



# INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ

**A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative**

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

**ಕನ್ನಡ & English**

**By- Nandan Sir**

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> Week 2026**

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## **INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ** **WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS** **AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> WEEK 2026**

### **Bay of Bengal as India's SHANTI Anchor** **International**

#### News -

- The External Affairs Minister introduced the **SHANTI** framework to establish a rules-based maritime order in the Bay of Bengal (BOB) and across the Indo-Pacific.

#### SHANTI Framework

- **Full form** - Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust, and Integrity
- **Objective** - It is India's normative regional maritime security approach based on shared responsibility rather than a rigid military alliance.
- **Significance** - The strategy aims to build long-term resilience against transnational challenges, including illegal fishing, cyber threats, and marine pollution.
- The framework strengthens India's position as a trusted security partner and first responder across the wider Indo-Pacific.

### **Additional Information - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)**

- It is an Interregional organisation connecting South Asia and SouthEast Asia.
- **Establishment** - It was established through the **Bangkok Declaration in 1997**.
- **Objective** - To create an enabling environment for rapid economic development; accelerate social progress and promote collaboration on matters of common interest in the region.
- **Headquarters** - Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- **Member countries** - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka (Five are from South Asia) Myanmar and Thailand (Two are from Southeast Asia).

### **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026** **Environment**

#### News -

- The **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026** was released by Yale and Columbia Universities, reviving debate on environmental governance and assessment methodologies.

#### About -

- **Objective** - It assesses 177 countries through 47 indicators, weighted across Ecosystem Vitality (45%), Climate Change Mitigation (30%) and Environmental Health (25%).

#### Key Highlights of EPI 2026

- **Global Leaders:** Estonia topped the index with 74.79, followed by Luxembourg and the UK, while European countries dominated the leading positions.
- **India ranked 176th out of 177 countries**, scoring 22.46, ahead of only Laos globally and last in South Asia.

### **INS Nipun** **Defense**



#### News -

- **Nipun**, the second Diving Support Vessel (DSV) built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited,

was delivered to the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam.

- A Diving Support Vessel (DSV) is a specialized ship used as a floating base for professional underwater work, deep-sea saturation diving, and submarine rescue operations

#### About -

- It is the sister ship of INS Nistar with nearly 75% indigenous content, supporting Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

#### Features -

- **Role:** Deep-sea rescue, submarine salvage, and underwater security.
- **Key Asset:** Serves as a mother ship for Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles (DSRVs).
- **Specs:** 118.4 metres long, 9,350 tonnes displacement.
- **Capability:** Supports saturation diving up to 300 metres deep.

### **United to end AIDS Report** **Health & Society**

#### Context (DTE):

- The United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) released the report, **United to End AIDS**, at the 26th International AIDS Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

#### Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS (2026)

- It is a global roadmap adopted by UN Member States in 2026, during the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York.
- It aims to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 through the 95-95-95 targets, secure US\$21.9 billion annually by 2030, and protect human rights.

**Additional Information - Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)**

- **Pathogen** - It is a chronic, potentially life-threatening health condition caused by the **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** which damages the human immune system.
- **Transmission:** Through direct contact with certain body fluids (**blood, semen, rectal fluid, vaginal fluid or breast milk**) from a person infected with HIV.
- **Symptoms:**
  - Stage 1: Flu-like illness (Fever, chills, rashes, night sweats)
  - Stage 2: Clinical latency (No particular symptoms)
  - Stage 3: AIDS (Weakening of Immune System)
- **Prevention:** Prevention is better than cure, using protective techniques, non-contaminated needles & preventing mother to child transmission.
- **Treatment:** There is no cure for HIV infection. It is treated with antiretroviral drugs, which stop the virus from replicating in the body. Untreated HIV can progress to AIDS, often after many years.

