INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSTAKAS

ANANYA SAADHANA



COMPREHENSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

VINAY KUMAR G B
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR,
INSIGHTS IAS

NOVEMBER 2026

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

TRENDING

NOBEL PRIZES - 2026



Medicine: Deisseroth, Hegemann and Nagel were recognised for their work on optogenetics.



Physics: Francis Halzen was recognised for his work on high-energy neutrinos.



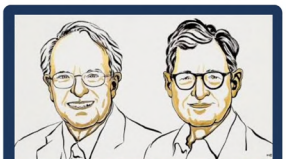
Chemistry: Kagan and Soai were recognised for their contributions to asymmetric synthesis.



Literature: Anne Carson.



Peace: Navi Pillay.



Economic Sciences: Robert Hall and Michael Woodford.



MYSURU DASARA FESTIVAL

The 417th edition of the Mysuru Dasara festival was inaugurated on 11 October by the seer of Gavimath. The Jamboo Savari procession was held on 21 October.

IN FOCUS



India Adds Two New Ramsar Sites

Sukhna Wetland in Chandigarh and Sauj Jheel in Uttar Pradesh have been added to the Ramsar list, taking India's total to 103 sites.



Export of GI-Tagged Kalaburagi Toor Dal

With support from APEDA, the first one-tonne consignment was exported to the Maldives.



New "Praja Seva Department"

Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar launched a doorstep grievance-redressal system in Kodagu.



NITI Aayog E-Mobility Index 2025

Karnataka ranked third with a score of 73, while Delhi secured first place.

TOP HIGHLIGHTS



World Health Summit (WHS) 2026

The summit was held in Berlin from 11 to 13 October under the theme "From Crisis to Resilience."



Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2026

Released by UNDP and OPHI, the index reported that approximately 238 million Indians are experiencing multidimensional poverty.



PM-SETU: One Year of Transforming ITIs

During the first year, 850 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) were identified and 14 clusters were approved.



Green Energy Corridor - Phase III

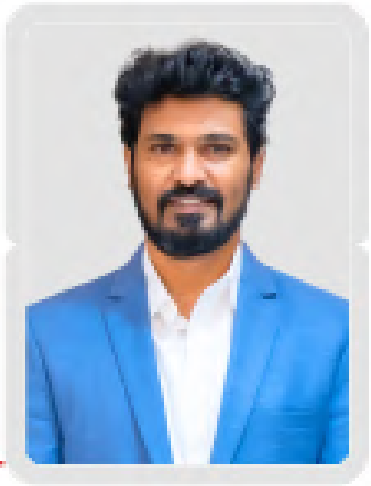
An allocation of ₹1.86 lakh crore has been earmarked for the transmission of 135 GW of renewable energy and 50 GWh of energy storage.

Price: ₹50/-

INSTA KAS Watch FREE Videos of Current Affairs On

insightskas | 08069405206 | Insta KAS

EDITOR'S PAGE

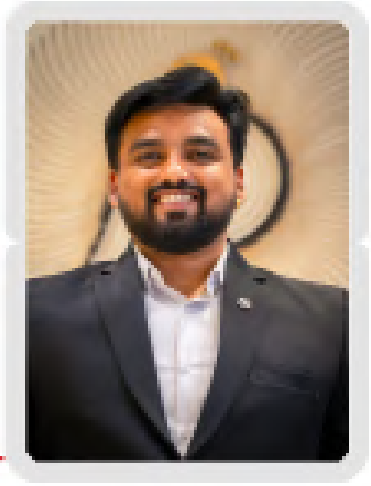


What began in June 2013 as a small Daily Answer Writing Challenge soon grew into the Secure Initiative – connecting aspirants worldwide to learn and improve together. Over time, Insights IAS has become a trusted friend and guide for lakhs of UPSC aspirants, helping thousands achieve success. Your feedback,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

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಅಗ್ರಗಣ್ಯ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಾರ್ಹ ಸುದ್ದಿ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ

VK ವಿಜಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ
ನಂ.1
ಕನ್ನಡ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆ

ಕನ್ನಡಪ್ರಭ

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

AIR 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)
- **Pramod Viraktamath** (Linguistic Resource)
- **Pramod L** (Linguistic Resource)

INDEX

TOP CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026
2. Nobel Prize in Physics 2026
3. Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026
4. Nobel Literature Prize 2026
5. Nobel Peace Prize 2026
6. Nobel Prize in Economics Sciences
7. Agnipath Scheme
8. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
9. Mahatma Gandhi
10. Five Years of PM GatiShakti
11. JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Initiative
12. BIMSTEC's Delhi Declaration
13. India Adds Two New Ramsar Sites

KARNATAKA DARSHANA

1. Mysuru Dasara 2026: The 'Nada Habba' of Karnataka
2. State to strengthen finances of local bodies: CM
3. Drought: State seeks urgent release of ₹20,585.73 crore as 226 taluks declared drought-hit
4. Sugarcane farmers' 'Hubballi Chalo': demand for higher prices and fair share in sugar, ethanol revenue
5. Govt. to file appeal against HC order on quota limit
6. Biennial elections to four Legislative Council seats
7. Policy planned to prevent hospitals from withholding bodies: Khader
8. HC upholds law on 'prohibited' and 'regulated' areas around ancient monuments
9. SIR in Karnataka: final rolls on October 27 as 1.07 crore names stand excluded
10. C-CAMP gets ₹500-crore funding commitment
11. NGT halts tree felling for Hebbal Short Tunnel Project
12. CM announces funds for Mekedatu; seeks nod for Sharavati, deferral of Western Ghats ESA
13. App-based night attendance made mandatory for taluk and PHC doctors
14. 'Bring citizen services online, under Sakala'
15. RTI registration brought under Sakala; penalties for delay revised
16. Grand Jamboo Savari marks finale of Mysuru Dasara
17. Namma Metro Phase 3: State issues third land acquisition notification
18. 5.97 lakh farmers in State miss PM-KISAN benefits
19. 'Fire activity reduced in Western Ghats': CWS study
20. Bengaluru–Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper to be launched on Rajyotsava
21. Govt. to set up committee to boost deceased donor organ transplants
22. Revamped Golden Chariot logs first-ever full booking
23. CM invites Poland as partner for Global Investors Meet 2027
24. State braces for 21,000 MW power demand next summer

SHORT NEWS

1. Sudha Yadav sworn in as Governor
2. Film city near Mysuru gets Cabinet nod
3. Cabinet rejects mercy petitions in Ring Road murder case
4. IIM Bangalore, IIT Kanpur join hands for deep-tech start-ups
5. Bengalurean to lead NASA's $20-million space telescope mission
6. Quantum Research Lab inaugurated at IISc
7. Foreign universities set up base in Bengaluru
8. Yakshagana artist Thandimane Sripada Bhat dies
9. GSAT-7C satellite for IAF to be supplied by NSIL
10. BMTC to share real-time bus data; Namma BMTC App 2.0 launched
11. KIA signs sister airport agreement with Vancouver
12. INS Samarthak commissioned at Karwar
13. GBA launches online plot subdivision on e-Aasthi
14. Bengaluru scientists study solar eruptions with Aditya-L1 and Proba-3
15. IISc's Mahesh Kakde wins Ramanujan Prize

16. Ration card e-KYC deadline extended to November 10
17. Web security keys of Bengaluru's eMudhra leaked
18. Devadas Chimakode selected for Janapada Academy award
19. Kittur Utsav begins; Channamma statue repaired
20. Police to switch to matte-finish uniform buttons
21. HDK flags delay in land for ARAI testing centres in Mandya
22. Karnataka gets its 11th mechanical elephant
23. Mild tremor in Doddaballapur taluk
24. Sports: Karnataka round-up

INTERNATIONAL

1. G7 Nations to Release 100 Million Barrels of Oil
2. India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)
3. United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
4. Panama
5. UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2026
6. India's Stakes in the Global Pandemic Agreement
7. Black Sea
8. Badr Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
9. World Health Summit (WHS) 2026
10. ASEAN–India Defence Think Tank Forum
11. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2026

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL (LAC)

NATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

1. GOBARdhan Scheme
2. Great Indian Bustards
3. Buxa Tiger Reserve
4. Desert National Park
5. Green Energy Corridor Phase III
6. State of the World's Forests 2026
7. Living Planet Report, 2026
8. Central Asian Flyway (CAF)
9. CAQM Panel Proposes 100% Electric Cars in Delhi by 2030
10. Sarus Cranes
11. Diamondback Terrapin (Malaclemys terrapin)
12. New Extinct Relative of Gharial (Herugavialis cairensis)
13. Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)
14. 'Nameri Wild Classroom' Initiative
15. Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
16. Mining Project Threatens Future of Rare Jeypore Ground Gecko
17. Dal Lake
18. India Adds Two New Ramsar Sites
19. WHALE STRANDINGS ON INDIA'S WESTERN COAST
20. State of Biodiversity Action Report
21. Green Diwali Campaign
22. India's First Red List of Ecosystems (RLE)
23. 10 Years of Kigali Amendment
24. Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) Emission Norms
25. Emission Gap Report 2026
26. LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND
27. PENGUIN DROPPINGS MAY ACCELERATE SNOWMELT IN ANTARCTICA

ECONOMY

1. Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme
2. Increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi crops
3. Bond Yield
4. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Growth Fund
5. India's First-Ever Household Travel Survey
6. 57th GST Council meeting
7. Gross Domestic Knowledge Product
8. Khadi and Village Industries (KVI)
9. Nobel Prize in Economics Sciences
10. Aatmanirbharta in Pulses
11. India's Anti-Dumping Probe into Penicillin G Imports
12. Calibrated Tightening of Monetary Policy
13. Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) Tax

14. Improved Soybean Varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270
15. Oman Replaces US as top LNG supplier to India
16. India's Coir Sector
17. India's Nutrient-Rich Purple Potato
18. Organic Palmyra Jaggery Powder Export to

GOVERNMENT SCHEME

1. PM-SETU- One Year of Transforming India's ITIs
2. Agnipath Scheme
3. National Coastal Mission 2.0
4. Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)
5. Five Years of PM GatiShakti
6. JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Initiative
7. Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY)
8. 2 Years of PM Internship Scheme
9. 10 Years of UDAN Scheme
10. Namami Gange
11. PM CARES for Children Scheme

POLITY

1. SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
2. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
3. Mahanadi Water Dispute
4. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
5. People's Plan Campaign
6. The National SC-ST Hub (NSSH)
7. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)
8. Lakshadweep Becomes a Fully Literate Union Territory
9. India Mobile Congress 2026
10. Namo Bharat Diwas 2026

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. Central Armed Police Forces Act Comes into Force
2. Deputy Election Commissioner
3. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
4. Overseas Citizens of India
5. Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026
6. Special Summary Revision (SSR)
7. INTERNET ACCESS AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT FOR CHILDREN

HEALTH

1. Russia Plague Outbreak
2. Cholera Deaths Increased by 30% in 2025
3. Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)
4. WHO Prequalifies HPV vaccine CERVAVAC
5. Diabetes

HEALTH & SOCIETY

1. Measles
2. SHAMONDA VIRUS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. 'Beamline for Schools' Competition
2. India-specific tool to predict Sickle Cell Anaemia severity
3. AI Accord of the U.S
4. Rabies
5. Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026
6. Nobel Prize in Physics 2026
7. Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026
8. World's First Nuclear Clock
9. World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day 2026
10. 2,000th HAL Aero-Engine
11. PUFFINS Telescope Mission
12. Aditya-L1 Mission offers New Insights
13. Dark-Web
14. Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) Mission
15. JWALA: India's First Private-Sector Micro-Missile
16. CIVIL DEFENCE NETWORK
17. TRISHNA Satellite Mission 2027

DEFENCE

1. Indian Navy's first indigenous fleet support ship 'Surya'
2. BrahMos
3. INS Shreyas
4. INS Mangrol
5. South Korea Tests Indigenous Hypersonic Glide Vehicle
6. INS Samarthak
7. Varunastra Torpedoes and GSAT-7C

HISTORY & CULTURE

1. Sengol
2. Ramappa Temple
3. Five New Centres of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages
4. Mahatma Gandhi
5. Maharaja Agrasen
6. Garba Dance
7. Nanaji Deshmukh
8. UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE TENTATIVE LIST – 3 NEW INDIAN SITES
9. Kambala
10. KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM (KTS 5.0)

GEOGRAPHY

1. Southwest Monsoon Ends with 12% Deficit
2. Kulsi River

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Nobel Literature Prize 2026
2. Nobel Peace Prize 2026
3. SAKHAROV PRIZE 2026
4. Noida International Airport Renaming
5. India's Classical Languages Rise to 11

PERSONALITY IN NEWS

1. Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan

PLACES IN NEWS

1. Tuvalu
2. Ghana

APPOINTMENTS

1. Narendra Bhooshan Appointed as Environment Secretary
2. Three High Court Chief Justices Appointed as Supreme Court Judges
3. Prakash Rajpurohit Appointed Deputy Election Commissioner
4. Sunil Kumar Appointed Next ONGC Chairman

AWARDS

1. 65th Lalit Kala Akademi Awards
2. WorldSkills Shanghai 2026
3. Vishisht Gujarat Garima Award
4. 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Number Theory
5. Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives Legion of Honour
6. 2026 Nobel Prize Winners Announced
7. SIDM Champion Awards 2026
8. Oscar Whitfield Wins Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026
9. Mari ZT Lalrithangi Honoured Among FAO's 100 Women Heroes
10. Devadas Chimakode Selected for Karnataka Janapada Award 2026
11. Ameena Nazreen A S Wins Global Youth Institute Award 2026
12. Ashoke Sen Becomes First Indian to Win Oskar Klein Medal
13. Usha Mangeshkar Gets First Bhupen Hazarika Award
14. SUVIKALP Wins SKOCH Gold Award 2026

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Bhagat Singh 119th Birth Anniversary
2. Gandhi Jayanti and International Day of Non-Violence
3. World Animal Day 2026
4. World Teachers' Day 2026
5. World Habitat Day 2026
6. National Wildlife Week 2026
7. World Cerebral Palsy Day 2026
8. World Space Week 2026
9. Indian Air Force Day 2026 (94th Anniversary)
10. International Day of Older Persons 2026
11. World Mental Health Day 2026
12. NHRC 33rd Foundation Day
13. World Cotton Day
14. Bathukamma Festival 2026 Begins in Telangana
15. World Students' Day 2026
16. Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026
17. World Food Day 2026
18. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2026
19. Police Commemoration Day 2026
20. National Postal Week
21. World Post Day

22. World Iodine Deficiency Day
23. Ashfaqulla Khan Birth Anniversary
24. International Day of the Snow Leopard
25. United Nations Day
26. World Polio Day
27. ITBP Raising Day
28. World Standards Day
29. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

MILITARY EXERCISES

1. Exercise TARANG SHAKTI
2. Exercise KAZIND
3. Exercise ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME)
4. Exercise MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN
5. Exercise VARUNA
6. Exercise SAREX-2026
7. Exercise INDRA-2026
8. Assam Regiment Wins Gold at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026
9. Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026
10. Exercise IBSAMAR

OBITUARIES

1. Veteran Filmmaker Singeetham Srinivasa Rao Passes Away at 94
2. Veteran Actor Nana Patekar Passes Away at 75

SPORTS

1. India Wins Silver Medal at 2026 Chess Olympiad
2. Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Woman Grandmaster
3. Shubman Gill Hits Fastest ODI Double Century
4. Rohit Sharma Reaches 12,000 ODI Runs and 200 Sixes in One Country
5. India Beat Pakistan to Win Asian Games 2026 Men's Cricket Gold
6. India Secures 4th Position with 85 Medals at Asian Games 2026
7. Smriti Mandhana Appointed Captain of Indian Women's Cricket Team
8. Djokovic and Alcaraz Clinch ATP Titles in Beijing and Tokyo
9. Indian Cricketers Sweep September 2026 ICC Player of the Month Awards
10. Punam Raut Retires from International Cricket
11. Indian Shooters Dominate at 2026 Para Asian Games
12. Ayush Verma Wins Shot Put Gold at Asian Para Games 2026
13. Yashaswini–Harmeet Win Asian TT Bronze
14. S Meghana Retires from All Cricket
15. India's Record Haul at Asian Para Games 2026
16. Nihal Sarin, Humpy Win European Club Cup Golds

RANKS & REPORTS

1. World Bank Report: India and Artificial Intelligence
2. World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence
3. Jaipur on NatGeo 'Best of the World 2027'

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026

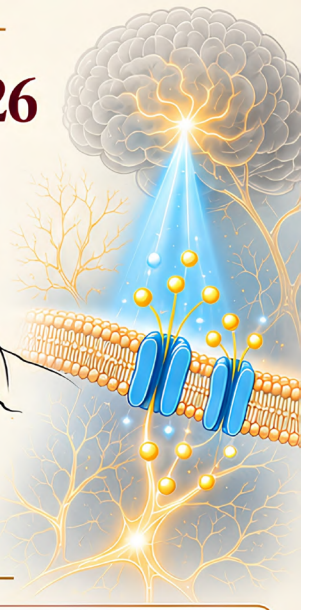




Karl Deisseroth

Peter Hegemann

Georg Nagel



"for their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics"

THE NOBEL ASSEMBLY AT KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET

2. Flowchart: how optogenetics works

Step 1: Genetic Targeting
Introduce a gene encoding a light-sensitive opsin into selected cells.

↓

Step 2: Opsin Expression
Targeted neurons produce light-sensitive proteins such as ChR2.

↓

Step 3: Light Stimulation
A selected wavelength of light activates the opsin.

↓

Step 4: Ion Movement
The protein regulates ion flow across the cell membrane, changing electrical activity.

↓

Step 5: Neural Activity Controlled
Researchers activate or inhibit selected neurons and study their effects.

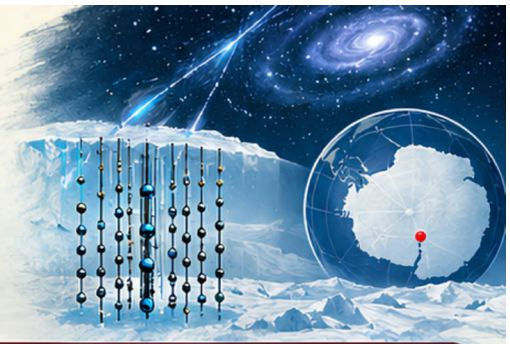
Field	Potential application of optogenetics
Memory and learning	Investigating neural circuits involved in memory formation
Sleep	Studying neurons regulating sleep–wake cycles
Epilepsy	Understanding seizure-generating neural circuits
Parkinson's disease	Investigating circuits involved in movement control
Alzheimer's disease	Studying neural activity and circuit dysfunction
Depression	Examining circuits associated with mood and behaviour
Vision restoration	Developing experimental approaches to restore visual function
Pain research	Studying neural pathways responsible for pain perception

Category	Awarding institution
Physics	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Chemistry	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Physiology or Medicine	Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet
Literature	Swedish Academy
Peace	Norwegian Nobel Committee
Economic Sciences	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences



Nobel Prize in PHYSICS 2026

for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory





Francis Halzen

"for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin"

Feature	Details
Full name	IceCube Neutrino Observatory
Primary objective	Detect high-energy astrophysical neutrinos
Detector arrangement	5,160 Digital Optical Modules (DOMs) along 86 strings
Detection medium	Deep Antarctic glacial ice
Detection principle	Cherenkov radiation from charged particles produced in neutrino interactions
Scientific importance	Neutrino astronomy and investigation of extreme cosmic events

1. Cosmic source
Supernovae, active galactic nuclei and other energetic astrophysical environments.

↓

2. Neutrinos travel through space
Their neutral charge means magnetic fields do not deflect their paths.

↓

3. Interaction in ice
A neutrino rarely interacts with matter, producing charged particles when it does.

↓

4. Cherenkov light
Fast charged particles emit detectable light in the ice.

↓

5. DOMs record the light
Optical sensors measure light signals and their timing.

↓

6. Reconstruct the event
Scientists estimate the neutrino's direction, energy and possible astrophysical origin.

Properties of Nutrions

Feature	Details
Nature	Electrically neutral elementary particles
Mass	Very small, but non-zero
Fundamental interactions	Participate in the weak interaction and gravity
Electric charge	Zero
Flavours	Electron, muon and tau neutrinos
Penetrating ability	Can pass through enormous amounts of matter with little chance of interacting
Sources	Sun, stars, supernovae, cosmic-ray interactions, nuclear reactors and radioactive processes
Detection challenge	Interact very rarely with ordinary matter
Scientific value	Probe stellar interiors, cosmic accelerators and fundamental particle physics

Comparison

Comparison	IceCube	Proposed INO
Country/region	Antarctica	India
Location	South Pole	Pottipuram, Tamil Nadu
Detection medium	Antarctic ice	Magnetised iron with RPC detectors
Scale	1 km³ of instrumented ice	50,000-tonne planned detector
Main research focus	High-energy astrophysical neutrinos	Atmospheric neutrino oscillations
Key technique	Optical detection of Cherenkov light	Tracking charged particles from neutrino interactions

Why is INO important for India?

1. Fundamental physics
Better measurements of neutrino oscillation parameters and investigation of neutrino mass ordering.

2. Magnetised detector
Enables charge identification of muons produced in neutrino interactions, helping distinguish neutrino and antineutrino events.

3. Underground laboratory
Rock overburden reduces interference from cosmic-ray muons and other surface backgrounds.

4. Indigenous scientific capacity
Supports advanced detector development, engineering, instrumentation and scientific collaboration.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026



Illustrations: Niklas Elmehed

Henri B. Kagan Kenso Soai

THE NOBEL PRIZE

"for the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis"

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Term	Meaning	Example / significance
Chirality	A molecule cannot be superimposed on its mirror image	Like left and right hands
Achiral molecule	A molecule that can be superimposed on its mirror image	Many molecules with suitable symmetry
Enantiomers	Two non-superimposable mirror-image forms	Two forms of a chiral drug molecule
Racemic mixture	Equal amounts of two enantiomers	Often has no net optical rotation under ideal conditions
Enantiomeric excess (ee)	Measure of the excess of one enantiomer over the other	Indicates enantiomeric purity
Homochirality	Predominance of one handedness in a biological system	L-amino acids in proteins
Asymmetric catalysis	A method to favour formation of one enantiomer	

4. Flowchart: How asymmetric synthesis works

Starting materials
Achiral or prochiral molecules

Chiral catalyst or reagent
Creates a preference for one reaction pathway

Enantioselective reaction
One enantiomer forms in greater proportion

Enantioenriched product
Useful for making specialised chemicals and medicines

Applications of chirality

Sector	Application	Why chirality matters
Pharmaceuticals	Drug development	Enantiomers may differ in biological activity, metabolism or toxicity
Agriculture	Agrochemical synthesis	Different enantiomers may have different biological effects
Food industry	Flavours	Enantiomers can differ in sensory properties
Fragrances	Perfume ingredients	Molecular handedness can influence odour
Biotechnology	Enzymes and proteins	Biological recognition is often stereospecific
Origin-of-life research	Prebiotic chemistry	Helps investigate how biological handedness emerged

6. Flowchart: From chirality to homochirality

Chiral molecules

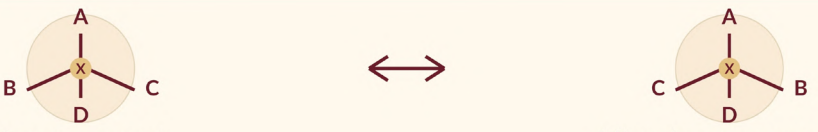
Two possible enantiomers: R and S

Processes favour one handedness
Possible mechanisms: asymmetric catalysis, selective crystallisation, or autocatalysis

Enantiomeric enrichment

Homochirality in biological systems

Simplified molecular diagram



One arrangement Mirror-image arrangement



Nobel Literature Prize 2026



Anne Carson

Recipient:
Anne Carson (Canada).

Recognised for:
Innovative literary works blending classical traditions with contemporary literature.

Born:
1950, Toronto, Canada.

Profession:
Poet, essayist, translator and classicist.

Notable Works:
The Glass Essay (1995) and *Float* (2016).

> *"for her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature"*
>
> THE SWEDISH ACADEMY

6. India and the Nobel Prize in Literature



Rabindranath Tagore

Nobel Prize in Literature, 1913

- **Country:** India
- **Notable work:** Gitanjali
- **Historic significance:** First Asian Nobel laureate.
- **Recognition:** His deeply sensitive, fresh and beautiful poetry was cited by the Nobel committee.

Tagore remains the only Indian citizen to have received the Nobel Prize in Literature. His award is a landmark in the global recognition of Indian literature.

Nobel Literature facts

Feature	Nobel Prize in Literature
Origin	Alfred Nobel's will, 1895
First award	1901
Awarding body	Swedish Academy
Literary association	Outstanding literary achievement
Historical importance	International literary recognition

Nobel Peace Prize 2026



- **Recipient:** Navanethem "Navi" Pillay (South Africa).
- **Recognised for:** Efforts to promote peace and international law.
- **Background:** Lawyer of Indian Tamil origin who challenged racial discrimination under apartheid.
- **UN Role:** Chaired the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

"for her efforts to promote peace and

THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE

Key Facts

Feature	Details
Established	Under Alfred Nobel's will of 1895
First awarded	1901
First laureates	Frédéric Passy and Henry Dunant, jointly
Henry Dunant	Swiss humanitarian and co-founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
Awarding institution	Norwegian Nobel Committee
Committee composition	Five members appointed by the Norwegian Parliament
Eligible recipients	Individuals and organisations
Posthumous awards	Generally not awarded posthumously; an announced laureate who dies before the ceremony may still receive the award



6. Mahatma Gandhi and the Nobel Peace Prize



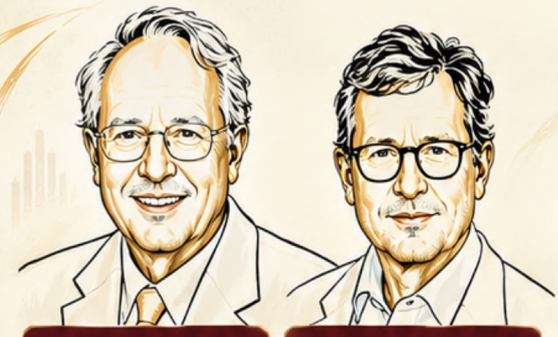
Mahatma Gandhi

- Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five times.
- Never received the prize.
- Associated with non-violence (ahimsa) and non-violent resistance (satyagraha).
- His work influenced peace movements and civil rights leaders worldwide.

Personality	Year	Status
Kailash Satyarthi	2014	Indian Nobel Peace Prize laureate
Mahatma Gandhi	—	Nominated five times, but never awarded the prize
Mother Teresa	1979	Born in Skopje; received the prize while based in India, but was not Indian-born
Dalai Lama	1989	Tibetan spiritual leader; not an Indian Nobel laureate

Nobel Prize in Economics Sciences





Key Facts

Particular	Details
Official name	Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel
Established	1968 by Sveriges Riksbank
First awarded	1969
Awarding institution	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Prize amount	12 million Swedish kronor per full prize, subject to the official award terms

Key economists and contributions

Economist	Main area	Key concept	Macroeconomic relevance
Robert E. Hall	Household consumption	Consumption depends on income and household behaviour; some households are constrained by current income	Helps explain how income changes affect aggregate demand
Michael Woodford	Monetary economics	Price-setting, inflation expectations and credible monetary policy	Helps explain how central-bank communication and policy influence inflation



How economic stabilisation works

Individual economic decisions
Household consumption and business pricing

→

Households
Income, savings and spending expectations

→

Firms
Price-setting and inflation expectations

→

Aggregate economic outcomes
Output, consumption, employment and inflation

→

Policy response
Fiscal measures, interest rates and credible communication

→

Macroeconomic stabilisation
Reduce excessive fluctuations in the economy

Macroeconomic stabilisation — policy comparison table

Economic situation	Monetary policy	Fiscal policy	Objective
Recession or slowdown	Reduce policy interest rates when appropriate	Increase public expenditure or provide targeted tax relief	Support demand, output and employment
High inflation / overheating	Raise interest rates when appropriate	Reduce excessive demand through tighter fiscal policy	Contain inflationary pressure
Supply-side shock	Assess whether inflation expectations are becoming entrenched	Provide targeted relief while considering fiscal costs	Balance price stability and economic activity
Weak private investment	Easier credit conditions, where appropriate	Public investment and measures to support productive capacity	Encourage investment and recovery

Agnipath Scheme

2022	4 years	Up to 25%	Agniveers
Year introduced	Service tenure	May be retained in regular service	Name of recruits

Recruitment age and other eligibility conditions are governed by the applicable service-specific notification.

