INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSTAKAS

ANANYA SAADHANA



VINAY KUMAR G B
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,
INSIGHTS IAS

COMPREHENSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2026

IAS | KAS | GROUP C | FDA | SDA | PSI | PC

TRENDING



18th BRICS Summit

New Delhi Declaration adopted Thirukkural Russian translation gifted to Putin.



Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024

Anant Nag received the award at the 72nd National Film Awards (2026).

IN FOCUS



Tulu Gets Official Language Status

Karnataka grants Tulu the status of the second additional administrative language.



26th SCO Summit

Held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; marked the 25th anniversary of the SCO.



Ram Nath Kovind – Autobiography

Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles



2026 Women's T20 Asia Cup

India defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs to win the title.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS



State of the World's Birds 2026

BirdLife International released its quadrennial report at the Global Flyways Summit, Nairobi.



National Engineers' Day

September 15 – Birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya.



Miss World 2026

Joheirry Mola of the Dominican Republic crowned Miss World 2026 in Nha Trang, Vietnam.



India's First Blue Bond

Sagarmala Finance Corporation issued India's first blue bond to fund sustainable maritime and coastal infrastructure

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EDITOR'S PAGE



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

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

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

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



To the future administrators of Karnataka,

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

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

Let's shape a prosperous Karnataka, together.

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

SOURCES

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THE HINDU

The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

DH
DECCAN HERALD

PIB

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

RSTV RAJYA SABHA | LSTV लोक सभा

आकाशवाणी समाचार
ALL INDIA RADIO NEWS

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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

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

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

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

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

THE TEAM

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

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INDUS WATERS TREATY (IWT)

CONTEXT

India rejected the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), The Hague's ruling on the Indus Waters Treaty, stating that the arbitral body was illegally constituted and lacks jurisdiction over India.

Indus Waters Treaty - At a Glance

Point	Key Fact
Background	1947 Partition divided the Indus river system between India & Pakistan
Signed	World Bank
Signatories	1960
Nature	Jawaharlal Nehru & Ayub Khan
Mediator	Agreement on sharing/use of Indus river waters
Water share	Pakistan: 80%

MAJOR TRIBUTARIES

River	Source	Joins
Jhelum	Spring at Verinag, Kashmir Valley	Chenab at Trimmu, Pakistan
Chenab	Chandra + Bhaga streams near Bara Lacha Pass	Satluj after receiving Jhelum & Ravi
Ravi	Kullu hills near Rohtang Pass	Chenab near Rangpur, Pakistan
Beas	Near Rohtang Pass	Satluj at Harike Barrage, India
Satluj	Manasarovar–Rakas Lakes, Tibet	Indus above Mithankot, Pakistan

ANNEXURE C & D

Annexure	India's provision
Annexure C	Allows India certain agricultural uses
Annexure D	Allows India to build run-of-the-river hydropower projects
Run-of-the-river	Projects not requiring live storage of water



INDUS RIVER BASIN



INDUS RIVER BASIN

- Indus River = Transboundary River
- Flow distribution:
- Pakistan 47% → India 39% → Tibet 8% → Afghanistan 6%
- In India: Indus basin spreads oveR J&K • Himachal Pradesh • Punjab • Rajasthan • Haryana • Chandigarh

WATER ALLOCATION UNDER IWT

WESTERN RIVERS → PAKISTAN

Indus + Chenab + Jhelum

➡️ Allocated to Pakistan for unrestricted use

➡️ India retains certain non-consumptive, agricultural & domestic uses



EASTERN RIVERS → 🇮🇳 INDIA

Ravi + Beas + Sutlej

➡️ Allocated to India for unrestricted usage

WATER SHARE

Pakistan → 80%
India → 20%



PERMANENT INDUS COMMISSION

Two Countries → Two Permanent Commissioners → Joint Commission

- India + Pakistan
- Permanent Indus Commission
- First stop for conflict resolution
- Meets at least once a year

DISTRICTS AS EXPORT HUBS (DEH)

INSTAKAS

District-led strategy to connect local products with global markets



CONTEXT

The Government is strengthening its district-led export strategy through the Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) Initiative.



DEH INITIATIVE - AT A GLANCE

Element	Details
Launched	August 2019
Trigger	PM's 2019 Independence Day call to make districts centres of export and trade
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Implementation	Mainly through DGFT
Objective	Make each district an export hub by identifying export-potential products/services and addressing local bottlenecks
Target groups	MSMEs • Farmers • Artisans • Handicrafts • Handlooms • Local industries
Destination	Global markets

KARNATAKA - ODOP PRODUCTS

District	ODOP Product
Bagalkote	Jaggery
Ballari	Fig
Belagavi	Jaggery
Bengaluru Rural	Poultry Products
Bengaluru Urban	Bakery Products
Bidar	Ginger
Chamarajanagar	Turmeric
Chikkaballapura	Tomato
Chikkamagaluru	Spices / Coffee
Chitradurga	Groundnut Products
Dakshina Kannada	Marine Products
Davanagere	Millets
Dharwad	Mango
Gadag	Byadagi Chillies

District	ODOP Product
Hassan	Coconut Products
Haveri	Mango
Kalaburagi	Red Gram (Tur Dal)
Kodagu	Coffee / Spices
Kolar	Tomato / Milk Products
Koppal	Guava
Mandya	Jaggery
Mysuru	Banana / Milk Products
Raichur	Chillies
Shivamogga	Pineapple
Tumakuru	Coconut Products
Udupi	Marine Products
Uttara Kannada	Pineapple / Spices
Vijayapura	Lemon / Grapes
Yadgir	Groundnut

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

State level → State Export Promotion Committee (SEPC)
- Generally headed by the Chief Secretary of the state

District level → District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC)
- Generally headed by District Collector / DM / DC
- Co-chaired by DGFT Regional Authority

DISTRICT EXPORT ACTION PLAN (DEAP)

- The **District Export Action Plan** (DEAP) aims to identify high-potential products and services while addressing key export constraints across critical focus areas including infrastructure, logistics, quality, supply chain, and market access.

ODOP + DEH

One District One Product (ODOP) → Operationally merged with DEH → Stronger district-level export ecosystem

EXAM ANGLE

Remember these four linkages:

- **DEH** → District-level export strategy
- **DGFT** → Main implementation
- **DEPC** → District-level institutional mechanism
- **DEAP** → Identifies products + addresses export constraints



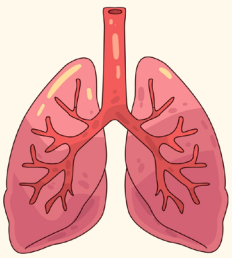
UNIVERSAL VACCINE AGAINST PNEUMONIA & MENINGITIS



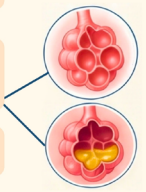
CONTEXT

Scientists are looking for a universal pneumococcal vaccine capable of targeting all the hundred or so forms of Streptococcus pneumonia bacteria.

PNEUMONIA – HOW IT AFFECTS THE LUNGS



Acute respiratory infection
↓
Inflammation of lung air sacs (alveoli)
↓
Alveoli fill with fluid/pus
↓
Oxygen intake is restricted



CAUSATIVE AGENTS OF PNEUMONIA

Category	Causative agent(s)	Key point
Bacteria	• Streptococcus pneumoniae • Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Most common bacterial cause Important bacterial cause
Viruses	RSV • Influenza • Coronaviruses	Viral causes
Fungi	Pneumocystis jirovecii	Associated particularly with weakened/immunocompromised immune systems
Atypical bacteria	Mycoplasma pneumoniae	Can cause mild "walking pneumonia"

Transmission: Airborne droplets • Surface contact • Blood during childbirth

Vulnerable groups : Children under 5 • Adults over 65

INDIA – SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

PCV Vaccine

Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)

Protects against pneumonia + meningitis + sepsis

SAANS Campaign

Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully

Promotes early identification in under-5 children

Integrated Action Plan

Prevention & Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhea

Integrated strategy targeting pneumonia and diarrhea, identified as India's two highest under-5 child killers.



GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

GAPPD

Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea

WHO + UNICEF plan

Aim: Fewer than 3 child pneumonia deaths per 1,000 live births

WORLD PNEUMONIA DAY

12 November - Every year



Important points

- **Universal vaccine** → targets all the hundred or so forms of Streptococcus pneumonia
- **Pneumonia** → affects alveoli
- **PCV** → UIP
- **SAANS** → early identification in under-5 children
- **GAPPD** → WHO + UNICEF
- **World Pneumonia Day** → 12 November

INSTAKAS

INDIA'S FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



CONTEXT

CVC highlighted delays in disposal of corruption cases investigated by the CBI.

7,229 cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 were pending trial as of 31 December 2025.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988

Federal law → In Karnataka, enforced primarily by **Karnataka Lokayukta.**

Provision	Offence	Penalty
Section 7	Taking bribes	3–7 years imprisonment + fine
Section 8	Giving bribes	Up to 7 years imprisonment
Section 13	Criminal misconduct	4–10 years imprisonment for misappropriation of property or illicit enrichment

STRICT LEGAL CONDITIONS

1. **Demand + Acceptance**
Prosecutors must prove both:

Demand was made + Bribe was accepted

Missing either element invalidates the case, according to the Karnataka High Court ruling cited in the source.

2. **Section 17A — Prior Sanction**
Police cannot investigate a public servant's official decisions without prior government approval.

KEY ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Karnataka Lokayukta
Independent state anti-corruption ombudsman

Traps • Raids • Prosecutions

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION (CVC)

Institutional Snapshot

Aspect	Details
Role	India's apex statutory body for integrity, transparency & accountability in public administration
Established	1964
Basis	Recommendations of Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption
Statutory basis	Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003
Composition	1 Central Vigilance Commissioner + 2 Vigilance Commissioners
Tenure	4 years or until age 65, whichever is applicable
Appointment	President of India

CVC — POWER & FUNCTIONS

CVC Act, 2003

- Combat corruption
Ensure integrity, transparency & accountability
- Superintendence over vigilance administrations of Central Government ministries, departments & organisations
- Supervise & guide anti-corruption inquiries
  - Cases referred by Lokpal
  - Whistleblower complaints under PIDPI
- Supervises CBI in cases involving offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
- Senior appointment role
Chairs committees recommending senior officers in Directorate of Enforcement and CBI (SP level and above, excluding CBI Director).

INSTAKAS

SIR. M. VISVESVARAYA

NATIONAL ENGINEERS' DAY - 15 SEPTEMBER



VISION
ENGINEERING
DEVELOPMENT

CONTEXT

National Engineers' Day is celebrated every year on 15 September to honour the birth anniversary and achievements of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

Exam Note:
National Engineers' Day → 15 September
World Engineers' Day → 4 March, celebrated annually by UNESCO

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

WATER & FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Contribution	Key Details
Khadakwasla Reservoir	Designed & patented automatic weir floodgates - 1903
Musi River Floods	Designed drainage system for Hyderabad after devastating floods - 1908
Sukkur Waterworks	Designed and carried out waterworks for Sukkur Municipality - 1895
Block System	Credited with developing a system to prevent wasteful flow of water in dams

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT

- Krishna Raja Sagara Dam, Mysore → Chief engineer responsible for its construction
- Road plan → Road construction between Tirumala & Tirupati
- Railways → Commissioned several new railway lines in Mysore State
- Planned Economy → Emphasised development of a "Planned Economy" in India (1934)

MOKSHAGUNDAM VISVESVARAYA

Aspect	Details
Born	Karnataka, 1861
Education	BA - University of Mysore → Civil Engineering - College of Science, Pune
Chief Engineer	Mysore State, 1909
Diwan	Princely State of Mysore, 1912
Tenure as Diwan	7 years
Died	1962, Bengaluru, Karnataka

INSTITUTIONS BUILT BY VISVESVARAYA

Contribution	Key Details
Khadakwasla Reservoir	Designed & patented automatic weir floodgates - 1903
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Sukkur Waterworks	Designed and carried out waterworks for Sukkur Municipality - 1895
Block System	Credited with developing a system to prevent wasteful flow of water in dams

HONOURS

Year / Honour	Key Details
1915	Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire by King George V
50 years	Honorary Membership of London Institution of Civil Engineers
1955	Bharat Ratna - India's highest honour

WORLD OZONE DAY 2026

OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

CONTEXT

SEP 16 2026

16 September 2026 - World Ozone Day

- Commemorates the Montreal Protocol
- Highlights 10 years of adoption of the Kigali Amendment



OZONE LAYER - THE BASICS

Aspect	Key Information
Ozone (O_3)	Highly reactive molecule containing 3 oxygen atoms
Location	10–50 km above Earth's surface
Atmospheric layer	Stratosphere
Function	Natural filter blocking harmful UV radiation from the Sun
Significance	Ozone shield is necessary for human life on Earth

OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

What is it?

- Decrease in ozone concentration in the middle layers of the atmosphere, mainly the stratosphere.

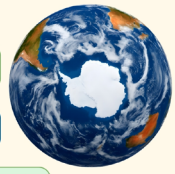
Major anthropogenic causes

- Halogenated hydrocarbons
- CFCs • HCFCs • Halons • Carbo tetrachloride • Methyl bromide



WHY IS DEPLETION SEVERE IN ANTARCTICA?

Antarctic "Ozone Hole"
↓
Special Antarctic weather conditions
↓
Very low stratospheric temperatures
↓
Formation of Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSCs)
↓
Severe ozone depletion



📌 These conditions occur in Antarctica and nowhere else on the globe.

GLOBAL MEASURES TO PROTECT THE OZONE LAYER

Agreement / Protocol	Year & Location	Entry into Force	Core Objective / Significance
Vienna Convention	1985 - Vienna, Austria	1988	Protect human health & environment from harmful effects of ozone-layer depletion
Montreal Protocol	1987 - Montreal, Canada	1989	Control and phase out ozone-depleting substances
Kigali Amendment	2016 - Kigali, Rwanda	2019	Strengthens the Montreal Protocol through HFC phase-down

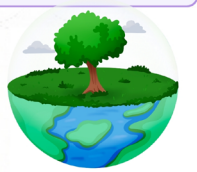
TIMELINE

- **1985** — Vienna Convention adopted
- **1987** — Montreal Protocol agreed
- **1988** — Vienna Convention enters into force
- **1989** — Montreal Protocol enters into force
- **2016** — Kigali Agreement
- **2026** — 10 years of Kigali Amendment adoption

Remember!
A healthier ozone layer today ensures a safer, brighter tomorrow.

EXAM TIP
Focus on the timeline and key objectives of Vienna Convention, Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment.

Keywords
- Ozone Layer
- Stratosphere
- Ozone Depletion
- CFCs
- Montreal Protocol
- Kigali Amendment
- Polar Stratospheric Clouds



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES



7 September -Observed globally
Designated by the **UN General Assembly** in 2019 to strengthen global action against **air pollution.**

AIR POLLUTION

Definition	• Presence of harmful substances in the atmosphere at concentrations that can harm: • Human Health + Environment
Pollutants	May occur as: • Gases • Liquid droplets • Solid particles • Sources: Natural + Anthropogenic
Major Pollutants	PM • NO_2 • SO_2 • O_3 • CO • VOCs • Lead

PARTICULATE MATTER (PM)

Type	Diameter
PM_{10}	≤ 10 µm
$PM_{2.5}$	≤ 2.5 µm

Why $PM_{2.5}$ is more hazardous

- Smaller particle size
- Deeper penetration into respiratory system
- Can enter bloodstream
- Greater health risks

AIR POLLUTION IN INDIA

World Air Quality Report 2025

Indicator	Finding
India	6th most polluted country globally
National $PM_{2.5}$ average	48.9 µg/m³
WHO guideline	5 µg/m³
Most polluted city	Loni (Ghaziabad) - $PM_{2.5}$ 112.5 µg/m³
Byrnihat, Meghalaya	3rd most polluted city globally
Delhi	4th globally
Top 25 polluted cities	Located in Pakistan, India & China

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO CURB AIR POLLUTION

Initiative	Purpose / Focus
NAMP	CPCB programme to monitor ambient air quality, pollution levels, trends & future changes
NCAP (2019)	Reduce air pollution in identified cities/regions through monitoring, emission control & public awareness
BS-VI (2020)	Stricter vehicle emission norms; cleaner fuels & advanced emission-control technologies
Swachh Vayu Survekshan (2022–23)	Annual assessment of 130 cities under NCAP; evaluates pollution-control measures & City Clean Air Action Plans
PMUY	Promotes LPG as clean cooking fuel; reduces dependence on biomass
FAME	Promotes electric & hybrid vehicles through incentives; reduces vehicular emissions
GRIHA	Reduces open waste burning & improves waste disposal
Waste Management	Reduces open waste burning & improves waste disposal
CAQM	Coordinates action on air pollution in NCR & adjoining areas through coordination, research & problem-solving
Green India Mission	Promotes afforestation & increased tree cover to support air-quality improvement

KARNATAKA DARSHANA

CONTENTS

1. Main Articles

- Bill enabling remote property registration passed
- Amendments to Sakala Act change compensatory costs
- Govt. sites to become EV charging hubs across State
- Mysuru palace glows pink as Gruha Lakshmi turns three
- New foundation proposed to boost heritage conservation across State
- LiDAR survey to look for Lakkundi's hidden monuments
- State urges Centre to give early clearance for pending irrigation and drinking water projects
- State targets 66 GW power capacity by 2030, puts renewable energy at core
- Global Investment and Overseas Affairs Department to be set up
- State turns to cloud seeding amid worsening drought
- CM launches new Praja Seva Department to take administration to people's doorsteps
- State govt. will add 10,000 acres more to Pavagada solar park, says Energy Minister
- Free online coaching scheme for competitive exams to be launched today
- Cabinet approves Aerospace Policy and others
- Industries to be paid ₹2,500 for every job generated
- State to challenge CWMA's order
- NIMHANS, State govt. expand Project USHAS to 37 hospitals
- KITU flags deletion of women's night-shift safeguards; Labour Department says OSH Code covers them
- Sahitya Academy brings out Kannada compendium to teach human values
- Engineers' Day to be celebrated as State event; govt. allows prefix 'Er' to names
- Anant Nag brings second Dadasaheb Phalke Award to Kannada film industry
- Kambala to be held as part of Mysuru Dasara on October 18 and 19
- Shivakumar announces Kalyana Karnataka Economy Mission to boost region's development
- Tulu set to get official language tag in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi districts
- State revises data centre policy to address AI's green footprint
- Govt. backs separate Coastal and Malnad tourism policy
- tate ranks 3rd in NITI Aayog's electric mobility index '25
- Rising cost of metals and falling demand spell trouble for Bidriware
- Court-monitored probe ordered into KPSC scam; SIT set up
- State tightens marriage registration rules, says Aadhaar can't be age proof
- Gehlot to CM: Reconsider GO curbing rendition to two stanzas
- State rejects Kasturirangan report in current form; Houses call upon Centre to confine ESA to notified forests
- State targets 30% reduction in salt intake by 2030 to promote healthy diet
- 53 more taluks to be included in drought-hit list, taking total to 177

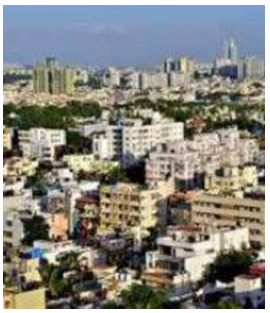
2. Short News

- Panel set up to address student problems
- Govt. panel to review withdrawal of criminal cases
- Proposed BMR economic master plan targets

75% public transport share
- NITI Aayog for 'second Bengaluru' to ease pressure on capital
- Investment proposals worth ₹29,679 cr. cleared
- AI University consultation committee holds first meeting
- On Teachers' Day, OPS gift to 3,773 primary school teachers
- Teachers in State can now prefix 'Tr' to their names
- Students to get exposure to rural life with 'Gramanubhava'
- Student union polls to be held without caste quota
- 'Government First' initiative: Inter-departmental co-operation is key, say start-ups, IT-BT Department
- Solar power to reach 1,900 anganwadis
- Panel seeks suggestions on proposed fare hike
- Govt. raisin processing unit to help farmers reduce transportation costs
- Cabinet approves Karnataka Marine Biotechnology Policy 2026-31
- Cabinet approves 12 island projects
- Cabinet nod for Fisheries University
- Nod for govt. medical college in Puttur

3. Bill enabling remote property registration passed

Why in News



- The Karnataka legislature passed, without debate, the Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2026, which enables property registration without the physical presence of either party at sub-registrar offices. Several other Bills were also cleared on the last day of the Monsoon Session.

Key Highlights

- Core Provision: The Bill enables e-registration, or remote registration, of compulsorily registrable documents, so parties need not visit sub-registrar offices across the State.
- Certified Copies: It provides for issuing certified copies through a centralised virtual distribution system, reducing delays.
- Anti-Fraud Measures: It proposes penalties for fraudulent manipulation of, or hacking into, the department's portal or software.
- Software Integration: It seeks to integrate property-related software to prevent illegal registrations, particularly in urban areas, simplify the process and ensure due diligence by sub-registrars in public interest.

Note : Other bills passed in assembly

- Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Passed to ensure continuity in administrative decision-making amid the need to decongest traffic; the authority is empowered to approve all major urban transport projects.
- Karnataka GST (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Removes the threshold limit for sanctioning refund claims on goods exported from India with payment of tax.
- Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Exempts establishments already registered under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (Central Act 37 of 2020) from registration, introduces electronic/digital fee payment and aims to enhance ease of living and doing business.
- Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Second) (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Enables levying and collecting taxes on buildings at the panchayat level; it replaced the ordinance.

4. Amendments to Sakala Act change compensatory costs

Why in News

- The **Karnataka legislature** adopted the **Karnataka Sakala Services (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, empowering the State government to add **new citizen services** under **Sakala**, revise **delivery deadlines and penalty structures**, and change the **compensatory costs** payable by defaulting officials.

Key Highlights

- New Services & Authorities: Empowers the government to incorporate new citizen services under Sakala and designate appropriate competent and appellate authorities.
- Deadlines & Penalties: Allows the government to modify deadlines for delivery of services and the penalty structures.
- Financial Liability Revised: The government can revise the financial liability of defaulting public servants, currently capped at a maximum of ₹500 per application.
- Revisionary Powers: The State government gets revisionary powers, suo motu or on application, to examine the legality and propriety of orders passed by lower authorities, as an overarching mechanism to rectify gross injustice.
- Statutory Remedy for Citizens: Citizens wrongly denied compensatory costs get a statutory remedy, with recovery made directly from the defaulting public servant.
- Curbing Frivolous Complaints: Authorities can impose penal costs on complainants filing false, malicious or vexatious complaints, recoverable as arrears of land revenue.
- Bar on Civil Courts: The jurisdiction of Civil Courts is explicitly barred in matters within the statutory competence of authorities under the Act, ensuring expeditious administrative finality.

Additional Information

Karnataka Sakala Services Act, 2011

- Enacted: 2011 (Karnataka Act 1 of 2012); services under Sakala rolled out from April 2012.
- Objective: Guarantees time-bound delivery of public services to citizens; a Right to Public Services law.
- Compensatory Cost: A citizen gets ₹20 per day of delay, subject to a maximum of ₹500 per application, recovered from the defaulting official.
- Structure: Each notified service has a designated officer, a competent officer and an appellate authority for appeals.

Right to Public Services Laws in India

- Madhya Pradesh was the first State to enact such a law, the MP Lok Sewa Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2010; Bihar and several other States followed.
- These laws are State enactments; there is no general Central law guaranteeing time-bound services.

5. Govt. sites to become EV charging hubs across State

Why in News



- **Government offices and public premises** across Karnataka could soon double up as **electric vehicle (EV) charging points**, with the State planning to use its own land to expand the charging network under the Centre's **PM E-DRIVE scheme**.

Key Highlights

- Directive: Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, has directed departments to identify parking areas and vacant spaces on their premises for charging stations.
- Nodal Agency: Departments must submit the list to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company

Limited (Bescom), the nodal agency for the scheme.

- 24x7 Access: Departments have been asked to make separate entry and exit arrangements where necessary so stations are accessible to the public round the clock.
- Revenue Share: Under the Union Power Ministry's guidelines, the land-owning department gets ₹1 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity consumed for charging.
- Bescom's Role: Bescom will sign a 10-year agreement with the department and will set up, run and maintain the station.
- Categories: Category A, Union and State government properties such as offices, hospitals, schools and college campuses; Category B, public facilities owned/managed by government such as railway stations, airports, metro stations and bus stations.
- Digital System: Bescom MD N. Shivashankara said a digital system handles approvals, monitoring and subsidy-related work; stations will be linked to the EV Mitra platform so users can locate them.

Additional Information

PM E-DRIVE Scheme (PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement)

- Launch Year: 2024 (approved by the Union Cabinet in September 2024; effective from October 1, 2024).
- Objectives: Accelerate EV adoption, build public charging infrastructure and develop an efficient EV manufacturing ecosystem.
- Beneficiaries: EV buyers, State Transport Undertakings, Charge Point Operators, public agencies and hospitals (e-ambulances).
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Heavy Industries.
- Outlay: ₹10,900 crore.
- Component Breakdown:
  - Demand incentives for e-2W, e-3W, e-ambulances and e-trucks
  - Grants for e-buses procured by STUs/ public transport agencies
  - ₹2,000 crore for public EV charging stations
  - Upgradation of vehicle testing agencies

Mysuru palace glows pink as Gruha Lakshmi turns three

Why in News

- The State government's flagship **Gruha Lakshmi scheme**, which provides **₹2,000 every month** to the **woman head of each household**, completed **three years** on Sunday; the **Mysuru palace** was illuminated in **pink** to mark the occasion.

Key Highlights

- **Milestone:** The scheme completed **three years** on **Sunday (August 30)**.
- **Benefit: ₹2,000 per month** is credited to the **woman head of each household**.
- **Pink Illumination:** The **Mysuru palace** was lit in pink, **symbolising women's empowerment and pride**, drawing the attention of tourists and visitors.
- **Scale of Transfers:** According to a release, **more than ₹76,500 crore** has so far been credited to the bank accounts of **1.2 crore beneficiaries**.

Additional Information

Gruha Lakshmi Scheme

- **Launch Year: 2023**, launched on **August 30, 2023**, in **Mysuru**; one of the Karnataka government's **five guarantees** (with **Shakti, Gruha Jyothi, Anna Bhagya and Yuva Nidhi**).
- **Objectives:** Financial independence and **economic empowerment of women** heads of households.
- **Beneficiaries:** The **woman head of the family** as recorded in the **ration card**; women who (or whose husbands) are **income tax payers or GST return filers** are excluded.
- **Nodal Department: Department of Women and Child Development**, Government of Karnataka.
- **Mode: Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** to the beneficiary's bank account.

Mysuru Palace (Amba Vilas Palace)

- Seat of the **Wodeyar dynasty**; the present palace was built between **1897 and 1912** after the old wooden palace was destroyed by fire.
- Designed by British architect **Henry Irwin** in the **Indo-Saracenic** style; the centrepiece of the **Mysuru Dasara** celebrations.

6. New foundation proposed to boost heritage conservation across State

Why in News



- The **Karnataka Tourism Department** has proposed setting up a **Karnataka Heritage and Cultural Foundation (KHCF)** to systematically conserve the State's **monuments, archaeological sites, museums and cultural assets**, and to promote Karnataka's art, culture and heritage at the **global level**.

Key Highlights

- **Proposal:** The KHCF was proposed by the Tourism Department; the proposal has been prepared by the **Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage (DAMH)** and will be placed before the **State Cabinet** shortly, said Tourism Minister **K.J. George**.
- **Mandate:** To systematically conserve **historical monuments, archaeological sites, museums and cultural assets**, while promoting the State's art, culture and heritage globally.
- **Builds on Adopt a Monument:** KHCF seeks to build on the positive response to the State's **Adopt a Monument** initiative by creating a **structured platform** for government, **private sector** and **public** participation in conservation, restoration and infrastructure development of monuments.
- **Scale of Heritage:** A survey across **239 taluks** has identified nearly **one lakh historical monuments and archaeological sites**, creating the need for a **sustainable, long-term financial mechanism** for conservation.
- **Funding Sources:** The foundation will pool **CSR contributions** from corporates, **Non-Resident Indians** and **public donations** through a **transparent mechanism**.
- **Youth Engagement:** KHCF will run programmes enabling younger generations to engage with monuments, art and local traditions, rather than experiencing heritage **only through textbooks**.
- **Illustration:** Example cited: the **Hoysala Stepwell** near **Halebid**, built in **1160 CE**, as an example of the State's heritage.

Additional Information

Constitutional and Legal Framework for Monuments

- **Article 49 (DPSP):** Obliges the State to protect monuments, places and objects of artistic or historic interest declared to be of **national importance**.
- **Article 51A(f):** Fundamental Duty to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
- **Seventh Schedule:** Monuments declared by Parliament to be of national importance are in the **Union List (Entry 67)**; other ancient and historical monuments fall under the **State List (Entry 12)**.
- **AMASR Act, 1958:** The **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act** governs centrally protected monuments, administered by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**; State-protected monuments are handled by the State's archaeology department (in Karnataka, the **DAMH**).

Adopt a Heritage (National Scheme)

- **Launch Year: 2017** (on World Tourism Day, 27 September); relaunched as **Adopt a Heritage 2.0** in **2023**.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Tourism**, with the **Ministry of Culture** and **ASI**.
- **Objective:** Corporates/agencies ("Monument Mitras") adopt heritage sites to develop and maintain tourist amenities, largely through **CSR funds**.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Karnataka

Site	Year inscribed
Group of Monuments at Hampi	1986
Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	1987
Western Ghats (serial, shared)	2012
Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas (Belur, Halebidu, Somanathapura)	2023

7. LiDAR survey to look for Lakkundi's hidden monuments

Why in News



- The **Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage (DAMH)** has signed an MoU with the **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru**, to use **LiDAR** and other digital technologies to locate buried or concealed monuments in **Lakkundi, Gadag district**, a prominent urban centre of the **10th-12th centuries CE**.

Key Highlights

- **MoU:** Signed on **August 27**; it paves the way for **Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)** surveys, **GIS mapping**, **remote sensing**, **ground penetrating radar (GPR)**, **drone documentation** and **photogrammetry**.
- **Why Lakkundi:** Local tradition speaks of **101 wells and 101 temples**, most of them concealed; the known monuments may be only part of a larger archaeological story.
- **Origin of Idea:** The idea was first discussed by then Minister **H.K. Patil** with former ISRO chairman **Kiran Kumar**, who mooted LiDAR and suggested roping in NIAS; NIAS later made a presentation on LiDAR use in excavations, leading to the MoU.
- **Historical Significance:** Lakkundi, known as **Lokki-Gundi** in inscriptions, belongs to the **Kalyana-Chalukya** period (10th-12th centuries CE); its temples show a hybrid **Vesara** style blending **Nagara, Dravida and Bhumija** styles.
- **UNESCO Bid:** The State is preparing a **DPR** to propose Lakkundi for the **tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.
- **Next Sites:** Similar studies are proposed at **Nagavi** (ancient place of learning, **Chittapur, Kalaburagi**) and **Rajghatta** near **Doddaballapur** once the Lakkundi exercise is completed.

Additional Information

Lakkundi

- Located in **Gadag district**, it was an important centre under the **Kalyani (Western) Chalukyas**; it is also associated with coin minting in that period.
- Noted monuments include the **Brahma Jinalaya** (Jain basadi associated with the patroness **Attimabbe**), the **Kashi Vishweshwara temple** and the **Musukina Bhavi** stepwell.
- The State holds the annual **Lakkundi Utsav** to promote the site.

Vesara Style of Temple Architecture

- A hybrid style combining elements of the northern **Nagara** and southern **Dravida** styles, developed in the Deccan under the **Badami Chalukyas**, **Kalyani Chalukyas** and **Hoysalas**.
- Key examples: temples at **Aihole, Pattadakal, Lakkundi, Belur and Halebidu**.

LiDAR in Archaeology

- **LiDAR** fires laser pulses from aircraft/drones and measures their return time to build high-resolution **3D terrain models**; it can "see through" vegetation to reveal hidden structures.
- **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)** uses radar pulses to image buried features without excavation.

8. State urges Centre to give early clearance for pending irrigation and drinking water projects

Why in News



- A Karnataka delegation led by Water Resources Minister **N. Cheluvarayaswamy** urged the Centre at the **Departmental Summit - 2026** of the **Union Jal Shakti Ministry** in Delhi to give immediate clearance to pending irrigation and drinking water projects, including the **Mekedatu balancing reservoir**.

Key Highlights

- **Forum:** The demand was made at the Jal Shakti Ministry's Departmental Summit - 2026 in **Delhi**; the Minister highlighted the status and importance of **Mekedatu**, **Upper Krishna Project (UKP)**, **Kalasa-Banduri** and **Upper Bhadra**.
- **Mekedatu:** Sought immediate clearance of the **revised DPR** by the **Central Water Commission (CWC)**; the project is crucial for **water security of Bengaluru city** and **Mandya, Bengaluru South and Chamarajanagara** districts, and for ensuring **regulated releases to Tamil Nadu** in distress years.
- **KWDT-II Gazette:** Urged immediate **gazette notification** of the final order of the **Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II** so the State can use its share of **130 tmcft** allotted under **UKP's third phase**.
- **Kalasa-Banduri:** Sought immediate **forest and environmental clearance** for the Kalasa and Banduri diversion projects in the **Mahadayi basin**, meant to supply drinking water to **Hubballi-Dharwad Corporation** areas.
- **Funds for UKP:** Demanded release of **₹5,300 crore** announced earlier in the **Union Budget** for the Upper Krishna Project, and endorsement of its revised estimates by the **Public Investment Board**.
- **Delegation:** RDPR Minister **Eshwar Khandre** also participated; the delegation held preliminary talks with Union Jal Shakti Minister **C.R. Patil** on the State's major irrigation projects.

Additional Information

Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir Project

- Proposed across the **Cauvery** at Mekedatu (a deep, narrow gorge; the name means "goat's leap") near the **Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border**, in **Bengaluru South (formerly Ramanagara) district**.
- Planned for drinking water to Bengaluru and surrounding areas and **hydropower (about 400 MW)**; the DPR envisages storage of about **67 tmcft**.
- **Tamil Nadu opposes** it, arguing it would affect its share under the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal** award as modified by the **Supreme Court (2018)**; the DPR requires consideration by the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** and CWC.

Upper Krishna Project and KWDT-II

- **KWDT-II** (Justice **Brijesh Kumar** Tribunal) gave its award in **2010** and further report in **2013**; its notification has been held up by litigation in the **Supreme Court** involving Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- **UKP Stage III** involves raising the **Almatti dam** height from **519.6 m to 524.256 m** to utilise the additional allocation.

Mahadayi (Mhadei) and Upper Bhadra

- **Kalasa-Banduri** diverts water from Mahadayi tributaries into the **Malaprabha** basin; the **Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (2018)** allotted Karnataka **13.42 tmcft**. **Goa** opposes the diversion.
- **Upper Bhadra Project** (drought-prone central Karnataka: Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Davangere) was accorded **National Project** status; the **Union Budget 2023-24** announced **₹5,300 crore**

central assistance for it.

9. State targets 66 GW power capacity by 2030, puts renewable energy at core

Why in News



- Karnataka's Energy Department unveiled a **10-year roadmap** to scale the State's installed power capacity from over **39 GW** to **66 GW by 2030**, with future expansion overwhelmingly focused on **clean energy**.

Key Highlights

- **Roadmap:** Unveiled by **Gaurav Gupta**, Additional Chief Secretary, **Energy Department**, at the **'Focus State'** session of **Bharat Electricity and Indian Utility Week, 2026**, in **New Delhi**.
- **Demand Surge:** State power demand has ranged between **310 MU and 350 MU** (daily), compared to **210 MU in August 2025**.
- **Goal:** Prepare the power sector for rapidly rising demand while strengthening **grid infrastructure, energy storage and renewable capacity**, contributing directly to **India's national clean energy targets**.
- **Current Status:** Installed capacity is over **39 GW**, with **two-thirds** of the power mix from **clean hydro and renewable sources**; the State meets a significant share of daily demand through green power.
- **Storage:** Karnataka is advancing the **2,000 MW Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project** and deploying large-scale **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** at critical **KPTCL** substations for grid flexibility.
- **Transmission:** **KPTCL** operates with ultra-low transmission losses of **under 3%**, and is building **thousands of kilometres** of new lines and **super-grid substations**.

Additional Information

Karnataka's Renewable Energy Profile

- Home to the **Pavagada Solar Park** (**2,050 MW**, Tumakuru district), among the world's largest solar parks.
- **KPTCL** (Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd) handles transmission; distribution is by **ESCOMs** such as **Bescom**.

National Targets

- India aims for **500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030** and **net zero by 2070** (announced at **COP26, Glasgow, 2021**); India crossed **50% non-fossil installed capacity** in **2025**.

10.Global Investment and Overseas Affairs Department to be set up

Why in News

- The **Karnataka Cabinet** decided to set up a **Global Investment and Overseas Affairs Department** for the welfare of **Non-Resident Kannadigas** and as a platform for **foreign delegations, investors and diplomats** to deal with the State government; it also proposed **NRI-K cards**.

Key Highlights

- **Background:** Comes after the recently announced **Prajaseva Department** for addressing public grievances.
- **NRI-K Cards:** The Cabinet proposed issuing **NRI-K cards** along with setting up the department.
- **Single-Window Role:** it will act as a **single-window system** for foreign delegations, **investment facilitation**, partnerships and cooperation; its **Secretariat** will arrange meetings of delegations with the **Chief Minister**, after which proposals go to administrative departments.
- **Facilitation Council:** A council chaired by the **Chief Minister**, with Ministers of **Power, Urban Development, Health, Higher Education, IT and Sports**, will be set up under the department.
- **Leadership:** The department will be headed by a Minister; **for now, by the Chief Minister**.

