mission Indradhanush:** It was launched in 2014, aiming to achieve over 90% full immunisation coverage by strengthening routine immunisation services and targeting hard-to-reach populations.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK):** Children from 0 to 18 years of age are screened for 32 health conditions (i.e. Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects, and Developmental delays) under RBSK to improve child survival.
- **Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs)** are established at public health facilities where children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and medical complications are admitted for treatment.

## 11. Myopia Pandemic

### Context

- **By 2050, approximately 4.75 billion people, nearly half the world's population, are expected to be myopic.**
- The prevalence of myopia among urban children in India has increased from 4.44% in 1999 to 21.15% in 2019 and is projected to rise to nearly 48% by 2050.

### Myopia

- It is primarily a refractive condition caused by excessive axial elongation of the eye.
- In a myopic eye, the axial length, which is the distance between the front and back of the eye, becomes too long.
- As a result, incoming light rays focus in front of the retina instead of directly on it, causing distant objects to appear blurred.
- Concerns: As the axial length of the eye increases, the tissues of the eye, including the sclera, choroid, and retina, undergo stretching and thinning. This increases the risk of retinal detachment, myopic macular degeneration, glaucoma, and early cataract formation.
- High myopia, generally defined as a refractive error of  $-6$  dioptres or greater, is associated with potentially irreversible visual impairment and blindness.
- Prevention: Research suggests that more outdoor time may help reduce progression risk.

- Regular eye exams are important, especially in school-age children.

## GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Lipulekh Pass

#### In News

- **Nepal has objected to India's plan to conduct the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the Lipulekh pass, which Nepal considers disputed territory.**



#### Lipulekh Pass

- It is a high-altitude **Himalayan pass in Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand (India).**
- It serves as a strategic **tri-junction connecting India, China (Tibet), and Nepal.**
- **It is accessed from India through Dharchula.**
- It is strategically and culturally important as a **traditional route for Indian pilgrims on the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.**
- It also has historical commercial value, as **it became the first India–China border trade post when trade opened in 1992.**

#### What is the Dispute

- The tension between India and Nepal over the Lipulekh Pass is a complex boundary dispute rooted in the **1816 Treaty of Sugauli.**
- The Treaty was **signed between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Nepal** and established the Kali River (Mahakali) as Nepal's western border.
- **Nepal claims the river originates at Limpiyadhura, which would place the Lipulekh and Kalapani regions within its territory.**

## 2. India's e-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.**

## 3. Teesta River

### 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.

## 4. Survey records 143 Odonata species across Western Ghats

### 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.

**5. Kerala’s Oil Spill Contingency Plan**

**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.**

## 6. Centre Eyes New E-bus Scheme

### Context

- The Centre may roll out a fresh electric bus scheme for States after completing the tendering and allocation of all 14,000 buses under the **PM E-DRIVE programme.**

### 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.

## 7. Sacred Groves in India

### Context

- The Kerala State Biodiversity Board has launched a pilot programme to restore sacred groves.

### Sacred Groves

- **Sacred groves are patches of forest or natural vegetation protected by local communities** due to religious beliefs and traditional practices.
- They function as community-conserved ecosystems, often associated with temples, rituals, and indigenous traditions.
- **India has an estimated 100,000–150,000 sacred groves, reflecting their widespread cultural and ecological significance.**
- **Suitable groves may be notified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.**

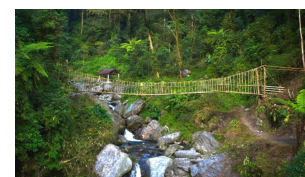
### Significance

- Sacred groves act as biodiversity hotspots, preserving rare, endemic, and medicinal plant species.
- They contribute to soil conservation and prevent erosion, especially in fragile ecosystems like the Western Ghats and Himalayas.
- Culturally, they are centres of rituals, festivals, and community identity, reinforcing conservation through belief systems.

## 8. Ru-Soam Bridges

### Context

- UNESCO has partnered with the Government of Sikkim to document indigenous Ru-Soam (cane bridge) engineering practices.
- The project is being implemented in the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve with support from Airbnb.



### About Ru-Soam Bridges

- **Ru-Soam are traditional cane bridges built by the Lepcha community.**
- These bridges are **constructed using locally available natural materials such as bamboo, cane, and wood.**
- They demonstrate a **high level of ecological understanding and structural resilience suited to mountainous terrain.**
- The bridges proved their **resilience during the**

## Sikkim Glacial Lake Outburst Flood 2023.

### 9. Tanzania

#### In News

- Recently, the 5th session of the India–Tanzania Joint Trade Committee (JTC), held in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.



#### Tanzania

- It is an **East African country** located just south of the Equator.
- The **capital is Dodoma**, and **Dar es Salaam is the largest city** and main port.
- tanzania
- Bordering countries** - It is bordered by **Uganda, Kenya, and Lake Victoria to the north**; **the Indian Ocean to the east**; **Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, and Lake Nyasa to the south**; and **Rwanda, Burundi, and Lake Tanganyika to the west**.
- Geographical features: Mount Kilimanjaro Located in Tanzania,**
- Mount Kilimanjaro is the African continent's highest peak**
- Tanzania also includes a **portion of Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa and a source of the Nile River**.
- Rivers - Great Ruaha, Rufiji, and Kagera rivers**
- Lake Tanganyika, forms the boundary between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

### 10. Ecocide

#### Context

- The term “**ecocide**” has gained renewed attention amid allegations of large-scale environmental destruction during recent conflicts, including the wars in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran.

#### Ecocide

- Ecocide refers to **severe, widespread, or long-term destruction of the environment** caused by human actions.
- The term was coined in 1970 by **Arthur W. Galston**.
- Note - Vietnam became the first country to criminalise ecocide domestically in 1990.**

## Connect with the basics - International Laws on Environment

### Climate Change & Ozone

- UNFCCC (1992):** The foundational framework aiming to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions.
- Kyoto Protocol (1997):** Set legally binding emission reduction targets for developed countries and established flexible market mechanisms (CDM, Emissions Trading).
- Paris Agreement (2015):** A legally binding treaty adopted at COP21 aiming to limit global warming to well below 2°C (striving for 1.5°C) using Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Montreal Protocol (1987):** A highly successful, legally binding treaty phased out ozone-depleting substances (ODSs). [Recent] Its Kigali Amendment (2016) mandates the phased reduction of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

### Biodiversity & Wildlife

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** Targets the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair sharing of benefits. Includes the Cartagena Protocol (biosafety) and the Nagoya Protocol (access and benefit-sharing).
- CITES (1973):** Controls international trade of endangered flora and fauna to ensure survival.
- Ramsar Convention (1971):** Focuses on the conservation and wise use of internationally significant wetlands.

### Hazardous Wastes & Chemicals

- Basel Convention (1989):** Controls the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal.
- Rotterdam Convention (1998):** Promotes shared responsibility and cooperative efforts in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals.
- Stockholm Convention (2001):** Aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

### 11. India to host 1st IBCA Summit

#### In News

- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the website and logo for the 1st International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026, in New Delhi.



## International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- **Headquarters - India,**
- **Objective -** It is a **multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 95 big cat range countries with an interest in big cat conservation.**
- **Genesis:** IBCA was launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2023 during the event 'Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger'.
- **Aim: Conserving seven big cats - Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.**
- **Members:** Nicaragua, Eswatini, India, Somalia and Liberia have signed the Framework Agreement to formally become members of the IBCA.

## 12. Miyawaki Forest Plantation

### Context

- The Delhi government's Forest Department has planned a Miyawaki plantation drive at the Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary.

### Miyawaki Technique

- **Origin:** The Miyawaki technique, Often referred to as the '**pot plantation method**', was **developed by renowned Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki** in the 1970s.
- It is a revolutionary method **for creating dense forests in small urban spaces.**
- **Principle:** It involves **planting trees and shrubs close to one another** to accelerate their growth. **Plants grow 10 times faster with this technique,** making it a practical solution for urban areas.
- **Significance:** In urban areas, the method is known to have successfully **converted barren, polluted lands into thriving green ecosystems,** simultaneously **managing industrial waste and curbing pollution.**

### Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary is **located in southern Delhi and extends into parts of Faridabad in Haryana.**
- The sanctuary lies along the **Southern Ridge of the Aravalli Range, which is one of the oldest mountain systems in the world.**
- The **sanctuary was declared a protected area in 1991** under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The **sanctuary is also known as the "green lungs" of Delhi** and acts as a natural **ecological barrier against the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert.**

## 13. India's First Satellite-tagged Ganges Soft-shell Turtle

### In News








- India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle was released in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam.
- Assam is one of the world's top priority areas in freshwater turtle conservation. Of the **eight soft-shell turtles reported from India, five are known from the Kaziranga landscape.**



### Ganges soft-shell turtle (Nilssononia gangetica),

- **Characteristics:** It can be differentiated from other riverine turtles by its distinct arrowhead-shaped markings on the top of the head.
- It feeds on fish, birds, reptiles, invertebrates, carrion, and aquatic plants.
- **Habitat and Distribution:** It mainly lives in rivers and large canals with muddy bottoms and flowing, turbid water, though it may also use ponds and lakes.
- It is found across the northern plains of the Indian subcontinent, including the Indus, Ganga, Narmada, Mahanadi, and Brahmaputra river basins in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- In India, the species inhabits large rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.
- **Ecological Role :** It is a major river predator and

**Conservation Status of 7 Big Cats**

Big Cat	IUCN Status	CITES Status	Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
 <b>Tiger</b> (Panthera tigris)	Endangered	Appendix I	Schedule I
 <b>Lion</b> (Panthera leo)	Vulnerable	Appendix I	Schedule I
 <b>Leopard</b> (Panthera pardus)	Vulnerable	Appendix I	Schedule I
 <b>Snow Leopard</b> (Panthera uncia)	Vulnerable	Appendix I	Schedule I
 <b>Cheetah</b> (Acinonyx jubatus)	Vulnerable	Appendix I	Schedule I
 <b>Jaguar</b> (Panthera onca)	Near Threatened	Appendix I	Not found in India
 <b>Puma</b> (Puma concolor)	Least Concern	Appendix I	Not found in India

helps clean up the system by feeding on dead and decaying animal matter.

- **Threats :** It faces severe threats from illegal hunting, international trade, and habitat destruction.
- **Protection status :** It is a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.
- It is recorded as endangered on the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

- It is included in CITES Appendix I, prohibiting all forms of international commercial trade.

## 14. Saranda Forest

### In News

- The Jharkhand government has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against its earlier order directing the state to notify the Saranda elephant forests as a wildlife sanctuary within three months.
- Jharkhand argues that declaring the sanctuary could affect tribal habitations, roads, and infrastructure, requiring further studies.

### Saranda Forest

- It is located about 122 km from Jamshedpur in Jharkhand.
- It is the largest Sal forest in Asia and is known as the “land of seven hundred hills.”
- It is part of the Chhotanagpur biogeographic zone and connects with forests in Odisha and Chhattisgarh, creating a continuous wildlife habitat.
- Flora and fauna - It includes endangered flying lizards and large elephant populations, and forms an important migratory elephant corridor.
- Major tree species - Sal, Mahua, and Kusum.
- Tribes - Ho, Munda, Uraon, and Santhal peoples,
- Significance - It holds deep cultural significance for local tribes, whose traditions, rituals, and sacred groves (“Sarna”) are closely tied to the forest ecosystem.

## 15. Maharashtra Completes Documentation of Over 23,000 Wetlands

### Context

- National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has completed the documentation and Ground-truthing of Maharashtra’s 23,415 wetlands.

### Wetlands

- Definition - ‘A wetland is the transitional land between terrestrial and aquatic eco-systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water’.
- These are ecotone between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem
- India has around 4.6% of its land as wetlands, 99 Wetlands of India are under the List of Wetlands of International Importance called as Ramsar

### Sites.

- India boasts the largest Ramsar site network in Asia and the 3rd largest in the world in terms of number of sites.
- Tamil Nadu holds the highest number of Ramsar sites in India in 2026 with 20 sites.

### 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.

## 16. Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

### In News

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme.

### Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

- Financing- It is a centrally sponsored initiative
- Duration - 2026-27 to 2030-31
- Implementation -Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE),
- Objective: To exploit untapped small hydro potential, reduce transmission losses, and provide reliable, decentralized electricity to remote and inaccessible regions.

## 17. G7 Declaration on Desertification

### Context

- Recently, the G7 Environment Ministers have elevated desertification, land degradation and drought to the core of their agenda, and termed these conditions ‘systemic global challenges’ and ‘security risk multipliers’.

### Key Highlights of Declaration

- Scale of the Crisis: Desertification, land degradation and drought leads to declining soil

fertility, water scarcity, and loss of ecosystem services.

- It directly **threatens food security and livelihoods, particularly in agrarian economies.**
- Nearly 40% of global land is degraded, affecting about 3.2 billion people.

#### Additional information- UNCCD and COP17 (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Aug 2026)

##### United Nations Convention to combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- **Established in - 1994**
- **Objective** - To combat desertification and It is the **sole legally binding international agreement** linking environment to sustainable land management.
- **Significance** - To maintain and restore the land and soil reproductively.
- **June 17** - It is observed as the **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD).**
- **UNCCD COP16 (2024, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia):** \$12 billion was pledged for land restoration; **India showcased the Aravalli Green Wall initiative.**
- **Theme (2026): 'Restoring Land, Restoring Hope'.**

#### Other Institutional Mechanisms

- **Bonn Challenge (2011):** Global pledge to restore 350 million hectares by 2030
- **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:** Targets 2 and 11 address land restoration
- **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–30):** Joint UNEP-FAO initiative
- **G20 Global Land Initiative:** Aligned with India's G20 Presidency (2022) goal to reduce degraded land by 50% by 2040

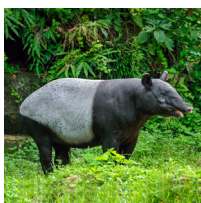
## 18. World Tapir Day

#### In News

- Recently, World Tapir Day was observed globally to raise awareness about Tapirs.

