



ANANYA SAADHANA

COMPREHENSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

VINAY KUMAR G B
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,
INSIGHTS IAS

AUGUST 2026

IAS

KAS

GROUP C

FDA

SDA

PSI

PC

TRENDING



India's 45th

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Sarnath

Karnataka Government to Recruit for

72,186

Vacant Positions Across 51
Departments Over Next Six Months

IN FOCUS



Nine Years of GST

Goods and Services Tax (GST) completed nine years



Fast-Track Courts

To address NEET examination paper leaks



Mithya

Best Kannada Film at the 72nd National Film Awards



Rohit Sharma

First Indian men's player to score an ODI century at Lord's Cricket Ground against England.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS



India-New Zealand

First visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in four decades



11 Year of Digital India Programme

Flagship Initiatives under Digital India



all seven benches were presided over exclusively by women judges

Dharwad Bench of the Karnataka High Court made Indian judicial history



The country's first government AI university

India's first government-run artificial intelligence university is being established in the state.

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EDITOR'S PAGE



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

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

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

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



To the future administrators of Karnataka,

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

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

Let's shape a prosperous Karnataka, together.

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

SOURCES



ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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

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

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

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

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

THE TEAM

- ✓ Nandan R (Faculty for Current affairs and Environment)
- ✓ Dinesh (Mentor)
- ✓ Santosh Nidagundi (Linguistic Resource)
- ✓ Pramod Viraktamath (Linguistic Resource)

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4. Harjit Singh Grewal Appointed NCM Chairman
5. Anurag Jain Appointed NITI Aayog CEO
6. Rahul Himalian Appointed IRCTC CMD
7. Naresh Pal Gangwar Appointed Higher Education Secretary
8. Mahesh Dixit Appointed Director of Intelligence Bureau

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TOP CURRENT AFFAIRS

Nine Years of GST



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.



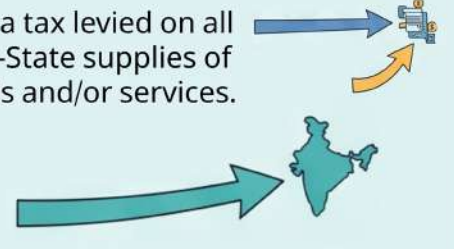
- CGST to be levied by the Centre,



- SGST to be levied by the States and



- 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.



Yamuna Water Project

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.



Hansiyawas Reservoir



- **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.

About 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):

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

Right Bank (Peninsular):

- Chambal (Largest right-bank; famous for Badland Topography/Ravines).
- Sindh (Originates in Malwa Plateau).
- Betwa (Vindhyan range origin; Ken-Betwa Interlinking Project is crucial).
- 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).



Green Hydrogen

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)**.

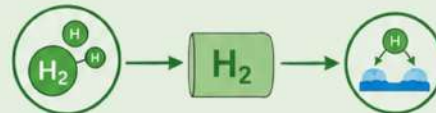


Green Ammonia

Green Methanol

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

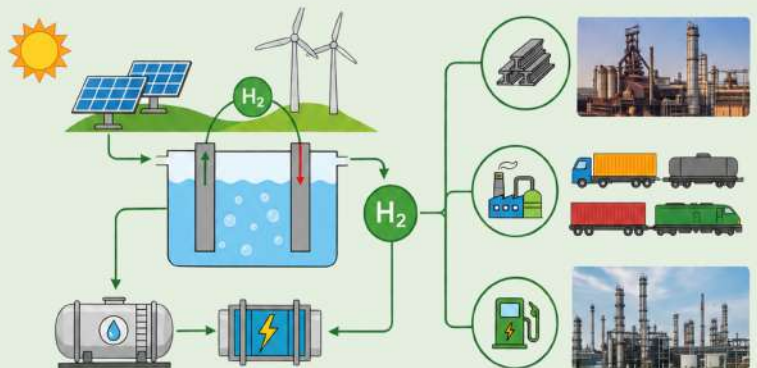


- Decarbonization of Fertilizers:** India's fertilizer sector, heavily dependent on imported ammonia, can significantly cut emissions by adopting green ammonia.



About 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.



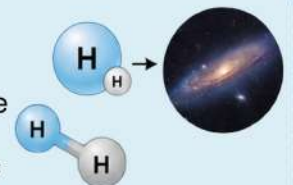
National Green Hydrogen Mission



- 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**.





Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's 125th Birth Anniversary



Context

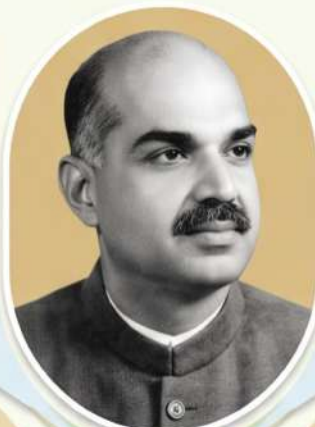
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 125th birth anniversary.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (1901– 1953)

Early life and political entry



Initially a member of the Indian National Congress; later joined the Hindu Mahasabha in the 1930s.



Academic achievement



He became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University at age 33 in 1934.

Political service



He served as Finance Minister of Bengal (1941–42) in the Fazlul Haq ministry.

Anti-separation



He was a strong critic of the Muslim League and the partition of India.

Role in the interim government

He joined the cabinet of the interim government as Minister for Industry and Supply after independence (1947–1950), but resigned over differences.



Establishment of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh



Founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh: In 1951, founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the ideological predecessor of today's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Theories



National unity



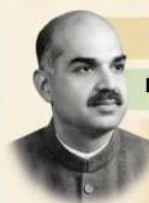
Cultural nationalism



Financial self-reliance

- Advocated for national unity, cultural nationalism, and economic self-reliance.

Heritage



Nationalist

Educationist

Advocate of cultural unity

Legacy: He is remembered as a staunch nationalist, educationist, and advocate of cultural unity.

Respect



The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata and several institutions are named in his honor.



Hindkesari Pedgaon 'Bailgada Sharyat'

Context

- The Hindkesari Pedgaon 'Bailgada Sharyat' (bullock cart race) **showcased Maharashtra's deep-rooted rural sporting tradition**, attracting more than 1,000 entrants and thousands of spectators from across the region.



About



- The bullock cart race is an event **involving bulls or bullocks to conduct a race with the animals tied to a cart by a wooden yoke**, with or without a cartman.



- The rural sport is known as '**bailgada sharyat**,' '**chhakadi**' or '**shankarpath**' in the state.



- It is held annually in **Pedgaon, Khatav Taluk, Satara district, Maharashtra**.



Jallikattu



- It is also known as **Eruthazhuvuthal**.
- It is a **bull-taming sport traditionally played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival**.
- The history of this **bullfight dates back to 400-100 BCE when it was played by the Ayars, an ethnic group in India**.
- The name is coined from two words, **Jalli (silver and gold coins) and Kattu (tied)**.
- In this festival, a bull is let loose among a crowd of people, and whoever tames it will get the coins tied to its horn.
- The people who participate in the sport try to hold on to the animal's hump to stop it. Sometimes, they run along with the bull.
- Pulikulam or Kangayam is the breed of bulls used for the sport**. This festival has been part of cultural tourism in the state.
- Vadi manjuviraṭṭu, Vēli viraṭṭu, and Vaṭam manjuviraṭṭu are the variants of this sport**



Kambala



- The **annual buffalo race Kambala** is a unique festival observed by the **farming community between November to March**.
- Kambala is performed on **two parallel race tracks, filled with slushy water**.
- Traditionally, it is sponsored by local **Tuluva landlords and households in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Bhatkal of Karnataka and Kasaragod of Kerala, a region collectively known as Tulu Nadu**.



Matcha Tea



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.

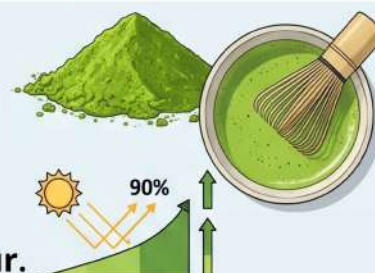


About Matcha



- 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.

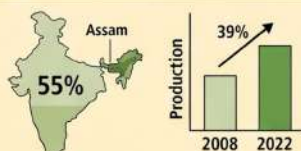


Indian Tea Industry



2nd Global Production
1st Black tea

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



- Note - Assam grows about 55% of the teas produced in India. India's tea production has increased by 39% in 2022 from 2008.**



- Export destinations** - Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia etc. India is the 4th largest tea exporter in the World.



- Prominent tea regions:** Assam (Assam Valley, Cachar) and West Bengal (Dooars, Terai, Darjeeling).

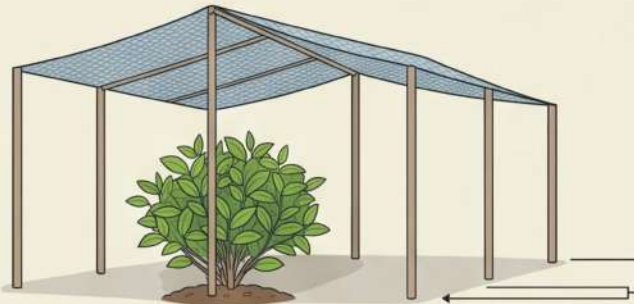


- Employment** - The Indian tea Industry is employing **1.16 million** workers directly.



- 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**.

- 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.



- Soil:** It requires deep and **fertile well-drained soil**, rich in humus and organic matter.



- Precipitation:** The rainfall needed is between **150-200 cm**.



- Temperature:** The average annual temperature for tea plants to grow well is in the range of **15-23°C**.



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.**

Indira Point



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)**.

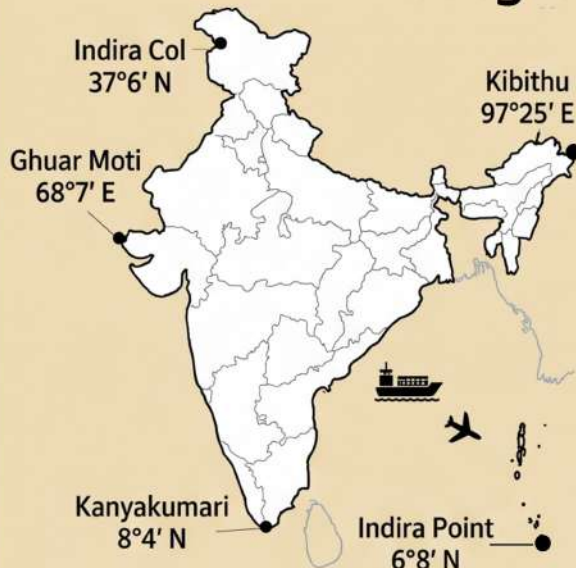
Formerly called **Pygmalion Point**, it was renamed in **1985**.

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**.



The Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project



- It is conceived by **NITI Aayog** and **launched in 2021**.
- It is aimed at transforming **India's southernmost island into a major strategic and economic hub**.



- It is a **₹72,000–₹81,000 crore** mega-infrastructure initiative.
- Significance** - The project is a centerpiece of **India's Maritime Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.



10 Years of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)



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.

Right to Vote: Need for Fundamental Right Status



In News : The Opposition advocated upgrading the **Right to Vote** from a statutory right to a Fundamental Right, reigniting debates on constitutionalising electoral rights.



Right to Vote in India

1 Constitutional Basis

- Article 326 grants universal adult suffrage, allowing citizens 18 or older to register to vote unless disqualified by law, making voting a constitutional right, not a Fundamental Right.



2 Statutory Basis

- Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950, governs electoral registration, while Section 62 of the 1951 Act governs voting eligibility.



3 Paradox

- Voting is a statutory right, but 'Right to Know' candidate information, voting choice, NOTA (right to reject), and ballot secrecy were recognised as fundamental rights under Article 19(1)(a).



Supreme Court (SC) Judgements on Voting Rights



N.P. Ponnuswami (1952) and Jyoti Basu (1982):

- The SC held that electoral rights are statutory, not Fundamental or common-law rights.



Kuldip Nayar v. UoI (2006):

- Reaffirmed that the right to vote remains statutory.



Anoop Baranwal v. UoI (2023):

- A concurring opinion supported recognising voting as a Fundamental Right, indicating doctrinal evolution.



31st Chief of the Army Staff



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.



72nd NATIONAL FILM AWARDS (2024)



Context



The 72nd National Film Awards were announced to honour films that received Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certification during the 2024 calendar year.

	Particular	Details
	Instituted	1954
	Former Name	State Awards
	Purpose	Honour excellence in Indian cinema
	Eligibility	Films certified by CBFC during the calendar year
	Nature	India's most prestigious film awards
	Objective	Promote films of aesthetic quality, technical excellence & social relevance



Major Winners – 72nd National Film Awards (2024)



Best Feature Film
Article 370 (Hindi)



Best Non-Feature Film
Bhangaar (Marathi & English)



Best Documentary
Ram-Nami (Hindi)



Best Actor
Mammootty (Bramayugam)
Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion)



Best Actress
Yami Gautam (Article 370)



11 Year of Digital India Programme

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)



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



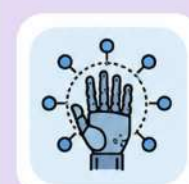
preparing learners for emerging technologies such as AI, cloud computing, cybersecurity and data analytics.

Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)



unified platform for skilling, certification and employment services.

IndiaAI Mission



strengthening AI education, infrastructure and responsible AI adoption.

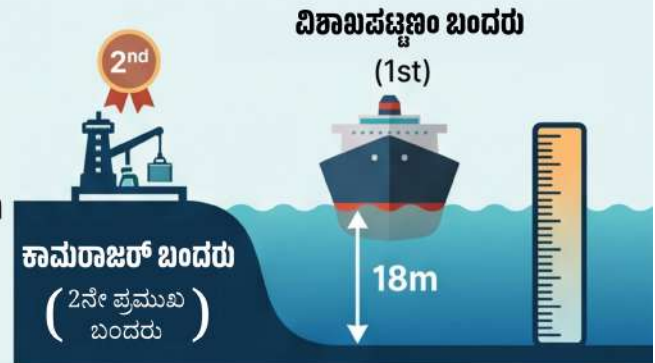


Kamarajar Port



In 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



14
12
Operating

- 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)

- Deendayal Port (Kandla) Gujarat
- Mumbai Port, Maharashtra
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA/Nhava Sheva), Maharashtra
- Mormugao Port, Goa
- New Mangalore Port, Karnataka
- Cochin Port, Kerala



Eastern Coast (6 Operational Ports)

- Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata/Haldia), West Bengal
- Paradip Port, Odisha
- Visakhapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh
- Kamarajar Port (Ennore), Tamil Nadu
- Chennai Port, Tamil Nadu
- V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin), Tamil Nadu



Non-Operational / Under-Development (2 Ports)



- Vadhvan Port:** An upcoming mega satellite port located in Palghar, Maharashtra.



- Galathea Bay Port:** An international transshipment port being developed at Great Nicobar Island.

M.P. Cabinet Approves Draft UCC Bill



Why in News?

- The **Madhya Pradesh** Cabinet has approved the **draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill**, making it the **second state after Uttarakhand** to move towards implementing a Uniform Civil Code.



Constitutional Basis

Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)



What is Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?

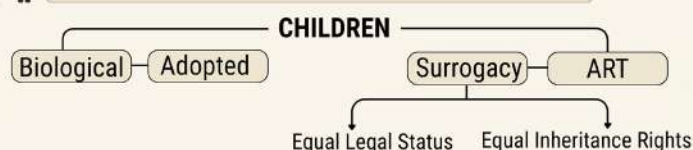
- Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** means **one common civil law for all citizens**, irrespective of religion, governing matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance and maintenance.



Meaning of "Uniform"



Equal Status to All Children



Live-in Relationship Provisions



Important Milestones Towards UCC

Year	Development	Importance
1954	Special Marriage Act	Civil marriage irrespective of religion
1985	Shah Bano Case	Supreme Court upheld maintenance under Section 125 CrPC and recommended UCC
1995	Sarla Mudgal Case	Supreme Court again urged implementation of UCC
2019	Paulo Coutinho Case	Supreme Court reiterated the need for UCC

Judicial Push Towards UCC



Major Highlights of the M.P. Draft UCC Bill

Provision	Key Feature
Marriage	Prohibits polygamy and simultaneous multiple marriages
Religious Practices	Prohibits Nikah Halala
Registration	Mandatory online registration of marriages & divorces
Children	Equal legal status to biological, adopted, surrogacy & ART children
Live-in Relationships	Affidavit mandatory within 1 month
Non-registration	Failure may attract legal action
Children of Live-in Couples	Considered legitimate with inheritance rights



Exempted from the Bill

Exempted Category	Constitutional Basis
Scheduled Tribes (Bhil, Gond, Korku, Baiga, Sahariya, Bharia etc.)	Articles 342 & 366
Communities enjoying traditional protections	Part XXI of the Constitution

LOKMANYA TILAK & CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD



Why in News? The Prime Minister paid tributes to Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Chandra Shekhar Azad on their birth anniversaries (23 July).

Freedom Fighters at a Glance



Feature	Lokmanya Tilak	Chandra Shekhar Azad
Born	23 July 1856	23 July 1906
Birth Place	Ratnagiri, Maharashtra	Bhavra (present-day Madhya Pradesh)
Freedom Struggle	Mass Nationalist Leader	Revolutionary Freedom Fighter
Ideology	Swaraj, Swadeshi, National Awakening	Armed Revolution against British Rule
Association	Lal-Bal-Pal	HRA → HSRA
Died	1920	1931



Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1856–1920)

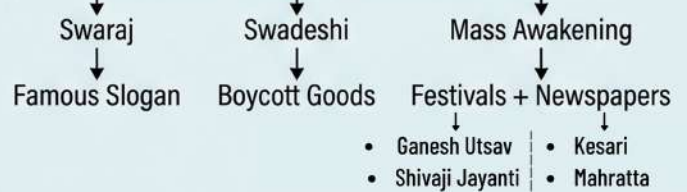
Key Contributions

Area	Contribution
 National Movement	Pioneer of the Extremist Phase
 Leadership	Prominent member of Lal-Bal-Pal
 Famous Slogan	"Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it."
 Economic Nationalism	Promoted Swadeshi
 Mass Mobilisation	Inspired people against British rule
 Journalism	Started Kesari (Marathi) & The Mahratta (English) in 1881
 Cultural Nationalism	Converted Ganesh Utsav (1893) & Shivaji Jayanti (1895) into public festivals
 Title	Called " Father of Indian Unrest " by Valentine Chirol



MEMORY FLOW

LOKMANYA TILAK



LAL - BAL - PAL



Remember: They led the **Extremist Phase** of the Indian National Movement.

Chandra Shekhar Azad (1906–1931)

Key Contributions

Area	Contribution
 Revolutionary	One of India's greatest revolutionary freedom fighters
 Method	Armed resistance against British rule
 Organisation	Reorganised HRA into HSRA after Ram Prasad Bismil's death
 Associates	Bhagat Singh, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan
 Famous Event	Participated in Kakori Train Action (1925)
 Oath	Never to be captured alive by the British
 Martyrdom	Sacrificed his life during a police encounter at Alfred Park (now Chandra Shekhar Azad Park), Prayagraj on 27 February 1931

HRA → HSRA



Revolutionaries Associated with Azad

CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD



Timeline



SARNATH – INDIA'S 45th UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Why in News?



- Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh) has been inscribed as India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site during the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in South Korea.
- Uttar Pradesh now has 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

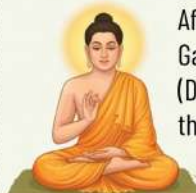


Sarnath at a Glance

Particular	Details
Location	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Religion	Buddhism (also Jainism)
UNESCO Status	India's 45th World Heritage Site
UNESCO Tentative List	1998
Historic Importance	Buddha delivered his First Sermon here



Why is Sarnath Famous?



After attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, Gautama Buddha delivered his First Sermon (Dhammachakkappavattana) at Sarnath, marking the beginning of the Buddhist Sangha.

Four Holiest Buddhist Sites

LIFE OF BUDDHA



Important Monuments at Sarnath

Stupas



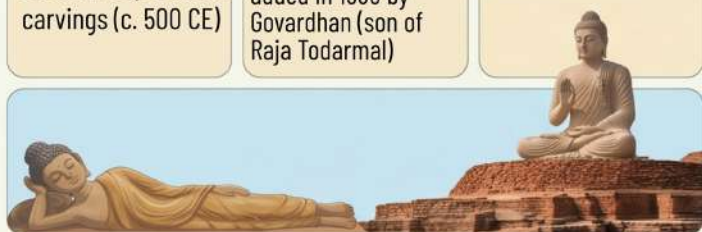
Dhamek Stupa
Marks Buddha's First Sermon; Gupta floral carvings (c. 500 CE)



Chaukhandi Stupa
Marks meeting with the first five disciples; octagonal tower added in 1588 by Govardhan (son of Raja Todarmal)



Dharmarajika Stupa
Built by Ashoka (3rd BCE) to enshrine Buddha's relics



UNESCO World Heritage Sites

What is the World Heritage Committee?

- Selecting World Heritage Sites
- Monitoring conservation
- Managing the World Heritage Fund
- Providing financial & technical assistance

Ashokan Pillar & Lion Capital



Feature	Details
Built By	Emperor Ashoka
Period	250 BCE
Material	Polished Chunar Sandstone
Symbol	Four Lions
Abacus Animals	Bull, Horse, Elephant, Lion
Between Animals	24-spoked Dharma Chakra
National Emblem	Adopted by India in 1950



Excavation History

Person	Contribution
Babu Jagat Singh (1787-88)	Rediscovered relics
Jonathan Duncan & Colonel Mackenzie	Early colonial documentation
Alexander Cunningham (1834-36)	Systematic archaeological excavation



India & UNESCO

Particular	Details
India's Rank	6th globally
Total UNESCO World Heritage Sites	45
India's Membership in World Heritage Committee	2021-2025
Sarnath on Tentative List Since	1998

KARNATAKA DARSHANA

1. Statewide Pulse Polio immunization campaign

News -

- Karnataka Health Department executed a massive statewide Pulse Polio immunization campaign on Sunday, June 28, 2026.



Pulse Polio

- **Pathogen:** Caused by the Poliovirus.
- **Transmission:** Spread primarily through the fecal-oral route via contaminated food or water, multiplying inside the human intestine.
- **Symptoms:** Most infections are asymptomatic (90-95%).
- Symptomatic cases present with **fever, fatigue, headaches, neck stiffness, and limb pain**. In **1 in 200 cases, it causes Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)**, affecting the legs or breathing muscles, which can be fatal.
- **Cure:** **There is no cure for polio**. It can only be prevented through timely immunization.

2. Totapuri mangoes

News -

- The Union government approved the procurement of **96,879 metric tonnes of Totapuri mangoes** for Karnataka in July 2026 under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

Totapuri mangoes

- **Regions:** Cultivated primarily in **Andhra Pradesh (Tirupati/Chittoor)**, **Karnataka (Kolar)**, and **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Shape:** Distinctive **beak-like pointed tip** (hence called **Kilimooku or Ginimoothi**).
- **Usage:** Main raw material for the Indian mango pulp and juice processing industry.
- **Economy:** Subject to price volatility, often triggering the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).



Core Objectives

- **Prevent Distress Sales:** Cushions farmers against sudden economic losses when a bumper crop

crashes local market prices.

- **Price Remuneration:** Stabilises fluctuating market prices to ensure farmers recover at least their cost of production.
- **Crop Diversification:** Encourages farmers to grow high-value horticultural crops by reducing the inherent price risks.

3. State-run women's driver training institute at Bidadi

News -

- The Karnataka government has decided to **establish a dedicated Women's Driver Training Institute to boost women's employment in the transport sector**.

About -

- **Objective:** The goal is to **financially empower women** and increase their job opportunities within the transport sector.
- **Location:** The institute will be built in the **Bidadi Industrial Area**, located on the outskirts of Bengaluru.
- **First of its Kind:** This is the **first driver training institute in the country** to be set up specifically by a State government.
- **Infrastructure:** The **Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC)** will build the facilities, which include a main building and a dedicated driving track exclusively for women trainees.
- **Skill Training:** The **Association Of Women Entrepreneurs Of Karnataka (AWAKE)** will be responsible for providing professional driver training for all types of vehicles and other vocational courses.

4. Reservoirs of Karnataka

News -

- **Southwest monsoon in June** has led to **dangerously low water levels across major reservoirs in Karnataka**, raising concerns over water sharing and farming.

About -

Reservoir / Dam Name	Associated River	Region / District	Key UPSC Focus Points
Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS)	Cauvery	Mandya / Mysuru	Built by Sir M. Visvesvaraya (1932). Primary source for Bengaluru's drinking water and central to the Cauvery Water Dispute .
Tungabhadra (Pampa Sagar)	Tungabhadra (Krishna tributary)	Hosapete, Vijayanagara	Joint multi-purpose project of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Uniquely constructed using mud and limestone (similar to Mullaperiyar). All 33 crest gates were recently fully replaced.
Almatti Dam	Krishna	Vijayapura	Main reservoir of the Upper Krishna Project . Releases water downstream into the Narayanpur Reservoir. Involved in height enhancement disputes with Andhra Pradesh/Telangana.
Kabini Reservoir	Kabini (Cauvery tributary)	Mysuru	High ecological significance; forms an essential wildlife corridor connecting Nagarhole and Bandipur National Parks .
Vani Vilasa Sagara (Mari-kanive)	Vedavathi (Krishna basin)	Chitradurga	Oldest dam in Karnataka , constructed during the princely Mysore State era by the Wodeyars to serve arid, drought-prone zones.
Linganamakki & Supa	Sharavathi & Kali	Shivamogga & Uttara Kannada	West-flowing river reservoirs. Heavily critical for hydroelectric power generation in Karnataka.
Hemavathi & Harangi	Hemavathi & Harangi	Hassan & Kodagu	Important Cauvery tributaries providing critical agricultural irrigation to south Karnataka.
Ghataprabha & Malaprabha	Ghataprabha & Malaprabha	Belagavi	Left-bank tributaries of the Krishna River. Hidkal Dam is located on the Ghataprabha River.

3. 'Free Bird' apparel brand launched by Central Prison inmates

News -

- The Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru launched "Free Bird", a premium ready-made apparel brand handcrafted entirely by prison inmates.
- This initiative is a collaboration between the **Karnataka Prisons and Correctional Services Department** and HCL to drive **rehabilitation and vocational skill development**.
- **Material & Design:** The shirts are made using **high-quality linen sourced from Surat**. They feature the **Gandaberunda, the Karnataka State emblem, as the brand's logo**.