#### Steps taken by Government of India

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



## Dengue Virus Health & Society

### News -

- Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) found **all four dengue virus serotypes (DENV- 1 to DENV-4)** are circulating in India

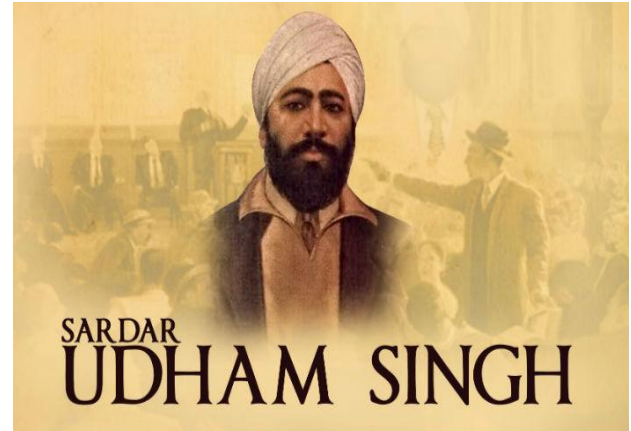
### Dengue

- 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)**.

## Shaheed Udham Singh History & Culture



### News -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Shaheed Udham Singh on his martyrdom day**, calling his life a symbol of courage and sacrifice that will inspire generations.

### Shaheed Udham Singh (1899-1940)

- He was an **Indian revolutionary who avenged the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre by assassinating Michael O'Dwyer**, former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab.
- Early Life:** Born **Sher Singh** in Sunam, Punjab, he was raised at the Central Khalsa Orphanage in Amritsar, where he was renamed **Udham Singh**.
- Traumatized by the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre**, he dedicated his life to a struggle against colonial rule.
- Revolutionary Ties:** He joined the **Ghadar Party** to mobilise overseas Indians. Influenced by **Bhagat Singh**, he returned to India in 1927 to work with the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**.
- Assassination:** Singh shot and killed **Michael O'Dwyer at Caxton Hall, London**, in March 1940, as a punishment for his support of the 1919 Amritsar massacre.
- Secular Identity:** In custody, he adopted the name **"Ram Mohammad Singh Azad,"** blending India's major religions with Azad (Freedom) to symbolise anti-colonial unity.

- **Martyrdom:** After a 42-day hunger strike in Brixton Prison, **he was hanged at Pentonville Prison on 31 July 1940.** His remains were repatriated to India in 1974.

### 10 Years of Government e-Marketplace Polity



#### Context

- The Government e Marketplace (GeM) completed ten years of operations on 9 August 2026.

#### Government e-Marketplace

- It is India's online public procurement portal launched in 2016 under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is a 100% government-owned, not-for-profit company.

#### Core Pillars

- **Inclusivity:** Onboards MSMEs, startups, and women artisans.
- **Efficiency:** Reduces time via paperless and cashless processes.
- **Transparency:** Uses open electronic bidding to eliminate corruption.

#### Key Features

- **Flexible Purchasing:** Supports direct buying, e-bidding, and reverse auctions.
- **Seamless Integration:** Verified via Aadhaar, PAN, GSTIN, and corporate banking.

#### Major Sub-Initiatives

- **SWAYATT:** Promotes startups, women, and youth-led businesses.
- **Womaniya:** Showcases handicrafts made by women Self-Help Groups.
- **Startup Runway:** Helps tech startups pitch products to state buyers.
- **SARAS Collection:** Markets utility goods produced by rural artisans.

### National Youth Parliament Scheme Web Portal Polity



#### Context

- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has launched an upgraded version of the National Youth Parliament Scheme web portal, known as NYPS 2.0.

#### National Youth Parliament Scheme (NYPS)

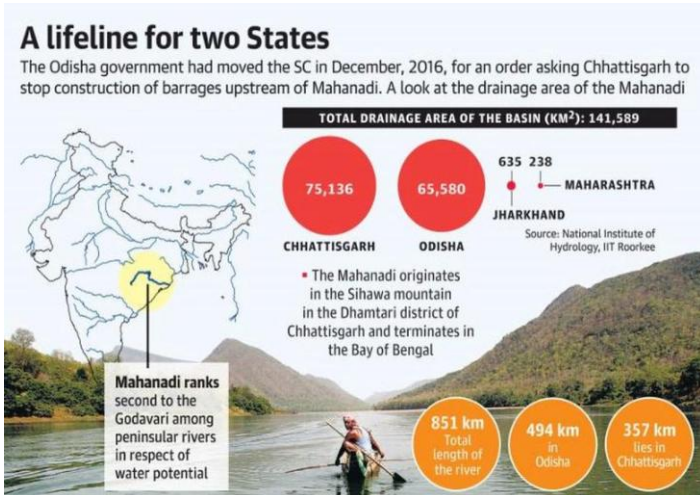
- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- **Objective-** It is aimed at promoting democratic values, parliamentary practices, and constitutional awareness among young people.
- **Uniqueness** - Unlike the previous version, which was limited to students of recognized institutions only, NYPS 2.0 is open to all educational institutions, groups and citizens across the country.