#### Tapirs

- Tapirs are **large herbivorous mammals.**
- Tapirs inhabit jungle and forest regions of **South America, Central America, and Southeast Asia.**
- Tapirs form an important part of the ecosystem as **seed dispersers and form one of the oldest surviving genera in the animal kingdom.**
- **Threats** posed are **habitat loss, hunting, and human encroachment.**



#### Types and IUCN Red List status

1. Lowland Tapir(Tapirus terrestris) – Vulnerable
2. Mountain Tapir(Tapirus pinchaque) – Endangered
3. Malay Tapir(Tapirus indicus) – Endangered
4. Baird's Tapir(Tapirus bairdii) –Endangered.

## 19. Geophagy

#### News

- Barbary macaques in Gibraltar have been found to eat soil (geophagy) more often than other populations.



#### Geophagy

- It is the **widespread behavior of eating soil, clay, or earth substances like chalk or kaolin.**
- It is observed **across many animal groups and also among some human populations, especially in tropical regions.**
- It is found in many cultures worldwide but especially common in **parts of Africa, among pregnant women, children, and rural populations.**
- It may be **linked to health or nutritional needs,** such as **relieving nausea,** but its exact causes are not well understood.

#### Barbary macaque (Macaca sylvanus)

- It is a **unique primate found in Africa north of the Sahara** and is the only **wild monkey in Europe.**
- Once widespread across North Africa and parts of Southern Europe, it **now survives mainly in small forest areas in Algeria and Morocco,** with an introduced population in Gibraltar.
- The species is listed on **Appendix I of CITES and The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species** classifies it as **Endangered** .

## 20. Arunachal Kiwi Mission

#### Context

- The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region launched a **Mission on "Arunachal Kiwi: The USP of Arunachal Pradesh".**

#### Mission on Arunachal Kiwi

- **Objective** - to **strengthen the entire kiwi value chain** – from cultivation and post-harvest management to branding, exports and agri-tourism.
- **Significance** - The mission aims to **promote kiwi orchard tourism** and farm-stay experiences in

areas such as **Ziro Valley and Dirang**, combining **horticulture with experiential tourism**.

- **Note - Arunachal Pradesh currently contributes more than 50 percent of India's kiwi production, producing over 7,050 metric tonnes annually.**

### **Kiwi or Chinese gooseberry (*Actinidia deliciosa*)**

- It is a **nutrient-rich woody deciduous vine native to eastern Asia**.
- It is known for its **fuzzy brown skin, green/golden flesh, and edible black seeds**.
- It requires **700–800 chilling hours below 7°C during winter** and best suited to mid-hill regions (800–1,500 m altitude).
- It begins **fruiting in 4–5 years and attains full commercial production by 7–8 years**.

## 21. Sperm Whales

### **Context**

- **Researchers have revealed that sperm whales, which communicate using clicking sounds, also vary the sounds in ways that resemble how humans use vowels.**

### **Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)**



- Sperm whales got their name because the semi-liquid, waxy substance in their head was first believed to be sperm.
- **Distribution:** They occur throughout the world's oceans and in the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Appearance:** It is a large, dark-colored, toothed whale with a massive, square-shaped head that can make up more than a third of its body length.
- Sperm whales are the largest of the toothed whales.
- **Threats:** Deep-sea oil and gas exploration can cause multiple issues, such as **loss of hearing, water pollution from hydrocarbons, and increased risk of being hit by ocean vessels**.
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN Vulnerable.
- Protected under **Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act** and **possession or trade of any of its by-products, including Ambergris, is illegal**.
- They are listed in **Appendix I of the CITES** (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).
- However, ambergris is not covered in CITES provisions as it is considered a naturally excreted waste product and trade of which is legal in many countries.

### **Ambergris**

- Ambergris means grey amber in French, is a **waxy substance that originates from the digestive system of sperm whales**.
- Due to its **high value in the market, ambergris is often called the 'floating gold' and 'treasure of the sea'**.

## 22. Water Hyacinth Livelihood Initiative in Assam

### **Context**

- A livelihood initiative supported by the **International Rhino Foundation** has enabled **women living near the Laokhowa-Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam to convert invasive water hyacinth into marketable household products**.

### **Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes* or *Pontederia crassipes*)**

- It is a free-floating, perennial aquatic plant **native to tropical and subtropical South America**.
- It is widely recognized as one of the world's **most aggressive Invasive Alien Species (IAS)**.
- It is famously referred to as the **"Terror of Bengal" in India** due to its devastating ecological and economic footprint.

### **Laokhowa-Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary (LBWLS)**

- **Location** - Situated on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Assam
- **Ecological Connectivity:** Strategically nestled between Kaziranga National Park to the east and Orang National Park to the west.
- **Vegetation** - A mosaic of wet alluvial grasslands, riparian forests, moist deciduous woods, and significant wetland systems (like the Rowmari-Donduwa wetland complex).
- **Keystone Species:** Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros, Royal Bengal Tiger, Asian elephant, and Asiatic water buffalo.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### 1. GalaxEye Launches Mission Drishti

#### Context

- Indian space start-up GalaxEye has launched Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite, aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from California in the United States.

#### Mission Drishti

- It is the world's first OptoSAR satellite,
- It was launched on May 3, 2026, by Indian space-tech startup GalaxEye (founded by IIT Madras alumni) on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- This 190 kg Earth Observation (EO) satellite integrates SAR and optical sensors for all-weather, high-resolution imagery.

#### Key Features

- **Technology:** Combines Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) with Multi-spectral Optical sensors (OptoSAR) on a single platform.
- **Advantage:** Unlike traditional satellites, it provides high-resolution imaging through clouds and at night.
- **Applications:** Border surveillance, disaster management, agriculture, infrastructure monitoring, and defence.
- **Significance:** India's largest privately built satellite, boosting local private space capacity.
- **Mission Goal:** Part of a planned constellation of 8-12 satellites by 2029

### 2. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

#### 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

### 3. National Technology Day

#### Context

- National Technology Day is observed annually on 11 May.

#### National Technology Day

- The day commemorates the successful nuclear tests conducted by India at Pokhran in Rajasthan in 1998 under Operation Shakti.
- The day recognizes the contribution of Indian scientists, engineers, and technological institutions to national development and strategic capability.

### 4. Hantavirus Outbreak

#### Context

- Three passengers on a cruise ship in the Atlantic Ocean have died after a suspected hantavirus outbreak, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).



#### Hantavirus

- **Responsible Pathogen** - It is a rare but severe zoonotic disease, meaning it spreads from animals to humans. It belongs to the Hantaviridae family and is an RNA virus.
- **Vector** - The virus is primarily spread by rodents

such as mice and rats.

- It spreads through **inhalation of airborne particles from infected rodent urine or droppings**, or by touching contaminated surfaces.
- **Human-to-human transmission is generally rare.**
- **Symptoms** - The disease usually begins with flu-like symptoms such as **fever and fatigue within one to eight weeks after exposure.**
- In severe cases, it can lead to **Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome**, which may **cause respiratory distress and can be fatal.**
- **Treatment** - There are **no specific drugs to treat the disease**, so treatment focuses on supportive care, including putting patients on ventilators in severe cases.

## 5. Solar Wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE)

### Context

- A joint mission of the European Space Agency and the Chinese Academy of Sciences named SMILE is being developed to study how Earth's magnetic shield responds to solar storms and space weather events.

### SMILE Mission

- **SMILE stands for Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer.**
- **Launched by** - is a joint **ESA-China satellite mission** launched on May 19, 2026.
- **Objective** - Exploring the interface where solar winds collide with the outer boundary of Earth's magnetosphere

### Global Space Missions

- **Parker Solar Probe (NASA):** Launched in 2018; sweeps directly inside the Sun's coronal atmosphere (within 6.5 million km) using an advanced carbon-composite heat shield.
- **Solar Orbiter (ESA & NASA):** Launched in 2020 to capture the first-ever close-up images of the Sun's polar zones by shifting outside the traditional ecliptic plane.
- **PUNCH Mission (NASA):** Targeted to track solar winds and coronal mass ejections passing from the corona directly into the broader heliosphere.

## 6. Chandrayaan-3: Latest Research

### In News

- Scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory have used data from Chandrayaan-3 to reveal

new details about the Moon's surface.

### Chandrayaan-3,

- It is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2, successfully achieved a soft landing on the Moon's south pole in 2023.

### Lander payloads:

- Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) - to measure the thermal conductivity and temperature
- Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) - for measuring the seismicity around the landing site etc.

### Rover payloads:

- Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) & Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (LIBS) for deriving the elemental composition in the vicinity of landing site.

### Additional Information - Chandrayaan-1

- It was **launched in 2008.**
- It was **India's first lunar mission.**
- It made India the fifth country to reach the Moon.
- The mission's most significant **discovery was the presence of water molecules on the lunar surface**, a finding confirmed by NASA.

### Chandrayaan-2

- It was **launched in 2019 with an orbiter, a lander (Vikram), and a rover (Pragyan).**
- The mission aimed to achieve a soft landing on the lunar surface, but ISRO lost contact with the lander just before touchdown, **resulting in a crash landing.**
- Despite this setback, the orbiter continued functioning and provided crucial data on the Moon's surface and atmosphere.

## 7. Zwan-Wolf Effect

### Context

- A recent study published in Nature Communications has provided evidence of the **Zwan-Wolf effect at Mars using data from NASA's MAVEN spacecraft.**

### Zwan-Wolf Effect

- The Zwan-Wolf effect is a space weather phenomenon where **electrically charged particles (plasma) are compressed and squeezed along magnetic field lines** when a planet's magnetic boundary interacts with the solar wind.
- **First identified in 1976 by scientists B.J. Zwan**

and R.A. Wolf.

### Significance of Discovery

- Mars lacks a strong global magnetic field unlike the Earth.
- The discovery shows that even relatively “unmagnetised” planets can experience complex magnetic interactions.

### MAVEN Mission

- MAVEN stands for **Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution Mission**.
- It is a **NASA mission launched in 2013 to study the Martian atmosphere** and its interaction with the solar wind.
- The mission investigates how Mars lost much of its atmosphere and water over time.

### Connect with the basics - Mars

- It is the **fourth planet** from the Sun
- It is the **second-smallest planet** in the Solar System.
- Mars is about **half the size of Earth**.
- **Rotation period** - Its rotation period is **24.6 hours**, which is very similar to that of Earth (23.9 hours).
- **Red Planet** - The reason Mars looks reddish is **due to oxidation or rusting of iron in the rocks, and dust of Mars**. Hence it is also called the Red Planet.
- **Moon of Mars** - Phobos and Deimos

### Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) or Mangalyaan

- **Launched from** - Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh
- **Launched by** - It was launched by Indian Space Research Organisation in November 2013.
- **Rocket used** - PSLV C-25 rocket
- **Objective** - To study Martian surface and mineral composition as well as scan its atmosphere for methane (an indicator of life on Mars).

## HISTORY AND CULTURE

### 1. Komagata Maru Incident

#### In News

- Recently a Punjabi Singer compared the **1914 Komagata Maru rejection of Indians in Canada with his own sold-out concert** to highlight how attitudes have changed over time.



#### Komagata Maru Incident

- The **Komagata Maru (also called Guru Nanak Jahaz)** was a Japanese steamship chartered by **Gurdit Singh in 1914, carrying 376 Indians seeking better opportunities in Canada**.
- Early 20th century **Punjab faced rural indebtedness, famines and epidemics and many ex-soldiers and peasants migrated abroad for livelihood**.
- Most passengers were Sikhs, along with Muslims and Hindus, who faced severe restrictions under Canada’s immigration laws.
- **On arrival in Vancouver, only 24 were allowed to disembark, and the rest were kept onboard without adequate food, water, or medical aid**.
- Attempts by authorities to seize the ship were resisted, and a **local support group raised funds to challenge the restrictions legally**, but the ship was ultimately forced to leave.

#### Reasons for Passenger Denial

- Both India and Canada were under British rule, so **Indian passengers believed they had the right to settle anywhere in the British Empire**.
- However, in **1908 Canada introduced the “continuous journey regulation,”** which required immigrants to arrive directly from their country of origin without stops—something practically impossible from India.
- This rule, influenced by **anti-Asian sentiment after the 1907 Vancouver riots** led by the Asiatic Exclusion League, was designed to **restrict immigration, particularly targeting Asians, including Indians**.

#### Return in India

- After being expelled from Vancouver and refused entry at other ports during **World War I, the ship was sent back to India**.
- At Budge Budge near Kolkata, **British authorities**

tried to send the passengers to Punjab, but they resisted and marched toward the city.

- Troops opened fire, killing 20 and injuring several. **Gurdit Singh initially escaped but later surrendered on Mahatma Gandhi's advice and was imprisoned for five years.**

### Impact of Komagata Maru Incident on Indian Freedom Movement

- The Komagata Maru incident **exposed the racial discrimination faced by Indians within the British Empire**, first in Canada and later in India.
- The humiliation and violence against the passengers strengthened the belief that **Indians could not secure equal rights under colonial rule, boosting demands for complete independence** instead of reforms.
- It also **energized revolutionary groups like the Ghadar Party**, further encouraging resistance and the **idea of armed struggle against British rule.**

## 2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

### In News

- Recently, the **Prime Minister paid tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Somnath Temple during the 75th anniversary celebrations of the temple's reconstruction.**

### Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- **Born on - October 31, 1875,**
- **India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.**
- He is widely regarded as the **architect of India's national integration** and a key force behind the **establishment of modern civil services**
- He was posthumously honoured with the **Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in the country in 1991.**

### Contributions in India's Freedom Struggle

- **Kheda Satyagraha, 1917:** As a prominent local leader in the Kheda district of Gujarat, Patel supported Mahatma Gandhi in organising the Satyagraha against unjust land revenue taxes imposed by the British.
- **Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920-22:** Patel significantly impacted the Non-Cooperation Movement, recruiting approximately 300,000 members and raising 1.5 million rupees.
- **Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928:** During the Bardoli Satyagraha, Patel supported the local population suffering from famine and increased land taxes.

- **Civil Disobedience Movement 1930-34:** He actively participated in the Salt Satyagraha, a nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly.
- **Quit India Movement, 1942:** He organised protests and strikes against British rule, and delivered compelling and electrifying speeches throughout India, inspiring and mobilising people to join mass protests, engage in acts of civil disobedience, boycott tax payments, and stage civil service shutdowns.

