

ANANYA SAADHANA



COMPREHENSIVE **CURRENT AFFAIRS** ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

VINAY KUMAR G B
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,
INSIGHTS IAS

JULY 2026

IAS

KAS

GROUP C

FDA

SDA

PSI

PC

TRENDING

52nd G-7 Summit: FRANCE



75th anniversary of the historic Kagodu Satyagraha

IN FOCUS



Court ruling

Right to be forgotten & Right to walk on the footpath are fundamental rights



12th International Day of Yoga 2026

Theme- Yoga for Healthy Ageing.



Pride Month

It is celebrated globally every June to honor LGBTQ+ rights movement



Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)

It designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS



World Yogasana Championship

Hosted in Ahmedabad-Gujarath



2026 Padma Awards

The President of India presented the Padma Awards to various achievers.



Narendra Modi

India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister



Vivek Aggarwal

Appointed as the Vice-President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)



EDITOR'S PAGE



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

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

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

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



To the future administrators of Karnataka,

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

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

Let's shape a prosperous Karnataka, together.

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

SOURCES



ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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

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

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

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

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

THE TEAM

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- ✓ Dinesh (Mentor)
- ✓ Santosh Nidagundi (Linguistic Resource)
- ✓ Pramod Viraktamath (Linguistic Resource)

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TOP CURRENT AFFAIRS

Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar



CONTEXT

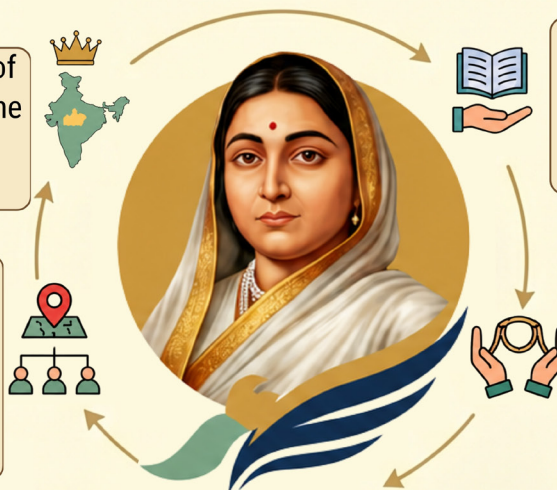
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** paid tribute to Lokmata **Ahilyabai Holkar** on her birth anniversary.



AHILYABAI HOLKAR (1725–1795)

- She was the celebrated queen of the **Holkar dynasty** who ruled the **Malwa kingdom** in the **18th century**.

- Born in Chondi village, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)** and married to Khanderao Holkar, son of Malhar Rao Holkar.



- Revered as the “**Philosopher Queen**” for her enlightened and **people-centric governance**.

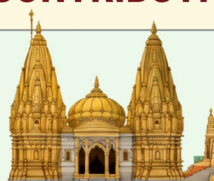
- After the deaths of her husband, father-in-law and son, she **assumed the administration of Malwa** in **1767**.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- She is remembered for her **model of justice, welfare-oriented governance, and cultural preservation**.



- Ahilyabai **rebuilt important temples** such as the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple** and **Somnath Temple** in the **18th century**.



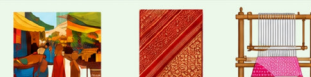
- She promoted **women's education, widow remarriage, and opposed practices like sati**.



- She also worked for the **upliftment of tribal communities and lower castes**.



- Under her rule, **Maheshwar and Indore** became **major trade centres**, and the famous **Maheshwari saree** tradition flourished.



Surha Tal: India's 100th Ramsar Site



CONTEXT

- Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, has been designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site.



ABOUT

- Established in 1991,



- The sanctuary is centred around **Surha Tal**, a natural perennial oxbow lake formed by the shifting course of the Ganga River.



- It is located in the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**, near the confluence of the Ganga and Ghaghara rivers.



- It hosts several **migratory birds from Siberia and Central Asia**, including the **Greylag Goose**, **Pintail**, **Common Teal**, and **Bar-headed Goose**.



- Local species include **Sarus crane**, **Heron**, and **Cormorant**.



ABOUT 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.**

RAMSAR FACTS

- Total: 100 sites** (As of June 2026).



- India has the most sites in Asia.**



- 100th Site:** Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Uttar Pradesh (Added June 2026).



Tamil Nadu

20



Uttar Pradesh

13



- Top State:** Tamil Nadu (20 sites), followed by Uttar Pradesh (13 sites).



- First Sites:** Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) in 1981.

- Sizes:** Sundarban (West Bengal) is the largest. Renuka (Himachal Pradesh) is the smallest.

विश्वरक्ष



MONTREUX RECORD (THREATENED SITES)

- What it is:** A register of Ramsar sites facing ecological danger from pollution or human interference.



Keoladeo National Park



Loktak Lake

- Only two sites**—Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur).

- Removed-** Chilika Lake was removed after successful recovery.



Pride Month



CONTEXT

June is observed globally as **Pride Month** to celebrate the **LGBTQ+ community** and raise awareness about issues of equality, inclusion, and human rights.

LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

- **LGBTQ+** is an umbrella term for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons.



- Notably, LGBTQ+ individuals do not conform to traditional gender roles and expectations. They exhibit sexual characteristics that do not fit into the typical male or female binary, and their gender identities differ from the sex assigned to them at birth.



- The **'+' (plus)** representing other identities that are not specifically included in these letters.

- **Pride Month:** It commemorates the fight for LGBTQ+ rights and celebrates diversity and inclusion in society.



INDIA'S POSITION ON LGBTQ+ RIGHTS



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



- **Transgender Rights:** **NALSA v. Union of India (2014)** recognised the right to self-identify gender. It recognises transgender as the "third gender" upholding their fundamental rights.



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



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



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



Right to be Forgotten

Context: The Delhi High Court held that the Right to be Forgotten is an important part of the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.

RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

- It is the right to ask organizations to remove your personal data from the internet, search engines, and public databases under specific conditions.
- It helps people protect their online reputation and privacy so they are not permanently judged by past mistakes or outdated information



HOW IT WORKS

- The right to be forgotten is also called the right to erasure.



- It allows you to ask a company or search engine (like Google) to delete or hide links about you.



- You can usually ask for your data to be removed if the information is outdated, incorrect, or irrelevant.



POSITION OF THE RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN IN INDIA

- India does not yet have a specific law on the Right to be Forgotten.



- However, the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 and several court judgments have recognised this right.



- The Supreme Court's K.S. Puttaswamy judgment (2017) recognised informational privacy as part of the right to privacy.





PM SVANIDHI SCHEME COMPLETES SIX YEARS



Context

- PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, has completed six years of empowering street vendors through affordable collateral-free credit, digital inclusion and social security.

PM SVANIDHI SCHEME



Financing
It is a Central Sector Scheme



Launched on
1 June 2020



Objective

To provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Implementing Agencies:

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)



- Eligible criteria:** Street vendors in possession of Certificate of Vending/Identity Card issued by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

KEY FEATURES

Working Capital Loan:

Collateral-free loans of ₹15,000, ₹25,000, and ₹50,000.



UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards:

Vendors successfully repaying the second tranche are eligible for UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards with limits up to ₹30,000.



THE 8 BENEFITS INCLUDED

- Life Insurance (PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima)



- Accident Insurance (PM Suraksha Bima)



- Free Bank Accounts (PM Jan Dhan Yojana)



- Food Ration Anywhere (One Nation One Ration Card)



- Old Age Pension (PM Shram Yogi Maandhan)



SVANIDHI SE SAMRIDDHI (SSS):

- It is an Indian government scheme that links street vendors and their families to eight welfare programs for safety and health.



- Main Purpose - It helps vendors who got a PM SVANidhi loan.



- Workers visit vendors to check what their families need.



- It connects them to benefits without complex paperwork.



- Safe Birth Cash Help (Janani Suraksha Yojana)



- Mother & Baby Support (PM Matru Vandana Yojana)



- Construction Worker Aid (BoCW Registration)



PM SVANidhi Scheme





Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G)

Context

The government has proposed an interim budget allocation of 95,692 crore rupees to states and union territories to ensure a smooth transition from MGNREGA to Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G).



Key Differences

Feature	MGNREGA (2005)	VB-G RAM G (2025 Act)
 Days Guaranteed	At least 100 days of work per year.	At least Integrated into the national PM Gati Shakti plan. of work per year.
 Funding Model	Demand-driven. The centre paid 100% of unskilled wages.	Normative allocation. General cost-sharing is 60:40 between Centre and States.
 Work Pauses	Continuous work throughout the year.	Allows a 60-day pause for farming seasons.
 Technology	Basic digital systems over time.	Advanced AI, biometrics, and GPS tracking.
 Planning Approach	Handled locally by Gram Sabhas.	Integrated into the national PM Gati Shakti plan.



Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA)



Context

- The 10th anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) was observed.



Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)



Launched on: June 9, 2016

- Objective** - It provides free, comprehensive antenatal care to pregnant women — particularly those in their second and third trimesters — at designated government health facilities on the 9th of every month.



Key Services:

- Under PMSMA, pregnant women receive:



Clinical examinations and risk assessment.



Blood and urine tests.



Ultrasonography.



Essential medicines and supplements.



Counselling on nutrition, birth preparedness, and safe pregnancy practices.

- The Doctor Volunteer System:** The programme encourages voluntary participation of private-sector specialists, including obstetricians, gynaecologists, radiologists, and physicians, to provide antenatal care services on the 9th of every month.

- In 2022, the government launched the Extended PMSMA (e-PMSMA) to strengthen tracking and follow-up of high-risk pregnancies.

Note:



- India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declined from 130 per lakh live births (2014–16) to 87 per lakh live births (2022–24).

Additional Information- Maternal Health Initiatives

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):

- Gives cash to poor women who choose to give birth in a hospital instead of at home.



Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)

- Makes hospital births 100% free. Covers medicine, food, tests, and free rides to and from the hospital.



Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)

- It Promises dignified care with zero tolerance for being turned away by a hospital.



Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- Gives direct cash (₹5,000 for the first child and ₹6,000 for a second girl child) to buy nutritious food.



LaQshya

- Upgrades the quality and safety of hospital delivery rooms.





Shiv Shakti Point



Context

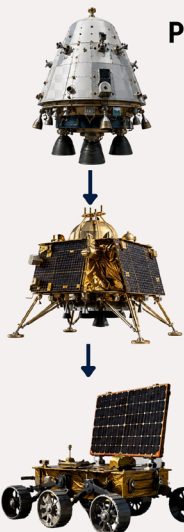
- Data from Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover has revealed that the soil at **Shiv Shakti Point** near the Moon's South Pole is chemically very similar to a **lunar meteorite (ALHA 81005) discovered in Antarctica**.
- The findings are based on **observations made by the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS)** onboard the rover.

Chandrayaan-3



- It is **India's third moon mission**.
- It was made by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- On **August 23, 2023**, it landed near the Moon's South Pole.
- This made **India the first country to reach the south polar region and the fourth country to land on the Moon**. August 23 is now celebrated as National Space Day in India.

The Three Spacecraft Parts



Propulsion Module: Carried the lander close to the Moon. It has 1 payload

- SHAPE (Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth):** Studies Earth from orbit.

Vikram Lander: The main box that made the soft landing. It has 4 payloads

- ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) :** Measures surface temperature.
- ILSA (Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity):** Records moonquakes.
- RAMBHA-LP (Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere - Langmuir Probe) :** Measures plasma density.
- LRA (Laser Retroreflector Array) :** Measures Moon distance (NASA)

Pragyan Rover: A small 6-wheeled robot. It has 2 payloads.

- LIBS (Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscope):** Finds elements (found Sulphur).
- APXS (Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer):** Studies soil minerals.

Shiv Shakti Point

- It is the official name of the place on the Moon where India's **Chandrayaan-3** mission landed.
- The mission's lander, **Vikram**, successfully touched down at this spot on **23 August 2023**.
- With this achievement, **India became the first country to land a spacecraft near the lunar south pole**.



Key Quick Facts



- Launch Rocket:** LVM3-M4 rocket.



- Landing Site:** Named Shiv Shakti Point.



- Mission Life:** 1 Lunar Day (about 14 Earth days).

Why the South Pole Matters



- Water Ice:** Deep craters have ice that never melts.



- Resources:** This ice can make drinking water, oxygen, and fuel for future astronauts.



- History:** The cold preserves old solar system clues.

NCERT Dancing Girl Row

Context

- After facing backlash, NCERT has decided to restore the original image of the Indus Valley Civilization's iconic Dancing Girl in its Class 9 textbook, reversing its earlier decision to depict the figurine with a covered torso.



Dancing Girl



- The "Dancing Girl" is a 4,500-year-old bronze statuette unearthed in 1926 by archaeologist Ernest Mackay at Mohenjo-daro (present-day Pakistan), a major urban centre of the Indus Valley Civilization.



- The statue is around 10.5 centimetres tall and is adorned with a necklace and a large number of bangles stacked on her arms.



- Material and Technique:** The bronze sculpture was created using the lost-wax technique, a metal-casting method that continues to be practiced in parts of India, including West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh.



- Today, the original artefact is housed in the National Museum, New Delhi.



Harappan Civilization



- The Harappan civilization is believed to be one of the oldest world civilizations together with Egypt and Mesopotamia.



- It was developed along the river Indus and for that reason it is also known as the Indus Valley Civilization.



- The Harappan civilization is identified as a Bronze-age civilization because many objects have been found that are made up of copper based alloys.



Major Harappan Sites

Site	Present Day
 Harappa	-----> Punjab, Pakistan
 Mohenjo-Daro	-----> Sindh, Pakistan
 Dholavira	-----> Kutch district of Gujarat
 Kalibangan	-----> Rajasthan
 Lothal	-----> Gujarat
 Rakhigarhi	-----> Haryana
 Chanhudaro	-----> Sindh, Pakistan
 Ganweriwala	-----> Punjab, Pakistan
 Sutkagendor	-----> Baluchistan Province, Pakistan
 Alamgirpur	-----> Uttar Pradesh



Key features of the civilization



Town planning: This civilization had brick houses and an excellent drainage system.



Economy: Their trade network extended up to Mesopotamia; people mainly grew wheat and cotton.



Culture: People wore gold ornaments and worshipped the "priest king" and the bull with devotion.



Society: The size of the dwellings clearly indicates a hierarchical society.



Decline: This civilization was destroyed due to environmental changes and invasions.



BRICS Indore Declaration



Context

The BRICS Agriculture Ministers and officials-level meetings were held in Indore in which the 'BRICS Indore Declaration' was unanimously adopted.



BRICS Indore Declaration - Main Focus Areas



- **Helping Small Farmers:** Focuses on helping small farmers, women, and youth.



- **Food Security:** Working together to feed the world.



- **New Technology:** Using smart tools like AI and digital maps in farming.



- **Safe Farming:** Protecting nature with organic and natural farming.



ಬ್ರಿಕ್ಸ್ (BRICS) ಬಗ್ಗೆ



- **Founded in** - 2009



- **HeadQuarters** - Shanghai



- It is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (included in 2010)**



- **Origin** - The term "BRIC" was coined by the British Economist **Jim O'Neill** in 2001 to describe the four emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.



- **Recent Expansion (BRICS+):** In 2024-2025, the bloc expanded to include **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE, and Indonesia**. Saudi Arabia has received an invitation but has not yet formalized its membership.



- **Share of BRICS** - BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries, representing **41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP, and 16% of the global trade** (By 2028, BRICS is expected to make up 35 percent of the global economy)



- **Chairmanship** - The chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members.



Key Initiatives



- **Digital Agriculture Network:** Led by IIT Delhi to bring digital tools to farms.



- **Natural Farming Centres:** Led by ICAR-IIFSR to study safe farming methods.



- **Farmers' Seed Rights:** A forum to protect traditional seeds and farmers' rights.



Initiatives of BRICS



1. New Development Bank (NDB)



2. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)



3. BRICS Payment System



4. Customs Agreements



5. Constellation of Remote Sensing Satellites



New Initiative

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





52ND G-7 SUMMIT IN FRANCE: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In News

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a session at the 52nd G-7 Summit held in Évian-les-Bains, France. The Prime Minister also held bilateral talks with the French President.



Évian-les-Bains
France

Key Details of the 52nd G-7 Summit:

Key Aspect	Details
 Location	Évian-les-Bains, France
 Date	June 15-17, 2026 (Main Summit: June 17-18)
 India's Participation	13th participation as an Outreach/Partner country
 PM Modi's Participation	Participating for the 7th consecutive time
 Invitation to India	India has been invited for the 8th consecutive time
 Invitation By	Invited by French President Emmanuel Macron

52nd G-7 Summit: Key Topics Discussed

Topic	Key Discussion Points
 Economic Security	Focus on countering non-market policies, strengthening supply chains, and protecting critical technologies.
 AI Governance	Agreement on ensuring AI safety, establishing a semiconductor connection group, and bridging the digital divide.
 Support for Ukraine	Commitment to continued military support, maintaining energy stability, and upholding sanctions on Russian oil.
 Middle East	Discussions on Indo-Pacific stability, providing humanitarian support to Gaza, and addressing nuclear threats from Iran.
 Global Health	Emphasis on strengthening the Pandemic Fund, enhancing immunization, and combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
 Food Security	Support for the Apulia Food Initiative and the Nairobi-Washington vision for debt management.



52nd G-7 Summit: Key Declarations and Resolutions



Declaration	Key Resolutions
 Development Finance	Commitment to mobilizing private capital and strengthening the 3-pillar approach of the IMF and World Bank.
 3-Pillar Approach	Focused on structural reforms and financial support to reduce the debt burden on developing and underdeveloped nations.
 Ebola Control	Commitment to strict international action to contain the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda.
 Cancer Control	Commitment to advancing cancer research, reducing mortality rates from lung cancer, and improving data availability for pediatric cancer.
 Geopolitics	Support for a free and open Indo-Pacific region; expressed deep concern over the nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea.
 Migrant Smuggling	Commitment to taking strict legal action against human trafficking networks, including collaboration with online platforms.
 Drug Trafficking	Establishment of the 'G-7+ Ports Network' to curb maritime drug trafficking and illegal financial flows.



Key Facts About the G-7 Group

Feature	Description
 Nature	A powerful informal forum of the world's most advanced economies.
 Member Nations	USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Canada.
 Global Impact	Represents approximately 10% of the global population and about 30% of the global GDP.



12th International Day of Yoga



News



The **12th International Day of Yoga (IDY)** was celebrated globally on **June 21, 2026**, under the official theme "**Yoga for Healthy Ageing**".



About :

- **Main Venue:** The national celebration was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the historic **Red Road in Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** The **Ministry of Ayush** serves as the nodal agency coordinating the celebrations and policy implementation in India.



Key 2026 Initiatives:



- **Yoga Sangam Portal:** A digital platform that **allowed over 6 lakh organizations to synchronize and perform yoga simultaneously across the country**.



- **Yoga 365 Campaign:** Aimed at shifting public perspective from a **symbolic one-day annual celebration to daily lifestyle integration**.



- **Lonar Record:** During the 75-day countdown event (Yoga Mahotsav-2026) at Lonar Lake, Maharashtra, **a record was set in the Asia Book of Records for the largest collective performance of Trikonasana (Triangle Pose)**.

Background:



- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the idea at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2014.** UNGA Resolution 69/131 was adopted in December 2014 with a record 175 co-sponsoring nations.



- **UNESCO Recognition:** In **December 2016**, Yoga was inscribed on **UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.



- **Why June 21?:** The date marks the **Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere**. In Indian mythology, this celestial transition is historically viewed as the **beginning of Yogic science (the transition of Adi Yogi to Adi Guru)**.



- **Philosophical Roots:** Yoga is one of the six orthodox (Astika) schools of Indian philosophy (Shad-Darshana). It was systematically **compiled by Maharishi Patanjali in the Yoga Sutras**, advocating the eight-fold path (Ashtanga Yoga).



KARNATAKA DARSHANA

1. Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009

News -

- **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.**
- It is a landmark legislation that operationalises **Article 21A of the Indian Constitution**, establishing free and compulsory education as a Fundamental Right for every child aged 6 to 14 years.



Constitutional provisions

- **Fundamental Right:** 86th Amendment Act (2002) introduced **Article 21A**, making education a fundamental right for children aged 6–14.
- **Legal Basis:** **Unnikrishnan vs. State of Andhra Pradesh (1993)** affirmed education as part of the Right to Life.
- **Effective Date:** The Act came into force on 1 April 2010.

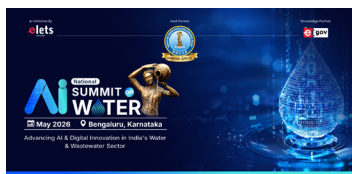
Additional Information -Schemes related to education in Karnataka 2026

- Karnataka provides several key **educational benefits and scholarships** through its unified **State Scholarship Portal (SSP)**.
- **Vidyasiri Allowance:** Gives ₹1,500 monthly for food and housing to **OBC/SC/ST/Minority students** without government hostel placement.
- **Free Bus Travel:** Grants **free state bus passes** to all male and female school and college students.
- **Post-Matric Fee Reimbursement:** Covers **tuition fees** for higher education for underprivileged communities.
- **Topper Incentives:** Awards cash prizes to high-scoring **SSLC and PUC students**.

2. National AI and Digital Water Summit in Bengaluru

News -

- **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)** is hosting India's first and largest **National AI and Digital Water Summit**.
- **Host and Date:** The summit will be organized by the BWSSB in Bengaluru on May 27.



National AI and Digital Water Summit in Bengaluru

- **Objective:** To bring together experts and policymakers to discuss the use of **artificial intelligence and digital technologies** for managing urban water systems.
- **Key Discussion Topics:** The talks will focus on AI-based water governance, smart utility systems, digital twins, IoT (Internet of Things) monitoring, predictive analytics, reusing wastewater, and sustainable funding for urban infrastructure.
- **'Five Panchasutras' Framework:** BWSSB will present a new framework focused on five main areas:
 1. Artificial intelligence
 2. Data-driven governance
 3. Smart infrastructure,
 4. Sustainable investment,
 5. Climate-resilient water security systems.

Additional Information - Water conservation schemes in Karnataka

- **Jalamrutha:** Focuses on mass **water literacy and community-led rejuvenation** of local water bodies.
- **Jala Sanjeevini:** Employs **geo-spatial technology** to build farm ponds and check dams under **MGNREGS**.
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana:** Uses community-led Water Security Plans to **manage water-stressed groundwater zones**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY):** Builds watershed infrastructure like check dams to **protect marginal farmers from drought**.

3. KSRTC wins international award for training excellence

News -

- The **Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** has received both national and international recognition, winning the **Golden Globe Tigers Awards 2026** for its initiatives in **employee training and public transport innovation**.
- **Event & Category:** The corporation was conferred

the award under the “**Excellence in Training**” category during a ceremony held on **May 20** in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.

KSRTC BUS FLEET GUIDE

PREMIUM COMFORT (AC)



AMBAARI DREAM CLASS
(Sleeper)

Multi-axle Volvo AC

- Premium Multi-axle Volvo AC Sleeper
- 40 Comfortable Berths
- Individual Charging Points
- Reading Lights
- Best for Overnight Journeys



AIRAVAT CLUB CLASS
(Seater)

Multi-axle Volvo/Mercedes-Benz

- Spacious 2+2 Semi-Reclining Seats
- Calf Support
- Ample Legroom
- Ergonomic Comfort
- Best for Daytime/Shorter Night Trips

BUDGET & EXPRESS (NON-AC)



PALLAKKI
(Non-AC Sleeper)

- Comfort of a Sleeper Berth
- Economical Pricing
- Packed-Friendly Travel
- Best for Budget Overnight Travel



RAJAHAMSA
(Executive)

- 2+2 Pushback Seats
- Air Suspension
- Classic Regional Travel
- Best for Budget Daytime Travel

ELECTRIC (ECO-FRIENDLY)



EV POWER PLUS
(Intercity Buses)

- Fully Electric AC Seater Buses
- Air Suspension
- Smooth Ride
- Classic Regional Travel
- Best for Eco-Friendly Intercity Trips (Popular Routes)



EV POWER PLUS
(Intercity Buses)

- Fully Electric AC Seater Buses
- Zero Emissions
- Eco-Conscious Journeys
- Smooth & Silent Ride
- Best for Eco-Friendly Intercity Trips (Popular Routes)

QUICK GUIDE & CONTACT

HOW TO CHOOSE:

Starting/Destination: Select your route

Day or Night: Choose seater for day, Sleeper for night

Budget: AC Premium or Non-AC Budget

BOOK NOW:

KSRTC Mobile App

KSRTC Website Address (E.g. KSRTC.IN)

Helpline: 901-2387

About - The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)

- It is Karnataka’s state-owned public bus service, linking major cities across South India.

Popular Bus TypesPremium AC:

- Ambaari Dream Class (Sleeper)
- Airavat Club Class (Seater).
- Budget & Express: Pallakki (Non-AC Sleeper)
- Rajahamsa (Executive).
- Electric: EV Power Plus intercity buses.
- Shakti Scheme: Free travel for women residents on non-premium buses.**

4. 108 Arogya Kavacha Centralised Command and Control Centre

News -

- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated the newly government-owned ‘108 Arogya Kavacha Centralised Command and Control Centre’ in Bengaluru, making Karnataka the first state in the country to establish a fully government-run emergency ambulance command system.



The 108 Arogya Kavacha Centralised Command and Control Centre

- It is a 24/7 government-managed medical emergency facility in Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru.

Key Features

- Location:** Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru.
- Management:** 100% Karnataka government-run.
- Capacity:** 50-seat emergency call center.
- Fleet:** Tracks 715 “108” ambulances.
- Technology:** C-DAC real-time GPS platform.

- Integrations: Connects with 112, 104, and eSanjeevani.

5. Integration of e-Swathu with Svamitva Yojana in Karnataka

News -

- The Karnataka Revenue Department plans to integrate its rural property record system with the Central government’s mapping scheme to streamline land records.

e-Swathu

- It is a digital e-governance platform developed by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department of Karnataka.
- It maintains digital ownership and physical records for properties located within Gram Panchayat jurisdictions (village limits/Gram Tana)

Primary Objectives:

- Prevents forgery, unauthorized layouts, and fraudulent land transactions.
- Brings all rural properties into the formal tax net, significantly boosting local government revenue.
- Promotes e-governance by cutting out middlemen and reducing physical visits to government offices

e-Swathu 2.0:

- Launched by the Karnataka government to upgrade the platform with Aadhaar-linked workflows, geo-tagging, and faster processing timelines

Differences between e-Swathu (rural) and BBMP’s E-Aasthi (urban)

Feature	e-Swathu (Rural)	E-Aasthi (Urban)
Primary Jurisdiction	Gram Panchayats (villages and rural outskirts).	Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).
Nodal Department	Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR).	Urban Development Department / BBMP.
Central Integration	Increasingly synced with the central SVAMITVA Yojana.	Integrated with GIS mapping and urban land registry reforms.

Additional Information - SVAMITVA Yojana.

- **Full form** - Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas
- **Financing** - It is a Central Sector Scheme
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched in 2020.
- **Target Area**: Rural inhabited lands (Abadi area only).
- **Exclusion**: Agricultural land is excluded.
- **Core Output**: Issuance of Property Cards (Title Deeds).