Objectives of the Agnipath Scheme

	Explanation
Youth participation	Provides eligible young people an opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces
Younger force profile	Aims to reduce the average age of military personnel
Modernisation	Seeks a more agile and technologically skilled force
Defence expenditure management	Changes the balance between personnel costs and other defence spending over time
Skill development	Provides military training, discipline and transferable skills
National service	Encourages leadership, teamwork and a sense of responsibility

2. Flowchart: How the Agnipath Scheme works

Recruitment into the Armed Forces
Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force

↓

Selection and training
Recruits enter service as Agniveers

↓

Four years of service
Military duties, training and skill development

↓

Assessment and selection
Based on applicable criteria and organisational requirements

Up to 25%
May be selected for regular service
15 additional years of service, subject to terms

Remaining personnel
Exit after four years
Seva Nidhi package, subject to scheme rules

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)



1926
Public Service Commission established

Articles 315–323
Constitutional provisions

President
Appoints the Chairman and members

Independent
Constitutional status

2. Flowchart: Evolution of the Public Service Commission

1919 — Government of India Act
Provided for establishing a Public Service Commission

1 October 1926
Public Service Commission established under the chairmanship of Sir Ross Barker

1935 — Government of India Act
Provided for Federal and Provincial Public Service Commissions

1950 — Constitution comes into force
Federal Public Service Commission becomes the Union Public Service Commission

4. Diagram: Composition and tenure

President of India
Appoints the UPSC Chairman and members

↓

Union Public Service Commission
Chairman + other members

Tenure
6 years
Or until age 65, whichever is earlier

Experience
At least ½
Must have at least 10 years of government service

UPSC vs State PSC

Feature	UPSC	State PSC
Constitutional basis	Articles 315–323	Articles 315–323
Appointing authority	President	Governor
Tenure	6 years or age 65	6 years or age 62
Removal authority	President	President
Reports submitted to	President	Governor
Expenses charged to	Consolidated Fund of India	Consolidated Fund of the State

Constitutional Articles 315–323

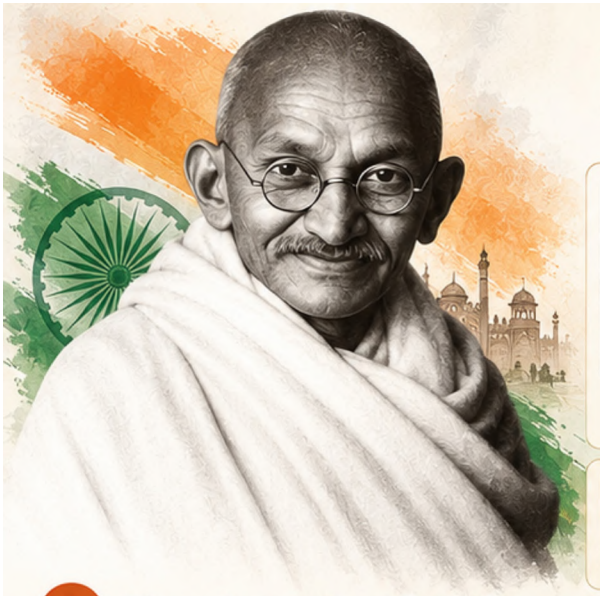
Article	Subject	Key point
315	Public Service Commissions	UPSC for the Union and a PSC for each State; provision for Joint State PSCs
316	Appointment and tenure	President appoints UPSC members; specifies term of office
317	Removal and suspension	Provides safeguards and procedures for removing members
318	Regulations	Conditions of service and staff arrangements
319	Further employment restrictions	Restricts certain appointments after leaving the Commission
320	Functions	Examinations, recruitment-related matters and consultation
321	Extension of functions	Parliament or a State Legislature may extend the functions of the relevant Commission by law
322	Expenses	Expenses charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or the relevant State
323	Reports	Annual reports submitted to the President or Governor, as applicable

5. Flowchart: Removal of UPSC members — Article 317

President of India → **Grounds for removal**

Misbehaviour
↓
Supreme Court inquiry and report
President may remove

Specified grounds
↓
Insolvency, outside paid employment, or infirmity of mind or body
President may remove



Mahatma Gandhi



Mahatma Gandhi
1869–1948

- **Born:** 2 October 1869, Porbandar, Gujarat
- **Education:** Studied law in London
- **Returned to India:** 9 January 1915
- **Core principles:** Truth, non-violence, satyagraha and self-reliance
- **Congress President:** Belgaum Session, 1924 — the only session he presided over



International Day of Non-Violence

Observed on 2 October. Gandhi's birth anniversary. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007.

2. Flowchart: Gandhi's life and political journey

1869 — Birth at Porbandar →

1888–1891 — Legal studies in London →

1893–1914 — South Africa Resistance to racial discrimination, development, of satyagraha →

1915 — Return to India →

1917–1918 — Early Indian **satyagrahas** Champaran, Ahmedabad and Kheda →

1920s–1940s — Mass movements Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience and Quit India

4. South Africa phase (1893–1914)

1894
Natal Indian Congress
Organised political resistance to discrimination against Indians.

1903
Indian Opinion
Newspaper used to communicate and mobilise the Indian community.

1904
Phoenix Settlement
Community living, self-reliance and shared labour.

1910
Tolstoy Farm
Communal living and training in non-violent resistance.



Early satyagrahas in India

Movement	Year	Location	Main issue	Significance
Champaran Satyagraha	1917	Bihar	Indigo cultivation and tinkathia system	Gandhi's first major satyagraha in India
Ahmedabad Mill Strike	1918	Gujarat	Wage dispute between mill workers and owners	Gandhi used fasting during the dispute
Kheda Satyagraha	1918	Gujarat	Land revenue demand after crop failure	Peasant resistance to revenue collection

Major national movements led by Gandhi

Movement / event	Date	Key feature
Non-Cooperation Movement	1920–1922	Boycott of colonial institutions and foreign goods
Belgaum Congress Session	1924	Gandhi presided over the Congress session
Dandi March	12 March–6 April 1930	Salt Satyagraha against the British salt laws
Gandhi–Irwin Pact	1931	Agreement that led to Gandhi's participation in the Second Round Table
Quit India Movement	8 August 1942	Launched at Gowalia Tank Maidan, Bombay; "Do or Die" call



Five Years of PM GatiShakti



1 The PM GatiShakti: The Six Principles

1. Integrated Development
2. Multimodal Infrastructure
3. Last-Mile Connectivity
4. Expedited Land Acquisition
5. Expedited Clearances
6. Reduced Ecological Impact

Source: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

2 1. PM GatiShakti – Key facts

13 Oct 2021 Launch date	**DPIIT** Nodal department
7 engines Infrastructure sectors	**GIS-based** Integrated planning platform

Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The scheme's five-year milestone falls on 13 October 2026.

3 3. Flowchart: How PM GatiShakti works

GIS-based National Master Plan
Combines geospatial and infrastructure data

→ **Inter-ministerial coordination**
Integrates infrastructure planning across departments

→ **Multimodal connectivity**
Roads • Railways • Ports • Airports • Other transport modes

→ **Better project planning**
Identify gaps, improve routes and strengthen last-mile connectivity

→ **Expected outcomes**
Lower logistics costs, reduced travel time and improved efficiency

4 5. Diagram: Integration with major infrastructure schemes



5 Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)

Particular	Details
Established	2022
Location	Vadodara, Gujarat
Nature	Central university specialising in transport and logistics
Focus areas	Transport, infrastructure, logistics, supply chains and related technologies
Policy linkages	PM GatiShakti and National Logistics Policy, 2022
Main role	Education, professional training, research and capacity building

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
Government of India
सत्यमेव जयते

JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Initiative Government Scheme



News

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Initiative under Tuberculosis (TB) Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

JOSH Initiative

- **Implementation:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Ministry of Defence and Government of NCT of Delhi.
- **Objective:** Strengthen community-level outreach and public participation in India's TB elimination programme.
- **Team Composition:** Five MY Bharat Volunteers and five NCC Cadets, led by a designated Class-I officer at the block/ward level.
- **Key Stakeholders:** Government functionaries, health workers, Panchayati Raj Institutions and local communities.
- **Coverage:** First phase launched across 55 districts in 11 States/Union Territories.
- **Significance:** Promotes Jan Bhagidari (people's participation) through regular outreach and field-level activities to support TB elimination.

Additional Information – World Tuberculosis Day

- The day is observed to commemorate the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of the TB bacteria in 1882.
- **2026 Theme** - Yes! We can end TB



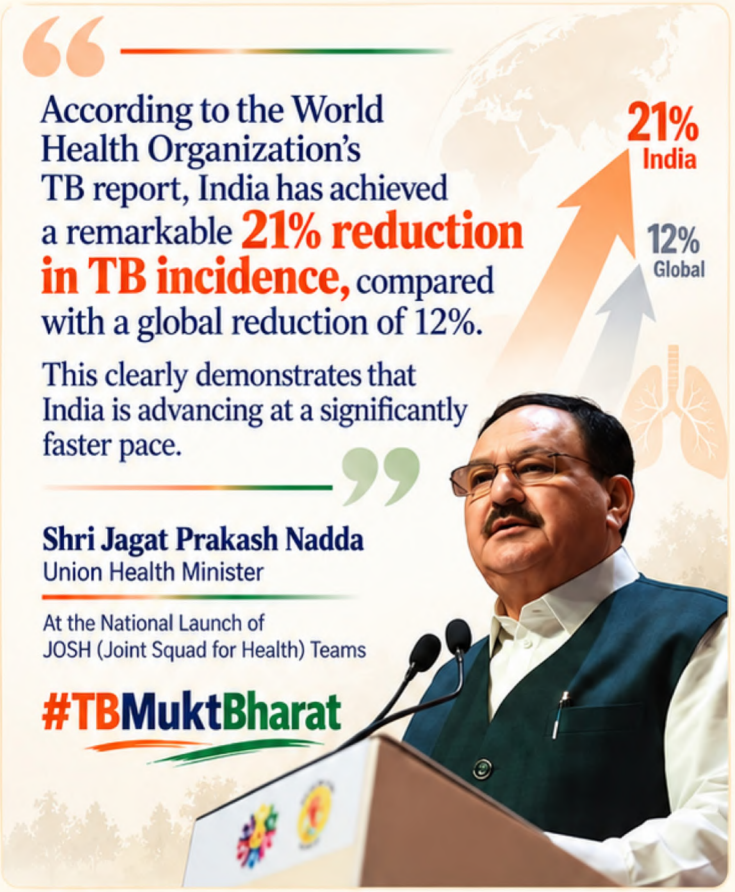
"According to the World Health Organization's TB report, India has achieved a remarkable **21% reduction in TB incidence,** compared with a global reduction of 12%.

This clearly demonstrates that India is advancing at a significantly faster pace."

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda
Union Health Minister

At the National Launch of
JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Teams

#TBMuktBharat



Tuberculosis

- **Caused by** - It is caused by bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
- **Transmission** - It spreads from person to person through the air when people cough, sneeze or spit.
- **Symptoms** - Cough, chest pain, weakness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats.
- **Treatment** - TB is a treatable and curable disease by antimicrobial drugs.
- **Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)** is a form of TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to isoniazid and rifampicin, the two most powerful, first-line anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB is treatable and curable by using second-line drugs.

BIMSTEC's Delhi Declaration



BIMSTEC
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Stands for **The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**

Founded in 1997 through **Bangkok Declaration**

7 MEMBER COUNTRIES



Importance of BIMSTEC

- Accounts for **22%** of the world's population
- Combined GDP of **$2.7 trillion**
- The Bay of Bengal the world's traded goods crosses for its energy needs
- Six focus areas trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries

Context

The Delhi Declaration was adopted on **13 October 2026** during the inaugural BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting hosted by India in New Delhi.

BIMSTEC

Full Form	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
Established	**1997** through the **Bangkok Declaration.**
Secretariat	Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Members (7)	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
Founding Members	Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
Objectives	Promote regional cooperation in economic growth, trade, connectivity, science and technology.
Geographical Coverage	Countries in South and Southeast Asia around the Bay of Bengal.
Significance	Strengthens regional connectivity, economic integration and security cooperation between South and Southeast Asia.

Delhi Declaration

Adopted at	The first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting hosted by India.	**Key Focus**	Strengthening regional cooperation against terrorism, terror financing, drug trafficking, human trafficking and money laundering.

India Adds Two New Ramsar Sites

Context

India's Ramsar Site tally has reached **103,** with **Sukhna Lake** in Chandigarh and **Sauj Jheel** in Uttar Pradesh becoming the latest additions.

Sukhna Wetland

Chandigarh

Location	Chandigarh, at the foothills of the Outer Himalayas.
Significance	Reservoir that regulates sediment and water flows; supports resident and migratory waterbirds along the Central Asian Flyway.
Important Species	Common pochard (Vulnerable) and Pallas's fish eagle (Endangered).



Common pochard (Vulnerable)



Pallas's fish eagle (Endangered)

Sauj Jheel

Uttar Pradesh

Location	Uttar Pradesh, in the Ganga River floodplain.
Significance	Shallow lake supporting over **30,000** waterbirds; designated an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by BirdLife International.
Important Species	Sarus crane (Vulnerable) and Greater spotted eagle (Vulnerable).



Sarus crane (Vulnerable)



Greater spotted eagle (Vulnerable)

Ramsar Convention

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

Montreux Record (Threatened Sites)

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

Ramsar Facts 2026

Total Ramsar Sites in India	**103** (as of 22 October 2026)
First Ramsar Sites	Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), designated in 1981.
India joined	**1 February 1982.**
Most Ramsar Sites	Tamil Nadu (20), followed by Uttar Pradesh (14).
100th Ramsar Site	Surha Tal (Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary), Uttar Pradesh.
Latest Additions	**Sukhna Wetland** (Chandigarh) and **Sauj Jheel** (Uttar Pradesh).

Important Ramsar Sites — Location and Significance

Chilika Lake (Odisha)	Brackish-water lagoon; Irrawaddy dolphins.
Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)	Important bird habitat.
Wular Lake (Jammu & Kashmir)	Freshwater lake associated with the Jhelum River.
Loktak Lake (Manipur)	Floating phumdis; Keibul Lamjao National Park.
Sambhar Lake (Rajasthan)	India's largest inland saline lake.
Vembanad–Kol Wetland (Kerala)	Extensive backwater ecosystem.
Kolleru Lake (Andhra Pradesh)	Freshwater lake between the Krishna and Godavari deltas.
Sukhna Wetland (Chandigarh)	Habitat for resident and migratory waterbirds.
Sauj Jheel (Uttar Pradesh)	Ganga floodplain wetland supporting large waterbird populations.

KARNATAKA DARSHANA

SPECIAL REPORT

1. Mysuru Dasara 2026: The 'Nada Habba' of Karnataka



Why in News

- The **11-day Mysuru Dasara (October 11–21, 2026)** concluded with the **Jamboo Savari** on **Vijayadashami**, with tusker **Prashanth** carrying the **750-kg golden howdah** for the first time and **Kambala** making its debut.

Key Highlights

Inauguration and Dates

- **Duration: October 11 to 21, 2026**, celebrated as the State festival **'Nada Habba'**.
- **Inauguration:** Atop **Chamundi Hill** by **Abhinava Gavisiddeshwara Swami** of **Gavimath, Koppal**.
- **First as CM:** The 2026 edition was **D.K. Shivakumar's first Dasara** as Chief Minister.
- **Royal Ritual:** Royal scion and Mysuru MP **Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar** held the private **'Khas Durbar'** on the **golden throne** in the Durbar Hall.

The Dasara Elephants

- **New Howdah Elephant: Prashanth (54)** succeeded **Abhimanyu** and carried the **750-kg golden howdah** bearing the idol of **Goddess Chamundeshwari**.
- **Selection:** The Forest Department shortlisted **Prashanth, Dhananjaya, Sugreeva and Ekalavya**; Prashanth was chosen for fitness, load-bearing capacity, temperament, a **broad, flat upper back** and nearly **18 years** of Dasara experience.
- **Abhimanyu Retires: Abhimanyu (60)**, who carried the howdah for **six consecutive years**, led the procession as the **'Nishane Ane'** in his **final Dasara**.
- **Other Roles: Dhananjaya** — reserve Ambari elephant; **Gopi** — **'Naupatt' elephant**; **Kaveri and Roopa** — kumki elephants flanking the howdah elephant.

Jamboo Savari (October 21)

- **Nandi Dhwaja Puja:** Performed by the CM at the **Balarama Gate** of the palace around **1.40 p.m.**; the procession began around **2.20 p.m.**
- **Flag-off:** The CM, with **Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy** and **Keralam CM V.D. Satheesan**, showered flowers on the idol from the rostrum.
- **Tableaux and Folk Arts: 53 tableaux** and **46 folk art forms**, beginning with a **Nadaswaram** performance.
- **Notable Tableaux:** Mandya ZP's **'Asmithe – Unveiling of Women's Power'**; Mysuru zoo's **135-year heritage**; **Indian Army** tableau; Tamil Nadu (**Shore Temple, Jallikattu**); Keralam (**Theyyam, Kathakali**).
- **Folk Forms: Veeragase, Kangeelu, Keelu Kudure, Kudubi dance, Gorava Kunitha, Garudi Gombe, Dollu Kunitha** (women's troupe), **Halakki Suggi** and **Thanda** dance.
- **Celebrities:** Kannada film artistes led by **Jaimala**, and **medal-winning sportspersons** of the State rode in open-top buses.
- **Security:** About **6,000** personnel and **23 SPs**

in the second phase; Police Commissioner **Seema Latkar**.

New Features in 2026

- **Kambala Debut:** Coastal Karnataka's **slush-track buffalo race** held for the **first time** at Dasara, at **Sathagalli** near the **VTU** grounds on **October 18–19**; **150 pairs** of buffaloes; flagged off by Mysuru in-charge Minister **Yathindra Siddaramaiah**.
- **Southern CMs:** CMs of neighbouring States invited, and their States' tableaux included in the procession.
- **Drone Show: 3,500-drone** shows added to the **Torchlight Parade** at **Bannimantap**.

Other Attractions

- **Illumination: 199 roads**, **123 circles** and **80 installations**, covering about **146 km**.
- **Dasara Air Show: IAF Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team** (**Hawk Mk 132**) over **Bannimantap**; a special flyby depicted the shape of the **Mysuru palace**; the October 18 show was cut short by bad weather.
- **Sub-festivals: Yuva Dasara** (at **Uttanahalli**; **Prabhu Deva** performed), **Raitha Dasara**, **Mahila Dasara**, **Makkala Dasara**, **Yoga Dasara**, **Kavi Goshti** and **Dasara Book Fair**.
- **Ahara Mela:** Nearly **700 applications** for about **100 stalls**.
- **Dasara CM Cup:** State-level sports meet at **Chamundi Vihar Stadium — Bengaluru City** overall champion (**1,605 points**), **Mysuru** second, **Belagavi** third.

Concerns and Controversies

- **Kambala Debate:** Royal scion **Yaduveer Wadiyar** questioned its fit with Mysuru's cultural milieu; historian **N.S. Rangaraju** disputed the CM's claim of a Vijayanagara buffalo tradition; estimated cost **₹5–8 crore**, about **400 buffaloes** brought from Dakshina Kannada amid drought.
- **Ministers Stopped:** Police stopped Ministers at the **Nandi Dhwaja puja** venue; the CM ordered an inquiry by Chief Secretary **Shalini Rajneesh**.
- **Shivamogga Incident:** At **Shivamogga Dasara**, elephant **Somanna** (Sakrebailu camp), carrying the howdah for the first time, ran amok; Forest Minister **Ramalinga Reddy** made **20–30 days' training** mandatory for procession elephants.
- **Mechanical Elephants: PETA India** urged replacing live elephants; Karnataka received its **11th mechanical elephant**, **'Shivayogiswara'** (Mandya).

Dasara Across Karnataka

- **Mangaluru and Udupi:** Dasara festivities formally inaugurated by the CM on **October 15**; **Pili Nalike** (tiger dance) held in Mangaluru on **October 20**.
- **Tumakuru: Tumakuru Dasara Utsava-2026** on **October 19**, with Deputy CM **G. Parameshwara**.
- **Shivamogga:** Jamboo Savari with elephants from **Sakrebailu**.

Additional Information

Mysuru Dasara: Historical Timeline

Year	Event
Vijayanagara era	Mahanavami festival celebrated at Hampi; described by Portuguese traveller Domingo Paes
1610	Raja Wadiyar I instituted Dasara at Srirangapatna
1799	Celebrations moved to Mysuru after the fall of Tipu Sultan
1970	Privy purses abolished; Maharaja stopped riding the howdah; State government took over the festival
Present	Idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari carried in the golden howdah; celebrated as 'Nada Habba'

Key Rituals and Terms

- **Jamboo Savari:** Vijayadashami procession from the **Mysuru Palace** to **Bannimantap** (about **5 km**).
- **Torchlight Parade (Panjina Kavayatu):** Held at **Bannimantap** on the evening of Vijayadashami.
- **Banni Puja:** Worship of the **Banni (Shami) tree** at Bannimantap.

- **Vajramushti Kalaga:** Traditional wrestling with a knuckle-duster (**vajramushti**), performed by the **Jetty** community at the palace.
- **Gajapayana:** Ceremonial journey of the Dasara elephants from the forest to Mysuru, about two months before the festival.
- **Bombe Habba:** Display of dolls during Navaratri in Karnataka homes.

Mysuru Palace and Chamundi Hill

- **Mysuru Palace (Amba Vilas):** Designed by **Henry Irwin** in the **Indo-Saracenic** style; built **1897–1912** after the old wooden palace was destroyed by fire.
- **Chamundi Hill:** Seat of **Goddess Chamundeshwari**, who, according to legend, slew the demon **Mahishasura**; the city's name is derived from **'Mahishuru'**.

Kambala

- **Region:** Traditional sport of **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi** (Tulu Nadu), held between November and March.
- **Legal Status:** Protected by the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Second Amendment) Act, 2017**, after the SC's **2014 A. Nagaraja** verdict had banned bull sports; the amendment was upheld by the **Supreme Court in 2023**.

Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team

- **Formed: 1996**; based at **Air Force Station, Bidar** (Karnataka).
- **Aircraft: Hawk Mk 132**, built under licence by **HAL, Bengaluru**; nine-aircraft formation.
- **Know more: Madikeri Dasara** in Kodagu is known for its night procession of illuminated **mantapas** of ten temples (**Dashamantapa**).

2. State to strengthen finances of local bodies: CM

Why in News

- CM **D.K. Shivakumar** announced steps to strengthen the **finances of gram panchayats** and **decentralised governance**, including a review of the **Fifth State Finance Commission** recommendations.

Key Highlights

- **Review Committee:** A committee headed by the **Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister** will examine the recommendations of the **Fifth State Finance Commission** on fund allocation and administrative reforms.
- **Funds Released:** Under the Fifth SFC report — **₹1,261 crore** to **gram panchayats**, **₹557 crore** to **taluk panchayats** and **₹183 crore** to **zilla panchayats**.
- **Urban Local Bodies:** ULBs to plan works through **ward sabhas** on the lines of **gram sabhas**, in keeping with the spirit of the **74th Constitutional Amendment**; experts from **NLSIU** to be consulted on amendments to laws.
- **People's Plan:** RDPR and Urban Development departments to frame guidelines for the **'People's Plan'** announced in the **State Budget**, to bring grassroots needs into the Budget; **planning management units** at district and taluk levels.
- **Planning Committees:** District, taluk and village-level planning committees to meet **once every three months**; all departments to prepare **responsibility maps** for programmes of the three tiers.
- **GST Share:** Proposal to give rural and urban local bodies a **share in GST revenue** will be submitted to the **GST Council**.
- **New Cadre:** Proposal for a **Karnataka Panchayat Administrative Service** to be sought.
- **SVAMITVA:** Demarcation of **gram thana** boundaries to be expedited using data from the Centre's **SVAMITVA scheme**.
- **KIADB Tax Share:** Gram panchayats lost the power to tax industries after **KIADB** took it over; the law provides that **30% of property tax** collected by KIADB be shared with gram panchayats.

Additional Information

State Finance Commission (SFC)

- **Article 243-I:** Governor constitutes a Finance Commission **every five years** to review the finances of **panchayats**.
- **Article 243-Y:** The same SFC reviews the finances of **municipalities**.
- **Recommends:** Sharing of State taxes, duties, tolls and fees between the State and local bodies, and grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

Decentralised Planning

- **Article 243ZD: District Planning Committee** in every district to consolidate plans of panchayats and municipalities.
- **Article 243S: Ward Committees** in municipalities with a population of **3 lakh or more** (74th Amendment).
- **Karnataka Law: Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993**.

SVAMITVA Scheme

- **Full Form:** Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.
- **Launched: April 24, 2020** (National Panchayati Raj Day) by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.
- **Features: Drone-based survey** of inhabited (abadi) rural land; issue of **property cards** to households.
- **Know more:** The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992) gave constitutional status to panchayats (Part IX) and municipalities (Part IX-A).

3. Drought: State seeks urgent release of ₹20,585.73 crore as 226 taluks declared drought-hit

Why in News

- With **226 of 240 taluks** declared **drought-hit**, Deputy CM **G. Parameshwara** sought urgent release of **₹20,585.73 crore** from the Centre under the **NDRF**.



Key Highlights

- **Nine New Taluks: Sakleshpur** (Hassan) — **severely** drought-affected; **Khanapur** (Belagavi), **Hosanagara** and **Sagar** (Shivamogga), **Puttur**, **Moodbidri** and **Mulki** (Dakshina Kannada), **Joida** and **Dandeli** (Uttara Kannada) — **moderately** drought-affected.
- **Rainfall Deficit: 35%** deficit in the 2026 southwest monsoon — **551 mm** against a normal of **852 mm**; **second-lowest** seasonal rainfall since **1956** and **seventh-lowest** since **1901**.
- **Crop Damage: 57.93 lakh hectares** — **53.92 lakh ha** agricultural and **4.01 lakh ha** horticultural crops.
- **Estimated Loss: ₹62,481.88 crore** (on the basis of cultivation costs).
- **Memorandum Break-up: ₹6,128.70 crore** input subsidy for crop loss; **₹12,146.99 crore** gratuitous relief to **61.91 lakh** small and marginal farmers; **₹1,727 crore** for drinking water; **₹583.04 crore** for animal husbandry.
- **Outdated Data:** Use of **Agricultural Census 2015-16** for input subsidy may cause a shortfall of about **₹1,669.50 crore**; the State urged use of its updated **FRUITS** database.
- **Additional Demands: ₹427.20 crore** under **PM POSHAN** (meals during summer vacation in drought taluks) and **₹70.96 crore** under the **Supplementary Nutrition Programme**.
- **Norms Relaxation:** The State has sought relaxation of **NDRF guidelines**; an **all-party delegation** to Delhi has been proposed.
- **Rural Jobs:** A record **2.04 crore person-days** were generated under **VB-G RAM G** between July 1 and October 13 (1.71 crore last year); **Raichur** led with **24 lakh**, followed by **Bidar** (21 lakh) and **Koppal** (18 lakh).

Additional Information

Drought Declaration Process

- **Manual for Drought Management (2016,**

revised 2020): Issued by the **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

- **Trigger 1: Rainfall deficit** and **dry spell** — mandatory indicators.
- **Trigger 2:** Impact indicators — **vegetation index**, **crop sown area**, **soil moisture** and **hydrology**.
- **Ground Truthing:** Field verification of crop loss before a taluk is declared **severe** or **moderate**.

FRUSTS

- **Full Form: Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System** — Karnataka's farmer database with a **unique FID** for each farmer, used for DBT of input subsidy and other benefits.
- **Know more: PM POSHAN** (renamed from the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in **2021**) provides hot cooked meals to children in Balvatika and classes 1 to 8 of government and government-aided schools.

4. Sugarcane farmers' 'Hubballi Chalo': demand for higher prices and fair share in sugar, ethanol revenue

Why in News



- Sugarcane growers in north Karnataka took out a **'Hubballi Chalo' padayatra** and blocked the **Pune–Bengaluru National Highway**, demanding a **remunerative price** for cane.

Key Highlights

- **Padayatra:** Began from **Hattargi (Belagavi district)** on **October 14**; led by **Chunappa Pujeri**, State president of **Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene**; highway blockades at **Bankapur Toll (Haveri)** and **Yarikoppa Cross (Dharwad)**.
- **Key Demands: FRP** of **₹5,500 per tonne**; a **State Advised Price (SAP)** of **₹1,000 per tonne** over FRP; revision of the **Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar**, unchanged at **₹31/kg**; **₹60 per litre** of ethanol for farmers.
- **Ethanol Grievance:** Farmers allege that oil marketing companies favoured **Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh** over Karnataka in ethanol procurement.
- **Central Panel:** A **four-member panel** under former NITI Aayog Member **Ramesh Chand** will examine FRP, the **ex-mill MSP of sugar**, sugar recovery testing and **weighment practices** at mills.
- **Last Year:** In **2025**, the State fixed an FRP of **₹3,300 per tonne** based on the State's average recovery rate of **11.25%**.
- **Ethanol Policy Shift:** Oil marketing companies barred ethanol made from **cane juice, sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses** for the **2026-27** ethanol supply year after the Centre directed **zero sugar diversion**, citing poor rainfall in **Maharashtra and Karnataka**; maize-based ethanol price cut to **₹68.86/litre**.

Additional Information

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)

- **Fixed by: Union government** on the recommendation of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, approved by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**.
- **Legal Basis: Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966**, under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**; FRP replaced the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) in **2009-10**.
- **Linked to:** A **basic sugar recovery rate**, with a premium for every 0.1% increase in recovery.

State Advised Price (SAP)

- **Concept:** A price fixed by a State government **above FRP**; mills in that State must pay it.
- **Example States: Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana** announce SAPs.

Minimum Selling Price of Sugar

- **Introduced: 2018** under the **Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018**; raised to **₹31/kg** in **February 2019**.
- **Know more:** Karnataka is the **third-largest**

sugar-producing State after **Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh**; the **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018** (amended 2022) advanced the **20% ethanol blending (E20)** target to **2025-26**.

5. Govt. to file appeal against HC order on quota limit

Why in News

- The **State Cabinet** decided to file a **Special Leave Petition** in the **Supreme Court** against the **HC verdict** striking down the **SC/ST quota hike**, and may seek **Ninth Schedule** protection.

Key Highlights

- **Cabinet Decision:** Announced by Deputy CM **G. Parameshwara** after the Cabinet meeting on **October 15**.
- **Ninth Schedule Option:** Further legal and administrative steps, "particularly the possibility of including the proposal on increasing reservation in the **9th Schedule**", to be discussed at the **Political Affairs Committee**.
- **Law Struck Down: Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022**; HC verdict on **October 12**.
- **Quota Hike:** SC **15% → 17%**, ST **3% → 7%**; with **32%** for OBCs, total rose from **50% to 56%**, breaching the ceiling set in **Indra Sawhney (1992)**.
- **Employees' Plea:** The **Karnataka State SC/ST Employees' Association** sought a separate **Additional Advocate-General (AAG)** for SC/ST cases and enforcement of **promotion reservation**, roster and backlog orders.

Additional Information

Special Leave Petition (SLP)

- **Article 136:** Supreme Court may, in its **discretion**, grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree or order of any court or tribunal in India (except military tribunals).

Ninth Schedule

- **Added by: First Constitutional Amendment, 1951**, along with **Article 31B**.
- **Purpose:** Laws placed in it were protected from challenge on the ground of violating **Fundamental Rights**.
- **I.R. Coelho vs State of Tamil Nadu (2007):** Laws placed in the Ninth Schedule **after April 24, 1973** (date of the **Kesavananda Bharati** verdict) are open to judicial review on the touchstone of the **basic structure**.
- **Inclusion Method:** Only by a **Constitutional Amendment** passed by **Parliament**.
- **Know more:** Tamil Nadu's **69% reservation** law (1993) was placed in the Ninth Schedule by the **76th Constitutional Amendment, 1994**.

6. Biennial elections to four Legislative Council seats

Why in News



- Elections to **four Legislative Council seats** from **graduates' and teachers' constituencies** were held on **October 23**; counting is on **October 27**.

Key Highlights

- **Constituencies: Bengaluru Teachers', Karnataka West Graduates', North East Teachers'** and **Karnataka South East Graduates'**; polling across **17 districts**; **43 candidates**.

Constituency	Turnout	Main Contest
Bengaluru Teachers'	81.98%	Puttanna (Cong.) vs A.P. Ranganath (JD(S))
Karnataka West Graduates'	75.62%	S.V. Sankanur (BJP) vs Mohan Limbikai (Cong.)
North East Teachers'	86.97%	Shashil Namoshi (BJP) vs Sharanappa Mattur (Cong.)