### Do you know?

- Since 2014, **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, also known as National Unity Day**, has been celebrated every year on October 31 to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.**
- The **Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue**, was unveiled on 31 October 2018 at **Kevadia in Gujarat** on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- **Civil Services Day is observed on 21 April** to mark **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's address to the first batch of civil servants** of Independent India in 1947.

## 3. Tatya Tope

### Context

- A rare handwritten and signed letter of Tatya Tope dating back to 1857 has been discovered in the archives of Madhya Pradesh.

### Tatya Tope

- **Early Life:** Tatya Tope, originally named **Ram-achandra Pandurang Tope**, was **born in 1814 in Nashik, Maharashtra.**
- His father served as a noble in the court of Baji Rao II, the last Maratha Peshwa.
- He shared a **close association with Nana Sahib**, the adopted son of Baji Rao II, which later shaped his role in the revolt.
- **Role in the Revolt of 1857:** He emerged as one of the most capable military commanders during the Revolt of 1857.
- He played a key role in major centres of resistance such as Kanpur and Gwalior.
- He worked **closely with leaders like Rani Lakshmibai**, helping sustain the rebellion against British forces.

- **Military Tactics:** He was known for his effective use of guerrilla warfare, rapid mobility, and surprise attacks.
- He was eventually captured by the British and executed in Shivpuri in 1859 after a formal trial.

#### 4. Bhojshala

##### In News

- The Madhya Pradesh High Court declared the Bhojshala complex in Dhar district a Hindu temple.



##### Bhojshala Complex

- **Raja Bhoja**, the greatest ruler of the Paramara dynasty, founded the famous Bhojshala at Dhar around **1000–1055 A.D.** as a major center of learning dedicated to Goddess Saraswati.
- Later, the structure was converted into the **Kamal Maula Mosque** during Muslim rule.
- It served as a **premier college and centre of Sanskrit learning**. The mosque still contains carved pillars, ceilings, and stone inscriptions from the original Bhojshala.
- Important inscriptions include **Sanskrit grammar tables, hymns to Vishnu, praises of Paramara kings, and the Sanskrit drama Karpuramanjari written by Madana** during the reign of Arjunavarma Deva.

#### 5. Veera Pasi

##### Context

- Recently, a statue of Veera Pasi, often remembered as a “forgotten hero” of the Revolt of 1857, was unveiled in Raebareli.

##### Veera Pasi

- Veera Pasi (born Shivdeen Pasi) was a valiant **19th-century warrior and army commander from Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh**, who played a heroic role in the **1857 Uprising**.
- **Born on November 11, 1835, in Lodhwari village**, he was orphaned early and lived with his sister.
- In the local dialect, a brother living with his sister’s family was affectionately called “Veerna,” which eventually evolved into the name Veera.
- He became a trusted commander and associate of Rana Beni Madhav Baksh Singh, ruler of the Shankarpur Estate in Awadh.
- When British forces captured Rana Beni Madhav Singh, Veera Pasi displayed remarkable courage

by launching a rescue operation and freeing him from prison.

## DEFENCE

### 1. Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range (NASM-SR)

#### Context

- India successfully carried out the maiden launch of a **Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range (NASM-SR)** from a Sea King helicopter off the Odisha coast in the Bay of Bengal.



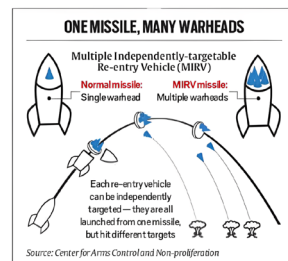
#### Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range

- It is an **indigenously developed, air-launched anti-ship missile** designed for **helicopter-based maritime strike operations**.
- It is **India’s first indigenous helicopter-launched anti-ship missile**.
- It is developed to **replace British-origin Sea Eagle missiles**.
- It aimed to provide the Indian Navy with a **high-precision, indigenous strike capability against maritime targets**, strengthening defence self-reliance.
- The system has been **developed by the Research Centre Imarat** under the Defence Research and Development Organisation, in collaboration with other labs.

### 2. Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle system

#### 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.

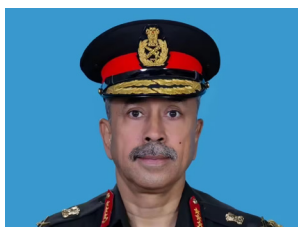
### The missiles developed under IGMDP are

- 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

## 3. Chief of Defence Staff

### Context

- The Government of India has appointed Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- He will also function as the Secretary, Department of Military Affairs (DMA).



### Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- **The post of CDS was created in 2019** following recommendations of the **Kargil Review Committee** and subsequent defence reforms.
- **The first CDS of India was General Bipin Rawat.**

### Role and Responsibilities of the CDS:

- **Principal Adviser:** Acts as the **primary military adviser to the Defence Minister on all tri-services matters**.
- **Department of Military Affairs:** Functions as the **Secretary to the Government of India for the Department of Military Affairs**.
- **Military Reform:** Focuses on **enhancing synergy, jointness in operations, and modernization of the armed forces**.
- **Theater Commands:** Drives the restructuring of military commands into integrated theater commands.
- **Strategic and Nuclear Role:** Serves as an important **military adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority**.

## 4. Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project

### Context

- The Union Minister for Defence laid the foundation stone for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project** at Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.

### Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme facility

- is being **developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency** under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It will serve as the integration, development and flight testing hub for **India's indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft programme**.
- The AMCA fighter aircraft will feature stealth technology, **twin-engine super cruise capability and advanced avionics**.

## 5. 'Abhay': AI-powered verification system

### In News

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched an AI-based helpbot called "Abhay" for authentication of CBI notices.

### 'Abhay'

- It is the **AI-powered chatbot-style verification mechanism** for the public to **verify notices issued by CBI**.
- It is designed to protect the citizens from the **growing menace of cyber fraud and digital arrest scams**.
- It has been designed keeping in mind data confidentiality and the requirement for a public-facing authentication mechanism.

## 6. Apache Helicopters

### Context

- The United States has approved the proposed sale of support services and related equipment for **Apache helicopters to India at an estimated cost of 198.2 million US dollars.**

### About

- Apache helicopters are among the **world's most advanced multi-role attack helicopters.**
- **Developed by Boeing,** it combines firepower, agility, and modern avionics.
- It is equipped with **Hellfire missiles, 70mm rockets, and a 30mm chain gun,** enabling it to engage ground targets, armoured vehicles, and even low-flying aircraft.
- They have advanced sensors, targeting radar, and night vision systems that make it effective for operations in **all weather conditions, including high-altitude and low-visibility combat zones.**
- **Besides India, other users include Egypt, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the UK, and more.**

## 7. India Becomes 5th Largest Military Spender in 2025: SIPRI

### Context

- India emerged as the world's **fifth-largest military spender in 2025,** with defence expenditure reaching \$92.1 billion, **according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).**

### Key Highlights (India)

- **Defence spending rose by 8.9% year-on-year,** driven by operational and procurement needs amid India–Pakistan tensions (May 2025).
- India remains the **2nd largest arms importer,** accounting for 8.2% of global imports. However, arms imports declined by 4% between 2016–20 and 2021–25.
- **Strategic Shift: India has gradually diversified its arms imports away from Russia towards Western suppliers** such as France, Israel, and the United States; Russia's share declined from 70% (2011–15) to 51% (2016–20) and further to 40% in 2021–25.

### Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI)

- It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.

- It was established in 1966 in Stockholm (Sweden).

## 8. PRAGATI 2026 Exercise

### Context

- The multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026 commenced at Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya.

### PRAGATI

- **Abbreviation - Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region.**
- **Participating countries** - India, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.
- **Significance** - The exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain.

## PLACES IN NEWS

### 1. Andaman Sets two Guinness World Records

#### Context

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands created another Guinness World Record with **the formation of the tallest human stack underwater at Swaraj Dweep, formerly known as Havelock Island.**



#### About

- The feat comes a day after the Union Territory administration achieved a landmark by unfurling the **world's largest underwater national flag, measuring approximately 60 by 40 metres.**
- Both the Guinness World Records are expected to draw national and international attention and will **boost the profile of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a hub for scuba diving and eco-tourism.**

#### Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- **Location:** The islands are located **1,300 km southeast of the Indian mainland in the Bay of Bengal.**
- It extends from **6° 45' N to 13° 41' N and from 92° 12' E to 93° 57' E.**

- 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 Southernmost point of India**.

## 2. Jamaica

### 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.**

## 3. Nordic Countries

### Context

- After the **Third India-Nordic Summit**, Prime Minister Modi said that India and the Nordic countries are committed to



“democracy, rule of law and multilateralism”.

### Nordic Countries

- Nordic countries are a **group of countries in northern Europe** consisting of **Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden**.
- The designation includes the **Faroe Islands and Greenland, which are autonomous island regions of Denmark**, and the **Åland Islands, an autonomous island region of Finland**.

### Nordic countries

- The term is sometimes used **interchangeably with Scandinavia, a peninsular region of northern Europe** that serves as the geographic core of the Nordic countries.
- Scandinavia is typically defined more restrictively, however, and refers primarily to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.
- Denmark, Sweden and Finland are members of the EU while Norway and Iceland are European Economic Area (EEA) members.
- Among them Sweden is the most populated country while Iceland is the least populated.

## 4. Atacama Desert

### Context

- Light pollution threatens the world’s darkest skies in the Atacama.



### Atacama Desert

- **Location:** It is the **driest desert in the world, located in northern Chile**.
- It is nestled between the **Andes Mountains on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west**.
- It forms a **continuous strip for nearly 1,000 km** along the narrow coast of the northern third of Chile.
- **Bordered by:** It is bordered by **Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia**
- It also **hosts 12 volcanoes**, mainly located in the western outliers of the Andes.
- **Rainfall:** Average rainfall in this region is about **1 mm per year**. Some locations within the desert have never had any rainfall whatsoever.
- **Temperature:** Temperatures are comparatively mild throughout the year. The average temperature in the desert is about **63 degrees F (18 degrees C)**.
- **Natural Resources:** This region has the largest natural supply of **Sodium Nitrate, which can be**

used for producing fertilizers and explosives, amongst other things.

- **Chinchorro Mummies:** The **oldest artificially mummified human remains** have been found in the Atacama Desert.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### 1. Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report

#### Context

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report (FY 2023–24) on National Panchayati Raj Day (24 April 2026).

#### About

- **Objective** - It is India's first nationwide data-driven framework designed to act as a localized report card, **evaluating and monitoring the performance of over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Traditional Local Bodies (TLBs).**

### 2. Pulitzer Prize 2026

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

### 3. Baiga Tribe

#### Context

- Children belonging to the Baiga tribe rescued from bonded labour in Chhattisgarh.



#### Baiga Tribe

- Found in - The Baiga are an **ethnic group found in central India** primarily in the state of **Madhya Pradesh**, and in smaller numbers in the surrounding states of **Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.**
- The name **Baiga** means **“sorcerer- medicine man”.**
- The Baigas in Chhattisgarh are **classified as Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG)** by the Government due to their declining population and low level of literacy.
- They traditionally practiced **shifting cultivation, locally called “Bewar” cultivation.**

#### Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- PVTGs are the most marginalized and extreme backward sections among Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- The criteria for identifying Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups are:
  1. Pre-agricultural level of technology,
  2. Low level of literacy,
  3. Economic backwardness,
  4. A declining or stagnant population.
- **History of PVTGs:** Dhebar commission (1960-61) identified that there is inequality among tribal communities in terms of socio-economic development.
  1. **In 1975, acting on the Dhebar Commission report, the government identified Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category and listed 52 tribal groups as PTGs.
  2. As per 2001 census, there are **75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** with a total population of **27,68,322, living in 18 States and Union Territory.**
  3. In **2006, PTGs were renamed as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).**

#### Recent Government Initiatives

- **The PM-PVTG Development Mission program -**

The programme envisions connecting all 22,544 PVTG villages to **basic government services like communications, electricity, public education, healthcare, water supply, and connectivity.**

- **Pradhan Mantri-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan** - It will focus on **11 critical interventions** like **Provision of pucca houses, Connecting roads, Piped Water Supply, Community water supply, Mobile Medical Units with medicine cost, etc.**

#### 4. National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026

##### Context

- **President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026** to nurses at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

##### National Florence Nightingale Awards

- **Named after Florence Nightingale**, the founder of modern nursing.
- **It was instituted in 1973** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India.
- **It recognizes meritorious services of nurses and nursing professionals** who contribute significantly to society.
- **Each award consists of a Certificate of Merit, Cash Award of Rs.1,00,000/- and a medal.**

#### 5. International Booker Prize

##### Context

- The International Booker Prize completed a decade in its present form in 2026.

##### International Booker Prize

- **Establishment:** Originally set up in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize.
- It is a **prestigious literary award presented annually for a single work of fiction translated into English** and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- **Prize Value:** **£50,000**, which is split equally between the author and the translator.
- **Shortlisted authors and translators each receive £2,500.**Core
- **Objective:** To promote global fiction and elevate the critical, historically invisible role of translators.

##### Additional Information - Comparison: Booker Prize vs. International Booker Prize

	The Booker Prize	The International Booker Prize
<b>Inception Year</b>	1969	2005
<b>Language Rule</b>	Originally written in English	Translated into English from any language
<b>Recipient</b>	The Author only	Shared equally between Author and Translator
<b>Latest Winner</b>	<i>Flesh</i> by David Szalay (2025)	<i>Taiwan Travelogue</i> by Yáng Shuāng-zǐ (2026)

## AWARDS

### 1. 1. Guntur Municipal Corporation Wins Global UN Award for Eco-Friendly Urban Governance

##### Context:

- A prominent Indian civic body has secured prestigious international recognition for pioneering an innovative, green governance model.

##### Key Highlights

- **Award:** Gender Equality Mobilization (GEM) Award (2026).
- **Awardee:** Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC).
- **Issuing Authority:** United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- **Purpose of Award:** A global honor explicitly recognizing institutions that actively promote female participation and inclusive governance within industrial and urban sectors.
- **Key Achievement:** The civic body was honored for successfully training and deploying over **200 women** as electric auto drivers to completely manage the city's door-to-door garbage collection network.

### 2. National Music Awards

##### Context:

- A premier national cultural event recently celebrated the lifelong dedication of eminent vocalists toward safeguarding India's intangible heritage.