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6. specialized research initiative

News -

- The Karnataka Sahitya Academy has launched a **specialized research initiative**
- **Objective - to document the lives of 59 lesser-known freedom fighters from Karnataka** who were **exiled by the British to the Cellular Jail (Kala Pani)** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Led by Academy President L.N. Mukundraj.**
- **Significance-** this project **aims to prevent these individuals from being erased from India's independence history**

Key Facts of the Initiative

- **Historical Context:** The 59 freedom fighters were incarcerated following their active participation in the 1857 Indian Rebellion and related local uprisings.
- **Upcoming Publication:** The research findings will be compiled into a **book titled Yaaroo Ariyada Veeraru (The Unknown Heroes)**.
- **Research Strategy:** To unearth primary documents, researchers are deploying public banners in ancestral villages across Karnataka, encouraging families to share oral histories, letters, or artifacts.

Key Regions Involved

- **Gadag (Nargund):** Home to fighters like Faras Khan and Bikaji Ganesh Gokhale.
- **Uttara Kannada (Karwar):** Home to rebels like Gopal Bhandari and Vitu Gawli.
- **Bagalkot (Mudhol):** Involves the Halagali Bedas, tribal hunters who fought British disarmament laws.

7. Tiptur coconut, Hoysala-style stone art to get GI tag

News -

- The four traditional products from Karnataka are set to receive the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

About -

- **Tiptur coconut** (specifically known for its high-quality copra, long shelf life, and distinctive sweet taste)
- **Hoysala-style stone art** (representing the intricate, globally acclaimed stone-carving traditions seen in Hoysala temples)
- **Sanikatte salt** (valued for its traditional natural production process and high mineral content)
- **Kunbi Mudli**(a rare, climate-resilient tuber belonging to the taro/Colocasia family)

Complete List of Karnataka's GI Tags by Category

- **Karnataka holds 51 registered Geographical Indication (GI) tags as of 2026**, making it one of the top states in India for protected regional products.
- **Managed by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai** under the DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- These tags protect the **unique intellectual property, culture, and agricultural heritage of the state**

Category	Product Name	Key UPSC Prelims Fact
Agricultural	Coorg Orange	Distinct sweet-sour taste; loose skin.
Agricultural	Byadagi Chilli	Deep red color; low pungency; high oleoresin.
Agricultural	Coorg Green Cardamom	Intense aroma; bold green color pods.
Agricultural	Nanjangud Banana	Unique taste and aroma; grown in black clayey soil.
Agricultural	Mysore Betel Leaf	Locally called “Chigurele”; smooth texture and rich juice.
Agricultural	Appemidi Mango	Aromatic baby raw mango variety; prized for traditional pickles.
Agricultural	Kari Ishad Mango	Found in Ankola; highly valued for sweet, fiberless pulp.
Agricultural	Indi Limbe (Vijayapura Lemon)	High juice content; thin rind; climate-resilient.
Agricultural	Sirsi Arecanut	Round and flat variety; high starch and low tannin.
Agricultural	Devanahalli Pomelo	Large citrus fruit (chakota) with pink, sweet-sour flesh.
Agricultural	Bengaluru Rose Onion	Small, pungent bulbs; high dry matter; grown for export.
Agricultural	Bengaluru Blue Grapes	Seeded dark purple grapes; specific to Bangalore soil.
Agricultural	Kamalapur Red Banana	Rare, bulky red-skinned variant from Kalaburagi.
Agricultural	Gulbarga Toor Dal	Superior quality; high protein; fast-cooking properties.
Coffee	Coorg Arabica Coffee	Grown under shade in the Kodagu district.
Coffee	Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee	Sourced from the birthplace of Indian coffee.
Coffee	Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee	High-altitude crop; distinct mild flavor and rich aroma.
Coffee	Monsooned Malabar Arabica	Shared with Kerala; bean texture refined by marine winds.
Coffee	Monsooned Malabar Robusta	Shared with Kerala; robust quality exposed to monsoon moisture.
Handicraft	Mysore Silk	Karnataka’s first GI tag; uses pure silk and gold zari.
Handicraft	Channapatna Toys	Ivory-wood toys finished with organic, non-toxic lacquerware.
Handicraft	Bidriware	Zinc and copper metalwork inlaid with pure silver.

Handicraft	Kinhal Toys	Lightweight wooden toys coated with liquid chalk paste.
Handicraft	Sandur Lambani Embroidery	Geometric stitch work with mirrors made by Lambani women.
Handicraft	Kasuti Embroidery	Hand-stitched traditional motifs (chariot, lotus, elephant).
Handicraft	Navalgund Durries	Woven floor mats with geometric patterns and animal motifs.
Handicraft	Ilkal Sarees	Uses unique body-to-pallu joint technique (“Tope Teni”).
Handicraft	Molakalmuru Sarees	Silk sarees featuring traditional temple patterns on borders.
Handicraft	Udupi Sarees	Fine combed cotton sarees with a natural sizing finish.
Handicraft	Guledgudd Khana	Unique blouse fabrics woven on traditional handlooms.
Handicraft	Kolhapuri Chappal	Shared with Maharashtra; handcrafted local leather footwear.
Manufactured	Mysore Sandal Soap	Infused with pure natural sandalwood oil.
Manufactured	Mysore Agarbathi	Hand-rolled incense sticks known for aromatic blends.
Foodstuff	Dharwad Pedha	First Indian GI item in the food segment; made from milk.
Foodstuff	Mysore Pak	Royal, rich chickpea flour and ghee sweet from Mysuru.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Global Report on Food Crises 2026 (GRFC 2026) report

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 Mukht Bharat:** It targets reduction of anaemia among women, adolescents and children.
- **Eat Right India Initiative:** It promotes safe, healthy and sustainable dietary practices.

2. 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).

3. Gulf of Aden

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**.

4. Simla Agreement

Context

- The Simla Agreement completed 54 years on 2 July 2026.

About

- The Simla Agreement was **signed in 1972 to establish lasting peace between India and Pakistan post the 1971 war**.
- The agreement was signed **between Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto**.

Key Provisions of Simla Agreement

- **Peaceful resolution:** Both countries agreed to resolve disputes through bilateral negotiations

without involving third parties.

- **Line of Control (LoC):** The ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir was redefined as the Line of Control, with both sides committing not to alter it unilaterally.
- **Release of prisoners:** India agreed to release Pakistani prisoners of war, and Pakistan committed to normalising relations and recognising the sovereignty of Bangladesh.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.
- **Darknet Monitoring:** Special task forces targeting

cryptocurrency-funded drug sales on the dark web.

Demand Reduction & Rehab

- **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction:** National action plan funding awareness, counseling, and hospital-based Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs).
- **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan:** A massive, community-led awareness campaign targeting youth in high-risk districts.

8. India-Australia Relations

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, AUSTRAHIND, 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.

9. Global Passport Index 2026

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.

10. India-New Zealand 'Strategic Partnership'

News -

- The Prime Minister's visit to Auckland was the **first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in four decades**.
- PM Modi was honoured with a **Māori Pōwhiri**, a formal welcome ceremony of the Māori (the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand), featuring the 'Haka' dance.



Outcomes of the Visit

- **Roadmap to 2030:** Elevated bilateral relations to a '**Strategic Partnership**'.
- **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative:** New Zealand adopted Maritime Security as its priority pillar within the seven-pillar IPOI framework.
- **Climate and Energy Platforms:** New Zealand joined the **Global Biofuels Alliance** and reaffirmed its cooperation under the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.
- **Civilisational Ties:** Established cultural and traditional medicine cooperation alongside a framework between the **New Zealand Maritime Museum** and **India's National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal**.

New Zealand



- **Island Nation:** New Zealand is a **remote island country** in the **South Pacific Ocean**, consisting of two main islands (North and South) and several smaller islands.
- **No Land Borders**, and **Australia** is its nearest neighbour, located over 1,600 km to the northwest.
- **Geopolitical Position:** It lies in **Australasia** with Australia and marks the southwestern boundary of **Polynesia**, bordered by the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

11. 12th BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting

Context -

- India hosted the 12th BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting in Hyderabad.
- Theme 2026 - "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".



Outcomes -

- **BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration** - to promote decent work, broaden social protection systems, and support inclusive, resilient economic growth.
- **BRICS CONNECT**, a collaborative, tech-driven platform, was launched by India to modernise, align, and strengthen labour frameworks (South-South cooperation) across member states.

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

12. Odesa Port



News -

- India condemned the attack on the vessel **MV GOLDEN LEO**, a commercial cargo vessel, claiming lives of four Indian Nationals while departing the port of Odesa in Ukraine.

Odesa Port

- **Odesa port** is one of the largest ports of **Black Sea-Azov basin**, located in the **northwestern part of Black Sea**.

Black Sea

- **Located in** - The **Black Sea** is located between **Eastern Europe and Western Asia**.
- **Surrounded by** - It is surrounded by the **Pontic, Caucasus, and Crimean Mountains** in the south, east and north respectively.
- **Uniqueness** - There is a significant **absence of**

oxygen in the water (anoxic waters).

- **Connectivity** - The Black Sea is also connected to the Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch.
- **Turkish straits system** - Dardanelles, Bosphorus and Marmara Sea forms a transitional zone between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
- **Bordering countries of Black Sea are** - Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania.

13. Panama

News -

- India and Panama held bilateral talks to deepen maritime cooperation.



Panama

- It is a **country of Central America located on the Isthmus of Panama, the narrow bridge of land that connects North and South America.**
- **Capital:** Panama City
- **Bordered by** Costa Rica (west), and Colombia (east), Caribbean Sea (North) and Pacific Ocean (South).
- One of the few countries in the world that **does not maintain a permanent standing army.**
- **Panama Canal:** A 82-km artificial waterway connecting the Atlantic Ocean (Caribbean Sea) and the Pacific Ocean, **making it one of the world's most important maritime trade routes.**

14. Romania

News-

- President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, visited **Romania, marking the first State Visit by an Indian President to Romania in nearly three**

decades.

- India and Romania are set to celebrate the **80th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2028**, which will be commemorated as the **"India-Romania Year of Innovation."**



Romania

- **Location:** Southeastern Europe, in the Balkan region, along the **western coast of the Black Sea.**
- **Capital:** Bucharest.
- **Bordered by:** Ukraine (north), Moldova (east), Hungary (west), Serbia (southwest), and Bulgaria (south).
- **Mountains:** **Carpathian Mountains** (Eastern, Southern, and Western Carpathians). The highest peak in Romania is Moldoveanu Peak.
- **Major Rivers:** **Danube River** (forms much of Romania's southern border); Prut River (border with Moldova).
- **Danube Delta, shared with Ukraine, is one of Europe's largest wetlands and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- Member of the **European Union (EU) since 2007 and member of NATO since 2004.**

15. Moldova

News -

- **President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Chişinău, marking the first-ever state visit by an Indian Head of State to Moldova.**

Moldova

- **Capital** - Chişinău
- It is a **landlocked country in Eastern Europe**
- **Bordered by** - Romania to the west and to the

north, east, and south by Ukraine.

- **Rivers:** Dniester (Nistru) is the longest river in Moldova; the **Prut River** forms its western border.



16. North Macedonia

News -

- President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Skopje, marking the first visit by an Indian President to North Macedonia.



North Macedonia

- Capital: Skopje
- It is a landlocked, mountainous country in the south-central Balkan Peninsula of Southeast Europe.

- It borders Kosovo and Serbia to the north, Bulgaria to the east, Greece to the south, and Albania to the west.
- The country declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and officially adopted the name 'North Macedonia' in 1991.
- North Macedonia is an official candidate for European Union membership and joined NATO in 2020.
- Lake Ohrid, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of the oldest and deepest lakes in Europe.

17. NATO's Ankara Summit

Context

- The **2026 NATO Summit**, held in Ankara, Türkiye, reaffirmed the Alliance's commitment to collective defence and strengthening Europe's defence industrial base.



North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- NATO, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an **intergovernmental military alliance**.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium
- **Background:** It was established by 12 countries from Europe and North America with the signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty (also known as Washington Treaty)** in 1949 in Washington, D.C to provide collective security against the Soviet Union attack in the aftermath of World War II.
- **Collective Defense:** According to **Article 5**, NATO works on the principle of **collective defense**, where an attack on any NATO member is considered an attack on all NATO members. So far, **Article 5 has been invoked once - in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001.**
- **Members:** It comprises **32 member states**. Sweden became the 32nd member.

18. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

In News

- The **60th anniversary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)** was observed.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

- **Established in - 1966.**
- **Objective** -It is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly and works **to modernise and harmonise international trade law.**
- It convenes **annually in New York and Vienna** in turn to promote its work in the field of international trade law.
- **Membership - It has 70 member States**
- **India is a member of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law(UNCITRAL)**
- **Functions** - It develops legal instruments such as conventions, model laws and legislative guides **to ease international trade and business by setting common legal standards.**
- **UNCITRAL is not a WTO body.** The WTO is an autonomous intergovernmental organization, whereas it is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly.

19.SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting 2026

Context

- India urged the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to adopt a firm and principled approach against terrorism during the **SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Cholpan Ata, Kyrgyz Republic.**

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

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

20. Operation Amistad

Context

- **After devastating earthquakes struck Venezuela, India launched Operation Amistad** to support relief and rescue efforts.

About

- **Amistad, meaning “Friendship” in Spanish, is India’s Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission.**
- India was among the first countries to respond, reflecting its commitment to the principle of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—“The World is One Family.”** It also marks one of India’s longest-range humanitarian relief missions.
- As part of the operation, the Indian Air Force deployed two **C-17 Globemaster aircraft carrying a 41-member rescue team, an Indian Army Field Hospital, over 35 tonnes of relief supplies and medical equipment, including two BHISHM Cube portable hospitals.**

NATIONAL

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. FCRA 2.0 Portal and e-OCI Card

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.

2. SUMAN Roadmap 2030

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.

3. Kisan Sarathi Platform

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.

4. PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)

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.

5. VB-G RAM G Act Come Into Force

In News

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

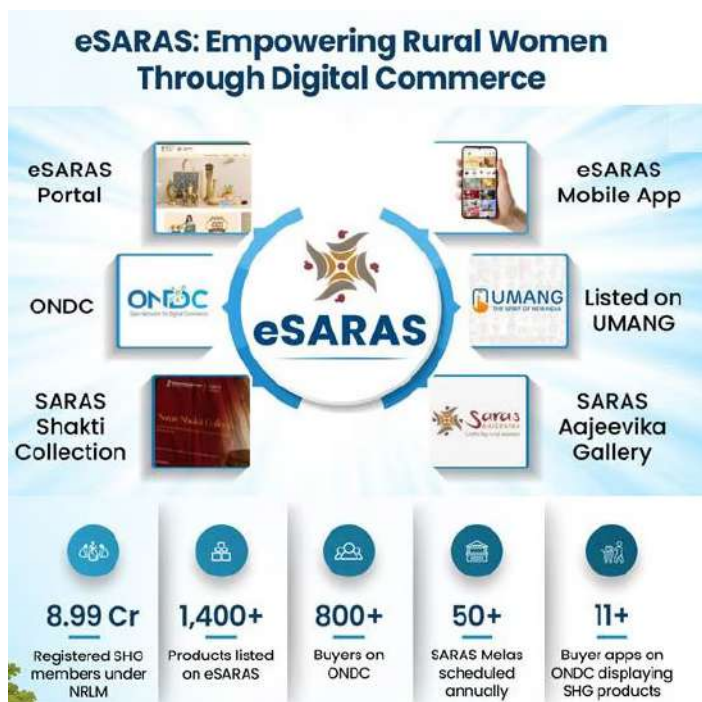
6. eSARAS

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.

7. Civil Registration System (CRS) Report 2024

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.**

8. 11 Year of Digital India Programme



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**.

9. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).

Context

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has designated **23 more individuals as 'terrorists' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA)**.

UAPA Act

- **Enacted:** 1967
- **Mandate:** It is aimed at “more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations for dealing with terrorist activities”.
- **Unlawful activity:** Unlawful activity means any conduct which constitutes a **crime or which contravenes any law**.
- **Terrorist act:** Section 15 of the Act defines “terrorist act” and is **punishable with imprisonment for a term of at least five years and up to life**.
- **Power to central government** - The Act assigns **absolute power to the central government, by way of which the Centre deems an activity as unlawful**.
- **Applicability:** The provisions of this Act apply also to—

(a) citizens of India outside India;

- (b) persons in the service of the Government, wherever they may be; and
- (c) persons on ships and aircrafts, registered in India, wherever they may be.
- Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) Amendment Act 2019
- The Act empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists.
- Under the Act, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation

Additional Information - National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- **Established under:** NIA Act, 2008 after 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
- **Function:** Central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency.
- **Mandate:** Investigates offences affecting India's sovereignty, security, international treaties, etc.

NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019:

- **Jurisdiction extended:** Can investigate scheduled offences committed outside India involving Indian citizens/interests.
- **Expanded mandate:** Covers offences under Explosive Substances Act, 1908 Human Trafficking, Cyber Terrorism Arms Act, 1959.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Special Courts:** Total NIA Special Courts: 52
- **Exclusive NIA Courts:** 3 (Ranchi, Jammu and Mumbai).

10. Right to Vote: Need for Fundamental Right Status

News -

- The Opposition advocated upgrading the **Right to Vote from a statutory right to a Fundamental Right**, reigniting debates on constitutionalising electoral rights.

Right to Vote in India

- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 326 grants universal adult suffrage, allowing citizens 18 or older to register to vote unless disqualified by law, making voting a constitutional right, not a Fundamental Right.
- **Statutory Basis:** Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950, governs electoral registration, while Section 62 of the 1951 Act governs voting eligibility.
- **Paradox:** Voting is a statutory right, but 'Right to Know' candidate information, voting choice, NOTA (right to reject), and ballot secrecy were recognised as fundamental rights under Article 19(1)(a).

Supreme Court (SC) Judgements on Voting Rights

- **N.P. Ponnuswami (1952) and Jyoti Basu (1982):** The SC held that electoral rights are statutory, not Fundamental or common-law rights.
- **Kuldip Nayar v. UoI (2006):** Reaffirmed that the right to vote remains statutory.
- **Anoop Baranwal v. UoI (2023):** A concurring opinion supported recognising voting as a Fundamental Right, indicating doctrinal evolution.

11. e-Jagruti

News -

- The Prime Minister shared an article on the role of **e-Jagruti (e-Justice and Grievance Redressal through Information**



Technology and Innovation) in addressing consumer complaints.

e-Jagruti

- e-Jagruti is the **Department of Consumer Affairs'** integrated digital consumer grievance redressal platform, **launched in January 2025**.
- It provides **paperless, AI-enabled, multilingual, and end-to-end online dispute resolution** by integrating legacy consumer complaint systems.
- **Key Components:** Integrates legacy systems like OCMS, e-Daakhil, NCDRC CMS & CONFONET into a single, seamless interface.
- **Key Features:** Offers e-filing, virtual hearings, real-time case tracking, secure digital payments (Bharat Kosh/PayGov), and role-based access.

12. Indiahandmade

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.
- **Digital Empowerment:** Artisans and weavers are provided with digital tools and visibility to participate more effectively in online commerce.
- It offers a wide range of products, including apparel, home décor, furnishings, paintings, furniture, religious items, stationery, musical instruments, jewellery, bags and footwear.
- It also highlights special product categories such as GI-tagged and ODOP products.

13. Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26

Context

- The Union Ministry of Education released a Report on **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26** on School Education in India.

Major Highlights

- Coverage:** 14.67 lakh schools, 1.02 crore teachers, 24.72 crore students.
- Nodal Body:** Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.

Structural Shift:

- NEP 2020 FrameworkThe 2025-26 report drops the traditional 10+2 system.
- It marks the first time data is entirely structured around the NEP 5+3+3+4 framework
 - Foundational Stage (5 yrs):** 22% of total enrolment.
 - Preparatory Stage (3 yrs):** 25% of total enrolment.
 - Middle Stage (3 yrs):** 26% of total enrolment.
 - Secondary Stage (4 yrs):** 27% of total enrolment.

Enrolment & Retention

- Secondary GER:** Rose to 71.7% (up from 68.5%).
- Dropouts:** Fell to 1.8% at preparatory and 7.0% at secondary levels.
- Retention:** Reached 83.7% (middle) and 51.9% (secondary).
- Migration:** Government schools lost 86 lakh students; private schools gained 88 lakh.

Teaching Workforce

- Volume:** Crossed 1.02 crore teachers (8.3% increase since 2022-23).
- Gender:** Women comprise 54.9% of the workforce.

14. Performance Grading Index 2.0

News -

- The Union Ministry of Education released the Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs 2025-26.

Key Findings

- All States and UTs scored over 50% in their assessments, but none achieved the top 'Utkarsh' grade.
- Top Performers:** Chandigarh became the first

territory to reach the 'Uttam-3' performance band. Punjab, Kerala, Delhi, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu secured 2nd spot within the Prachesta-1 band.

- Lowest Performer:** Meghalaya remained the lowest performer but made progress over the past year.

PGI 2.0

- Developed by -** Department of School Education and Literacy
- Objective -** It is an evidence-based framework to assess the school education system.
- It aligns with NEP 2020 and SDG 4 on quality education.
- It uses data from UDISE+, PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan, PM POSHAN, and the PRABANDH portal.
- Grading Categories:** Consist of 10 classification levels, ranging from Utkarsh (highest, for scores >90%) to Akanshi-3 (lowest, for scores up to 10%).

15. India Bans Imports of Goods Made Using Forced Labour

Context

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has officially amended India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023, authorizing the **Central Government to ban imports of goods manufactured through forced labour.**

Constitutional Framework

- The Constitution of India strictly penalises forced labour under the Right against Exploitation:
- Article 23(1)** abolishes **not just forced physical labor, but also economic subjugation**, such as paying less than the minimum wage for labor
- Article 23(2)** permits the **State to draft individuals for essential public services** (e.g., military conscription or disaster relief), but **strictly forbids discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, or class** in the selection process.
- Article 24:** Prohibits the **employment of children below 14 years in factories, mines, or hazardous occupations.**
- Directive Principles (DPSC):** Article 42 mandates just and humane working conditions, while Article 43 commands the state to secure a living wage.

16. Trial in Absentia

News

- **Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed is set to face a trial in absentia** following the issuance of a non-bailable warrant by a special NIA court in Jammu for his role in the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.

About -

- A **trial in absentia** under **Section 356 of the BNSS, 2023**, allows **any competent trial court to conduct a criminal trial and pronounce judgment without the physical presence of the accused**.
- **CrPC, 1973**, restricted courts to recording **witness statements** only when the accused absconded, whereas the **BNSS permits a final verdict**.
- **Eligibility:** The provision applies exclusively to proclaimed offenders declared under Section 84 for offences punishable with 10 years, life imprisonment, or death.
- The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023** officially replaced the colonial-era **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973**, taking effect on **July 1, 2024**.

17. NAMASTE Day

Context

- The **Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment celebrated the 3rd NAMASTE Day on July 14**, marking three years since the launch of the **National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme in 2023**.

NAMASTE Day

- It is dedicated to **honouring sanitation workers including sewer and septic tank workers, waste pickers and former manual scavengers** for their vital role in safeguarding public health and environmental sanitation.

National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)

- Launched in - **July 2023**
- **Financing - Central Sector Scheme**
- **Implemented by - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs,**

Objectives:

- **Zero fatalities in sanitation work.**
- **All sanitation operations to be performed by skilled workers.**

- **No direct contact with human faecal matter.**
- **Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.**

Key Interventions:

- **Profiling:** Digital profiling of Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs).
- **Safety:** Providing PPE kits, safety devices, and training to workers.
- **Empowerment:** Capital subsidy for purchasing sanitation machinery to become “sanipreneurs”.
- **Health:** Occupational safety training and health insurance.
- **Significance:** **Aligns with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and promotes the dignity and safety of sanitation workers.**

18. 98th Foundation Day of ICAR

News -

- Marking ICAR's 98th Foundation Day, the Union Ministry of Agriculture unveiled the **“Developed Agriculture and Prosperous Farmers” roadmap as a key pillar of Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Outcomes-

- **100 Climate-Smart Villages:** Developing at least 100 villages before ICAR's centenary to demonstrate climate-resilient farming, water conservation, and risk-reduction models.
- **One Institute-One Grand Innovation:** Mandating every ICAR institute deliver at least one breakthrough technological innovation, vaccine, or crop variety within two years.
- **Mission ICAR-100:** Transforming Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) into innovation hubs for large-scale demonstrations, with each KVK visiting at least 100 villages.
- **ICAR Open Digital Knowledge Platform:** Creating a mobile-first platform providing free crop advisories, soil-test results, and instructional videos via smartphones.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- **Established in 1929** (originally as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research),
- ICAR is the **apex body for coordinating agricultural research and education in India**.
- It is an autonomous organisation **under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- **Union Agriculture Minister serves as the ICAR Society's ex officio President**, and the Minister of State for Agriculture serves as Vice-President.

19. World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO)

In News

- China formally launched the **World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO)** in Shanghai, at the 2026 World Artificial Intelligence Conference.



WAICO

- It is an **intergovernmental body for AI cooperation, capacity building, and shared governance standards** among developing nations,
- Headquarters - Shanghai.
- Uniqueness** - It's the first standing institution of its kind aimed squarely at the Global South.
- Members - 29 countries.

Significance -

- China will provide 5,000 AI training opportunities and establish joint AI cooperation centres with ASEAN, African Union, BRICS, SCO, League of Arab States.
- It will promote open-source AI models, technology sharing, and collaborative AI development.
- The platform will strengthen China's influence in global AI governance with the Global South.

20. Investment Friendliness Index (IFI)

Context

- NITI Aayog has released the report titled "Investment Friendliness Index (IFI)".

About

- Objective** - It assesses how effectively States and Union Territories create, **enable, and sustain an environment conducive to investments.**
- Parameters** - Infrastructure, Business climate, Resources, Government policy, Regulatory Ease, Institutional Environment, Financial Health; and Environmental Resilience.
- State Categorisation: States and Union Territories have been classified into four performance categories:**
 - Top Performers (scores above 50).
 - Frontrunners (45–50).
 - Emerging Performers ($\geq 40 - < 45$).
 - Aspiring States (below 40).
- Among the Large States**, Gujarat secured the first rank, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil

Nadu, which are also the top three performers in the overall Index.

- In the Hilly and **North-Eastern States category**, Uttarakhand emerged as the highest-ranked State, followed by Assam and Himachal Pradesh.
- Among the City States and Union Territories**, Goa secured the top position, followed by Delhi and Chandigarh.

21. National Commission for Minorities

Context

- The Union government appointed Harjit Singh Grewal as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

- The Union Government set up the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) **under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.**
- The first Statutory National Commission was set up in 1993.
- Initially five religious communities, viz., Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis)** were notified as minority communities by the Union Government.
- In 2014, Jains were also notified as another minority community.**
- Composition** - The Commission consists of: A Chairperson, a Vice- Chairperson, and Five Members.
- Objective:** The organisation is **set-up to safeguard and protect the interests of minorities** as provided in the Constitution of India and laws enacted by the Parliament and the State Legislatures.