Core Objectives

- **Asset Monetization**: Allows rural citizens to use property as collateral for bank loans.
- **Dispute Reduction**: Minimizes property disputes through clear boundary demarcation.
- **Local Revenue**: Helps Gram Panchayats determine accurate property taxes.
- **Spatial Planning**: Uses GIS data to draft better Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP).

6. Two mountaineers from Karnataka scale Mount Everest

News -

- **Chinmayee Trishulamurthy and Santosh Devarajappa from Karnataka successfully climbed Mount Everest on May 12, 2026.**
- **Achievement**: The duo scaled Mount Everest at a height of 29,031 feet on May 12, 2026, overcoming freezing temperatures and powerful winds.



Mount Everest

- It is the **highest peak on Earth**, standing at **8,848.86 metres**.
- It sits in the **Himalayas on the border between Nepal (Sagarmatha) and Tibet (Chomolungma)**.

Facts

- **Geology**: It is a **young Fold Mountain** formed by the **collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates**. It is still rising.
- **Measurement**: The current height was jointly announced by Nepal and China. It was originally identified as Peak XV by the Great Trigonometric Survey of India and **named after Sir George Everest**.
- **Ecology**: Critical issues include **glacial retreat due to climate change** and **environmental degradation from high-altitude tourism waste**.

Additional Information - Mountain ranges of Karnataka

- **The Western Ghats (Malnad Region)**
 - ♦ **Mullayanagiri (1,930 m)**: **Highest peak in Karnataka**; located in Baba Budangiri Range (Chikkamagaluru).
 - ♦ **Baba Budangiri**: **Birthplace of coffee cultivation in India**; rich in iron ore (Kemma-ngundi).
 - ♦ **Kudremukh (1,894 m)**: **Second highest peak**; houses Kudremukh National Park (Shola-grassland ecosystem).
 - ♦ **Gangamoola**: **Peak inside Kudremukh range**; origin point of rivers **Tunga, Bhadra, and Netravati**.
 - ♦ **Brahmagiri Hills**: Located in **Kodagu**; contains **Talakaveri**, the origin source of the **Kaveri River**.
 - ♦ **Pushpagiri / Kumara Parvata (1,712 m)**: **Second highest peak in Coorg**; adjacent to Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary.2.
- **The Eastern Ghats & Transition Zones**
 - ♦ **BR Hills (Biligirirangan)**: **Ecological bridge connecting Western and Eastern Ghats**; declared **Tiger Reserve (BRT)**.
 - ♦ **MM Hills (Male Mahadeshwara)**: **Elephant corridor** transitioning into the **Eastern Ghats (Chamarajanagar)**.
- **Deccan Plateau / Plains (Maidan Region)**
 - ♦ **Nandi Hills**: **Granitic structure**; river watershed for **Arkavathi, Ponnaiyar, and Palar**.
 - ♦ **Savandurga**: **Located near Bengaluru**; one of the largest **monolithic hills in Asia**.

7. Karnataka logs gains in maternal and child health

News -

- According to the **National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) for 2023-24**, Karnataka has recorded **significant improvements across several maternal and child health indicators** compared to the previous NFHS-5 (2019-21), although **child malnutrition remains a challenge**.



Mathru Poorna Yojana

- **Objective**: Provides **one hot, cooked nutritious meal daily** to **pregnant and lactating mothers**

for at least 300 days a year.

- **Benefits:** The meal includes rice, sambar, vegetables, pulses, an egg, and 150 ml of milk to combat maternal anemia and low birth weight.
- **Delivered via local Anganwadi Centres**

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) & Srushti / Pushti Schemes

- **Objective:** Holistic development of children under 6 years, adolescent girls, and mothers.
- **Benefits:** Distributes Take-Home Rations (THR) under the Pushti scheme. The Srushti Scheme specifically supplies milk powder and eggs to children up to 5 days a week to prevent severe acute malnutrition (SAM)

Karnataka Samagra Mathru Arogya Palane Scheme

- **Objective:** A state-specific umbrella initiative consolidating multiple financial and medical safety nets. **Key Sub-Schemes Included:**
- **Prasoothi Arai Scheme:** Offers ₹2,000 for BPL mothers and ₹3,000 for SC/ST mothers in two installments to manage post-natal healthcare expenses.
- **Madilu Kit Scheme:** Distributes a post-delivery hygiene kit consisting of 19 essential daily use items (worth ₹1,500) for mothers who deliver in government hospitals.
- **Thayi Bhagya & Thayi Bhagya Plus:** Provides cashless pre-and-post-delivery assistance, including a ₹1,000 allowance if a BPL/SC/ST mother is forced to deliver in a non-empanelled private facility

Arogya Kavacha (108 Emergency Ambulance)

- **Objective:** Critical medical transit.
- **Benefits:** Provides 24x7 free emergency ambulance transportation to take pregnant women from home to healthcare facilities and secure a free drop-back home 48 hours post-delivery

Bhagyalakshmi Scheme

- **Objective:** Financial security for female children born into BPL families.
- **Benefits:** A fixed deposit of ₹50,000 is registered in the name of the girl child, which matures into a significant lump sum when she reaches 18 years of age

8. Karnataka Quantum Task Force

News -

- The Karnataka government has issued an order to create the **Karnataka Quantum Task Force**,

aiming to make the state a national hub for quantum technology and innovation.

- **Chairperson:** Arindam Ghosh, Professor at IISc Bengaluru, has been appointed to lead the task force.

Quantum computing

- **Quantum computing** is a multidisciplinary field comprising aspects of computer science, physics, and mathematics that utilizes quantum mechanics to solve complex problems faster than on classical computers.
- **Quantum mechanics** - It is a science dealing with the behavior of matter and light on the atomic and subatomic scale

Applications

- **Drug discovery:** Simulating complex molecules to develop new drugs and materials, leading to accelerated medical innovation.
- **Financial modeling:** Optimizing financial portfolios and managing risk with unparalleled accuracy and speed.
- **Cryptography:** Breaking existing encryption methods and developing new, quantum-resistant ones.
- **Machine learning:** Revolutionizing AI by training algorithms on massive datasets much faster, leading to breakthroughs in natural language processing, computer vision, and more.
- **Materials science:** Designing novel materials with superior properties like high-temperature superconductors or efficient solar cells.

Initiatives by the Government of India

- National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications (NM-QTA):
- Quantum Computing Applications Lab (QCAL)

9. 75th anniversary of Kagodu Satyagraha

News -

- The 75th anniversary of the Kagodu Satyagraha is being observed through a series of commemorative events.



About

- **Launched in March 1951** in Kagodu village, Sagar taluk (Shimoga district, Karnataka).
- This historic uprising is considered the **first peasant movement in independent India** and a critical milestone for subsequent land reform legislation

Core Issues

- **The Trigger:** Landlords (Zamindars) altered the kolaga (traditional measuring bowl) to extract more crop share from tenants.
- **The Conflict:** Landlords evicted protesting farmers; police responded with mass arrests and violence.
- **Key Leaders - H. Ganapathiyappa:** Formed the Sagara Taluk Raitha Sangha to mobilize local farmers.
- **National Socialists: Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan** backed the movement; Lohia was arrested in Sagar.

Historical Impact

- **Iconic Slogan:** Birthed the phrase “Uluvavane Neladodeya” (“The tiller is the owner of the land”).
- **Policy Shift:** Transitioned India’s struggle from anti-colonialism to internal anti-feudalism.
- **Land Reforms:** Formed the ideological foundation for Karnataka’s landmark 1970s land reform laws.

10.Semiconductor training fabrication facility inaugurated at IISc Bengaluru

News -

- **President Droupadi Murmu** virtually inaugurated a new **Semiconductor Training Fabrication (Fab) Facility** at **IISc Bengaluru** to help build a skilled and inclusive workforce for the nation.

Key Specifications and Capacity

- **Size:** The facility boasts a dedicated 3,200 sq. ft. cleanroom.
- **Equipment:** It is outfitted with **advanced semiconductor processing, lithography, and device characterisation tools**, including a **Scanning Electron Microscope**.
- **Capacity:** It is structured for workforce development, built to train up to 700 students annually.
- **Core Curriculum:** The training will **provide industry-oriented, experiential learning covering semiconductor fabrication, microfabrication, cleanroom operations, and device manufacturing**.

Additional Information - Semiconductor Chips

- These are materials which have a **conductivity between conductors and insulators**.
- **Example** - They can be pure elements, **silicon** or

germanium or compounds; gallium, arsenide or cadmium selenide.

- **Significance of Semiconductor Chips** - They are the basic building blocks that serve as the **heart and brain of all modern electronics** and information and communication technology products.
- **Applications** - These chips are now an integral part of contemporary **automobiles, household gadgets and essential medical devices** such as ECG machines.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

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

11. Secretariats to address public grievances and NRI issues in Karnataka

News -

- The **Government of Karnataka** will establish **two exclusive secretariats: one to handle public grievances and another for NRI issues**.
- **Public Grievance Secretariat:** This will be headed by a Minister and will primarily focus on holding meetings with protesting organizations to examine and address their justified demands.
- **NRI Investments:** The NRI secretariat will resolve NRI-related issues, and appropriate laws will be amended to make it easier for NRIs to invest in Karnataka.

Additional Information - Janaspandana portal

- The official **public grievance portal** for the **Government of Karnataka** is the **Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (iPGRS)**, commonly known as **Janaspandana**.
- **Mandate** - This single integrated platform allows citizens to **file, track, and resolve complaints across various state government departments**

Core Features of Janaspandana (iPGRS)

- **Time-Bound Redressal:** Every department operates under strict timelines to address your lodged complaints.
- **Escalation Matrix:** Issues not resolved within the fixed period automatically move up to senior supervisory officials.
- **Multi-Channel Login:** You can access your account using DigiLocker, PAN card, Aadhaar, or your mobile number.

- **Localization:** The interface is fully accessible in both Kannada and English.

Sakala service -

- It ensures time-bound government services in Karnataka. Delays trigger applicant compensation.

Core Features

- **Mandatory Deadlines:** Every service has a fixed processing timeline.
- **GSC Number:** Unique tracking ID provided upon application submission.
- **Status Tracking:** Real-time monitoring via the Sakala online portal.
- **Officer Penalties:** Defaulters pay fines that fund citizen compensation.

12. Kannada Sahitya Academy to release 54 books on women achievers

News -

- The Karnataka Sahitya Academy (KSA) officially released this milestone series of 54 books on June 5, 2026, under the leadership of Academy President L.N. Mukundraj

About the Project

- Published under the “Mahila Munnade” (Women’s March forward) initiative,
- Led by - Department of Kannada and Culture.
- Objective - It aims to preserve the legacies of exceptional women from diverse fields—such as science, journalism, politics, theatre, and social work—who have historically been pushed to the periphery of public memory.

Key Personalities & Books Featured

- Some of the notable titles and biographical subjects include:
- **Gauri Lankesh:** A biographical work written by Mallige Sirimane, detailing the late activist-journalist’s fierce battles and contributions to public interest journalism.
- **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay:** A book authored by senior journalist K. Shanthakumari, celebrating the iconic freedom fighter and social reformer.
- **Sara Aboobacker:** A profile written by Sabiha Bhoomi Gowda, chronicling the life of the groundbreaking Kannada novelist and translator.
- **Jammanni Devi:** Authored by Divya K.L., focusing on her unique socio-cultural contributions.
- **Rehamanavva Kalmani:** Authored by H.S. Patil. Leelavathi Devadas: Written by Rita Rini.
- **Kamala Hampana:** Documented by Chitthaiah

Pujar.

Mahila Munnade (“Women’s March Forward”)

- It is a grassroots feminist NGO based in Mandya, Karnataka.
- It focuses on empowering marginalized women and fighting gender discrimination.

Core Activities

- **Victim Support:** Provides counseling and legal aid for domestic violence, dowry harassment, and assault.
- **Cultural Defiance:** Uses traditionally male-dominated Nagari (drum-beating) performances to challenge caste and gender stigmas.
- **Grassroots Advocacy:** Campaigns against female foeticide, promotes women’s safety, and demands better political representation.
- **Key Leadership:** Founded by social activist Mallige Sirimane, with key advocacy led by Sushma Varma.

13. ‘Praja Seve’ (Public Service) Department

News -

- Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced the ‘Praja Seve’ (Public Service) Department to handle public grievances.

About -

- **New Ministry:** Led by a Cabinet Minister and a senior IAS officer.
- **Consolidation:** Merges Administrative Reforms, Public Grievances, and Sakala Mission.
- **Local Outreach:** Mandates regular grievance meetings in all assembly constituencies.
- **Tech Upgrade:** Deploys iPGRS 2.0 system for transparent, time-bound tracking.

14. Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)

News -

- Bengaluru’s Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) officially secured third place globally—with an impressive score of 18.6 out of 20—in a comprehensive study assessing family-friendly travel amenities.

About-

- The global study by AttractionTickets.com evaluated over 140 major airports to determine the best destinations for transiting with children.

KIA was praised for a variety of key offerings:

- 1. Sensory Rooms:** Recognition as one of the first Indian airports with dedicated sensory rooms for neurodivergent passengers.
- 2. Family Amenities:** High marks for baby-changing facilities, accessible spaces, and dedicated children's play areas.
- 3. Terminal Environment:** The serene, modern architecture of Terminal 2 ("Terminal in a Garden") provides a low-stress, aesthetically pleasing environment for families.

15. Hrudaya Jyothi scheme

News -

- The **Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar Hrudaya Jyothi scheme** has successfully treated **15,908** out of **18,804** diagnosed STEMI heart attack patients.

Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar Hrudaya Jyothi scheme

- It is a Karnataka government initiative providing **free, rapid treatment to heart attack victims during the critical "Golden Hour."**

Key Details

- Fast Diagnosis:** AI analyzes ECGs at local hospitals within 5 minutes.
- Free Injections:** Eligible patients receive expensive clot-busting medicine (Tenecteplase) for free.
- Network:** Links 86+ rural hospitals ("spokes") to major cardiac centers ("hubs").
- Goal:** Reduces death rates by treating rural patients before they can travel to distant cities.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Shangri-La Dialogue

In News

- India has officially signed a deal to supply BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Vietnam, as confirmed at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.



Shangri-La Dialogue

- Established in - 2002**
- It is also known as the **Asia Security Summit**
- It is **Asia's premier defence and security forum**.
- It is held annually at Singapore's Shangri-La Hotel.
- Organised by** - International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London, with support from **Singapore's Ministry of Defence**.
- Mandate** - The dialogue focuses on both traditional security issues (**territorial disputes**,

military cooperation) and non-traditional challenges (**terrorism, cybersecurity, climate change**).

- Note - India's Raisina Dialogue is considered to be modelled on the Shangri-La Dialogue.

Additional Information - BrahMos Missile

- Type:** Two-stage **supersonic cruise missile** (**World's fastest operational cruise missile**).
- Joint Venture:** **India (DRDO) and Russia (NPOM)**.
- Named after Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.**
- Speed:** **Mach 2.8 to 3.0** (Nearly 3 times the speed of sound).
- Principle:** **"Fire and Forget"** (Requires no control after launch).
- Platform:** Multi-platform (Can launch from **land, air, sea, and submarines**).
- Warhead:** **200–300 kg** conventional (tactical weapon, not nuclear).
- Range Evolution & MTCR** **Original Range (290 km):** Restricted due to Russia being bound by MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) rules.
- Extended Range (400–450 km+):** Upgraded after India joined MTCR in 2016, lifting the range limits.

2. AUKUS Alliance

Context

- The **AUKUS alliance** between **Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States** has **completed five years** and recently expanded cooperation in maritime defence and advanced technologies.



AUKUS

- It was **launched in September 2021**
- It is a **trilateral strategic security partnership**.
- Objective** - to strengthen defence capabilities, technological cooperation, and **strategic stability in the Indo-Pacific region**.

Two Pillars of AUKUS

Pillar I:

- Focuses on **helping Australia** acquire conventionally armed **nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs)**.
- It will make **Australia the seventh country to operate nuclear-powered submarines**.

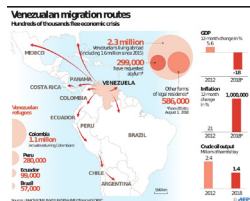
Pillar II:

- Focuses on cooperation in advanced technologies such as **artificial intelligence, quantum computing, cyber capabilities, undersea technologies, and advanced weapon systems**.

3. India–Venezuela

Context

- Acting President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, visited India and held talks with PM Modi.



Key Outcomes of the Visit

- Towards a Long-Term Energy Partnership:** Both sides discussed moving from spot purchases to long-term crude oil supply contracts.
- Cooperation in Critical Minerals:** Discussions covered critical minerals, gold, and diamond mining.
- Cooperation in Other Sectors:** Agriculture and farm mechanization, Animal husbandry, Transportation and logistics, Automotive manufacturing, Science and technology.

Significance of Venezuela for India

- Energy Security:** Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven crude oil reserves.
- India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil** and imports more than 85% of its oil requirements.
- Indian refineries are well-equipped to process Venezuela's heavy crude oil.
- Stronger ties can deepen India's engagement with the Latin American region and reduce overdependence on traditional energy suppliers.
- Securing Critical Minerals for Future Industries:** Venezuela possesses significant reserves of critical minerals, including rare earth elements, nickel, and other strategic resources.
- India's Latin America Outreach:** Venezuela serves as an important gateway for expanding India's economic and diplomatic engagement in Latin America.

Venezuela

- Location:** Venezuela is located on the **northern coast of South America**.
- It is bordered by **Colombia to the west, Brazil to the south, Guyana to the east, and the Caribbean Sea lies to the north**.
- Capital:** Caracas.

Major Physiographic Regions:

- Northwestern Venezuela is traversed by the **northeastern extension of the Andes**.
- The **Lake Maracaibo Basin** is a major geological and geographical region in northwestern Venezuela.

- Llanos** the vast, tropical savanna plains occupying over 250,000 square kilometers of central Venezuela.

4. Neelkanth Mishra Appointed as World Bank Executive Director

Context

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Neelkanth Mishra as Executive Director, World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC, for a tenure of three years**.
- He succeeds **Parameswaran Iyer**, who has held the position since February 2023.
- The **Executive Director is part of the World Bank's board**, which oversees policies, lending decisions and development priorities.

World Bank

- It was **founded in 1944**.
- The World Bank is like a cooperative, made up of **189 member countries**.
- It provides **financial and technical assistance to developing countries to reduce poverty and promote economic development**.

Main Institutions of the World Bank Group:

- IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development):** It lends to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.
- IDA (International Development Association):** It provides low-interest loans and grants to the poorest countries.
- IFC (International Finance Corporation):** It supports private-sector development.
- MIGA (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency):** It encourages foreign investment by providing guarantees.
- ICSID (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes):** It resolves investment disputes.

Flagship Reports by World Bank -

- World Development Report (WDR):** The premier annual report focusing on a specific, critical aspect of development economics (e.g., jobs, digital dividends, or climate change).
- Global Economic Prospects (GEP):** Examines global economic trends and prospects, with a specific focus on emerging markets and developing economies.
- Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report:** Tracks the World Bank's goals of ending extreme

poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

- **Human Capital Index (HCI):** Measures the contributions of health and education to the productivity of the next generation of workers.

5. India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)

In News

- The India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO) has been formally launched.

About

- It is a joint digital platform **launched in New Delhi on June 4, 2026.**
- **Launched by** - IIT-ISM Dhanbad (through its TEXMiN foundation) & **University of Cambridge.**
- **Objective** - It tracks minerals like **lithium, cobalt, and nickel across the globe.** It warns of risks like war, export blocks, or price changes.

Significance -

- It helps governments plan trade and build mineral stockpiles.
- These minerals power electric vehicles, solar panels, and defense tools.
- The project helps both nations secure raw materials and reduce their dependence on single countries like China.

National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

- **Launch:** The NCMM was approved by the Union Cabinet of India in **January 2025**, with a total outlay of approximately ₹16,300 crore over a period of 7 years (up to 2030–31).
- **It is anchored under the Ministry of Mines.**
- **Objectives:** Ensure a **reliable and sustainable domestic supply of critical minerals** such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, rare earth elements (REEs), titanium, and others.
- **Reduce India's import dependence for minerals** vital to the energy transition (EVs, solar panels, wind turbines, batteries) and defence/electronics sectors.

6. Major Abhilasha Barak Conferred UN Award

Context

- Prime Minister congratulated **Major Abhilasha Barak on being conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.**

About

- Major Barak is currently serving with the

United Nations mission in Lebanon, has been honoured with the award for her **outreach efforts with women and girls during her deployment in the West Asian nation.**



- She is also the **first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army.**
- **Nomination** - Each year, the awardee is selected from among candidates **nominated by force commanders and heads of mission from all peace operations.**
- India is among the largest troop and police contributing countries to **UN peacekeeping missions.**

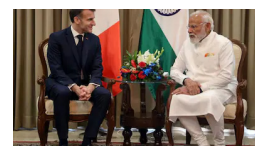
United Nations peacekeepers

- The United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers, commonly known as the 'Blue Helmets'
- They are military, police, and civilian personnel deployed by the United Nations.
- **Objective** - to help countries transition from conflict to peace.
- **Duties** - It includes protecting civilians, preventing conflict, strengthening security, and supporting peace processes.
- Peacekeeping operations are authorized by the UN Security Council and supported by member states, with personnel drawn from many countries around the world.

7. PM Modi to Participate in 52nd G7 Summit in France

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to participate in the 52nd G7 Summit in France.



About -

- **Group of Seven (G7):** An informal organization of seven of the world's largest advanced economies, representing about **10% of the population and nearly 30% of global GDP.**
- **Members:** Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **Presidency:** Rotates annually among member states.

Why is the G7 Summit Important?

- **Economic Influence:** Decisions impact global trade, financial stability, and climate policy.
- **Crisis Coordination:** Forum for addressing global challenges like pandemics, wars, and geopolitical

tensions.

- **Multilateralism:** Reinforces a rules-based international order through consensus-building.

8. New Phase in India-Nepal Relations

Context

- **Recent high-level exchanges between India and Nepal** signal efforts by both sides to strengthen bilateral ties despite differences over boundary issues.



India-Nepal Border Disputes

- India and Nepal argue over a few specific pieces of land. The main areas are Kalapani, Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh, and Susta.

India – Nepal Relations

- **India and Nepal share an approximately 1,751 km border.**
- **Shared Border:** The country shares a border with five Indian states – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- **India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship** - Signed in 1950, it forms the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.
- **Defence Cooperation:** Both countries conduct Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN alternately in India and in Nepal.
- The **Gorkha regiments of the Indian Army** are raised partly by recruitment from hill districts of Nepal.
- **Trade and Economic:** India remains Nepal's largest trade partner and Investment where Indian firms account for 33.5 % of total FDI stock in Nepal.
- **Operation Maitri & post-earthquake reconstruction assistance:** In the wake of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, GoI was the first responder and carried out its largest disaster relief operation abroad (Operation Maitri).
- **Cultural Ties:** The leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old 'roti beti' relationship, which refers to cross-border marriages between people of the two countries.

9. Prime Minister Held Official Talks with President of France

Context

- PM Modi held bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron in France.
- This marked the first meeting between the two leaders since India-France ties were elevated to

a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" earlier this year.

Major Highlights

- Adoption of the "Innovation Roadmap 2030", aimed at providing long-term direction to bilateral cooperation in technology and innovation.
- The two leaders also agreed to establish a **Joint India-France AI Working Group** to deepen collaboration in artificial intelligence.

Additional Information - India-France Relations

- **India–France Strategic Partnership:** It was launched on **26 January 1998** and is India's first-ever Strategic Partnership.
- **Rafale Fighter Jets:** India procured **36 Rafales** from Dassault Aviation.
- **Scorpene Submarines (Project P-75):** Collaboration with France's Naval Group, 6 submarines built in India; latest is **INS Vaghsheer**.
- Recently both nations formally concluded an **Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)** to procure **26 Rafale-M** fighter jets for the Indian Navy.
- **Joint Exercises:** Shakti, Varuna, FRINJEX-23.
- **Economic Cooperation:** Within the European Union, France remains India's fifth-largest trading partner, following the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, and Germany.
- The process of enabling **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** has been successful in France.
- **Joint missions:** TRISHNA (satellite mission), MDA systems, ground station support.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** Co-founded by India and France in 2015 to promote solar energy worldwide.

10. India and Slovakia Elevate Ties to Comprehensive Partnership

Context

- **India and Slovakia elevated their ties to a comprehensive partnership** and inked 11 agreements to expand bilateral cooperation.



About

- The visit was the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since its independence in 1993.
- The two leaders also agreed to work towards the **earliest implementation of the India-European Union free trade agreement**.

- The **Slovak President presented The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class), the highest state honour of Slovakia**, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Slovakia

- Slovakia is a **landlocked country in Central Europe**.
- It became an independent state on January 1, 1993, after the peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia.
- **Neighbouring countries** - Slovakia is bordered by Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east, Hungary to the south, Austria to the southwest and the Czech Republic, lies to the west.
- **Capital city** - Bratislava is the only national capital in the world that directly borders two separate countries i.e. Austria and Hungary.
- Official Language: Slovak.
- Currency: Euro (€).
- **It is a member of both the European Union and NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization).**

11. BRICS Indore Declaration

Context

- The **BRICS Agriculture Ministers and officials-level meetings were held in Indore** in which the '**BRICS Indore Declaration**' was unanimously adopted.

BRICS Indore Declaration - Main Focus Areas

- **Helping Small Farmers:** Focuses on helping small farmers, women, and youth.
- **Food Security:** Working together to feed the world.
- **New Technology:** Using smart tools like AI and digital maps in farming.
- **Safe Farming:** Protecting nature with organic and natural farming.

Key Initiatives

- **Digital Agriculture Network:** Led by IIT Delhi to bring digital tools to farms.
- **Natural Farming Centres:** Led by ICAR-IIFSR to study safe farming methods.
- **Farmers' Seed Rights:** A forum to protect traditional seeds and farmers' rights.

BRICS

- **Founded in** - 2009
- **HeadQuarters** - Shanghai
- It is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (included**

in 2010)

- **Origin** - The term "**BRIC**" was coined by the **British Economist Jim O'Neill** in 2001 to describe the four emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.
- **Recent Expansion (BRICS+):** In 2024–2025, the bloc expanded to include **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE, and Indonesia**. Saudi Arabia has received an invitation but has not yet formalized its membership.
- **Share of BRICS** - BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries, representing **41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP, and 16% of the global trade** (By 2028, BRICS is expected to make up 35 percent of the global economy)
- **Chairmanship** - The chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members.

Initiatives of BRICS

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

New Initiative

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

12. U.S. and Iran reach Agreement to end war, re-open Hormuz Strait

Context

- The **U.S. and Iran have reached a preliminary agreement to end the war**.



About

- The **pact includes an immediate halt to military action**, including in Lebanon, and a 60-day negotiation period.
- The **US has announced the removal of the US naval blockade, authorizing the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz** for global shipping.
- The move would allow international maritime traffic to resume.

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.

13. 52nd G7 Summit

In News

- **PM Modi addressed the 52nd G7 Summit Outreach Session at Évian-les-Bains, France,** marking India's 8th consecutive G7 invitation.