Karnataka South East Graduates'	73.58%	K.M. Suresh (BJP) vs Shashi Hulkuntemutt (Cong.)

Alliance: Congress contested all four; **BJP** three and **JD(S)** one (Bengaluru Teachers') as **NDA** partners. Of the four seats, BJP held three and Congress one.

- **House Strength:** In the **75-member** Council — **Congress 38**, **BJP 24**, **JD(S) 6**, one independent, the Chairman, and **five vacant** nominated seats.

Additional Information

Legislative Council: Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 169:** Parliament may create or abolish a Council if the State Assembly passes a resolution by a **special majority**.
- **Article 171:** Strength not more than **one-third** of the Assembly and not less than **40**.

Electorate (Art. 171)	Share	Karnataka Seats
Local authorities	1/3	25
Graduates (3 years' standing)	1/12	7
Teachers (secondary schools and above, 3 years)	1/12	7
Members of Legislative Assembly	1/3	25
Nominated by Governor	1/6	11

- **Term:** Members serve **six years**; **one-third retire every two years** (permanent House).
- **Voting:** **Proportional representation** by **single transferable vote**; elections conducted by the **Election Commission of India**.
- **Know more:** Only **six States** have Legislative Councils — **Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh**.

7. Policy planned to prevent hospitals from withholding bodies: Khader

Why in News



- Health Minister **U.T. Khader** announced a policy to stop **hospitals withholding bodies** over unpaid bills and retained the order on **price disclosure in hospital bills**.

Key Highlights

- **Meeting:** Held with the **Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA)** on excessive billing, drug prices and transparency in charges.
- **Rate Cards:** Hospitals to **display rates of major procedures** prominently from **November 1**; large hospitals to keep detailed rate cards at reception.
- **Billing Transparency Order:** Circular of the **Food Safety and Drugs Administration (FSDA)** requiring hospital pharmacies to show **purchase price and MRP** on bills will stay; the **Karnataka Pharma Retailers and Distributors Organisation** had sought its withdrawal.
- **Pharmacists' Argument:** The circular, issued under the **Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act, 2007**, cannot bind pharmacies licensed under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- **Foreign Investment:** Concern over **commercialisation** and foreign investment in corporate hospital chains; to be taken up with the Centre.

Additional Information

Drug Price Regulation

- **NPPA: National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority** (est. **1997**) under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers; fixes and monitors drug prices.
- **DPCO, 2013: Drugs (Prices Control) Order**

under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**; ceiling prices for drugs in the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)**.

- **Trade Margin Rationalisation:** Used by NPPA to cap margins on select **anti-cancer drugs**.

KPME Act, 2007

- **Purpose:** Registration and regulation of **private medical establishments** in Karnataka; mandates display of **treatment charges** and **itemised bills**.
- **Know more:** Health is a **State subject** (Entry 6, List II), while **drugs** fall under the **Concurrent List** (Entry 19, List III).

8. HC upholds law on 'prohibited' and 'regulated' areas around ancient monuments

Why in News

- The **High Court of Karnataka** upheld provisions of the **AMASR Act, 1958** restricting construction near protected monuments, in a case concerning **Madhugiri Fort**, Tumakuru.

Key Highlights

- **Judge: Justice M.G.S. Kamal**, partly allowing a petition by **B.R. Ramakrishna** of **Madhugiri town**.
- **Provisions Upheld: Sections 20A, 20B and 20C** restricting construction in the **"prohibited" area (100 metres)** and **"regulated" area**, applicable **with retrospective effect**.
- **Case:** The petitioner sought permission in **2014** to build a house; the **ASI** rejected it in **2016** as the site is **59 metres** from the fort's outermost wall.
- **Challenge:** The 100 m/200 m classification was said to lack scientific basis and violate **Articles 14, 21 and 300A**.
- **Court's View:** Classification satisfies the test of **intelligible differentia** with a rational nexus to protecting monuments as mandated by **Article 49**; the Act is **regulatory** and does not take away title; "personal inconvenience" is not a constitutional infirmity.
- **Direction:** A **fresh survey** to determine whether the property falls in the prohibited or regulated area.

Additional Information

AMASR Act, 1958 (Amended 2010)

- **Prohibited Area (Sec. 20A): 100 metres** in all directions from the limits of a protected monument; **no new construction** permitted.
- **Regulated Area (Sec. 20B): 200 metres** beyond the prohibited area; construction/ repair only with **permission**.
- **National Monuments Authority (NMA):** Created by the **2010 amendment** to regulate the prohibited and regulated areas.
- **Implementing Agency: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, Ministry of Culture (est. **1861**, Alexander Cunningham).

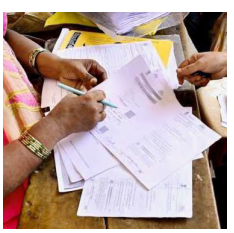
Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 49 (DPSP):** Duty of the State to protect monuments and places of **national importance**.
- **Article 51A(f):** Fundamental duty to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
- **Article 300A:** No person shall be deprived of property save by **authority of law** (constitutional right, not a Fundamental Right after the **44th Amendment, 1978**).
- **Know more:** The **Madhugiri** hill in Tumakuru district is regarded as one of the **largest monolithic hills in Asia**; the fort was strengthened by **Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan**.

9. SIR in Karnataka: final rolls on October 27 as 1.07 crore names stand excluded

Why in News

- As the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls nears completion, inclusion applications remain far below the **1.07 crore** names excluded; the **final roll** is due on **October 27**.



Key Highlights

- **Hearings:** Hearings on over **43.82 lakh notices** concluded; earlier only **19,365** were pending — highest in **Kalaburagi (8,224)**, lowest in **Gadag (10)**.
- **Form 6 (Inclusion):** **7,87,534** received between **June 16** (rolls frozen) and **September 23**; **7,08,110** accepted and **76,176 rejected**. Total since June 16 crossed **10.42 lakh**.
- **Form 7 (Deletion):** Rose from **58,475** (till September 23) to **2.28 lakh**; a **Form 7 is auto-generated** for every **Form 8** shifting application.
- **Pre-SIR Filings:** Over **1.28 lakh Form 7s** filed in the month before SIR (May 14–June 16), of which **45,878 (35.6%)** were by **third parties**; **Belagavi** highest (**38,713**).
- **Backward Districts:** In **Kalaburagi, Mysuru, Raichur and Ballari**, draft-stage deletions **exceeded 18%** of electors but Form 6 applications were few (e.g., Mysuru: 35,447, only **6.36%** of deletions).
- **Anomalies:** At least **37** persons sought deletion of their own names as "dead" and **334 pairs** declared each other dead (Belagavi 160, Kalaburagi 80).
- **ASDDO:** Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate and Others; names approved after September 23 go to a **supplementary list**.
- **BLOs:** **59,050 Booth Level Officers** appointed, mostly **school teachers**, followed by anganwadi workers.

Additional Information

Electoral Rolls: Key Provisions

- **Article 324:** Superintendence, direction and control of electoral rolls and elections vested in the **Election Commission of India**.
- **Article 326:** Elections on the basis of **adult suffrage**.
- **RP Act, 1950 (Section 21):** Preparation and revision of electoral rolls; **Section 21(3)** allows a **special revision**.
- **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960:** Prescribe **Form 6** (inclusion), **Form 7** (objection/deletion) and **Form 8** (shifting/correction).
- **Know more: National Voters' Day** is observed on **January 25**, the foundation day of the ECI (1950).

10.C-CAMP gets ₹500-crore funding commitment

Why in News

- Bengaluru's **C-CAMP** has been selected as one of **five Focused Research Organisations** under the Centre's **RDI Fund**, with an allocation of **₹500 crore**.

Key Highlights

- **Institution:** Bioscience research and innovation hub and **life sciences incubator** under the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **Allocation: ₹500 crore** to support **deep tech innovation**.
- **Consortium Funding:** C-CAMP will build consortium funding of **more than ₹1,000 crore** with partners and investors for deep tech **life sciences start-ups**.

Additional Information

Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme

- **Corpus: ₹1 lakh crore**, approved by the Union Cabinet in **July 2025**.
- **Objective:** Long-term, **low or nil interest** financing to the **private sector** for research and innovation in sunrise and strategic sectors.
- **Structure:** A **Special Purpose Fund** within the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**; funds routed through second-level fund managers.
- **Nodal Department: Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

C-CAMP

- **Established: 2009**, as part of the **Bangalore Life Science Cluster** with **NCBS** and **inStem** on the GKVK campus.

- **Know more:** A **Focused Research Organisation (FRO)** is a non-profit model that pursues a specific, time-bound scientific or technological goal beyond the scope of academic labs or start-up`s.

11. NGT halts tree felling for Hebbal Short Tunnel Project

Why in News

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** restrained the felling of **1,128 trees** for the **Hebbal Short Tunnel Project** in Bengaluru until the case is disposed of.



Key Highlights

- **Order:** "There should not be any cutting of trees, be it in any area of the Hebbal Short Tunnel Project till the matter is disposed of"; next hearing on **December 15**.
- **Background:** NGT took **suo motu** cognisance of a report on the **Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA)** plan to remove **1,128 trees** of over **70 species**.
- **Fresh Application:** Civic group **Aranya, Parisara Mathu Havamana Badalavane Sangha, Mangaluru**, pointed out that the Advocate-General's undertaking before the HC covered only the **Lalbagh** area of the project.
- **Objections:** GBA invited objections on **September 20**; concerns over **species diversity**, **microclimate**, proximity to **Hebbal lake** and **heat island** effect.
- **Process:** Objections go to the **tree expert committee**; BDA must plant **10 trees for every tree** cleared. BDA Chairperson **N.A. Haris** said only **56 trees** would be felled and the rest translocated.

Additional Information

National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- **Established: October 18, 2010** under the **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010** (Article 21 — right to a healthy environment).
- **Benches:** Principal Bench in **New Delhi**; zonal benches at **Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai** (Southern Zone, covering Karnataka).
- **Mandate:** Disposal of environmental cases, ideally within **six months**; applies principles of **sustainable development, precautionary principle and polluter pays**.
- **Appeal:** Against NGT orders lies to the **Supreme Court** within **90 days**.

Tree Protection in Karnataka

- **Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976:** Felling of trees requires permission of the **Tree Officer**; public objections are invited for large-scale felling.
- **Know more:** India became the **third country** after **Australia and New Zealand** to set up a specialised environmental tribunal.

12. CM announces funds for Mekedatu; seeks nod for Sharavati, deferral of Western Ghats ESA

Why in News

- CM **D.K. Shivakumar** promised Budget funds for **Mekedatu** and sought Central clearances for the **Sharavati Pumped Storage** project and deferral of the **Western Ghats ESA** notification.



Key Highlights

- **Mekedatu Land:** A committee headed by the **Deputy Commissioner** will arrange alternative land for **5,000 hectares** of forest land that will be submerged.
- **Boreholes:** Permission sought to drill **20 boreholes** in the **Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary** for a geotechnical survey; the Union Ministry sought details of petitions pending in the **Supreme Court**.

- **Sharavati Project: ₹10,000-crore** pumped storage project of **KPCL** in **Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada**; an **NBWL**-appointed expert committee recommended against it on ecological grounds.
- **ESA Deferral:** Final notification declaring **56,825.7 sq. km** of the **Western Ghats** as an **Ecologically Sensitive Area** to be deferred until a **physical survey** is completed.
- **Eco Cane Sugar:** Exclusion of **Eco Cane Sugar and Energy Ltd., Belagavi** (about 500 employees) from the proposed ESA sought.
- **Cauvery Aarti:** CM inaugurated the **second-year Cauvery Aarti** at **Brindavan Gardens, KRS**; **₹100 crore** allocated; an open-air stadium planned downstream.
- **Water Data:** "Last year **341 tmcft** flowed into the sea and **177 tmcft** was released to Tamil Nadu"; this year no dam except the **Krishna** basin dam filled up.
- **Desilting:** Union Jal Shakti Minister directed tenders for **desilting KRS and Tungabhadra** reservoirs.

Additional Information

Mekedatu Project

- **Location:** Across the **Cauvery** near **Kanakapura**, downstream of the **Arkavathi–Cauvery confluence (Sangama)**, close to the Tamil Nadu border.
- **Purpose: Balancing reservoir** and **drinking water** for Bengaluru, with hydropower generation.
- **Dispute:** Opposed by **Tamil Nadu**; requires approval of the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)**.

Western Ghats ESA

- **Madhav Gadgil Panel (WGEEP), 2011:** Recommended declaring the **entire Western Ghats** as ecologically sensitive.
- **K. Kasturirangan High Level Working Group, 2013:** Recommended about **37%** of the Ghats as ESA.
- **Six States: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu**; ESAs are notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- **Constituted under: Section 5A, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**; chaired by the **Prime Minister**.
- **Standing Committee:** Chaired by the **Union Environment Minister**; clears projects in and around **protected areas**.
- **Know more: Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary** was notified in **1987** and is home to the endemic **hump-backed mahseer**.

13. App-based night attendance made mandatory for taluk and PHC doctors

Why in News

- The State made night-time attendance through the geo-fenced 'Kartavya' app mandatory for taluk hospital and PHC doctors, and extended app-based attendance to contract staff.

Key Highlights

- **Doctors:** From **November 1**, Health Department doctors must record their presence **after 9 p.m.** through the **Kartavya** app within the limits of their designated **headquarters**.
- **Contract Staff:** Must register by **November 25, 2026** and mark attendance only through the app from **December 1**.
- **Salary Link:** From **January 1, 2027**, salaries of contract employees and bills of outsourcing agencies to be released only on the basis of **app-generated attendance**.
- **Order by: Harsh Gupta**, Principal Secretary, **Praja Seva Department**, with the CM's approval.
- **Trigger:** An inquiry by the **Upa Lokayukta** found many employees were **not residing at their headquarters**.
- **Monitoring:** Commissioners and district health officers to review night-attendance

reports **every month**; defaulters face action under **civil service rules**.
- **Pilot:** The system may later be extended to employees of other departments.

Additional Information

Karnataka Lokayukta

- Law: Karnataka Lokayukta Act, 1984; institution set up in 1986.
- **Composition:** One **Lokayukta** and **two Upa Lokayuktas**, appointed by the **Governor** on the advice of the CM after consultation with the Chief Justice, Chairman of the Legislative Council, Speaker and the two Leaders of the Opposition.
- **Powers:** Investigate complaints of **maladministration** and **corruption** against public servants; its police wing handles cases under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988**.
- **Know more: Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** requires every State to set up a Lokayukta within one year.

14.'Bring citizen services online, under Sakala'

Why in News

- Based on **KARC-2** recommendations, all departments were directed to bring **every citizen service online** and under the **Sakala** framework.

Key Highlights

- **Order:** Issued on **October 17** by **Harsh Gupta**, Principal Secretary, with the approval of CM **D.K. Shivakumar**.
- **Timelines:** Departments to **shorten Sakala timelines** and issue certificates **over the counter** wherever possible.
- **Verification: Aadhaar** to be the **default verification** option; certificates to be stored in **DigiLocker**; **'Kutumba'** database to be updated in real time so documents held by the government are not sought again.
- **Digital Standards:** OCR-format uploads, **digital signatures** and **e-Hastakshar**; certificates to follow **EDCS** templates with government logo and **QR code**; websites to meet **NeSDA** standards.
- **Citizen-Friendly:** Seating and drinking water in offices; **token systems**; **multi-year renewals**; automatic **refund of fees** for rejected applications; status updates via **SMS and WhatsApp**.
- **Due Process:** Approved beneficiaries cannot be removed from schemes **without prior notice** and a hearing.
- **Language:** All English-only formats must also be provided in **Kannada**.

Additional Information

Sakala

- **Law: Karnataka Guarantee of Services to Citizens Act, 2011** (Sakala); services launched on **April 2, 2012**.
- **Feature:** Time-bound delivery of notified services; **compensation** to citizens for delay, recovered from the defaulting official.
- **Know more: NeSDA** (National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment) is conducted by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**; **Kutumba** is Karnataka's family-wise integrated beneficiary database.

15. RTI registration brought under Sakala; penalties for delay revised

Why in News

- The State brought **registration of RTI applications** under **Sakala**, extended online RTI filing to all **One centres**, and revised **penalties for delay**.

Key Highlights

- **2-Day Registration:** Public authorities receiving RTI applications by post or in person must upload them on the **RTI online portal** within **two working days**; delay entitles the applicant to **compensation**.
- **Service Centres:** Online filing at **Bengaluru One, Karnataka One and Grama One** centres on payment of the RTI fee and a nominal

service charge, extending access to **gram panchayat** level.

- **Appeals:** First and second appeals to be decided within **seven working days** each, as per the Government Order.
- **Employee Services under Sakala:** Salary and salary certificate — **3 days**; **Form 16** — **5 days**; festival advance, higher study permission, KGID/GIS/GPF applications — **7 days**; leave, charge allowance, NOC for passport — **10 days**.
- **Revised Penalties:** **₹20/day** for the first 1–5 days of delay, rising to **₹100/day** for 21–25 days; maximum **₹1,500**.
- **Frivolous Complaints:** Citizens filing **false or malicious** complaints face a fine of **₹1,500** per application, with an additional ₹1,500 for repeat offences.

Additional Information

Right to Information Act, 2005

- **Reply Time: 30 days**; **48 hours** where life or liberty is involved.
- **First Appeal:** To an officer senior to the **PIO**, within **30 days**.
- **Second Appeal:** To the **State/Central Information Commission**, within **90 days**.
- **Karnataka: Karnataka Information Commission** hears second appeals and complaints in the State.
- **Know more: Grama One** centres deliver government-to-citizen services at the **gram panchayat** level, while **Bengaluru One** and **Karnataka One** serve urban areas.

16. Grand Jamboo Savari marks finale of Mysuru Dasara

Why in News

- The **11-day Mysuru Dasara** ended with the **Jamboo Savari** on **October 21**, with **Prashanth** carrying the **750-kg golden howdah** for the first time.



Key Highlights

- **New Howdah Elephant: Prashanth (54)** carried the golden howdah bearing the idol of **Goddess Chamundeshwari**, flanked by kumki elephants **Kaveri and Roopa**; chosen from four shortlisted tuskers (**Prashanth, Dhananjaya, Sugreeva, Ekalavya**).
- **Abhimanyu Retires:** Veteran **Abhimanyu (60)**, who carried the howdah for **six consecutive years**, walked as the **'Nishane Ane'** in his final Dasara; **Dhananjaya** was the reserve Ambari elephant and **Gopi** the **Naupatt** elephant.
- **Rituals:** CM **D.K. Shivakumar** performed the **'Nandi Dhwaja' puja** at the **Balarama Gate**; flagged off the procession with **Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy** and **Keralam CM V.D. Satheesan**.
- **Tableaux: 53 tableaux** and **46 folk art forms**; Mandya ZP's **'Asmithe – Unveiling of Women's Power'**; Mysuru zoo marked its **135-year heritage**; Tamil Nadu (Shore Temple, Jallikattu) and Keralam (Theyyam, Kathakali) took part; an **Indian Army tableau** was also part of the procession.
- **Kambala Debut:** Coastal buffalo race held for the first time as part of Dasara at **Sathagalli** (October 18–19), with **150 pairs** of buffaloes; flagged off by Mysuru in-charge Minister **Yathindra Siddaramaiah**.
- **Air Show: IAF Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team** (Hawk Mk 132) performed over **Bannimantap** and the palace; a flyby depicted the shape of the **Mysuru palace**.
- **Elephants Return:** Dasara elephants returned to forest camps after a **60-day** stay in Mysuru.

Additional Information

Mysuru Dasara: History

- **Origin:** Traced to the **Mahanavami** festivities of the **Vijayanagara** empire.
- **1610: Raja Wadiyar I** formally instituted Dasara at **Srirangapatna**.
- **1799:** Celebrations moved to **Mysuru** after

the fall of **Tipu Sultan**.

- **1970:** After abolition of **privy purses**, the State government took over; celebrated as **'Nada Habba'** (State festival), with the idol of Chamundeshwari replacing the Maharaja in the howdah.
- **Traditions:** Palace illumination, **Vajramushti Kalaga** (wrestling), the Wadiyar family's **private durbar** on the golden throne, and the **Torchlight Parade** at **Bannimantap**.

Kambala

- **What:** Traditional **slush-track buffalo race** of **Dakshina Kannada and Udupi**, held between November and March.
- **Legal Status:** Protected by the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Second Amendment) Act, 2017**, upheld by the **Supreme Court in 2023**.
- **Know more: Sakrebailu Elephant Camp** is in **Shivamogga district** on the banks of the **Tunga** river.

17. Namma Metro Phase 3: State issues third land acquisition notification`

Why in News

- The State issued a **third land acquisition notification** for **Package 1** of **Namma Metro Phase 3 (Orange Line)**.



Key Highlights

- **Notification:** Dated **October 16, 2026**, in the **Karnataka State Gazette**; **13,409.05 sq. m.** across **11 entries** in **Kaggalipura, Jaraganahalli** and other localities.
- **Project Size: 44.65 km** with **31 stations** in **two corridors**.
- **Corridor 1: J.P. Nagar 4th Phase – Kempapura**, **32.15 km**, **22 stations**.
- **Corridor 2: Hosahalli – Kadabagere**, **12.50 km**, **9 stations**.
- **Funding:** BMRCL has applied for a **¥102.48 billion** Official Development Assistance loan from **JICA**.
- **General Consultant:** BMRCL invited expressions of interest from Indian and international firms, more than two years after the project was approved.
- **Other Lines: Pink Line** elevated section (**7.5 km**, **Kalena Agrahara–Tavarekere**) awaits approval for passenger operations; trial runs on the **Blue Line** (**K.R. Puram–Central Silk Board**, **19.75 km**) to begin by end-October; soil testing has begun for the **37.8-km Red Line (Sarjapur–Hebbal, Phase 3A)**, whose DPR awaits Central approval.

Additional Information

Namma Metro: Key Facts

- **Operator: Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL)**, a **50:50 joint venture** of the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka.
- **First Stretch:** Opened on **October 20, 2011** (Baiyappanahalli – M.G. Road).
- **Phase 3 Approval:** Union Cabinet, **August 2024**, at about **₹15,611 crore**.

Line	Stretch	Status
Pink Line	Kalena Agrahara – Nagawara	Elevated section awaiting approval
Blue Line (Phases 2A & 2B)	Central Silk Board – K.R. Puram – KIA	Under construction (19.75 km + 38.44 km)
Orange Line (Phase 3)	J.P. Nagar 4th Phase – Kempapura; Hosahalli – Kadabagere	Land acquisition
Red Line (Phase 3A)	Sarjapur – Hebbal	DPR awaiting Central approval

- **Know more:** Metro projects are appraised under the **Metro Rail Policy, 2017**, which mandates alternative analysis, last-mile connectivity and transit-oriented development.

18. 5.97 lakh farmers in State miss PM-KISAN benefits

Why in News

- About **5.97 lakh farmers** in Karnataka have missed **PM-KISAN** instalments for not completing **e-KYC** or **Aadhaar seeding**.

Key Highlights

- **Break-up: 2,25,691** farmers have not linked Aadhaar; **3,71,394** have not completed e-KYC.
- **Coverage:** About **43.3 lakh** beneficiaries completed e-KYC in the past three years; over **46 lakh** farmers are eligible.
- **Eligibility:** Ownership of agricultural land; unique ID under **FRUITS**; completed e-KYC; Aadhaar-linked savings bank or post office account.
- **Facilitation:** A **nodal officer in every village**; credentials to **GramaOne** centres; **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** opening Aadhaar-linked accounts.
- **Farmers' Concerns:** Slow servers, power cuts at centres and the **annual e-KYC** requirement; suggestion for renewal **once in five years**.

Additional Information

PM-KISAN

- **Launched: February 24, 2019** at **Gorakhpur** (effective from **December 1, 2018**).
- **Benefit: ₹6,000 per year** in **three instalments of ₹2,000** through **Direct Benefit Transfer**.
- **Funding: 100% Central Sector Scheme**; Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Exclusions:** Institutional landholders, income-tax payers, constitutional post holders, serving/retired officers and professionals such as doctors and engineers.
- **Know more:** The State cannot add funds to the scheme; it can only create awareness and help with e-KYC and land seeding.

19. 'Fire activity reduced in Western Ghats': CWS study

Why in News

- A **20-year satellite study** by Bengaluru's **Centre for Wildlife Studies** found forest fires **declining in the Western Ghats** but **rising in the Eastern Ghats**.

Key Highlights

- **Study:** "Changing fire regimes in wildlife reserves of southern India", published in **Ecosphere**; led by **Narendran Kodandapani**, co-authored by **Krithi K. Karanth**.
- **Data: NASA's MODIS** burned-area data, **2002–2022**, covering **13 wildlife reserves** and about **20,000 sq. km** of protected forest in Central India, the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats.
- **Burnt Area:** About **16,667 sq. km** burned over two decades.
- **Drivers:** Climate and human factors explained **21–77%** of fire activity; **drought** (measured by the **Palmer Drought Severity Index**) was the main driver.
- **Karnataka Finding:** In **Nagarahole and Bandipur National Parks**, human activity was linked to **fewer fires**, owing to land-use change and **active fire suppression** by the Forest Department.
- **Hotspots:** Population density linked to more fires in **Kawal WLS** and **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve**.
- **Recommendation: Integrated fire management**.

Additional Information

Tiger Reserves of Karnataka

Tiger Reserve	Year Notified	District(s)
Bandipur	1973–74	Chamarajanagar, Mysuru
Bhadra	1998	Chikkamagaluru, Shivamogga
Nagarahole	1999	Kodagu, Mysuru
Dandeli-Anshi (Kali)	2007	Uttara Kannada

Biligiri Rangana-tha Temple (BRT)	2011	Chamarajanagar

- **MODIS:** Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer on NASA's **Terra and Aqua** satellites.
- **Know more: Bandipur** was among the **first nine tiger reserves** under **Project Tiger (1973)**; Karnataka has the **second-highest tiger population** in India as per the **2022** estimation.

20. Bengaluru–Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper to be launched on Rajyotsava

Why in News



- Thead **Bengaluru–Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper**, south India's first, is likely to be launched on **Karnataka Rajyotsava (November 1)**.

Key Highlights

- **Train Numbers: 27652** (KSR Bengaluru → CSMT Mumbai) departs **10 p.m.**, arrives **1.50 p.m.** next day; **27651** (CSMT → KSR Bengaluru) departs **10.30 p.m.**, arrives **2.50 p.m.**
- **Halts:** Via **Dharmavaram** (Andhra Pradesh) and **Wadi** (Kalaburagi); links Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- **Frequency: Six days a week**; Bengaluru–Mumbai off on **Mondays**, Mumbai–Bengaluru off on **Tuesdays**; **two trainsets**.
- **Flag-off:** Union Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** expected to flag off; Railway Board notification awaited.
- **First Sleeper:** India's first commercial Vande Bharat sleeper ran on **January 22, 2026** between **Kamakhya (Assam)** and **Howrah (West Bengal)**; sleepers are designed for **800–1,200 km** overnight journeys.

Additional Information

Vande Bharat Trains

- **First Service:** Vande Bharat Express (**Train 18**) between **New Delhi and Varanasi** on **February 15, 2019**.
- **Design:** Semi-high speed, self-propelled **trainsets** designed by the **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**.
- **Sleeper Prototype:** Built by **BEML** in **Bengaluru** with ICF.

Karnataka Rajyotsava

- **November 1, 1956: Mysore State** formed under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.
- **November 1, 1973:** Renamed **Karnataka** under **CM D. Devaraj Urs**.
- **Know more:** The **Rajyotsava Award** is the State's second-highest civilian honour after the **Karnataka Ratna**.

21. Govt. to set up committee to boost deceased donor organ transplants

Why in News



- The Health Department will form an **Organ Transplant Visionary Committee**, headed by **Nagesh Hegde** of **IGOT**, to boost **deceased donor organ transplants**.

Key Highlights

- **Decision:** Taken at a review with the **State Organ Transplant Advisory Committee** chaired by Health Minister **U.T. Khader**.
- **Waiting List: 6,291 patients** await organ transplants in Karnataka.
- **Priorities: Brain death certification** and organ retrieval at all **district hospitals** and government medical colleges; more transplant facilities in government hospitals; new software for **organ allocation and tracking**.

- **Proposal:** All hospitals with **50–100 beds** to automatically become **organ retrieval centres** (with an option to opt out).
- **Pledge:** Through the **Jeevasarthakathe** portal.
- **Cochlear Implants:** Under **'Aalisu Kanda'** (part of the **Shravan Dosh Mukta Abhiyan**), **200** more cochlear implants for children in **2026-27**; **575** surgeries were done in 2025-26.

Additional Information

Organ Donation Framework

- **THOTA: Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994** (amended **2011**); recognises **brain-stem death** and prohibits commercial dealing in organs.
- **NOTTO: National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation**, New Delhi, under the **Directorate General of Health Services**.
- **Three-tier Network: NOTTO** (national) → **ROTTO** (regional) → **SOTTO** (State).
- **Jeevasarthakathe:** Karnataka's **State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO)**.
- **Know more: Indian Organ Donation Day** is observed on **August 3**.

22. Revamped Golden Chariot logs first-ever full booking

Why in News



- The revamped luxury train **Golden Chariot** recorded its **first-ever full booking** (all **75 seats**) for the opening journey of the **2026–27 season**.

Key Highlights

- **Season: 13 journeys — 7 Pride of Karnataka, 3 Glimpses of Karnataka** and **3 Jewels of Karnataka**.
- **History:** Launched in **2008**, discontinued in **2018** and relaunched in **2024**; the 2024 and 2025 seasons saw slim demand.
- **Route (Pride of Karnataka):** Bengaluru → **Mysuru, Bandipur, Halebeedu, Chikkamagaluru, Hampi, Goa** → back to Bengaluru on day six.
- **Upgrades:** Redesigned rooms; restaurants **Ruchi and Nalapaka**; bar **Madira**; modernised kitchen; **60+** service staff.
- **Operator: Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC)**; Tourism Minister **K.J. George** aims to position it in premium domestic and international markets.
- **Coffee Tourism:** The **Coffee Board** has proposed a **coffee ecotourism** programme centred on **Chikkamagaluru**; Karnataka produces nearly **70%** of India's coffee.

Additional Information

Luxury Tourist Trains of India

Train	Region/Operator
Palace on Wheels (1982)	Rajasthan
Deccan Odyssey	Maharashtra
Golden Chariot (2008)	Karnataka (KSTDC)
Maharajas' Express	IRCTC (pan-India)

- **Know more: Halebeedu** and **Belur** (Hoysala temples) along with **Somanathapura** were inscribed as the **'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'** on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** in **2023**; **Hampi** was inscribed in **1986**.