22. Museum of Word

Context

- The Union Home Minister inaugurated **the first phase of the 'Museum of Word' in Kolkata.**

About

- It is **developed by the National Library** under the **aegis of the Union Culture Ministry.**
- It is the **first immersive language museum in the country**, also known as **Shabdlok.**
- It celebrates India's 22 official languages and traces their journey from oral traditions and ancient manuscripts** to printed works and modern electronic texts.
- The museum features nine galleries exploring different facets of the history of languages and

their influence on India's civilisation and culture.

- **Significance** - It seeks to present language as a living entity that has continuously shaped society while also being shaped by it.

Eighth Schedule

- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the **official languages of the Republic of India**.
- **Part XVII of the Indian Constitution** deals with the official languages in **Articles 343 to 351**.

The Eighth Schedule includes the recognition of the following 22 languages:

- Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri are the 22 languages presently in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.
- Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
- Subsequently, Sindhi was added in 1967; Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added in 1992; and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.

23. Right to Protest

In News

- Recently, Delhi Police stated that the **Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has no permission to continue the protest at Jantar Mantar** or to hold the proposed march to Parliament.

Laws governing the right to protest

- In India, the right to protest is protected under **Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution that guarantees freedom of speech and expression** and
- Article 19(1)(b) that guarantees the right to assemble peacefully without arms.
- But it is subject to such reasonable restrictions as are necessary for maintaining public order, security and other constitutional interests.
- **Conditions : Law and order is a State subject and each state** has its own rules for granting permission for protests and public gatherings.
- **Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** too allows authorities to issue prohibitory orders and bar any continuing protests.
- But there must be reasons for any refusal or withdrawal of permission, stating the risks or threats involved.

24. M.P. Cabinet Approves Draft UCC Bill

Context

- The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved the draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill.

Major Highlights of the Bill

- **Objective:** The Bill seeks to **prohibit polygamy and simultaneously multiple marriages across all communities**.
- It proposes a **prohibition on practices like polygamy** and nikah halala, while introducing strict provisions for live-in relationships.
- **Exemptions:** The law will **not apply to Scheduled Tribes (such as Bhil, Gond, Korku, Baiga, Sahariya, and Bharia) covered under Articles 342 and 366 of the Constitution**.
- Furthermore, communities whose traditional rights are protected under Part XXI of the Constitution have also been specifically exempted.
- **Registration:** It will be **mandatory to register marriages and divorces across all communities** through government portals.
- Children of married or unmarried parents—whether biological, adopted, or born through surrogacy or Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART)—will enjoy equal legal status.
- **Live-in Relations:** It is **mandatory for live-in couples to submit an affidavit to the local registrar within a month of entering in a relationship**, failing which could attract legal action.
- Children born out of live-in relationships will be considered legitimate and entitled to full inheritance rights.

Uniform Civil Code

- **Article 44 of the Directive Principles of the State Policy (DPSP)** states that it is the duty of the State to secure **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** for the citizens throughout the country.
- It mainly aims to **replace Personal Laws** based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community in India with a **common set of rules governing every citizen**.
- **"Uniform" in UCC signifies**
 - ◆ Uniformity of laws **between communities**.
 - ◆ Uniformity of laws **within communities** ensuring equalities between the rights of men and women.

Efforts Towards UCC in India

- **Special Marriage Act, 1954:** The Special Marriage

Act of 1954 provides for **civil marriage for any citizen irrespective of religion**, thus, permitting any Indian to have their marriage outside the boundaries of any religious personal law.

- **Shah Bano Case 1985:** In this case, **Shah Bano** was refused her claim for maintenance. The **Supreme Court** ruled in her favour under Section 125 of **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**, which applied to all citizens the order for maintenance of wives, children and parents.
 - ♦ The Supreme Court further **recommended that the long pending Uniform Civil Code should be finally enacted.**
- The Supreme Court also called on the government to implement the UCC in the 1995 Sarla Mudgal judgement as well as in the Paulo Coutinho vs Maria Luiza Valentina Pereira case (2019).

Arguments in Favour of UCC

- **Accommodating the Aspirations of the Youth:** As the world transitions into the digital age, the **social attitude and aspiration of the young population** is shaping by **universal and global principles of equality, humanity and modernity.**
 - ♦ Thus, the **enactment of Uniform Civil Code will help in utilising their full potential** towards nation building.
- **Support National Integration: The Constitution guarantees all citizens equal treatment in courts of law whether it is criminal laws or other civil laws (except Personal Laws).**
 - ♦ Thus, the implementation of Uniform Civil Code will grant an equal set of personal laws to all, resulting in the **end of politicization of issues of the discrimination or concessions** or on the **other hand exceptional benefits appreciated by a specific community on the basis of their specific religious personal laws.**
- **The Rise Above the Patriarchal Mindset:** The existing personal laws of most religions are based upon the upper-class patriarchal notions of the society. Thus, the codification and implementation of the Uniform Civil Code will destroy the sanctity of the patriarchal orthodox.
 - ♦ Thus, the Uniform Civil Code will **promote gender equality** and will bring both **men and women at par.**
- **Convenient for Judicial Process:** There exist many personal laws, including **Hindu Code, Sharia Law, etc.** The presence of so many laws leads to

confusion, complexity, and inconsistencies in the adjudication of personal matters, sometimes resulting in **delayed or incomplete justice.**

- ♦ UCC will help the judiciary deliver justice efficiently and within a **reasonable time-frame.**

Arguments Against UCC

- **21st Law Commission Report :** The **Law Commission of India** has opined that a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is neither necessary nor desirable to reconcile conflicts in personal/family laws.
 - ♦ It stated that **many countries are now moving towards recognition of difference**, and the mere existence of difference **does not imply discrimination, but is indicative of a robust democracy.**
 - ♦ Therefore, the **Commission has suggested amendments to existing family laws** to tackle discrimination and inequality in personal laws, rather than do away with differences between them altogether.
- **Against Cultural Diversity India:** Practical difficulties due to diversity in India, it is difficult to come up with a uniform set of rules for personal issues like marriage due to the tremendous diverse culture in India across the religions, sects, castes, states, etc.
- **Encroachment on Religious Freedom: Articles 25 to 28 of Indian Constitution** provide the **Right to Freedom of Religion.** The Uniform Civil Code is viewed as a **threat to religious freedom (Article 25)** by many communities, especially the minority communities.
 - ♦ According to them, the **Uniform Civil Code will neglect their traditions and impose rules** which will be mainly influenced by the **majority religious communities.**
- **Against the Indigenous Rights of Tribes:** The **Naga Community** has claimed that the implementation of UCC would bring about clear trouble for their **culture and dignity.**
 - ♦ It can potentially cause **social disorder**, as the **personal and social life of the tribes are quite distinct from the rest of the people in the country.**

Conclusion

- The goal of a UCC should ideally be reached in a **piecemeal manner through a brick-by-brick approach** rather than an omnibus approach. A **just code is far more important than a uniform code.**

25. Operation Vajra

Context

- The **Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN)** prevented illegal trafficking of high-strength **Tramadol Hydrochloride (250 mg) tablets** under the Operation Vajra.

Tramadol

- It is a **synthetic opioid painkiller**, popularly known as the **'Fighter Drug'**.
- It has reportedly been **misused by fighters**, including **ISIS militants**, to suppress pain and fatigue.
- In 2018, India brought Tramadol under the ambit of the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**, making its production and sale without approval from the Central Bureau of Narcotics illegal.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

- Objective** - It is India's primary law regulating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It balances strict prohibition with medical use.

Constitutional & Global Pillars

- Article 47:** Aligns with the Directive Principle to prohibit health-injurious drinks and drugs.
- UN Treaties:** Fulfills India's obligations under the 1961, 1971, and 1988 UN drug conventions.
- Jurisdiction:** Covers all of India, its citizens abroad, and India-registered ships/aircraft.

Key Provisions & Definitions

- Blanket Ban:** Prohibits cultivation, production, possession, and sale of narcotics except for medical/scientific use.
- Bhang Exception:** Explicitly bans Charas and Ganja, but excludes Bhang (leaves), leaving it to state laws.
- Property Forfeiture:** Empowers the state to freeze and seize assets derived from illicit drug trafficking.

Enforcement Nodal Body

- Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):** Formed in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as the apex coordinating enforcement agency.

26. Gems of India Challenge

News-

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

(MIB) launched the pilot phase of **Gems of India Challenge**.



About

- Objective** - It is a nationwide initiative to **identify, nurture and promote grassroots digital creators**.
- The challenge, built on MyWAVES platform under WAVES OTT, invites citizens to create short videos showcasing unique stories and cultural heritage of their districts.
- The pilot phase will cover Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Goa, and Ladakh.
- It offers **district-level awards of ₹50,000 each for up to 20 creators per district**, state-level awards of two lakh rupees, and national awards of five lakh rupees during the nationwide rollout.
- WAVES** - It is an **Over-The-Top (OTT)** platform by **Prasar Bharati**, was launched at **55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**, held in Panaji, Goa, on **20th November 2024**.
- MyWAVES** is a new feature within WAVES OTT platform that enables citizens to create, upload and share content aimed at promoting the **'Orange Economy'**.

Connect with basics - Orange Economy

- It is also known as the **Creative Economy**
- It refers to knowledge-based economic activities where **individual creativity, skill, talent, and cultural heritage** are transformed into economic value through **Intellectual Property (IP)**.
- Origin:** Coined by Colombian economists **Felipe Buitrago** and **Iván Duque** (former President of Colombia) in their 2013 book, **The Orange Economy: An Infinite Opportunity**.
- Symbolism:** The **color orange** was chosen as it has historically been associated with **culture, creativity, and identity**.
- Core Sectors:** Includes **film, music, gaming,**

animation, visual effects (AVGC), fashion, publishing, software development, and cultural tourism.

- **Recent developments - Karnataka's AVGC-XR Policy 3.0 (2024–2029)** is a strategic framework designed to establish the state as a global leader in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality

27. Fast-Track Courts (FTCs) in India

News -

- **PM announced the operationalisation of fast-track courts to address NEET examination paper leaks under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.**

Constitutional Safeguards and Statutory Framework

- **Article 14 & 21:** Supreme Court affirms the right to a speedy, fair trial as part of the right to life and liberty (Article 21) and requires special courts to be based on objective classification (Article 14).
- **Article 247:** Empowers Parliament to establish additional courts for better administration of Union laws.
- **Criminal Law Amendment, 2018:** Establishes the legal basis for FTSCs and sets a two-month timeline for completing rape investigations and trials.
- **POCSO Act, 2012:** Sections 28 and 35 require State Governments to establish Special Courts and complete trials within one year.
- **Public Examinations Act, 2024:** Provides the legal basis for prosecuting organised examination fraud and for prosecuting syndicates involved in paper leaks.

28. Internet Shutdowns in India

News -

- The Union government suspended mobile internet across parts of Central Delhi during the CJP's 'Chalo Sansad' protest.

Extent of Internet Shutdowns in India

- India ranked 2nd globally with 65 shutdowns in 2025, mainly during protests, conflicts, communal violence, and religious holidays.
- Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur historically recorded frequent, prolonged shutdowns.

Legal and Statutory Framework

- **Section 20(2)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023,** and the Telecommunications (Temporary

Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024, govern internet shutdowns.

- The 2024 Rules require that **every suspension order must specify the reasons**, set a precise duration, and define the affected geographic area.
- **Grounds:** Emergencies, sovereignty threats, security concerns, risks to foreign relations, public disorder, or incitement to offences.
- **Competent Authority:** Union or State Home Secretaries can issue shutdown orders, with Joint Secretaries authorised only in urgent emergencies.
- **Duration Limit:** The 2024 Rules limit shutdowns to **15 days** and require a Review Committee to assess each order within five days.

Judicial Safeguards

- **Anuradha Bhasin v. UoI (2020):** SC protected online speech under Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g), declaring indefinite shutdowns impermissible. **Shutdowns must be necessary, proportional, and used as a last resort.**
- **Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala (2019):** Kerala High Court declared the **Right to the Internet a fundamental right under Article 21.**

29. Gor Boli

News -

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs recently informed Parliament about **continuing demands to include Gor Boli in the Eighth Schedule.**

Gor Boli

- It is also called Lambadi
- It is an Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly by the Banjara community across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.
- It lacks a standardised native script and is generally written in Devanagari, Telugu or Kannada scripts.

Eighth Schedule

- The Eighth Schedule of the IC, as provided for in Articles 344(1) and 351, lists India's scheduled languages.
- It originally listed 14 languages; three constitutional amendments increased the number to 22.
- The 21st Amendment Act, 1967 added Sindhi, the 71st Amendment Act, 1992 added Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali, and the 92nd Amendment

Act, 2003 added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali.

- There is no fixed criterion for including a language in the Eighth Schedule as per the **Ashok Pahwa Committee (1996)** and **Sitakant Mohapatra Committee (2003)**.
- Inclusion in the schedule ensures state support for the language's literary development, permits its use in parliament, and allows all-India exams to be conducted in that language.

30. Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

Context

- The Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to introduce amendments to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

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

Penalties and Punishments:

Individuals:

- Imprisonment ranges from 3 to 10 years depending on the offense's severity.
- Fines up to Rs. 1 crore for organized crimes.
- Service providers:
 - Fines up to Rs. 1 crore for involvement in malpractices.
 - Barring from conducting public examinations for 4 years.
 - Personal liability for directors/management involved.

Organized crimes:

- Harsher penalties, with imprisonment between

5 and 10 years and a minimum fine of Rs. 1 crore

- The institution involved can face property attachment and forfeiture

Investigation:

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

Radhakrishnan Panel

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

ECONOMY

1. Nine Years of GST

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.

2. 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.



3. India’s Diminishing Cotton Productivity

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

4. IndiaSkills Competition 2026-27

News -

- The **Union Minister** launched **IndiaSkills Competition 2026–27**.

About -

- **Objective** - It is India’s **flagship skill competition to identify, nurture and showcase India’s most talented youth across 63 industry-relevant skill categories**.
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and supported by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** as knowledge and implementation partner.
- **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)** provides a **transparent, accessible and digital platform for participation**.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

- Not-for-profit public limited company under section 8 of Companies Act, 2013.
- Operates as a **Public Private Partnership** model under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- 49% of share capital is held by the government and 51% by the private sector.

4. Miniratna

News -

- The Ministry of Steel granted Miniratna Category-I status to MECON Limited, a leading engineering and consultancy Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
- Miniratna status was introduced in 1997 to give profit-making CPSEs more autonomy.

Maharatna vs. Navratna vs. Miniratna

	Maharatna	Navratna	Miniratna (Category I & II)
Hierarchy Level	Highest tier.	Mid-level tier.	Entry-level tier.
Current Strength	14 companies.	26 companies.	74 companies (approx. Cat I & II).
Pre-requisite Status	Must already be a Navratna .	Must be a Miniratna Cat-I and Schedule 'A'.	Profit-making for 3 consecutive years .
Stock Exchange Listing	Mandatory listing under SEBI regulations.	Not strictly required for initial grant.	Not strictly required for initial grant.
Key Financial Criteria (Avg. of last 3 years)	Net Profit: > ₹5,000 cr Net Worth: > ₹15,000 cr Turnover: > ₹25,000 cr	Score of 60/100 based on 6 efficiency parameters (e.g., Net Profit to Net Worth).	Cat-I: Pre-tax profit ≥ ₹30 cr in 1 of 3 years Cat-II: Continuous profit, positive net worth.
Global Presence	Mandatory international operations.	Desirable but not mandatory.	Focus is primarily domestic or regional.
Financial Autonomy (Investment limit per project without Government approval)	Up to ₹5,000 crore or 15% of net worth (whichever is lower).	Up to ₹1,000 crore or 15% of net worth (whichever is lower).	Cat-I: Up to ₹500 crore or net worth. Cat-II: Up to ₹300 crore or 50% of net worth.
Prominent Examples	NTPC, ONGC, SAIL, BHEL, HAL.	BEL, CONCOR, MTNL, NMDC, IRCTC.	Airports Authority of India (AAI), BSNL, IRCTC (formerly).

5. Matcha Tea

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**.

6. Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR)

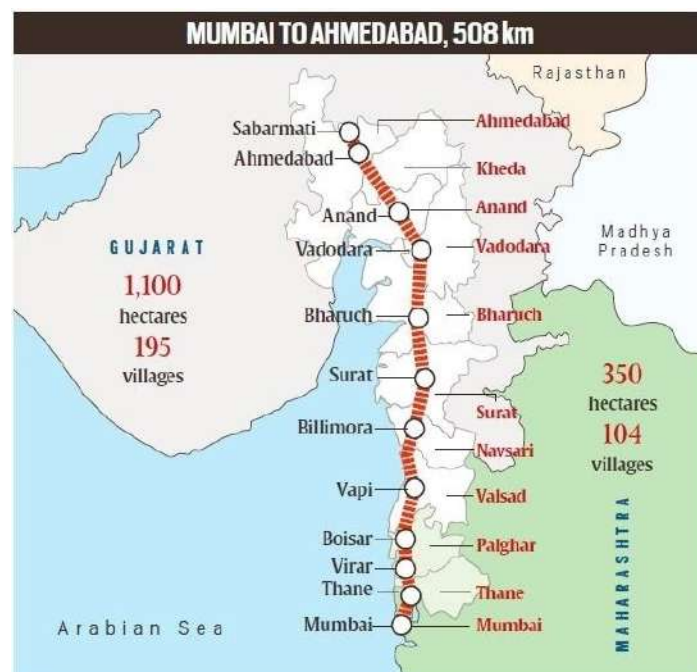
Context

- India is nearing completion of its first bullet train corridor – the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed

Rail (MAHSR).

About

- The corridor will **connect Mumbai and Ahmedabad in about 1 hour 58 minutes**. It covers a **total length of approximately 508 kilometres**.
- **12 stations** have been planned along the route.
- It is expected to **commence in August 2027**. The first section to open will be from Surat to Vapi.
- The corridor has a **design speed of 350 kmph** and an **operational speed of 320 kmph**.
- The MAHSR Project is being developed using **Japanese Shinkansen technology and operational practices**.
- **Track System:** J-Slab ballastless track technology is being introduced in India for the first time.



7. India's Fisheries Sector

News -

- India ranks as world's 2nd largest fish producing nation accounting for 8% of global output.
- Fisheries account for nearly **7.43% Agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA)**, highest among the agriculture and allied sectors.

Initiatives to Promote Fisheries in India

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** to usher in the "Blue Revolution" through the sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY):** It aims to formalise the unorganised fisheries sector and support micro

and small enterprises.

- **Kisan Credit Card for Fisheries:** Government has raised the lending limit under the scheme for fisheries and allied activities from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.
- **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF):** It offers a credit guarantee cover of up to Rs 12.50 crore and provides an interest subvention of up to 3% per year.

8. Kamarajar Port

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. Chidambaram 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.

9. World Investment Report 2026

News -

- The **UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** released the **World Investment Report (WIR) 2026**, titled "International Investment in a Turbulent Era."

World Investment Report 2026

- It is **UNCTAD's** annual flagship publication, published since 1991
- It provides a **comprehensive assessment of global FDI trends, investment policies, multinational enterprises, and emerging investment issues.**

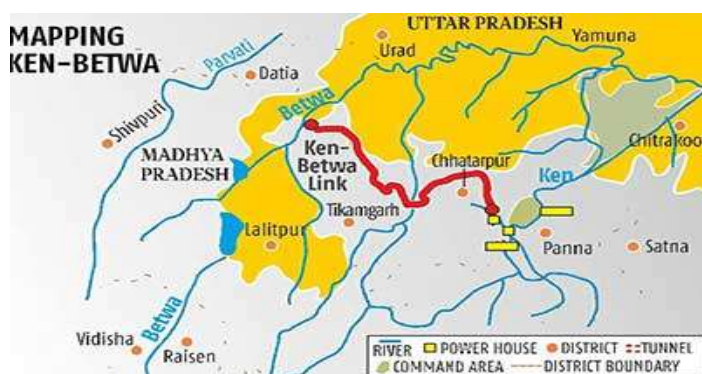
Key Findings

- **Global FDI Showed Resilience In 2025:** Flows rose by 6% to \$1.6 trillion. Europe attracted most of the increase in global foreign investment.
- **FDI Inflow :** The U.S. retained its position as the largest recipient of FDI. Other major recipients included Singapore, Hong Kong (China) and China.
- **FDI Outflow:** The US was the largest source of FDI, followed by Japan and China. The top five source economies accounted for almost half of global outflows.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD),

- It is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the UN General Assembly in 1964.
- Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland
- It acts as the UN's key entity for trade, finance, technology, and investment in developing nations.

10. Ken-Betwa River Linking Project



Context

- Residents of several villages who are being impacted by the Ken-Betwa river linking project, have restarted their agitation over their demands

of better compensation and rehabilitation.

Ken-Betwa Link Project

- It is a project proposed **to transfer excess water from the River Ken to the Betwa basin** through the use of a concrete canal.
- **Objective** - to **provide irrigation to the Bundelkhand region of UP**, which is one of the worst drought-affected areas in India.
- **Beneficiary states** - **Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Significance** - It will meet the **irrigation purposes, drinking water, and electricity needs** of 6 districts in both states.
- **Biodiversity Concerns** - Nearly 8,650 hectares of forest land including part of **Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh will be submerged** if the project were to become a reality.

11. Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

In News

- Recently, the **Chhattisgarh government issued an advisory to focus on prioritising Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)** over the traditional transplanting method against the backdrop of the uncertainty of rainfall due to El Niño.

Direct Seeding of Rice

- It is a **resource-efficient cultivation technique** where **paddy seeds are sown directly into the main field**, completely bypassing the traditional, water-intensive stages of nursery raising, manual transplanting, and field puddling.
- Also locally called the **'tar-wattar' technique (sowing in moist soil)**.
- It has gained immense policy traction across states like Punjab and Haryana **to counter severe groundwater depletion and El Niño-induced monsoon deficits**.

Additional Information - DSR vs. Traditional Puddled Transplanted Rice (PTR)

Feature	Traditional Method (PTR)	Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)
Nursery Phase	Seeds grown in nurseries for 25–35 days.	Skipped entirely; seeds sown directly.
Field Preparation	Puddling (ploughing flooded fields to create mud).	Laser land levelling and dry/ moist sowing.

Water Usage	Flooded conditions; requires ~3,600–4,125 litres per kg.	Saves 15% to 35% water; no continuous submergence.
Labour Need	Highly intensive (manual up-rooting & planting).	Mechanised; slashes labour costs by over 30%.
Methane Profile	High (anaerobic decomposition in flooded fields).	Low (soil remains moist, not flooded).

12. India's Textile Sector

Context -

- The Ministry of Textiles released a report on India's Textile Future, emphasising the need to adopt circular economy principles across the textile value chain.

Significance of the Textile Sector

- It is also called the **"spinning wheel" of India's industrial growth**,
- The textile and apparel sector **contributes ~2% to GDP and ~11% of manufacturing GVA**.
- It is **India's 2nd largest employer after agriculture**, providing livelihoods to over 45 million people.
- **India is the 6th largest textile and apparel exporter**, with a 4% global market share.



Government Initiatives

- **PM MITRA Parks:** Massive textile parks with sustainable infrastructure, featuring Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) to optimize water reuse.
- **Indian Carbon Market (ICM) Integration:** The government has added the carbon-heavy textile sector to the requirements for disclosing Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions.
- **RAMP Programme:** Introduced MSE-SPICE with a 25% capital subsidy for circular methods and MSE-GIFT with a 2% interest subsidy for green technology upgrades to finance small businesses.
- **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM):** Funds scientific research **to chemically and mechanically convert tough textile waste into industrial advanced materials**.

- **Eco Mark Scheme:** Establishes national eco-labelling standards for textile products, easing the transition into markets with strict environmental standards.
- **Mission LiFE:** Promotes clothing reuse, swapping, circular economies, and less fast-fashion consumption through lifestyle change.
- **Industrial Innovation: The SURE Initiative,** led by CMAI and the UN in India, is India's largest voluntary fashion-sector sustainability commitment.

13. Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)

News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) absorbed 1.67 lakh crore rupees through the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF).

Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)

- It is a collateral-free RBI tool used to absorb excess liquidity from banks.

Core Features

- **No collateral:** Banks park funds without RBI giving government securities.
- **Corridor floor:** It forms the lower bound of the LAF corridor.
- **Urjit Patel Committee:** First recommended the tool in 2014.
- **April 2022:** Officially implemented to manage pandemic-induced liquidity.

Other Monetary Policy Tools in India

- **Repo Rate:** Rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to banks against collateral.
- **Reverse Repo Rate:** Rate at which RBI absorbs liquidity from banks.
- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):** Portion of deposits banks must keep with RBI in cash.
- **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):** Portion of deposits kept in liquid assets (gold, cash, securities).
- **Open Market Operations (OMO):** Buying/selling of government securities to control liquidity.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** Emergency borrowing by banks at a penal rate.
- **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF):** Framework for repo/reverse repo operations.
- **Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS):** Bonds issued to absorb excess liquidity.

14. Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)

In News

- The Union Cabinet approved a new Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a budgetary outlay of ₹62,500 crore.

Objective -

- It has been launched to **scale up domestic production, deepen component localization, and foster indigenous smartphone design and R&D.**
- **Launched by:** It has been launched by **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**
- **Duration:** It is a five-year scheme, which will run from **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.**
- **Budget Outlay:** Its budgetary outlay is of **Rs. 62,500 crore.**

Features

- **Production-Linked Incentives:** The scheme provides incentive support on eligible sales of mobile phones manufactured in India, with differentiated incentive rates ranging from 2.25% to 5%, based on the applicable eligibility criteria.
- **Incentive for Domestic Value Addition:** Manufacturers can receive an additional incentive of up to 1.5% for increasing domestic sourcing of key components and sub-assemblies, thereby promoting local manufacturing ecosystems.
- **Support for Design and Innovation:** To foster indigenous innovation and brand creation, the scheme offers an additional 3% incentive on eligible sales for companies undertaking product design and R&D activities in India.1

15. Semicon 2.0

Context

- The Union Cabinet approved **Semicon 2.0 (India Semiconductor Mission 2.0)** with a ₹1,27,500 crore outlay to develop India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- **Six Strategic Pillars:**
 1. Design:
 2. Machines & Materials:
 3. Fabrication:
 4. Expanding Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP) and Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) units



to establish India as a global alternative.

5. R&D

6. Talent Development

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

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

Connect with the basics - Semiconductor Chips

- These are materials which have a **conductivity between conductors and insulators**.
- **Example** - They can be pure elements, **silicon or germanium or compounds; gallium, arsenide or cadmium selenide**.
- **Significance of Semiconductor Chips** - They are the basic building blocks that serve as the **heart and brain of all modern electronics** and information and communication technology products.
- **Applications** - These chips are now an integral part of contemporary **automobiles, household gadgets and essential medical devices** such as ECG machines.

