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A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative

**KAS, FDA/SDA/PDO/ GROUP C,
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ಕನ್ನಡ & English

By- Nandan Sir

July 2nd Week 2026

- India-Australia Relations
- Super Typhoon Bavi
- Global Passport Index 2026
- Astra Mk 1 Missiles
- Uttarakhand Declared "Fully Literate" State
- Global Status Report on Cancer 2026
- Prambanan Temple complex
- Israel-Palestine Two-State Solution
- Guwahati Declaration
- Indira Point
- Indiahandmade
- Vikram-1
- INS Mahendragiri
- India-Indonesia Relations
- Natural History Museum (NHM) at Mizoram : 21st Designated Repository
- Kamarajar Port
- Akash Tarang
- Green Hydrogen
- Gulf of Aden
- Civil Registration System (CRS) Report 2024
- SHE-LEAPS
- Yamuna Water Project
- 11 Year of Digital India Programme
- Matcha Tea
- MANAS Initiative

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JULY 2nd WEEK 2006

India-Australia Relations International



News -

- The Indian Prime Minister participated in the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne.

Outcomes

- **India-Australia Civil Nuclear Agreement:** Operationalises Civil Nuclear Agreement signed in 2014, enabling supply of uranium from Australia for peaceful purposes under IAEA safeguards.
- **Australia-India Partnership for Cyber, Critical Technologies, Supply Chains (PACTS):** Builds on 2020 Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation.

India-Australia Relations

- **Strategic:** Upgraded bilateral relationship from 'Strategic Partnership' in 2009 to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2020.
- **Civil Nuclear Cooperation:** Australian Parliament passed Civil Nuclear Transfer to India Bill 2016 allowing Uranium mining

companies to supply Australian uranium to India for civil use.

- **Economic Cooperation:** India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) was signed in 2022, Negotiations are underway for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).
- **Bilateral Trade:** Stood at USD 24.1 billion in 2024-25.
- **Exports From India:** India is Australia's fifth largest trading partner; 4th largest source of refined petroleum.
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** Quad partnership; cooperation under Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), etc.
- **Military Exercises:** AUSINDEX, AUSTRALIND, MALABAR exercises, etc.

Additional Information - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- It was established in 1957 as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organisation within the UN.
- It serves as the UN's nuclear watchdog, promoting peaceful atomic energy use while verifying safeguards against proliferation.
- Headquartered in Vienna, the body got the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize for non-proliferation efforts.
- The IAEA has 178 member states, India being one of the founding members of it.

Super Typhoon Bavi Geography

News-

- Super Typhoon Bavi affected the U.S. territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana

Islands, as well as Ryukyu Islands of Japan and China, in the western North Pacific Ocean.

Typhoon Bavi

- It was the **3rd tropical cyclone in 2026**
- **Origin:** Western North Pacific Ocean.
- Typhoon Bavi is **named by Vietnam**.
- **Intensity:** Peak sustained winds of **290 km/h (Category 5)**
- **Impact Areas:** Guam, Rota, Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, and Southeastern China
Climate Driver: Fueled by a strong El Niño phase causing warmer ocean waters.

Tropical Cyclones (Connect with the basics - Cyclone)

- They are **violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas** bringing about large-scale destruction caused by violent winds, very heavy rainfall and storm surges.
- **Wind Direction** - The winds blow **counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere**.
- **Different Names** - Tropical Cyclones are known by different names in different regions
 - **Cyclones in the Indian Ocean**
 - **Hurricanes in Atlantic**
 - **Typhoons in the Western Pacific & South China Sea**
 - **Willy-Willies in Western Australia**.
- **Conditions** - The conditions favorable for the formation and intensification of tropical cyclones are:
 - Large sea surface with a temperature higher than 27°C.
 - Presence of Coriolis force.
 - Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
 - A pre-existing weak-low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
 - Upper divergence above the sea level system.

Global Passport Index 2026 International

News-

- The sixth annual **Global Passport Index** released by Global Citizen Solutions (GCS).

Objective-

- It assesses passports of **197 countries** across three weighted pillars – **Enhanced Mobility (50%), Investment (25%), and Quality of Living (25%)**, using 14 different indicators.