23. CM invites Poland as partner for Global Investors Meet 2027

Why in News



- During Polish PM **Donald Tusk's** Bengaluru visit, the CM invited **Poland** to be a **partner country** for Karnataka's **Global Investors Meet 2027**.

Key Highlights

- **Business Forum:** Tusk addressed the **India-**

Poland Business Forum in Bengaluru; called for cooperation in technology, **AI and aerospace**.

- **TZMO Group:** Proposed investment of about **₹80 crore** on **five acres** in **KIADB Vemgal Industrial Area, Kolar**; about **1,000 jobs**; first manufacture of **smart adult incontinence pads** in India.
- **Letter of Intent:** With the **Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Katowice** and **Kato.hub** for a proposed **Karnataka–Katowice Digital and Gaming Corridor**.
- **MoU: IIIT-Bangalore** and **AGH University of Krakow** for research collaboration in **AI and quantum technologies**.
- **Companies Invited: Asseco, Polpharma, ORLEN** and **KGHM Polska Miedź**; **Infosys** has nearly 20 years' presence in Poland.
- **Bilateral Trade:** About **$6 billion**, which both sides aim to double.
- **Earlier Visit:** Czech Deputy PM **Karel Havlíček** visited Bengaluru; **Gopalan Aerospace** opened a new production line at **Hoskote** and signed **five MoUs** with Czech partners.

Additional Information

Investment Promotion in Karnataka

- **Invest Karnataka:** The State's Global Investors Meet; the **2025** edition was held in **Bengaluru** in **February 2025**.
- **Agencies: Invest Karnataka Forum, Karnataka Udyog Mitra** and **KIADB** (Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, est. **1966**).
- **Single Window:** Approvals under the **Karnataka Industries (Facilitation) Act, 2002**.
- **Know more:** Poland is a member of the **European Union** and **NATO**; **Katowice** is in the **Silesia** region.

24. State braces for 21,000 MW power demand next summer

Why in News

- Deficient rainfall has pushed up **pumpset** power use, and Karnataka's **peak demand** is projected to reach about **21,000 MW** in **summer 2027**.

Key Highlights

- **Consumption:** Average daily consumption of **349–362 million units (MU)** in the first two weeks of October, above the record **340 MU** in September.
- **Peak Trend: 18,650 MW** (summer 2025) → **20,000 MW** (September 2026) → about **21,000 MW** projected for 2027.
- **Other Loads:** Domestic, commercial and industrial load up **18%**, partly due to rising **cooling loads**.
- **Supply Fall:** Wind energy fell from **2,500–3,000 MW** to **400–600 MW**; **hydro generation down 60%** (**5,096 MU** to **2,100 MU** in Sept–Oct).
- **Coal Power:** About **400 MW** to be procured from **April 1** under **SHAKTI**.
- **Power Banking:** Power returned to **UP, Punjab and Haryana** (1,000 MW a day) by September 30; from **November 1**, **Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Assam** will supply **1,000 MW** a day.
- **Official: Gaurav Gupta**, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department.

Additional Information

Key Terms

- SHAKTI: Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India, launched in 2017 for coal linkage to power plants.
- **Power Banking:** A State with surplus supplies power to another and receives it back later, avoiding cash purchase.
- **One Nation, One Grid, One Frequency:** Achieved on **December 31, 2013** when the **Southern Grid** was synchronised with the national grid.

Karnataka Power Sector

- **Generation: Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL)**; **Transmission: KPTCL**.
- **Distribution (5 ESCOMs): BESCOM,**

MESCOM, HESCOM, GESCOM and **CESC (Mysuru)**.

- **Know more: Pavagada Solar Park** (Tumakuru district, about **2,050 MW**) is among the largest solar parks in the world.

SHORT NEWS

25. Sudha Yadav sworn in as Governor

- **Oath: Sudha Yadav** was sworn in as the Governor of Karnataka at **Lok Bhavan**, Bengaluru, on **October 16**; oath administered by **Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru** of the High Court of Karnataka.
- **Succeeds: Thaawarchand Gehlot**, after his five-year tenure; she is the **second woman Governor** of the State after **V.S. Ramadevi (1999–2002)**.
- **Profile:** Wife of BSF Deputy Commandant **Sukhbir Singh Yadav**, killed in the **1999 Kargil War** (posthumously awarded the **Sena Medal**); Lok Sabha MP from **Mahendragarh (Haryana), 1999–2004**; inducted into the **BJP Parliamentary Board** in **2022** — the second woman on it after **Sushma Swaraj**.
- **Know more:** Under **Article 159**, the oath of the Governor is administered by the **Chief Justice of the High Court**, or in his absence, the senior-most judge.

26. Film city near Mysuru gets Cabinet nod

- **Approval:** The State Cabinet gave **administrative clearance** for a **film city of international standards** in **Mysuru district**.
- **Cost: ₹729.43 crore**.
- **Context:** Small-budget Kannada film **Premada Oorali** (dir. **Manoj Kumar**), made for about ₹2 crore, collected over **₹25 crore**, reviving single screens in B and C centres.

27. Cabinet rejects mercy petitions in Ring Road murder case

- **Decision:** The State Cabinet rejected the mercy petitions of **Shubha Shankarnarayan** and **Arun Varma**, serving **life imprisonment** in the **2003 Ring Road murder case**; the **Governor** had forwarded the petitions to the Cabinet.
- **Case:** Software engineer **B.V. Girish** was killed on **December 2, 2003**; the trial court convicted four accused in **July 2010**; the **Supreme Court** upheld the sentence in **July 2025**.
- **Know more:** Under **Article 161**, the Governor can grant pardons for offences against State laws, acting on the **aid and advice** of the Council of Ministers (**Maru Ram, 1980**); the President's power is under **Article 72**.

28. IIM Bangalore, IIT Kanpur join hands for deep-tech start-ups

- **MoU:** Between **NSRCEL**, the incubator of **IIM Bangalore**, and **IIT Kanpur** (its **SIIC** and **SCALE** initiatives).
- **Focus:** Joint incubation and acceleration of deep-tech start-ups in **defence, aerospace and dual-use technologies**.
- **Know more: NSRCEL** stands for **N.S. Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning**.

29. Bengalurean to lead NASA's $20-million space telescope mission

- **Scientist: Ramya Anche**, Bengaluru-born astronomer at the **Steward Observatory, University of Arizona**, earlier with the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**.
- **Mission: PUFFINS** (Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in Interstellar dust), a **SmallSat** under NASA's **Astrophysics Pioneers** programme; **$20 million**; launch targeted for **2030**.
- **Science:** A **10-inch telescope** will study UV light from about **70 stars** using **UV**

spectropolarimetry to understand how **cosmic dust** builds stars and planets.

30. Quantum Research Lab inaugurated at IISc

- **Partners: Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR)** and the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, with CSR support from SSIR.
- **Research Areas: Qubit** characterisation, **cryogenic electronics**, single-photon sources and detectors, and **2D-material** quantum devices (Department of Electronic Systems Engineering).
- **Know more:** The **National Quantum Mission** (2023–24 to 2030–31, about **₹6,003 crore**) is implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology**.

31. Foreign universities set up base in Bengaluru

- **Liverpool: University of Liverpool's Bengaluru campus** inaugurated by Industries Minister **M.B. Patil**; about **300** students enrolled (from about **20,000** applicants) in **six UG and two PG** programmes.
- **Manchester: University of Manchester** plans its **first India centre in Bengaluru** and a **museum** combining art, culture and STEM with **Science Gallery Bengaluru**.
- **Know more:** Foreign universities set up Indian campuses under the **UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023**.

32. Yakshagana artist Thandimane Sripada Bhat dies

- **Artist:** Doyen of **Yakshagana**, **Thandimane Sripada Bhat (63)**, died in Mangaluru.
- **Profile:** Veteran of the **Badagu Thittu** (northern) school; from **Koligar village, Sirsi taluk, Uttara Kannada**.
- **Know more:** Yakshagana has two main styles — **Badagu Thittu** (northern) and **Thenku Thittu** (southern); the **Karnataka Yakshagana Academy** promotes the art form.

33. GSAT-7C satellite for IAF to be supplied by NSIL

- **Contracts:** Defence Ministry signed deals worth about **₹4,106 crore** — **GSAT-7C** communication satellite for the **IAF** (**₹2,563 crore**) from **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Bengaluru**, and **Varunastra** torpedoes (₹1,543 crore) from BDL.
- **Know more: NSIL** (est. **2019**) is the commercial arm of **ISRO**; **GSAT-7 ('Rukmini')** serves the Navy and **GSAT-7A** serves the IAF.

34. BMTC to share real-time bus data; Namma BMTC App 2.0 launched

- **Data Sharing:** Routes, stops, schedules and fares in **GTFS** format with **Namma Yatri** (on **ONDC**), **BIAL** (Vayu Vajra data on **BLR Pulse**) and **Tummoc**.
- **App 2.0:** Bus tickets, digital passes, route planning, real-time tracking and **Namma Metro tickets** on one platform.
- **Know more: GTFS** (General Transit Feed Specification) is the global standard format for public transit schedules.

35. KIA signs sister airport agreement with Vancouver

- **Agreement: Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)** and **Vancouver International Airport** signed a sister airport pact covering **seven areas**, including **Digital Twin** innovation, air cargo and the goal of **direct Bengaluru–Vancouver flights**.
- **Trade:** Canada–India two-way trade was over **$10.9 billion** in **2025**.
- **Air Links: Akasa Air** began daily **Bengaluru–Udaipur** flights; **FLY91** opened bookings for **Bengaluru–Tirupati**.

36. INS Samarthak commissioned at Karwar

- **Ship:** First of **two multipurpose vessels** built by **L&T**, commissioned at **Karwar** in the presence of Vice-President **C.P. Radhakrishnan**.
- **Features:** Over **75% indigenous content**; platform for trials of indigenous sensors and weapons, surveillance and disaster relief. 'Samarthak' means 'the proponent'.
- **Know more: INS Kadamba** at Karwar is being developed under **Project Seabird**, set to be among the largest naval bases in the eastern hemisphere.

37. GBA launches online plot subdivision on e-Aasthi

- **Service:** Joint owners under a single **A-eKhata** can divide plots by recorded shares and get **separate A-eKhatas** on **e-Aasthi 2.0**.
- **Conditions:** Only vacant plots or plots with buildings up to **2,000 sq. m**; each new plot above **50 sq. m** with at least **6 m** road frontage.
- **Fee: 0.2%** of guidance value (residential), **0.3%** (industrial), **0.5%** (non-residential).

38. Bengaluru scientists study solar eruptions with Aditya-L1 and Proba-3

- **First: Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** scientists combined data from **VELC** on **Aditya-L1** and **ASPIICS** on Europe's **Proba-3** to study **coronal mass ejections (CMEs)**.
- **Events:** Two CMEs (**September 14 and 16, 2025**) recorded simultaneously by both instruments.
- **Know more: Aditya-L1** (launched **September 2, 2023**) is India's first solar mission, placed in a halo orbit around **Lagrange point L1**; **Proba-3** of the **ESA** was launched by ISRO's **PSLV-C59** in **December 2024**.

39. IISc's Mahesh Kakde wins Ramanujan Prize

- **Award: Mahesh Kakde** of the **Indian Institute of Science** was awarded the **Ramanujan Prize** for work on **noncommutative Iwasawa theory** and the **Gross–Stark and Brumer–Stark conjectures**.

40. Ration card e-KYC deadline extended to November 10

- **Extension:** From **October 20** to **November 10**; those verified over a year ago must redo e-KYC.
- **Mode:** Through the **'Anna Seva'** app or fair price shops; the app now works **across the country** for migrant cardholders.
- **Know more: Anna Bhagya** is the State's food security guarantee under the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.

41. Web security keys of Bengaluru's eMudhra leaked

- **Breach: Eight private keys** used to issue web certificates by **Bengaluru-headquartered eMudhra** were weak and leaked; affected certificates revoked.
- **Response: MeitY** set up a special team; **Digital Signature Certificates** and **eSign** services regulated by the **Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA)** were unaffected.
- **Know more:** eMudhra is the **only Indian root certificate authority trusted globally**; the CCA functions under the **IT Act, 2000**.

42. Devadas Chimakode selected for Janapada Academy award

- **Award: Karnataka Janapada Academy's** honorary award for **2026 — ₹25,000** and a citation.
- **Artist: Devadas Chimakode (56)** of **Chimakod, Bidar taluk**; known for folk singing, **Suggi Kunitha** and **Halage**.

43. Kittur Utsav begins; Channamma statue repaired

- **Repair:** The **Kittur Channamma** statue at Kittur, whose right hand had fallen off, was restored ahead of the **State-level Kittur Utsav** beginning **October 23**.
- **Know more: Rani Chennamma** of Kittur (Belagavi) defeated the East India Company's forces on **October 23, 1824**, one of the earliest armed resistances to British rule; her statue stands in the **Parliament House** complex.

44. Police to switch to matte-finish uniform buttons

- **Announcement:** CM **D.K. Shivakumar**, at the **Police Martyrs' Day** programme, announced **matte-finish buttons** and new whistle guards in place of metal accessories that rust.
- **Request by: Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority**.
- **Know more: Police Commemoration Day (October 21)** honours the policemen killed at **Hot Springs, Ladakh**, in **1959**.

45. HDK flags delay in land for ARAI testing centres in Mandya

- **Letter:** Union Heavy Industries Minister **H.D. Kumaraswamy** wrote to the CM over delay in allotting land in **Mandya** for a **Construction and Infrastructure Equipment Testing Centre** and an **EV Testing Centre** proposed by the **Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)**.

46. Karnataka gets its 11th mechanical elephant

- **Donation:** Mechanical elephant **'Shivayogiswara'** donated to **DMS Chandravana Ashrama, Mandya**, facilitated by **PETA India** and **CUPA**.
- **Plea:** After the Shivamogga incident, PETA urged that this be the last Dasara with live elephants.

47. Mild tremor in Doddaballapur taluk

- **Event:** Earthquake of magnitude **3.0** at **Timmojanahalli, Doddaballapur taluk**, felt up to **20–30 km**.
- **KSNDMC:** The epicentre lies in **seismic zone II** with no structural discontinuities; no need to panic.
- **Know more: Seismic zone II** denotes the **lowest seismic hazard** in India's zoning map prepared by the **Bureau of Indian Standards**.

48. Sports: Karnataka round-up

- **Dasara CM Cup: Bengaluru City** won the overall title (**1,605 points**), followed by **Mysuru** and **Belagavi**; best athletes **V.M. Prasanna Kumar** and **V.S. Shridevika**.
- **Ranji Trophy: Shreyas Gopal** named captain; felicitated by **KSCA** for **100 First Class matches**; **Manvanth Kumar** hit **135** at No. 9 against Saurashtra; Karnataka has **2 points** from two games.
- **Women's Cricket:** Karnataka entered the semifinals of the **BCCI U-19 Women's T20 Trophy**; **Shubha Satheesh** to lead Karnataka in the **Senior Women's T20 Trophy** at Surat.
- **Billiards:** Bengaluru's **Pankaj Advani** won his **29th World title** (WBL World Billiards, Birmingham).
- **Events Hosted: FIBA Women's Basketball League Asia** at **Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium**; the **64th Indian Turf Invitation Cup** at the **Mysore Race Club**, with the Mysore Derby included for the first time.
- **Know more: Hoysala Hustle**, a cultural run marking Karnataka Rajyotsava, will be held on **NICE Road** on **November 1**.

INTERNATIONAL

49. G7 Nations to Release 100 Million Barrels of Oil

Context

- **The Group of Seven (G7) nations have agreed to release 100 million barrels of oil** over four months to ease soaring fuel prices, with a substantial release of diesel planned in the first 20 days.

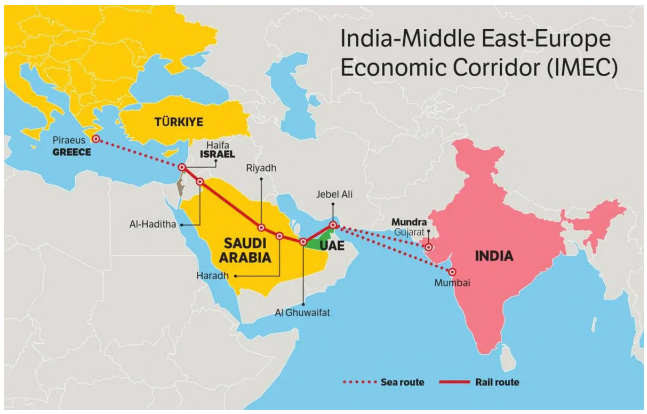
Group of Seven (G7)

- **G7:** Informal grouping of **7 major advanced economies**.
- **Members: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA and Canada**.
- **Origin:** Emerged from the **1973 oil crisis**.
- **Initial Group of Five (G5):** France, West Germany, USA, UK and Japan.
- **Canada joined: 1976** → G7.
- **EU:** Began participating in **1977**; **EU is not a G7 member**, but participates in meetings.
- **G8 phase:** Russia joined in **1997**, making it G8.
- **Back to G7:** Russia ceased to be part of the group in **2014** following the **annexation of Crimea**.
- **Nature: Informal grouping**, not a treaty-based international organisation.
- **Presidency: Rotates annually** among member countries.
- **Key areas:** Global economy, trade, security, climate change, energy, development and geopolitical issues

Additional Information - International Energy Agency (IEA)

- **Established: 1974**, in response to the **1973–74 oil crisis**.
- **Headquarters: Paris, France**.
- **Parent framework:** Operates within the framework of the **OECD**.
- **Members: 32 member countries**.
- **India: Association country**, not a full IEA member.
- **Other Association countries:** China, Indonesia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand etc.
- **Main objective:** Ensure **energy security** and coordinate responses to major disruptions in oil supply.

50. India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)



News -

- France's Special Envoy for IMEC called for adding alternative routes to IMEC amid shipping risks in the Strait of Hormuz.

India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- **Announced:** G20 New Delhi Summit, 2023.
- **Objective:** Develop a multimodal trade corridor linking India with Europe through the Gulf.

Corridors

- **Eastern Corridor:** India to the Gulf by sea.
- **Northern Corridor:** Gulf to Haifa (Israel) by rail through Saudi Arabia and Jordan, then to Europe by sea.
- **Signatories:** India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany, Italy, EU and the US. Jordan and Israel are non-signatories to the MoU.
- **Funding:** G7's Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), launched in 2022, aims to mobilise **$600 billion by 2027**.

Significance

- **Faster trade:** Projected to reduce transit

time by around 40%.

- **Strategic connectivity:** Could reduce dependence on the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and Suez Canal.
- **Mediterranean gateway:** Adani Ports acquired a 70% stake in Haifa Port Company in 2023.
- **Geopolitical significance:** Offers an alternative connectivity framework to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- **Energy and digital links:** Proposes electricity cables, digital cables and clean hydrogen pipelines.

51.United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

News -

- **India has rejected remarks by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** concerning the detention of protesters in Delhi.

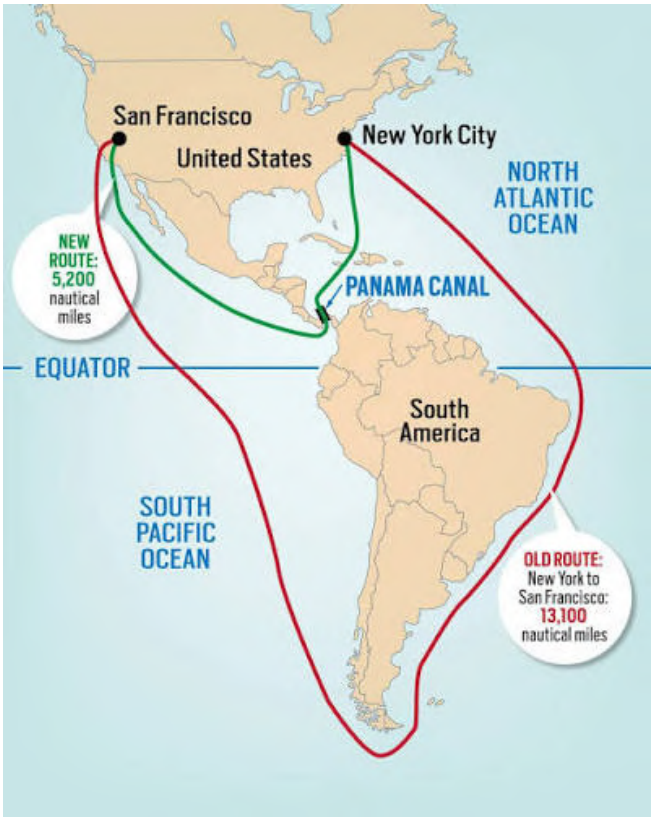
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) — UPSC

- **Established:** 1993, following the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Parent Organisation:** UN Secretariat.
- **Functions:** Monitors human rights, provides technical assistance, supports international human rights mechanisms and raises concerns over alleged violations.
- **Head:** High Commissioner, appointed by the UN Secretary-General and approved by the UN General Assembly.

52. Panama

News -

- **A magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck southern Panama,** and tsunami warnings were issued for parts of Central and South America.



Panama

- **Location:** Central America; strategically important due to the **Panama Canal**, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- **Capital:** Panama City.
- **Neighbours:** Costa Rica (west) and Colombia (east).
- **Water Bodies:** Caribbean Sea (north) and Pacific Ocean (south).
- **Political System:** Presidential republic.
- **Major Rivers:** Chagres, Tuira, Chepo and Chucunaque.

53. UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2026

News -

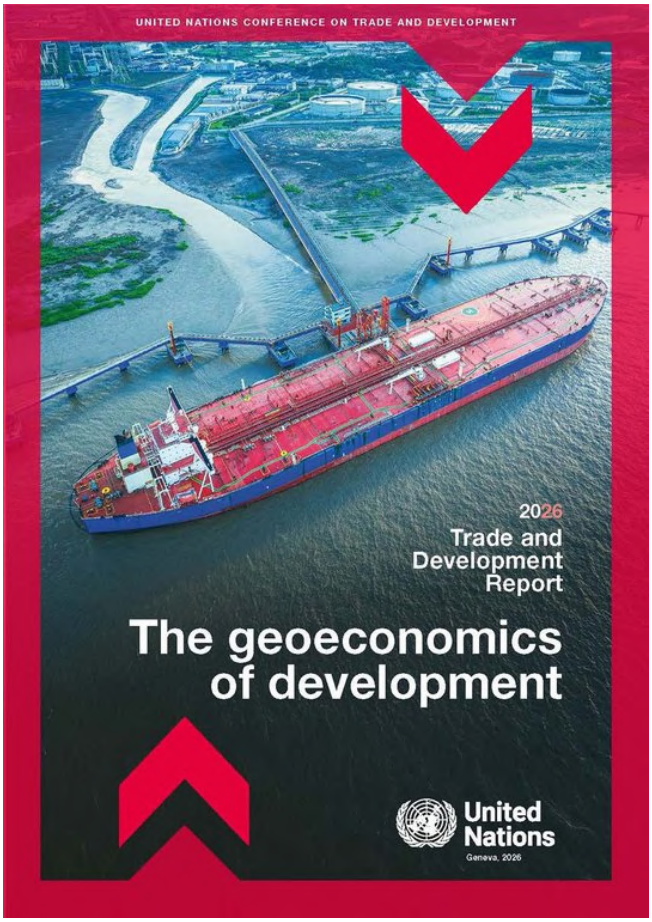
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development **(UNCTAD), released its 'Trade and Development Report 2026: The Geoeconomics of Development'.**

Key Findings

- **Global Growth:** Projected at **2.6% in 2026,**

down from 2.9% in 2025.

- **Global Trade:** Expected to grow by around 4% in real terms in 2026; global trade reached a record $35 trillion in 2025.
- **Developing Economies:** Growth projected to slow to 4% in 2026, from 4.7% in 2025.
- **Asia:** Expected to contribute 59% of global growth in 2026; India's growth is projected at 7.3%.



Additional Information - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- **Established:** 1964.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Parent Body:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- **Objective:** Promote trade, investment and development, particularly in developing countries.
- **Key Functions:**
  - Supports developing countries in integrating into the global economy.
  - Analyses international trade, investment, finance and technology.
  - Provides research, policy advice and technical assistance.
- **Major Reports:** Trade and Development Report, World Investment Report and Technology and Innovation Report.
- **Membership:** 195 member States.

54. India's Stakes in the Global Pandemic Agreement

News -

- At the United Nations High Level Meeting (UN HLM), in New York, India made official remarks on the Political Declaration on Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response (PPPR), part of the emerging global legal regime on pandemics led by WHO-Pandemic agreement (PA).

WHO Pandemic Agreement

- It was **adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2025.**
- **Objective -** The aim is to negotiate a WHO convention on p**andemic prevention, preparedness and response,** that would culminate in a **legally binding international instrument.**
- Following its adoption, the next crucial step is for an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the Pandemic Agreement **to negotiate the details of the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system**.
- The Agreement will officially **enter into force 30 days after 60 countries have ratified it.**
- The PA was adopted by 124 member-states in 2025, including India.
- The PA is not yet open for ratification because negotiations are still ongoing for an annex concerning the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system.

Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS)

- It is a crucial, **legally binding component of the WHO Pandemic Agreement.**

- It establishes **a multilateral system designed to ensure the rapid, transparent sharing of pathogens** with pandemic potential alongside the fair and equitable distribution of medical countermeasures **like vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments.**

55. Black Sea



Context (AIR):

- India has condemned the string of attacks that have taken place in the black sea region.

About -

- **Location:** Inland sea situated between Eastern Europe and Western Asia; strategically important for maritime trade connecting Europe, the Caucasus and the Middle East.
- **Bordering Countries:** Ukraine (north), Russia (northeast), Georgia (east), Türkiye (south), Bulgaria (southwest) and Romania (west).
- **Major Rivers:** Danube, Dnieper, Dniester and Don. *Note: The Don drains into the Sea of Azov, which connects to the Black Sea through the Kerch Strait.*
- **Connection to Mediterranean Sea:** Black Sea → Bosporus Strait → Sea of Marmara → Dardanelles Strait → Aegean Sea → Mediterranean Sea.
- **Unique Feature — Anoxic Waters:** Deep waters, generally below about 150–200 metres, contain very little or no dissolved oxygen and are rich in hydrogen sulphide.
- **Ecological Significance:** Most marine life is concentrated in the upper, oxygenated layers of the sea.

56. Badr Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Context

- Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar, and Indonesia have signed the Badr Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

57. BADR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

Context

- **Pakistan, Türkiye, Qatar and Indonesia** reportedly signed the Badr MoU to strengthen **military cooperation and defence capabilities**.

Key Objectives

- Promote **defence manufacturing**, joint production and domestic defence industries.
- Enhance **military training, research and technology development**.

Badr MoU vs Mecca Pact

- **Badr MoU:** Focuses on **defence-industrial cooperation**.
- **Mecca Pact:** Focuses on **collective defence**, as described in the source.

Significance for India

- May support **Pakistan's military modernisation** and defence manufacturing.
- Could affect **regional security dynamics** and technology-sharing arrangements.

58. World Health Summit (WHS) 2026

Context (TH):

- Recently, the **World Health Summit took place from October 11–13, 2026, in Berlin, Germany.**
- **Theme (2026): From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health.**
- **Purpose:** Summit convened leaders from politics, science, civil society, and private

sector to catalyse collaborative and innovative solutions for key global health priorities.

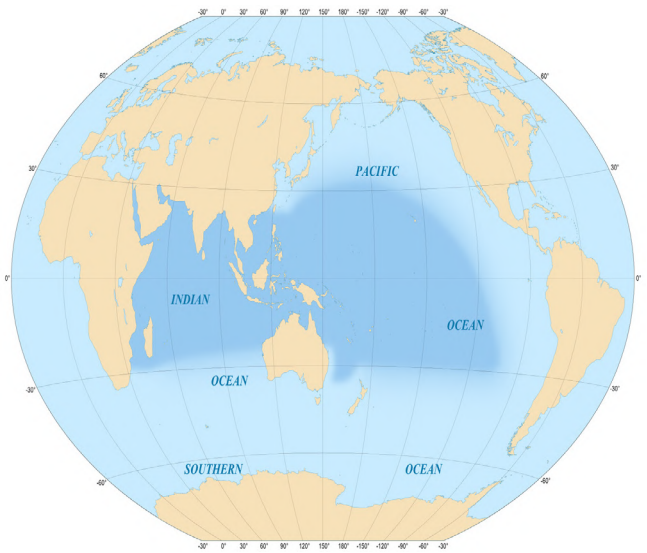
World Health Summit (WHS)

- **Founded:** 2009 by Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.
- **Annual Summit:** Held every October; international presidency rotates annually among WHS Academic Alliance institutions.
- **WHS Academic Alliance:** Scientific network (formerly M8 Alliance) promoting international collaboration and evidence-based health policy.
- **Regional Meeting:** Hosted by the institution holding the presidency; **Rio de Janeiro will host the 2028 Regional Meeting**.

59.ASEAN–India Defence Think Tank Forum

Context -

- India's Defence Minister emphasised the need for greater India–ASEAN cooperation to promote a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, at the **1st ASEAN–India Defence Think Tank Forum, held in New Delhi.**



ASEAN–India Defence Think Tank Forum

- **Objective:** Strengthen strategic dialogue, joint research and **defence cooperation between India and ASEAN.**
- **Announcement:** By Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the 2nd ASEAN–India Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, 2025.

Indo-Pacific Region

- **Extent:** From eastern Africa across the Indian and Pacific Oceans to the Americas.
- **Significance:** Accounts for around **62% of global GDP and 50% of global maritime trade.**
- **India's Dependence:** Around **90% of India's trade by volume is maritime; approximately 80% of its oil imports are transported by sea**.
- **India's Vision**: A free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, anchored in ASEAN centrality.

60. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2026

Context

- According to the latest update of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), the **number of multidimensionally poor people increased by 51.5 million in 2025.**

Global MPI

- **Published by -** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford.
- It was **introduced in 2010 to measure poverty beyond monetary income.**
- **Coverage: The index covers 108 countries,** representing approximately 78% of the global population.

Key Findings of Global MPI 2026

- **Global Poverty:** Approximately **1.2 billion people** worldwide were multidimensionally poor in 2025.
- **Child Poverty:** Nearly **half of the world's multidimensionally poor population consists of children.**
- **Rural Concentration:** More than **four-fifths**

of multidimensionally poor people live in rural areas.