#### Web Portal:

- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs launched the web portal of the NYPS in 2019.

- **Aim:** To expand the outreach of the **Youth Parliament Programme** of the Ministry to all the recognized educational institutions of the country.

### **Mahanadi River Water Dispute Polity**



#### **News -**

- The long-standing **Mahanadi River water dispute** between Odisha and Chhattisgarh has once again come into focus.

#### **Constitutional and Legal Framework Inter-State River Waters**

- **Article 262:** Empowers Parliament to adjudicate disputes relating to inter-state river waters.
- **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956:** Provides for the establishment of water dispute tribunals.
- **River Boards Act, 1956:** Provides for river basin planning (though no River Board has been established under the Act).
- **Entry 17 (State List):** Water is primarily a state subject.
- **Entry 56 (Union List):** Parliament can regulate and develop inter-state rivers in the public interest.

#### **Other Inter-State River Water Disputes**

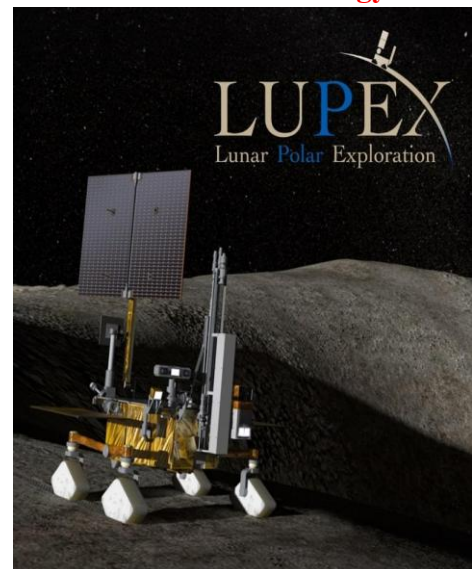
- **Cauvery:** Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry.

- **Krishna:** Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Godavari:** Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha.
- **Ravi-Beas:** Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan.
- **Mahadayi (Mandovi):** Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra.
- **Vamsadhara:** Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

#### **Additional information - Mahanadi River**

- **Origin:** Sihawa Hills, Dhamtari district, Chhattisgarh.
- **Length:** Approximately 851 km.
- **States Covered:** Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and a small part of Jharkhand.
- **Mouth:** Empties into the **Bay of Bengal** near Paradip, forming a fertile delta.
- **Major Tributaries:**
  1. **Left Bank:** Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand.
  2. **Right Bank:** Ong, Tel, Jonk, Ib.

### **Chandrayaan-5 Science & technology**



#### **News -**

- Scientists from ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) recently reviewed the progress of the Chandrayaan-5.
- Also known as **LUPEX** (Lunar Polar Exploration),

### About -

- It is a **joint project between ISRO and JAXA.**
- **Targeted for launch around 2028.**
- **Objective -** The mission focuses on **exploring the Moon's South Pole to study surface and subsurface water-ice deposits.**
- The mission will take off on a **Japanese rocket, H3**, and is planned to carry seven scientific instruments for carrying out different kinds of experiments.

### Additional information - 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.

### Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana Government Schemes



### News-

- The Union Government announced that **post-harvest losses in Karnataka's marine fisheries range between 6.21% and 10.13%.**

### Fisheries Sector of India

- **Producer -** India is the **3rd largest fish producing and 2nd largest aquaculture producing nation in the world.**
- **India is the 4th largest exporter of fish and fisheries.**



- In terms of employment, the sunrise sector supports the livelihood of over 30 Mn people in India.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**- to bring about the **Blue Revolution** through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.