Key Findings

- Nine of the world's top 10 strongest passports belong to European countries. **Sweden ranks first, followed by Switzerland and Finland.**
- **India ranks 125th, slipping one place from 124th in the previous edition.**
- Indian passport holders currently **enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 26 destinations.**

Astra Mk 1 Missiles Science & Technology



News-

- **India and Indonesia signed a deal for the export of Astra Mk 1, marking India's first-ever export of the Astra missile family.**

Astra Mk 1

- **Developed by** - Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**)
- **Type** - It is a family of **indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missiles**

(BVRAAMs) that will be integrated with the Air Force and the Navy.

- Range - 20 nautical miles, or 37 km.

Astra Variants:

- **Astra Mk 1:** It has a range of 80 to 110 km, an altitude capability of up to 20 km, and a speed of Mach 4.5. It is integrated with the Su-30 MKI and planned for the Tejas Mk 1A and Rafale jets.
- **Astra Mk 2:** Advanced variant with enhanced range of 200 km.
- **Astra Mk 3 (Gandiva):** India's most advanced BVRAAM, potential range exceeding 350 km.

Uttarakhand Declared "Fully Literate" State

News -

- Uttarakhand became India's sixth fully literate state under the ULLAS initiative, crossing a literacy rate of 98%.

About -

- Ladakh (2024) was the first UT to achieve full functional literacy.
- Mizoram (2025) was the first fully literate state, followed by Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim.
- A state or UT is declared fully literate on reaching at least 95% literacy among those aged 15 and above.

ULLAS

- **Full form** - Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society
- **Financing** - It is a centrally sponsored scheme
- **Launched by** - Ministry of Education (2022–2027)
- **Objective** - to educate adults aged 15+ who missed formal schooling.
- It aligns with NEP 2020 and is based on the spirit of Kartavya Bodh (sense of duty) and

Jan Jan Saakshar Bharat (Every Citizen Literate).

- **Key pillars:** Foundational literacy, life skills, education, vocational skills, and continuing learning.

Global Status Report on Cancer 2026

News-

- WHO and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) jointly released the **Global Status Report on Cancer 2026**, alongside the first-ever global survey of people affected by cancer.

Key Findings of the Report

- Cancer ranks as the second-leading cause of death globally after cardiovascular disease, claiming over 26,000 lives daily, with 20.6 million new cases and ~10 million deaths recorded in 2024.
- Lung cancer remains the most commonly diagnosed and deadliest global malignancy, followed by breast and colorectal cancers.

Prambanan Temple complex History and Culture



Context

- PM Modi visited the majestic Prambanan Temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia,

Prambanan Temple Complex

- **Timeline:** Built **9th century CE** (c. 856 CE) during the **Sanjaya Dynasty (Mataram Kingdom)**.
- **Patronage:** Commissioned by **King Rakai Pikatan**.
- **Motive:** **Hindu response to Buddhist Borobudur**, marking a Shaivite revival in Central Java.
- **Decline:** **Abandoned in 10th century** due to power shifts and Mount Merapi eruptions.

Israel-Palestine Two-State Solution

News -

- During his visit to Indonesia, **PM Modi reaffirmed India's support for a negotiated two-state solution**, envisaging a sovereign, independent Palestine coexisting peacefully with Israel.

Two-State Solution

- Two-state solution is a proposed diplomatic framework to establish two independent, sovereign states: **Israel for the Jewish people and Palestine for the Palestinian people**.
- **Proposed Territory:** **The Palestinian state would encompass the West Bank and the Gaza Strip**, based on the 1949 Armistice Lines (Green Line), with mutually agreed land swaps.
- **East Jerusalem, site of the Temple Mount (holiest in Judaism) and Haram al-Sharif (third holiest in Islam), is claimed by Palestine as its future capital.**
- **Palestinian Demands:** **Fully independent state on the 1967 borders**, with **East Jerusalem as its sovereign capital** and the **Right of Return for refugees displaced in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War**.
- **Israeli Demands:** **Demilitarisation of any Palestinian state**, **Jerusalem as its undivided and permanent capital**, **rejection of the Right of Return**, and **land swaps to annex major settlement blocs in the West Bank**.