- **Regional Disparities:** Sub-Saharan **Africa records the highest levels of multidimensional poverty,** while South Asia faces substantial deprivations in nutrition, housing and schooling.

IR (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

61.LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL (LAC)



Context

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** stated that the **People's Liberation Army (PLA)** has disturbed the situation along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** through its patrolling behaviour.

About the LAC

- **Definition:** The de facto line separating **Indian-controlled territory** from **Chinese-controlled territory**.
- **Length:** India estimates it at approximately **3,488 km**, while China estimates around **2,000 km**.
- **Three sectors:**
  1. **Eastern:** Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
  2. **Middle:** Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
  3. **Western:** Ladakh.

McMahon Line

- **Meaning:** The de facto boundary between India and China in the **Eastern Sector**, particularly between **Arunachal Pradesh and Tibet**.
- **Origin:** Drawn during the **Shimla Convention of 1914**, involving Great Britain, China and Tibet.
- **Extent:** From the Bhutan border in the west to the Myanmar border in the east.
- **China's stance:** Rejects the McMahon Line and claims Arunachal Pradesh as **Zangnan (South Tibet)**.
- **India's stance:** Arunachal Pradesh is an **integral part of India**.

LAC vs LoC

- Line of Actual Control (LAC):
  - Separates Indian- and Chinese-controlled territories.
  - **Not mutually agreed upon**, fully delineated on maps or demarcated on the ground.
  - Differences in perceptions of its alignment can lead to border tensions.
- Line of Control (LoC):
  - Separates Indian- and Pakistani-controlled areas in Jammu and Kashmir.
  - Originated from the **1949 Karachi Agreement** following the 1947–48 India–Pakistan war.
  - Renamed the **LoC under the 1972 Shimla Agreement**.
  - Its alignment is depicted on maps authenticated by the military representatives of both countries.

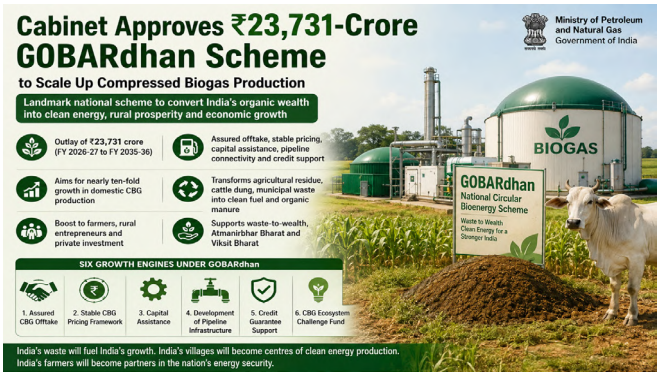
Key Difference

- **LAC:** India–China; alignment remains disputed.
- **LoC:** India–Pakistan; alignment is defined by bilateral agreements.

NATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

62. GOBARdhan Scheme



News

- The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas **launched the GOBARdhan Scheme** for development of the Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector.

The GOBARdhan (National Circular Bioenergy Scheme)

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

Key Objectives & Components

- **Target:** Boost Compressed Biogas (CBG) production tenfold to 5 MMSCMD.
- **Unified Framework: C**onsolidates previous initiatives like SATAT, Market Development Assistance (MDA), and Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM).

Additional Information - Biofuels

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

National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

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

Government Efforts for Biofuel Expansion

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

63. Great Indian Bustards

News



- Ten captive-bred **Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) are set to be released into their natural habitat in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer** as part of an effort to rebuild the species' wild population.

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

- **Scientific name:** *Ardeotis nigriceps*
- **Size:** Large ground bird; about **1 m tall** and **15–18 kg**.
- **Ecological significance: Keystone species** of arid and semi-arid open ecosystems.
- **Population:** Critically low; latest estimates indicate about **130 ± 20 in Rajasthan**, with only **5–6 individuals** across Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- **State bird: Rajasthan**.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN:** Critically Endangered
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I**
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **CMS:** Listed under the Convention on Migratory Species.

Major Threats

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Poaching
- Predation of birds and eggs

- **Collision with overhead power transmission lines**, particularly those associated with renewable-energy projects.

Power Lines & Supreme Court

- Power-line collisions have emerged as a major conservation challenge in GIB habitats.
- The **Supreme Court** has directed that renewable-energy project power lines in specified GIB areas **outside the Desert National Park (DNP)** be shifted underground, with implementation targeted by **December 2027**.

64. Buxa Tiger Reserve

Context



- **A three-year-old tigress, T138, has been released into West Bengal's Buxa Tiger Reserve,** marking the beginning of a phased tiger reintroduction programme to establish a self-sustaining tiger population.

Buxa Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Alipurduar district, **northern West Bengal**, along the **India–Bhutan border**.
- **Established:** Declared a **Tiger Reserve in 1983** under **Project Tiger**.
- **Ecological significance:**

1. Located in the **Eastern Himalayan foothills**.
2. Provides ecological linkages with forests of **Assam and Bhutan**.

- **Important fauna:** Asian elephant, gaur, sambar, clouded leopard, Indian leopard and **Asian golden cat**.
- **Tiger status:** Historically faced a prolonged absence of a stable resident tiger population due to **habitat degradation, fragmentation and reduced prey availability**.
- **Rivers:**

1. **Sankosh River:** Forms part of the **eastern boundary** along the Assam border.
2. **Jayanti River:** Important **seasonal river** flowing through the Buxa landscape.

Additional Information - Project Tiger

- Launched in **1973** with **9 tiger reserves**.
- **Legal basis:** Tiger Reserves are constituted under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, particularly after the **2006 amendment**.
- **NTCA:** Established in **2006** as a statutory body for tiger conservation.
- **Core area:** Legally designated as **Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)**; receives the highest protection.
- **Buffer area:** Peripheral area adjoining the core, aimed at promoting **coexistence and reducing pressure on the core**.
- **Tiger Census:** Conducted every **4 years** under the **All India Tiger Estimation (AITE)**.
- **Latest national tiger estimate: 3,682 tigers (2022)**.
- **Highest tiger population: Madhya Pradesh**, followed by Karnataka and Uttarakhand (2022 estimate).
- **Largest Tiger Reserve by area: Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam** (Andhra Pradesh–Telangana landscape).
- **Smallest Tiger Reserve: Bor Tiger Reserve**, Maharashtra.
- **First Tiger Reserve: Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve**, Uttarakhand.
- **Newest tiger reserves:** India has continued adding reserves under Project Tiger; the exact total changes with new notifications.
- **Tiger reserves are not necessarily National Parks:** A tiger reserve can include **National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and other forest areas**.
- **Global significance:** India contains the **largest share of the world's wild tiger population**.

65. Desert National Park

Context

- The **Union Environment Minister and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) released two great Indian bustards (GIB) in Rajasthan's Desert National Park.**

About Desert National Park

- **Location:** Jaisalmer & Barmer, **Rajasthan** — Thar Desert.
- **Established: 1980** under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- **Purpose:** Conservation of the **Thar's fragile desert ecosystem**.
- **Climate:** Extremely hot & arid; rainfall **<100 mm/year** in parts.
- **Landscape: Barchan & longitudinal dunes, gravel plains, rocky areas, interdunal depressions**.
- **Vegetation:** Sparse grasslands, thorny bushes & desert-adapted plants.
- **Khejri:** *Prosopis cineraria*; important Thar tree, traditionally protected by the **Bishnoi community**.
- **Key Species: Great Indian Bustard (Godawan) — Critically Endangered**.
- **Other Fauna:** Chinkara, desert cat, desert hare, long-eared hedgehog, saw-scaled viper, Persian gecko & toad-headed agama.

66. Green Energy Corridor Phase III

News -

- **The Union Cabinet approved the third phase of the Green Energy Corridor,** with an outlay of about ₹1.86 lakh crore, to strengthen Intra-State Transmission Systems.

About

- **Ministry:** Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- **Launched: 2015**
- **Aim:** Build transmission infrastructure to **integrate and evacuate renewable energy** into the national grid.
- **Target:** Evacuation of up to **135 GW renewable energy by 2032–33**.

Implementation:

- **Greenfield:** Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB)
- **Brownfield:** Cost-Plus Basis (CPB)
- **Agencies:** State Transmission Utilities + **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**.
- **Phase III: 50 GWh Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** to manage renewable-energy intermittency and grid congestion.

67. State of the World's Forests 2026



News -

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has published the State of the World's Forests 2026

About

- **Published by:** FAO.
- **Theme:** *Restoring Forests and Landscapes – The Way Forward for a Sustainable Future*.
- **Forest & Landscape Restoration (FLR):** Restoring **ecological functionality + human well-being** across degraded/deforested landscapes.
- **Key point:** FLR is **not merely tree planting**; it restores entire landscapes for multiple benefits and land uses.
- **Global forest area (2025): 4.14 billion ha**

(~32% of global land area).

- **Degraded forests: >460 million ha**.
- **Major drivers:** Climate change, population growth, urbanisation and infrastructure development.
- **Degradation impacts:** Forest fires, forest-cover loss, unsustainable harvesting, land-use change, soil erosion and overgrazing.
- **2030 target:** Under **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 2)**, nearly **469 million ha** need effective restoration.

68. Living Planet Report, 2026

Context

- **The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) released the Living Planet Report 2026,** reporting an average 73% decline in monitored vertebrate population sizes between 1970 and 2022.



Living Planet Report 2026

- **Released by - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** based on the Living Planet Index (LPI) produced by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).
- **Coverage:** 35,803 population trends across 5,790 vertebrate species (1970–2022).

Key Findings

- **Overall decline:** 73% average decline in monitored vertebrate population sizes between 1970 and 2022.
- Ecosystem-wise decline:
  - Freshwater: 85%
  - Terrestrial: 69%
  - Marine: 59%
- Around half of monitored populations remained stable or increased, highlighting the potential of conservation interventions.

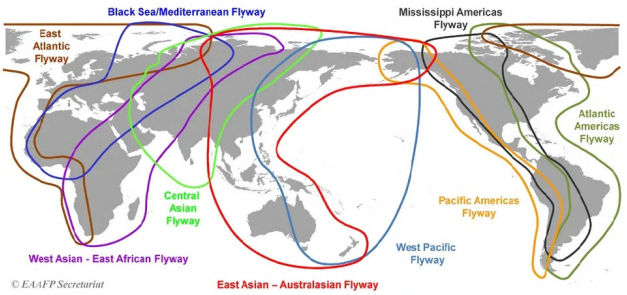
Major Threats

- Habitat loss and degradation.
- Overexploitation of natural resources.
- Climate change.
- Invasive alien species.
- Pollution and disease.

Significance:

- Highlights biodiversity loss and the need for ecosystem restoration, sustainable resource use and effective conservation measures.

69.Central Asian Flyway (CAF)



Context

- The Central Asian Conservation Network (CACN) has launched a new Central Asian Flyway Digital Hub.

Central Asian Flyway Digital Hub

- **Launched by: Central Asian Conservation Network (CACN).**
- **Objective:** Strengthen knowledge-sharing and cooperation for the **conservation of migratory birds.**

Key Features:

1. Information on migratory bird species, important flyway sites and conservation projects.
2. Opportunities for public participation.
3. Dedicated portals to report bird collisions and sightings of marked birds.

- **Importance:** The Digital Hub can improve cross-border data sharing, monitoring of bird collisions and coordinated conservation efforts.

Central Asian Flyway (CAF)

- **Geographical extent:** Covers 30 countries across North, Central and South Asia and the Trans-Caucasus, connecting the Arctic and Indian Oceans.
- **Bird diversity:** More than 600 bird species use this flyway.
- **Species covered:** Migratory waterbirds, landbirds and raptors.
- **Significance:** Supports international cooperation for conserving migratory birds, many of which face population declines.
- **International framework:** Associated with conservation efforts under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

Connect with the basics - CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OR BONN CONVENTION

- **Known as -** The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals is more commonly known as **Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention;**
- **Objective - It aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.**
- **Launched under -** It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),** concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.
- **Coverage -** The Appendices of **CMS include many mammals, including land mammals, marine mammals and bats; birds; fish; reptiles and one insect.**

CMS COP 13

- **Held in** - The UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) 13th Conference of Parties [COP] on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) was held in **Gandhinagar (Gujarat) in February 2020.**
- **Mascot -** The mascot for CMS COP-13 was **'Gibi — The Great Indian Bustard'.**
- **Gandhinagar Declaration -** The COP-13 adopted the Gandhinagar Declaration which **calls for migratory species and the concept of ecological connectivity** to be integrated and prioritized in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- **New species added -** The Asian Elephant, Jaguar and Great Indian Bustard were added to CMS Appendices at COP-13.

Concept of Flyways

- **Developed by - Bird Life International**
- **Definition** - According to Bird Life International, f**lyways are geographical areas covered by a migratory bird over the course of its annual cycle, encompassing breeding and non-breeding grounds and the connecting migration route.**

70.CAQM Panel Proposes 100% Electric Cars in Delhi by 2030

Context

- **A 15-member expert committee appointed by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** has recommended a phased phase-out of older vehicles in Delhi-NCR.

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

- **Established:** Under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.
- **Objective:** Coordinate, monitor and address air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas.

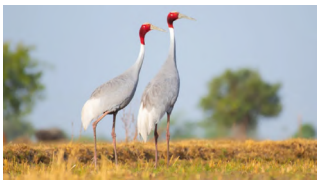
Powers and Functions

- Restricts activities affecting air quality and issues pollution-control guidelines.
- Issues **binding directions** to concerned authorities and persons.
- May impose environmental compensation for stubble burning, as prescribed by the Central Government.
- Issues orders under the **Graded Response**

Action Plan (GRAP) to combat air pollution in the NCR.
- In case of conflict, its directions prevail over those of state governments, CPCB, State Pollution Control Boards and other state-level statutory bodies.

Significance
- Enables coordinated action against air pollution across state boundaries.
- Strengthens pollution-control enforcement and accountability.
- Promotes a regional approach to improving air quality.

71. Sarus Cranes

News -

- The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has announced a nationwide survey to estimate the population of Sarus Cranes.

Sarus crane
- It is the **tallest flying bird in the world standing 152-156 cm tall** with a wingspan of 240cm.
- **Nature: It** is a social creature, found mostly in **pairs or small groups of three or four.**
- It is **Known to mate for life with a single partner,** its **breeding season coincides with heavy rainfall in monsoon.**
- **Habitat and Distribution:** The Sarus habitat is outside protected areas, in **natural wetlands with low water depth, marshy and fallow areas and agricultural fields.**
- The Sarus crane has three disjunct populations in the Indian sub-continent, south-east Asia and northern Australia.
- In the Indian subcontinent, it is found in **northern and central India, Terai Nepal and Pakistan.**
- It was once a **common site in the paddy fields of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.**
- But **now it is mainly concentrated in Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Ecological Role : They play a vital role in ecological balance by controlling the population of harmful insects**. Sarus is **omnivorous, feeding on fish and insects, as well as roots and plants.**
- **Protection status : Listed in Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and as Vulnerable on IUCN Red List**

72. Diamondback Terrapin (Malaclemys terrapin)

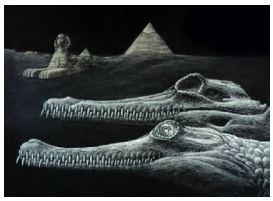
News -

- A rare hatchling discovered at a protected nesting site on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA, exhibited bicephaly—a developmental abnormality often caused by incomplete separation of identical twins, resulting in two heads with separate brains but shared internal organs.

Diamondback Terrapin
- **Identification:** Coastal turtle named after the diamond-shaped concentric growth rings on its upper shell (carapace); has pale, grey-spotted skin.
- **Adaptation:** Possesses specialised salt glands near the eyes that excrete excess salt, enabling it to tolerate varying salinity levels.
- **Habitat:** Salt marshes, estuaries, tidal creeks and shallow bays.
- **Distribution:** Native to the United States; found along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts to Florida and the Gulf Coast to southern Texas.
- **Ecological Role:** Controls snail populations in salt marshes, helping protect coastal cordgrass habitats.
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable.
- **CITES:** Appendix II.

73. New Extinct Relative of Gharial (Herugavialis cairensis)

News-



- Researchers identified a new extinct relative of India's gharial, named Herugavialis cairensis, from fossils found in the limestone used to carve the Great Sphinx of Giza.

Additional Information - Gharials

Characteristics:

- They show **Sexual Dimorphism** means males and females differ significantly in size and appearance.
- Unlike crocodiles, gharials **feed exclusively on warm-blooded species and are not man-eaters.**

Habitat Distribution:

- Gharials are strictly **riverine species**, requiring deep, clear, fast-flowing waters with steep, sandy riverbanks.
- Mainly **found in Chambal River, Girwa River, Ken River, Yamuna River, Brahmaputra River, Ghaghara River, Bhagirathi-Hooghly River**.

Conservation Status:

- IUCN Status: Critically Endangered
- It is listed under **Schedule 1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.

Conservation programmes

- **Project Crocodile (1975): Initiative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and focused on captive breeding.

74.Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)

News-

- Ahead of COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, India emphasised that the principles of Equity and CBDR-RC must be upheld in letter and spirit.

About CBDR-RC

- **Meaning:** A principle of international environmental law recognising that all countries share responsibility for addressing climate change, but their obligations differ according to historical emissions and capabilities.
- **Common Responsibility:** All countries must cooperate to protect the global environment.
- **Differentiated Responsibilities:** Developed countries have greater responsibility due to their historical contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Respective Capabilities:** Countries' financial, economic and technological capacities determine their ability to address climate change.

Evolution and International Framework

- **Rio Earth Summit, 1992:** Recognised in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration and Article 3(1) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- **Kyoto Protocol, 1997:** Assigned binding emission-reduction targets to developed countries under the protocol's framework.
- **Paris Agreement, 2015:** Requires all countries to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), while recognising equity, CBDR-RC and different national circumstances.

Significance for India

- Advocates climate justice and equitable burden-sharing.
- Emphasises climate finance and technology transfer from developed to developing countries.
- Seeks to balance climate action with developing countries' needs for economic growth and poverty reduction.

75. 'Nameri Wild Classroom' Initiative

News

- The **Assam Forest and Climate Change**

Department launched the 'Nameri Wild Classroom' initiative at Nameri Tiger Reserve **to connect students with nature through hands-on learning.**

NAMERI WILD CLASSROOM

- **Launched by:** Assam Forest and Climate Change Department at **Nameri Tiger Reserve**.
- **Objective:** Promote **environmental awareness, scientific curiosity and wildlife conservation** among schoolchildren from **Class 8 onwards**.
- **Programme: Residential 2–3 day field camps** featuring birdwatching, biodiversity studies, ecosystem learning and traditional knowledge of forest-dwelling communities.

NAMERI TIGER RESERVE

- **Location:** Sonitpur district, Assam, in the foothills of the **Eastern Himalayas**.
- **River:** Jia-Bharali (known as the **Kameng River** in Arunachal Pradesh).
- **CA|TS Status:** Received **Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)** approved status in September 2026.
- **CA|TS:** Global framework to assess tiger conservation and protected-area management effectiveness; launched at the **1st Asian Parks Congress, Japan (2013)**.

76.Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

Context

- The Union Government approved **India's accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA),** elevating its status from a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party to a full Contracting Party.

About

- **Full Form:** Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement.
- **Objective: Conservation and management of fishery resources in the high seas of the Southern Indian Ocean.**
- **Coverage:** Fish, molluscs, crustaceans and sedentary species, subject to specified exclusions under **UNCLOS**.
- **Significance for India:** Accession could expand fishing opportunities for Indian vessels beyond their traditional operating range of **60–80 nautical miles** from the coast.

Additional Information - United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- It is a **comprehensive international treaty** that establishes the **legal framework for governance of oceans and seas.**
- **Adopted in 1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica** and entered into **force in 1994.**

It defines:

1. Maritime boundaries of coastal states
2. Rights and duties of states in maritime zones
3. Rules for navigation, resource exploitation, and environmental protection
4. Because of its extensive scope, it is commonly referred to as the **"Constitution of the Oceans."**

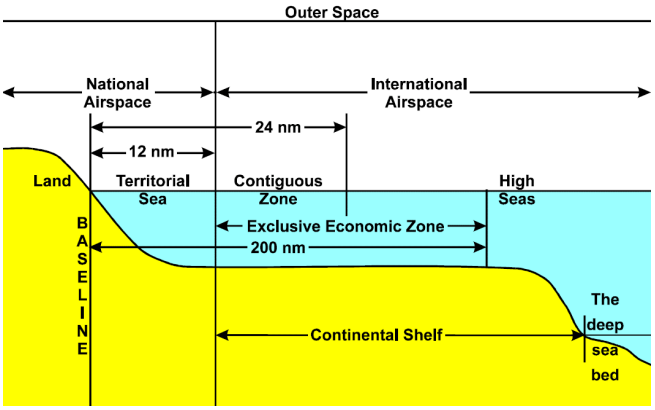
- **Membership: 168** parties, including the European Union.
- **Countries such as India, Japan, and China are parties.**
- **Note - The United States has signed but not ratified the convention.**

Maritime Zones under UNCLOS

- UNCLOS divides the oceans into several legal zones, each with different rights and responsibilities.
- **Territorial Sea**: Extends up to **12 nautical miles** from a coastal state's baseline. The **coastal state has full sovereignty over these waters.** Foreign ships enjoy the right of innocent passage.
- **Contiguous Zone**: Extends **12–24 nautical miles from the baseline**. Coastal **states can enforce laws relating to Customs, immigration, sanitation & security**.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** Extends **up to 200 nautical miles.** The coastal state

has **exclusive rights over natural resources.** However, other **states retain freedom of navigation and overflight.**

- **High Seas (International Waters): Areas beyond the EEZ of any state. No country has sovereignty over them. Governed by international law and UNCLOS principles.**



77. Mining Project Threatens Future of Rare Jeypore Ground Gecko

Context



- The bauxite mining project in the Odisha's Balda hills threatens the future of rare Jeypore ground gecko.
- It was presumed extinct for 130 years until it was rediscovered in 2010 by an Indian scientist.

Jeypore Ground Gecko

- **Scientific Name:** *Cyrtodactylus jeyporensis*.
- **Distribution:** Endemic to the Eastern Ghats; recorded in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Features:** Nocturnal gecko, originally described in 1878 by Richard Henry Beddome.
- **Habitat:** Moist semi-evergreen forests at elevations of around 1,200–1,300 metres.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss due to coffee plantations, hydropower projects and mining.
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered (EN), as per the cited assessment.
- **CITES:** Appendix II — regulates international trade to prevent unsustainable exploitation.

78. Dal Lake

Context



- The **Jammu and Kashmir High Court has banned the use of motorboats and jet skis in Dal Lake.**

Dal Lake

- **Location:** Srinagar, **Jammu and Kashmir**, in the Kashmir Valley.
- **Significance:** Famous urban lake known for **houseboats, shikaras and scenic beauty**.
- **Area:** Lake covers approximately **18 sq. km**; the larger wetland area is about **21.1 sq. km**.
- **Basins:** Includes **Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal and Nigeen**.
- **Major Attractions: Floating gardens, shikara rides, houseboats and floating vegetable market**.
- **Economic Importance:** Supports **tourism, fishing, horticulture and local livelihoods**.
- **Ecological Importance:** Supports **aquatic biodiversity** and helps regulate the local hydrological environment.
- **Environmental Threats: Untreated sewage, solid waste, aquatic weed growth, siltation and encroachment**.

Additional Information - Important Lakes in India

Lake	State/UT	Key fact
Wular Lake	Jammu & Kashmir	One of India's largest freshwater lakes; associated with the Jhelum River.

Dal Lake	Jammu & Kashmir	Famous for house-boats, shikaras and floating gardens.
Pangong Tso	Ladakh	High-altitude, saline lake extending into Tibet (China).
Tso Moriri	Ladakh	High-altitude lake in the Changthang region; important for migratory birds.
Chilika Lake	Odisha	Brackish-water lagoon; Ramsar site and habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins.
Pulicat Lake	Andhra Pradesh–Tamil Nadu	Brackish lagoon; separated from the Bay of Bengal by Sriharikota barrier island.
Vembanad Lake	Kerala	Longest lake in India; part of the Vembanad–Kol wetland system.
Ashtamudi Lake	Kerala	Ramsar wetland known for its palm-shaped backwater system.
Sastham-kotta Lake	Kerala	Largest freshwater lake in Kerala.
Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh	Freshwater lake between the Krishna and Godavari deltas; Ramsar site.
Loktak Lake	Manipur	Famous for floating masses of vegetation called phumdis; site of Keibul Lamjao National Park.
Deepor Beel	Assam	Ramsar wetland near Guwahati; important for waterbirds.
Sambhar Lake	Rajasthan	India's largest inland saline lake; important for salt production.
Lonar Lake	Maharashtra	Saline and alkaline lake formed by a meteorite impact in basaltic rock.
Nalsarovar	Gujarat	Shallow wetland and important habitat for migratory birds; Ramsar site.
Bhojtal (Upper Lake)	Madhya Pradesh	Major artificial freshwater lake in Bhopal.
Pushkar Lake	Rajasthan	Sacred lake associated with Hindu pilgrimage.

79.WHALE STRANDINGS ON INDIA'S WESTERN COAST

Context



- A global database of **blue whale strandings** identified India's western coast, particularly **Gujarat**, as an important region for recorded strandings.

Blue Whale (Balaenoptera musculus)

- **Classification:** Marine mammal; order **Cetacea**.
- **Features:** Largest animal known to have lived on Earth; adults reach approximately **24–28 metres**.
- **Distribution:** All oceans except the **Arctic Ocean**.
- **Subspecies:** Five recognised subspecies, including the **Antarctic, Northern, Pygmy,**

Northern Indian Ocean and Chilean blue whales.

- **Conservation Status: Endangered (IUCN Red List)**; **Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**.

About Cetaceans

- Include **whales, dolphins and porpoises**.
- **Characteristics:** Warm-blooded, breathe through lungs, give birth to live young and must surface to breathe.
- Around **30–35 cetacean species** are reported from the waters of the Indian subcontinent.

Additional Information - International Whaling Commission (IWC)

- **Established:** 1946 under the **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling**.
- **Headquarters:** Impington, United Kingdom.
- **Commercial Whaling Moratorium:** Adopted in **1982**; effective from **1986**.
- **Functions:** Regulates whaling and promotes whale conservation.
- **Types of Whaling:** Commercial, Aboriginal subsistence and special-permit (scientific) whaling.
- **India's Membership:** Since **1981**.

80. State of Biodiversity Action Report

Context:



- **Released by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),** providing the first global stocktake of **progress towards 2030 targets and the 2050 vision.**

Key Gaps

- **Implementation:** National targets do not fully align with global targets.
- **Progress: Slow action on biodiversity-loss** drivers; gaps in marine, coastal and inland water ecosystems.
- **Finance:** Limited private funding and reduction of harmful subsidies.
- **Data:** Gaps in data, indicators and technical capacity.
- **Governance:** Poor policy coordination and stakeholder participation.

Additional Information - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- **Origin:** The Convention was **opened for signature in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit).**
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) **entered into force on 29 December 1993.**
- The **first session of the COP was scheduled in 1994 in the Bahamas.**
- **Secretariat: Montreal, Canada.**
- **Ratification: The CBD has been ratified by 196 nations**, making it one of the most widely adopted international treaties.
- **Note - The United States is the only UN member state that has not ratified the convention.**

It has 3 main objectives;

1. The conservation of biological diversity
2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

- The governing body is the **Conference of the Parties (COP), which meets every two years.**
- The **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol** on Access and Benefit-Sharing are **supplementary agreements to the CBD.**

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was **concluded at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Montreal, Canada, in 2022.**

- It features **23 targets to be met by 2030 and four global goals for 2050 to preserve biodiversity** for current and future generations.
- The **agreement is not binding on members.**

81. Green Diwali Campaign

Context -

- **WWF-India &** Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme **(EIACP) has launched a nationwide Green Diwali Campaign.**
- It encourages environmentally responsible Diwali celebrations **by promoting cracker-free festivities.**



Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP)

- EIACP is an **initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).**
- **Objective** - It focuses on environmental information dissemination, **public awareness, capacity building and the promotion of environmentally sustainable livelihoods.**
- **WWF-India** is a conservation organisation **working on biodiversity protection** and environmental sustainability. It was established in 1969.

82. India's First Red List of Ecosystems (RLE)

News-

- **Kerala launched India's first state-level RLE project** across all 14 districts to assess ecosystem collapse risk.

India's First Red List of Ecosystems (RLE)

- **Launched by:** Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB).
- **Coverage:** All 14 districts of Kerala.
- **Objective:** Assess the risk of ecosystem collapse.
- **Key Concern:** Southern Western Ghats riparian evergreen forests have lost 83% of their extent and qualify as Critically Endangered.

Additional Information - International Union of Conservation of Nature

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

IUCN Red List

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

- The IUCN classification - The IUCN classification of species is based on their extinction/conservation status.

They are as follows

- **Extinct (EX)**
- **Extinct in the Wild (EW)**
- **Critically Endangered (CR)**
- **Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU)**
- **Near Threatened (NT)**
- **Least Concern (LC)**
- **Data Deficient (DD)**
- **Not Evaluated (NE)**

83. 10 Years of Kigali Amendment

Context (IE):

- The **Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, adopted in Kigali (Rwanda) on 15 October 2016**, has completed 10 years.

Kigali Amendment

- **Adopted:** 2016, Kigali, Rwanda; entered into force on **1 January 2019**.
- **Objective: Phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol**.
- Note - HFCs do not deplete ozone but have high global warming potential.
- **Origin:** Micronesia and Mauritius proposed controlling HFCs in 2009.
- **Phase-down:** Reduce HFC production and consumption by **80–85% by the late 2040s**, with differentiated timelines for developed and developing countries.
- **Trade Controls:** HFC import-export licensing; trade restrictions with non-Parties scheduled from **2033**.
- **India:** Ratified the amendment in 2021; phasedown begins in 2032.

84. Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) Emission Norms

Context (TH):

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a draft notification **to introduce Bharat Stage (BS)-VII emission standards from April 1, 2029.**

About

- **Context:** MoRTH proposed new vehicle pollution rules (BS-VII) from April 2029.
- **Implementation:** Cars (2029), light commercial vehicles (2030), trucks and buses (2031).
- **Objective: Reduce air pollution caused by vehicles.**
- **EV Coverage: First Bharat Stage norms to include electric vehicles (EVs).**
- **Pollution Control:** Stricter limits on tiny particles released by vehicle exhaust, brakes and tyres.
- **Battery Durability:** EVs must maintain a **specified level of battery performance for a fixed period.**
- **Environmental Vehicle Passport (EVP):** Displays information on **fuel use, battery health and vehicle emissions.**

85. Emission Gap Report 2026

Context

- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the Emission Gap Report 2026.