##### Key Highlights

- **Award:** Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards (2026).

- **Awardees:** **Sumitra Guha** (distinguished Hindustani classical singer) and **Laxman Krishnarao Pandit** (respected traditional music stalwart).
- **Issuing Authority / Presenter:** Instituted in the memory of Jyotsna Darda, the honours were officially presented by Justice **Sandeep Mehta**.
- **Purpose of Award:** A national honour explicitly designed to recognize excellence in Indian music, preserve traditional art forms for future generations, and encourage emerging cultural talent.

### 3. Indian Scientist Parveen Shaikh Honoured with Global Whitley Award

#### Context:

- A prominent national conservationist has secured a highly prestigious international environmental honour.

#### Key Highlights

- **Award:** 2026 Whitley Award.
- **Awardee:** Parveen Shaikh (Indian scientist supported by the Bombay Natural History Society).
- **Issuing Authority:** Whitley Fund for Nature (The award was officially presented by Princess Anne at the Royal Geographical Society).
- **Purpose of Award:** A prestigious global honour recognizing and funding highly impactful, grassroots biodiversity and conservation efforts.
- **Key Achievement:** Rewarded for pioneering a community-led conservation model in the Ganga Basin to protect the endangered **Indian Skimmer**, with immediate plans to expand the initiative to the river confluence at **Prayagraj**.

### 4. Indian Journalists Clinch 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Cybercrime Investigation

#### Context:

- Two prominent national writers have secured one of the world's highest journalistic honours for their deep investigative work into modern technological extortion.

#### Key Highlights

- **Award:** Pulitzer Prize (2026).
- **Award Category:** Illustrated Reporting and Commentary.
- **Indian Awardees:** **R K Anand** and **Suparna Sharma**.
- **Co-Winner:** The award is shared collaboratively with journalist **Natalie Obiko Pearson**.

- **Publishing Platform:** Bloomberg.
- **Purpose of Award:** To globally recognize the highest standards of excellence in public service journalism, investigative reporting, and impactful storytelling.

### 5. President Confers National Healthcare Honors on International Nurses Day

#### Context:

- The Head of State recently presided over a major felicitation ceremony at the official presidential residence to recognize extraordinary dedication within the national healthcare system.

#### Key Highlights

- **Award:** National Florence Nightingale Awards (2026).
- **Issuing Authority:** Instituted by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and officially presented by the **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**.
- **Occasion & Venue:** The ceremony was hosted at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** in New Delhi to mark **International Nurses Day (May 12)**.
- **Purpose of Award:** One of the highest national recognitions designed to honour outstanding service, compassion, and resilience among nursing professionals in India.
- **Prize Details:** Each honoured recipient receives a Certificate of Merit, a formal medal, and a cash prize of **₹1 lakh**.

### 6. Sweden Confers Royal Order of the Polar Star on PM Modi

#### Context:

- PM Narendra Modi became the first Asian leader to receive Sweden's 18th-century Royal Order of the Polar Star, making it his 31st international honor.

#### Key Highlights

- **Award:** Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross.
- **Awardee:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Country Conferring the Honour:** Sweden.
- **Presented By:** Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden.
- **Occasion:** Official visit of the Indian Prime Minister to Sweden.

#### About the Royal Order of the Polar Star

- The award was instituted in 1748 by Sweden.

- It is conferred for exceptional public service and contributions to Swedish or international interests.
- The honour is among Sweden's most prominent royal civilian distinctions.

## 7. Agricola Medal in Rome

### Context:

- FAO Honours PM Modi with Agricola Medal in Rome

### Key Highlights

- Award: Agricola Medal (2026).
- Awardee: Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Issuing Authority: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- Venue: FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy.
- Presented By: Qu Dongyu, Director-General of FAO.
- Recognition Basis: Contributions to food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development.
- The Agricola Medal is awarded by the FAO Director-General to leaders who contribute significantly to food security and poverty reduction.
- It recognizes long-term efforts supporting sustainable agriculture and nutrition goals.
- The honour is linked to FAO's broader mandate of combating hunger and promoting global agricultural sustainability.

## SPORTS

### 1. Sebastian Sawa Shatters the 2-Hour Marathon Barrier

#### Why in News:

- Kenyan runner Sebastian Sawa made history at the London Marathon 2026 by becoming the first athlete to officially complete a marathon in under two hours.

#### Key Highlights:

- **Athlete:** Sebastian Sawa (Kenya).
- **The Record:** Set a new absolute World Record with an official time of **1:59:30**.
- **Previous Record:** Surpassed Kelvin Kiptum's previous world record of 2:00:35.
- **Runner-up:** Yomif Kejelcha finished second (trailing by 11 seconds), while Jacob Kiplimo also ran under the previous world record time.
- **Women's Category:** Tigst Assefa successfully defended her London Marathon title.

### 2. India Emerges as Top Nation at ISSF Junior World Cup 2026

#### Why in News:

- The Indian shooting contingent delivered a dominant performance at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 in Cairo, Egypt, emerging as the undisputed top-performing nation.

#### Key Highlights:

- **Medal Tally:** India secured the number one rank with **16 medals** (5 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze).
- **Individual Success:** Hemant Burman clinched a Silver medal in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions event.
- **Team Success:** Zuhair Khan and Addya Katyal secured Bronze in the Trap Mixed Team event.
- **Global Record:** Oleg Noskov won the 50m Rifle Gold, setting a new Junior World Record with a score of 355.6.
- **Upcoming Event:** The ISSF Junior World Championship is scheduled for June 2026 in Suhl, Germany.

### 3. Virat Kohli Becomes First Player to Reach 9,000 IPL Runs

#### Why in News:

- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli etched his name in history by becoming the

first player to breach the 9,000-run milestone in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

**Key Highlights:**

- **The Milestone:** Achieved during his 275th match against the Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. It took him exactly 6,732 balls to reach this figure.
- **Approaching Records:** He is nearing 1,200 T20 runs against a single franchise (Delhi Capitals) and 8,000 IPL runs exclusively on Indian soil.

**Top 5 Highest Run-Scorers in IPL History (Post-Milestone)**

Rank	Player	Career IPL Runs
1	Virat Kohli	9,000+
2	Rohit Sharma	7,183
3	Shikhar Dhawan	6,769
4	David Warner	6,565
5	KL Rahul	5,580

**4. P.V. Sindhu Secures Historic Voting Role in BWF Council**
**Why in News:**

- Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu achieved a rare administrative milestone by securing a direct voting position within the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council.

**Key Highlights:**

- **Official Designation:** Elected Chair of the Athletes' Commission and a Full Voting Member of the BWF Council.

- **Significance:** Marks a major shift in global sports governance, granting an active elite athlete the power to directly influence policy and bridge the gap between players and administrators.
- **Debut:** Officially commenced her duties at the BWF Annual General Meeting held in Horsens, Denmark.

**5. Government Unveils 3-Year IP Fee Waiver for Sports Sector Innovation**
**Why in News:**

- To transform India into a global sports manufacturing powerhouse, the Union Government announced a complete waiver on intellectual property (IP) registration fees for the sports sector.

**Key Highlights:**

- **Policy Details:** A strict 3-year fee waiver covering Trademarks, Copyrights, Patents, Designs, Geographical Indications (GI), and Traditional Knowledge.
- **Announcing Authority:** Union Minister Piyush Goyal during World Intellectual Property Day celebrations in New Delhi.
- **Guiding Vision:** Aligns with the government's 'Innovate, Patent, Produce, Prosper' mantra.
- **Allied Initiatives:** Emphasis on the Kashmir willow cricket bat (GI tag), new manufacturing hubs in Jammu & Kashmir and Meerut, and the launch of the *Viksit Bharat Digital Matrix 2026 Hackathon* for smart wearable sports tech.

**6. India Gets Its First Transgender Cricket Umpire**
**Why in News:**

- Rithika Sri has broken systemic barriers to become India's first officially recognized transgender cricket umpire.

**Key Highlights:**

- **Catalyst for Change:** The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) facilitated this by introducing an 'Other' gender category in its State Panel Umpire examination process.
- **Background:** Hailing from Salem, Tamil Nadu, she holds a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering and has been actively officiating matches in the domestic circuit since 2021.

## 7. Punjab FC Clinches Back-to-Back AIFF Elite Youth League Titles

### Why in News:

- Punjab FC successfully defended their national youth championship crown by defeating Zinc Football Academy 3-0 in the AIFF Elite Youth League 2025-26 final.

### Key Highlights:

- **Tournament Dominance:** Establishes the club as the strongest talent pipeline in the country's domestic grassroots football circuit.
- **Match Decider:** Following a goalless first half, Punjab FC scored three rapid goals within a 10-minute window to seal the victory.

### Final Match Goal Scorers

Minute	Goal Scorer	Details
69th	Karish Soram	Opened scoring via a curling free-kick.
70th	Vishal Yadav	Team captain doubled the lead.
79th	Thongram Rishikanta Singh	Added the definitive third goal.

## 8. Indian Lifters Clinch Four Golds at Commonwealth Championships

### Why in News:

- The Indian weightlifting contingent dominated the Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Apia, Samoa, by securing four Gold medals across youth and senior divisions.

### Key Highlights:

- **Scoring Mechanics:** Champions are determined by combining successful weights from two distinct disciplines: The Snatch (a single continuous lift) and The Clean and Jerk (a two-step shoulder-to-overhead lift).

### Official Indian Gold Medalists & Lifting Statistics

Athlete	Event Category	Snatch	Clean & Jerk	Total Lift
Sunil Singh	Men's 65kg	126 kg	145 kg	271 kg
Ai-sangfa Gogoi	Women's 58kg	79 kg	106 kg	185 kg
Abhinob Gogoi	Men's 71kg	129 kg	155 kg	284 kg
Charu Pesi	Universal Cup (Senior) Men's 65kg	127 kg	162 kg	289 kg

## 9. Thomas Cup 2026: India Secures Bronze After Semifinal Run

### Why in News:

- The Indian Men's Badminton Team secured a Bronze medal at the Thomas Cup 2026 in Horsens, Denmark, after sweeping Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals but falling to France in the semifinals.

### Key Highlights:

- **The Quarterfinal Sweep (3-0):** India defeated Chinese Taipei. Lakshya Sen saved two match points to win, Satwik-Chirag maintained a 3-0 head-to-head record against their opponents, and rookie Ayush Shetty upset the reigning All England Champion.
- **The Semifinal Exit (0-3):** Missing star player

Lakshya Sen due to a swollen elbow, India lost to France in straight matches. France advanced to their first-ever Thomas Cup final.

- **Historical Context:** India previously won its maiden Thomas Cup title in 2022. The 2026 Bronze finish adds to historical podium finishes achieved in 1952, 1955, and 1979.

## 10. IOC Lifts Olympic Ban on Belarus Ahead of LA 2028

### Why in News:

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) reinstated Belarus for the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics but maintained a strict suspension on the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC).

### Key Highlights:

- **Belarusian Status:** Athletes can officially represent their nation, use their national flag/symbols, and participate in team events and medal tracking.
- **Russian Status:** Strictly banned from team events; individuals must compete as “Neutral Athletes” without national symbols.
- **Federation Dissent:** World Athletics has refused to adopt the IOC’s relaxed stance and will keep independent sporting bans active on both nations for track and field events.

## 11. Aapaar Saxena Earns Prestigious International Master (IM) Title

### Why in News:

- Karnataka’s chess prodigy Aapaar Saxena secured the FIDE International Master (IM) title after outstanding performances in the European circuit.

### Key Highlights:

- **The Title:** The IM title is the second-highest global chess designation (behind Grandmaster) and is valid for life.
- **FIDE Criteria Met:** Saxena secured three mandatory IM norms from international events and crossed the minimum required FIDE rating benchmark of 2400.

## 12. Argentine Prodigy Becomes Second Youngest Chess Grandmaster

### Why in News:

- 12-year-old Faustino Oro of Argentina officially secured his final norm to become the second youngest Grandmaster (GM) in chess history.

### Key Highlights:

- **Age Record:** Achieved the title at exactly **12 years, 6 months, and 26 days** during the Sardinia World Chess Festival 2026 in Italy.
- **The Absolute Record:** Oro narrowly missed the all-time youngest record, which is still held by Abhimanyu Mishra (12 years, 4 months, 25 days).
- **Background:** Nicknamed the “Messi of Chess”, Oro gained global fame in 2024 at age 10 when he defeated five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen in a rapid online match.

## 13. Indian Women’s Recurve Team Clinches Historic Archery Gold

### Why in News:

- The Indian women’s recurve archery team (Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, and Kumkum Mohod) won Gold at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai, ending a title drought stretching back to 2021.

### Key Highlights:

- **The Final:** Defeated host nation China 5-4 in a tense shoot-off. Veteran Deepika Kumari sealed the victory by shooting a crucial ‘9’ on the final arrow.
- **The Semifinal Upset:** India successfully eliminated South Korea—the most dominant nation in Olympic archery history—to reach the final.
- **Other Indian Medals:** Sahil Jadhav (Bronze, Men’s Compound) and Pravin Jadhav (Bronze, Compound Individual) also secured podium finishes.

## 14. Rahul Dravid Acquires Dublin Franchise in Inaugural ETPL

### Why in News:

- Former Indian cricket coach Rahul Dravid has officially transitioned into international sports ownership by acquiring the ‘Dublin Guardians’ franchise in the newly established European T20 Premier League (ETPL).

**Key Highlights:**

- **About the League:** The ETPL is Europe's first ICC-sanctioned, multi-country franchise T20 tournament, partnered with the boards of Ireland, Scotland, and the Netherlands.
- **Tournament Scale:** Features 6 city-based franchises.
- **High-Profile Owners:** Includes Glenn Maxwell (Belfast), Chris Gayle (Glasgow), and Steve Waugh (Amsterdam).

## 15. India Expands Presence in South Asian Sports Administration

**Why in News:**

- Strengthening India's influence in Olympic sporting governance, Sahdev Yadav was officially elected as the President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation (SAWF) in Ahmedabad.

**Key Highlights:**

- **Dual Roles:** Yadav concurrently serves as President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation and Vice President of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation.
- **Administration:** Sabina Yadav was also appointed as the CEO of SAWF.
- **Significance:** Expected to drastically improve regional collaboration in athlete development, coaching, and competition management across member nations.

