

ANANYA SAADHANA



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FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,
INSIGHTS IAS

COMPREHENSIVE **CURRENT AFFAIRS** ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER
2026

IAS

KAS

GROUP C

FDA

SDA

PSI

PC

TRENDING

Ruthu Thare Abhiyaan

India's first-of-its-kind initiative - perimenopause and menopause management

Saptadhara Framework

India's transition into a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

IN FOCUS



S V Ranganath Committee

Competitive Examinations and Recruitment Reform Committee set up by the Government of Karnataka



16th edition of Aero India 2027

It will held at Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru



Jan AI Cafe

World's first community-led AI cafe in H.D. Kote, Mysuru



Charging infrastructure

Karnataka has 6,805 electric vehicle charging stations

TOP HIGHLIGHTS



Nano Technology Mission

Karnataka is setting up a dedicated Nano Technology Mission and exploring a Nanotechnology Manufacturing Corridor



PM-Kisan Extension

Center's approval for scheme continuation until 2030-31



Thamirabarani river

Madras HC declares Thamirabarani river a legal person



GeM Successful 10 Years

Government e-Marketplace in decennial celebration

Price: ₹50/-



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

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

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

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



To the future administrators of Karnataka,

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

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

Let's shape a prosperous Karnataka, together.

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

SOURCES



ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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

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

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

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

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

THE TEAM

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TOP CURRENT AFFAIRS



Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)



Why in News?

A Union Health Ministry study suggests that introducing a **hexavalent (6-in-1) vaccine** into India's **Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)** could make childhood vaccination more efficient.



Health
Ministry



What is a Hexavalent Vaccine?

- A hexavalent vaccine is a 6-in-1 vaccine that protects infants against six diseases through a single injection.



Diphtheria • Tetanus • Pertussis (Whooping cough) • Hepatitis B • Polio • Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

Why is it useful?

It can reduce the number of injections, ease the workload of frontline health workers, reduce cold-chain requirements, and save time for caregivers.

In short:



Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)

Year	Development
1978	Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) launched in India
1985	EPI renamed Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)

Mission Indradhanush

Launched: 2014

Objective: To achieve full immunisation of:

Children up to 2 years

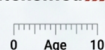
Pregnant women

using all available vaccines under the programme.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 5.0)

Feature	IMI 5.0
Implementing Ministry	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Target	Missed-out & dropout children + pregnant women
Coverage	Conducted across all districts
Age coverage	Children up to 5 years
Special focus	Measles & Rubella vaccination
Goal	Improve MR coverage and support elimination efforts

Intensified



Measles & Rubella



Mission Indradhanush → IMI 5.0

Mission
Indradhanush (2014)

Missed / Dropout
Beneficiaries

Intensified Mission
Indradhanush

Children +
Pregnant Women

Higher
Immunisation
Coverage



Vaccines Under Mission Indradhanush

The programme covers vaccines against multiple vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccine	Protects against
BCG	Tuberculosis
DPT	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
Td	Tetanus & adult Diphtheria
bOPV	Polio
MR	Measles & Rubella
Hep-B	Hepatitis B
Pentavalent	DPT + Hep-B + Hib
RVV	Rotavirus disease
PCV	Pneumococcal disease
JE vaccine	Japanese Encephalitis

Exam Alert: The material listed here contains 10 vaccine categories, although it refers to the broader set as "12 diseases." Don't confuse number of vaccines/vaccine categories with number of diseases covered.



Pentavalent vs Hexavalent

	Pentavalent	Hexavalent
Meaning	5-in-1	6-in-1
Components	DPT + Hep-B + Hib	DPT + Hep-B + Hib + Polio
Number of diseases	5	6
Key Difference	—	Adds Polio

Formula

Pentavalent = 5	Hexavalent = 6
DPT + Hep-B + Hib	DPT + Hep-B + Hib + Polio

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2026

WHY IN NEWS?

The World Bank has released the World Development Report 2026, its annual flagship publication focusing on a major development issue and providing analysis and policy recommendations.



WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT (WDR)

FEATURE	KEY FACT
 Published by	World Bank
 First published	1978
 Frequency	Annual
 Focus	A major development issue
 Purpose	Analysis + Policy recommendations

IMPORTANT WORLD BANK PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS
1 World Development Report (WDR)
2 Global Economic Prospects (GEP)
3 Human Capital Index (HCI)
4 Ease of Doing Business Report

AI & DEVELOPMENT - KEY FINDINGS

1. Automation Risk

Jobs in high-income countries are more than 3 times as likely to face automation risks from generative AI compared with jobs in low- and middle-income countries.

2. Productivity Gains

AI could increase productivity in:

- >16% of existing jobs in developing economies
- >18% of existing jobs in advanced economies



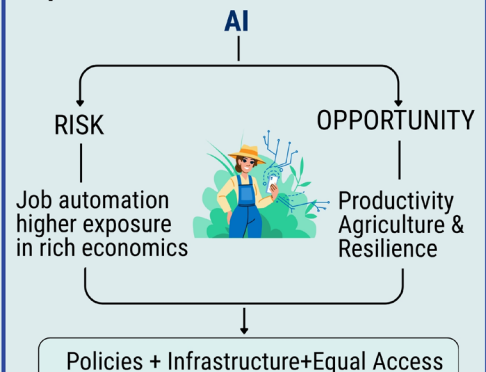
3. AI in Agriculture

AI can improve agricultural productivity and resilience, but its benefits depend on:

Supportive policies + Infrastructure + Equitable access



Supportive policies + Infrastructure + Equitable access



THE 5 INSTITUTIONS OF WORLD BANK GROUP

INSTITUTION	WHAT IT DOES	EASY MEMORY	INDIA
IBRD 	Loans to middle-income & creditworthy low-income countries	Development Loans 	Member 
IDA 	Grants & concessional/soft credits to poorest countries	Poor Countries 	Member 
IFC 	Invests in private sector in developing countries	Private Sector 	Member 
MIGA 	Provides political-risk insurance to investors	Insurance 	Member 
ICSID 	Settles international investment disputes	Disputes 	NOT a Member 

IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONAL RULES

IMF → IBRD

COUNTRY
↓
Must become IMF member
↓
Can become IBRD member

Note : Membership of the IMF is a prerequisite for IBRD membership.

VOTING POWER

World Bank voting power is broadly linked to financial shareholding, rather than population.

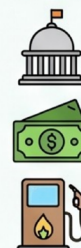
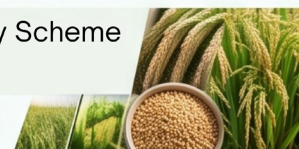
The United States has the largest voting share and therefore significant blocking/veto power on major decisions requiring a supermajority.

National Circular Bioenergy Scheme (GOBARDhan)

Context: The Union Cabinet recently greenlit the National Circular Bioenergy Scheme (GOBARDhan) with a massive financial outlay of ₹23,731 crore.

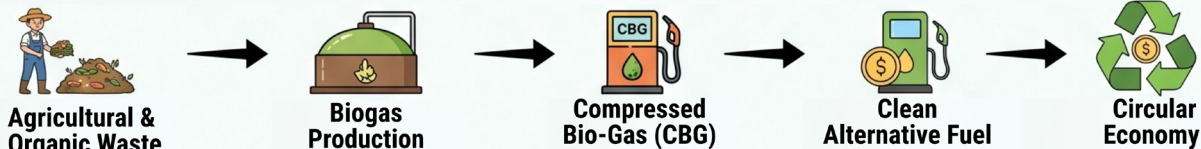
About GOBARDhan Scheme:

FEATURE	KEY DETAILS
FULL NAME	Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan
NODAL MINISTRY	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
SCHEME DURATION	10 years (FY 2026–27 to 2035–36)
PRIMARY FOCUS	Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG)
CORE TARGET	Scale up CBG production 10x (up to 5 MMSCMD)



The "Waste-to-Wealth" Mechanism

The core philosophy of GOBARDhan relies on transforming waste into a circular economy.



One Unified Framework

SATAT + MDA + BAM = GOBARDhan

GOBARDhan acts as an umbrella initiative, consolidating previous programs into a single framework:

FEATURE	KEY DETAILS	KEY DETAILS
SATAT	Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation	Promotes Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) as an alternative fuel.
MDA	Market Development Assistance	Provides financial support for the marketing and distribution of organic fertilizers/biogas.
BAM	Biomass Aggregation Machinery	Facilitates the equipment and machinery needed to collect and process agricultural waste.

Biofuels & Policies

What are Biofuels?

- They are clean fuels derived from biological or biomass resources, such as plant materials and organic waste.
- Examples: Bioethanol, Biodiesel, Green diesel, and Biogas.

National Policy on Biofuels (2018)

- Created a definitive framework to promote biofuel usage across India.
- Key Objective: Enhance energy security while reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- Note: The policy was officially amended in 2022.



Major Initiatives:

FEATURE	KEY DETAILS
PM JI-VAN Yojana	2G Ethanol (Focuses on agricultural waste/residue)
SATAT	CBG (Promotes it as an alternative fuel)
GOBARDhan	Unified Framework (Integrated circular bioenergy)



GLAW LAKE - INDIA'S 101st RAMSAR SITE

Why in News?

Glaw Lake in Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh has been designated as India's 101st Ramsar Site.



Glaw Lake at a Glance

FEATURE	KEY FACT	
 Location	 Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh	
 Region	 Eastern Himalayas	
 Protected landscape	 Kamlang Tiger Reserve & Wildlife Sanctuary	
 Type	 High-altitude freshwater lake	
 Ramsar Status	 101st Ramsar Site of India	
 State significance	 First Ramsar site of Arunachal Pradesh	
 Bird importance	 First Ramsar site of Arunachal Pradesh	

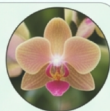
Ecological Significance

Glaw Lake and its catchment support exceptionally rich biodiversity.



Flora

- 150+ tree species
- 49 orchid species



Wildlife - It supports all four big-cat species:



Tiger



Leopard



Clouded Leopard



Snow Leopard

- It is also an important wintering ground for the critically endangered White-bellied Heron.



Cultural Significance



- The lake has sacred value for the Mishmi community.
- According to local cultural belief, guardian deities protect the lake and its pristine waters.



Glaw Lake

=

Ecological importance

+

Mishmi cultural significance

Ramsar Sites in India — Important Facts



What is a Ramsar Site?

- A Ramsar Site is a wetland designated as being of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.



Ramsar Convention

FACT	REMEMBER
	 2 February 1971
 Place	 Ramsar, Iran
 Came into force	 1975
 India joined	 1982

FACT	ANSWER
Total Ramsar Sites	101
100th Ramsar Site	Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal), Uttar Pradesh
State with most sites	Tamil Nadu – 20
2nd highest	Uttar Pradesh – 13
India in Asia	Country with the most Ramsar sites in Asia
First Indian Ramsar sites	Chilika Lake & Keoladeo National Park (1981)
Smallest	Renuka, Himachal Pradesh

16th BRICS TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING

Why in News?

India hosted the **16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting** in Jaipur under its BRICS Chairship 2026.

Theme 2026: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"

Key Outcomes

 Economic Strategy	 Trade Finance	 MSMEs	 Supply Chains	 Digital Trade
BRICS Economic Partnership 2030 Roadmap finalised	Jaipur Consensus adopted to address the global finance gap	Guiding principles for cash-flow-based, collateral-free lending	2026–2030 Action Plan for food & pharmaceutical security	Framework principles for cross-border digital services

What is BRICS?

BRICS is a grouping of major emerging/developing economies seeking greater cooperation in areas such as economics, trade, finance and development.

Feature	Key Fact
BRIC coined	2001
Coined by	Jim O'Neill
Original BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India, China
BRICS formed	2009
South Africa joined	2010
Headquarters	Shanghai
Chairmanship	Rotates annually



BRICS in the Global Economy

BRICS Represents Approximately:

41% →  Global Population

24% →  Global GDP

16% →  Global Trade

 By 2028, BRICS is expected to account for around 35% of the global economy.



BRICS Expansion

The grouping has expanded beyond the original five members.

Original Core:  Brazil •  Russia •  India •  China •  South Africa

Recent Expansion: Egypt • Ethiopia • Iran • UAE • Indonesia

 **Saudi Arabia:** received an invitation but, according to the supplied material, has not formally completed membership.

BRICS in the Global Economy

BRICS Represents:

41% →  Global Population

24% →  Global GDP

16% →  Global Trade

 By 2028, BRICS is expected to account for around 35% of the global economy.



Major BRICS Initiatives

Initiative	Purpose
 New Development Bank (NDB)	Development financing
 Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)	Financial safety net
 BRICS Payment System	Easier cross-border payments
 Customs Agreements	Facilitate trade
 Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation	Cooperation in satellite/earth observation

India's BRICS Chairship 2026
Focus = R-I-C-S

→ **R** → Resilience

→ **I** → Innovation

→ **C** → Cooperation

→ **S** → Sustainability

Jaipur Meeting → Trade Ministers → Economic Partnership 2030 + Jaipur Consensus + MSMEs + Supply Chains + Digital Trade

KARNATAKA DARSHANA

1. Chalking out plans for nanotech's quick growth in Karnataka



Why in News

- The **Government of Karnataka** has announced plans to establish a **Nanotechnology Mission** and a **Nanotechnology Manufacturing Corridor** to accelerate the state's **nanotechnology sector**, focusing heavily on **talent creation** and advanced infrastructure.

Key Highlights

- **Event Context:** The announcements were made during the curtain raiser for **Bengaluru India Nano 2026**, the **14th edition** of Karnataka's flagship nanotech exposition.
- **Event Theme:** The 2026 exposition is themed '**Nanotech's Next Frontier: AI & Beyond: Conceive, Converge and Commercialise**', scheduled for **August 3-5** at **The LaLiT, Bengaluru**.
- **Key Interventions Planned:** The state aims to set up a dedicated **Nanotechnology Mission** in association with industry partners and is considering a specialized **Nanotechnology Manufacturing Corridor**.
- **Talent Development:** The government is committing to collaborative talent creation with **IITs, research organisations, academia, and industry** to meet the demands of this highly interdisciplinary sector.
- **Strategic Applications Mentioned:** Nanotech will be leveraged for enhanced

safety (**sensitive sensors, ultra-strong protective materials, chemical neutralisers**), healthcare (**nano-robots** to kill cancer cells), and low-electricity **AI devices**.

- **Energy Efficiency Paradigm:** Experts highlighted that while a modern data centre GPU consumes **35 to 50 times more electricity** than the human brain, nanoscale manipulation can create fundamentally faster and more resilient, energy-efficient systems.
- **National Context:** India is witnessing a paradigm shift in its **semiconductor aspirations**, expecting rapid progress in **advanced manufacturing, nano-fabrication, and lithography** to build a **self-reliant electronics ecosystem**.

Additional Information

Nano Mission (National Mission on Nano Science and Technology)

- **Launch Year: 2007** (Launched as an umbrella capacity-building programme).
- **Objectives:** To foster, promote, and develop all aspects of **Nanoscience and Nanotechnology** in India, translating basic research into useful products and processes for national development.
- **Beneficiaries:** **Scientific community, academic institutions, startups, and technology-driven industries** in India.
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Ministry of Science and Technology** (Implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology - DST**).
- **Component Breakdown:**
 - ♦ **Basic Research Promotion:** Funding individual and group research projects.
 - ♦ **Infrastructure Development:** Establishing centers of excellence and shared major facilities (e.g., Nano Science and Technology Institutes).



- ♦ **Nano Applications and Technology Development:** Supporting industry-academia partnerships for commercializing nanotech.
- ♦ **Human Resource Development:** Offering specialized fellowships and supporting postgraduate programs in nanotechnology.
- ♦ **International Collaborations:** Facilitating joint research with global nanotech hubs.

2. Karnataka's Shilpa wins bronze at Commonwealth Games

Why in News

- Para-athlete **Shilpa K.S.** from **Mysuru** made history by securing a **bronze medal** in the **women's F57 shotput** event at the **2026 Commonwealth Games** in **Glasgow**.



Key Highlights

- **Historic Achievement:** **Shilpa, 37**, is the **first para-athlete** from **Karnataka** to win a medal at the quadrennial multi-sport event since its inception.
- **Event Details:** The medal was secured in the **women's F57 shotput** event on **Monday** at the **2026 Commonwealth Games** in **Glasgow**.
- **Classification Criteria:** The **F57** is a para-athletics classification event specifically designed for **seated athletes** with **lower limb impairments**.
- **Personal Background:** The athlete tragically lost her **left leg** at the age of **four** due to a **road accident**.

3. 'Soligas an example against fortress conservation approach'

Why in News

- A recent study in the journal **Ecosystems and People** highlights the **Soliga tribe** of the **Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife**

Sanctuary (BRTWS) as a successful model of community-led conservation, countering the exclusionary "**fortress conservation**" model.

Key Highlights

- **Research Publication:** The article, titled 'Fortress conservation versus traditional forest management', was co-authored by researchers from **Charles Darwin University**, the **Institute for Social and Economic Change**, and the **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment**.
- **Fortress Conservation Critique:** The traditional conservation approach, which focuses on evacuating or alienating **indigenous rights**, has led to widespread **uprooting and distress** worldwide.
- **Traditional Management Practices:** Historically, **Soligas** managed the **Biligiri** landscape using **mosaic litter burning** and **small-scale swidden agriculture**.
- **Invasive Species Control:** These traditional methods naturally controlled noxious invasive weeds like **Lantana camara**.
- **Ecological Synergies:** Traditional cultivation cleared lands that later enabled the colonization of **palatable grasses**, serving as food for herbivores and subsequently supporting carnivores like **tigers**.
- **Demographic Context:** The **Western Ghats** region hosts approximately **5,000,000 Adivasi people** across **Kerala and Karnataka**, according to the **2011 Census**.
- **Cultural Integration:** The **Biligiri landscape** is deeply embedded with hundreds of **sacred and cultural sites**, forming an integral part of the **Soligas'** ceremonies and norms.
- **Policy Recommendation:** Collaborative, community-based conservation acts as a **win-win** by reducing government management costs, protecting wildlife, and helping meet **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Additional Information

Soliga Tribe

- An indigenous community residing primarily in the **Biligiri Rangan Hills (BR Hills)** and

associated ranges in **Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka**, known for their deep ecological knowledge and non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection.

- The **Soligas** made history by becoming the first tribal community living inside the core area of a tiger reserve in India to have their **forest rights officially recognized** under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**, setting a legal precedent for community-led conservation.

Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Situated in Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka, at the confluence of the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats.
- **Protected Area History:** It was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1974 and became a Tiger Reserve in 2011 under Project Tiger.
- **Landscape:** The reserve consists of dry deciduous, moist deciduous, scrub and evergreen/semievergreen forests, varying with altitude.
- **Biodiversity:** It supports tigers, leopards, Asian elephants, gaur, sambar, chital, wild dogs (dhole) and sloth bears.
- **Ecological Corridor:** BRT is an important wildlife corridor between the Western and Eastern Ghats, allowing movement of elephants and other wildlife and supporting genetic exchange.
- **Tribal Communities:** The Soliga (Solega) tribal community has a close traditional association with the forest and its resources.
- **Unique Feature:** The reserve derives its name from Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple, dedicated to Lord Ranganatha, located on the Biligiri Rangaswamy Hills.
- **River System:** The Cauvery River and its tributaries influence the broader landscape around the reserve

4. Bescom launches PM-E DRIVE portal for private Charge Point Operators

Why in News

- The **Bangalore Electricity Supply Company**

Limited (Bescom) has launched a dedicated online portal under the **PM E-DRIVE Scheme**. This portal facilitates the establishment of **public EV charging stations** by private **Charge Point Operators (CPOs)** in Karnataka.

Key Highlights

- **Ministry:** The **Ministry of Heavy Industries** launched the PM E-DRIVE scheme
- **Charging Infrastructure Allocation:** **₹2,000 crore** has been earmarked specifically for establishing public EV charging stations nationwide until **March 2028**.
- **Bescom's Role:** **Bescom** serves as the **State nodal agency** for implementing the PM E-DRIVE scheme in Karnataka.
- **Category-A & B:** These categories involve government-owned or managed locations, such as State/Central offices, hospitals, railway stations, airports, and metro stations, where **Bescom** will directly implement charging stations.
- **Category-C:** This category allows **private Charge Point Operators (CPOs)** to participate and develop charging infrastructure.
- **Two-Stage EoI Process:** The newly introduced portal features a two-stage **Expression of Interest (EoI)**: the first stage verifies technical and operational capabilities, while the second stage accepts eligible proposals.
- **Proposal Processing:** **Bescom** will aggregate and submit eligible Category-C proposals to the **Ministry of Heavy Industries** for approval on a **first-come, first-served basis** (up to 800 locations).
- **Standardization:** **Bescom** has standardized charging station configurations for both urban and highway locations to simplify implementation and **subsidy assessment**.

Additional Information

PM E-DRIVE Scheme

- **Launch Year:** 2024
- **Objectives:** To accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, establish robust charging infrastructure, and promote cleaner and



more sustainable transportation solutions across India.

- **Beneficiaries:** Electric Vehicle buyers, Private Charge Point Operators, State Transport Undertakings (STUs), and public transport agencies.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries
- **Component Breakdown:** Demand incentives for EVs (e-2W, e-3W, e-Ambulances, e-Trucks), grants for capital assets (e-buses via State Transport Undertakings), establishment of a public charging station network, and modernization of vehicle testing agencies.

5. JanAI opens first 'AI cafe' at H.D. Kote in Mysuru district

Why in News

- **Head Held High Foundation** has launched the world's first **JanAI Café** in **H.D. Kote, Mysuru district**, aiming to drive grassroots **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** adoption and digital empowerment in rural communities.

Key Highlights

- **Implementing Organization:** The **JanAI** initiative is spearheaded by the **Head Held High Foundation** in partnership with the **Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM)**.
- **Location & Community Hosting:** The AI café is established inside a **Millet Café** operated by women belonging to the indigenous **Jenu Kuruba community** in **H.D. Kote, Mysuru**.
- **Core Objective:** Designed as a **community AI adoption centre**, enabling rural residents to discover, learn, and build tailored **AI solutions** for local, day-to-day challenges.
- **Women-Centric Approach:** The pilot facility primarily focuses on developing grassroots technology and livelihood solutions **for women, by women**.
- **AI Ambassadors:** A cohort of **18 local youth** has been trained as '**AI Ambassadors**' in **H.D. Kote** to identify community issues and deploy AI tools.
- **Impact Tracking with Wipro:** JanAI has

partnered with **Wipro** to develop an **AI Index** that measures usage metrics and economic value generation across **farming, healthcare, tourism, education, and women entrepreneurship**.

- **Expansion Plans:** The initiative plans to pilot **five AI cafés** across Mysuru district, with the next centre scheduled to open in **T. Narsipur**.

Additional Information

Jenu Kuruba Tribe

- A designated **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** residing mainly in the forested regions of the **Western Ghats** across **Mysuru, Kodagu, and Chamarajanagar** districts of Karnataka.
- Traditionally known as forest gatherers and honey collectors ('*Jenu*' means honey in Kannada), they possess rich **traditional ecological knowledge** and have been key stakeholders in forest rights struggles under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**.

IndiaAI Mission

- **Launch Year:** 2024
- **Objectives:** To build a comprehensive, sovereign AI ecosystem, democratize high-performance AI computing access, foster indigenous foundation models, and bridge the digital divide in rural and semi-urban India.
- **Beneficiaries:** **Startups, researchers, students, rural innovators, academia, and industry.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Component Breakdown:** IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre (IAIC), IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing, and Safe & Trusted AI.

6. Sky show honours India's first satellite

Why in News

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium** in **Bengaluru** has launched a commemorative sky show titled ***The Inspiring Legacy of Aryabhata*** to mark nearly **50 years** of India's maiden satellite mission, **Aryabhata**.



Key Highlights

- Special Screening:** A dedicated four-minute sky show titled ***The Inspiring Legacy of Aryabhata*** was unveiled beneath the dome of the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru.
- Key Dignitaries:** The presentation was inaugurated by **M. Sankaran** (Director, **U.R. Rao Satellite Centre**) and presided over by **A.S. Kiran Kumar** (former **ISRO Chairman**).
- Welcome Address:** Delivered by **B.R. Guruprasad**, Director of the **Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium**.
- Core Theme:** The show documents the foundational role played by **Aryabhata** in building indigenous capability for major contemporary missions like **Chandrayaan**, **Mangalyaan**, and **Aditya-L1**.
- Public Outreach:** The sky show is integrated into the planetarium's daily presentations to educate school children, educators, and the public on India's early space achievements.

Additional Information

Aryabhata Satellite

- Launched on April 19, 1975, from the Soviet Union via a Kosmos-3M rocket, marking India's historic entry into space.
- Named after the 5th-century astronomer, this indigenously built satellite conducted vital experiments in **X-ray astronomy**, **aeronomy**, and **solar physics**, establishing core telemetry capabilities for **ISRO**.

U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)

- Located in **Bengaluru**, this is **ISRO's** lead facility for designing, assembling, and testing all Indian satellites.
- Originally known as the **ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC)**, it was renamed in **2018** to honor **Prof. U.R. Rao**, the architect of India's early satellite program.

7. Karnataka govt. to upgrade Aadhaar authentication security infrastructure

Why in News

- The **Karnataka government** has initiated an upgrade of the **Hardware Security Module (HSM)** powering its **Aadhaar authentication services** to enhance cybersecurity, system performance, and digital governance.

Key Highlights

- Nodal Ministry & Purpose:** Announced by Minister for IT, BT, and e-Governance as a preventive technology enhancement to ensure resilient and secure public services.
- Authentication Load:** Karnataka processes approximately **10 to 12 lakh Aadhaar authentication requests** daily across various government departments.
- Statutory Compliance:** Under the **Aadhaar Act**, Aadhaar numbers cannot be stored in local databases; they must reside in an encrypted **Aadhaar Data Vault (ADV)** with encryption keys secured inside a **Hardware Security Module (HSM)**.
- Hardware Security Module (HSM):** A specialized, **tamper-resistant hardware device** designed to manage cryptographic keys and prevent unauthorized access.
- Upgrade Components:** Involves installing the latest **security patches**, bug fixes, and **OEM-supported enhancements** to resolve existing setup issues.

8. Mullayyanagiri Hills: HC notice to State



Why in News

- The **High Court of Karnataka** has issued a notice to the State government regarding a PIL seeking the declaration of the ecologically fragile **Mullayyanagiri Hills** in **Chikkamagaluru** as a “conservation reserve”.

Key Highlights

- **Petition Details:** The order was passed by a Division Bench (comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K.S. Hemalekha) following a petition by the **Bhadra Wildlife Conservation Trust** and the **Wildlife Conservation Action Team**.
- **Previous Judicial Directives:** The inaction continues despite a prior High Court direction in **July 2019**, issued during litigation concerning road widening works between **Mullayyanagiri** and **Seethalayanagiri**.
- **Ecological Vulnerability:** The petitioners assert that the delay has left the region legally unprotected, allowing authorities to permit extensive construction and tourism activities that are actively compounding ecological damage.

Additional Information

Mullayyanagiri Peak

- **Location:** Chikkamagaluru district, Karnataka, in the **Chandra Drona (Baba Budangiri) Hills** of the Western Ghats.
- **Elevation:** Approximately **1,930 metres** above sea level; it is the **highest peak** in Karnataka.

