



# INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ

**A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative**

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

**ಕನ್ನಡ & English**

**By- Nandan Sir**

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

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- Nine Years of GST
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## INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ

### WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK 2006

#### 10 Years of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) Government Schemes



##### Context

- The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has completed more than 10 years of advancing irrigation-led agricultural transformation through sustainable water management and the expansion of irrigation coverage.

##### Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- It is a flagship irrigation scheme launched in 2015
- Vision- 'Har Khet Ko Pani' (Water to Every Field) and 'Per Drop More Crop'.
- Objective - It aims to provide for the integrated development and efficient management of water resources from source creation to its application at the farm level.

##### Components of PMKSY

- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) - It improves irrigation infrastructure and availability of water.

- Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) - It expands assured irrigation through minor irrigation and groundwater development.
- Watershed Development Component - It promotes integrated watershed management in rainfed and degraded areas.
- Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) - It promotes micro-irrigation technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation.

#### Nine Years of GST Economy

##### Context

- On 1 July 2026, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) completed nine years since its rollout under the 101st Constitutional Amendment.

##### Goods and Service Tax (GST)

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

##### It is of three types i.e.

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

##### GST Council

- Legal status - It is a Constitutional body under Article 279A, introduced by the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.

- **Mandate** - It is empowered to modify, reconcile or to procure any law or regulation based on the context of GST in India.
- **Federal body** - It is also considered as a **federal body** where both the centre and the states get due representation.
- **Functions:** It makes recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to GST.
- **Composition**
  - **Chairperson:** Union Finance Minister.
  - **Members:** Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

### **Hul Diwas** **History & Culture**

#### **Context**

- **June 30** is observed as **Hul Diwas**, marking the anniversary of the **1855 Santhal rebellion/Santhal Hul**, one of the earliest peasant and tribal uprisings against the British.

#### **Santhal Hul**

- **Santhal Hul of 1855** was a **revolt against imperialism** led by four brothers, Sidho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav Murmu, along with sisters Phulo and Jhano.
- **Background:** In 1832, the British demarcated a region in present-day Jharkhand, called **Damin-i-Koh**, as a **settlement area for the Santhal tribe**.
- While initially intended for peaceful settlement and agricultural development, the region eventually experienced exploitation by outsiders (dikus), leading to land alienation among the Santhals.
- **Santhal Hul:** The Murmu brothers led around **60,000 Santhals** against the **East India Company** and engaged in **guerrilla warfare**.
- The Santhals also fought against the upper castes, zamindars, darogas, and moneylenders, described by the umbrella term '**diku**'.
- The **British hanged Sidhu in 1855**, followed by **Kanhu in 1856**.

- **Significance:** The rebellion led to the enactment of the **Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act of 1876** and the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908**, which aimed to safeguard tribal land rights and cultural autonomy.

### **FCRA 2.0 Portal and e-OCI Card** **Polity**

#### **Context**

- The **Union Home Minister** launched the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) 2.0 Portal** and the **Electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) Card**.

#### **FCRA 2.0 Portal**

- The Portal has been developed to **simplify compliance under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act** and to **strengthen the monitoring and enforcement mechanism**.
- All major processes related to **applications, renewals, annual returns, and other services** have now been made **fully digital**.
- This portal, **hosted on the National Government Cloud (MeghRaj)**, includes features such as **process re-engineering**, an **integrated dashboard**, **Aadhaar-based authentication**, **e-Sign facility**, and **OCR-based document analysis**.
- The portal is integrated with major government databases and banks, including **PAN, Aadhaar, OCI, NGO Darpan**, and the **ICAI's UDIN system**.

#### **Electronic Overseas Citizen of India (e-OCI) Card**

- It is a **citizen-centric initiative** aimed at **transforming OCI services for the global Indian diaspora** through a **fully digital system**.
- Under this system, **applicants can complete the entire OCI process online** – from **submitting the application** and **uploading supporting documents** to **downloading the digitally generated card after approval**.

#### **OCI (Overseas Citizen of India)**

- **Status:** Foreign citizens of Indian origin. It is not dual citizenship.

- **Eligible:** Anyone who was an Indian citizen on/after Jan 26, 1950, or their descendants. Foreign spouses qualify after 2 years of marriage.
- **Barred:** Anyone with ties to Pakistan or Bangladesh. Foreign military personnel are also excluded.