#### Government Initiatives for the Growth of the Sector

- **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)**: Established in 2006, NFDB serves as the apex body for the planning and promotion of fisheries development in India.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**: Launched in 2020, PMMSY is a flagship scheme aimed at boosting fish production and doubling farmers' income.
- **Blue Revolution**: Launched in 2015, the Blue Revolution aims to promote sustainable development and management of the fisheries sector.

#### **Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan Polity**



#### News -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan to build a drug-free India through awareness and community engagement.

#### About -

- It is a 100-week youth campaign launched on August 2, 2026.

- **Mandate** - It aims to eradicate substance abuse to achieve Viksit Bharat @2047.
- **Ministry**: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- **Platform**: Conducted through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat).
- **Timeline**: 100 weeks (active every Sunday).
- **Origin**: Inspired by a pilot in Varanasi (Kashi Declaration).
- **Synergy**: Complements the Ministry of Social Justice's Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan.

#### Key Pillars

- **Mass Mobilisation**: Uses 1 crore+ youth, NSS units, and spiritual bodies.
- **Sunday Activities**: Promotes sports, yoga, and arts as positive alternatives.
- **Destigmatization**: Treats recovering addicts as "warriors" for social reintegration.

#### **Revamped Khelo India Scheme Government Schemes**



#### News -

- The Union Cabinet approved the revamped Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations with an increased budget of ₹36,441 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31.



### Core Changes

- **10x Athlete Pool:** Adds "Emerging Khelo India Athletes" (E-KIAs) to scale up talent enrollment
- **School Integration:** Creates Khelo India Feeder Schools and Utkrishta Vidyalayas for academics-sports balance.
- **Coaching Standards:** Establishes the National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB) to unify certifications.
- **Tech-Driven Tracking:** Deploys an AI-enabled digital platform for performance monitoring and scouting.

### Comparison

| Feature     | Original Scheme           | Revamped Scheme (2026–31)      |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Outlay      | ~₹4,500 crore             | ₹36,441 crore                  |
| Talent Pool | Localized cohorts         | 10x larger pool (E-KIAs)       |
| Coaching    | Fragmented regional rules | Unified NCAB standards         |
| Pathway     | Domestic focus            | Integrated Olympic/CWG pathway |

### India's First Caste Enumeration in Ladakh Polity

#### Context

- Ladakh will become the first place in independent India to enumerate caste as part of a regular Census in the Census 2027.

#### Census in India

- **Definition** - A census is a survey of the population of an area that includes collecting

details of a country's demographics including age, sex and occupation.

- **History:** Under W.C. Plowden, the Census Commissioner of India, first census was conducted in 1881.
- **Independent India's first census** was held in 1951 and since then it has happened in the first year of every decade.
- The Constitution mandates that enumeration is carried out but the Census of India Act of 1948 does not specify its timing or periodicity.
- Census is conducted by - Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### Rabindranath Tagore History & Culture

#### News -

- The Home Minister offered salutations to Rabindranath Tagore on his death anniversary.

#### Rabindranath Tagore

- He was the youngest son of Debendranath Tagore (leader of Brahmo Samaj)
- He was a Bengali poet, song composer, and painter.
- He was born in Calcutta on May 7, 1861 and died on August 7, 1941, Calcutta.
- **Awards:** Became the first non-European and first lyricist to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for his work Gitanjali (1912).
- He was awarded a knighthood in 1915, but he repudiated it in 1919 as a protest against the Amritsar (Jallianwala Bagh) Massacre.
- **Contribution to Education:** In 1901 Tagore founded an experimental school in rural West Bengal at Shantiniketan ("Abode of Peace"), where he sought to blend the best in the Indian and Western traditions.
- He settled permanently at the school, which became Visva-Bharati University in 1921.

- **Contribution in Freedom Movement:** He was a prominent leader particularly during partition of Bengal (1905), and two of his compositions became the national anthems of India (Jana Gana Mana) and Bangladesh (Amar Sonar Bangla).
- **Key Literary Works:** Sonar Tari (1894), Manasi (1890), Chitra (1914), The Post Office (1914), Nastanirh (1901), Chokher Bali (1903) Noukadubi (1906), Gora (1910), Ghare Baire (1916) and Shesher Kabita (1929).

### **Roselle (Hibiscus sabdariffa)** **Environment**

#### **News -**

- Roselle was highlighted on **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (August 9)** for its nutritional security and climate resilience.