Historical Background

- **UN Partition Plan (1947):** Recommended dividing British-mandated Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states, but the Arab side rejected the proposal.
- **UNSC Resolution 242 (1967):** Established the land-for-peace principle, calling for Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied during the Six-Day War.
- **Oslo Accords (1993):** Established the Palestinian Authority as an interim self-governing body in the West Bank and Gaza, but left final-status issues unresolved.
- **Arab Peace Initiative (2002):** Offered Israel full normalisation with Arab states in exchange for a complete withdrawal from occupied territories and an independent Palestinian state.

International Standing

- **Oslo II Accord (1995):** West Bank is divided into three zones: Area A (18%, under Palestinian control), Area B (22%, under shared control), and Area C (60%, under Israeli control).
- **UNSC Resolutions:** Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are declared illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention by UNSC Resolutions 446 and 465.

Guwahati Declaration

News -

- The **BRICS nations adopted the Guwahati Declaration**, at the conclusion of the **BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies meeting held in Guwahati, Assam**.
- The meeting was **hosted by India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship**, guided by the theme, **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**.

Key Highlights of Declaration

- It reaffirms the commitment of BRICS nations **to strengthen cooperation in preventing and**

combating illicit drug trafficking and related transnational organised crime.

- It calls for timely exchange of information, intelligence, and best practices among member countries, consistent with national laws and international obligations.
- **Technology:** It emphasises the use of innovative technologies, digital tools, AI, and data-driven approaches to **strengthen law enforcement and regulatory mechanisms against drug trafficking.**

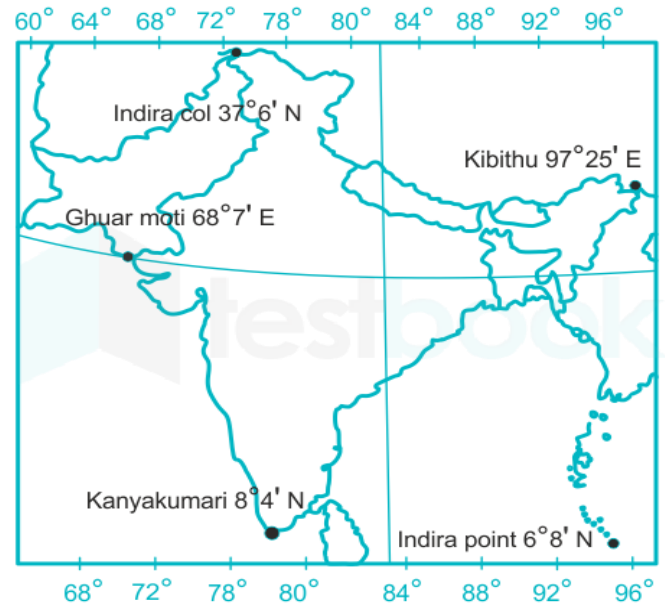
Additional Information - Efforts by India to combat drug menace

- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985:** Central law criminalizing drug trafficking while mandating treatment for addicts.
- **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) & Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTF) :** The Narcotics Control Bureau coordinates national enforcement, aided by state-level Anti-Narcotics Task Forces.
- **Narco-Coordination Centre** - A four-tier coordination system unifying central and state intelligence agencies.

Supply & Intelligence Control

- **Geopolitical Challenge:** Securing borders against the **Golden Crescent (West)** and **Golden Triangle (East).**
- **Seizure Information Management System (SIMS) and the NIDAAN platform:** Integrated digital portals used for **real-time tracking of drug seizures and offenders.**
- **Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan:** A massive, community-led awareness campaign targeting youth in high-risk districts.

Indira Point Geography



Context

- The Environment Ministry is seeking approval for protection and development work at Indira Point.

Indira Point

- Indira Point is **India's southernmost point of territory**, located on **Great Nicobar Island (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).**
- **Formerly called Pygmalion Point**, it was renamed in 1985.
- It is strategically situated **near the Six Degree Channel and Indonesia.**
- It is crucial for maritime security but experienced severe land subsidence during the 2004 Tsunami.