### Privileges (What They CAN Do)

- **Lifelong Visa:** Multiple-entry, multi-purpose visa.
- **No Foreigners Regional Registration Office:** No police reporting required, regardless of stay duration.
- **NRI Parity:** Same rights as NRIs in economic, financial, and educational fields.
- **Work:** Can practice as doctors, dentists, lawyers, and chartered accountants in India.

### Restrictions (What They CANNOT Do)

- **No Voting:** Cannot vote in any Indian elections.
- **No Public Office:** Barred from government jobs and constitutional posts (e.g., President, Judge).
- **No Farm Land:** Cannot buy agricultural or plantation property. Permissions Needed: Requires prior approval for journalism, research, missionary work, or visiting restricted areas.

### Academic Bank of Credits



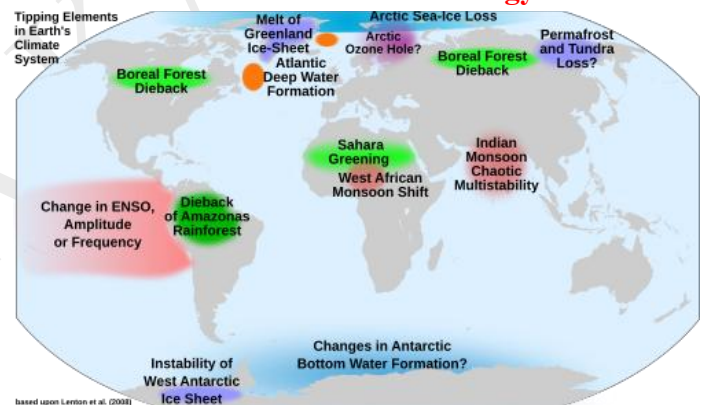
### Context

- The **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)** is a revolutionary digital platform by the **Ministry of Education** and is regulated by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.

**APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) ID**

- It is a **unique 12-digit student identification number** linked to the ABC system.
- It was introduced as part of the “**One Nation, One Student ID**” initiative, and creates a **single academic identity for every learner**.
- **Objective** - It aimed to create a **flexible, learner-friendly education system** in which learning achievements can be recognised, stored, and used throughout a person’s life.
- It supports the vision of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and the **National Credit Framework (NCrF)** by enabling credit transfer, multiple entry and exit options, and recognition of learning across different institutions and disciplines.

### Climate Tipping Points Environment and Ecology



### Context

- Climate tipping points emerged as a major area of debate during the **Bonn Climate Change Conference** held in Germany.

### Climate Tipping Points

- **Definition** - It is a critical threshold in the Earth’s climate system beyond which **small incremental temperature increases trigger abrupt, self-reinforcing, and irreversible changes**

### Major Potential Climate Tipping Points

- **Arctic Sea Ice Loss:** Continued melting reduces the Earth’s reflectivity (albedo), leading to faster global warming.

- **Amazon Rainforest Dieback:** Rising temperatures, deforestation and declining rainfall can transform large parts of the Amazon into savannah, reducing one of the world's largest carbon sinks.
- **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC):** Weakening of this major ocean current can disrupt rainfall patterns, agriculture and weather systems across Europe, Africa and Asia.
- **Greenland Ice Sheet Melting:** Accelerated ice-sheet loss could contribute substantially to long-term global sea-level rise.
- **Coral Reef Collapse:** Increasing ocean temperatures and acidification can lead to irreversible coral bleaching and biodiversity loss.

### Flamingo Revolution Environment



#### Context

- People in Albania have launched the “Flamingo Revolution” to oppose a proposed \$1.6 billion luxury resort project.
- The project includes constructions on Sazan island and Vjosa-Narta, a wetland home for flamingos, seals and nesting sites for sea turtles, creating concern over the government's negligence towards environmental degradation.

#### Flamingo

- **Genus** - Phoenicopteridae.

- They are famous for their pink plumage, long necks, and uniquely curved beaks adapted for filter feeding.
- **Distribution** - There are six living species of flamingos found across Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas.
  1. Greater Flamingo (Phoenicopterus roseus).
  2. Lesser Flamingo (Phoeniconaias minor).
  3. American / Caribbean Flamingo (Phoenicopterus ruber).
  4. Chilean Flamingo (Phoenicopterus chilensis).
  5. Andean Flamingo (Phoenicoparrus andinus).
  6. James's / Puna Flamingo (Phoenicoparrus jamesi).
- **In India, the Greater Flamingo and Lesser Flamingo are found**, especially in coastal wetlands and salt pans.
- **Threats** - habitat degradation, pollution, disturbance at breeding sites, and climate change affecting wetlands.