#### **About**

- It is native to Africa and cultivated across tropical and subtropical Asia, Africa, and the Americas.
- In India, it's mainly grown by indigenous and tribal communities.
- **Commonly called Mesta or Chukur in India,** it is also known as **Bhenda Dal in Odisha's Malkangiri, Gongura in Telugu, and Patwa in Hindi.**
- **Nutritional Value:** Provides vitamin C, iron, and calcium; its red calyces are rich in anthocyanins, which are **antioxidants and offer cardiovascular and liver benefits.**
- **Economic Uses:** The fleshy calyces make **herbal teas, jams, and pickles;** stalks provide Mesta fiber for commercial use or as a raw jute substitute.

### **Mecca Joint Defense Agreement** **International**

#### **Context (IE):**

- Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and Pakistan signed the **Mecca Joint Defense Agreement,**

creating a **trilateral mutual-security framework.**

#### **About -**

- The agreement expands the **2025 Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA)** by incorporating **Türkiye** into the security framework.
- **Geopolitical Drivers:** Declining confidence in US security guarantees, Saudi diversification efforts beyond Western dependence, and Türkiye's pursuit of wider regional influence.

#### **Key Features:**

- **Collective Deterrence:** An armed attack against any member will be treated as an attack against all three, resembling NATO's Article 5.
- **Defense-Industrial Cooperation:** Expands military coordination, defense-industrial collaboration, and joint security planning to strengthen interoperable, self-reliant defense capabilities.
- **Implications for India:** The pact complicates India's West Asian diplomacy by linking Saudi Arabia, a key partner, to Pakistan and Türkiye.

### **Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index** **Polity**

#### **News -**

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances released its 50th Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) report featuring the GRAI for June 2026.

#### **Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index**

- It is a periodic evaluation framework **launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in India.
- **Mandate -** It ranks central ministries and departments based on how efficiently and

timely they resolve public complaints submitted via CPGRAMS.

**GRAI evaluates organizations using 11 key indicators spread across four main dimensions:**

1. **Efficiency:** Time taken to dispose of and clear pending grievances.
2. **Feedback:** Citizen satisfaction levels and feedback quality.
3. **Domain:** Performance relative to the specific sector or service area.
4. **Organisational Commitment:** Institutional resources and top-level monitoring dedicated to fixing issues.

**Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**

- It is India's **24/7 online portal for citizens to lodge, track, and appeal grievances against public authorities.**
- It is managed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

**Features**

- **Unified Portal:** Links 92 Central Ministries/Departments and all States/UTs.
- **Strict Timeline:** Mandates grievance resolution within 21 days.
- **Appeal Window:** Citizens can appeal unsatisfactory closures to an Appellate Authority.
- **Tech Integration:** Features 22-language support via the AI-powered BHASHINI platform.

**Excluded Issues-** The portal does not accept complaints regarding:

- Sub-judice court matters.
- RTI queries or appeals.
- Service matters of government employees.
- Religious issues.
- National security threats.

## **Har Ghar Tiranga 2026**

### **History & Culture**

**Context (PIB):**

- The **Ministry of Culture** launched the nationwide **Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 campaign in New Delhi**, which will be observed across the country from 9 to 17 August 2026.
- The Ministry of Culture also launched **SURYAPATH TIRANGA**, a flagship initiative under the Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 campaign.
- The National Flag will be **ceremonially hoisted in succession from east to west across Indian Missions worldwide**, symbolically travelling with daylight across the globe.
- Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 is dedicated to the **Spirit of Vande Mataram.**

**Har Ghar Tiranga**

- Campaign that started in 2022 **under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** to encourage people to **bring the Tiranga home and to hoist it to mark India's independence.**
- **Aim:** To invoke feelings of patriotism in the hearts of citizens and promote awareness about our national flag.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Culture

**Cabinet Secretary**  
**Polity**

**News -**

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, headed by the Prime Minister, approved a **one-year extension for Cabinet Secretary Dr. T.V. Somanathan.**

**Cabinet Secretary**

- He is the **senior-most civil servant and administrative head of the Cabinet Secretariat**, under the direct charge of the Prime Minister.