Geographic & Strategic

- **Location:** Lies in the Nicobar district at **6°45' N latitude and 93°49' E longitude.**
- **Proximity:** It is located only about **145-163 km from Indonesia's Rondo Island (Sumatra).**
- **Mainland vs. Territory:** It is the southernmost point of the Indian Union.
- In contrast, **Kanyakumari is the southernmost point of the Indian mainland.**
- **Ecological Importance:** Situated south of Galathea Bay, the region is a globally recognized nesting site for Leatherback Sea

Turtles and houses the endemic Nicobar megapode.



Additional Information - 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.

Indiahandmade Polity



Context

- **Indiahandmade** is a dedicated digital marketplace that brings India's handloom and handicraft traditions into the online economy.

Indiahandmade

- It was launched in 2023
- **Objective** - to strengthen the visibility of handmade products and open wider market opportunities for sellers.
- **Developed By:** Digital India Corporation under the Ministry of Textiles.

Salient Features:

- **Specialised Online Marketplace:** It enables weavers and artisans to sell their handloom and handicraft products online.
- **Direct Buyer Access:** Artisans and weavers are directly connected with buyers, helping reduce intermediaries and support fair compensation.
- It also highlights special product categories such as GI-tagged and ODOP products.

Vikram-1

Science and Technology



Context

- Skyroot Aerospace has announced that Vikram-1, will carry six payloads during Mission Aagaman.

Vikram-1

- Vikram-1 is a four-stage orbital launch vehicle developed by Skyroot Aerospace, an Indian space-tech start-up.
- It is India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket.
- Vikram-I can deploy up to 350 kg into low Earth orbit (LEO) and 260 kg into a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO).
- Mission Aagaman is the first orbital test flight of the Vikram-1 rocket, making it India's first private orbital launch.
- Developed by Skyroot Aerospace, it is scheduled to launch from Sriharikota between July 12 and August 4, 2026.

INS Mahendragiri

Defence



Context

- The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Mahendragiri (F38), the sixth indigenous stealth frigate under Project 17A, at Visakhapatnam.

About

- It is named after the majestic Mahendragiri mountain range in the Eastern Ghats.
- The stealth frigate was designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.

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

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

List of Seven Frigates

1. INS Nilgiri
2. INS Himgiri
3. INS Udaygiri
4. INS Taragiri
5. INS Dunagiri
6. INS Vindhyagiri
7. INS Mahendragiri

India-Indonesia Relations

News -

- The Prime Minister of India undertook a State Visit to Indonesia from 6-8 July 2026.

Outcomes of the visit

- **Defence:** Elevation of defence cooperation through cooperation on **BrahMos Missile System, and Astra Air-to-Air Missile.**
- **Culture:** Inauguration of India-supported project towards **restoration and conservation of UNESCO World Heritage Prambanan Temple Compounds** by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- **Prambanan Temple Compounds**, located in **Yogyakarta on Indonesia's Java Island, is the country's largest Hindu temple complex** dating 9th century AD, dedicated to Hindu Trinity – Lord Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma.
- Commemorate **2026–2027 as “Tagore–Dewantara Year of India–Indonesia Cultural and Educational Diplomacy”** marking centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Indonesia in 1927.
- Setting up of **Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore branch campus at Singhasari SEZ, Indonesia**

India-Indonesia Relations

- **Background:** 2024 marked 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations. Signed Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018.
- **Bilateral Trade:** Indonesia is the second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region.
- **Defence:** Participate in several exercises like
 1. **IND-INDO CORPAT,**
 2. **Multilateral Naval Exercises - Komodo and Milan,**
 3. **Bilateral Army Exercise - Garuda Shakti,**
 4. **Bilateral Naval Exercise - Samudra Shakti, Ex Elang Shakti, Ex Super Garuda Shield 2025, etc.**

Natural History Museum (NHM) at Mizoram : 21st Designated Repository

News -

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** notified the **Natural History Museum (NHM) at**

Mizoram University, Aizawl, as India's 21st Designated Repository.

Natural History Museum (NHM)

- It is located in the **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.**
- It specialises in lesser-studied **taxa (like pteridophytes and macrofungi), and documents rare endemic species** from Northeast India.