#### Conservation status

- **Greater Flamingo (IUCN):** Least Concern.
- **Lesser Flamingo (IUCN):** Near Threatened.

### SUMAN Roadmap 2030 Polity

#### Context

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare.

#### SUMAN Roadmap 2030

- It is a comprehensive national strategy to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 related to maternal and newborn health.
- The framework seeks to reduce the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030, while also lowering neonatal and infant mortality rates and advancing the goal of zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

## Maternal Mortality

- Maternal death is the **death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy**,
- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** is the **number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births**.
- The **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1** targets **reducing the global maternal mortality ratio** to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030.

## Additional Information- Maternal Health Initiatives

1. **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)**: Gives cash to poor women who choose to give birth in a hospital instead of at home.
2. **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** - Makes hospital births 100% free. Covers medicine, food, tests, and free rides to and from the hospital.
3. **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** - It Promises dignified care with zero tolerance for being turned away by a hospital.
4. **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.
5. **LaQshya**: Upgrades the quality and safety of hospital delivery rooms.

## Global Report on Food Crises 2026 (GRFC 2026) report International

### Context

- According to the **Global Report on Food Crises 2026 (GRFC 2026) report**, more than **266 million people** are facing high levels of acute food insecurity across 47 countries.

### Key Findings of the Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2026

- **High Acute Hunger**: Around 266 million people (22.9% of the assessed population)

experienced high levels of acute food insecurity in 2025.

- **Regional Distribution of Hunger Crisis**: Ten countries accounted for nearly two-thirds of the global burden.
- **Catastrophic Hunger**: About 1.4 million people in six countries were classified under the 'Catastrophe' (IPC Phase 5) category, the highest level of acute food insecurity.

## Initiatives & Efforts In India

- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**: It provides subsidised food grains to nearly two-thirds of India's population.
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**: It ensures free food grains to NFSA beneficiaries.
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan and Mission POSHAN 2.0**: It aims to improve nutritional outcomes among women, children and adolescent girls through convergence and technology-enabled monitoring.
- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**: It provides supplementary nutrition, immunisation, health check-ups and pre-school education.
- **PM-POSHAN Scheme**: It provides cooked mid-day meals to school children to improve nutrition and educational outcomes.
- **Anaemia Mukh Bharat**: It targets reduction of anaemia among women, adolescents and children.
- **Eat Right India Initiative**: It promotes safe, healthy and sustainable dietary practices.

## Kisan Sarathi Platform Polity

### Context

- **Kisan Sarathi**, launched in 2021, is India's largest integrated digital agro-advisory platform.

**About**

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Implemented by:** The Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and the Digital India Corporation.

**Kisan Sarathi app connects farmers with:**

- 730+ Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs);
- 100+ ICAR institutes;
- 65+ agricultural universities.

**Features:**

- Personalized advisory based on farm and farmer profile.
- Live interaction in 13 regional languages with domain experts.
- Call facilities and conferencing support as per the farmer's needs.
- Access to the farmer's knowledge database.

**Significance:**

- Farmers can get region-specific, real-time advisories on weather updates, market prices, and more.
- Helps farmers discover government schemes suitable to their specific needs.
- Farmers can easily access the mandi prices and district-wise market rates for major crops.
- It improves query resolution and strengthens the transfer of technology from lab to field.

**'Shastrarth' Tradition at Nalanda University  
History & Culture****Context**

- **PM Modi praised Nalanda University for reviving the ancient Indian tradition of Shastrarth (scholarly debate).**

**About**

- The ancient Indian tradition of **Śāstrārtha** is the **scholarly discourse and dialogue on scriptures and philosophical subjects.**

- Śāstrārtha served as a **primary method of teaching, learning and testing knowledge through rigorous intellectual discourse** at the ancient Nalanda and Vikramshila universities.