Additional Information

Indian Diaspora Engagement

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** is observed on **January 9**, marking Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa in **1915**.
- The **Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)** card (introduced **2005**) is the Centre's scheme for persons of Indian origin; several States (e.g., Kerala's **NORKA**) run their own non-resident welfare departments.

11. State turns to cloud seeding amid worsening drought

Why in News



- With drought worsening and rainfall far below normal, the **Karnataka government** on launched a **₹28.52 crore cloud-seeding programme** to try and trigger rain in areas facing a **severe rain deficit**.

Key Highlights

- **Launch:** Water Resources Minister **N. Cheluvarayaswamy** flagged off the programme at **HAL Airport, Bengaluru**.
- **Aircraft:** A **specially equipped light aircraft** will carry out the cloud-seeding operations.
- **Cost:** The project is estimated to cost **₹28.52 crore**.
- **Why Now:** The State has received little rain this year and the **southwest monsoon** ends by the end of this month. If enough **drinking water** is not stored by then, there will be **scarcity until the end of next June**.
- **Technical Oversight:** A **technical advisory and evaluation committee** will give guidance and send updates **every two hours** on where and how seeding should be done.
- **Targeting:** Using reports from the technical team, aircraft will be sent to **rainfall-deficit areas**, the **catchments of major reservoirs** and **districts in agricultural distress** whenever suitable clouds are spotted by **Doppler radar**.

Additional Information

Cloud Seeding - Basics

- **What it is:** A **weather-modification** method that adds particles into suitable clouds to speed up the forming of rain drops or ice crystals. It can only help clouds that already exist and have enough moisture. It cannot make clouds.

Types:

Type	Cloud	Common agents
Hygroscopic seeding	Warm clouds (above 0°C)	Sodium chloride, potassium chloride (salt particles)
Glaciogenic seeding	Cold / supercooled clouds	Silver iodide, dry ice (solid CO_2)

- **Delivery:** Flares on aircraft wings or fuselage, ground generators or rockets. **Doppler Weather Radar** is used to find and track seedable clouds.
- **Limitations:** Results are uncertain and hard to measure (hence low success rates). Critics also point to **silver iodide** residues and a lack of rigorous evaluation.

Cloud Seeding in India & Karnataka

- **CAIPEEX (Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment):** A national research programme of the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, to study how aerosols and clouds interact and whether rain can be enhanced.
- **Karnataka's earlier programme: "Varshadhare" (2017)**, a State cloud-seeding programme run during a drought year, was studied scientifically for how much it raised rainfall.
- **Drought context:** Karnataka is among India's most **drought-prone States**, after Rajasthan.

12. CM launches new Praja Seva Department to take administration to people's doorsteps

Why in News

- Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** launched the new **Praja Seva Department** at **Kudligi** in **Vijayanagara district**.

Key Highlights

- **Launch:** The department was launched on **Saturday (Teachers' Day)** at **Kudligi, Vijayanagara district**. Launch events were held **simultaneously across the State**, led by the respective **district in-charge Ministers**.
- **Aim:** to take administration to **people's doorsteps** and give **time-bound redressal** of grievances
- **Coverage:** 'Praja Seva' will be implemented in **all 224 Assembly constituencies**.
- **1st and 3rd Saturdays:** The **Cabinet** decided that elected representatives and officials must be available to the people on the **first and third Saturdays of every month**.
- **Who Leads Where:**
  - **Ministers** lead the programme at the **taluk and hobli levels**.
  - **MLAs** lead it at the **gram panchayat level**.
  - If an MLA is unavailable, **officials** must personally visit the panchayat headquarters, hold meetings, receive grievances and resolve them.
- **Issues Covered: Pensions, land disputes, government benefits, khata transfers, guarantee schemes, houses and house sites**, among others.
- **Free Legal Aid: Poor and disadvantaged** people with disputes before the **tahsildar, Assistant Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner** will get **free legal assistance through government lawyers**. Rejected applicants will be told the **reasons** for rejection.

13. State govt. will add 10,000 acres more to Pavagada solar park, says Energy Minister

Why in News

- Energy and Tourism Minister **K.J. George** said Karnataka is in the **final stage of procuring an additional 10,000 acres** to build a solar energy plant at the **Pavagada solar park**. He also said the State would ensure there is **no power shortage** despite the drought.

Key Highlights

- **Occasion:** He was speaking at the **Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo (BRESE) 2026** roadshow in Bengaluru, organised by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- **Expansion:** Karnataka is in the final stage of procuring **10,000 more acres** for Pavagada. The park already has **more than 10,000 acres** of land.
- **RE Capacity:** Karnataka has nearly **27.3 GW** of renewable energy capacity, including more than **11.5 GW solar** and **8.5 GW wind**.
- **Energy Transition:** The Minister said the transition is "not only an environmental improvement" but a priority for **economic growth, industrial development, innovation, employment and energy security**. He said India has entered a **"refining phase"** of this transition.
- **Land Constraint:** Finding **barren land** is a major problem in agriculturally progressive States like Karnataka, unlike **Rajasthan** and **Madhya Pradesh**. So the State is looking at technologies such as **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**, which need less land for solar projects.

Note :

BRESE 2026:

- BRESE 2026 will be held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, from **November 2 to 5, 2026**.
- It will run alongside the **9th Session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly** and

the **4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen**.

- **BRESE Details:** The theme is **'Invest, Innovate, Inspire'**.

Additional Information

Pavagada Solar Park ("Shakti Sthala")

- **Location: Pavagada taluk, Tumakuru district**, a drought-prone region.
- **Capacity: 2,050 MW (2.05 GW)**. It is one of the largest solar parks in India and the world.
- **Developer: Karnataka Solar Power Development Corporation Ltd (KSPDCL)**, a joint venture of the **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** and **Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd (KREDL)**.
- **Land Model:** Land (about **13,000 acres**) was **leased from farmers** for an annual rent instead of being acquired. This became a model of **"participatory" land aggregation**.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- **Launched: 2015**, at **COP21 in Paris**, by **India and France**.
- **HQ: Gurugram, Haryana**. It is the first treaty-based international intergovernmental organisation headquartered in India.
- **Motto/Initiative:** "One Sun, One World, One Grid" (OSOWOG).

14.Free online coaching scheme for competitive exams to be aunched today

Why in News

- The Karnataka government will give **free online coaching** for State competitive examinations under the **'Mukhyamanthri Vidyarthi Sahaya Hasta'** scheme. The **Higher Education Department** launches it

Key Highlights

- **Announcement:** Higher Education Minister **Basavaraj Rayaraddi** announced the scheme at a press conference on Wednesday.
- **Objective:** To help students face competitive exams **with confidence and without stress**, so that **children of farmers** and **rural students** are not denied opportunities, and to help them **secure government jobs**. The scheme is **free of cost**.
- **Outlay & Coverage:** Total cost of **₹9 crore** for around **90,000 candidates**. Each gets **three months** of free online coaching from a **selected coaching institute**.
- **Exams Covered: SDA, FDA, PDO, PSI** and **Gazetted Probationers (GP)**. A candidate can get coaching for **up to three examinations**.
- **Application:** Online through the **Seva Sindhu** website and **Grama One** centres. Registered candidates get a **unique ID** and log in with a **mobile OTP**.
- **Monitoring:** The system tracks attendance, participation, test performance and progress. A **consolidated report** must be sent to the department **every 15 days**.
- **Grama One:** Village-level citizen service centres in Karnataka that offer many government services at one point.

15. Cabinet approves Aerospace Policy and others

Why in News

- The **Karnataka Cabinet** approved the **Karnataka Aerospace Policy 2026-2031**, which expects about **₹60,000 crore** of investment. It also cleared a **Textile and Apparel Policy**, a **Start-Up Policy**, an **AI hub**, a **drone testing facility** and an **International Arbitration Centre**.

Key Highlights

- **Aerospace Policy 2026-2031:** Covers **aerospace, defence, aviation and space R&D**, and expects about **₹60,000 crore** of investment over the **next five years**.
- **Textile and Apparel Policy 2026-2031:** For the **first time** it includes **silk industries**. It expects about **₹20,000 crore** of investment. The government will spend close to **₹4,000 crore** on financial help and subsidies.
- **Focused Taluks: 33 focused taluks** have been

identified for investment. Help will come through a **credit-linked capital subsidy** and a **power subsidy**, among others .

- **Start-Up Policy 2026-2030:** Built around a **"government-first initiative"**. The government will adopt new technologies quickly and use **innovation-led public procurement**.
- **Drone Testing: India's first drone-based testing facility** will be set up at **Chickballapur** at **₹42.83 crore**.
- **AI Hub:** A **₹35 crore AI hub** will act as a forerunner to the **AI University**, which will first come up at **IIIT-Bengaluru**. The hub will offer **seed support, incubation, internships, mentorship** and modular systems.
- **Arbitration Centre:** An **International Arbitration Centre** in Bengaluru was cleared at **₹16 crore**. It will also offer an **online facility**.

16. Industries to be paid ₹2,500 for every job generated

Why in News

- To boost jobs in **underdeveloped districts**, the Karnataka government announced an incentive of **₹2,500 per month** to industries **for every job created**. It also approved a **"Shramika Nivas"** scheme to help industries house workers.

Key Highlights

- **Incentive: ₹2,500 per month** to industries for **every employment generated** in **10 underdeveloped districts**.
- **Use of Funds:** Companies can use the money to **pay employees' provident fund**, among other things.
- **Existing Industries Eligible: Existing industries** can also claim the assistance by **creating new jobs**.
- **Outlay: ₹300 crore** earmarked. **Guidelines** will be announced soon.
- **Districts Identified: Yadgir, Bidar, Raichur, Koppal, Kalaburagi, Vijayanagara, Gadag, Haveri** and **Vijayapura**.
- **Shramika Nivas:** A **subsidy/financial assistance** for industries that provide **housing for workers** near the workplace. It applies to **all industries**.
- **Extra Land:** If new industries need **more land** for worker housing close to the unit, **it will be provided**.

Additional Information

Regional Imbalance in Karnataka

- **Kalyana Karnataka (Article 371J):** The **98th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2012** inserted **Article 371J**. It gives special provisions (a separate development board, reservation in education and jobs) to the **Hyderabad-Karnataka region**, renamed **Kalyana Karnataka** in 2019.
  - **Districts: Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Ballari** and **Vijayanagara** (carved out of Ballari in 2021).
- **Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee (2002):** A High Power Committee on regional imbalances. It identified **backward taluks** (39 most backward), mostly in **north Karnataka**.
- Most districts in this scheme (**Gadag, Haveri, Vijayapura** and the Kalyana Karnataka districts) are in **north Karnataka**.

Employees' Provident Fund

- Governed by the **Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952**, run by the **EPFO** under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- Employer and employee each normally contribute **12%** of basic wages plus DA. The State's subsidy can cover this cost.

Central Parallel - Employment Linked Incentive

- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY):** An **Employment Linked Incentive** scheme approved by the Union Cabinet in **2025** with an outlay of about **₹99,446 crore**. It supports first-time employees and gives employers incentives

for **additional jobs**, with EPFO registration as the basis.

17. State to challenge CWMA's order

Why in News



- Karnataka is preparing to **move the Supreme Court** against the **Cauvery Water Management Authority's (CWMA)** direction to release water to **Tamil Nadu**.

Key Highlights

- **SC Petition:** Karnataka is preparing to file a petition in the **Supreme Court** challenging the **CWMA's** direction to release water to Tamil Nadu.
- **Review Petition:** The State will also file a **review petition** before the **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC)** against its **order**.
- **CWRC Order:** The CWRC met in **Delhi** , reviewed storage in **Cauvery basin reservoirs** in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and told Karnataka to ensure flows of **6,000 cusecs** to Tamil Nadu **for 15 days from Wednesday**.
- **Earlier Challenge:** Karnataka had challenged an earlier **CWRC direction before the CWMA**, but the CWMA **upheld the CWRC's order** and told Karnataka to comply.
- **Special Advocate:** The government will **seriously examine** former CM **Basavaraj Bommai's** suggestion to appoint a **special advocate** to argue the State's case on Cauvery water sharing before the **Supreme Court**.

Additional Information

Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) & CWRC

- **Constituted: June 2018** by the Centre under **Section 6A** of the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**. This followed the **Supreme Court's February 16, 2018** verdict.
- **Role:** Implements the tribunal award as modified by the SC. It controls reservoir operations and releases in the basin.
- **CWRC:** The **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee** helps the CWMA with day-to-day monitoring of releases, measured at the **Biligundlu** gauging station on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

Cauvery Allocation (SC Verdict, 2018)

Stakeholder	Share (tmcft)
Tamil Nadu	404.25
Karnataka	284.75
Kerala	30
Puducherry	7

- Karnataka must release **177.25 tmcft** at **Biligundlu** in a **normal year**, down from 192 tmcft in the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's 2007** award. The 2018 verdict also allotted extra water to Bengaluru for drinking needs.
- **Distress years:** There is no fixed distress-sharing formula, so the CWMA and CWRC decide pro-rata releases in deficit years. This is the source of repeated disputes.

Constitutional Provision

- **Article 262:** Parliament may by law provide for settling inter-State river water disputes and may **bar the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court** over them. The **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956** was enacted under it. The SC can still hear appeals against tribunal awards under **Article 136**.

18. NIMHANS, State govt. expand Project USHAS to 37 hospitals

Why in News



- On **World Suicide Prevention Day 2026**, **NIMHANS**, the **State government** and **Himalaya Wellness Company** announced that **Project USHAS (Urban Self-Harm Study)** will expand

across the State to **37 government hospitals**.

Key Highlights

- **Partners: NIMHANS**, the Karnataka government and **Himalaya Wellness Company**. The announcement was made at NIMHANS on Thursday (World Suicide Prevention Day).
- **Aim:** To give **structured psychosocial care** to people who **survive suicide attempts or self-harm**.
- **Coverage: All 31 district hospitals** and **six government hospitals in Bengaluru**, for **one year**.
- **Current Reach:** USHAS now runs in **16 hospitals across 10 districts**.
- **Care Pathway:** A structured **post-attempt care pathway** across the government hospital network, with **trained professionals**, **family support** and **follow-up for up to 12 months**.
- **Gap Addressed:** Survivors treated for physical injuries in **emergency departments** may not always get **psychosocial assessment, counselling, safety planning** or continued support.
- **Intervention Model: Psychiatric social workers** and **clinical psychologists** will provide a **45- to 75-minute hospital-based psychosocial intervention**, involve families in **safety planning**, and make **scheduled follow-up calls for 12 months**.

Additional Information

World Suicide Prevention Day

- Observed on **September 10** every year since **2003**. It is organised by the **International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP)** and endorsed by the **WHO**.
- **Triennial theme 2024-2026: "Changing the Narrative on Suicide"** (call to action: "Start the Conversation").

NIMHANS

- **Location:** Bengaluru. It was formed in **1974** by merging the **All India Institute of Mental Health** with the Mental Hospital.
- **Status:** Declared an **Institute of National Importance** under the **NIMHANS Act, 2012**. It works under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

19.KITU flags deletion of women's night-shift safeguards; Labour Department says OSH Code covers them

Why in News

- The **Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees' Union (KITU)** has condemned an amendment that removed several clauses of the **Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act**. The union says this strips away **safety and security measures for women working night shifts**. The **Labour Department** says the safeguards are now covered under the **OSH Code**.

Key Highlights

- **Amending Law:** The **Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2026 (Karnataka Act No. 38 of 2026)** was published in the **Gazette on September 4**.
- **Provisions Deleted:** It deletes **Section 25(1)(h)-(o)** of the Act.
- **Safeguards Removed (per KITU):**
  - Mandatory **verification of drivers**
  - **Authorised pick-up and drop routes**
  - **Confidentiality** of women employees' contact details
  - Restrictions on **pick-up and drop sequences**
  - **Security guards** in specified situations
  - **Random vehicle checks**
  - A **control room/travel desk** to monitor vehicles
  - An **emergency mechanism** for women employees
- **Union's Argument:** The **IT/ITeS sector** employs many women who work late nights. Safe transport and security are **"basic, non-negotiable conditions"** for women's equal participation in the workforce. Removing

them puts **greater risk on women** and **reduces employer accountability** when it should be strengthened.

- **KITU's Demand: Immediate withdrawal** of the amendments and **restoration of all statutory safeguards** for women's night-shift transport and security.
- **Government's Response:** Labour Department sources said all these provisions are covered under the **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code**.
- **Changed Coverage:** The Shops and Commercial Establishments Act now covers only establishments employing **fewer than 10 people**. Larger establishments come under the **OSH Code**.

Additional Information

Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

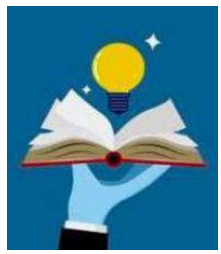
- One of the **four Labour Codes**, alongside the **Code on Wages, 2019**, the **Industrial Relations Code, 2020** and the **Code on Social Security, 2020**. Together they consolidate **29 central labour laws**. The four Codes were brought into force on **21 November 2025**.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Labour and Employment**. Labour is in the **Concurrent List** (Entries 22, 23, 24), so both the Centre and States frame rules.
- **Women at Night:** Women may work **before 6 a.m. and after 7 p.m.** with their **consent**. This is subject to conditions on **safety, holidays and working hours** prescribed by the appropriate government.
- It merges **13 laws**, including the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952 and the Contract Labour Act, 1970.

Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961

- It regulates **working hours, holidays, leave, wages and conditions of employment** in shops and commercial establishments, including IT/ITeS firms.
- Karnataka has periodically granted **exemptions to IT/ITeS/start-ups** from some provisions of the Act.

20. Sahitya Academy brings out Kannada compendium to teach human values

Why in News



- The **Karnataka Sahitya Academy** has published ***Kannada Sahityadalli Manaviya Moulyagalu*** (*Human values in Kannada literature*), a compendium of excerpts from ancient and contemporary Kannada writers, to **instil moral values** among school children, college students and youngsters. It will be piloted in **Koppal** district.

Key Highlights

- **About the Book:** It has chapters of **poems, prose and plays** by ancient and contemporary authors of Karnataka around the theme of **human values**.
- **Authors Featured: Adikavi Pampa, Ranna, Ponna, Sri Vijaya, K. Shivaram Karanth, Girish Karnad, Kuvempu, Poornachandra Tejasvi and P. Lankesh**.
- **Kavirajamarga Line:** It includes the famous line *"Kasavaramembudu Nere Sairisalarpode Para Vicharamam Dharmam"* from ***Kavirajamarga***, written by court poet **Srivijaya** or inspired by **Rashtrakuta King Amoghavarsha**. The line means that true gold or wealth is the ability to **tolerate and respect other people's views and religions**.
- **Earliest Work:** *Kavirajamarga* is the **earliest available Kannada literary work**, from the **9th Century AD**.
- **Other Excerpts:** It includes parts of ***Balveya Belaku*** by Jnanpith awardee **K. Shivarama Karanth** and the play ***Thaledanda*** by **Girish Karnad**.
- **Values Targeted: Equality, tolerance, honesty, respect, empathy** and more. The

aim is also to make children curious enough to read the authors' full works.

Additional Information

Kannada Literature - Key Facts

- **Pampa, Ponna and Ranna** are called the **"Ratnatraya" (three gems)** of Kannada literature (10th century).
  - **Pampa's** works are *Adipurana* and *Vikramarjuna Vijaya (Pampa Bharata)*.
  - **Ranna's** works are *Gadayuddha* and *Ajitapurana*.
- Kannada was declared a **Classical Language** in **2008**.
- Kannada writers have won **eight Jnanpith Awards**, the most for any language: **Kuvempu** (1967), **D.R. Bendre** (1973), **K. Shivarama Karanth** (1977), **Masti Venkatesha Iyengar** (1983), **V.K. Gokak** (1990), **U.R. Ananthamurthy** (1994), **Girish Karnad** (1998) and **Chandrashekhara Kambara** (2010).
- Girish Karnad's ***Tale-Danda*** (1990) is set around **Basavanna** and the 12th-century **Vachana/Sharana movement** in Kalyana.

21. Engineers' Day to be celebrated as State event; govt. allows prefix 'Er' to names

Why in News



- The **Karnataka government** has made **Engineers' Day (September 15)** an **official State event**. It marks the birth anniversary of **Sir M. Visvesvaraya**, former **Dewan of Mysore**. The government has also **officially allowed engineers to use the prefix "Er."** before their names.

Key Highlights

- Government Order: It honours the invaluable contribution of engineers to the country's development and economic progress. It allows the prefix "Er." and makes Engineers' Day on September 15 an official State event.
- Follows 'Tr.' Decision: The move comes close on the heels of allowing teachers to use the prefix "Tr."
- Timeline: The order was issued hours after Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced his approval of a proposal to officially celebrate Engineers' Day.
- More than one lakh engineers graduate in the State every year, and India has the highest number of engineers. Details of the official celebration will be worked out after discussion.
- Tribute: The CM garlanded the statue of Sir M. Visvesvaraya in Bengaluru. He called him a model to the country whose contribution to Karnataka is immense.

Additional Information

Sir M. Visvesvaraya (1861-1962)

- **Early Life:** Born on **15 September 1861** at **Muddenahalli** (now in **Chikkaballapur district**).
- **Engineer:** He designed **automatic sluice gates**, first installed at **Khadakwasla** reservoir near Pune (1903). He was chief engineer for the **Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) dam** and planned the **flood-protection system for Hyderabad**.
- **Dewan of Mysore (1912-1918):** Institutions he founded or promoted include:
  - **Bank of Mysore**
  - **Mysore Iron Works (Bhadravati)**
  - **Government Soap Factory**
  - **Government Engineering College, Bengaluru** (now **UVCE**)
- **Honours: Bharat Ratna** in **1955**. India observes **National Engineers' Day** on **September 15** in his honour.
- **Author:** He wrote *Reconstructing India* (1920) and *Planned Economy for India* (1934).

22. Anant Nag brings second Dadasaheb Phalke Award to Kannada film industry

Why in News

- Veteran Kannada actor **Anant Nag** has been chosen for the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**. He is the **second actor from Karnataka** to win it, after **Dr. Rajkumar (1995)**. The honour comes a year after he received the **Padma Bhushan**.

Key Highlights

- **Historic Recognition:** No Kannada actor had won the country's **highest award in cinema** since **Dr. Rajkumar** in **1995**.
- **V.K. Murthy Distinction:** Cinematographer **V.K. Murthy**, from Karnataka, won the award in **2008**, but for his work in **Hindi cinema**. So Anant Nag's award is only the **second recognition for Kannada cinema**.
- **Career:** He debuted with the **1973** Kannada film ***Sankalpa***. He has acted in **more than 300 films** over **five decades**, in both **mainstream and parallel cinema**, and **more than 250** of these are in **Kannada**.
- **Background:** He was born **Anant Nagarkatte** in **1948** in **Uttara Kannada** district. He began acting in **Kannada, Marathi, Hindi and Konkani plays**, with a theatre background shaped largely in **Mumbai**.
- **Other Honours:** He has won **five Karnataka State Awards**, including the **Lifetime Achievement** honour.
- **Ceremony:** The award will be presented at the **72nd National Film Awards** ceremony on **September 22, 2026** in **Kevadia, Gujarat**.
- **Actor's Reaction:** He called the **Padma Bhushan a "rehearsal"** for this award and **dedicated the award to Kannadigas and Karnataka**.

Additional Information

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- **Instituted: 1969** (the birth centenary year of Dadasaheb Phalke). It is India's **highest award in cinema**, for **outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema**.
- **Given by:** The **Government of India (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)** at the **National Film Awards** ceremony.
- **The Award:** A **Swarna Kamal** (Golden Lotus), a **cash prize of ₹10 lakh** and a shawl.
- **First Recipient:** Actress **Devika Rani** (1969).
- **Dadasaheb Phalke** (Dhundiraj Govind Phalke) made ***Raja Harishchandra* (1913), India's** first full-length feature film**. He is known as the** "Father of Indian cinema".

23. Kambala to be held as part of Mysuru Dasara on October 18 and 19

Why in News



- The traditional buffalo race **Kambala** will be held as part of **Mysuru Dasara** on **October 18 and 19** at **Sathagalli, Mysuru**, despite **opposition from various groups**.

Key Highlights

- **Announcement: Zilla Panchayat CEO Yukesh Kumar** announced the dates at the **Dasara Executive Committee** meeting in Mysuru.
- **Venue: Sathagalli** in Mysuru. Infrastructure for the event is being readied at the venue.
- **Participation:** Around **150 teams** are expected in the **junior and senior categories**.
- **Opposition:** Various groups in Mysuru had urged the government to **drop the Kambala proposal** from the Dasara celebrations, but the government went ahead and **finalised the dates**.

Additional Information

Kambala

- A traditional **buffalo race** in slushy paddy fields, native to **Tulu Nadu**: the coastal districts of **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi**. It is held mainly between **November and March**.

- It is traditionally linked to thanking deities for a good harvest. Its forms include **Negilu** (plough), **Hagga** (rope), **Adda Halage** and **Kane Halage**.

Legal Status:

- The **Supreme Court (A. Nagaraja case, 2014)** banned animal sports such as Jallikattu, which also halted Kambala.
- Karnataka then passed the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Second Amendment) Act, 2017** to legalise it.
- In **May 2023**, a **five-judge Constitution Bench** upheld the Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka laws on Jallikattu, bullock-cart races and Kambala.

Mysuru Dasara

- Karnataka's **Nada Habba** (State festival), celebrated during **Navaratri**.
- **Origins:** Tradition traces it to the **Vijayanagara** kings. The **Wodeyars** began the celebrations at **Srirangapatna** under **Raja Wodeyar I (1610)**.
- It culminates in the **Jamboo Savari** on **Vijayadashami**, in which an elephant carries the **golden howdah** bearing the idol of **Goddess Chamundeshwari**.

24. Shivakumar announces Kalyana Karnataka Economy Mission to boost region's development

Why in News



- At the **79th Kalyana Karnataka Utsav** in **Kalaburagi**, Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** announced the **Kalyana Karnataka Economy Mission (KKEM)** , along with a **Bio Economy Mission** and a range of initiatives on investment, employment, healthcare, urban infrastructure, tourism and sports for the region.

Key Highlights

- **KKEM:** Set up as a **Section 8 company** (a non-profit organisation registered under the **Companies Act**) to **attract investment** and accelerate **industrial development** in the region.
- **Bio Economy Mission:** To promote **processing and value addition** of agricultural produce, focusing on **toor dal, Kamalapur banana, raisins and millets** grown in Kalyana Karnataka.
- **Occasion: Kalyana Karnataka Liberation Day** is observed on **September 17** every year to mark the end of the **Nizam's rule** and the region's integration with the Indian Union in **1948**; the CM paid tributes to **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** at Timmapur Circle and unfurled the national flag.
- **Start-ups & tech for Kalaburagi:** A **30-acre IT park** and **KRIYA (Kalaburagi Research, Innovation and Youth Accelerator)** to promote innovation, start-ups and young entrepreneurs; an **AI-based CCTV camera network** in Kalaburagi city and taluk headquarters for public safety, crime prevention, traffic management and monitoring civic services such as waste management.
- **Tourism circuit:** Linking **Bahmani fort, Sharanabasaveshwar temple, Khwaja Bande Nawaz dargah and Buddha Vihar** (Kalaburagi), **Rashtrakuta fort at Malkhed**, **Sannati Buddhist site** (Chittapur) and **Dattatreya temple at Ganagapur**; Ganagapur to be developed in the first phase at **₹50 crore**.
- **Culture:** A **vachana mantapa** in Kalaburagi to promote **Basavanna's** teachings and the vachana tradition among the youth.
- **Sports & environment:** Comprehensive redevelopment of **Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium** over two years; a **'koti vriksha'** campaign to plant and nurture **one crore saplings** across the region in two years.
- **Health & roads:** Region being developed as

a **healthcare hub**; under the **Kalyana Path** programme, **₹1,000 crore** allocated for **1,150 km of rural roads** across the **38 Assembly constituencies** of the region.

Additional Information

Kalyana Karnataka Region and Article 371(J)

- Formerly **Hyderabad-Karnataka** (part of the Nizam's Hyderabad State); renamed **Kalyana Karnataka** in **2019**.
- Comprises **seven districts**: **Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Ballari and Vijayanagara**.
- **Article 371(J)**, inserted by the **98th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2012**, provides special provisions for the region: a separate **development board** (Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board), equitable allocation of funds, and **reservation in education and State government jobs** for local persons.
- Hyderabad State was integrated into India after **Operation Polo** (September 1948).

Section 8 Company (Companies Act, 2013)

- A company formed to promote **commerce, art, science, sports, education, research, social welfare, religion, charity, environment protection** or similar objects.
- Profits/income must be applied only to promoting its objects; **payment of dividend to members is prohibited**; registered under a licence from the Central government.

25. Tulu set to get official language tag in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi districts

Why in News

- Fulfilling a long-pending demand of coastal Karnataka, the State Cabinet at its Mangaluru meeting decided to accord additional official language status to Tulu in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Key Highlights

- **Decision:** Announced by Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** after a **three-hour Cabinet meeting** at **Praja Soudha**, the district office complex in Mangaluru.
- **Scope:** Tulu's status will apply to **administrative matters** in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi; the respective **district administrations** will be the implementing agencies.
- **Funding:** The government will release **₹82 lakh annually** for **translation, training and language usage** purposes.
- **Background:** The previous government had appointed a **committee headed by educationist M. Mohan Alva** to study and recommend making Tulu an official language of the State; though the report was submitted, no decision was taken then .
- **CM's response:** Declined to comment on why earlier governments did not act, "We do not do politics on sentiments, but on improving people's life."
- **Fisheries University:** The Cabinet gave **in-principle approval** to upgrade the **Mangaluru Fisheries College** into a **Fisheries University**, raising intake from **60 to 200 students** a year; a special officer to be appointed and **₹11 crore** earmarked initially.
- Additional Information

Tulu Language

- A **Dravidian language** spoken mainly in **Dakshina Kannada, Udupi** and **Kasaragod** (Kerala), the region known as **Tulu Nadu**.
- Historically written in the **Tigalari (Tulu) script**; today mostly written in the Kannada script.
- Not listed in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution; inclusion has been a long-standing demand.
- The **Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy** was set up in **1994** to promote Tulu language and literature.

Constitutional provisions on official languages of States

Article	Provision
345	State Legislature may adopt one or more languages in use in the State, or Hindi, as official language(s)
347	President may direct recognition of a language spoken by a substantial section of a State's population
350A	Facilities for instruction in mother tongue at primary stage

- Karnataka's principal law is the **Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963**, with **Kannada** as the official language.

26. State revises data centre policy to address AI's green footprint

Why in News

- The State Cabinet, meeting in Mangaluru, approved the **Karnataka Sustainable Data Centre Policy 2026-2031**, a revised five-year framework that targets **1 GW** of data centre IT load by 2031 while addressing the **energy and water footprint** of AI-driven infrastructure.

Key Highlights

- **Aim:** To make Karnataka a **globally competitive and sustainable destination** for data centre investments.
- **Targets: 1 GW of cumulative data centre IT load by 2031**, with an ambition to account for **10-12% of India's AI-ready data centre capacity**.
- **Budget:** A revised budget framework of **₹1,300.45 crore** for implementation.
- **Sustainability focus:** Renewable energy adoption, energy efficiency, **advanced cooling**, water management, carbon emission mitigation, and monitoring of **Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE)** and **Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE)**.
- **Key features: Data centre resource heat mapping** for evidence-based planning around water and energy availability and site selection; **performance-linked sustainability incentives**; **sustainable data centre zones/parks**.
- **Beyond Bengaluru:** Supports data centre development outside Bengaluru to build a **distributed digital infrastructure** ecosystem across the State.
- **Implementation:** Phased five-year roadmap anchored by the **Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T**; **KITS** as the registration and policy implementation interface; **Karnataka Udyoga Mitra (KUM)**, Department of Commerce and Industries, as the **Single Window Agency** for clearances.

27. Govt. backs separate Coastal and Malnad tourism policy

Why in News

- The State Cabinet at its **Mangaluru** meeting approved a separate **Coastal and Malnad Karnataka Tourism Policy 2026** (₹500 crore) and the **Coastal Tourism Perspective Plan** to promote tourism and boost the region's economic development.

Key Highlights

- **Policy aim:** Encourage investment in **greenfield tourism**; tourism investments to be treated as **infrastructure projects**, giving investors **longer loan repayment tenures**.
- **Rationale:** About **45% of tourists** visiting Karnataka travel to these regions, contributing nearly **₹2,876 crore annually** in foreign exchange earnings.
- **Nine priority circuits:** Coast-to-Ghats Blue-Green; Coastal Pilgrimage and Heritage; Beach and Surf; Cruise and Backwater; Coastal and Inland Food; Coffee and Plantation; Western Ghats Eco and Adventure; Monsoon; and Ancient Heritage.
- **Institutions & incentives:** A **State Tourism Board** chaired by the **Chief Minister**; **Tourism Investment Help Centres** and a **single-window** system; **industry status** to tourism and **property tax exemptions** in tourism

investment promotion areas.
- **Perspective Plan:** Will assess tourism assets, accessibility, information, environmental and regulatory frameworks and challenges, and set the reference framework for implementing the policy.

Additional Information

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)

- Governed by the **CRZ Notification, 2019**, issued under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- States prepare **Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs)**, approved by the Centre; the notification allows regulated tourism infrastructure (temporary facilities, eco-tourism) in specified zones and has special provisions for islands.

28. State ranks 3rd in NITI Aayog's electric mobility index '25

Why in News



- Karnataka secured the **third position** nationally with a score of **73** in the **India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025** released by **NITI Aayog**, and is among the two leading large States classified as **top performers**, alongside **Maharashtra**.

Key Highlights

- **Rankings: Delhi** topped with **84**, followed by **Maharashtra (78)**, **Karnataka (73)**, **Chandigarh (71)** and **Goa (65)**. Jurisdictions scoring **65 and above** are classified as **top performers**.
- **Charging infrastructure:** Karnataka scored **97 in Charging Infrastructure Readiness (CIR)**, the **highest in the country**.
- **Improvement:** In **IEMI 2024**, Karnataka ranked **fourth** with a score of **64**, after Delhi, Maharashtra and Chandigarh.
- **About the index:** The **second edition** of IEMI, developed by NITI Aayog with **WRI India**, evaluates States and UTs on both **policy frameworks and implementation outcomes**.
- **Recognition:** Received at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, by **Gaurav Gupta**, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy.
- **State initiatives: Bescom EV Mithra** (unified EV charging app), a **single-window clearance** system and an **EV Accelerator Cell**; Karnataka was the **first State to introduce a dedicated EV policy (2017)**, covering vehicle sales, charging infrastructure and manufacturing zones.
- **Registrations:** Karnataka accounts for **8.81%** of India's EV registrations; **second** in both two-wheeler and four-wheeler registrations (after Maharashtra) and **third** in e-bus registrations (after Delhi and Maharashtra).

Additional Information

India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI)

- **Launched by: NITI Aayog** (first edition released in **August 2025** at Vigyan Bhawan), in collaboration with **WRI India**.
- **Purpose:** Benchmarks and tracks the progress of States and UTs in electric mobility adoption on a **0-100** scale.
- **Themes: Transport Electrification Progress**, **Charging Infrastructure Readiness** and **EV Research and Innovation Status**.

Central support for EVs

Scheme	Year	Nodal Ministry	Focus
FAME-I / FAME-II	2015 / 2019	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Demand incentives and charging infrastructure
PM E-DRIVE	2024	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Incentives for e-2W, e-3W, e-ambulances, e-trucks; e-buses; public charging stations

PLI - ACC Battery Storage	2021	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Domestic manufac-turing of advanced chemistry cells

29.Rising cost of metals and falling demand spell trouble for Bidriware

Why in News



- **Bidriware**, the centuries-old metal craft unique to **Bidar**, known for its **black-and-silver finish**, is under pressure from sharply rising prices of **silver, copper and zinc** and falling demand, squeezing artisans' margins and threatening the craft's sustainability.

Key Highlights

- **Metal price surge: Silver** rose from about **₹95,700/kg in 2024** to **₹4 lakh in January 2026**, before stabilising around **₹2.50 lakh**; **copper** from **₹750 to ~₹1,450/kg**; **zinc** from **₹230 to ~₹400/kg**. Materials are sourced largely from **Hyderabad and Secunderabad**.
- **Composition & process:** About **90% zinc and 10% copper**, with **silver inlay**; designs are sketched with a sharp metal stylus, engraved with floral and geometric patterns and inlaid with silver; the **deep-black lustre** comes from **soil from the historic Bidar Fort** added to a chemical solution in the final stage.
- **Products:** Over **200 varieties**, including hookahs, goblets, plates, figurines, vases, caskets, jewellery and table lamps; priced between **₹2,500 and ₹50,000**.
- **Markets:** Corporates from **Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi** place bulk orders for gifts and office décor; **foreign buyers** have declined sharply since **COVID-19** .
- **Generational crisis:** Nearly half the artisans are older; youth avoid the profession due to irregular orders and uncertain income; skilled craftsmen have fallen to **fewer than 75**.
- **Labour-intensive:** Believed to have originated in the **15th-century Bahmani Sultanate**; even a small vase takes **10-12 days**.
- **Demand:** Artisans and shop owners urged the State to set up a **dedicated training centre** for unemployed youth to preserve the craft.

Additional Information

Bidriware

- A **Geographical Indication (GI)**-registered handicraft of **Karnataka**, named after **Bidar**.
- Traditionally associated with Persian influences under the **Bahmani** rulers; the craft is also practised in parts of **Telangana** (Hyderabad).

Bahmani Sultanate and Bidar

- Founded in **1347** by **Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah** with its capital at **Gulbarga (Kalaburagi)**.
- Capital shifted to **Bidar** under **Ahmad Shah I Wali** (c. **1429**); **Mahmud Gawan's madrasa** at Bidar is a noted monument of the period.
- The Sultanate later split into the five **Deccan Sultanates** (Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmadnagar, Berar and Bidar).