- He serves as **ex officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.**
- He is regarded as **primus inter pares (first among equals) among Union secretaries.** He ranks 11th on the Indian Order of Precedence.
- **Mandate:** He acts as **principal administrative adviser to the PM and Cabinet, ensures inter-ministerial coordination,** and heads the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC).
- **Appointment:** ACC appoints him for a standard **2-year tenure, extendable up to 4 years.** To extend beyond 4 years, the government must relax the relevant service rules on a case-by-case basis.
- **Sir Narayanan Raghavan Pillai was the first Cabinet Secretary of independent India.**

### **Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve** **Environment**

#### **Context (TH):**

- The Supreme Court ruled that a **10-km mining buffer zone now applies to all wetland reserves across India,** expanding the earlier safeguard for the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve.

#### **Asan Wetland**

- **Locally called Dhalipur Lake**
- It is a **human-made freshwater lake in Dehradun, Uttarakhand,** formed by the Asan Barrage at the Asan and Yamuna Rivers confluence.
- **Designated a Ramsar Site (Uttarakhand's first) in 2020,** and is listed as an **Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International.**
- **Biodiversity:** It is a vital wintering habitat and stopover along the **Central Asian Flyway, supporting 330 bird species,** including threatened **vultures, Pallas's Fish-eagle,** and migratory waterbirds.
- It serves as a **spawning ground** for aquatic biodiversity, supporting the **endangered Golden Mahseer.**

### **PM-KISAN** **Government Schemes**

#### **News-**

- Union Cabinet **extended the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme to 2030–31,** with an outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore for the period.

#### **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**

- **Launched on - February 24 in 2019.**
- **Financing - Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- **Implementation - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**

#### **Key feature**

- **Objective - The Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal installments,** directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers **irrespective of the size of their land holdings.**
- **Financial assistance - It provides financial assistance** to the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields.
- **Identification of beneficiary - Responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families is entrusted with the State / UT Governments.**

### **Phoenix Species Project** **Environment**

#### **News -**

- Phoenix Species Project launched a global effort to **bring 100 of the world's most threatened species back from the brink.**

#### **About the Project**

- **Purpose:** It is a global effort to **recover 100 of the world's most threatened species by providing sustained support for local champions** and offering sustained funding.
- **Genesis: Launched in August 2026**

### Key Features:

- **Founders:** Bezos Earth Fund and Re:wild (Leonardo DiCaprio).]
- **Target:** 100 species listed as Critically Endangered or Extinct in the Wild on the IUCN Red List.
- **Knowledge Partner:** IUCN Species Survival Commission.
- **Global Alignment:** Directly supports Target 4 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- **Strategy:** Focuses on long-term, locally and Indigenous-led habitat restoration, translocations, and invasive species control.

### Appointment of the UN Secretary-General International

#### News -

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) recently held its first straw poll to select the next UN Secretary-General (UNSG), whose five-year term will begin on 1 January 2027.

#### Secretary-General as the UN

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

#### Elections:

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

#### Key Principal Organs of the UNO:

- **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):** The main deliberative, policymaking, and

representative organ, where all **193 member states have equal representation.**

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

### Dhansiri River Geography



#### Context

- According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the Dhansiri River is flowing above the danger mark, raising concerns that the flood situation in low-lying areas could worsen.

## About

- **Origin:** It originates from the **Laisang peak** in Nagaland.
- **Course:** It is situated in north-east India.
- It is a **transboundary river running through the states of Assam and Nagaland**.
- It flows **352 kilometres** through Dimapur, Chümoukedima, and Assam's Golaghat district before joining the Brahmaputra.
- **Confluence:** It joins the **Brahmaputra on its south bank in Assam**, near Dhansirimukh.
- **Being heavily rain-fed**, its water level rises sharply during the monsoon, and high flows can cause **flooding in areas of Golaghat and adjoining Assam**.

## 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.

## 16th BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting International



### Context

- **India concluded the 16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur** under its **BRICS Chairship 2026**.
- **theme: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**

### Key Outcomes

- **Economic Strategy:** Finalised the **BRICS Economic Partnership 2030** roadmap.
- **Trade Finance:** Adopted The Jaipur Consensus to tackle the global finance gap.
- **MSME Support:** Created guiding principles for cash-flow-based, collateral-free lending.
- **Supply Chains:** Approved a 2026–2030 action plan for food and pharma security.
- **Digital Trade:** Agreed on framework principles for cross-border digital services.