**Nalanda**

- It is the **first residential university of the world** founded at Nalanda by the **Emperor Kumaragupta in 427CE in Rajgir, Bihar.**
- It flourished for over **800 years till the end in 12th century CE.**
- It is believed to possess **2,000 teachers and 10,000 students.**
- Nalanda had attracted scholars to its campus from places as distant as China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and South East Asia.
- The most detailed accounts have come from Chinese scholars and the best known of these is Xuan Zang, who carried back many hundred scriptures which were later translated into Chinese.
- **Revival: In 2006, the former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam proposed the revival of the ancient Nalanda.**
- **The Parliament of India passed the Nalanda University Act, 2010.**

**Project BRAHMANK Marks its 16th Raising Day  
Defence****Context**

- **Project BRAHMANK of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 16th Raising Day at Ranaghat, Arunachal Pradesh.**

**About**

- The Project was **raised on 29 June 2011 at Ranaghat, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh**, and became fully functional in December 2011.
- The Project is responsible for **development and maintenance of strategic road infrastructure across the Siang, East Siang,**

West Siang, Upper Siang and Shi-Yomi districts of Arunachal Pradesh, as well as parts of Dhemaji district in Assam.

- The Project is entrusted with the maintenance and development of 811 km of roads and approximately 86 bridges, ranging from culverts to major steel and arch bridges.

### **PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)** **Polity**

#### **Context**

- Union Home Minister launched the pilot project of PM Family Care Tracker at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

#### **About**

- The integrated digital platform will track the health, nutrition and education of beneficiaries from pregnancy until the age of 18 using a unique ID linked to the Birth Registration Number or ABHA ID.
- The system will integrate data from multiple government platforms, and monitor key indicators including vaccination, malnutrition, school enrolment and dropout rates.
- The platform also features digital Health Passports for individuals and families, dashboards to facilitate delivery of government welfare schemes, and automated alerts for missed vaccinations and other essential health services.
- **Significance:** The PM-FCT is designed as a family-centric digital platform, rather than maintaining separate records for different schemes, allowing authorities to track the health and welfare status of every family member through a single interface.

### **Baaz Battalions** **Defence**

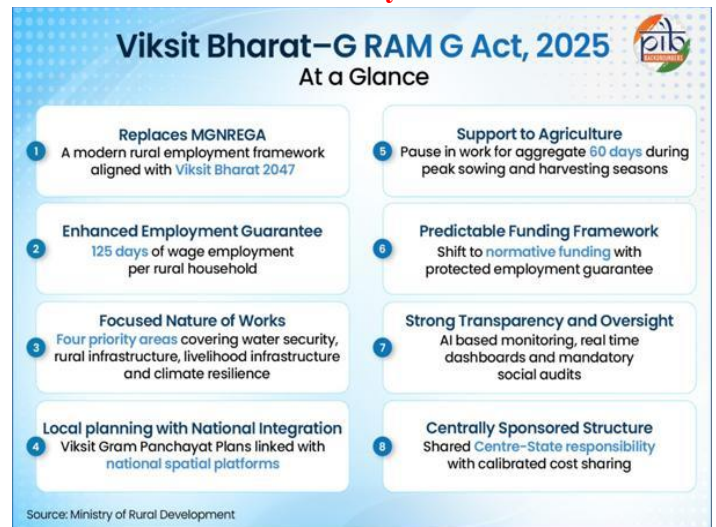
#### **Context**

- The Indian Army is set to establish specialised drone units called “Baaz Battalions”.

#### **About**

- The battalions will build on the Army’s existing Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Flights that will provide a dedicated organisational framework for drone operations across different theatres.
- The specialised units will comprise trained personnel managing drone systems, strengthening intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities while improving target acquisition and real-time battlefield awareness.
- The decision to establish the Baaz Battalions has been driven by lessons from the LAC standoffs with China, the effective use of drones during Operation Sindoor against Pakistan, and recent global conflicts, particularly the Russia–Ukraine war.

### **VB-G RAM G Act Come Into Force** **Polity**



#### **In News**

- The Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAMG) Act, 2025, has come into effect from 1st July.

## Key features

- It replaces the MGNREGA 2005, transitioning India's rural employment from a "relief-based" system to a "developmental and asset-creation" model under the Ministry of Rural Development.
- It includes increasing guaranteed work to 125 days, implementing a 60:40 Centre-State funding ratio, and moving to a supply-driven, normative budget allocation linked with PM Gati Shakti.
- Furthermore, the Act mandates a 60-day pause in work during agricultural seasons.

## Key Features & Implementation

- **Wages:** A national base wage of ₹300 per day is set, with regional variations.
- **Projects:** Focus on water security, infrastructure, and climate resilience.
- **Technology:** Uses the Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack for AI-driven, transparent, and geo-tagged tracking.
- **Rights:** Continues to provide for unemployment allowance and wage penalties

## eSARAS Polity



## Context

- The Government recently emphasized the role of eSARAS (SARAS Aajeevika) in digitally empowering women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by linking rural artisans to

national markets and promoting inclusive growth under the Digital India mission.