## 16. India Dominates Asian U-15 Boxing Championships With 27 Medals

**Why in News:**

- Showcasing the rapid expansion of youth-level training structures, the Indian contingent secured a commanding 27 medals at the Asian U-15 Boxing Championships 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

**Key Highlights:**

- **Overall Tally:** 9 Gold, 6 Silver, and 12 Bronze medals.
- **Girls' Dominance:** The female contingent won 7 Gold medals (Anzee, Soniya, Tanvi, Hanshika Attri, Sunaina, Bhumika, Angel), underscoring the success of women-focused grassroots boxing programs.
- **Boys' Gold Medalists:** Yash Kumar and Mohd Yasser.

## MCQ'S ON STATE ISSUES

### 1. With reference to the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

- The Bill seeks to divide all Scheduled Castes in Karnataka into smaller sub-groups for internal reservation purposes.
- The constitutional validity for such sub-classification was strengthened by a Supreme Court judgment delivered on August 1, 2024.
- The sub-classification framework is primarily based on empirical data compiled by Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission.
- Under the revised internal reservation formula, "left-hand" groups and "right-hand" groups have been allotted equal quota shares within the existing Scheduled Castes reservation.
- The revised quota matrix increases the total reservation for Scheduled Castes in Karnataka from 15% to 20%.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- I, II, III and IV only
- I, III and V only
- II, IV and V only
- I, II, III, IV and V

### 2. With reference to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, consider the following statements:

- It is a statutory body constituted under the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board Act, 1964.
- Its jurisdiction extends across the entire area under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).
- The Board functions entirely through budgetary grants of the Karnataka Government and does not levy user charges.
- "Jala Doota" is a mobile application through which citizens can submit geo-tagged photographs of water and sewerage complaints.
- "Antharjala" and "Jalamithra" are consumer-oriented applications associated with borewell NOCs and monitoring of leakages or drainage issues.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 2, 3, and 4 only

**3. With reference to Kempegowda International Airport, consider the following statements:**

1. The airport is named after Kempe Gowda I, who founded Bengaluru.
2. It became Karnataka's first fully solar-powered airport with the solar project developed by CleanMax Solar.
3. Terminal 2 of the airport was adjudged the world's best new airport terminal among those opened in 2023.
4. Terminal 2 has received the UNESCO Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airport award along with a special prize for its interiors.
5. "Bengaluru's Soul", unveiled at the airport, is a 16-foot public art sculpture created by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**4. Assertion (A): The State Finance Commission was established to strengthen the financial position of Panchayats and Municipalities.**

**Reason (R):** Articles 243-I and 243-Y of the Constitution mandate the constitution of a State Finance Commission every five years to recommend principles for tax devolution and grants-in-aid to local bodies.

Choose the correct answer using the code below:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

**5. With reference to the 'Aditya' High-Speed Rail Complex, consider the following statements:**

1. The complex has been established by

BEML in Bengaluru for developing India's indigenous high-speed rail manufacturing capability.

2. The B-28 high-speed trainset is being developed in collaboration with Integral Coach Factory.
3. The facility incorporates advanced manufacturing technologies such as robotic laser welding and universal hydraulic jigs.
4. The B-28 trainset is designed for an operational speed exceeding 400 km/hr.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**6. With reference to Pneumonia, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an acute respiratory infection causing inflammation of the lung air sacs (alveoli).
2. It can be transmitted through airborne droplets, surface contact, and blood during childbirth.
3. Children under 5 years and adults above 65 years are among the most vulnerable groups.
4. It remains the single largest identified cause of infant mortality in Karnataka.

How many of the statements given above are NOT correct?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. All are correct

**7. With reference to the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), consider the following statements:**

1. The Urban Challenge Fund is a flagship scheme aimed at transforming India's urban landscape through market-linked and reform-driven infrastructure financing.
2. It is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
3. The scheme operates for the period FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31.
4. The Union Government has allocated ₹1 lakh crore under the Urban Challenge

Fund for urban transformation across India.

5. Karnataka is expected to receive a baseline allocation of approximately ₹50,000–55,000 crore under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only  
B. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only  
C. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only  
D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**8. With reference to the Pan-IIT Bangalore Summit 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. It is organised by the Government of India in collaboration with the Pan IIT Alumni India Association.
2. The summit is centred on the theme of “Technology Sovereignty” aimed at promoting national self-reliance and deep-tech innovation.
3. The summit includes dedicated thematic tracks on AI, semiconductors, defence, energy, mobility, and healthcare.
4. It is organised as a statutory initiative under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
5. The summit exclusively focuses on cultural and heritage diplomacy rather than technological innovation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only  
B. 1 and 4 only  
C. 2, 3 and 5 only  
D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**9. Consider the following statements regarding the report titled “Why do children fail in Kannada?” :**

1. The report is submitted by the Kannada Development Authority (KDA) and recommends making Kannada compulsory as either first or second language in all schools in Karnataka, including CBSE and ICSE institutions.
2. It proposes replacing the three-language formula with a bilingual policy to reduce the academic burden on students.
3. The report suggests reserving at least 25% of private sector jobs in Karnataka for students who studied in Kannada medium

up to Class 10.

4. It recommends making Kannada mandatory from Anganwadi and pre-primary levels with emphasis on language-focused learning materials.
5. These recommendations align with the Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015, which mandates Kannada as a compulsory subject from Standards I to X in all schools in Karnataka.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 5 only  
B. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only  
C. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only  
D. 2, 3 and 4 only

**10. Which of the following statements is correct?**

- A. Only Bengaluru is included in the plan for Sustainable data parks in Karnataka.
- B. Only Mysuru and Mangalore are included in the plan for Sustainable data parks in Karnataka.
- C. Only Bengaluru, Mysuru and Mangalore are included in the plan for Sustainable data parks in Karnataka.
- D. Only Mysuru and Bengaluru are included in the plan for Sustainable data parks in Karnataka.

**11. Consider the following statements regarding the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Satellite Township (GBIST):**

1. The project is also known as the Greater Bengaluru Innovation and Tech City (GBIT).
2. It is planned as a ₹18,133-crore “work-live-play” metropolis.
3. The project is designed to serve as Bengaluru’s third Central Business District (CBD) to reduce urban congestion.
4. Around 2,000 acres have been earmarked for AI-driven industries, tech hubs, and innovation centres.
5. It is being developed as India’s first dedicated AI City.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only  
B. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only  
C. 2, 3 and 5 only  
D. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

**12. With reference to the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, consider the following statements:**

1. The Act provides legal recognition and social protection to platform-based gig workers in Karnataka.
2. A dedicated Welfare Fund is financed through a welfare fee levied on aggregator platforms, ranging from 1% to 5% of the payout per transaction.
3. The Act mandates disclosure of algorithmic decision-making systems used by platforms to ensure transparency and fairness.
4. Platforms can deactivate a worker without prior notice if the platform considers the worker's performance unsatisfactory.
5. Karnataka became the first state in India to launch and operationalize a dedicated digital grievance redressal system for platform-based gig workers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

**13. With reference to the recently launched respiratory health surveillance programme in Karnataka, consider the following statements:**

1. The programme has been launched by the Karnataka Home Department to monitor the respiratory health of traffic police and other frontline personnel exposed to urban air pollution.
2. The initiative is an expansion of a two-year respiratory screening project conducted in Bengaluru that covered 3,287 traffic police personnel.
3. The screening project established a direct causal relationship between urban air pollution and chronic respiratory diseases among all screened personnel.
4. The Vaayu Respiratory Foundation has been designated as the primary technical agency for implementing the programme across the state.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only

- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**14. With reference to the CoE SpaceTech Foundation recently launched in Karnataka, consider the following statements:**

1. The CoE SpaceTech Foundation has been established as India's first state-led Centre of Excellence dedicated to Space Technology.
2. The Centre is located in the Aerospace Park in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
3. It has been launched jointly by the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) and the Satcom Industry Association (SIA-India).
4. The primary objective of the Centre is to promote basic space science research in universities rather than commercial applications of space technologies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**15. Consider the following pairs regarding the ELEVATE Startup Support Programmes of Karnataka:**

Programme	:	Objective
1. ELEVATE (General)	:	One-time grant of up to ₹50 lakh for prototype development, market validation and business scaling.
2. ELEVATE Unnati	:	Seed funding support for startups led by SC/ST entrepreneurs.
3. ELEVATE NxT	:	Promotion of handicrafts and traditional industries through cluster-based development.
4. ELEVATE Women	:	Acceleration and support for women-led startups
5. ELEVATE Minorities	:	Dedicated support for entrepreneurs from minority communities

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**16. Consider the following monuments:**

1. Gagan Mahal
2. Anegundi Fort
3. Kumararamana Kumatadurga Fort,
4. Taj Bawadi
5. Basavakalyan Fort

How many of the above are selected under the Namma Smaraka Initiative:

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. Only Four
- D. All Five

**17. Consider the following pairs regarding Karnataka's initiatives for curbing crimes against women:**

Scheme/Initiative : Objective

1. Akka Pade : Deployment of women Home Guards to prevent public harassment.
2. Akka Helpline : WhatsApp-based support for cybercrime complaints and legal counselling.
3. Santhwana Scheme : Hospital-based centres providing medical and legal aid to victims.
4. Gelathi Units : 24×7 taluk-level support centres for victims of domestic violence.
5. Stairya Nidhi Yojane : Financial assistance and rehabilitation support for crime victims

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. Only Four
- D. All Five

**18. With reference to urban traffic congestion, consider the following statements:**

1. According to the TomTom Traffic Index, the global average traffic congestion index has increased from 20% to 25%.
2. The increase in the global average traffic congestion index represents a rise of 5 percentage points.
3. Bengaluru is ranked as the most congested city in the world according to the TomTom Traffic Index.
4. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has cited TomTom Traffic Index data while highlighting urban traffic congestion issues.

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

**19. Consider the following statements regarding the State Education Policy (SEP) initiative in Karnataka:**

1. The Karnataka government has constituted a six-member Cabinet sub-committee to review the State Education Policy (SEP) report.
2. The sub-committee is chaired by G. Parameshwara.
3. The SEP report reviewed by the committee consists of eight volumes.
4. The SEP report was prepared and submitted by Prof. Sukhdeo Thorat.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**20. Consider the following statements regarding the proposed 'Wisdom Valley' project in Karnataka:**

1. The project has been proposed by the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission.
2. Wisdom Valley is planned as a world-class Knowledge City in Bengaluru Airport City near Devanahalli.
3. The estimated cost of the project is ₹1,55,000 crore.
4. The project aims to develop North Bengaluru into a global hub for education, research, and high-tech innovation on the lines of Silicon Valley.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**21. Consider the following statements regarding the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988:**

1. In Karnataka, the Act is primarily enforced

by the Karnataka Lokayukta.

2. Under the Act a public servant convicted of taking a bribe may face imprisonment ranging from 3 to 7 years along with a fine.
3. The Act deals with criminal misconduct, including misappropriation of property and illicit enrichment.
4. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Karnataka recorded the highest number of registered corruption cases in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**22. Consider the following statements regarding the Commercial Asset Management Platform (CAMP):**

1. The platform has been launched by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC).
2. CAMP is a centralized platform designed to streamline and monitor BMTTC's non-fare revenue streams.
3. The platform primarily focuses on improving revenue generated from commercial assets rather than passenger fares.
4. BMTTC operates the urban public bus transport system in Bengaluru.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 1

**23. Consider the following statements regarding Kartavya-KAAMS:**

1. Kartavya-KAAMS stands for Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System.
2. The mobile application has been launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL).
3. The app is intended to monitor the attendance of permanent teaching and non-teaching staff in government schools.
4. The system has been introduced to strengthen accountability and attendance management within the school education

sector.

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. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**24. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Bhoo Guarantee' (Nanna Khata, Nanna Hakku) Scheme of Karnataka:**

1. The scheme aims to provide secure and digitized property records to nearly 23 lakh property owners in Bengaluru.
2. Under the scheme, the fee for conversion of B-Khata properties to A-Khata has been reduced from 5% to 2% of the property's guidance value.
3. Digital e-Khatas issued under the scheme incorporate features such as GPS mapping, Aadhaar linkage, and owner photographs to reduce fraud.
4. Weekly open-house camps are being organized every Saturday across Assembly constituencies to facilitate property-related services and reduce dependence on middlemen.

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. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**25. Consider the following statements regarding the Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (KSAPCC):**

1. The KSAPCC (2024–2030) is designed to address climate risks in Karnataka while aligning state actions with India's national climate goals.
2. The plan, led by the Environment Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), mandates climate targets across 13 state departments.
3. The plan emphasizes centralized climate governance by restricting implementation and monitoring to state-level agencies alone.
4. Key interventions under the plan include drought-resistant crops, artificial aquifer recharge, Western Ghats afforestation, solar grid integration, and localized urban

climate action plans.

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

**26. Consider the following statements regarding Lakkundi:**

1. Lakkundi, known in ancient times as Lokkigundi, flourished under the Kalyana Chalukyas and emerged as an important commercial centre with a royal mint (Tankashale).
2. The architectural tradition of Lakkundi represents the Kalyana Chalukya style, a transitional phase between the Badami Chalukya and Hoysala styles, characterized by the use of chloritic schist (soapstone).
3. The Brahma Jinalaya, built by Queen Attimabbe around 1007 CE, is regarded as the oldest Jain shrine in Lakkundi.
4. Lakkundi was exclusively a Shaivite centre and lacks evidence of Jain or Vaishnavite religious traditions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**ANSWERS**

- |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 01). A | 10). C | 19). D |
| 02). C | 11). B | 20). C |
| 03). A | 12). B | 21). A |
| 04). A | 13). A | 22). C |
| 05). B | 14). A | 23). D |
| 06). D | 15). A | 24). D |
| 07). B | 16). D | 25). A |
| 08). A | 17). B | 26). A |
| 09). B | 18). A |        |

**MCQ'S ON NATITONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

**1. Consider the following pairs:**

Channel / Passage	Separates
1. Duncan Passage	South Andaman and Little Andaman
2. Ten Degree Channel	Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands
3. Six Degree Channel	Great Nicobar and Sumatra
4. Eight Degree Channel	Minicoy Island and Maldives

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. One only

**2. Which of the following locations forms a tri-junction involving India, Nepal and China?**

- A. Kalapani
- B. Lipulekh Pass
- C. Limpiadhura
- D. Dharchula

**3. Which of the following statements regarding the Treaty of Sugauli, 1816 is/are correct?**

- I. It was signed between the British East India Company and Nepal.
- II. The Kali River was accepted as the western boundary of Nepal.
- III. The treaty clearly identified Limpiadhura as the river's origin.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. I and II only
- B. II only
- C. I and III only
- D. I, II and III

**4. Consider the following statements regarding the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018:**

1. A Fugitive Economic Offender is a person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for a scheduled offence involving ₹100 crore or more.