- **Western Ghats:** It forms part of the ecologically significant **Western Ghats**, a global biodiversity hotspot.
- **Ecosystem:** The higher elevations support **shola-grassland vegetation**, with grasslands interspersed with patches of evergreen forest.
- **Nearby places:** **Baba Budangiri**, **Jhari Falls** and **Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary** are important geographical features/attractions in the surrounding region.
- **Religious significance:** The summit has a small shrine dedicated to **Mullappa Swamy**, contributing to its cultural importance.

9. Lung cancer makes up 6% of State's cancer cases

Why in News

- Ahead of **World Lung Cancer Day**, data released by the **Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO)** reveals that **lung cancer** accounts for over **6%** of all new cancer cases in **Karnataka**.

Key Highlights

- **State-wide Burden (2025):** Karnataka is projected to record **89,215 new cancer cases**, of which **5,503 (6.1%)** will be **lung cancer**.
- **State-wide Mortality:** Lung cancer is estimated to cause **2,048 deaths** in the State, comprising **1,377 males** and **671 females**.
- **Gender Disparity:** Lung cancer constitutes **9.6%** of all cancers in men (**3,787 cases**) and **3.5%** in women (**1,716 cases**) across Karnataka.
- **KMIO Projections:** At the institute level, **836** out of **13,576 new cases** in 2025 are projected to be lung cancer.
- **Bengaluru Metrics:** The city mirrors state trends with a projected **15,693 new cancer cases** (including **1,028 lung cancer cases**) and **363 deaths**.
- **Global & National Context:** Globally (2022 estimates), there were **2.48 million new cases** and **1.86 million deaths**. India projects

1,12,659 new cases and 98,687 deaths for 2024.

- **Risk Factors: Tobacco use** is the single most important preventable risk factor; other environmental and occupational causes include **air pollution**, carcinogen exposure, **asbestos**, and **radon**.

Additional Information

National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)

- **Launch Year: 2010** (Originally launched as NPCDCS, officially renamed to NP-NCD in 2023).
- **Objectives:** To manage chronic lifestyle diseases through health promotion, early diagnosis, and management of NCDs like cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular issues.
- **Beneficiaries:** The general population, with population-based screening targeting individuals above the age of **30 years**.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- **Component Breakdown:** Infrastructure strengthening, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, and palliative care.

10. Govt. sets up panel for recruitment reforms

Why in News

- The **Government of Karnataka** has constituted the **Competitive Examinations and Recruitment Reform Committee**, headed by former Chief Secretary **S.V. Ranganath**, to overhaul exam procedures and ensure transparency in public service recruitments.

Key Highlights

- **Committee Composition:** Headed by former Chief Secretary **S.V. Ranganath**, the panel includes former Chief Secretaries **T.M. Vijayabhaskar** and **Vandita Sharma**, along with Financial Adviser to the Chief Minister **L.K. Atheeq**.

- **Primary Mandate:** Recommend comprehensive reforms for competitive examinations, streamline state recruitment frameworks, and adopt **UPSC best practices**.
- **Upcoming Recruitment Scale:** The state government is initiating recruitment to fill over **70,000 vacant posts** across departments.
- **Scheduled Examinations:** The **Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC)** and **Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA)** have scheduled exams for **36,773 posts** within the next six months.
- **Candidate Volume:** Approximately **35 lakh candidates** are expected to appear for these upcoming recruitment drives.

Additional Information

State Public Service Commission (SPSC)

- Mandated under **Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV** of the Constitution of India as an autonomous constitutional recruiting agency for the States.
- The Chairman and members are appointed by the **Governor**, but can only be removed by the **President of India** following an inquiry by the Supreme Court under **Article 317**.

Hota Committee on Civil Services Reforms

- Constituted in **2004** to recommend measures for making civil services responsive, transparent, and technology-driven.
- Recommended the integration of aptitude testing, interview reforms, strict timelines for competitive examinations, and reducing bureaucratic delays in recruitment

11. Neelam, Totapuri mangoes exported to Maldives

Why in News

- For the first time, a consignment of **Neelam** and **Totapuri** mangoes from **Karnataka's Kolar district** was successfully exported to the **Maldives** by **APEDA** to help local farmers recover from severe domestic price crashes.



Key Highlights

- **Exporting Body:** The shipment was flagged off by the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, operating under the **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Volume & Varieties:** Around **one tonne** of **Neelam** and **Totapuri** mangoes was exported.
- **Farmer Distress:** Farmers in **Kolar district** have been incurring massive financial losses due to a sharp drop in local prices, particularly for the **Totapuri** variety.
- **Regional Shift:** Previously, these specific varieties were primarily exported from **Andhra Pradesh** and **Chittoor**; this marks the first direct consignment from **Karnataka** to the **Maldives**.
- **Key Facilitator:** The export was executed by **Ahalya Devi Ventures**, a company directed by entrepreneur **Ashwini A.**

Additional Information

Totapuri Mango

- A prominent commercial mango variety primarily cultivated in **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu**, easily identified by its oblong shape and prominent beak-like pointed tip.
- Known for its thick skin, unique tartness, and excellent shelf life, it is heavily favored by the food processing industry for manufacturing **mango pulp, juices, and concentrates**.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- Established in **1986** under the **APEDA Act of 1985** as a statutory body responsible for the export promotion and development of scheduled agricultural commodities.
- Operating under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, it plays a critical role in providing financial assistance, setting packaging standards, and functioning as the secretariat for the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**.

12. Panel formed to revise crèche norms

Why in News

- The **Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR)** has formed an expert committee to draft revised monitoring guidelines for **private crèches and daycare centres** following a recent child abuse incident in **Bengaluru**.

Key Highlights

- **Committee Leadership:** The expert panel is headed by **Sripad S.**, former Joint Commissioner of the **Labour Department**, and includes KSCPCR members and officials from various stakeholder departments.
- **Draft Submission:** The finalized draft guidelines will be submitted to the **Department of Women and Child Development** for implementation.
- **Current Regulatory Gap:** Under the existing **2015 guidelines**, there is no designated **nodal department or agency** at the State government level responsible for monitoring these facilities.
- **Proposed Monitoring Framework:** The revised norms will officially designate a **State-level nodal department** and mandate the formation of **district-level inspection committees**.
- **DCPO Integration:** Child rights activists recommend appointing **District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs)** as **member-secretaries** of these inspection panels to ensure strict compliance with the **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009** and the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015**.

Additional Information

Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005

- Enacted to provide a statutory framework for constituting the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** and corresponding **State Commissions (SCPCR)** to safeguard child rights.

- Empowers the Commissions to act as civil courts to inquire into complaints regarding the violation of child rights, non-implementation of protective laws, and to recommend remedial measures to the government.

Palna Scheme

- **Launch Year:** 2022 (restructured from the erstwhile **National Crèche Scheme**)
- **Objectives:** To provide safe, secure, and high-quality day-care facilities for children, ensuring their cognitive development, health check-ups, and nutritional support.
- **Beneficiaries:** Children aged **6 months to 6 years** of working mothers.
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Ministry of Women and Child Development** (implemented under the *Samarthya* vertical of **Mission Shakti**)
- **Component Breakdown:** Establishment of **Standalone Crèches** and **Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs)** providing day-care services, early stimulation, supplementary nutrition, and growth monitoring.

Karnataka Creche / Childcare Schemes

Scheme	Key points
Koosina Mane	Karnataka’s community-based childcare/creche initiative, intended to in rural areas. Childcare facilities were envisaged through Gram Panchayats.
Anganwa-di-cum-Crèches (AWCCs)	Under Palna, existing Anganwadi Centres are strengthened to provide childcare along with Anganwadi services. Karnataka had 248 AWCCs approved and 164 established as of October 2024.
Saksham Anganwadi & Pre-school Education	The Survey notes 17,732 Anganwadi Centres upgraded as Saksham Anganwadi Centres. These provide improved infrastructure and support early childhood care and pre-school education.

Koosina Mane + MGNREGA convergence	The childcare model was particularly intended to help women participating in MGNREGA, with childcare for children in the 6-month to 6-year age group.
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13. Govt. mulls police powers for Anti-Narcotics Task Force

Why in News

- The **Karnataka government** is considering granting **police station powers** to its **Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF)**, enabling the specialized unit to register FIRs, make arrests, and independently investigate drug networks.

Key Highlights

- **Core Proposal:** Granting **police station powers** will allow the **ANTF** to independently book cases, arrest offenders, and conduct end-to-end criminal investigations rather than functioning merely as a review body.
- **MHA Directive:** Formed under the mandate of the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, which requires all States and Union Territories to set up ANTFs headed by an officer of **ADGP rank**.
- **Current Status in Karnataka:** The force lacks an independent head, with the **ADGP (Law and Order)** holding additional charge while its role remains limited to monthly probe reviews and jurisdictional coordination.
- **Inter-State Comparison:** Specialized units such as Telangana’s **EAGLE force**, Delhi Police’s **ANTF**, and Kerala’s **Anti-Narcotics Special Action Force** (leading **Operation Toofan**) already exercise full investigative and statutory powers.
- **Investigation Gaps:** Current state investigations frequently stall at local peddlers; across Karnataka, arrests of producers were limited to **90 ganja growers**, failing to track illicit manufacturing chains.
- **Jurisdictional Lapses:** Highlighting intelligence gaps, the **Maharashtra police** tracked supply chains to bust **three synthetic**



drug labs in Bengaluru and one in Mysuru.

Additional Information

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985

- Serves as India's primary statutory framework prohibiting and regulating operations relating to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursor chemicals.
- Imposes stringent bail provisions under **Section 37** and empowers designated enforcement agencies to carry out searches, seizures, and property attachments derived from illicit drug trafficking.

14. KEA named recruiting authority

Why in News

- The **Karnataka government** has officially designated the **Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA)** as a full-fledged **recruiting agency** for state civil services, granting it statutory powers on par with the **KPSC** to manage the end-to-end recruitment process.

Key Highlights

- **Expanded Powers:** KEA is now authorized not only to conduct competitive exams, but also to oversee **document verification**, formulate merit lists, and publish **final selection lists**.
- **Rationale:** The decision comes amid repeated delays and corruption allegations surrounding the **Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC)**.
- **Operational Scale (FY 2024-25):** KEA conducted recruitment exams for **11 departments** covering **6,116 posts**, processing over **18 lakh candidates**.
- **Addressing Duplication:** Resolves inefficiencies under the **Karnataka Civil Services (Direct Recruitment) (General) Rules, 2021**, which previously led to multiple distinct notifications and exams for posts sharing identical cadres and syllabi.
- **Single Common Exam:** KEA will administer a **unified examination** across multiple departments for identical cadres, preventing

multi-department seat blocking and redundant merit list revisions.

15. Right to be forgotten: Karnataka HC lets name of acquitted woman be masked in online sources

Why in News

- The **High Court of Karnataka** has upheld the **"right to be forgotten"**, directing search engines and judicial repositories to mask the name of an **acquitted Iranian national** from online records to prevent lasting civil and professional harm.

Key Highlights

- **Judicial Directives:** Justice **M. Nagaprasanna** ordered the registrars of the **High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru City Civil Court, State Police, Google**, and the **Indian Kanoon portal** to mask the petitioner's name in their digital databases.
- **Case Background:** The petitioner, who came to India on a student visa, was prosecuted during **2013–14** under the **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**, and was acquitted in **2019** due to lack of evidence and delayed FIR filing.
- **Current Status:** Post-acquittal, the petitioner secured **refugee status** from the **United Nations** and currently holds permanent residence in **Sweden**.
- **The "Digital Spectre":** Obsolete digital records continued to surface during routine background checks, causing severe prejudice and undermining the legal vindication granted by the court.
- **Significance of Acquittal:** The court emphasized that an acquittal is a **solemn judicial declaration of innocence**, warning that persistent online visibility can make judicial exoneration a mere paper declaration.
- **Rejection of "Floodgates" Argument:** The court dismissed procedural registry concerns, affirming that **constitutional guarantees** of fundamental rights cannot be

rationed out of fear that other citizens might invoke them.

Additional Information

Right to be Forgotten (RTBF)

- Recognized as an intrinsic component of the **Right to Privacy** under **Article 21** of the Constitution by the Supreme Court in the landmark ***K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)*** verdict.
- Empowers individuals to request the deletion, de-linking, or masking of personal data from internet search engines and digital databases when such information becomes outdated, irrelevant, or legally resolved.

16. Bengaluru to host Aero India show in February

Why in News

- The 16th edition of the biennial **Aero India show** will be hosted at the **Air Force Station, Yelahanka** in **Bengaluru** in **February 2027**, effectively putting to rest speculations about the mega event being relocated to another city.



Key Highlights

- **Official Confirmation:** A high-level meeting between senior **Indian Air Force (IAF)** officers and Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** confirmed Bengaluru's continuation as the host city.
- **Delegation Lead:** The IAF delegation was spearheaded by **Air Marshal S. Shrinivas**, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the **Training Command**.
- **State Assurance:** The Chief Minister pledged full cooperation from the State administration and its various departments to ensure the smooth and safe execution of the air show.
- **Venue Legacy:** The event will be held at the **Air Force Station, Yelahanka**, which has

served as the official venue for the show since **1993**.

- **Schedule:** While the month is confirmed as **February 2027**, the exact dates for the five-day event will be formally announced by the **Defence Ministry**.
- **Previous Edition (2025) Metrics:** The last edition saw massive global participation, hosting **930 exhibitors** from over **90 countries**.
- **2025 Highlight:** A major attraction of the 2025 edition was the participation and display of two advanced **fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA)**.

17. Karnataka government to release draft AI policy soon

Why in News

- The **Government of Karnataka** is set to release its draft policy on **"Responsible AI"**, formulated by an expert committee chaired by **Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan**, to govern the safe, ethical, and transparent adoption of artificial intelligence in public administration.

Key Highlights

- **Policy Formulation:** The draft policy on **Responsible AI** was drafted by a dedicated state committee chaired by **Kris Gopalakrishnan**, comprising experts from industry, academia, law, and public policy.
- **Official Announcement:** Announced by **Shreevyas H.M.**, Project Director of the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Cell** under the **Centre for e-Governance (CeG)**, during the **'Karnataka AI Mantana'** dialogue series.
- **Focus Areas:** The policy addresses key operational dimensions, including **AI governance**, safe handling of **sensitive government data**, and safeguarding **AI model security**.
- **'Kayaka' AI Tool:** An internal productivity tool currently under testing to assist state personnel with **drafting official letters**, **Kannada-English translation**, and **OCR-**



based document digitization on a secured platform.

- **AI Capacity Building:** Structured training programmes are being conducted for **KAS officers** and **Deputy Secretaries** to improve AI literacy and prevent data leaks on public commercial platforms.
- **Existing Digital Footprint:** The AI Cell currently supports platforms such as **Kartavya** (used by **3.6 lakh government employees** for daily attendance) and **Nirantara** (capturing attendance for **30 lakh government school students**).
- **International Collaboration:** Minister for IT-BT & e-Governance inaugurated an international conference on '*Leveraging AI to Advance SDGs*', organized in partnership with the **University of Wolverhampton (UK)** and **Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University (MSBCU)**.

18. Veeragallu in Arsikere taluk throws light on Vishnuvardhana's last day

Why in News

- The discovery of a centuries-old **veeragallu (hero stone)** in **Arsikere taluk** has unearthed a **Kannada inscription** that potentially resolves the long-standing historical debate over the exact death date of the celebrated **Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana**.

Key Highlights

- **Discovery Site:** Unearthed during the restoration of the **Lakshmi Narayana Swamy temple** in **Neeragunda village, Arsikere taluk**.
- **The Artifact:** Two stone slabs were identified as **veeragallus** (memorial stones for warriors), one of which carries a highly significant **old Kannada inscription**.
- **Historical Context:** The text reveals the stone was installed by **Maravve** in memory of her husband **Boppa**, a soldier who sacrificed his life shortly after King **Vishnuvardhana's death** at **Bankapura** (present-day **Haveri**

district).

- **Decoded Timeline:** The inscription specifies the date as the **Ekadashi of Pushya Masa of Durmathi Samvatsara, year 1064**, corresponding precisely to **December 11, 1141**, in the Gregorian calendar.
- **Settling the Debate:** Prior to this epigraphical evidence, scholars were heavily divided, estimating the king's death to be either in **1149** or **1152**.
- **Dynastic Footprint:** The **Hoysala dynasty** ruled vast parts of present-day **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu** from the **11th to 14th centuries**, with **Belur and Halebid** (in **Hassan district**) serving as their capitals.
- **Authentication:** The text was decoded by researcher **Shashidhar H.G.** and the findings are being shared with the **Karnataka Itihasa Academy** for formal academic integration.

19. Karnataka explores partnership with Anthropic; AI-powered digital crop survey launched

Why in News

- The **Government of Karnataka** has initiated strategic discussions with AI firm **Anthropic** to integrate secure AI solutions across administration, while simultaneously launching a pilot for the **Composite Digital Crop Survey (CDCS)** using advanced spatial technologies.

Key Highlights

- **Strategic Collaboration:** Chief Minister and IT/BT Minister engaged with an **Anthropic** delegation led by **Michael Sellitto** to deploy applied AI solutions for public governance.
- **Data Sovereignty & Security:** The framework emphasizes **data residency** on **sovereign state servers**, prioritizing the use of AI to prevent systemic fraud and ensure the absolute confidentiality of **setting examination question papers**.
- **Skilling via NIPUNA:** The State plans to integrate **Claude certification** under its

NIPUNA initiative to build a massive pool of AI-certified talent and support its ecosystem of over **20,000 startups**.

- **Academic Integration:** The government proposed subsidizing access to **Anthropic's Claude AI** platform for higher education institutions like **Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU)**, alongside collaborative research with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**.
- **CDCS Pilot Launch:** The state launched the **Composite Digital Crop Survey (CDCS)** on a pilot basis across **five selected hoblis**, covering all geographic divisions of Karnataka.
- **Agricultural Tech Stack:** The **CDCS** upgrades the state's existing 2018 GIS-based crop survey by integrating **high-resolution satellite imagery, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), drone surveys, and Machine Learning (ML)** for scientific validation of plot-level data.

20. International Gay Games medallists from Karnataka urge State govt. to create inclusive sporting spaces

Why in News

- Karnataka-based medallists from the **International Gay Games 2026** in **Valencia, Spain**, have urged the State government to establish inclusive sporting spaces and officially introduce a **third-gender category** in athletics.

Key Highlights

- **Event Venue:** The **Gay Games 2026**, the world's largest quadrennial international **LGBTQIA+** sporting and cultural event, concluded in **Valencia, Spain**.
- **Indian Representation:** Out of approximately **10,000-odd international participants**, only **three Indian athletes** took part in the games.
- **Goaty's Medal Tally:** Won **four gold medals** (High Jump, 5K Run, 10,000m Indoor Run, and Marathon in the Women's 25–29 category) alongside **three silver medals** (10K

Run, overall women's marathon, and Mixed 4x400m Relay).

- **Sumit Pawar's Achievement:** Clinched the **gold medal** in **Javelin Throw**.
- **Local Representation:** Both medallists represent the **Bengaluru Front Runners (BRF)**, an inclusive athletic collective based in Karnataka.
- **Policy Demand:** The athletes advocated for moving beyond the rigid binary structure in Indian sports by introducing institutional infrastructure and categories for **third gender and non-binary athletes**.

Additional Information

The Gay Games

- Founded in **1982** in San Francisco by Olympic decathlete **Tom Waddell**, it is a quadrennial international sporting and cultural festival dedicated to promoting inclusivity and diversity.
- Unlike conventional international competitions that rely on strict qualifying times, the event operates on principles of **participation, inclusion, and personal best**, welcoming athletes regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or skill level.

21. 'Work completed in only 12 out of 61 stations identified under Amrit Bharat Station scheme'

Why in News

- Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** informed the **Rajya Sabha** that only **12 out of 61 identified stations** in **Karnataka** have seen completed redevelopment under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)**, highlighting a slow implementation pace.

Key Highlights

- **State Completion Rate:** Works have been completed in only **12 out of 61** stations in **Karnataka**, translating to an approximate completion rate of **19%** over the last three-and-a-half years.
- **National Completion Rate:** Across India, work has concluded at **261 out of 1,340**



identified stations under the scheme.

- **Parliamentary Inquiry:** This data was revealed in a written reply to an **unstarred question** raised in the **Rajya Sabha** by Karnataka Member of Parliament **Mansoor Ali Khan**.
- **Completed Stations (Karnataka):** The finished list includes **Alnavar, Badami, Bagalkot, Bantwal, Dharwad, Gadag, Gokak Road, Hosapete, Koppal, Munirabad, Ranibennur, and Subrahmanya Road**.
- **Transparency Concerns:** The MP noted that the Ministry did not furnish specific details regarding **station-wise project costs, contract award dates, or year-wise progress**, making independent evaluation difficult.
- **Causes for Delay:** The Minister attributed the slow pace to the complexities of executing **brownfield projects** while keeping stations operational.
- **Specific Hurdles:** Key challenges include **shifting of utilities**, removing infringements, securing statutory clearances, and executing high-voltage electrical works without disrupting train operations or passenger safety.

Additional Information

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)

- **Launch Year: 2022**
- **Objectives:** To redevelop and modernize over 1,300 railway stations across India, transforming them into passenger-centric transit hubs and integrated city centres through continuous, long-term master planning.
- **Beneficiaries:** Millions of daily railway passengers, local artisans, local MSMEs, and persons with disabilities (Divyangjan).
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Railways**
- **Component Breakdown:** Phased execution of master plans, upgraded waiting halls, beautifully landscaped roof plazas, seamless multi-modal urban connectivity, fully accessible Divyangjan-friendly amenities,

sustainable green building designs, and **One Station One Product (OSOP)** kiosks.

22. State takes cautious first step to introduce digital evaluation of SSLC and II PU exams

Why in News

- The **Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB)** is planning to introduce a **digital evaluation system** for **SSLC and II PU** answer scripts in a phased manner to expedite the declaration of results.

Key Highlights

- **Phased Rollout:** To avoid controversies and discrepancies similar to those faced by the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**, **KSEAB** will initially test the system on smaller examinations with an enrollment of fewer than **5,000 candidates**.
- **Pilot Examinations:** The first phase of digital evaluation is being considered for the **Karnataka State Open School Examination, Drawing Grade Examination, and Computer Education Examination**.
- **Current Digital Initiatives:** The board already issues **digital mark sheets** and **digital transfer certificates (TCs)** to successful candidates.
- **Operational Scale:** Annually, approximately **8 lakh students** register for the **SSLC examination**, while around **6.50 lakh students** register for the **II PU examination** across Karnataka.
- **Digital Evaluation Workflow:** Under this system, physical answer sheets are scanned and uploaded to a central computer. Evaluators are provided with a **secure login ID and password** to access allotted scripts, evaluate them, and enter the marks directly on the computer.

Additional Information

PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)

- Constituted under the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**

in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** as India's first national assessment regulator.

- Functions as an advisory and standard-setting body designed to formulate norms, guidelines, and benchmarks for student assessment, aiming to eliminate evaluation disparities across all recognized state and central school boards in India.

23. 'Water security is seventh guarantee'

Why in News

- Karnataka Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** announced "**water security**" as the State's **seventh guarantee scheme**, promising water from the **Yettinahole project** to the parched **Kolar** and **Chickballapur** districts by **2027**.

Key Highlights

- **New Guarantee:** The State government has designated **water security** as its **seventh guarantee scheme** for the people of Karnataka.
- **Target Timeline:** Residents of the drought-prone **Kolar** and **Chickballapur** districts are slated to receive water from the **Yettinahole project** by the end of **2027**.
- **Project Route:** The government is pushing to divert water from the **Western Ghats** through **Hassan** to **Kolar** and **Chickballapur**, having already brought water up to **Tumakuru**.
- **Lake Rejuvenation:** **104 lakes** in Kolar and Chickballapur have been successfully filled via the **K.C. Valley project**, with work currently underway to fill another **65 lakes** through the **H.N. Valley project**.
- **Groundwater Recharge Strategy:** The state has decided to fill more than **700 lakes** with **treated water** to systematically recharge depleting groundwater reserves.
- **Agricultural Resilience:** Farmers in Kolar were lauded as a state model for successfully producing milk, vegetables, silk, and flowers even when groundwater levels plummeted below **2,000 feet**.

Additional Information

Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project

- An inter-basin water transfer project aimed at mitigating the severe drinking water crisis in drought-prone eastern districts of Karnataka, including **Kolar**, **Chickballapur**, **Bengaluru Rural**, and **Tumakuru**.
- The scheme involves lifting seasonal floodwater from **Yettinahole** and other west-flowing tributaries of the **Netravati river basin** in the **Western Ghats** during the monsoon months.

Koramangala-Challaghatta (K.C.) Valley Project

- A pioneering wastewater reuse initiative that treats urban sewage water from **Bengaluru** to secondary levels and pumps it to fill a cascade of dry lakes in parched neighboring districts.
- Its primary objective is **indirect groundwater recharge**, aimed at naturally raising the water table and enabling farmers to sustain agriculture and dairying in semi-arid regions without using the treated water directly for drinking.

24. Health Dept. to launch Ruthu Thare, a State-wide campaign to deal with perimenopause, menopause

Why in News

- The **Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Department** is launching '**Ruthu Thare**', a pioneering state-wide grassroots campaign designed to help women safely navigate the health complexities associated with **perimenopause** and **menopause**.

Key Highlights

- **Implementation Strategy:** The campaign utilizes a door-to-door approach, deploying trained **ASHA workers** across **Karnataka** to identify and assist women in their 40s.
- **Expert Committee:** The campaign's policy is being finalized by a dedicated committee of gynaecologists, mental health experts, and nutritionists, headed by women's health

expert **Dr. Jyotsna Miralay**.

- **Phase 1 Operations:** ASHA workers will identify menopausal women, collect health data via specialized questionnaires, and distribute pictorial pamphlets detailing symptoms, required nutrition, and physical exercises.
- **Phase 2 Focus:** Operations will shift to identifying women experiencing perimenopause and those at severe risk of **surgical menopause** (the surgical removal of the uterus and ovaries due to heavy bleeding).
- **Preventive Care:** The campaign aims to educate women on the long-term implications of surgical menopause, which can include a higher risk of **coronary heart diseases** and **osteoporosis fractures**, while offering alternative treatments.
- **Scheme Integration:** Screening for perimenopause and menopause will now be officially integrated into Karnataka's **Gruha Arogya health scheme** to ensure systematic follow-ups.
- **Broader Policy Umbrella:** This initiative is part of Karnataka's upcoming comprehensive **Women's Health Policy**, which recently named actress **Divya Spandana** as its brand ambassador.

Additional Information

Gruha Arogya Scheme

- **Launch Year:** 2024
- **Objectives:** To conduct comprehensive, door-to-door preventive health check-ups and ensure early detection and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the grassroots level.
- **Beneficiaries:** Citizens of Karnataka, specifically targeting individuals aged **30 years and above**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka
- **Component Breakdown:** Door-to-door health screening for diabetes, hypertension, and oral/breast/cervical cancers; free

distribution of prescribed medicines at the doorstep; and systematic data collection linked to local Primary Health Centres (PHCs) for continuous monitoring.