Key Declarations adopted

- **Development Finance:** Called for reforms in global development finance and debt management, including strengthening the IMF–World Bank 3-Pillar Approach and mobilizing private capital.
- IMF–World Bank 3-Pillar Approach helps vulnerable countries address liquidity challenges through structural reforms, external financial support, and reducing their debt servicing burdens.
- **Ebola Response:** Urged coordinated international action to contain the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak in the DRC and Uganda.
- **Cancer Action:** Committed to advancing research on cancers, reducing lung cancer mortality, and improving global access to paediatric cancer data.
- **Geopolitics:** Welcomed the US-Iran nuclear agreement, promoted a free and open Indo-Pacific, and expressed concern over North Korea's nuclear programme etc.
- **Migrant Smuggling:** Pledged stronger action against human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks, including cooperation with online platforms.
- **Drug Trafficking:** Announced a G7+ Ports Network to combat maritime drug trafficking and disrupt related illicit financial flows.

Group of Seven (G7)

- **Group of Seven (G7):** An informal organization of seven of the world's largest advanced economies, representing about **10% of the population and nearly 30% of global GDP.**
- **Members:** Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States.

- **Presidency:** Rotates annually among member states.

14. Iran-United States Peace Deal

US-Iran peace deal: 14 key points

TOI


Context

- According to some recent reports **Iran and the United States have reached a preliminary framework for renewed diplomatic engagement** after a prolonged period of tensions.

Background

- The pact includes a 14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United States and Iran outlining a **roadmap for de-escalation, restoration of commercial navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, and negotiations on sanctions relief etc.**
- It also includes an **immediate halt to military action, including in Lebanon,** and a 60-day negotiation period.

Evolution of Iran–U.S. Nuclear Diplomacy

- **The 2015 Nuclear Agreement:** The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed **between Iran and the P5+1 countries**.
- **Iran agreed to limit uranium enrichment** and accept enhanced inspections in exchange for sanctions relief.
- **U.S. Withdrawal and Renewed Tensions:** The United States **withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran**.
- In response, Iran gradually reduced its compliance with several provisions of the agreement.

Potential Opportunities of Iran–U.S. Agreement

- The reduction in tensions will **lower the risk of military confrontation and proxy conflicts** across the region.
- Also the stable conditions will ensure smoother energy flows and reduce volatility in global oil markets.
- Improved security conditions will **encourage trade, investment, and reconstruction efforts** in conflict affected areas.
- **For India**, improved regional conditions are necessary to boost the **development of Chabahar Port and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**.

15. Abraham Accords

Context

- **Pakistan's Defence Minister has said that he is not in favour of Pakistan joining the Abraham Accords** to normalise relations with Israel.

Abraham Accords

- The Abraham Accords refer to a **series of normalisation agreements signed in 2020 between Israel and several Arab countries**, brokered **by the United States under the Trump administration**.
- For decades, most Arab nations refused to recognise Israel until the Palestinian issue was resolved.
- **The Abraham Accords marked a major shift in Middle East diplomacy** by establishing **open relations between Israel and certain Arab states** without prior resolution of the Israel–Palestine conflict.
- **UAE became the first Gulf country to normalise relations with Israel in 2020** as part of the Abraham Accords.
- **Countries: USA, Israel, UAE, Bahrain, Su-**

dan, Morocco and Kazakhstan.

Main Objectives

- **Normalisation of diplomatic relations** (embassies, direct flights, trade, tourism, and technology cooperation).
- Security and intelligence cooperation, especially against Iran's regional influence.
- **Economic collaboration** in sectors like innovation, agriculture, defence, and renewable energy.
- **Promotion of interfaith** understanding named after Abraham, the patriarch revered in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

16. Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Context

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) **Plenary has appointed Culture Ministry Secretary Vivek Aggarwal as the next vice-president**.
- This is the **first time that India will hold the Vice-Presidency of the FATF**.
- He will serve as vice president from July 2026 to June 2027.

Financial Action Task Force

- **Established** - The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body **established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris**.
- **Objective** - To set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures **for combating money laundering, terrorist financing** and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- **Secretariat** - It is located at the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris**.
- **Member Countries** - **37 member countries** where India is also a member.

FATF has two lists

- **Grey List** - Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
- **Black List** - Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

NATIONAL

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. Forest Rights Act and PESA

Context

- The constitution of a task force in Chhattisgarh to **fast-track the implementation of laws such as the Forest Rights Act, 2006** and the **Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996**, has led to controversy.

Forest Rights Act

- It is also called **The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**
- Mandate** - to recognize the rights of forest-dwelling communities, including Scheduled Tribes, over forest resources
- Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).

Four Main Rights

- Title Rights:** Ownership of cultivated forest land up to 4 hectares.
- Use Rights:** Right to collect, use, and sell Minor Forest Produce (MFP) like bamboo and honey.
- Development Rights:** Right to use land for local schools, clinics, and roads.
- Forest Management:** Power to protect and manage their traditional forests.

PESA Act, 1996

- PESA Act, 1996 stands for the **Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996**.

The PESA Act (1996) grants self-governance to tribal areas across 10 Indian states.

- Gram Sabha Power:** Village assemblies protect tribal culture and approve all local development plans.
- Land Protection:** Must give permission before land is taken or mined for sand and stone.
- Resource Ownership:** Full rights over minor forest items (fruits, honey) and small water bodies.
- Economic Control:** Regulates local markets, stops bad money lenders, and can ban alcohol.
- Tribal Leadership:** Scheduled Tribes must hold at least 50% of seats and all

chairperson roles.

2. Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) Initiative

Context

- Union Jal Shakti Minister said that the creation of over 1.5 crore artificial groundwater recharge and storage works have been reported across the country under the Centre's Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative.



Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative

- It is a nationwide community-driven water conservation initiative **launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2024** under the umbrella of the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR)** campaign.
- Aim:** To transform water conservation into a mass movement through active public participation, local institutions, industries, and government agencies.
- It is driven by the **3Cs mantra—Community, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and cost**.
- Significance** - it adopts an inclusive model that **promotes long-term water security and resilience against water stress**.
- Under this initiative, States are encouraged to **construct a minimum of 10,000 artificial recharge and storage structures**.

3. Right to be Forgotten

Context

- The Delhi High Court held that the **Right to be Forgotten** is an important part of the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Right to be Forgotten

- It is the **right to ask organizations to remove your personal data from the internet, search engines, and public databases** under specific conditions.
- It helps people **protect their online reputation and privacy** so they are **not permanently judged by past mistakes or outdated information**

How It Works

- The right to be forgotten is **also called the right to erasure**.
- It allows you to **ask a company or search engine (like Google) to delete or hide links about you**.

- You can usually ask for your data to be removed if the information is outdated, incorrect, or irrelevant.

Position of the Right to be Forgotten in India

- India does not yet have a specific law on the Right to be Forgotten.
- However, the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 and several court judgments have recognised this right.
- The Supreme Court's K.S. Puttaswamy judgment (2017) recognised informational privacy as part of the right to privacy.

4. National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026

Context

- The Government of India has announced the winners of the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026.
- A total of 17 initiatives were selected across seven award categories, comprising 10 Gold Awards, 6 Silver Awards, and 1 Jury Award.

National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG)

- **Mandate-** The awards are presented annually to promote excellence in e-governance and digital public service delivery.
- They recognize innovative use of technology to improve governance, transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric services.
- It is instituted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- The awards cover initiatives implemented by Ministries, Departments, States, UTs, Districts, Urban Local Bodies, and Gram Panchayats.

Major Award-Winning Initiatives (Gold and Silver Awardees)

- **Agri Stack:** Developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Creates a digital ecosystem for farmers** through unique farmer identities and land-linked databases.
- It facilitates targeted delivery of subsidies, crop insurance, credit, advisories, and government schemes.
- **e-Jagruti:** It is a digital platform for filing and tracking consumer complaints, and developed by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- **Mahakumbh 2025 Digital Governance Model:** Implemented by the Prayagraj Mela Authority.

- It demonstrated large-scale use of technology in managing one of the world's largest religious gatherings.
- **Blood Bag Traceability and Citizen Interaction Portal:** It is developed by Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) and enables end-to-end tracking of blood units from donation to transfusion.
- **AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support system in eSanjeevani telemedicine service:** It is developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

5. Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

Context

- The Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) during which members discussed measures to sustain and accelerate India's economic growth amid an uncertain global environment.

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

- The EAC-PM, an independent body constituted to advise the Prime Minister on economic and related issues.
- It is currently chaired by S. Mahendra Dev.
- **Members:** At present, there are a Chairman, 3 Full-Time Members and 11 Part-Time Members in the EAC-PM.
- **Functions:** Analyzing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon, addressing issues of macroeconomic importance.

6. Pride Month

Context

- June is observed globally as Pride Month to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and raise awareness about issues of equality, inclusion, and human rights.



LGBTQ+ Community

- LGBTQ+ is an umbrella term for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons, with '+' representing other identities that are not specifically included in these letters.
- Notably, LGBTQ+ persons do not conform with traditional gender roles and expectations,

display sex characteristics that **do not fit the typical male or female binary**, and **their gender identities that differ from the sex they were assigned at birth**.

- **Pride Month** - It commemorates the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights and celebrates diversity and inclusion.

India's Position on LGBTQ+ Rights

- As per **census 2011**, there were **4.87 lakhs persons in India** who opted for "other" in gender category.
- **Transgender Rights**: **NALSA v. Union of India (2014)** recognised the right to self-identify gender.
- It recognises transgender as the "third gender" upholding their fundamental rights.
- **Decriminalisation**: **Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018)** decriminalised consensual homosexual acts (Section 377 partially struck down).
- **Constitutional Provisions**: Article 14 Right to equality, Article 15 No discrimination on grounds of sex and Article 21 Right to life and personal liberty.
- **Legislation**: The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 provides legal recognition of transgender identity.

7. Preventive Detentions

Context

- The Allahabad High Court recently raised concerns over the alleged misuse of preventive detention laws.

Preventive Detention

- Preventive detention refers to the **detention of a person without trial in order to prevent them from committing an act that may threaten public order**, national security, or other vital state interests.
- Unlike **punitive detention, which is imposed as punishment after conviction by a court of law**, preventive detention is based on the apprehension that a person may engage in activities prejudicial to:
 1. Security of the State;
 2. Defence of India;
 3. Public order;
 4. Foreign affairs; or
 5. Maintenance of essential supplies and services.
- The Constitution divides the legislative power

to enact preventive detention laws between the Union and the States.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 22(3)** of the Constitution **provides for preventive detention laws**,
- **Article 22(4)** contain the following **safeguards against abuse of this power**:
- No law providing for preventive detention shall authorise the detention of a **person for a longer period than three months**. Detention beyond this 3-month period requires clearance from an Advisory Board.
- **The 44th Amendment Act of 1978** has reduced the **period of detention without obtaining the opinion of an advisory board from three to two months**.
- However, this provision has **not yet been brought into force**, hence, the original period of three months still continues.

8. Rules Governing Election Symbols in India

Context

- The satirical **Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)** has sparked debate over whether a cockroach can be allotted as an election symbol if it registers as a political party.



Election Symbols in India

- **Election symbols are governed by the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**, administered by the Election Commission of India.

Types of Symbols:

- **Reserved Symbols**: Exclusively allotted to recognised national and state parties (e.g., lotus, hand).
- **Free Symbols**: Allotted to registered unrecognised parties and independent candidates from a notified list.

What Symbols Are Available?

- The **EC's latest free-symbol list (May 2025) contains 184 symbols**.
- These include household items, fruits, vegetables, sports equipment, and tools such as air-conditioner, dustbin, frying pan, grapes, toothbrush, TV remote, etc.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)

- It is a satirical, youth-led Indian political

movement that emerged in May 2026. It was started by political communication strategist Abhijeet Dipke

- It started as a joke after a judge reportedly called internet-active youth “cockroaches.”
- It quickly gained millions of online followers to protest youth unemployment and exam scams.

9. Prime Minister of India

In News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has overtaken Jawaharlal Nehru as the longest-serving Prime Minister in India to remain in office through consecutive electoral mandates.



Prime Minister of India

- **Constitutional Position (Article 75):** The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and serves as the head of the Union government, exercising actual executive authority.
- **Leader of the Council of Ministers (Article 74):** The Prime Minister leads the Council of Ministers, which assists and advises the President in carrying out constitutional functions.
- **Role:** The Prime Minister acts as the chief link between the President and the Council of Ministers, conveying decisions of the Cabinet and advising the President on matters such as appointments, convening Parliament, and dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
- **Head of Key Bodies:** The Prime Minister presides over several major institutions and councils, including NITI Aayog, the National Integration Council, and the Inter-State Council.

10. Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act

Context

- The Supreme Court underscored the need for strict enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act.

About -

- **Objective -** It is an Indian law meant to stop female foeticide and improve the child sex ratio.

Important points -

- **Bans Sex Selection:** It is illegal to choose or test for the sex of a baby before or after conception.
- **Regulates Ultrasounds:** Scans can only check for genetic disorders. Doctors cannot tell anyone

the sex of the fetus.

- **Mandatory Rules:** All clinics must register with the government, keep strict records (Form F), and never advertise sex selection.
- **Strict Punishment:** Violations are non-bailable. First-time offenders face up to 3 years in jail and a ₹10,000 fine. Doctors can also lose their license

Government Initiatives to Improve Sex Ratio

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** Launched in 2015, this campaign aims to address gender-based discrimination, promote the value of the girl child, and improve access to education for girls.
- It also focuses on raising awareness about the importance of girls' welfare and preventing female foeticide.
- **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:** This is a savings scheme for the girl child, which encourages families to save for the future education and marriage of their daughters. It promotes a positive perception of girls.
- **Maternity Benefits:** The government has introduced maternity benefits through schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), which provides financial assistance to pregnant women and lactating mothers, aiming to reduce the economic burden on families and support maternal and child health.
- **National Health Mission (NHM):** This program focuses on improving healthcare services for women, including maternal health, to reduce the mortality rate among women and girls.

11. Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

Context

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is likely to be withdrawn from almost the entire Northeast by 2027, except for one or two States.

Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)

- AFSPA was originally promulgated by the British in response to the Quit India movement in 1942.
- After Independence, India decided to retain the Act, which was first brought in as an ordinance and then notified as an Act in 1958.

Where is AFSPA currently invoked?

- **Imposed by -** AFSPA can be imposed by the Center or the Governor of a state on the state

or parts of it after it is declared “disturbed” under Section 3 of AFSPA Act.

- **Definition of Disturbed areas** - The Act defines Disturbed as areas that are “disturbed or dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary”.

Powers granted by the AFSPA Act to armed forces

- The Act gives **sweeping powers to the armed forces**.
- It allows them to ‘open fire’, even causing death, against any person in contravention to the law or carrying arms and ammunition.
- It gives them powers to **arrest individuals without warrants**, on the basis of reasonable suspicion and also search premises without warrants.
- **It also provides blanket immunity to security personnel involved in such operations.** There can be no prosecution or legal proceedings against them without the prior approval of the Center.
- **Note** - The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is **currently in effect in parts of Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Jammu & Kashmir.**

12. SC Invokes Article 142 to Set Aside POCSO Conviction

Context

- The Supreme Court invoked its extraordinary powers under **Article 142 of the Constitution to set aside the conviction of a man under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act).**

Article 142 of Indian Constitution

- Article 142 of the Indian Constitution grants the Supreme Court **extraordinary power to pass any decree or order necessary to do “complete justice” in any pending matter.**
- **Significance** - It is designed to bridge statutory gaps and provide equitable relief where strict adherence to existing laws might lead to unfair outcomes.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

- It was introduced by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to **protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.**
- The Act **criminalises both penetrative and non-penetrative sexual assault, sexual harassment, and child pornography**, and applies to all children below 18 years of age.
- POCSO is a gender-neutral law and states that

minors cannot give valid consent for sexual activity.

- It ensures child-friendly legal procedures, including **special courts, private hearings (in-camera trials), and video-recorded testimonies.**
- The Act also punishes those involved in **child trafficking for sexual purposes and allows strict penalties** based on the seriousness of the crime.

13. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA)

Context

- The introduction of the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026**, in the Lok Sabha has posed significant disruption risks to civil society.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act

- **Enacted in** - It is an act of Parliament **enacted in 1976 and amended in 2010.**
- **Objective** - To regulate foreign donations and to ensure that such contributions do not adversely affect the internal security of the country.
- **Applicability** - The Act is applicable to all associations, groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who intend to receive foreign donations.
- **Restrictions** - The members of legislatures, political parties, government officials, judges and media persons are prohibited from receiving any foreign contributions.

Key Provisions of the 2026 Amendment Bill

- **Asset Seizure:** The government can take over and sell physical assets (like hospitals or schools) built with foreign funds if an NGO’s license is cancelled or expires.
- **Automatic Expiry:** If an NGO does not renew its registration in time, it lapses automatically. The state can step in to control its property right away.
- **Personal Liability:** Key heads, directors, and trustees are held personally liable for any rules broken by the NGO.
- **Central Approval:** Local police or agencies cannot investigate an NGO under this law without prior approval from the Central Government.
- **Lower Jail Time:** The maximum jail term for breaking the law drops from 5 years to 1 year, shifting the focus to financial penalties.

14. Telegram Ban Under Section 69A of the IT Act 2000

In News

- **MeitY temporarily blocked Telegram in India under Section 69A of the IT Act 2000**, on NTA's recommendation, after criminal networks exploited the platform's message-editing feature to defraud NEET UG 2026 re-examination candidates.

Section 69A of IT Act 2000

- It is the primary legal provision that empowers the Central Government **to block public access to any digital information through any computer resource**.
- **Grounds for invocation** - sovereignty and integrity of India, defence, security of State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, or preventing incitement to cognisable offences.
- The Supreme Court in **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)** upheld Section 69A as **constitutionally valid**, describing it as a "narrowly drawn provision with several safeguards."

15. Aadhaar 'misuse'

Context

- The Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre and States on a plea alleging misuse of Aadhaar cards.

About

- An **Aadhaar card** is a **12-digit unique identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** to Indian residents.
- It was **introduced in 2010**.
- It serves as **valid proof of identity and address** and is essential for availing government welfare schemes, financial services, and digital authentication.

Purpose of Aadhaar

- **Unique Identification:** The unique identification number serves as a universally accepted proof of identity and address.
- **Social Welfare Schemes:** Aadhaar streamlines the distribution of government benefits and subsidies, reducing fraud and ensuring that benefits reach the rightful recipients.
- **Data-Driven Governance:** Aadhaar assists in creating data-driven policies and governance by providing accurate population statistics and

demographics.

Related Governance Framework

- **Aadhaar Act, 2016:** It is the primary law governing Aadhaar, provides the legal framework for issuance, authentication, and use of Aadhaar numbers for delivery of subsidies, benefits, and services.
- **Information Technology Act, 2000:** Provides legal protection against unauthorized access, data theft, hacking, and cyber offences involving Aadhaar-related information.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023:** Establishes safeguards for processing and protection of personal data, including Aadhaar-linked information, and recognizes individuals' data privacy rights.
- **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2018):** It upheld the constitutional validity of Aadhaar and restricted mandatory Aadhaar linkage in several private-sector services.
- **It emphasized privacy as a fundamental right** and required safeguards against misuse.

16. Nirbhay Chetna

Context

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on Nirbhay Chetna.

About

- Nirbhay Chetna is a key intervention **under the Nirbhay Raho initiative, launched in 2026 by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.

It comprises three complementary components:

- **Nirbhay Netri** focuses on **capacity-building and legal awareness among elected women representatives**;
- **Nirbhay Chetna** seeks to **sensitise elected male representatives on gender equality and women's safety**; and
- **Nirbhay Drishti** envisages the **installation of CCTV cameras** at strategic rural locations to strengthen **technology-enabled safety infrastructure in Panchayats**.

17. Assam's Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026

Context

- The Government of Assam has introduced the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026 in the State Assembly.
- Assam became the third state in India to table

a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill, following Uttarakhand and Gujarat.

Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?

- A Uniform Civil Code refers to the provision of **one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities, in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, etc.**
- **Aim: To replace the existing diverse personal laws** that vary based on religious affiliations.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 44** contained in **part IV of the Constitution** says that the state “shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India”.
- **Part IV of the Constitution outlines the Directive Principles of State Policy, which,** while not enforceable or justiciable in a court of law, are fundamental to the country’s governance.

UCC in India

- **UCC in Goa:** It follows the **Portuguese Civil Code of 1867**, which means that people of all religions in Goa are subject to the same laws on marriage, divorce, and succession.
- The **Goa Daman and Diu Administration Act of 1962**, which was passed after Goa joined the union as a territory in 1961, gave Goa permission to apply the Civil Code.
- **In 2024, The Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly passed The Uniform Civil Code of Uttarakhand Act, 2024, becoming the first Indian State to adopt a UCC post-independence.**

Key Provisions of the Assam UCC Bill, 2026

- **Ban on Polygamy and Bigamy:** The Bill mandates monogamy for all residents under its ambit. Bigamy and polygamy would attract punishment under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.
- Existing polygamous marriages solemnised before enforcement of the law would remain legally protected.
- **Uniform Marriage Age:** The minimum legal age is fixed at 21 years for men and 18 years for women.
- **Mandatory Registration:** Registration of all marriages and divorces would become compulsory and couples must submit a marriage memorandum within 60 days of marriage.
- **Non-registration may attract penalties and fines.**
- **Regulation of Live-in Relationships:** Registration

of live-in relationships within one month has been made mandatory and children born from such relationships would be considered legitimate.

- Deserted partners would have legal rights to claim maintenance.
- **Uniform Grounds for Divorce:** The Bill standardises divorce grounds such as; cruelty, desertion, mutual consent.
- The Bill also penalises illegal dissolution of marriage and unlawful conditions imposed before remarriage.
- **Gender-Equal Inheritance:** The Bill establishes equal inheritance rights for spouses, children, and parents. It creates a uniform succession framework irrespective of religion.
- Testamentary succession through written wills is legally recognised.
- **Child and Fraudulent Marriages:** The Bill prescribes punishment for child marriage and marriages conducted without valid consent.
- The Bill also provides imprisonment and fines for fraudulent or deceptive marriages conducted through force, coercion, concealment, or misrepresentation.
- **Exemption for Scheduled Tribes:** The Bill excludes Scheduled Tribes (STs) from its purview in order to protect customary practices and constitutional safeguards available to tribal communities.

18. Kerala’s Dedicated Senior Citizens Welfare Department

Context

- The government in Kerala has decided to establish a separate **Department for Senior Citizens’ Welfare** to address the growing challenges associated with population ageing, and social isolation among elderly citizens.

Elderly Population in India

- **Kerala is Ageing Faster than Other States**
- **Kerala has the highest proportion of elderly population in India.** Around **18.7% of Kerala’s population is above 60 years of age**, compared to the national average of nearly 11–12%.

Government Initiatives for Elderly in India

- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** Launched in 2015 to ensure old-age income security for unorganised sector workers. It provides a **guaranteed monthly pension (₹1,000–₹5,000) post-60 years.**
- **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY):** Launched in 2017 to distribute assistive living devices

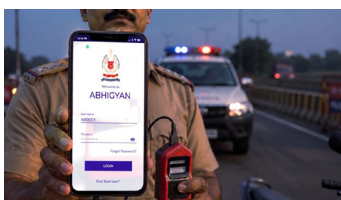
(hearing aids, walking sticks, wheelchairs, etc.) to BPL senior citizens or those with income below ₹15,000/month.

- **Senior Care Ageing Growth Engine (SAGE) Portal:** Promotes start-ups and innovation in elderly care services, encouraging the growth of the silver economy.
- **Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY:** It Extends ₹5 lakh annual health coverage to around 6 crore senior citizens aged 70 years and above, across 4.5 crore families.

19. Abhigyan App

Context

- The Union Home Minister launched the Abhigyan app developed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).



About

- The app links to the **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)** to store fingerprint scans of accused, convicts, and those in prisons on a centralized platform.
- The prints can be matched with the NAFIS database in 35 seconds.
- **Significance** - During routine vehicle checks on the streets, biometric scans of any suspicious individual can be conducted to identify persons wanted in connection with crimes.

20. Right To Walk On Footpath Is A Fundamental Right: SC

Context

- In a landmark judgment, the **Supreme Court** has held that the right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths is a fundamental right.

About

- The right to walk flows from Article 19(1)(d) (freedom of movement) and Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty).
- According to the Court, the right to walk also supports freedom of expression, assembly, and association under Article 19(1)(a), 19(1)(b), and 19(1)(c).
- The judgment places a duty on municipal corporations, urban development authorities, municipalities, and even panchayats to build,

maintain, and protect pedestrian infrastructure.

- The Court emphasized that **pedestrian rights must be prioritized over motorised vehicles in urban planning**, and citizens can seek legal remedies if safe and accessible footpaths are not provided.

21. First Amendment

Context

- On June 18, 1951, the First Amendment to the Indian Constitution came into force.
- The First Amendment to the Indian Constitution, enacted on June 18, 1951, **was introduced by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to override court rulings that blocked state policies.**

Key Changes

- **Restricted Free Speech:** Added “public order,” “friendly relations with foreign states,” and “incitement to an offence” as limits to Article 19.
- **Protected Land Reforms:** Created the Ninth Schedule to shield land reform laws from judicial review.
- **Allowed Quotas:** Added Article 15(4) to enable caste-based reservations in education and employment.
- **Enabled State Monopolies:** Allowed the government to nationalise trades or businesses.

ECONOMY

1. India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

In News

- The **India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** came into force on 1 June 2026, creating one of India’s most comprehensive trade agreements in the Gulf region.

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

- It goes far beyond a traditional Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- While a standard FTA focuses mostly on cutting tariffs on physical goods, a CEPA is a holistic agreement.

It covers:

1. **Trade in Goods** (reducing or removing customs duties).
2. **Trade in Services** (allowing professionals and

service industries to work smoothly).

- 3. **Investment Facilitation** (protecting and easing foreign direct investments).
- 4. **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** and competition policies.
- 5. **Regulatory Cooperation** (standardizing certifications, customs rules, and reducing non-tariff barriers).

India's Active CEPAs - Currently, India has active agreements with:

- 1. South Korea (Signed in 2009, effective 2010)
- 2. Japan (Effective 2011)
- 3. Malaysia
- 4. United Arab Emirates (UAE) (Effective May 2022)
- 5. Oman (Effective June 1, 2026)

Additional Information - Comparing India's Trade Agreements

Agreement Type	Level of Integration	Primary Focus
Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)	Lowest	Lowers duties on a very limited, agreed number of products.
Free Trade Agreement (FTA)	Moderate	Focuses mostly on reducing or eliminating tariffs on a wide list of goods.
Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)	High	Deals broadly with tariff reductions and Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ). Considered a stepping stone to a CEPA.
Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)	Highest	Extends a CECA to include deep targets for investments, service sectors, and strict regulatory standards.

2. Base Year Revision of Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Context

- The Government of India has approved the revision of the base year of the Wholesale Price

Index (WPI) from 2011–12 to 2022–23.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

- **Objective** - It tracks the price of goods sold in bulk by wholesale businesses.
- **Published by** - The Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **It covers goods only. It does not track services.**
- **Base Year:** 2022–23 (Updated in 2026 from 2011–12).
- **Note** - WPI will be phased out by 2031. India is moving to a new Producer Price Index (PPI).