2. The Act empowers authorities to confiscate properties of the offender located both in India and abroad, including benami assets.
3. A declared Fugitive Economic Offender is barred from initiating or defending civil claims in Indian courts.
4. Cases under the Act are adjudicated through special courts established under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**5. How many of the following NPCI products/ services are directly related to digital payments?**

- I. Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- II. Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)
- III. Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)
- IV. National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)
- V. Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

**6. The term “Mission Drishti” refers to:**

- A. India’s lunar exploration programme launched by ISRO.
- B. A human spaceflight mission carried by ISRO.
- C. A missile defence system developed by DRDO.
- D. The world’s first OptoSAREarth-observation satellite launched by an Indian start-up GalaxEye.

**7. With reference to the cotton in India, consider the following statements:**

- I. The Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026–31) is also known as Kapas Kranti and promotes High-Density Planting System (HDPS).
- II. Cotton is a subtropical Kharif crop that requires a warm climate and about 210 frost-free days.
- III. Black Soil (Regur) is considered ideal for

cotton cultivation because of its moisture-retaining capacity.

IV. India is the world’s second-largest producer of cotton after China.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. Four

**8. Consider the following statements regarding e-waste management:**

- A. The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 regulate the management and disposal of electronic waste in India.
- B. India’s first e-waste clinic was inaugurated in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, for processing e-waste only from households.
- C. The Basel Convention deals with the transboundary movement and environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.
- D. India is a party to the Basel Convention.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

**9. With reference to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS 5.0), consider the following statements:**

- I. It has been introduced to provide financial support to businesses facing liquidity pressures arising from the ongoing West Asia situation.
- II. The scheme aims to facilitate an additional credit flow of about ₹2.55 lakh crore.
- III. The scheme exclusively targets large industries and multinational corporations.
- IV. MSMEs and the airline sector are among the major beneficiaries under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. I, II and IV only
- B. I and III only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, III and IV

**10. With reference to the UDGAM portal, consider the following statements:**

1. UDGAM stands for Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information and it has been developed by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. It enables users to directly withdraw and settle unclaimed deposits through the portal itself.
3. The portal provides a centralized search facility for identifying unclaimed deposits across participating banks.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**11. Consider the following statements:**

1. The FRP of sugarcane is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
2. The FRP is approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Finance Minister.
3. India surpassed Brazil to become the world's top sugar producer in 2021–22 and Uttar Pradesh became the top producer of sugar in India.
4. The sugar industry in India is confined only to northern states such as Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

With reference to the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane and the sugar industry in India, which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4

**12. With reference to the Pulitzer Prize, consider the following statements:**

1. The Pulitzer Prize was established in 1917 in honour of Joseph Pulitzer and is administered by Columbia University.
2. The Pulitzer Prize recognises excellence in journalism, literature and music composition.
3. Among the 23 Pulitzer Prize categories, only the Public Service category receives a gold medal.

4. Gobind Behari Lal became the first person from India to win the Pulitzer Prize for journalism in 1937.
5. Two Indian journalists named Anand RK and Suparna Sharma along with Natalie Obiko Pearson won the Pulitzer Prize 2026.

How many of the statements given above are NOT correct?

- A. Three only
- B. Four only
- C. All Five
- D. All are correct

**13. With reference to the Komagata Maru Incident, consider the following statements:**

1. The incident was linked to the discriminatory immigration policy known as the Continuous Journey Regulation imposed by Canada.
2. The ship Komagata Maru was chartered by Baba Gurdit Singh to challenge exclusionary immigration laws.
3. The passengers of the Komagata Maru were allowed to settle permanently in Vancouver after intervention by the British government.
4. The incident strengthened revolutionary nationalist activities associated with the Ghadar Party.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**14. Consider the following statements:**

1. The national Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) improved from 904 during 2017–19 to 917 during 2021–23.
2. India's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is about 25 deaths per 1,000 live births, and it has shown a long-term decline for both male and female infants.
3. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females remained lower than that of males in higher education.
4. More than 70% of working rural females in India are engaged in agricultural activities.

With reference to the "Women and Men in India 2025" report released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme

Implementation, which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**15. Which of the following is released the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0?**

- A. Ministry of Rural Development
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- D. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

**16. The term “Girmityas” refers to:**

- A. Indian soldiers recruited by the British Army
- B. Indentured labourers taken from India to plantations overseas
- C. Tribal communities displaced during colonial rule
- D. Merchants involved in Indian Ocean trade

**17. Consider the following statements:**

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation aimed at promoting regional cooperation among countries bordering the Indian Ocean.
2. The organisation was established in 1997 and was formerly known as IOR-ARC.
3. The Secretariat of IORA is located in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
4. India is the current Chair of IORA for the 2025–2027 term.

With reference to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**18. Match List-I with List-II and List-III and select the correct answer using the code given below.**

List-I (Scheme)	List-II (Implementing Authority)	List-III (Eligible Age Group)

I. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMS-BY)	1. PFRDA through NPS	a. 18–50 years
II. Atal Pension Yojana (APY)	2. Ministry of Finance	b. 18–70 years
III. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)	3. Ministry of Finance	c. 18–40 years

Codes:

- A. I-2-b, II-1-c, III-3-a
- B. I-1-b, II-2-c, III-3-a
- C. I-2-c, II-1-a, III-3-b
- D. I-3-b, II-1-c, III-2-a

**19. Which of the following best describes MIRV technology?**

- A. Defensive shield system against missiles
- B. Technology enabling multiple warheads from one missile to hit different targets
- C. Satellite-based navigation system
- D. Missile launch detection system

**20. The order Odonata includes which of the following insects?**

- A. Beetles and butterflies
- B. Dragonflies and damselflies
- C. Bees and ants
- D. Grasshoppers and crickets

**21. Consider the following statements regarding committees related to the Western Ghats:**

1. The Madhav Gadgil Committee recommended declaring the entire Western Ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) and setting up a dedicated ecological authority for its regulation.
2. The Kasturirangan Committee recommended demarcating about 37% of the Western Ghats as Ecologically Sensitive Areas while allowing limited developmental activities in select regions.
3. The Sanjay Kumar Committee was constituted to review state objections regarding ESA demarcation and to examine proposed exclusions from ecologically sensitive zones.
4. The Kasturirangan Committee

recommended a strict conservation approach similar to the Gadgil Committee, disallowing most developmental activities across the Western Ghats.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**22. Consider the following statements**

1. Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project.
2. Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)
3. Crime in India
4. Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India
5. Prison Statistics India.

How many of the projects and reports are being implemented and released by NCRB?

- A. Only Three
- B. Only Four
- C. All Five
- D. Only Two

**23. Consider the following statements regarding the Bunker Oil Convention (2001):**

- I. It was adopted under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- II. It deals with pollution caused by fuel oil used in ships.
- III. It applies only to oil tankers transporting crude oil.
- IV. It mandates compulsory insurance for ship owners.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. I, II and IV only
- B. I and III only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, III and IV

**24. Consider the following statements:**

1. It is a service-oriented digital platform designed to monitor and maintain digital health records of women in their reproductive age.
2. It is developed as an upgraded version of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal.

3. It introduces QR-enabled digital Mother and Child Health (MCH) Cards for portable access to health records.

4. It is a standalone system and does not integrate with any other national health platforms.

Which of the statements given above regarding the JANANI Platform are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**25. Consider the following statements:**

- I. The Vadinar Ship Repair Facility is being developed in Gujarat under a joint initiative of the Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- II. The facility is designed to handle ship repair and maintenance of vessels up to approximately 300 metres in length.
- III. It will primarily function as a greenfield deep-sea port dedicated to container cargo handling on India's western coast.
- IV. The project aims to reduce India's dependence on foreign shipyards for ship repair and maintenance services.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. I and II only
- B. I, II and IV only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, III and IV only

**26. Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Exchange Reserves:**

1. Foreign exchange reserves in India are maintained by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. India's foreign exchange reserves consist only of foreign currency assets and gold reserves.
3. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and reserve position in the International Monetary Fund form part of India's foreign exchange reserves.
4. Foreign exchange reserves help in stabilising the Indian rupee, financing imports, maintain investor confidence and meeting external payment obligations during economic stress.
5. Strong forex reserves helps in protecting the economy during periods of global financial instability, rising oil prices, currency volatility and sudden capital outflows.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. Four only
- D. All Five

**27. Which of the following can help finance India's Current Account Deficit?**

- 1. Foreign Direct Investment
- 2. Foreign Exchange Reserves
- 3. External Commercial Borrowings
- 4. Foreign Portfolio Investment

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**28. With reference to jute cultivation and related initiatives in India, consider the following statements:**

- 1. India is the world's largest producer of jute.
- 2. West Bengal, Bihar and Assam together account for nearly the entire jute production of India.
- 3. The Jute Crop Information System project uses remote sensing technology for monitoring jute cultivation.
- 4. The Jute Crop Information System project is being implemented solely by the Indian Space Research Organisation.
- 5. Jute is regarded as an eco-friendly fibre because it is biodegradable and renewable.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**29. Consider the following statements regarding the Tribe of India:**

- 1. The Baiga tribe is primarily found in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- 2. The term "Baiga" refers to a traditional warrior community.
- 3. The Baigas of Chhattisgarh are classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
- 4. The tribe traditionally practiced shifting

cultivation known locally as "Bewar" cultivation.

- 5. Pre-agricultural level of technology, low level of literacy, economic backwardness, and a declining or stagnant population are the criteria for identifying PVTGs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 2, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

**30. With reference to the following initiatives related to the Indian judiciary, consider the statements below:**

- 1. "One Case One Data" is a digital initiative aimed at integrating all levels of courts through a unified database system.
- 2. The initiative connects only the High Courts and the Supreme Court, excluding subordinate courts.
- 3. "Su Sahay" is an Artificial Intelligence-powered chatbot integrated with the Supreme Court website.
- 4. "Su Sahay" has been developed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry.
- 5. The primary objective of "Su Sahay" is to provide financial assistance to litigants appearing before the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

**31. Consider the following statements regarding the National Panchayat Awards:**

- 1. The National Panchayat Awards are conferred annually by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- 2. The Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar recognises Panchayats for performance linked to Sustainable Development Goals.
- 3. The Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar is awarded only to

Gram Panchayats.

4. Kawrthah North Village in Mizoram has secured the top rank under the “Clean and Green Panchayat” category of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025
5. Karnataka secured the highest number of awards in the latest edition of the National Panchayat Awards.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

**32. Consider the following statements regarding the SEHAT initiative:**

1. SEHAT stands for “Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation.”
2. It is a joint initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
3. The initiative seeks to promote nutrition and public health through measures such as biofortified foods and integrated farming.
4. SEHAT focuses exclusively on increasing agricultural exports from India.
5. The initiative supports the One Health Mission approach.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**33. With reference to the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in India’s freedom struggle, arrange the following events in chronological order:**

1. Bardoli Satyagraha
2. Non-Cooperation Movement
3. Quit India Movement
4. Kheda Satyagraha
5. Civil Disobedience Movement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 4 – 2 – 1 – 5 – 3
- B. 1 – 3 – 4 – 2 – 5

C. 3 – 4 – 1 – 5 – 2

D. 1 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 5

**34. The Right to Speedy Trial in India is derived from which Article of the Constitution?**

- A. Article 14
- B. Article 19
- C. Article 21
- D. Article 32

**35. Consider the following statements regarding Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS):**

1. PMOS, earlier known as PCOS, is a hormonal and metabolic disorder affecting women of reproductive age.
2. The disorder affects only reproductive health and has no impact on metabolism or mental well-being.
3. Insulin resistance associated with PMOS may increase the risk of Type-2 diabetes mellitus.
4. Women with PMOS may face cardiovascular risks such as hypertension and heart diseases.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**36. Consider the following statements regarding the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme:**

1. PM SHRI is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Education.
2. The scheme aims to upgrade more than 14,500 existing schools across the country.
3. PM SHRI schools are intended to function as exemplar schools showcasing the provisions of the National Education Policy 2020.
4. The scheme focuses on modern infrastructure including smart classrooms, sports facilities and technology-enabled learning.
5. Only schools managed by the Central Government are eligible to be selected under the PM SHRI Scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

- B. 1, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**37. Match the following malaria control initiatives with their objectives/features:**

Initiative	Objective/Feature
a. E-2025 Initiative	1. Research alliance established by ICMR for malaria control.
b. National Framework for Malaria Elimination	2. WHO initiative identifying countries with malaria eradication potential by 2025.
c. MERA-India	3. India's framework aligned with the Global Technical Strategy for malaria elimination.
d. High Burden to High Impact Initiative	4. WHO initiative implemented in high malaria burden countries including India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- B. a-1, b-2, c-4, d-3
- C. a-3, b-1, c-2, d-4
- D. a-2, b-4, c-1, d-3

**38. With reference to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, consider the following statements:**

1. The Act covers recruitment examinations such as UPSC and SSC as well as entrance examinations like NEET, JEE and CUET.
2. Tampering with computer networks or impersonating candidates are categorized as "unfair means" under the Act.
3. All offences under the Act are bailable in nature, but non-compoundable.
4. Service providers involved in malpractices may face fines and debarment from conducting public examinations.
5. The Central Government may transfer investigation of offences under the Act to a Central Investigating Agency.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only

- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**39. Match List-I with List-II:**

List-I	List-II
a. 90-90-90 Strategy	1. Reconnecting HIV patients who discontinued ART
b. Project ACCELERATE	2. Central Sector Scheme for HIV/AIDS control
c. Mission Sampark	3. HIV services through Safe Zindagi portal
d. National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)	4. UNAIDS target related to diagnosis, treatment and viral suppression

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. a-4, b-1, c-3, d-2
- B. a-3, b-4, c-2, d-1
- C. a-4, b-3, c-1, d-2
- D. a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

**40. Consider the following statements:**

1. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.
2. It mainly affects the respiratory system and does not interfere with daily activities in the early stages.
3. Alzheimer's disease is characterized by decline in cognitive functions such as thinking, memory, and reasoning.
4. Drugs such as lecanemab and aducanumab have shown completely curative outcomes without safety concerns.
5. Eli Lilly and Company has launched an Alzheimer's treatment called "Lormalzi" in India.