25. Freedom Habba: Vidhana Soudha's grand steps to turn into a concert stage on I-Day



Why in News

- The **State government** is organizing **Freedom Habba**, a grand musical concert on the steps of the iconic **Vidhana Soudha** in **Bengaluru** to celebrate **Independence Day**.

Key Highlights

- **Event Name:** The concert is officially titled **Freedom Habba's Music Collective**.
- **Venue & Timing:** Held on the grand steps of the **Vidhana Soudha** in **Bengaluru** on **Independence Day evening** starting at **6 p.m.**
- **Key Dignitary:** Announced by the **Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda**, who emphasized experiencing Independence Day as a collective community celebration.
- **Featured Artists:** Brings together 10 prominent musical voices of the city, including Raghu Dixit, Praveen D. Rao, M.D. Pallavi, Bruce Lee Mani, Sanjith Hegde, Brodha V., Siddhartha Belamannu, Varijashree Venugopal, Harish Sivaramakrishnan, and

Nakul Abhyankar.

- **Entry Requirements:** While entry is free, attendees must complete mandatory pre-registration by scanning a provided QR code and must carry a valid government ID card to access the venue premises.

26. Exhibition to spotlight forgotten chapters of State's role in freedom struggle

Why in News

- An exhibition titled ***Bengaluru '47: Forgotten Stories of Freedom*** is being organized in Bengaluru to highlight the lesser-known contributions of ordinary citizens and prominent local figures to the Indian freedom movement.

Key Highlights

- **Event Schedule & Venue:** The exhibition runs from **August 14 to 23** at **RBANM's High School**, organized by **INTACH Bengaluru Chapter**, **RBANM's Educational Charities**, **#ReclaimConstitution**, and **1Shanthiroad**.
- **N.V. Krishnamachari's Legacy:** Features a photograph of his bloodstained **Swaraj Flag** (the original is housed at the **Vidhana Soudha**) from when he defied British lathi charges, alongside his **Tamra Patra** and **charkhas**.
- **S.K. Kareem Khan:** Displays an autobiographical note by this **Sakleshpur-born** freedom fighter and folklorist, who mobilized rural masses using folk songs and participated in the **1938 Shivapura Dhwaja Satyagraha**.
- **Midnight Flag Hoisting:** The **#SatyamevaJayate** collective will host the fourth edition of the midnight flag hoisting on **August 15**, reviving a 1947 tradition previously observed at **Sajjan Rao Circle** and **Mysore Bank Circle**.
- **Key Sessions:** Includes a spinning workshop by **The Art of Spinning**, storytelling by **Vikram Sridhar**, a talk by historian **Ramachandra Guha**, and a musical evening by **T.M. Krishna**.

- **Bengaluru's Grassroots Role:** The exhibition uses archival materials to showcase massive local protests, the promotion of **khadi**, and campaigns advocating for the entry of all castes into temples.

Additional Information

1. Swaraj Flag (1931)

- Adopted by leaders of the Indian freedom movement in **1931**, this flag centrally featured the **charkha (spinning wheel)**.
- It became a powerful symbol of defiance after the colonial government strictly banned carrying and hoisting it, leading freedom fighters across the country to hoist it in protest.

2. Shivapura Dhwaja Satyagraha (1938)

- A landmark resistance event in **Karnataka's freedom struggle** that occurred in **1938**, where activists openly defied British orders by hoisting the National Flag.
- The movement saw extensive grassroots participation, with figures like **S.K. Kareem Khan** utilizing regional folklore and folk songs to effectively mobilize the rural masses for the cause of freedom.

27. State targets higher coal stocks, extra rakes to increase thermal power output

Why in News

- To offset a shortfall in hydropower generation caused by inadequate rainfall, the **Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)** is aggressively increasing its **thermal power output to 100 million units (MU) per day** by securing higher coal stocks and additional railway rakes.

Key Highlights

- **Surging Demand:** Karnataka's daily power demand has spiked to between **310 MU and 350 MU**, significantly up from approximately **200 MU in August 2025**.
- **Thermal Generation Targets:** **KPCL** has set an annual target of **29,500 MU** of thermal

power, aiming to sustain a daily generation of **100 MU**.

- **Installed Capacity:** The combined capacity of **Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS)**, **Yermarus Thermal Power Station (YTPS)**, and **Ballari Thermal Power Station (BTPS)** is **5,020 MW**, with **3,910 MW** currently available.
- **Unit Restorations:** An **800 MW unit at YTPS** and a **210 MW unit at RTPS** are slated to resume generation by late August, pushing available capacity to approximately **4,810 MW**.
- **Hydropower Status:** The current equivalent energy potential from reservoir storage stands at **4,585 MU**, with a total potential of **8,065 MU** (which could reach **10,000 MU** with favorable August-September rainfall).
- **Coal Inventory:** Thermal stations currently maintain a **15-day coal buffer** comprising approximately **6.5 lakh metric tonnes**.
- **Supply Metrics:** The state requires roughly **44,000 metric tonnes** of coal daily and is currently receiving **50,000 metric tonnes** daily to build reserves.
- **Strategic Logistics:** **Coal India Limited** and the **Indian Railways** have committed to supplying the required coal and allocating empty rakes respectively to streamline transport logistics.
- **Captive Mine Utilization:** **KPCL** plans to scale up production from its **Baranj Captive Coal Mine** located in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**, to strengthen long-term fuel security.

Additional Information

KPCL Thermal Power Infrastructure

- **KPCL** operates the primary thermal power baseload stations in the state: **RTPS** (Raichur), **BTPS** (Kudatini, Ballari), and **YTPS** (Yermarus, Raichur).
- These stations play a critical role in maintaining grid stability and meeting energy demands, particularly when monsoon deficits severely impact the state's predominantly hydro-dependent energy mix.

28. CM announces Udyoga Sankalpa and Udyoga Nidhi schemes

Why in News

- During the **80th Independence Day** celebrations, Karnataka Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** announced the **Udyoga Sankalpa** and **Udyoga Nidhi** schemes to accelerate job creation, alongside sweeping initiatives for **Artificial Intelligence**, agriculture, and urban infrastructure.

Key Highlights

- **Employment Targets:** Under the 'Young Karnataka-New India' vision, the government is focusing on creating **one lakh new private sector jobs** while initiating recruitment to fill **72,000 government vacancies** within the next six months.
- **Udyoga Nidhi Scheme:** Entrepreneurs operating in **10 economically backward districts** will receive a government incentive of **₹2,500 per month** for every new job they create.
- **AI in Education:** Artificial Intelligence will be introduced in government schools starting from **Class 6**, supported by the newly proposed **AI Akshara Abhiyana** and **Coding Gurukula** programmes.
- **Tech Infrastructure:** **Bengaluru** will establish India's first **government-owned AI university**, with additional **technology hubs** planned across the State to strengthen the startup ecosystem.
- **Economic Milestones:** Karnataka's per capita income has reached **₹4.33 lakh**, retaining its **second rank** in national **GST and income-tax collections**. The State targets a **\$3 trillion economy (₹320 lakh crore)** by **2047**.
- **Agricultural Tech & Support:** The **Chief Minister Raitha Chaitanya** scheme will integrate **drones and satellite imagery** for crop surveys. Additionally, the **Raitha Mitra** scheme will provide a **50% subsidy** on agricultural machinery rentals for farmers owning **three acres or less**.

- **State Highway & Rural Roads:** Beyond the recently constructed 1,663 km of State highways, the **Pragathi Patha scheme** will develop **7,100 km of rural roads** with an investment of **₹5,200 crore**.
- **Bengaluru Development:** Urban infrastructure projects worth **₹1.50 lakh crore** are underway. Post-Phase III, the **Namma Metro** network will expand to **220 km**, and a **117-km ring road** will be built under the **Bengaluru Business Corridor** at a cost of **₹26,000 crore**.

Additional Information

Udyoga Nidhi & Regional Imbalance

- By targeting employment incentives specifically in **10 economically backward districts**, this scheme directly addresses the recommendations of the **Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee Report**, aiming to decentralize industrial growth away from the saturated Bengaluru region.
- The monthly wage subsidy acts as a targeted fiscal intervention to reduce initial operational overheads for MSMEs, encouraging the formalization of rural and semi-urban job markets.

29. Karnataka leads the charge in EV infrastructure in the South

Why in News

- According to recent data from the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**, **Karnataka** has emerged as a national leader in electric mobility, ranking second in India with **6,805 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations** installed as of **July 2026**.



Key Highlights

- **National Standing:** **Karnataka** holds the **second-highest** number of EV charging stations in the country, marginally behind **Maharashtra**, which leads with **6,985 stations**.

- **National Share:** The State accounts for nearly **12.9%** (approximately 13%) of the **52,718 total EV charging stations** installed across India.
- **Parliamentary Disclosure:** The statistics were revealed in response to an **unstarred question** in the **Rajya Sabha** on **August 7, 2026**, citing data up to **July 29, 2026**.
- **Southern States Comparison:** Karnataka's infrastructure vastly outpaces its neighbors, followed by **Tamil Nadu (3,839)**, **Telangana (3,739)**, **Kerala (3,399)**, and **Andhra Pradesh (1,976)**.
- **De-licensed Operation:** Under the **Ministry of Power's** guidelines, setting up EV charging stations is an **unlicensed activity**, enabling private players to freely establish and operate charging infrastructure.
- **PM E-DRIVE Integration:** The scheme allows Central ministries, State governments, and their PSUs to submit proposals to independently establish public charging stations or engage private **Charge Point Operators (CPOs)**.
- **Policy Catalyst:** Transport experts attribute this rapid growth to the State's proactive **2017 EV policy**, which successfully built early consumer confidence in Bengaluru.
- **Future Focus Areas:** Experts stress that the next phase must prioritize **interoperability**, **standardized charging tariffs**, **real-time charger availability**, and expansion along inter-city highways to eliminate **range anxiety**.

Additional Information

Karnataka Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy (2017)

- **Karnataka** was the first state in India to introduce a dedicated electric vehicle policy, aggressively aiming to position **Bengaluru** as the EV capital of the country.
- By offering extensive capital subsidies, stamp duty exemptions, and power tariff concessions, the proactive policy framework successfully catalyzed early private



investments in both EV manufacturing and widespread charging networks.

30. SC/ST Commission has no power to adjudicate land disputes or direct mutation of Revenue records: HC

Why in News

- The **Karnataka High Court** ruled that the **Karnataka State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (KSC-SC&ST)** is strictly an investigating and recommending body, lacking the jurisdiction to adjudicate land disputes or order the mutation of revenue records.

Key Highlights

- Judicial Pronouncement:** Justice **Suraj Govindaraj** clarified that the **KSC-SC&ST** cannot function as a parallel court and is not empowered to issue binding directions to **Revenue or Forest authorities** regarding land titles.
- Statutory Limitation:** While the Commission can examine constitutional safeguards under the **KSC-SC&ST Act, 2002**, it cannot legally declare notified forest land as non-forest land or order the transfer of **khata**.
- Case Background:** The ruling stemmed from a writ petition filed by **State Revenue and Forest authorities** challenging a **2023** directive issued by the Commission.
- Contested Directive:** The Commission had illegally directed the **Forest Department** to delete specific land entries in **Sira taluk, Tumakuru district**, and mutate them in favor of private individuals who claimed inheritance based on alleged **1937** land grants.
- Section 8(b) Clarification:** The Court explicitly stated that the Commission's power under **Section 8(b)** to inquire into the denial of SC/ST safeguards does not extend to deciding land grants, property titles, or the forest status of a land.

Additional Information

Karnataka State Commission for SCs and STs

- A statutory body constituted under the **Karnataka State Commission for SCs and STs Act, 2002**, functioning as a watchdog to protect the socio-economic and educational interests of marginalized communities in the state.
- While it holds the powers of a **civil court** for specific procedural matters (like summoning witnesses or demanding documents), it is bound by the limitation that its findings are advisory and it cannot issue binding judicial decrees or injunctions.

31. Government launches 'Eat Right' campaign



Why in News

- Health and Family Welfare Minister **U.T. Khader** has launched the 'Eat Right' campaign to promote healthy eating habits among citizens, which includes the formation of citizen-led food safety watch teams at the taluk level across the State.

Key Highlights

- Citizen-Led Watch Teams:** The taluk-level teams will act as force multipliers and consist of senior citizens, former food safety officials, and experienced chefs. They will be issued ID cards to inspect premises and report violations to the head office.

- **Strict Ultimatum for PGs:** The Minister has given Paying Guest (PG) accommodations and other food providers a strict **10-day deadline** to rectify violations and comply with safety norms, after which they will face penalties.
- **Expanded FSDA Inspections:** The Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA), which has already inspected hotels, dhabas, and anganwadis, will now expand inspections to private college hostels and catering centres.
- **Transit Hub Sampling:** Food samples from railway stations, airports, and airplanes will be collected in the coming days for laboratory analysis.
- **Food Safety Conclave:** The Health and Family Welfare Department will soon host a conclave with Union government officials and representatives from other States. It aims to frame recommendations on food safety standards, including the consumption of meat and imported chocolates.
- **Engagement with Hoteliers:** A meeting will also be held with star hotel owners to take their suggestions into consideration.

32. Karnataka third-highest contributor to pollution among southern States

Why in News

- A CSTEP study titled '*Governance Framework for Airshed-Level Air Quality Management in South India*' revealed that Karnataka (47%) is the third-highest contributor to interstate pollution among five southern States.

Key Highlights

- **Pollution Share:** Locally originating pollution is highest in **Kerala (65%)** and **Tamil Nadu (61%)**, followed by **Karnataka (47%)**, **Andhra Pradesh (44%)**, and **Telangana (38%)**.
- **Exporters vs. Receivers:** **Tamil Nadu** and **Andhra Pradesh** are net exporters of pollution, whereas **Kerala** and **Telangana** are net receivers.
- **Karnataka's Role:** Due to its central

geographic location, Karnataka moderately receives and exports air pollution.

- **Major Emission Sources:** The top local sources are **domestic, industrial, and open burning**, while domestic, energy, and industrial sectors drive transported **PM2.5**.
- **Airshed Dynamics:** Unlike the Indo-Gangetic Plain, South India has no single pollution hotspot as levels shift with meteorology and geography.
- **Non-Attainment Cities:** The **NCAP** classifies **25 cities** in South India as non-attainment for failing to meet ambient **PM10** standards.
- **Key Recommendations:** The study recommends creating a regional statutory body like the **CAQM**, adopting an approved fuel framework, and setting uniform EV targets.

Additional Information

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- Launched in **2019** by the **MoEFCC** to achieve a targeted **40% reduction** in particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentrations by **2026**.
- Focuses on city-specific action plans, expanding air monitoring networks, and improving cross-sectoral coordination to reduce urban pollution.

33. KEO to take AI computing to every govt. school in State



Why in News

- The Karnataka government has rolled out KEO, India's first home-made AI personal



computer, to provide affordable AI access to government schools and the general public.

Key Highlights

- **Affordable Access:** Unveiled by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the KEO device is priced at ₹18,999 to democratize artificial intelligence.
- **Target Audience:** Aimed at students, teachers, farmers, and entrepreneurs who cannot afford expensive AI computing.
- **Development Partners:** Co-developed by the IT/BT Department, State-owned KEONICS, semiconductor partners, and system integrators.
- **Key Features:** KEO integrates open-source RISC-V processor architecture and on-device AI in a compact desktop platform.
- **Initial Deployment:** KEONICS is releasing an initial batch of 2,222 units across 239 taluks in the State.
- **Distribution Strategy:** Select government schools in 31 districts will receive 10 devices each to boost grassroots learning.
- **Future Variants:** KEONICS is also building a broader computing portfolio by planning to launch the KEO Lite and KEO Pro.

34. State govt. prohibits sale of non-dairy paneer for one year

Why in News

- The Karnataka government has prohibited the manufacture, storage, distribution, and sale of **analogue (non-dairy) paneer** marketed as “paneer” across the State for **one year**.

Key Highlights

- **Statutory Action:** Issued under **Sections 30(2)(a), 18, and 29** of the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- **Analogue Paneer Defined:** Paneer-like products where milk fat or milk solids are wholly or partly replaced with **vegetable oil, fat, or non-dairy ingredients**.
- **Scope of Ban:** Covers the manufacture,

processing, packaging, storage, transport, display, wholesale, and retail supply of such items.

- **Standardization Norms:** Under safety regulations, genuine paneer is a standardized milk product with **milk fat as an essential constituent**.
- **Preventive Step:** Imposed as a preventive measure to safeguard public health and prevent **misbranding and consumer deception**.
- **Exempted Products:** The order does not impact separately standardized items such as **frozen desserts, processed cheese, and mixed fat spreads**.

Additional Information

1 Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006

- Consolidates various food laws into a single statute to lay down science-based standards for articles of food and regulate their manufacture.
- **Section 30(2)(a)** empowers the **State Commissioner of Food Safety** to prohibit the distribution or sale of any food article for up to one year in the interest of public health.

35. Three from State chosen for National Teachers' Awards

Why in News

- Three teachers from Karnataka have been selected for the **National Teachers' Awards 2026** for their exemplary contributions to education, to be honoured at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**.

Key Highlights

- **Award Overview:** The award carries a cash prize of **₹50,000** and a **silver medal**, conferred annually on **September 5**.
- **National Selection:** Conferred on **21 faculty members** in Higher Education and **48 teachers** in School Education nationwide.
- **Prof. Shivani V. (Karnataka Samskrit University, Bengaluru):**
 - ♦ Head of Vyakarana Department; bridg-

es traditional knowledge systems with modern technology.

- ◆ Collaborated with IITs in machine translation and developed the *Sam-bhasha* website for Shastric studies.
- Vishwanath H.S. (MEI Polytechnic College, Bengaluru):
 - ◆ Selected under Higher Education for innovative, practical methods in polytechnic education.
 - ◆ Recognized for making technical and vocational learning more engaging and effective.
- Ratnakumari (GHPSSamatagaru, Hosanagara, Shivamogga):
 - ◆ In-charge headmistress with over 30 years of experience promoting activity-based learning.
 - ◆ Mobilized local villagers, parents, and department officials to advance rural primary education.

INTERNATIONAL

36. U.S. Invites Bangladesh to Join Pax Silica Initiative



Context

- U.S. Special Envoy for South and Central Asia Sergio Gor invited Bangladesh to join the U.S.-led Pax Silica initiative.

'Pax Silica'

- launched in - December, 2025
- It is a coalition comprising the **United States, Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, the**

Republic of Korea, Singapore, the UAE, the UK, and now India.

- **Objective** - It is a **US-led strategic initiative to build a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain from critical minerals.**
- The term '**Pax Silica**' derived from Latin '**Pax**' (peace) and '**Silica**' (a core compound in semiconductors).
- **Significance** - It symbolizes the **pursuit of technological peace and prosperity through resilient, transparent, and cooperative supply chains.**

37. Farakka Treaty

Context

- With the **1996 Farakka Treaty set to expire on 12 December 2026**, demands have been raised to review its provisions in light of Bihar's future water requirements.



Farakka Treaty

- It is also known as the **Ganga Water Treaty.**
- It was signed on **12 December 1996** between Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda of India and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh.
- It governs the **sharing of Ganga waters at the Farakka Barrage.**
- The **Farakka Barrage, built on the Bhagirathi River in West Bengal.**
- It was constructed to **improve the navigability of the Kolkata Port by diverting water into the Hooghly River.**

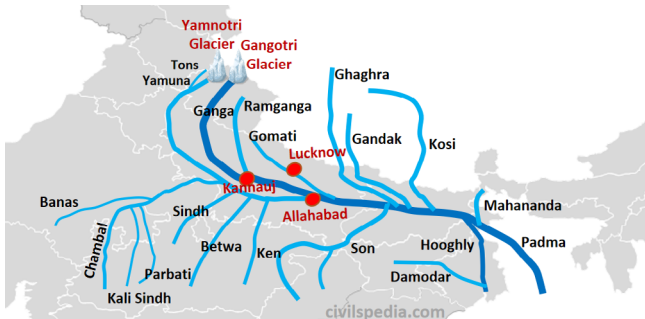
Padma River

- The Padma River is **one of the largest and**

most important rivers in Bangladesh.

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

Additional Information - Ganga River System



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

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

Important Tributaries

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

Key Exam Facts

- **National River**: Named **India's National River** in **2008**.
- **Ganga Dolphin**: This is **India's National**

Aquatic Animal. It is endangered.

- **Namami Gange**: The main government project to clean and protect the river.

38. 16th BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting

Context

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

Key Outcomes

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

Additional Information - BRICS

- **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

39. Mecca Joint Defense Agreement

Context (IE):

- Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and Pakistan signed the **Mecca Joint Defense Agreement**, creating a **trilateral mutual-security framework**.



About -

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

Key Features:

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

40. Appointment of the UN Secretary-General

News -

- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** recently held its first straw poll to select the

next UN Secretary-General (UNSG), whose five-year term will begin on 1 January 2027.

Secretary-General as the UN

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

Elections:

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

Key Principal Organs of the UNO:

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



41. Bay of Bengal as India's SHANTI Anchor

News -

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

SHANTI Framework

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

42. India's Campaign For a UN Security Council (UNSC) Seat in 2028-29

Context

- India has launched its campaign for a **non-permanent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) seat for 2028–29**, with the election scheduled for June 2027.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- It is one of the **six principal organs of the United Nations**
- **Objective - to maintain international peace and security.**
- It is the **only UN body empowered to issue legally binding resolutions that all UN member states are obligated to comply with under international law.**
- **Structure and Composition:** The Council has **15 members** divided into two categories:
- **Permanent Members (P5) with Veto Power:** China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- A single veto from any P5 member is

sufficient to block any substantive resolution, regardless of how many other members support it.

- **Non-Permanent Members (10 seats):** Elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms, distributed geographically.
- **Headquarters: New York, USA**

43. BRICS calls EU's Carbon Tax Punitive

Context

- BRICS environment and climate ministers opposed the **European Union's (EU) Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** calling it a discriminatory and protection measure that is not in line with international law.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- It is a **carbon tariff on carbon intensive products, such as cement and some electricity, imported by the European Union.**
- **Significance - As a price on carbon, it discourages emissions. As a trade-related measure, it affects production and exports.**

44. New Development Bank

News

- **Iran decided to join the New Development Bank** to strengthen monetary, financial and banking cooperation with BRICS countries.



New Development Bank (NDB)

- **Established:** 2015 by **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa).
- **Headquarters:** Shanghai, China.
- **Objective:** Financing **infrastructure and sustainable development** projects in emerging and developing economies.

- **Membership:** Open to **UN member countries**; both borrowing and non-borrowing members are allowed.
- **Members:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, Algeria and Uzbekistan.
- **Uzbekistan:** 10th member and first Central Asian country to join NDB.

45. India-Brazil Relations

Context

- **India and Brazil reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation** in telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

India-Brazil Relations

- **Diplomatic:** Relations since **1948**; **Strategic Partnership since 2006**.
- **Trade:** Brazil is India's **largest trade partner in South America**; bilateral trade **\$12.2 bn (2024–25)**.
- **Defence:** Defence Cooperation Agreement (2003); **Joint Defence Committee (JDC)**.
- **Security:** **Strategic Dialogue since 2006**; extradition and **mutual legal assistance agreements**.
- **Space:** Cooperation since **2004**; satellite tracking and data sharing.
- **Multilateral:** Cooperation through **BRICS, G20, G4, IBSA, BASIC, ISA, UN, WTO, UNESCO & WIPO**.

Key Areas of Convergence

- **UNSC Reform:** Expansion of permanent & non-permanent categories.
- **Global South:** Reform of **UN, IMF & World Bank**.
- **Biofuels:** Founding members of **Global Biofuels Alliance**; focus on clean energy.
- **Climate:** Cooperation on **tropical forests, climate finance & COP30**.
- **Health:** Joint R&D in **vaccines and tropical diseases**.
- **Food Security:** Cooperation through **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**.
- **Technology:** Collaboration in **AI, quantum**

technology & renewables.

- **Trade & Investment:** Reduce trade barriers, facilitate visas and explore **local-currency financing**.

46. UN Initiative to Protect Victims of Terrorism from Online Harm

News-

- A new victim-led initiative to protect victims of terrorist attacks from online harm and re-traumatisation by the **Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN)**.
- It was launched on the **International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism**.

VoTAN

- **VoTAN:** *Victims of Terrorism Associations Network*.
- **Established:** **2025** by the **UN Counter-Terrorism Office (UNOCT)**.
- **Aim:** Promote collective action for the **rights and needs of victims and survivors of terrorism**.
- **New initiative:** Victim-led effort to protect survivors from **online harm, fake/misleading content, misuse of stories and re-traumatisation**.
- **International Day:** **21 August** – International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.
- **Established by:** **UN General Assembly in 2017**.
- **Significance:** Strengthens a **victim-centric approach** to counter-terrorism and digital safety.

47. U.S. Sanctions International Criminal Court (ICC)

News -

- The United States sanctioned ICC President **Tomoko Akane** and senior prosecutor **Abdoulaye Seye** over investigations targeting officials from non-member nations.

International Criminal Court – ICC



- **Founded by** - The ICC was established by the **Rome Statute**.
- **Founded in** - It was founded in **1998** and it began sittings on July 1, 2002, after 60 countries had ratified the Rome Statute.
- **Headquarters** - **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- **Functions** - The ICC is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction **to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression**.
- **Principle of complementarity** - It is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore exercise its **jurisdiction only when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals**.

Enforcement Challenges:

- **Lacks universal territorial jurisdiction** - The ICC may only **investigate and prosecute crimes committed within member states**.
- The ICC **does not have its own police force** and relies on state cooperation for arrests and extraditions.
- **Non-member states have no obligation to cooperate** (e.g., Israel, the US, Russia, China, and India).

Difference between International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ) -

Features	International Criminal Court (ICC)	International Court of Justice (ICJ)
Establishment	2002 (Rome Statute, 1998)	1945 (UN Charter)
Location	The Hague, Netherlands	The Hague, Netherlands
Jurisdiction	Individuals accused of serious crimes	Disputes between states

Crimes Covered	Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, Crime of Aggression	Legal disputes (sovereignty, borders, treaty violations) and advisory opinions
Binding Nature	ICC rulings are legally binding but rely on state cooperation for enforcement	ICJ rulings are binding but can be ignored (enforcement through UN Security Council)
Membership	125 States Parties (Rome Statute)	All 193 UN Member States
Cases Heard	Criminal cases against individuals	Civil cases between states
Appeal	Has an appeals mechanism	No formal appeals process

NATIONAL

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

48. Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026

News -

- The Lok Sabha passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

About -

- **Objective:** To deter fraudulent delayed entries, protect certificate credibility and strengthen demographic data for public-service planning.
- It amends the Registration of Births and

Deaths Act, 1969, last amended in 2023. The **2023 Amendment** mandated **centralised digital registration** via the **Civil Registration System (CRS)** portal under the **Registrar General of India (RGI)**.

Key Provisions

- **Standard Registration Timeline:** Births and deaths must be reported to local registrars within 21 days.