16. Mission Golden Spice

Context -

- The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** launched **Mission Golden Spice** to develop Meghalaya's GI-tagged Lakadong turmeric as a global premium spice.
- **Significance** - It advances the 'Ashtalakshmi initiative', which identifies a **Unique Selling Proposition (USP)** for each of the northeastern states.



Lakadong Turmeric

- It is a premium variety of turmeric **cultivated in Meghalaya's Jaintia Hills** and is renowned for its high **curcumin content of 7–12%**, compared

with 2–3% in conventional varieties.

- Traditionally cultivated by **indigenous farmers without synthetic fertilisers or pesticides, using heirloom seed rhizomes (100% organic)**.
- It was formally granted a GI tag in 2024.
- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric, accounting for over 70% of global production.
- Major producing states - Telangana, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

17. Naying Hydro Electric Project



News -

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change granted **environmental clearance to the Naying Hydro Electric Project**.

About -

- It is a 1,000 MW run-of-the-river hydroelectric project **proposed on the Siyom (Yomgo) River in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The Siyom (Yomgo) River is a **right-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra River**.
- The project is being **developed by the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO)**.

Hydro Plants in Karnataka

- **Sharavathi Project:** 1,035 MW facility in Shimoga; utilizes the Linganamakki Dam.
- **Kalinadi Project:** 1,200+ MW multi-dam network (Supa, Kadra) in Uttara Kannada.
- **Varahi Project:** 460 MW facility; features the state's first underground powerhouse.
- **Sivasamudram Station:** 42 MW historic plant on the Cauvery River; built in 1902.
- **Almatti Project:** 290 MW facility built across the Krishna River.

Future Expansion

- Sharavathi Pumped Storage: 2,000 MW mega-project under construction for grid balancing.

18. Patent Mitra Initiative

News

- **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** licensed three indigenous biomedical technologies to domestic manufacturers under

its Medical Innovations Patent Mitra initiative.

Patent Mitra Initiative

- **It is a centralized digital platform acting as an Intellectual Property (IP) incubator for India's healthcare sector.**
- The National Medical Commission (NMC) has mandated all Indian medical colleges to adopt it.

Institutional Structure

- **Lead Agency:** Developed and managed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- **Key Partners:** Guided by NITI Aayog alongside the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) and DPIIT.

Core Objectives

- **Lowering Barriers:** Eliminates high costs and bureaucratic hurdles of filing domestic and international patents.
- **Commercialization:** Translates lab research into real-world diagnostics, therapeutics, and medical devices.
- **Self-Reliance:** Boosts local biomedical manufacturing under the "Make in India" vision.

Connect with the basics - Intellectual Property rights

- **Definition** - It means providing property rights through patents, copyrights and trademarks.
- Holders of intellectual property rights have monopoly on the usage of property or items for a specified time period.

Types of intellectual property

- **Patents** – It is used for protecting new inventions, ideas or processes. Patent holders need to pay periodic government renewal fees. An approved patent is for a limited time period.
- **Copyrights** – It protects the ideas, examples would be written works, music, art etc.
- **Trademarks** – It is something that protects the symbols, colors, phrases, sounds, design etc.
- **Trade Secrets** – It may be strategies, systems, formulas or other confidential information of an organization that provides them competitive advantage in the market.

National IPR Policy

- **Adopted in** - May 2016
- **Objective** - To guide future development of IPRs in the country.
- **Motto** - Creative India; Innovative India
- **Cell for IPR Promotion & Management (CIPAM)** - It is set up under the aegis of DIPP; is to be the single point of reference for implementation of

the objectives of the National IPR Policy.

- **TRIPS** - India's IPR regime is in compliance with the WTO's agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

KAPILA

- **Abbreviation** - Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign.
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Education

Objectives of the campaign include

- To create awareness regarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- To develop a training program on IPR for faculty and students of Higher Education Institutions.

Additional Information - World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- It is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, that **serves the world's innovators and creators, ensuring that their ideas travel safely to the market and improve lives everywhere.**
- **History:** WIPO was established in **1967 by the WIPO Convention.**
- **Members:** The organization has **193 member states** including both developing and developed nations like India, Italy, Israel, Austria, Bhutan, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, Pakistan, the U.S. and the U.K.
- **India joined WIPO in 1975.**
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

19. GI Tag to Jodhpur Mojari

Context

- The iconic Jodhpur Mojari, a handcrafted footwear tradition from Rajasthan, has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Jodhpur Mojari

- It is a leather boot known for its high craftsmanship, delicate embroidery and timeless style.
- It is predominantly created by the Jinagar community who were traditionally engaged in saddle manufacture.
- Connect with the basics - Geographical Indication or It is a name or a sign given to certain products related to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town, or country.
- A certification for unique products - GI Tag may be regarded as a certification for a particular product with certain specific qualities or has a specific reputation because of its geographical

origin.

- GI Tags can be issued for wine and spirit drinks, foodstuffs, agricultural products, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) - At the International level, GI is governed by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration

and Protection) Act - In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in September 2003.

- Darjeeling tea - The first product in India to be accorded with the GI tag was Darjeeling tea in 2004-05.

GI Tag

Product Name	State / UT	Category / Description
Assam Bihu Pepa	Assam	Traditional musical instrument made of buffalo horn
Assam Bamboo Crafts	Assam	Handcrafted furniture and home decor items
Karbi Anglong Handloom Products	Assam	Intricately woven tribal textiles and garments
Deuri Handloom Products	Assam	Traditional ethnic apparel of the Deuri community
Chandannagar's Jolbhora Sandesh	West Bengal	Iconic heritage sweet filled with liquid jaggery
Janai's Manohara	West Bengal	Traditional historic sweet with a distinct texture
Balagarh Wooden Boats	West Bengal	Hand-built heritage wooden river vessels
Khurasani Imli of Mandu	Madhya Pradesh	Nutritious, sweet-sour fruit from local Baobab trees
Ponduru Khadi	Andhra Pradesh	Hand-spun cotton fabric using indigenous cotton varieties
Woraiyur Cotton Saree	Tamil Nadu	Fine, lightweight traditional handloom sarees
Kavindapadi Nattu Sakkarai	Tamil Nadu	Naturally processed, unrefined organic country sugar
Thooyamalli Rice	Tamil Nadu	Traditional white rice variety shaped like jasmine buds
Mathura Zari Dress	Uttar Pradesh	Ornate garments featuring intricate zari-zardosi embroidery
Bhagaiya & Kuchai Silk	Jharkhand	Premium, organic tribal silks
Munda Jewellery	Jharkhand	Traditional cultural ornaments of the Munda tribe

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. 10 Years of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

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.

2. Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 2026

News

- The Central government notified the **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 2026**, replacing EPF Scheme, 1952.



Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, 2026,

- **Implementation** - Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- **Cap:** Mandatory 12% employee contribution

stops at the ₹15,000 wage ceiling.

- **Limit:** Maximum mandatory monthly deduction is ₹1,800.
- **Voluntary:** Contributions above ₹1,800 are voluntary; employers need not match excess.
- **Withdrawals:** Partial withdrawals require keeping a 25% minimum balance.
- **Portability:** Account transfers between jobs are automatic and digital.
- **Amnesty:** Special schemes (VISHWAS, AMNESTY 2026) resolve past compliance disputes.

3. SHE-LEAPS

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.

4. MANAS Initiative

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 Mukht Bharat**.

India's War Against The Drug Menace

- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 47 states that the State not to promote consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs that are injurious to health except for medicinal purposes.
- **Global Commitment:** India is a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Drug Trafficking.
- **Legal Frameworks:** The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, NDPS Act, 1985, PITNDPS Act, 1988.
- **Key Initiatives:** NIDAAN Portal for monitoring drug cases; **Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan** for awareness, prevention and rehabilitation.

5. MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat)

Context

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya highlighted the role of **MY Bharat in nurturing youth potential and directing it towards nation-building**.



MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat)

- It was launched in **October 2023** under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as an autonomous body.
- It serves as a digital platform that **connects the Government, educational institutions, non-profit organisations and industry to create meaningful youth engagement**.
- It aims to place youth at the centre of nation-building by providing opportunities for **volunteering, skill development, leadership, and civic participation**.
- The initiative, aligned with the National Youth Policy, primarily engages individuals in the **15–29 year age group** while also nurturing adolescents between **10–19 years to cultivate early participation and civic awareness**.

6. PM-UDAY Scheme

In News

- Recently Delhi CM has sought ₹100 crore as a first phase central government financial assistance to implement the revised Pradhan Mantri Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PM-UDAY) in the national capital.

Pradhan Mantri –Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PM-UDAY)

- **Financing** - It is a central sector initiative
- **Launched in-** October 2019
- **Objective** - to grant legal ownership, transfer, and mortgage rights to residents living in Delhi's unauthorised colonies.
- **Administered by** - Delhi Development Authority (DDA) under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**,

7. UMANG Portal

Context

- Researchers have identified security vulnerabilities in India's UMANG Portal, raising concerns about personal data.



UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance)

- It was launched in **November 2017**.
- It is a flagship initiative under the **Digital India Programme**.
- It offers a **single window access to a wide range of services delivered by the Central Government, State Governments and local bodies** through a unified mobile application.
- **Significance** - It enables citizens to access services such as **EPFO, healthcare, pensions, LPG bookings, certificates**, and several other citizen-centric services through a single platform.
- As of February 2026, **UMANG offers 2,446 services from 240 government departments**,

including 80 Central Government Departments and 160 departments across 30 States and Union Territories.

- **UMANG supports 23 Indian language**

8. Atmanirbhar Panchayat Program

Context (PIB):

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj promotes Financial Self-Reliance of Panchayats under the Atmanirbhar Panchayat Program.



About -

- It is a **national challenge programme** by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)**
- **Objective** - to help eligible Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Block Panchayats (BPs) **develop financially viable, revenue-generating projects**.
- The programme **operates under the broader umbrella of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**.

Key Features

- **Eligibility:** To participate, Gram Panchayats must have a minimum Own Source Revenue (OSR) of ₹50 lakh, and Block Panchayats must have an Own Source Revenue (OSR) of ₹1 crore, with at least three years of their tenure remaining.
- Written documentation of Gram Sabha's consent is a mandatory requirement for submission.
- **Reward:** Winner panchayats receive **end-to-end technical assistance to develop & implement the project**.

9. PM-YASASVI Scheme

News -

- The Government of India reaffirmed its commitment to expanding educational opportunities for disadvantaged students through the PM-YASASVI scheme.



About -

- **Full form** - Prime Minister Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI)
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Objective:** Provide financial assistance and residential infrastructure to students from disadvantaged communities, removing geographic and financial barriers to quality education.
- **Beneficiaries:** OBC, Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT) students with an annual family income below ₹2.50 lakh.
- **Scholarship:** Funds students at different stages of their academic lifecycle:
 1. **Pre-Matric Scholarship:** ₹4,000 per annum for Class 9 and 10 students enrolled full-time in Government Schools.
 2. **Post-Matric Scholarship:** ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 annual allowance for post-matriculation courses, varying by course group tier.
 3. **Top Class School Education:** Up to ₹75,000 per annum for Class 9-10 and up to ₹1,25,000 for Class 11-12, covering tuition, hostel, and institutional charges.
 4. **Top Class College Education:** Full tuition reimbursement up to ₹2 lakh per annum in private institutions, along with ₹3,000 monthly living expenses, ₹5,000 book allowance, and a one-time ₹45,000 laptop grant.
 5. **Hostel Construction:** ₹3.00 lakh to ₹3.50 lakh

per seat for residential hostels, prioritising rural pockets and areas with low literacy rates.

5. A minimum of **30% of total slots is reserved for girl students and 5% for Persons with Disabilities (PwD).**

10. SMILE Scheme

News -

- The SMILE scheme rehabilitated over 10,200 individuals engaged in begging across 216 cities.

About -

- **Full form - Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Objective** - providing comprehensive rehabilitation and economic reintegration for transgenders and persons engaged in begging.

Key Sub-Schemes:

- **Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons:** Provides scholarships from Class IX to post-graduation, Garima Grehs, PM-JAY-linked gender-reaffirmation healthcare, PM-DAKSH training and Transgender Protection Cells.
- **Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in Begging:** Advances “Bhiksha Vritti Mukh Bharat” through identification and rescue, shelter with medical care and counselling along with PM-DAKSH training and documentation assistance.
- **SMILE-Beggary National Portal** registers beneficiaries and tracks rehabilitation centres and their outcomes.
- **Note - Indore (Madhya Pradesh) became India's first officially declared beggar-free city in 2025.**



Additional Information - PM-DAKSH

- **Full form** - Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana
- **Financing** - Central Sector Scheme
- **Launched in** - 2020-21
- **Launched by** - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Objective** - It aims to enhance the competency levels of marginalized communities to secure self-employment or wage employment, boosting their socio-economic status

11. GREAT Scheme

News-

- The Ministry of Textiles is implementing the GREAT scheme under the National Technical Textiles Mission.



About

- **Fullform** - Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles.
- **Objective:** To support India's technical textiles start-up ecosystem by helping innovators, scientists, and technologists turn novel ideas and prototypes into commercial products.
- **Funding Support:** Grant-in-aid up to ₹50 lakh per start-up over 18 months to commercialise prototypes.
- **Priority Areas:** High-performance fibres, smart textiles, artificial intelligence/IoT integration, and biodegradable or sustainable materials.
- **Eligibility:** Applicants must be incubated at a recognised incubator to qualify. They must invest at least 10% of the funding amount in the project.

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

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.

1. White Gut Disease

Context

- The Fisheries department sounded an alarm about the outbreak of **White Gut Disease (WDG), also known as White Feces Disease (WFD),** in shrimp ponds in West Godavari district.



White Gut Disease

- It is a disease affecting **farmed shrimp, particularly Pacific white shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei),** which is widely cultivated in India.
- **Symptoms:** It is characterized by the **appearance of floating white fecal strings in shrimp ponds** and discoloration of the shrimp intestine.
- **Causes:** It is not **caused by a single pathogen** but is considered a multifactorial disease, resulting from interactions among pathogens, poor water quality, environmental stress, and management practices.
- **Microsporidian parasite:** Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei (EHP) (commonly associated).
- **Bacterial infections:** **Mainly Vibrio species.**
- Poor pond hygiene and accumulation of organic waste.
- Deterioration in water quality (high ammonia, nitrite, low dissolved oxygen).

2. 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.

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

3. Climate Tipping Points

Context

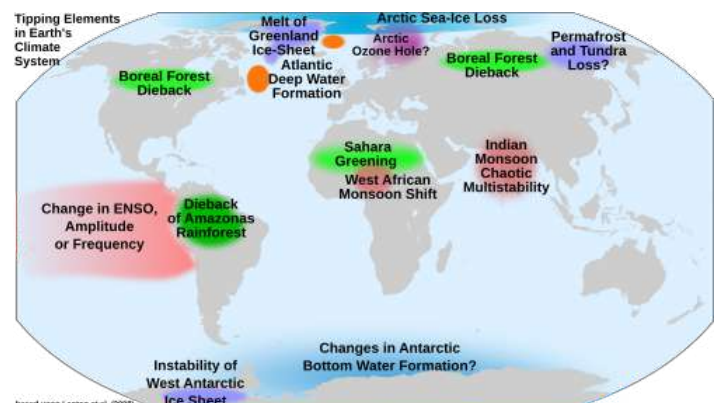
- Climate tipping points emerged as a major area of debate during the Bonn Climate Change Conference held in Germany.

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.

4. Flamingo Revolution

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 (Phoenicopus roseus).
 2. Lesser Flamingo (Phoeniconaias minor).
 3. American / Caribbean Flamingo (Phoenicopus ruber).
 4. Chilean Flamingo (Phoenicopus 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.

5. Transcaspian marinka (Schizothorax pelzami)

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.

6. Forest Owlet (Heteroglaux blewitti)

News -

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

Forest Owlet

- **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**



7. 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)

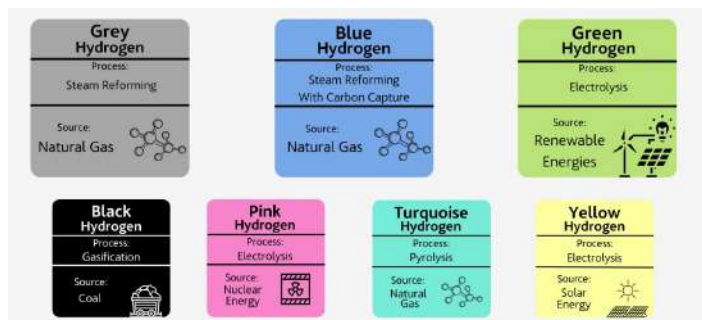
- These are well-defined areas that are **unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems (terrestrial, coastal, inland water, or marine)** characterized by one or more of the following:
 1. Species richness
 2. High endemism
 3. Presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, and species of evolutionary 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.**



8. Green Hydrogen

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.**

9. Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)

News -

- The **World Bank Board has retired the CCAP's 45% climate co-benefits target** and the original 35% target to replace fixed financing quotas with outcome-based development metrics.

Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)

- **Established in - 2021**
- **Objective** - It is the World Bank Group's strategic framework for integrating climate adaptation and mitigation.
- **Significance** - It initially required 35% of total World Bank financing to be allocated to projects with climate co-benefits. This target was raised to 45% at COP28 in 2023.

CCAP operates through 3 pillars:

1. aligning climate and development via new diagnostics,
2. prioritising key system transitions,
3. mobilising finance.

10. Yamuna Water Project

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. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

News -

- Bangladesh became the 27th member nation of the India-led, treaty-based International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

About-

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

Conservation Status of 7 Big Cats

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

12. Hasdeo-Arand Forests

Context

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has granted **environmental clearance for mining in the Kente Extension Integrated Coal Block in Chhattisgarh's Hasdeo-Arand forests.**

Hasdeo-Arand forests

- The Hasdeo-Arand forests, spread across Chhattisgarh's Korba, Surguja, and Surajpur districts, cover about **1.7 lakh hectares** and are considered the **Green Lungs of Central India.**
- They are home to around **640 plant species and nine schedule-1 wildlife species**, which are accorded highest legal protection.
- It is also the **catchment area of the Hasdeo river**, the largest tributary of the Mahanadi.

13. Nameri Tiger Reserve

News

- Tiger population in Assam's Nameri Tiger Reserve rose fourfold, from 3 tigers in 2022 to 12 by the end of 2025.

Nameri Tiger Reserve

- It lies in northern **Sonitpur district, Assam, along the Eastern Himalayan foothills.**
- It is **Assam's second tiger reserve, after Manas,** and is located within the Sonitpur Elephant Reserve.
- The **glacier-fed Jia Bhoroli, a Brahmaputra tributary,** defines the southern boundary of the core area.
- It is a **habitat for the endangered Golden Mahseer.**
- **Vegetation:** Tropical semi-evergreen forests, cane brakes, and riparian grasslands dominate the landscape, including Hollock, Nahor, and Simul.
- **Faunal Diversity:** Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, clouded leopard, gaur, and dhole; it is one of the last breeding sites of the **endangered White-winged Wood Duck.** The Potasali pre-release facility in Nameri trains **captive-bred pygmy hogs for wild reintroduction.**
- Its northern boundary connects the reserve with Arunachal Pradesh's **Pakke Tiger Reserve,** facilitating transboundary megafauna movement.

14. Indira Point

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.**

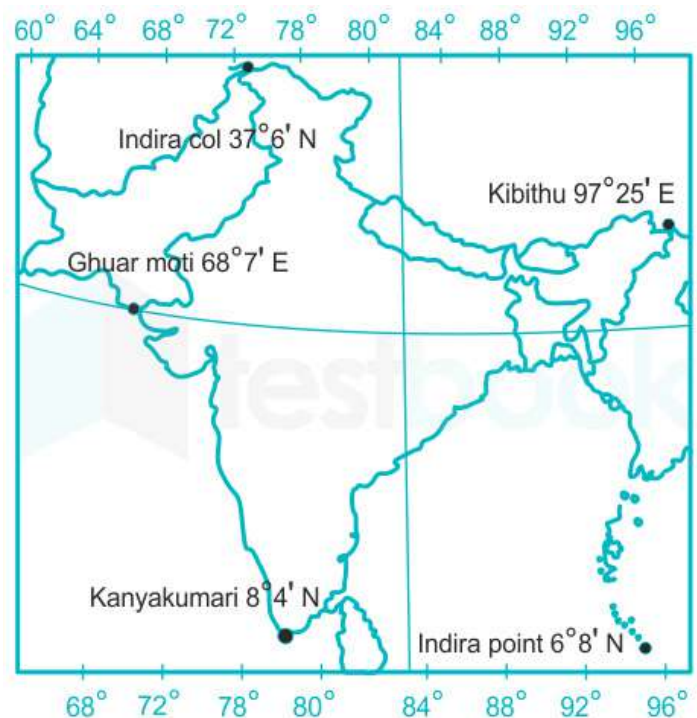
Geographic & Strategic

- **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.**



15. 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).

16. Zebra Finches

Context

- An American scientist, **Dr Julie Elie** at the **University of California** has won the **the Coller Dolittle Challenge award** for her work on how zebra finches communicate with each other.



Zebra Finches

- **Scientific Name:** *Taeniopygia guttata*.
- **Family:** Estrildidae (Waxbills and Grass Finches).
- **Habitat:** Grasslands, scrublands, and areas near water sources.
- The Zebra Finch is a **small, colorful songbird native to Australia**.
- They can also be found natively in parts of **Indonesia and East Timor**.
- It is one of the most widely studied bird species in the world because of its **simple care requirements, social behavior, and vocal learning abilities**.
- IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC).

17. Super Typhoon Bavi

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
 1. Cyclones in the Indian Ocean
 2. Hurricanes in Atlantic
 3. Typhoons in the Western Pacific & South China Sea
 4. 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.

18. Conservation Projects for River Dolphins & Snow Leopards

Context

- The governing body of the National **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** gave the nod to four new conservation projects for **river dolphins, snow leopards, wild water buffalo, and Indian rhinoceros** along with continued support for the conservation of Manipur's brow-antlered deer, Sangai.

19. Snow Leopard

- **Scientific name** - *Panthera uncia*
- **Habitats** - The Snow Leopard lives at high altitudes in the steep



mountains of Central and Southern Asia, and in an extremely cold climate.

- **Range states** - Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim
- **Ghost of the mountains** - The Snow Leopard is also known as Ghost of the mountains
- **Bio indicator** - It acts as an indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem
- **Snow Leopard capital of the world** - Hemis, Ladakh.
- **International Snow Leopard Day** - It is observed on 23rd October.

Conservation status

- **IUCN Red List**- Vulnerable
- **CITES convention** - Appendix I
- **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**- Schedule I

Conservation Efforts Launched by India

Project Snow Leopard (PSL)

- **Launched in** - 2009
- **Objective** - To promote an inclusive and participatory approach to conserve snow leopards and their habitat.
- 1. **Species recovery programme** - Snow Leopard is in the list of 21 critically endangered species for the recovery programme of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.
- 2. **Snow Leopard conservation breeding programme** - It is undertaken at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal.
- 3. **HimalSanrakshak** - It is a community volunteer programme, to protect snow leopards, launched on 23rd October 2020.
- 4. **First National Protocol** - was also launched in 2019.
- 5. **SECURE Himalaya** - Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded the project on conservation of high altitude biodiversity and reducing the dependency of local communities on the natural ecosystem.

International Conservation Efforts

- **SNOW LEOPARD ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION PROGRAM** - It seeks to address high-mountain development issues using the conservation of the endangered snow leopard as a flagship program.
- **Bishkek Declaration** - In 2013, the 12 snow leopard range countries signed and agreed to secure at least 20 snow leopard landscapes across by 2020

- **International Year of the Snow Leopard** - Year '2015' was designated as International Year of the Snow Leopard

Recent Census -

- The exercise reported 718 snow leopards in India
- It was conducted from 2019 to 2023.
- **Conducted by** - The program was conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) with the help of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners - the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru (Karnataka), and WWF (World Wildlife Fund)-India.
- **Based on data analysis, the estimated population of 718 snow leopards in different states/UTs are as follows** - Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and J & K (9).

20. Wild Water Buffalo (Bubalus Arnee)

- It is also called Asiatic buffalo.
- It is a large bovine native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- **Habitat**: The wild water buffalo occurs in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, and Cambodia.
- **Indian distribution** - Kaziranga, Manas and Dibru-Saikhowa National Parks, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary and Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary and in a few scattered pockets in Assam,
- **IUCN status**: Endangered.



21. Indian rhinoceros (Greater One-Horned Rhino)

- **Scientific name** - Rhinocerotidae
- **Habitats** - Rhinos' habitats include tropical and sub-tropical grasslands, savannas and shrublands, tropical moist forests, deserts and shrublands.
- In India, it is found in Assam – Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Pobitora Reserve Forest, Orang National Park, and Laokhowa Reserve Forest.



- **Three species of rhino** - There are three species of rhino in Asia — **Greater one-horned, Javan, and Sumatran.**
- **Rhino range countries** - **India, Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia, and Malaysia.** These countries are also known as Asian Rhino Range Countries.
- **Great one-horned rhino** - The Indian state of **Assam** is home to the **largest population of greater-one horned rhinos, with more than 90% in Kaziranga National Park.**
- **World Rhino Day** - It is celebrated on **September 22nd** of every year.

Conservation status

- **IUCN** - Vulnerable
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972** - Schedule I

22. River Dolphins

- India is home to two species of freshwater dolphins: **Ganges (Platanista gangetica)** and **Indus (Platanista minor).**



Ganges River Dolphin (Platanista Gangetica)

Characteristics

- **Functionally blind**; relies on echolocation for hunting.
- Known as **Susu** due to the sound it makes while breathing.
- Exclusively freshwater species, **inhabiting Ganga and Brahmaputra river basins in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.**
- **Threats:** Habitat destruction, pollution and hunting.

conservation Status

- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species): Appendix I
- CMS (Convention on Migratory Species): Appendix I
- IUCN Red List: Endangered

National & State Recognition

- Declared India's National Aquatic Animal in 2009.
- Recognized as the State Aquatic Animal of Assam.

Indus River Dolphin (Platanista minor)

Characteristics:

- **Functionally blind, navigates using echolocation.**
- **Locally called Bhulan in the region.**
- Found mainly in the Indus River System (Pakistan) with a **small population in India's Beas River.**
- **Threats:** Habitat fragmentation, Restricted range, leading to population isolation.

Conservation Status:

- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES: Appendix I
- IUCN Red List: Endangered.
- State Recognition: Declared the State Aquatic Animal of Punjab.

Do You Know?