Designated Repository

- It is notified under **Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002,**
- It is a scientific institution authorised to **receive, preserve, and maintain biological specimens in safe custody.**
- **MoEFCC** notifies these repositories in consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

Kamarajar Port Economy

News -

- **Kamarajar Port** became the second Major Port of India, after Visakhapatnam Port, to offer a draft capability of 18 metres.

Kamarajar Port

- It is a deep-water port with cargo carrying capacity of up to 1,70,000 deadweight tonnage (DWT).
- **Formerly Known as Ennore Port**
- **Major Ports:** There are 14 major ports (12 Operational) under administrative control of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.**

Additional Information - India has 14 major ports, out of which 12 are fully operational.

Western Coast (6 Operational Ports)

1. Deendayal Port (Kandla) Gujarat
2. Mumbai Port, Maharashtra

3. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA/Nhava Sheva), Maharashtra
4. Mormugao Port, Goa
5. New Mangalore Port, Karnataka
6. Cochin Port, Kerala

Eastern Coast (6 Operational Ports)

1. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata/Haldia), West Bengal
2. Paradip Port, Odisha
3. Visakhapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh
4. Kamarajar Port (Ennore), Tamil Nadu
5. Chennai Port, Tamil Nadu
6. V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin), Tamil Nadu

Non-Operational / Under-Development (2 Ports)

1. **Vadhvan Port:** An upcoming mega satellite port located in Palghar, Maharashtra.
2. **Galathea Bay Port:** An international transshipment port being developed at Great Nicobar Island.

Akash Tarang

Science & Technology



Context

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the procurement of **Akash Tarang**

Akash Tarang

- It is an **indigenous Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Electronic Warfare System**, designed to provide effective protection against hostile drones.
- Akash Tarang neutralises drones by targeting their radio frequencies.
- The platform works by detecting, tracking, and jamming the essential control signals of invading drones.
- Akash Tarang functions as a **key digital pillar in India's broader "Sudarshan Chakra"**.

Additional Information - Mission Sudarshan Chakra.

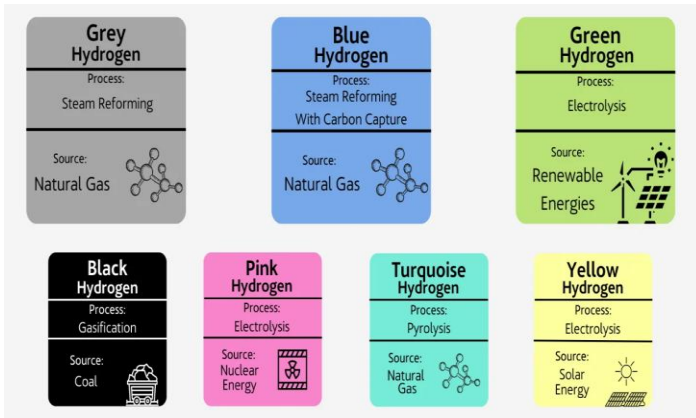
- During Operation Sindoor, India faced drone and missile threats from Pakistan.
- To strengthen national security, the **Sudarshan Chakra missile shield—planned for 2035 under Make in India**.
- **Mandate** - It aims to integrate advanced defensive systems like Iron Dome, Iron Beam, Arrow, David's Sling, along with existing S-400, Barak, and Akash systems, covering India's borders and coastline.
- **Iron Dome & Iron Beam:** Developed by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- **David's Sling:** Jointly developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and U.S.-based RTX Corporation (formerly Raytheon). Arrow (Arrow 2 & Arrow 3): Co-developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and U.S. aerospace giant Boeing.

Sudarshan Chakra

- It is a **multi-layered, home-grown air defence initiative**.
- It is named after Lord Krishna's divine disc, designed to protect key sites from missiles, rockets, drones, and swarms.
- It combines long-range systems like S-400 and Project Kusha, medium-range MRSAM/Barak-8, short-range Iron Dome, and future laser-based weapons like Iron Beam and DURGA-II

for cost-effective drone and low-altitude threat interception.