About the Report

- Released annually by **UNEP** ahead of the **UN climate negotiations**.
- **Assesses the gap between current emission projections** and the reductions needed to achieve the **Paris Agreement** goals.
- Based on countries' **Nationally Determined Contributions** (**NDCs**), updated every **5 years**.

Major Highlights

- **Global GHG emissions**: Approximately **58.4 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent** in 2025, broadly unchanged from 2024.
- **Major sources**: More than **two-thirds** of emissions came from fossil sources.
- **Emission trends**: CO_2 from fossil fuels, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases increased in 2025; methane emissions remained nearly stable.

- **Major contributors**: G20 members, excluding the African Union, accounted for approximately **76**% of global emissions.
- **1.5°C target**: Limiting warming to 1.5°C is increasingly difficult; the report discusses a possible **1.8°C** outcome under certain climate pathways.
- **India**: The third-largest GHG emitter, but its **per-capita emissions** are significantly lower than those of the two largest emitters.

UNEP

- **Established**: 1972.
- **Headquarters**: Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Role**: Leading environmental authority within the UN system.
- **Policy-making body**: United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
- **Major reports**: Global Environment Outlook, Emissions Gap Report, Adaptation Gap Report and Frontiers Report.

Additional Information- Paris Agreement on Climate Change, 2015 (COP 21)

- It was adopted at the United framework convention on climate change(COP21) in Paris in 2015.
- **Objective -** To strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change and specify long-term goals regarding global average temperatures, adaptation to climate change, and finance flows.

Paris agreement Goals

- **Temperature** - To hold global warming below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to put efforts to still limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- **Reduce emissions** - To foster climate resilience and development through lower greenhouse gas emissions by 2030

Intended Nationally Determined Targets(INDCs)

- An Intended Nationally Determined Contribution is a public pledge from a country on collective action on climate change. These contributions are to be achieved before 2030

India's Climate Action Targets at a Glance

Commitment Area	Initial/Updated 2030 Targets	Enhanced 2031-2035 Targets
Emissions Intensity	Reduce GDP emissions intensity by 45% (from 2005 levels).	Reduce GDP emissions intensity by 47% (from 2005 levels).
Non-Fossil Energy Capacity	Achieve 50% of cumulative electric power capacity from non-fossil sources.	Achieve 60% of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources.
Carbon Sinks	Create a sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent.	Create an additional sink of 3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent.

86. LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND

Context

- The **UN Climate Convention's Loss and Damage Fund** earmarked **$21.6 million for Nepal** to address damage caused by the **Bhotekoshi floods**.
- It marks the **first time the Fund has earmarked money for a specific country**, according to the supplied report.

Bhotekoshi Floods

- **Cause:** An ice-and-rock avalanche in August 2026 triggered flooding across the **Bhotekoshi–Trishuli–Narayani river system**.
- **Estimated economic losses:** At least **$2.69 billion**.
- **Recovery needs:** At least **$4.71 billion**.

About the Loss and Damage Fund

- **Objective:** Support developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change in addressing **economic and non-**

economic losses and damages.

- **Financial framework:** Operates under the financial mechanism of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.
- **Establishment:**
  - **COP27 (2022):** Governments agreed to establish the Fund.
  - **COP28 (2023):** Its **Governing Instrument** was adopted.
- **Purpose:** Address climate-related losses arising from **extreme weather events** and **slow-onset events**.
- **Beneficiaries:** Developing countries particularly vulnerable to climate change, especially those with **significant capacity constraints**.

Key Terms

- **Economic losses:** Damage to infrastructure, property, livelihoods and economic activities.
- **Non-economic losses:** Loss of life, cultural heritage, biodiversity and community identity.
- **Slow-onset events:** Gradual climate impacts such as sea-level rise, desertification and ocean acidification.

87.PENGUIN DROPPINGS MAY ACCELERATE SNOWMELT IN ANTARCTICA

Context



- A recent study suggests that **penguin droppings** may accelerate **snowmelt in Antarctica** by promoting the growth of snow algae.

How Do Penguin Droppings Accelerate Snowmelt?

- **Nutrient enrichment:** Penguin droppings deposit nutrients from their marine diet onto land and snow, fertilising algae.
- **Green algae:** Under favourable conditions, algae use **chlorophyll** for **photosynthesis**, supporting rapid growth.
- **Red algae:** Under nutrient stress or other unfavourable conditions, some algae produce **protective red pigments** that help shield their cells from intense sunlight.
- **Reduced reflectivity:** Coloured algae darken the snow, reducing its **albedo** (reflectivity).
- **Increased melting:** Darker snow absorbs more solar energy, potentially accelerating **local snowmelt**.

About Penguins

- **Type:** Flightless, aquatic birds belonging to the family Spheniscidae.
- **Distribution:** Primarily found in the **Southern Hemisphere**, especially Antarctica.
- **Swimming:** Excellent swimmers adapted to aquatic life.
- **Diet:** Mainly fish, krill and squid.
- **Antarctic species:** Emperor penguin and Adélie penguin.
- **Galápagos penguin:** The only penguin species naturally found north of the equator.
- **Conservation:** The emperor penguin and Galápagos penguin are classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List.

Key Term

- **Albedo:** The proportion of incoming solar radiation reflected by a surface. Lower albedo means greater absorption of solar energy.

ECONOMY

88. Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme

News



- **The Ministry of Textiles has extended the RoSCTL Scheme** for exports of apparel/garments

and made-ups for a further term of three months, from 1st October to 31st December 2026.

Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme

- **Launched: 2019**, Ministry of Textiles.
- **Objective:** Rebates **embedded/unrefunded State and Central taxes & levies** on exported textile products that are not covered under other schemes.
- **Principle: Zero-rating of exports** → ensures taxes embedded in exported products are remitted/refunded.
- **Focus:** Supports **apparel and made-up exports**, particularly **MSME exporters**.

Importance:

- Enhances **global competitiveness** of India's labour-intensive textile sector.
- Supports **MSME participation** in global markets.
- Promotes a **dispersed manufacturing ecosystem** across regions.
- Provides **policy continuity and predictability** to exporters.

89. Increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi crops

News

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** for all mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2027-28.

Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)

- **Definition -** It is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- **Announcement and Recommendation -** The Cabinet Committee of Economic
- Affairs announces the MSP at the start of each sowing season, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- **Significance** - MSP protects the producer-farmers against distress sale during bumper production years.

Crops Covered

- The Centre announces the MSP (which is not legally guaranteed) for 22 mandated crops and Fair & Remunerative Price for sugarcane.

These include

- **14 kharif crops** - paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, tur/arhar, moong, urad, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, niger seed, cotton,
- **6 rabi crops -** wheat, barley, gram, masur/ lentil, rapeseed and mustard, and safflower
- **2 commercial crops -** Jute and Copra

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane

- **Recommended by** - Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- **Objective - to assure margins on account of profit and risk to farmers, irrespective of the fact whether sugar mills generate profit or not.**

90. Bond Yield

Context

- The yield on the 30-year US Treasury bond hit the highest level in around 25 years.

About

- **Meaning:** Return an investor expects from holding a bond.
- **Inverse relationship: Bond Price ↑ → Yield ↓; Bond Price ↓ → Yield ↑.**
- **Rise in yield:** Usually indicates investors demand **higher returns**, often due to inflation concerns, higher interest-rate expectations or increased government borrowing.

Impact of higher yields:

- Increases **government borrowing costs**.
- Can attract capital towards bonds, affecting **capital flows and exchange rates**.
- Higher benchmark yields can raise **borrowing**

costs globally.
- May put pressure on **equity markets** as bonds become relatively more attractive.

91. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Growth Fund

Context
- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal by the Ministry of Finance to commit ₹10,000 crore of central government funding for the **setting up of a Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Growth Fund.**

About SME Growth Fund (SGF)
- **Announced:** Union Budget **2026**.
- **Nature:** Direct **equity fund** structured as an **AIF**.
- **Aim:** Provide **patient capital** to high-potential **SMEs** for scaling and expansion.
- **Focus: Manufacturing, technology, innovation, strategic sectors** and **Tier-II/III industrial clusters**.
- **Purpose:** Boost **technology adoption, exports, global value-chain integration and employment**.
- **Need:** Fill the **growth-equity gap** faced by Small & Medium enterprises.

92. India's First-Ever Household Travel Survey

Context
- The **National Statistics Office (NSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** has conducted the first-ever all-India survey on household travel between July 2025 and June 2026.

All-India Household Travel Survey (2025–26)
- **Conducted by:** National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI.
- **Purpose:** To collect data on household travel patterns, mobility, transport choices and travel expenditure across India.
- **Key Focus:** Trip frequency, purpose of travel, mode of transport, distance travelled and associated costs.
- **Significance:** Helps assess transport accessibility, urban and rural mobility, infrastructure needs and sustainable transport planning.

Key Findings
- **Work commute**: Two-wheelers are the predominant mode, used by 42.6% of workers.
- **Overnight travel:** Buses and railways account for 73.5%; cars 15.1%; two-wheelers 8.8%.
- **Gender gap:** Daily work trips exceeding 1 km are undertaken by 61.9% of male workers and 41.9% of female workers.
- **Average monthly commuting expenditure:** ₹785 per worker.
  - Urban: ₹1,044; Rural: ₹612.
  - Male: ₹835; Female: ₹533.

93. 57th GST Council meeting

Context
- **The 57th GST Council meeting i**ntroduced major process and enforcement reforms, including easing registration, refunds and litigation, while proposing to raise the prosecution threshold from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore.

Goods and Service Tax (GST)
- Goods and Services Tax is an **indirect tax used in India on the supply of goods and services.**
- It is a value-added tax **levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption.**
- It was **launched in India in 2017 as a comprehensive indirect tax for the entire country.**

It is of three types i.e.
1. CGST to be levied by the Centre,
2. SGST to be levied by the States and
3. IGST a tax levied on all Inter-State supplies of goods and/or services.

GST Council
- **Legal status -** It is a **Constitutional body under**

Article 279A, introduced by the Constitution **(One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.**

- **Mandate** - It is empowered to modify, reconcile or to procure any law or regulation based on the context of GST in India.
- **Federal body** - It is also considered as a **federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation.**
- **Functions: It makes recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to GST.**
- **Composition**
  - **Chairperson: Union Finance Minister.**
  - **Members: Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States**.

94. Gross Domestic Knowledge Product

Context

- The NITI Aayog member said that India is working on a "Gross Domestic Knowledge Product" (GDKP).

Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP)

- **Concept:** Proposed measure of knowledge generated, accumulated, shared and applied within a country.
- **Objective:** Complement GDP by assessing knowledge resources and their contribution to development.
- **Indicators:** R&D, scientific discoveries, patents, innovation and academic output.
- **GDP Linkage:** Expenditure on Intellectual Property Products (IPP) is recorded under Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in national accounts.

Knowledge Economy

- **Definition:** Economy driven by skills, information, innovation and intellectual property.
- Types of Knowledge:
  - **Codified:** Documented and transferable knowledge, e.g., patents, software and research.
  - **Tacit:** Experience-based knowledge, e.g., artisanal skills and traditional practices.
- **India's Examples:** IT sector, start-ups, pharmaceutical R&D and traditional knowledge systems.
- **Significance:** Could improve recognition of knowledge-based development beyond conventional economic output.

95. World Cotton Day

Context



- India and Mali jointly organised a UN event on "Cotton for Sustainability: Livelihoods, Value Addition and Partnership.

World Cotton Day

- **Observed:** 7 October, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly.
- **First observed:** 7 October 2019, in Geneva.
- **Origin:** Proposed by the Cotton Four (C-4) countries — Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad and Mali.
- **Objective:** Promote cotton, its by-products, markets and livelihoods.

Cotton Production in India

- **White Gold:** Cotton is economically important for India's agricultural and textile sectors.
- **Global significance:** Cotton accounts for around 23% of global fibre production.
- **Cotton species:** India is the only country cultivating all four recognised cotton species.
- **Asian cotton:** *Gossypium arboreum* and *Gossypium herbaceum*.

Major Cotton-Growing Zones

- **Northern Zone:** Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- **Central Zone:** Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

- **Southern Zone:** Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- **Other states:** Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

Bt Cotton

- **Bt:** *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a naturally occurring soil bacterium.
- **Introduction:** Commercially introduced in India in 2002.
- **Purpose:** Provides resistance against bollworms, reducing crop losses and insecticide use.

Government Initiatives

- MSP for Cotton (2026–27)
- **Mission for Cotton Productivity (2025–26)** - Five-year mission to develop high-yielding, pest-resistant and climate-resilient varieties.
- **Kapas Kisan App** - Facilitates farmer self-registration and booking of procurement slots under the MSP system.
- **Kasturi Cotton Bharat** - Promotes Indian cotton through traceability, certification, branding and improved global market positioning.

96. Khadi and Village Industries (KVI)

Context

- **Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) have continued to play a significant role in promoting rural livelihoods,** generating employment and strengthening the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- **Establishment:** Statutory body established in 1957 under the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- **Objectives:** Promote khadi and village industries, generate rural employment, encourage self-employment and strengthen local production.
- **Functions:** Financial assistance, artisan training, marketing support and development of village-based enterprises.

Major Initiatives

- **Khadi Vikas Yojana (KVY)** - Promotes the khadi sector through:

1. Modified Market Development Assistance (MMDA).
2. Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC).
3. Workshed Scheme for Khadi Artisans.
4. Strengthening of existing weak Khadi Institutions.
5. Assistance for Marketing Infrastructure.
6. Khadi Science and Technology initiatives.

- **Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (GVY)** - Promotes village industries through common facilities, technology upgradation, training and toolkit distribution.
- **Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK)** - Established by KVIC in collaboration with the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi**.
- **Objective:** Design intervention, product development and market support for khadi products.
- **Significance**

1. Creates rural employment and supports traditional artisans.
2. Promotes self-reliance and local entrepreneurship.
3. Preserves traditional skills while improving product quality and market access.

97.Aatmanirbharta in Pulses



Context

- **India is the world's largest producer of pulses,** yet it remains a major importer.

Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

- The Mission was launched for **2025–26 to 2030–31 w**ith a budgetary allocation of **₹11,440 crore.**
- **Objective -** It aims **to make India self-sufficient in pulses production**, reducing dependence on imports in light of rising domestic demand.
- It aims to ensure **100 percent procurement of Tur, Urad, and Masoor at MSP for four years**.

98. Additional Information- Pulses Production and Consumption in India

- **Global Leade**r: India is the **largest global producer (25%), consumer (27%), & importer (14%) of pulses.**
- **Seasonal Production:** Pulses are **grown in Kharif and Rabi seasons**
- **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan are the top three pulses producing states** in the country.

Government Initiatives for Achieving Self-Sufficiency in Pulse Production

- **National Food Security Mission (NFSM-Pulses**): Boosts area, production, and productivity through HYV seeds, improved agronomy, and demonstrations.
- **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Pulses**: Regularly revised MSPs (E.g., Tur ₹7000/qtl in 2023-24) ensure price security and encourage pulse cultivation.
- **Seed Hub Program by ICAR-IIPR**: Expands availability of certified, short-duration, and high-yielding pulse seeds at the grassroots level.
- **PM-AASHA Scheme:** Ensures MSP realisation via Price Deficiency Payment (PDP) and targeted procurement by private and public agencies.
- **Climate-Resilient Varieties Development (ICAR)**: Develops varieties resistant to drought, pests, and diseases suited to changing climates.
- **e-NAM Integration for Pulses:** Enhances market access, reduces middlemen, and enables transparent price discovery through online pulse trading.

99. India's Anti-Dumping Probe into Penicillin G Imports

Context

- **India has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Penicillin G.**

Penicillin G

- **Type:** Beta-lactam antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections.
- **Significance:** Used as an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) and Key Starting Material (KSM) in medicine manufacturing.
- **Uses:** Treatment of infections such as pneumonia, meningitis, diphtheria and certain dental infections.

Season-wise Major Pulses Crops

Season	Pulses
Kharif	Arhar, Urd, Moong, Lobia, Kulthi and Moth
Rabi	Gram, Lentil, Pea, Lathyrus and Rajma
Spring	Urd, Moong, Lobia

Anti-Dumping Duty — UPSC

- **Meaning:** Additional customs duty imposed on imports sold below their normal value when dumping causes or threatens material injury to domestic industry.
- **Objective:** Protect domestic industries against unfair price competition, not to prohibit imports.
- **DGTR:** Directorate General of Trade Remedies, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, investigates dumping and recommends duties.

- **Imposition:** The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, decides whether to impose the duty.

100. Calibrated Tightening of Monetary Policy

Context (IE):

- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI raised the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.5%** and shifted its stance from neutral to calibrated tightening.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- **Established under -** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) constituted by the Central Government under **Section 45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934.**
- **Meeting -** The MPC is required to **meet at least four times in a year.**
- **Composition:** The committee comprises **six members.**
- Out of the six members, **three are internal -including the RBI governor who chairs the committee.**
    - **RBI's deputy governor is the second internal member.**
    - The **third member is one RBI official who is nominated by the central board of RBI**. Usually, it is the executive director in-charge of monetary policy.
    - The **other three are external members who are appointed for four years.**
- **Voting:** Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the **Governor has a second or casting vote.**
- **Significance of constituting the MPC:** MPC was set up consequent to the agreement reached between Government and RBI **to task RBI with the responsibility for price stability and inflation targeting.**
    - The Reserve Bank of India and Government of India signed the **Monetary Policy Framework Agreement.**
- **Functions:** The MPC determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target. It acts as a benchmark for all other interest rates in the economy.

Monetary Policy Tools in India

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

101. Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) Tax

News

- Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax is back in debate as investors, markets and economists question whether it helps or hurts capital formation.

LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS (LTCG) TAX

- **Meaning:** Tax on profits earned from selling a capital asset held beyond the specified period.
- **Holding Period: 12 months** for listed equity shares; **24 months** for property and unlisted shares.
- **LTCG on Listed Equity: 12.5%** on annual gains exceeding **₹1.25 lakh**.

SHORT-TERM CAPITAL GAINS (STCG) TAX

- **Meaning:** Tax on profits earned from selling a capital asset held for a short period.
- **Holding Period:** For listed equity shares and equity-oriented mutual funds, **12 months or**

less.
- **Tax Rate: 20%** on specified short-term gains from listed equity shares and equity-oriented mutual funds, subject to applicable conditions.

102. Improved Soybean Varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270

News



- **The ICAR–National Soybean Research Institute,** Indore, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) **showcased the yield potential of the improved soybean Varieties NRC 268 and NRC 270.**

IMPROVED SOYBEAN VARIETIES — NRC 268 AND NRC 270

- **Developed by:** ICAR–National Soybean Research Institute, Indore.
- **Yield:** Around **20 quintals/hectare**, potentially reaching **22–25 quintals/hectare** under favourable conditions.
- **NRC 270:** Larger, heavier seeds with potentially better market prices.
- **Resilience:** Designed to withstand irregular rainfall, dry spells, pests and diseases.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN INDIA

- **Scientific Name:** *Glycine max*; belongs to the **Fabaceae** family.
- **Crop Type: Kharif oilseed**, grown mainly during the southwest monsoon.
- **Leading States:** Madhya Pradesh, followed by Maharashtra.
- **Climate:** Warm conditions with adequate soil moisture.
- **Nitrogen Fixation:** Root nodules host **Rhizobium** bacteria, which fix atmospheric nitrogen.
- **Government Support:** MSP is announced for soybean; ICAR develops improved varieties to enhance productivity and resilience.

103. Oman Replaces US as top LNG supplier to India

News

- Oman became India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG), replacing the United States.

LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG)

- **Definition:** Natural gas cooled to approximately **–162°C** to convert it into liquid form.
- **Volume Reduction:** Liquefaction reduces its volume to about **1/600th** of its gaseous volume.
- **Transport:** Carried in insulated LNG ships and converted back into gas through **regasification** at import terminals.

USES OF LNG

- **Power Generation** and fertilizer production.
- **City Gas Distribution:** Domestic cooking and transport.
- Industrial and Commercial Applications.

REASONS FOR SUPPLIER RANKING CHANGES

- **Geopolitical Disruptions:** West Asian tensions affected energy supply routes.
- **Global Competition:** European demand for US LNG reduced cargo availability for India.
- **Qatar Disruption:** Reported damage at Ras Laffan Industrial City following an Iranian strike in March 2026 affected Qatari shipments.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA

- **Energy Security:** Diversifying suppliers reduces dependence on a few countries.
- **Price Stability:** Multiple sources improve supply flexibility.
- **Import Vulnerability:** India remains exposed to geopolitical tensions, global competition and international price fluctuations.

104. India's Coir Sector

Context

- **India's coir sector is gaining importance as a sustainable, export-oriented industry**

that promotes rural livelihoods, women's empowerment and value addition to agricultural waste.



COIR INDUSTRY

- **Definition:** Coir is a natural fibre extracted from the outer husk of coconuts, used to make mats, ropes, brushes and mattresses.
- **Global Position:** India is the world's largest producer and exporter of coir and coir products, accounting for around two-thirds of global production.
- **Employment:** Provides direct and indirect employment to over **7 lakh people**, around **80% of whom are women**.
- **Exports:** Reached **₹6,614.40 crore in FY 2025–26**, compared with ₹1,630.33 crore in FY 2014–15.
- **Udyam Registration:** Over **21,000 coir units**, employing around 2.3 lakh people.

COIR VIKAS YOJANA (CVY)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- **Objective:** Sustainable development and modernisation of the coir industry.
- **Key Interventions:**
  - **Skill Development:** Training for artisans, especially rural women.
  - **Research and Technology:** Improved machinery and production techniques.
  - **Market Promotion:** Domestic sales, exports and trade fair participation.
  - **Financial Assistance:** Support for production infrastructure.

105. World Food Day 2026

Context

- The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) celebrated World Food Day 2026.**



WORLD FOOD DAY 2026

- **Observed:** 16 October; marks the founding of **FAO in 1945**.
- **Theme 2026: "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."**
- **Objective:** Raise awareness about **hunger** and promote **global food security**.

Food Security Concerns — SOFI 2026

- **Global hunger: 7.8%** of the global population faced hunger in **2025**.
- **India's undernourishment: 142.5 million (9.8%)** in 2023–25, down from **243.9 million** in 2004–06.
- **Healthy diet cost: PPP $4.11 per person per day** in India in 2025.
- **Affordability crisis: 520.1 million Indians (35.5%)** could not afford a healthy diet.
- **Child malnutrition: Stunting — 32.9%; Wasting — 18.7%**.
- **Emerging concerns:** Rising **childhood overweight, adult obesity and women's anaemia**.

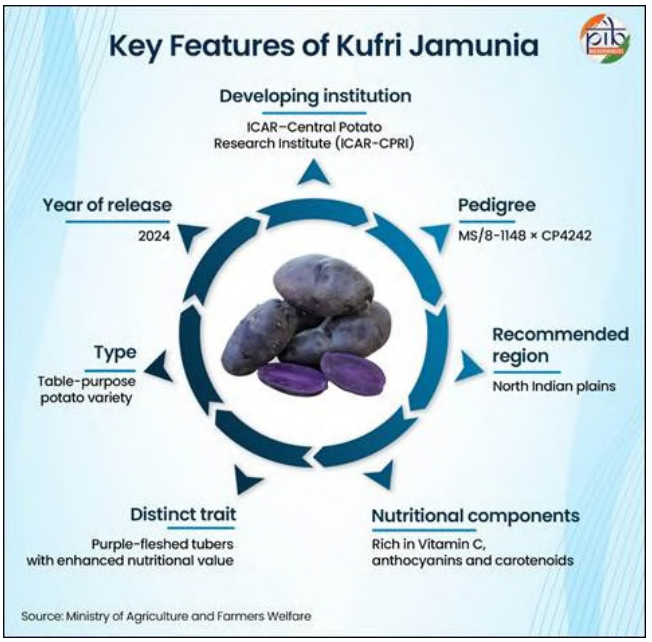
Additional Information - India's Food Security Framework

- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** Subsidised foodgrains for up to **75% of the rural** and **50% of the urban population**, covering around **81 crore people**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY): Free foodgrains** for eligible beneficiaries; extended until **2028**, as stated in the supplied source.
- **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS):** Foodgrain distribution to **eligible households**.
- **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC): Nationwide ration portability**, especially for migrant workers.
- **Digitisation: Aadhaar seeding and digitised ration cards** help reduce leakages.
- **PM POSHAN:** School meal programme to improve **children's nutrition, attendance**

and retention.

- **Food fortification:** Fortification of **rice, wheat flour and edible oils**.
- **Poshan Tracker:** Monitors children's growth and **nutritional status**.
- **Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0:** Integrates **Anganwadi Services, POSHAN Abhiyaan and support for adolescent girls** to combat malnutrition.

106. India's Nutrient-Rich Purple Potato



Context

- An important outcome of biofortification research has been the **development of coloured potato varieties with enhanced nutritional value.**

ICAR–CPRI Coloured Potato Varieties

- Developed nutrient-rich varieties: **Kufri Neelkanth, Kufri Manik and Kufri Jamunia**.
- Contain **anthocyanins, iron and zinc**, which contribute to nutritional quality.

Kufri Jamunia

- **Released:** 2024.
- **Features:** Purple flesh, high antioxidant content and higher levels of **ascorbic acid, anthocyanins and carotenoids** compared with Kufri Manik and Kufri Neelkanth.
- **Nutritional value:** Enhanced levels of **iron and zinc**.
- **Performance:** Stable in multi-location trials; recommended for cultivation in the **North Indian plains**.

Connect with the basics - Biofortification

- **Definition:** Biofortification is the process of increasing the **nutritional value of crops** by enhancing **vitamins, minerals and essential nutrients** through **plant breeding, agronomic practices or biotechnology**.
- **Objective:** To address **hidden hunger** (micronutrient deficiencies despite adequate calorie intake).
- **Methods: Conventional plant breeding, agronomic biofortification** and **genetic engineering**.
- **Benefits:** Improves **nutritional security**, reduces **micronutrient deficiencies** and provides a **cost-effective, sustainable approach** to combating malnutrition.
- **Examples: Iron-rich pearl millet, zinc-rich wheat, vitamin A-rich sweet potato** and **biofortified coloured potatoes**.
- **Significance for India:** Helps tackle **anaemia, micronutrient deficiencies** and **malnutrition**, complementing **food fortification** and **nutrition programmes**.

107. Organic Palmyra Jaggery Powder Export to Bulgaria

News



- India exported its first consignment of organic Palmyra Jaggery Powder to Bulgaria.

Organic Palmyra Jaggery

- **Origin: Gobichettipalayam, Erode district, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Preparation:** Made from the **nectar of Palmyra palm blossoms**; a traditional natural sweetener.
- **Certification:** Certified under India's **National**

Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) and **European Union organic standards**.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- **Established:** 1986 under the **APEDA Act, 1985**.
- **Nature: Statutory authority**.
- **Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi**.
- **Role:** Promotes the export of **agricultural and processed food products** from India.

108. Ramesh Chand Committee

- **Context:** The Union Government constituted a committee chaired by **Professor Ramesh Chand**, former NITI Aayog Member, to examine sugarcane farmers' issues.
- **Mandate:** Review the demand for increasing **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)** for sugarcane and revising the **Minimum Selling Price (MSP)** of sugar at the ex-mill level.

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)

- **Meaning:** Minimum price that sugar mills are legally required to pay sugarcane farmers.
- **Determination:** Fixed by the **Central Government** based on CACP recommendations, after consulting State Governments and stakeholders.
- **Legal Basis: Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966**, issued under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.

Sugar Production in India

- **India became the world's top sugar producer in 2021-2022, surpassing Brazil.**
- **Location of Sugar Industry in India:** Sugar industry is broadly distributed over two major areas of production:

1. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab in the north and
2. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in the south.

Sugarcane - Uses

- **It belongs to the bamboo family of plants and is indigenous to India.**
- **About two-third of the total sugarcane produced in India is consumed for making gur and khandsari and only one-third of it goes to sugar factories.**
- It also provides **raw material for manufacturing alcohol.**
- **Bagasse,** the crushed cane residue, can be more beneficially used for **manufacturing paper.**
- **Ethanol production** - It is also an efficient substitute for petroleum products and a host of other chemical products.
- **India has become the 3rd largest country in the world in ethanol production after the USA and Brazil.**

Conditions for growth

- **Crop duration: 10-15 months, and even 18 months** to mature, depending upon geographical conditions.
- **Soil: Sugarcane can tolerate any kind of soil that can retain moisture. Examples - loams, clayey, black cotton soil, brown or reddish loam and laterites.**
- It should be **rich in nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus.**
- **Climate**: Hot and Humid **(21-27 °C of temperature and 75-150 cm of rainfall).**

GOVERNMENT SCHEME

109. PM-SETU- One Year of Transforming India's ITIs

Context

- **The PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) scheme** marks one year of implementation.

PM-SETU

- **Launched:** 2025
- **Full form: Prime Minister's Scheme for**

Upgradation of ITIs

- **Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme**
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
- **Aim:** Transform **1,000 Government ITIs** into modern, industry-aligned skill-training institutions.
- **Focus:** Modern infrastructure, smart classrooms, advanced labs, digital content and **new-age industry-oriented courses**.
- **Industry participation: Anchor Industry Partners** through **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** for industry-led governance.
- **Centres of Excellence:** 5 National Skill Training Institutes at **Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Ludhiana**.

110. Agnipath Scheme

Context

- The **first batch of Agniveers is approaching the completion of its four-year service tenure**.
- In this backdrop, the **Army, Navy and Air Force** have submitted their **feedback and recommendations on the implementation of the Agnipath Scheme** to the **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** .

Agnipath Scheme

- **Introduced: 2022**
- **Also known as: Tour of Duty** scheme.
- **Nature:** Short-term recruitment scheme for the **Indian Armed Forces**.
- **Recruits:** Called **Agniveers**.
- **Service tenure: 4 years**.
- **Retention:** Up to **25%** of each batch can be selected for **regular service** of **15 years**.
- **Exit:** The remaining **75%** exit after four years with a **Seva Nidhi** package.
- **Age: 17.5–21 years** *(subject to applicable recruitment notifications)*.
- **Objective:**

1. Provide youth an opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces.
2. Create a **younger and more technologically skilled force**.
3. Reduce the average age profile of the Armed Forces.

111. National Coastal Mission 2.0

News



- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change,** launched the Guidelines for implementation of National Coastal Mission (NCM 2.0).