With reference to Alzheimer's Disease, which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

**41. Consider the following statements about a personality associated with the Revolt of 1857:**

- I. His original name was Ramachandra Pandurang Tope, and his father served in the court of the last Maratha Peshwa, Bajji Rao II.
- II. He maintained close ties with Nana Sahib and emerged as one of the most effective

military commanders during the Revolt of 1857.

- III. He played an important role in resistance centres such as Kanpur and Gwalior and worked alongside Rani Lakshmibai against British forces.
- IV. He became known for guerrilla warfare tactics, rapid mobility, and surprise attacks before being captured and executed at Shivpuri in 1859.

The personality described above is:

- A. Kunwar Singh
- B. Taty Tope
- C. Nana Sahib
- D. Mangal Pandey

**42. Consider the following statements:**

- I. Sikkim became the first state in India to establish a completely paperless judiciary system.
- II. The initiative aims to promote digital governance and improve judicial efficiency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. Both I and II
- D. Neither I nor II

**43. With reference to the PM E-DRIVE Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme aims to promote charging infrastructure and the electric vehicle manufacturing ecosystem in India.
2. The scheme is being implemented for the period from October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026.
3. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Heavy Industries has introduced e-vouchers for EV buyers to avail demand incentives.
4. The scheme discourages installation of public charging stations in order to reduce government expenditure.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**44. With reference to Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Biodiversity Heritage Sites are declared under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
2. These sites are declared only within National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
3. State Governments notify Biodiversity Heritage Sites in consultation with local bodies.
4. The objective of Biodiversity Heritage Sites is to conserve areas having unique, ecologically fragile, or biodiversity-rich ecosystems.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. None

**45. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Act seeks to amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
2. It replaces the earlier self-identification mechanism with a system involving Medical Boards and certification by the District Magistrate.
3. The amendment has generated debate regarding its compatibility with the Supreme Court's NALSA judgment on self-perceived gender identity.
4. The Act introduces stricter penal provisions for offences such as forcing a person into transgender identity or bonded labour.

With reference to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026, how many of the statements given above are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All Four
- D. None

**46. With reference to Ru-Soam Bridges, consider the following statements:**

1. Ru-Soam bridges are traditional cane bridges associated with the Lepcha community.
2. These bridges are constructed using materials such as bamboo, cane, and wood sourced locally.

3. They are mainly designed for desert ecosystems and arid landscapes.
4. The resilience of these bridges was demonstrated during the Sikkim Glacial Lake Outburst Flood 2023.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. None

**47. With reference to Tanzania, consider the following statements:**

1. Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, is located in Tanzania.
2. Tanzania shares a part of Lake Victoria, which is regarded as a source of the Nile River.
3. Lake Tanganyika forms part of the boundary between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
4. Tanzania is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea on its eastern side.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**48. Consider the following statements:**

1. RBSK was launched under the National Health Mission with the objective of early identification and intervention for children from birth to 18 years.
2. Under the programme, children between 6 weeks and 6 years are primarily monitored through Anganwadi Centres.
3. The “4Ds” strategy of RBSK includes Defects at Birth, Deficiencies, Diseases of Childhood, and Developmental Delays & Disabilities.
4. Only communicable diseases are covered under the screening process of RBSK.
5. Newborn screening under RBSK is conducted at delivery points and through home visits by ASHAs.

With reference to the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only

- C. 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**49. With reference to Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, consider the following statements:**

1. Hantavirus is a zoonotic disease caused by an RNA virus belonging to the Hantaviridae family.
2. The disease is primarily transmitted through rodents such as mice and rats.
3. Human-to-human transmission of hantavirus commonly occurs through respiratory droplets.
4. Severe infection may lead to Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome causing respiratory distress.
5. There are no specific antiviral drugs available for the disease, and treatment mainly involves supportive care.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**50. The term “Ecocide” is best described as:**

- A. Conservation of endangered species through captive breeding
- B. Severe, widespread, or long-term destruction of the environment caused by human actions
- C. Natural extinction of species due to climatic changes
- D. Restoration of degraded ecosystems through afforestation

**51. With reference to the World Migration Report 2026 released by the International Organization for Migration, consider the following statements:**

1. International migrants constituted 3.7% of the global population in 2024.
2. The Mexico–United States corridor remains the world’s largest migration corridor.
3. The Afghanistan–Iran corridor and Syria–Türkiye corridor are among the major migration corridors globally.
4. The share of international migrants in the global population declined between 1990

and 2024.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**52. With reference to the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme was launched in 2018–19 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. It subsumes Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and Teacher Education schemes.
3. It aims to provide a holistic approach to school education from pre-school to Class 12.
4. It is implemented exclusively for private schools in India.
5. The scheme supports the implementation of SDG 4 and the Right to Education framework.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**53. With reference to the “Brand North East” initiative, consider the following pairs:**

1. Sikkim : Organic State
2. Arunachal Pradesh : Kiwi production
3. Tripura : Queen Pineapple
4. Nagaland : Coffee cultivation
5. Meghalaya : Lakadong Turmeric

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

**54. Consider the following paragraph:**

A valuable aromatic resin is obtained from certain trees that produce it as a defensive response to infection or injury. This resin is widely used in luxury perfumes, incense, and traditional medicine systems across Asia and the Middle East. It is one of the

most expensive natural raw materials in the world. The trade of this product is regulated under Appendix II of CITES due to concerns over overexploitation and declining wild populations.

Which of the following species is being referred to?

- A. Sandalwood
- B. Agarwood
- C. Rosewood
- D. Teak

**55. Consider the following statements regarding economic implications of reducing withholding tax:**

1. It can increase foreign direct investment inflows.
2. It may improve ease of doing business in cross-border transactions.
3. It directly reduces domestic savings and investment levels.
4. It can facilitate international capital movement and trade flows.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**56. Consider the following statements regarding the Chabahar Port:**

1. It is a seaport located in Chabahar in southeastern Iran on the Gulf of Oman.
2. It comprises two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
3. It is situated approximately 170 kilometres west of the Pakistani port of Gwadar.
4. It facilitates India’s access to iron ore from Afghanistan’s Hajigak mines and natural resources from Central Asian countries.
5. It is a key component of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), aimed at connecting the Indian Ocean region with Northern Europe.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

**57. Consider the following statements regarding the Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary:**

1. It is located in southern Delhi and extends into parts of Faridabad district in Haryana.
2. It lies along the Southern Ridge of the Aravalli Range.
3. The sanctuary was declared a protected area in 1991 under the WLP Act, 1972.
4. It is popularly known as the “green lungs” of Delhi and acts as a natural ecological barrier against the westward expansion of the Thar Desert.
5. The sanctuary is primarily located in the Himalayan foothills and is part of the Shiwalik ecological zone.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

**58. With reference to “Abhay”, recently in news, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an AI-powered chatbot developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
2. It is designed to help the public verify the authenticity of CBI notices and communications.
3. It uses blockchain technology to issue criminal convictions digitally.
4. It aims to reduce cyber frauds involving fake notices and impersonation of investigative agencies.

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 passage:**

A large freshwater reptile was recently satellite-tagged and released in a national park located in Assam, which is considered one of the global priority landscapes for turtle conservation. This animal is found in major river systems such as the Ganga, Brahmaputra, Indus, Narmada, and Mahanadi, and also extends across several South Asian countries including

India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. It typically inhabits large rivers and canals with muddy bottoms and turbid, flowing water, but may also be found in ponds and lakes.

This species is an opportunistic feeder, consuming fish, birds, reptiles, invertebrates, carrion, and aquatic vegetation, thereby playing an important ecological role in river ecosystems by cleaning up decaying organic matter. It is also heavily threatened due to illegal hunting, international trade, and habitat degradation.

It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, placed in CITES Appendix I, and categorized as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Which one of the following species is being described in the passage?

- A. Indian Narrow-headed Softshell Turtle
- B. Ganges Softshell Turtle
- C. Indian Flapshell Turtle
- D. Indian Roofed Turtle

**60. With reference to India-Sweden relations, consider the following statements:**

1. PM Modi received the Royal Order of Polar Star and Commander Grand Cross during his visit and it is among the highest honours conferred by Sweden upon a foreign head of government.
2. The first India-Nordic Summit was hosted by Sweden in 2018.
3. The Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) was launched jointly by India and Sweden at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.
4. LeadIT aims to promote low-carbon industrial transition and sustainable manufacturing practices.

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. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**61. With reference to the Indus Waters Treaty, consider the following statements:**

1. The treaty was mediated by the World Bank.
2. The western rivers allocated primarily

to Pakistan are the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.

3. India received unrestricted rights over the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers.
4. Under the treaty, India received nearly 80% of the total waters of the Indus river system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**62. With reference to the National Maritime Heritage Complex, consider the following statements:**

1. It is being developed at Lothal in Gujarat.
2. India and the Netherlands signed an MoU in 2025 for cooperation in its development.
3. Lothal was an important port city of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**63. With reference to the Bhojshala Complex, consider the following statements:**

1. Bhojshala was established by Raja Bhoja of the Paramara dynasty as a centre dedicated to Goddess Saraswati.
2. It functioned as a major centre of Sanskrit learning during the medieval period.
3. The inscriptions found in the complex include Sanskrit grammar tables, hymns to Vishnu, and portions of the drama Karpuramanjari.
4. Karpuramanjari was written during the reign of Raja Bhoja himself.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**64. With reference to the Saranda Forest, consider the following statements:**

1. Saranda Forest is situated in Jharkhand

and forms part of the Chhotanagpur biogeographic zone.

2. It is known as the largest Sal forest in Asia and is popularly called the “land of seven hundred hills.”
3. The forest ecosystem is dominated by tree species such as Sal, Mahua, and Kusum.
4. The tribal communities associated with the forest include the Ho, Munda, Uraon, and Santhal peoples.
5. The sacred groves known as “Sarna” are associated with the cultural traditions of local tribes inhabiting the region.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

**65. Consider the following pairs:**

Space Mission : Launching/Partner Agency

1. SMILE Mission : ESA and Chinese Academy of Sciences
2. Parker Solar Probe : NASA
3. Solar Orbiter : ISRO and NASA
4. PUNCH Mission : NASA

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

**66. The Green Strategic Partnership was formally declared between India and which country?**

- A. Sweden
- B. Denmark
- C. Norway
- D. Finland

**67. Consider the following statements regarding the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005:**

1. The Central Information Commission (CIC) is a statutory body established under the RTI Act, 2005.
2. Any body substantially financed directly or indirectly by government funds may fall under the definition of “public authority.”
3. The CIC recently held that the BCCI is a constitutional body and therefore exempt

from RTI obligations.

4. The RTI Act applies only to ministries and departments of the Union Government.
5. The CIC functions as the final appellate authority under the RTI framework at the central level.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

**68. Consider the following statements regarding Silver:**

1. Silver possesses the highest electrical and thermal conductivity among all metals.
2. Argentite and chlorargyrite are important ores of silver.
3. Mexico is the world's largest producer of silver.
4. India imports silver mainly from the United Arab Emirates, Britain and China.
5. India has recently shifted silver imports to the "prohibited" category under its import policy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**69. Consider the following statements regarding the Nordic countries:**

1. The Nordic countries consist of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.
2. All Nordic countries are members of the European Union (EU).
3. Scandinavia geographically forms the core region associated with the Nordic countries.
4. Sweden is the most populated Nordic country, while Iceland is the least populated.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**70. Consider the following statements regarding the applicability of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA):**

1. The provisions of the Act apply to citizens of India outside India.
2. The Act applies to persons in the service of the Government wherever they may be.
3. The Act applies to persons on ships and aircraft registered in India, wherever they may be located.
4. The Act is applicable only within the territorial jurisdiction of India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Four
- B. Three
- C. Two
- D. One

**71. Consider the following statements regarding the AYUSH Anudan Portal:**

1. It has been developed under the Ayush Grid initiative of the Government of India.
2. The portal functions as a decentralized offline mechanism for processing AYUSH-related grants.
3. It aims to streamline the submission, appraisal, processing, and monitoring of funding proposals.
4. The portal is integrated with the NGO Darpan Portal for verification of applicant organizations.
5. The nodal ministry for the portal is the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

**72. Consider the following statements regarding the recently established Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) by Iran:**

1. The PGSA has been established to oversee and manage operations in the Strait of Hormuz.
2. Under the new framework, vessels entering the Strait of Hormuz must obtain transit permits from the authority.
3. The fee regime introduced by Iran under

the PGSA has been universally accepted by the United States, Gulf countries, and European nations.

4. The Strait of Hormuz is strategically significant for global energy trade.
5. The PGSA has been created under the supervision of the United Nations Security Council.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

**73. Consider the following pairs regarding Chandrayaan-3 payloads:**

Payload	:	Function
1. ChaSTE	:	Measurement of thermal conductivity and temperature.
2. ILSA	:	Study of seismic activity around the landing site.
3. RAMBHA-LP	:	Measurement of lunar plasma environment.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**74. Consider the following pairs:**

Ramsar Site	State
1. Siliserh Lake	Rajasthan
2. Kopra Jalashay	Chhattisgarh
3. Chhari-Dhand Conservation Reserve	Gujarat
4. Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. Four

**75. Consider the following statements about a 19th-century freedom fighter:**

1. He was originally known as Shivdeen.
2. He was associated with the Shankarpur

Estate in Awadh.

3. He served as a trusted commander under Rana Beni Madhav Baksh Singh.
4. He is remembered for rescuing Rana Beni Madhav Singh from British captivity during the Revolt of 1857.