Additional Information - Core Differences Between WPI and CPI

Feature	Wholesale Price Index (WPI)	Consumer Price Index (CPI)
Stage of Transaction	Tracks prices when goods are traded in bulk between businesses.	Tracks prices at the final retail stage when bought by households.
Commodity Coverage	Only Goods. It completely excludes the service sector.	Both Goods and Services (e.g., education, medical care, housing).
Published By	Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.	National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
Base Year	2011-12 (An official panel transition to 2022-23 / PPI is underway).	2024 (Updated from 2012 by MoSPI to reflect modern spending).
Policy Target	Used mostly to monitor macroeconomic producer-level price trends.	Used by the RBI as the headline metric for inflation targeting

3. MPC Retains Repo Rate, Lowers Growth Forecast

Context

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the policy **repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.25%**.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- **Established under** - The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) constituted by the Central Government under **Section 452B of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934**.
- **Meeting** - The MPC is required to **meet at least four times in a year**.
- **Composition**: The committee comprises **six members**.
- Out of the six members, **three are internal -including the RBI governor who chairs the committee**.
 - ♦ **RBI's deputy governor is the second internal member**.
 - ♦ **The third member is one RBI official who is nominated by the central board of RBI**. Usually, it is the executive director in-charge of monetary policy.
 - ♦ **The other three are external members who are appointed for four years**.
- **Voting**: Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the **Governor has a second or casting vote**.
- **Significance of constituting the MPC**: MPC was set up consequent to the agreement reached between Government and RBI **to task RBI with the responsibility for price stability and inflation targeting**.
 - ♦ The Reserve Bank of India and Government of India signed the **Monetary Policy Framework Agreement**.
- **Functions**: The MPC determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target. It acts as a benchmark for all other interest rates in the economy.

Monetary Policy Tools in India

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

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

4. Herbicide-Tolerant Mustard Hybrids

Context

- India is set to begin large-scale cultivation of imidazolinone-resistant (IMI-resistant) mustard hybrids during the 2026–27 rabi season.

IMI-Resistant Mustard Hybrids

- These are mustard hybrids **resistant to imidazolinone (IMI) herbicides**.
- They have been **developed through mutation breeding, not through genetic modification (GM)**.
- **Mutation breeding involves selecting and preserving naturally occurring genetic mutations** that confer desirable traits.

Connect with the basics - Gene Editing Technology

- It refers to technology that permits the change of an organism's DNA by allowing genetic material to be added, removed, or altered at particular locations in the genome.

CRISPR Cas9 Technology

- **Acronym** - Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats.
- **Significance** - With the use of the gene editing technique CRISPR, researchers can modify the DNA of living things.
- An enzyme called **Cas9 functions as molecular scissors**, guided by RNA molecules created to precisely match a certain DNA sequence.
- **GE (Genome Editing)**: Involves **precise modification of specific genes within an organism's genome without introducing foreign genes**, resulting in targeted genetic changes.
- **GM (Genetically Modified)**: Involves the **insertion of foreign genes from unrelated organisms into an organism's genome** to confer specific traits or characteristics.

Regulatory Bodies

- **GEAC (Genetic Engineering Appraisal**

Committee): It is a regulatory body under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**. GEAC is **responsible for evaluating and approving genetically modified organisms (GMOs)**

- **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB):** Ensures **safe handling of GMOs** that may impact biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur.

5. Land Port Management System (LPMS): Vinimay

In News

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the **Land Port Management System (LPMS)**, named '**Vinimay**', in New Delhi under the **Smart Borders initiative**.

About

- It is a **unified digital platform launched to modernise operations across India's international land borders**.
- **Developed by - Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)**, a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs established through the Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010.
- **Significance** - It achieve **Smart Border Management** by replacing manual paperwork with end-to-end digital workflows

Additional Information - The Smart Borders Initiative

- It is an Indian government project to **secure international borders using advanced technology**.
- **Implementation - Ministry of Home Affairs** to secure India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. It uses technology instead of just human patrolling.

Key features

- **Quadrangular Security Grid:** Links local people, police, civil officials, and the military with the Border Security Force (BSF).
- **High-Tech Tools:** Uses drones, anti-drone systems, underground sensors, and thermal cameras. It protects tough areas like rivers and swamps.
- **VINIMAY System:** A digital platform by the Land Ports Authority of India. It cuts paper paperwork by 90% and tracks trade data in real time.

6. Coal Exchange Rules, 2026

Context

- **The Ministry of Coal has notified the Coal Exchange Rules, 2026**, paving the way for the establishment of Coal Exchanges in the country to enable transparent and market-driven coal trading.

Coal Exchange

- **A Coal Exchange is an electronic marketplace where coal producers, consumers, traders, and other participants can buy and sell coal through transparent trading mechanisms.**
- **Significance** - It facilitates efficient price discovery based on market demand and supply conditions.

Coal Sector in India

- India is the world's second-largest producer and consumer of coal.
- India has the fifth-largest coal reserves globally.
- Coal accounts for around 55% of India's primary commercial energy requirement and about 70% of electricity generation.
- Major coal-producing regions are concentrated in states such as Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal

7. Navachar Mantra Initiative

News

- Navachar Mantra is a national initiative **launched by the Union Minister at IIT Delhi**.

Navachar Mantra Initiative

- **Launched by - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**
- **Objective** - to identify, mentor, and scale grassroots innovations originating from Tier-2, Tier-3, and rural India

Key Features

- **Target Demographic:** Open to Indian citizens **aged 18 to 55 residing in aspirational districts** and underserved rural or semi-urban geographies.
- **Eligibility:** Flexible criteria allow individuals with ideas in the validation or early prototype stages to apply; a registered corporate entity or finished market product is not required.
- **Focus Sectors:** Prioritizes high-impact verticals including **AgriTech, HealthTech & Wellness, EdTech, Climate Action, Rural Commerce, and MSME Enablement**.

8. Price Stabilisation Fund

Context

- The Union Cabinet has approved a one-time budgetary support of up to ₹10,000 crore for Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to provide Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price stabilisation support to Scheduled Indian Airlines.

Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) Price Stabilisation Fund

- **Financial outlay** - ₹10,000 crore
- **Objective** - It protects Indian airlines from sudden jumps in fuel prices.

How It Works

- **Fixed Price:** The fund pays oil companies to keep jet fuel prices steady for local airlines.
- **The Buffer:** When global oil prices go up, the fund covers the extra cost. When prices go down, the money goes back into the fund.
- **Rules:** Airlines must sign a 36-month deal to buy fuel only from participating oil companies. Foreign airlines cannot use this fund.

9. Queen Pineapple

Context

- Ahead of the **pineapple festival in Delhi**, Tripura eyes global status for queen pineapple.

About

- The **queen pineapple** was declared the state fruit of Tripura in 2018, four years after it attained the GI tag in 2014 for its golden-yellow hue and a distinct aroma.
- **Cultivation:** An area with **30–40% slope** is generally selected for cultivation and plants require **sandy soil and good drainage to prevent water logging** and temperature range of **180°C to 32°C** is most favorable for its cultivation.
- **Tripura's** unique agro climatic condition makes it one of India's leading pineapple-producing regions where Queen and Kew varieties are mostly cultivated by tribal growers.
- **Mission Queen Pineapple:** It is a three year long centrally-funded farm-to-plate programme worth Rs 236 crore launched in 2026.
- **India contributes roughly 6-8% of total global pineapple production.** On a regional scale, **West Bengal and Assam are the top-producing states.**



Do you Know?

- **Cultivation of pineapple originated in South America** and gradually spread to other tropical parts of the world.
- Pineapple cultivation **was introduced to India by the Portuguese in 1548 AD.**
- **Costa Rica is the leading global producer and exporter of pineapple.**

10. GI Recognition for Jharkhand's Traditional Heritage

Context

- Eleven traditional products of Jharkhand have recently been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.



GI-Tagged Products of Jharkhand

- **Bhagaiya Silk:** Bhagaiya Silk is produced in the Bhagaiya region of Godda district. It is known for its traditional handloom weaving techniques and high-quality silk fabric.
- **Kuchai Silk:** It is cultivated naturally on Asan and Arjun trees in the village of Seraikela-Kharsawan (historically known as Kuchai).
- **Kesaria Kalakand:** It is a traditional sweet that forms an important part of the region's culinary heritage.
- **Dokra Craft:** It is one of the oldest surviving metal-casting traditions in India. It employs the traditional lost-wax casting technique to produce decorative and utility items.
- **Tumka Chadar:** It is a uniquely crafted shawl or bedspread sheet (chadar) woven by local tribal and artisan communities in Jharkhand.
- **Baroni Paintings:** It is traditional folk paintings of Jharkhand depicting local customs, nature, and tribal cultural traditions.
- **Pancho Saree and Fabric:** The traditional handwoven textiles of Jharkhand known for their distinctive patterns and cultural significance among local communities.
- **Jadopatia Painting:** It is a traditional scroll-painting art practiced by the Santhal community, depicting folklore, mythology, social customs, and cultural narratives.
- **Bhoya Saree and Fabric:** It is a traditional handwoven textiles of Jharkhand.
- **Munda Jewellery:** It is a traditional ornament

crafted by the Munda tribal community. It reflects the artistic traditions and social customs of Jharkhand's tribal population.

- **Jharkhand Bamboo Craft:** Bamboo Craft utilizes locally available bamboo to create utility and decorative products.

Connect with the basics - Geographical Indication or GI Tag

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

11. Kashmir Saffron

In News

- The West Asia conflict has disrupted Iranian saffron exports, triggering a global demand surge for Kashmiri saffron.

Kashmir Saffron

- Kashmir Saffron is a **premium spice grown on the Karewa lands** of Jammu and Kashmir. It received a GI Tag in 2020.

Geography and Climate

- **Soil:** Grows only on Karewa soils (thick, flat beds of clay and sand from old lakes).
- **Altitude:** High elevations of **1,600 to 1,800 meters** above sea level.
- **Regions:** Pampore is the main area, called the "Saffron Bowl of Kashmir."

Key Features and Types

- **Unique traits:** Deep red color, thick stigmas, strong smell, and zero chemical colors.
- **Three types:** **Mongra** (pure dark red threads; best quality), **Lachha** (dry threads with some yellow parts), and **Guchhi** (threads tied in bundles).

Government Steps

- **National Saffron Mission:** Started to fix soil, give water sprinklers, and boost crop yields.
- **Saffron Bowl Project:** Trying to grow saffron in Northeast India (like Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh).

12. Bitumen

Context

- The recent conflict in West Asia has hit India's push to expand road infrastructure as **India imports 30-40% of Bitumen**.
- Over 99% of India's bitumen imports come from Iraq, UAE, Iran, Oman and Bahrain.

Bitumen

- **Bitumen is a byproduct of crude oil.**
- It is known for its **waterproofing and adhesive properties**.
- It is predominantly **used in road construction and roofing**.
- **Canada has one of the largest natural deposits of bitumen** in its oil sands, contributing significantly to global supply.
- It is produced in refineries to ensure purity, maintain consistent quality, and meet massive global construction demands at a lower cost.

13. NPCI Unveils Drunix Platform

Context

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) rolled out Drunix,

About -

- It is an **open-source blockchain platform**, to help companies build and scale **tokenisation platforms, digital asset ecosystems, multi-organisation networks**.

Significance -

- It helps banks and businesses build safe systems to share data and track digital assets.
- **It uses Blockchain:** This means data is super safe, shared fairly, and cannot be changed by tricks.



- **It is Made in India:** India changed a global tool called Hyperledger Fabric to make it faster and better for Indian needs.
- **It is Open-Source:** The code is free for anyone to see and use. This makes it easy for companies to work together.

Basic terms

- **Tokenization** - It Tokenization is the process of converting ownership rights or assets into digital tokens on a blockchain.
- These assets include financial securities, real estate, commodities, digital currencies and identity credentials.
- **Cryptocurrency** - It is a virtual currency used for financial transactions. It uses blockchain technology for various transactions.
- **Blockchain** - The blockchain is an incorruptible digital ledger of transactions that can be programmed to record virtually everything of value. Each list of records in a blockchain is called a block.

14. QS Rankings 2027

Context

- **Recently QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Ranking 2027, was released ranking Higher education institutions across the world.**

Major Findings

- **It evaluated more than 1,500 institutions across 106 countries** and territories.
- **It features 52 Indian universities**, making **India the world's fifth most represented higher education system.**
- **Global Top 5 Universities dominated by US and UK**
 1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US
 2. Imperial College London, UK (tied)
 3. Stanford University, US (tied)
 4. University of Oxford, UK
 5. Harvard University, US

Top 10 Indian Institutions (QS World Rankings 2027)

Rank	Institution	Global Rank
1	IIT Delhi	118
2	IIT Bombay	134
3	IIT Madras	170
4	IIT Kharagpur	205
5	IIT Kanpur	221 (tied)

5	IISc Bengaluru	221 (tied)
7	University of Delhi	322
8	IIT Roorkee	335
9	IIT Guwahati	349
10	Shoolini University	454

Additional Information - QS Rankings

- QS was founded in 1990
- **Headquartered in - London.**
- It specialises in providing **data, research and consulting services to the international higher education sector.**
- QS Rankings, established in 2004, is the most reputed Ranking among the major global university rankings and offers an impartial assessment of institutions.
- It assesses institutions across 10 key indicators including academic reputation, employment outcomes, international faculty ratio, international research network, international student diversity, faculty-student ratio and sustainability.

15. TReDS Platform

Context

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued **Reserve Bank of India (Trade Receivables Discounting System) Directions, 2026**, aimed at simplifying the onboarding process for MSMEs.

Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)

- **Objective** - Resolve MSME liquidity crunch by offering collateral-free working capital.
- **Nodal Regulator** - Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Statutory Backing** - Regulated under the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007.

16. SARTHAK-PDS Scheme to Modernise Public Distribution System

Context

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), approved the continuation and integration of two key food distribution schemes under a new umbrella programme titled **"Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS" (SARTHAK-PDS).**

SARTHAK-PDS scheme

- It integrates two existing initiatives;
 1. **Assistance to State Agencies for intra-State movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers' margin** under NFSA and
 2. **Scheme for Modernization and Reforms through Technology in Public Distribution System (SMART PDS)** with the objective of strengthening implementation of the National Food Security Act.
- **Significance-** The scheme proposes the use of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Blockchain to **modernise and optimise PDS operations**.

Additional Information - PDS System

- The Public Distribution System (PDS) is a food security mechanism in India through which **essential food commodities are distributed to eligible beneficiaries at subsidised prices through Fair Price Shops (FPSs)**.
- The system **primarily distributes rice, wheat and coarse grains to economically weaker sections of society**.
- The PDS is a **joint responsibility of the central and state governments**.
- The central government, through the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, **procures, stores, transports, and allocates food grains** to the states.

17. India's GDP Base Year Revision

Context

- **India has revised its GDP base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23**, resulting in changes to GDP estimates and growth rates to better reflect the current structure of the economy.

Why was the GDP series revised?

- India periodically revises its GDP base year to **reflect changes in the economy's structure, production patterns, consumption behavior, and data availability**.
- Such revisions are usually undertaken every five years, but this exercise was delayed due to the implementation of GST and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The objective is to improve the accuracy and reliability of national income estimates**.

Connect with the basics - Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

- **Definition** - It is the **total monetary value of all final goods and services produced within a country's domestic territory** during a specific period (usually a quarter or a year).
- **Released By: National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Calculation of GDP:** GDP is calculated using three main methods;
- **The Expenditure Approach:** This method sums up all spending on final goods and services in the economy.
- **The Income Approach:** This method sums all incomes earned by factors of production (labor, capital).
- **The Production/Value-Added Approach:** This method adds up the value added by each industry at every stage of production.

Nominal Vs Real GDP

- **Nominal GDP measures a country's economic output at current market prices**, thereby incorporating the effects of inflation and making it useful for assessing the economy's size in present-value terms.
- **Real GDP adjusts for inflation by valuing output at constant base-year prices**, providing a more accurate measure of actual growth in production over time.

Base Year

- A base year is a benchmark year used for comparison in economic and statistical calculations.
- It provides a reference point against which current values of indicators like GDP, CPI, and IIP are measured to track real changes over time.

18. Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026

Context

- According to the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026, the global energy transition has effectively stalled despite total energy investments touching \$3.3 trillion in 2025.

Energy Transition Index (ETI)

- **Published by** - It is an annual index published by the **World Economic Forum**.
- **Objective** - It measures how **effectively countries are transitioning toward secure, sustainable, equitable, and affordable energy systems**.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** The index is based on two

broad dimensions:

1. **System Performance:** Energy security, sustainability, and equity.
 2. **Transition Readiness:** Policies, regulations, investment, infrastructure, innovation, education, and institutional support.
- **Significance:** It helps governments identify strengths and weaknesses in their energy transition efforts and guides policy reforms.

Major Findings of Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026

- Sweden, Finland and Denmark retained their top three positions globally.
- India advanced two places to rank 70th.

19.Khurasani Imli

Context

- The fruit of Mandu's Baobab tree, known locally as Khurasani Imli, has secured a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



About

- Khurasani Imli is the fruit of the Baobab tree (*Adansonia digitata*), a species native to Africa and Madagascar.
- It is popularly known as the "Tree of Life" because of its multiple uses and exceptional resilience.
- In India, baobabs occur in the semi-arid regions of central India and parts of the Western Ghats.
- Mandu in Madhya Pradesh is one of the few places in India where Baobab trees are found in large numbers.
- Historical accounts suggest that the seeds were brought to Mandu by Afghan rulers or Arab traders around the 14th–15th century.
- The tree is known for its distinctive bottle-shaped trunk and its ability to store large quantities of water.
- The fruit is rich in Vitamin C, antioxidants, and has traditional medicinal uses.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. PM SVANidhi Scheme Completes Six Years

Context

- **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme,** has completed six years of empowering street vendors through affordable collateral-free credit, digital inclusion and social security.



PM SVANidhi Scheme

- **Financing - It is a Central Sector Scheme**
- **Launched on - 1 June 2020**
- **Objective - to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors** affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**
- **Eligible criteria:** Street vendors in possession of Certificate of Vending/Identity Card issued by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Key Features

- **Working Capital Loan:** Collateral-free loans of ₹15,000, ₹25,000, and ₹50,000.
- **UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards:** Vendors successfully repaying the second tranche are eligible for UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards with limits up to ₹30,000.

SVANidhi se Samriddhi (SSS):

- It is an Indian government scheme that links street vendors and their families to eight welfare programs for safety and health.
- **Main Purpose - It helps vendors who got a PM SVANidhi loan.**
- Workers visit vendors to check what their families need.
- It connects them to benefits without complex paperwork.

The 8 Benefits Included

1. Life Insurance (PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima)
2. Accident Insurance (PM Suraksha Bima)
3. Free Bank Accounts (PM Jan Dhan Yojana)
4. Food Ration Anywhere (One Nation One Ration Card)
5. Old Age Pension (PM Shram Yogi Maandhan)
6. Safe Birth Cash Help (Janani Suraksha Yojana)

7. Mother & Baby Support (PM Matru Vandana Yojana)
8. Construction Worker Aid (BoCW Registration)

2. Mission Senehjori

Context

- Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) has launched Mission Senehjori,
- It is a flagship initiative to transform Assam's Muga silk sector into a globally competitive luxury textile ecosystem.



About

- The mission aims to strengthen host-plant cultivation, modernise reeling infrastructure, promoting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) & expanding global market access under the unified "Senehjori" brand.
- Implementation** - Government of Assam, the Central Silk Board, the Ministry of Textiles, and other central agencies.

Central Silk Board

- It is a **statutory body** under the **Union Ministry of Textiles**, established by the **Central Silk Board Act, 1948** (later amended as Central Silk Board (Amendment) Act, 2006).
- Mandate** - It is responsible for formulating policies and implementing programs for the **development of sericulture and silk industry**.
- Headquarter: Bengaluru, Karnataka**

Sericulture Basics

- Sericulture involves **cultivating silkworms** (primarily Bombyx mori for mulberry silk) that **feed on leaves like mulberry, oak, castor, and arjun** to spin cocoons.
- These are **processed into yarn and fabric**, blending agriculture and industry.
- Note** - India is the only country that produces all 4 major varieties of natural silk.
 - Mulberry Silk** (70% of India's total output);
 - Tasar (Tussar) Silk** (Derived from wild silkworms);
 - Eri Silk** (aka 'Ahimsa Silk');
 - Muga Silk** (A Geographical Indication (GI) product).
- Assam produces around 90% of the world's Muga silk**
- India is today the second-largest producer of**

silk globally, accounting for nearly 25% of global silk output, **next only to China**.

3. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

News

- The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** of **Parliament** recently raised serious concerns about the implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** as the scheme appears to have been training people for industries that aren't necessarily hiring.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

- Objective** - It is a government scheme to train youth in useful job skills.
- It **started in 2015** under the **Skill India Mission**.
- Implementation** - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- Targeted beneficiary** - School dropouts and unemployed youth.

Key features -

- Short-Term Training (STT)**: Free training in digital skills, life skills, and trade work.
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**: Exams and certificates for people who already have skills but no official degree.
- Special Projects**: Custom training for unique jobs or tough areas like tribal regions

PMKVY 4.0?

- Modern Skills**: Focuses on new tech like AI, robotics, drones, and 5G.
- Real Work Experience**: Includes on-the-job training.
- Skill India Digital Hub**: Uses a digital app for easy signup and tracking.

4. Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme, 2026

Context

- The **Department of Higher Education** has invited applications for the **Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026**.

About

- Launched in** - 2026
- Implementation**- It is a flagship national initiative by the **Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education**.
- Objective**- : To bring Indian-origin researchers working abroad to leading Indian institutions for high-impact research in priority sectors.

Key Details Goal:

- **Aim** - Bring top global Indian talent back to India.
- **Target** - Select 120 researchers over 5 years.
- **Funding** - Up to ₹5 crore in grants (and up to ₹14 crore total package).

Who Can Apply?

- Indian nationals, OCIs, and PIOs working abroad fit into three tracks:
 1. Young Research Fellows: Up to 5 years after PhD.
 2. Senior Fellows: 5 to 10 years after PhD.
 3. Research Chairs: 10 or more years after PhD.

Focus Areas & Locations

- **Sectors:** 13 fields like AI, Semiconductors, Space, Health, and Green Energy.
- **Host Places:** Top institutes like IISc, major IITs, and national labs.

5. Jan Samarth Portal

Context

- The Jan Samarth Portal has completed four years of promoting digital financial inclusion and seamless credit delivery.

Jan Samarth Portal

- **Launched in** - 2022
- **Objective** - It is a **single-window digital platform for availing benefits under 16 credit-linked government schemes.**
- **Significance** - It facilitates access to institutional credit across sectors such as **agriculture, business, housing, renewable energy, and livelihoods.**
- **Available in 8 languages**, the portal has onboarded 269 lending institutions, including banks, NBFCs, and cooperative banks.

Additional information - Digital financial inclusion schemes

Core Pillars: The JAM Trinity

1. **Jan Dhan:** Zero-balance bank accounts for the unbanked.
2. **Aadhaar:** Biometric digital ID for instant e-KYC verification.
3. **Mobile:** Core tool to access mobile banking apps.

Key Schemes

- **PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):** World's largest financial inclusion drive. Over 56 crore accounts. Offers free RuPay cards, ₹2 lakh accident cover,

and ₹10,000 overdraft.

- **UPI:** Real-time mobile payment network. Handles over 80% of India's retail digital payments.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Sends government subsidies straight into **Aadhaar-linked accounts.** This stops corruption and cuts state waste.
- **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS):** Rural biometric banking via local agents (Bank Mitras). No smartphone required.
- **Jan Suraksha Schemes:** Cheap, auto-debit security. Includes PMSBY (₹20/year accident cover), PMJJBY (₹436/year life cover), and Atal Pension Yojana (unorganised sector pension).
- **Unified Lending Interface (ULI):** Nationwide platform that speeds up digital loans by instantly linking land and financial data.

6. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA)

Context

- The 10th anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) was observed.



Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

- **Launched on** - June 9, 2016,
- **Objective** - It provides free, comprehensive **antenatal care to pregnant women** — particularly those in their second and third trimesters — **at designated government health facilities on the 9th of every month.**
- **Key Services:** Under PMSMA, pregnant women receive:
 1. Clinical examinations and risk assessment;
 2. Blood and urine tests;
 3. Ultrasonography;
 4. Essential medicines and supplements;
 5. Counselling on nutrition, birth preparedness, and safe pregnancy practices.
- **The Doctor Volunteer System:** The programme encourages **voluntary participation of private-sector specialists**, including obstetricians, gynaecologists, radiologists, and physicians, to provide antenatal care services on the 9th of every month.
- **In 2022, the government launched the Extended PMSMA (e-PMSMA)** to strengthen tracking and follow-up of high-risk pregnancies.
- **Note** - India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

declined from 130 per lakh live births (2014–16) to 87 per lakh live births (2022–24).

Additional Information- Maternal Health Initiatives

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):** Gives cash to poor women who choose to give birth in a hospital instead of at home.
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** - Makes hospital births 100% free. Covers medicine, food, tests, and free rides to and from the hospital.
- **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** - It Promises dignified care with zero tolerance for being turned away by a hospital.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** - Gives direct cash (₹5,000 for the first child and ₹6,000 for a second girl child) to buy nutritious food.
- **LaQshya:** Upgrades the quality and safety of hospital delivery rooms.

7. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Context

- The Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has indicated that **subsidised LPG cylinders for households under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) have been reduced from nine to four.**



Pradhan
Mantri Ujjwala
Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- **Launched in** - May 2016
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Objective** - To give free LPG (gas) connections to poor women to replace dirty cooking fuels.
- **Key Benefits:** The government pays ₹1,600 for the connection setup. In Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove are free.
- There is also a ₹300 subsidy per cylinder for up to 12 refills a year.
- **Eligibility:** Only adult women from poor households (like SC/ST or low-income families) who do not already have a gas connection.
- **Scale:** Over 10.3 crore connections have been given out so far.

8. Ayushman Bharat Scheme

Context

- West Bengal has formally joined the flagship health insurance programme, Ayushman Bharat

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), becoming the last state in India to come under its ambit.

Ayushman Bharat

- **Launched in** - It was launched in 2018
- **Objective** - To achieve universal health coverage.

It has two key components

1. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri- Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)
2. Ayushman Arogya Mandir

Ayushman Arogya Mandir

- **Launched in** - The Government of India in 2018 announced the **creation of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)** by transforming existing Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres.
- **Functions** - These centres would deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) bringing healthcare closer to the homes of people covering both maternal and child health services and non-communicable diseases, including free essential drugs and diagnostic services.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- **Objective** - The world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- **Feature** - It provides cover of **Rs 5 lakhs per family per year**, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empaneled hospitals in India.
- **Coverage** - Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
- **Implementation** - The **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the nodal agency responsible for the nationwide roll-out and implementation of the AB-PMJAY scheme.
- **Financing** - This scheme is a **Centrally sponsored scheme** with some Central sector components.
- **Note** - **First Ayushman Arogya Mandir inaugurated in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.**

9. Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G)

Context

- The government has proposed an interim budget allocation of 95,692 crore rupees to states and union territories **to ensure a smooth transition from MNREGA to Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G).**

Key Differences

Feature	MGNREGA (2005)	VB-G RAM G (2025 Act)
Days Guaranteed	At least 100 days of work per year.	At least 125 days of work per year.
Funding Model	Demand-driven. The centre paid 100% of unskilled wages.	Normative allocation. General cost-sharing is 60:40 between Centre and States.
Work Pauses	Continuous work throughout the year.	Allows a 60-day pause for farming seasons.
Technology	Basic digital systems over time.	Advanced AI, biometrics, and GPS tracking.
Planning Approach	Handled locally by Gram Sabhas.	Integrated into the national PM Gati Shakti plan.