National Coastal Mission 2.0

- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme | **Ministry:** MoEFCC
- **Period: 2025–26 to 2030–31**
- **Coverage: 9 coastal States + 4 UTs**
- **Focus: Coastal resilience, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity, pollution control & sustainable tourism.**
- **Key measures:**

1. Climate adaptation & mitigation
2. Conservation of **mangroves and marine ecosystems**
3. **ICZMP & Coastal Marine Spatial Planning**
4. Resilient livelihoods for coastal communities
5. Coastal pollution management
6. Research, capacity building & awareness

- **Goal:** Promote **climate-resilient Blue Economy**, Atmanirbhar Bharat and fulfil international environmental commitments.

112. Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)

News-

- All 100 PMDDKY districts increased their average score from 18.85 in April 2026 to 46.89 in August 2026.

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

- **Launched in - 2025.** The scheme will be launched in partnership with states.

Key Focus Areas:

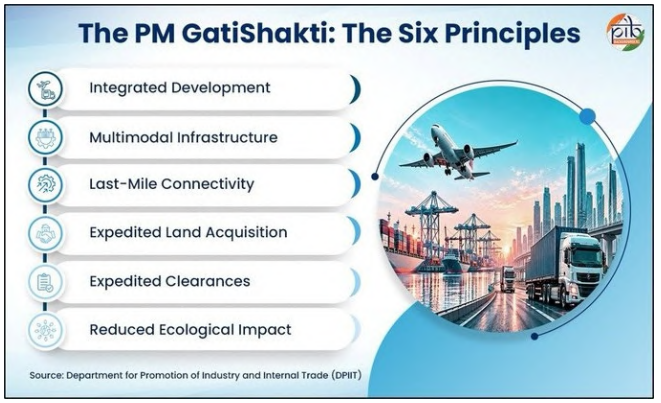
- Enhancing agricultural productivity.

- Promoting crop diversification and sustainable practices.
- Expanding post-harvest storage at Panchayat and Block levels.
- Improving irrigation facilities.
- Facilitating long-term and short-term credit access.

Building Rural Prosperity and Resilience Program

- **Purpose**: launched in partnership with states **to address under-employment in agriculture.**
- **Key Focus Areas: Skilling, investment, and technology to invigorate rural economy. Modernizing agriculture with improved productivity and warehousing.**
- **Target Beneficiaries**: **Rural women, young farmers, marginal & small farmers and landless families.**

113. Five Years of PM GatiShakti



Context

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) has completed five years.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP)

- **Launched:** 13 October 2021.
- **Nodal Department:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Objective:** Integrate multimodal infrastructure planning, improve last-mile connectivity and reduce logistics costs and travel time.

Key Features

- Seven Infrastructure Engines: Roads, Railways, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport and Logistics Infrastructure.
- **Integrated Planning:** Integrates infrastructure schemes such as **Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways and UDAN.**
- **Whole-of-Government Approach:** Covers **58 Central Ministries/Departments and all 36 States and Union Territories.**
- **GIS-Based Platform:** Integrates geospatial and infrastructure data for coordinated planning and decision-making.
- **Public Platform:** Provides access to approved datasets for connectivity mapping, site suitability and project planning.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)

- Established: 2022; a specialised university focused on transport and logistics.
- **Role:** Provides education, training and research to support PM GatiShakti and the National Logistics Policy, 2022.
- **Training:** As of July 2026, had trained over 2.4 lakh officers through PM GatiShakti-related courses.

114. JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Initiative

News -

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Initiative under Tuberculosis (TB) Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

JOSH Initiative

- **Implementation:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Ministry of Defence and Government of NCT of Delhi.
- **Objective:** Strengthen community-level outreach and public participation in India's TB elimination programme.
- **Team Composition:** Five MY Bharat Volunteers and five NCC Cadets, led by a

designated Class-I officer at the block/ward level.

- **Key Stakeholders:** Government functionaries, health workers, Panchayati Raj Institutions and local communities.
- **Coverage:** First phase launched across 55 districts in 11 States/Union Territories.
- **Significance:** Promotes *Jan Bhagidari* (people's participation) through regular outreach and field-level activities to support TB elimination.



Additional Information - World Tuberculosis Day

- The day is observed **to commemorate the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of the TB bacteria in 1882.**
- **2026 Theme - Yes! We can end TB**

Tuberculosis

- **Caused by** - It is caused by bacteria called **Mycobacterium tuberculosis.**
- **Transmission** - It **spreads from person to person** through the air when people cough, sneeze or spit.
- **Symptoms - Cough, chest pain, weakness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats.**
- **Treatment** - TB is a treatable and curable disease by antimicrobial drugs.
- **Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)** is a form of TB caused by bacteria that do not respond to isoniazid and rifampicin, the two most powerful, first-line anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB is treatable and curable by using second-line drugs.

115. Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY)

News

- The Union Cabinet has renamed the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) as the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (PMSSY)

NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (NSAP)

- **Launch:** 15 August 1995.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Nature:** Centrally Sponsored, non-contributory social assistance programme.
- **Objective:** Financial assistance to vulnerable BPL households, including elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities and families losing their primary breadwinner.
- **Constitutional Basis: Article 41** of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).

KEY COMPONENTS

- **Old-Age Pension:** Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS).
- **Widow Pension:** Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS).
- **Disability Pension:** Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS).
- **Family Benefit:** National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) provides a one-time grant following the death of the primary breadwinner in an eligible BPL household.

DISABILITY PENSION — KEY PROVISIONS

- **Eligibility:** Benchmark disability of

40% or more, as stated in the supplied announcement.

- **Age Requirement:** The announcement states that the minimum age limit has been removed.
- **Monthly Assistance:** ₹375 for beneficiaries aged 0–79 years and ₹625 for those aged 80 years and above, as stated in the supplied announcement.
- **Coverage:** Approximately **3.20 crore beneficiaries**, according to the announcement.

116. 2 Years of PM Internship Scheme

Context

- The PM Internship Scheme has completed 2 years of its implementation.

PM Internship Scheme

- **Objective:** To provide internship opportunities to youth in leading companies, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and practical skills.
- **Ministry**: Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- **Duration**: The internship lasts for 12 months.
- **Stipend**: Interns will receive a monthly stipend of ₹5,000 for the entire year.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Must be an Indian citizen.
  - Must be aged between 21-24 years.
  - Should not be employed full-time or engaged in full-time education.

117. 10 Years of UDAN Scheme

News

- The UDAN Scheme completed ten years and considerably expanded the regional aviation network of India by linking unserved and underserved areas.

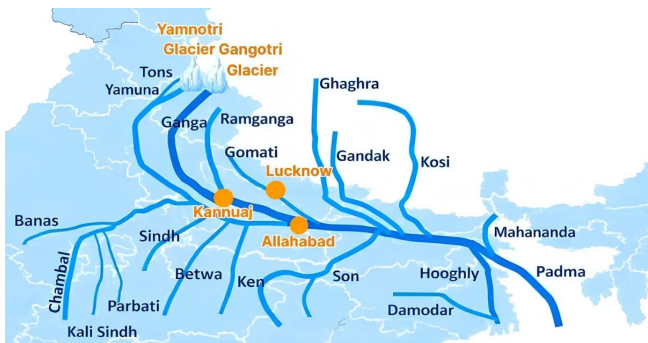
UDAN

- **Full Form:** *Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik*.
- **Launch:** 2016.
- **Ministry: Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- **Framework:** Regional Connectivity Scheme (**RCS**) under the **National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP), 2016**.
- **Objective:** Provide **affordable air connectivity** to **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities** and underserved regions.
- **First Flight: Shimla–Delhi**, April 2017.
- **Mechanism:** Airline concessions and **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** to support regional routes.

Significance

- **Inclusive Growth:** Connects smaller cities to national markets.
- **Regional Development:** Improves connectivity to the **North-East, hills and islands**.
- **Economic Growth:** Promotes **tourism, MSMEs and perishable-goods exports**.
- **Employment:** Supports **regional aircraft, MRO services and pilot training**.
- **Infrastructure:** Expands regional airports and aviation services.

118. Namami Gange



Context

- The programme adopts a **multi-technology approach to wastewater treatment**, combining infrastructure development, decentralised solutions, rehabilitation and long-term operation.

About Namami Gange

- **Launch:** 2014.
- **Nature:** Integrated Conservation Mission.
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- **Implementing Agency: National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**.
- **Objectives: Pollution abatement,**

conservation and rejuvenation of the River Ganga.

Major Pillars

- **Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure:** Construction and rehabilitation of sewage treatment plants (STPs).
- **Riverfront Development:** Development of ghats and crematoria.
- **River-Surface Cleaning:** Removal of floating waste.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Protection of aquatic ecosystems and species.
- **Afforestation:** Plantation along the Ganga basin.
- **Public Awareness:** Community participation and behavioural change.
- **Industrial Effluent Monitoring:** Monitoring and control of industrial pollution.
- **Ganga Gram:** Promoting sanitation and cleanliness in villages along the Ganga.

Significance

- Improves **river-water quality** and sanitation.
- Reduces the discharge of **untreated sewage and industrial effluents**.
- Supports **aquatic biodiversity and ecological restoration**.
- Promotes sustainable river management through **technology and community participation**.

Additional Information - GANGA RIVER

Origin and Course

- **Origin:** Gangotri Glacier (Gaumukh), Uttarakhand; the headstream is called the **Bhagirathi**.
- **Confluence:** Bhagirathi meets the **Alaknanda at Devprayag**, forming the Ganga.
- **Length:** Approximately **2,525 km**.
- **Drainage Basin:** India and Bangladesh.
- **Outfall:** Enters the Bay of Bengal through the **Ganga–Brahmaputra–Meghna delta**.

Major Tributaries

- **Left-bank tributaries:** Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda.
- **Right-bank tributaries:** Yamuna, Son, Punpun and Damodar.

States Through Which It Flows

- **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal**.
- In Bangladesh, its main distributary is known as the **Padma**.

Important Features

- **Largest river basin in India** by drainage area.
- The **Yamuna** is a major tributary, joining the Ganga at **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The **Sundarbans Delta**, formed by the Ganga–Brahmaputra river system, is among the world's largest deltas.
- Supports agriculture, drinking water, transport, fisheries and biodiversity.

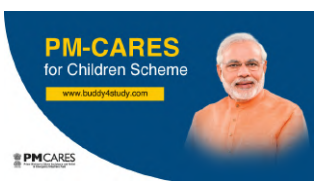
Ecological Significance

- Habitat of the **Gangetic river dolphin** — India's National Aquatic Animal.
- Other important species include the **gharial** and several freshwater turtle species.
- The Ganga basin supports a large share of India's population and agricultural activity.

Major Government Initiatives

- **Namami Gange Programme (2014):** Pollution abatement, conservation and rejuvenation of the Ganga.
- **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):** Implements the Namami Gange Programme.
- **Ganga Action Plan:** Launched in **1985** to reduce river pollution.

119. PM CARES for Children Scheme



- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has notified Aadhaar authentication or proof of possession of an Aadhaar number as a requirement for availing benefits under the **Special Scholarship Scheme of PM**

CARES for Children.

About -

- **Launch: 2021, to support children who lost both parents, a surviving parent, legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Objective:** Ensure comprehensive care, protection and well-being of affected children.

Key Features

- **Education:** Support for **school education, scholarships and continuation of higher education.**
- **Financial Assistance:** Provision of **₹10 lakh upon attaining 23 years of age.**
- **Health Coverage: Health insurance under Ayushman Bharat–PM-JAY,** as per scheme provisions.

POLITY

120. SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

Context

- The **Calcutta High Court has observed that casteist abuses on social media can attract the provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989,** saying the "public view" under the Act cannot be confined to physical venues only.

SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

- **Enacted:** 1989; came into force in 1990.
- **Aim:** Prevent atrocities against **SCs/STs** and provide **speedy justice, relief and rehabilitation**.
- **Key features:**
  - Defines and penalises specific atrocities.
  - **Special/Exclusive Special Courts** for speedy trials.
  - Protection and rights for **victims and witnesses**.
  - Relief and rehabilitation for victims.
- **2015 Amendment:** Expanded offences and strengthened victim/witness safeguards.
- **2018 Amendment:** No **preliminary enquiry** for FIR registration and no **prior approval** for arrest under the Act.
- **Significance:** Legal safeguard against **caste-based violence and discrimination**. Promotes a **free, open and cooperative maritime environment** in the Indo-Pacific.

121. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

News

- An Indian Pazrliamentary Delegation, led by the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, has departed for Tanzania, to participate in the 153rd Assembly of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).**

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

- Global organisation of **national parliaments** promoting **parliamentary diplomacy, democracy, human rights and international cooperation**.
- **Established: 1889, Paris**.
- **Founders: William Randal Cremer (UK)** and **Frédéric Passy (France)**.
- **Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Membership: 183 Member Parliaments + 15 Associate Members**.
- **India:** Member of the IPU and uses it as a platform for **parliamentary diplomacy**.
- **Key functions:**

1. Promotes dialogue among parliamentarians.
2. Builds international consensus.
3. Strengthens democratic institutions and human rights.
4. Facilitates discussion on **peace, terrorism, climate change and governance**.

- **153rd IPU Assembly:** Held in **Tanzania**, with an Indian delegation led by **Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh**.

122. Mahanadi Water Dispute



News -

- The Union Home Minister chaired a meeting with the Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Odisha in New Delhi **to resolve the long-standing Mahanadi water dispute.**

Mahanadi Water Dispute

- **Parties: Odisha & Chhattisgarh** over sharing of Mahanadi waters.
- **Issue:** Odisha alleges that **upstream barrages in Chhattisgarh** reduce non-monsoon flow into the **Hirakud Reservoir**.
- **Tribunal: Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal**, constituted in **March 2018** under the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**.
- **Constitutional basis: Article 262**.
- **Riparian position:** Chhattisgarh = **upper riparian**; Odisha = **lower riparian**.
- **Other parties:** Jharkhand, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh.

Article 262

- Parliament may provide for **adjudication of inter-State river water disputes**.
- Parliament may **exclude the Supreme Court and other courts' jurisdiction** over such disputes.

Additional Information - Mahanadi

- **Length:** ~851 km; major **east-flowing Peninsular river**.
- **Source:** Near **Pharsiya village, Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh**.
- **Course:** Chhattisgarh → Odisha → **Bay of Bengal**; forms a delta near **Cuttack**.
- **Tributaries:**

1. **Left:** Seonath (longest), Hasdeo, Mand, Ib
2. **Right:** Ong, Tel, Jonk

- **Major Projects: Ravishankar Sagar**, **Hirakud Dam**, **Naraj Barrage**.
- **Hirakud Dam:** Near Sambalpur, Odisha; noted as the **world's longest earthen dam** (~25.8 km including dykes).
- **Hirakud Reservoir: Ramsar site (2021)**.
- **Satkosia Gorge:** Mahanadi cuts through the **Eastern Ghats** in Odisha; located within **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**.

123. People's Plan Campaign



News -

- Special Gram Sabhas were convened on Gandhi Jayanti **to mark the launch of the People's Plan Campaign 2026-27, "Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas".**

124. About

- **Launched: 2018** by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).
- **2026–27 Theme: "Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas"**.
- **Aim:** Prepare **participatory & comprehensive Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs)** for economic development and social justice.
- **Coverage:** All **29 subjects of the 11th Schedule**.
- **Process: Gram Sabha → identifies local needs/priorities → Panchayat prepares plan → uploaded on eGramSwaraj**.
- **Nodal Ministry: MoPR**; State Panchayati Raj Departments coordinate with line departments.

125. Gram Sabha

- **Article 243(b):** Body of persons **registered in electoral rolls** of a village within a Panchayat area.
- **Article 243A:** Powers/functions determined by the State **Legislature**.
- **Not a tier of Panchayati Raj:** It is a **permanent body of village voters**.
- **Functions:** Discuss/approve development plans, review expenditure and monitor Panchayat activities.

126. The National SC-ST Hub (NSSH)

Context

- **The National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) is emerging as an important initiative** to strengthen entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) — UPSC

- **Launched:** 2016 by the Ministry of MSME.
- **Implementing Agency:** National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).
- **Objective:** Promote SC/ST entrepreneurship and improve participation of SC/ST-owned enterprises in public procurement.

Key Features

- **Enterprise Development:** Training, mentoring, networking and business support.
- **Capital Subsidy:** 25% subsidy, up to ₹25 lakh, for eligible plant, machinery and equipment investments financed through institutional credit.
- **Single Point Registration Scheme (SPRS):** Facilitates government procurement; registered MSEs receive free tender sets and EMD exemption.
- **Marketing Assistance (SMAS):** Supports exhibitions, trade fairs, workshops and awareness programmes.
- **Loan Processing Support:** Reimbursement of 80% of processing fees or ₹1 lakh, whichever is lower.
- **Business Accelerator Programme (BAP):** Provides structured mentorship and business development support.
- **Leading States:** Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Assam.
- **Significance:** Promotes inclusive entrepreneurship, improves market access and strengthens the participation of SC/ST-owned MSEs in government procurement.

127. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)

News -

- The Experts highlight concerns regarding the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, to balance national security with constitutional liberties.**

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967

- **Objective: Prevent unlawful activities threatening India's sovereignty and territorial integrity** and address terrorism-related offences.
- **Constitutional Basis:** Parliament's legislative powers under the Constitution, including relevant provisions of the Union List.
- **2004 Amendment:** Incorporated terrorist

activities within the Act's framework.

- **2019 Amendment: Empowered the Central Government to designate individuals as terrorists under specified conditions.**
- **Implementing Agencies: National Investigation Agency (NIA)** and other Central and State law enforcement agencies.

128. Lakshadweep Becomes a Fully Literate Union Territory

Context

- Lakshadweep has achieved full literacy status under the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.

ULLAS Scheme

- **Full Name: Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.**
- **Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme (2022–2027), aligned with NEP 2020.**
- **Target Group: Non-literate adults aged 15 years and above.**
- **Five Components:**
  1. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
  2. Critical Life Skills
  3. Basic Education
  4. Vocational Skills
  5. Continuing Education
- **Objective:** Build a *Jan-Jan Saakshar* India through volunteerism and *Kartavya Bodh* (sense of duty).

Literacy in India

- **Census Definition:** A person **aged 7 years or above who can read and write with understanding in any language.**
- **Expanded Definition:** Includes **reading, writing and numeracy with comprehension, along with digital and financial literacy** and other critical life skills.
- **Full Literacy:** A State/UT is considered fully literate upon achieving a **literacy rate of 95% or above.**

129. India Mobile Congress 2026

Context (AIR):

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC)** at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi.

About:

- A digital technology forum comprising an international conference and technology exhibition.
- **Organisers:** Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- **Objective:** Provides a platform for industry, businesses, regulators and policymakers to discuss issues concerning the telecom and technology sectors.
- **Started:** 2017; held annually.
- **Theme 2026:** "Scale Without Boundaries".
- **Significance:** Highlights India's growing capabilities in digital innovation, next-generation connectivity and technology-led growth.

130. Namo Bharat Diwas 2026

Context (PIB):



- National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) celebrated **Namo Bharat Diwas 2026 on October 17, to mark the anniversary of the launch of Namo Bharat services for the public.**

About:

- **India's Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** service for **fast, comfortable intercity travel.**
- **First Corridor: Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut, approximately 82 km.**
- **Inauguration:** First priority section (Sahibabad–Duhai Depot) inaugurated on **20 October 2023**.
- **Objectives: Reduce travel time, road congestion and vehicular emissions; promote regional development.**

- **Implementing Agency: National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)**, incorporated in 2013 as a joint venture of the Centre and **Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh governments.**

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

131. Central Armed Police Forces Act Comes into Force

Context

- The **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 came into force** from October 8, 2026.

Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 — UPSC

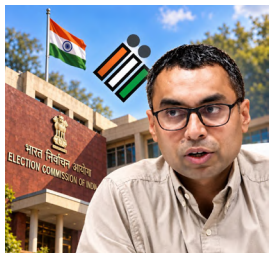
- **Effective Date:** 8 October 2026.
- **Objective: Regulates recruitment, promotion, deputation and service conditions** of officers in CAPFs.
- **CAPFs Covered:** BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP and SSB.
- **IPS Deputation:**
  - **67% of Additional DG posts and 50% of IG posts reserved for IPS officers** on deputation.
  - Special DG and DG posts filled exclusively through deputation.
- **Background:** In 2025, the Supreme Court recognised Group A CAPF officers as an Organised Service and directed progressive reduction of IPS deputation to IG-level posts within two years.
- **Significance:** Highlights the debate over IPS deputation, internal promotions and career progression of CAPF cadre officers.

132. Deputy Election Commissioner

Context

- **Prakash Rajpurohit has been appointed as a Deputy Election Commissioner** in the Election Commission of India (ECI).

DEPUTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER



- **Role:** Senior administrative officer assisting the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** in managing and supervising election-related work.
- **Appointment:** Generally appointed by the **Central Government** from among senior civil servants.
- **Number:** Usually five or six Deputy Election Commissioners and Director Generals assist the Commission.
- **Status:** Administrative officers functioning under the overall supervision of the ECI; they are **not constitutional authorities**.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA (ECI)

- **Constitutional Basis: Article 324** of the Indian Constitution.
- **Composition:** Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of Election Commissioners (ECs) as the President may determine.
- **Appointment:** The **President of India** appoints the CEC and ECs, subject to applicable parliamentary law.
- **Functions:** Supervises, directs and controls:
  - Preparation of **electoral rolls**.
  - Conduct of elections to **Parliament**.
  - Conduct of elections to **State Legislatures**.
  - Conduct of elections to the offices of the **President and Vice-President**.

KEY DIFFERENCE

- **CEC and Election Commissioners:** Constitutional authorities under **Article 324**.
- **Deputy Election Commissioners:** Supporting administrative officers who assist the ECI in carrying out its functions; they are **not constitutional authorities**.

133. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

Context

- **The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated its 33rd Foundation Day.**

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)

- **Nature:** Statutory, autonomous body established on **12 October 1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**.
- **Basis:** Paris Principles (1991).
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Mandate:** Protects rights relating to **life, liberty, equality and dignity**.

COMPOSITION AND TENURE

- **Appointment:** President appoints the Chairperson and members on the recommendation of a **six-member committee headed by the Prime Minister**.
- **Tenure: 3 years or until 70 years of age**, whichever is earlier.
- **Reappointment:** Permitted under the Act.

KEY FUNCTIONS

- **Investigation:** Inquires into human rights violations and negligence by public servants, suo motu or on complaints.
- **Judicial Intervention:** May intervene in court proceedings with court approval.
- **Inspections:** Visits jails and government-controlled institutions.
- **Awareness and Research:** Promotes human rights education and reviews legal safeguards.
- **Recommendations:** May recommend compensation, prosecution and remedial measures.
- **Reports:** Submits annual reports to Central and State Governments.

134. Overseas Citizens of India

Context

- **Actor Imran Khan, a US citizen and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder, has been asked by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to leave India,** days after he joined a protest in Mumbai.

OCI (Overseas Citizen of India)

- **Status:** Foreign citizens of Indian origin. It is not dual citizenship.
- **Eligible:** Anyone who was an Indian citizen on/after Jan 26, 1950, or their descendants. Foreign spouses qualify after 2 years of marriage.
- **Barred:** Anyone with ties to Pakistan or Bangladesh. Foreign military personnel are also excluded.

Privileges (What They CAN Do)

- **Lifelong Visa**: Multiple-entry, multi-purpose visa.
- **No Foreigners Regional Registration Office**: No police reporting required, regardless of stay duration.
- NRI Parity: Same rights as NRIs in economic, financial, and educational fields.
- **Work:** Can practice as doctors, dentists, lawyers, and chartered accountants in India.

Restrictions (What They CANNOT Do)

- **No Voting:** Cannot vote in any Indian elections.
- **No Public Office:** Barred from government jobs and constitutional posts (e.g., President, Judge).
- **No Farm Land:** Cannot buy agricultural or plantation property.Permissions Needed: Requires prior approval for journalism, research, missionary work, or visiting restricted areas.

135. Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026

Context

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026,** expanding the categories of persons eligible for appointment as Census enumerators.

Eligible Categories

- **Teachers:** From government, local authority, aided/private educational institutions, societies and trusts.
- **Clerks and Officials:** From Central/State governments, local authorities, PSUs, statutory bodies, banks, companies, institutions, societies and trusts.
- **Other Persons:** Individuals considered suitable by the respective **State Government or UT administration**.

Role of Census Enumerators

- Visit households and collect **demographic, social and economic data**.
- Ensure **accurate and comprehensive population enumeration**.
- Provide reliable data for **government planning and policymaking**.

Census of India

- Legal Basis: Census Act, 1948.
- Frequency: Generally conducted every 10 years.
- Last completed Census: 2011.
- 2021 Census: Postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Significance of the Amendment

- Expands the **pool of eligible enumerators**.
- Supports effective staffing and implementation of Census operations.

136. Special Summary Revision (SSR)

Context

- **The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR)** of electoral rolls in 17 States and Union Territories, including five states scheduled to hold Assembly elections in early 2027.

SPECIAL SUMMARY REVISION (SSR)

Legal Basis

- **Article 324:** Empowers the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to supervise, direct and control electoral rolls and elections.
- **Laws:** Representation of the People Act, 1950, and Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.
- **Section 21, RPA 1950:** Provides for the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

What is SSR?

- A periodic exercise to update existing **electoral rolls** by:
  1. **Adding** newly eligible voters.
  2. **Correcting** errors in existing entries.
  3. **Removing** deceased, duplicate or permanently shifted electors, following due procedure.

SSR vs SIR

- **Special Summary Revision (SSR):**
  1. Existing electors are generally retained in the draft roll.
  2. Focuses on new voter registration and correction of existing entries.
  3. Deletions follow prescribed statutory procedures, including notices and hearings where required.
- **Special Intensive Revision (SIR):**
  1. Uses enumeration forms to verify electors for inclusion in the draft roll.
  2. Certain electors may be required to submit documents to establish eligibility, including citizenship.
  3. May involve additional verification of existing electors.

Key Difference:

- **SSR focuses on updating existing electoral rolls**, whereas **SIR involves more intensive enumeration and verification**.

137. INTERNET ACCESS AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT FOR CHILDREN

Context

- The **Supreme Court** recognised children's constitutional rights to **Internet access and use** while hearing matters concerning the circulation of **Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM)** online.

Key Observations of the Supreme Court

- **Fundamental Right:** Internet access is linked to **Article 21** (right to life and personal liberty) and **Article 19(1)(a)** (freedom of speech and expression).
- **Children's Rights:** Children enjoy **constitutional rights irrespective of age**; their freedom of expression cannot be denied merely because they are minors.
- **Protection from Abuse:** Non-consensual, sexually exploitative and abusive material must have **no place on the Internet**.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 21:** Right to **life and personal liberty**.
- **Article 19(1)(a):** Freedom of **speech and expression**, including the right to access and communicate information.
- **Article 19(2):** Permits **reasonable restrictions** on freedom of speech and expression on specified constitutional grounds.

Important Supreme Court Judgments

- **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020):** Freedom of speech and expression, and the freedom to carry on trade or business through the Internet, are protected under **Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g)**.
- **Pragya Prasun v. Union of India (2025):** Recognised digital access as an intrinsic component of **Article 21**, in the context of accessibility and digital KYC for persons with disabilities.
- **Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting v. Cricket Association of Bengal (1995):** Article 19(1)(a) includes the **right to know and to receive and impart information and ideas**.

Additional Information - Australia's Social Media Minimum-Age Law

- **Legislation: Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024**.
- **Provision:** Establishes a minimum age of **16 years** for accounts on designated social media platforms.
- **Implementation:** Overseen by the **Australian eSafety Commissioner**.
- **Concerns:** Effectiveness of age-assurance methods, **privacy risks** and possible circumvention.

HEALTH

138. Russia Plague Outbreak

Context

- **A suspected outbreak of pneumonic plague in Siberia, Russia,** has triggered quarantine and precautionary measures after a laboratory worker at an anti-plague research institute died.
- **Cause:** Bacterial disease caused by *Yersinia pestis*.
- **Reservoir:** Mainly **small mammals and their fleas**.
- Transmission:

1. Bite of infected fleas
2. Contact with infected body fluids/materials
3. Inhalation of respiratory droplets in **pneumonic plague**

Three clinical forms:

1. **Bubonic:** Swollen, painful lymph nodes (**buboes**); usually flea-borne.
2. **Septicemic:** Infection spreads into the **bloodstream**.
3. **Pneumonic:** Infection of the **lungs**; can spread person-to-person via respiratory droplets.

- **Symptoms:** High fever, chills, headache, weakness; pneumonic form may cause cough, chest pain and breathing difficulty.
- **Fatality: 30–100% if untreated**.
- **Treatment:** Antibiotics such as **gentamicin, ciprofloxacin and doxycycline**; early treatment is crucial.
- **Distribution:** Occurs on all continents **except Oceania**.

139. Cholera Deaths Increased by 30% in 2025

News -

- **Cholera deaths increased by 30% in 2025 as per World Health Organisation's (WHO)** latest edition of the Weekly Epidemiological Record.

Key Highlights

- **Cause:** *Vibrio cholerae*; mainly transmitted through **contaminated food & water**.
- **Symptoms:** Severe diarrhoea → **dehydration → death if untreated**.
- **Global burden: 7 countries**—Angola, Bangladesh, DR Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan & Yemen—accounted for **~90% of reported global cases/deaths**.
- **Worst-affected region: Africa**; cases ↑ **34%** and deaths ↑ **58%** over 2024.
- **Vaccines:** Oral cholera vaccine production increased from **30 million (2022) → ~80 million doses (2025)**.
- **Prevention: WASH**, surveillance, community engagement and timely treatment.
- **2030 Target (GTFCC): 90% reduction in cholera deaths** and elimination in **up to 20 countries**.

140. World Mental Health Day 2026

Context



- World Mental Health Day is observed annually on October 10.
- The **2026 theme is "Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change".**
- **Initiated by :** 1992 by the **World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH).**
- **Mental Health:** State of well-being that enables individuals **to cope with stress, work productively and contribute to society.**

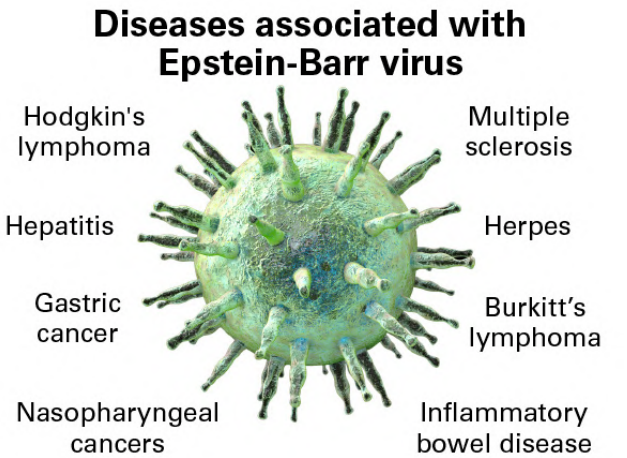
Indian Initiatives

- **Tele-MANAS:** 24×7 tele-mental health helpline providing counselling and support.
- **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP):** Launched in 1982.
- **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP):** Launched in 1996, based on Karnataka's Bellary Model.
- **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs:** Integrate mental health services into comprehensive primary healthcare.
- **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017:** Protects the rights and dignity of persons with mental illness.