Green Hydrogen Environment



Context -

- India secured long-term export agreements for **green ammonia and green methanol with Japanese companies**, marking a milestone in its **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)**.

Green ammonia

- It is **produced using green hydrogen**, and is emerging as a **leading clean fuel for fertilizers, energy, and marine applications**.

Benefits of Green Ammonia

- Decarbonization of Fertilizers:** India's fertilizer sector, heavily dependent on imported ammonia, can significantly cut emissions by adopting green ammonia.

Additional Information - Green Hydrogen

- Green Hydrogen:** It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.
- Benefit:** It is a clean burning element that can decarbonise a range of sectors including iron and steel, chemicals, and transportation.
- Hydrogen can be stored for long periods of time which can be used to produce electricity using fuel cells.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- Aim:** To make India a **global hub for the production of green hydrogen**.
- Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE)

Hydrogen

- Symbol and Atomic number** - Hydrogen is the chemical element with the symbol **H** and atomic number **1**.
- Hydrogen is the **lightest element and the most abundant chemical substance in the universe**, constituting roughly **75%** of all normal matter.
- It is **colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, and highly combustible gas**.

Gulf of Aden International



News -

- INS Trikand thwarted a piracy attempt against the India-bound merchant vessel MV Golden Arsenal in the Gulf of Aden.**

INS Trikand

- It is a Talwar-class **stealth guided-missile frigate built in Russia** for the Indian Navy.

Gulf of Aden

- Location** - It is a **deep-water gulf between Yemen (north) and Somalia (south in the Horn of Africa)**.

- **Connectivity** - It connects the **Red Sea to the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean via the Bab el-Mandeb Strait (Gate of Tears).**
- **Key Ports:** Aden in Yemen, Djibouti City in Djibouti, and Berbera in Somalia.
- The gulf accounts for about **11% of global maritime trade and over \$110 billion of India's trade.**
- **Concerns** - The region faces **piracy from Somalia's instability** and missile threats from **Yemen's geopolitical conflict.**

Civil Registration System (CRS) Report 2024 **Polity**

News -

- The Office of the Registrar General of India released the **Civil Registration System Report 2024.**

Key Highlights of CRS 2024

- **Near Universal Registration Achieved:** Birth and death registrations in India crossed **99% of estimated births and deaths for the first time** in 2024.
- **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):** India's national sex ratio at birth stands at **917 females per 1,000 males.** SRB measures the number of girl children born for every 1,000 boys.
- **State Level Disparities: Top performers** include Kerala (970), Arunachal Pradesh (1,050), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (984), Meghalaya (974), and Mizoram (972). **Lowest performers include** Nagaland and Lakshadweep (865 each) and Jharkhand (890) recorded the weakest figures.
- **Stillbirths:** 81,117 stillbirths were recorded in 2024, with 69% occurring in urban areas. A stillbirth is the **death of a fetus at or after 20 to 28 weeks of pregnancy.** Most occur in the womb before labor

Additional Information - Civil Registration System (CRS)

- It is popularly known as **birth and death registration system**, is the recording of vital events i.e. **Birth, Death & Still Birth.**
- Mandated under the **Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969** (amended in 2023). It serves as vital statistics for government policymaking.
- **Functions under - Ministry of Home Affairs.** It is the central authority responsible for coordinating and unifying registration activities across states and UTs.
- **CRS falls under the Concurrent list of the Constitution of India.**

SHE-LEAPS **Government Scheme**

News -

- The **SHE-LEAPS platform** was launched at Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan held in New Delhi.

SHE-LEAPS

- **Full form** - Self-Help Entrepreneur-Livelihoods and Enterprise Application for Prosperity and Sustainability
- It is a **digital platform for empowering women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across rural India.**

Objectives:

1. Empowering rural SHG women entrepreneurs nationwide.
2. Creating and strengthening women-led enterprises in rural areas.
3. Integrating rural producers with formal value chains.
4. Enhancing the financial inclusion of SHG households.
5. Enabling data-driven rural entrepreneurship.

Yamuna Water Project

Environment

News-

- **Governments of Rajasthan and Haryana signed a Memorandum of Agreement to implement the Yamuna Water Project**, operationalising a three-decade-old interstate water-sharing framework.