### Additional Information - 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

### Official Secrets Act, 1923 Defense

#### Context

- A Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force (IAF) was arrested under provisions of the **Official Secrets Act for allegedly leaking sensitive defence-related information.**

#### Official Secrets Act, 1923

- It is a colonial-era law designed to **protect official secrets and safeguard national security.**
- The law, applicable to **government servants and citizens, provides the framework for dealing with espionage, sedition, and other potential threats to the integrity of the nation.**
- The law makes **spying, sharing 'secret' information, unauthorised use of uniforms, withholding information, interference with the armed forces in prohibited/ restricted areas,** among others, punishable offences.
- If guilty, a person may get up to **14 years' imprisonment, a fine, or both.**
- The information could be any **reference to a place belonging to or occupied by the**

**government, documents, photographs, sketches, maps, plans, models, official codes or passwords.**

### India's First Privately-built 800 kN FFSC Engine Unveiled Science and Technology



#### Context

- Space-tech company **Astrobase Space Technologies** has unveiled **India's first privately developed 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) rocket engine.**

#### About

- The engine, named **EVEREST**, has been developed by **Astrobase.**
- **Global Standing: India is the 4th nation to master this tech** (after the US, Russia, China).
- **Reusability:** Methane burns cleanly without soot, enabling **rapid rocket refurbishment.**
- **Payload Boost:** Designed to lift up to **30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).**
- **Policy Link:** Funded via **IN-SPACE's Technology Adoption Fund (TAF).**
- **Strategic Capability:** Aims for a **15-day launch-on-demand turnaround time.**



## Slender-Billed Vultures Environment



### News

- Five captive-bred slender-billed vultures along with white-rumped vultures were released at Jatayu Soft Release Center in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam, the first release of its kind anywhere in the world.

### Slender-Billed Vultures (*Gyps tenuirostris*)

- The slender-billed vulture is a dark, lean scavenger with broad wings, a long bare neck and pale underparts.
- **Habitat:** It inhabits dry open and forested regions away from human settlements.
- **Distribution:** It is found mainly in the northern Indian subcontinent including the Gangetic plains, parts of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Assam, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- **Ecological Role:** It is an important scavenger and a provider of ecosystem services that helps to dispose of animal remains naturally and maintain environmental hygiene.
- **Threats:** The main cause of the decline of the slender-billed vulture is diclofenac poisoning, which leads to kidney failure.
- Other threats include food shortage, pesticide poisoning, habitat and tree loss, persecution, and electrocution or collisions.

### Conservation status

- IUCN status - Critically Endangered.
- It is included in CITES Appendix II,

### White-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)

- It is mainly found in plains and open country, but also in woodland, villages and cities.
- It eats carrion. It is very social, gathering in large feeding flocks and communal roosts, and breeds colonially in tall trees.
- It occurs in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and southern Viet Nam,
- It is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

## National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2026 Miscellaneous

### Context

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has invited nominations for the National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2026.

### National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025

- It is one of the highest national honours in the livestock and dairy sector.
- These awards will be presented on 26th November 2025 as part of the National Milk Day celebrations.
- It was instituted in 2014 as a part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)
- It focuses on the scientific conservation and development of indigenous bovine breeds.
- It is annually conferred to encourage milk-producing farmers, dairy cooperative societies/MPCs/FPOs, and Artificial Insemination Technicians (AITs).
- The awardees will get a certificate of merit and a memento and cash price of ₹5,00,000, ₹3,00,000 and ₹2,00,000 for the first, second and third categories respectively.

**Additional information- Rashtriya Gokul Mission**

- It was launched in **2014**

**Objectives**

- Development and **conservation of indigenous breeds**
- Breed **improvement programme for indigenous cattle breeds to improve their genetic makeup**
- **Enhancement of milk production and productivity**
- Upgradation of nondescript cattle using elite **indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi and**
- Distribution of disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.
- **Gokul Grams: They will act as Centres for development of Indigenous Breeds** and a dependable source for supply of high genetic breeding stock to the farmers in the breeding tract



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