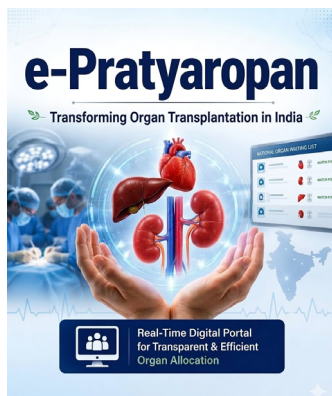
Delayed Registration Mandates:

- **Delays of 1 to 2 years** need approval from **DM, SDM**, or authorised **Executive Magistrate** (per Section 14(1) of the BNSS, 2023).
- **Delays exceeding 2 years** require an order from a **Judicial Magistrate** of the First Class (JMFC).
- **Verification:** Designated authority must verify the event's correctness and receive the prescribed fee before authorising registration.

49. e-Pratyaropan Portal

Context

- The **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)** has launched the **e-Pratyaropan Portal** along with the **NOTTO mobile application** to create a **unified digital ecosystem** for organ donation and transplantation in India.



e-Pratyaropan Portal

- It is a **centralized digital platform** launched by **NOTTO** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- **Objective** - to **digitize India's organ donation and transplantation ecosystem**.

Features

- **Automated Allocation:** Uses algorithms to distribute organs transparently, eliminating manual or discretionary bias.
- **Unified Registry:** Syncs **real-time waiting lists** across **hospital, state, regional, and national levels**.
- **Live Tracking:** Integrates with the **NOTTO app** to **monitor the transit of organs through green corridors**.
- **Emergency Prioritization:** Allows hospitals to flag "**super urgent**" cases for **immediate, lifesaving matching**.

50. Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Bill, 2026

News

- The **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Bill, 2026** has been introduced in **Parliament**.



About -

- It was introduced in the **Lok Sabha on August 3, 2026**.
- It aims to **replace the ISI Act, 1959**,
- It transitioned the **1931-founded Institute of National Importance** from a **registered society** into a **statutory body** to streamline governance.

Key Provisions

- **President as Visitor:** Designates the **President of India** as the **Visitor**, granting powers to order performance inquiries and issue directives.
- **Board of Governors (BoG):** Replaces the **33-member Governing Council** with an **11-member BoG** to oversee administration, budgets, and degree approvals.
- **Director Appointment:** The **Director** will be selected by a search committee and appointed by the **BoG** with prior approval from the **Visitor**.
- **Regulatory Autonomy:** Prior **Central Government approval** is required only for



the first set of regulations drafted by the BoG, relaxing the strict 1959 rules.

- **Removal of Take-Over Clause:** Deletes the 1959 provision allowing the government to seize administrative control of ISI for two years during defaults.

Additional Information - Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)

- It is a premier, globally acclaimed public research university and an **Institution of National Importance**,
- **Headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.**
- **Founded on December 17, 1931,**
- **Founded by** - by the legendary statistician **Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**,
- ISI serves as India's gold standard for academic excellence and research in **statistics, mathematics, computer science, quantitative economics**, and allied sciences.
- **Functions under** - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

51. India's First Caste Enumeration in Ladakh

Context

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

Census in India

- **Definition** - A census is a **survey of the population of an area that includes collecting details of a country's demographics** including age, sex and occupation.
- **History:** Under **W.C. Plowden**, the **Census Commissioner of India**, first census was conducted in 1881.
- **Independent India's first census** was held in 1951 and since then it has happened in the first year of every decade.
- The **Constitution** mandates that **enumeration** is carried out but the **Census of India Act of 1948** does not specify its timing or periodicity.
- **Census is conducted by** - Registrar General

and **Census Commissioner** of India which functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

52. Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index

News -

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

Grievance Redressal Assessment & Index

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

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

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

Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)

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

Features

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

Excluded Issues- The portal does not accept complaints regarding:

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

53. Cabinet Secretary

News -

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

Cabinet Secretary

- He is the **senior-most civil servant and administrative head of the Cabinet Secretariat**, under the direct charge of the Prime Minister.
- He serves as **ex officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board**.
- He is regarded as **primus inter pares (first among equals) among Union secretaries**. He ranks 11th on the Indian Order of Precedence.
- **Mandate:** He acts as **principal administrative adviser to the PM and Cabinet**, ensures **inter-ministerial coordination**, and heads the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC).
- **Appointment:** ACC appoints him for a standard **2-year tenure, extendable up to 4 years**. To extend beyond 4 years, the government must relax the relevant service

rules on a case-by-case basis.

- **Sir Narayanan Raghavan Pillai was the first Cabinet Secretary of independent India.**

54. Cauvery Dispute and the Mekedatu Dam

News -

- The **Mekedatu dam project is the central flashpoint in the ongoing, 150-year-old Cauvery water-sharing dispute between Karnataka (the upper riparian state) and Tamil Nadu (the lower riparian state).**

55. 10 Years of Government e-Marketplace

Context

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

Government e-Marketplace

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

Core Pillars

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



GeM
Government
e Marketplace

Efficient • Transparent • Inclusive

Key Features

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

Major Sub-Initiatives

- **SWAYATT:** Promotes startups, women, and youth-led businesses.
- **Womaniya:** Showcases handicrafts made by women Self-Help Groups.



- **Startup Runway:** Helps tech startups pitch products to state buyers.
- **SARAS Collection:** Markets utility goods produced by rural artisans.

56. National Youth Parliament Scheme Web Portal



Context

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

National Youth Parliament Scheme (NYPS)

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

Web Portal:

- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs launched the **web portal of the NYPS in 2019.**
- **Aim: To expand the outreach of the Youth Parliament Programme** of the Ministry to all the recognized educational institutions of the country.

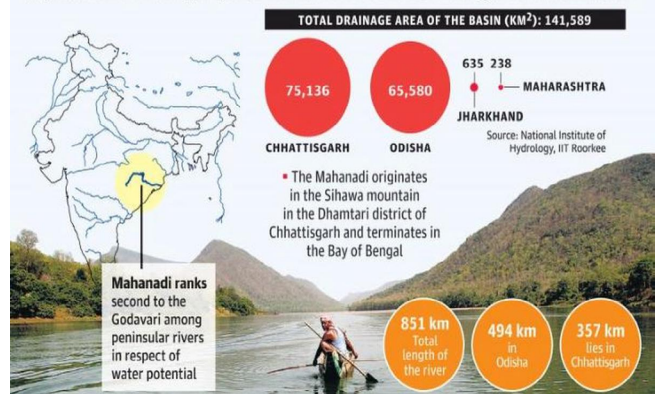
57. Mahanadi River Water Dispute

News -

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

A lifeline for two States

The Odisha government had moved the SC in December, 2016, for an order asking Chhattisgarh to stop construction of barrages upstream of Mahanadi. A look at the drainage area of the Mahanadi



Constitutional and Legal Framework

Inter-State River Waters

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

Other Inter-State River Water Disputes

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

Additional information - Mahanadi River

- **Origin:** Sihawa Hills, Dhamtari district, Chhattisgarh. Length: Approximately 851 km.
- **States Covered:** Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and a

small part of Jharkhand.

- **Mouth:** Empties into the Bay of Bengal near Paradip, forming a fertile delta.
- **Major Tributaries:** Left Bank: Seonath, Hasdeo, Mand. Right Bank: Ong, Tel, Jonk, Ib.

58. Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan

News -

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

About -

- It is a **100-week youth campaign** launched on August 2, 2026.
- **Mandate** - It aims to eradicate substance abuse to achieve Viksit Bharat @2047.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- **Platform:** Conducted through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat).
- **Timeline:** 100 weeks (active every Sunday).
- **Origin:** Inspired by a pilot in Varanasi (Kashi Declaration).
- **Synergy:** Complements the Ministry of Social Justice's Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

Key Pillars

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

59. Rajasthan Trees (Protection) Bill-2026

Context

- The Rajasthan Cabinet has approved the Rajasthan Trees (Protection) Bill-2026.

Rajasthan Trees (Protection) Bill, 2026

- **Aim:** Regulate tree felling on non-forest/private land and strengthen tree

conservation.

- **Protected species:** 29 tree species, including Khejri, Peepal, Bargad, Rohida, Mahua and Tendu.
- **Permission:** Prior permission required for felling protected trees, including on private land.
- **Compensatory plantation:** Permission may require planting prescribed trees in the same area.
- **Penalty:** Up to 1 year imprisonment and/or ₹1 lakh fine.
- **Significance:** Protects biodiversity, checks desertification and safeguards Rajasthan's ecologically important trees.

60. Surrogate Advertisements

Context

- Maharashtra's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued show-cause notices to actors alleging that their advertisement for Vimal Elaichi amounts to surrogate advertising for Vimal Pan Masala.

Surrogate advertising

- It is a form of marketing used to promote products banned or limited from advertising under government regulations, such as alcohol, tobacco, and pan masala.
- Maharashtra has prohibited gutkha and pan masala containing tobacco or nicotine since 2012 under Section 30(2)(a) of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006.

Misleading Advertisement Under the Consumer Protection Act 2019

- **Legal Definition (Section 2(28))** - Any advertisement that falsely describes products, gives deceptive guarantees, or deliberately conceals material information.
- **Enforcing Body:** The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) regulates violations and enforces the 2022 Guidelines to protect consumer rights. Surrogate
- **Advertising:** Strictly banned to stop restricted items (alcohol/tobacco) from using permitted shadow products (soda/

cardamom) for branding.

- **Coaching Institute Crackdown:** Penalises institutes that hide course details when using toppers' photos (e.g., claiming a mock-interview student as a full-time student).
- **Greenwashing & Labels:** Targets unverified, misleading eco-friendly or health claims like "100% natural" to ensure scientific accuracy.
- **Financial Penalties:** Fines up to ₹10 Lakh for a first offence and up to ₹50 Lakh for subsequent violations.
- **Targeted Liability:** Punishes manufacturers, publishers, and celebrity endorsers, with endorsers facing a product endorsement ban of up to 3 years.

61. Draft SHANTI Rules 2026

Context

- Recently, the government has released the draft SHANTI Rules, 2026,

Draft SHANTI Rules, 2026

- **Full form – Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India**
- **Purpose:** Operationalise the SHANTI Act, 2025 and expand India's nuclear energy sector.
- **Private participation:** Framework for greater private-sector involvement in nuclear activities.
- **Licensing:** Provides for a composite licence covering the nuclear installation lifecycle.
- **Safety:** Strengthens requirements for nuclear safety, radiation protection and emergency preparedness.
- **Liability:** Operators must maintain insurance/financial security against nuclear damage.
- **Nuclear Liability Fund:** Proposed fund supported through operator levies for compensation.
- **Technology:** Facilitates use of foreign



nuclear technologies, subject to Indian regulatory requirements.

- **Goal:** Supports India's target of **100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047** and **net-zero by 2070**.

62. South Zone Council

Context

- The 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting was held in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.

Zonal Councils — UPSC

- **Statutory bodies** established under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956** to promote **Centre–State and inter-State cooperation**.
- **Chairman:** Union Home Minister.
- **Vice-Chairman:** Chief Minister of one member State, **rotationally**.
- **Nature: Advisory bodies;** Standing Committee of Chief Secretaries examines issues before the Council.
- **Five Zonal Councils:** Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern.
- **North Eastern Council (NEC):** Established under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1972** for the special problems of the Northeast.
- **NEC States:** Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and **Sikkim** (added in 2002).
- **Key point: Zonal Councils ≠ Constitutional bodies;** they are **statutory and advisory**.

63. Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

Context

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has transferred the processing of pending citizenship applications under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to District Collectors in eight States and Union Territories (UTs).
- **District Collectors in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh have been authorised.**

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019

- **Amends:** Citizenship Act, 1955; received Presidential assent on **12 December 2019**

and came into force on **10 January 2020**.

- **Eligibility:** Provides a pathway to Indian citizenship for **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians** from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan** who entered India on or before **31 December 2014**.
- **Exclusion:** **Muslims** are not included in this specific category.
- **Naturalisation period:** Reduced from **11 years to 5 years** for eligible persons.
- **CAA Rules, 2024:** Notified on **11 March 2024**, enabling implementation of the Act.
- **Exemptions:** Does not apply to **Sixth Schedule tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura**, and areas covered by the **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** system.
- **Key debate:** Concerns relate to **Article 14 (equality)**, secularism and the exclusion of Muslims, while the government describes it as a measure for persecuted minorities from the three specified countries.

64. Right to Walk: Strengthening Pedestrian Safety in India

Context

- After the **Supreme Court's order recognising the right to walk on footpaths as a fundamental right**
- **Andhra Pradesh (2026):** First state to formulate a dedicated **Pedestrian Safety & Universal Accessibility Policy**.
- **3-step approach:** Road safety audits → Footpath improvement/removal of encroachments → Behavioural change.
- **Coverage:** Urban, peri-urban, satellite towns and rural areas.
- **Footpath audits:** Prioritises **15–20 pedestrian black spots**; 20% of roads to be surveyed within one year.
- **Legal provision:** **Section 198A, Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** → ₹1 lakh fine on officials/contractors/consultants for infrastructure or design failures causing pedestrian death/disability.
- **Pedestrian deaths (2024):** **36,526** out of 1.77

lakh road-accident deaths.

Right to Walk

- **SC:** Recognised safe, well-maintained and demarcated footpaths as a **Fundamental Right** in *Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan & Ors.*
- Derived from **Article 19(1)(d)** – freedom of movement + **Article 21** – life and personal liberty.

65. Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS)

Context (PIB):

- India will host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) in New Delhi in February 2027.
- The summit will coincide with the golden jubilee marking **50 years of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.

Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS)

- **Established:** 2017 by **Japan Coast Guard & Nippon Foundation**.
- **Frequency:** Biennial.
- **Focus:** Maritime safety, search & rescue, marine pollution and combating transnational crimes.

Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Defence.
- **Established:** **1978** under the **Coast Guard Act, 1978**.
- **Background:** Recommended by **Nag Committee (1970)** and **Rustamji Committee (1974)**.
- **Head:** **Director General**, headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- **Jurisdiction:** Territorial waters, **Contiguous Zone** and **EEZ (~2.01 million sq km)**.
- **Mandate** - It is Responsible for **maritime law enforcement, search & rescue, pollution control and coastal security**.

66. One Day, One University

Context (TH):

- The **Union Cabinet** has proposed a



nationwide initiative called “One Day, One University”, after a period of heightened student mobilisation over NEET paper leak issue, including protests in Delhi.

One Day, One University

- **Initiative of:** UGC.
- **Aim:** Promote **academic collaboration and knowledge sharing** among universities.
- **Concept:** Each participating university gets a dedicated day to **showcase its achievements, research, innovations, best practices and programmes.**
- **Focus:** Strengthening **industry–academia linkages, research collaboration and institutional networking.**
- **Significance:** Supports the goals of **NEP 2020** by encouraging collaboration, innovation and internationalisation in higher education.

ECONOMY

67. Lavender Cultivation

News-

- **Lavender cultivation is expanding in Jammu and Kashmir as farmers look for crops better suited to warmer winters, erratic rainfall and shrinking irrigation sources.**

The Purple Revolution

- **launched in 2016** under the **CSIR-Aroma Mission**
- **Objective - to promote lavender cultivation in India.**
- **Nodal Agency:** Ministry of Science & Technology via CSIR.
- **Primary Hub:** Bhaderwah (Doda district), Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Key Climatic Conditions:** **Cool, sunny climates; well-drained, sandy soil;** highly sensitive to waterlogging.
- **Economic Value:** High-value aromatic oil used in **cosmetics and therapeutics,** boosting rural incomes.



68. Better Pigeonpea Varieties



News

- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has developed India's first fully annotated telomere-to-telomere (T2T) reference genome of **pigeonpea (Cajanus cajan L. Millsp.) variety 'Asha'.**
- **Significance** - It will enable the development of **high-yielding, climate-resilient, and nutritionally enriched pigeonpea varieties,** thereby **strengthening India's food and nutritional security.**

Pigeonpea

- It is a **major pulse crop** cultivated extensively across the **tropics and subtropics**
- It is predominantly **grown under rainfed conditions**
- It is **highly sensitive to erratic rainfall, poor seedling establishment, and moisture stress during germination.**
- **Global producers:** Myanmar, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nepal, etc.
- **Major producing states of India:** Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Karnataka, and Jharkhand.
- **Importance:** It is **popularly known as 'Arhar' or 'Tur'** and is **one of India's most important pulse crops.**
 - It is renowned for its **rich protein content** and has long been a major dietary staple across the Indian subcontinent, providing vital nutrition to millions.

Mission for 'Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

- **Launched in - 2025-26 to 2030-31**

- **Objective** - to achieve self-sufficiency in pulse production
- **Significance** - It aims to reduce import dependence and enhance farmers' income through improved seeds, area expansion, technology adoption, assured procurement, and strengthened post-harvest infrastructure.

69. Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018

Context

- As per the Ministry of Home Affairs, **India has brought back 274 fugitive criminals from 36 countries between 2019 and 2026.**

Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO)

- A Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO) is an individual against whom an **Indian court has issued an arrest warrant for a specified economic offence involving ₹100 crore or more**, and who has either left India to evade criminal prosecution or refuses to return from abroad to face the law.
- This legal status was established under the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA)** to deter economic offenders from evading justice by staying outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts

Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018

- **Confiscation of Property:** The Act empowers authorities to attach and **confiscate properties of the offender located both in India and abroad.**
- The law also **covers benami properties and assets indirectly controlled by the offender.**
- **Bar on Civil Claims:** The Act disallows declared FEOs from initiating or defending any civil claims in Indian courts.
- **Special Court Mechanism:** The Act provides for adjudication of cases through special courts established under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.**

Enforcement Directorate

- **Established in** - On 1st May 1956, an

'Enforcement Unit' was formed. In the year **1957**, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.

- **Established under** - It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.**
- **Functions** - ED enforces the following laws
- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)
- The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA).

70. The World Development Report 2026

Context

- The World Bank has released The World Development Report 2026.

About

- It has been **published annually since 1978**
- It provides in-depth analysis and **policy recommendations on a specific and important aspect of development**

Major Findings

- **Automation Risks:** Jobs in high-income countries are more than three times as likely to face automation risk from generative AI as those in low- and middle-income countries.
- **Boost in Productivity:** AI could boost productivity in more than 16% of existing jobs in developing economies, compared with more than 18% in advanced economies.
- **AI in Agriculture:** Separate research on agriculture found that AI could improve productivity and resilience, but only with supportive policies, infrastructure and equitable access.

Additional Information - World Bank Group (WBG)

- **Origins:** Established at the **1944 Bretton Woods Conference.**
- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C
- **Mandate:** Eradicate extreme poverty and

promote shared global prosperity.

The Five Institutions

- **IBRD:** Loans to middle-income and creditworthy low-income nations.
- **IDA:** “Soft Loan Window” providing interest-free credits/grants to poorest nations.
- **IFC:** Private sector arm investing directly in developing markets.
- **MIGA:** Offers political risk insurance to foreign investors.
- **ICSID:** Arbitrates international investment disputes.

India & WBG

- Founding Member: Of IBRD, IDA, and IFC.
- **Exclusion:** India is **NOT** a member of ICSID (cites bias toward developed states).
- **Borrowing Status:** “Blend Status” (transitioning from soft IDA credits to commercial IBRD loans).

Key Global Publications

1. World Development Report
2. Global Economic Prospects
3. Human Capital Index
4. **Note:** The Ease of Doing Business Report has been permanently discontinued.

Governance & Structural Rules

- **Prerequisite:** Nations must join the IMF before joining the IBRD.
- **Voting Power:** Tied to financial shareholding, not population; **USA** holds de facto veto power.

71. Zero Defect, Zero Effect Certification Scheme

News

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is promoting **MSME Sustainable (Zero Defect, Zero Effect – ZED) Certification Scheme**.

Zero Defect, Zero Effect Certification Scheme

- **Implementation** - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- **Launched in** - 2016

- **Objective** - to motivate Indian MSMEs to adapt manufacturing processes that ensure high-quality products with zero customer rejection (**Zero Defect**) and minimal adverse environmental footprints (**Zero Effect**).

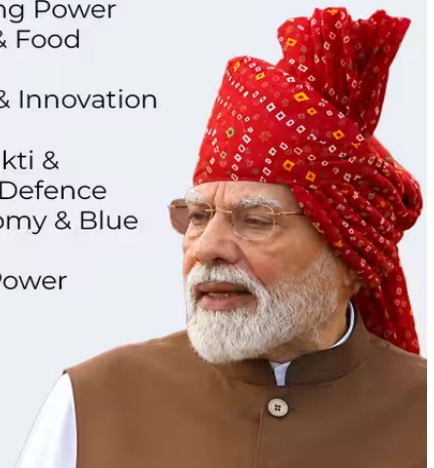
72. Saptadhara



“I call upon the nation to harness the Sapta Dhara...the seven streams of strength”

1. Manufacturing Power
2. Agriculture & Food Processing
3. Technology & Innovation
4. Gati Shakti
5. Defence Shakti & Aatmanirbhar Defence
6. Green Economy & Blue Economy
7. India's Soft Power

PM
Narendra Modi



News

- Prime Minister launched a **seven-point ‘Saptadhara’ reform framework** to fast-track India's goal of attaining a **Viksit Bharat by 2047**,

Saptadhara

1. **Manufacturing Power:** Scaling up quality and global integration.
2. **Agricultural Power:** Boosting processing, storage, and food exports.
3. **Technology & Innovation:** Advancing AI, semiconductors, and R&D.
4. **Connectivity:** Enhancing multimodal logistics and infrastructure.
5. **Defence Power:** Achieving self-reliance in high-tech armaments.
6. **Green & Blue Economy:** Expanding renewables and ocean resources.
7. **Soft Power:** Promoting culture, tourism, and

heritage globally.

73. Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

Context

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) approved projects collectively worth **₹7,877 crore for incentives under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).**

Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

- **Launched:** 2025 by the Government of India.
- **Objective:** To develop a strong **domestic ecosystem for electronic components** and reduce import dependence.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Outlay:** ₹22,919 crore over 6 years.
- **Focus:** Manufacturing of components such as **PCBs, camera modules, display modules, connectors, and other electronic sub-assemblies.**
- **Benefits:** Attracts investment, creates jobs, strengthens supply chains and promotes **Make in India.**
- **Significance:** Supports India's goal of becoming a **global electronics manufacturing hub.**

74. India's Makhana Sector



In News

- **Makhana has emerged as one of India's fastest-growing agri-food sectors,** driven by rising health awareness, expanding domestic demand, and strong export potential.

National Makhana Board

- **Objective - to strengthen and modernize**

India's Makhana sector.

- It is **headquartered in Purnea, Bihar.**

Makhana (Euryale ferox)

- It is a **flowering plant classified in the water lily family (Nymphaeaceae).**
- **Climatic condition:** Requires a **temperature range of 20-35°C,** and annual **rainfall between 100- 250 cm.**
- It is a **fully organic non-cereal food** found principally in India but also in Korea, Japan, as well as parts of eastern Russia.
- **Bihar accounts for ~90% of India's makhana production.**
- **GI Tag:** In 2022, 'Mithila Makhana' was conferred a GI tag.

75. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)

News

- PM-AASHA has emerged as a strong and structured mechanism **to support farmers through assured procurement, price stabilization, and effective market interventions.**

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)

- **Launched:** 2018
- **Objective - It aims to ensure remunerative prices to farmers,** prevent distress sales and maintain price stability.
- **Components:**
 - ♦ **PSS:** Procurement of pulses, oilseeds & copra at **MSP.**
 - ♦ **PSF:** Buffer stocks to control price volatility.
 - ♦ **PDPS:** Pays **MSP–market price difference** to farmers.
 - ♦ **MIS:** Support for **perishable crops** during price crashes.
- **Significance:** Strengthens MSP-based price assurance while balancing farmer and consumer interests.



76. GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

Context

- Less-than-anticipated cases were filed with the **GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)**.

About GSTAT

- **Established under:** CGST Act, 2017.
- **Purpose:** Appellate authority for disputes arising under **GST laws**.
- **Structure:** National Principal Bench + State Benches.
- **Composition:** Judicial Member + Technical Members (Centre/State).
- **Appeals:** Hears appeals against orders passed by **Appellate/Revisionary Authorities** under GST.
- **Significance:** Provides **specialised, speedy and uniform** resolution of GST disputes and reduces the burden on higher courts.
- **Constitutional link:** GST is based on **Article 246A**, with the **GST Council** under **Article 279A**.

Additional Information - 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.

77.5 Years of e-Shram Portal

News

- The **e-Shram Portal** completed **five years**, marking a significant milestone in strengthening social security for India's unorganised workforce.

e-Shram Portal

- **Launched:** 2021 by **Ministry of Labour & Employment**; developed by NIC.
- **Purpose:** First **Aadhaar-seeded National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)**.
- **UAN:** Provides a unique **12-digit Universal Account Number**.
- **Coverage:** Construction, migrant, gig/platform, domestic, agricultural workers, street vendors, etc.
- **Eligibility:** **16+ years**, unorganised-sector workers; generally excludes income-tax payers and EPFO/ESIC members.
- **Objectives:**
 - ♦ Convergence of **social-security schemes**.
 - ♦ **Portability** of welfare benefits, especially for migrant workers.
 - ♦ Data-driven policymaking and better delivery of services.
 - ♦ Support during **emergencies/disasters**.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

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

News -

- **PMVBRY completed one year of implementation**, marking an important milestone in India's efforts to expand formal employment and social security coverage.

About PM-VBRY

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

Features:

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

79. Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)

News -

- The **Union Cabinet approved Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)** with a **₹5,070 crore outlay to strengthen floating solar capacity and energy security.**

PM-SSY

- **Financing - It is a Central Sector Scheme**
- **Objective - to promote Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects** integrated with Energy Storage Systems (ESS).

- **Target: 5 GW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) by FY 2030-31**
- **Implementing Agency: Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.**
- **Significance:** It supports India's **500 GW non-fossil electricity goal by 2030**, aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat, and can cut 10 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.
- **Note - The Omkareshwar Floating Solar Park on the Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh is India's largest operational project** with a capacity of 278 MW (planned capacity is 600 MW).

80. Samudra Manthan (National Offshore Exploration Scheme)

News -

- The **Union Cabinet approved 'Samudra Manthan' (National Offshore Exploration Scheme)** with an outlay of **₹84,084 crore** for implementation through FY 2030-31.

About -

- **Financing - Central Sector Scheme.**
- **Implementation - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- **Objective:** To map untapped offshore sedimentary basins and de-risk deepwater exploration
- **Significance - to reduce India's reliance on crude oil (~88%) and natural gas (~50%) imports.**

Features -

- **Boost Production:** Aims to raise annual production from 62 to 80 MMTOE (Million Metric Tonnes of Oil Equivalent).
- **Unlock Reserves:** Targets over 600 MMTOE in new hydrocarbon reserves.
- **Economic Impact:** Seeks to reduce annual import bills by ₹1 lakh crore.

81. Delhi Lakshmi Yojana

Context

- The online registration portal for the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana has opened for registration.



About

- Launched** in July 2026
- Objective** - to provide ₹2,500 monthly to women from economically weaker sections. It targets over 17 lakh beneficiaries with a ₹5,110 crore budget.

Key Points

- Eligibility:** Delhi residents for 10+ years, aged 21–60, with annual family income under ₹2.5 lakh. Only the eldest eligible woman per household qualifies.
- Exclusions:** Excludes taxpayers, government employees, pension recipients, and families with over three children.
- Administration:** Requires a mandatory recommendation letter from a local MLA/MP and uses 4-layer digital verification.
- Significance:** Promotes financial inclusion and women's autonomy, but faces criticism over political gatekeeping (MLA/MP letters)

and strict exclusion criteria.

82. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

News

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee has asked the government to accelerate the sewerage and septage



management projects under **AMRUT 2.0**, stating that only 104 out of 594 projects (17.5%) have been completed and 67% are in progress.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

- It was launched in June 2015
- Financing** - It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- Objective** - It is aimed at providing basic services such as water supply, sewerage, urban transport, and parks.
- Significance** - It focused on building infrastructure that delivers better services to people, especially the poor.

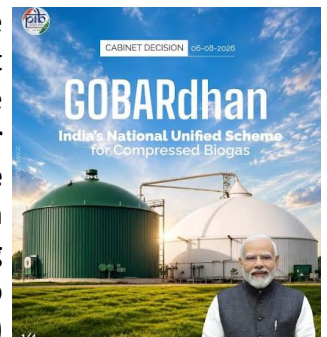
AMRUT 2.0

- It was launched on 1 October 2021.
- It covers all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and aims to make cities water secure and self-reliant.

83. National Circular Bioenergy Scheme (GOBARDhan Scheme)

Context

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the **National Circular Bioenergy Scheme (GOBARDhan – Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan)**



with a total outlay of ₹23,731 crore.

The GOBARDhan (National Circular Bioenergy Scheme)

- It is a 10-year initiative (FY 2026–27 to 2035–36)
- Implementation** - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Key Objectives & Components

- Target:** Boost Compressed Biogas (CBG) production tenfold to 5 MMSCMD.

- **Unified Framework:** Consolidates previous initiatives like SATAT, Market Development Assistance (MDA), and Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM).

Additional Information - Biofuels

- **Definition** - Biofuels are alternative fuels made from **plant and plant-derived resources**.
- **Example:** Bioethanol, Biodiesel, Green diesel, Biogas etc.

National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

- The National Policy on Biofuels 2018 (amended in 2022) provides a framework for increasing the use of biofuels in India to enhance energy security.

Government Efforts for Biofuel Expansion

- **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana** (Jaiv Indhan – Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran Yojana): It **promotes 2G ethanol production from agricultural waste and residues**.
- **SATAT Scheme** (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation): It **promotes Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production as a fuel alternative**.

84. Good Samaritan Scheme

Context

- Only 813 people have been awarded under the Good Samaritan scheme over the past five years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

About

- It was **launched in 2021**
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- **Objective** - to reduce road accident fatalities by incentivising bystanders to rush victims to the hospital within the “Golden Hour” (the first 60 minutes).

Key Features

- **Reward:** A cash prize of ₹25,000 per incident and a Certificate of Appreciation.
- **Duration** - 2026-27 to 2030-31 cycle
- **Financing** - Central sponsored scheme.
- **Integration:** Operates alongside the PM

RAHAT Scheme, which offers **cashless medical treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for accident victims**.

PMRAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment)

- It is a newly launched **initiative by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- **Objective** - to provide immediate, cashless medical treatment to road accident victims across India.
- **Significance** - it aims to **reduce fatalities during the “Golden Hour”** (the critical first hour after an accident).

Key features of the scheme

- It includes **cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for up to 7 days**.
- It offers **stabilization care** for a maximum of 24 hours in cases that are not life-threatening and 48 hours in life-threatening situations.
- **The scheme covers all road accident victims on all types of roads**.
- **Hospitals cannot ask for advance payments** for emergency stabilization.
- Implementation is linked with the **112 helpline for emergency response**.
- Treatment is available at **hospitals empaneled under Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY)**.
- A digital system connects the **eDAR and TMS 2.0 for reporting and claim processing**. Funding comes from the **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAf)**.
- Grievances are handled by a **Grievance Redressal Officer at the district level**.

85. PM-KISAN

News-

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

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- **Launched on** - February 24 in 2019.

- **Financing - Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Key feature

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

86. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

News-

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



Fisheries Sector of India

- **Producer** - India is the **3rd largest fish producing** and **2nd largest aquaculture producing nation** in the world.
- **India is the 4th largest exporter of fish and fisheries.**
- **In terms of employment, the sunrise sector supports the livelihood of over 30 Mn people in India.**
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)- to bring about the Blue Revolution** through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.

Government Initiatives for the Growth of the Sector

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

87. Revamped Khelo India Scheme

News -

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



Core Changes

- **10x Athlete Pool:** Adds “**Emerging Khelo India Athletes**” (E-KIAs) to scale up talent enrollment

- **School Integration:** Creates Khelo India Feeder Schools and Utkrishta Vidyalayas for academics-sports balance.
- **Coaching Standards:** Establishes the National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB) to unify certifications.
- **Tech-Driven Tracking:** Deploys an AI-enabled digital platform for performance monitoring and scouting.

Comparison

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

88. Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS)

Context

- The Union Government has proposed a ₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS)



About -

- **Launch:** Announced in Union Budget 2026–27.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- **Financial Outlay:** ₹10,000 crore over 5 years.
- **Primary Objective:** Build a self-reliant domestic shipping container ecosystem.

Key Targets

- **Production:** Scale capacity to 7.5 lakh TEUs annually.
- **Economic Value:** Unlock ₹80,000 crore

market opportunity.

- **Employment:** 3,000 direct and 50,000 indirect jobs.
- **Scope:** Supports both Greenfield and Brownfield units.

Significance

- **Import Substitution:** Reduces reliance on 2 million imported containers annually.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** insulates Indian exports from global logistics shocks.
- **Policy Synergy:** Aligns with Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, PM Gati Shakti, and Make in India.

89. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

Context

- The Standing Committee on Rural Development has highlighted the gap between skill training and actual employment outcomes under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).



About

- **Implementation - Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**
- **Launched in - 2014.**
- It is a **placement-linked skill development programme** under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- **Age Limit:** Rural youth between 15 and 35 years of age (age limit is up to 45 years for women, SC/ST, persons with disabilities and minorities).
- **Objective - It aims to skill rural youth and promote sustainable livelihoods** for rural youth through placement-linked skilling programs.

90. PM-POSHAN

In News

- Delhi government schools will have a new menu for PM-POSHAN with additions such as idli-sambar.



PM POSHAN

Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)

- Earlier known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and renamed as PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) in 2021.
- It operates under the Ministry of Education and is approved for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme (jointly funded by Centre and States) providing one hot cooked meal to students in government and aided schools up to Class 8.
- It aims to address hunger (lack of adequate food intake) and educational outcomes (attendance, retention, learning) simultaneously.

91. Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)

Context

- The Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) is unlocking India's tribal forest economy.



About PMJVM

- Launched in 2021-22
- Financing- It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Nodal agency - Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

Objectives

- Promote tribal entrepreneurship, livelihood and income generation.

- Focuses on Minor Forest Produce (MFP), tribal products and value addition.
- Supports tribal producer enterprises, SHGs and Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.
- Aims to strengthen tribal value chains, market linkages and access to finance.
- It also provides Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through direct procurement from tribal gatherers.
- Key focus: From collection → value addition → branding → marketing of tribal products.

92. Heritage Village

News:

- Odisha plans to develop Gurujang village, Angul, birthplace of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, as a heritage village.

About -

- Meaning: Traditional settlements conserved to preserve cultural heritage, architecture, traditions and lifestyle.

Heritage includes:

- Tangible: Houses, monuments, artefacts.
- Intangible: Festivals, folklore, crafts, music and traditional knowledge.
- Significance: Promotes cultural tourism while preserving local identity.
- Key Example: Pragpur, Himachal Pradesh – widely recognised as India's first heritage village.
- Other examples: Kisama (Nagaland), Reiek (Mizoram), Khasi Heritage Village (Meghalaya).

Additional Information - Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)

- Launched: 2015 by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- Aim: Preserve and revitalise heritage cities by improving infrastructure around heritage sites.
- Focus: Sanitation, roads, public spaces, water supply, parking, security and civic facilities.
- Coverage: 12 heritage cities, including

Varanasi, Ajmer, Amritsar, Mathura, Gaya and Puri.

- **Funding:** 100% Central Government funded.
- **Duration:** Implemented from 2015–2019.

93. Garbhini Mitra Course

News

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has introduced the **Garbhini Mitra Course** for the **2026–2027** academic session.



Garbhini Mitra Course

- **Offered by:** All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Sarita Vihar, New Delhi.
- **Aim:** Train personnel to provide **pregnancy and postnatal health education and community support**.
- **Batch size:** 20 students.
- **Ayurvedic basis:** **Garbhini Paricharya** (antenatal), **Sutika Paricharya** (postnatal) and **Garbhadhana Vidhi** (pre-conception).
- **Skills:** Trimester-wise diet, lifestyle, pregnancy-safe yoga, emotional support, newborn care and basic life support.
- **Eligibility:** **18+ years + 10+2 pass** from a recognised board.

94. SASCI Scheme

News -

- The Ministry of Tourism issued operational guidelines and a detailed project report (DPR) template under the **SASCI-Development of Iconic Tourist Centers to Global Scale scheme**.

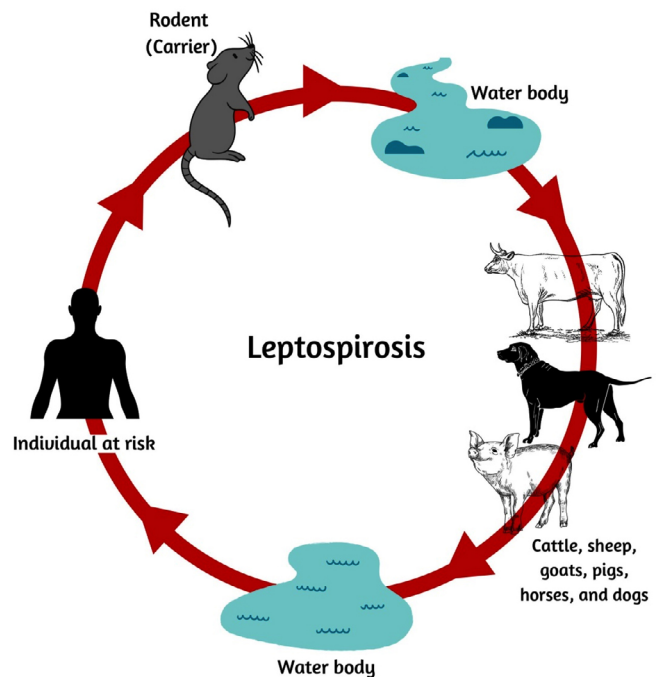
SASCI Scheme

- SASCI = Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment
- **Launched:** 2022–23 by the **Ministry of Finance**.
- **Aim:** Encourage **capital investment** by providing long-term financial assistance to States.

- **Nature:** **100% interest-free loans** to States, generally repayable over **50 years**.
- **Purpose:** Create quality infrastructure, boost economic growth and generate employment.
- **Focus:** Transport, water supply, health, education, tourism, urban infrastructure and other capital projects.
- **Significance:** Promotes **State-level capital expenditure** and supports India's infrastructure-led growth.

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

95. Leptospirosis



News

- Kerala has witnessed a sharp rise in cases and deaths due to leptospirosis in 2026.

Leptospirosis

- It is a **zoonotic disease** caused by **bacteria** and **spread to humans by contact with the urine of an infected animal or with contaminated water and soil**.
- The bacteria enter the body through **cuts in the skin or through the eyes, nose and mouth**.



- It has been **endemic in Kerala since 1989** and now has the highest mortality among communicable diseases in the State.
- The disease can range from **mild to severe, sometimes fatal, with symptoms similar to those of influenza, dengue and other viral diseases.**
- **Mild leptospirosis is treated with oral antibiotics,** while severe cases require hospitalisation.

96. Universal Immunisation Programme

Context

- According to a study by the Union Health Ministry, introducing the **hexavalent (six-in-one) vaccine into India's Universal Immunisation Programme** could improve the efficiency of childhood immunisation programmes.

About

- A hexavalent vaccine is a combination that protects infants against **diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), Hepatitis B, polio, and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) in a single injection.**
- It eases the workload of frontline health workers, lowers cold-chain requirements, and saves caregivers' time.

Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) of India

- **Launched in** - India launched the EPI in 1978, which was later renamed as the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in 1985.

Additional Information - Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 5.0)

- **Implementation** - It is the flagship routine immunization campaign of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Objective** - It ensures that routine immunization services reach the missed-out and dropped out children and pregnant women across the country.

- **Uniqueness** - This year, for the first time the campaign is being conducted across all the districts in the country. It includes children up to 5 years of age (Previous campaigns included children up to 2 years of age).
- **Special focus is on improvement of Measles and Rubella vaccination** coverage with the aim of Measles & Rubella elimination by 2023.

Additional Information - Mission Indradhanush

- Launched in - 2014
- Aim - To ensure full immunization with all available vaccines for children up to two years of age and pregnant women.

12 Diseases covered under Mission Indradhanush

1. Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG).
2. Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT).
3. Tetanus and adult Diphtheria (Td).
4. Bi valent oral polio vaccine (bOPV).
5. Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine.
6. Hepatitis B (Hep B).
7. Pentavalent — DPT + Hepatitis B + Haemophilus Influenzae type b (DPT + Hep B + Hib).
8. Rotavirus Vaccine (RVV).
9. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV).
10. Japanese Encephalitis (JE) Vaccine.

97. Three Common Medicines Classified as Carcinogenic by IARC

Context

- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (**IARC**) has classified **three commonly prescribed medicines—hydrochlorothiazide, voriconazole, and tacrolimus—as Group 1 (Carcinogenic to Humans).**

About

1. **Hydrochlorothiazide** is commonly used to treat hypertension.
2. **Voriconazole** is an antifungal medicine used to manage serious **invasive fungal infections.**
3. **Tacrolimus** is an immunosuppressant that prevents rejection of transplanted organs.

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

- It is the specialized, **intergovernmental cancer research agency of the World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Established: 1965**
- **Headquarters: Lyon, France**
- **Functions** - It evaluates environmental, occupational, and lifestyle factors to **identify preventable causes of human cancer**.

98. African Swine Fever

Context

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed India's first indigenous **MA-104 Cell Line-Based Live Attenuated African Swine Fever (ASF) Vaccine for pigs**.



African Swine Fever (ASF)

- It is a **highly contagious transboundary animal disease caused by the African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV)**, affecting domestic pigs and wild boar.
- It does **not infect humans**.
- **First detected in Kenya in 1909**, the disease is now found across Africa, Europe and Asia.
- Since its **first detection in India in 2020**.
- It spreads through **direct contact with infected pigs, contaminated pork products, wild boar, and soft ticks**.
- The disease is characterised by **high fever, haemorrhages, and mortality rates**.

99. United to end AIDS Report

Context (DTE):

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

Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS (2026)

- It is a global roadmap adopted by UN Member States in 2026, during the UN

General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York.

- It aims to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 through the 95-95-95 targets, secure US\$21.9 billion annually by 2030, and protect human rights.

Additional Information - Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

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

Steps taken by Government of India

- **National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) (Central Sector Scheme)**
- India has achieved the 6th MDG of halting and reversing the HIV epidemic.
- **Prevention from Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) programme**
- **HIV/AIDS Act 2017 (Prohibits discrimination against HIV-infected people on any grounds)**
- **90:90:90 strategy as adopted by UNAIDS** (90% (diagnosed, treatment (by anti-retroviral treatment (ART)) & suppression)) by 2020. **Extended by 10 years with the goal**

post of 95-95-95.

- **Project ACCELERATE (John Hopkin & NACO initiative):** To provide HIV Services through Safe Zindagi online portal.
- **Mission Sampark:** Its purpose was to “bring back” people living with HIV (PLHIV) who had stopped antiretroviral therapy (ART).

100. Dengue Virus

News -

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

Dengue

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

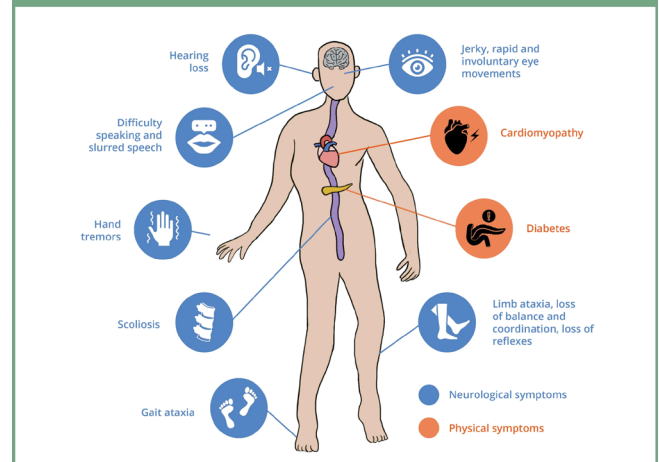
India’s first indigenous dengue vaccine

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

Medical Research (ICMR).

101. Friedrich’s ataxia (FRDA)

Symptoms of Friedrich’s Ataxia



Context

- Many Indian communities practice consanguinity.
- It greatly increases the risk of genetic diseases that are otherwise rare, Friedrich’s ataxia is one such disease.

Friedreich’s ataxia, or FRDA

- It is a **genetic disorder that progressively damages the nerves and the heart**.
- The affected individuals typically begin to show symptoms between the ages of 5 and 15.

Symptoms:

- Unsteady and **impaired coordination**.
- **Speech slows down** and slurs, **swallowing becomes difficult**, **Hearing and vision deteriorates**.
- **Fatigued, lost sensation**, eventually, most patients die relatively young, of heart disease.
- There is **no cure**.
- **FRDA is more likely when both parents carry the defective gene**.
- **FRDA is caused by mutations in the FXN gene**.
- **Consanguineous marriages (marriages between relatives, such as cousins) increase the chance that both parents carry the**

same rare genetic mutation.

102. Rising cases of Swine Flu

News

- **Delhi has registered 1,777 confirmed cases of swine flu**, with hospitals reporting a spurt in illnesses in all age groups over the past two weeks.

Swine Influenza

- **Cause:** Respiratory disease of pigs caused by **Influenza A viruses**.
- **Common subtypes:** H1N1, H1N2, H3N2.
- **Transmission:** Mainly through **coughing/sneezing**; also via contaminated surfaces.
- **Human infection:** Can spread **person-to-person**.
- **Distribution:** Common in the **Americas, Europe and parts of Asia**; also reported in Africa.
- **Treatment:** Mainly **supportive care**; **antibiotics do not work** against viral infections.
- **UPSC Link:** Influenza A → zoonotic potential → respiratory infection → viral disease.

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

103. Shipki La Pass



In News

- India-China cross-border trade resumed through Shipki-La after six years.

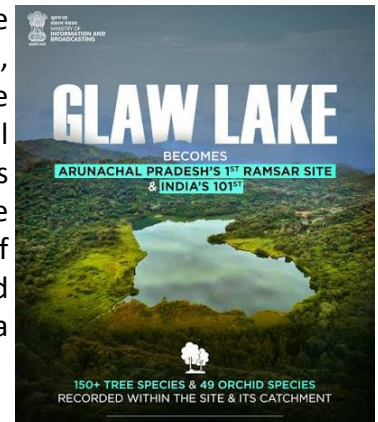
Shipki La Pass

- It is a motorable mountain pass in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh at 3,930 m.
- It enters Himachal Pradesh at Shipki La (3,930 m) and flows in the **south-westerly direction** through Kinnaur, Shimla, Kullu, Mandi, Solan and Bilaspur districts of the State.
- Trade included **wool, horses, borax, turquoise and gold** from Tibet, **grains, spices, dried fruits, timber** and metal goods from India.
- The route was closed after the **1962 Sino-Indian War** and was disrupted during the **Doklam standoff** and the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

104. Glaw Lake Becomes India's 101st Ramsar Site

Context

- India's one more wetland, Glaw Lake of Arunachal Pradesh, has entered the global list of protected wetlands as a Ramsar site.



Glaw Lake

- **Location** - Arunachal Pradesh's Lohit district
- It has been officially designated as India's 101st Ramsar Site, **making it the first-ever wetland from the state** to achieve this international recognition.

Ecological & Cultural Significance

- High-altitude freshwater lake nestled deep inside the **Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in the Eastern Himalayas**.
- **Biodiversity Hotspot:** The wetland and its catchment area support an incredibly rich ecosystem, **housing over 150 tree species and 49 orchid species**.



- **Wildlife Sanctuary:** It serves as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA).
- It acts as a crucial wintering ground for the critically endangered white-bellied heron and supports all four big cat species: tigers, leopards, clouded leopards, and snow leopards.
- **Cultural Roots:** The lake holds sacred value for the local Mishmi community, who hold a cultural belief that guardian deities protect its pristine waters.

Connect with the basics - Ramsar Convention

- A Ramsar site is a **wetland designated as one of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.**
- **Ramsar Convention** - It is one of the inter-governmental accords to preserve the wetlands of international importance.
- **It was signed on February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran and came into force in 1975.**
- **India became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.**

Ramsar Facts

- **Total: 101 sites** (As of June 2026).
- **India has the most sites in Asia.**
- **100th Site: Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)** in Uttar Pradesh (Added June 2026).
- **Top State: Tamil Nadu (20 sites),** followed by Uttar Pradesh (13 sites).
- **First Sites: Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) in 1981.**
- **Sizes: Sundarban (West Bengal) is the largest. Renuka (Himachal Pradesh) is the smallest.**

Montreux Record (Threatened Sites)

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

105. Uzbekistan



Context

- India and Uzbekistan have agreed to expand their strategic partnership.

Uzbekistan

- Uzbekistan is **Central Asia's most populous country**, with a population of 30.8 million people.
- It shares borders with **Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan.**
- Its economy is largely dependent on commodity exports, making it vulnerable to fluctuations in global commodity prices.
- **Tashkent is the capital and largest city.**
- Major rivers: Amu Darya and Syr Darya.

106. Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

In News

- Recently, the **Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP)** was launched on the occasion of International Clouded Leopard Day (4th August).



Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis Nebulosa*)

- **Characteristics:** It is a medium-sized, highly arboreal wild cat.
- It is known for its large cloud-shaped markings, long canine teeth, and

- It is a **nocturnal hunter** that feeds on a variety of arboreal and terrestrial prey, including **deer, primates, porcupines, pangolins and squirrels**.
- **Habitat and Distribution:** It is found mainly in primary tropical forests but also in **secondary forests, dry forests, mangroves** and above 3,500 m in the Himalayas.
- It occurs from the **Himalayan foothills of Nepal** across Mainland Southeast Asia to **China**.
- It is extinct in **Taiwan, and in Vietnam, China, and Bangladesh** its populations are critically low and close to local extinction (extirpation).
- **Threats:** **Habitat loss and fragmentation** caused by **rapid deforestation** and **infrastructure development**, but the biggest drivers of population decline remain illegal hunting and snaring for the wildlife trade.

Conservation status -

- It is included on **CITES Appendix I**
- The **IUCN Red List** of Threatened Species lists Clouded Leopard as **Vulnerable**.

Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

- It is prepared under the **Government of India–GEF–UNDP initiative.**
- It provides a **comprehensive framework for securing habitats, restoring forest connectivity, strengthening scientific monitoring, and empowering local communities** for conservation of the species.

107. Dhansiri River

Context

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



About

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

Additional Information- Brahmaputra River



- The Brahmaputra is a major transboundary river in Asia.
- It originates from the **Chemayungdung Glacier near Lake Manasarovar (Mapam Yumco) in Tibet.**
- It is known variably as **Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet (its longest upper stretch), Siang or Dihang in Arunachal Pradesh, Brahmaputra**



in Assam & Jamuna in Bangladesh.

- It flows east through Tibet's plateau, enters India via Arunachal Pradesh, widens in Assam's plains, and merges with the Ganges in Bangladesh before reaching the Bay of Bengal.

108. Slender-Billed Vultures

News

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



Slender-Billed Vultures (*Gyps tenuirostris*)

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

Conservation status

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

White-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)

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

109. Roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)

News -

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



About

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

110. Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve

Context (TH):

- The Supreme Court ruled that a **10-km**

mining buffer zone now applies to all wetland reserves across India, expanding the earlier safeguard for the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve.

Asan Wetland

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

111. Phoenix Species Project

News -

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



About the Project

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

Key Features:

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

112. Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026

News -

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

About -

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

Key Highlights of EPI 2026

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

113. Black-necked Cranes (BNC)

Context

- The **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** has sterilised over **2,950 Free Ranging Dogs (FRD)** to save **Black-necked Cranes**





(BNC) and wildlife in Ladakh.

Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*)

- It is **one of the 15 crane species** found worldwide
- It is considered the **only high-altitude/alpine crane species**.
- **Habitat & Distribution:** In India, it is found in **Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh**, particularly in high-altitude wetlands and marshes.
- Its global range extends across the Tibetan Plateau and adjoining Himalayan regions, including **China, India, Bhutan and Nepal**.
- **Population:** Fewer than **100 Black-necked Cranes** are estimated to remain in India, out of a **global population of around 15,000**.
- **Major Threats:** Predation by **free-ranging dogs**, **changing agricultural practices**, rapid and **unregulated development** around high-altitude wetlands.

Conservation Status:

- The species receives the highest legal protection under **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 - Schedule I**
- **IUCN Red List - Near Threatened**
- It is also protected under **CITES and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species**
- **Near Threatened under IUCN Red List.**
- **State Bird:** It is the **State bird of Ladakh** and holds special significance in Ladakh's Buddhist culture.

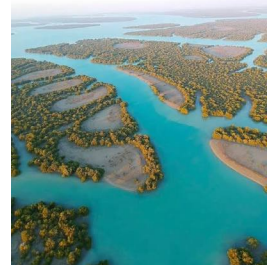
Additional Information - Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

- BNHS is **one of the largest and oldest non-governmental organizations** in India dedicated to **nature conservation and biodiversity research**.
- **Founded on September 15, 1883, in Mumbai**, its mission is to conserve nature through action based on research, education, and public awareness.

114. Hara Mangrove Forests

Context

- A major oil spill off the southern coast of Iran has emerged as a serious ecological threat to the Hara mangrove forests.



Hara Mangrove Forests

- It also known as the **Qeshm–Hara mangrove forests**
- **Location** - It is located around **Qeshm Island and the Strait of Hormuz** in southern Iran.
- They are **dominated by the grey mangrove (*Avicennia marina*)**, a species highly adapted to saline coastal environments.
- The area has been **recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**.

Mangroves

- **Definition:** A mangrove is a **woody plant which lives between the sea and the land**, in areas which are flooded by tides for part of the time.
- **Halophytes** - Mangroves are **salt-tolerant plants**, also called halophytes.
- **Climatic conditions** - receiving rainfall between **1,000 to 3,000 mm** and temperature ranging between **26-35°C**.
- **Ecotone** - Since mangroves are located between the land and sea they represent the best example of ecotone.

Sundarbans Location:

- **Location** - The Sundarbans Forest located on the **delta of Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna** in South Asia (India & Bangladesh).
- **Global Significance:** It is the **largest mangrove forest in the world**.
- It is Recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Ramsar Site**.

115. Tamirabharani River

Context

- The **Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court** has declared **Tamil Nadu's Tamirabharani**

river a deity, thereby granting it legal personhood to curb pollution from funeral rites and waste dumping.