Yamuna Water Project

- **Agreement:** Signed in June 2026 between Haryana and Rajasthan.
- **Objective:** Realizes the 1994 Upper Yamuna Pact to give Rajasthan its allocated water share.
- **Cost & Volume:** ₹34,102 crore to transfer 580 MCM of surplus water annually.
- **Timeline:** Water will be drawn strictly during the monsoon season (July–October).
- **Source:** Hathnikund Barrage (Haryana) on the Yamuna River.
- **Destination:** Hansiyawas Reservoir in Churu district (Rajasthan).
- **Beneficiaries:** Churu, Sikar, and Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan); Bhiwani and Fatehabad (Haryana).
- **Mechanism:** A 295.5 km underground pipeline (not open canals) to prevent evaporation and leakage losses.

Additional Information - Yamuna River

- **Origin:** Yamunotri Glacier (Bandarpunch Peak, Uttarakhand, ~6,387m).
- **Length:** 1,376 km.
- **Confluence:** Merges with Ganga at Triveni Sangam, Prayagraj (UP).
- **Basin States:** Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh.

Major Tributaries (West to East Order)

Left Bank (Himalayan):

1. Tons (Largest by volume; merges at Kalsi).
2. Hindon (Entirely rain-fed; passes NCR).

Right Bank (Peninsular):

1. Chambal (Largest right-bank; famous for Badland Topography/Ravines).
2. Sindh (Originates in Malwa Plateau).
3. Betwa (Vindhyan range origin; Ken-Betwa Interlinking Project is crucial).
4. Ken (Passes through Panna Tiger Reserve area).

Key Riparian Areas

- **Cities:** Delhi, Noida, Mathura, Agra, Etawah, Prayagraj.
- **Protected Areas:** Kalesar National Park (Haryana), Okhla Bird Sanctuary (Delhi-UP).

11 Year of Digital India Programme

Polity



Context

- **The Digital India Programme completes 11 years as on 1 July 2026.**

Digital India Programme,

- **Launched on** - 1 July 2015
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Objective** - It is a flagship scheme aimed at transforming the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Flagship Initiatives under Digital India

- **JAM Trinity:** The Foundation of Digital India has revolutionised financial inclusion and

welfare delivery in India. It brought **millions into the formal banking system** and enabled seamless access to government services.

- **DigiLocker:** DigiLocker is **replacing physical documents with a secure digital wallet**, and transforming document storage and verification across India.
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI):** Completing ten years in 2026, UPI is **transforming digital payments** through instant and secure transactions for citizens and businesses.
- **eSanjeevani:** The telemedicine platform is **connecting patients with doctors remotely**, especially in rural and underserved regions.
- **Tele MANAS** provides free **tele-counselling and mental health support** nationwide.
- **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** has transformed **public procurement by making it transparent, efficient and paperless.**
- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** is creating an open and interoperable **digital commerce ecosystem** that connects buyers and sellers across platforms.
- **AgriStack** - It is a farmer-centric DPI powering services such as **e-NAM for online agricultural trading and Kisan e-Mitra**, an **AI-powered chatbot** providing instant farming information and government scheme support.
- **DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)** is transforming school education through **curriculum-linked digital learning resources** and teacher training.
- **SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds)** and **SWAYAM Prabha** are expanding access to quality education beyond classrooms.
- **PMGDISHA** bridged the rural digital divide **by training citizens in smartphone usage, internet access, digital payments** and online services.
- **FutureSkills Prime** is preparing learners for emerging technologies such as **AI, cloud**

computing, cybersecurity and data analytics.

- **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** is a unified platform for **skilling, certification and employment services.**
- **IndiaAI Mission** is strengthening AI education, infrastructure and **responsible AI adoption.**

Matcha Tea Economy



Context

- **Assam has become the first state in India to commercially produce Matcha tea**, with production commencing at the Chota Tingrai Tea Estate in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district.