- One more species of Dolphin i.e. **Irrawaddy dolphin found in India in Chilika Lake** (Asia's largest brackish water lagoon) in Odisha.
- Unlike the other two species, Irrawaddy dolphins are **not blind and have a bulbous head with no beak.**
- **IUCN Red List Conservation status: Critically Endangered.**

23. Brow-antlered deer

- The Sangai, also known as the **Manipur brow-antlered deer.**
- It is a deer species found **exclusively in Manipur, within the Keibul Lamjao National Park, India.**
- It serves as the **official state animal of Manipur** and is famously nicknamed the **"dancing deer"** due to its unique, delicate gait over its marshy habitat.

24. Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)

Context

- As per the study, nearly 81 per cent of **sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions from coal plants within a 300-km radius of Delhi-NCR** originate from facilities exempted from installing pollution control systems.

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂)

- It is a colorless, pungent, and toxic gas.
- **Primary Source:** Coal-fired thermal power plants.
- **Natural Source:** Volcanic eruptions and geothermal activity.
- **India Status:** Top global anthropogenic SO₂ emitter.
- **Health Impact:** Causes severe respiratory diseases (asthma).
- **Environment:** Precursor to acid rain.
- **Note - Sulfur dioxide is not a greenhouse gas.**

While it is a major air pollutant with significant environmental impacts, **it actually has a cooling effect on the Earth’s climate rather than a warming one**

25. Version 2026-1 of the IUCN Red List

News -

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released the updated version 2026-1 of its Red List of Threatened Species.

About-

- IUCN Red List now covers 175,909 species, of which 49,505 (approximately 28%) are classified as threatened with extinction.

IUCN Red List

- IUCN Red List is the **most comprehensive inventory of the global extinction risk of animal, plant, and fungal species**, maintained by the Species Survival Commission.
- **Species are placed in nine categories:** Not Evaluated, Data Deficient, Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild, and Extinct.

International Union of Conservation of Nature

- **Establishment - 1948.**
- Set up in - Gland, Switzerland.
- **Objective - To promote international cooperation and to provide scientific knowledge and tools to aid conservation action.**
- **IUCN Red List - It established the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 1964.**

IUCN Red List

- It is a list compiled by the IUCN, which **contains the world’s most comprehensive information on the conservation status of plants, animals, and fungus species.**
- **Species in the IUCN Red List - There are 143000 species on the Red List.**
- **India’s membership in IUCN - India became a member in 1969**
- The IUCN classification - The IUCN classification of species is based on their extinction/conservation status.

They are as follows

- Extinct (EX)
- Extinct in the Wild (EW)
- Critically Endangered (CR)
- Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)
- Near Threatened (NT)
- Least Concern (LC)

- Data Deficient (DD)
- Not Evaluated (NE)

26. Mugger Crocodile

News -

- An NGT-appointed joint committee confirmed that the banned pesticide **Aldrin** caused several mugger crocodile deaths in the Chandraloi River in Kota district, Rajasthan.



Mugger Crocodile (Crocodylus palustris)

- The mugger (or marsh) crocodile is a **medium-sized, broad-snouted freshwater crocodilian.**
- It is an **apex predator in its aquatic ecosystems.**
- It digs extensive mud-bank burrows for shelter and temperature regulation during extreme weather.
- **Distribution:** Inhabits marshes, lakes, rivers, and artificial ponds across the Indian subcontinent, mainly in India with smaller populations in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, and Iran.
- **Diet:** Juveniles feed on insects and small fish, while adults prey on larger fish, birds, snakes, and mammals.
- It is a **keystone species** that controls prey populations, recycles nutrients, and scavenges carcasses.
- **Conservation status - IUCN: Vulnerable; CITES: Appendix I; WPA: Schedule I.**

Additional Information - Comparison of India’s Crocodile Species

- India is home to three distinct species of crocodilians: the Gharial, the Mugger (Marsh Crocodile), and the Saltwater (Estuarine) Crocodile.
- All three species are protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972,

Feature	Gharial (Gavialis gangeticus)	Mugger (Crocodylus palustris)	Saltwater Crocodile (Crocodylus porosus)
IUCN Status	Critically Endangered	Vulnerable	Least Concern (Globally)

Primary Habitat	Deep, clear, fast-flowing freshwater rivers with sandbanks	Slow-moving fresh-water: lakes, rivers, marshes, and ponds	Mangrove swamps, coastal estuaries, and deltas
Key Locations	National Chambal Sanctuary (UP, MP, Rajasthan), Girwa, Gandak	Widespread across India (e.g., Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh)	Bhitarkanika National Park (Odisha), Sundarbans (WB), Andaman & Nicobar Islands
Physical Feature	Very long, thin snout; males have a bulbous knob ("ghara")	Broadest snout of any Crocodylus species	World's largest living reptile
Dietary Habit	Primarily fish-eating (piscivorous); harmless to humans	Opportunistic carnivore; feeds on fish, birds, and mammals	Apex predator; handles large prey and is highly territorial

27.7th Governing Body Meeting of National CAMPA

News -

- The 7th Governing Body Meeting of National CAMPA in Coimbatore marked a **shift from conventional compensatory afforestation toward landscape-based ecological restoration.**

Outcomes -

- Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana (AVSY)** was approved with an initial corpus of ₹3,000 crore (2026–31) to **conserve nearly 15,000 sacred groves (Aastha Vans).**

- MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes)** was extended for three years until 2029, with an added ₹500 crore, taking the total outlay to ₹600 crore.

28. Four wildlife recovery programmes were approved

- Objective** - to strengthen scientific monitoring, anti-poaching measures, and habitat restoration:
- Gangetic Dolphins:** Recovery action plan focused on major freshwater river systems.
- Project Snow Leopard Phase-II:** Including the 2nd nationwide population estimate in the Himalaya.
- Indian Rhinoceros:** Conservation plan for habitat protection and anti-poaching enforcement.
- Wild Water Buffalo:** Scientific habitat management to secure the remaining population.
- Sangai (Brow-antlered Deer):** Continued financial and operational support for conservation.

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA)

- It was established under the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (in force 2018).**
- Objective** - to collect and administer funds for ecological compensation of diverted forest land.
- Genesis:** Supreme Court, in **T.N. Godavarman**, constituted an **ad hoc CAMPA** by its 2006 order to manage unspent afforestation collections.
- Two Tiers:** (1) **National CAMPA Authority**, headed by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, sets policy, while (2) **State CAMPA Authorities** execute field operations.
- Liability:** Agencies diverting forest land must provide alternative land, fund compensatory afforestation, and pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of the lost forest ecosystem.
- Fund Uses:** **Artificial and natural regeneration, wildlife management, catchment treatment, village relocation** from protected areas, and human-wildlife conflict management.

29. Manasbal Lake

Context

- Manasbal Lake is on the path of ecological recovery with the return of migratory birds.



About -

- Located in - Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district
- It is India's deepest natural freshwater lake, reaching depths of 13 meters (43 feet).
- Known as - Supreme Gem of all Kashmir Lakes.
- Uniqueness** - It is famous for its **crystal-clear waters, extensive summer lotus blooms, and bird-watching opportunities.**

Features-

- Location & Elevation:** Situated in the **Jhelum Valley** at an altitude between **1,585 and 1,600 meters.**
- Hydrology:** It is a warm **monomictic lake** (circulates completely only once a year).
- Topography:** The lake is flanked by the **Baladar Mountains** (east), the **Karewa plateau** (north), and the **Ahtung Hills** (south).
- Biodiversity:** It is a significant natural stamping ground for migratory aquatic birds in Kashmir, supporting dozens of species including **Mallards, White-headed Ducks, and Golden Eagles.**
- Economic Value:** It supports local livelihoods via **fisheries and the harvesting of lotus rootstocks, locally known as Nadru.**

Hydroelectric Project in Sikkim, resulted in the death of at least 20 people.

Methane

- Methane (CH_4) is a **colorless, odorless, and highly flammable gas**, and it is the **primary component of natural gas.**
- It has a relatively short **atmospheric lifetime of about 12 years**, compared to carbon dioxide.
- Methane as a Greenhouse Gas:** Methane is a **highly potent greenhouse gas** with a strong short-term warming impact.
- It is over **80 times more effective than carbon dioxide** at trapping heat over a 20-year period.
- It is responsible for around **30% of the current global warming since the pre-industrial era.**
- Major Sources:** Human-driven emissions arise mainly from **oil and gas production, coal mining, livestock enteric fermentation (burps), and decomposing waste in landfills.**
- Natural sources** include **Wetlands, marine sediments and hydrates and geological Sources like volcanoes.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation)

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

30. Methane Gas Explosion in Sikkim

What happened on July 20



TEESTA STAGE-VI HE PROJECT IN SOUTH SIKKIM

- TOTAL TUNNEL LENGTH:** Approximately 2km and width: 10.8m
- INFRASTRUCTURE:** Includes 5 adits (1, 2, 3, 4, and 4A)
- PURPOSE:** The under-construction tunnel aims to connect the barrage at Sirwani to the powerhouse at Tarkhola to generate electricity by using the Teesta river's natural flow under the Run of River (RoR) scheme

12 dead
13 trapped

SUSPECTED CAUSE:
Methane gas explosion

TIMELINE

- 1.30 pm:** A section of the tunnel at adit 3 in Samardung collapses during the workers' lunch break
- 2.30 pm:** Local rescue team arrives
- 5 pm:** NDRF team from Bengal arrives
- 8 pm:** First body was recovered

PHOTO: PTI; SOURCE: NHPC OFFICIALS

News -

- A suspected **methane gas explosion inside an under-construction tunnel of the Teesta**

- Disaster management
- Defence, telecom synchronisation, and geospatial mapping.

2. Advanced Therapeutic Products (ATPs)

News

- The Central Government **amended the Drugs Rules, 1945, to include Advanced Therapeutic Products (ATPs)** under the Central License Approving Authority (CLAA) framework.

Advanced Therapeutic Products (ATPs)

- These are the innovative **biopharmaceuticals based on genes, cells, or engineered tissues**.
- They **target, modify, or repair biological functions at a fundamental or genetic level** to potentially cure a disease.

Key Domains:

- ATPs include **gene therapies, cell-derived products and xenografts**.
- **Gene therapeutic products** use gene replacement or gene editing (CRISPR-Cas9) to cure genetic defects (e.g., haemophilia and sickle cell anaemia).
- **Cell- or stem cell-derived products** include regenerative therapies and CAR-T cell therapies for blood cancers like leukaemias and lymphomas.
- **Xenografts** are medical products derived from animal tissues, including porcine heart valves used to replace human organs or tissues.

3. Green Urea

News -

- The Department of Fertilisers has decided to establish Green Urea plants in India.

Green Urea

- Green urea is a sustainable fertilizer **produced using green hydrogen, renewable energy, and captured carbon dioxide** (instead of fossil fuel-based natural gas).
- It retains the same formula, nutrient value, and white appearance as grey urea; **“green” denotes its production pathway**.
- **Production Pathway:** Green hydrogen is **produced by water electrolysis powered by renewable electricity**, then combined with atmospheric nitrogen to form green ammonia for urea synthesis.

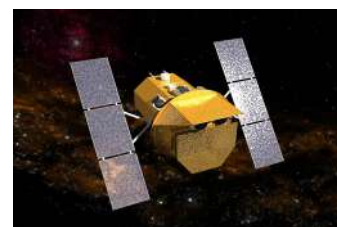
Why Green Urea Matters

- **Import Reduction:** India imports roughly **10 million tonnes (1 crore MT) of conventional urea annually**. Indigenous green urea production aims to achieve Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in fertilizers.
- **Decarbonization:** The traditional Haber-Bosch process heavily relies on natural gas (fossil fuels). Shifting to green feedstocks drives toward India's Net Zero 2070 goal.
- **Green Hydrogen Mission:** It is a vital downstream application of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which allocated ₹19,744 crore to scale the ecosystem.

4. NASA's Swift Boost Mission

News -

- **NASA launched the Swift Boost Mission**, deploying the LINK spacecraft to prevent the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory from burning up.



NASA's Swift Boost Mission

- It is a NASA initiative that **launched on July 3, 2026**,
- **Mandate - to rescue and reboost the aging Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory**. Launched in 2004, the **space telescope's orbit had decayed due to heightened solar activity**, risking atmospheric reentry and destruction.
- **Objective:** The mission uses a **robotic spacecraft called LINK to autonomously rendezvous with, dock using robotic arms, and push the Swift observatory into a higher and safer orbit**.
- **Reboost Details:** The **LINK spacecraft was developed by a commercial startup, Katalyst Space Technologies**, via a rapid and cost-effective \$30 million NASA contract.
- **Launch Vehicle:** LINK was launched into space aboard a Northrop Grumman **Pegasus XL rocket** dropped from the belly of a Stargazer aircraft over the Pacific Ocean.
- **Significance:** It is the **first commercial robotic satellite rescue attempt of its kind**.
- If successful, it demonstrates crucial On-Orbit Servicing (OOS) capabilities—meaning **satellites and space telescopes can be repaired, refueled, or repositioned in space rather than being abandoned**, saving immense future replacement

5. Vikram-1

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-1 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.



6. Oldest Quasars Found

Context

- The Euclid space telescope has spotted the oldest quasars ever discovered, deepening a cosmic mystery that has been puzzling scientists.



About

- A quasar (short for Quasi-Stellar Radio Source) is an extremely active and luminous type of Active Galactic Nucleus (AGN).
- It is not a star, but the glowing, energetic core of a distant galaxy powered by a supermassive black hole

Additional Information - Quasars vs. Blazars

- Both are sub-classes of Active Galactic Nuclei (AGNs) powered by supermassive black holes, but they differ in how we observe them from Earth

Feature	Quasar	Blazar
Observation Angle	Observed at larger, tilted angles relative to the accretion disk.	A relativistic jet is pointed directly or almost end-on toward Earth.

Luminosity Variance	Changes steadily over longer periods.	Highly variable, changing significantly over very short time-scales.
Visual Feature	Appears like a point-of-light star with visible thermal spectra.	Dominated by high-energy, faster-than-light particle jets.

7. Akash Tarang

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.

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.

8. Astra Mk 1 Missiles

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.**



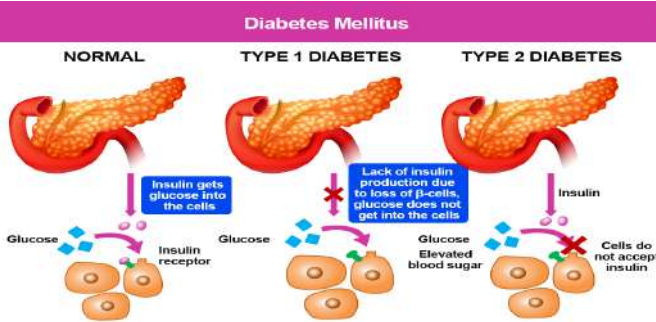
Astra Mk 1

- **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**.

9. Awiqli drug



In News

- Danish pharmaceutical giant **Novo Nordisk launched its weekly insulin shot (icodec) in India**, making blood sugar control easier and more convenient for Indian diabetics.

Icodec/Awiqli drug

- **Uniqueness** - The **world's first once-weekly basal insulin injection.**
- **Developer:** Engineered and **manufactured by Danish multinational Novo Nordisk.**
- **Target Diseases:** Indicated for **adults with Type 2 Diabetes** (and Type 1 in specific jurisdictions like India).
- **Impact Metric:** Drastically reduces the treatment burden from **365 daily injections to just 52 injections per year.**

Additional Information - Diabetes

- Diabetes is a **chronic metabolic disorder** in which the body either **does not produce enough insulin or cannot effectively use the insulin it produces.**
- This leads to **high levels of glucose (sugar) in the blood.**
- **Insulin:** Insulin is a **hormone produced by the pancreas.**
- It helps glucose (from food) enter cells, where it is used for energy.

Types of Diabetes

- It is an autoimmune disease where the **body's immune system destroys insulin-producing cells.** The **body produces little or no insulin.**
- It usually **begins in childhood or adolescence.**
- It requires **lifelong insulin injections.**

Type 2 Diabetes

- This is the **most common type of diabetes.** The body doesn't produce enough insulin.
- It is usually **linked to obesity, sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy diet and family history.**
- It can be managed with **diet, exercise, oral medications, and sometimes insulin.**

Gestational Diabetes:

- This **occurs during pregnancy and usually disappears after delivery**, but increases the risk of type 2 diabetes later in life.

10. India's First Hydrogen Train

Context

- **Indian Railways has notified India's first hydrogen-powered**



train, which is expected to be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 July.

India's first hydrogen-powered train

- **Launch Date:** Scheduled for July 17, 2026.
- **Route:** Jind to Sonipat (89 km) in Haryana.
- **Global Status:** Puts India in an elite club (with Germany, Sweden, China, US, Japan).
- **Maker:** Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, under RDSO supervision.
- **Specs:** 10-car Broad Gauge trainset (longest broad-gauge hydrogen train globally).
- **Speed & Power:** Max speed 75 kmph; capacity of 2400 kW.
- **Fuel Station:** Dedicated 3,000-kg storage and refueling hub set up at Jind.

11. Parrot Bornavirus 4

Context

- Deadly bird virus PaBV-4 has been identified for the first time in India.

Parrot Bornavirus 4 (PaBV-4)

- It is an **avian virus recently detected for the first time in India (Assam, Karnataka, West Bengal)** among captive parrot species.
- **The Virus:** Enveloped, negative-sense, single-stranded **RNA virus (Bornaviridae family)**.
- **Zoonotic Status:** Not zoonotic (does not infect humans).
- **Target:** **Psittacine birds** (macaws, cockatoos, parakeets, budgerigars).



Associated Disease

- It causes **Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD)**, also called "Macaw Wasting Disease."
- **Gastrointestinal:** Destroys **nerves in the digestive tract**, causing an enlarged **stomach**, **weight loss**, and undigested seeds in droppings.
- **Neurological:** Causes tremors, loss of coordination, seizures, and paralysis.

Transmission & Management

- **Spread:** Contact with **infected feces, saliva, feather dust, or vertically from parent to egg**.
- **Challenge:** Infected birds can stay asymptomatic while actively shedding the virus.
- **Control:** **No vaccine or cure exists.** Diagnosis is via RT-PCR; management relies on isolation and supportive care.

12. Long March 10B Rocket

In News

- China successfully achieved its first reusable rocket landing at the **Wenchang Commercial Space Launch Site**, making a precise sea-based recovery after separation.



Long March 10B

- It is also called **Changzheng 10B**.
- It is designed to **support next-generation space exploration**.
- **Developer:** China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT).
- **Primary Mission:** Launching the Mengzhou (crewed spacecraft) and Lanyue (lunar lander) for China's manned lunar missions.
- **Timeline:** The first test flight is projected around 2027, aiming for a crewed moon landing by 2030.

13. Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket

News -

- DRDO conducted a successful flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.



Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)

- It is an **indigenously developed, precision-guided rocket for the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) system**.
- It is designed to replace Russian-origin BM-21 Grad systems.
- **Range: Up to 120 km**
- **Guidance System:** It combines an **Inertial Navigation System (INS)** with India's **NavIC (IRNSS) satellite network** for precision navigation.

14. Oxytocin

Context -

- **WHO** has sought information from India regarding reports linking suspected spurious oxytocin to maternal deaths.

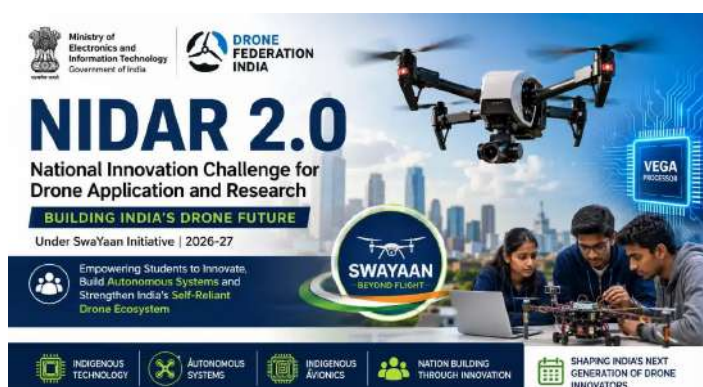
Oxytocin

- It is a **neuropeptide hormone synthesised in the**

hypothalamus and released into the bloodstream by the posterior pituitary gland.

- **Often called the “love hormone.”**
- **Function** - It acts as a **chemical messenger in the central nervous system, aiding childbirth, lactation, and social bonding.**
- **Regulation** - Administering oxytocin to cattle is a cognizable offence under Section 12 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act; unauthorised manufacture or sale is prohibited under Section 18(a) of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

15. NIDAR 2.0



News -

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with Drone Federation India (DFI), launched the 2nd edition of the **National Innovation Challenge for Drone Application and Research (NIDAR 2.0)** under the **SwaYaan** initiative.
- The 1st edition of NIDAR 2025-26 was launched in March 2025.

About -

- It empowers India's College Graduates to build collaborative autonomous drones for defined problem statements.

SwaYaan

- SwaYaan is a **national initiative of the MeitY launched in 2022.**
- Aimed at developing a skilled workforce and strengthening India's UAS Drone ecosystem.
- **Significance** - It supports the Government's vision of making India a global drone hub by 2030.
- It focuses on **capacity building for human resource development in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)**, including drones and related technologies.

16. Earendil-1 Satellite

News -

- The U.S. has authorised a startup, to launch and operate **Earendil-1**, an **experimental satellite designed to reflect sunlight onto selected locations on Earth during nighttime.**
- **Earendil-1 is a non-geostationary satellite equipped with a large deployable thin-film mirror that can be steered to reflect sunlight toward specific areas on Earth.**
- **Significance** - The project aims to **extend daylight hours for solar power generation and provide temporary illumination during emergencies, disaster response, and humanitarian operations.**



17. Cyclosporiasis

News -

- A widespread outbreak of cyclosporiasis has been reported in the United States.

About -

- **Responsible pathogen-** Cyclosporiasis is a foodborne intestinal illness caused by the **microscopic, single-celled protozoan parasite Cyclospora cayetanensis.**
- **Transmission:** Strictly fecal-oral route via contaminated food or water.
- **No Direct Person-to-Person Spread:** Excreted parasite eggs require days to weeks in the environment to mature and become infectious.
- **Host Range: Humans are the only known hosts.**
- **Symptoms:** Severe, explosive watery diarrhea, fatigue, cramps, and weight loss.
- **High-Risk Groups:** Immunocompromised individuals, the elderly, and young children.
- **Diagnosis:** Missed by routine stool cultures; requires special staining, **UV fluorescence microscopy, or PCR.**
- **Treatment:** Treated with the **antibiotic trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX).** No vaccine exists.

18. ICMR i-DRONE Initiative

News

- Recently, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** under its **i-DRONE** initiative has



successfully demonstrated the use of drone-assisted transport of TB sputum samples to improve access to tuberculosis diagnosis in remote areas.

i-DRONE initiative

- Full form - ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach for North East (i-DRONE)
- It was launched in 2021.
- **Objective** - It aimed to evaluate the use of drones to deliver vaccines and medical supplies to remote areas of Manipur and Nagaland.
- The i-DRONE project developed a hub and spoke drone network to connect 60 sub-centres, 11 primary health centres and four TB units in Telangana to transport sputum samples for TB diagnosis.
- **Outcomes:** The median time to diagnosis was reduced from 15 days to 5 days.
- Average out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) dropped from ₹9,451 to about ₹91 with a large number of patients having zero travel costs.

19.ASW Shallow Water Craft Malvan

Context

- The Indian Navy is set to commission Malvan, the second of the **Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**.



About

- Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi.
- **Malvan has more than 80 per cent indigenous content.**
- It reflects India's growing self-reliance in warship design, construction and systems integration under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- **Function - to operate effectively in coastal and shallow waters**, enhancing the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- The **Mahe-class ASW-SWC vessels** are being inducted to **replace the ageing Abhay-class corvettes**.

20. SOFI Report 2026

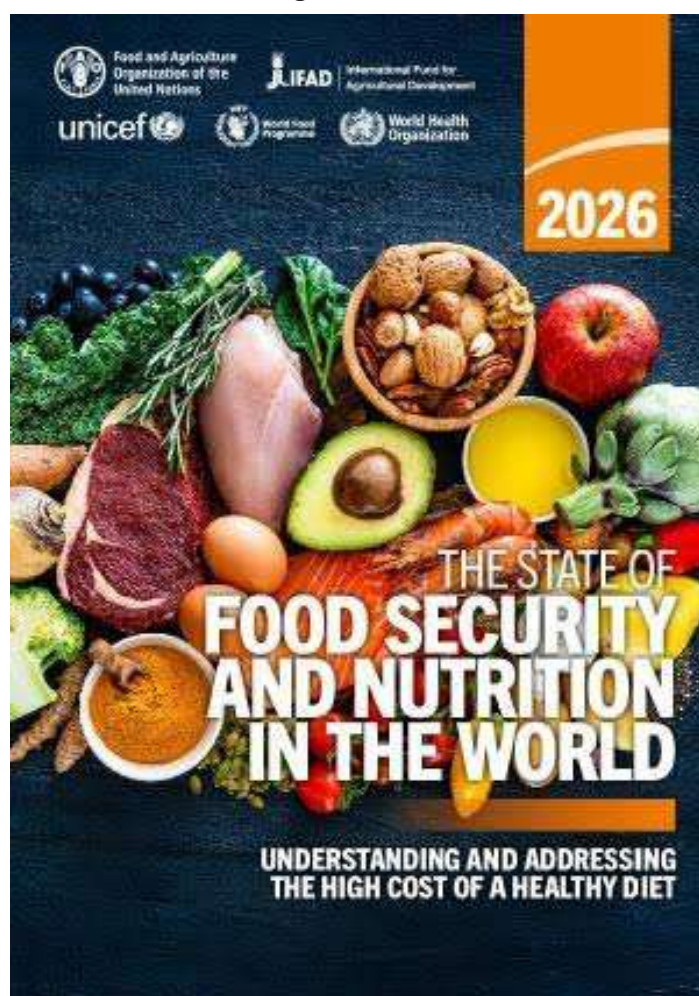
News -

- The 2026 edition of the **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)** report was released.
- 2026 theme "Understanding and addressing the high cost of a healthy diet."

About -

Publishing organisations - It is jointly published by

- Food and Agriculture Organization
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- United Nations Children's Fund
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization



Key Findings of SOFI Report 2026

- **Global hunger:** Declined for a third consecutive year to 7.8% of the **global population (645 million people)**. Africa surpassed Asia to have the highest absolute number of hungry people, at 309 million.
- **Food security:** Improved steadily across Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Africa saw its hunger rate decline (from 20.3% to 20%) for the first time in nearly a decade.

- **Dietary affordability:** The average cost of a healthy diet rose to **4.28 PPP dollars per person per day** in 2025. Approximately **2.69 billion** people cannot afford a healthy diet.
- **Nutritional outcomes:** **150 million** children under five remain stunted. Adult obesity rose to **16.2%** in 2024, and **maternal anemia** continues to worsen.