30. Court-monitored probe ordered into KPSC scam; SIT set up

Why in News

- The **Karnataka High Court** ordered a **court-monitored investigation** by a **Special Investigation Team (SIT)** headed by **DGP Alok Kumar** into alleged large-scale irregularities in recruitment by the **Karnataka State Public Service Commission (KPSC)**.

Key Highlights

- **Order:** Passed on Monday by **Justice M. Nagaprasanna**; SIT given **100 days** to complete the probe and file its final report,

with a **progress report every 30 days**.

- **SIT Composition:** Headed by senior IPS officer and **Director-General of Police Alok Kumar**; other members are IPS officers **Divya V. Gopinath, Anoop A. Shetty, Kushal Choksey and Kshama Mishra**. The State must issue a notification declaring the SIT a **police station** for investigation purposes.
- **Petitioners: Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal (MLA)**, the **All Karnataka State Students' Association**, and **Manjunath**, who had sought a **CBI probe**.
- **Two Cases Involved:** (1) selection of a **daughter of suspended KPSC chairperson Shivashankar S. Sahukar** as **Industrial Extension Officer**; (2) alleged illegalities in selection to **400 posts of veterinary officers**.
- **Scope of Probe:** SIT to act **independently and impartially**, uninfluenced by the order's observations; not confined to persons or allegations presently named, it must **"follow the evidence wherever it leads"**.
- **Support & Coordination:** SIT may use **forensic, cyber, financial and technical** experts, and must cooperate with and receive information from the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**, which is probing under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act**.

Additional Information

State Public Service Commissions - Constitutional Provisions

Article	Provision
315	Public Service Commissions for the Union and for the States
316	Chairman and members of a SPSC appointed by the Governor; term 6 years or till age 62
317	Removal/suspension, removal only by the President after an inquiry by the Supreme Court (misbehaviour); Governor may suspend pending inquiry
320	Functions, conduct exams for State services; advise on recruitment methods, promotions, disciplinary matters
323(2)	Annual report to the Governor, laid before the State Legislature

Special Investigation Team & ED

- A court-constituted **SIT** is a judicial tool used where the court finds the regular agency's independence doubtful; the court retains **supervision** via periodic reports.
- The **Enforcement Directorate** (under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**) investigates offences under **PMLA, 2002** and **FEMA, 1999**.

31. State tightens marriage registration rules, says Aadhaar can't be age proof

Why in News

- Karnataka's **Department of Stamps and Registration** has issued a circular directing officials not to accept the **Aadhaar card as proof of age** of the bride and groom for **marriage registration**.

Key Highlights

- **Accepted Documents:** Officials must consider a **birth certificate or school certificate**; only in their absence, a **medical certificate issued by a doctor**.
- **Legal Basis:** Documents specified in **Schedule-11 of Rule 6(2)** of the **Prohibition of Child Marriage (Karnataka) Rules, 2014**, under the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006**.
- **Trigger:** Child rights activists alleged that parents/guardians of brides **altered the age in Aadhaar photocopies** or through the **UIDAI correction window**.
- **Official View:** under **UIDAI** rules Aadhaar is only **proof of identity** (address and biometric details), and the **Department of Women and Child Development** too has said it cannot be age proof for marriage registration.
- **Cases Cited: K.T. Thippeswamy**, former member of the **Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR)**, said

an **FIR** was recently registered in **Koppal and Raichur** against parents of a girl and the groom for altering Aadhaar ages that did not match school and birth certificates; many such cases go **unreported**.

Additional Information

Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- **Child:** A male below **21** years and a female below **18** years.
- **Status of Marriage:** Under the central Act, a child marriage is **voidable** at the option of the contracting party who was a child; Karnataka's **2016 amendment** made child marriages **void ab initio** in the State.
- **Punishment:** Adult male marrying a child, and those who perform, conduct, abet, promote or permit a child marriage, **rigorous imprisonment up to 2 years and/or fine up to ₹1 lakh**.
- **Enforcement: Child Marriage Prohibition Officers** appointed by States; courts can issue **injunctions** to prevent child marriages.

Aadhaar and Proof of Age

- Issued by **UIDAI** (statutory body under the **Aadhaar Act, 2016**, Ministry of Electronics and IT).
- UIDAI has clarified that Aadhaar is a proof of **identity**, not of **date of birth**; the **EPFO** removed Aadhaar from its list of acceptable DoB documents in **2024**.

32. Gehlot to CM: Reconsider GO curbing rendition to two stanzas

Why in News



- Setting the stage for a **Governor-government standoff**, Governor **Thaawarchand Gehlot** has asked Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** to reconsider the **September 8 Government Order** restricting the rendition of the national song **Vande Mataram** to **two stanzas** at State functions.

Key Highlights

- **Governor's Contention:** The GO is **"contrary to the guidelines laid down by the Union government"** and violates the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026**; reconsideration would avoid conflict with Union protocol and **"avoidable Constitutional litigation"** .
- **Competence Argument:** The subject falls **outside the legislative competence of the State**; the State Executive cannot, by executive instruction, prescribe a **contrary or truncated national protocol**, it concerns conformity with the protocol governing a **national symbol**.
- **Karnataka's GO:** Restricts rendition to two stanzas, with **exceptions** in the presence of **Constitutional authorities** such as the **Governor, President and Vice-President**; the **Congress working committee** has reaffirmed the two-stanza rendition.
- **Central Law:** The latest amendment makes rendition of **all six stanzas mandatory**.
- **MHA Orders:** The Governor noted the **Ministry of Home Affairs** has issued "orders relating to the National Song and National Anthem of India" prescribing the **official version**.
- **Statutory Protection:** Protection under **Section 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971** has been extended to Vande Mataram by the **2026 Amendment**, covering **intentional prevention of singing** and **disturbance of an assembly** engaged in singing.
- **Constitutional Articles Cited: Articles 73, 162, 256 and 257(1)** to show the State's limitations; the national song and its official version are **not expressly in the State List**.
- **Governor's Advice:** State action should be **"carefully harmonised"** with the Central framework rather than prescribing a divergent State-specific version.

Additional Information

Vande Mataram

- Written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** (composed c. **1875**); included in his novel **Anandamath (1882)**; written in Sanskritised Bengali.
- First sung at a political gathering by **Rabindranath Tagore** at the **1896 Calcutta session of the INC**.
- Adopted as the **National Song** on **24 January 1950** by the Constituent Assembly (statement of **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**), with **equal honour** to the National Anthem *Jana Gana Mana*.

Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971

- **Section 2:** Insult to the **National Flag and Constitution**; **Section 3:** intentional prevention of singing of the **National Anthem** / disturbing an assembly singing it, imprisonment up to **3 years**, or fine, or both.

33. State rejects Kasturirangan report in current form; Houses call upon Centre to confine ESA to notified forests

Why in News

- The **Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Council** passed a **unanimous resolution** rejecting the **K. Kasturirangan report** on the Western Ghats in its present form, urging the Centre to confine the **Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)** to **notified forests** and seeking **one year** for a **physical survey**.

Key Highlights

- **Resolution:** Tabled by **CM D.K. Shivakumar**; the Centre's **draft ESA notification** should not be finalised for **one year** until the physical survey is done, and a final decision taken only after the State's report and **detailed discussion** with the State.
- **High-level Committee:** To be led by a **retired judge** to correct "**lacunae**" in the report, with officials of **Revenue and Forest** departments, representatives of **farmers and industrial units**, and **forest/ecology experts**; to be assisted by a committee of people's representatives at the **village panchayat** level.
- **Draft Notification:** The Centre issued the **seventh draft notification** on **July 27**, covering **20,668 sq. km** in **1,449 villages** across **10 districts**; the State's stand would reduce it to about **16,000 sq. km**.
- **Exclusions Demanded: Agricultural/ horticultural/plantation lands, human settlements** and areas of public activity should be excluded; boundaries to be demarcated through a survey based on **revenue survey numbers**.
- **Land Grants:** ESA must account for **land grants**, the **bagair hukum** scheme (title deeds to tillers), court appeals and court cases.
- **Livelihood Support:** Guidelines sought for **financial assistance** to affected farmers and workers to find alternative livelihoods.
- **Why Inaccurate:** ESA was determined using **satellite data** instead of a joint physical survey by Forest and Revenue departments, and includes farmland, houses and public amenities.
- **CM's Remarks:** An entire village is included if **20%** of its area is forest; the government's stand is that **no one should be evicted** due to the draft ESA.

Additional Information

Kasturirangan (HLWG) vs Gadgil (WGEEP) Reports

Feature	Gadgil Committee (WGEEP)	Kasturirangan Committee (HLWG)
Constituted	2010	2012
Report	2011	2013
ESA coverage	Entire Western Ghats, zoned ESZ-1/2/3 (~64% in ESZ-1 & 2)	~37% of Western Ghats (~59,940 sq km)

Approach	Bottom-up, Gram Sabha-led	Distinguishes cultural and natural land-scapes; ban on mining, quarry-ing, red-category industries in ESA

Ecologically Sensitive Areas & Western Ghats

- ESAs are notified by the **MoEFCC** under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** (Section 3 & Rule 5 of the EP Rules).
- The **Western Ghats** span **six States**, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and were inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012**; they are one of the world's biodiversity **hotspots** (with Sri Lanka).

34. State targets 30% reduction in salt intake by 2030 to promote healthy diet

Why in News



- Karnataka launched the **Karnataka State Multisectoral Action Plan for Salt Reduction and Promotion of Healthy Dietary Habits**, aiming to cut **population salt intake by 30% by 2030** to help prevent **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**.

Key Highlights

- **Three Levels of Focus:** Reducing salt in **households**, **food consumed outside the home**, and **processed and packaged foods**.
- **Measures:** Reduce use of **discretionary salt**, encourage **food manufacturers** to cut salt in processed/packaged foods, promote **awareness of healthier diets**, and strengthen research on **potassium-enriched low-sodium salt**.
- **Benchmark:** Progress towards the **WHO recommendation of less than five grams of salt per person per day**.
- **Launch:** By **Health Minister U.T. Khader** at a **Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** meeting at **Vidhana Soudha**.
- **TAG:** Chaired by **RGUHS Vice-Chancellor Bhagavan B.C.**; brings together the **State Health Department, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, NIMHANS**, academic and nutrition institutions, and public health organisations, **Institute of Public Health (IPH), Resolve to Save Lives** and **Vision for Social Development**.
- **Convergence:** Builds on salt-reduction measures under **PM POSHAN**, dietary counselling through **Gruha Arogya**, and dietary risk-factor counselling under the **National Programme for Prevention and Control of NCDs**.
- **Next Step:** The Minister called for a **State Steering Committee** involving multiple departments for coordinated, sustained action.

Additional Information

Salt and NCDs - Global Targets

- **WHO:** Adults should consume **< 5 g salt/day** (about **< 2 g sodium**), using **iodised salt**.
- **Global target:** WHO's NCD Global Monitoring Framework set a **30% relative reduction** in mean population salt/sodium intake; excess sodium is a leading cause of **hypertension**, heart disease and stroke.

PM POSHAN

- **Launch: 2021** (replacing the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme**); **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Education**.
- **Beneficiaries:** Children in **Balvatika and Classes 1-8** of government and government-aided schools.
- **Funding:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme, **60:40** Centre-State (90:10 for NE/Himalayan States).

National Programme for Prevention and Control of NCDs (NP-NCD)

- Earlier **NPCDCS** (2010), renamed **NP-NCD**

in **2023**; under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, implemented via the National Health Mission; focuses on screening and management of **hypertension, diabetes and common cancers**.

- **Gruha Arogya:** Karnataka's doorstep **NCD screening** programme, piloted in **Kolar** and later extended statewide.

35. 53 more taluks to be included in drought-hit list, taking total to 177

Why in News



- Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister **G. Parameshwara** told the **Legislative Council** that **53 more taluks** will be declared **drought-affected**, taking the total to **177 of 240 taluks** in Karnataka.

Key Highlights

- **Phases: 101** taluks were declared drought-hit in the **first phase** and **23** added in the **second**; with 53 more, the total reaches **177**.
- **More Likely:** Another **20 to 30 taluks** are likely to be declared drought-affected.
- **Rainfall:** Karnataka normally receives around **852 mm** but only **642 mm** has been recorded; deficits reported in several regions from June.
- **Regional Deficit:** Average deficit **36%, South Interior Karnataka 46%, North Interior Karnataka 44%, Malnad 38%, coastal region 28%**.
- **Crop Failure:** Farmers sowed when rains began, but rain stopped soon after, drying up **germinated crops**; in several places a **second sowing** after rains returned also suffered damage.
- **Crop Loss: 82% of crops in rain-fed areas** have been lost.
- **Historic Severity:** Conditions are similar to **1876**, the **worst in the last 150 years**, the Minister said.
- **Context:** The statement was made while initiating a discussion on drought during the **special session** of the Legislature.

Additional Information

Drought Declaration in India

- Governed by the **Manual for Drought Management (2016, updated 2020)** of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**; States declare drought.
- **Indicators:** Mandatory, **rainfall deviation/ dry spells**; impact indicators, **crop sown area, vegetation indices (NDVI/NDWI), soil moisture, hydrology**; ground-truthing through field verification.
- **Relief Funding:** From the **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**, supplemented by the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** on the basis of a Central team assessment; drought is a notified disaster eligible for this assistance.

SHORT NEWS

1. Panel set up to address student problems

- **Panel: Cabinet Sub-committee** on student issues and education reforms headed by **U.T. Khader**, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Minority Welfare and Haj & Wakf.
- **Members: Basavaraj Rayaraddi** (Higher Education), **Priyank Kharge** (Home, IT&BT), **Sharan Prakash Patil** (Medical Education), **Madhu Bangarappa** (School Education).
- **Focus areas:** Integrity of exams and recruitment; cost of education, fee and coaching regulation; infrastructure; curriculum and employment linkage; **student mental health**; access and equity.
- **Context:** Concerns over question paper leaks, high fees in private institutions and coaching centres, poor infrastructure and teacher vacancies.
- **Also aims:** Strengthen scholarships, expand hostel capacity, promote girls' education,

support SC/ST/OBC/Minority and first-generation learners.

2. Govt. panel to review withdrawal of criminal cases

- **Panel: Six-member Cabinet sub-committee** headed by Home Minister **Priyank Kharge**.
- **Task:** Examine criminal cases pending before courts in the State and recommend cases that may be withdrawn.
- **Members: K.H. Muniyappa**, **U.T. Khader**, **Krishna Byre Gowda**, **H.C. Balakrishna** and **Yathindra Siddaramaiah**.
- **Criteria:** Nature, background and other relevant factors of each case will be examined.
- **Know more:** Withdrawal from prosecution is made by the Public Prosecutor with the court's consent, under Section 360 of the BNSS (earlier Section 321 CrPC).

3. Proposed BMR economic master plan targets 75% public transport share

- **Target:** Raise public transport share in the **Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR)** from **35% to 75%**; expand metro, suburban rail and **RRTS** corridors, plus a **second airport**.
- **Economy goal:** Grow BMR economy from **$149 billion** to **$400 billion by 2037**, creating up to **2.5 million jobs**.
- **Prepared by:** Karnataka government with the **ISEG Foundation**; draft presented to CM **D.K. Shivakumar**.
- **BMR profile: 3 districts**, about **16 million** people, about **40%** of State GSDP; per capita income nearly **twice** the State average.
- **Growth areas:** Technology (IT/GCC hubs, deep-tech sandboxes, AI mission), high-tech manufacturing (aerospace, Defence), healthcare and education, planned urbanisation, slum-free BMR.

4. NITI Aayog for 'second Bengaluru' to ease pressure on capital

- **Suggestion:** NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Ashok Kumar Lahiri** asked the State to consider building a **"second Bengaluru"** to reduce pressure on the capital.
- **Response:** CM **D.K. Shivakumar** said a plan would be prepared as per NITI Aayog's expectations, considering steps taken by other States.
- **Pressure factors:** Karnataka produces **1.6 lakh engineers** and about **13,000 doctors** every year; Bengaluru's population keeps rising.
- **State's demands:** Due share of **Central funds**, including pending grants; no cut in funds for Southern States for implementing **population control**.
- **Know more:** NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission on **January 1, 2015**; the Prime Minister is its Chairperson.

5. AI University consultation committee holds first meeting

- **Event:** First meeting of the **Karnataka Artificial Intelligence University consultation committee** held in **Bengaluru**.
- **Chair: Kris Gopalakrishnan**, co-founder of Infosys and chairman of Axilor Ventures; co-chaired by **N. Manjula**, secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science & Technology.
- **Mandate:** Prepare a roadmap for phased establishment and operationalisation of the proposed university.
- **Key point:** Launch **certificate, diploma, finishing-school, executive education and reskilling** programmes through industry and academic partnerships, ahead of the full-fledged university.

6. On Teachers' Day, OPS gift to 3,773 primary school teachers

- **Order: 3,773** government primary school teachers selected through recruitment notifications before **April 1, 2006**, brought under the **Old Pension Scheme (OPS)**.
- **Division-wise: 1,113** from Dharwad, **563** from Kalaburagi, **2,097** from Bengaluru-Mysuru division.
- **Background:** State implemented the **New Pension Scheme** on **April 1, 2006**; **13,000** employees notified before that date but joining later were also put under NPS.
- **Court:** Some approached the court and the **Supreme Court** ruled in their favour; per State Primary School Teachers' Association president **Chandrashekhar Nugli**, **4,073** of the over 13,000 employees were teachers.
- **Know more:** At the Centre, the NPS applies to government employees who joined on or after January 1, 2004.

7. Teachers in State can now prefix 'Tr' to their names

- **Order:** Karnataka government allowed use of prefix **"Tr"** before names of teachers, on the lines of "Dr" for doctors and "Prof" for professors.
- **Reason:** Recognition of teachers' contribution to "progress and educational upliftment of society".
- **Announcement:** Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** called for it at the launch of the **Praja Seva Department** in **Kudligi, Vijayanagara district**.
- **Figure:** More than **4.5 lakh teachers** in Karnataka.
- **Know more:** Teachers' Day on September 5 marks the birth anniversary of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

8. Students to get exposure to rural life with 'Gramanubhava'

- **Programme: 'Gramanubhava'** gives urban school and college students first-hand exposure to rural life: agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry, art and culture.
- **Coverage:** Classes **8, 9 and 11** in urban areas of all district headquarters; about **2,15,577 students** initially; classes 10 and 12 exempted.
- **Format:** Village stay of **one night and two days**, to be held between **September and December**; groups accompanied by **five teachers**.
- **Implementation:** Led by **Samagra Shikshana Karnataka (SSK)** and School Education Department (PU), cost **₹2.46 crore**; **Department of Agriculture** as technical partner.
- **Know more:** Samagra Shiksha is a centrally sponsored scheme for school education launched in 2018.

9. Student union polls to be held without caste quota

- **Decision:** Cabinet cleared revival of **student union elections** in colleges and universities, banned over **two decades ago**, from the **2026-2027 academic year**.
- **Announced by:** Deputy Chief Minister **G. Parameshwara**.
- **Reservation:** Only **reservation for women**; no other quota, including **caste-based reservation**.
- **Structure:** Elected president, **two vice-presidents** (one woman), one general secretary, **two joint secretaries** (one for women), and a **six-member executive committee** with two women.
- **No party link:** Contestants cannot be affiliated to student wings of political parties; violators will be disqualified.

10. 'Government First' initiative: Inter-departmental co-operation is key, say start-ups, IT-BT Department

- **Aim:** Let start-ups work directly with **government departments** and test solutions with them; formulated under the Special Initiative of the **Startup Policy 2025-30**.
- **Scale:** About **100 start-ups** over **3 years**, total outlay **₹25 crore**; work orders of up to **₹25 lakh** for pilots.
- **Routes:** Departments publish problem statements, or start-ups propose solutions via a **Startup-Initiated Route**; no prior government experience needed.
- **No tender:** No tendering or **KTPP** process; domain experts, user departments and the **IT-BT department** select start-ups (Secretary **Manjula N.**).
- **Know more:** KTPP refers to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act, 1999.

11. Solar power to reach 1,900 anganwadis

- **Partnership:** Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) has partnered with the **SELCO Foundation** to provide solar power to **1,900 anganwadi centres** across Karnataka.
- **MoU:** Signed by WCD Director **Mahesh Babu** and SELCO Foundation Director **Huda Jaffer**.
- **Cost and aim:** About **₹16 crore**; to improve facilities for early childhood care, preschool education, nutrition and health services.
- **Focus:** Anganwadis without electricity or in interior, remote and infrastructure-deficient areas.
- **Training:** Staff trained in safe use and maintenance of solar systems and the **Soura eMitra** app to report and track faults.
- **Know more:** Anganwadis are the grassroots centres of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, launched in 1975.

12. Panel seeks suggestions on proposed fare hike

- **Body: Karnataka Public Transport Fare Regulation Committee (KPTFRC)**, modelled on the Fare Fixation Committee of Namma Metro, sought public suggestions on bus fare revision.
- **Head:** Former IAS officer **Atul Kumar Tiwari**; first such committee for bus fare revision in the State.
- **Reason:** Transport Minister **Byrathi Suresh** said the four RTCs incur losses of **₹8,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore** annually due to fuel price hikes.
- **Mandate:** Study finances of all four road transport corporations and suggest fare revisions, surcharges and fees.
- **Deadline:** Objections and suggestions by post or web link on or before **September 21**.
- **Know more:** Karnataka's four State RTCs are KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC.

13. Govt. raisin processing unit to help farmers reduce transportation costs

- **Where and when:** Raisin processing and cold storage unit at **Thoravi village, Vijayapura**, to be accessible from **November** for grape farmers of Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Belagavi.
- **Funding: NABARD** and State government under the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund**; set up by the **Karnataka Grape and Wine Board**.
- **Capacity: 10,000 tonnes** storage; processes **four tonnes of raisins per hour**; raisins packed in **15-kg bags**; rooftop solar of **250kW**, to be expanded to **500kW**.
- **Benefit:** Farmers need not transport raisins to **Sangli or Pune** (Maharashtra); private units charge **₹700 to ₹800** per tonne per month, govt. unit plans to charge **₹50 to ₹100** less.
- **Data:** Karnataka produces **1.5 to 2 lakh**

tonnes of raisins a year; **42,000** of **47,177 hectares** under grapes are in Vijayapura, Belagavi and Bagalkot.
- **Know more:** The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was set up within NABARD in 1995-96.

14. Cabinet approves Karnataka Marine Biotechnology Policy 2026-31

- **Approval:** State Cabinet approved the **Karnataka Marine Biotechnology Policy 2026-2031**, a **five-year** framework, at its Mangaluru meeting.
- **Aim:** Unlock the economic potential of marine and coastal resources; make Karnataka a leading hub for **marine biotechnology** and the **blue bioeconomy**.
- **Target:** Grow the State's blue bioeconomy from about **$2 billion** to **$6-8 billion by 2031**.
- **Jobs:** About **2,500** high-value technical jobs and **7,500** coastal enterprise and livelihood opportunities.
- **Know more:** Blue bioeconomy refers to economic activity based on the sustainable use of marine and aquatic biological resources.

15. Cabinet approves 12 island projects

- **Decision:** Cabinet approved development of **12 islands**, including river islands (**Kudru**), to make coastal Karnataka a world-class tourist destination; PPP model, **DBFOT** mode.
- **Lease terms: 30 months** for statutory approvals, then **30 years** including construction; minimum revenue share of **2%** plus annual lease fee.
- **Mangaluru Kudrus:** North and South Kudrus in the **Phalguni (Gurupura)** river, investment **₹125.43 crore**; **30-berth marina** on North Kudru, **32 nature huts** on South Kudru.
- **Uttara Kannada and Udupi: 7 islands** in Karwar, Bhatkal, Ankola taluks (**₹307.71 crore**); **Ayaba, Dariya Bahadurgad, Malpe** islands in Udupi as eco-tourism spots (**₹279.03 crore**).
- **Mangaluru Lighthouse:** Tourism and hospitality infrastructure on **1.5 acres** (**₹60.34 crore**), including **35 rooms** (3-star and above).

16. Cabinet nod for Fisheries University

- **Decision:** Mangaluru Cabinet meeting gave in-principle approval to upgrade the **Mangaluru Fisheries College** as a **Fisheries University**.
- **Intake:** To increase from **60** to **200** students a year.
- **Implementation:** A **special officer** will be appointed; about **₹11 crore** earmarked initially for the upgradation.
- **Context:** Cabinet approved expenditure/ investment proposals worth **₹32,611 crore** in all, including **₹16,000 crore** for rural development.
- **Know more:** The College of Fisheries, Mangaluru currently functions under the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), Bidar.

17. Nod for govt. medical college in Puttur

- **Approval:** State Cabinet, meeting in Mangaluru, approved a **government medical college in Puttur**.
- **Cost:** Estimated at **₹549.79 crore**.
- **Location: Sediyapu** in **Bannur village**, Puttur taluk.
- **Special Officer: R. Lohit Kumar**, Associate Professor, Forensic Medicine, Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences, appointed by the **Directorate of Medical Education**.
- **Know more:** Puttur is a taluk in Dakshina Kannada district.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD)

News

- India has strongly rejected the "politically motivated and malicious" observations made by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD) following its 11th periodic review in Geneva.

UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD)

- **Nature:** Independent **UN treaty body** comprising **18 experts**.
- **Convention:** Monitors implementation of **ICERD (1965)**.
  - Adopted: **1965**
  - Entered into force: **1969**
  - Supported by **OHCHR**.
- **Functions:**
  - Reviews periodic reports of State Parties.
  - Issues **Concluding Observations**.
  - Uses **Early Warning & Urgent Action Procedures** to address risks of racial/ethnic conflict.

India & UNCERD

- **Signed ICERD:** 1967
- **Ratified:** 1968
- **Constitutional safeguards: Articles 14, 15, 16 & 17**.
- Key laws: **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955** and **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**.
- **India's position:** Caste-based discrimination is viewed as **social stratification**, addressed through India's constitutional/legal framework, rather than racial discrimination under ICERD.

2. Paracel Islands



Context

- Satellite images show that China has built an artificial island on the disputed Antelope Reef in the South China Sea and constructed infrastructure that expands its control over the region.

Paracel Islands

- **Location: South China Sea**, comprising ~130 small coral islands and reefs.
- **Geography:**
  1. ~400 km east of **central Vietnam**.
  2. ~350 km southeast of **Hainan Island, China**.
- **Control & claims: China has controlled the islands since the 1970s**, while **Vietnam also claims sovereignty**.
- **Strategic significance:** Located along important **sea lanes of communication** in the South China Sea.
- **Dispute:** Part of the broader **South China Sea territorial dispute**.
- **Other South China Sea claimants: Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia** also have overlapping maritime claims with China.
- **Antelope Reef:** Located within the **Paracel Islands**.

3. UN Mission in South Sudan

Context



- India has condemned the attack on peacekeepers deployed with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

UN Peacekeepers / Blue Helmets

- **Blue Helmets:** Military personnel serving in **UN peacekeeping missions**.
- **Identification:** Wear distinctive **light-blue helmets/berets**.
- **Role:**
  - Maintain **peace and security** in conflict zones.
  - Monitor **ceasefires and peace agreements**.
  - **Protect civilians** and support humanitarian efforts.
  - Help countries transition from **conflict to peace**.
- **UNMISS: United Nations Mission in South Sudan**, established to support peace, security and civilian protection in South Sudan.
- **India:** Has a long-standing role in **UN peacekeeping operations** and condemned the attack on UNMISS peacekeepers.

4. Indus Water Treaty



Context

- India has rejected the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), The Hague's ruling on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), asserting that the arbitral body was illegally constituted and lacks jurisdiction over India.

Indus Waters Treaty

- Background - In 1947, the partition had cut the Indus river system into two between India and Pakistan.
- **Mediated by - The World Bank**
- **Signed in - it was signed in 1960 by former PM Jawaharlal Nehru and then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan.**
- **Transboundary river** - The Indus River is a transboundary river that flows through **Pakistan (47%), India (39%), Tibet (8%), and Afghanistan (6%).** It is the longest river in Pakistan.
- **Note -** In India, the **Indus basin spreads over J&K, HP, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Chandigarh.**

Major tributaries of the Indus River are:

Jhelum	**Spring at Verinag, Kashmir Valley**	**Chenab at Trimmu, Pakistan**
Chenab	**Chandra and Bhaga streams near Bara Lacha Pass**	**Satluj after receiving Jhelum and Ravi**
Ravi	**Kullu hills near Rohtang Pass**	**Chenab near Rangpur, Pakistan**
Beas	**Near Rohtang Pass**	**Satluj at Harike Barrage, India**
Satluj	**Manasarovar-Rakas Lakes, Tibet**	**Indus a few kilometres above Mithankot, Pakistan**

Provisions of Indus Water Treaty

- It allocated the three western rivers (i.e., Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum) to Pakistan for unrestricted use, barring certain non-consumptive, agricultural and domestic uses by India.
- **It allocated the three eastern rivers, (i.e., Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) to India for unrestricted usage**.
- This meant that **80% of the share of water went to Pakistan, leaving 20% of water for use by India**.

Annexure C and D

- Though Pakistan has rights over waters of Jhelum, Chenab and Indus, but:
    1. Annexure C of the IWT allows India certain agricultural uses
    2. **Annexure D allows India to build 'run of the river' hydropower projects** (projects not requiring live storage of water).

Permanent Indus Commission

- The treaty also required that both countries should **establish a Permanent Indus Commission constituted by permanent commissioners of both sides.**
- **It functions as the first stop for resolution of conflicts.**
- **It should meet at least once a year.**

5. 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit

Context

- The 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit has been concluded in Kyrgyzstan.

Major Highlights

- It is being held to mark the **25th anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.**
- **2026 theme - '25 Years of the SCO: Together Towards Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity'.**
- **Bishkek Declaration:** The summit adopted the historic Bishkek Declaration.
- **English has been adopted as an official SCO language.**
- **Pakistan will take over the SCO chairmanship from Kyrgyzsta**n and host the next meeting of the Council of Heads of State in 2027.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

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

Areas of Concern

- **Ongoing Border Tensions** - Incidents in **Doklam (2017), Galwan Valley (2020), and northeastern states (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh).**



- **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** India has expressed reservations about China's Belt and Road Initiative, especially regarding the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, which passes through the territory of India.

6. Visit of the Prime Minister of Belgium to India

Context



- Recently the Belgian Prime Minister visited India, marking the first official visit by a Belgian Prime Minister in two decades.

India–Belgium Relations

- **Diplomatic ties:** Established in **1948**; **75 years completed in 2023**.
- **Trade:** Major sectors include **diamonds, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, machinery and IT**.
- **Strategic Dialogue:** Institutionalised bilateral strategic engagement.
- **Defence:** Cooperation in **maritime security, autonomous systems and counter-drone technology**.
- **Strategic importance:** Belgium is a key **gateway to the EU**, hosting **EU institutions and NATO headquarters**.
- **Emerging areas: Critical minerals, semiconductors, clean energy and technology**.

7. Status of the World's Soil Resources 2026

News -

- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** published the **Status of the World's Soil Resources 2026 report**
- **Soil biodiversity** refers to the **variety of life belowground**, ranging from genes and species to communities and soil ecosystems.
- Major Organisms include b**acteria, fungi, archaea, protozoa, nematodes, earthworms and arthropods.**

Key Findings

- **Loss of Soil Biodiversity:** It ranks 4th among seven major threats to soil function, after soil erosion, loss of soil organic carbon and nutrient mismanagement.
- **Major Threat –** Habitat Loss: Intensive irrigation, heavy machinery, fertilisers and pesticides can significantly alter soil habitats and reduce soil biodiversity.
- **Global Implementation Gap:** Sustainable soil-management practices are deteriorating in 58% of regional and sub-regional assessments, while improving in only around 10%.

8. Syria



News -

- **A UN report confirmed that Syria was building a nuclear reactor in Deir el-Zour under former President Assad**.
- **Location**: East coast of Mediterranean Sea in southwestern Asia.
- **Capital: Damascus.**
- **Borders:** Turkey (north), Iraq (east), Jordan (south), Lebanon (west) and Israel (southwest).
- **Major Landforms:** Syrian Coastal Mountains, Anti-Lebanon Mountains and the Syrian/ Syro-Arabian Desert.
- **The Golan Heights: A major territorial and geopolitical issue involving Syria and Israel.**
- Syria is a member of the UN and the League of Arab States (Arab League).

9. Belgium



News -

- The Belgian Prime Minister arrived in New Delhi for a three-day official visit to India.

About

- **Located in -** Northwestern Europe, **it is one of the smallest and most densely populated European countries.**
- **Capital: Brussels (also hosts NATO Headquarters)**
- **Borders**: France (South), Germany (East), Luxembourg (Southeast) and the Netherlands (North).
- **Founding member of the EU and NATO**.
- Has a **coastline along the North Sea,** giving it strategic importance for European maritime trade.

10.Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Report 2026

News-

- **The 2026 V-Dem Report classifies India as an "electoral autocracy,"** ranking it **106th out of 179 on the Electoral Democracy Index**, with its score at the lowest level since the 1975 Emergency.

About-

- **V-Dem Institute:** Based at the **University of Gothenburg, Sweden**; **assesses democracy using expert-based data.**
- **Five dimensions: Electoral, Liberal, Participatory, Deliberative and Egalitarian Democracy**.
- **India:** Classified as an **"electoral autocracy"** and ranked **106th/179** in the Electoral Democracy Index.

11. India-Russia Bilateral Meet

Context



- **Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in New Delhi for the BRICS Summit** and held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi.

Major Highlights

- **Trade:** Focus on implementing the Programme **for Economic Cooperation 2030 and raising bilateral trade to $100 billion by 2030**.
- **Civil Nuclear Cooperation:** Discussions on **nuclear fuel cycle**, life-cycle support for Russian-designed reactors and a possible **second reactor site**.
- **Critical Minerals:** Cooperation being explored in **exploration, processing and recycling**.
- **Cultural Diplomacy: PM Modi gifted Putin a Russian translation of Thirukkural, authored by Thiruvalluvar.**

Additional Information - India - Russia bilateral relations

- **Strategic Partnership:** India–Russia relationship upgraded to **"Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" in 2010**.
- **Defence:** Major cooperation in **BrahMos, Su-30MKI, T-90 tanks, AK-203 rifles** and military-technical cooperation.
- **Nuclear Energy:** Russia is involved in **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant**;

cooperation covers reactors, fuel cycle and life-cycle support.

- **Space:** Cooperation through **ISRO–Roscosmos**, including **satellite navigation and human spaceflight.**
- **Energy:** Russia is an important source of **crude oil, coal and other energy resources** for India.
- **Trade & Investment:** Both sides aim to expand trade and diversify beyond hydrocarbons.
- **Critical Minerals:** Emerging cooperation in **exploration, processing and recycling**.
- **Connectivity: International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** connects India with Russia via Iran and Central Asia.
- **Multilateral Platforms:** Cooperation through **BRICS, SCO, G20 and UN**.

12. Red Sea



Context

- **The Iran-backed Houthis seized control of Yemen's entire Red Sea coast and captured three strategic islands,** in a lightning offensive that cemented their hold on a vital shipping corridor.

About

- **Location:** Seawater inlet of the **Indian Ocean**, between **Northeast Africa** and the **Arabian Peninsula**.
- **Western Coast: Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea**
- **Eastern Coast: Saudi Arabia, Yemen**
- **Southern Gateway: Bab-el-Mandeb Strait → Gulf of Aden → Indian Ocean**
- **Northern End: Gulf of Suez, Gulf of Aqaba & Sinai Peninsula**; Gulf of Suez connects to the **Suez Canal**.
- **Strategic Importance:** Major global **shipping and energy corridor**, linking the **Indian Ocean with the Mediterranean via Suez Canal**.
- **Trade:** Carries roughly **15% of global trade** and nearly **30% of global container traffic**.

13. 18th BRICS Summit: New Delhi Declaration

Context



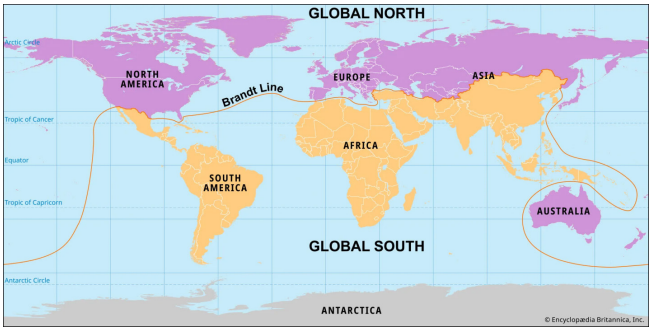
- **The 18th BRICS Summit, hosted by India in New Delhi recently, adopted the New Delhi Declaration,** reaffirming reformed multilateralism amid wars, protectionism and unilateral actions by major powers.

18th BRICS Summit – New Delhi Declaration

- **Host:** India, New Delhi; adopted the **New Delhi Declaration**.
- **Reformed Multilateralism:** Called for a more **democratic, representative and effective global order**, with the **UN at the centre**.
- **UNSC Reform:** Supported comprehensive reform and greater representation of **developing countries**; China & Russia backed

India and Brazil for a greater role.

- **Global South:** BRICS reaffirmed its role as a voice of **Emerging Markets & Developing Countries (EMDCs)** and LDCs.
- **Trade & Finance:** Opposed **unilateral tariffs, non-tariff barriers and coercive sanctions**; supported **WTO reform** and greater EMDC representation in **IMF & World Bank**.
- **Intra-BRICS Trade:** Focus on **local-currency settlements, cross-border payments and resilient supply chains**.
- **Conflicts:** Emphasised **dialogue, preventive diplomacy and peaceful dispute settlement**.
- **West Asia:** Strong position on **Palestine and Lebanon**; supported humanitarian access, Palestinian self-determination and the **two-state solution**.
- **Terrorism:** Condemned the **22 April 2025 J&K terror attack and called for zero tolerance towards terrorism** and its financing.
- **Geopolitical Consensus:** Despite differences among members, BRICS demonstrated capacity for **consensus-building**.