Matcha

- Matcha is made after shading **Camellia sinensis tea leaves** for three to four weeks before harvest.
- Blocking 90% of sunlight from the leaves boosts their chlorophyll and amino acid levels, and gives its **characteristic bright green colour and rich umami flavour.**
- Matcha **originated through cultural exchanges between China and Japan** during the premodern period.
- **China is the largest producer of matcha tea.**

Additional Information - Indian Tea Industry

- India is the **2nd largest tea producer and largest black tea producer.**

- **Export destinations** - Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia etc. India is the **4th largest tea exporter in the World**.
- **Employment** - The Indian tea Industry is employing **1.16 million workers directly**.
- **Note** - Assam grows about **55% of the teas** produced in India. India's tea production has increased by 39% in 2022 from 2008.
- **Prominent tea regions**: Assam (Assam Valley, Cachar) and West Bengal (Dooars, Terai, Darjeeling).
- **Global reputation**: Indian teas, especially Assam, Darjeeling, and Nilgiri, are renowned for their quality.

Geographical Condition for Tea production

- The tea plant grows well in **tropical and subtropical climates**.
- **Soil**: It requires deep and **fertile well-drained soil, rich in humus and organic matter**.
- **Temperature**: The average annual temperature for tea plants to grow well is in the range of **15-23°C**.
- **Precipitation**: The rainfall needed is between **150-200 cm**.
- Frequent showers evenly distributed over the year ensure continuous growth of tender leaves.
- **Major tea producing states** are Assam, hills of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- Apart from these, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura are also tea-producing states in the country.

Asia Tea Alliance

- **Member countries** - It is a coalition of tea associations from major tea-producing countries in Asia like **India, China, Sri Lanka, Japan etc**.
- **Objective** - It aims to promote the collective interests of member nations within the global tea market.

Tea Board of India

- It was set up as a **statutory body in 1954 under the Tea Act, 1953**.
- It was established for the **purposes of regulating the Indian tea industry and protecting the interests of tea producers in India**.
- **Headquarters-Kolkata**.

MANAS Initiative Government Schemes

Context

- The National Narcotics Helpline MANAS is strengthening India's fight against drug abuse.

MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asoochna Kendra)

- It was **launched in 2024** under the **aegis of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**, Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with the Digital India Corporation (DIC).
- It enables citizens to **report drug-related activities, seek counselling, and access rehabilitation support at any time**.
- The platform is accessible through the **national helpline number 1933, the official portal, email and the UMANG app**.
- MANAS brings together the vision of Digital India and the **mission of a Nasha Mukh Bharat**.


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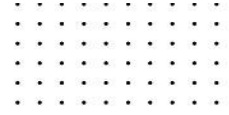
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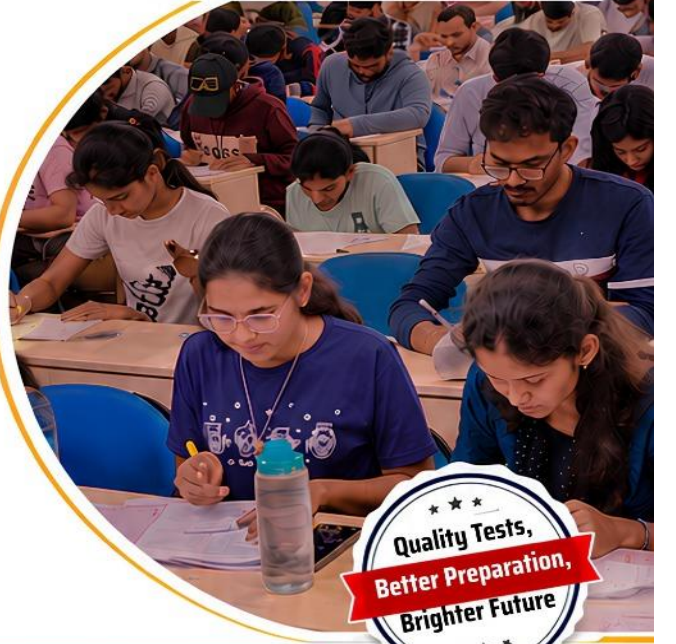
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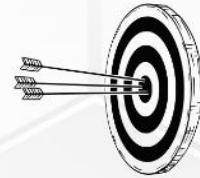
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