10.Operation DRISHTI

Context

- The Indian Army and Indian Air Force have launched a Mega Advanced Surgical Eye Camp under Operation DRISHTI at Military Hospital Namkum, Ranchi.

Operation DRISHTI

- It is a flagship humanitarian outreach programme of the **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** that combines advanced ophthalmic expertise with social service.
- Objective** - to deliver specialized eye care services to remote, underserved, and geographically challenging regions of the country.
- Earlier the initiative successfully conducted eight advanced surgical eye camps across the country, including in Leh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Bhuj, Kutch, and Bagdogra.

11. SHe-Box 2.0 Portal Under Mission Shakti

Context

- The government has highlighted the role of the SHe-Box 2.0 Portal under Mission Shakti in strengthening the



implementation of workplace sexual harassment laws and ensuring a safer work environment for women.

SHe-Box

- It is portal that has been developed to **operationalise** the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (**Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal**) Act, 2013.
- The portal was launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**.

SHe-Box 2.0

- It was launched in 2024.**
- Objective** - It provides a secure, confidential and user-friendly interface that enables women to report incidents without fear of stigma or retaliation.
- Significance** - It provides single-window access for women across all organised, unorganised, public and private sectors to register and track complaints
- The portal is available in 22 languages, including Hindi and English.

Additional Information - Mission Shakti

- This umbrella scheme is dedicated to the **safety, security, and economic empowerment of women**. It is divided into two sub-schemes:

Sambal (Safety and Security):

- One Stop Centres (OSC):** Integrated support for victims of violence.
- Women Helpline (181):** 24/7 emergency assistance.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** Prevention of gender-biased sex selection and promotion of girls' education.
- Nari Adalats:** Community-level alternative dispute resolution forums.

Samarthya (Empowerment):

- Shakti Sadan:** Rehabilitation homes (merging former Swadhar Greh and Ujjawala schemes).
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Maternity benefit scheme.
- Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW):** Facilitating access to government services.

12. Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)

Context

- The **Prime Minister will disburse ₹2,400 crore worth incentives** under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY).

About PM-VBRY

- It is a flagship government program **launched in 2025**
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- **Aim:** To promote **employment generation, enhance employability, and strengthen social security across all sectors** with a particular focus on the manufacturing sector.

Features:

- **First-time employees are eligible for incentives of up to ₹15,000.**
- For the **employer's side**, the government offers a reward of up to **₹3,000 per new employee after six months of stable employment.**
- The initiative is expected to encourage greater participation in the formal workforce and contribute to sustained long-term economic growth.

13. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0

Context

- The Union Government has approved over 2.13 lakh additional houses for eligible urban poor families under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0

- It is a flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, under which **central assistance of up to ₹2.50 lakh crore is provided.**
- It was **launched in September 2024** as an upgraded and expanded version of PMAY-U, which was **launched on 25 June 2015.**
- It is open to families belonging to the **Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low Income Group (LIG), and Middle Income Group (MIG)** segments who do not own a pucca house anywhere in the country.

The income criteria for eligibility are as follows:

- EWS households: Annual income up to ₹3 lakh.
- LIG households: Annual income from ₹3 lakh to ₹6 lakh.
- MIG households: Annual income from ₹6 lakh to ₹9 lakh.
- The **cost of house construction is shared** among the Centre, States/UTs, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), and beneficiaries, with the cost-sharing pattern varying across regions.
- **PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0 together have**

sanctioned over 1.27 crore houses across the country.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- **Background:** Introduced on 1 April 2016 by restructuring the erstwhile Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to rural households.

14. JEEVAN App and SHATAYU Geriatric Caregiver Dashboard



Context

- A mobile application **JEEVAN (Joint Elderly Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network)** has been launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

About

- **Aim:** To strengthen support systems for senior citizens across the country.

Features of JEEVAN App:

- **Information on Government schemes and welfare programmes, emergency assistance and details of senior citizen homes.**

Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility (SHATAYU) Dashboard

- to support and strengthen caregiving services for senior citizens.
- The platform is designed to **enhance the safety, welfare, healthcare access and social inclusion** of senior citizens across the country.
- It provides features such as information on the **availability of Geriatric Caregivers in a particular district and the State** for the senior citizens.

15. Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

Context

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries, addressed a media interaction regarding the implementation and achievements of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.

About

- The PMFME Scheme was **launched in 2020 under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries** as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The scheme was conceptualised **to address the challenges faced by India's unorganised micro food processing sector**.
- It is the **centrally sponsored scheme**, with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore, approved for implementation during 2020-21 to 2024-25 and has been **extended till September 2026**.
- The Scheme also **operationalizes the One District One Product (ODOP)** approach, enabling economies of scale in procurement, common services, and market linkage.
- Achievements:** A total of 1,96,270 individual micro food processing enterprises have been **supported under the Credit Linked Subsidy component** with more than 40% of beneficiaries being women entrepreneurs.

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

1. Shigellosis Outbreak in Kerala

Context

- Kerala has reported 85 confirmed cases and over 70 probable cases of shigellosis (bacillary dysentery) till June 2026.

Shigellosis

- Shigellosis is a **highly contagious bacterial infection** caused by **bacteria of the genus Shigella**.
- It **primarily affects the intestines** and causes bacillary dysentery, **characterized by severe diarrhoea**.
- Symptoms:** Fever, diarrhoea (often with blood or mucus), vomiting and nausea, abdominal cramps etc.
- Transmission:** Consumption of **contaminated food and water, person-to-person contact**

through the fecal-oral route.

2. Adding Cervavac to National Immunisation Programme After 2027

In News

- The **HPV vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII)**, with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), is **likely to be included in the national vaccination programme after 2027**.

More about the news

- Cervavac, India's first indigenously developed HPV vaccine**, is currently administered in a two-dose schedule, which limited its inclusion in the national HPV vaccination programme.
- Earlier this year, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a nationwide HPV vaccination campaign targeting 14-year-old girls using MSD's Gardasil vaccine**.

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

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

Additional Information - Cervical Cancer

- Cervical cancer develops in a woman's cervix **(the entrance to the uterus from the vagina)**.
- Spread:** Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk **human papillomaviruses (HPV)**, an extremely common virus transmitted through sexual contact.
- Prevalence:** Cervical cancer is the **fourth most common cancer in women**.
- It is the **second most common type of cancer in India for women**.
- Treatment:** When diagnosed, cervical cancer is one of the **most successfully treatable forms of cancer**, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively.
- Vaccination:** There are, at present, two vaccines available in the country against the human papillomavirus (HPV) which causes cervical cancer, namely **Merck's Gardasil and Serum Institute of India's Cervavac**.

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Banni Grasslands

Context

- The proposed solar project by NTPC Renewable Energy Limited in Gujarat's Banni grasslands has raised concerns over its impact on local communities, biodiversity, and wetlands.



Banni Grassland

- Location** - The Banni grasslands in Kachchh
- Uniqueness** - Asia's largest natural grasslands
- Pastoral communities** - Fakirani Jat.
- The region contains over **70 species of nutritious grasses** and supports grazing of camels, buffaloes, sheep, and goats.
- Nearby** - Chhari Dhand Wetland Conservation Reserve is a Ramsar site important for migratory birds and local biodiversity.

Concerns

- Local communities fear loss of grazing land, cultural spaces, graveyards, and traditional livelihoods.
- Conservationists warn that solar infrastructure, light pollution, and human activity may disturb bird habitats and migratory routes.

2. Majuli Island

Context

- A recent study by scientists from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences has reconstructed nearly 4,000 years of climate, vegetation, and river dynamics of Majuli Island.



Majuli Island

- Majuli is located in the Brahmaputra River system in Assam.
- Uniqueness** - world's largest inhabited river island.
- Majuli is a unique fluvial island formed by the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, covering about 875 sq. km.
- It is bounded by the Subansiri River in the north, Kherkatia Suti in the northeast, and the

Brahmaputra River in the south.

- Geographical features** - Its landscape consists of alluvial plains, braided channels, wetlands (Beels), and riverine sandbars known as Chaporis.
- The island is an important centre of **Neo-Vaishnavite culture** established by Srimanta Sankardeva.
- It hosts around 30 Sattras (Vaishnavite monasteries), which serve as centres of religion, culture, education, and community governance.
- It is home to several indigenous tribal communities, including the Mising, Deori, and Sonowal Kachari tribes.
- Threats**- The island faces recurrent floods, riverbank erosion, deforestation, and land loss.

Additional Information- Brahmaputra River



- The Brahmaputra is a major transboundary river in Asia.
- It originates from the Chemayungdung Glacier near Lake Manasarovar (Mapam Yumco) in Tibet.
- It is known variably as Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet (its longest upper stretch), Siang or Dihang in Arunachal Pradesh, Brahmaputra in Assam & Jamuna in Bangladesh.
- It flows east through Tibet's plateau, enters India via Arunachal Pradesh, widens in Assam's plains, and merges with the Ganges in Bangladesh before reaching the Bay of Bengal.

3. Kaziranga Records First Yellow-throated Marten

Context

- Kaziranga National Park has confirmed the presence of a yellow-throated marten for the first time.

Yellow-throated Marten

- Scientific name:** Martes flavigula.

- It belongs to the **weasel family (Mustelidae)**, which also includes **otters, badgers, and wolverines**.
- It is a **diurnal (active during the day)**, tree-climbing mustelid that assists **seed dispersal, a role that supports healthy forest regeneration and ecosystem balance**.
- **Distribution** - It is found across the Himalayas, South Asia, Southeast Asia, China, Korea, and parts of Russia.
- In India, the yellow-throated marten is found across the **Himalayan region and in other parts of the northeastern region, including Assam**.
- **IUCN Status: Least Concern**.
- It is protected as a **Schedule II animal under India's Wildlife Protection Act**.



Additional Information- Kaziranga National Park

- It is located in the **northeastern state of Assam**.
- It was **established in 1908** as a reserve forest and became a **national park in 1974**.
- It was declared a **UNESCO world heritage site in 1985**.
- It is the **largest habitat of the Indian rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis)**.

4. Padma Barrage

Context

- **Bangladesh has approved a large river engineering project called the Padma barrage, on the Padma river, which is Bangladesh's stretch of the Ganga, in Rajbari district.**

Padma River

- The Padma River is **one of the largest and most important rivers in Bangladesh**.
- It is the main **tributary of the Ganges River** after the Ganges enters Bangladesh from India.
- The **Padma flows southeast, joins the Jamuna River (the lower Brahmaputra), and later merges with the Meghna River** before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.
- It is a major part of the **world's largest delta system, the Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna Delta**.

Additional Information - Ganga River System

The Ganga River System is India's largest river basin.

- **Origin** - The river starts as the Bhagirathi from the Gangotri Glacier.

- **Name:** It becomes the Ganga when it joins the Alaknanda at Devprayag.
- **River Length:** It is 2,525 km long.
- **States:** It flows through five states: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- **The Delta:** It splits in West Bengal. One part goes to Bangladesh (called Padma). It helps form the Sundarbans Delta, the biggest delta in the world.

Important Tributaries

- **Left-Bank (North):** Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi.
- **Right-Bank (South):** Yamuna (the longest one) and Son.

Key Exam Facts

- **National River:** Named India's National River in 2008.
- **Ganga Dolphin:** This is India's National Aquatic Animal. It is endangered.
- **Namami Gange:** The main government project to clean and protect the river.

5. Zimbabwe

Context

- India and Zimbabwe agreed to enhance bilateral defence ties by expanding existing cooperation.



About

- Zimbabwe is a **landlocked country situated in south-central Africa** between the **Limpopo and Zambezi rivers**, covering an area of over 390,000 sq km.
- It is **bounded by Zambia** to the north and northwest, **South Africa** to the south, **Mozambique** to the east and northeast, and **Botswana** to the southwest.
- **Zimbabwe lies entirely north of the Tropic of Capricorn** and forms part of the southern African plateau.
- **The Victoria Falls**, located on the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, **is the world's largest sheet of falling water**.

6. PM E-DRIVE

Context

- The Delhi Government has announced the induction of 2,800 new low-floor electric buses

under the **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** scheme.

- **Objective** - to strengthen public transport and accelerate the transition towards sustainable urban mobility.

PM E-DRIVE

- The scheme was launched by the Government of India in **2024** to **accelerate the transition towards electric mobility**.
- The scheme has a total financial outlay of **₹10,900 crore**.
- **Duration:** Initially approved for two years (2024–26), its duration has now been **extended to 31 March 2028**, while retaining the same outlay.

Objectives:

- To accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) across the country.
- To develop a robust EV charging infrastructure.
- To strengthen the domestic EV manufacturing ecosystem.
- To reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lower vehicular emissions.
- To promote the Make in India initiative through the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP).
- The scheme supports the procurement of 14,028 electric buses across nine major cities with populations exceeding 40 lakh.

7. Surha Tal: India's 100th Ramsar Site

Context

- Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, has been designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site.



About

- **Established in 1991**,
- The sanctuary is centred around **Surha Tal**, a natural perennial oxbow lake formed by the shifting course of the Ganga River.
- It is located in the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**, near the confluence of the Ganga and Ghaghara rivers.
- It hosts several **migratory birds** from **Siberia and Central Asia**, including the **Greylag Goose, Pintail, Common Teal, and Bar-headed Goose**.
- Local species include **Sarus crane, Heron, and Cormorant**.

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**.

Ramsar Facts

- **Total: 100 sites** (As of June 2026).
- **India has the most sites in Asia**.
- **100th Site:** Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Uttar Pradesh (Added June 2026).
- **Top State:** Tamil Nadu (**20 sites**), followed by Uttar Pradesh (13 sites).
- **First Sites:** Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) in 1981.
- **Sizes:** Sundarban (West Bengal) is the largest. Renuka (Himachal Pradesh) is the smallest.

Montreux Record (Threatened Sites)

- **What it is:** A register of Ramsar sites facing ecological danger from pollution or human interference. Active Indian Sites:
- **Only two sites—Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur).**
- **Removed- Chilika Lake** was removed after successful recovery.

8. Zojila Tunnel



KEY FEATURES

- The longest bi-directional single tube road tunnel in Asia
- **Length: 14.15 km**
- **Open all days**
- **All-weather accessibility**
- To be built at Zojila pass on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh NH-1 situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet
- **Cost: ₹6,809 crore**
- Will reduce time taken to cross Zojila pass from three hours and 30 minutes to 15 minutes
- **Expected time of completion: 5 years**

Context

- The **Zojila Tunnel** achieved its final breakthrough in June 2026, marking a significant milestone in India's efforts to establish all-weather

connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh.

Zojila Tunnel

- The Zojila Tunnel is a **13.14-km-long single-tube, bi-directional road tunnel** being constructed **beneath the Zojila Pass in the Himalayas**.
- It is located at an **altitude of approximately 11,578 feet** and connects **Baltal in Kashmir with Meenamarg in Ladakh**.
- The tunnel is designed as a **two-lane horseshoe-shaped structure** and is among the **world's longest road tunnels at such a high altitude**.
- The project is being executed by **Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd.**
- The tunnel has been constructed using the **New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM)**.

Strategic Importance

- It will provide **all-weather connectivity between Kashmir Valley and Ladakh**.
- It will **reduce dependence on the snow-bound Zojila Pass**, which remains closed during winter due to heavy snowfall and avalanches.
- It will improve **military logistics and troop mobility** in areas close to the Line of Actual Control.

9. Battery Energy Storage System

In News

- The Defence Ministry has approved the **establishment of a 250 MW Solar Power Project with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Sitapur (Ex-Cantonment) in Uttar Pradesh**.

Battery Energy Storage System

- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) refers to a **technology that stores electrical energy in rechargeable batteries for later use**.
- It helps balance electricity demand and supply by **storing excess power generated from renewable sources such as solar and wind energy**.
- **Significance** - It improves **grid stability, reduces power fluctuations, and supports peak load management**.
- It also **enhances energy access in remote areas and strengthens energy security**.

Major Storage Technologies

Electrochemical (Battery-Based):

- **Lithium-ion:** Most widely deployed globally, energy density 150 to 300 Wh/kg, round-trip efficiency 90 to 95%, used in EVs and gridscale storage but dependent on imported lithium and cobalt.

- **Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP):** Safer, cheaper, longer life cycle, increasingly preferred for utility-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and electric buses.
- **Sodium-ion:** Abundant domestic sodium, lower cost and reduced geopolitical dependence. Strategically important for India given limited domestic lithium reserves.
- **Solid-state:** Next-generation with solid electrolyte, higher density and improved safety. Still high cost and limited scalability.
- **Flow batteries (Vanadium Redox, ZincBromine):** Long-duration storage, minimal degradation, suited for utility-scale renewable integration.

Mechanical and Thermal

- **Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH):** Most mature large-scale technology globally, using height difference to store and release energy.
- Molten salt and ice thermal storage are used in concentrated solar and industrial applications.

10. Hindu Kush Himalaya

Context

- The HKH Monsoon Outlook 2026, projects **below-normal** and **above-normal**



temperatures across the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region during the 2026 monsoon season.

Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH)

- The HKH mountains extend around **3,500 km over eight countries — Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar, and Pakistan**.
- These mountains are also **called the “water towers of Asia”** because they are the **origins of 10 crucial river systems on the continent** — Amu Darya, Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong, Yangtze, Yellow river, and Tarim.
- These river basins provide **water to almost one-fourth of the world's population** and are a significant freshwater source for 240 million people in the HKH region.

11. Summer Air Pollution and Ground-Level Ozone

Context

- Several Indian cities witnessed **severe summer air pollution in 2026**, leading to the reimposition of Stage-I restrictions under GRAP in Delhi.

Summer Causes Ground-Level Ozone

- Ground-level ozone is a secondary pollutant** and is not released directly into the air.
- Formation - It forms when **Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)** from vehicles and **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)** from industries, paints, solvents, and fuel emissions **react under strong sunlight**.
- Hot summer conditions and heatwaves accelerate this reaction**, causing high ozone levels during daytime.
- Ozone and particulate matter **can cause serious respiratory illnesses**, especially among children, the elderly, and people with lung diseases.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- Objective** - It is a set of emergency measures implemented in Delhi-NCR to control air pollution based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) levels.
- Implementation** - It was formulated by the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) and enforced by CAQM from 2021.

GRAP is divided into four stages corresponding to AQI levels:

- Stage I – Poor (AQI 201–300)
- Stage II – Very Poor (AQI 301–400)
- Stage III – Severe (AQI 401–450)
- Stage IV – Severe+ (AQI >450)

Additional Information - Commission for Air Quality Management

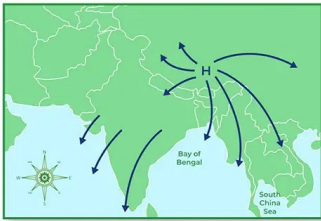
- Constituted under:** The **Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021**.
- Jurisdiction:** Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Purpose:** To coordinate and implement region-wide measures for air quality improvement, replacing the earlier EPCA.

12. Southwest Monsoon

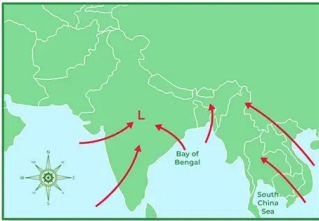
Context

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** confirmed the arrival of the southwest monsoon in Kerala (June 4, 2026).
- This marks the official start of the rainy season

Northeast Monsoon



Southwest Monsoon



in India.

Southwest Monsoon

- Onset and Retreat:** The monsoon season in India generally starts in early **June** and lasts until **September**.
- The **onset of the monsoon** is marked by the arrival of the **southwest monsoon** winds, which bring moisture-laden air from the Indian Ocean.
- The **withdrawal or retreat of the monsoon typically begins in October**.
- The **northeast monsoon, occurring from October to December**, brings rainfall to parts of southern India.
- Monsoon Dynamics:** Factors such as the **El Niño and La Niña phenomena can influence the strength and distribution of the monsoon**.
- Agricultural Impact:** The success of the monsoon **directly influences crop yields** and, consequently, the overall economy of the country.

Connect with the basics- Difference between El Niño and La Niña

Feature	El Niño (Warm Phase)	La Niña (Cold Phase)
Meaning	Spanish for “Little Boy”	Spanish for “Little Girl”
Ocean Temp.	Abnormal warm-ing of eastern Pacific	Abnormal cooling of eastern Pacific
Trade Winds	Weaken or re-verse direction	Become unusu-al-ly strong
Indian Monsoon	Weakens mon-soon; often leads to droughts	Strengthens monsoon; brings heavy rainfall
Winter in India	Generally warm-er/milder winters	Severely cold winters in North India
Frequency	Occurs every 2–7 years; lasts 9–12 months	Occurs every 2–7 years; can last 1–3 years

13. E85 Fuel Adoption in India

Context

- The Union Government is considering a policy framework to support the affordable adoption of E85 fuel in India.

E85 Fuel

- E85 is a fuel blend containing 85% ethanol and 15% petrol.
- It can be used in specially designed flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) that can operate on varying ethanol-petrol blends.
- These vehicles are equipped with modified engines and fuel systems that can automatically adjust to different fuel compositions.

Why is India Promoting E85?

- Enhancing Energy Security:** Greater ethanol use can reduce India's dependence on imported crude oil.
- Reducing Import Bill:** If just 1% of annual petrol vehicle sales shift to E85 during the 2026–27 ethanol supply year, India could save around ₹195 crore in foreign exchange.
- Supporting Farmers and Rural Economy:** Increased adoption of E85 could generate demand for more than 4 crore litres of ethanol.
- Environmental Benefits:** E85 adoption at the projected level could result in a net reduction of nearly 0.86 LMT of CO₂ emissions.

Ethanol

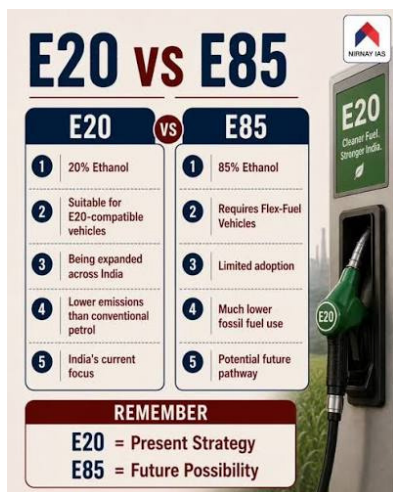
- Ethanol is 99.9% pure alcohol that can be blended with petrol. It can be produced from sugarcane, maize, wheat, etc which are having high starch content.

Ethanol Blending

- Ethanol blending refers to the practice of mixing ethanol with gasoline to create a fuel mixture that can be used in internal combustion engines.

There are a few common blends:

- E10:** This is a mixture of 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline. It is the most common blend and is used widely in many countries.
- E15:** This blend contains 15% ethanol and 85%



gasoline.

- E85:** This is a high-ethanol blend, consisting of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline. It's used in flex-fuel vehicles designed to run on higher ethanol content.

14. Four Sites on Nicobar West Coast Identified for Coral Translocation

Context

- Coral colonies and giant clams that will be impacted due to the work on the transshipment port proposed at Galathea Bay as part of the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) mega project will be translocated to four sites on the west coast.

The Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project

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

Core Components

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

Connect with the basics - CORAL REEFS

- Coral reefs are the most biologically diverse ecosystems of the planet.

Formation & Symbiotic relationship - (Coral polyps + zooxanthellae)

- They are formed when Coral polyps, the animals primarily responsible for building reefs, develop a symbiotic relationship with photosynthetic algae called zooxanthellae, which live in its tissues.
- Formation** - Coral reefs begin to form when free-swimming coral larvae attach to submerged rocks or other hard surfaces along the edges of islands or continents.

- The coral provides a protected environment and the compounds zooxanthellae need for photosynthesis.
- In return, the algae produce carbohydrates that the coral uses for food, as well as oxygen. The algae also helps the coral remove waste.

FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR FORMATION

- Warm tropical oceans with minimum temperature of 20 degree (30 degree north and 25 degree south latitudes)
- Oceanic water free of sedimentation
- Transparent parts of ocean bodies
- Relatively low salinity ocean bodies

TYPES OF REEF FORMATIONS

- **Fringing reefs** - They are the most common, projecting seaward directly from the shore, forming borders along the shoreline and surrounding islands.
- **Barrier reefs** - Grow at border shorelines, but at a greater distance. They are separated from their adjacent land mass by a lagoon of open, often deep water.
- **Atoll** - If a fringing reef forms around a volcanic island that subsides completely below sea level while the coral continues to grow upward, an atoll forms. Atolls are usually circular or oval, with a central lagoon.

DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

- **The Gulf of Kutch**
 1. The West Coast of India
 2. The Lakshadweep Islands
 3. The Gulf of Mannar
 4. Palk Bay
 5. Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands

THREATS

- Destructive fishing practices, Overfishing, Careless tourism, Pollution, Sedimentation, Coral mining, Climate change.

CORAL BLEACHING

- When corals face stress by changes in conditions such as temperature, light, or nutrients, they expel the symbiotic algae zooxanthellae living in their tissues, causing them to turn completely white. This phenomenon is called coral bleaching.

Causes of Coral Bleaching

- Rise in Sea Temperature
- Ocean Acidification
- Solar radiation & ultraviolet radiation
- Infectious Diseases Chemical Pollution

- Increased Sedimentation
- Reducing light availability
- (Turbidity)
- Human Induced Threats

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15. Joint Crediting Mechanism under Paris Agreement

Context

- India and Japan have adopted the Rules of Implementation for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.

Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

- It is a bilateral carbon market system **proposed by Japan to help nations reduce greenhouse gas emissions** through **advanced low-carbon technologies**.
- It **operates under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement**, which allows nations to trade carbon credits to meet their climate goals

Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement

- It **allows countries to work together to hit their climate goals by trading carbon credits**.
- Under this rule, a country that cuts more greenhouse gases than planned can sell those extra savings to another country

Additional Information- Paris Agreement on Climate Change, 2015 (COP 21)

- It was adopted at the United framework convention on climate change(COP21) in Paris in

2015.

- **Objective** - To strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change and specify long-term goals regarding global average temperatures, adaptation to climate change, and finance flows.

Paris agreement Goals

- **Temperature** - To hold global warming below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to put efforts to still limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- **Reduce emissions** - To foster climate resilience and development through lower greenhouse gas emissions by 2030

Intended Nationally Determined Targets(INDCs)

- An Intended Nationally Determined Contribution is a public pledge from a country on collective action on climate change. These contributions are to be achieved before 2030

India's Climate Action Targets at a Glance

Commitment Area	Initial/Updated 2030 Targets	Enhanced 2031-2035 Targets
Emissions Intensity	Reduce GDP emissions intensity by 45% (from 2005 levels).	Reduce GDP emissions intensity by 47% (from 2005 levels).
Non-Fossil Energy Capacity	Achieve 50% of cumulative electric power capacity from non-fossil sources.	Achieve 60% of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources.
Carbon Sinks	Create a sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent.	Create an additional sink of 3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent.