Additional Information - BRICS

- **Founded in -** 2009
- **HeadQuarters -** Shanghai
- It is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (included in 2010)**
- **Origin -** The term **"BRIC" was coined by the British Economist Jim O'Neill** in 2001 to describe the four emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China.**
- **Recent Expansion (BRICS+):** In 2024–2025, the bloc expanded to include **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE, and Indonesia.** Saudi Arabia has received an invitation but has not yet formalized its membership.
- **Share of BRICS -** BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries, representing **41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP, and 16% of the global trade** (By 2028, BRICS is expected to make up 35 percent of the global economy)
- **Chairmanship -** The chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members.

Initiatives of BRICS

- New Development Bank (NDB)
- Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)
- BRICS Payment System
- Customs Agreements
- Constellation of Remote Sensing Satellites

14.India–Vietnam Relations

Context

- **India and Vietnam recently agreed to deepen defence and security cooperation,** including co-production of Indian defence equipment, amid China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

India–Vietnam Relations

- **Diplomatic ties:** Established in **1972**; upgraded to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2016**.
- **Political:** Strong convergence under **Act East Policy** and **Indo-Pacific** vision; Vietnam is important to India's engagement with ASEAN.
- **Defence & Security:** Defence partnership includes **military exchanges, training, capacity building, maritime security and defence industry cooperation**.
- **Maritime:** Cooperation in the **South China Sea**, including respect for **UNCLOS** and freedom of navigation.
- **Economic:** Bilateral trade is around **$15 billion**, with cooperation in pharmaceuticals,

IT, agriculture, textiles and energy.

- **Connectivity: ASEAN–India connectivity** initiatives strengthen physical, digital and maritime links.
- **Energy:** Indian companies have interests in **Vietnam's oil & gas sector;** cooperation also extends to renewable energy.
- **Cultural:** Shared **Buddhist and civilisational links**; India supports conservation/ restoration of **Cham monuments** in Vietnam.
- **Challenges:** South China Sea tensions, trade imbalance, limited connectivity and competition from other major powers.

15. Refugee Convention

News-

- The **1951 Refugee Convention recently marked its 75th anniversary.**

1951 Refugee Convention

- **Adopted:** 1951, Geneva; key international treaty for **refugee protection**.
- **Refugee:** Person outside their country facing a **well-founded fear of persecution** due to race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion.
- **Key principle: Non-refoulement – refugees should not be returned to a place where their life/freedom is threatened.**
- **Rights:** Employment, education, housing, courts, religion and movement.
- **1967 Protocol:** Removed the Convention's **temporal and geographical limitations**.
- **India: Not a party to the 1951 Convention or 1967 Protocol; has no dedicated refugee law.**

16. BRICS Photovoltaic Industry Action Plan

Context (DTE):

- **The 18th BRICS Summit (2026), New Delhi, welcomed the Photovoltaic Industry Action Plan** adopted by BRICS Industry Ministers in Jaipur in August 2026.

About

- **Adopted:** BRICS Industry Ministers, **Jaipur, August 2026**; welcomed at **18th BRICS Summit, New Delhi**.
- **Aim:** Strengthen **PV industry cooperation** through the **BRICS Photovoltaic Industry Working Group** under **PartNIR**.
- **Priority areas: Technology cooperation, financing & capacity building**.
- **Knowledge portals:** Members encouraged to create national portals for sharing **PV policies, developments & best practices**.

Basics - Photovoltaic

- **PV effect:** Converts **sunlight directly into electricity** using semiconductor cells.
- **Main material: Silicon**.
- **Process:** Sunlight → **DC electricity** → inverter → **AC**.
- **Value chain: Polysilicon → Ingots → Wafers → Cells → Modules**.
- **Advantages:** Renewable, low emissions, scalable.
- **Challenges:** Intermittency, storage, land and raw-material dependence.

17. Paraguay



News -

- India and Paraguay commemorated the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

About

- **Location:** Landlocked country in **south-central South America**.
- **Capital: Asunción**
- **Borders: Argentina, Brazil & Bolivia**
- **Regions:** Eastern Paraguay + **Chaco Boreal** (≈ two-thirds of country), part of the **Gran Chaco**.
- **Climate:** Subtropical (east) and tropical (Chaco).
- **Major Rivers: Paraguay & Paraná**.
- **Mountain ranges: Amambay & Caaguazú**.
- **Membership: OAS, MERCOSUR & WTO**.

18. Colombo Security Conclave

News -

- Colombo Security Conclave Table Top Exercise concluded at Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam.

About -

- **Origin:** Trilateral NSA dialogue of **India–Sri Lanka–Maldives (2011)**; revived/rebranded as CSC in **2020**.
- **Members:** India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh & Seychelles.
- **HQ/Secretariat: Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
- **Focus:** Maritime security and **non-traditional security threats** in the Indian Ocean Region.

5 Pillars:

- Maritime safety & security
- Counter-terrorism & radicalisation
- Disaster management
- Cybersecurity & technology
- Humanitarian assistance & emergency response

19. Addis Ababa Call to Action on Early Warnings in Africa

News-

- The **Addis Ababa Call to Action on Early Warnings in Africa,** adopted at the Africa Early Warnings Forum held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

About

- **Adopted at:** Africa Early Warnings Forum, **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.
- **Aim:** Strengthen cooperation so African communities can **anticipate hazards, receive timely warnings & take early action**.
- **Focus:** Climate-related hazards and **multi-hazard early warning systems**.
- **EW4All:** Launched by the UN Secretary-General **in 2022**.
- **Goal:** Protect **every person on Earth by 2027** through multi-hazard early warning systems.

20. 27th World Knowledge Forum

News-

- 27th World Knowledge Forum was held in Seoul, South Korea

About -

- **Venue:** Seoul, **South Korea**
- **Theme:** *"The Promethean Moment: Architecting the Co-Intelligence Order"*
- **Focus:** Impact of **AI on global governance and human civilisation**.
- **Participants:** Leaders, scientists, policymakers & technology experts.
- **Key discussion areas: Power, Capital, Intelligence, Planet & Humanity**.
- **AI:** Described as the **"fire of the 21st century"**—capable of accelerating civilization while posing risks of major disruption without appropriate regulation.

21. Global Gender Gap Index 2026

Context

- IndGia has retained its 131st rank on the Global Gender Gap Index 2026 released by

the World Economic Forum, with only 14 economies ranking below it.

Global Gender Gap Index 2026

- **Released by: World Economic Forum (WEF)**; 20th edition, covering **145 economies**.
- **Measures:** Gender parity across 4 dimensions:
  1. Economic Participation & Opportunity
  2. Educational Attainment
  3. Health & Survival
  4. Political Empowerment
- **Scale: 0–1**; **1 = full gender parity**.
- **Global parity: 69.2%** of the gender gap has been closed.
- **Time to parity:** At the current global pace, about **120 years**.

India

- **Rank: 131st**
- **Overall parity: 64.5%**
- **Educational Attainment: 96.6%**
- **Health & Survival: 95.6%**
- **Economic Participation & Opportunity: 41.2%**
- **Political Empowerment: 24.5%**

Top & Bottom

- **1st:** Iceland – **93.0%**
- **2nd:** Finland – **87.2%**
- **3rd:** Norway – **85.7%**
- **143rd:** Pakistan
- **144th:** Iran
- **145th:** Chad

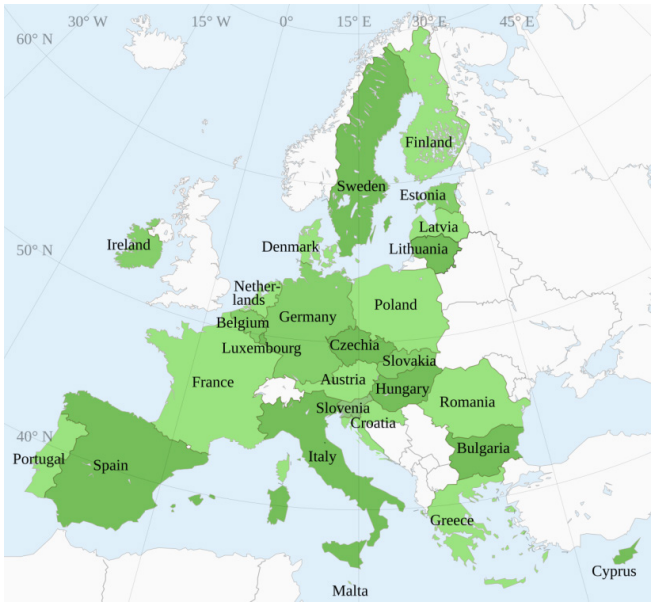
22. Canada to Become First 'Associate Member' of European Union (EU)

Context

- The European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed opening the door for **Canada to become the EU's first "associate member."**

EU–Canada "Associate Member" – UPSC

- **Associate membership:** Proposed idea for **closer Canada–EU integration without full EU membership**.
- Possible areas: **Trade, technology, defence, energy, critical minerals, AI and Arctic cooperation**.
- **Status:** Not currently defined under EU treaties; **rights and obligations are yet to be negotiated**.



European Union (EU) – UPSC

- **EU:** Political and economic union of **27 European countries**.
- **1951:** European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) – **6 founding members**.
- **1957: European Economic Community (EEC)** established by Treaty of Rome.
- **1993:** EU formally established by **Maastricht Treaty**.
- **Currency: 21 of 27 members** use the **Euro**.
- **Key areas:** Single market, trade, economic cooperation, common policies and regional integration.

23. World Circular Economy Forum 2026

Context (AIR):

- **India is hosting the 10th World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

About -

- **Host:** India; **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

- **Edition: 10th WCEF**.
- **First in South Asia:** 2026 marks the **first time** the forum is being held in South Asia.
- **Organisers: Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra)** and **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**.
- **Launched: 2017** by Sitra.
- **Nature:** Annual global platform bringing together **governments, businesses, policymakers, international organisations, experts and innovators**.
- **2026 Theme: "Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity."**
- **Circular Economy:** Moves away from the **"take–make–dispose"** model by promoting **reduce, reuse, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling**.
- **Objective:** Keep resources in use for longer, **reduce resource consumption and minimise waste**.

24. Gaza Board of Peace



Context

- **The US-backed Board of Peace has proposed a six-month, $2.45-billion recovery programme for Gaza,** covering projects related to infrastructure, housing, healthcare, economic revival, digital services and security.

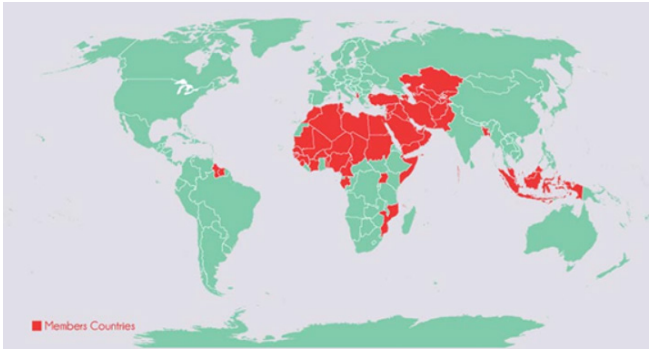
Board of Peace (BoP)

- **Established:** 2026 as an **international organisation** under the Gaza transitional framework. Its Charter was formally launched at **Davos on 22 January 2026**.
- **Chairman: Donald J. Trump**, President of the United States.
- **Context:** Created as part of the **Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict**, with focus on Gaza's **transitional governance, reconstruction, humanitarian assistance and economic recovery**.
- **Key functions:**
  - Transitional governance in Gaza
  - Reconstruction and economic recovery
  - Coordination of humanitarian assistance and public services
  - Supporting the transition towards Palestinian governance
  - Oversight of the **International Stabilization Force (ISF)** framework.
- **Founding members:** Include countries such as the **US, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and UAE**, among others.

Additional Information - Gaza Strip

- **Location:** Eastern Mediterranean; part of the **Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)**.
- **Borders:** Israel (N/E), Egypt (S), Mediterranean Sea (W).
- **Area:** ~365 sq km; population ~2.1 million.
- **Major cities:** Gaza City, Khan Younis, Rafah.
- **Governance:** Hamas has exercised de facto control since **2007**.
- **Significance:** Central to the **Israel–Palestine conflict**; major humanitarian crisis.
- **Key issues:** Displacement, food/water insecurity, healthcare and infrastructure damage.

25. India Rejects OIC Group's Remarks on Kashmir



Context

- **India rejected** references to **Jammu & Kashmir** in the OIC Contact Group's Joint Communiqué .

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- **Established: 25 September 1969**, at **Rabat, Morocco**, following the Al-Aqsa Mosque fire.
- **Headquarters: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**.
- **Membership: 57 states** across four continents; second-largest intergovernmental organisation after the UN.
- **Earlier name:** Organisation of the **Islamic Conference**; renamed **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation** in 2011.
- **Objective:** Promote **Islamic solidarity and cooperation** and safeguard the interests of member states, including political, economic, social, cultural and scientific cooperation.
- **India & OIC: India is not a member** of the OIC. India has participated as a **guest** in some OIC-related meetings.

26. Visegrád Group (V4)

News -

- **Visegrád Group (V4) backed India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council** at the first V4-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly.

Visegrád Group (V4)

- **V4:** Informal intergovernmental grouping of **4 Central European countries** for political, economic, cultural and security cooperation.
- **Origin:** Founded in **1991** as the *Visegrád Triangle* by **Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland** through the **Visegrád Declaration** in Hungary.
- **Members: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia**.

Objectives:

  - Support **post-communist democratic transition**.
  - Facilitate members' integration into the **EU and NATO**.
- **Institutional structure:**
  - No permanent secretariat.
  - **Rotating annual presidency**; Slovakia holds the presidency for **2026–27**.
  - **The International Visegrad Fund**, based in Bratislava, is its only formal institution; it supports cultural, educational and research projects.
- **V4+:** Dialogue with **non-member partners** such as Japan.
- **India–V4:** India and V4 agreed to hold **annual Foreign Ministers' meetings** and an **annual Business Forum**.



27.ADMM-Plus

News-

- **Indian Naval Ships INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish reached Subic Bay, Philippines, to participate in the ASEAN Defence Ministers'** Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Joint Cooperation Activity (JCA).

ADMM-Plus

- **ADMM-Plus:** ASEAN + **8 Dialogue Partners** platform for regional **security and defence cooperation**.
- **Plus Countries: Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, USA**.
- **Purpose:** Promote **peace, stability, defence cooperation and interoperability**.
- **JCA:** Brings ASEAN + Plus maritime forces together for **harbour and sea-phase activities**, enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding.
- **India: INS Sahyadri & INS Kulish** participated in the JCA at **Subic Bay, Philippines**.
- **Annual meeting:** Held annually since **2017**.

Additional Information - ASEAN

- **Full form:** Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
- **Established: 1967**, Bangkok Declaration.
- **Founding members:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand.
- **Members: 11** — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, **Timor-Leste**.
- **Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia**.
- **Objectives:**
  - Regional **peace, stability and security**.
  - Promote **economic integration and trade**.
  - Social, cultural and political cooperation.
  - Maintain **ASEAN centrality** in the Indo-Pacific.
- Key frameworks: ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), ADMM-Plus.
- **India–ASEAN:** India became a **sectoral dialogue partner (1992)** and **summit-level partner (2002)**; **Strategic Partnership (2012)** and **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2022)**.
- **Importance for India: Act East Policy**, Indo-Pacific engagement, trade, connectivity, maritime security and regional stability.

28. Global Cities Index 2026

News -

- Oxford Economics released its 2026 Global Cities Index,

Global Cities Index 2026

- **Released by:** Oxford Economics.
- **Coverage: 1,000 largest cities** across **163 countries**.
- **Significance:** These cities represent **60% of global GDP** and **30% of global population**.
- **Assessment: 27 indicators** under 5 categories:
  - Economics – 30%
  - Human Capital – 25%
  - Quality of Life – 25%
  - Environment – 10%
  - Governance – 10%
- **Purpose:** Measures cities' **economic performance, human capital, living conditions, environmental sustainability and governance**.

Key Findings

- **Top 3: New York, London and Paris** retained the top three positions.
- **Western dominance: 78 of the top 100** cities are in **Europe and North America**.
- **Asia rising:** Asian cities are driving global urban growth, particularly **Chinese and Indian cities**, supported by population scale, productivity and income gains.
- **India: Delhi** is currently outside the top 100 but is projected to record one of the **largest**

GDP increases by 2050.

- **Bengaluru:** Identified as a **"City to Watch"**, with rapid growth linked to its IT sector and emerging opportunities in **AI**.

29.Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

News -

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released its Interim Economic Outlook, upgrading its growth projection for India.

OECD

- **Established: 1961**; headquarters **Paris, France**.
- **Nature:** Intergovernmental organisation promoting **economic growth, trade and international standards**.
- **Members: 38 countries**, largely high-income market democracies.
- **India: Not a member**; one of **5 Key Partners — Brazil, China, Indonesia, South Africa**.
- **India–OECD:** Participates in **committees, policy surveys and global tax initiatives**.

NATIONAL

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. Article 142 of the Constitution

Context

- The Supreme Court of India took a rare and extraordinary step under **Article 142 to quash FIRs registered against Gen Z NEET-UG protesters.**

Article 142 of the Constitution

- Article 142 is a special rule in the Indian Constitution that gives the **Supreme Court of India extraordinary power to do "complete justice."**
- Landmark judgments under Article 142
- **Ayodhya Case (2019):** The Supreme Court directed the Union government to **establish a trust for the construction of the Ram Temple** and awarded the disputed 2.77-acre site for the temple.
- **Bhopal Gas Tragedy Case (1991):** The Supreme Court ordered Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) **to pay $470 million in compensation for the victims of the tragedy.**
- **Highway Liquor Case (2016):** The Supreme Court **restricted the sale of liquor within 500 metres of national and state highways to curb accidents** caused by drunk driving.
- **Chandigarh Mayor Election Case (2024):** The Supreme Court invoked Article 142 **to declare AAP candidate Kuldeep Kumar as the winner,** after finding that the presiding officer had deliberately invalidated eight ballots.

2. India's Fight Against Corruption

Context

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) highlighted **delays in the disposal of corruption cases investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI),** with 7,229 cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, pending trial as of December 31, 2025.

The Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988

- It is a federal law enforced in Karnataka **primarily by the Karnataka Lokayukta.**

Core Offences & Penalties

1. **Taking Bribes (Section 7):** Public servants face 3 to 7 years in prison plus a fine.
2. **Giving Bribes (Section 8):** Bribe-givers or companies face up to 7 years in prison.
3. **Criminal Misconduct (Section 13):** Misappropriation of property or illicit enrichment carries 4 to 10 years in prison.

Strict Legal Conditions

- **Demand & Acceptance:** The Karnataka High Court rules that prosecutors must prove both a demand was made and a bribe was

accepted; missing either invalidates the case.
- **Prior Sanction (Section 17A)**: **Police cannot investigate a public servant's official decisions without prior approval from the government.**

Key Enforcement Authority

- **Karnataka Lokayukta:** The state's independent anti-corruption ombudsman handling traps, raids, and prosecutions.

Additional Information - Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- It is India's apex **statutory body** entrusted with **ensuring integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration.**
- It was **established in 1964** following the r**ecommendations of the Santhanam Committee** on Prevention of Corruption.
- The **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003**, provides for the appointment of a **Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners.** The tenure of the Vigilance Commissioner is of **four years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.**
- The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners are **appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of a High-Powered Committee (HPC) consisting of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition** in the House of the People (Lok Sabha).

Power and Functions

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) mandated under the CVC Act, 2003 **to combat corruption and ensure integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration.**
- The Commission exercises superintendence over **vigilance administrations of Central Government ministries, departments, and organizations.**
- The Central Vigilance Commission acts as the a**pex vigilance institution by supervising and guiding anti-corruption inquiries, including cases referred by the Lokpal and whistleblower complaints** under the PIDPI framework.
- It **supervises the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** in cases related to offences **under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**
- It plays a **key role in senior appointment**s by chairing committees that recommend appointments of s**enior officers in the Directorate of Enforcement and the CBI (SP level and above, excluding the CBI Director).**

3. Frameworks against Untouchability in India

News -

- **A shuddhikaran (purification) ritual performed after a political rally** has revived the debate over whether such purification falls within the scope of untouchability under Article 17.

Safeguards Against Untouchability

- **Article 17:** Abolishes untouchability and makes it an offence.
- **Article 15(2):** Prohibits caste-based denial of access to **public places and facilities**.
- **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955: Penalises enforcement of untouchability and related social disabilities.**
- **SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:** Provides **Special Courts** for speedy trial of atrocities.
- **Article 338:** Establishes the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**.
- **Manual Scavenging: 2013 Act** prohibits manual scavenging and hazardous sewer cleaning.
- **RPA, 1951:** Conviction for certain untouchability offences can lead to **electoral disqualification**.

4. Right to Work in India

News -

- The transition from MGNREGA to the VB-GRAM G Act has reignited Supreme Court debates about elevating the "Right to Work" to a Fundamental Right under Article 21.

Key Differences

Feature	MGNREGA (2005)	VB-G RAM G (2025 Act)
Days Guaranteed	At least 100 days of work per year.	At least 125 days of work per year.
Funding Model	Demand-driven. The centre paid 100% of unskilled wages.	Normative allocation. General cost-sharing is 60:40 between Centre and States.
Work Pauses	Continuous work throughout the year.	Allows a 60-day pause for farming seasons.
Technology	Basic digital systems over time.	Advanced AI, biometrics, and GPS tracking.
Planning Approach	Handled locally by Gram Sabhas.	Integrated into the national PM Gati Shakti plan.

5. National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

News

- The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has made the **appointment of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**.

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- **Established:** 1994 under the **NCSK Act, 1993** as a statutory body for 3 years.
- **Present status:** Its statutory tenure lapsed; **it continues as a non-statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- **Objective:** Protect the **dignity, safety, welfare and socio-economic interests** of Safai Karamcharis.

Key Functions:

- Monitor implementation of welfare and rehabilitation schemes.
- Investigate **grievances/complaints** and take **suo motu** action.
- Examine working conditions, **health, safety and wages**.
- Advise Central & State Governments and submit reports/recommendations.
- Oversee implementation of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.**

6. Road Map To make India drug-free by 2029

Context

- The Union Home Minister outlined a three-year roadmap to make India drug-free by 2029.

Roadmap

- **Goal:** India aims to become **drug-free by 2029**; broader national goal is **Drug-Free India by 2047**.
- **Four Pillars:**
  1. Intelligence & operation-based enforcement
  2. Precursor & synthetic drug control
  3. Demand & harm reduction
  4. Capacity building & coordination

Additional Information - Initiatives by the Government to control drug abuse

- **NDPS Act, 1985:** Prohibits illicit production, possession, sale and consumption of narcotic drugs/psychotropic substances; prescribes

penalties.

- **Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (2020):** Awareness, prevention and rehabilitation against drug abuse.
- **National Goal: Drug-Free India by 2047.**
- **International Cooperation:** Bilateral agreements with 27 countries, MoUs with 16, and security-cooperation agreements with 2 countries.
- **ANTF:** State-level **Anti-Narcotics Task Forces** for enforcement.
- **DarkNet Monitoring Cell (NCB):** Tracks online drug trafficking/sales.
- **Joint Coordination Committee (JCC):** Headed by DG, NCB; monitors investigation of major drug seizures.
- **NCORD (2019):** Four-tier coordination mechanism at Centre, State and district levels to combat drug trafficking.

7. Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

Context

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has taken action against food companies using "100%" claims**, holding that such claims can create a misleading impression of absolute purity or complete composition.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಗ್ರಾಹಕ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ)

- **Legal basis:** Established under **Section 10 of Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- **Objective: Promote, protect & enforce consumer rights as a class**.

Key Powers:

- Investigate **consumer-rights violations** and initiate complaints/prosecution.
- Order **recall of unsafe goods/services**.
- Stop **unfair trade practices**.
- Order discontinuation/modification of **misleading advertisements**.
- Impose **penalties on manufacturers, endorsers & publishers of misleading ads.**

Consumer Protection Act, 2019

- **Replaced:** Consumer Protection Act, **1986**.
- **Came into force: July 2020**.
- Expanded protection against issues such as **false information on quality/quantity** and misleading advertisements.
- **Section 21:** Empowers CCPA to order discontinuation or modification of **false/ misleading advertisements**.

8. Hindi Diwas 2026

Context

- **Hindi Diwas: 14 September** — marks the **Constituent Assembly's adoption of Hindi in Devanagari script as the Union's official language in 1949.**

About

- **Munshi–Ayyangar Formula:** Balanced **Hindi promotion with India's linguistic diversity.**
- **Article 343: Hindi (Devanagari) as official language of the Union; English continued for 15 years initially.**
- **Article 344:** Commission & Parliamentary Committee on **progressive use of Hindi.**
- **Article 345:** States can adopt **one or more languages** as their official language.
- **Article 351:** Directive for **development and promotion of Hindi**.

9. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)

News -

- **New Delhi Declaration adopted during 18th BRICS Summit agrees to support** establishment of training hubs and Centres of Excellence for mental health, with **NIMHANS** being the coordinating centre.

About -

- **Full name:** National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences.
- **Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- **Focus:** Mental health, neurosciences and neurosurgical care; **patient care, research &**

training.
- **Deemed University: 1994**.
- **Institute of National Importance: 2012**, through an Act of Parliament.
- **Tele-MANAS:** Designated **nodal centre**.
- **Bellary Model:** NIMHANS' pilot model contributed to the **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)**.

Additional information - Mental Health Initiatives in India

Initiative	Key point
National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), 1982	Accessible mental healthcare; district-level services
District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), 1996	Integrates mental health services at district level
Tele-MANAS, 2022	**24×7 tele-mental health** support; toll-free **14416**
Mental Healthcare Act, 2017	Right to access mental healthcare; decriminalises attempted suicide
KIRAN Helpline, 2020	Mental-health counselling/support helpline
Manodarpan, 2020	Psychological support for **students**
National Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2022	India's first national framework to reduce suicide mortality

10.Police Modernisation Mission (PMM)

Context

- The Union government told the Supreme Court that it has begun implementing a **₹24,000-crore umbrella scheme called the Police Modernisation Mission (PMM)** over the next five years.

About -

- **Aim:** Modernise police forces by improving **technology, infrastructure, mobility, communication and operational capabilities**.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Focus areas:**
  1. Modern weapons and equipment
  2. Police communication & surveillance systems
  3. Cybercrime capabilities
  4. Police infrastructure and mobility
  5. Training and forensic facilities
- **Approach:** Strengthens **State/UT police forces** through Central assistance and promotes technology-enabled policing.
- **Importance:** Improves **internal security, crime investigation, emergency response and police efficiency**.
- **Key linkage:** Supports **SMART Policing** — *Sensitive, Modern, Alert, Responsive and Techno-savvy*.

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Additional information - Mental Health

Initiatives in India

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12. Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

Context

- At the first meeting of Parliament's Joint Committee on the F**oreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, members raised questions on the proposed changes.**

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act

- **Enacted in -** It is an act of Parliament **enacted in 1976 and amended in 2010.**
- **Objective - To regulate foreign donations and to ensure that such contributions do not adversely affect the internal security of the country.**
- **Applicability -** The Act is applicable to **all associations, groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who intend to receive foreign donations.**
- **Restrictions** - The members o**f legislatures, political parties, government officials, judges and media persons are prohibited** from receiving any foreign contributions.

Key Provisions of the 2026 Amendment Bill

- **Asset Seizure:** The government can take over and sell physical assets (like hospitals or schools) built with foreign funds if an NGO's license is cancelled or expires.
- **Automatic Expiry:** If an NGO does not renew its registration in time, it lapses automatically. The state can step in to control its property right away.
- **Personal Liability:** Key heads, directors, and trustees are held personally liable for any rules broken by the NGO.
- **Central Approval:** Local police or agencies cannot investigate an NGO under this law without prior approval from the Central Government.
- **Lower Jail Time:** The maximum jail term for breaking the law drops from 5 years to 1 year, shifting the focus to financial penalties.

13. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

News -

- The Government of India has reconstituted the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).**

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

- **Nature:** Statutory body under the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**.
- **Established:** Under the **Cinematograph Act, 1952**.
- **Headquarters: Mumbai**.
- **Regional offices: 9** across India.
- **Composition:** Chairman and **non-official members**, appointed by the **Central Government**.
- **Function:** Examines films intended for public exhibition and grants certificates as per applicable laws.
- **Key provision:** Films can be **publicly exhibited in India only after CBFC certification**.

14.Hyderabad Liberation Day

News

- The **Union government notified 17 September as Hyderabad Liberation Day in 2024** to commemorate Hyderabad's liberation from the Nizam's rule in 1948.

About

- **Date: 17 September**; the Union Government officially notified it as **Hyderabad Liberation Day in 2024**.
- **Context:** After Independence, **Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan** sought an independent Hyderabad and signed a **Standstill Agreement** with India on **29 November 1947**.
- **Razakars:** A volunteer force of **Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen**, led by **Qasim Razvi**, which opposed Hyderabad's accession to India.
- **Trigger:** Failed negotiations, **Razakar violence** and incursions into Indian territory contributed to India's decision to intervene.
- **Operation Polo:** India launched the military operation on **13 September 1948**, officially described as a **"Police Action."**
- **Liberation:** The Nizam announced a **ceasefire on 17 September**; Hyderabad State Forces formally surrendered on **18 September 1948**.

15. Biovigilance Programme of India

In News

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved the Biovigilance Programme of India.

Biovigilance Programme of India (BvPI)

Aspect	Key Points
Ministry	**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**
Purpose	**Monitor and prevent adverse events related to medicines & biological products** used in organ/tissue transplantation
Coverage	Products given to **donors and recipients**
Nodal agency	**Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**
IPC	Autonomous institution under MoHFW; sets standards for drugs manufactured, sold and consumed in India
Complementary programmes	**PvPI** – adverse drug reactions; **MvPI** – adverse events from medical devices
Significance	Strengthens **transplantation safety and pharmacovigilance**

16. Vande Mataram and the Right to Conscience



- Vande Mataram & National Song
- **Composer: Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**; composed in **Sanskrit**.
- **First published:** *Bangadarshan*, **7 November 1875**; later included in *Anandamath* (1882).
- **First sung: Rabindranath Tagore**, at the **1896 INC session, Calcutta**.
- **Swadeshi Movement:** Became a major symbol of **anti-colonial resistance** in 1905.
- National Song: On 24 January 1950, its first two stanzas were adopted as India's National Song.

Constitutional & Legal Status

- The Constituent Assembly accorded **Vande Mataram the status of National Song, with equal honour to the National Anthem**, but their legal treatment is not identical.
- **Article 51A(a):** Explicitly requires respect

for the **National Flag and National Anthem**; it does **not specifically mention Vande Mataram**.

- **Articles 19(1)(a) & 25:** Relevant where compulsory participation conflicts with **freedom of expression, conscience or religious belief**.
- **Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala (1986):** SC held that **respectful non-participation in the National Anthem**, based on genuine religious belief, is protected under Articles 19(1)(a) and 25.

Recent Legal Development

- **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026:** Seeks to criminalise **intentionally preventing the singing of the National Song** or **disturbing an assembly engaged in singing it**.

17. National Single Window System



In News

- Recently, the National Single Window System completed 5 Years.

National Single Window System (NSWS)

- **Launched: 2021**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- **Implemented by: DPIIT**
- **Purpose: Single digital platform for investors to identify, apply for and track approvals.**
- **Objective:** Improve **Ease of Doing Business** and facilitate a seamless investment ecosystem.
- **Coverage:** Approvals from **Central Ministries, State Governments & regulatory authorities**.
- **Key features:**
  - Know Your Approvals
  - Common Registration Form
  - Applicant Dashboard
  - Document Repository
  - E-Communication Module
- Significance: Reduces duplication, compliance burden and approval time through online processing, one-time submission and real-time tracking.

18. Removal of the Chief Election Commissioner

Context

- The Opposition is going to move a motion in Parliament seeking the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Removal of Chief Election Commissioner

- **Article 324:** Provides for the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** and its constitutional framework.
- **Removal of CEC:** Can be removed **in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge** — ensuring institutional independence.
- **Other Election Commissioners/Regional Commissioners:** Removed by the **President only on the recommendation of the CEC**.

Removal Process

1. Removal motion can be introduced in **either House of Parliament**.
2. Prior support required:
   - **Lok Sabha: ≥ 100 MPs**
   - **Rajya Sabha: ≥ 50 MPs**
   - **The inquiry committee** investigates the allegations after admission of the

motion.
    - If charges are proved, both Houses must pass the motion by a **two-thirds majority of members present and voting**.
    - After approval by **both Houses**, the **President issues the removal order**.
- Key Point: No CEC has so far been successfully removed by Parliament.

19. Article 22(1) Safeguards Against Unconstitutional Arrest

News -

- In **Jaskaran Jeet Singh Deol v. State of Punjab (2026),** the Supreme Court strengthened the safeguards under Article 22(1) and set out conditions for re-arrest.

Jaskaran Jeet Singh Deol v. State of Punjab (2026)

- **Supreme Court:** Strengthened safeguards under **Article 22(1)** regarding arrest and re-arrest.
- Article 22(1):
    - An arrested person must be **informed of the grounds of arrest**.
    - Has the **right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice**.
- **Re-arrest:** The Court laid down safeguards/ conditions to prevent **arbitrary or repeated re-arrest** after release.
- **Significance:** Reinforces **personal liberty, due process and constitutional protection against arbitrary arrest**.

20. Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026

News -

- Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026, became **India's first state law recognising women as farmers irrespective of land ownership.**

Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026.

- **Significance:** Maharashtra became the **first Indian state** to legally recognise **women as farmers irrespective of land ownership**.
- **Objective:** Address gender-based barriers faced by women in agriculture and strengthen their access to **rights, schemes and support systems**.
- **International Context: 2026** has been declared the **International Year of the Woman Farmer** by the **UN General Assembly**.
- **Focus:** Recognition of women's contribution across **agrifood systems** and addressing barriers to their participation and empowerment.

21. India International Water Week

News -

- Vice-President inaugurated the 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026 at New Delhi.

India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026

- **9th IIWW 2026:** Held in **New Delhi**; inaugurated by the Vice-President.
- **Organiser: Ministry of Jal Shakti** with Central/State governments, international organisations, industry and private sector.
- **Theme: "Climate Resilient Water Management."**
- **Origin:** Conceptualised in **2012** as *India Water Week* to address global water challenges and promote sustainable solutions.

22. PB-SHABD

Context (PIB):

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) highlighted PB-SHABD's adoption** by over 3,600 media organisations and extended free access until March 2027.

PB-SHABD

- **Launched:** 2024 by **Prasar Bharati** as a centralised news-feed service, evolving from **PBNS**.
- **Full form:** *Prasar Bharati Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination*.
- **Content:** Ready-to-use **text, video, audio, photographs and infographics**.
- **Reach:** Content in **15 Indian languages** across nearly **50 news categories**.
- **Adoption:** Used by **3,600+ media organisations**; free access extended till **March 2027**.

Prasar Bharati

- **Established:** Under **Prasar Bharati Act, 1990**; came into existence in **1997**.
- **Nature:** Statutory **autonomous public service broadcaster** under the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**.
- **Wings: Akashvani (AIR)** and **Doordarshan (DD)**.
- **HQ:** New Delhi.

ECONOMY

1. India's Sugar Industry

Context

- **India's sugarcane production has reached 500 MMT in 2025-26** as per the Third Advance Estimate of Production released by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

About

- **Global position:** India is the **2nd-largest sugarcane producer** and **largest sugar consumer**.
- **Top sugar-producing countries: Brazil, India, China, Thailand, USA**.
- **Major Indian producers: Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra**.
- **Sugar exports: 8 lakh MT (2025–26)** vs **0.47 lakh MT (2016–17)**.
- **Major export destinations: Sri Lanka, West Asia and East Africa**.
- **Significance:** Major **agro-based industry**, supporting farmers, rural employment and the **ethanol blending programme**.

2. Districts as Export Hubs

In News

- The Government is strengthening its district-led export strategy with the Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) Initiative.

Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) program

- **Launched: August 2019,** following the PM's 2019 Independence Day call to **make districts centres of export and trade.**
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Commerce & Industry;** implemented mainly through **DGFT**.
- **Objective:** Make each district an **export hub** by identifying products/services with export potential and addressing local export bottlenecks.
- **Focus: MSMEs, farmers, artisans, handicrafts, handlooms and local industries → global markets.**
- **Institutional mechanism:**

1. **SEPC:** State Export Promotion Committee
2. **DEPC:** District Export Promotion Committee, generally headed by the **District Collector/ DM/DC** and co-chaired by the DGFT Regional Authority.

- **District Export Action Plan (DEAP):** Identifies high-potential products/services and tackles **infrastructure, logistics, quality, supply-chain and market-access** constraints.
- **ODOP linkage:** The **One District One Product (ODOP)** initiative has been operationally merged with DEH, creating a stronger district-level export ecosystem.