## eSARAS (SARAS Aajeevika)

- It is a **digital marketplace for products created by women SHGs, rural artisans and producer collectives across India.**
- It is developed by the Ministry of Rural Development under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- **Objective** - to provide SHG members with direct market access, eliminate middlemen, ensure fair remuneration and promote indigenous crafts and rural entrepreneurship.
- Every product on eSARAS carries a story, and every purchase is a direct connection to the artisan behind it. It includes examples like:
  1. Chanderi sarees from Madhya Pradesh
  2. Marble artisans in Rajasthan
  3. Pashmina producers in the hills of Jammu & Kashmir

## Key Milestones: From Portal to e-Commerce Ecosystem

- **eSARAS Portal:** e-Commerce portal launched for better and more effective marketing of Saras products
- **eSARAS Mobile App:** Mobile app launched alongside the eSARAS Fulfilment Centre. It is used for processing, packaging and shipping of products.
- **ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)** - to democratise and unbundle the e-commerce sector.
- **UMANG:** eSARAS listed on UMANG; platform now serves 2,572 services with 796.69 crore transactions (June 2026)
- **SARAS Shakti Collection:** Premium curated gift collection launched at Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan 2026 for institutional and corporate markets.

- **SARAS Aajeevika Gallery:** It is a permanent retail gallery established for **showcasing curated SHG products**.

### India's Diminishing Cotton Productivity Economy

#### Context

- The **stagnation in India's cotton productivity** has led to a debate on whether new **genetically modified (GM) cotton technologies** alone can **improve productivity** or whether greater emphasis is needed on soil health and agronomic practices.

#### Cotton Cultivation in India

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

#### Geographic & Climatic Requirements-

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

#### Mission for Cotton Productivity

- It is also **referred as Kapas Kranti**
- **Objective** - it aims to **address stagnant yields and improve fibre quality to make India a self-reliant** and globally competitive textile hub.

- Focuses on **high-density planting (HDPS)**, developing 24 climate-resilient varieties, promoting Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton, and **branding ("Kasturi Cotton Bharat")**.
- **Modernization:** Includes **upgrading 2,000 ginning units** and **integrating digital tools** for better market access

### GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) Science and Tech



#### Context

- India has achieved a major milestone in satellite navigation with **GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation)** becoming the **first Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) certified for the equatorial region**.

#### GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation)

- GAGAN is **India's indigenous Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS)**, jointly developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.
- Operational since 2015, it **enhances the accuracy, availability, and integrity of GPS signals** by providing **real-time correction information**.

#### Applications

- Besides aviation, GAGAN supports:
- Maritime navigation
- Intelligent transport and fleet management
- Railway operations
- Disaster management
- Defence, telecom synchronisation, and geospatial mapping.

### 31st Chief of the Army Staff Defence



#### Context

- General Dhiraj Seth took charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff from General Upendra Dwivedi, who superannuated after more than four decades of distinguished service to the nation.

#### Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)

- COAS is the professional head and **highest ranking serving officer of the Indian Army.**
- COAS is responsible for the command, training, administration, discipline and operational readiness of the Indian Army.
- But under Article 53(2) of the Constitution, the President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.
- The COAS is appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for a tenure of three years or up to the age of 62 .
- The COAS works within the civilian-led defence structure headed by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and the Ministry of Defence.

### Transcaspian marinka (Schizothorax pelzami) Syllabus: GS3/Species in News



#### News

- A clan in Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng district has started a conservation campaign to protect the ray-finned fish Schizothorax pelzami (Transcaspian marinka).

#### Transcaspian marinka (Schizothorax pelzami)

- Habitat type:** Freshwater, benthopelagic (bottom-dwelling in rivers).
- Distribution:** It is found in rivers of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and northeastern Iran, thriving in temperate benthopelagic environments.
- IUCN Red List Status :** It has been assessed as **Least Concern** due to its large range and the lack of widespread threats in this area.
- Latest Conservation in India :** The Sangno clan of Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng district has started a community-based conservation initiative with **52 fingerlings of the Transcaspian marinka (Schizothorax pelzami)**, locally called Ngarsing, released into a mahseer-free stretch of the Richaso stream.

### Forest Owlet (Heteroglaux blewitti)



#### News -

- Forest Owlet is an endemic owl species rediscovered in 1997 after being presumed extinct for over 100 years.