21. India's First eVTOL Aircraft

Context -

- The **ePlane Company**, a **deep-tech startup** incubated at **IIT Madras**, unveiled India's first full-scale **electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL)** aircraft prototype, **e200X (PT-01)**.



eVTOL

- It uses **electric propulsion**, reducing noise, costs, and energy use, enabling **Advanced Air Mobility (AAM)** for fast, sustainable urban air transport.
- It carries one pilot with **two passengers or up to 200 kg cargo** and has a **110 km range** for urban and regional mobility.
- It is designed to take off and land on standard rooftops or helipads without requiring long runways.

22. NASA Rover Detects Potential Signs of Ancient Life on Mars

Context

- In a new study in *Science Advances*, an international team of researchers has reported finding organic matter on Mars.

Connect with the basics - Mars

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

Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) or Mangalyaan

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

Major Mars Missions:

- **Mariner 4 (NASA)**, **Viking 1 (NASA)**,
- **Mars Express (European Space Agency)**,
- **Hope Probe (Emirates Mars Mission)** and current flagship rover **Perseverance**, which is collecting samples for a future **Mars Sample Return mission**.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

1. Hul Diwas

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.

2. 'Shastrarth' Tradition at Nalanda University

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.**

3. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's 125th Birth Anniversary

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 125th birth anniversary.



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (1901- 1953)

- Initially a **member of the Indian National Congress**; later joined the Hindu Mahasabha in the 1930s.
- He became the **youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University** at age 33 in 1934.

- He served as **Finance Minister of Bengal (1941–42)** in the Fazlul Haq ministry.
- He was a **strong critic of the Muslim League** and the partition of India.
- He joined the cabinet of the interim government as **Minister for Industry and Supply after independence (1947–1950)**, but resigned over differences.
- Founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh:** In 1951, founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the ideological predecessor of today's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- Advocated for **national unity, cultural nationalism, and economic self-reliance**.
- Legacy:** He is remembered as a staunch **nationalist, educationist, and advocate of cultural unity**.
- The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata and several institutions are named in his honor.**

4. Hindkesari Pedgaon 'Bailgada Sharyat'

Context

- The Hindkesari Pedgaon 'Bailgada Sharyat' (bullock cart race) **showcased Maharashtra's deep-rooted rural sporting tradition**, attracting more than 1,000 entrants and thousands of spectators from across the region.



About

- The bullock cart race is an event **involving bulls or bullocks to conduct a race with the animals tied to a cart by a wooden yoke**, with or without a cartman.
- The rural sport is known as **'bailgada sharyat,' 'chhakadi' or 'shankarpath'** in the state.
- It is held annually in **Pedgaon, Khatav Taluk, Satara district, Maharashtra**.

Additional Information - Jallikattu

- It is also known as **Eruthazhuvuthal**.
- It is a **bull-taming sport traditionally played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival**.
- The history of this **bullfight dates back to 400-100 BCE** when it was **played by the Ayars**, an

ethnic group in India.

- The name is coined from two words, **Jalli (silver and gold coins) and Kattu (tied).**
- In this festival, a **bull is let loose among a crowd of people, and whoever tames it will get the coins tied to its horn.**
- The people who participate in the sport try to hold on to the animal's hump to stop it. Sometimes, they run along with the bull.
- **Pulikulam or Kangayam is the breed of bulls used for the sport.** This festival has been part of cultural tourism in the state.
- **Vadi manjuviraṭṭu, Vēli viraṭṭu, and Vaṭam manjuviraṭṭu are the variants of this sport**

Kambala

- The **annual buffalo race Kambala** is a unique festival observed by the **farming community between November to March.**
- Kambala is performed on **two parallel race tracks, filled with slushy water.**
- Traditionally, it is sponsored by local **Tuluva landlords and households in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Bhatkal of Karnataka** and **Kasaragod of Kerala**, a region collectively known as **Tulu Nadu.**

5. Prambanan Temple complex

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.

Architecture & Religion

- **Layout:** Three concentric squares mapping Hindu cosmology (Bhurloka, Bhuvarloka, Svarloka).
- **Trimurti:** Main soaring towers for **Shiva (47m), Brahma, and Vishnu.**

- **Vahanas:** Facing temples for **Nandi (bull), Hamsa (swan), and Garuda (eagle).**
- **Deities:** Shiva temple houses **Shiva, Ganesha, Agastya, and Durga (Roro Jong-grang).**
- **Reliefs:** Walls depict narrative panels of the **Ramayana and Bhagavata Purana.**
- **UNESCO: Inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1991.**

6. Ravidassia Demand for Separate Religion

News -

- The **Ravidassia community** has renewed its demand for creation of a separate "Ravidassia religion" category in the Census.



Ravidassia Community

- The community follows the **teachings of Guru Ravidas (15th–16th century),** a **renowned Bhakti Movement saint,** social reformer, and mystic poet.
- **Core Philosophy:** **Guru Ravidas advocated social equality, dignity, and the abolition of caste discrimination,** and envisioned **Begampura,** an ideal society free from sorrow, fear, and inequality.
- **Population:** **Punjab has India's largest concentration of Ravidassias** in India and around **32% of the state's population** comprises Dalits.
- **Major Institution:** **Dera Sachkhand Ballan (Punjab)** founded in the early 20th century by **Baba Sant Pipal Das** is the most influential religious institution of the Ravidassia community.

Additional Information - Sant Ravidas

- He, **born in the 14th century,**
- He was a **prominent figure in the Bhakti Movement,** a socio-religious revolution that took place in India between the **14th and 17th centuries.**
- He was a **disciple of Sant Kabir and the founder of the Ravidassia religion.** **Mirabai** was his pupil.

Life and Teachings

- He was a great **social reformer and messenger of peace, love, and brotherhood.**
- He worked tirelessly to **remove caste and religion-based discrimination** and worked for the **upliftment of the downtrodden.**

- His life is a unique example of sacrifice and penance, and wrote many compositions on different social issues.
- He gave a very broad message of 'karma' to society by coining in the popular Hindi saying 'Mann Changa to Kathauti Mein Ganga'.

Legacy

- The Sikh scripture, **Guru Granth Sahib**, contains **forty-one of his devotional songs and poems**.
- The **Chief Architect of our Constitution**, **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** embodied the **Constitutional principles** around the values expressed by **Guru Ravidasji**.

7. Abathsahayeswarar Temple

In News

- The 12th-century Abathsahayeswarar Temple at Thukkachi was restored after decades of neglect.



Abathsahayeswarar Temple

- It is situated at **Thukkachi, near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu**.
- It is one of the **most significant monuments of the later Chola period**—closely associated with **Kulotunga I and Vikrama Chola**
- It is designed as a **Kara Kovil**—a temple conceived in the form of a chariot
- It also **houses the idol of Lord Sarabeshwarar** which is considered one of the **oldest depictions of the deity**.

Temple's restoration

- The temple's restoration earned the **UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Distinction (2024)** for its attempt to maintain the temple's heritage while reinforcing its structural integrity.
- The project combined traditional temple building practices (Sthapatya Veda, Agama Shastra, lime mortars) with **modern technologies like drone surveys, digital mapping, photogrammetry and structural engineering**.
- **Every granite block was numbered, disassembled and then reassembled in its original position** to preserve historical authenticity.

8. Jagannath Rath Yatra

Context

- The world-famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath has commenced in Puri, Odisha.

Rath Yatra

- Known as - Gundicha Jatra, Ghosa Jatra and Navadina Jatra.
- It is a significant Hindu festival dedicated to Lord Jagannath, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.



Jagannath Puri Temple

- **Shree Jagannath Puri Temple** is one of the most impressive monuments of the State of Odisha.
- The temple was built in the 12th Century AD by King **Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva** of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- Jagannath Puri temple is called '**Yamanika Tirtha**' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of '**Yama**', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath, popularly known as Lord Krishna.
- It is one of the **Dhammas (Holiest of the holy place)** out of four Dhamas i.e. Puri, Dwarika, Badrinath & Rameswar, in India.
- This temple was called the "**White Pagoda**" and is a **part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram)**.

9. Taj Mahal

Context

- The Allahabad High Court has issued notices to the Union Government and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on a petition seeking a survey of the **Taj Mahal**, claiming it is a Hindu temple called "**Tejo Mahalaya**."



Taj Mahal

- The Taj Mahal is a **17th-century Mughal mausoleum** located on the right **bank of the Yamuna River** in **Agra** and was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1983.
- It was **built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan** in memory of his wife **Mumtaz Mahal (Arjumand Bano Begum)** with construction starting in 1632 AD and completed in 1648 AD.
- In Mughal records, it was referred to as "**Rauza-i-Munavvara**" (**Illuminated Tomb**).
- **Chief architect: Ustad Ahmad Lahori**.
- The land for the monument was acquired from **Mirza Raja Jai Singh of Amber**, who was compensated by **Shah Jahan**.

- **Architectural Features:** The Taj Mahal represents the zenith of Mughal architecture, **combining Persian, Timurid, and Indian architectural traditions.**

Key features include:

- White Makrana marble
- Perfect bilateral symmetry
- Charbagh garden layout
- Quranic calligraphy
- Islamic funerary design elements
- Extensive Pietra dura, a decorative technique in which semi-precious stones are inlaid into marble to create intricate floral and geometric patterns.

10. Birth Anniversary of Mangal Pandey

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has **paid tribute to the great revolutionary and freedom fighter Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary.**

Mangal Pandey

- Born on 19 July 1827 in Nagwa village, Ballia (present-day UP), into a Bhumihar Brahmin family.
- He joined the East India Company's army at 22, serving in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry.
- **The spark of Revolt:** The British had just introduced the Enfield rifle, whose cartridges had to be bitten open to load and word spread that they were greased with beef and pork fat.
- For Hindu and Muslim sepoys alike, this was deeply offensive. Mangal Pandey refused to use it, and on 29 March 1857 at Barrackpore, he fired the first shot of rebellion at his Sergeant Major.
- That one act set off the Revolt of 1857 variously called the Sepoy Mutiny or India's First War of Independence.
- Pandey was court-martialled and hanged on 8 April 1857. His regiment was disbanded later.
- Aftermath: On 10 May 1857, sepoys in Meerut rose up, and things escalated quickly into a full-blown national revolt. They marched to Delhi and convinced the elderly Bahadur Shah II, the last Mughal emperor to become their symbolic leader.
- The British recaptured the Red Fort by September 1857, and Bahadur Shah was exiled to Rangoon, where he died in 1862.
- As a Result: The revolt ended East India Company rule for good. The British Crown took direct charge through Queen Victoria's Proclamation

of 1858 and the Government of India Act, 1858 replacing the Governor-General with a Viceroy. Lord Canning became India's first Viceroy.

11. UNESCO Adds West Bank, Lebanon Sites to Danger List

Context

- UNESCO has added **Sebastia in the West Bank** and five castles in **Lebanon's Mount Amel region**, including Beaufort Castle, to both the **World Heritage List** and the **List of World Heritage in Danger.**



About

- The **World Heritage List** recognises cultural, natural and mixed heritage sites of Outstanding Universal Value.
- The **List of World Heritage in Danger** includes sites threatened by armed conflict, natural disasters, uncontrolled urbanisation, pollution, climate change or neglect. Its objective is to mobilise international attention and conservation support.
- The emergency inscription of these sites reflects concerns over the impact of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East on their conservation.

Sebastia

- **Sebastia, located near Nablus in the West Bank**, is identified with the **ancient city of Samaria**, the **capital of the biblical Kingdom of Israel.**
- Its **archaeological remains span the Iron Age**, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods, reflecting its long historical significance.

Mount Amel Castles

- The inscription covers five historic castles in Lebanon's Mount Amel (Jabal Amel) region, including Beaufort Castle.
- These fortifications showcase a blend of Crusader, Ayyubid, Mamluk and local architectural traditions, illustrating nearly nine centuries of military and cultural history.

DEFENCE

1. Project BRAHMANK Marks its 16th Raising Day

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.

2. Baaz Battalions

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.

3. 31st Chief of the Army Staff

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.

4. INS Mahendragiri

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

5. Operation Amistad

In News

- Operation Amistad has concluded successfully with the return of the Indian contingent to New Delhi.



Operation Amistad

- It is India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission following the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela.

Major International HADR Operations/Evacuation / Relief Operations

- India has emerged as a dependable first responder in the Indian Ocean Region and beyond, guided by the principles of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- India provides humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, evacuation, medical aid and reconstruction support to the global community through the joint efforts of the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- The induction of INS Sunayna as IOS SAGAR (2025) with personnel from Indian Ocean countries is a reflection of India's commitment towards collective maritime security, regional cooperation and capacity building.

India's major HADR operations include

- **Operation Maitri (Nepal, 2015)** for rapid rescue, relief, and \$2 billion commitment for reconstruction after the earthquake;
- **Operation Devi Shakti (Afghanistan, 2021)** for the evacuation of 669 people and humanitarian aid;
- **Mission SAGAR (2020 onwards)** where the Indian Navy provided food, medical oxygen and relief materials to 15 Indian Ocean countries during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- **Operation Samudra Setu (2020)** to repatriate

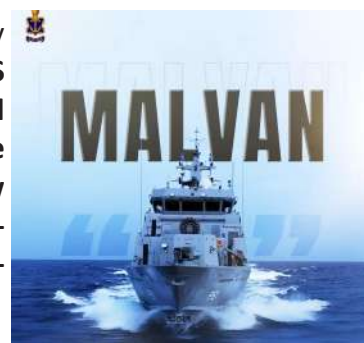
3,992 Indians by sea.

- **Operation Ganga (Ukraine, 2022)** to evacuate more than 18,000 Indian citizens during the conflict,
- **Operation Dost (Türkiye and Syria, 2023)** to send medical teams, field hospitals, rescue teams and more than 135 tonnes of relief material after the deadly earthquakes,
- **Operation Kaveri (Sudan, 2023)** to ensure the safe evacuation of Indian nationals during civil conflict
- **Operation Brahma (Myanmar, 2025)** to provide approximately 750 tonnes of humanitarian assistance, field hospital for earthquake-hit Myanmar.

6. INS Malvan

News -

- The Indian Navy inducted INS Malvan, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) of the Mahe-class.



About

- It is designed for anti-submarine warfare, sub-surface surveillance, search and rescue, and low-intensity maritime operations in coastal waters.
- It was built by Cochin Shipyard under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat mission.
- It features over 80% indigenous equipment and technology.
- Armed with RBU 6000 rockets and DRDO torpedoes and a German-Indian sonar suite, it can play a dominant role in guarding our undersea defence.
- The first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) of the Mahe-class is the INS Mahe (P80)

MISCELLANEOUS

1. 7th National Water Awards

Context

- Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the 7th National Water Awards on the Rashtriya Puraskar portal of Ministry of Home Affairs.

National Water Awards

- The National Water Awards were first **launched in 2018**.
- Objective** - The awards aim to **recognize efforts in water management and conservation**.
- Significance** - The initiative supports the government's **vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat'** (Water Prosperous India).

2. 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.

3. Global Liveability Index 2026

Context

- The Economist Intelligence Unit has released the Global Liveability Index 2026.

Major Highlights

- Published by** - The index is compiled annually by the **Economist Intelligence Unit**, the research and analysis arm of The Economist Group,
- It evaluated 173 cities across 30 indicators
- Five categories: Stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure.**
- Copenhagen (Denmark)** remains the world's most liveable city, edging out **Vienna (Austria)** and **Melbourne (Australia)**, which are in second and third place.
- New Delhi is ranked 120, followed by Mumbai (121), Chennai (123), and Bengaluru (127).**
- Karachi stayed pinned at 170th place two years consecutively, Dhaka held at 171st, **Damascus (Syria) remains the world's least liveable city for a second consecutive year.**

4. 72nd National Film Awards for the year 2024

Context

- The **72nd National Film Awards**, which honoured films that received certification from the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** during the 2024 calendar year, were announced.

About

- National Film Awards are the **most prestigious awards, which are announced annually to honor the best filmmaking talent** across the country.
- It aims at encouraging the production of films of aesthetic and technical excellence and social relevance.
- The awards are given in three sections** – Features, Non-Features and Best Writing on Cinema.

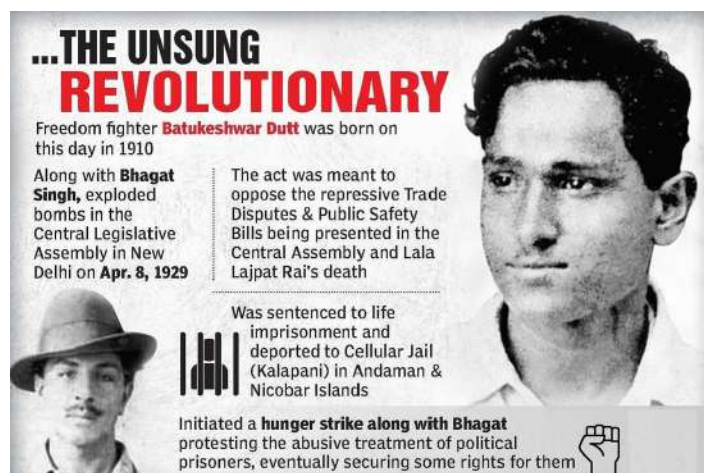
History

- The awards were first presented in 1954 and were known as the 'State Awards'.
- At the time, only best films in different regional languages were recognised and awarded.
- Separate awards for artists and technicians were instituted in 1968 for the films of 1967.
- Nargis Dutt and Uttam Kumar being the first actress and actor to get the Best Actress and Best Actor Awards respectively.

Key Recipient of the Awards

- **Best Feature Film:** Article 370 (Hindi)
- **Best Non-feature film:** Bhangaar (Marathi & English)
- **Best Documentary:** Ram-Nami (Hindi)
- **Best Actor:** Mammooty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion).
- **Best Actress:** Yami Gautam (Article 370)

5. Batukeshwar Dutt



News-

- The nation paid tributes to Batukeshwar Dutt on his death anniversary (July 20).

About-

- He was born in **1910 in West Bengal and raised in Kanpur**
- He was a **socialist revolutionary** and a core member of the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**.
- He and Bhagat Singh threw **smoke bombs inside the Central Legislative Assembly on 8 April 1929**, distributed leaflets and raised **"Inquilab Zindabad"**.
- During the **1929 Lahore Jail hunger strike**, **Dutt demanded better conditions for political prisoners**.
- **Released because of tuberculosis**, he joined the **Quit India Movement (1942)** and was imprisoned again.
- He **died in 1965** and was **cremated at Hussainiwalla, Punjab, beside Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru**.

6. INS Ikshak and INS Tarkash: Port Call at Seychelles

Why in News:

- The Indian Navy's indigenous survey vessel INS

Ikshak and stealth frigate INS Tarkash concluded a port call at Port Victoria, coinciding with the island nation's National Day and Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Key Highlights

- **The Visiting Fleet:** Featured the deployment of INS Ikshak, a state-of-the-art indigenous survey vessel, alongside INS Tarkash, a frontline stealth frigate.
- **Diplomatic Significance:** The visit underscored India's sustained maritime defense cooperation and strategic solidarity with Seychelles during its landmark 50th independence anniversary.
- **About Port Victoria:** Located along the Somali Sea on the northeastern coast of Mahé Island, it serves as the capital city and primary seaport of the Seychelles.

7. High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes

Why in News:

- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** has constituted a High-Level Committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge **Justice P.P. Navlekar** to scientifically assess demographic shifts across the country.

Key Highlights

- **Background & Genesis:** The panel's formation follows the announcement of a 'High-powered Demography Mission' made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address in **2025**.
- **Core Mandate:** Tasked with conducting a scientific evaluation of demographic changes resulting from "illegal immigration and other abnormal reasons."
- **Proposed Action Plan:** Mandated to recommend a permanent, institutionalized mechanism to ensure the legal, fair, and time-bound identification, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants.

8. MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asochna Kendra)

Why in News:

- The national digital platform **MANAS** has emerged as a key citizen-centric tool for anonymous drug-crime reporting and de-addiction counselling across India.

Key Highlights

- **About the Platform:** A 24x7 digital platform launched by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to facilitate anonymous reporting of illicit drug trafficking and provide rehabilitation support.
- **Collaborative Framework:** Operates under the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** in partnership with the **Digital India Corporation (DIC)**.
- **Integrated Helplines:**
- **Crime Reporting (1933):** A toll-free helpline connecting anonymous citizen intelligence directly to the NCB and State Anti-Narcotics Task Forces.
- **De-addiction Support (14446):** Calls seeking rehabilitation and counselling are seamlessly routed to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) helpline.

9. Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet at Changi Naval Base

Why in News:

- Frontline warships of the Indian Navy's **Eastern Fleet** arrived at Changi Naval Base in Singapore as part of an ongoing operational deployment to enhance regional maritime cooperation.

Key Highlights

- **The Visiting Fleet:** The deployment comprises **INS Udaygiri** (an indigenous stealth frigate), **INS Kavaratti** (an anti-submarine warfare corvette), and **INS Shakti** (a fleet tanker).
- **Prior Maritime Engagement:** The port call in Singapore directly followed the successful completion of a **PASSEX** (Passing Exercise) conducted with the Royal Thai Navy.
- **Strategic Location:** Situated at the eastern tip of Singapore, Changi Naval Base occupies a critical geopolitical chokepoint connecting the **Strait of Malacca** with the **South China Sea**.

10. Maharashtra: Women Farmers' Empowerment Bill

Why in News:

- The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the **Maharashtra Women Farmers' Empowerment Bill**, aiming to formally recognize women cultivators and grant them direct access to agricultural welfare schemes.

Key Highlights

- **First-of-its-Kind Legislation:** First bill in India to formally grant agricultural recognition and issue **Woman Farmer Certificates** without requiring

formal land ownership titles (such as the 7/12 land extract) in their names.

- **Broad Scope:** Expands the statutory definition of farming beyond crop cultivation to include allied activities like animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, fisheries, and minor forest produce collection.
- **Institutional Framework:** Establishes a three-tier administrative structure led by a **Women Farmers' Empowerment Council** (headed by the Chief Minister) for policy evaluation and statewide monitoring.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Proposes a dedicated **State Women Farmers Fund** and an official database to ensure direct access to institutional credit, crop insurance, subsidies, and market linkages.

11. National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses

Context:

- The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare organised a National Multistakeholder Consultation on the proposed national framework to strengthen cross-sectoral health defenses on World Zoonoses Day.

Key Highlights:

- **Initiative:** National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses: A Strategic Framework with One Health Approach.
- **Observed Date:** July 6 (World Zoonoses Day).
- **2026 Theme:** "One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses".
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- **Key Deliverables:** Launched a Learning Resource Package and E-Learning Modules focusing on **10 Priority Zoonotic Diseases** (including Rabies, Nipah, and Kyasanur Forest Disease) for healthcare and veterinary personnel.
- **About the Framework:** Utilizes the "**One Health**" approach to integrate human, animal, and environmental health monitoring. Mandates States and Union Territories to draft localized **State Action Plans** backed by real-time data sharing via the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP 2.0).

12. CG Semi's OSAT Facility in Sanand, Gujarat

Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated commercial production at CG Semi's Outsourced

Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Sanand, Gujarat, under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

Key Highlights:

- **The Facility:** It is India's **third major semiconductor packaging unit** approved under the ISM, following plants by Micron Technology and Kaynes Semicon.
- **Joint Venture:** Established by CG Semi Pvt. Ltd. (a subsidiary of CG Power) in partnership with Japan's **Renesas Electronics** and Thailand's **Stars Microelectronics**.
- **Investment & Scale:** Built with an investment of **₹7,600 crore**, the unit is designed to manufacture chips for automotive, industrial, consumer electronics, and 5G equipment.
- **Location Significance:** **Sanand (Gujarat)** has emerged as India's premier semiconductor manufacturing and advanced packaging hub.

13. JWST Detects Atmosphere on Dead-Star Planet

Why in News:

- The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** successfully confirmed the first-ever atmospheric detection of an exoplanet orbiting a white dwarf (dead star).

Key Highlights:

- **Target Exoplanet:-** Identified as **WD 1856 b**, a massive gas giant (4.3–10.9 Jupiter masses) located **80 light-years** away from Earth.
- **Orbital Dynamics:-** Orbits its host star at an extremely close distance of **0.02 Astronomical Units (AU)** with an orbital period of just **~34 hours**.
- **Atmospheric Makeup:-** Transmission spectroscopy revealed a **carbon-enriched envelope** containing approximately **7% methane** and thick aerosol cloud decks.
- **Scientific Value:-** Provides the first concrete evidence that gas giant planets can survive the red giant phase of their parent stars and safely migrate into close-in orbits around white dwarfs.

14. IndianOil's XP100 Premium Petrol

Why in News:

- Indian Oil's XP100 has gained renewed prominence as a premium fuel option that is 100% ethanol-free.

Key Highlights:

- **Fuel Specification:-** It is a premium-grade petrol featuring a high **100-octane rating** and is completely **100% ethanol-free**.
- **Target Vehicles:-** Primarily designed for high-performance and high-compression engines, including supercars, luxury sedans, and superbikes.
- **Launch Timeline:-** Officially launched by Indian Oil in **2020**, making it India's first 100-octane fuel offering.

15. GalaxEye Loses Contact with Mission Drishti

Why in News:

- Bengaluru-based spacetechn startup GalaxEye lost communication with its Mission Drishti satellite after a geomagnetic solar storm disrupted critical onboard systems.

Key Highlights:

- **Satellite Profile:-** Recognized as India's largest privately developed Earth observation satellite and the world's first OptoSAR satellite.
- **Payload Technology:-** Uniquely integrated both Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and a multispectral optical imager into a single platform for all-weather Earth observation.
- **Launch Details:-** Successfully deployed into orbit aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in May 2026 before encountering the space weather anomaly.

16. India's First Smart Algal Liquid Tree Deployed

Why in News:

- The CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) successfully deployed India's first mobile Smart Algal Liquid Tree (SALT).

Key Highlights:

- **Deployment Locations:-** Commissioned in **Dhanbad, Jharkhand, and Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh**, to combat severe air pollution in highly congested urban and industrial zones.
- **Core Mechanism:-** Functions as a compact bio-purification device using water-suspended microscopic algae to absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide and release oxygen via photosynthesis.
- **Operational Window:-** Engineered for continuous, round-the-clock operation by utilizing natural sunlight during the day and integrated artificial light systems at night.

- **Pollutant Filtration:-** Beyond carbon sequestration, the enclosed system actively traps ambient dust and particulate matter inside its liquid medium as polluted air passes through it.

17. India and Indonesia to Jointly Develop Sabang Port

Why in News:

- India and Indonesia signed an agreement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Jakarta in July 2026 to jointly develop the strategic Sabang Port.