Additional Information - One District One Product of Karnataka

District	ODOP Product Covered
Bagalkote	Jaggery
Ballari (Bellary)	Fig

Belagavi	Jaggery
Bengaluru Rural	Poultry Products
Bengaluru Urban	Bakery Products
Bidar	Ginger
Chamarajanagar	Turmeric
Chikkaballapura	Tomato
Chikkamagaluru	Spices / Coffee
Chitradurga	Groundnut Products
Dakshina Kannada	Marine Products
Davanagere	Millets
Dharwad	Mango
Gadag	Byadagi Chillies
Hassan	Coconut Products
Haveri	Mango
Kalaburagi	Red Gram (Tur Dal) products
Kodagu	Coffee / Spices
Kolar	Tomato / Milk Products
Koppal	Guava
Mandya	Jaggery
Mysuru	Banana / Milk Products
Raichur	Chillies
Shivamogga	Pineapple
Tumakuru	Coconut Products
Udupi	Marine Products
Uttara Kannada	Pineapple / Spices
Vijayapura	Lemon / Grapes
Yadgir	Groundnut

3. UPI in Uzbekistan

News -

- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) signed a commercial agreement with Uzbekistan's National Interbank Processing Center (NIPC) to enable UPI payments across Uzbekistan.
- Uzbekistan became the 11th country to accept UPI for cross-border merchant transactions.
- Other countries: Bhutan (First), UAE, Singapore, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius, Qatar, Cambodia, and Greece.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- **Launched by** - UPI was designed and launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016.
- **Objective -** It is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.
- **Countries with operational or planned interoperability include:** Singapore (PayNow), UAE, France, Nepal, Bhutan, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and others.

Additional Information - National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- **Established in** - It **serves as an umbrella body for the operation of retail payments in India.**
- **Established by - Reserve Bank of India along** with the Indian Bank's Association.
- **Established under -** It was set up under the provisions of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.**

Products of NPCI

1. RuPay
2. National Common Mobility Card
3. Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)
4. Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
5. Bharat Bill Payment System

4. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

Context

- The **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0** provides targeted credit guarantee support to businesses affected by external disruptions.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

- **Launched: 2020 under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package to provide credit support**

to businesses affected by COVID-19.

- **ECLGS 1.0:** MSMEs, business enterprises, Mudra borrowers & individual business loans; loans **≤ ₹50 crore**, DPD ≤60 days (Feb 2020).
- **ECLGS 2.0:** 26 stressed sectors + healthcare; loans **>₹50 crore to ₹500 crore**, DPD ≤60 days.
- **ECLGS 3.0:** Hospitality, travel & tourism, leisure/sporting and civil aviation.
- **ECLGS 4.0:** Strengthened **healthcare infrastructure**; hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, medical colleges and oxygen-related manufacturers.
- **ECLGS 5.0:** Operational till **31 March 2027** or guarantees of **₹2.55 lakh crore**, whichever is earlier.
    - Covers **MSMEs, eligible non-MSME business borrowers & scheduled passenger airlines**.
    - **Guarantee coverage:** 100% for eligible MSMEs; **90% for eligible non-MSMEs**.
    - **No guarantee fee** payable by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs).
    - ECLGS = Government credit guarantee → enables lending to stressed businesses → COVID-era economic recovery.

5. Jute- India's Golden Fibre

Context

- **India is the world's largest producer of raw jute** and accounts for about 75% of estimated global jute goods production.

Jute

- **Natural fibre:** Biodegradable, recyclable, fast-growing, low-cost & widely available.
- **Properties**: Strong, durable, breathable and versatile.
- **Functional benefits:** Thermal & acoustic insulation and high moisture absorption.
- **Applications:** Packaging, construction, agriculture and industrial textile and low static generation.

Jute Crop Information System project

- **Aim: To monitor jute cultivation using remote sensing and field data.**
- As part of this initiative, two key tools have been developed:

1. **BHUVAN JUMP -** A mobile app for **on-field jute monitoring**, and
2. **PATSAN (Prospective Assessment of Jute Using Mobile App-Based Field Observations) -** a web-based platform that provides near-**real-time jute surveillance and analytics to support informed decision-making** by officials and stakeholders.

Jute Production In India

- It is also called the **golden fibre**, in view of being a **natural, renewable, biodegradable and eco-friendly product.**
- **India is the largest producer of jute followed by Bangladesh and China.**
- **West Bengal, Bihar and Assam account for almost 99% of India's total production.**

Conditions Required for Jute Production

- **Temperature**: A mean maximum and minimum temperature of **34°C and 15°C** and a mean relative humidity of 65% are required.
- **Rainfall: Around 150-250 cm.**
- **Soil:** Jute can be raised on **all kinds of soils from clay to sandy loam,** but **loamy alluvial soils are best suited**.

6. India's Push for Overseas Lithium and Critical Minerals

Context

- The **Ministry of Mines is in talks with Australia and Chile to acquire lithium blocks,** while it is also seeking five additional blocks in Argentina, as India steps up its efforts to secure supplies of the critical mineral.

Lithium

- Symbol: Li | Atomic No.: 3 | Type: Soft, silvery-white alkali metal.

- **Key Property:** Highly **reactive and flammable**; stored under inert conditions/ mineral oil.
- **Major Uses:** Essential for **Lithium-ion batteries** → EVs, energy storage & electronic devices.

Global Distribution

- Major reserves: **Chile, Australia, Argentina, Bolivia & China**.
- **Lithium Triangle: Argentina–Bolivia–Chile**, containing a major share of global lithium reserves.

India

- **J&K:** GSI identified **5.9 million tonnes of inferred lithium resources** in 2023.
- **Potential brine sources: Sambhar & Pachpadra (Rajasthan)** and **Rann of Kutch (Gujarat)**.

7. Copper

News

- **Copper prices have climbed to a record high of $14,708 a tonne a**mid uncertainty about global economic growth due to trade tensions and the conflict in West Asia.

Copper

- **Symbol - Cu**
- **Properties:** Reddish, highly **ductile metal**; excellent **electrical & thermal conductor**; corrosion-resistant.
- **Occurrence:** Found naturally in metallic form and in ores such as **chalcopyrite, chalcocite & bornite**.
- **Extraction:** Mainly through **smelting/ leaching**, followed by **electrorefining/ electrodeposition**.
- **Historical Significance:** One of the **earliest metals used by humans**; important since the dawn of civilisation.

Uses

- **Electrical & electronics:** Wiring, cables, motors and electrical equipment.
- **Construction:** Water pipes due to corrosion resistance.
- **Alloys**:
  - **Brass** = Copper + Zinc
  - **Bronze** = Copper + Tin
  - **Nickel silver** = Copper + Nickel + Zinc
- Also used in **coins, utensils, ornaments and mirrors**.
- **US copper-product imports (2025): $16.2 billion**
- Major sources: **China (20%), Mexico (17%), EU (14%), Canada (10%), Vietnam (8%)**.

8. Moth Bean

News



- ICAR–Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur's Moth Bean Varieties demonstrated remarkable resilience during the El Niño Year.

Moth Bean (Vigna aconitifolia)

- **Family:** Fabaceae; also called **mat bean/dew bean**.
- **Origin: South Asia**; mainly grown in hot, dry & semi-arid regions.
- **Major area: Thar Desert of western Rajasthan**; also Gujarat, Haryana & Punjab.
- **Climate-resilient:** Tolerates **drought and other abiotic/biotic stresses**, making it suitable for rain-fed farming.
- **Nutrition: Protein-rich pulse**; used as **food and fodder**.
- **Area:** Cultivated over about **10 lakh hectares**, mainly in western Rajasthan.
- **Significance:** Supports **food & nutritional security** in arid regions; CAZRI varieties showed resilience during **El Niño conditions**.

9. Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana



News

- **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) is promoting education, healthcare, drinking water, and livelihood opportunities** in the mining-affected areas.

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)

- **Launched: September 2015**
- **Aim:** Ensure **mining-affected communities** benefit from mineral extraction and receive social & physical infrastructure.
- **Implemented through: District Mineral Foundations (DMFs)** – non-profit trusts under the **MMDR Act, 1957**.
- **DMFs:** Function under the **State Government**.

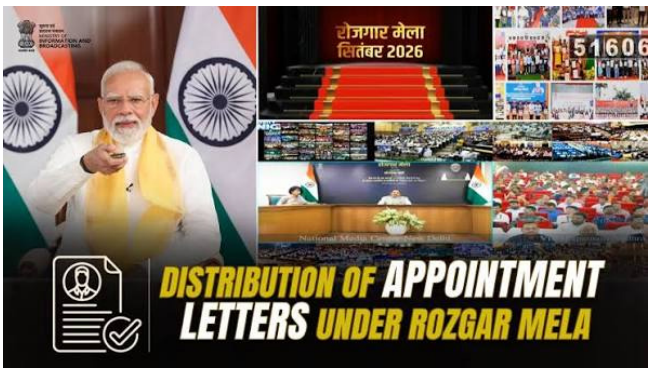
Key Features

- Welfare & development projects in **mining-affected areas**.
- Addresses **environmental, health and socio-economic impacts** of mining.
- Promotes **sustainable livelihoods**.
- Special safeguards for **Scheduled & Tribal Areas** through **PESA, 1996** and **Forest Rights Act, 2006**.

Funding

- **10% contribution:** Mining leases granted **on/after 12 Jan 2015**.
- **30% contribution:** Leases granted **before 12 Jan 2015**.

10.Rozgar Mela



Context

- The **20th edition of the National Rozgar Mela** distributed over 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted youth in government departments and organisations.

National Rozgar Mela

- **Launched: 2022** by the Government of India.
- **Objective: Accelerate recruitment to government posts, fill vacancies and promote youth empowerment & employment.**
- **20th edition:** Distributed **51,000+ appointment letters** to newly recruited government employees.
- **Coverage:** Ministries, Departments and government organisations.

Rozgar Mela

- **Meaning:** Employment event connecting **employers and job seekers** for direct recruitment.
- **NSDC role:** Organises Rozgar Melas with **Sector Skill Councils (SSCs)** and **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs)**.
- **Eligibility:** Generally **18–35 years**; includes

8th/10th/12th pass, ITI/Diploma holders, graduates and **NSQF-certified** candidates.
- **Other services: Career counselling, Kaushal Melas, MUDRA loan facilitation & skill exhibitions**.

11. India's First Blue Bond Set For Launch

Context
- **Sagarmala Finance Corporation plans to raise ₹6 billion through India's first blue bond.**

India's First Blue Bond
- **Issuer:** Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd. (SFCL).
- **Plan:** Raise **₹600 crore (₹6 billion)** through **India's first blue bond.**
- **Blue Bond: Debt instrument used to finance ocean/marine-related sustainable projects.**
- **Purpose:** Support **port infrastructure, maritime development and ocean sustainability**.
- **Significance:** Promotes **sustainable financing of India's blue economy**.

HEALTH

1. Universal Vaccine Against pneumonia, meningitis

Context
- Scientists are looking for a **universal pneumococcal vaccine that can target all the hundred or so forms of Streptococcus pneumonia bacteria.**

Pneumonia
- It is an **acute respiratory infection causing inflammation in lung air sacs** (alveoli).
- **Mechanism**: Alveoli fill with **fluid/pus, restricting oxygen intake.**
- **Transmission**: **Airborne** droplets, **surface contact**, or **blood during childbirth.**
- **Vulnerable groups: Children under 5 and adults over 65.**

Causative Agents
1. **Bacteria**: Streptococcus pneumoniae (most common), Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib).
2. **Viruses:** RSV, Influenza, Coronaviruses.
3. **Fungi:** Pneumocystis jirovecii (targets HIV/ immunocompromised patients).
4. **Atypical**: Mycoplasma pneumoniae (causes mild "walking pneumonia").

India's Schemes & Initiatives
- **PCV Vaccine:** Rolled out under the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).** Protects against **pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis.**
- **SAANS Campaign: Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully.** Drives early identification in under-5 children.
- **Integrated Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhea** - Integrated strategy targeting India's two highest under-5 child killers: pneumonia and diarrhea.

Global Frameworks
- **Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD)** : WHO/UNICEF plan aiming for fewer than 3 child pneumonia deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **World Pneumonia Day: Observed every year on November 12.**

2. Endometriosis

Context
- A first-of-its-kind Indian study has identified 21 genetic regions linked to endometriosis, offering new clues to why some women may be more prone to the disease.



Endometriosis
- **Prevalence: ~10% (190 million)** women of

reproductive age globally.

- **Definition:** Growth of **endometrium-like tissue outside the uterus**, causing **inflammation and scar formation.**
- **Symptoms:** Severe **menstrual pain, heavy bleeding, chronic pelvic pain, infertility**, bloating and nausea.
- **Other impacts:** Can affect **sexual intercourse, bowel movements, urination** and mental health.
- **Cause: Unknown**; linked in emerging research to immune-system dysregulation.
- **Treatment: No cure currently**; treatment focuses on symptom control and limiting long-term effects.

3. Melanoma

Context

- Thousands of patients in India are diagnosed with melanoma, a type of skin cancer, each year.

Melanoma

- **Melanoma**: Skin cancer arising from **melanocytes**, which produce **melanin**.
- **Major risk factor:** Excessive **UV radiation** from sunlight/tanning devices.
- **Appearance:** New dark spot or change in an existing **mole**.
- **Nature:** Less common than basal/squamous cell cancers but **more aggressive** and can metastasize.
- **Early detection:** Treatment is generally more successful when detected early.

Human Skin

Cell	Key function
Squamous cells	Thin, flat cells forming the upper epidermis
Basal cells	Round cells beneath squamous cells
Melanocytes	Produce **melanin**, giving skin its colour

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Nepal Flash Flood Disaster

Context

- **Recently, a flash flood erupted in the Lhende Khola and Bhote Koshi river system in Nepal,** highlighting cascading risks for downstream Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- Bhote Koshi River valley in Nepal is the main link between Kathmandu and Lhasa in Tibet.

About Flash Flood

- **Definition:** Sudden, rapid rise and overflow of water, generally within **a few hours** of intense rainfall, cloudbursts, dam/embankment failure or sudden release of water from glaciers/lakes.
- **Key features:**

1. **Very short warning time** and high flow velocity.
2. Particularly destructive compared to gradual riverine floods.
3. **Steep slopes, narrow valleys and responsive catchments** amplify the hazard.

- **Forecasting challenge:** Difficult to predict due to **rapid onset, short hydrological response time and limited warning**, especially in mountainous and densely populated areas.
- **Himalayan vulnerability:** Glacial instability, landslides, cloudbursts and changing precipitation patterns increase risks.
- **Examples:**

1. Kedarnath disaster – 2013
2. **Chamoli flash flood – 2021**
3. Recurrent floods/landslides in **Himachal Pradesh**
4. Cloudburst-related disasters in **J&K**
5. Recent **Nepal flash flood**, linked to intense rainfall and possible high-altitude water/debris release.

2. India is Reviving Sandalwood Cultivation

In News



- **India is witnessing a renewed push to revive sandalwood (Santalum album)** cultivation, with the Union Budget 2026-27 highlighting its cultural and economic importance.

Revival plan of sandlewood

- **Objective: To restore the "glory of the Indian sandalwood ecosystem"** by focusing on **large-scale cultivation and addressing supply shortages**.
- **Current Supply Crisis: Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL)** requires **7,000–8,000 tonnes of sandalwood annually, b**ut domestic production currently meets only **30% of this deman**d.
- **Import Paradox:** To cover the shortfall, **Karnataka currently imports sandalwood oil from Australia.** Ironically, **Australia is producing this oil from native Indian sandalwood species** they began cultivating 25 years ago.

Additional Information - Indian Sandalwood (Santalum album)

- **Known as "Liquid Gold" or Chandan**, this is one of India's most valuable commercial crops.
- **Forest Type**: It is primarily found in **Tropical Deciduous Forests (Monsoon Forests).**
- **Biological Nature**: It is a **hemi-parasite (partial root parasite),** meaning it derives some **nutrients from the roots of host plants.**
- **Distribution:** Found mainly in the W**estern Ghats, Deccan Plateau, and states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.**
- Conservation Status: Classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- **Key Threats: Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD), caused by phytoplasma**s, is a major threat with no known cure.

3. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Calidris acuminata)

News -



- A rare sharp-tailed sandpiper was spotted near **Najafgarh Jheel in Gurugram, Haryana.**

About

- It is a **small-to-medium-sized migratory wader (shorebird)** known for **long-distance annual migrations between Arctic Siberia and Australasia.**
- **Habitat:** Shallow freshwater **wetlands, coastal estuaries,** flooded pastures, and saltmarshes.
- **Distribution:** Breeds in the boggy **tundra of northern Siberia** during the short summer, wintering mainly in **Australia, New Zealand, and Melanesia.** It is a rare vagrant visitor to India and Western Europe.
- **Ecological role: Biological indicator for the health of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.**
- **IUCN: Vulnerable**

4. Pichavaram Mangrove Ecosystem

News -



- A recent study valued the **Pichavaram mangrove ecosystem's Total Economic Value (TEV) at ₹2,485.38 crore**, highlighting its immense blue carbon stock.

Pichavaram Mangrove Forest

- **Location - Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu**
- **Uniqueness -** It is **one of India's largest**

mangroves, situated in a coastal **estuary between the Vellar and Coleroon Rivers.**

- It encompasses the **Killai backwaters and connects to the Bay of Bengal through a shallow littoral passage.**
- **Dominant Species:** Avicennia marina and Rhizophora.
- **Environmental Status:** It is a **Ramsar Site** designated in 2022 and an **Important Bird Area (IBA).**
- Its South Indian mangrove region is classified as **Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems.**
- **Protection: Categorized as CRZ-IA (Ecologically Sensitive Area), it receives the highest legal protection.**
- **Ecological Significance**: Acts as a **bio-shield, protecting inland coastal communities from cyclones, tsunamis, and erosion,** while supporting marine nurseries, fisheries, and coastal livelihoods.
- **Key Threats: Microplastic infiltration, unregulated shrimp farming expansion, and land conversion.**

5. World's Coral Reefs Report

News -

- Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) published the **7th 'Status of the World's Coral Reefs' report.**

Key Findings

- **Coral cover:** Global hard **coral cover declined by ~9.5%** from the **1980–2009 baseline**.
- **Recovery:** Major disturbances now occur every **4–6 years**, reducing recovery time.
- **Major driver: Marine heatwaves** due to climate change are the leading cause of coral-cover decline.
- **2024: 87% of reefs** faced unprecedented heat stress; **>40%** experienced heat stress posing a risk of coral mortality.
- **Key concept: Coral bleaching** occurs when heat stress causes corals to expel symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae), potentially leading to mortality.

CORAL REEFS

- Coral reefs are the most biologically diverse ecosystems of the planet.

Formation & Symbiotic relationship - (Coral polyps + zooxanthellae)

- They are formed when Coral polyps, the animals primarily responsible for building reefs, develop a symbiotic relationship with photosynthetic algae called zooxanthellae, which live in its tissues.
- **Formation** - Coral reefs begin to form when free-swimming coral larvae attach to submerged rocks or other hard surfaces along the edges of islands or continents.
- The coral provides a protected environment and the compounds zooxanthellae need for photosynthesis.
- In return, the algae produce carbohydrates that the coral uses for food, as well as oxygen. The algae also helps the coral remove waste.

FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR FORMATION

- Warm tropical oceans with minimum temperature of 20 degree (30 degree north and 25 degree south latitudes)
- Oceanic water free of sedimentation
- Transparent parts of ocean bodies
- Relatively low salinity ocean bodies

TYPES OF REEF FORMATIONS

- **Fringing reefs** - They are the most common, projecting seaward directly from the shore, forming borders along the shoreline and surrounding islands.
- **Barrier reefs** - Grow at border shorelines, but at a greater distance. They are separated from their adjacent land mass by a lagoon of open, often deep water.
- **Atoll** - If a fringing reef forms around a volcanic island that subsides completely below sea level while the coral continues to grow upward, an atoll forms. Atolls are usually circular or oval, with a central lagoon.

DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

- The Gulf of Kutch

1. The West Coast of India
2. The Lakshadweep Islands
3. The Gulf of Mannar
4. Palk Bay
5. Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands

THREATS

- Destructive fishing practices, Overfishing, Careless tourism, Pollution, Sedimentation, Coral mining, Climate change.

CORAL BLEACHING

- When corals face stress by changes in conditions such as temperature, light, or nutrients, they expel the symbiotic algae zooxanthellae living in their tissues, causing them to turn completely white. This phenomenon is called coral bleaching.

Causes of Coral Bleaching

- Rise in Sea Temperature
- Ocean Acidification
- Solar radiation & ultraviolet
- radiation
- Infectious Diseases Chemical Pollution
- Increased Sedimentation
- Reducing light availability
- (Turbidity)
- Human Induced Threats

6. Sone River Water-Sharing Agreement

News -

- Bihar–Jharkhand MoU ended a **25-year water-sharing dispute** after Jharkhand's creation in 2000.
- **Bansagar Accord (1973):** Agreement among **MP, UP and Bihar** on Sone River development and Bansagar Dam operations.
- **Origin: Amarkantak Plateau, Maikal Range**.
- **Tributary: 2nd-largest right-bank tributary of Ganga after Yamuna**.
- **States: MP → UP → Jharkhand → Bihar**; joins Ganga near **Maner, Bihar**.
- **Major tributaries: Rihand, North Koel, Banas and Ghaghar**.
- **Major projects: Bansagar Dam (MP), Rihand Dam (UP), Indrapuri Barrage (Bihar).**

7. The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

Context

- The **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is observed globally on 7 September.**
- The **United Nations General Assembly designated the day in 2019** to strengthen global action against air pollution.

Air Pollution

- **Definition:** Presence of harmful substances in the atmosphere at concentrations that can harm **human health and the environment**.
- **Pollutants:** May occur as **gases, liquid droplets or solid particles**; sources can be **natural or anthropogenic**.
- **Major pollutants: PM, NO_2, SO_2, O_3, CO, VOCs and Lead**.
- **Particulate Matter (PM):** Tiny solid/liquid particles suspended in air.
  - **PM_{10}:** ≤ **10 µm** diameter.
  - **$PM_{2.5}$:** ≤ **2.5 µm** diameter.
- **Health significance:** Smaller particles, especially **$PM_{2.5}$**, penetrate deeper into the lungs and may enter the **bloodstream**, causing greater health risks.
- $PM_{2.5}$ is more hazardous than PM_{10} due to its smaller size and deeper penetration into the respiratory system.

Air Pollution in India (World Air Quality Report 2025)

- **India:** Ranked **6th most polluted country** globally.
- **National $PM_{2.5}$ average: 48.9 µg/m³** — nearly **10× WHO guideline of 5 µg/m³**.
- **Top 25 polluted cities:** Located in **Pakistan, India and China**.
- **Most polluted city: Loni (Ghaziabad)** — $PM_{2.5}$: **112.5 µg/m³**.
- **Byrnihat (Meghalaya): 3rd** most polluted city globally.
- **Delhi:** Ranked **4th** globally.

Additional Information - Government Initiatives to Curb Air Pollution in India

- **NAMP:** CPCB programme to monitor **ambient air quality**, assess pollution levels, trends and future changes.
- **NCAP (2019):** Comprehensive programme to **reduce air pollution** in identified cities/ regions through monitoring, emission control and public awareness.
- **BS-VI (2020):** Stricter vehicle emission norms promoting **cleaner fuels & advanced emission-control technologies**.
- **Swachh Vayu Survekshan (2022–23):** Annual assessment of **130 cities** under NCAP; evaluates pollution-control measures and implementation of **City Clean Air Action Plans**.
- **PMUY:** Promotes **LPG** as clean cooking fuel, reducing dependence on biomass.
- **FAME:** Promotes **electric & hybrid vehicles** through incentives, reducing vehicular emissions.
- **GRIHA:** Promotes **energy-efficient and sustainable buildings**.
- **Waste Management:** Swachh Bharat and other initiatives aim to reduce **open waste burning** and improve waste disposal.
- **CAQM:** Ensures coordinated action on air pollution in **NCR & adjoining areas** through coordination, research and problem-solving.
- **Green India Mission:** Promotes **afforestation and increased tree cover** to support air-quality improvement.

8. Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2026

Context

- The **Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2026** results were released by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).**

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan

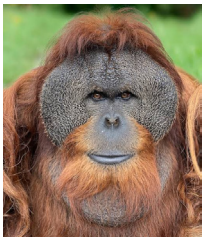
- **Conducted by: CPCB** under the **NCAP**; initiative of **MoEFCC**.
- **Launched: 2022–23**; annual assessment of **130 cities**.
- **Purpose:** Ranks cities based on efforts to control major pollution sources—**road dust, solid/construction waste, vehicular & industrial emissions**.
- **Categories:**
  1. Million-plus population
  2. 3–10 lakh
  3. Below 3 lakh

2026 Highlights

- **Million-plus cities: Lucknow – 1st**, **Indore – 2nd**, **Jabalpur – 3rd**.
- **Delhi: 30th** among million-plus cities.
- **Bottom five:** Chennai, Jamshedpur, Kota, Kolkata & Madurai.
- **3–10 lakh: Rourkela – 1st**.
- **Below 3 lakh: Kalinga Nagar – 1st**.

9. Orangutan

Context



- The **Odisha Forest Department rescued five young orangutans** after they were found abandoned in a casuarina plantation in the Udayapur-Talsari forest area of Balasore district.

Orangutan

- **Largest arboreal mammal**; spends most of its life in trees.
- **Species: 3 — Bornean, Sumatran & Tapanuli orangutans.**
- **Genetic similarity:** Share about **96.4% of genes with humans; highly intelligent.**
- **Diet: Mainly fruits** (figs, mangoes, lychees), plus leaves, flowers, **insects & small mammals.**
- **Habitat:** Tropical forests, especially **lowland forests, river valleys & floodplains**; can occur up to **1,500 m** altitude.
- **Distribution:** Found in the wild only on **Borneo and Sumatra**.
- **IUCN Status: Critically Endangered — all three species**.

10.Anti-smog Guns



News

- The **Delhi government has approved spending ₹100 crore for 1,000 truck-mounted "anti-smog" guns** to be operated across the city in the winter months over three years.

Anti-smog gun

- **What are they?** Devices that spray **fine nebulised water droplets to suppress airborne dust and particulate matter.**
- **Effect: Water droplets bind with $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} and dust, causing particles to settle to the ground.**

Applications:

- Urban **dust and air-pollution control**.
- Industrial dust suppression in **mining, coal handling, grinding and stone crushing**.
- **Mechanism:** Creates a **"canopy/rain effect"**, bringing suspended particles down.

11. Bakhira Lake

News

- Researchers have reconstructed variability in the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) based on magnetic minerals, grain size, geochemical and clay-mineral records from sediments of Bakhira Lake, Uttar Pradesh.

About

- **Location:** Uttar Pradesh; part of the **Ghaghara–Rapti alluvial system**.
- **Formation:** Perennial **oxbow/floodplain wetland**, formed by migration and cut-off of the **Rapti River**.
- **Ramsar Site:** Designated in **2022**; one of the largest wetlands of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Significance:** Lake sediments preserve a **long-term palaeoclimate record** of the **Central Ganga Plain**.
- **Latest Study:** Reconstructed changes in **monsoon rainfall, weathering, erosion, sediment transport and lake processes**.
- **Importance:** Helps understand **past monsoon variability**, improve **climate models**, and support **water-resource & agricultural planning**.

12. Lipulekh Pass



News

- India-Tibet border trade through Lipulekh Pass has resumed.

Lipulekh Pass

- **Location: Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand**, in the Kumaon Himalayas.
- **Altitude: ~5,334 m**.

- **Strategic Location:** Situated near the **India–China–Nepal tri-junction**.
- **Connectivity:** Traditional route linking **India with Tibet**.
- **Religious Significance:** Important route for the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**.
- **Strategic Importance:** Important for **border security, connectivity and India–China–Nepal geopolitics**.

13. Gucchi Mushrooms

In News



- Gucchi Marmik, a traditional dish featuring rare **Himalayan morel mushrooms, was served at the BRICS Summit 2026 dinner.**

Gucchi mushrooms (Morchella esculenta)

- **Scientific name:** *Morchella esculenta*; commonly called **morel mushroom**.
- **Distribution:** Himalayan regions of **J&K, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand**.
- **Habitat:** Mountainous **coniferous forests**; needs specific soil, moisture, temperature fluctuations & snowmelt.
- **Nature: Rare, wild mushroom**; **difficult to cultivate commercially.**
- **Collection: Short season + labour-intensive harvesting in rugged terrain → high price.**
- **Nutrition:** Rich in **protein, fibre & antioxidants**; **vitamin D** varies with conditions/processing.
- **Economics:** Quality dried varieties can fetch **₹15,000–40,000/kg**.

14.South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

News -

- **Member countries adopted the Kathmandu Declaration** at the first General Assembly of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

About

- **Full form:** South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network.
- **Established: 2011, Bhutan**; regional intergovernmental body against **illegal wildlife trafficking**.
- **Members: 8 SAARC countries** – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka.
- **Secretariat: Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- **Structure:** General Assembly → Executive Committee → Secretariat headed by Secretary-General.
- **Kathmandu Declaration:** Recognises illegal wildlife trade as **transnational organised crime**.
- **SAWEN Implementation Plan: 2026–2030** for coordinated enforcement.
- **SAWEN Day: 30 January**.

Kathmandu Declaration

- **Illegal wildlife trade:** Recognised as **transnational organised crime**.
- **Enforcement:** Intelligence-led operations + **anti-money laundering** + financial investigations.
- **Implementation Plan: SAWEN Implementation Plan 2026–2030** for coordinated enforcement.
- **SAWEN Day: 30 January** to mark SAWEN's foundation and promote biodiversity awareness.

15. World Ozone Day

News

- **World Ozone Day 2026 was observed on September 16**, commemorating the Montreal Protocol and highlighting 10 years of adoption of the Kigali Amendment.

OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

Basics - Ozone Layer (O_3)

- **It is a highly reactive molecule containing three oxygen atoms.**
- **Found in - It is present between 10 and 50**

km above the earth's surface, called the stratosphere.

- **Function -** This ozone layer serves as a **natural filter for blocking deadly incoming UV radiation from the sun.**
- **Significance -** This **ozone shield is necessary for the survival of human life on the earth.**

OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

- **Definition - The decrease in ozone concentration in the middle layers of the atmosphere – mainly in the stratosphere is referred to as the depletion of the ozone layer.**
- **Caused by -** It is caused by emissions of anthropogenic halogenated hydrocarbons such as **CFCs, HCFCs, Halons, Carbon tetrachloride and Methyl bromide.**

Why is ozone depletion more in Antarctica than the equator?

- The severe depletion of the Antarctic ozone layer known as the "ozone hole" occurs **because of the special weather conditions that exist there and nowhere else on the globe.**
  - The very low temperatures of the Antarctic stratosphere create ice clouds called polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs).

Measures to Prevent Ozone Layer Depletion

Vienna Convention

- Objective - To protect human health and the environment from any harmful effects of the depletion of the ozone layer.
- Held in - Vienna , Austria
- Adopted in - 1985.
- Came into force - 1988.

Montreal Protocol

- Enforcement - It was agreed upon in 1987 in Montreal, Canada and entered into force in 1989.
- Objective - To protect the Ozone layer by reducing the production of substances that are supposed to be responsible for Ozone layer depletion.
- Kigali Agreement - The protocol was further strengthened with the ratification of the legally binding Kigali Agreement in 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Significance - It seeks to phase out the production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that are potent greenhouse gases by the late 2040s.

16. Eravikulam National Park

News -

- A recent survey found **Eravikulam National Park as a thriving habitat for the endangered Resplendent Shrub Frog.**

About

- **Established: 1978**; Kerala's first national park.
- **Location: Idukki district, Kerala**, Southern Western Ghats.
- **Altitude: ~1,600–2,695 m**; includes **Anamudi**, highest peak of South India.
- **Vegetation: Shola forests, grasslands, medicinal plants & high-altitude flora**.
- **Neelakurinji:** Famous for its **12-year flowering cycle**.
- **Key fauna: Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Langur**.
- **Resplendent Shrub Frog:** *Raorchestes resplendens*; known only from **Eravikulam NP**, especially the Anamudi region; distinctive **short limbs and ground-dwelling/crawling behaviour**.

17. State of the World's Birds 2026

News -

- **BirdLife International published its quadrennial State of the World's Birds report** at the Global Flyways Summit in Nairobi.

About -

- **Released by:** BirdLife International; published **every 4 years**.

Key findings:

1. **45%** of migratory bird species are declining.
2. **1 in 9** migratory species faces extinction.
3. **Slender-billed Curlew** declared extinct in **2025**; last recorded in Morocco in **1995**.

- **Major drivers:** Invasive species, agricultural expansion/intensification, **climate change**, unsustainable hunting & trapping.
- **Flyway:** Geographical route connecting **breeding and wintering grounds**, with stopover sites.
- **Global flyways:** BirdLife recognises **14 major flyways — 8 terrestrial + 6 marine**.
- **Examples:** Central Asian, East Asian–Australasian, African–Eurasian Flyways.
- **Nairobi Flyways Declaration:** Emphasises **coordinated conservation across entire flyways**, involving multiple countries and stakeholders.

Additional Information - BirdLife International

- **Nature:** Global partnership for **bird and biodiversity conservation**.
- **Founded: 1922** as International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP).
- **Headquarters: Cambridge, UK**.
- **Key role:** Identifies **Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)** and supports conservation research and policy.
- **Reports:** Publishes the **State of the World's Birds** report.
- **Network:** Works through partner organisations across **120+ countries**.

18. Ring-tailed Lemur (Lemur catta)

News -

- Bangladeshi investigators reportedly traced **two ring-tailed lemurs stolen from Gazipur Safari Park to Vantara in Jamnagar, Gujarat.**



About

- **Scientific name:** *Lemur catta*
- **Distribution: Southern & south-western Madagascar**; arid spiny scrub and rocky habitats.
- **Features:** Omnivorous, social **strepsirrhine (wet-nosed) primate**; distinctive **12–14 black-and-white tail rings**.
- **Behaviour: Female-led groups**; highly terrestrial among lemurs; males perform scent-based **"stink fights."**
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, charcoal production, hunting & illegal pet trade.
- **IUCN: Endangered (EN)**
- **CITES: Appendix I**

19. Tso Kar Glacier Lake

News

- Ladakh has launched a project aimed at reviving and conserving Tso Kar Glacier Lake.

About



- **Location:** Rupshu Plateau, **Ladakh**.
- Part of **Tso Kar Wetland Complex**, comprising **Tso Kar + Startsapuk Tso**.
- **Tso Kar:** Means **"white lake", referring to salt deposits/efflorescence a**long its margins due to evaporation of saline water.
- **Ramsar Site:** Designated in **2020**.
- **Concern:** Lake has reportedly **shrunk ~70% in a decade**, linked to receding glacial inputs and changing climate patterns.
- **Conservation:** Ladakh has launched a project for its **revival and conservation**.

20. South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

News -

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About

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- **Implementation Plan: SAWEN Implementation Plan 2026–2030** for coordinated enforcement.
- **SAWEN Day: 30 January** to mark SAWEN's foundation and promote biodiversity awareness.

21. India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025

News

- NITI Aayog released the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025.

India Electric Mobility Index 2025

- **Released by: NITI Aayog**
- **Purpose:** Measures the development of the **e-mobility ecosystem and EV adoption** across **36 States/UTs**.
- **Score range: 10–84**; median **40**.

Top Performers

Rank	State/UT	Score
1	Delhi	84
2	Maharashtra	78
3	Karnataka	73
4	Chandigarh	71
5	Goa	65

Madhya Pradesh: Improved from 23rd → 7th.

- **Transport electrification:** Delhi, Chandigarh & Maharashtra were the top three.
- **EV charging infrastructure readiness: Karnataka** topped.
- **EV research & innovation: Delhi** topped.

22. Cheetah Reintroduction

Context

- **Kuno National Park has reported an unusual coalition of two unrelated male cheetahs,** highlighting the emergence of natural social behaviour in the reintroduced population.

About



- India declared the cheetah **extinct in 1952**, after decades of **over-hunting, habitat fragmentation, and depletion of prey species**.
- The launch of **Project Cheetah in 2022** and the **arrival of cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa** created the **world's first intercontinental relocation programme for a large carnivore.**
- **Botswana -** It's a landlocked country with nearly 70% of its landmass covered by the Kalahari Desert, and holds **one of the world's largest wild cheetah populations.**

Project Cheetah

- **Overview:** Project Cheetah is **India's ambitious attempt to reintroduce the cheetah in suitable open forest and grassland ecosystems.**
- **Launched By: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a statutory body under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** (amended 2006).

- **Uniqueness - It is the world's first intercontinental translocation of a large wild carnivore.**

Translocations So Far:

- 8 cheetahs from Namibia in 2022
- 12 cheetahs from South Africa in 2023
- 8 cheetahs from Botswana (2025 announcement)

Cheetah(Acinonyx jubatus)

- It is the **world's fastest mammal** and the **only large carnivore to have gone extinct in India (1952).**
- **Unlike other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.**
- **There are two main species**: the **African cheetah (Vulnerable) and the Asiatic cheetah (Critically Endangered)**, found only in eastern Iran and parts of Africa.

23. Net Zero Portal and NAPCC Dashboard

Context

- The Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched **India's Net Zero Portal and the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) Dashboard** on the occasion of World Ozone Day 2026.



Net Zero Portal

- Centralised digital platform for **voluntary registration & disclosure** of Net Zero commitments by Indian entities.
- Entities can report **GHG emissions, Net Zero targets & annual progress**.
- **Scope 1 & 2:** encouraged reporting.
- **Scope 3:** reporting remains **voluntary**.

NAPCC Dashboard

- Digital platform to track implementation of **8 National Missions** under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**.
- NAPCC launched in **2008**.
- Enables **inter-ministerial coordination, progress assessment & identification of implementation gaps**.

India's Updated Climate Targets

Indicator	Target
Emissions intensity of GDP	**47% reduction by 2035** from 2005
Non-fossil installed power capacity	**60% by 2035**
Net Zero	**2070**
	India achieved **52.57% non-fossil installed capacity by Feb 2026**.