Background-

- In 2017, the Uttarakhand High Court recognised the Ganga and Yamuna as legal persons. However, the Supreme Court later stayed the order, citing practical and administrative difficulties, particularly since the rivers flow across multiple states.
- Globally, New Zealand's Whanganui River became the first river in the world to be recognised as a legal person in 2017.

Additional Information- Tamirabharani River

- **Origin:** Pothigai Hills (Western Ghats), Tamil Nadu.
- **Course:** Flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts.
- **Mouth:** Drains into the Gulf of Mannar.
- **Type:** One of the few perennial rivers of Tamil Nadu.
- **Major tributaries:** Manimuthar, Gadanathi, Pachaiyar and Chittar.
- **Importance:** Irrigation, drinking water and hydropower.
- **Key feature:** Supports agriculture in the Tirunelveli–Thoothukudi region.

116. Introduction of Blackbucks Into Banni Grassland

In News

- The Gujarat Forest Department, with technical support from Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Vantara, released 20 blackbucks (*Antelope cervicapra*) into the Banni Grassland of Kutch.



Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*)

- **Appearance:** Males have striking spiral horns that can reach up to 75 cm (30 inches)

in length and their coat is a dark brown to black color.

- **Females are smaller and have a reddish-brown coat without horns.**
- **Habitat:** They are typically found in grasslands, savannas, and open forests. They prefer areas with short grass for grazing.
- **Threats:** Earlier extensively hunted in the princely states of India, **Habitat destruction, Illegal Hunting for economic consumption**
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN Status: Least Concern
 - ♦ CITES: Appendix III
 - ♦ Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

- **State animal** - Declared as state animal of Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Cultural Importance:** In Hinduism, the Blackbuck is considered a symbol of purity, with its skin and horns revered as sacred objects. In Buddhism, it represents good luck.

Banni Grassland

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

Concerns

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



117. Raichur Miyawaki Forest

In Context

- The Miyawaki method has been in the news repeatedly over the past year from Raichur's Yakalaspura dumpsite-turned-forest in Karnataka, to Rajkot's Nakrawadi landfill transformation in Gujarat, to urban afforestation drives in Mumbai.



Miyawaki Method

- Afforestation technique** for creating **dense, native, multi-layered forests** in a short time, including small urban spaces.
- Developed in the **1970s** by **Japanese botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki**.
- Based on **"Potential Natural Vegetation"** — vegetation that would naturally occur in an area if left undisturbed.
- Key principle:** Plant diverse **native species closely together**, creating competition for sunlight and nutrients and enabling rapid forest growth.
- Benefits:** High biodiversity, carbon sequestration, improved soil quality and urban cooling.

118. Amazon Rainforest

Context

- A recent study published in Global Change Biology has found that just 15–25 tree species play a major role in regenerating deforested areas of the Amazon rainforest.

Amazon Rain Forests

- Location:** The region belongs to **nine nations of the South American continent**.
- Surrounded by** - It is bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.
- Area Covered:** The majority of the forest,

60%, is in Brazil, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and with minor amounts in Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela.

- Climate:** Hot and humid climate with temperatures of **26-30°C throughout the year**. There are no periodic seasons. The precipitation ranges from **2,000 mm to 10,920 mm annually**.
- Tribes:** anomamo, Kayapo, Akuntsu, Matses, Tupi etc.
- Fauna:** Anaconda, Jesus lizard, howler monkey, golden lion tamarin, jaguar, sloth, spider monkey, Amazon River dolphin, toucan and the scarlet macaw, poison dart frog and the glass frog.
- Flora:** Moist broadleaf tropical rainforest like myrtle, laurel, palm, acacia, rosewood, Brazil nut, rubber tree, mahogany and Amazonian cedar.



Significance of the Rainforests

- Lungs of the planet:** Rainforests **generate about 20% of the world's oxygen** and its trees play a key role in reducing pollutant levels.
- Fight climate change:** They act as a crucial

buffer in the global fight against climate change as it holds **tremendous capacity to store carbon**.

- **Medicinal Properties:** Many of these plants contain bioactive compounds capable of treating diseases that are not yet curable, especially cancer.

Threat to the forests

- **Climate Change:** Due to climate change the forests are witnessing various challenges like changes in rainfall patterns, pollution etc.
- **Deforestation:** The size of the Amazon forest shrank dramatically as a result of settlers' clearance of the land to obtain lumber and to create grazing pastures and farmland.
- **Wildfires:** It causes threat to the survival of ecosystems and biodiversity. The 2019 forest fires in the region have led to widespread devastation in the region.

Additional Information - Amazon River

- It is the **largest river by volume of water and second longest river after the Nile river of Africa** in the world.
- **Source:** River has its source in the **Peruvian Andes, at an elevation of 5,598 m**.
- **Length:** 6400 km.
- **Basin:** The basin includes the greater part of Brazil and Peru, some parts of Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia and a small area of Venezuela.
- **Tributaries:** Japurá, Juruá, Madeira, Negro, Purus, and Xingu rivers.
- **Mouth:** Atlantic Ocean on the **northeastern coast of Brazil**.

119. Satkosia Tiger Reserve

Context

- The Odisha government has formed a **high-level inquiry committee to look into the displacement of villages from the Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR)** amid allegations that the villagers were forcibly evicted.

Satkosia Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Odisha, at the **meeting point**

of the Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats.

- **Established:** In 2007 under Project Tiger.
- **Area:** The reserve includes the **Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary and Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary**, which together span an area of around 1,000 sq km.
- The **Mahanadi River** flows through the reserve and forms the spectacular Satkosia Gorge.
- **Flora:** Mixture of **deciduous forests including Sal (Shorea robusta) and riverine forest**.



Additional Information - Tiger Reserves Facts

- **Legal basis:** Declared under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, through the **Project Tiger** framework.
- **Project Tiger:** Launched in 1973 with 9 tiger reserves.
- **Nodal authority:** **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.
- **Core + Buffer:** Tiger Reserves have a **Core/ Critical Tiger Habitat** and a **Buffer area**.
- **Tiger census:** Conducted every 4 years under the **All India Tiger Estimation (AITE)**.
- **Latest estimate:** India had **3,682 tigers in 2022**, according to the fifth AITE.
- **India's share:** India supports around **75% of the world's wild tiger population**.
- **Largest Tiger Reserve:** Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh/Telangana).
- **Smallest Tiger Reserve:** Bhor (Maharashtra)
- **First Tiger Reserve:** Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand (among the original 9).
- **State with most tiger reserves:** Madhya

Pradesh.

- **Important point:** A Tiger Reserve is not a separate category of protected area like a National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary; it can include one or more such protected areas.
- **International initiative:** Global Tiger Initiative / TX2 aims to double wild tiger numbers.

120. Resistance against Ken-Betwa Link Project

The Ken-Betwa River Linking Project



News

- Adivasi people in Madhya Pradesh are protesting against the Ken-Betwa river-linking project for fear of mass displacement, degradation of their ancestral woods, and loss of their traditional identity.

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.

121. COP17 of UNCCD

Context:

- The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is being held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- **Theme:** "Restoring Land. Restoring Hope." aligns with the UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026).

Key Outcomes of COP17 of the UNCCD

- **Drought Resilience:** Launched a new global architecture, including the Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF) and the first Drought Resilience Index (DRI).
- **Rangelands:** Launched the Rangelands Flagship Initiative, mobilising about US\$1.2 billion across 45 projects to support rangeland restoration and pastoralist livelihoods.
- **Steppe Action Agenda:** Promotes nature-based infrastructure, sustainable rangeland management and the land–water nexus.
- **Finance:** More than US\$1.3 billion was pledged across 23 countries for land restoration and drought resilience.
- **Restoration Flagships:** Three new World Restoration Flagships were recognised in Brazil, the Sahel and Saudi Arabia.
- **Pastoralists:** Global Pastoralist Declaration highlighted land-tenure rights and protection of pastoralist livelihoods.
- **Future COP:** Egypt will host COP18 in 2028

Additional information - United Nations Convention to combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- **Established in** - 1994
- **Objective** - To combat desertification and It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment to sustainable land management.
- **Significance** - To maintain and restore the land and soil reproductively.
- **June 17** - It is observed as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

(WDCDD).

- **UNCCD COP16 (2024, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia):** \$12 billion was pledged for land restoration; India showcased the Aravalli Green Wall initiative.
- **Theme (2026):** 'Restoring Land, Restoring Hope'.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

122. India's First Privately-built 800 kN FFSC Engine Unveiled

Context

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



About

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

123. Chandrayaan-5

News -

- Scientists from **ISRO** and **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** recently reviewed the progress of the **Chandrayaan-5**.



- Also known as **LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration)**,

About -

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

Additional information - Chandrayaan-3

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

Key Quick Facts

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

The Three Spacecraft Parts

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

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

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



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

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

Why the South Pole Matters

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

124. Moon Base Programme

In News

- US space agency NASA has invited ISRO to join its **Moon Base programme** building on partnership under the Artemis Accords.



Moon Base

- It is **humanity's first lunar outpost**, a place where **astronauts will live, work, and explore near the Moon's South Pole**.
- NASA and its partners will build the infrastructure needed to **support an enduring human presence on the lunar surface** while advancing science, technology, and exploration for the benefit of all.

Additional Information - Artemis Accord

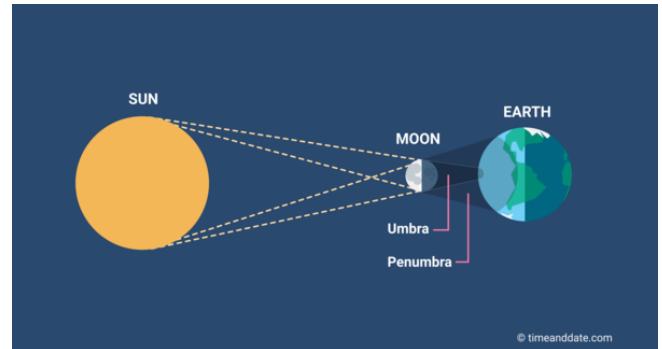
- **Objective** - These are a **set of principles and guidelines for international cooperation in space exploration**.
- **Status** - They are **not a legally binding instrument**.
- **Launched by** - They were announced by **NASA in 2020 and named after NASA's Artemis program which is aimed at returning humans to the Moon by the mid-2020s**.

- **Members:** Artemis Accords has 39 members including Australia, France, Germany, India, Japan, United Kingdom, United States of America etc.
- **India's membership** - India joined the Artemis Accords in 2023.
- **Note** - Russia and China are not part of the Artemis Accords.

125. Total Solar Eclipse

Context

- Recently, a total solar eclipse occurred, providing an important opportunity to understand celestial mechanics, the Earth-Moon system and solar phenomena.



Solar Eclipse

- It occurs when the **Moon is between the Sun and Earth and the shadow of the Moon is cast on Earth**, blocking the Sun's light from reaching certain parts of the world.

Solar eclipse

- Solar eclipses are **classified mainly into three types**:
- **Total Solar Eclipse (Umbra):** The Moon fully blocks the visible disc of the Sun. Those in the line of totality will get to experience a brief darkness in the daylight.
- **Partial Solar Eclipse (Penumbra):** The Moon obscures part of the Sun, causing a 'bite' to be taken out of the solar disc.
- **Annular Solar Eclipse (Antumbra):** When the Moon is approaching the point of its orbit farthest from Earth, its apparent size is smaller than the Sun. It therefore leaves a dazzling outer ring, commonly known as the 'Ring of Fire'.

126. MQ-9B Sea Guardian Unmanned Aircraft

Context

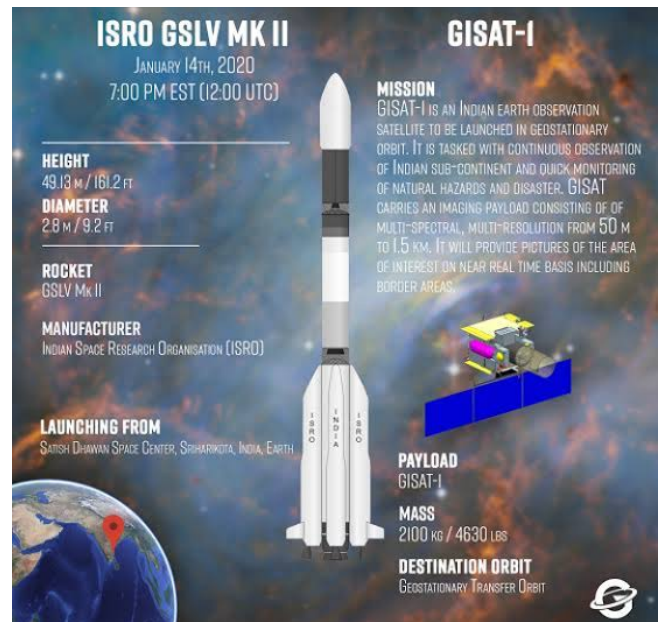
- The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with the U.S. General Atomics Aeronautical to lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for the Indian Navy.



MQ-9B SeaGuardian Unmanned Aircraft

- Type:** High-altitude, long-endurance (HALE) remotely piloted aircraft.
- Manufacturer:** General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, USA.
- Role:** Maritime surveillance, reconnaissance and intelligence gathering.
- Key feature:** Can operate for **40+ hours** and cover vast maritime areas.
- India:** The Indian Navy is acquiring **MQ-9B SeaGuardians** to strengthen **maritime domain awareness** and surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Significance:** Enhances India's ability to monitor **ships, submarines and suspicious maritime activity** over long distances.
- Note:** It is an **unmanned aircraft**, but is remotely controlled by operators rather than being fully autonomous.

- It is scheduled to launch aboard the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**.
- The mission will be Isro's **first launch since the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission failed in January 2026**.
- Purpose :** GISAT-1A is designed for **high-frequency imaging of large areas of the Indian landmass**.
- Its applications include **monitoring natural disasters, agriculture, forestry and other changes on the ground**.
- The satellite has a **planned 10-year mission life**.



127. GISAT-1A

In News

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is **preparing to launch the GISAT-1A Satellite**.

GISAT-1A (Geo Imaging Satellite)

- It is also **referred to as EOS-05** under the new nomenclature .
- It is a **replacement satellite for the 2021-launched GISAT-1 (or EOS-03)**, which missed the orbit after the final propulsive segment of the rocket failed to ignite.

128. Polysilicon Manufacturing in India

Context

- The government is considering a new **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for polysilicon manufacturing** to develop an integrated domestic solar PV supply chain.

India's Solar Manufacturing Position

- Installed solar capacity:** ~163 GW, the largest renewable energy source in India.
- Manufacturing:** ~173 GW solar module and ~25–30 GW solar cell capacity.
- Key gap:** India remains dependent on



imports of polysilicon, ingots and wafers.

- **China:** Accounts for 85%+ of global PV supply capacity with an integrated solar manufacturing chain.

Polysilicon

- Highly purified silicon used to manufacture crystalline-silicon solar cells.
- Produced from quartz/silica through energy-intensive purification.
- High purity is essential for efficient solar-cell performance.

Solar value chain:

- Quartz/Silica → Polysilicon → Ingot → Wafer → Cell → Module → Solar Panel

129. GENESIS EIR 3.0

Context (PIB):

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the third cohort of the GENESIS Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) programme.

GENESIS EIR 3.0

- **Scheme:** Part of **GENESIS (Gen-Next Support for Innovative Startups)** under MeitY.
- **Aim:** Accelerate **early-stage tech startups**, especially in **Tier-II & Tier-III cities**.
- **Nodal Agency:** **MeitY Startup Hub (MSH)**.
- **Eligibility:** Indian citizens with **TRL 1–4** innovations; startups **<2 years old** with prior funding below **₹10 lakh**.
- **Support:** Grants up to **₹10 lakh**, incubation, mentorship, prototyping, industry linkages and **IP/patent support**.
- **Focus:** **AI, IoT, semiconductors, cybersecurity, blockchain, quantum computing & AR.**

130. Ervebo Ebola Vaccine

Context (IT):

- **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** is receiving **70,000 doses of the Ervebo Ebola vaccine** amid a rapidly worsening Ebola outbreak.
- Ervebo (rVSV-ZEBOV) is a single-dose vaccine

used to protect against Ebola virus disease (EVD). It is a **live, replication-competent recombinant viral vector vaccine**.

Ebola virus disease (EVD)

- It is formerly known as **Ebola haemorrhagic fever**. It is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans.
- **First found in - Guinea** in December 2013..
- **Transmission** - The virus is **transmitted to people from wild animals** and **spreads in the human population**(Zoonotic nature).
- **Host** - **fruit bats** of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts.
- **Symptoms** - **Fever, fatigue, muscle, pain, headache, sore throat.**
- **vomiting, diarrhoea, rash**, symptoms of impaired kidney and liver function.
- **Treatment** - The **Ervebo vaccine** has been shown to be effective in protecting people from the species Zaire ebolavirus. **Remdesivir** was also tested as an Ebola treatment

131. Global Digital Capacity Building Alliance (GBDCA)

Context (PIB):

- GDCBA, an initiative of the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), has completed six months and is entering its next phase

Global Digital Capacity Building Alliance (GBDCA)

- **Launched:** 20 Feb 2026 at **India AI Impact Summit, New Delhi**.
- **Initiative of:** **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)** under **Mission Karmayogi**.
- **Aim:** Global cooperation in **public-sector capacity building** through knowledge and experience sharing.
- **Goals:** Institutional capacity, evidence-based decisions, global governance community and knowledge repository.
- **Reach:** Partnerships across **10 countries** and multiple global institutions.

132. Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)

- **Launched:** 2022 by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- **Target:** De-notified, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs/NTs/SNTs).
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme; ₹200 crore for 5 years.
- **4 Components:**
 1. **Education:** Free coaching for competitive/professional courses.
 2. **Health:** ₹5 lakh/family/year through PM-JAY.
 3. **Livelihood:** Income support through SHGs.
 4. **Housing:** Assistance through convergence with PMAY.
- **Aim:** Socio-economic empowerment and improved access to **education, healthcare, livelihood and housing**.

133. Voyager Missions

News-

- **NASA engineers have successfully implemented a new power-saving upgrade on Voyager 2**, extending the spacecraft's science mission by at least another year.

Voyager Missions

- **Launched:** 1977 by NASA – **Voyager 1 & Voyager 2**.
- **Purpose:** Explore the **outer planets** and later interstellar space.

Major achievements:

- ♦ **Voyager 1:** Jupiter, Saturn; first human-made object to enter **interstellar space (2012)**.
- ♦ **Voyager 2:** Jupiter, Saturn, **Uranus & Neptune** – only spacecraft to fly past both Uranus and Neptune.
- **Golden Record:** Both carry the **Golden Record** containing sounds/images representing Earth and humanity.
- **Power:** Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs).

- **Significance:** Among the **most distant and long-operating spacecraft** ever built.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

134. Dhimsa Dance

News -

- A recent performance of Dhimsa dance by 13, 000 tribal women and girl students at Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport was recognised by Guinness World Records as largest Dhimsa dance.

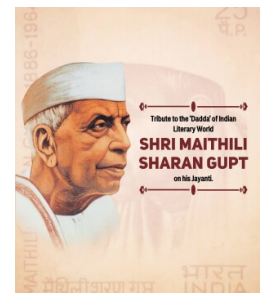
Dhimsa

- It is a traditional tribal folk dance performed by indigenous communities (including Bagata, Gadaba, Kondadora, Poraja, and Valmiki) of the Araku Valley and Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district, Andhra Pradesh;
- **Performance:** Performed mainly by 15–20 women in colourful traditional attire, moving in synchronised circles to the rhythm of indigenous instruments such as dappu, tudumu, mori, kidgi, gilka, and jodukommulu.
- **Themes & Occasions:** Depicts tribal mythology, folklore, livelihood, kinship, and social life and is performed during Chaitrapurab (Eetela Panduga), marriages, festivals, and religious ceremonies.

135. Maithili Sharan Gupt Jayanti

Context

- **Maithili Sharan Gupt Jayanti is celebrated every year on 3 August** to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary Indian poet, Maithili Sharan Gupta.



About

- **Birth Date:** August 3, 1886, in Chirgaon, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Literary Contributions:** He popularised **Khari Boli Hindi** as a literary language, displacing the hegemony of Braj Bhasha in modern



poetry.

- His work included issues of **nationalism, social justice and Indian cultural values.**
- **Literary Works:** Saket (an epic depicting the Ramayana from Urmila's perspective), Bharat Bharati, Yashodhara, Panchavati, and Jayadrath Vadh.
- **Title:** Mahatma Gandhi granted him the title of "Rashtrakavi" (National poet) for his patriotic masterpiece Bharat-Bharati (1912).
- **Honors:** He was nominated member of Rajya Sabha from 1952-1964.
- For his outstanding contribution to literature and education, he was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1954.

136. Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy

Context

- 2nd August is observed as the 166th birth anniversary of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy.

About

- He was born on **2nd August 1861** in Khulna, now in Bangladesh.
- He rose to prominence as a **pioneering scientist, educator, and industrialist.**
- He was the **founder of India's first pharmaceutical company Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals** established in 1901.
- He is widely regarded as the **father of modern chemical science in India** and played a key role in promoting scientific education in the country.
- He also established the **first modern Indian research school in chemistry.**
- He is remembered for his **discovery of mercurous nitrite in 1896.**
- It opened a new path for research into metal nitrites and established modern chemical research in India.



137. Pingali Venkayya

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya on his 150th birth anniversary.



Pingali Venkayya

- He was **born on 2 August 1876**, in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh.
- He was a **freedom fighter and the designer of the Indian national flag**, which later evolved into the present-day Tricolour.

Flag Design

- In 1921, he presented a flag design to Mahatma Gandhi at a Congress session in Vijayawada.
- His design featured **three stripes representing India's major communities and a spinning wheel (charkha) symbolizing self-reliance.**
- In 1947, the design was modified to include the Ashoka Chakra, symbolizing law and progress.
- **Recognition-** The Government of India has issued postage stamps in his honor and organized events like Tiranga Utsav to celebrate his legacy.

138. Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das

Context

- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the statue of Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das in New Delhi.

About

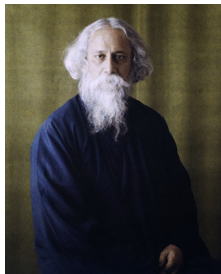
- He is popularly known as Utkalmani (Gem of Odisha).
- He was a prominent **freedom fighter, social reformer, educationist, poet, and journalist** from Odisha.
- Devoted to the **service of the poor and social upliftment.**

- He founded the **Satyabadi Bana Vidyalaya** at Sakhigopal to **promote nationalist ideals through education**.
- He was elected to the **Legislative Council in 1917** and actively **participated in India's freedom movement** as a member of the Indian National Congress.
- He founded the **Odia newspaper The Samaja in 1919**, which became an important platform for **promoting nationalism and public awareness**.
- He also made significant **contributions to Odia literature**.
- His notable works include **Abakasha Chinta, Go-Mahatmya, Nachiketa Upakhya, Karakabita, Dharmapada, and Bandira Atmakatha**, many of which were written during his time at Ravenshaw College.

139. Rabindranath Tagore

News -

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



Rabindranath Tagore

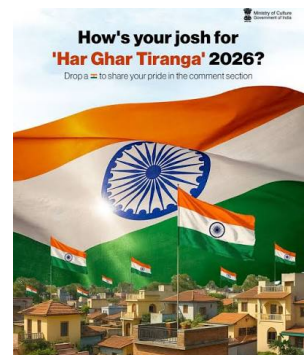
- He was the **youngest son of Debendranath Tagore** (leader of Brahmo Samaj)
- He was a Bengali **poet, song composer, and painter**.
- He was **born in Calcutta on May 7, 1861 and died on August 7, 1941**, Calcutta.
- **Awards:** Became the first non-European and first lyricist to receive the **Nobel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

- He settled permanently at the school, which became **Visva-Bharati University in 1921**.
- **Contribution in Freedom Movement:** He was a prominent leader particularly during **partition of Bengal (1905)**, and two of his compositions became the national anthems of India (**Jana Gana Mana**) and Bangladesh (**Amar Sonar Bangla**).
- **Key Literary Works:** Sonar Tari (1894), Manasi (1890), Chitra (1914), The Post Office (1914), Nastanirh (1901), Chokher Bali (1903) Noukadubi (1906), Gora (1910), Ghare Baire (1916) and Shesher Kabita (1929).

140. Har Ghar Tiranga 2026

Context (PIB):

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



Har Ghar Tiranga

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



- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Culture**

141. Shaheed Udham Singh

News -

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



Shaheed Udham Singh (1899-1940)

- He was an **Indian revolutionary who avenged the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre** by assassinating Michael O'Dwyer, former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab.
- **Early Life:** Born Sher Singh in Sunam, Punjab, **he was raised at the Central Khalsa Orphanage in Amritsar**, where he was renamed Udham Singh.
- **Traumatized by the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre**, he dedicated his life to a struggle against colonial rule.
- **Revolutionary Ties:** He joined the **Ghadar Party to mobilise overseas Indians**. Influenced by Bhagat Singh, he returned to India in 1927 to work with the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).
- **Assassination:** Singh shot and killed Michael O'Dwyer at Caxton Hall, London, in March 1940, as a punishment for his support of the 1919 Amritsar massacre.
- **Secular Identity:** In custody, he adopted the name **"Ram Mohammad Singh Azad,"** blending India's major religions with Azad (Freedom) to symbolise anti-colonial unity.
- **Martyrdom:** After a 42-day hunger strike in Brixton Prison, **he was hanged at Pentonville**

Prison on 31 July 1940. His remains were repatriated to India in 1974.

142. Vaishya Tekri Stupa in Ujjain

Context

- The **Madhya Pradesh government is considering fresh excavation at Vaishya Tekri in Ujjain**, where a **massive Buddhist stupa probably larger than Sanchi Stupa**, was partially excavated in 1938–39.



Vaishya Tekri

- Vaishya Tekri is a **large archaeological mound located near Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh**.
- It is believed to contain the remains of a **large Buddhist stupa**, popularly associated with the ancient **Kanipura/Kanavgiri Buddhist establishment**.
- The site has been **tentatively dated to the Mauryan period, around the 3rd century BCE**. The monument has traditionally been associated with **Emperor Ashoka and his period of governance at Ujjain**.
- The stupa is estimated to have an **approximate diameter of 350 ft and a height of 100 ft or more**.

Additional Information - The Great Stupa of Sanchi

- A stupa is a **Buddhist commemorative monument** usually containing **sacred relics of the Buddha or other saints**.
- **Established:** The stupa was commissioned in the **third century BCE by Emperor Ashoka of the Maurya dynasty**.
- The stupa was subsequently **enlarged and embellished** during the **Shunga and Satavahana periods**.
- **Structure:** The Great Stupa is a **hemispherical dome made of stone and brick**, with a central structure that is a large, raised platform containing the relics of the Buddha.
- It is topped by a **'harmika'** that holds the

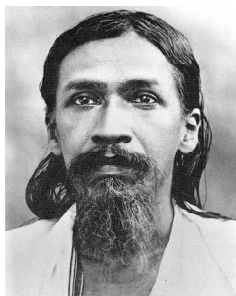
triple umbrella, or 'chhatravali', which represents the three jewels of Buddhism – the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha.