Key Highlights:

- **Geographical Location:-** It is a natural deep-water port situated on Weh Island in Indonesia's Aceh province, at the northernmost tip of Sumatra, lying just 160 km from India's Great Nicobar Island.
- **Maritime choke point:-** Overlooks the highly critical Strait of Malacca, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes and maritime choke points.
- **Geopolitical Significance:-** Serves as a crucial node in India's "Necklace of Diamonds" maritime strategy, acting as a direct counterweight to China's "String of Pearls" network in the Indian Ocean Region.

18. ISRO Tests Three Critical Gaganyaan Systems

Why in News:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully completed qualification tests for three critical sub-systems of the **Gaganyaan** human spaceflight mission.

Key Highlights:

- **Crew Module Up-righting System (CMUS):-** Tested the float inflation mechanism that ensures the crew capsule automatically flips back to a stable **upright position upon sea splashdown** to safeguard the astronauts.
- **Module Disconnect System (CS-CDS):-** Verified the umbilical separation system that structurally splits the **Crew Module from the Service Module** right before the spacecraft re-enters the Earth's atmosphere.
- **Apex Cover Separation:-** Conducted structural load testing to ensure the module can safely withstand the heavy force generated when the apex cover is jettisoned to **deploy the landing**

parachutes.

- **Gaganyaan Mission Background:-** Gaganyaan is India's maiden human spaceflight programme, designed to launch a crew of 2 to 3 astronauts into a **400 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** for a 3-day mission and return them safely to Indian sea waters aboard a Human-Rated LVM3 (HLVM3) launch vehicle.

19. Indian Navy's Drishti-10 UAV Crashes in Gujarat

Why in News:

- The Indian Navy's Drishti-10 Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) crashed during a routine operational sortie in Gujarat.

Key Highlights:

- **UAV Platform:-** Categorized as a Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (**MALE**) UAV, engineered specifically for long-endurance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (**ISR**) operations.
- **Origin & Variant:-** It is the customized Indian variant of Israel's combat-proven **Hermes 900** drone architecture.
- **Indigenous Manufacturing:-** Manufactured in India by **Adani Defence and Aerospace**, highlighting private sector participation in strategic defense manufacturing under indigenization initiatives.

20. Jagannath Rath Yatra 2026 Commences in Puri, Odisha

Why in News:

- The world-renowned Jagannath Rath Yatra 2026 commenced on July 16, 2026 along the Grand Road (**Bada Danda**) in the historic temple town of Puri, Odisha.

Key Highlights:

- **Core Significance:-** Dedicated to **Lord Jagannath** (a form of Lord Vishnu/Krishna), his elder brother **Lord Balabhadra**, and his sister **Goddess Subhadra**, commemorating their annual journey from the 12th-century Shree Jagannath Temple to their maternal aunt's home at the **Shree Gundicha Temple**.
- **Prominent Rituals:-** A major highlight is the **Chhera Pahara**—a sacred rite where the Gajapati King of Puri sweeps the chariot floors with a golden broom, symbolizing radical universal equality before the divine. The nine-day festival concludes with the return procession known as

the **Bahuda Yatra**.

- **Historical Standing:-** Celebrated continuously for centuries, it is one of India's oldest and largest religious processions. It is unique because the deities leave the sanctum sanctorum to allow universal *darshan* to people of all backgrounds, overriding traditional temple entry restrictions.
- **Chariot Construction:-** The three massive wooden chariots are rebuilt from scratch every year by hereditary carpenters (Maharanas) using sacred timber sourced from specified Odisha forests without using any metal nails. The construction process traditionally commences on Akshaya Tritiya.

Deity	Chariot Name	Dimensions & Wheels	Canopy Colours
Lord			
Jagannath	Nandighosha	45 feet tall (16 wheels)	Red and Yellow
Lord Balabhadra	Taladhwaja	44 feet tall (14 wheels)	Red and Green
Goddess Subhadra	Darpadalana (Devadalana)	43 feet tall (12 wheels)	Red and Black

21. Bihar Heli-Tourism and Air Tourism Service Scheme 2026 Launched

Why in News:

- Bihar's Tourism Department, in collaboration with the Directorate of Civil Aviation, officially launched the **Bihar Heli-Tourism and Air Tourism Service Scheme 2026**.

Key Highlights:

- **Connectivity Nodes:-** Connects the state capital **Patna** to key ecological, historical, and religious tourist destinations, including **Valmikinagar, Rajgir**, and the **Maa Mundeshwari Temple**.
- **Affordable Transit:-** Deploys heavily **subsidized small aircraft and helicopters** to make aerial travel accessible and economical for regular commuters and tourists.
- **Strategic Objective:-** Aims to enhance remote connectivity, boost local economies, and position Bihar as a prominent **global tourism hub**.

22. BRICS Adopts Nagpur Ministerial Declaration

Why in News:

- The **Nagpur Ministerial Declaration** was

formally adopted during the **3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting**, hosted under **India's 2026 BRICS Chairship**.

Key Highlights:

- **Collaborative Framework:-** Establishes an innovation-driven mechanism designed to deepen international cooperation, connectivity, and technological integration across BRICS member nations in transport and logistics.
- **Transport Decarbonisation:-** Outlines a strategic roadmap to accelerate emission reductions, promote **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**, and integrate **circular economy** principles directly into transport infrastructure development.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:-** Focuses on building robust, shock-resistant global supply chains and cross-border logistics corridors to facilitate smoother trade flows among member states.
- **Institutional Initiatives:-** Commits to advancing the institutional framework of the **BRICS Railway Research Network** and developing eco-friendly, multimodal **Urban Mobility Hubs** for sustainable transit.

23. Skyroot Set to Launch Vikram-1 Rocket

- **Why in News:** Hyderabad-based space-tech startup **Skyroot Aerospace** is launching **Vikram-1**, India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in **Sriharikota** on **July 18, 2026**.

Key Highlights:

- **Mission Name & Significance:-** Named "**Mission Aagaman**" (*The Arrival*), it marks the first time an Indian private company will attempt to place payloads into orbit using its own indigenous launch vehicle, independent of ISRO's rocket program.
- **Technical Architecture:-** A **24-meter**, four-stage rocket built with an **all-carbon composite structure**, making it significantly lighter than traditional steel rockets. It utilizes **three solid-fuel propulsion stages** and an orbital adjustment module powered by **metallic 3D-printed liquid engines**.
- **Payload & Orbit Capacity:-** Engineered to deliver small satellites weighing up to **350 kg** into Low Earth Orbit (**LEO**). The maiden flight is targeting a **450 km altitude orbit** at a **60-degree inclination**.
- **Notable Payloads:-** Carries technology demonstrators from space-tech firms like **Grahaa**

Space and Cosmoserve, alongside a handwritten “**Vande Mataram**” postcard from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a lab-grown diamond art piece titled “**Cosmic Bloom**”.

- **Historical Parallel:-** The launch date coincides with the **46th anniversary** of India’s first successful experimental **SLV-3** launch on **July 18, 1980**.

24. Project GIANT Launched to Study Atlantic Tipping Points

Why in News:

- The **British Antarctic Survey (BAS)** launched **Project GIANT (Greenland Ice Sheet to Atlantic Tipping Points)**, a major international climate research initiative.

Key Highlights:

- **Timeline & Leadership:-** A **five-year (2025–2030)** international scientific collaboration led by the **British Antarctic Survey (BAS)**.
- **Core Objective:-** Investigates how the accelerated melting of **Greenland glaciers** and the resulting freshwater influx threaten to trigger a collapse of vital **Atlantic Ocean currents** (such as the **AMOC**).
- **Climate Significance:-** Aims to improve global predictions regarding critical climate tipping points, severe weather pattern disruptions, and future sea-level rise.

25. Uttarakhand Celebrates Traditional Harela Festival

Why in News:

- The traditional folk festival **Harela** was celebrated across **Uttarakhand** (predominantly in the **Kumaon region**) on the first day of **Shravan (Kark Sankranti)** to mark the onset of the monsoon.

Key Highlights:

- **Meaning & Rituals:-** Translates to “**Greenery**”. Seeds of **multiple grains** are sown indoors days prior, and the young green shoots (**Harela**) are harvested and offered to deities to bless the new agricultural sowing cycle.
- **Mythological Significance:-** Culturally commemorates the divine wedding of **Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati**, blending Shaivite devotion with nature worship.
- **Environmental Push:-** The **Government of Uttarakhand** actively utilizes the occasion to drive state-wide **tree plantation and afforestation**

campaigns (**Harela Parva**).

26. SII to Manufacture M72 TB Vaccine

Why in News:

- Pune-based **Serum Institute of India (SII)** partnered with **Gates Medical Research Institute (Gates MRI)** to manufacture the novel **M72/AS01E** tuberculosis (TB) vaccine.

Key Exam Facts:

- **Historic Milestone:** Set to be the **first new TB vaccine for adults in over 100 years**, serving as a critical complement to the infant-focused **BCG vaccine**.
- **Vaccine Profile:** A **protein subunit vaccine** targeting active pulmonary TB in infected adults and adolescents aged **18–50 years**.
- **Efficacy & Trials:** Demonstrated **~50% protection** in Phase 2b; Phase 3 is currently testing **20,000 participants** across **5 high-burden nations**.
- **Collaborators:** **SII** (manufacturing via a **\$100M+** investment), **Gates MRI** (trial sponsor), and **GSK** (supplying the essential **AS01E adjuvant**).
- **WHO Projection:** Estimated to prevent **76 million TB cases** and save **8.5 million lives** over the next 25 years.

27. France Enacts Social Media Ban for Minors

Why in News:

- **France** became the **first EU nation** to enact a blanket social media ban for children **under 15** to curb cyberbullying, screen addiction, and youth mental health issues.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Global Precedents:** **Australia** was the world’s first country to enforce a nationwide social media ban for minors **under 16**.
- **Indian & Karnataka Context:** **Karnataka** became **India’s first state** to announce a social media ban for children **under 16** in its **2026–27 State Budget**.
- **Constitutional Provision:** Telecommunications and online services fall under **Entry 31 of the Union List** (Seventh Schedule), with data privacy governed nationally under the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**.

28. Puga Valley Geothermal Power Project

Why in News:

- The **ONGC Energy Centre** has successfully drilled India's first and deepest geothermal twin wells (reaching a depth of **1,000 metres**) at **Puga Valley** in **Eastern Ladakh**.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Project Scope:** These twin wells are critical for establishing India's inaugural **1 MW pilot geothermal power project** at Puga.
- **Geothermal Potential in India:** The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** has identified approximately **340 geothermal sites** nationwide.
- **Major Geothermal Regions:** The primary hotspots are concentrated in the **Himalayan belt** (specifically Puga and Chumathang), the **Son-Narmada-Tapti (SONATA) lineament**, and along India's **western coast**.

29. Toshakhana Rules and Management of Official Gifts

Context:

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched an online public e-auction of ~300 diplomatic gifts under the revised Toshakhana Rules, 2024 to promote transparency and generate public revenue.

Key Highlights:

- **Definition & Origin:** Derived from Persian (*Tosh* = treasure, *Khana* = repository), it is India's official system for receiving, valuing, storing, and disposing of gifts presented to public officials.
- **Administrative Control:** The Toshakhana Section operates directly under the **Establishment Division** of the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- **Retention Rules:** Officials must mandatorily declare all received gifts for expert valuation. To retain an item exceeding the monetary threshold, they must pay the difference between its assessed value and the limit.
- **Disposal & Revenue:** Unretained items are either preserved as state memorabilia or liquidated via online auctions, with all proceeds credited directly to the **Consolidated Fund of India** under **Article 266**.

30. Discovery of *Brachybacterium netajii*

Context:

- Indo-Japanese researchers isolated a new pollutant-degrading bacterial species, *Brachybacterium netajii*, from the industrial runoff areas of the Hooghly River in West Bengal.

Key Highlights:

- **Nomenclature & Origin:** Named after **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**, it was discovered by a joint research team from Netaji Mahavidyalaya, Burdwan University, IIT (BHU), and Hiroshima University.
- **Bioremediation Role:** Actively degrades **p-nitrophenol (PNP)**—a toxic environmental pollutant widely used in dyes and pesticides—converting it into harmless by-products.
- **Heavy Metal Resistance:** Belongs to the phylum **Actinobacteria** and exhibits exceptional resistance against toxic elements including **arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury**.
- **Extreme Resilience:** Highly **halotolerant** (survives up to **9% salinity**) and utilizes special genomic islands to produce **ectoine**, a compound that shields its cells from severe environmental stress.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Ravi Agrawal Reappointed as CBDT Chairman

- Senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Ravi Agrawal has been reappointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Following his scheduled retirement, the 1988-batch officer will serve an extended six-month contractual term (July–December 2026) heading the apex direct tax policy body under the Ministry of Finance.

2. New Chiefs Appointed for BPR&D, NCRB, and SVPNPA

Context:

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the appointment of three senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to lead premier police research, criminal intelligence, and training institutions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ### Key Highlights:
- **Bureau of Police Research and Development**

(BPR&D): Alok Kumar Mittal (1993-batch IPS officer, Haryana cadre) has been appointed as Director General. He takes charge at a critical juncture as the bureau oversees the nationwide rollout and training for the three new criminal laws.

- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB): Amit Garg** (1993-batch IPS officer, Andhra Pradesh cadre) has been named Director, succeeding Alok Ranjan. The post of NCRB Director has been temporarily upgraded to the rank of Director General on a personal basis for his tenure.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA): Sujeet Pandey** (1994-batch IPS officer, Uttar Pradesh cadre) has been appointed to lead the country's premier police training academy in Hyderabad, replacing Amit Garg.
- **Institutional Framework:** Operating directly under the Ministry of Home Affairs, **BPR&D** drives police modernization and policy research, **NCRB** (established in 1986) serves as the national repository for crime and criminal intelligence data, and **SVPNPA** trains Indian Police Service officer trainees and senior law enforcement leadership.

3. Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala Appointed MoES Secretary

Why in News:

- Renowned oceanographer **Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala** has been appointed as the new Secretary of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.

Key Highlights:

- **Tenure & Mandate:-** Appointed for a **two-year tenure** to oversee critical national initiatives, including India's **Deep Ocean Mission** and advanced climate modeling programs.
- **International Leadership:-** Previously served as Head of the **UNESCO-IOC Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS)** Secretariat in **Perth, Australia**, coordinating alerts across **28 nations**.
- **Domestic Legacy:-** Former Director of **INCOIS**, Hyderabad, and the chief architect of India's state-of-the-art **Indian Tsunami Early Warning System** built after the **2004 tsunami**.

4. Harjit Singh Grewal Appointed NCM Chairman

- Harjit Singh Grewal has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for a three-year term. He will lead the 7-member statutory body—comprising a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and five members, all of whom must mandatorily belong to minority communities—responsible for safeguarding the constitutional rights and welfare of India's six notified minority communities (Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains (added in 2014)). First set up as a non-statutory body in 1978, the NCM received statutory status under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, to monitor statutory safeguards and evaluate minority progress across Union and State levels.

5. Anurag Jain Appointed NITI Aayog CEO

- Anurag Jain (a 1989-batch MP-cadre IAS officer) has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog for a two-year term by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, succeeding B.V.R. Subrahmanyam. He will head the administration of the government's apex policy think tank—established on January 1, 2015, replacing the Planning Commission—to drive cooperative federalism and the **Viksit Bharat@2047 agenda** under the leadership of the Prime Minister (Chairperson) and Ashok Kumar Lahiri (Vice Chairperson).

6. Rahul Himalian Appointed IRCTC CMD

- **Rahul Himalian** (a 1999-batch IRTS officer) has been appointed to take additional charge as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **IRCTC** by the **Ministry of Railways**, succeeding Sanjay Kumar Jain. Effective July 20, 2026, he will head the **Schedule 'A' Navratna CPSE** responsible for national railway ticketing and hospitality, while concurrently retaining his existing role as IRCTC's Director of Tourism & Marketing.

7. Naresh Pal Gangwar Appointed Higher Education Secretary

- Naresh Pal Gangwar (a 1994-batch Rajasthan-cadre IAS officer) has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education (under the Ministry of Education) by

the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. He succeeds K. Sanjay Murthy in this top bureaucratic role to lead the central administration of India's higher education sector and oversee the continued implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

8. Mahesh Dixit Appointed Director of Intelligence Bureau

- Senior IPS officer Mahesh Dixit (1993-batch, Andhra Pradesh cadre) has been appointed as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for a two-year tenure. He succeeds incumbent chief Tapan Kumar Deka on June 30, 2026, bringing extensive operational experience in counter-terrorism and internal security, notably having headed the Kashmir Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau following the revocation of Article 370.

AWARDS

1. USISPF Honors Sunil Bharti Mittal

Context:

- Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, was honoured with the 2026 Leadership Award by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) during its IX Annual Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

Key Highlights:

- **Reason for Recognition:** Honoured for his pivotal role in transforming India's telecommunications landscape and his sustained contributions toward advancing economic and commercial ties between India and the United States.
- **Fellow Awardees:** He shared the award with global business leaders Christopher T. Calio (Chairman and CEO of RTX) and V. Prem Watsa (Chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings).
- **Key Remarks:** Speaking at the "America At 250" themed summit, Mittal highlighted the 5-million-strong Indian diaspora as a crucial strategic bridge and expressed optimism for an imminent India-US bilateral trade agreement.

About the Award:

- **Establishing Body:** Presented by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), a non-profit organization focused on deepening bilateral collaboration.

- **Objective:** To recognize and honor distinguished business leaders and policymakers who play an exemplary role in promoting trade, technology, innovation, and strategic partnerships across the US-India corridor.

2. Vice Admiral K. Srinivas Conferred Ati Vishisht Seva Medal

Why in News:

- The President of India conferred the prestigious **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)** upon Vice Admiral K. Srinivas in recognition of his distinguished military service.

Key Highlights

- **About the Award:** It is one of India's highest peacetime military decorations, awarded to members of the armed forces for "**distinguished service of an exceptional order.**"
- **Institution Date:** Officially instituted by the Government of India on **January 26, 1960.**
- **Wartime Equivalent:** The AVSM serves as the peacetime equivalent of the **Uttam Yuddh Seva Medal (UYSM)**, which is a wartime decoration for distinguished service during operational deployments.

3. ICMR-MINDS Wins Gold at National e-Governance Awards 2026

Context:

- A flagship digital health initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research won national recognition for integrating AI-powered mental healthcare into routine medical delivery.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Gold Award for Innovation by Use of AI and Other New Age Technologies.
- **Awardee:** ICMR-MINDS (Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Integrated NCD Care Delivery System).
- **Issuing Authority:** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Presenter:** Conferred during the 29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2026 held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- **Key Achievement:** Deployed an AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) across seven states, empowering frontline workers to screen and manage mental health disorders

without needing immediate psychiatric intervention.

- **About the Initiative:** Developed as a National Health Research Priority project by the ICMR. Operates on a structured bidirectional referral framework, allowing stable patients to receive care at primary health centers while reserving specialized hospitals for severe cases.

4. PM Modi Receives Indonesia’s Highest Civilian Honour

Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Indonesia’s highest civilian decoration during his official state visit to Jakarta, marking a major milestone in bilateral diplomatic relations.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Bintang Adipurna (Star of the Republic of Indonesia).
- **Awardee:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Issuing Authority:** Republic of Indonesia.
- **Presenter:** Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto at Istana Merdeka (the Presidential Palace) in Jakarta.
- **Key Achievement:** Honoured for his outstanding leadership in advancing the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and promoting bilateral cooperation across defense, maritime security, critical minerals, and healthcare.
- **About the Award:** Instituted in 1959 as the highest civilian order of the Republic of Indonesia. Conferred upon individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the unity, continuity, and prosperity of the nation, placing PM Modi alongside historical figures like Jawaharlal Nehru who also received Indonesia’s highest state decoration.

5. Acharya Ranchhodlal Goswami Wins Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025

Context:

- An Ahmedabad-based scholar was selected for India’s premier youth award in the performing arts for his contributions to preserving the ancient temple music tradition of Haveli Sangeet.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025.
- **Awardee:** Acharya Shri Ranchhodlalji Goswami.
- **Issuing Authority:** Sangeet Natak Akademi

(Union Ministry of Culture).

- **Presenter:** Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- **Key Achievement:** Honoured for his extraordinary contribution to preserving Haveli Sangeet, composing over 22,000 devotional hymns (*padas*) across six languages, and authoring eight authoritative books on temple music.
- **About the Award:** Instituted to recognize and encourage outstanding young performing artists under the age of 40 years across Indian classical music, dance, and drama. It carries a cash prize of ₹25,000 and is named in memory of legendary shehnai maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan.

6. DoT’s ‘Samriddh Gram’ Wins Global WSIS Prize 2026

Context:

- A flagship digital initiative of the Department of Telecommunications was recognized globally for driving grassroots socio-economic transformation across rural India.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026.
- **Awardee:** ‘Samriddh Gram’ project (Department of Telecommunications).
- **Issuing Authority:** International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- **Category:** Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment.
- **Core Initiative:** Leverages the **BharatNet** broadband backbone to establish village-level **Samriddhi Kendras** as one-stop hubs for digital service delivery, integrating e-governance, telemedicine, and digital banking.
- **Global Significance:** Selected from nearly 1,600 global submissions at the summit in Geneva, establishing India’s digital public infrastructure as a scalable international model.
- **About the Award:** Instituted by the ITU to honor outstanding projects that leverage Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to advance sustainable development goals. Recognizes global excellence across specific action lines to foster an enabling environment for worldwide digital inclusion.

7. Sahitya Akademi Awards Conferred for Literary Excellence

Context:

- The Sahitya Akademi formally conferred its prestigious annual literary awards in New Delhi,

honouring outstanding authors across **24 Indian languages**.

Key Highlights:

- **National Standing:-** Established in **1954**, the Sahitya Akademi Award is one of India's highest national literary honours, recognizing creative excellence in the **22 languages** listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, along with **English** and **Rajasthani**.
- **Award Structure:-** Each awardee is presented with an engraved **copper-plaque**, a traditional **shawl**, and a cash prize of **₹1,00,000**.
- **Kannada Language:-** Prominent writer **Amaresh Nugadoni** was honoured for his celebrated short story collection **Dada Seerisu Tande**.
- **English Language:-** Veteran diplomat and author **Navtej Sarna** received the award for his acclaimed historical novel **Crimson Spring**, which centers on the events surrounding the **1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre**.
- **Hindi Language:-** Renowned author **Mamta Kalia** was recognized for her biographical memoir **Jeete Jee Allahabad**.

Sahitya Akademi Awards: Notable Winners & Genres

Language	Author	Title of the Work	Genre
Kannada	Amaresh Nugadoni	<i>Dada Seerisu Tande</i>	Short Stories
English	Navtej Sarna	<i>Crimson Spring</i>	Novel
Hindi	Mamta Kalia	<i>Jeete Jee Allahabad</i>	Memoir
Assamese	Devabrat Das	<i>Karhi Khelar Sadhu</i>	Novel
Bengali	Prasun Bandyopadhyay	<i>Shrestha Kabita</i>	Poetry

8. 72nd National Film Awards 2026 Announced

Context:

- The winners of the **72nd National Film Awards**—honoring films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in **2024**—were officially announced in New Delhi by the feature film jury chaired by filmmaker **Jayaraj**.

Key Highlights:

- **Scope & Jury:** Recognizes excellence in Indian cinema for films certified between January 1 and December 31, 2024, evaluated by a central panel under **Jayaraj**.

- **Major Accolades:** The political drama **Article 370** secured the premier honor for **Best Feature Film**, while top acting honors were shared across the Hindi and Malayalam industries.
- **Wholesome Entertainment:** The sci-fi blockbuster **Kalki 2898 AD** was recognized for providing the best popular mainstream entertainment.

Category	Winner(s)	Film	Language / Industry
Best Feature Film	—	<i>Article 370</i>	Hindi
Best Actor (Joint)	Kartik Aaryan		
Mammootty	<i>Chandu Champion</i>		
<i>Bramayugam</i>	Hindi		
Malayalam			
Best Actress	Yami Gautam	<i>Article 370</i>	Hindi
Best Director	Rajkumar Periasamy	<i>Amaran</i>	Tamil
Best Supporting Actor	Sanjay Mishra	<i>Bhakshak</i>	Hindi
Best Supporting Actress (Joint)	Ropashree Varkady		
Sachana Namidass	<i>Mithya</i>		
<i>Maharaja</i>	Kannada		
Tamil			
Best Popular Film	—	<i>Kalki 2898 AD</i>	Telugu / Pan-India
Best Film (Social/Environmental)	—	<i>Captain Miller</i>	Tamil
Best Regional Films	—	<i>Srikanth (Hindi)</i>	
<i>Raayan (Tamil)</i>			
<i>Committee Kurrollu (Telugu)</i>			
<i>Feminichi Fathima (Malayalam)</i>			

Mithya (Kannada)	Various		
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9. India Triumphs at International Chemistry & Biology Olympiads 2026

Context:

- Indian student contingents delivered stellar performances at the **58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026** in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and the **37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2026** in Vilnius, Lithuania, securing medals across all eight individual slots (**5 Gold and 3 Silver combined**).

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- Historic IChO Clean Sweep (Chemistry):** At the **58th IChO**, India achieved its **first-ever all-gold clean sweep** by winning **4 Gold medals**, finishing **joint 1st** in the global country-wise medal tally alongside **China** and **Vietnam** (out of **93 participating nations**).
- IChO Gold Medalists:** The four gold winners are **Debadatta Priyadarshi** (Odisha), **Harshit Singla** (Punjab), **Kabeer Chillar** (Delhi), and **Sandeep Kuchi** (Telangana).
- Stellar IBO Performance (Biology):** At the **37th IBO**, competing among **307 students from 78 countries**, the Indian team bagged **1 Gold and 3 Silver medals**.
- IBO Medalists:** **Bhavyaa Gunwal** (Haryana) clinched India's sole **Gold medal**, while **Soumil Maity** (West Bengal), **Nishit Kalani** (Rajasthan), and **Anmol Kumar** (Punjab) secured **Silver medals**.
- Nodal Training Agency:** Both national teams were selected, trained, and mentored by the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)**—a national center of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (**TIFR**), Mumbai—with institutional support from the Department of Atomic Energy (**DAE**), Department of Science and Technology (**DST**), and the Ministry of Education.

10. James Gray Honoured with Locarno Film Festival's Career Award

Context :

- An acclaimed American filmmaker was selected for a prestigious lifetime achievement award in international cinema during the 79th edition of Switzerland's premier film festival.

Key Highlights:

- Award:** Pardo alla Carriera (Honorary Career Pardo Award).
- Awardee:** James Gray (American film director and screenwriter).
- Issuing Authority:** 79th Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland.
- Presenter/Venue:** Piazza Grande open-air venue in Ticino, Switzerland (August 2026).
- Key Achievement:** Recognized as **"the last great novelist of American cinema"** for his long-term global contributions to character-driven cinema, including films like *Little Odessa* (Silver Lion winner), *The Lost City of Z*, *Ad Astra*, and *Armageddon Time*.