Additional Information - National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) –

- **Launched: 2008** by Government of India.
- **Aim:** Address **climate change mitigation and adaptation** through coordinated national action.
- Comprises **8 National Missions**:

Mission	Focus
Solar Mission	Solar energy
Enhanced Energy Efficiency	Energy efficiency
Sustainable Habitat	Sustainable cities
Water Mission	Water conservation
Himalayan Ecosystem	Himalayan ecology
Green India Mission	Forest cover & carbon sinks
Sustainable Agriculture	Climate-resilient agriculture
Strategic Knowledge	Climate science & knowledge

NET ZERO PORTAL

1. CITES

Context



- Recently found **5 orangutans in Odisha's Balasore's forest, has raised questions regarding illegal wildlife trade and CITES regulations.**

CITES

- Abbreviation - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora & Fauna
- CITES was conceptualized in 1963 at a meeting of the (IUCN) International Union For Conservation of Nature.
- **Establishment - It came into force in 1975 and consists of 183 member-countries**
- **Headquarter - Geneva, Switzerland,**
- **Administered by** - United Nations under its UNEP (**United Nations Environment Programme**) Wing.
- **CITES is legally binding on the Parties;** it does not take the place of national laws.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1 - It lists species that are threatened with extinction nd are or may be affected by trade.**
- **Appendix 2 - This list includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.**
- **Appendix 3 - It contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade.**
-
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Himalayan Ecosystem	Himalayan ecology
Green India Mission	Forest cover & carbon sinks
Sustainable Agriculture	Climate-resilient agriculture

Strategic Knowledge	Climate science & knowledge

2. Kasturirangan Committee Report on Conservation of the Western Ghats

Context

- Karnataka has convened an Assembly session to discuss the proposed implementation of the **Kasturirangan Committee recommendations on the Western Ghats.**

Committees related to Western Ghats

Sanjay Kumar Committee:

- **Objective -** It is formed **to review state objections on Ecologically sensitive zones demarcations** and validate proposed exclusions.
- **Significance-** It seeks to finalize the ESA status for villages, restricting activities harmful to biodiversity.

Madhav Gadgil Committee (2011):

- **Objective -** to propose protection measures for the Western Ghats.
- **It recommended designating the entire Western Ghats as ecologically sensitive.**
- It proposed the **creation of a dedicated ecological authority to regulate development.**
- The Report suggested rigorous conservation, but its recommendations were not fully adopted.

Kasturirangan Committee (2012):

- It is formed as a follow-up to the Gadgil Committee to provide a more moderate approach.
- **It recommended demarcating 37% of theWestern Ghats as eco sensitive zones.**
- **It emphasizes a balance between conservation and developmental needs**, allowing limited activity in specific areas.

Western Ghats

- **Forests -** The region of **Western Ghats has moist deciduous forests and rainforests.**
- **Endemism -** The region shows high species diversity as well as high levels of endemism.
- Nearly 77% of the amphibians and 62% of the reptile species found here are found nowhere else.

Facts on Western Ghats

- **Location -** Western Ghats of Sahyadri **run parallel to the west coast of the Indian peninsula through six states(Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala)**.
- **Also known as** - It is also known as **'The Great Escarpment of India'**.
- **Designated as** - It is designated as **UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as a Biodiversity Hotspot** due to the presence of a large number of endemic flora and fauna species along with several undiscovered species.
- **Tribes** - It is home to a large number of tribes such as **Adars, Kotas, Badagas, Todas, Kurumbas, and Paniyas** etc.
- **Biodiversity conservation** - The Government of India has established many protected areas including **2 biosphere reserves, 13 National parks** to restrict human access to protect specific endangered species.

3. Hurricane Polo (DDN)

News -

- Hurricane Polo, a powerful Category 4 storm, rapidly intensified over the eastern Pacific Ocean off the southwestern coast of Mexico.

About

- **Hurricane Polo:** A **Category 4 tropical cyclone** that rapidly intensified over the **eastern Pacific Ocean** off the southwestern coast of Mexico.
- **Hurricane:** Tropical cyclone with **maximum sustained winds ≥119 km/h (74 mph)**.
- **Associated weather:** Heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and strong winds.

- **Category 4:** Indicates **extremely powerful winds and potentially severe damage**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Earth Observation Satellite EOS-05

News -



- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched EOS-05 (formerly GISAT-1A) aboard the GSLV-F17 rocket.**

EOS-05

- It is **India's first Earth observation imaging satellite to operate from Geosynchronous Orbit (GEO).**
- It is designed **to provide near real-time imaging of priority targets every 5 minutes** and the **whole Indian landmass every 30 minutes.**
- **Significance**: Supports agricultural assessment, resource management, environmental monitoring for natural disasters, and **continuous surveillance for national security.**
- **GEO is a circular geosynchronous orbit at ~36,000 km,** where a **satellite's orbital period matches Earth's rotation**, enabling **continuous surveillance over a fixed region.**

2. Sagar Manthan Vessel

News



- Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd launched the 'Sagar Manthan' vessel.

'Sagar Manthan' vessel

- **Type:** Indigenous **Ocean Research Vessel (ORV)** being built for **NCPOR**.
- **Mission:** Part of **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)**, under **Vertical-4: Deep Ocean Survey & Exploration**.
- **Cost:** About **₹840 crore**.
- **Commissioning:** Expected by **2028**, after sea trials.
- **Features:** All-weather, **multi-disciplinary** research platform; speed of **14 knots**; operational lifespan of about **30 years**.
- **Significance:** Strengthens **India's capacity to explore marine mineral resources such as:**

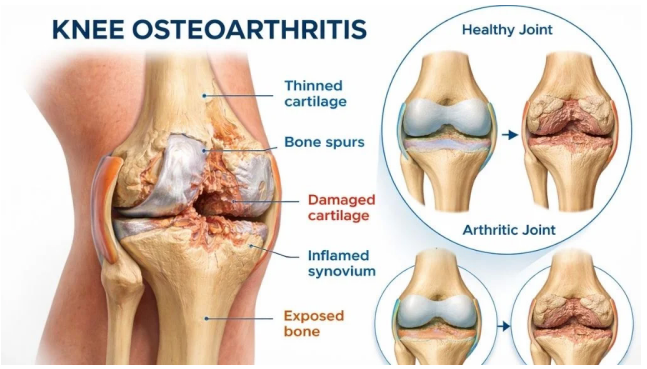
1. Polymetallic/manganese nodules
2. Polymetallic sulphides

- **Region:** Focus on the **Indian Ocean Region**.

Deep Ocean Mission

- **Launched: 2021** by the Government of India.
- **Objective: Sustainable exploration of deep-ocean resources** and strengthening India's **Blue Economy**.
- **Key component: Samudrayaan Project**.
- **MATSYA 6000:** India's **first manned deep-sea submersible**, being developed under Samudrayaan.
- **Focus:** Deep-sea exploration, marine resources, biodiversity and advanced ocean technologies.

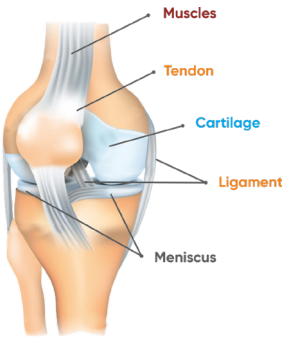
3. Osteoarthritis



In News

- **Scientists are developing a cell-free regenerative therapy for osteoarthritis** using extracellular vesicles derived from mesenchymal stromal cells found in menstrual blood.

Osteoarthritis



- **What is it?** A **degenerative joint disease** involving breakdown of **cartilage and changes in underlying bone.**
- Commonly affected: Knees, hips, hands and spine.
- **Risk factors: Age, obesity, previous joint injury, repetitive joint stress** and **genetic factors.**
- **Symptoms: Joint pain, stiffness, swelling** and reduced range of motion.
- **Nature:** Usually **chronic and progressive**; unlike rheumatoid arthritis, it is primarily a **degenerative/mechanical** condition.
- **Management:** Exercise/physiotherapy, weight management, pain relief and, in severe cases, **joint replacement surgery**.

4. Badri Cattle

News -

- **A female Badri calf was born via Ovum Pick-Up and In Vitro Fertilisation (OPU-IVF) technology,** following the transfer of a Badri embryo to a Sahiwal recipient cow.

About

- **Badri:** Indigenous hill cattle breed of **Uttarakhand**; found in **Kumaon & Garhwal**.
- **Features:** Small, long-legged, sure-footed, disease-resistant; **low milk yield but high fat & protein**; mainly **A2 β-casein**.
- **Sahiwal:** Indigenous high-yielding dairy breed; **heat-tolerant & low-maintenance**.

Ovum Pick-Up (OPU) -IVF technology

- **OPU:** Ultrasound-guided collection of **oocytes** from donor females.
- **IVF:** Oocytes fertilised with selected sperm **in laboratory**.
- **Embryo Transfer:** Embryo transferred to a **synchronised surrogate/recipient**.
- **Key point:** Recipient **carries the pregnancy but contributes no genetic material**.

5. First International Space Summit

News-

- The **First International Space Summit was recently held in Paris, France.**
- It provides an opportunity to open a dialogue towards meeting contemporary challenges of the space sector.
- **Key focus areas:** Growing use of **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**, space economy, Moon exploration and the long-term future of space activities.

About -

4 Priorities

Priority	Focus
Security	Sustainable & secure space operations
Space Economy	Competitiveness & technological development
Space as Common Good	Responsible and sustainable management of space
Space as Fundamental Project	Scientific research, exploration & technological progress

India's roadmap:

- **Indigenous Space Station:** by **2035**.
- **Indian astronaut on the Moon:** by **2040**.

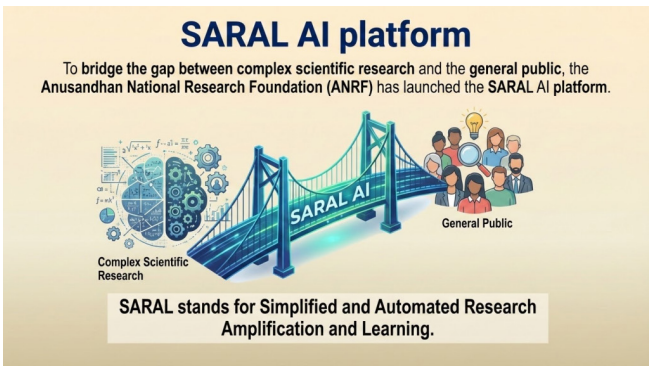
6. India Deep Tech Alliance

News

- **The India Deep Tech Alliance (IDTA) members invested ₹2,170 crore** in 56 Indian deep-tech firms over the past year, signalling growing private investment in strategic technologies.

India Deep Tech Alliance (IDTA)

Aspect	Details
Launched	September 2025
Nature	Industry-led consortium
Members	Investors, corporates, technology partners & ecosystem stakeholders from India and abroad
Focus	India's **deep-tech startups**
Key sectors	AI, semiconductors, advanced computing, robotics, biotech, etc.
Support	Long-term capital, technical mentorship, market linkages & policy engagement
Objective	Build **globally competitive deep-tech companies from India**



Context (DD):

- The **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) is leveraging SARAL AI** to convert research published in its journals into engaging and accessible videos.

About -

- **Full form: Simplified and Automated Research Amplification and Learning (SARAL)**.
- **Nature: AI-enabled platform** for converting research papers into accessible **video summaries**.
- **Initiative of: Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**.
- **Implementation/Use: CSIR-NIScPR** is leveraging SARAL AI for research published in its journals.
- **Key feature:** Converts complex research papers into **easy-to-understand video presentations**.
- **Languages:** Videos can be made available in **multiple Indian languages**.
- **Objective: Democratise research** by making scientific knowledge more accessible and engaging.
- **Significance:** Uses AI to make research communication **smoother, faster and more accessible**.

7. Project Suncatcher



Context

- **Google has announced Project Suncatcher,** to test whether AI computing infrastructure can be deployed in space, beginning with an orbital test of Google's Tensor Processing Units (TPUs).

Project Suncatcher

- **Initiative:** Google's project to develop **space-based AI computing infrastructure**.
- **Concept:** Deploy **TPUs (AI processors)** on satellites in **LEO**.
- **Partner: Planet** for prototype satellite development.
- **Connectivity: Free-Space Optical (FSO)** links

using **laser beams** for high-bandwidth data transfer.
- **Vision:** Satellite constellation functioning as **distributed AI computing infrastructure**.
- **Significance:** Could enable **AI processing in space**, reducing dependence on terrestrial data centres.

8. Outer Space Treaty

News -

- The US confirmed deploying on-orbit "space control weapons" to protect its satellites from China and Russia, prompting **backlash over the limitations of the Outer Space Treaty.**

Outer Space Treaty (OST), 1967

- **Foundational treaty** governing peaceful use of outer space; **115 countries**, including India, have ratified it.
- **Non-appropriation:** No national sovereignty/ ownership over outer space or celestial bodies.
- **Peaceful use:** Bans **WMDs/nuclear weapons in orbit** and military activities on the Moon/ celestial bodies.
- **Responsibility & liability:** States are responsible for national space activities, including **private entities**, and liable for damage caused by their space objects.
- **Astronauts:** Considered **"envoys of mankind"** and entitled to assistance.
- **Gap:** Limited regulation of **conventional weapons, ASATs, jamming and space debris**.
- **India: Indian Space Policy 2023 + IN-SPACe**; joined **Artemis Accords (2023)**; not party to **Moon Agreement (1979)**.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

1. Rani Avantibai Lodhi

Context

- The Defence Minister of India unveiled the statue of Veerangana Rani Avantibai Lodhi in Lucknow and paid tribute to the legendary freedom fighter.

Rani Avantibai Lodhi

- She was the **queen of the Ramgarh princely state in present-day Madhya Pradesh** and a prominent **woman leader of the Revolt of 1857.**



- **Early life:** She was **born in 1831** in the present-day **Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh. She married Vikramaditya Singh, the ruler of Ramgarh**.
- **Resistance to British annexation**: The British attempted to take control of Ramgarh by placing it under the Court of Wards, disregarding Avantibai's authority.
- **Role in the Revolt of 1857: She mobilised local rulers, landlords and peasants against British rule** and is associated with raising a force of about **4,000 soldiers.**
- **Martyrdom: In March 1858, when surrounded by British troops, Rani Avantibai Lodhi took her life with her sword rather than surrender.**

2. Rajasthan Shekhawati Havelis enter UNESCO Tentative List

Context

- **Rajasthan's historic Shekhawati havelis have been included in the UNESCO Tentative List,** marking a significant step towards their recognition on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Shekhawati Havelis

- **Location:** Northeastern **Rajasthan**; included in **UNESCO Tentative List**.
- **14 towns:** Alsisar, Bissau, Chirawa, Churu, Dundlod, Fatehpur, Jhunjhunu, Khetri, Laxmangarh, Mandawa, Mahansar, Nawalgarh, Ramgarh & Sikar.
- **Features:** Elaborately painted **havelis, frescoes, courtyards, gateways and ornate façades**.

- **Fresco themes:** Religious/mythological stories, portraits, **daily life, flora & fauna** and traditional motifs.
- **Historical value:** Murals document **19th–early 20th century technological and cultural changes**, including new transport and external influences.

UNESCO Tentative List

- Inventory of cultural/natural sites with potential **Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)** that may be nominated for World Heritage status.
- A site generally needs to remain on the Tentative List for **at least 1 year** before formal nomination.
- **Tentative List ≠ World Heritage status**; it is a preliminary step.
- Sites can be **added, removed or updated**.

3. Dogri Script is Returning to Jammu's Signboards

Context

- **New public signboards in Jammu are displaying place names in Namey Dogra Akhar,** alongside Devanagari and the Roman script, as part of efforts to revive Dogri's traditional writing system.

Namey Dogra Akhar

- **Meaning:** "New Dogri Script"; a modified form of the **Takri script** historically used for Dogri.
- **Development:** Evolved during **Maharaja Ranbir Singh's** reign by incorporating **Devanagari vowel signs** for administrative use.
- **Dogri:** An **Indo-Aryan language**, mainly spoken in the **Jammu region**, with speakers in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and PoK.
- **Speakers:** About **2.6 million** in India (2011 Census).

Constitutional Status

- Added to the **Eighth Schedule in 2003** through the **92nd Constitutional Amendment Act**.
- One of India's **22 Scheduled Languages**.
- Recognised as an **official language of J&K UT in 2020**.

Why did the script decline?

- **Administrative shift:** Urdu and later English became dominant in official communication.
- **Shift to Devanagari:** Dogri Sanstha adopted Devanagari in **1944** to promote Dogri literature.
- This aided Dogri's recognition by **Sahitya Akademi in 1969**, but contributed to the decline of Namey Dogra Akhar.

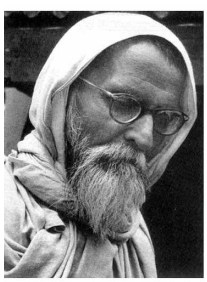
4. Acharya Vinoba Bhave

News

- The Prime Minister paid tributes to Acharya Vinoba Bhave on his Jayanti.

Vinayak Narahar Bhave

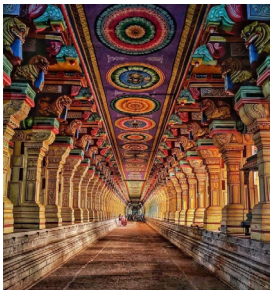
- **Born: 11 September 1895**; regarded as **Gandhi's spiritual successor and a leading advocate of non-violence.**
- **Association with Gandhi: Inspired by Gandhi in 1916**; joined his constructive programmes—**Khadi, village industries, Nai Talim, sanitation** etc.
- **Bhoodan Movement:** Launched the **land-gift movement** to encourage **voluntary redistribution of land to the landless.**



- **Geetai:** Translated the **Bhagavad Gita into Marathi**.
- **Social Philosophy: Non-violence, social equality, voluntary service and rural upliftment**.
- **Vaikom:** In **1925**, Gandhi entrusted him with work related to **temple entry for Harijans at Vaikom, Kerala.**
- **Legacy: Freedom fighter, spiritual leader and social reformer** associated with **land reforms and Sarvodaya**.

5. Ramanathaswamy Temple

News -



- **During the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, PM Narendra Modi welcomed visiting leaders at Bharat Mandapam** against a backdrop featuring the iconic Ramanathaswamy Temple of Rameswaram.

About

- **Location:** Rameswaram, **Pamban Island, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Deity:** Lord **Shiva**; one of the **12 Jyotirlingas** and one of the **Char Dham**.
- **Architecture: Dravidian style**, famous for elaborate gopurams, carved pillars and long corridors.
- **Corridor:** Known for the **longest temple corridor** in India/world.
- **History:** Expanded substantially under the **Nayaks and Sethupathi rulers** (15th–18th centuries), with earlier Pandya patronage.

Additional Information- 12 Jyotirlingas

No.	Jyotirlinga	State
1	Somnath	Gujarat
2	Mallikarjuna	Andhra Pradesh
3	Mahakaleshwar	Madhya Pradesh
4	Omkareshwar	Madhya Pradesh
5	Kedarnath	Uttarakhand
6	Bhimashankar	Maharashtra
7	Kashi Vishwa-nath	Uttar Pradesh
8	Trimbakeshwar	Maharashtra
9	Vaidyanath	Jharkhand
10	Nageshwar	Gujarat
11	Rameshwaram (Ramanathas-wamy)	Tamil Nadu
12	Grishneshwar	Maharashtra

6. Thirukkural

News -

- **PM Modi gifted a Russian translation of the Thirukkural to President Putin** ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

About

- **Author: Thiruvalluvar**; foundational Tamil ethical text.
- **Period:** Post-Sangam era; date debated (**c. 300 BCE–500 CE**).
- **Structure: 1,330 couplets → 133 chapters → 10 couplets/chapter**.

Three divisions:

1. **Aram** – Virtue/ethics
2. **Porul** – Polity/statecraft
3. **Inbam** – Love

- **Nature:** Secular and universal; covers **ethics, governance, justice and social values**.
- Also known as **Kural, Tamil Marai (Tamil Veda)** and **Divine Book**.

7. Samvatsari

Context (PIB):

- The PM has extended his greetings to the people on the sacred occasion of Samvatsari.

Saṃvatsari

- **Saṃvatsari** is the **holiest day in the Jain calendar**, observed on the last day of **Paryushana Parva** by the **Śvētāmbara sect**.
- Also known as **Kshama Yachna Divas**, **Ahimsa Divas** and **Daya Divas**.
- **Key practice:** Jains seek and grant **universal forgiveness** for mistakes committed knowingly or unknowingly.
- **Paryushana Parva:** Annual Jain festival focused on **self-reflection, spiritual purification and forgiveness**.

- **Core message: Ahimsa + forgiveness + self-purification**.

8. 150th Birth Anniversary of Saratchandra Chattopadhyay

News

- The Prime Minister has paid homage to Saratchandra Chattopadhyay on his 150th birth anniversary.

Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay (1876–1938)

- **Born:** Devanandapur, Bengal (1876); later lived in **Rangoon (Myanmar)**.
- Associated with the **Indian freedom movement**; President of **Howrah Congress unit (1921–36)**.
- Major **Bengali novelist** known for portraying **women, social oppression and orthodox social norms**.
- **Major works:** *Devdas, Srikanta, Pather Dabi, Parinita, Biraj Bau, Palli Samaj, Charitraheen* and *Swami*.
- **Pather Dabi:** Depicts **revolutionary nationalism and anti-colonial resistance**.
- **Srikanta:** Narrates the life and experiences of a **wandering protagonist**.
- His works gained **pan-Indian and international popularity**.

9. Tulu Language

Context

- The **Karnataka Cabinet has decided to accord additional official language status to Tulu** for administrative purposes in the Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Tulu

- **Tulu:** Independent **Dravidian language** with a history of **2,000+ years**.
- **Region:** Mainly **Dakshina Kannada & Udupi (Karnataka)** and **Kasaragod (Kerala)**.
- **Status: Not included in the Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution.
- **Recognition:** Census authorities recognise Tulu as an **independent language** and provide separate speaker data.
- **Script:** Historically had its own **Tulu script**; **Kannada script** is predominantly used today.
- **Historical references:** Mentioned in **Tamil Sangam literature**; Charition Papyrus (~2nd century BCE) is cited as an early reference.
- **Karnataka:** Cabinet decided to grant Tulu **additional official language status for administrative purposes** in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi.



Key Developments in the Recognition Process

- **Committee Recommendation:** A **six-member panel led by K.M. Gayatri**, former Director of the Kannada and Culture Department, submitted its report to the Secretary of the Kannada and Culture Department on March 4, 2026.
- **Adoption of the Andhra Pradesh Model:** The committee specifically **studied the administrative and legal framework used by Andhra Pradesh to grant Urdu second**

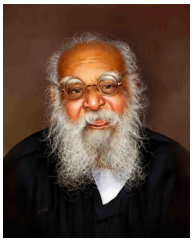
official language status to ensure a smooth implementation for Tulu.

- **Constitutional Basis**: The **state aims to accord this status under Article 345 of the Constitution of India,** which **allows state legislatures to adopt one or more languages for official purposes.**

10.E.V. Ramasamy

Context

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay paid floral tributes on the 147th birth anniversary of social reformer E.V. Ramasamy in Chennai.



E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar)

- **Born:** 17 September 1879, **Erode, Tamil Nadu**.
- Popularly known as **Periyar ("The Great One")**.
- **Self-Respect Movement (1925):** Challenged **caste hierarchy** and promoted social equality, rationalism and self-respect.
- **Congress:** Left in 1925 over **separate dining arrangements** for Brahmin and non-Brahmin students at Gurukkulam.
- **Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25):** Participated in the movement for **lower-caste access to public roads** around Vaikom Temple.
- **Dravida Nadu:** Advocated a separate Dravidian homeland; founded **Dravidar Kazhagam (DK)**.
- **Journal:** *Kudi Arasu*.
- **Social Justice Day:** Tamil Nadu observes **17 September** as Periyar's birth anniversary.

11. Kathakali Festival

News

- The 17th Kathakali Festival was organised by the Kalakshetra Foundation under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Kathakali

- **Origin:** Kerala; evolved around the **17th century**.
- **Meaning:** Malayalam **Katha (story) + Kali (play)**.
- **Features:** Combines **dance, drama, music, elaborate costumes & make-up**, using facial expressions, hand gestures and eye movements.



- **Literature:** Based on **Attakatha**; themes mainly drawn from **Indian epics**.
- **Music: Sopana/Abhinaya Sangeetham** tradition.
- **Instruments: Chenda, Maddalam, Chengila & Ilathalam**.
- **Singers: Ponnani and Shinkidi**.
- Traditionally performed **overnight**; now often presented in shorter formats.
- Traditionally male-dominated, but **women also participate**.

Kalakshetra Foundation

- **Founded: 1936** by **Rukmini Devi Arundale**.
- Promotes preservation and transmission of **Indian classical arts and traditional crafts**, particularly **Bharatanatyam, music and dance**.

12. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

Context (AIR):

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (1916–1968) on his birth anniversary.



Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (1916–1968)

- He was a **political thinker, economist, and leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.**
- He was an **exceptional scholar and dedicated nationalist.**
- **Ideology -** He was a visionary thinker, known for his **doctrine of Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manav Darshan)** which emphasized a **balance between spiritual**

and material development and **promoted decentralization** and **self-reliant village-based economy.**

- **Contributions-** He contributed to ideological journalism by starting **'Rashtra Dharma' (monthly), 'Panchajanya' (weekly), and 'Swadesh' (daily).**

DEFENCE

1. RAKSHA' Defence Diplomacy Document

News -

- The **Defence Minister unveiled 'RAKSHA', a strategic document outlining India's 10-year roadmap for global defence partnerships.**
- It marks a shift towards proactive global defence cooperation, aligning national security objectives with long-term partnerships, stability and mutual growth.

Key pillars of RAKSHA

- **Strategic Partnerships:** Deepening bilateral and multilateral security cooperation.
- **Capacity Building:** Enhancing joint military exercises, training programmes, and sharing best practices with friendly nations.
- **Indigenous Exports**: Promoting Make-in-India defence platforms to establish the nation as a reliable global defence manufacturing hub.
- **Maritime security:** Strengthening India's role as a Net Security Provider and First Responder in the Indian Ocean Region.

2. CoBRA Battalion

Context

- 2006-batch IPS officer Sanjukta Parashar, popularly known as the 'Iron Lady of Assam' for her counter-insurgency work in the Northeast, has become the first woman officer to head the CRPF's elite CoBRA unit.

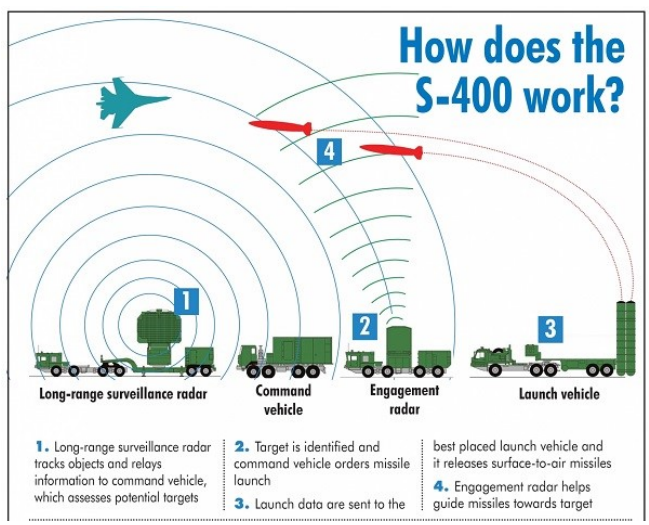
CoBRA

- **Full form: Commando Battalion for Resolute Action**
- **Force:** Specialised operational formation of **CRPF**.
- **Raised: 2008–09** for **jungle & guerrilla warfare**.
- **Key capabilities:** Long-range patrols, intelligence-based operations, ambush/ counter-ambush and operations in **IED-prone areas**.
- **Major deployment:** Anti-Maoist operations in **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha & Maharashtra**.
- **Strength: 10 battalions**, headed by an **Inspector General (IG)**.

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)

- **Administrative control:** Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**).
- **Forces: Assam Rifles, BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, NSG & SSB**.
- **Key exception – Assam Rifles:**
- **Administrative control:** MHA
- **Operational control: Ministry of Defence (MoD)**

3. S-400 Triumf



Context

- The Defence Ministry's Annual Report 2025–26 has highlighted the **operational role of India's S-400 air-defence system during**

Operation Sindoor.

S-400 Triumf

- **Origin:** Russian **long-range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM)** system.
- **Role:** Provides **layered air defence** against aircraft, cruise missiles, UAVs and some ballistic-missile threats.
- **Interceptors:** Different missiles offer ranges of roughly **40, 120, 250 and up to 400 km**.
- **Mobility:** Fully mobile system with **command centre, radar/tracking systems, launchers and support vehicles**.
- **Key feature:** Simultaneous detection and engagement of multiple aerial targets at different ranges.
- **S-400F: Reported ship-based variant of the S-400 system.**

4. VIMARSH 2026

Context (DDN)

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) organised an industry synergy meet, VIMARSH 2026,** with the theme 'Varta se Vikas' to strengthen collaboration with industry.

About

- **Organiser: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- **Theme: "Varta se Vikas"**.
- **Objective:** Strengthen **DRDO–industry collaboration** and promote participation of **MSMEs and deep-tech start-ups** in defence technology.
- **Support measures:** Direct funding, incubation, access to testing facilities and opportunities across the **defence technology value chain**.
- **Source-code sharing:** A secure framework was introduced to share **DRDO-developed software source code** with licensed industries.
- **Purpose:** Support **software-defined defence** and address technology obsolescence.
- **SAMAR 2.0:** DRDO signed an agreement with the **Quality Council of India (QCI)** for the **System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rating (SAMAR) 2.0**.
- **Purpose of SAMAR 2.0:** Assess and benchmark the **manufacturing maturity of domestic defence enterprises**.

5. Satellite Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAT-SAAW)

Context



- The Defence Ministry has signed a contract of over 810 crore rupees with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the procurement of 160 Satellite Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAT-SAAW).

Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)

- **Type: Air-to-ground precision-guided glide bomb.**
- **Purpose:** Designed to destroy **enemy airfields and related infrastructure** from a **stand-off range**.
- **Developer: DRDO**.
- **Indigenous content:** About **60%**.
- **Launch platforms: SEPECAT Jaguar, Hawk and Su-30MKI** aircraft.
- **Project:** Approved in **2013**; flight-tested during **2016–2021**.
- **IAF induction: 2021**.
- **Delivery:** Scheduled during **2027–28 and 2028–29**.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Sardar Patel National Unity Award

News -



- The Sardar Patel National Unity awards are expected to be announced on October 31, coinciding with the Sardar Vallabhbhai

Patel's 150th birth anniversary.

Sardar Patel National Unity Award

- **Instituted:** 2019 by **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Purpose:** Recognises outstanding contributions to **national unity and integrity**.
- **Status:** Considered equivalent to **Padma Vibhushan**.
- **Selection Committee:** Constituted by the **Prime Minister**, comprising:

1. Cabinet Secretary
2. Principal Secretary to PM
3. Secretary to President
4. Home Secretary

- **3–4 eminent persons** nominated by the PM.
- **Components: Medal + Citation**; **no cash/ monetary grant**.
- **Posthumous award:** Normally not conferred posthumously, except in **rare and highly deserving cases**.
- **Medal: Lotus-leaf shaped**, made of gold and silver; **Sardar Patel's portrait** on one side and **National Emblem** on the other.

2. Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026



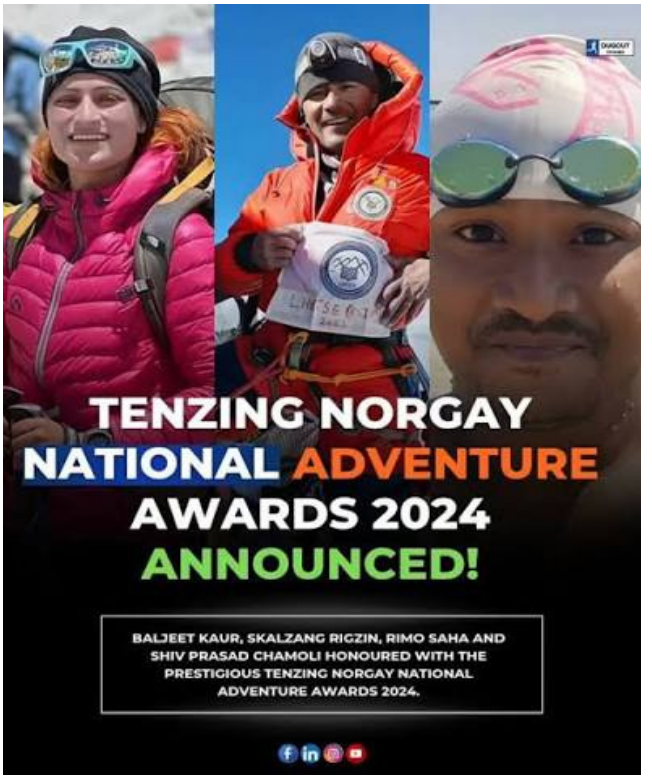
Context

- Tommy Koh (Singapore), Runa Khan (Bangladesh), and Bo Kyi (Myanmar) have been honoured with the **Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026.**

Ramon Magsaysay

- **Established: 1958,** in memory of **Ramon Magsaysay, the 7th President of the Philippines**, known for his integrity, courage, and democratic leadership.
- **Instituted by:** The **Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)**, in partnership with the Philippine government.
- **Administered by**: The **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF), Manila.**
- **Nature:** Recognizes individuals or organizations in Asia who show **selfless service and transformative leadership.**
- **Prestige: Considered Asia's highest honour**, equivalent in stature to the **Nobel Prize in Asia.**

3. Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2024



Context (PIB):

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced four recipients of the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2024.**

About-

- **Instituted in 1993**
- The award is the **nation's top honor for adventure sports** and holds a status **equivalent to the Arjuna Awards.**
- It is **named after Tenzing Norgay,** one of the

first two climbers to summit Mount Everest with Edmund Hillary in 1953.

- **Categories: Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure, and Lifetime Achievement.**

2024 Awardees:

- **Land Adventure: Baljeet Kaur** won as the first Indian to scale five 8,000m peaks in a season; **Skalzang Rigzin** as the first Indian civilian to summit Everest without supplemental oxygen or Sherpa support.
- **Water Adventure**: **Rimo Saha,** for his record in para-swimming and open-water sea competitions.
- **Lifetime Achievement: Shiv Prasad Chamoli,** for lifelong contributions to winter games and adventure sports administration.

4. National Film Awards

News

- The **National Film Awards ceremony is going to be organised in Gujarat for the first time**, with the 72nd edition scheduled in Ekta Nagar.

National Film Awards

- **Instituted: 1954** to promote films of high **artistic, technical, educational & cultural value**.
- Initially called **State Awards**.
- **First Best Actor/Actress (1968): Uttam Kumar** & **Nargis**.
- Earlier names:
  - Best Actor → **Bharat**
  - Best Actress → **Urvashi**
- **Conferred by:** Ministry of **Information & Broadcasting**, along with the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**.
- **72nd National Film Awards:** Ceremony to be held at **Ekta Nagar, Gujarat**, for the first time.

72nd Awards — Key Winners

Category	Winner
Best Feature Film	*Article 370*
Best Actress	Yami Gautam – *Article 370*
Best Actor	Mammootty – *Bramayugam* & Kartik Aaryan – *Chandu Champion*
Best Debut Director	Randeep Hooda – *Swatantrya Veer Savarkar*
Best Popular Film	*Kalki 2898 AD*

5. MatsyaMetri

News

- **Developed by: Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)**; developed by scientist **Eldho Varghese**.
- **Purpose:** Smartphone app to measure **fish length & width without physically handling the fish**.
- **Users:** Fisheries scientists, researchers & field survey teams.

Uses:

- Rapid collection of **biological data** for fisheries assessment & management.
- Automatically records measurements and generates **length-frequency datasets/ distributions**.
- Allows measurement of **multiple individuals** in a single sampling session.
- Saves measurements with **photographs**.
- Data can be exported as **CSV** for further scientific analysis.

6. National Engineers' Day

News

- National Engineers' Day is celebrated to honor the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya every year on September 15.

National Engineer's day

- **Celebrated on - 15th September**



- **Objective - To recognise and honour the achievements of the great engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.**
- **Note -** It is different from the **World Engineers' Day celebrated annually by UNESCO on 4th March.**

Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

- **Born in** - Karnataka in 1**861**
- **Education** - He studied **Bachelor of Arts (BA) from the University of Mysore** and then studied **civil engineering from the College of Science in Pune** and went on to become one of the most eminent engineers in the country.
- **Service -** He served as the **Chief Engineer of Mysore State in 1909** and as the **Diwan of the princely state of Mysore in 1912,** a position he held for **seven years.**
- **Death** - He **died in 1962 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**

Contributions

- **Planner of Indian Economy** - He was an Engineer who emphasised on development **'Planned Economy' in India (1934).**
- **Krishna Raja Sagara Dam** - He was the chief engineer responsible for the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore.
- **Khadakwasla reservoir** - He was instrumental in designing and patenting a system of **automatic weir floodgates in Khadakwasla reservoir in Pune** in 1903.
- **Drainage system** - After the devastating floods **(Musi River) in Hyderabad in 1908,** he designed a **drainage system to protect the city from these floods in the future.**
- **Road plan** - He is the one who designed a plan for **road construction between Tirumala & Tirupati.**
- **Railway lines -** He also commissioned several new Railway lines in Mysore state.
- **Waterworks** - He had designed and carried out the **waterworks for the Municipality of Sukkur in 1895.**
- **Block System** -He is also credited with the development of the **Block System which would prevent the wasteful flow of water in dams.**
- **Founded -** He was responsible for founding the **Mysore soap factory**, the **Mysore Iron & steel works (Bhadravathi), Sri Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic Institute, The Bangalore Agricultural University, and the State Bank of Mysore.**

Honours

- **Knight Commander** - He was knighted as a Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire **by King George V for his contributions to the public good in 1915.**
- He was awarded an **Honorary Membership of London Institution** of Civil Engineers for an unbroken 50 years.
- He was conferre**d India's highest honour, the Bharat Ratna in 1955.**

Books written by him

- 'Reconstructing India' and 'Planned Economy of India'

7. Asia Cup

Context

- India defeated Sri Lanka in the Women's Asia Cup 2026 final in Dubai, securing a record-extending eighth Asia Cup title.