- Above the dome, there is a pillar-like structure called the chatra, which is a symbol of the Buddha's presence and enlightenment.
- The Stupa is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a pilgrimage destination for Buddhists from around the world.

143. Sri Aurobindo

Context

- PM Modi paid tribute to Sri Aurobindo (15 August 1872–5 December 1950) on his birth anniversary.



About -

- He received his **primary education in England at St. Paul's School, London, and King's College, Cambridge.**
- He returned to India in **1893** and worked for the next thirteen years in the **Princely State of Baroda** and as a **professor in Baroda College.**

Role in freedom struggle

- He helped establish a **series of youth clubs**, including the **Anushilan Samiti of Calcutta in 1902.**
- In 1906, Aurobindo was appointed the **first principal of the National College in Calcutta (Bengal National College)**, and started to impart national education to Indian youth.
- He was the **first political leader in India to openly put forward the idea of complete independence for the country in his newspaper Bande Mataram.**
- In **1907 at the Surat session of Congress**, he **led along with extremists.**
- He was **arrested in 1908** in connection with the **Alipore Bomb Case.**

Yogic Life

- Sri Aurobindo had **begun the practice of Yoga in 1905 in Baroda.**
- In **1910 he withdrew from politics** and went

to Pondicherry in order to **devote himself entirely to his inner spiritual life and work.**

- During his forty years in Pondicherry he evolved a **new method of spiritual practice, which he called the Integral Yoga.**
- In **1926, he founded the Sri Aurobindo Ashram.**

Literary works

- **The Life Divine**, which deals with the philosophical aspect of Integral Yoga.
- **Synthesis of Yoga**, which deals with the principles and methods of Integral Yoga.
- **Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol**, an epic poem.
- He also started two weeklies: the **Karmayogin in English and the Dharma in Bengali.**

144. Dahi Handi Festival

Context

- The Maharashtra government is seeking UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage recognition for the Dahi Handi festival.



- It also plans to send 'Govindas', who form human pyramids during the festival, to Spain to showcase this traditional practice.

Dahi Handi Festival

- Dahi Handi, held a day after Janmashtami to mark the birth of Lord Krishna.
- It combines religious devotion with community participation and sport.
- Participants, or Govindas, form tall human pyramids to reach and break an earthen pot filled with curd, butter, and milk.

India-Spain Connection

- The traditional practice of building human pyramids and towers is the **common link between the Dahi Handi festival and Spain**, where communities practice building human



towers called castells.

- **Spain's Catalan Castells (human towers)—is already recognized by UNESCO.**
- Spanish teams regularly visit Mumbai and Thane to participate in the Dahi Handi festival.

Connect with the basics - Intangible Cultural Heritage

UNESCO defines “intangible” as “expressions that have:

1. Passed from one generation to another.
 2. Evolved in response to their environments.
 3. Contributed to giving us a sense of identity and continuity.
- According to an official document by UNESCO, ‘intangible cultural heritage’ includes **“oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.”**
 - **To date, 16 Indian elements have been inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List (including Deepavali)**
 1. Garba of Gujarat (2023)
 2. Durga Puja in Kolkata (2021)
 3. Kumbh Mela (2017)
 4. Navroz (2016)
 5. Yoga (2016)
 6. Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab (2014)
 7. Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur (2013)
 8. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir (2012)
 9. Chhau dance (2010)
 10. Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan (2010)
 11. Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala (2010)
 12. Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas (2009)
 13. Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre (2008)

14. Tradition of Vedic chanting (2008)
15. Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana (2008)
16. **Deepavali (2025) - Recently added**

145. Communal Award

In News

- Recently, the anniversary of the Communal Award announcements was observed.

Communal Award

- **Announced by - Ramsay MacDonald in August 1932.**
- **Objective - It granted separate electorates to the Depressed Classes and 71 reserved seats.**
- It also provided **separate electorates for Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans.**
- **Aim:** political representation and protection of minorities.

Gandhi's Response

- Gandhi opposed separate electorates for the Depressed Classes, **arguing they would divide Hindu society.**
- He began a fast unto death at Poona on 20 September 1932.
- **M.C. Rajah and B.G. Horniman** also opposed separate electorates.

Ambedkar's Views

- Ambedkar strongly supported separate electorates for the Depressed Classes.
- He believed they needed independent political representation.
- Initially, he refused to compromise, prioritising their interests.

Poona Pact

- **Signed on 24 September 1932 after negotiations between Gandhi and Ambedkar.**
- **Separate electorates** were replaced by joint electorates.
- **Reserved seats increased from 71 to 148 in provincial legislatures.**
- The Pact became a modification of the

Communal Award.

- Political reservation for SCs continued after independence.

146. Rajghat Excavations

Context

- Banaras Hindu University (BHU) recently opened 22 boxes containing over 10,000 artefacts excavated from Rajghat, Varanasi, in 1957 under the supervision of archaeologist T.N. Roy.

Findings:

- Painted Black Ware, sculptures, coins, tools, seals and objects of **copper, ivory and bone**; some seals bear **Brahmi script**.
- **Location:** Rajghat lies near the **Ganga–Varuna confluence** in Varanasi.
- **Significance:** Important archaeological site of the **Middle Ganga Valley**, linked to ancient **Varanasi/Kashi Mahajanapada**.
- **Evidence:** Seals bearing the name '**Varanasi**' establish its association with ancient Varanasi.
- **First identified:** **1939**, during expansion of Kashi railway station.

Additional Information - Rajghat, Varanasi

- **Location:** On the **north-eastern edge of Varanasi**, near the **Ganga–Varuna confluence**.
- **Archaeological site:** Important site of the **Middle Ganga Valley**, associated with ancient **Varanasi/Kashi Mahajanapada**.
- **Excavation:** Major excavation in **1957** under archaeologist **T.N. Roy**.
- **Findings:** **Painted Black Ware**, coins, sculptures, tools, copper/ivory/bone objects and **Brahmi-inscribed seals**.
- **Key evidence:** Seals bearing the name '**Varanasi**' establish its link with ancient Varanasi.
- **First identified:** **1939**, during expansion of Kashi railway station.

Madan Lal Dhingra

News -

- India observed the martyrdom anniversary of Madan Lal Dhingra on August 17.

Madan Lal Dhingra

- **Born:** 1883, Amritsar; **Indian revolutionary** associated with the **India House** in London.
- **Influenced by:** **V.D. Savarkar** and the revolutionary nationalist movement.
- **Key Event:** Assassinated **Sir William Hutt Curzon Wylie** in London in **1909**.
- **Trial:** Refused to seek mercy and defended his action as an act of **patriotism**.
- **Death:** Executed on **17 August 1909** at Pentonville Prison, London.
- **Significance:** Became a symbol of **revolutionary nationalism and resistance to British rule**.

DEFENCE

147. Agni-4

Context

- India successfully test-fired the medium-range ballistic missile **Agni-4** from the **Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha**.

Agni-IV

- It is a **nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile**
- **Developed by** - **DRDO**.
- **Type:** **Two-stage solid-fueled** medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM).
- **Range:** Approximately **4,000 km**.
- **Payload:** Can carry a **1,000 kg nuclear or conventional warhead**.
- **Mobility:** Launched from a **road-mobile launcher for strategic flexibility**.
- **Technology:** Uses advanced **Ring Laser Gyroscope navigation** and a **heat shield that resists 4,000°C re-entry temperatures**.
- **Significance:** Operated by the Strategic Forces Command **to enforce India's Credible**

Minimum Deterrence and No-First-Use policy.

AGNI MISSILE SERIES BREAKDOWN

DEFENCEHQ
Presented by THE TIMES OF INDIA

AGNI-I

SHORT-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE (SRBM)

PURPOSE | Tactical nuclear deterrence against neighbouring threats

LAUNCH PLATFORM | Road and rail mobile launcher

KEY FEATURE | Quick deployment and high mobility

RANGE
700–1,200 km



AGNI-II

MEDIUM-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE (MRBM)

RANGE
2,000 km

STAGES | Two-stage solid-fuel missile

CAPABILITY | Can carry conventional or nuclear warheads

KEY FEATURE | Rail and road mobile launch system



AGNI-III

INTERMEDIATE-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE (IRBM)

WEIGHT | Heavier payload carrying capability

PURPOSE | Strengthening strategic deterrence

KEY FEATURE | Designed for deeper strike capability

RANGE
3,000–3,500 km



AGNI MISSILE SERIES BREAKDOWN

DEFENCEHQ
Presented by THE TIMES OF INDIA

AGNI-IV

Advanced IRBM

PURPOSE | Tactical nuclear deterrence against neighbouring threats

TECHNOLOGY | Ring laser gyro and composite rocket motor

CAPABILITY | Nuclear-capable precision strike missile

RANGE
3,500–4,000 km



AGNI-V

INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE (ICBM)

RANGE
5,000+ km

STAGES | Three-stage solid-fuel missile

TECHNOLOGY | Canister launch system and MIRV capability

KEY FEATURE | Faster launch readiness and multiple warhead delivery

STATUS | Successfully tested with MIRV technology in 2024 and 2025

AGNI-P (Prime)

NEXT-GENERATION BALLISTIC MISSILE

RANGE
1,000–2,000 km (estimated)

PURPOSE | Replacement for Agni-I and Agni-II

TECHNOLOGY | Lighter composite body with advanced guidance

KEY FEATURE | High accuracy and dual-canister launch capability



148. Official Secrets Act, 1923

Context

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

Official Secrets Act, 1923

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

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

149. INS Nipun

News -

- **Nipun**, the second Diving Support Vessel (DSV) built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, was delivered to the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam.



About -

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

Features -

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

150. INS Mangrol

Context

- ‘Mangrol’, the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, was delivered to the Indian Navy.



INS Mangrol

- **Type:** Kalvari-class (Scorpène) diesel-electric submarine of the Indian Navy.
- **Built by:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) under Project-75.
- **Commissioned:** 2024.
- **Named after:** Mangrol, a coastal town in Gujarat.

- **Key features:** Stealthy, designed for anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.
- **Significance:** Strengthens India's underwater warfare capability and supports Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.
- **Project-75:** Involves construction of six Scorpène-class submarines in India.

INTERNAL SECURITY

News

- The Territorial Army, in collaboration with CyberPeace, has launched Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0).

Terrier Cyber Quest

- **National-level hackathon** focused on defence, cybersecurity and information-domain challenges.
- Brings together academia, industry, research institutions, government and Armed Forces.
- Promotes AI, cybersecurity, threat mitigation and indigenous solutions.
- **Bug Hunting:** CTF-based vulnerability identification in simulated critical infrastructure.
- **AI Kavach:** AI/ML solutions for threat intelligence, anomaly detection and automated defence.
- **Creators Challenge:** Awareness campaigns on deepfakes, phishing, scams and misinformation.

PLACES IN NEWS

151. Liberia

Context

- A 12-member delegation of Liberian lawmakers visited India to study women's political participation and gender-responsive governance under the framework of South-South cooperation.



Liberia (Capital: Monrovia)

- **Location:** Capital: Monrovia | West Africa
- **Borders:** Sierra Leone (W), Guinea (N), Côte d'Ivoire (E), Atlantic Ocean (S).
- **History:** One of Africa's **two countries never formally colonised** by a European power; the other is Ethiopia.
- **Climate:** Tropical, humid with heavy seasonal rainfall.
- **Biodiversity:** Contains **35–40% of remaining Upper Guinean rainforest**; **Sapo National Park** is a major protected area.
- **International:** Founding member of **UN (1945)** and **OAU (1963)** → later AU.
- **India–Liberia:** India deployed the **first-ever all-female police unit** in Liberia in **2007** under UN peacekeeping; served till 2016.

MISCELLANEOUS

AWARDS

152. Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection

News

- P. Pechiyammal of Ramanathapuram and Govindhammal of Villupuram were given the Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Award for

Environment Protection 2026.

- **Pechiyammal** was recognised for pioneering the **collection of ghost fishing gear (abandoned fishing nets, nylon ropes and plastic waste)** from coastal areas, a move that has helped **reduce marine pollution**.
- **Govindhammal** was recognised for her contribution toward **promoting sustainable agriculture, empowering farmers with better seeds and improved farming practices**.



Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection

- It was **instituted by the Rotary Club of Madras East (RCME)** in the name of its honorary member and agricultural scientist, the late M.S. Swaminathan.
- It is **being supported by CavinKare Pvt. Ltd.**
- It is **presented to either an individual, a company, or an NGO** that has contributed, either directly or indirectly, to **enhancing environmental protection and awareness**.

Additional Information - M. S. Swaminathan

- He was **known as the Father of India's Green Revolution**.
- The term 'Green Revolution', was **coined by William S Gaud in 1968**.

Awards in India:

1. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award
2. Indira Gandhi Prize
3. Padma Shri in 1967
4. Padma Bhushan in 1972
5. Padma Vibhushan in 1989,
6. Bharat Ratna in 2024.

Green Revolution

- It refers to a period of significant increase in agricultural production resulting from the adoption of modern technology, high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds, chemical fertilizers, irrigation, and mechanization.

Revolution	Sectors
White Revolution	Operation Flood, launched in 1970, ushered in the White Revolution and transformed the dairy sector in India.
Yellow Revolution	Launched in the early 1990s to achieve self-sufficiency in Oilseed production
Blue Revolution	Launched in 2015-26, it aims to transform the Fisheries sector
Black Revolution	Self-sufficiency in the crude/petroleum sector
Golden Revolution	Increase in the production of honey and horticulture
Silver Revolution	Launched in the 1970s and 1980s to increase egg production and the growth of the poultry sector

153. National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2026

Context

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

National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025

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

Additional information- Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- It was launched in **2014**

Objectives

- Development and **conservation of indigenous breeds**
- Breed **improvement programme** for

indigenous cattle breeds to improve their genetic makeup

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

154. Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)

Why in News:

- IACS, India's oldest scientific research institute, marked its **150th anniversary in 2026**.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- Foundation:** Established in **1876** in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Founder:** **Dr. Mahendralal Sircar**.
- Significance:** India's **first** national institution dedicated to scientific research by Indians.
- Current Status:** Autonomous institution jointly funded by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and the **Government of West Bengal**.
- Historical Milestone:** **Prof. C.V. Raman** discovered the **Raman Effect** at IACS laboratories, earning the **1930 Nobel Prize**.

Prominent Scientists Associated:

Scientist	Key Scientific Contribution
Prof. C.V. Raman	Discovery of the Raman Effect
Jagadish Chandra Bose	Pioneer in radio and plant sciences
Meghnad Saha	Creator of the Saha ionisation equation



Satyendra Nath Bose

Co-creator of **Bose-Einstein statistics** & Bosons

155. India's First Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ)

Why in News:

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Government of Madhya Pradesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish India's first dedicated Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) in Gwalior.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- Location:** Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- Scale:** An integrated 350-acre plug-and-play industrial cluster. (Phase-I covers 170 acres).
- Governance:** A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with a **51% equity stake for the MP Government** and **49% for the DoT**.
- Funding (Phase-I):** The Central Government (DoT) is providing 100% funding support of **₹493 crore** for core infrastructure, while the MP government has provided 170 acres of land free of cost.
- Objective:** To reduce reliance on imported telecom hardware, boost domestic manufacturing (Make in India), and accelerate R&D for 5G/6G technologies.
- Expected Impact:** Projected long-term investments of ₹12,000 to ₹15,000 crore and the creation of roughly 14,000 direct skilled jobs.

156. Birth Anniversary of Dr. G. S. Dhillon

Context:

- The Lok Sabha Speaker paid floral tributes to Dr. G. S. Dhillon, former Speaker of the Lok Sabha, in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan to mark his birth anniversary.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- Historical Role:** Dr. Dhillon was a distinguished parliamentarian, scholar, and

freedom fighter who actively participated in the **Indian Freedom Movement** and the **Kisan Movement**.

- Lok Sabha Speaker:** He held the prestigious office of the Speaker during the **4th Lok Sabha (1969–71)** and the **5th Lok Sabha (1971–75)**.
- National Honour:** He was awarded the **Tamra Patra** by the Government of India in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the freedom struggle.

Political & Literary Profile:

Domain	Key Roles & Contributions
Legislative Career	Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly (1952–67) ; Elected to the 4th Lok Sabha (1967) .
Journalism	Chief Editor of the Urdu daily newspaper Sher-e-Bharat .
Corporate/Publishing	Managing Director of National Sikh Newspapers Ltd.
Literary Works	Co-editor of the Chatrik Abhinandan Granth .

157. Sinking of MSV Faize Noore Oliya

Context:

- The Indian-flagged commercial vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, tragically sank in the Red Sea after being struck by a projectile off the western coast of Yemen.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- Incident Location:** The mechanised sailing vessel (MSV) capsized near **Yemeni waters** (near Hodeidah).
- Crew & Rescue Operations:** The vessel carried a total of **14 seafarers**. All crew members, comprising **13 Indian nationals** and **one Yemeni national**, were successfully rescued by the **Yemeni Coast Guard**.
- Safe Haven:** The rescued crew was safely transported to the **Port of Mokha** in Yemen.

- **Geopolitical Significance:** This incident underscores the escalating regional tensions and the severe risks posed to international commercial shipping lanes in the Red Sea corridor.

158. Centenary Commemorative Stamp of Satish Gujral

Context:

- To honour the birth centenary of the legendary Indian artist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Satish Gujral, the **Department of Posts** officially released a **₹5 commemorative postage stamp** on August 3, 2026,.

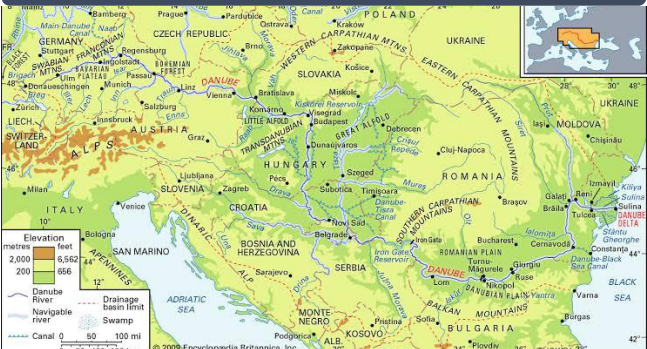
Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Release Ceremony:** The stamp was unveiled by the Union Minister for Communications, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, at **Bikaner House, New Delhi**.
- **Stamp Design:** The stamp features a vibrant **self-portrait** of Gujral painted in **2010**, depicting him in a contemplative pose holding a paintbrush,.
- **Multifaceted Genius:** Satish Gujral was a highly celebrated painter, sculptor, muralist, architect, and writer.
- **Architectural Marvel:** He is globally renowned for designing the **Belgian Embassy** in New Delhi, a landmark achievement in modern Indian architecture.

Key Contributions & Literary Works:

Domain	Notable Works / Recognition
Painting & Visual Arts	The acclaimed Partition Series
Architecture	Designed the Belgian Embassy , New Delhi
Literature	A Brush with Life (Auto-biography)
Civilian Honour	Awarded the Padma Vibhushan

159. Izmil Port: Ukraine’s Danube Grain Corridor Under Attack



Context:

- A recent Russian military strike targeted vital port infrastructure in Ukraine’s Izmil district, located in the southern Odessa region. Izmil is strategically positioned near the Romanian border and hosts Ukraine’s largest port on the Danube River.
- Course of the Danube River. **Source: Britannica**

Geographical & Ecological Significance of the Danube River:

- **Global Standing:** The Danube is a major international inland waterway connecting Central and Eastern Europe to the **Black Sea**. It is the **second-longest river in Europe** (after the Volga in Russia), stretching approximately 2,850 kilometers.
- **Origin:** The river originates in the **Black Forest** mountains of southwestern Germany.
- **Transnational Course:** It holds the record for passing through or bordering the most countries in the world—flowing through **ten nations**: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine.
- **Ecological Importance:** The Danube basin is recognized for its unique and rich biodiversity. It serves as a critical habitat for numerous endangered species and is a vital route and nesting ground for migratory birds.



160. National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2026

Context

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

National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025

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

Additional information- Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- It was launched in **2014**

Objectives

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

161. Booker Prize 2026

Context:

- The longlist for the **Booker Prize 2026**, comprising **13 selected books**, was officially announced.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Booker Prize Criteria:** Awarded annually to an author for a novel originally written in **English** and published in the **UK and/or Ireland** between **October 1 and September 30**.
- **Prize Money:** The winner receives **£50,000**, while each of the **six shortlisted authors** receives **£2,500**.
- **2025 Winner:** **David Szalay** won the 2025 Booker Prize for his novel *Flesh*.
- **Indian Booker Prize Winners:**
 - ♦ **Arundhati Roy:** *The God of Small Things* (1997)
 - ♦ **Kiran Desai:** *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006)
 - ♦ **Aravind Adiga:** *The White Tiger* (2008) (Note: V.S. Naipaul won in **1971** for 'In a Free State').

162. COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026

Context:

- A prominent Indian astrophysicist was globally recognized for her pioneering contributions to space research and stellar astrophysics during the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Florence, Italy.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026.
- **Awardee:** **Prof. Annapurni Subramaniam** (Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru).
- **Issuing Authority:** Jointly conferred by the **Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)** and the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.

- **Venue:** Florence, Italy.
- **Key Milestone:** **First Indian woman** and only the **third woman globally** to receive this honor (4th Indian overall).
- **Key Achievements:** Recognized for research in stellar astrophysics (blue straggler stars, star clusters), serving as calibration scientist for **AstroSat's UVIT**, and leadership in the **Hanle Dark Sky Reserve** and **Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT)** projects.

About the Award:

- Instituted in **1990** in memory of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of the Indian Space Programme.
- Conferred **biennially** to recognize exceptional space research contributions by scientists from developing nations.
- Previous Indian laureates: **U.R. Rao** (1996), **Gurbax Singh Lakhina** (2014), and **Anil Bhardwaj** (2024).

163. Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak Conferred on 12 Rat Miners

Context:

- Twelve rat-hole miners were nationally recognized for their exceptional courage and selfless service during a critical tunnel rescue operation in Uttarakhand.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak (accompanied by a miniature medal, certificate, and a ₹2 lakh monetary award).
- **Awardees:** 12 rat-hole miners (Vaqeel Hasan, Munna, Ankur Kumar, Monu Kumar, Devendra, Mohd Rashid, Firoz Qureshi, Jatin Kashyap, Shorabh Kashyap, Mohd Irshad, Nasruddin, and Naseem).
- **Issuing Authority:** Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- **Presenter:** Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.
- **Key Achievement:** Showcased exceptional bravery by voluntarily risking their lives to manually clear the final 12 meters of debris within a confined space, successfully

rescuing 41 laborers trapped for 17 days in the collapsed, under-construction Silkyara tunnel in November 2023.

About the Award:

- Instituted in 1961 as an offshoot of the Ashoka Chakra series of Gallantry awards.
- Conferred to recognize meritorious acts of human nature in saving the life of a person in incidents like drowning, accidents, or natural calamities.
- The **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak** is the highest of the three categories, awarded for conspicuous courage under circumstances of very great danger to the life of the rescuer.

164. Deepak Dhar Wins 2026 Dirac Medal

Context:

- Renowned Indian theoretical physicist Prof. Deepak Dhar has been awarded the prestigious Dirac Medal for his seminal contributions to statistical physics.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** 2026 Dirac Medal (ICTP Dirac Medal)
- **Awardee:** Prof. Deepak Dhar (INSA Distinguished Professor at ICTS-TIFR Bengaluru)
- **Issuing Authority:** International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP, Trieste, Italy)
- **Key Achievement:** Honoured for his foundational contributions to statistical mechanics, particularly his pioneering work on the abelian sandpile model, self-organized criticality, and statistical physics on fractal lattices.

About the Award:

- Established in **1985** in honour of Nobel laureate Paul Dirac.
- Awarded annually by ICTP to scientists who have made significant, original contributions to theoretical physics.



165. Team India Wins 4 Medals at International Linguistics Olympiad 2026

Context:

- Indian students secured four medals at the prestigious international linguistics competition held in Romania.

Key Highlights:

- Award:** 1 Gold, 3 Bronze Medals (and 1 Honourable Mention) at IOL 2026.
- Awardees:** Shrilakshmi Venkatraman (Gold); Aarav Anil Rao, Nishanth Shankar Lakshmanan, and Advay Misra (Bronze).
- Venue:** Bucharest, Romania.
- Key Achievement:** Mentored by IIIT Hyderabad, the team successfully decoded unfamiliar languages using computational logic against competitors from over 40 countries.

About the Competition:

- The IOL is a global academic olympiad for secondary school students that tests logical reasoning and pattern recognition rather than prior linguistic knowledge.
- India has participated since 2009, currently holding a cumulative tally of 37 individual medals.

166. Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-25

Context:

- President Droupadi Murmu will confer the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2024 and 2025 to **115 eminent artists** in New Delhi, recognising their distinguished contributions to India's performing arts.

Key Highlights:

- Award:** Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar).
- Awardees:** **115 artists** from across India, comprising **7 Akademi Fellows** and **108 Akademi Awardees**.

- Issuing Authority:** Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- Presenter:** President Droupadi Murmu at New Delhi.
- Key Achievement:** Recognises outstanding and sustained individual contributions across classical music, dance, theatre, traditional and folk arts, and puppetry.

About the Award:

- Established as India's national academy for music, dance, and drama, conferring these apex national honours since **1952**.
- Akademi Ratna (Fellowship):** The institution's highest and most exclusive honour. It carries purse money of **₹3,00,000**, a Tamrapatra, and an Angavastram.
- Akademi Puraskar (Awards):** Carries purse money of **₹1,00,000**, a Tamrapatra, and an Angavastram.

List of Akademi Ratna (Fellowship) Recipients 2024-25:

S.No.	Name of the Akademi Fellow	Field of Art / Core Contribution
1	Ramlal Bar-eth	Kathak (Classical Dance)
2	A.V. Anand	Carnatic Music (Instrumental - Mridangam)
3	Rita Ganguly	Hindustani Music & Dance (Vocalist & Dancer)
4	Puru Dad-heech	Kathak (Classical Dance)
5	Chittaranjan Jyotishi	Hindustani Music (Classical Vocal)
6	Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma	Kuchipudi (Classical Dance)
7	Sudharani Raghupathy	Bharatanatyam (Classical Dance)

167. Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026

Context:

- National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval was conferred the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a ceremony held in Pune, Maharashtra.

Salient Features:

- Conferred To:** NSA **Ajit Doval**, India’s longest-serving National Security Advisor and founding chairman of the Multi Agency Centre (MAC).
- Presented By:** Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**.
- Awarding Body:** **Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust**.
- Reason for Award:** For his exceptional leadership in strengthening India’s internal and external national security apparatus, and his long-standing dedication to national service.
- Historical Genesis:** The award is presented annually on **August 1**, commemorating the death anniversary of the great nationalist and freedom fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The 2026 ceremony marked his **106th death anniversary**.