16. India's Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under CBD

Context

- **India's Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002** has mobilized more than Rs 266 crore since 2008, with around ₹145 crore disbursed to beneficiaries.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

- It is a framework **under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
- It ensures **fair sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits** arising from the use of **biological resources** and traditional knowledge with the source communities and countries
- **India operationalizes ABS through the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, and its recent amendment the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023.

Significance

- India's ABS framework is advancing the objectives of the **Nagoya Protocol**, supporting the **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024-2030**, and contributing to the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, particularly Target 13 on fair and equitable benefit sharing.

Connect with the basics - Biological Diversity Act, 2002

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

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

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

National Biodiversity Authority

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

Functions

- **Monitoring and prevention of actions prohibited** under the Act.
- Providing **advice to the government** on how best to **conserve biodiversity in India**.
- Prepare a report on how the government can

select biological heritage sites.

- Make concrete steps to **prevent the grant of intellectual property rights** regarding locally used **biological resources** or allied traditional knowledge

17. Caspian Sea

Context

- Since the mid-1990s, the **Caspian Sea has lost nearly 24,000 sq km of its surface area**, roughly equivalent to the size of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea.



Caspian Sea

- The Caspian Sea is the **world's largest inland body of water**, located between Europe and Asia.
- It is **bordered by Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan**.
- Despite its name, it is technically a **saltwater lake with no natural outlet**.
- **Rivers** - Volga (largest), Ural, Kura, and Terek rivers.
- The region is **rich in oil and natural gas reserves**, making it strategically important.

18. White-Bellied Heron Concerns over Kalai-II Hydel Project

Context

- The Union Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has granted **in-principle forest clearance** to the **Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project**, raising concerns due to its **potential impact on the White-Bellied Heron**.



Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project

- The project is a **1,200 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project** proposed by THDC (Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited) India Limited.
- It is **located in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh**, near the India-China border.
- The project involves the **construction of a 128.5-metre concrete gravity dam** and an underground powerhouse.

- **Concerns:** Around **869 hectares of forest land will be diverted**, including the submergence of 638 hectares of forest area.
- Since **Arunachal Pradesh has more than two-thirds of its geographical area under forests**, **compensatory afforestation will be undertaken in Madhya Pradesh.**

White-Bellied Heron

- **Scientific Name:** Ardea insignis.
- **Significance:** The species serves as an indicator of healthy riverine ecosystems.
- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered.
- Its global **distribution** is restricted mainly to **Bhutan, India, and Myanmar.**
- **In India, it is primarily found in Arunachal Pradesh and parts of Assam.**
- **Concerns:** The **submergence of forest and riverine areas** may destroy the bird's nesting, feeding, and breeding habitats.

19. Albino Hog Deer

Context

- A rare albino hog deer was recently spotted roaming inside Assam's Kaziranga National Park.
- About
- The albino hog deer is a **small cervid native to the region of the Indian subcontinent and Indo-Gangetic Plain.**
- It is characterised by white fur, pink eyes and pale hooves.
- Due to a **rare genetic mutation known as albinism**, the animal entirely lacks melanin pigment.
- Albinism can make survival difficult in nature as these animals often struggle with camouflage, visibility to predators, and sensitivity to sunlight.
- Beyond hog deers, **India is also home to a variety of albino species, such as the Gaur, Indian cobra and primates like rhesus macaque.**
- Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park is famously home to rare albino saltwater crocodiles.



20. Biochar

Context

- Biochar is emerging as a sustainable solution to convert agricultural waste into a valuable resource for improving soil health and mitigating climate change.

Biochar

- Biochar is a charcoal-like substance that's **made by burning organic material from agricultural and forestry wastes (also called biomass) in a controlled process called pyrolysis.**
- Unlike ordinary organic matter, biochar decomposes very slowly and can remain in the soil for hundreds of years.
- It is highly porous, enabling it to store water, nutrients, and beneficial microorganisms.

Benefits of Biochar

- **Agricultural Productivity:** Studies indicate that biochar can improve crop yields by 10–30%, particularly in nutrient-deficient soils.
- **Carbon Credits:** Biochar can generate carbon credits because it removes carbon from the atmosphere and stores it in soil.
- **Water Retention:** Biochar acts like a sponge and stores water within its porous structure. Research shows that it can increase the water-holding capacity of soils by 10–25%.

21. Eco Sensitive Areas

Context

- **The Western Ghats may soon receive stronger legal protection in at least three states through the notification of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs).**
- Once notified, these areas will face stricter curbs on mining, polluting industries, and large construction projects.

Eco Sensitive Zones

- **Notified by** - These are **notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.**
- **Definition** - The land falling within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries are notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs).

Activities in ESZs

- **Prohibited Activities:** Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc), establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood.
- **Regulated Activities:** Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system.
- **Permitted Activities:** Ongoing agricultural or

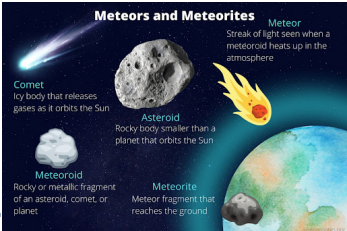
horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

22. Meteor Explosion

Context

- NASA has confirmed that a bright fireball meteor exploded in the sky



Asteroid vs. Meteoroid vs. Meteorite:

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

Additional information - Global Asteroid Missions

- DART Mission (NASA, 2022):** The first planetary defense test aimed at changing an asteroid’s trajectory by crashing a probe into it, specifically targeting the binary asteroid Didymos.
- OSIRIS-REx (NASA, 2016-2023):** Sample return mission to **asteroid Bennu**, providing insights into the solar system’s formation.
- Hayabusa2 (JAXA, 2014-2020):** Successfully collected samples from **asteroid Ryugu**, including essential ingredients for life.
- Lucy Mission (NASA, 2021-Present):** A 12-year journey to study multiple **Jupiter Trojan asteroids**.
- Hera Mission (ESA, 2024 Launch):** Will study the **impact crater produced by DART to analyze its deflection success**.
- Tianwen-2 (China, 2025 Planned):** A mission to sample the near-Earth asteroid **Kamo’oalewa**

23. RudraM-II

Context

- India successfully flight-tested the indigenous RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile, strengthening its indigenous defence and precision-strike



capabilities.

RudraM-II

- Type** - It is an air-to-surface missile
- Developed by** - Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, the nodal DRDO laboratory.
- Speed** - Mach 5.5,
- Range** - 300 km
- Payload capacity** - 200 kg.
- Significance** - It can be **deployed from aircraft like Sukhois flying** at altitudes ranging from 3 to 15 km.
- The new missile will eventually **replace the older Russian-origin Kh-31 anti-radiation missiles** currently in service.

Do You Know?

- RudraM-I**, the earlier variant in the RudraM series, has a **range of 100–250 km and can attain speeds of up to Mach 2**.

24. Isobutanol

Context

- As India expands its **biofuel strategy beyond ethanol**, the government is evaluating the use of **diesel blended with up to 15% isobutanol to reduce dependence on crude oil imports**.

Isobutanol

- Chemical Profile:** It is a clear, colorless liquid with a mild alcoholic odor. It is one of the four isomers of butanol.
- Traditional Use:** It has long served as an industrial solvent in paints, lacquer, coatings, pharmaceuticals, and pesticides.
- Production:** It can be created from petrochemicals or by fermenting biomass like sugarcane syrup, molasses, and grains using engineered microbes.

Why Isobutanol Over Ethanol for Diesel Blending

- India successfully implemented a 20% ethanol blending mandate for petrol, but ethanol failed to mix properly with diesel.

Feature	Ethanol-Diesel Blend	Isobutanol-Diesel Blend
Miscibility (Mixing)	Poor. Tends to separate into distinct layers.	Excellent. Blends uniformly with diesel without special chemical additives.

Water Absorption	Highly hygroscopic. Absorbs water, causing engine corrosion.	Low hygroscopicity. Does not absorb water easily, making it pipeline-safe.
Energy Density	Low energy density. Reduces vehicle mileage.	High energy density. Closer to pure diesel, preserving fuel efficiency.
Flash Point (Safety)	Low flash point. Highly volatile and poses a high fire risk.	Higher flash point. Much less volatile and safer to store or transport.

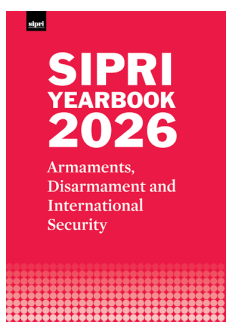
Significance for India

- **Import Substitution:** Blending up to 10% isobutanol into diesel can **slash India's high crude oil import bills**.
- **Climate & Emission Targets:** It burns cleaner, reducing harmful particulate emissions. **This helps achieve India's Net-Zero emission goal by 2070** and aligns with the **National Policy on Biofuels**.

25. SIPRI Yearbook 2026

Context

- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2026, India is estimated to have modestly expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025.



Key Highlights for India

- **Nuclear Growth:** India's nuclear arsenal grew to **190 warheads (up from 180 in 2025)**. It leads **Pakistan (170) but trails China (620)**.
- **Nuclear Posture:** India now keeps a small number of warheads mated to missiles during peacetime patrols. This strengthens its sea-based nuclear triad.
- **Defence Spending:** India ranks **5th globally in military spending, shelling out \$92.1 billion in 2025**.
- **Arms Imports:** India remains the **world's 2nd largest arms importer, holding an 8.2% global share**.

Global Trends

- **Total Stockpile:** Nine nuclear nations hold about **12,187 nuclear weapons**.
- **Rising Risks:** Countries are relying more on nuclear weapons, reversing years of risk

reduction.

- **Record Spending:** Global military spending hit a record high of \$2.9 trillion.

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).

Additional Information - Nuclear Disarmament

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

Nuclear Powers in the World

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

Treaties Related to Nuclear Disarmament

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

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

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):

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

Comprehensive Nuclear - Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

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

Outer Space Treaty

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

India's Nuclear Weapon Program

- **Smiling Buddha:** In **1974**, India conducted its first nuclear test code-named "Smiling Buddha, and since then, it has developed a nuclear triad consisting of

land-based, sea-based, and air based delivery systems.

- **Operation Shakti:** In **1998**, India conducted a series of nuclear tests at Pokhran, codenamed “Operation Shakti.”

26. Shiv Shakti Point

Context

- Data from Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover has revealed that the soil at Shiv Shakti Point near the Moon's South Pole is chemically very similar to a lunar meteorite (ALHA 81005) discovered in Antarctica.
- The findings are based on observations made by the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) onboard the rover.

Shiv Shakti Point

- It is the **official name of the place on the Moon where India's Chandrayaan-3 mission landed.**
- The mission's lander, **Vikram**, successfully touched down at this spot on **23 August 2023.**
- With this achievement, **India became the first country to land a spacecraft near the lunar south pole.**

Chandrayaan-3

- It is **India's third moon mission.**
- It was made by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).**
- On **August 23, 2023**, it landed near the Moon's South Pole. This made **India the first country to reach the south polar region and the fourth country to land on the Moon.** August 23 is now celebrated as National Space Day in India.

Key Quick Facts

- **Launch Rocket:** LVM3-M4 rocket.
- **Landing Site:** Named Shiv Shakti Point.
- **Mission Life:** 1 Lunar Day (about 14 Earth days).

The Three Spacecraft Parts

- **Propulsion Module:** Carried the lander close to the Moon. It has 1 payload
- **SHAPE (Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth):** Studies Earth from orbit.

Vikram Lander: The main box that made the soft landing. It has 4 payloads

1. **ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) :** Measures surface temperature.
2. **ILSA (Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity):** Records moonquakes.
3. **RAMBHA-LP (Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound**

Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere - Langmuir Probe) : Measures plasma density.

4. **LRA (Laser Retroreflector Array) :** Measures Moon distance (NASA)

Pragyan Rover: A small 6-wheeled robot. It has 2 payloads.

1. **LIBS (Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy):** Finds elements (found Sulphur).
2. **APXS (Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer):** Studies soil minerals.

Why the South Pole Matters

- **Water Ice:** Deep craters have ice that never melts.
- **Resources:** This ice can make drinking water, oxygen, and fuel for future astronauts.
- **History:** The cold preserves old solar system clues.

27. Dark Patterns

Context

- According to a report, **Indian consumers are losing an estimated ₹25,000 crore to ₹28,000 crore annually due to dark patterns**, across online marketplaces.

About

- **Definition** - Dark patterns are user interface or user experience designs that manipulate, pressure, or mislead people into making choices they might not otherwise make.
- **The term 'dark patterns' was coined by Harry Brignull in 2010.**
- It encompasses a wide range of **manipulative practices such as drip pricing, disguised advertising, bait and click, choice manipulation, false urgency and privacy concerns.**

Dark patterns can:

1. Undermine informed consent.
2. Reduce user autonomy.
3. Lead to unintended purchases or data sharing.
4. Erode trust in products and companies.

India's Laws Related to Dark Patterns

- **Consumer Protection Act, 2019 & CCPA Guidelines, 2023:** The Consumer Protection Act empowers the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to curb unfair trade practices.
- **The CCPA's Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023** explicitly prohibit deceptive practices such as false urgency, basket sneaking, confirm shaming, and

subscription traps.

- **Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020:** Require transparency in pricing, advertisements, and terms of sale, and prohibit misleading practices on e-commerce platforms.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023:** Mandates free, informed, and unambiguous user consent for data processing, thereby discouraging dark patterns that manipulate users into sharing personal data.

28. HIMARS

Context

- Taiwan recently conducted its **first-ever live-fire exercise using the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) in the Taiwan Strait**, simulating a defence scenario against a potential Chinese military threat.



Strait, simulating a defence scenario against a potential Chinese military threat.

HIMARS

- It is a **US-supplied mobile rocket-artillery system** manufactured by **Lockheed Martin**.
- It is **mounted on a six-wheeled truck**, enabling **rapid movement across roads and rough terrain**.
- The system is known for its **“shoot-and-scoot” capability**, allowing it to fire rockets and quickly relocate to avoid enemy counterattacks.
- With a **range of around 300 km**, HIMARS can strike targets across the Taiwan Strait, including coastal areas in China’s Fujian Province.
- **Note** - HIMARS has been **extensively used by Ukraine during its conflict with Russia** and has emerged as one of its key long-range strike systems.

29. Indigenous AI Model Varya

Context

- The **IndiaAI Mission** has supported the launch of **Varya**, an indigenous AI-powered video generation model developed by Avataar.

Varya

- Varya is a distilled video generation model **that converts text prompts and images into videos**.

- It is designed to generate **culturally relevant visual content reflecting India’s regions, festivals, traditions, clothing, food, and everyday life**.



- The platform follows the workflow, from **Idea to Video to Story**, allowing users to create and extend visual narratives through simple prompts.

30. Dengue Vaccine Safety Concerns

Context

- **Brazil recently suspended the administration of its dengue vaccine, Butantan-DV**, after reports of severe adverse events, including two deaths, during a large-scale vaccination campaign.

Additional Information - Dengue

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

India’s first indigenous dengue vaccine

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

31. Dark Web

News

- The Union government submitted before the Delhi High Court that the messaging platform Telegram has evolved into the “new dark web”.

Dark Web

- The dark web is a hidden part of the internet that you cannot find using normal search engines like Google.
- It requires specialized software, such as the Tor browser, to access.
- While it is famous for hiding cybercriminal activities, it is also used for privacy and free speech.
- To understand the dark web, it helps to picture the internet as having three main layers:
- **The Surface Web:** The everyday internet. These are the websites you can easily search for, like news outlets, social media, and online stores.
- **The Deep Web:** The much larger portion of the internet that is hidden but not malicious. This includes private databases, online bank accounts, and password-protected email inboxes.
- **The Dark Web:** A small, specific section of the deep web intentionally hidden by heavy encryption.

Key Features of the Dark Web

- **Anonymity:** Users and website hosts are hidden. Traffic is routed through a series of encrypted servers to prevent people from tracking identities or locations.
- **Special Websites:** Instead of ending in .com or .org, dark web sites typically use domains like .onion.
- **Legal vs. Illegal Uses:** While heavily associated with illicit marketplaces (for illegal goods or stolen data), it is legally accessed by journalists, whistleblowers, and individuals seeking privacy from surveillance in oppressive regimes.

32. Interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS

Context

- The discovery of 3I/ATLAS, only the third known interstellar object, has provided scientists with a rare opportunity to study material from an ancient planetary system.



3I/ATLAS

- 3I/ATLAS is the **third interstellar object ever detected passing through our Solar System**. Interstellar refers to anything located, moving, or occurring in the space between stars within a galaxy.

- It is a comet about 2.6 km in diameter.
- The name “3I” denotes the third identified interstellar object.
- It was formed when the Universe was only about 13% of its current age.
- It contains water with about 30 times more **deuterium** (heavy hydrogen) than comets in the Solar System.
- Carbon isotope ratios differ significantly from those found in Solar System objects.

33. BHARATI programme

News

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has successfully concluded the first cohort of **BHARATI (Bharat’s Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Innovation)**.

BHARATI

- It is APEDA’s flagship export acceleration programme aimed at helping Indian agri-food startups become globally competitive exporters.

Objectives:

- Promote an ‘export-first’ approach among agri-food startups.
- Build a pipeline of export-ready enterprises to support India’s target of USD 50 billion in APEDA-scheduled exports by 2030.
- Address challenges related to product development, quality standards, sustainability, logistics, and export compliance.

Additional Information - Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- **Legal Status:** Statutory body under the APEDA Act, 1985.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Predecessor:** Replaced the Processed Food Export Promotion Council (PFEPCC).
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Governance:** Headed by a Chairman appointed by the Central Government.

34. India-US Critical Minerals Framework

Context

- India and the United States signed a major framework agreement to strengthen cooperation in the supply, mining, processing, recycling, and management of critical minerals and rare earth elements (REEs).
- The initiative follows concerns over China's 2025 export controls on REEs, which disrupted global technology supply chains.

List of Critical Minerals

- A total of 30 minerals were found to be most critical for India : Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, Rare Earth Elements (REEs), Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

India's Policy Push for Mineral Exploration

- Domestic Reserves:** India has vast untapped mineral potential, with **lithium in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Rajasthan**, and REEs in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- Policy Initiatives:** **National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016 and Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2021** have accelerated exploration through private participation and advanced surveys.
- KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd) is acquiring overseas mineral assets to ensure supply security.**
- National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) - It** aims to strengthen the value chain from exploration to recovery.

Additional Information - Rare Earth Elements (REEs)

- REEs are a group of 17 metallic elements, including the 15 lanthanides along with scandium and yttrium.
- They are widely used in consumer electronics, defence systems, renewable energy technologies, EVs, communication systems, and nuclear energy.
- India has the world's third-largest rare earth reserves, mainly found in monazite minerals.

'Pax Silica'

- launched in - December, 2025
- It is a coalition comprising the **United States, Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the UAE, the UK, and now India.**
- Objective** - It is a US-led strategic initiative to build a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain from critical minerals.
- The term '**Pax Silica**' derived from Latin '**Pax**' (peace) and '**Silica**' (a core compound in semiconductors).
- Significance** - It symbolizes the pursuit of technological peace and prosperity through resilient, transparent, and cooperative supply chains.

35. National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6

Context

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6** for the period 2023-24.

About

- Nodal Agency** - International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai
- Objective** - to evaluate India's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Scope:** 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts. Manipur was excluded.
- Funding:** 100% domestic funding by the Government of India (no external aid).
- Key Exclusions:** Omitted previous indicators like anaemia, disability, and cancer screenings.

Major Data Trends: NFHS-5 vs NFHS-6

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** Remained stable at 2.0 (below the 2.1 replacement level).
- Institutional Deliveries:** Rose from 88.6% to 90.6%.
- Full Immunisation:** Increased from 83.8% to 87.1%.
- Child Stunting (<5 years):** Dropped significantly from 35.5% to 29.3%.Health
- Insurance Cover:** Jumped from 41.0% to 60.2% (Ayushman Bharat impact).
- Women's Internet Use: Surged from 33.3% to 64.3%.

Critical Challenges

- **Lifestyle Disease Surge:** Diabetes rose to 20.9% for men and 17.8% for women.
- **Obesity Double Burden:** Overweight women hit 30.7% globally (42.8% in urban areas).
- **High C-Sections:** Unnecessary Caesarean deliveries continue to exceed WHO safety limits.
- **Data Gaps:** Dropping anemia metrics makes long-term policy monitoring difficult.

36. Babesia Infection

Context

- **Eight lion cubs have died in Gujarat due to a suspected Babesia infection,** raising concerns about the health of the Asiatic lion population.



About

- **Babesia is a parasitic disease** transmitted through ticks and **can cause weakness, fever, coughing and nasal discharge in infected animals.**
- It is a **zoonotic disease**, meaning it can transmit from animals to humans.
- **Atovaquone plus azithromycin is used to treat** most mild to moderate cases and is usually taken for 7 to 10 days.

Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*)

- It is **one of the five big cat species found in India.**
- **Physical Characteristics:** Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions.
- **Males have less developed manes, leaving their ears visible.**
- Prominent longitudinal fold of skin along the belly (a distinguishing feature from African lions).
- **Distribution:** In India, concentrated in the state of Gujarat in and around the Gir Forest mainly in;

Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary
Paniya Wildlife Sanctuary
Mityala Wildlife Sanctuary
Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

Conservation Status:

1. **IUCN Red List status:** Endangered
2. **CITES:** Appendix I
3. **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I

37. Smart Seed Coating Technology to Boost Crop Yields

Context

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (**ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad**), has developed **Smart Seed Coating Technology** that improves seed quality.

Smart Seed Coating Technology

- **Developed by** - ICAR-IIOR
- It utilizes **biodegradable biopolymeric materials** to create a **multifunctional protective layer** around seeds.
- The coating acts as a **carrier system for beneficial microorganisms, nutrients, micronutrients, crop protection agents**, and plant growth-promoting compounds, delivering them directly at the seed-soil interface.
- This protective microenvironment promotes **rapid germination, vigorous seedling growth, enhanced root development, and improved tolerance to environmental stresses** during the critical crop establishment phase.
- The innovation is particularly valuable for rainfed agriculture, which accounts for a significant share of India's cultivated area and remains highly vulnerable to delayed monsoons.

38. Ammonia Gas

Context

- An **ammonia gas leak** at a private seafood processing and export facility in **Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu** has hospitalized many working people.

Ammonia (NH₃)

- Ammonia (NH₃) is a **colourless gas** with a strong, pungent smell.
- It is a simple **inorganic compound made up of nitrogen and hydrogen.**
- Although it occurs naturally in small quantities during the **decomposition of organic matter**, it is also produced on a large scale because of its wide industrial and agricultural applications.
- **Industrial ammonia is commercially produced through the Haber–Bosch process**, in which atmospheric nitrogen reacts with hydrogen under high temperature and pressure in the presence of an iron catalyst.
- It is **majorly used in fertilizers industries, chemical industries and in food processing** due to its excellent cooling efficiency.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

1. Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar on her birth anniversary.

Ahilyabai Holkar (1725–1795)

- She was the celebrated queen of the **Holkar dynasty** who ruled the **Malwa kingdom** in the **18th century**.
- Revered as the “**Philosopher Queen**” for her enlightened and **people-centric governance**.
- Born in Chondi village, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)** and married to Khanderao Holkar, son of Malhar Rao Holkar.
- After the deaths of her husband, father-in-law and son, she **assumed the administration of Malwa in 1767**.

Major Contributions

- She is remembered for her **model of justice, welfare-oriented governance, and cultural preservation**.
- Ahilyabai **rebuilt important temples** such as the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple** and **Somnath Temple in the 18th century**.
- She promoted **women’s education, widow remarriage, and opposed practices like sati**.
- She also worked for the **upliftment of tribal communities and lower castes**.
- Under her rule, **Maheshwar and Indore became major trade centres**, and the famous **Maheshwari saree tradition flourished**.



2. Birsa Munda

Context

- PM Modi paid tributes to Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda Ji on his martyrdom day (June 9th).



Birsa Munda

- He was **born in 1874 in Ulihatu village, Jharkhand** and was a spiritual reformer and freedom fighter.
- He is **Known as Dharti Aaba (“Father of the**

Earth”).

- He led the **Ulgulan or “Great Tumult” (1899–1900) (also called Munda Rebellion (1895–1900))** which was a fierce **movement for tribal self-rule and the restoration of Khuntkatti (community land rights)**.
- He united the Munda tribes **against British land laws and feudal exploitation**.
- He envisioned a **moral, self-governed society free from colonial influence**.
- He was **captured and martyred in Ranchi Jail at the age of 25**.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

- Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is dedicated to remembering the contributions of tribal freedom fighters for the country.
- This day will now be celebrated every year.**
- It would **recognize the efforts of the tribals for the preservation of cultural heritage** and would help the coming generations know about the sacrifices made by the tribals for the country.
- November 15th chosen for Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** - The date is the **birth anniversary of Sri Birsa Munda** who is revered as Bhagwan by tribal communities across the country.

PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan

- Objective** - To ensure **last-mile welfare scheme delivery and protection for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
- Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra** - It is a nationwide programme to reach out to all villages and include those eligible for various central schemes.

3. Joint UNESCO Nomination for Xuanzang’s Records

Context

- India and China are in advanced discussions regarding a joint UNESCO nomination for Xuanzang’s work, ‘The Great Tang Records on the Western Regions’.

Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)

- He was a **Chinese Buddhist monk, scholar, and traveler** who journeyed across India during the **7th century CE**.
- He spent nearly 19 years travelling through India and studying Buddhist philosophy.
- He studied at the ancient university of **Nalanda University**.
- His work, **The Great Tang Records on the Western**

Regions, provides detailed information about:

1. Political conditions under Harshavardhana and other rulers.
2. Social and economic life in early medieval India.
3. Religious traditions and Buddhist institutions.
4. Economic and geographical conditions of early medieval India.

Other Joint Nominations Under Consideration

- **Panchatantra with Iran:** India is exploring a joint UNESCO nomination of Panchatantra with Iran. The Panchatantra has influenced Persian literature and folklore for centuries and represents a shared literary heritage.
- **Satyagraha with South Africa:** The idea reflects the historical association of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent movement with South Africa.

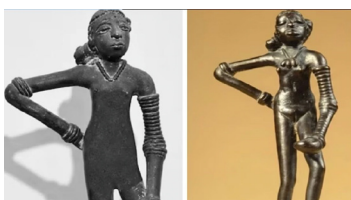
Shared Civilizational Traditions:

1. Ramayana traditions shared between India and Indonesia.
2. Buddhist scriptures and heritage common to India and China.

4. NCERT Dancing Girl Row

Context

- After facing backlash, **NCERT has decided to restore the original image of the Indus Valley Civilization's iconic Dancing Girl in its Class 9 textbook**, reversing its earlier decision to depict the figurine with a covered torso.



Dancing Girl

- The **"Dancing Girl"** is a **4,500-year-old bronze statuette unearthed in 1926 by archaeologist Ernest Mackay at Mohenjo-daro** (present-day Pakistan), a major urban centre of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- The statue is around 10.5 centimetres tall and is adorned with a necklace and a large number of bangles stacked on her arms.
- **Material and Technique:** The bronze sculpture was created using the **lost-wax technique, a metal-casting method that continues to be practiced in parts of India**, including West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh.
- Today, the original artefact is housed in the

National Museum, New Delhi.

Additional Information - Harappan Civilization

- The Harappan civilization is believed to be one of the **oldest world civilizations together with Egypt and Mesopotamia**.
- It was **developed along the river Indus and for that reason it is also known as the Indus Valley Civilization**.
- The Harappan civilization is identified as a **Bronze-age civilization because many objects have been found that are made up of copper based alloys**.