### Forest Owllet

- **Appearance:** It is a small owl with an unspotted crown, **white throat collar, and heavily banded wings and tail.**
- **Behaviour:** Unlike most owls, it is diurnal and shows rapid **side-to-side tail flicking while hunting.**
- **Habitat Preference:** The species inhabits **dry deciduous forests** dominated by teak with an open canopy and dense undergrowth.
- **Distribution:** The owl is restricted to central India with fragmented populations in **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.**
- **Ecological Role:** As an **understory predator**, it regulates populations of small mammals, reptiles, and large insects.
- **Key Threats:** Habitat degradation from illegal logging, forest fires, and agricultural expansion.
- **Conservation Status:** **IUCN: Endangered; CITES: Appendix I; WPA: Schedule I**

### 16th India-Japan Annual Summit



### Context (PIB):

- Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi visited India to attend the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi.

### India-Japan Bilateral Relations

- India and Japan elevated their bilateral ties to a **“Special Strategic and Global Partnership”** in 2014,

- **FDI Source:** Japan is the **5th-largest FDI source for India**, accounting for 6% of total FDI between 2000 and 2026.
- **Defence Relations:** Bilateral defence cooperation is based on the **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**
- **Joint Exercise:** **JIMEX (Navy), Dharma Guardian (Army), Veer Guardian (Air Force), Malabar (multilateral naval exercise between US-India-Japan-Australia).**
- **Space Collaboration:** **ISRO and JAXA** are collaborating on the **Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission** to investigate lunar water ice at the Moon’s south pole.
- **Nuclear Treaty:** The **2016 civil nuclear agreement** made Japan the **first country to extend nuclear cooperation to a non-NPT state**, with a clause permitting termination upon an Indian nuclear test.
- **Strategic Convergence:** **Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)**, counter maritime aggression through the **Quad**, and build resilient supply chains through the **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).**

### Borjuli Wetland



### News -

- The Borjuli wetland in Assam, known for harbouring a wild rice species called **Oryza rufipogon**, has been notified as a **Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).**
- **Oryza rufipogon**, is the progenitor of present-day cultivated rice, **Oryza sativa.**

- It is resistant to pests and diseases and can tolerate flooding and saline conditions, making it a valuable genetic resource for developing climate-resilient crop varieties.

### Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)

- These are well-defined areas that are **unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems (terrestrial, coastal, inland water, or marine)** characterized by one or more of the following:
  1. Species richness
  2. High endemism
  3. Presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, and species of evolutionary significance
  4. Presence of wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species
  5. Past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds
  6. Areas with significant cultural, ethical, aesthetic values important for maintenance of cultural diversity
- **Legal Status:** They are notified under **Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.**
- **Notifying Authority:** **State Government in consultation with local bodies** after recommendations from the State Biodiversity Board.
- **As per the National Biodiversity Authority, India has 54 Biodiversity Heritage Sites as of March 2026.**

### Neurocysticercosis



News -

- A UK woman's discovery of 38 parasite cysts in her brain following a tapeworm infection has renewed global attention on neurocysticercosis.

### Neurocysticercosis

- It is a **parasitic infection of the brain** caused by the **larval stage of the pork tapeworm (Taenia solium)** and is a leading **cause of acquired epilepsy in endemic regions.**
- **Transmission & Symptoms:** Infection occurs by **ingesting tapeworm eggs through contaminated food, water, or poor hygiene.**
- **Larvae form cysts in the brain,** which may remain asymptomatic for years before triggering **seizures and other neurological symptoms due to inflammation.**
- **Treatment:** Management is individualised, involving **antiparasitic drugs, anti-seizure medications, anti-inflammatory therapy, or surgery,** depending on the number, location, and stage of the cysts.

**ದ್ವಿಭಾಷೆ**  
(ಕನ್ನಡ & English)


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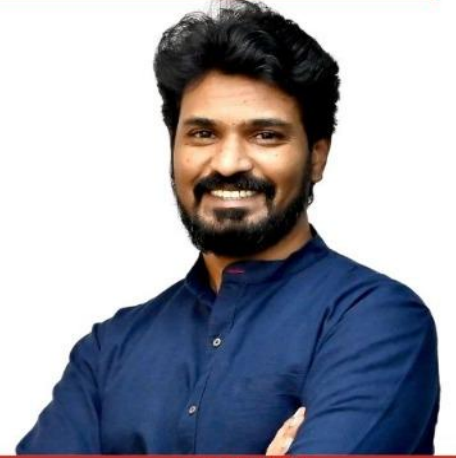
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