Asia Cup (Cricket)

- **2026:** India defeated Sri Lanka in the **Women's Asia Cup final in Dubai**, winning a record-extending **8th title**.
- **Nature: Biennial** international cricket tournament for Asian teams.
- **First edition: 1984**, following the formation of the **Asian Cricket Conference** in 1983, precursor to the **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)**.
- **Format:** Since **2016**, alternates between **ODI and T20I** formats.
- **Women's Asia Cup:** Launched by **ACC in 2004**.

- **Most men's titles: India**, followed by **Sri Lanka**.
- **Organiser: Asian Cricket Council (ACC)**.

8. Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024

Context

- **Legendary actor Anant Nag, known for his impressive work in Hindi and Kannada cinema** will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024.

About

- **Instituted: 1969**
- Highest Indian award in the field of **cinema**, presented annually at the **National Film Awards**.
- **Awarded by:** Government of India, on the recommendation of the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee**.



- **Named after: Dadasaheb Phalke (1870–1944)**, regarded as the *"Father of Indian Cinema"*.
- **Contribution:** Directed **Raja Harishchandra (1913)**, India's first full-length feature film.
- **Components: Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) + Shawl + ₹10 lakh**.
- **First recipient: Devika Rani (1969)**.

9. Mizoram Woman Farmer to Receive FAO Award

News-

- **Z T Lalrithangi:** Farmer from **Mizoram**, recognised by FAO for her contribution to **strawberry cultivation and rural development**.
- **Recognition:** Among **100 women from 131 countries**, selected from 600+ nominations; **2 women from India** were selected.
- **Occasion:** Part of the **International Year of Women Farmers 2026**.



FAO

- **Established: 1945**; UN specialised agency working to **end hunger and improve food and agriculture**.
- **Headquarters: Rome, Italy**.
- **Members: 194** — 193 countries + **European Union**.

10.Jhiram Ghati Massacre

Context

- A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur convicted all ten accused in the 2013 Jhiram Valley Maoist attack.

Jhiram Valley Attack (2013)

- **Date:** 25 May 2013, **Bastar, Chhattisgarh**.
- Maoists ambushed the Congress **Parivartan Rally**, killing several political leaders and security personnel.
- Highlighted the threat posed by **Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)** in Maoist-affected areas.

Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)

- **Meaning:** Armed Maoist movements seeking to overthrow India's **constitutional-democratic system** through prolonged armed struggle.

- **Major group: CPI (Maoist)**; armed wing = **People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA)**.
- **Areas:** Historically concentrated in remote, **forested and tribal-dominated regions**, known as the **Red Corridor**.
- **Drivers: Poverty, land alienation, displacement, underdevelopment and weak governance**.

Key Developments

- **Salwa Judum (2005):** Anti-Maoist campaign in Chhattisgarh; Supreme Court later restricted the use of **tribal youth as Special Police Officers (SPOs)**.
- **Security approach:** Shift towards **"Clear, Hold and Develop"**—security operations followed by establishing a sustained security presence and expanding **roads, infrastructure and basic services**.

11. India-Africa Forum Summit

Context



- India restarted discussion on the next **India-Africa Forum Summit on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.**

India-Africa Forum

- **Established: 2008**; premier institutional platform for **India–Africa cooperation**.
- **Summits: 2008, 2011, 2015**; **4th Summit expected in 2026**.
- **Key Areas:** Political dialogue, **trade & investment, technology transfer, capacity building** and people-to-people ties.
- **Underlying Principles: South–South cooperation, inclusive development, multilateralism & sustainable partnerships**.

African Union

- **Established: 2002**; successor to the **Organisation of African Unity (OAU)**.
- **Members: 55 African countries**.
- **Objective:** Promote **African integration, cooperation, peace, growth and economic development**.
- **Vision:** Realise Africa's potential through greater **regional cooperation and integration**.

12. New Development Bank (NDB)

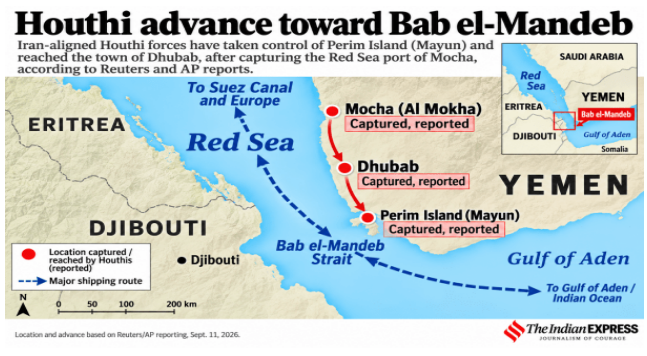
News

- Recently, **BRICS nations affirmed the New Development Bank's vital role in promoting sustainable development, reducing inequality**, and supporting emerging economies globally.

New Development Bank (NDB) (Hq: Shanghai, China)

- **Established:** 2015 by **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa).**
- **HQ: Shanghai, China.**
- **Members: 11** — 5 founding + Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, Algeria, Colombia & Uzbekistan.
- **Membership: Open to UN members**, including borrowing and non-borrowing members (**Article 2**).
- **Capital:** Initial authorised capital **$100 billion**; founding members subscribed equally, **$10 billion each**.
- **Mandate:** Finance **infrastructure & sustainable development** projects in Emerging Markets & Developing Countries (EMDCs).
- **Aligns projects with SDGs and the Paris Agreement,** focusing on climate-smart, disaster-resilient, technology-driven and socially inclusive development.

13. Perim Island (Mayun)



In News

- **Iran-aligned Houthi forces took control of Perim Island, also known as Mayun, in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait**.
- **Location:** Small volcanic island **~3.5 km off Yemen's western coast**.
- **Strategic Location:** Lies near the **Bab-el-Mandeb Strait**, the gateway between the **Red Sea and Gulf of Aden**.
- **Geopolitical Importance:** Control of the island can provide strategic leverage over **shipping through the Red Sea and towards the Suez Canal**.
- **Regional Significance:** Its location makes it important amid disruptions to other major **global energy-shipping routes**.

14.Hyenas

Context



- A new study has found that in spotted **hyenas, females dominate males** not because they are bigger or stronger but because they have larger networks of social alliances.

Hyenas

- **Family:** Hyaenidae; dog-like **carnivorous mammals** native to Africa and parts of Asia.
- **Species: 4** — Striped Hyena, Brown Hyena, Spotted Hyena & Aardwolf.
- **India:** Mainly **Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*)**.
- **Habitat:** Arid/semi-arid **grasslands, scrublands, deserts and open forests**.
- **Adaptations:** Excellent **night vision and hearing**; largely nocturnal.
- **Ecological role:** Scavenges carcasses → **nutrient recycling & disease regulation**.
- **IUCN:** Striped & Brown Hyena — **Near Threatened**; Spotted Hyena & Aardwolf — **Least Concern**.

15. Sohar Port



Context

- **The Strait of Hormuz in a chokehold due to Iran-U.S. hostilities,** Oman has pitched investment opportunities to India in Sohar Port of Oman.

About

- **Location: Oman**, on the **Gulf of Oman**.
- **Strategic significance:** Located **outside the Strait of Hormuz**, providing an alternative maritime route to Gulf markets and energy resources.
- **Connectivity:** Offers access to Persian Gulf hubs without directly depending on passage through the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- **Geostrategic advantage:** Situated in **northeastern Oman**, relatively close to energy infrastructure/pipelines of the **UAE and eastern Saudi Arabia**.
- **Other Omani ports offered to India: Duqm and Salalah**.

Gulf of Oman

- **Location:** Northwestern arm of the **Arabian Sea**.
- **Boundaries:**
- **Southwest:** Oman
- **North:** Iran
- **Extent: ~560 km long** and up to **320 km wide**.
- **Connectivity:** Connects the **Arabian Sea**

with the Persian Gulf through the **Strait of Hormuz**.

- **Important ports:**
- **Oman:** Sohar, Al-Khaburah, Muscat, Sur
- **Iran:** Jask, Bandar Beheshti (Chabahar)

16. World Rhino Day



In News

- **World Rhino Day is celebrated globally on September 22 every year** to raise awareness on the conservation of rhinoceros species.

World Rhino Day

- **Date: 22 September** every year.
- **Origin:** Proposed by **WWF-South Africa (2010)**; observed internationally since **2011**.
- **Coordinator: International Rhino Foundation (IRF)**.
- **2026 Theme: "Keep the Five Alive"**.
- **Global population: ~26,700 rhinos** across **5 species**; 4 remain threatened.

Indian Rhino

- **Species:** Greater One-Horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*).
- **IUCN: Vulnerable | Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule I**.
- **India:** Only one of the five rhino species occurs in India.
- **Assam:** Major population in **Kaziranga, Manas, Pobitora & Orang**; **~3,260** rhinos.
- **Kaziranga: National Park (1974) | Tiger Reserve (2006) | UNESCO World Heritage Site (1985)**.

Conservation Initiatives

- **Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (2005):** Targeted **3,000 rhinos** across at least **7 protected areas** in Assam.
- **IRV 2.0 (2021):** Aims to conserve **4,500–5,000 rhinos across protected areas by 2030**.

17. Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)

News -

- Meta has announced that it will directly report child safety-related matters to the **cybercrime portal managed by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).**

Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, to deal with cybercrime in the country.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- **HQ:** New Delhi
- **Purpose:** Coordinates **Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)** to combat cybercrime.

Key Objectives:

- Acts as a nodal **point** for tackling cybercrime.
- Strengthens action against cybercrime targeting **women & children**.
- Facilitates **cybercrime complaints** and identifies emerging trends/patterns.
- Functions as an **early-warning system** for proactive prevention & detection.
- Promotes **cybercrime awareness and cyber hygiene**.
- Builds capacity of **Police, Public Prosecutors & Judicial Officers** in cyber forensics, investigation and cyber-criminology.

18. Operation Deep Manifest

News -

- **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** seized more than 362 metric tonnes (MT) of Pakistan-origin dry dates under Operation Deep Manifest.

Operation Deep Manifest

- **Agency:** Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (**DRI**)
- **Objective:** Detect, intercept and seize **contraband/banned goods of Pakistani origin** smuggled into India through **third-country routes**.

DRI

- **Under:** CBIC, Ministry of Finance.
- **Role:** India's **apex anti-smuggling agency**.
- **Key functions:**
  - Tackles **smuggling and illicit international trade**.
  - Combats **drug trafficking** and illegal wildlife/environmental trade.
  - Detects **commercial fraud** and **Customs duty evasion**.

19. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

Context (TH):

- **The Defense Acquisition Council (DAC)** granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisitions worth about ₹1.10 lakh crore to enhance the combat readiness of the armed forces.

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- **Established:** 2001 through a **Government Resolution**, following **GoM recommendations after the 1999 Kargil War**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Defence.
- **Chairperson: Defence Minister**.
- **Composition:** CDS, three Service Chiefs, Defence Secretary and senior MoD officials.
- **Role: Highest decision-making body for defence capital procurement and acquisition policy.**

Key Functions:

- Grants **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for capital procurement.
- Approves **capability development plans**.
- Decides **Make/Buy & indigenisation** pathways.
- Clears major **strategic and inter-governmental defence agreements**.

20. Dryland Congress 2026

News -

- **Dryland Congress 2026 will convene in New Delhi** to address challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient dryland agriculture.

About

- **Organised by:** ICAR & ICRISAT, **New Delhi**.
- **Theme:** *"Transforming Dryland Agriculture through South–South Cooperation"*.
- **Significance:** Marks **50 years of ICAR–ICRISAT collaboration**; expected to adopt the **Delhi Declaration on Dryland (3D)**.

Drylands

- **UNEP:** Areas with **Aridity Index < 0.65** (precipitation/evapotranspiration).
- Cover about **45% of global land surface** and support **2+ billion people**.
- **India: ~68% of cultivated land**; supports **40%+ population** and **60% livestock**.
- **Vulnerability:** Drylands are warming **20–40% faster** than other ecosystems.

Restoration & India

- **UNCCD:** Leads global efforts on **land degradation neutrality (LDN)**.
- **PMKSY–WDC:** India's key watershed-based approach—**soil conservation, ridge-to-valley treatment & water harvesting**.

21. Govind Ballabh Pant

News -

- 10th September 2026 marks the 139th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Govind Ballabh Pant.

Govind Ballabh Pant (1887–1961) – UPSC

- **1st Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**; prominent freedom fighter and administrator.
- **Prem Sabha:** Social reform & promotion of local education.
- **Kumaon Parishad (1916):** Opposed **coolie-begar** and hill taxes.
- **Freedom Struggle:**

- Legal counsel in the **Kakori case (1925)**.
- Led **Simon Commission protests** in Lucknow (1928).
- Participated in the **United Provinces Salt campaign (1930)**.

Key Offices

- Premier, United Provinces: **1937–39 & 1946–50**
- Constituent Assembly member.
- **1st CM of UP:** 1950–54
- **Union Home Minister:** 1955–61

Major Contributions

- **UP Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950**.
- As Home Minister, played a key role in implementing **linguistic reorganisation of States** under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.

22. India-MERCOSUR Cooperation

News

- **India and the South American trade bloc MERCOSUR have launched negotiations** to expand their existing **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** to deepen economic relations and create greater opportunities for businesses on both sides.

MERCOSUR

MERCOSUR – UPSC

- **Full form:** Southern Common Market (*Mercado Común del Sur*).
- **Members: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia & Venezuela**.
- **Venezuela: Suspended since 2016**.
- **India–MERCOSUR: Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** in force since **June 2009**.
- **PTA coverage: ~450 tariff lines from India** and **452 from MERCOSUR**, with concessions of **10–100%**.
- **Trade (Apr–Oct 2025–26): $11.84 bn**
  - Exports: **$5.22 bn**
  - Imports: **$6.62 bn**
- **Challenges for India:** High tariffs, logistics bottlenecks, regulatory complexity and cultural differences.
- **Prelims: MERCOSUR → South American trade bloc → PTA with India since 2009.**

23. Kishau Multipurpose Project

Context

- Recently, six Yamuna-basin States signed an agreement on the long-pending Kishau Multipurpose Project, bringing the stalled project closer to implementation.

Kishau Project

- The Kishau Multipurpose Project is a proposed dam on the Tons River, along the **River: Tons River**
- **Location:** Uttarakhand–Himachal Pradesh border.
- **Type: Multipurpose dam project**.
- **States/UT involved:** Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan & Delhi.
- **Status:** Declared a **National Project** after remaining stalled for over 8 years.

Funding:

- **90%** of water-component cost → **Union Government**
- **10%** → Participating States, as per **Yamuna Water Agreement (1994)**.

Yamuna River Basin

- **Origin:** Yamunotri Glacier, **Bandarpoonch Range, Uttarakhand**
- **Confluence:** Meets the **Ganga at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Basin States/UTs:** Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan & Delhi.
- **Major Tributaries: Tons, Giri, Hindon, Chambal, Sindh, Betwa & Ken**.
- **Importance:** Irrigation, drinking water, hydropower, ecology & **inter-State water sharing**.
- **Major Projects: Lakhwar, Renukaji & Kishau**.

24. India Rejects Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission

Context

- **India has rejected the so-called Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission,** saying Pakistan has no locus standi to enter into arrangements concerning Indian territory under its illegal and forcible occupation.

Pakistan–China Boundary Agreement

Aspect	Key Facts
India's position	India rejects Pakistan–China arrangements concerning **Indian territory under Pakistan's occupation**, arguing Pakistan has no locus standi to alter its status.
1963 Agreement	Pakistan–China Boundary Agreement signed in **1963** to demarcate the boundary between **Xinjiang and Pakistan-occupied territory**. India considers it **illegal and invalid**.
Shaksgam Valley	Also called **Trans-Karakoram Tract**; Pakistan ceded it to China under the 1963 agreement.
Location	In the **Hunza–Gilgit region**, north of the **Siachen Glacier**; area is **5,000+ sq km**.
Historical context	The princely state of **Jammu & Kashmir** was established after the **Treaty of Amritsar (1846)** and historically encompassed Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, PoK and the Trans-Karakoram Tract.
Boundary Joint Commission	Originated in the **2013 Agreement on the Boundary Management System**, signed during Chinese Premier **Li Keqiang's** visit to Pakistan.
Purpose of Commission	Oversee implementation of **Pakistan–China border-management arrangements**.
India's objection	India maintains that Pakistan's transfer of the **Shaksgam Valley** to China constitutes an **illegal transfer of Indian territory**.

25. Matryoshka Dolls at 18th BRICS Summit

- **Why in News:** Chocolate versions of traditional Russian Matryoshka dolls were used to welcome Russian delegates at the 18th BRICS Summit.

Key Highlights:

- **Event & Venue:** 18th BRICS Summit, held in **New Delhi, India**.
- **About the Dolls:** Traditional Russian nested wooden dolls featuring progressively smaller hollow figures placed inside one another.
- **Cultural Significance:** The name translates to "little matron" in Russian, serving as a symbol of motherhood and family.

26. Longest Steel Slag Road

- **Why in News:** India achieved a Guinness World Record for constructing a 1.85-km, four-lane road using processed steel-slag aggregates in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh.

Key Highlights:

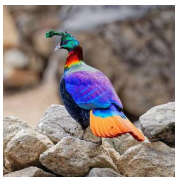
- **Developed By: Jindal Steel Limited** and **CSIR–Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)**.
- **Efficiency Gains:** Cuts road construction costs by nearly **40%** and reduces pavement

thickness by **35%**.

- **Environmental Impact:** Advances the **"Waste to Wealth"** mission and circular economy by replacing natural stone aggregates with industrial slag, eliminating rock quarrying.

27. Himalayan Monal

- **Why in News:** A recent study revealed that the Himalayan monal dynamically alters its vocalizations in response to surrounding environmental noise levels.



Key Highlights:

- **Habitat & Distribution:** A striking landfowl endemic to the Himalayan ranges, predominantly found across **Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand**, and **Sikkim**.
- **State Symbol:** Recognized officially as the **state bird of Uttarakhand**.
- **Conservation Status:** Classified as **'Least Concern'** on the IUCN Red List.

28. Khair Tree (*Acacia catechu*)

- **Context:** The species was recently highlighted in the news due to its extraction through an alleged ₹120 crore interstate smuggling network operating in the forests of **Western Odisha**.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Botanical Family	**Fabaceae** (a nitrogen-fixing family known for enhancing soil fertility)
Habitat & Distribution	One of the most important native tree species across the **Indian subcontinent**
Primary Extract	Yields **Katha (catechu extract)** derived from its **heartwood**, a staple ingredient used in *paan* across India

APPOINTMENTS

1. Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra

- Retired **Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra** has been appointed as the first-ever **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust** in **Ayodhya**. An **Indian Air Force** veteran commissioned in **1986** with over **3,000 flying hours**, he was selected from over 5,200 applicants. The newly created position aims to significantly strengthen the trust's **administration and financial management**

2. Mandeep K Bhandari Appointed New CBSE Chairperson

- Senior IAS officer Mandeep K Bhandari (2001-batch AGMUT cadre) has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He replaces interim chief Lokhande Prashant Sitaram, taking charge of the national education board at a critical juncture as it navigates administrative reforms following the recent controversies surrounding its digital On-Screen Marking (OSM) evaluation system.

3. Narendra Bhooshan Appointed as Environment Secretary

- **Narendra Bhooshan**, a **1992-batch IAS officer** of the **Uttar Pradesh cadre**, has assumed charge as Secretary of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** on September 30, 2026. He succeeds **Tanmay Kumar** following his superannuation, having previously served as Secretary of the **Department of Land Resources** under the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

AWARDS

1. Kaziah Liz Mejo Crowned Miss Universe India 2026

- **Context:** A 19-year-old law student from Kerala won the national beauty pageant, securing her spot to represent India on the global stage.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Miss Universe India 2026.
- **Awardee:** Kaziah Liz Mejo (the first woman from Kerala to win the national title).
- **Issuing Authority:** Miss Universe India.
- **Presenter:** Manika Vishwakarma (Miss Universe India 2025).
- **Key Achievement:** Emerged victorious against 52 finalists, earning the right to represent India at the 75th Miss Universe pageant scheduled for November 2026 in Puerto Rico.

About the Award:

- The national title selects India's official representative for the annual international Miss Universe competition.
- The 2026 selection committee featured a panel of notable former pageant winners, including India's first Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen, alongside Celina Jaitly, Urvashi Rautela, and Rhea Singha.

2. PM Modi Receives Uzbekistan's Highest Honour

Context: The Indian Prime Minister was awarded Uzbekistan's highest honour during his two-day state visit to Tashkent in August 2026, marking a major diplomatic breakthrough that significantly elevated bilateral ties.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Order (Order of Supreme Friendship).
- **Awardee:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Issuing Authority:** Republic of Uzbekistan.
- **Presenter:** Government of Uzbekistan.
- **Key Achievement:** Successfully elevated India-Uzbekistan ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which notably included securing a landmark long-term agreement for the supply of uranium to India to strengthen its nuclear energy program.

About the Award:

- It is the highest state order of Uzbekistan awarded for outstanding contributions to friendship and international collaboration.
- The Prime Minister dedicated the honor to India's 1.4 billion people, noting that the word "Dostlik" translates to friendship, fittingly representing the millennia-old historic ties between India and the Central Asian region.

3. Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026

- **Context:** Three Asian leaders were recognized for their transformative contributions in diplomacy, rural development, and human rights advocacy.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Ramon Magsaysay Award **2026**.
- **Issuing Authority:** Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (**RMAF**).

2026 Awardees & Achievements:

Awardee	Country	Profile	Key Achievement
Tommy Koh	Singapore	Diplomat & Academic	Shaped international law (including **UNCLOS**) and promoted peaceful dispute resolution.
Runa Khan	Bangladesh	Founder, NGO **Friendship**	Delivered essential healthcare, education, and climate resilience to remote, marginalized communities.

Bo Kyi	Myanmar	Co-founder, **AAPP**	Documented human rights abuses and advocated for political prisoners despite high personal risk.

About the Award:

- Established in **1958** to honor the democratic ideals of former **Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay**.
- Recognizes **"greatness of spirit"** and selfless service to the peoples of Asia.
- Since **2009**, the foundation shifted from six rigid categories to recognize un-categorized outstanding service, with the exception of the **Emergent Leadership** category.

4. Joheirry Mola Crowned Miss World 2026

- **Context:** The grand finale of the 73rd Miss World pageant (celebrating its 75th-anniversary milestone edition) was held in Nha Trang, Vietnam, where a new global beauty queen was crowned.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Miss World 2026.
- **Awardee:** Joheirry Mola (representing the Dominican Republic).
- **Issuing Authority:** Miss World Organisation.
- **Presenter:** Opal Suchata Chuangsri (reigning Miss World 2025 from Thailand).
- **Key Achievement:** Emerged victorious among 111 global contestants. Spain's Elisabeth Reynes and Malaysia's Taanusiya Chetty finished as first and second runners-up, respectively.

About the Award:

- Established in 1951, it is the oldest-running international major beauty pageant.
- Joheirry Mola's victory marks only the **second Miss World title for the Dominican Republic**, coming 44 years after Mariasela Álvarez won the crown in 1982.

5. Kishor Makwana Awarded Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar

- **Context:** The Chairman of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** was honoured for public service and advancing social justice for marginalized communities.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar **2026**.
- **Awardee: Kishor Makwana** (Chairman, NCSC).
- **Issuing Authority: Prime Point Foundation** and the Sansad Ratna Awards Jury Committee.
- **Key Achievement:** Safeguarding constitutional safeguards, addressing community grievances, and driving social empowerment for **Scheduled Castes**.

About the Award:

- Conferred during the **16th edition** of the **Sansad Ratna Awards** in **New Delhi**.
- Recognizes exceptional leadership and institutional dedication toward upholding constitutional rights and social inclusion.

6. MoD and DFS Win Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar 2025-26

- **Context:** The Ministry of Defence and the Department of Financial Services were awarded the highest official language honors on Hindi Diwas for their exceptional implementation of Hindi.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (2025-26).
- **Awardee: Ministry of Defence** (First Prize, more than 300 personnel category) and **Department of Financial Services** (First Prize, fewer than 300 personnel category).
- **Issuing Authority:** Department of Official Language, **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Presenter:** Conferred during the 6th All India Official Language Conference on **September**

14 (Hindi Diwas).

- **Key Achievement:** Recognized for outstanding institutional compliance with the **Official Languages Act, 1963**, and the **Official Language Rules, 1976**.

About the Award:

- It is the Government of India's highest award for official language implementation.
- Conferred annually to Central Government ministries, departments, PSUs, nationalised banks, and autonomous bodies based on their annual compliance reports.

7. Vasundhara Doraswamy to Receive Excellence Award

- **Context:** Renowned Bharatanatyam exponent, choreographer, and scholar Dr. Vasundhara Doraswamy will be honored for her outstanding, five-decade-long contribution to Indian classical dance and research.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Padmabhushan Guru Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan Excellence Award 2026.
- **Awardee:** Dr. Vasundhara Doraswamy.
- **Issuing Authority:** Nataraj Music & Dance Academy (NMDA).
- **Presenter:** Conferred during the Vysakhi Nrithyotsav Indian Dance Festival in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (September 26–27, 2026).
- **Key Achievement:** Recognized for her extensive pedagogical work and pioneering research integrating Bharatanatyam with Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga.

About the Award/Event:

- Conferred annually to promote the art form of Indian classical dance and pay tribute to artists who have made significant cultural contributions.
- Presented during the Vysakhi Nrithyotsav festival organized by NMDA, an ISO-certified organization and associate of the International Dance Council (UNESCO).

8. Anant Nag to Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- **Context:** Veteran actor Anant Nag has been named the recipient of the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024 in recognition of his illustrious, five-decade-long career across Indian cinema, theatre, and television.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Dadasaheb Phalke Award (for the year 2024).
- **Awardee:** Anant Nag (veteran actor with over 300 films across Kannada, Hindi, and parallel cinema, as well as the iconic TV series *Malgudi Days*).
- **Issuing Authority:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- **Presenter:** To be conferred at the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony in Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat on September 22, 2026.
- **Key Achievement:** Selected by the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee for his outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema and his versatile, naturalistic performances that have enriched the nation's cultural landscape.

About the Award:

- Regarded as India's highest cinema honor, it was introduced in 1969 to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke, the director of India's first full-length feature film, *Raja Harishchandra* (1913).
- Conferred annually at the National Film Awards, presenting the winner with a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize (currently ₹15 lakh).

9. Justice Dipak Misra Conferred Kalinga Ratna Award

- **Context:** Former Chief Justice of India (CJI)

Justice Dipak Misra was honored with the prestigious Kalinga Ratna Award for 2026, recognizing his lifetime achievements in jurisprudence and public service.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Kalinga Ratna Award (2026).
- **Awardee:** Former Chief Justice of India, **Justice Dipak Misra**.
- **Issuing Authority: Sarala Sahitya Sansad** (a prominent cultural organization in Odisha).
- **Presenter:** Conferred during a special ceremony in **Cuttack, Odisha**, attended by Odisha Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan.
- **Key Achievement:** Honored for his benchmark contributions to national jurisprudence and constitutional values. At the event, he emphasized the vital importance of 'fraternity' and 'human dignity' enshrined in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

About the Award:

- Instituted in **2007** by the Sarala Sahitya Sansad.
- It is a top state-level civilian honor presented annually to eminent personalities originating from or deeply rooted in Odisha who have made exceptional national or global contributions.
- The recipient is honored with a formal citation and a silver idol of Goddess Saraswati.

10.Sethuraman Panchanathan Wins 2026 Bueche Award

- **Context:** Chennai-born computer scientist and former US National Science Foundation (NSF) director Sethuraman Panchanathan has been named the 2026 recipient of the Arthur M. Bueche Award, making him the first Indian American to receive the honour.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Arthur M. Bueche Award (2026).
- **Awardee: Sethuraman Panchanathan** (first Indian American to receive the honour).
- **Issuing Authority:** US **National Academy of Engineering (NAE)**.
- **Presenter:** Presented during the NAE's annual meeting in **Washington, D.C.**, on October 4, 2026.
- **Key Achievement:** Honored for his leadership in promoting fundamental science, technology, and policy that advances translational research and expands opportunities nationwide. His extensive career includes serving as the 15th Director of the US NSF (2020-2025) and receiving the Padma Shri from the Government of India in 2025.

About the Award:

- Established in **1982** by the US National Academy of Engineering.
- Honors an engineer for outstanding dedication to science and technology, as well as active involvement in shaping U.S. science and technology policy.
- Recognizes significant contributions to strengthening the collaborative relationships between industry, government, and universities.

11. Nagaland Film 'Angh' Wins Platform Prize at TIFF 2026

- **Context:** Theja Rio's Konyak-language feature *Angh* won the Platform Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2026, marking a historic breakthrough for Naga cinema.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Platform Prize (2026).
- **Awardee: *Angh*** (Directed by Theja Rio).
- **Issuing Authority: Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)**.
- **Presenter:** Conferred in **Toronto, Canada**.
- **Key Achievement:** Secured the top competitive prize (along with CAD 20,000), earning direct qualification for the 2027 Academy Awards (Best International Feature Film).

About the Award:

- Highest honor in TIFF's competitive Platform programme recognizing high directorial merit.
- Under revised Academy regulations, the win grants direct Oscar eligibility, bypassing domestic country selection committees.

12. Z T Lalrithangi Named Among FAO's 100 Women Heroes

- **Context:** Mizoram farmer Z T Lalrithangi has been globally recognized for advancing agrifood systems and rural livelihoods.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development.
- **Awardee:** Z T Lalrithangi (Sangau, Mizoram); the first Mizo and one of two Indian women selected from 600+ nominations across 131 nations.
- **Issuing Authority:** UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- **Presenter / Venue:** World Food Forum at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy.
- **Key Achievement:** Pioneered commercial strawberry farming and value-added agro-products (strawberry wine, dried fruits), serving as a scalable model for rural economic diversification.

About the Award:

- Aligned with the UN's **International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026**.
- Recognizes grassroots women leaders closing gender gaps and transforming agrifood systems globally.

13. Shantanu Moitra to Receive National Lata Mangeshkar Award

- **Context:** Renowned music director and composer Shantanu Moitra has been honoured for his exceptional lifetime contributions to Indian film music.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** National Lata Mangeshkar Award (2026).
- **Awardee:** Shantanu Moitra (Music Composer, acclaimed for soundtracks like *Parineeta* and *3 Idiots*).
- **Issuing Authority:** Culture Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Presenter / Venue:** To be presented at a formal ceremony in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** (the birthplace of the legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar).
- **Key Achievement:** Recognized for his distinctive, melody-driven compositions and enduring impact on contemporary Hindi cinema.

About the Award:

- Instituted in **1984** by the Madhya Pradesh Government to promote excellence in light music.
- Conferred alternately upon music directors and playback singers on an annual basis.
- Comprises a cash prize of **₹5 lakh**, a citation of merit, and a traditional shawl/shriphal.

14. 65th Lalit Kala Akademi Awards

- **Context:** The Lalit Kala Akademi announced 20 national awards at the 65th National Exhibition of Art, celebrating outstanding contributions to India's visual arts ecosystem.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Lalit Kala Akademi Awards (2026).
- **Awardee: 20 artists** selected by a two-tier jury from over 6,175 submissions spanning 27 States and UTs.
- **Issuing Authority: Lalit Kala Akademi** (National Academy of Art), an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Culture**.
- **Presenter / Venue:** Lalit Kala Akademi Art Gallery, Rabindra Bhawan, **New Delhi**.

About the Award:

- Distributed annually during the **National Exhibition of Art (NEA)**, which serves as a

premier platform connecting artists with collectors and cultural organizations. The Lalit Kala Akademi was established in **1954** to foster the development and promotion of visual and plastic arts in India.

LIST OF 20 HONOURED ARTISTS:

1. WorldSkills Shanghai 2026

- **Context:** India achieved its best-ever finish by breaking into the top 10 at the 48th WorldSkills Competition, fielding its largest-ever delegation to compete in global vocational skills.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** WorldSkills Competition Medals (**6 Silver** and **20 Medals for Excellence**).
- **Awardees:** The **Indian Contingent** (70 contestants); notably, **Smriti Nambiar** (Silver in Bakery) was officially awarded the title of **'India's Best of Nation'**.
- **Issuing Authority: WorldSkills International**.
- **Presenter / Venue: Shanghai, China**.
- **Key Achievement:** Secured the **10th position globally** (up from 13th in 2024) and made successful debut appearances in 11 emerging skill categories (including Dental Prosthetics and Retail Sales).

About the Award:

- Often regarded as the "Olympics of Skills," it recognizes young professionals demonstrating world-class standards in creative, technical, and service-oriented disciplines.
- The competition brings together thousands of participants from over 70 countries to foster global skill development and exchange industry-standard practices.

2. Vishisht Gujarat Garima Award

- **Context:** The Government of Gujarat announced a major state honor for an Indian pilot for his extraordinary bravery in averting a catastrophic air disaster during a mid-air cockpit attack.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Vishisht Gujarat Garima Award (accompanied by a ₹25 lakh cash reward).
- **Awardee: Captain Smit Machchhar** (Indian national and flydubai pilot hailing from Gujarat).
- **Issuing Authority: Government of Gujarat** (announced by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel).
- **Key Achievement:** Thwarted an alleged mid-air attack by his co-pilot on a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight (FZ1073). Despite being severely wounded and bleeding, he managed to activate the cockpit door release to allow crew and passenger intervention, ultimately enabling the safe diversion of the aircraft to Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, and saving all 174 lives on board.

About the Award:

- A prestigious state honor conferred by the Gujarat government to recognize extraordinary acts of heroism, indomitable courage, and humanitarian service by individuals that bring immense pride to the state and the nation.

3. Bhagat Singh 119th Birth Anniversary

- **Observed Date:** September 28, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- **Objective:** To commemorate the legendary revolutionary leader for his ultimate sacrifice for India's independence, his pivotal role in the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), executing the 1929 Central Legislative Assembly bombing, and his enduring ideals of socialism and secularism.

4. Gandhi Jayanti and International Day of Non-Violence

- **Observed Date:** October 2, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **Objective:** To commemorate the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, honoring his monumental role in India's freedom struggle, and to globally disseminate his enduring philosophy of *Ahimsa* (non-violence) to foster a worldwide culture of peace, tolerance, and understanding.

5. World Animal Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** October 4, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** Global animal welfare organisations and communities
- **Objective:** To raise international awareness regarding animal welfare and rights, prevent cruelty and exploitation, and promote the humane treatment and conservation of all domestic, farmed, and wild animals.
- **Theme:** "See the World Through Their Eyes"

6. India Wins Silver Medal at 2026 Chess Olympiad

- **Why in News:** The Indian men's chess team secured the silver medal in the Open section of the 46th Chess Olympiad held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Key Highlights:

- **Tournament Standing:-** Concluded the campaign with **18 match points** and **28.5 game points**, securing the silver medal by edging out Germany on tiebreaks (TB2).
- **Gold & Bronze Finishers:-** Host nation **Uzbekistan** emerged victorious to claim the gold medal with 20 match points, while **Germany** bagged the bronze medal.
- **Final Round Decider:-** Clinched the podium spot after a crucial 2-2 draw against Hungary in the 11th and final round, largely saved by Arjun Erigaisi's critical victory that offset D Gukesh's loss.

7. Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Woman Grandmaster

- **Why in News:** 11-year-old British-Indian chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan made history by becoming the youngest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) of all time during the 46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Key Highlights:

- **Record Broken:-** Achieved the WGM title at just 11 years of age on September 28, 2026, shattering the previous record held by Kateryna Lagno (who achieved the feat at 12 years and four months).
- **Tournament Performance:-** Secured her third and final WGM norm by playing on England's top board across all 11 rounds, amassing 8 points. Her stellar performance also earned her a second International Master (IM) norm.
- **Additional Milestones:-** She has also been officially recognized by Guinness World Records and holds records as the youngest Woman International Master, the youngest female to defeat a grandmaster in classical chess, and the youngest person to represent England internationally in any sport.

Youngest Woman Grandmasters (WGM) in History

Rank	Player	Representing	Age at WGM Title
1	Bodhana Sivanandan	England	11 Years
2	Kateryna Lagno	Ukraine / Russia	12 Years, 4 Months
3	Hou Yifan	China	12 Years, 11 Months

8. Shubman Gill Hits Fastest ODI Double Century

- **Why in News:** Indian captain Shubman Gill created history by registering the fastest double century in ODI cricket, smashing an unbeaten 223 against the West Indies.

Key Highlights:

- **Record Broken:-** Reached his double century in just 117 balls, surpassing the previous world record of 126 balls set by Ishan Kishan against Bangladesh in 2022.
- **Innings Stats:-** Scored an unbeaten 223 off 133 deliveries, an explosive knock studded with 26 fours and 8 sixes.
- **Historic Run Chase:-** Propelled India to successfully chase down West Indies' massive total of 405/7. India finished at 406/2 in 43.3 overs, marking the second-best run chase in ODI history.
- **Captaincy Milestone:-** Achieved his century in just 62 balls, setting a new record for the fastest ODI century by an Indian captain (surpassing Rohit Sharma's 63-ball record).

9. Rohit Sharma Reaches 12,000 ODI Runs and 200 Sixes in One Country

- **Why in News:** Indian captain Rohit Sharma achieved dual historic milestones by surpassing 12,000 career ODI runs and becoming the first batsman in history to hit 200 ODI sixes in a single country during a match against the West Indies.

Key Highlights:

- **Innings Milestone:-** Reached the 12,000-run mark in his 282nd innings, making him the second-fastest batsman globally to achieve this feat (behind Virat Kohli).
- **Elite Company:-** Became only the third Indian cricketer to enter the 12,000 ODI run club, joining legends Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli.
- **Six-Hitting Record:-** Shattered Chris Gayle's previous record (147 sixes in one country) by becoming the first player to smash 200 ODI sixes within a single nation (India).
- **Match Performance:-** Scored an explosive 101 off 75 balls (registering his 35th ODI century) and forged a massive 255-run opening partnership with Shubman Gill to facilitate a historic run chase.