Award Overview & Key Facts:

Parameter	Key Detail / Exam Fact
Year of Institution	1983
Conferment Date	August 1 (Death Anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak)
First Recipient (1983)	Socialist leader S. M. Joshi
Notable Recent Recipients	Nitin Gadkari (2025), Sudha Murty (2024), Narendra Modi (2023)

168. Independence Day 2026 Gallantry Awards

Context:

- On the eve of India’s 80th Independence Day, President Droupadi Murmu, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, approved

78 gallantry awards and **89 Mention-in-Despatches** for personnel of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- Total Gallantry Awards: 78** (including 13 posthumous honours).
- Total Mention-in-Despatches: 89** (recognising distinguished service across operations including Rakshak, Snow Leopard, and Meghdoot).
- Highest Peacetime Award Conferred: Kirti Chakra** (India’s 2nd-highest peacetime gallantry award), awarded to **9 personnel** (7 posthumously).
- Notable Kirti Chakra Awardees:** Personnel from 2 Para (Special Forces) such as Havildar Gajendra Singh (posthumous), along with members of the Jammu and Kashmir Police/ CAPF.
- Mention-in-Despatches Breakdown:** Comprises **75** from the Army, **4** from the Navy, **10** from the Air Force, and an Army dog named ‘Tyson’ from the Remount Veterinary Corps.

Breakdown of the 78 Gallantry Awards:

Award Category	Number Conferred	Posthumous
Kirti Chakra	9	7
Shaurya Chakra	19	1
Bar to Shaurya Chakra	1	—
Sena Medal (Gallantry)	36	5
Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry)	5	—
Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry)	3	—
Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)	5	—

169. National Sports Awards 2025

Context:

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports officially announced the National Sports Awards 2025 to honour standout achievers across the Indian sporting ecosystem.

**Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:**

- **Khel Ratna Status:** No sportsperson was selected for India's highest sporting honour for 2025 (the first time since **2014**).
- **Arjuna Awardees:** Conferred to **17 athletes** for outstanding performance over a four-year period.
- **Prize Money Structure:** Khel Ratna (₹25 lakh), Arjuna Award & Dronacharya Lifetime (₹15 lakh), and Dronacharya Regular (₹10 lakh).

Key Awardees (2025):

Award Category	Key Recipient(s)	Associated Field / Sport
Arjuna Award (Lifetime)	I Arumainayagam	Football
Arjuna Award (Regular)	Tejaswin Shankar, Priyanka Goswami	Athletics
	Treesa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand	Badminton
	Vidit Gujrathi, Divya Deshmukh	Chess
	Lalremisiami Hmarzote, Rajkumar Pal	Hockey
	Rudransh Khandelwal, Ekta Bhyan	Para-Sports
Dronacharya Award (Regular)	Parveer Singh (Athletics), Chhote Lal Yadav (Boxing), Neha N. Chavan (Shooting)	Coaching (Regular Category)
Dronacharya Award (Lifetime)	Dharmendra Singh Yadav (Boxing), Virender Kumar (Wrestling)	Coaching (Lifetime Category)
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar	Army Paralympic Node, Pune	Institutional Sports Promotion

170. 47th Sarala Puraskar 2026**Context:**

- An eminent Odia poet and former CSIR scientist was selected for Odisha's premier literary honour in recognition of his distinguished contribution to modern Odia poetry.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** 47th Sarala Puraskar (2026).
- **Awardee:** Dr. Ashutosh Parida (Odia poet, essayist, and former scientist at CSIR-IMMT).
- **Issuing Authority:** Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT), the charitable wing of IMFA.
- **Presenter:** Annual investiture ceremony organised by IMPACT.
- **Key Achievement:** Conferred for his acclaimed poetry collection '**Bishwas De Pruthwi**' (published in 2024); carries a cash prize of ₹7 lakh, a copper plaque, and a citation.

About the Award:

- Instituted in **1979** by prominent industrialist Dr. Bansidhar Panda and Mrs. Ila Panda under the aegis of IMPACT.
- Regarded as the foremost and most prestigious non-governmental literary honour in **Odia literature**, named after the legendary 15th-century poet Sarala Das.

SPORTS**171. India at the 23rd Commonwealth Games (2026)****Context:**

- India concluded its campaign at the 23rd Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow, Scotland, securing the **fourth position** globally with a total of **39 medals**.

Salient Features

- **Host City & Edition:** Glasgow, Scotland (23rd Edition).
- **Overall Medal Tally:** India finished 4th with **39 Medals (13 Gold, 17 Silver, 9 Bronze)**. **Australia** topped the global standings with

171 medals.

- **Boxing Dominance:** Boxing emerged as India’s primary contributor, yielding a record **10 medals (7 Gold, 3 Silver)**—the highest-ever gold tally for any nation in boxing at a single CWG edition.
- **Impact of Reduced Roster:** The 2026 Games featured a pared-back program that excluded traditional Indian strongholds, notably wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey, and shooting.
- **Historic Milestones:** Despite the reduced roster, India recorded first-ever CWG gold medals in Judo and secured maiden medals in the Decathlon and Para Shot Put.

Performance & Key Achievers

Sport / Discipline	Athlete Name	Medal	Key Exam Fact / Milestone
Weightlifting	Mirabai Chanu	Gold	Secured her 3rd consecutive CWG Gold medal
Judo	Asmita Dey	Gold	First Indian to win CWG Judo Gold
Judo	Harsh Singh	Gold	First Indian man to win CWG Judo Gold
Para-Athletics (Shot Put)	Sharmila Dhankar	Gold	Secured a historic gold in Para-Athletics
Weightlifting	Rishikanta Singh	Silver	India’s first Silver medallist at the 2026 Games
Athletics (Track)	Gulveer Singh	Silver	Dual medallist (Also won Bronze in 5,000m)
Athletics (High Jump)	Sarvesh Kushare	Silver	Secured podium finish in Men’s High Jump
Weightlifting	Lovepreet Singh	Silver	Narrowly missed gold by a 1kg deficit

Weightlifting	Harjinder Kaur	Silver	Continued India’s weightlifting medal rush
Weightlifting	Raja Muthupandi	Silver	Strengthened the overall weightlifting tally
Weightlifting	Ajaya Babu	Silver	Debuted on the CWG podium
Weightlifting	Gyaneshwari Yadav	Silver	Promising debut for the young weightlifter
Athletics (Decathlon)	Tejaswin Shankar	Bronze	First-ever CWG Decathlon medal for India
Para-Athletics (Shot Put)	Shilpa Shyla	Bronze	Secured a double podium for India alongside Sharmila

172. Anahat Singh: First Indian World Junior Squash Champion

Context:

- 18-year-old Anahat Singh became the **first Indian** to win the World Junior Squash Championship (Girls’ Singles) at the 2026 edition in Canada.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Historic Win:** Defeated Egypt’s Ruqayya Salem in the final, ending **Egypt’s 15-year dominance** in the girls’ singles category.
- **Venue:** Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.
- **Key Fact:** Previously gained prominence in 2022 as the **youngest Indian athlete** (age 14) at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

173. Ajinkya Rahane Retires from International Cricket

Context:

- Former Indian vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane has officially retired from all formats of international cricket.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Unbeaten Captaincy:** Maintained an



undefeated record as India's Test captain (6 matches), most notably leading India to a historic **2-1 Border-Gavaskar Trophy win** in Australia (2020–21).

- **World Record:** Holds the world record for the most catches by a fielder (non-wicketkeeper) in a single Test match (**8 catches** vs Sri Lanka, Galle, 2015).
- **National Award:** Conferred with the **Arjuna Award in 2016**.
- **Domestic Record:** Captained Mumbai to its record-extending **42nd Ranji Trophy title** in 2024.

Career Metrics at a Glance:

Parameter	Metric / Exam Fact
Test Career	85 Matches 5,077 Runs (12 Centuries)
ODI & T20I Career	90 ODIs (2,962 runs) 20 T20Is (375 runs)
Test Captaincy	6 Matches (Undefeated)
Fielding Record	8 Catches in a single Test (World Record)
National Honour	Arjuna Award (2016)

174. Praggnanandhaa Wins Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026

Context:

- his maiden Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz title in St. Louis, Missouri (USA), a major leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT).

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Dominant Performance:** Showcased exceptional consistency by topping both the **rapid and blitz** segments of the tournament separately.
- **Final Score & Margin:** Finished with **23.5 points** (securing a \$50,000 prize money award), holding a decisive 1.5-point lead over runner-up **Javokhir Sindarov** of Uzbekistan.
- **Tour Standings:** Following this victory,

Praggnanandhaa surged to the **2nd position** in the overall 2026 Grand Chess Tour leaderboard.

175. Suraj Kumar Chand Wins FISU World University Squash Title

Context:

- Suraj Kumar Chand became the **first Indian** to win the men's individual gold medal at the FISU World University Squash Championship.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Historic Win:** Defeated Hungary's **Benedek Takács** in the final held in **Mumbai, India**.
- **Track Record:** Previously won a bronze medal at the 2024 edition in Johannesburg.
- **Women's Title:** **Marta Domínguez** (Spain) won the women's singles event, becoming the first woman to defend her title in the tournament's history.

176. India to Host 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games

Context:

- India has been officially awarded the hosting rights for the **2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games (CWG)**, which will be held in **Ahmedabad**. This historic milestone makes India the first Asian nation to host the prestigious multi-sport event twice.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Historical Genesis:** The Games were first held in **1930** in Hamilton, Canada, originally known as the "British Empire Games". The event is held every **four years**.
- **The 2030 Centenary Edition:** The Ahmedabad games will mark exactly 100 years since the inaugural edition.
- **India's CWG Journey:** India made its debut at the **2nd edition in 1934** (London). India previously hosted the event in **2010** in New Delhi.
- **The Commonwealth Origins:** The political association traces its roots to the **1926 Balfour Declaration** and was formally established by the **1949 London Declaration**.

CWG & Commonwealth Structural Overview:

Parameter	Key Details & Exam Facts
Governing Body	Commonwealth Sport (formerly Commonwealth Games Federation)
Headquarters	London, United Kingdom
CWG Participation	74 Commonwealth Games Associations (CGAs), including independent members and territories
Commonwealth of Nations	A voluntary political association of 56 independent and equal countries (including India) spanning Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, and the Pacific

177. Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026

Why in News:

- Indian chess players Vignesh Advait Vemula and Saranya Devi Narahari won gold medals in their respective categories at the Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026 in Mumbai.

Key Highlights:

- Open Section Gold:-** Vignesh Vemula secured the Open title on superior tie-break scores after finishing level on points, marking an impressive victory after starting as the 23rd seed.
- Girls Section Gold:-** Saranya Devi Narahari, seeded 9th, scored an unbeaten 6.5/7 to clinch the Girls title with a half-point lead.
- Indian Dominance:-** India made a strong start on the opening day by sweeping all three podium spots in the Open category and securing the top and third spots in the Girls category.

Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026: Key Indian Performers

Section	Medal / Placement	Player
Open Blitz	Gold	Vignesh Vemula

	Silver	Viresh Sharnarathi
	Bronze	Nandish V S
Girls Blitz	Gold	Saranya Devi Narahari
	Bronze	Bhat Sannidhi Ramakrishna

178. Mitchell Starc Becomes Leading Wicket-Taker in WTC History

Why in News:

- Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc created a major record in international cricket by becoming the highest wicket-taker in the history of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC).

Key Highlights:

- Record Milestone:-** Achieved a total of **234 wickets** in WTC matches, surpassing Australian teammates Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon (both tied at 228 wickets).
- Venue & Match:-** Reached the landmark during Australia's second Test against Bangladesh at Mackay, Queensland.
- Match Performance:-** Starc claimed a match-winning 10-wicket haul (including exceptional first-innings figures of 6/12) to help Australia win by an innings and 51 runs.
- Historic Test Wicket Tally:-** His performance also elevated him to the top 10 all-time wicket-takers in Test cricket history, surpassing South African legend Dale Steyn to reach 445 career Test wickets.

WTC History: Leading Wicket-Takers

Rank	Bowler (Country)	Total WTC Wickets
1.	Mitchell Starc (Australia)	234
2.	Pat Cummins (Australia)	228
2.	Nathan Lyon (Australia)	228



IMPORTANT DAYS

179. Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day

- **Observed Date:** July 31
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India (State Governments of Punjab and Haryana)
- **Objective:** To commemorate the revolutionary leader for his supreme sacrifice in the freedom struggle, avenging the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre by assassinating Michael O'Dwyer in London, and symbolizing secular unity through the identity "Ram Mohammad Singh Azad".

180. World Lung Cancer Day

- **Observed Date:** August 1
- **Observing Organisation:** Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) and global health organizations
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about the burden of lung cancer, promote early detection through Low-Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) screening, encourage prevention, and advocate for equitable access to timely diagnosis and life-saving treatments worldwide.
- **Theme:** "Together through lung cancer"

181. World Wide Web Day

- **Observed Date:** August 1
- **Observing Organisation:** Global Tech Community / World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- **Objective:** To honour the invention of the World Wide Web by Sir Tim Berners-Lee (1989) and highlight the web's transformative role in revolutionizing global communication, democratization of information, and digital innovation.
- **Theme:** "Empowering the Future: Building an Inclusive, Safe, and Open Web"

182. International Clouded Leopard Day

- **Observed Date:** August 4
- **Observing Organisation:** Global conservation organisations / Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (India)
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about the elusive clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), highlight the severe threats of deforestation and the illegal wildlife trade, and mobilize coordinated conservation efforts to protect the remaining population of fewer than 10,000 mature individuals.

183. Hiroshima Day

- **Observed Date:** August 6
- **Observing Organisation:** Global peace organisations and the City of Hiroshima
- **Objective:** To commemorate the 81st anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing (when the US dropped the "Little Boy" bomb), honour the victims and the survivors known as *Hibakusha*, and reinforce the global commitment to peace, non-violence, and complete nuclear disarmament.
- **Theme:** "Remembrance, Responsibility, and Resilience"

184. National Handloom Day (12th Edition)

- **Observed Date:** August 7
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- **Objective:** To commemorate the launch of the 1905 Swadeshi Movement, celebrate India's diverse weaving traditions, and recognise the socio-economic and cultural contributions of 35.22 lakh handloom workers (over 72% of whom are women), aiming to converge cultural heritage with sustainable economic growth for the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Historical Genesis:** The date marks the formal proclamation of the **Swadeshi Movement** at the Calcutta Town Hall on **August 7, 1905**.
- **Inception:** The observance was officially

declared by the Union Government in **2015**.

- **Demographic Significance:** The sector is a vital source of rural employment, supporting **35.22 lakh workers**, of which **25.46 lakh (over 72%)** are women.

Key Government Schemes:

Scheme / Initiative	Key Exam Fact
Weaver MUDRA Scheme	Credit assistance provided at a concessional 6% interest rate .
National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)	Integrated cluster development with financial assistance up to ₹2 crore .
Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS)	Offers a 15% price subsidy on specified yarns and reimburses freight charges.
India Handloom Brand	Ensures quality certification and product authenticity for premium market positioning.

185. Quit India Movement Day (84th Anniversary)

- **Observed Date:** August 8
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India / National Observance
- **Objective:** To commemorate the 1942 launch of the historic Bharat Chhodo Andolan, honour the mass civil disobedience and sacrifices of India's freedom fighters, and reaffirm the nation's commitment to democratic values, patriotism, and unity.

186. World Oceans Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** June 8
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations (UN)
- **Objective:** To honour, protect, and conserve the ocean, raise global awareness about the impact of human actions such as overfishing and pollution, and mobilize a worldwide movement for the sustainable management of marine resources.
- **Theme:** "REIMAGINE: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean"

187. Nagasaki Day (81st Anniversary)

- **Observed Date:** August 9
- **Observing Organisation:** Global Peace Organisations and the City of Nagasaki
- **Objective:** To commemorate the 81st anniversary of the devastating 1945 atomic bombing, honour the victims and survivors (*Hibakusha*), and advocate for global nuclear disarmament, arms control, and lasting peace.

188. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2026

- **Observed Date:** August 9
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations (UN)
- **Objective:** To protect Indigenous rights, celebrate their resilience, and recognise their vital contributions to environmental conservation and cultural diversity while highlighting the crucial role of traditional Indigenous knowledge in safeguarding community health.
- **Theme:** "Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being"

189. World Lion Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** August 10
- **Observing Organisation:** Global Wildlife Conservation Organisations (Founded by Big Cat Rescue)
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about rapidly declining wild lion populations, highlight their critical role as apex predators in maintaining ecological balance, and mobilize international efforts to mitigate threats such as habitat fragmentation, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict.

190. World Elephant Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** August 12
- **Observing Organisation:** World Elephant Society & Global Wildlife Conservation Organisations
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about the urgent need for elephant conservation,



protection of critical habitats, and the mitigation of existential threats such as poaching, illegal ivory trade, and human-elephant conflict.

- **Theme:** “Bringing the World Together to Help Elephants”

191. International Youth Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** August 12
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations (UN)
- **Objective:** To recognise the vital role of young people in driving social, economic, and sustainable development, and to encourage global cooperation in addressing challenges like unemployment, digital inequality, and climate change.
- **Theme:** “Different Contexts, Common Aspirations”

192. Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

- **Observed Date:** August 14
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- **Objective:** To honour the victims of the 1947 partition of India, remember the unprecedented human suffering, loss of lives, and mass displacement endured during one of the largest migrations in history, and reinforce the values of social harmony, communal unity, and national integration.

193. Subhas Chandra Bose Death Anniversary

- **Observed Date:** August 18
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India / National Observance
- **Objective:** To commemorate the 81st death anniversary of the great revolutionary leader Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, honour his supreme sacrifices for India’s independence, and remember his pivotal role in forming the Forward Bloc and leading the Indian National Army (INA) against British colonial rule.

194. Sadbhavana Diwas

- **Observed Date:** August 20
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India / National Observance
- **Objective:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and to promote national integration, communal harmony, peace, and goodwill among citizens of all religions, languages, and regions.

195. Indian Akshay Urja Day

- **Observed Date:** August 20
- **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India
- **Objective:** To raise public awareness about the development and adoption of renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass), reduce dependence on traditional fossil fuels, and promote sustainable energy practices across India.

196. National Space Day

- **Observed Date:** August 23
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India / Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- **Objective:** To commemorate the historic soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 ‘Vikram’ lander near the Moon’s south pole on August 23, 2023, honour India’s achievements in space exploration, and inspire the next generation to pursue science, technology, and innovation.
- **Theme:** “Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring Global Space Leadership”

REPORTS & RANKINGS

197. Market Distortions Performance Index Report

Released By:

- Competere Foundation (in collaboration with

CTIL, IIFT).

Key Observations:

- **Major Rank Jump:** India climbed **25 positions** to rank **57th** globally in structural and pro-competitive reforms (up from 82nd in 2010).
- **Assessment Pillars:** Evaluates nations across three core pillars: **protection of property rights, domestic competition, and international competition.**
- **Primary Drivers:** The improvement is attributed to key structural reforms, primarily the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** and the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).**

Performance Metric:

Parameter	Metric / Fact
India’s Current Global Rank	57th
India’s Previous Rank (2010)	82nd
Net Rank Improvement	+25 places
Report Title	India’s Next Growth Frontier

198. Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026

Released By:

- Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy (YCELP) and Columbia University (CIESIN).

Salient Features & Key Observations:

- **Global Leaders:** **Estonia** secured the **1st rank** globally with a score of **74.79**, with European nations occupying the top five positions.
- **India’s Standing:** India ranked **176th** out of 177 countries with a score of **22.46**, placing it second from the absolute bottom, ahead only of Laos.
- **Sectoral Performance (India):** India performed poorly in critical areas like **Environmental Health, Air Quality, and Biodiversity**, but showed comparative progress in **Climate Change Mitigation** and **Waste Management.**
- **Assessment Framework:** The biennial index evaluates nations using **47 indicators**

across **12 environmental issue categories** to track progress toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement.

Performance Metric:

Assessment Parameter	Metric / Rank
Top Performing Country	Estonia (1st)
India’s Global Rank	176th (out of 177)
India’s Overall Score	22.46
India’s Regional Rank (South Asia)	7th (out of 8)
Lowest Ranked Country	Laos (177th)

199. Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026

Why in News:

- The 2026 Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List was officially unveiled, recognising 117 influential female achievers across 12 diverse sectors.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Top Ranker:** **Meena Bindra** (83 years old), the founder of the popular ethnic wear brand **BIBA**, secured the overall first position on the list.
- **Youngest in Top 10:** Paralympic gold medallist **Avani Lekhara** (24 years old) secured the **6th position**, making her the youngest person in the overall top 10 rankings.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** The list utilizes quantitative metrics such as company valuations, annual revenues, sporting achievements, and digital presence.
- **Geographic Hubs:** A significant majority of the honourees are based in the corporate and political hubs of **Mumbai and New Delhi.**
- **Category Leaders:**
 - ♦ **Oldest Leader List:** Topped by **Rajni Bector** (86 years old) of Bectors Food Specialities.
 - ♦ **Youngest Leader List:** Topped by teen-age Paralympian **Sheetal Devi.**

**Key Rankings Overview:**

Rank	Name	Organization / Field	Key Exam Fact
1st	Meena Binda	BIBA	Overall top-ranked woman leader
2nd	Tushara Shankar	Lupin	Ranked second overall
3rd	Rajni Bector	Bectors Food Specialities	Topped the Oldest Leaders category
4th	Vaishali Nigam Sinha	ReNew Power	Ranked fourth overall
6th	Avani Lekhara	Paralympic Medallist	Youngest achiever in the Top 10

3rd	Jindal Family	JSW Steel	8.01
4th	Bajaj Family	Bajaj Group	7.70
5th	Mahindra Family	Mahindra & Mahindra	5.14
6th	Anil Agarwal Family	Vedanta	4.45
7th	Murugappa Family	Cholamandalam	3.06
8th	Nadar Family	HCL Technologies	2.91
9th	Premji Family	Wipro	2.72
10th	Dani, Choksi & Vakil Families	Asian Paints	2.48

APPOINTMENTS**200. Barclays-Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List 2026****Released By:**

- Barclays Private Clients and Hurun India

Key Observations:

- Aggregate Valuation:** India's top 300 family businesses are valued at **₹138 lakh crore (\$1.46 trillion)**, equivalent to the world's **18th-largest economy**.
- Wealth Concentration:** The top three families (Ambani, Birla, Jindal) hold **₹42 lakh crore**, accounting for **~9%** of India's total listed market capitalisation.
- First-Generation Leader:** The **Adani Family** topped first-generation enterprises with a valuation of **₹19.57 lakh crore**.

Performance Metric (Top 10 Legacy Family Businesses):

Rank	Business Family	Core Group	Valuation (₹ Lakh Crore)
1st	Ambani Family	Reliance Industries	25.82
2nd	Birla Family	Aditya Birla Group	8.13

201. SC Collegium Recommends CJs for Calcutta & Bombay HCs

- Justice R.V. Ghuge and Justice M.C. Tripathi have been recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for elevation as Chief Justices of the Calcutta High Court and Bombay High Court, respectively. Following constitutional procedure under **Article 217**, Justice Ghuge (previously Acting CJ of Bombay HC) will lead the Calcutta High Court, while Justice Tripathi (from Allahabad HC) is set to become the **50th Chief Justice** of the Bombay High Court.

202. Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala Appointed MoES Secretary

- Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala has officially assumed charge as the new Secretary of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**. With his extensive expertise in oceanography and disaster early warning systems, he will lead the ministry's administrative and scientific mandate, overseeing critical advancements in India's meteorological, climatological, ocean, and seismological research initiatives.

MILITARY EXERCISES

203. Exercise ROTOR CLAP III

Context:

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully concluded its week-long specialised counter-drone military drill, Exercise ROTOR CLAP III, at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan.

Salient Features & Key Exam Facts:

- **Nature & Edition:** It is the **3rd edition** of an indigenous, specialised rotary-wing (helicopter) operational exercise conducted exclusively by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- **Core Theme:** Centred entirely around **“Counter-UAS”** (Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems), focusing on detecting, tracking, and neutralising hostile drones and low-flying aerial threats in modern warfare.
- **Geographic Significance:** Conducted in the harsh desert terrain of the **Western Desert Sector (Pokhran)** to validate live-fire missile and rocket salvos, and refine Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) against cross-border drone surveillance.
- **Comprehensive Operations:** Beyond live firing, it integrated comprehensive tactical drills including precision strikes, aerial reconnaissance, battlefield support, troop insertion, and casualty evacuation under contested threat environments.

Participating Helicopter Fleet Overview:

Platform Category	Helicopter Models	Primary Operational Role
Attack & Assault	AH-64 Apache, Mi-25/35	Anti-armour, close air support, and offensive ground attack missions
Light Combat	HAL Pra-chand (LCH)	Indigenous combat operations and precision targeting

Heavy & Medium Lift	CH-47F(I) Chinook, Mi-17 V5	Heavy-lift transport, logistics, and troop deployment
Utility & Multi-Role	HAL Dhruv (ALH)	Aerial reconnaissance, surveillance, search-and-rescue, and evacuation

204. Exercise MAITREE-XV

Context:

- The Indian Army contingent departed for Thailand to participate in the joint military exercise MAITREE-XV, aimed at enhancing bilateral defence cooperation and tactical interoperability between the two nations.

Salient Features & Tactical Focus:

- **Operational Mandate:** Focuses on combined Counter-Insurgency and Counter-Terrorist (CI/CT) operations in **jungle and semi-urban environments** under **Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter**.
- **Tactical Drills:** Encompasses joint planning, tactical combat casualty care, weapon handling, and the sharing of standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed during modern counter-terror scenarios.
- **Strategic Significance:** Serves as a vital component of India’s **‘Act East’ Policy**, fostering regional security architecture and sustained military diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

Exercise Overview:

Parameter	Key Detail / Exam Fact
Participating Forces	Indian Army & Royal Thai Army
Edition & Year	15th Edition (2026)
Host Venue	Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand
Inception Year	2006
Primary Domain	Joint Counter-Terrorism Operations



OBITUARIES

205. Veteran Bengali Filmmaker Raja Sen Passes Away

- Three-time National Award-winning director Raja Sen passed away at the age of 70 in Kolkata on August 21, 2026, leaving behind a rich legacy in regional cinema and television.

Notable Works & Achievements:

Category	Details / Titles
Acclaimed Feature Films	<i>Damu</i> (1996), <i>Atmiyo Swajan</i> (1999), <i>Desh</i> (2002), <i>Debipaksha</i> (2004)
Iconic TV Serials	<i>Subarnalata</i> , <i>Adarsha Hindu Hotel</i> , <i>Arogyo Niketan</i>
Major Accolades	3 National Film Awards (including Best Film on Family Welfare for <i>Atmiyo Swajan</i>)

206. Veteran Actress Sowcar Janaki Passes Away

- Legendary South Indian actress and Padma Shri awardee Sankaramanchi Janaki, popularly known as 'Sowcar' Janaki, passed away due to age-related health issues at the age of 94 in Chennai on August 21, 2026. A pioneering figure in Indian cinema, she enjoyed an illustrious acting career spanning over seven decades and more than 400 films across the Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam film industries.

Notable Works & Achievements:

Category	Details / Titles
Cinematic Milestones	Made her breakthrough with the 1950 Telugu film <i>Shavukaru</i> (from which she earned her iconic moniker) and starred in <i>Mahishasura Mardini</i> (1959), regarded as the first pan-India Kannada film.

Recent Appearances	Her final cinematic roles included <i>Biskoth</i> (Tamil, 2020) and <i>Anni Manchi Sakunamule</i> (Telugu, 2023).
Major Accolades	Padma Shri (2022) for her contribution to Indian cinema, Tamil Nadu's Kalaimamani Award (1969), and Andhra Pradesh's Nandi Awards.



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