The personality described above is:

- A. Mangal Pandey
- B. Veera Pasi
- C. Kunwar Singh
- D. Bakht Khan

**76. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below.**

List-I (Handicraft/Product)	List-II (State/Region)	List-III (Distinct Feature)
a. Shirui Lily silk stole	1. Gujarat	I. "Tree of Life" motif
b. Meenakari and Kundan earrings	2. Rajasthan	II. Traditional gemstone and enamel jewellery
c. Tarakasi	3. Odisha	III. Silver filigree craftsmanship
d. Rogan painting	4. Manipur	IV. Inspired by the rare Shirui Lily flower

Codes:

- A. a-4-IV, b-2-II, c-3-III, d-1-I
- B. a-2-IV, b-1-II, c-4-III, d-3-I
- C. a-4-III, b-2-I, c-1-II, d-3-IV
- D. a-3-IV, b-2-III, c-4-II, d-1-I

**77. Consider the following statements regarding Kiwi cultivation in India and the Arunachal Kiwi Mission:**

1. Kiwi is a woody deciduous vine native to eastern Asia and it grows properly in the winter season .
2. It is best suited to tropical lowland regions below 300 m altitude due to its high heat tolerance.
3. In India, Arunachal Pradesh is the largest producer contributing more than 50% of total kiwi production.
4. Kiwi plants generally begin fruiting within 4–5 years and reach full commercial production after about 7–8 years.
5. The Arunachal Kiwi Mission promotes kiwi orchard tourism and farm-stay experiences in regions such as Ziro Valley

and Dirang, integrating horticulture with experiential tourism.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

**78. With reference to the Sample Registration System (SRS) in India, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is conducted by the Registrar General of India.
- 2. It provides annual estimates of fertility and mortality indicators at both national and sub-national levels.
- 3. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) refers to the number of deaths of children below five years of age per 1,000 live births.
- 4. According to SRS 2024, the Birth Rate in rural areas remained higher than in urban areas.
- 5. Bihar recorded the highest Birth Rate in 2024.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

**79. With reference to the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It aims to create 100 future-ready industrial parks integrated with the PM GatiShakti programme.
- 2. The scheme seeks to improve multimodal connectivity and last-mile access for industries.
- 3. Only the Central Government will finance and manage the industrial parks under the scheme.
- 4. The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation will play an important role in implementation.

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

**80. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is located on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River.
- 2. It serves as a wildlife corridor between Kaziranga and Orang National Parks.
- 3. It lies in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 4. It forms part of the Kaziranga landscape ecosystem.

With reference to the Laokhowa–Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary, 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, 3 and 4 only

**81. The term “Zwan–Wolf Effect”, sometimes seen in space science reports, refers to:**

- A. Sudden expansion of a star during its red giant phase
- B. Compression of electrically charged particles along magnetic field lines due to solar wind interaction
- C. Formation of asteroid belts between terrestrial planets
- D. Emission of gravitational waves from collapsing neutron stars

**82. With reference to the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, consider the following statements:**

- 1. The Bill seeks to enable simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- 2. If the Lok Sabha or a State Assembly is dissolved before completing its term, fresh elections will be held for a completely new five-year term.
- 3. The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 extends the simultaneous election framework to Union Territory Assemblies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**83. With reference to anti-defection law in India, consider the following statements:**

1. In *Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu*, the Supreme Court held that the decision of the Speaker under the Tenth Schedule is completely immune from judicial review.
2. The Tenth Schedule relates to disqualification of legislators on grounds of defection.
3. In *Keisham Meghachandra Singh v. Speaker, Manipur*, the Supreme Court prescribed an outer limit of three months for the Speaker to decide disqualification petitions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**84. With reference to Vande Mataram, consider the following statements:**

1. Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and first appeared in the novel *Anandamath*.
2. The novel *Anandamath* was set against the background of the Revolt of 1857.
3. Rabindranath Tagore first sang Vande Mataram at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.
4. Vande Mataram is explicitly protected under the Constitution of India in the same manner as the National Anthem.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

**ANSWERS**

- |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 01). C | 26). C | 51). A | 76). A |
| 02). B | 27). D | 52). B | 77). B |
| 03). A | 28). A | 53). D | 78). A |
| 04). A | 29). D | 54). B | 79). A |
| 05). C | 30). A | 55). A | 80). B |

- |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 06). D | 31). C | 56). D | 81). B |
| 07). C | 32). A | 57). A | 82). B |
| 08). C | 33). A | 58). B | 83). C |
| 09). A | 34). C | 59). B | 84). A |
| 10). B | 35). B | 60). D |        |
| 11). B | 36). A | 61). A |        |
| 12). D | 37). A | 62). D |        |
| 13). A | 38). A | 63). B |        |
| 14). C | 39). C | 64). D |        |
| 15). C | 40). B | 65). C |        |
| 16). B | 41). B | 66). C |        |
| 17). A | 42). C | 67). A |        |
| 18). A | 43). A | 68). A |        |
| 19). B | 44). B | 69). B |        |
| 20). B | 45). D | 70). B |        |
| 21). B | 46). B | 71). B |        |
| 22). C | 47). A | 72). A |        |
| 23). A | 48). A | 73). D |        |
| 24). A | 49). C | 74). D |        |
| 25). B | 50). B | 75). B |        |

**MCQ'S ON MISCELLANEOUS**

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Florence Nightingale Awards:**

- I. The awards are named after Florence Nightingale, regarded as the founder of modern nursing.
- II. The awards were instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- III. The awards recognise meritorious services rendered by nurses and nursing professionals to society.
- IV. Each award carries only a medal and

a certificate without any monetary component.

V. The awards for 2026 were conferred by Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. I, II, III and V only
- B. I, III and IV only
- C. II, IV and V only
- D. I, II, III, IV and V

**2. Consider the following statements regarding the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM):**

1. NASSCOM is the apex industry body representing India's Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Management (BPM) sector.
2. Srikanth Velamakanni has been appointed as the Chairman of NASSCOM.
3. NASSCOM is a statutory regulatory authority established by an Act of Parliament to regulate the Indian IT industry.
4. NASSCOM primarily functions as an industry association that represents and promotes the interests of India's technology and services sector.

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

**3. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of the Formula 1 programme in India?**

- A. Rohit Sharma
- B. Neeraj Chopra
- C. Shreyas Iyer
- D. Virat Kohli

**4. Consider the following statements regarding the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):**

1. The CDS is the highest-ranking military officer in India.
2. The CDS serves as the Principal Military Adviser to the Government of India.
3. Lieutenant General (Retd.) N. S. Raja Subramani has been appointed as India's next CDS with effect from May 30, 2026.

4. He will succeed General Anil Chauhan as the CDS.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. All Four

**5. With reference to the Gender Equality Mobilization (GEM) Award, 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. The GEM Award is conferred by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to recognize institutions promoting women's participation and inclusive governance.
2. The award for 2026 was conferred on the Guntur Municipal Corporation.
3. The award recognized the corporation's initiative of training and deploying more than 200 women as electric auto drivers for managing the city's door-to-door waste collection system.
4. The GEM Award is exclusively meant for recognizing achievements in industrial production and manufacturing exports.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**6. With reference to the Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards (2026), consider the following statements:**

1. The award has been instituted in memory of Jyotsna Darda to recognize outstanding contributions to Indian classical music.
2. The 2026 awardees included Sumitra Guha and Laxman Krishnarao Pandit.
3. The awards were presented by Justice Sandeep Mehta.
4. The award is conferred annually by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
5. The award primarily seeks to promote and preserve India's musical heritage.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

**7. Consider the following statements regarding the Pulitzer Prize (2026):**

1. R K Anand and Suparna Sharma were among the recipients of the Pulitzer Prize in 2026.
2. They received the award in the category of Illustrated Reporting and Commentary.
3. The award-winning work was published by Bloomberg.
4. The Pulitzer Prize is awarded exclusively for achievements in science and technology.

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

**8. With reference to the Agricola Medal, consider the following statements:**

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the Agricola Medal in 2026.
2. The medal is conferred by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
3. The award recognizes contributions to food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development.
4. The Agricola Medal is awarded by the FAO Director-General to leaders who have significantly contributed to food security and poverty reduction.

How many of the statements given above are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All are not correct
- D. All are correct

**9. Match the following:**

Column I (Event)	Column II (Date)	Column III (Organisation)
a. World Book and Copyright Day	1. May 5	i. Government of India
b. National Panchayati Raj Day	2. April 24	ii. UNESCO
c. Ayushman Bharat Diwas	3. April 23	iii. Ministry of Panchayati Raj

d. World Asthma Day	4. April 30	iv. GINA
---------------------	-------------	----------

Options:

- A. a-3-ii, b-2-iii, c-4-i, d-1-iv
- B. a-2-ii, b-3-iii, c-4-i, d-1-iv
- C. a-3-iii, b-2-ii, c-4-iv, d-1-i
- D. a-4-ii, b-2-iii, c-3-i, d-1-iv

**10. Match the following:**

Column I (Day)	Column II (Observing Organisation)	Column III (Theme)
a. World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	1. WOCC	i. United in Humanity
b. World Ovarian Cancer Day	2. TIF	ii. No Woman Left Behind
c. World Thalassemia Day	3. International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	iii. Hidden No More
d. World AIDS Vaccine Day	4. Global HIV/AIDS research networks	iv. Rethink. Rebuild. Rise.

Options:

- A. a-1-i, b-2-ii, c-3-iii, d-4-iv
- B. a-3-i, b-1-ii, c-2-iii, d-4-iv
- C. a-3-ii, b-1-i, c-2-iv, d-4-iii
- D. a-4-i, b-3-ii, c-1-iii, d-2-iv

**11. Consider the following pairs:**

- I. Exercise DUSTLIK : India & 12 Friendly Foreign Nations
- II. Exercise PRAGATI : India & Uzbekistan
- III. Exercise IN-SLN DIVEX : India & Sri Lanka
- IV. Exercise CINBAX-II : India & Cambodia

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. All Four
- B. Only Three
- C. Only Two
- D. Only One

**12. Gurbax Singh Grewal, recently in news, was associated with which sport?**

- A. Cricket
- B. Hockey
- C. Football
- D. Athletics

**13. With reference to the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI) Report, consider the following statements:**

1. The ADSI Report is released by the National Crime Records Bureau.
2. At the national level, family problems and illnesses, including mental health issues, account for nearly half of all suicide cases.
3. In 2023, more than two-thirds of suicide victims in India had an annual income exceeding ₹1 lakh.
4. Bengaluru ranked first among the 53 major Indian mega-cities evaluated and recorded a rise in the absolute number of suicides from 2022 to 2024.

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

**14. With reference to the London Marathon 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. Sabastian Sawe became the first athlete to officially complete a marathon in under two hours.
2. Sabastian Sawe set a new marathon world record with a time of 1:59:30, surpassing the previous record held by Kelvin Kiptum.
3. Yomif Kejelcha finished as the runner-up, trailing the winner by 11 seconds.
4. In the women's category, Tigst Assefa successfully defended her London Marathon title.

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. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**15. With reference to the Indian Premier League (IPL), consider the following statements:**

1. Virat Kohli became the first player in IPL history to score more than 9,000 runs.
2. He achieved the milestone during his 275th IPL match against the Delhi Capitals.
3. Virat Kohli is also approaching the milestone of 8,000 IPL runs scored exclusively on Indian soil.

4. Rohit Sharma is the second-highest run-scorer in IPL history after Virat Kohli.

How many of the statements given above are NOT correct?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. All four are not correct
- D. All four are correct

**16. Which Indian Olympic medallist recently became Elected Chair of the Athletes' Commission and a Full Voting Member of the BWF Council?**

- A. Saina Nehwal
- B. Kidambi Srikanth
- C. P.V. Sindhu
- D. Lakshya Sen

**17. With reference to the AIFF Elite Youth League 2025–26, consider the following statements:**

1. Punjab FC successfully defended its AIFF Elite Youth League title by defeating Zinc Football Academy in the final.
2. The final ended with a scoreline of 3–0, with all three goals being scored in the second half.
3. Punjab FC captain Vishal Yadav opened the scoring in the 69th minute through a curling free-kick.
4. The victory reinforced Punjab FC's reputation as one of the strongest talent-development pipelines in Indian grassroots football.

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

**18. With reference to the Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships, consider the following statements:**

1. It is held in Apia, Samoa and India won four Gold medals across youth and senior divisions at the championship.
2. In weightlifting, the champion is determined solely on the basis of the highest successful lift in the Clean and Jerk discipline.
3. The total score in weightlifting is calculated by combining the successful weights

lifted in the Snatch and Clean and Jerk disciplines.

4. Charu Pesi won a Gold medal in the Universal Cup (Senior) Men's 65 kg category.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**19. With reference to the decisions of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) regarding participation in the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics, consider the following statements:**

1. The IOC reinstated Belarus for participation in the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics.
2. Belarusian athletes will be allowed to compete under their national flag and participate in team events.
3. The Russian Olympic Committee remains suspended by the IOC.
4. Russian athletes will be permitted to participate in team events under a neutral flag.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**20. Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, and Kumkum Mohod are associated with which sport?**

- A. Shooting
- B. Fencing
- C. Archery
- D. Athletics

**21. With reference to recent developments in sports governance in South Asia, consider the following statements:**

1. Sahdev Yadav was elected as the President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation (SAWF) in Ahmedabad.
2. Sahdev Yadav simultaneously serves as the President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation and Vice President of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation.
3. Sabina Yadav was appointed as the Chief

Executive Officer (CEO) of SAWF.

4. The South Asian Weightlifting Federation is the apex global governing body for the sport of weightlifting.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**22. Consider the following statements regarding India's performance at the Asian U-15 Boxing Championships 2026:**

1. The championships were held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
2. India finished with a total of 27 medals, including 9 gold medals.
3. The Indian girls' contingent secured seven gold medals, while the boys won two gold medals.
4. India won more silver medals than bronze medals at the championship.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**ANSWERS**

- |        |        |
|--------|--------|
| 01). A | 13). A |
| 02). A | 14). D |
| 03). C | 15). D |
| 04). D | 16). C |
| 05). B | 17). A |
| 06). B | 18). B |
| 07). C | 19). B |
| 08). D | 20). C |
| 09). A | 21). A |
| 10). B | 22). A |
| 11). C | 22). A |
| 12). B |        |



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