Major Features of Civilization

- **Urban Planning:** Their towns were **well planned and they had brick houses which were situated along the roads**.
 - ♦ Every house was equipped with a staircase, a kitchen and several rooms.
 - ♦ Their courtyards had wells, **bathrooms and they had proper drainage systems**.
- **Ornaments:** The Harappans wore ornaments made of **gold, silver, ivory, shell, clay, semi-precious stones and others**.
- **Trade and Commerce:** The civilization had **extensive trade networks, reaching as far as Mesopotamia, Afghanistan, and the Arabian Peninsula**.
- **Religion and Iconography:** Harappan artifacts depict various symbols and motifs believed to be related to religious beliefs.
 - ♦ These include figures such as the "Priest King" and images of animals like bulls, suggesting possible reverence for certain animals.
- **Craftsmanship and Artistry:** The Harappans produced intricate pottery, including the famous red pottery with black painted motifs.
 - ♦ They also created jewelry, sculptures, and seals made of steatite, terracotta, and other materials.
- **Agriculture:** They cultivated crops such as wheat, barley, peas, and cotton.
- **Social Organization:** The society was likely stratified, with evidence suggesting a hierarchical structure. This is indicated by variations in housing sizes and the presence of public buildings.
- **Decline and Disappearance:** The reasons for the decline of the Harappan Civilization are still debated among historians and archaeologists.
 - ♦ Possible factors include ecological chang-

es, such as shifts in river courses, as well as invasions and internal conflicts.

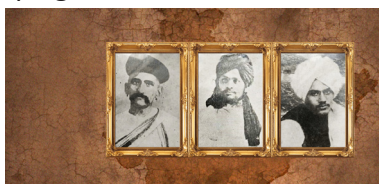
Major Harappan Sites

Site	Present Day
Harappa	Punjab, Pakistan
Mohenjo-Daro	Sindh, Pakistan
Dholavira	Kutch district of Gujarat,
Kalibangan	Rajasthan
Lothal	Gujarat
Rakhigarhi	Haryana
Chanhudaro	Sindh, Pakistan
Ganweriwala	Punjab, Pakistan
Sutkagendor	Baluchistan Province, Pakistan
Alamgirpur	Uttar Pradesh

5. Chapekar Brothers

Context

- On 22 June 1897, the Chapekar brothers assassinated British plague commissioner Walter Charles Rand in Pune.



About

- The Chapekar Brothers, **Damodar Hari Chapekar, Balkrishna Hari Chapekar, and Vasudeo Hari Chapekar**, were among the earliest revolutionary nationalists in India's freedom struggle.
- They were **influenced by** the revolutionary activities of **Vasudev Balwant Phadke and the nationalist ideas propagated by Bal Gangadhar Tilak** through his newspaper Kesari.
- Formation of Secret Organisation:** They organized an association called "**Chapekar Club**" for physical and military training which they also called "**the society for the removal of obstacles to the Hindu Religion**".
- During the bubonic plague outbreak of 1896–97, the British administration implemented harsh plague-control measures under the leadership of Walter Charles Rand, Chairman of the Poona Plague Committee.
- Soldiers conducted intrusive house searches, violated religious customs, and subjected local residents to humiliating inspections.
- Viewing Rand as a **symbol of colonial oppression**, the Chapekar brothers planned his

assassination.

- Arrest and Execution:** **Damodar Hari Chapekar** was executed in 1898, whereas **Vasudeo Hari Chapekar and Balkrishna Hari Chapekar** were executed in 1899.

6. President Confers Padma Awards

In News

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred Padma Awards to 66 eminent personalities for the year 2026** at the first Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The awards are announced annually on Republic Day. For **2026**, the **President approved 131 Padma Awards**, including **5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri**.



Key Recipients

- Dharmendra Singh Deol** was honoured with the **Padma Vibhushan posthumously** for contributions to art.
- N. Rajam** also received the **Padma Vibhushan** for contributions to music.
- Bhagat Singh Koshyari** received the **Padma Bhushan** for public affairs.
- Uday Kotak** was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** for trade and industry.
- Harmanpreet Kaur** received the **Padma Shri** for sports.
- Folk musician Taga Ram Bheel** was conferred the **Padma Shri** award for keeping alive the legacy of the Algoza.

Padma Awards

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

affairs, civil service, trade and industry.

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

7. Thewa Art

Context

- PM Modi presented Thewa motif cufflinks to the Slovak President during his recent visit.



Thsewa Art

- Thewa art is among India's most **distinctive traditional crafts of Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.**
- The art form **dates back nearly 400 years** and traces its **origins to the Mughal era.**
- It is known for its **intricate gold engravings on coloured glass.**
- It involves creating delicate designs in **23-carat gold and embedding them on multicoloured glass surfaces.**
- Thewa work **requires precision and patience**, it takes around three days to create a single set.
- Over the years, **it has emerged as a symbol of India's cultural heritage** while also generating livelihood opportunities for artisans associated with the craft.

8. Sushruta

In News

- **The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh**

in Scotland has unveiled a statue honouring Sushruta, the ancient Indian physician believed to have lived around 2,600 years ago.

Sushruta

- Sushruta was an **ancient Indian physician and surgeon**, widely regarded as the **Father of Surgery and the Father of Plastic Surgery.**
- He is **known for advanced surgical techniques, anatomical studies and systematic medical education.**
- He performed **complex surgical procedures centuries before** these practices became common in the Western world.
- **Sushruta's medical knowledge is compiled in the Sushruta Samhita**, one of the **oldest and most comprehensive medical texts.**

The text is divided into:

- **Purva Tantra:** Surgery, anatomy, internal medicine, pediatrics, and toxicology.
- **Uttara Tantra:** Diseases of the eye, ear, nose, throat, psychiatry, and geriatric care.

Major Contributions

- **Pioneered Rhinoplasty:** Nasal reconstruction using a skin flap from the forehead or cheek (pedicle flap).
- **Eight Types of Surgery (Ashtavidha Shastrakarma):** Classified surgical procedures into excision, incision, scraping, puncturing, probing, extraction, drainage, and suturing.
- **Burn and Trauma Management:** Classified burns and other thermal injuries, including heat stroke and frostbite.
- **Lifestyle Diseases:** Described conditions resembling diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disorders, emphasizing the role of lifestyle in health.

9. Algoza

Context

- **Taga Ram Bheel of Jaisalmer was honoured with the Padma Shri 2026** for preserving and promoting traditional **Rajasthani folk music** through the ancient instrument called the **Algoza.**



Algoza

- The **Algoza is a traditional folk wind instrument associated with Rajasthan, Punjab, Sindh, and parts of western India and Pakistan.**
- It consists of **two wooden flutes played**

simultaneously — one creates the melody while the other provides a rhythmic base.

- What makes the instrument unique is the use of circular breathing, a difficult technique that allows musicians to produce continuous music without stopping for breath.
- **Often called the soul of Thar Desert folk music**, the Algoza has traditionally been played during festivals, weddings, storytelling sessions, and devotional gatherings.

10. Khajuraho

In News

- World Heritage Site Khajuraho, is set to host the 25-day countdown event for the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026.



Khajuraho

- The Khajuraho Group of Monuments, a group of Hindu and Jain temples **located in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh**, was inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986**.
- The temples are **famous for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures**.

Historical records:

- Most Khajuraho temples were **built between 950 and 1050 CE by the Chandela dynasty**.
- Historical records note that the **Khajuraho temple complex once had 85 temples spread across 20 square kilometres**.
- At present, **only about 25 temples have survived**, spread over six square kilometres.

11. Rakhigarhi

Context

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has sent **nearly 5,000-year-old skeletons unearthed at Haryana's Rakhigarhi**, for scientific examination and facial reconstruction.

Rakhigarhi

- The present-day Rakhigarhi is located **27 km from the Ghaggar river**, in the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain in **Haryana**.
- The archaeological site, dating back to **2600-1900 BCE**.
- It is the **largest Harappans site in the Indian**

Subcontinent.

- The site was **first excavated by Amarendra Nath of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.

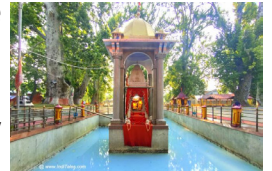
Findings

- **Granary:** A granary belonging to the mature Harappan phase (2600 BCE to 2000 BCE) has been found here. It has 7 rectangular or square chambers.
- **Culture, clothing and worship:** Fire altars and apsidal structures were revealed in Rakhigarhi.
- **Cemetery and burial sites:** A cemetery of Mature Harappan period is discovered at Rakhigarhi, with eight graves found.

12. Kheer Bhawani Mela

Context

- In Kashmir Valley, the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani is being celebrated with **religious fervour** and gaiety on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami.



About

- This is one of the **most important festivals for the Kashmiri Pandit community during which devotees offer Kheer** (rice pudding), milk, flowers, and aromatic leaves to Mata Ragnya Devi.
- The mela symbolizes **faith, resilience, cultural reconnection, and communal harmony**.

About Kheer Bhawani Temple

- It is **dedicated to Goddess Ragnya Devi**, who is considered an incarnation of Goddess Durga.
- The original temple was **built by Maharaja Pratap Singh around 1912 in Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir**. It was later embellished and renovated by Maharaja Hari Singh.
- A **distinctive feature of the temple is a hexagonal spring located at its center, revered for its sacred water**.
- Both the temple and the festival derive their name from the sweet dish 'kheer', which is distributed as prasad (a religious offering) to devotees.

13. 12th International Day of Yoga

News -

- The **12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated globally on June 21, 2026**, under the official theme **"Yoga for Healthy Ageing"**.

About -

- **Main Venue:** The national celebration was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the **historic Red Road in Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** The **Ministry of Ayush** serves as the nodal agency coordinating the celebrations and policy implementation in India.



Key 2026 Initiatives:

- **Yoga Sangam Portal:** A digital platform that **allowed over 6 lakh organizations to synchronize and perform yoga simultaneously across the country**.
- **Yoga 365 Campaign:** Aimed at shifting public perspective from a **symbolic one-day annual celebration to daily lifestyle integration**.
- **Lonar Record:** During the 75-day countdown event (Yoga Mahotsav-2026) at Lonar Lake, Maharashtra, **a record was set in the Asia Book of Records for the largest collective performance of Trikonasana (Triangle Pose)**.

Background -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the idea at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in **September 2014**. **UNGA Resolution 69/131 was adopted in December 2014** with a record 175 co-sponsoring nations.
- **Why June 21?:** The **date marks the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere**. In Indian mythology, this celestial transition is historically viewed as the **beginning of Yogic science (the transition of Adi Yogi to Adi Guru)**.
- **UNESCO Recognition:** In **December 2016**, Yoga was inscribed on **UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- **Philosophical Roots:** Yoga is one of the six orthodox (Astika) schools of Indian philosophy (Shad-Darshana). It was systematically compiled by Maharishi Patanjali in the Yoga Sutras, advocating the eight-fold path (Ashtanga Yoga).

DEFENCE

1. Gallantry Awards



Context

- **President conferred Gallantry Awards to the personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State and Union Territory Police during the Defence Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.**

Gallantry Awards

- **Honoured by** - Government of India
- It is given to honour acts of **bravery, sacrifice, and exceptional courage by members of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and civilians**.
- They are classified as **wartime (gallantry in the face of enemy) and peacetime awards**.
- **Administered by:** Ministry of Defence (for armed forces) and Ministry of Home Affairs (for police and civilians).
- **Awarded by:** President of India.
- These gallantry awards are **announced twice in a year** – first on the occasion of the **Republic Day** and then on the occasion of the **Independence Day**.
- **Wartime Gallantry Awards:** Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Mahavir Chakra (MVC) and Vir Chakra.
- **Peacetime Gallantry Awards:** Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra.

Gallantry Awards

- **Order of Precedence:** Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Ashoka Chakra (AC), Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), Kirti Chakra (KC), Vir Chakra (VrC), Shaurya Chakra (SC).
- **All six awards can be conferred posthumously.**

2. Tejas

Context

- The Defence Minister reviewed the progress of major ongoing projects of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) where delays in the delivery of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A was also discussed.



Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A

- It is an advanced, **4.5-generation multirole fighter jet built in India.**
- **Developed by-** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- The aircraft is designed to be a **multi-role aircraft capable** of taking up offensive air support, close combat and ground attack roles at ease.
- **Advanced Radar:** Uses an AESA Radar (including the indigenous Uttam radar) to track multiple targets at once.
- **Electronic Warfare:** Equipped with a jamming suite to protect the jet from enemy missiles.
- **Smart Weapons:** Can fire Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missiles like the Indian-made Astra.
- **Mid-Air Refueling:** Features a probe to refuel in the sky, which helps it fly longer distances.
- **Engine: Powered by the American GE F404-IN20 turbofan engine.**

3. Project Kusha

Context

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has described the **indigenous Project Kusha air defence system** as a potential **game changer** for India's security architecture.



Project Kusha

- It is an ambitious, **indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) defence system.**
- It is designed to act as a powerful, **multi-layered air defence shield** that can detect and **destroy advanced enemy targets at long distances.**
- **Developed by** - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Multi-Tier Interception:** The system features three types of interceptor missiles to stop threats at different distances:
 1. M1 interceptor with a range of around 150 km
 2. M2 interceptor with a range of around 250 km
 3. M3 interceptor with a range of 350-400 km

Significance -

- **Countering the S-400 and Global Comparisons -** Project Kusha is often called India's homegrown answer to Russia's famous S-400 Triumf air defence system.
- **The project is also linked to the broader**

"Mission Sudarshan Chakra", an initiative aimed at building a multi-layered air and missile defence shield for India by 2035.

4. Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2026

Context

- **The Exercise KHAAN QUEST** is going to be conducted from 20 June to 3 July at the Five Hills Training Area in **Ulaanbaatar.**

About

- The exercise first started as a **bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Armed Forces in the year 2003.**
- Subsequently, from the year **2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise** with the current year being the 23rd iteration.
- The exercise aims **to enhance interoperability and cooperation among participating militaries in peace support operations** under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

5. Oreshnik Missile

Context

- Russia used its powerful **Oreshnik hypersonic ballistic missile** in an **overnight missile and drone attack on Kyiv, Ukraine.**



Oreshnik

- It is an **intermediate-range hypersonic weapon** believed to be based on **Russia's RS-26 Rubezh system.**
- It can carry both nuclear and conventional warheads.
- Its **strike range** is estimated between **3,000 and 5,500 kilometres**, allowing it to target large parts of Europe.
- **It is almost impossible for modern air defence systems to intercept the missile** owing to its speed of **Mach 10, or nearly 2.5–3 kilometres per second.**

6. INS Sudarshini and Lokayan 26 Expedition

Context

- INS Sudarshini arrived in Antigua and Barbuda after successfully completing a historic trans-Atlantic passage as part of the Lokayan 26 Expedition.

INS Sudarshini

- INS Sudarshini is a sail training ship of the Indian Navy designed to train naval personnel in traditional sailing and seamanship skills.
- The vessel was built by Goa Shipyard Limited and was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2012.



Lokayan 26 Expedition

- The Lokayan 26 Expedition is a landmark 10-month, 22,000-nautical-mile transoceanic voyage by the Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini.
- The expedition aims to promote maritime diplomacy, strengthen relations with friendly nations, and enhance professional sailing skills among naval personnel.
- The voyage marks the first Atlantic crossing by INS Sudarshini, while the last such crossing was undertaken by INS Tarangini in 2007.

About Antigua and Barbuda

- It is a twin-island country in the Caribbean Sea, made up of two main inhabited islands, Antigua and Barbuda, along with a few smaller, neighboring islands.
- The islands gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1981.
- **Antigua:** The larger island is the economic hub, home to the capital city of St. John's.
- **Barbuda:** Located about 25 miles north of Antigua, this island is much flatter, less developed, and known for its pristine natural beauty and bird sanctuaries.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Raghav Chadha Appointed Rajya Sabha Petitions Committee Chairman

- Raghav Chadha has been officially nominated as the Chairman of the reconstituted Committee on Petitions by Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan. Effective May 20, 2026, he will lead the 10-member parliamentary standing panel responsible for examining public grievances and legislative matters.

2. Five New Supreme Court Judges Appointed

- Justices Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva, Arun Palli, and Senior Advocate V. Mohana have been appointed as Supreme Court Judges under Article 124(2) following the Collegium's recommendation. This raises the active bench strength to 37, with V. Mohana becoming only the second woman in history to be directly elevated from the Bar to the apex court.

3. Prashant Lokhande Named CBSE Chairperson

- Prashant Sitaram Lokhande, a 2001-batch AGMUT cadre IAS officer, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), taking charge on June 2, 2026. He succeeds Rahul Singh, while Varun Bhardwaj, a 2008-batch IIS officer, joins as Secretary to succeed Himanshu Gupta amid governance updates for the digital On-Screen Marking system.

4. Vipul Appointed Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

- Vipul, a 1998-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been officially designated as India's next Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, taking charge in June 2026. He transitions from his previous posting as India's Ambassador to Qatar to oversee bilateral strategic, defense, and energy cooperation in the Gulf region.

5. New Executive Director for the World Bank

- Neelkanth Mishra has been cleared by the Central Government for a three-year term

as the Executive Director of the World Bank in Washington, D.C., beginning June 2026. Concurrently serving as the Chief Economist at Axis Bank, he succeeds Parameswaran Iyer to represent the South Asian constituency comprising India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka.

6. Saurabh Vijay Named CEO of IndiaAI Mission

- Saurabh Vijay, a 1998-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer and current CEO of the UIDAI, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the IndiaAI Mission. He will lead the ₹10,372 crore flagship technology initiative alongside MeitY Joint Secretary Sudeep Shrivastava, who assumes charge as the Mission's Chief Operating Officer.

7. National Statistical Commission Restructured

- The government has appointed former IIM Calcutta Director Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay as the new Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission (NSC). He is joined by three new part-time members: Prof. Shubhabrata Das (IIM Bangalore), retired ISS officer Satyendra Bahadur Singh, and Dr. Madhavan Mukund (Director, Chennai Mathematical Institute).

8. Hitesh Joshi Appointed CMD of GIC Re

- The government has appointed Hitesh Joshi as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re). Joshi, who had been serving in an interim capacity since October 2025 following the retirement of N. Ramaswamy, will lead the state-owned reinsurer until his superannuation in September 2028.

9. Vivek Aggarwal Appointed FATF Vice President

- Vivek Aggarwal, a senior Indian bureaucrat, has been appointed as the Vice President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), making him the first Indian to hold this prestigious global position. Aggarwal, who has extensive experience in anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) frameworks, will help steer the international financial watchdog's strategic policies and compliance evaluations.

10.10. Bimal Patel Elected Judge of ITLOS

- Indian jurist Dr. Bimal N. Patel, Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University and member of the UN International Law Commission, has been elected as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). He secured 115 out of 168 valid votes at the UN Headquarters to serve a nine-year term (2026–2035) on the Hamburg-based global maritime court.

11. Reappointment of Solicitor General of India

- Senior Advocate Tushar Mehta has been reappointed as the Solicitor General of India (SGI) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He secured a fresh three-year extension, effective from July 1, 2026, to continue serving as the second-highest law officer of the Union government representing the Centre in the Supreme Court.



AWARDS

1. Food Planet Prize 2026

Context

- The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme has won the Food Planet Prize 2026.

About the Prize

- The Food Planet Prize was **established in 2019** by the **Curt Bergfors Foundation, Sweden**.
- It is regarded as the **world's largest environmental award dedicated to transforming global food systems**.
- The award carries a **prize of US\$ 1.5 million (about ₹14 crore)**.
- **Note** - APCNF's selection marks the first time an Indian initiative has won the award.

Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)

- **Launched in 2016**
- **Launched by** - Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)
- **Mandate** - the programme **promotes natural farming by reducing dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides**.

- **Uniqueness** - it covers over 8,000 villages and nearly 18 lakh farmer families, making it one of the world's largest community-led agroecology initiatives.
- The Andhra Pradesh model is now being studied and replicated in several Indian states, as well as countries like Sri Lanka and Zambia.

Additional Information - Natural Farming

- It is a **chemical free farming**, involving livestock (preferably local breed of cow) integrated natural farming methods and **diversified crop systems** rooted in the **Indian traditional knowledge**.
- It is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on **biomass mulching**, **use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations**; maintaining soil aeration and **exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs**.

National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

- Launched in - November 2024
- It is a centrally sponsored Scheme
- Objective - to promote chemical-free, ecosystem-based natural farming rooted in traditional knowledge.

2. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)

Context

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has invited nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2026.



Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)

- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is **conferred annually by the President of India on Veer Bal Diwas (26 December)**.
- **Instituted in its present form in 2019**, the award **recognises children aged 5–18 years for exceptional achievements in six categories**: Bravery, Art & Culture, Environment, Science & Technology, Social Service and Sports.

To be eligible, a nominee must:

1. **Be an Indian citizen** residing in India;
2. **Not have received the award previously**; and
3. Have achieved the recognised accomplishment within the two years preceding the nomination deadline.
4. While the **award is generally not conferred**

posthumously, exceptional cases may be considered.

5. This **award is the highest civilian honour for children in India**. Each awardee of **PMRBP is given a medal, a certificate and a citation booklet**.

3. Major Abhilasha Barak Receives UN Peacekeeping Honour

Context :

- An Indian Army officer was globally recognized for championing women's empowerment and inclusive peacekeeping during her West Asia deployment

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** 2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year.
- **Awardee:** Major Abhilasha Barak (the first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army).
- **Issuing Authority:** United Nations Department of Peace Operations.
- **Presenter:** UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the UN Headquarters in New York.
- **Key Achievement:** Conducted 539 gender-focused field activities supporting over 5,000 local women and launched an AI-driven platform for reporting gender-based violence.

About the Award:

- Established in 2016 by the UN Office of Military Affairs.
- Recognizes individual military personnel actively advancing the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

4. Twelve Lawmakers Selected for Sansad Ratna Awards

Context:

- Civil society awards were announced honoring top-performing lawmakers and parliamentary panels for outstanding legislative transparency, accountability, and active performance.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Sansad Ratna Awards
- **Awardees:** 12 Members of Parliament (10 Lok Sabha and 2 Rajya Sabha) along with 4 Parliamentary Standing Committees.
- **Issuing Authority:** Prime Point Foundation (Chennai-based NGO) alongside Pre-Legislative Research (PRS).

- **Core Parameters:** Judged on house attendance, total questions raised, active debates joined, and private member bills introduced.
- **State Performance:** Maharashtra dominated the individual honors with five separate MPs receiving the distinction.

About the Award:

- Instituted in 2010 based on a structural recommendation from former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- Commemorates outstanding democratic representation and legislative oversight from individual parliamentarians.
- The upcoming 2026 ceremony scheduled in New Delhi will mark the presentation of its 150th cumulative honor.

5. President Confers 2026 Padma Awards

Context:

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the nation's highest civilian honors across two distinct Civil Investiture Ceremonies at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, recognizing individuals for exceptional lifetime contributions across public affairs, art, science, sports, and social work.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Padma Awards 2026
- **Presenter:** President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- **Volume Presented:** 131 total approved honors fully conferred (**Phase 1: 66 awards** on May 26; **Phase 2: 65 awards**). The total distribution includes **5 Padma Vibhushan**, **18 Padma Bhushan**, and **108 Padma Shri** awards.

About the Award:

- Initially instituted in **1954** by the Government of India.
- Formally announced annually on the eve of **Republic Day**.
- Structurally classified into three hierarchical tiers based on the degree of distinguished service rendered: **Padma Vibhushan** (exceptional and distinguished service), **Padma Bhushan** (distinguished service of a high order), and **Padma Shri** (distinguished service in any field).

Key Recipients

1. Padma Vibhushan Recipients

S.No.	Recipient	Field	State / Country
1	Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
2	Shri K. T. Thomas	Public Affairs	Kerala
3	Ms. N. Rajam	Art	Uttar Pradesh
4	Shri P. Narayanan	Literature and Education	Kerala
5	Shri V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Kerala

2. Padma Bhushan Recipients

S.No.	Recipient	Field	State / Country
1	Ms. Alka Yagnik	Art	Maharashtra
2	Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Public Affairs	Uttarakhand
3	Shri K. R. Palaniswamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
4	Shri Mammootty	Art	Kerala
5	Dr. Nori Dattatreyaudu	Medicine	United States of America (NRI)
6	Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
7	Shri S. K. M. Maeilnandhan	Social Work	Tamil Nadu

8	Shri Shata-vadhani R. Ganesh	Art	Karnataka
9	Shri Shibu Soren (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Jharkhand
10	Shri Uday Kotak	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
11	Shri V. K. Malhotra (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi
12	Shri Vellappally Natesan	Public Affairs	Kerala
13	Shri Vijay Amritraj	Sports	United States of America (NRI)

3. Key Padma Shri Recipients

Recipient	Field	Key Exam Fact / Focus
Rohit Sharma	Sports	Former Indian Cricket Captain
R. Madhavan	Art	Acclaimed Actor & Filmmaker
Savita Punia	Sports	Indian Hockey Player
Satish Shah (Posthumous)	Art	Veteran Actor
Chandramouli Gaddamanugu	Science and Engineering	Aerospace Scientist (DRDL, Akash Missile System)
Guru Sangyusang Pongener	Art	Folk Artist & Cultural Guardian from Nagaland
Ashok Khade	Trade and Industry	Self-made Entrepreneur
Asok Kumar Haldar	Literature and Education	Dalit Author & Railway Guard
Anil Kumar Rastogi	Art	Famous Actor
Mahendra Nath Roy	Science and Engineering	Chemistry Professor
Ranjani and Gayatri	Art	Carnatic Music Duo (Counted as one award)

R.V.S. Mani	Public Affairs	Former MHA Under Secretary
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4. Karnataka Recipients

Recipient	Award Category	Field
Shatavadhani Dr. R. Ganesh	Padma Bhushan	Art (Avadhana Scholar)
Anke Gowda M.	Padma Shri	Social Work (Library Preservation)
Dr. S.G. Susheelamma	Padma Shri	Social Work (Women and Child Welfare)
Dr. Suresh Hanagavadi	Padma Shri	Medicine
Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar	Padma Shri	Science and Engineering
Dr. Prabhakar Basavprabhu Kore	Padma Shri	Literature and Education
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Padma Shri	Literature and Education (Media / Former Prasar Bharati CEO)
T.T. Jagannathan	Padma Shri	Trade and Industry

6. UN Posthumously Honours Two Indian Peacekeepers

Context:

- The United Nations posthumously honored two fallen Indian peacekeepers for their ultimate sacrifice, highlighting India's role as the second-largest troop contributor to global peacekeeping.

Key Highlights:

- Award:** Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, presented globally during the International Day of UN Peacekeepers ceremony.
- Awardees:** Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh and Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan (both awarded posthumously).
- Issuing Authority:** United Nations, with the physical medals formally presented by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
- Service Deployments:** Harbhajan Singh served

with MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while Sujit Kumar Pradhan served with UNMISS in South Sudan.

7. Indian Institutions Win WHO Tobacco Control Awards

Context:

- The WHO has honored Indian institutions for exceptional policy interventions and legislative efforts in tobacco control, recognizing their strategic success in reducing consumption and promoting cessation services.