Fastest Batsmen to 12,000 ODI Runs

Rank	Batsman	Innings to 12,000 Runs
1	Virat Kohli	242
2	Rohit Sharma	282
3	Sachin Tendulkar	300
4	Ricky Ponting	314
5	Kumar Sangakkara	336

10.India Beat Pakistan to Win Asian Games 2026 Men's Cricket Gold

- **Why in News:** The Indian men's cricket team successfully defended their title by defeating arch-rivals Pakistan by 19 runs in the final of the 2026 Asian Games held in Nisshin, Japan, to secure the gold medal.

Key Highlights:

- **Match Venue:-** Korogi Sports Park, Nisshin, Japan.
- **Match Summary:-** India posted a massive total of 211/6 in their 20 overs, driven by explosive half-centuries from Abhishek Sharma (61 off 28 balls) and Tilak Varma (51* off 22 balls). Pakistan fought hard through Hasan Nawaz (96 off 51 balls) but fell short, finishing at 192/6.
- **Medal Winners:-** India secured the Gold medal, Pakistan took Silver, and Sri Lanka claimed the Bronze.

- **Historic Milestone:-** During his innings, Abhishek Sharma equaled Yuvraj Singh's record for the most number of sixes hit by an Indian batter against Pakistan in T20 cricket.
- **Road to Final:-** India reached the final by decisively beating Sri Lanka by 124 runs in the semi-finals, while Pakistan advanced after defeating Bangladesh.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Sanskrit Day

- **Observed Date:** August 28, 2026 (*Shravana Purnima*)
- **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of Education, Government of India
- **Objective:** To celebrate the cultural, intellectual, and linguistic legacy of Sanskrit, promote its study in alignment with NEP 2020, and encourage the preservation of ancient Vedic literature and classical traditions.

2. National Small Industry Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** August 30
- **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India
- **Objective:** To recognise the vital contributions of small-scale industries and MSMEs to the nation's economic and social development, promote entrepreneurship, highlight supportive government initiatives, and celebrate their crucial role in generating widespread employment across urban and rural areas.

3. National Wildlife Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 4 (also observed on February 22 in some calendars to honor Steve Irwin's birthday).
- **Observing Organisation:** Established in 2005 by animal behaviourist Colleen Paige; globally recognized by conservation organizations.
- **Objective:** To spread awareness about wildlife conservation, address the increasing threats to endangered species and natural habitats (such as pollution, climate change, and poaching), and emphasize the importance of local flora and fauna in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

4. National Teachers' Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 5
- **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of Education, Government of India
- **Objective:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**—India's first Vice-President, second President, and a renowned philosopher—while honouring the foundational role of educators in shaping young minds and nation-building. First observed in 1962, the occasion is also marked by the conferment of the **National Teachers' Awards**; in 2026, President Droupadi Murmu honoured 48 distinguished school teachers in New Delhi for their exceptional contributions and innovative teaching methodologies.

5. International Literacy Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 8 (2026 marks its 60th anniversary)
- **Observing Organisation:** UNESCO
- **Objective:** To highlight the importance of literacy as a fundamental human right and a foundation for lifelong learning, employment, and sustainable development, while addressing the persistent global gap where millions still lack basic reading and writing proficiency.
- **Theme:** "Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity"

6. Himalaya Diwas 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 9
- **Observing Organisation:** First declared by

the Government of Uttarakhand in 2015; observed broadly by environmental and conservation bodies.

- **Objective:** To highlight the ecological, cultural, and economic significance of the Himalayan ecosystem. The 2026 observance specifically emphasizes alarming scientific data regarding accelerated glacier retreat (a 12% loss in coverage between 1990 and 2020) and declining snow cover in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, raising critical awareness about the growing threat to India's long-term water security.

7. Digvijay Diwas 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 11
- **Observing Organisation:** Observed nationally by spiritual, cultural, and educational institutions
- **Objective:** To commemorate Swami Vivekananda's historic 1893 address at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago (famously beginning with "Sisters and Brothers of America"). Also referred to as Universal Brotherhood Day, it honours his enduring message of religious tolerance, harmony, and the introduction of Indian philosophy and spirituality to the global stage.

8. National Forest Martyrs Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 11
- **Observing Organisation:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India (instituted in 2013)
- **Objective:** To honour the forest personnel, rangers, and conservationists who laid down their lives defending India's forests, wildlife, and ecological heritage. The date commemorates the historic 1730 Khejarli massacre in Rajasthan, where Amrita Devi and 362 fellow members of the Bishnoi community sacrificed their lives to protect sacred Khejri trees from being felled.

9. World First Aid Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 12 (Second Saturday of September)
- **Observing Organisation:** International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about the critical importance of basic first aid skills in saving lives and preventing health deterioration during emergencies before medical professionals arrive. It encourages communities to undergo proper lifesaving training.
- **Theme:** "First Aid in Migration Contexts" (highlighting the need for accessible emergency care and first aid knowledge among migrants and displaced populations).

10.International Day for South-South Cooperation 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 12
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations (UN)
- **Objective:** To highlight the economic, social, and political developments achieved by regions and countries in the Global South, and to promote ongoing technical and economic collaboration among developing nations. It commemorates the 1978 adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for promoting and implementing technical cooperation among developing countries.

11. International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 7
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **Objective:** To emphasize the critical need to improve air quality for human health and environmental sustainability, promote international cooperation, and strengthen global, national, and local actions against air pollution (officially designated by the UNGA in

2019).

12. National Engineers' Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 15
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India (instituted in 1968)
- **Objective:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna (1955) Sir M. Visvesvaraya (born at Muddenahalli, Chikkaballapur). Revered as the "Father of Modern Mysore" and former Diwan of Mysore (1912–1918), he engineered the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam and patented automatic sluice gates, laying the foundation for modern state infrastructure.

13. Samvatsari Parva 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 15
- **Observing Organisation:** Shwetambara Jain Community
- **Objective:** Marks the final day of the Paryushan festival, observed as the "Day of Forgiveness." Devotees perform the *Pratikraman* ritual and utter "Micchami Dukkadam" to seek and extend forgiveness to all living beings, embodying the core Jain principle of *Ahimsa* (non-violence).

14. World Ozone Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 16
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **Objective:** Commemorates the 1987 signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. It aims to raise global awareness about ozone layer depletion and promote international environmental actions to preserve the ozone shield and mitigate climate change.

15. International Day of Democracy 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 15
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **Objective:** Instituted in **2007** to promote and uphold the principles of democracy worldwide. It serves as an annual platform to review the state of global democratic governance, human rights, and the strength of democratic institutions.

16. Nuakhai Festival

- **Observed Date:** Panchami Tithi of Bhadrapada (the day after Ganesh Chaturthi)
- **Observing Organisation:** Communities in Western Odisha, Southern Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand
- **Objective:** Also known as Nuakhai Juhar or Nuakhai Bhetghat, it is a major agrarian festival celebrating the arrival of the new crop. Linked to the **Vedic Pralambana Yajna**, it originated among tribal groups and was formally institutionalised in the **14th century by Raja Ramai Deo of Patnagarh**.

17. International Red Panda Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** Third Saturday of September (September 19, 2026)
- **Observing Organisation:** Red Panda Network
- **Objective:** Instituted in 2010 to raise global awareness and rally support for the conservation of the endangered Red Panda and its Himalayan forest habitat. The species is classified as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List, with significant populations found across the Eastern Himalayas, including the Indian states of Sikkim (where it is the state animal), Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal (Darjeeling hills).

18. International Day of Peace 2026

- **Observed Date:** September 21
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **Objective:** Established in **1981** (and designated as a 24-hour period of global non-violence and

cease-fire in 2001) to strengthen the ideals of peace both within and among all nations.

- **Theme:** "Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day"

19. World Rhino Day

- **Observed Date:** September 22
- **Observing Organisation:** World Wildlife Fund (**WWF**)
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about the conservation of the five surviving rhinoceros species (**White**, **Black**, **Greater One-Horned**, **Javan**, and **Sumatran**) and highlight threats from **poaching** and **habitat loss**. India serves as the primary stronghold for the **Greater One-Horned Rhino** (**IUCN: Vulnerable**), hosting over **4,075** individuals, primarily in **Assam** (**Kaziranga National Park** and **Pobitora WLS**).
- **Theme:** "Keep the Five Alive"

20. 11th Ayurveda Day

- **Observed Date:** September 23
- **Observing Organisation: Ministry of Ayush** (Government of India)
- **Objective:** To promote the integration of India's **traditional medicine system** into modern healthcare and **preventive wellness**, while highlighting the growth of the **AYUSH ecosystem** through the **National Ayush Mission (NAM)**.
- **Theme: "Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow"**

21. Bhikaji Cama Birth Anniversary

- **Observed Date:** September 24
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- **Objective:** To commemorate the **"Mother of the Indian Revolution"** for her vital contributions to the nation's freedom struggle, most notably for being the first person to unfurl an early version of the **Indian national flag** on foreign soil (at the **1907 International Socialist Congress** in **Stuttgart, Germany**), and for supporting exiled revolutionaries by co-founding the **Paris Indian Society**.

22. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Birth Anniversary (Antyodaya Diwas)

- **Observed Date:** September 25
- **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- **Objective:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of visionary thinker **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya** and promote his guiding socio-economic philosophies of **'Integral Humanism'** and **'Antyodaya'** (uplifting the poorest of the poor) to drive inclusive, grassroots-level welfare.

23. 85th CSIR Foundation Day

- **Observed Date:** September 26
- **Observing Organisation: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**
- **Objective:** To commemorate the establishment of India's largest public R&D organization in **1942** (founded by **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar** and **A.R. Mudaliar**), and to celebrate its 85 years of pioneering contributions to science, technology, and industrial research, typically marked by the announcement of the prestigious **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prizes**.

SPORTS

1. Apoorv Kamble Wins FIDE-Rated Rapid Chess Tournament

- **Why in News:** Seventeen-year-old chess prodigy Apoorv Kamble won the FIDE-rated rapid chess tournament held in Bengaluru as a precursor to Season 4 of the Global Chess League (GCL).

Key Highlights:

- **Champion Performance:-** Scored **8.5 points** out of **9 rounds** in a Swiss-system format, emerging on top against an open field of more than **700 players**.

- **Event & Venue:-** FIDE-Rated Rapid Chess Tournament organized under the grassroots **Road2GCL** program in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- **Podium Finishers:-** Outperformed second-place finisher Sammed Jaykumar Shete and third-place finisher Vaidyanathan Kannan.
- **Global Chess League Context:-** Served as a curtain-raiser for the **Tech Mahindra GCL Season 4** featuring top grandmasters including Magnus Carlsen, Viswanathan Anand, and Gukesh D.

2. Praggnanandhaa Becomes First Indian to Win Grand Chess Tour

- **Why in News:** Grandmaster **R. Praggnanandhaa** became the first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour (GCT), overcoming a six-point deficit on the final day to defeat defending champion Fabiano Caruana.

Key Highlights:

- **Championship Victory:-** Secured a **15–13** comeback win across the rapid and blitz segments, earning a **$200,000** purse and qualification for 2027.
- **Event & Venue:-** 2026 GCT Finals organized in **St. Louis, Missouri, USA**.
- **Key Opponents:-** Dethroned two-time defending champion Fabiano Caruana (USA); Wesley So (USA) clinched third place over Vincent Keymer (Germany).

2026 Grand Chess Tour: Final Standings

Athlete & Country	Placement	Result
R. Praggnanandhaa (India)	**Champion (1st)**	**15–13** (vs Caruana)
Fabiano Caruana (USA)	2nd Place	13–15
Wesley So (USA)	3rd Place	18–12 (vs Keymer)
Vincent Keymer (Germany)	4th Place	12–18

3. India Finish 8th in FIH World Cup

- **Why in News:** The Indian men's hockey team secured an eighth-place finish at the FIH World Cup following a shootout loss to co-hosts Belgium, while Germany successfully defended the world title.

Key Highlights:

- **Classification Match:-** India and Belgium drew **3–3** in regulation time, with Belgium ultimately winning the decisive penalty shootout **4–3**.
- **Tournament Champion:- Germany** secured first place (their fourth World Cup crown) by defeating Spain 1–0 in the final.
- **Event & Venue:-** FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026, held at the Belfius Hockey Arena in **Wavre, Belgium**.

FIH World Cup 2026: Final Standings (Select)

Team	Placement	Match Result
Germany	1st (Champion)	1–0 (vs Spain in Final)
Belgium	7th Place	4–3 (Shootout vs India)
India	8th Place	3–4 (Shootout vs Belgium)

4. Mandhana Sets World Run Record

- **Why in News:** Indian vice-captain Smriti Mandhana became the all-time leading run-scorer in women's international cricket, surpassing Mithali Raj's long-standing tally during an Asia Cup clash against Hong Kong.

Key Highlights:

- **Record Milestone:-** Reached **10,880 career runs** across all formats (Tests, ODIs, and T20Is), overtaking Mithali Raj's mark of 10,868 runs.
- **Match Performance:-** Smashed **124 runs off 64 balls** (14 fours, 7 sixes), steering India to a 138-run victory.
- **Event & Venue:-** Women's T20 Asia Cup 2026, held in **Dubai**.
- **Additional Records:-** Marked her **18th**

international century (most in women's cricket history) and set the highest individual score in Women's T20 Asia Cup history.

All-Time Leading Run-Scorers in Women's International Cricket

Rank	Player	Country	Total Runs
1	Smriti Mandhana	India	10,880
2	Mithali Raj	India	10,868
3	Suzie Bates	New Zealand	10,740
4	Charlotte Edwards	England	10,273
5	Stafanie Taylor	West Indies	10,007

5. Satwik-Chirag Win China Masters

- **Why in News:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty mounted a three-game comeback to win their maiden China Masters Super 750 title, becoming the first Indian pair to lift the trophy.

Key Highlights:

- **Championship Comeback:-** Defeated China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in a 70-minute battle after dropping the opening game.
- **Event & Venue:-** China Masters 2026 (BWF Super 750) organized in **Shenzhen, China**.
- **Career Milestone:-** Secured their second Super 750 crown of **2026** (after the Singapore Open) following runner-up finishes in 2023 and 2025.

China Masters 2026: Men's Doubles Final

Pair & Country	Placement	Game Scores
Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty (India)	Champion (1st)	11–21, 21–13, 21–17
He Ji Ting & Ren Xiang Yu (China)	2nd Place	21–11, 13–21, 17–21

6. India 4th at Pickleball World Cup

- **Why in News:** India secured a historic fourth-place finish among 82 nations at the Pickleball World Cup 2026, improving from seventh in the prior edition.

Key Highlights:

- **Medal Haul:-** Captured **41 medals** (7 Gold, 17 Silver, 17 Bronze).
- **Event & Venue:-** Pickleball World Cup 2026 in **Da Nang, Vietnam**.
- **Contingent:-** 48-member Indian squad competed across Junior, Open, Senior, and Masters categories.

Pickleball World Cup 2026: India Medal Tally

Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total Medals
7	17	17	**41**

7. Sheetal Devi Wins Para Series Gold

- **Why in News:** Indian para-archer Sheetal Devi clinched her maiden individual gold medal at the World Archery Para Series following a dramatic shoot-off victory.

Key Highlights:

- **Championship Victory:-** Defeated Kazakhstan's Aizada Seidan by hitting a perfect 10 (X) in the tie-breaker shoot-off after both archers tied at 144-144 in regulation.
- **Event & Venue:-** World Archery Para Series Stage III, held in **Ahmedabad, India**.
- **Key Milestones:-** Topped the qualification rounds with a season-best score of 698 (improving her own Asian record) to build momentum ahead of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games.

World Archery Para Series (Ahmedabad): Compound Women's Individual

Placement / Medal	Athlete & Country
1st (Gold)	**Sheetal Devi (India)**
2nd (Silver)	Aizada Seidan (Kazakhstan)
3rd (Bronze)	Sarita (India)

8. East Zone Wins Duleep Trophy

- **Why in News:** East Zone clinched the 2026-27 Duleep Trophy title, ending a 13-year drought, by securing a massive first-innings lead over South Zone after the final ended in a draw.

Key Highlights:

- **Championship Victory:-** Claimed the trophy based on a 372-run first-innings lead, having posted a mammoth 708 runs in their first innings.
- **Event & Venue:-** 2026-27 Duleep Trophy Final, held at Chepauk in **Chennai**.
- **Key Performers:-** Captain Ishan Kishan was adjudged Player of the Match for his knocks of 270 and 80. Md Kounain Quraishi struck his maiden first-class century (116*).

2026-27 Duleep Trophy Final: Match Summary

Team	Match Score	Result
East Zone	**708 & 388/7d**	**Match Drawn (East Zone wins on 1st Innings Lead)**
South Zone	336	Match Drawn

9. US Open 2026 Champions

- **Why in News:** Alexander Zverev and Elena Rybakina clinched the Men's and Women's Singles crowns respectively at the 2026 US Open, concluding the final Grand Slam tennis tournament of the year.

Key Highlights:

- **Men's Singles:- Alexander Zverev** (Germany) defeated Ben Shelton (USA) in four sets. The victory made Zverev only the fourth male player in the Open Era to win two Grand Slams in a single calendar year.
- **Women's Singles:- Elena Rybakina** (Kazakhstan) secured her maiden US Open title and the world No. 1 ranking by defeating defending champion Aryna Sabalenka.
- **Doubles Milestone:-** The Women's Doubles pairing of Taylor Townsend and Katerina Siniakova successfully completed a Career Grand Slam with their victory.
- **Event & Venue:-** 2026 US Open, held in **New York, USA**.

US Open 2026: Complete Winners List

Category	Winner(s) & Country	Runner(s)-Up
Men's Singles	**Alexander Zverev (Germany)**	Ben Shelton (USA)
Women's Singles	**Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)**	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	**Neal Skupski (Great Britain) & Christian Harrison (USA)**	Tim Puetz & Kevin Krawietz
Women's Doubles	**Taylor Townsend (USA) & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)**	Ashlyn Krueger & Robin Montgomery
Mixed Doubles	**Karolina Muchova & Jakub Mensik (Czech Republic)**	Belinda Bencic & Flavio Cobolli

10.India Wins 8th Women's Asia Cup

- **Why in News:** India defeated defending champions Sri Lanka to win the Women's Asia Cup 2026, securing a record-extending eighth continental title.

Key Highlights:

- **Venue:** Dubai International Cricket Stadium, **Dubai, UAE**.
- **Final Performance:** India posted **183/5** (featuring a record 129-run opening stand between Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana) and bowled out Sri Lanka for **111** (led by Shree Charani's 4/20).
- **Key Milestone:** Shafali Verma smashed the fastest half-century in Women's T20 Asia Cup history (**24 deliveries**).
- **Tournament Background:** The Asia Cup is a biennial continental championship initiated in **1984** following the 1983 formation of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). The women's edition was launched in **2004**.
- **Format & Records:** The tournament has alternated between ODI and T20I formats since **2016**. India holds the record for the most titles in both the men's and women's tournaments, followed by Sri Lanka.

11. India Clinches Junior Asia Cup Double

- **Why in News:** India achieved a historic "golden double" at the AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026, winning both the men's and women's hockey titles on the same day.

Key Highlights:

- **Women's Title:-** The Indian women's team secured their third consecutive Junior Asia Cup crown (an unprecedented hat-trick) with a hard-fought **1-0** victory over host nation China, courtesy of a winning goal by Sanika Chandrakant Mane.
- **Men's Title:-** The Indian men's team claimed their record sixth continental title by dominating South Korea **4-1** in the final.
- **Event & Venue:-** AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026, held in **Moqi, China**.
- **Tournament Milestones:-** India's Anmol Ekka finished as the highest goalscorer of the men's tournament, setting a record with **17 goals**.

12. Bommadevara Wins Archery World Cup Final

- **Why in News:** Indian archer Dhiraj Bommadevara scripted history by becoming the first Indian man to win an individual recurve gold at the season-ending Archery World Cup Final.

Key Highlights:

- **Championship Victory:-** Defeated Japan's Nakanishi Junya **6–5** in a thrilling five-set final, clinching the title by winning the decisive shoot-off (10–9) after a 5–5 tie in regulation.
- **Event & Venue:-** Archery World Cup Final 2026, held in **Saltillo, Mexico**.
- **Key Milestones:-** Ended a 16-year medal drought for Indian men at this event and became only the second Indian ever to win an individual World Cup Final gold (joining Dola Banerjee, 2007).

13. Ganges Grandmasters Win Global Chess League

- **Why in News:** Ganges Grandmasters won their maiden Tech Mahindra Global Chess League (GCL) title.

Key Highlights:

- **Venue: Bengaluru, India**.
- **Final Result:** Defeated Alpine APL Pipers **7–5** on aggregate.
- **Player of the Tournament: Stavroula Tsolakidou** (Greece).

Global Chess League 2026: Final Standings

Placement	Team
1st (Champion)	**Ganges Grandmasters**
2nd Place	Alpine APL Pipers

3rd Place	FYERS American Gambits

14.Taylor Breaks Tendulkar's ODI Longevity Record

- **Why in News:** Zimbabwe's Brendan Taylor claimed the longest men's ODI career in history.

Key Highlights:

- **New Record: 22 years and 148 days** (surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's 22 years, 91 days).
- **Match Context:** Achieved during the 1st ODI against Australia in **Harare, Zimbabwe**.
- **Note:** Tendulkar still retains the overall records for most ODI runs (**18,426**) and matches played (**463**).

15. Yugan Sakthivel Muthukumaar Wins ISSF Junior World Cup Gold

- **Why in News:** 15-year-old Indian shooter Yugan Sakthivel Muthukumaar won the gold medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF Junior World Cup Shotgun 2026.

Key Highlights:

- **Milestone / Record:** Claimed the title by successfully hitting 27 out of 30 targets in the eight-shooter final, after qualifying via a tie-breaking shoot-off with a score of 114/125.
- **Venue / Event:** ISSF Junior World Cup Shotgun 2026, held in **Porpetto, Italy**.
- **Match / Podium Details:** Edged out home favorite Francesco Tanfoglio of Italy by a narrow one-target margin (27 to 26).
- **Historical / Statistical Significance:** Secured India's first medal at the Porpetto meet. This tournament follows the opening junior World Cup in Cairo, where India topped the overall standings with 16 medals.

ISSF Junior World Cup Shotgun 2026: Men's Trap Finals

Athlete & Country	Final Score	Medal / Placement
Yugan Sakthivel Muthukumaar (India)	**27 Hits**	**Gold**
Francesco Tanfoglio (Italy)	26 Hits	Silver
Simone Roncen (Italy)	21 Hits	Bronze

16. Smriti Mandhana Becomes Highest Women's T20I Run-Scorer

- **Why in News:** Smriti Mandhana surpassed New Zealand's Suzie Bates to become the all-time leading run-scorer in Women's T20I cricket during the Asian Games 2026 semifinal.

Key Highlights:

- **Milestone / Record:** Amassed **4,788 runs**, surpassing Suzie Bates's record of 4,758 runs, and became the first Indian woman to hit 100 T20I sixes.
- **Venue / Event:** Asian Games 2026 semifinal (vs Bangladesh) in **Nisshin, Japan**.
- **Match / Podium Details:** Scored a quickfire 37 off 19 deliveries, guiding India into the gold medal match.
- **Historical / Statistical Significance:** Also holds the record for highest aggregate run-scorer across all women's international formats, overtaking Mithali Raj.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. ISRO Launches EOS-05 Aboard GSLV-F17

- **Context:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a major space mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, advancing India's capabilities in high-end earth observation

from a geosynchronous orbit.

Key Highlights:

- **Launch Vehicle:** GSLV-F17 (19th flight of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle).
- **Payload:** EOS-05.
- **Issuing/Launching Authority:** ISRO.
- **Key Achievement:** Successfully placed the heavy, state-of-the-art EOS-05 satellite into its intended Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO), making it the heaviest satellite ever carried by a GSLV to this orbit.

About the Satellite:

- **EOS-05** is India's first dedicated imaging satellite designed to operate from a geosynchronous orbit (at an altitude of 36,000 km).
- It is equipped to capture near real-time, continuous images of the Indian region in visible, infrared, multi-spectral, and hyperspectral bands.
- The satellite's advanced capabilities will significantly enhance data gathering for agriculture, environmental monitoring, resource assessment, and disaster management.

2. TRISHNA Mission: ISRO and France Join Hands to Study Earth

- **Context:** India and France are collaborating on a joint high-resolution Earth observation mission to address emerging climate challenges, terrestrial water stress, and global food security.

Key Highlights:

- **Mission:** TRISHNA (Thermal InfraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment).
- **Collaborating Agencies:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the French Space Agency (CNES).
- **Target Launch:** Scheduled for 2027.
- **Primary Objective:** To globally map Land Surface Temperature (LST), monitor plant water stress (evapotranspiration), and analyze coastal and inland water dynamics with high spatial and frequent temporal resolution.

About the Mission Payloads:

- **TIR Payload (by CNES):** A four-channel thermal/long-wave infrared imaging sensor that maps surface temperature and emissivity.
- **VNIR-SWIR Payload (by ISRO):** A seven-band optical sensor observing in the visible and short-wave infrared spectrum to determine surface reflectance, soil moisture, and radiation budget variables.
- Combining thermal and optical data, TRISHNA will deliver crucial insights for precision agriculture, urban heat island monitoring, and glacier dynamics tracking.

3. Russia Unveils S-71K Kovyor Stealth Missile

- **Why in News:** Russia has introduced the S-71K Kovyor, a new advanced air-launched stealth cruise missile designed to enhance the stand-off strike capabilities of its fifth-generation fighter fleet.

Key Highlights:

- **Weapon Type:** A turbojet-powered, air-launched stealth cruise missile that operates as a hybrid between a traditional cruise missile and an attack drone.
- **Key Specifications:** Features a radar-evading asymmetric airframe, a **250-kg high-explosive warhead**, and an operational range of **300–350 km**.
- **Primary Platform:** Specifically designed for integration with the **Su-57E** fifth-generation stealth fighter jet.
- **India-Russia Defence Ties:** This development holds strategic significance as Russia is currently in discussions regarding the transfer of Su-57 production technologies and potential joint manufacturing with India.

RANKS & REPORTS

1. NIRF SDG Rankings: Top Institutes for Sustainable Development

- **Released By: Ministry of Education**, Government of India (**NIRF**).
- **Key Observations:** Evaluates institutions across **17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)**, measuring environmental sustainability, clean energy innovation, resource stewardship, and community impact alongside academic outcomes.
- **Performance Metric:**
  - **IIT Madras:** National Rank: **1st** | Green technology & sustainable research
  - **IARI, New Delhi:** National Rank: **2nd** | Sustainable agriculture & food security
  - **Jamia Millia Islamia:** National Rank: **3rd** | Social inclusion & environmental studies

2. WEF Travel and Tourism Development Index 2026

- **Released By: World Economic Forum (WEF)** (in partnership with Zurich Insurance Group).
- **Key Observations:** Evaluates **110 economies** across 17 pillars determining sustainable tourism growth. India climbed nine spots to **31st**, driven by price competitiveness, rich cultural assets, and expanding transport infrastructure. **Japan** leads globally, with advanced economies capturing nine of the top 10 positions.

Performance Metric:

- **Japan:** Global Rank: **1st**
- **United States:** Global Rank: **2nd**
- **Spain:** Global Rank: **3rd**
- **India:** Global Rank: **31st** (up from 39th in 2024.

3. Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2026

- **Released By: Oxford Economics**
- **Key Observations:** Evaluates the world's **1,000 largest cities** across Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment, and Governance. **New York** leads globally. **Delhi** is India's top-ranked city at **268th**, buoyed by high **Human Capital (13th)** despite lower standings in Environment and Quality of Life.

Performance Metric:

- **New York:** Global Rank: **1st**
- **London:** Global Rank: **2nd**
- **Paris:** Global Rank: **3rd**
- **Delhi:** National Rank: **1st** | Global Rank: **268th**
- **Bengaluru:** National Rank: **2nd** | Global Rank: **311th**
- **Mumbai:** National Rank: **3rd** | Global Rank: **330th**

4. India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025

- **Released By:** NITI Aayog in partnership with WRI India.
- **Key Observations:** Evaluates all 36 States and UTs across Transport Electrification (50%), Charging Readiness (30%), and Research & Innovation (20%). The national median score rose from 36 to 40, reflecting steady EV adoption, though charging readiness and vehicle uptake show regional divergence. Madhya Pradesh emerged as the biggest climber, leaping from 23rd to 7th place.

Performance Metric:

- **Overall Top Performers:** 1st: **Delhi** (84 points) 2nd: **Maharashtra** (78 points) 3rd: **Karnataka** (73 points)
- **Top Hilly/Northeastern State: Manipur** (46 points)
- **Category Leaders: Karnataka** led Charging Infrastructure Readiness (97 points); **Maharashtra** led Research & Innovation (85 points).

Free to Think 2026 Report (Academic Freedom Index)

- **Released By:** Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network.
- **Key Observations:** Documents 382 attacks on higher education across 59 countries, noting a sustained global decline in academic freedom over the past decade. For India, the report highlights shrinking institutional autonomy, increasing administrative control over university appointments, and frequent curbs on campus discourse and student expression.

Performance Metric:

- **India's Classification:** Placed in the **"Severely Restricted"** category (alongside Pakistan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ukraine, and the West Bank).
- **India's AFI Score: 0.14** (sharp decline from 0.38 in 2022).
- **Lowest Tier ('Completely Restricted'):** Includes Afghanistan, China, Iran, Russia, Syria, and Venezuela.

5. Global Gender Gap Index 2026

- **Released By:** World Economic Forum (WEF).
- **Key Observations:** The 20th edition of the index evaluates 145 economies across four dimensions: Economic Participation, Educational Attainment, Health & Survival, and Political Empowerment. Globally, 69.2% of the gender gap has been closed, with full parity estimated to take 120 years. In India, economic participation remains the largest gap, though education and health have reached near-parity (scoring >95%). Political empowerment remains an area of concern, with women holding just 16.1% of parliamentary seats and 5.9% of ministerial roles.

Performance Metric:

- **India's Performance:** Ranked **131st** out of 145 economies (Overall score: 64.5%, maintaining its 2025 position).
- **Top 3 Performers: Iceland** (1st), **Finland** (2nd), and **Norway** (3rd).
- **Bottom Performers:** Pakistan (143rd), Iran (144th), and Chad (145th).

Economic Significance	Highly valued for timber **durability**, **medicinal properties**, and its role in traditional industries

MILITARY EXERCISES

1. SLINEX-26 (India-Sri Lanka Maritime Exercise)

- **Context:** The 13th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-26 was conducted in Visakhapatnam.

Key Highlights:

- **Venue: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** (under the Eastern Naval Command).
- **Participating Assets:** India fielded **INS Kavaratti** (ASW Corvette) and **INS Jyoti** (Fleet Tanker); Sri Lanka was represented by **SLNS Sindurala**.
- **Strategic Significance:** Conceptualised in 2005, the exercise operates across Harbour and Sea phases. It advances India's **MAHASAGAR** vision for a secure, stable, and inclusive Indian Ocean Region.

2. Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT

- **Context:** The 18th edition of the India-Mongolia joint military exercise commenced to enhance bilateral interoperability and tactical skills for counter-insurgency scenarios.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Participating Nations	**India** and **Mongolia**
Edition & Venue	**18th Edition** (2026) at the Foreign Training Node, **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**

Frequency	**Annual bilateral exercise** (alternating venues; previous edition held in Ulaanbaatar in 2025)
Inception	Conducted since **2006**
Core Objective	Joint **Counter-Insurgency Operations** in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under the **United Nations Mandate**

3. Exercise TARANG SHAKTI

- **Context:** The Indian Air Force is hosting the second edition of its largest multinational air exercise to enhance international interoperability and joint combat operations in a realistic contemporary battlespace.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Hosting Force	**Indian Air Force (IAF)**
Participating Nations	**8 nations** with air assets (Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece, Sri Lanka, UAE, USA) alongside **32 observer nations**
Edition & Venue	**2nd Edition** (2026) at Air Force Station, **Jodhpur, Rajasthan** (and adjoining air bases)
Background	The inaugural **1st edition** was conducted in **2024** across two phases in Sulur (Tamil Nadu) and Jodhpur
Core Objective	Planning and executing **multinational joint combat operations**, deriving tactical solutions, and fostering strategic military cooperation

4. Exercise 'Pitch Black' and Exercise 'Udara Shakti'

- **Context:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully concluded a strategic dual-deployment, participating in the multinational Exercise Pitch Black in Australia before proceeding directly to Malaysia for the bilateral Exercise Udara Shakti.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Exercise Pitch Black	Exercise Udara Shakti
Type & Host	**Multinational** exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**	**Bilateral** exercise hosted by the **Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)**
Participating Forces	**20+ partner nations** alongside the IAF	**Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **RMAF**
Location	**Australia**	**Subang, Malaysia**
Operational Focus	Complex **Large Force Employment (LFE)** missions across a high-threat, multi-domain environment	Refining **air combat tactics**, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (**SMEE**), and combined operational flexibility
IAF Fleet Deployment	Featured the deployment of frontline **Rafale** fighter aircraft	Included joint tactical manoeuvres flying with and against **Su-30MKM** and **F/A-18 Hornet** aircraft

5. Exercise Veer Guardian-2026

- **Why in News:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) commenced the second edition of the bilateral air exercise 'Veer Guardian'.

Key Highlights:

- **Venue:** Air Force Station **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.

- **Historic Milestone:** Marks the first time Japanese fighter aircraft (Mitsubishi F-2A) have operated from an Indian air base.
- **Indian Fleet:** Participated with Su-30MKI, Dassault Rafale, and indigenous HAL Tejas combat jets.
- **Background:** The inaugural edition of Veer Guardian was held in **2023** in Japan.
- **Other Bilateral Exercises: JIMEX** (Maritime security, initiated in 2012) and **Dharma Guardian** (Army).

6. Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026

- **Why in News:** The Indian and US armies commenced the 22nd edition of their annual bilateral military exercise, featuring advanced counter-drone systems for the first time.

Key Highlights:

- **Venue:** Conducted simultaneously across two theatres—**Bikaner (Rajasthan)** and **Auli (Uttarakhand)**.
- **Technology Debut:** Marks the first deployment of the US Army's **M-LIDS** (Mobile Low, Slow, Small Unmanned Aircraft Integrated Defeat System) counter-drone technology in India.
- **Strategic Focus:** Multidomain operations, combining long-range precision fires in desert environments with the employment of **Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)** for high-altitude mountain warfare.
- **Background:** Instituted in **2004**, the exercise is held annually, alternating between both nations.
- **Other India-US Bilateral Exercises: Vajra Prahar** (Special Forces), **Malabar** (Navy), **Cope India** (Air Force), and **Tiger Triumph** (Tri-services).

7. Exercise Samudra Laksamana

- **Why in News:** The Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy conducted the 4th edition of their bilateral maritime exercise.

Key Highlights:

- **Venue: Lumut, Malaysia**.
- **Indian Participation:** Frontline warship **INS Mysore**.
- **Background:** Initiated in **2019** to enhance maritime interoperability and operational synergy between the two nations.

OBITUARIES

1. 1965 War Hero Flt Lt Alfred Tyrone Cooke Passes Away

- Vir Chakra-winning Indian Air Force veteran and 1965 war hero Flight Lieutenant Alfred Tyrone Cooke, celebrated for his conspicuous gallantry and tactical brilliance in defending West Bengal's Kalaikunda Air Base against a swarm of Pakistani Sabre jets in a legendary dogfight, passed away at the age of 87.

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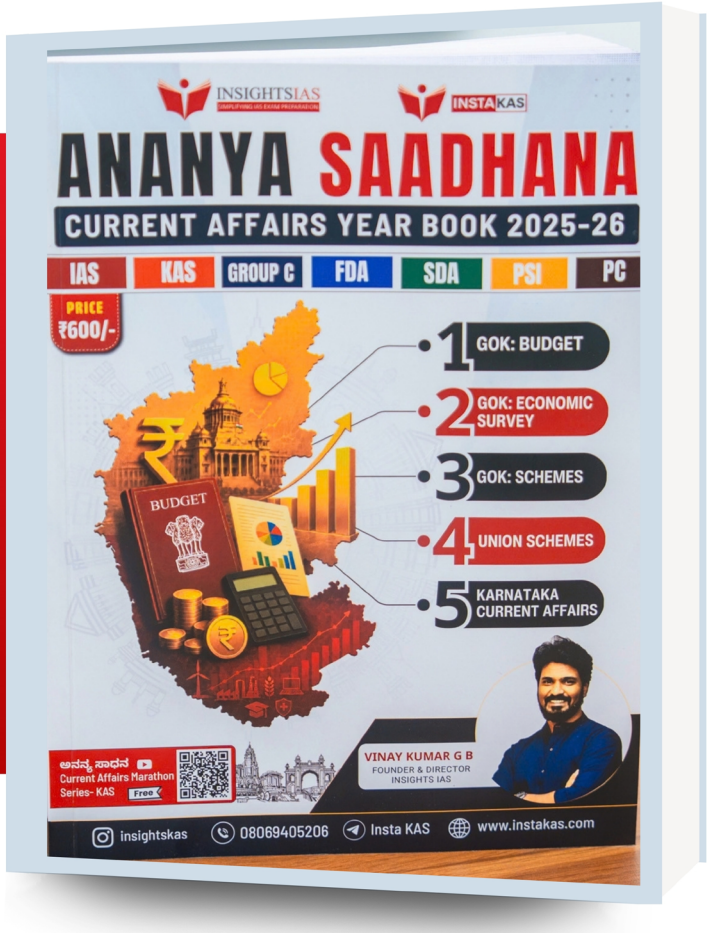
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