About the Award:

- A lifetime achievement honor presented annually by the Locarno Film Festival to recognize individuals whose careers have left a lasting impact on global cinema. Previous notable recipients include Shah Rukh Khan, Jackie Chan, and Harry Belafonte.

11. NSA Ajit Doval Receives Lokmanya Tilak National Award

Context:

- An Indian official and the country's longest-serving National Security Adviser has been globally and nationally recognized for his monumental contributions to the country's strategic defense and security framework.

Key Highlights:

- Award:** Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 (includes a memento, citation, and a **₹1 lakh** cash prize).
- Awardee:** **Ajit Doval** (National Security Adviser of India).
- Issuing Authority:** Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust.
- Presenter & Venue:** Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** in Pune, Maharashtra (**August 1, 2026**).
- Key Achievement:** Honored for his exceptional contribution to national security, counter-terrorism operations, and border security, including his pivotal roles in **Operation Black Thunder**, the **Doklam** diplomatic negotiations, the 2016 **Surgical Strikes**, and the 2019 **Balakot air strike**.

About the Award:

- Instituted in **1983** and presented annually on **August 1** to commemorate the death anniversary

of freedom fighter **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak**.

- Recognizes individuals who have made remarkable contributions to the nation's progress and development.
- The inaugural honor was presented to veteran socialist **SM Joshi**.

12. India Sets Record with 7 Schools Shortlisted for World's Best School Prizes 2026

Context:

- Seven Indian schools have been named in the global top 10 shortlist for the prestigious World's Best School Prizes 2026 in London. This establishes a new world record for the highest number of schools shortlisted from a single country in one year since the inception of the awards.

Key Highlights:

- **Diverse Representation:** The shortlisted institutions span public and private schools across Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Selection Process:** The top three finalists and ultimate category winners will be selected by an expert Judging Academy and announced in **November 2026**.
- **Global Platform:** Shortlisted schools are currently competing in a public vote for the Community Choice Award and will be invited to the World Schools Summit in London in January 2027.

About the Award:

- **Establishing Body:** Founded in **2022** by the UK-headquartered organization **T4 Education** in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Award Categories:** The prizes are divided into five distinct domains: Innovation, Community Collaboration, Environmental Action, Supporting Healthy Lives, and Overcoming Adversity.
- **Objective:** To recognize and provide a global platform for schools that are pioneering innovative teaching methods, driving community impact, and implementing transformative educational practices aligned with the UN SDGs.

13. Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026

Context:

- Team India won five medals at the Global Skills

Challenge (GSC) Australia 2026, establishing its technical preparedness ahead of the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai.

Key Highlights:

- **Contingent & Scale:** India fielded a 30-member contingent comprising 15 competitors and 15 experts across 15 skills, competing against nearly 600 participants from 16 nations.
Gold Medalists: Secured three golds through Pavan Bhadravati Suresha (Additive Manufacturing), Mausam Kumar Giri (Cloud Computing), and Vishnupriya Sunil (Health and Social Care).
Silver & Bronze: Harsh Ramesh Pawar clinched silver in 3D Digital Game Art, while Muskan secured bronze in Painting and Decorating.
About the Competition:
Establishing Body: Organised by WorldSkills Australia as a full-scale simulation using the globally recognized Competition Information System (CIS).
Purpose : To provide high-pressure competitive exposure, benchmark vocational skill levels against international standards, and serve as a critical preparatory platform for the biennial WorldSkills arena.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. National Doctor's Day

- **Observed Date:** July 1, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Indian Medical Association (IMA) / Government of India
- **Objective:** To honour and express gratitude to the entire medical fraternity for their selfless service and daily sacrifices, and to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of the legendary physician, freedom fighter, and Bharat Ratna awardee Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- **Theme:** "Empowering Doctors, Resilient Healthcare: Celebrating Medical Excellence and Patient Trust"

2. GST Day

- **Observed Date:** July 1, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance, Government of India
- **Objective:** To commemorate the implementation of the landmark Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, which replaced a complex web of cascading indirect taxes with a unified,

technology-driven taxation framework across the nation.

- **Theme:** “GST @ 9: Fostering Growth, Simplifying Compliance, Transforming India”

3. International Day of Cooperatives 2026

- **Observed Date:** July 4, 2026 (First Saturday of July)
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations / Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about the contributions of cooperatives to economic and social development, promote the cooperative business model based on shared ownership and democratic decision-making, and strengthen collaboration between the United Nations and the international cooperative movement to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Theme:** “Cooperatives for a Peaceful World!”

4. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Birth Anniversary

- **Observed Date:** July 6
- **Commemorative Release:** ₹125 Silver Coin and Commemorative Stamp issued by the Government of India to mark his 125th birth anniversary year.
- **Objective:** To commemorate the visionary statesman and educationist for his foundational role as India’s first Minister of Industry and Supply, his academic leadership at Calcutta University, and his tireless advocacy for national integration and a unified constitutional framework.

5. World Population Day

- **Observed Date:** July 11
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Objective:** To raise awareness about global population challenges, reproductive health, and gender equality, while highlighting youth empowerment to harness the global demographic dividend.
- **Theme:** “Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people – today and for the future”

6. World Youth Skills Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** July 15
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations (led by UNESCO and the International Labour Organization)
- **Objective:** To highlight the strategic importance of equipping young people with future-ready competencies for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship, with a primary focus on integrating artificial intelligence (AI), digital literacy, and green skills to bridge the evolving global workforce gap.
- **Theme:** “Skills for a Shared Future”

7. France Celebrates Bastille Day 2026

Why in News:

- French National Day, commonly known as Bastille Day, was celebrated across France and globally on **July 14, 2026**.

Key Highlights:

- **Historical Significance:-** Commemorates the historic **Storming of the Bastille** prison on **July 14, 1789**, an event that marked the definitive flashpoint of the French Revolution and symbolized the collapse of the absolute monarchy.
- **The Bastille Fortress:-** Originally utilized by the monarchy to hold political prisoners and individuals awaiting trial, it stood as a potent symbol of royal tyranny and abuse of power before being dismantled.
- **Revolutionary Impact:-** The event catalyzed the decade-long French Revolution (**1789–1799**), which completely restructured the country’s political, social, and economic framework, ultimately overthrowing the monarchy, establishing a republic, and leading to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.
- **Official Declaration:-** France formally adopted July 14 as its National Day (*La Fête Nationale*) in **1880**, establishing it as an annual celebration of national unity and democratic values.

8. World Day for International Justice 2026

- **Observed Date:** July 17
- **Observing Organisation:** International Criminal Court (ICC)
- **Objective:** To commemorate the landmark adoption of the **Rome Statute** on **July 17, 1998**,

which established the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** in The Hague, Netherlands. The day aims to promote global accountability, protect victims' rights, and prevent impunity for core international offenses including **Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity**, and the **Crime of Aggression**.

9. National Flag Day

- **Observed Date:** July 22
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- **Objective:** To commemorate the historic adoption of the Indian Tricolour (*Tiranga*) by the Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947 (under the Ad-hoc Committee headed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad). It honors Pingali Venkayya's foundational design, key technical specifications (3:2 dimensional ratio, 24-spoke navy-blue Ashoka Chakra), and statutory governance under the Flag Code of India, 2002 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

10. National Broadcasting Day

- **Observed Date:** July 23
- **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting / Prasar Bharati
- **Objective:** To commemorate India's first organized radio broadcast by the private **Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC)** from Bombay on **July 23, 1927**. It honors the evolution of the national broadcaster—renamed **All India Radio (AIR)** in **1936** and **Akashvani** in **1956**—and its commitment to the public service motto **Bahujana Hitaya, Bahujana Sukhaya**.

11. Lokmanya Tilak Jayanti

- **Observed Date:** July 23
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- **Objective:** To honor freedom fighter **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** (born July 23, 1856). Revered as **Lokmanya** and dubbed the "**Father of Indian Unrest**", he coined the slogan "*Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it.*"
- **Key exam facts:** co-founded the **Deccan Education Society (1884)** and **Indian Home Rule League (1916)**; launched newspapers **Kesari** (Marathi) and **Mahratta** (English); authored **Gita Rahasya** and **The Arctic Home in the Vedas**; popularized public **Ganesh Chaturthi (1893)** and **Shivaji Jayanti (1895)** festivals; and helped

broker the **Lucknow Pact (1916)**.

12. Income Tax Day (Aaykar Diwas)

- **Observed Date:** July 24
- **Observing Organisation:** Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) / Ministry of Finance
- **Objective:** To commemorate the introduction of income tax in India by **Sir James Wilson** on **July 24, 1860** (initially levied to compensate for British financial losses during the **1857 Revolt**). The day was first officially observed in **2010** to mark 150 years of taxation in India.

13. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

- **Observed Date:** June 26, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations / UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about how drug abuse and illegal trafficking destroy lives, communities, and national progress, and to encourage international cooperation and community action to achieve a drug-free world.
- **Theme:** "World Drug Problem: Persisting Issues, New Challenges, Innovative Responses"

14. Samvidhan Hatya Diwas

- **Observed Date:** June 25, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of Culture, Government of India
- **Objective:** To honor the unsung heroes of freedom, pay homage to those who suffered during the 1975 National Emergency, and remind citizens of the enduring value of democracy and constitutional rights.
- **Theme:** "Long Live Democracy"

15. World MSME Day

- **Observed Date:** June 27, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **Objective:** To recognize the vital contribution of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in generating employment, promoting entrepreneurship, driving innovation, and supporting sustainable economic development globally.
- **Theme:** "Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development"

16. National Statistics Day

- **Observed Date:** June 29, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India
- **Objective:** To popularize the use of statistics in daily life, sensitize the public on its role in policy-making, and honor the monumental contributions of legendary statistician Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis on his birth anniversary.
- **Theme:** "Use of Administrative Data for Socio-Economic Indicator Monitoring"

17. International Asteroid Day

- **Observed Date:** June 30, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) / Association of Space Explorers (ASE)
- **Objective:** To raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard, inform the public about crisis communication actions at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object threat, and commemorate the anniversary of the 1908 Tunguska impact.
- **Theme:** "Protecting Earth: Advanced Technologies and Coordinated Global Responses to Near-Earth Objects."

SPORTS

1. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi: Youngest India Debutant

Why in News:

- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest cricketer in history to represent India in any international format at just 15 years and 99 days old during his T20I debut against England.

Key Highlights

- **The Milestone Venue:** Achieved at Old Trafford, Manchester on July 4, 2026, where he received his official India T20I cap.
- **Breaking the Master's Record:** Shattered Sachin Tendulkar's three-decade-old record, who had made his international Test debut against Pakistan in 1989 at the age of 16 years and 205 days.
- **Global T20I Standing:** Became the youngest men's T20I debutant among full ICC member nations, surpassing Ireland's Joshua Little (who

debuted at 16 years and 309 days).

2. ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026

Why in News:

- Australia captured a record-extending seventh tournament championship by decisively defeating hosts England by seven wickets in the final.

Key Highlights

- **Historic Final at Lord's:** The championship clash was held at the iconic London venue before a record women's match attendance of over 28,000 spectators.
- **Record-Breaking Run Chase:** Successfully chased down England's target of 150/4 with 17 balls to spare, registering the highest successful run chase in the history of a Women's T20 World Cup final.
- **Unbeaten Dominance:** Under captain Sophie Molineux, the team completed an undefeated campaign and maintained a flawless 7-0 winning record against arch-rivals England across all ICC World Cup finals.
- **India's Tournament Performance:** The Indian team was knocked out in the group stage after losing their must-win final league match to Australia by six wickets, despite winning three of their five group games and captain Harmanpreet Kaur scoring a fighting 27-ball 56.

3. President Unveils Durand Cup 2026 Trophies

Why in News:

- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the three historic trophies of the Durand Cup Football Tournament 2026 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Key Highlights:

- **Trophies Featured:-** Unveiled the Durand Cup (original prize), The Shimla Trophy (first presented by residents of Shimla in 1904), and The President's Cup (first presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad).
- **Historical Status:-** Recognized as Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest operational football competition.
- **Tournament Origin:-** Established in 1888 in Shimla by Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, the then Foreign Secretary of British India.

4. Sourav Ganguly Inducted Into ICC Hall of Fame

Why in News:

- Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly was officially inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame.
- Key Highlights:
- **National Standing:-** Became the **12th Indian cricketer** overall (and 10th Indian men's player) to receive cricket's highest individual honour.
- **Career Statistics:-** Amassed **18,575 international runs** across 424 matches (**7,212 in Tests** and **11,363 in ODIs**), registering **38 centuries** alongside **132 ODI wickets**.
- **Captaincy Legacy:-** Celebrated for rebuilding the national team, leading India to the **2003 ODI World Cup final** and a joint victory in the **2002 ICC Champions Trophy**.
- ICC Hall of Fame: Complete List of Indian Inductees (Till 2026)

Rank	Inductee	Year of Induction
1	Bishan Singh Bedi	2009
2	Kapil Dev	2009
3	Sunil Gavaskar	2009
4	Anil Kumble	2015
5	Rahul Dravid	2018
6	Sachin Tendulkar	2019
7	Vinoo Mankad	2021
8	Diana Edulji	2023
9	Virender Sehwag	2023
10	Neetu David	2024
11	MS Dhoni	2025
12	Sourav Ganguly	2026

5. Wimbledon Championships 2026 Concludes

Why in News:

- The **138th edition** of the prestigious **Wimbledon Championships 2026** concluded at the historic All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London.

Key Highlights:

- **Men's Singles:-** Italy's **Jannik Sinner** successfully

defended his title by defeating Germany's **Alexander Zverev** in a four-set final, becoming only the **10th man in Open Era history** to retain the Gentlemen's Singles trophy and securing his **5th career Grand Slam**.

- **Women's Singles:-** Czech Republic's **Linda Nosková** clinched her **maiden Grand Slam title** by defeating compatriot **Karolina Muchová** in an all-Czech final, becoming the **youngest Wimbledon women's champion** (at 21 years old) since 2011.
- **Historical Background:-** Established in **1877**, Wimbledon is the world's **oldest tennis tournament** and the only one of the four Grand Slam events still played on traditional **natural grass courts**.
- **Men's All-Time Record (1968–2026):-** Switzerland's **Roger Federer** holds the all-time record for the most Men's Singles titles with **8 victories**, followed by **Novak Djokovic** and **Pete Sampras** (**7 titles** each).
- **Women's All-Time Record (1968–2026):-** USA's **Martina Navratilova** holds the all-time record for the most Women's Singles titles with **9 victories**, followed by **Serena Williams** and **Steffi Graf** (**7 titles** each in the Open Era).
- **Wimbledon Championships 2026: Complete Winners List**

Category	Winner(s)	Nationality
Men's Singles	Jannik Sinner	Italy
Women's Singles	Linda Nosková	Czech Republic
Men's Doubles	Harri Heliövaara & Henry Patten	Finland / Great Britain
Women's Doubles	Guo Hanyu & Kristina Mladenovic	China / France
Mixed Doubles	Marcelo Arévalo & Jeļena Ostapenko	El Salvador / Latvia

6. Official Mascot 'Mayur' Unveiled for 2026 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship

Why in News:

- Delhi officially unveiled '**Mayur**' as the mascot for the upcoming **22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026**.

Key Highlights:

- Mascot Symbolism:-** Inspired by the Indian peacock, '**Mayur**' features feathers incorporating the **national flags of all participating nations**, representing the philosophy of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** (the world is one family).
- Host & Schedule:-** Scheduled from **July 27 to August 2, 2026**, at the **Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi**, bringing together paddlers from over **25 Commonwealth nations**.
- Organizing Bodies:-** Jointly organized by the **Delhi Government** and the **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** under the **Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation (CTTF)**.

7. Rohit Sharma Scripts History at Lord's, Breaking Sachin Tendulkar's Records

Why in News:

- Veteran Indian opener **Rohit Sharma** struck a commanding **138 off 110 balls** against England in the decisive 3rd ODI at **Lord's** on **July 19, 2026**, becoming the first Indian to hit an ODI century at the venue and breaking multiple records held by **Sachin Tendulkar**.

Key Highlights:

- First at the 'Home of Cricket':** Surpassed Sourav Ganguly's previous best (90 in 2004) to become the **first Indian batter** ever to score an ODI century at Lord's.
- Oldest Indian Centurion:** At **39 years and 80 days**, he became the oldest Indian to score an international and ODI century across formats, eclipsing Tendulkar's record of **38 years and 327 days**.
- Most Tons as an Indian Opener:** Registered his **46th international century as an opener**, moving past Tendulkar's tally of **45** (second globally only to David Warner).
- Most ODI Centuries as a Visitor:** Struck his **8th ODI hundred in England**, surpassing Tendulkar (7 in UAE), AB de Villiers (7 in India), and Saeed Anwar (7 in UAE) for the most ODI hundreds in a single foreign country.

- 50+ Scores Record:** Recorded his **15th fifty-plus ODI score** on English soil in just 30 innings, surpassing **Virat Kohli (14)** for the most by any visiting batter in England.
- Career & Captaincy Legacy:** Currently stands at **34 ODI centuries** overall; previously captained India to the **2024 T20 World Cup** title and the 2023 ODI World Cup final before stepping away from T20Is and Test cricket.

8. PV Sindhu Creates History, Wins Maiden Japan Open Title

Why in News:

- Two-time Olympic medallist **PV Sindhu** defeated reigning world champion **Akane Yamaguchi** of Japan (21-17, 21-17) in Tokyo to win the **Japan Open 2026** women's singles badminton title.
- Key Highlights:**
- First Indian Champion:** Became the **first Indian shuttler ever** to win the prestigious Japan Open title.
- Maiden Super 750 Crown:** Secured her **career-first BWF Super 750 title**, marking her most significant triumph since lifting the **2019 World Championships** gold in Basel.
- Drought Ended:** Broke a major title drought of over two years, having last won a BWF World Tour crown at the **2024 Syed Modi International**.
- Head-to-Head Dominance:** Improved her career record against three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi to **16-14** across 30 international encounters.

9. Spain Triumphs in FIFA World Cup 2026: Full Awards & Key Records

Why in News:

- Spain** defeated defending champions **Argentina 1-0** after extra time at MetLife Stadium (New York/New Jersey) to win the **2026 FIFA World Cup**, with substitute **Ferran Torres** scoring the decisive winner in the **106th minute**.

Key Highlights:

- Host & Format:** Co-hosted by the **USA, Canada**, and **Mexico**, marking the first-ever **48-team** tournament.
- Historic Dominance:** This is Spain's **2nd World Cup crown** (after 2010). They set a tournament record by conceding **just 1 goal** in 8 matches and extended their European-record unbeaten streak to **38 matches**. They are also the only European nation to hold the men's **World Cup**,

Euro 2024, and **Women's World Cup (2023)** titles simultaneously.

- **All-Time Scorer Milestone:** France's **Kylian Mbappé** became the **first player ever to win back-to-back Golden Boots** and extended his record as the **all-time top scorer in men's World Cup history with 22 career goals**.

FIFA World Cup: 2026 vs. 2022 Champions & Award Winners

Category / Award	2026 Edition (USA/Canada/Mexico)	2022 Edition (Qatar)
Champions	Spain (2nd Title)	Argentina (3rd Title)
Runners-Up	Argentina	France
Golden Ball (Best Player)	Rodri (Spain)	Lionel Messi (Argentina)
Golden Boot (Top Scorer)	Kylian Mbappé (10 goals)	Kylian Mbappé (8 goals)
Golden Glove (Best Goalkeeper)	Unai Simón (7 clean sheets; 650' record)	Emiliano Martínez (Argentina)
Best Young Player	Pau Cubarsí (Spain)	Enzo Fernández (Argentina)
FIFA Fair Play Trophy	Netherlands	England

10. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest to Score a T20I Fifty

Why in News:

- Indian teenage batting sensation **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** has scripted history by becoming the youngest player to score a half-century in both T20 Internationals (T20I) and overall Men's International Cricket.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **The Milestone:** He reached his maiden international fifty at the age of **15 years and 118 days**.
- **Match Context:** The feat was achieved during India's 1st T20I match against **Zimbabwe** at the **Harare Sports Club** on **July 23, 2026**. He scored a blisteringly fast **19-ball 50** (reaching the milestone in just **18 deliveries** at a strike rate of

263.15) featuring **4 fours** and **4 sixes**.

Record Category	Previous Record Holder	New Record (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi)
Youngest to Score a T20I Fifty	Louis Bruce (Gibraltar) – 16 years, 56 days (2021)	15 years, 118 days (2026)
Youngest Indian to Score an Intl. Fifty	Sachin Tendulkar – 16 years, 213 days (1989 Test)	15 years, 118 days (2026 T20I)
Youngest Overall to Score an Intl. Fifty	Kushal Malla (Nepal) – 15 years, 340 days (2020 ODI)	15 years, 118 days (2026 T20I)

11. Ancy Sojan Breaks Anju Bobby George's 22-Year-Old National Record

Why in news:

- Kerala's long jump sensation **Ancy Sojan** created history by shattering Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old national record with a phenomenal leap of **6.88 metres** during the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on June 27, 2026.

Key Highlights

- **The Record Jump:** The 25-year-old athlete, who serves as a Chief Petty Officer in the Indian Navy, registered the massive 6.88m mark on her fifth attempt, easily clearing the Asian Games qualification mark (6.48m) set by the Athletics Federation of India.
- **Overcoming a Legend:** Her jump eclipsed the legendary Anju Bobby George's previous national mark of **6.83m**, which had remained unbroken since the 2004 Athens Olympics. This makes Ancy's jump the 8th best all-time mark in women's long jump in Asian history.
- **Other Major Feats:** At the same Bhubaneswar event, another long-standing national record fell when Maharashtra's **Sarvesh Kushare** cleared 2.31 metres in the men's high jump, surpassing Tejaswin Shankar's previous national record of 2.29m.

MILITARY EXERCISES

1. Indian Navy Participates in RIMPAC 2026

Context:

- The Indian Navy's P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft arrived to participate in the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 2026, reinforcing global maritime cooperation and interoperability.

Key Highlights:

- Exercise:** Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 2026 (30th Edition).
- Theme:** "Partners: Integrated and Prepared".
- Host & Venue:** Hosted biennially (every two years) by the U.S. Pacific Fleet in and around the Hawaiian Islands.
- Indian Participation:** Represented by the Indian Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, focusing on advanced anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance, and joint fleet maneuvers.
- About the Exercise:** Established in 1971 as the world's largest international multinational maritime exercise. Brings together military forces from over 30 nations to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific by strengthening collective maritime security and operational readiness.

2. Indian Navy to Host Operation Southern Readiness 26-2

Why in News:

- The Indian Navy will host **Operation Southern Readiness 26-2**, a multinational maritime security exercise, at the **Southern Naval Command** in **Kochi, Kerala** from **July 20 to 23, 2026**.

Key Highlights:

- Organizing Framework:-** Conducted in partnership with the **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** under the aegis of the Indian Navy-led **Combined Task Force 154 (CTF 154)**, which serves as the CMF's dedicated training task force.
- Global Participation:-** Brings together naval personnel from over **25 CMF partner nations** (including the USA, UK, Japan, and Australia) for practical and simulator-based training in **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)**, counter-narcotics, and maritime law.
- Indian Command:-** India achieved a major milestone in **February 2026** by assuming command of **CTF 154** for the first time, led by **Commodore Milind M. Mokashi**.

- CMF Background:-** Headquartered in **Bahrain**, the CMF is a **47-nation** naval partnership securing **3.2 million square miles** of international waters. India became a **full member in 2023**.

3. Exercise Pitch Black 2026

Why in News:

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, a premier biennial multinational air-combat exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in northern Australia.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- Format & Focus:** The drill emphasizes complex night-time flying operations, electronic warfare, and Beyond Visual Range (BVR) combat over the vast regions of northern Australia.
- Global Scale & Participation:** The 2026 edition features around **100 aircraft** from **21 partner nations**, including India. The IAF contingent includes **Rafale** multirole fighters, supported by **C-17 Globemaster III** transport and **IL-78** air-to-air refuelling aircraft.
- Other India-Australia Defence Exercises:**
 - AUSTRA HIND:** Bilateral Army exercise.
 - AUSINDEX:** Bilateral Navy exercise.
 - MALABAR:** Multilateral Naval exercise featuring the Quad nations (**India, USA, Japan, and Australia**).

OBITUARIES

1. Renowned Pandavani Artist Teejan Bai Passes Away

- Padma Vibhushan-winning folk legend Teejan Bai, globally celebrated for popularizing Chhattisgarh's traditional Mahabharata-based oral storytelling art form, passed away at 70 on June 2, 2026, leaving behind an immortal legacy as the pioneer of the dynamic, standing *Kapalik* performance style.
- Renowned for her dramatic delivery utilizing a *tambura* as a visual prop symbolizing Bhima's mace, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow and Fukuoka Prize awardee broke traditional gender barriers to take indigenous tribal folk art to prestigious international stages.

2. Bridge Man of India' Girish Bharadwaj Passes Away

- Padma Shri-winning social worker and engineer Girish Bharadwaj, celebrated as the 'Bridge

Man of India' for constructing over 140 low-cost hanging footbridges across remote rural India, passed away at 76 in Sullia, Karnataka, on July 7, 2026, leaving behind a monumental legacy in eco-friendly rural infrastructure and connectivity. Fondly known as *Sethu Bandhu*, he built his very first suspension footbridge across the Payaswini River at Aramburu in 1989 and was later conferred with honorary doctorates by institutions including the University of Mysuru, inspiring an upcoming biographical film titled *Sethu Bandhu* based on his life's work.

INITIATIVES

1. Ministry of Tribal Affairs Launches TribeX Platform

Why in News:

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched TribeX, a first-of-its-kind digital learning platform designed to transform tribal education and preserve indigenous heritage.

Key Highlights:

- **Academic Collaboration:-** Developed in partnership with **Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi**, to offer UGC-recognised postgraduate diplomas alongside free certificate courses.
- **Core Focus:-** Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of tribal languages, arts, crafts, traditional knowledge, and modern skill development.
- **Global Connectivity:-** Connects global learners, researchers, and educators directly with tribal experts and master artisans while serving as a digital repository for indigenous heritage.

2. Mission Senehjori

Why in News:

- The Assam Government has announced the launch of Mission Senehjori, a strategic initiative designed to strengthen and revitalize the state's iconic Muga silk ecosystem.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Core Objective:** The primary aim of the mission is to systematically convert silk waste into high-value spun yarn.
- **Target Material:** Focuses specifically on the ecosystem of Muga silk (the renowned golden-yellow silk that holds a Geographical Indication

(GI) tag and is endemic to Assam).

- **Socio-Economic Impact:** Designed to create new, sustainable employment opportunities at the grassroots level and boost the rural sericulture economy.

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