Key Highlights:

- **Award mechanism** : World No Tobacco Day Awards 2026, formally categorized across six global operational regions.
- **Issuing Authority**: The World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Director-General Special Award**: Conferred upon Dr. Shaya Mohsin Zindani, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen.
- **Indian Awardee (State Level)**: The Principal Health Secretary of the Medical and Health Department, Government of Rajasthan (Jaipur).
- **Indian Awardees (Central Level)**: The ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, alongside the national Department of Health Research.

8. Indian Students Win Earth Prize for Microplastic Innovation

Context:

- A youth-led, low-cost water filtration technology using agricultural waste has been recognized for its effectiveness in removing microplastics, providing a scalable solution for underserved rural populations.

Key Highlights:

- **Award**: The Earth Prize 2026 (Global Winners Category).
- **Awardees**: Indian teenage innovators Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal, and Avyana Mehta.
- **Key Achievement**: Developed “Plas-Stick,” a sustainable and biodegradable filtration material derived from tamarind seed powder.

About the Award:

- The Earth Prize is an international environmental sustainability competition exclusively designed

to empower teenage students and young innovators.

- It provides crucial mentorship, global recognition, and operational support to scale practical solutions combating climate change and ecological pollution.

9. Indian Farmer Valluvan Honoured as UN Soil Farmer Hero

Context:

- A grassroots Indian agroforestry model was globally recognized for reversing soil degradation and boosting smallholder livelihoods through climate-resilient crop diversification.

Key Highlights:

- **Award**: Soil Farmer Hero recognition.
- **Issuing Authority**: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO).
- **Awardee**: Valluvan, an agriculturalist from the Pollachi district of Tamil Nadu.
- **Key Achievement**: Successfully transitioned a single-crop farm into a diverse 14-crop agroforestry enterprise, increasing soil organic carbon levels from 0.5 percent to 1.56 percent.

10. PAI and e-Jagriti Win National e-Governance Awards

Context:

- The Union government recognized two pioneering digital frameworks for modernizing public administration through AI integration, data-driven rural governance, and accelerated consumer dispute resolution.

Key Highlights:

- **Event & Authority**: Conferred by the DARPG at the 29th National Conference on e-Governance in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- **Gold Awardee: Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)**, developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- **PAI Achievement**: Successfully evaluated the structural governance performance of over **2.6 lakh Gram Panchayats** utilizing comprehensive data analytics.
- **Silver Awardee: e-Jagriti Platform**, developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- **e-Jagriti Achievement**: Integrated four legacy grievance systems using AI, achieving a **90.75 percent** disposal rate by resolving over **2.07 lakh** consumer disputes.

National e-Governance Awards 2026: Platform Comparison

Award Tier	Recognized Digital Platform	Nodal Ministry	Core Public Function
Gold	Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Rural Governance Data Analytics
Silver	e-Jagriti Platform	Ministry of Consumer Affairs	AI-Driven Dispute Redressal

About the Framework:

- The awards are conferred annually to encourage the innovative application of digital technology in delivering citizen-centric public services.
- The 2026 summit operated under the central theme: “Viksit Bharat 2047: AI-Enabled, Data-Driven and Secure Digital Governance.”

11. Lionel Messi Wins Princess of Asturias Sports Award

Context:

- The Spanish crown has honored a global athlete for combining athletic excellence with impactful philanthropy, specifically for leveraging their platform to champion educational access and pediatric healthcare.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports, marking the first time an individual footballer received this honor.
- **Awardee:** Argentine national football team captain and eight-time Ballon d’Or winner Lionel Messi.
- **Issuing Authority:** The Princess of Asturias Foundation, with the formal presentation scheduled in Oviedo, Spain.
- **Key Achievement:** Recognized for his historic 47-title athletic career alongside extensive charitable work through the Leo Messi Foundation.

12. Sudarsan Pattnaik Wins Russia Grand Sand Master Cup

Context:

- The international artistic community has honored an Indian sculptor for using visual art to advocate for environmental conservation, showcasing indigenous talent on a major global platform for climate awareness.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026.
- **Awardee:** Padma Shri recipient and renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik (Odisha).
- **Venue:** II International Festival of Sand Sculpture, Russia.
- **Presenter:** Festival General Director Alena Aleksandrovna.
- **Key Achievement:** Became the first Indian to secure this title, recognized for crafting a three-metre-high sculpture depicting the dual themes of environmental degradation and afforestation to highlight Global Warming.

13. PM Modi Receives Slovakia’s Highest National Award

Context:

- Slovakia has conferred its highest state decoration, the Order of the White Double Cross, First Class, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a special ceremony in Bratislava.

Key Highlights

- **The Presenter:** Presented by Slovak President Peter Pellegrini during PM Modi’s historic visit (the first by an Indian Prime Minister since Slovakia’s independence).
- **Global Tally:** This marks the **33rd international honor** bestowed upon PM Modi by a foreign nation.
- **Diplomatic Dedication:** PM Modi dedicated the prestigious recognition to the **1.4 billion citizens of India** and the enduring friendship between the two nations.

About the Award

- **Premier State Honor:** Established in **1993** following the nation’s independence, it is the premier civilian decoration awarded by the Slovak Republic.
- **Core Symbolism:** Takes its name from the white double cross, a historic symbol that forms the

centerpiece of Slovakia's national emblem.

- **Eligibility:** Conferred primarily upon foreign citizens and global dignitaries for exceptional contributions to developing friendly bilateral relations and advancing international cooperation with Slovakia.

14. Jainendra K. Jain Wins Wolf Prize in Physics

Context:

- Indian-American physicist Jainendra K. Jain has been awarded the prestigious 2026 Wolf Prize in Physics, making him the first scientist of Indian origin to win the honor.

Key Highlights

- **The Breakthrough:** Recognized for his seminal discovery of composite fermions, a fundamental breakthrough that successfully explained the fractional quantum Hall effect in condensed matter physics.
- **Academic Affiliation:** He currently serves as the Evan Pugh University Professor and Eberly Chair in Physics at Pennsylvania State University.
- **Global Distinction:** Joins an elite roster of past physics laureates that includes monumental figures like Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein.

About the Award

- **Prestige Level:** Established in **1978** by the Israel-based Wolf Foundation, it is widely regarded as the most prestigious award in physics after the Nobel Prize.
- **Core Mandate:** Awarded annually to living scientists and artists for outstanding achievements that advance humanity across six fields: Agriculture, Chemistry, Mathematics, Medicine, Physics, and the Arts.
- **The Prize:** Laureates receive a certificate and a monetary award of **\$100,000**, presented during an official ceremony at the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) in Jerusalem.

15. Two Indian Women Win Whitley Awards (Green Oscars) 2026

Context:

- Two trailblazing Indian conservationists, **Parveen Shaikh** and **Dr. Barkha Subba**, have been honoured with the prestigious 2026 Whitley Awards—popularly known as the 'Green Oscars'—during a special ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society in London.

Key Highlights

- **Parveen Shaikh:** A scientist with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), she was recognized for her '**Guardians of the Skimmer**' initiative. Her community-led project along the **Chambal River** has trained locals to protect vulnerable nesting colonies, helping the endangered **Indian Skimmer** bird population rebound from 400 to nearly 1,000.
- **Barkha Subba:** Working with the Federation of Societies for Environmental Protection (FOSEP), she was awarded for her efforts to conserve the rare **Himalayan Salamander** (often called a "living fossil") in the **Darjeeling Himalayas**. Her work involves restoring drying wetlands, engaging tea estate workers, and screening for deadly amphibian fungal diseases.
- **The Prize:** Presented by **Princess Anne**, the award provides each winner with international visibility and a crucial project funding grant of **£50,000** to scale up their grassroots conservation operations.

About the Award

- **Establishing Body:** Administered and funded by the UK-based **Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN)**.
- **Core Mandate:** The 'Green Oscars' are designed to champion grassroots conservation leaders across the **Global South** who successfully combine scientific research with local community engagement to bring about ecological healing.
- **Global Recognition:** Alongside the two Indians, four other conservationists from Indonesia (Gold Award), Zimbabwe, Ghana, and Cameroon were also celebrated for their ecological impact this year.

SPORTS

1. Gurindervir Singh Breaks National 100m Record

Why in News:

- Indian sprinter Gurindervir Singh established a new men's 100m national athletic record during the Federation Cup 2026 finals in Ranchi.

Key Highlights:

- **Record Time:-** Clocked an official timing of **10.09 seconds**, becoming the first Indian athlete to break into the 10.0-second range.
- **Venue Location:-** Birsamunda Athletics Stadium,

Ranchi, Jharkhand.

- **Podium Finishers:-** Outpaced silver medalist Animesh Kujur, who finished the championship race with an official time of 10.20 seconds.

Federation Cup 2026: Men's 100m Progression

Athlete	Event Stage	Official Time
Gurindervir Singh	Final	10.09 Seconds
Animesh Kujur	Final	10.20 Seconds
Animesh Kujur	Semifinal	10.15 Seconds
Gurindervir Singh	Semifinal	10.17 Seconds

2. Centre Notifies National Sports Governance Framework

Why in News:

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports activated regulatory provisions establishing the National Sports Board and National Sports Tribunal under federal legislation.

Key Highlights:

- **Apex Board:-** Created to grant official recognition to national athletic federations and strictly enforce mandatory administrative, ethical, and financial compliance.
- **Board Composition:-** Comprises a Chairperson and two select members serving a maximum three-year term or up to **65 years** of age.
- **Dispute Tribunal:-** Formed as an independent judicial body tasked with fast-tracking domestic sports-related electoral and administrative legal disputes.
- **Strict Restrictions:-** Appointed regulatory officers are legally barred from holding concurrent executive positions in any active sports federations.

3. Esha Singh Breaks Pistol World Record in Munich

Why in News:

- Indian shooter Esha Singh claimed the gold medal while establishing a new global scoring benchmark at the ISSF World Cup 2026.

Key Highlights:

- **Record Score:-** Registered a total of **43 points** in the final, achieving perfect target marks across her initial three series.
- **Event & Venue:-** Women's 25m pistol event,

organized in Munich, Germany.

- **Runner-up:-** Outpaced former world champion Doreen Vennekamp by a five-point margin, while Olympic champion Yang Jinn finished fifth.

ISSF World Cup 2026: Women's 25m Pistol Finals

Athlete & Country	Final Score	Medal / Placement
Esha Singh (India)	43 Points (WR)	Gold
Doreen Vennekamp (Germany)	38 Points	Silver
Yang Jinn (South Korea)	—	5th Place

4. Satwik-Chirag Clinch Singapore Open Doubles Title

Why in News:

- The Indian duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the men's doubles title at the Singapore Open 2026 badminton tournament.

Key Highlights:

- **National First:-** Marked the first time an Indian doubles combination won this tournament title in the history of the competition.
- **Final Opponents:-** Defeated the Indonesian pairing of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in a **73-minute** final match.
- **BWF Title Tally:-** Secured their ninth career BWF World Tour crown, successfully concluding a two-year structural title drought.

5. Inaugural World Yogasana Championship Begins in Ahmedabad

Why in News:

- The first-ever competitive World Yogasana Championship 2026 commenced following a virtual inauguration addressing international athletic delegations.

Key Highlights:

- **Host Venue:-** Held at the EKA Arena located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, starting from June 4, 2026.
- **Strategic Objective:-** Aimed at establishing standardized technical rules to support the future entry of Yogasana into the Olympic Games.
- **Calendar Alignment:-** Scheduled to directly precede International Yoga Day on June 21
- **Theme:-** "Yoga for Healthy Ageing".

6. Praggnanandhaa Wins Norway Chess Tournament Title

Why in News:

- Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa secured the Norway Chess 2026 tournament championship, becoming the first Indian chess player to win the event.

Key Highlights:

- Final Score:-** Completed the tournament with an absolute final tally of **18 points** across the classical formats.
- Decisive Match:-** Defeated Germany's Vincent Keymer in the final round to seal a late-stage streak of four consecutive wins.
- Key Victory:-** Secured two classical format victories over former world champion and multi-time tournament winner Magnus Carlsen.

7. Zverev and Andreeva Claim French Open Titles

Why in News:

- Alexander Zverev and teenage player Mirra Andreeva captured their career-first Grand Slam singles titles at the French Open 2026.

Key Highlights:

- Men's Singles:-** Germany's Alexander Zverev defeated Italy's Flavio Cobolli in a five-set final to secure his first major trophy.
- Women's Singles:-** Russian player Mirra Andreeva, aged 19, defeated Poland's Maja Chwalińska in straight sets to win the Suzanne-Lenglen Cup.
- Doubles Defenses:-** Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos retained the men's title; Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori defended the mixed doubles crown.

French Open 2026: Official Championship Results

Category	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-Up
Men's Singles	Alexander Zverev (Germany)	Flavio Cobolli (Italy)
Women's Singles	Mirra Andreeva (Russia)	Maja Chwalińska (Poland)
Men's Doubles	M. Granollers / H. Zeballos	Henry Patten / Harri Heliovaara

Women's Doubles	K. Siniakova / T. Townsend	Anna Danilina / Aleksandra Krunić
Mixed Doubles	Sara Errani / Andrea Vavassori	Gabrirowski / Evan King

8. India Secures Sixth SAFF Women's Football Championship

Why in News:

- The Indian national women's football team won the SAFF Women's Championship 2026 title by defeating Bangladesh in the final match.

Key Highlights:

- Score & Venue:-** Registered a **3-1 victory** at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium located in Margao, Goa.
- Campaign Record:-** Remained completely undefeated across four matches, scoring **18 goals** and conceding only one goal.

9. India Wins Junior Men's Hockey Asia Cup

Why in News:

- The Indian junior men's hockey team won the continental title at the Men's U18 Asia Cup 2026.

Key Highlights:

- Final Margin:-** Defeated the host nation Japan with a score of **4-1** in the final gold medal fixture.
- Match Venue:-** Kakamigahara, Japan.
- Final Standings:-** Pakistan secured the bronze medal to complete the top three Asian junior hockey rankings.

10. India Tops World Yogasana Championship Medal Tally

Why in News:

- The Indian sports delegation secured first place in the final standings of the inaugural World Yogasana Championship 2026.

Key Highlights:

- Medal Aggregate:-** Secured a record haul of **114 total medals**, consisting of 102 Gold, 9 Silver, and 3 Bronze.
- Event Statistics:-** Gathered 522 global competitors representing 79 participating nations at the EKA Arena in Ahmedabad.
- Competitors:-** Japan finished second on the gold leaderboard, while Nepal claimed the second-

highest total medal volume with 52 medals.

World Yogasana Championship 2026: Top 5 Standings

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	102	9	3	114
2	Japan	3	3	5	11
3	Argenti-na	2	3	0	5
4	Singa-pore	2	2	3	7
5	Nepal	1	36	15	52

11. Smriti Mandhana: TIME100 Sports (2026)

Why in News:

- Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana was named the sole Indian on the TIME100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026 list for her record-breaking international batting consistency and franchise leadership.

Key Highlights:

- Global Distinction:** The **only Indian** on the 2026 list (featured alongside icons like Lionel Messi and LeBron James).
- Batting Records:** First Indian woman with centuries across **all three formats**; holds the joint global record for most women’s international hundreds (17).
- Run Milestones:** India’s all-time highest **T20I run-scorer**; first woman to cross **1,000 ODI runs** in a calendar year.
- Trophy Cabinet:** Captained RCB to **two WPL titles (2024, 2026)** and vice-captained India’s **2025 World Cup** victory.

12. 12. Deepti Sharma: Joint-Highest Wicket-Taker (2026)

Why in News:

- Indian all-rounder Deepti Sharma claimed her **355th international wicket** during the 2026 Women’s T20 World Cup, equaling Jhulan Goswami to become the joint-highest wicket-taker in women’s international cricket history.

Key Highlights

- The Milestone Match:** Achieved against the **Netherlands** in Leeds by dismissing opener Phebe Molkenboer.
- Triple Tie at the Top:** Shares the all-time global

summit with compatriot Jhulan Goswami and England’s Katherine Sciver-Brunt (all locked at **355 wickets**).

- Indian Dominance:** Two of the top three all-time leading international wicket-takers globally are now **Indian nationals**.

All-Time Leading Wicket-Takers (Women’s International Cricket)

Rank	Player	Country	Total Wickets
=1	Deepti Sharma	India	355
=1	Jhulan Goswami	India	355
=1	Kather-ine Sciv-er-Brunt	England	355

13. Indian Athletics Awards 2025

Why in News:

- Neeraj Chopra** and **Parul Chaudhary** secured the top honors at the inaugural Athletics Federation of India (AFI) awards in New Delhi.

Key Highlights

- The 90m Mark:** Neeraj Chopra won for his national-record **90.23m** throw at the Doha Diamond League.
- Asian Dominance:** Parul Chaudhary won for securing **two gold medals** (3000m steeplechase and 5000m) at the Asian Championships.

Major Winners

Category	Winner	Field / Domain
Best Male Ath-lete	Neeraj Chopra	Javelin Throw
Best Female Athlete	Parul Chaud-hary	Steeplechase & 5000m
Lifetime Achievement	PT Usha	Sprinting / Ad-ministration
Best State Pro-moter	Odisha Govt.	Infrastructure Promotion
Best State Association	Tamil Nadu	Athletics Gover-nance

14. Harmanpreet Kaur: 200 T20Is

Why in News:

- India captain Harmanpreet Kaur became the **first cricketer in history** (male or female) to play **200 T20 Internationals** during the 2026 World Cup clash against South Africa.

Key Highlights

- The Milestone Venue:** Achieved at Old Trafford, **Manchester**, where she was presented with a commemorative '200' cap and jersey.
- Far Ahead of Peers:** Sits comfortably above the second-highest women's capper (Suzie Bates at **184 matches**) and the leading men's capper (Paul Stirling at **163 matches**).
- Decade-Plus Longevity:** One of only seven players globally to participate in **every edition** of the Women's T20 World Cup since its inception in **2009**.

15. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Smashes Fastest List A Fifty in History

Why in News:

- Fifteen-year-old Indian batting sensation **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** shattered the world record for the fastest half-century in List A cricket history, reaching the milestone in just **11 balls** during the Tri-Nation Series final between India A and Sri Lanka A in Dambulla.

Key Highlights

- The Record Knock:** Opening the batting, Sooryavanshi blazed an explosive **94 off 29 deliveries** (striking at 324.13), hammering 10 fours and 8 sixes. His 11-ball fifty officially broke the previous 21-year-old world record of a 12-ball fifty set by Sri Lanka's Kaushalya Weeraratne in 2005.
- Near-Century:** He fell just 6 runs short of a century in the ninth over, narrowly missing out on tying the fastest List A century record, which is currently held by Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk (29 balls).
- Match Impact:** His destructive opening assault powered India A to a massive total of 377/9, ultimately securing a 66-run victory over Sri Lanka A to clinch the series title.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Rash Behari Bose Birth Anniversary

- Observed Date:** May 25
- Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- Objective:** To commemorate the revolutionary leader for internationalizing India's freedom struggle, executing the 1912 Delhi Conspiracy Case, and leading the Ghadar Movement and Indian Independence League.

2. World Thyroid Day

- Observed Date:** May 25
- Observing Organisation:** Thyroid Federation International (TFI) and global partner associations
- Objective:** To raise international awareness regarding the rising global burden of thyroid disorders, promote early diagnostic screening, and advocate for the effective clinical management of thyroid-related illnesses.
- Theme:** "Thyroid and Nutrition"

3. World Football Day

- Observed Date:** May 25
- Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- Objective:** The United Nations commemorated the 1924 Olympic football tournament to highlight the sport's universal power to unite cultures, empower youth, and advance sustainable global peace.

4. International Day of UN Peacekeepers

- Observed Date:** May 29
- Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- Objective:** To recognize the professionalism, dedication, and courage of military, police, and civilian personnel serving in UN peacekeeping missions, and to honor those who have sacrificed their lives for global peace.

5. World No Tobacco Day

- Observed Date:** May 31
- Observing Organisation:** World Health Organization (WHO)
- Objective:** To highlight the global health burden of tobacco-related diseases, expose deceptive industry marketing tactics, and strengthen

international policy interventions to protect youth from nicotine addiction.

- **Theme:** “Unmasking the Appeal: Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction”

6. World Bicycle Day

- **Observed Date:** June 3
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **Objective:** To recognize the bicycle as a reliable, clean, and affordable means of transportation, highlighting its role in reducing urban pollution, promoting public health, and advancing sustainable economic development.
- **Theme:** “Cycling for a Greener Future”

7. World Environment Day

- **Observed Date:** June 5
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Objective:** A global environmental platform was established to advocate for immediate nature-based climate solutions and cross-border cooperation to combat greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss.
- **Theme:** “Inspired by Nature: For Climate. For Our Future.”

8. World Oceans Day

- **Observed Date:** June 8
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **Objective:** To raise awareness about the critical role of oceans in sustaining planetary life, regulating global climate systems, and advancing sustainable marine conservation in alignment with SDG 14.
- **Theme:** “Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, a New Relationship with Our Ocean”

9. World Day Against Child Labour

- **Observed Date:** June 12
- **Observing Organisation:** International Labour Organization (ILO)
- **Objective:** To accelerate global efforts to eliminate child exploitation by advocating for universal social protection, access to quality education for children, and the enforcement of strong labor laws to secure decent employment for adults.

- **Theme:** “Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults”

10. Global Wind Day

- **Observed Date:** June 15
- **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India
- **Objective:** A global campaign championed wind energy awareness to accelerate domestic expansion, offshore development, and international partnerships for a clean energy transition.
- **Theme:** “Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration”

11. World Crocodile Day

- **Observed Date:** June 17, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Globally observed (with key initiatives by India’s Crocodile Conservation Project)
- **Objective:** To raise awareness about the ecological importance of crocodiles as apex predators, highlight threats like habitat fragmentation and poaching, and promote aquatic wetland conservation.
- **Theme:** “Legacy in Every Scale”

12. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- **Observed Date:** June 17, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about land degradation and drought, promote sustainable land management, and highlight the critical need to protect and restore rangeland ecosystems.
- **Theme:** “Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.”

13. Autistic Pride Day

- **Observed Date:** June 18, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Globally observed (originally initiated by Aspies For Freedom)
- **Objective:** To celebrate neurodiversity, challenge negative societal perceptions of autism, and promote the acceptance and inclusion of autistic individuals as a natural variation of human diversity.
- **Theme:** “Empowerment Through Inclusion”

14. World Sickle Cell Day

- **Observed Date:** June 19, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) as a major public health challenge, promote early diagnosis and large-scale screening, and improve long-term healthcare access and support for affected patients.
- **Theme:** "Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease"

15. World Refugee Day

- **Observed Date:** June 20, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- **Objective:** To honor the courage, strength, and resilience of millions of people forced to flee their home countries to escape conflict or persecution, and to defend their fundamental right to seek safety, dignity, and long-term inclusion.
- **Theme:** "Until Everyone Is Safe"

16. International Yoga Day

- **Observed Date:** June 21, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations (UN)
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about the multifaceted physical, mental, and spiritual benefits of practicing yoga, and to promote holistic health, active longevity, and global harmony.
- **Theme:** "Yoga for Healthy Ageing"

17. Father's Day

- **Observed Date:** June 21, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Globally observed across 110+ countries
- **Objective:** To honor fathers, grandfathers, and father figures for their unconditional love, daily sacrifices, lifelong guidance, and critical role in providing stability and building future generations.
- **Theme:** "Fathers: Guiding Strength and Building Futures"

18. Olympic Day

- **Observed Date:** June 23, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** International Olympic Committee (IOC)

- **Objective:** To promote the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect, commemorate the foundation of the IOC in 1894, and encourage people globally to engage in sports, fitness activities, and community events under the pillars of Move, Learn, and Discover.
- **Theme:** "You Can Do This: Let's Move"

OBITUARIES

1. Veteran Urdu Poet Bashir Badr Passes Away

- Padma Shri-winning Urdu literary icon **Dr. Bashir Badr**, celebrated for making classical ghazals accessible through emotional simplicity, passed away at 91 in Bhopal on May 28, 2026, leaving behind acclaimed collections such as *Aas*, *Aahat*, and *Kulliyate Bashir Badr*.

2. Veteran Playback Singer Suman Kalyanpur Passes Away

- Legendary 1960s-70s playback singer **Suman Kalyanpur**, renowned for timeless Hindi classics like *Aajkal Tere Mere Pyar Ke Charche* alongside an expansive multi-lingual regional repertoire, passed away from age-related ailments at 89 in Mumbai on May 31, 2026.

3. Veteran Filmmaker Bharathi Rajaa Passes Away

- Six-time National Award-winning Tamil filmmaker **Bharathi Rajaa**, celebrated for pioneering realistic rural storytelling in South Indian cinema alongside legendary composer Ilaiyaraaja, passed away at 84 in Chennai on June 10, 2026.

4. Shooting Legend Jaspal Rana Passes Away

- Asian Games gold medallist and Dronacharya Award-winning coach **Jaspal Rana**, a pioneer of Indian pistol shooting who mentored Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, passed away at 49 on June 11, 2026. A recipient of the Arjuna Award (1994) and Padma Shri (1997), he played a pivotal role in establishing India's modern shooting ecosystem through his disciplined coaching and high-performance technical mentorship.

5. François Englert Passes Away

- Belgian theoretical physicist and 2013 Nobel laureate François Englert, who co-discovered the Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism explaining how fundamental particles acquire mass, passed away at 93 on June 18, 2026. A recipient of the Wolf Prize in Physics (2004) and the J.J. Sakurai Prize (2010), his pioneering 1964 theoretical work laid the foundation for the Standard Model of particle physics, which was experimentally validated by CERN's discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012.

RANKS & REPORTS

1. National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) Report

- **Released By:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Nodal agency: International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai)
- **Key Observations:** The report, covering approximately 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts in 2023–24, highlights robust progress in maternal healthcare, institutional deliveries (reaching 90.6%), and full immunization coverage (87.1%). Notable strides in women's empowerment include a significant rise in internet usage (64.3%) and bank account ownership (89.0%), alongside expanded health insurance coverage now reaching 60.2% of households.
- **Performance Metric:** Significant reductions in chronic malnutrition were observed, with child stunting declining to 29.3% and severe wasting decreasing to 5.2%, reflecting the cumulative impact of government health and nutrition initiatives like POSHAN 2.0 and the Universal Immunization Program.

2. QS World University Rankings 2027

- **Released By:** UK-based global higher education analyst QS Quacquarelli Symonds.
- **Key Observations:**
- **Global Domain:** The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retained its #1 global position for a record 15th consecutive year, followed by Imperial College London and the University of Oxford.
- **India's Rise:** Featuring 52 institutions, India is

now the 5th most represented higher education system globally, marking the fastest proportional growth among all G20 nations.

- **Upward Trajectory:** More than half of India's ranked universities improved their standings, heavily driven by strong gains in research citations and employer reputation. The University of Delhi climbed to 322nd globally.

Performance Metric:

- **IIT Delhi:** National Rank: 1st | Global Rank: 118
- **IIT Bombay:** National Rank: 2nd | Global Rank: 134
- **IIT Madras:** National Rank: 3rd | Global Rank: 170
- **IIT Kharagpur:** National Rank: 4th | Global Rank: 205
- **IISc Bengaluru & IIT Kanpur:** National Rank: 5th (Tie) | Global Rank: 221



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