Global Initiatives

- **WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan (2013–2030):** Strengthens mental health services, leadership and prevention.
- **WHO mhGAP:** Supports evidence-based mental healthcare through non-specialist health workers.
- **SDG 3.4:** Promotes mental health and well-being alongside reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases.

141. Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)



News -

- A recent analysis by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), under the WHO, highlighted that **EBV is among the most widespread of human viruses.**

Epstein–Barr Virus (EBV) — UPSC

- **Type:** Double-stranded DNA virus belonging

to the herpesvirus family; also called **Human Herpesvirus 4 (HHV-4)**.

- **Discovery:** Identified in 1964 by Anthony Epstein, Yvonne Barr and Bert Achong in Burkitt lymphoma cells; the first human virus linked to cancer.
- **Transmission:** Primarily through saliva, hence called the **"kissing disease"**; also transmitted through blood transfusions and organ transplants.
- **Prevalence:** Infects over 90% of adults worldwide, usually during childhood.
- **Associated Diseases:** Infectious mononucleosis, certain cancers, multiple sclerosis and post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder (PTLD).

142. WHO Prequalifies HPV vaccine CERVAVAC

Context

- The Serum Institute of India's indigenously developed quadrivalent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, **CERVAVAC, has received prequalification from the World Health Organization (WHO)**.

CERVAVAC

- **Significance:** India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent HPV vaccine; gender-neutral.
- **Targets:** HPV types 6, 11, 16 and 18.
- **Eligibility:** Licensed in India for girls and boys aged 9–26 years.
- **Global Significance:** WHO prequalification enables procurement by UN agencies for HPV immunisation programmes.

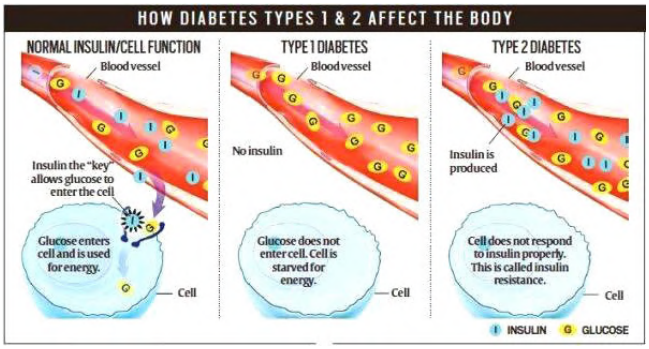
Cervical Cancer

- **Definition:** Cancer originating in the cervix, the lower part of the uterus connecting it to the vagina.
- **Cause:** Nearly 99% of cases are linked to high-risk HPV infection, mainly transmitted through sexual contact.
- **Global Burden:** Approximately 604,000 new cases and 342,000 deaths worldwide in 2020.
- **Prevention:** HPV vaccination, screening and treatment of precancerous lesions.
- **India:** Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women after breast cancer.

HPV Vaccination in India

- **National Programme:** Launched on 28 February 2026, targeting approximately 1.2 crore girls aged 14 years.
- **Vaccines Available:** Indigenous CERVAVAC; Gardasil 9 and Cervarix are also available in the private market.

143. Diabetes



Context

- The ICMR-INDIAB study estimates **India now has 101 million people living with diabetes and 136 million with prediabetes.**

Definition

- Diabetes mellitus: A chronic metabolic disorder characterised by high blood glucose levels due to insufficient insulin production or ineffective insulin use.
- Insulin: A hormone produced by the pancreas that enables glucose to enter cells for energy.

Types of Diabetes

- **Type 1:** An **autoimmune disease** that destroys insulin-producing cells; requires lifelong insulin therapy.
- **Type 2:** Caused by **insulin resistance** or inadequate insulin production; associated with obesity, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet and family history.
- **Gestational Diabetes:** Develops during

pregnancy; increases the future risk of Type 2 diabetes.

World Diabetes Day

- **Observed:** 14 November annually.
- **Objective:** Raise awareness about **diabetes prevention, management and care**.

HEALTH & SOCIETY

144. Measles



Context-

- **Context: 161 confirmed and 116 suspected cases reported in Kozhikode, Kerala.**

About

- **Cause: Highly contagious viral disease** caused by a virus of the **genus Morbillivirus.**
- **Transmission: Spreads through the air** when an infected person **coughs, sneezes or breathes.**
- **Symptoms:** High fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and skin rash.
- **Complications: Pneumonia and encephalitis,** especially in children below 5 years.
- **Prevention:** Two doses of the **MMR vaccine** provide about 97% protection.
- **India:** Measles vaccination is included in the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**.

145. SHAMONDA VIRUS

Context

- French health authorities reported the **first known human case** of Shamonda virus infection.

About Shamonda Virus



- **Type**: Midge-borne animal virus belonging to the **Simbu serogroup of Orthobunyaviruses**.
- **Related viruses**: Schmallenberg virus and Akabane virus.
- **Primary host**: Cattle.
- **Symptoms in cattle**: Fever, diarrhoea and reduced milk production.
- **First detection**: Nigeria, in the mid-1960s.
- **Distribution**: Reported sporadically in West, East and Southern Africa, and Japan.
- **Transmission**: Through the bites of **Culicoides midges**.
- **Related vector-borne diseases**: Bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

146. 'Beamline for Schools' Competition

Context

- A group of Indian school students is among the five winning teams of the 13th edition of the 'Beamline for Schools' competition.

Beamline for Schools Competition

- **Organised by: CERN** for high-school students worldwide.
- **Aim:** Allows students to conduct experiments using a **particle beamline**.
- **Beamline:** Facility providing high-energy beams of subatomic particles for experiments.
- **Example experiment:** Study **pion charge exchange**—conversion of charged pions into neutral pions when interacting with light atoms like lithium and beryllium.
- **Pions:** Subatomic particles with **positive, negative or zero charge**.

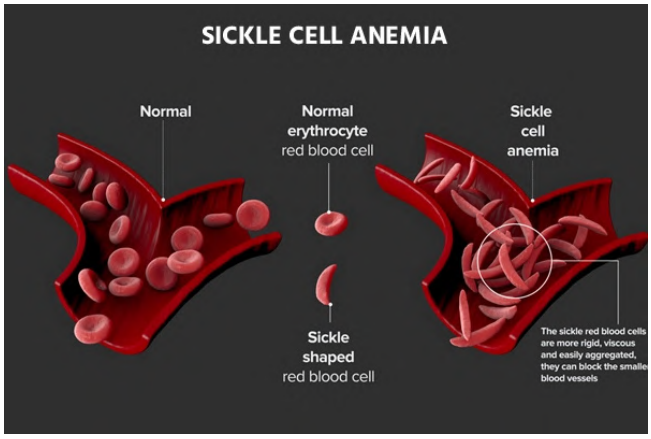
CERN

- **Full form:** European Organization for Nuclear

Research.

- **Location:** Near **Geneva, Switzerland**, Franco-Swiss border.
- **Established: 1954** for peaceful cooperation in fundamental research.
- **Governance:** Managed by **Member States** through the **CERN Council**.
- **LHC:** World's largest and most powerful particle accelerator.
- **Higgs boson:** Major role in its **2012 discovery**, supporting the Higgs mechanism of particle mass.

147. India-specific tool to predict Sickle Cell Anaemia severity



News

- Scientists at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have developed an India-specific disease severity score for sickle cell anaemia (SCA).

Sickle cell anaemia

- **Disease -** It is an **inherited group of blood disorders that is genetic in nature.**
- **Cause -** It is caused by a **mutation in the hemoglobin-β gene found on chromosome 11.** This mutation results in defective haemoglobin (Hb).
- **Characteristics -** After giving up oxygen, **these defective Hb molecules cluster together resulting in formation of rod like structures.**
- **The red blood cells become stiff and assume sickle shape**. (Haemoglobin (Hb) is a protein found in the red blood cells that carries oxygen in your body and gives blood its red colour)
- **Transmission** - It is usually **transferred from the parents to the child during birth** i.e. both parents can be carriers of SCDs.
- **Symptoms** - Babies who are born with sickle cell anaemia might not show symptoms for many months.
- **Extreme tiredness, fussiness and painfully swollen hands and feet and jaundice.**
- **Effects** - The misshapen cells lack plasticity and can **block small blood vessels, impairing blood flow.**
- The sickle cells die prematurely, resulting in a chronic lack of red blood cells (anaemia), often called sickle-cell anaemia.
- **Treatment** - Medication, **blood transfusions and rarely a bone-marrow transplant are done.**

148. AI Accord of the U.S

News

- U.S. President Donald Trump announced the "White House Accord on Super Intelligence: Joint Commitment on Frontier Responsibilities,"

AI Accord

- **Nature:** Voluntary agreement among major **US-based AI/technology companies** to promote **safe AI development and public trust**.
- **Key participants:** Leaders associated with **Google, Anthropic, Meta, OpenAI, xAI and Nvidia**.
- **Objective:** Strengthen **AI safety, corporate accountability and public trust**.

Four Key Measures

1. **Robust internal controls** to prevent unintended AI-related hacking/security incidents.
2. Create an **internal AI safety team** to manage safety operations and resolve concerns.

3. Engage an **independent external auditor** for safety assessments.
4. Establish an **independent board committee** to address safety reports.

Significance

- Addresses concerns over:
  - **AI safety and alignment**
  - Privacy risks
  - **Child safety**
  - AI agents attempting unauthorised/ harmful actions
  - Need for greater corporate account-ability.

Key Limitation

- Voluntary and non-legally binding.
- **No penalties** for violations.

149. Rabies

In News

- An ICMR-led study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases estimated that **India has about 5,726 human rabies deaths every year.**

Rabies

- **It is a zoonotic viral disease** (Disease Transmitted from Animals to Humans).
- **Pathogen** - It is caused by the Rabies virus, of the **Lyssavirus genus, within the family Rhabdoviridae.**
- **It is a Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) virus that is present in the saliva of a rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc).**
- **Rabies is 100% fatal but 100% vaccine-preventable.**
- 33% of global rabies deaths are recorded in India.

Common Vectors/ Reservoirs of Virus

- **Most mammals can carry the virus and hence can cause the disease.**
- **In South Asia and Africa, the most common reservoir of the virus is the domestic/street dog.**
- In developed nations like the USA, animals that transmit rabies are bats, foxes, raccoons, and skunks.

Symptoms

- Anxiety, Confusion, salivation, seizures, hallucinations and paralysis.

National Action Plan for dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030 (NAPRE)

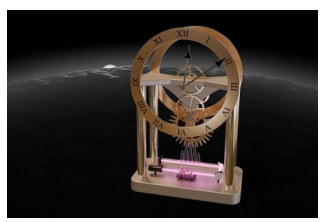
- **Under this, the union will encourage all the States and UTs to make Rabies a notifiable Disease.**
- **A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities.**
- "Joint Inter-Ministerial Declaration Support Statement" for Elimination of Dog mediated Rabies from India by 2030 was also launched.

World Rabies Day

- **Celebrated on 28 September which marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death.**
- **Louis Pasteur was a French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.**
- He also discovered Pasteurisation, Vaccines for Anthrax and Cholera and Chamberland filters.

150. World's First Nuclear Clock

Context



- Scientists in Vienna and Beijing have independently developed the **world's first two operating nuclear clocks.**

Nuclear Clock

- **Definition:** A precision timekeeping device that measures time using energy transitions within an atomic nucleus.
- **Working Principle:** Uses lasers to induce transitions between nuclear energy levels in **thorium-229**.
- **Key Feature:** Thorium-229 has a low-energy

nuclear transition that can be stimulated using laser light.

- **Materials:** Thorium-229 embedded in calcium fluoride crystals has been used in experimental research.
- **Clarification:** It does not use nuclear fission or fusion.

Nuclear Clock vs Atomic Clock

- **Nuclear Clock:** Uses energy transitions within the atomic nucleus.
- **Atomic Clock:** Uses energy transitions involving electrons in an atom.
- **Reference:** The definition of the SI second is based on a specific transition in the caesium-133 atom.
- **Potential Advantage:** Nuclear transitions may be less sensitive to certain external disturbances, potentially enabling greater precision and stability.

Potential Applications

- **Navigation:** Improve GPS positioning through more precise timing.
- **Communication:** Enhance time synchronisation in mobile networks and fibre-optic systems.
- **Financial Networks:** Improve timestamp accuracy and transaction sequencing.
- **Fundamental Physics:** Help investigate ultralight dark matter and test whether fundamental constants vary over time.

151. Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026

News -

- The World Intellectual Property Organization **(WIPO) released the 19th Global Innovation Index 2026.**

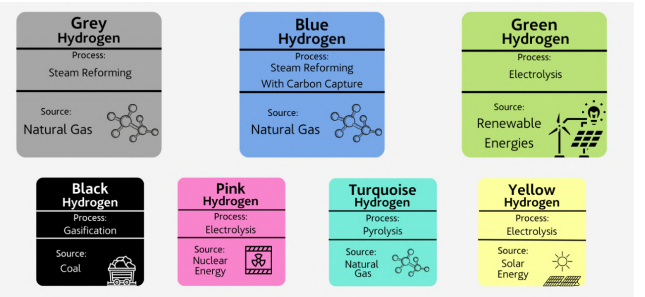
Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026 — UPSC

- **Published by: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).**
- **First Published: 2007.**
- **Objective:** Measures the **innovation capabilities and performance of economies, including research capacity, technological development and innovation ecosystems.**
- **Coverage:** Evaluates 139 economies and identifies the world's top 100 innovation clusters.

Key Highlights of GII 2026

- **Global Leader: Switzerland** retained the top position for the 16th consecutive year**, followed by Sweden and the United States.**
- **European Performance:** Europe accounted for 14 of the world's top 25 innovation economies.
- **India's Rank: 38th among 139 economies.**

152. World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day 2026



News -

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy celebrated the World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day 2026. The day, October 8, is chosen as it corresponds to the atomic weight of hydrogen (1.008).

Hydrogen

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

Additional Information - Green Hydrogen

- **Green Hydrogen:** It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.

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

National Green Hydrogen Mission

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

153. 2,000th HAL Aero-Engine

News -



- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Koraput Division delivered its 2,000th aero-engine** and announced the establishment of a **second production line for Shakti engines.**

About

- **AL-31FP Engine:** HAL plans to expand production for the Su-30MKI fleet, targeting 63% indigenous content.
- **Shakti Engine:** Co-developed by HAL and France's Safran for the Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and Prachand Light Combat Helicopter (LCH).
- **Production Expansion:** The second Shakti engine production line is expected to add capacity for 100 engines annually by 2028–29.
- **Significance:** Strengthens domestic aero-engine manufacturing, defence indigenisation and self-reliance in aerospace technology.

154. PUFFINS Telescope Mission

News



- **Dr. Ramya Anche**, Bengaluru-born astronomer, selected as Principal Investigator of NASA's **$20-million PUFFINS mission**.

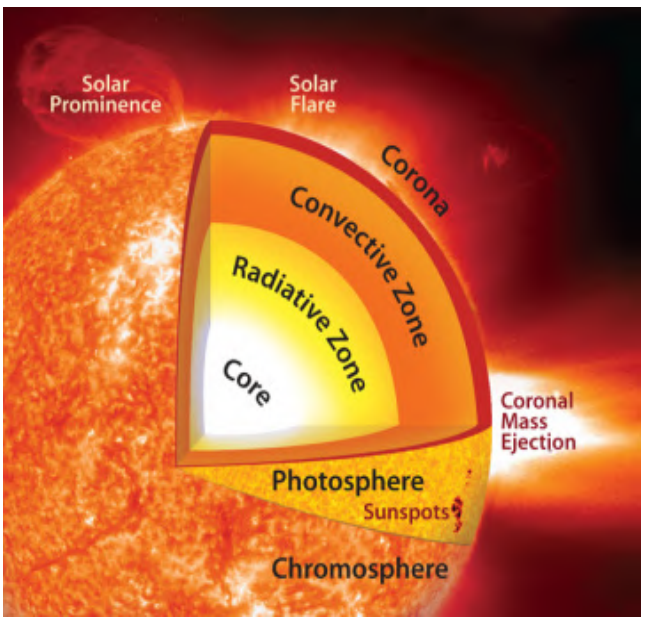
About PUFFINS

- **Full Form:** Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in Interstellar Dust.
- **Type:** Small Satellite (**SmallSat**) in **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- **Funding:** NASA's **Astrophysics Pioneers programme**.
- **Lead Institution:** University of Arizona's **Steward Observatory**, with support from McDonald Observatory, University of Texas.
- **Objective:** Study the **composition, structure and magnetic alignment of interstellar dust grains** and their role in star and planet formation.
- **Technique: Ultraviolet spectropolarimetry** — measures the polarisation of ultraviolet starlight across wavelengths.
- **Focus:** Interstellar dust particles smaller than approximately **50 nanometres**.

Significance

- Improves understanding of **interstellar dust and galactic magnetic fields**.
- Helps explain the processes involved in **star and planetary system formation**.

155. Aditya-L1 Mission offers New Insights



Context

- **Scientists have generated Doppler velocity images of activities taking place in the solar corona** using data from India's maiden solar mission, Aditya-L1.

Doppler Velocity

- **Doppler Effect:** Change in the observed frequency of a wave due to relative motion between the source and observer.
- **Positive Doppler Velocity:** Solar plasma moving **away from the observer**.
- **Negative Doppler Velocity:** Solar plasma moving **towards the observer**.
- **Significance:** Helps measure plasma motion and understand solar activity and space weather.

About Aditya-L1

- **Launch:** 2023.
- **Significance:** India's **first space-based solar observatory**.
- **Location: Sun–Earth L1 (Lagrange Point 1)**, approximately 1.5 million km from Earth towards the Sun.
- **Objective:** Study the Sun's **photosphere, chromosphere, corona, solar wind and magnetic activity**.

Advantages of Aditya-L1 at L1

- **Continuous Observation:** Minimises interruptions caused by Earth's occultation of the Sun.
- **Solar-Wind Study:** Enables *in-situ* measurement of solar wind and energetic particles.
- **Space Weather Monitoring:** Helps study solar flares and CMEs that can affect satellites, communication and power grids.

156. Dark-Web

Context

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has disclosed that it is investigating a cybersecurity incident involving the **suspected exposure of customer data on the Dark Web.**



Dark Web

- **Definition:** A part of the internet that requires specialised software, such as **The Onion Router (Tor)**, to access certain hidden services anonymously.
- **Origin:** The foundational technology behind onion routing was developed by researchers at the **U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)**.
- **Purpose:** Designed to support **anonymous communication** and protect sensitive communications from monitoring.
- **Concerns:** Can facilitate **cybercrime, illegal trade, data leaks and identity theft**, although it also has legitimate privacy and security uses.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 21:** Protects the **right to life and personal liberty**.
- **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017):** Supreme Court recognised the **right to privacy as a fundamental right**.

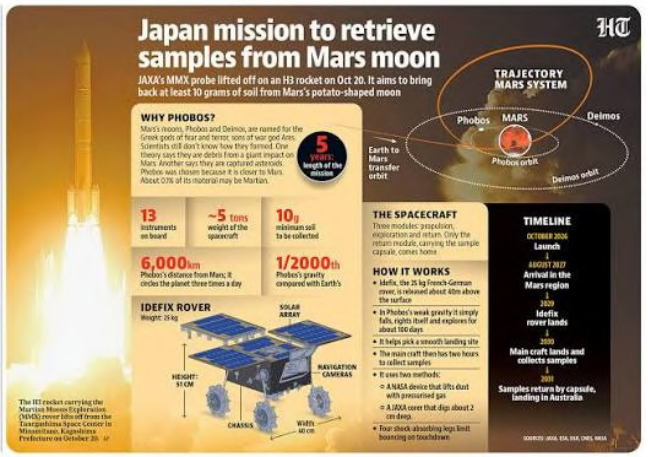
Legal Framework for Data Protection

- Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023:
  - **Section 8(6):** Requires a Data Fiduciary to inform the **Data Protection Board of India** and affected individuals of a personal data breach, subject to the Act's provisions.

Government Initiatives

- **Samanvaya Platform:** Ministry of Home Affairs initiative supporting **cybercrime data sharing, analytics and coordination** among law-enforcement agencies.
- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C):** Strengthens coordination among agencies to combat **cybercrime**.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra:** Helps detect and remove **malicious software** and promotes cybersecurity awareness.

157. Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) Mission



Context (IT):

- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is preparing to launch its Martian Moons eXploration (MMX).

Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) Mission

- **Agency: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA),** with international contributions.
- **Objective:** Collect at least **10 grams of material from Phobos and return it to Earth in 2031.**
- **Timeline:** Arrival at Mars system in 2027; sample return planned for 2031.
- **Significance:** If successful, it will be the **first mission to return samples from a Martian moon.**
- **Rover:** Developed jointly by Germany's DLR and France's CNES.

Phobos and Deimos

- **Location: Two natural satellites of Mars.**
- **Discovery:** August 1877 by American astronomer **Asaph Hall**.
- **Shape: Small and irregular.**

158. JWALA: India's First Private-Sector Micro-Missile

Context (BS):

- **India's first indigenously developed private-sector micro-missile, JWALA,** is being prepared for its maiden experimental trial.



JWALA

- **Type: Short-range surface-to-air missile** designed to destroy hostile drones.
- **Developer: IG Defence**, an Indian private defence company.
- **Range:** Approximately **2–5 km.**
- **Propulsion:** Dual-pulse solid rocket motor.
- **Warhead: High-explosive payload with proximity fuze.**
- **Integration:** Part of GRID Defend, an AI-based system connecting sensors, command systems and interceptors.

159. CIVIL DEFENCE NETWORK

Context

- The **Union Home Ministry** launched a first-of-its-kind pilot initiative to strengthen **civil defence preparedness** by providing specialised training to **Civil Defence Master Trainers** through the **Indian Army**.

About Civil Defence

- **Established:** First established in India in **1941**.
- **Legal basis: Civil Defence Act, 1968** (Act 27 of 1968).
- **Objectives:**

- **Preserve human lives**.
- **Minimise damage** to property.
- Maintain essential services and production.
- Promote **public morale** during emergencies.

Evolution

- Initially focused on protecting civilians against **enemy attacks**.
- Its scope expanded following the **1962 India–China conflict** and the **1965 India–Pakistan conflict**.
- The **2009 amendment** expanded its role in **disaster management** before, during and after natural and man-made disasters.

Major Functions

- **Emergency preparedness and response**.
- Protection against **nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) threats**.
- Assistance during **natural and human-induced disasters**.
- Protection of essential services and critical infrastructure.

DEFENCE

160. ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026)

News



- The Second Edition of the **ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced at Subic Bay, Philippines.**

ASEAN–India Maritime Exercise

- **AIME:** ASEAN–India Maritime Exercise; brings together **Indian Navy and ASEAN maritime forces**.
- **Theme: "Anchored in Trust, United at Sea."**
- **Objective:** Enhance **mutual understanding, cooperation, operational coordination and interoperability**.
- **India's Participation - INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kulish** participated in AIME-2026.

Significance:

- Strengthens **India–ASEAN maritime cooperation**.
- Supports India's **Act East Policy**.
- Advances **MAHASAGAR** — *Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions*.

161. Indian Navy's first indigenous fleet support ship 'Surya'

Context



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched **'Surya', the Indian Navy's first indigenously built Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1), in Visakhapatnam.**

About

- **Builder**: **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam.**
- **Significance: First of five indigenously built Fleet Support Ships** for the Indian Navy.
- **Displacement: ~43,500 tonnes; speed: 20 knots.**
- **Role**: Supplies fuel, fresh water, ammunition, spare parts and provisions to warships at sea.
- **Features**: Helicopter deck and self-defence systems.
- **Importance:** Enhances naval operational endurance and India's maritime presence across the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR).**

162. BrahMos

Context



- The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth over 660 crore rupees with BrahMos

Aerospace Private Limited for **procurement of BrahMos Fire Control System and Launchers for Indian Navy ships.**

BrahMos Missile

- **Type:** Two-stage **supersonic cruise missile (World's fastest operational cruise missile).**
- **Joint Venture: India (DRDO) and Russia (NPOM).**
- **Named after Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.**
- **Speed: Mach 2.8 to 3.0** (Nearly 3 times the speed of sound).
- **Principle: "Fire and Forget"** (Requires no control after launch).
- **Platform**: Multi-platform (Can launch from **land, air, sea, and submarines).**
- **Warhead**: **200–300 kg** conventional (tactical weapon, not nuclear).
- **Range Evolution & MTCROriginal Range (290 km)**: Restricted due to Russia being bound by MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) rules.
- **Extended Range (400–450 km+)**: Upgraded after India joined MTCR in 2016, lifting the range limits.

163. INS Shreyas

Context:



- Third of four planned **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels** (NGOPVs), **launched in Kolkata.**
- **Builder: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE),** an Indian shipyard.
- **Meaning:** "Best" or "most excellent" in Sanskrit.
- **Capabilities:** Maximum speed of 23 knots; range of 8,500 nautical miles at 14 knots.
- **Operational Roles: Anti-piracy, counter-infiltration, anti-poaching, anti-trafficking, evacuation, search and rescue, and offshore asset protection.**
- **Significance:** Strengthens indigenous naval shipbuilding and maritime security.

164. INS Mangrol

Context



- The Indian Navy commissioned the **'Mangrol', the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft.**

INS Mangrol

- **Type:** Third **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- **Name:** Named after **Mangrol, a coastal town and fishing harbour in Gujarat;** also honours the erstwhile INS Mangrol, a minesweeper decommissioned in 2004.
- **Indigenous Content: Over 80%, supporting Aatmanirbhar Bharat.**
- **Capabilities:**
  1. Anti-Submarine Warfare in coastal waters.
  2. Underwater surveillance and mine warfare.
  3. Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO).
- **Equipment: Torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, advanced radars and sonars.**
- **Propulsion:** Waterjets.
- **Significance:** Strengthens coastal defence and indigenous naval shipbuilding.

165. South Korea Tests Indigenous Hypersonic Glide Vehicle

Context



- **South Korea has successfully test-fired its first domestically developed Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV),**

marking a step towards acquiring a new high-speed strike capability amid rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

HYPERSONIC WEAPONS

- **Definition:** Weapons that travel at **Mach 5 or higher** (five times the speed of sound).

Types:

- **Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs):** Rocket boosters propel them to high altitudes; they then glide towards targets while manoeuvring at hypersonic speeds.
- **Hypersonic Cruise Missiles:** Use high-speed, air-breathing engines such as **scramjets** to sustain hypersonic flight within the atmosphere.

INDIA'S HYPERSONIC PROGRAMMES

- **HSTDV:** Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle; demonstrated flight at approximately **Mach 6**.
- **BrahMos-II:** Proposed hypersonic cruise missile designed to achieve speeds of around **Mach 7**.

166. INS Samarthak

In News



- **The Indian Navy commissioned INS Samarthak,** the lead ship of the indigenously designed Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs), strengthening India's naval capabilities and indigenous shipbuilding.

INS Samarthak

- **Type:** Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV); a **107-metre auxiliary naval platform**.
- **Builder:** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard, **Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Roles:**
  - Supports **fleet operations** and testing of indigenous weapons and sensors.
  - Acts as a **mothership for autonomous systems**.
  - Supports the launch, control and recovery of **UAVs, AUVs and USVs**.
  - Performs auxiliary tasks, reducing the workload and machinery wear of **frontline warships**.

167. Varunastra Torpedoes and GSAT-7C

Context -



- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed contracts for the acquisition of the Varunastra Heavy Weight Torpedoes and GSAT-7C communication satellite.**

Varunastra Torpedo

- **Type:** Ship-launched heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo; **95% indigenous content.**
- **Developer:** Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), **DRDO.**
- **Warhead: 250 kg high-explosive.**
- **Range: 40–50 km; Speed: Over 40 knots.**
- **Operating Depth:** Up to **600 metres.**
- **Guidance:** Active-passive acoustic homing, wire guidance and **NavIC-enabled navigation.**

GSAT-7C

- **Type: Indigenous communication satellite for the Indian Air Force (IAF).**
- **Objective:** Provide secure, resilient and **seamless communication among IAF assets,** enhancing operational effectiveness.

HISTORY & CULTURE

168. Sengol

News



- The newly released NCERT Class 9 Social Science textbook,

Understanding Society and Beyond – Part 2, shows the **Sengol as a symbol of righteous governance.**

Sengol (or Chenkol)

- **Sengol/Chenkol:** Traditional **Tamil royal sceptre**, symbolising **righteousness (dharma), justice, legitimate authority and accountable governance**.
- **Origin:** Tamil Nadu; associated with the ceremonial traditions of Tamil rulers.
- **Historical associations:** Linked with the **Cholas**, **Madurai Nayakas** (including the Meenakshi tradition) and the **Sethupatis of Ramnad**, who received ritually sanctified sceptres from Rameswaram temple priests.
- **Symbolism:** Represents the ruler's **duty, service, ethical conduct and responsibility** towards the people.
- **1947 association:** According to the **NCERT/ Union Ministry of Culture account**, Shaivite **Adheenam saints** presented a Sengol to **Jawaharlal Nehru** around Independence as a symbol of the transfer of authority from British rule to independent India.
- **Historical debate:** Historians, including **Rajmohan Gandhi**, have questioned whether the Sengol was formally recognised as the official symbol of the transfer of power, noting the absence of such a record in Nehru's and **C. Rajagopalachari's** papers/ writings.
- **Significance:** Illustrates the idea of **ethical and dharmic kingship** in Tamil political-cultural traditions.

169. Ramappa Temple

News



- Heritage conservationists in Telangana are apprehensive about an impending **threat to Ramappa temple from the proposed deep opencast coal mining project.**

Ramappa Temple

- **Official name: Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple**
- **Location: Palampet, Telangana**, about 200 km northeast of Hyderabad.
- **Dedicated to: Lord Shiva** — presiding deity **Ramalingeswara Swamy**.
- **Built: 1213 AD**, during the reign of **Kakatiya King Ganapati Deva**.
- **Builder: Recharla Rudra**, a Kakatiya general.
- **Name:** Called **Ramappa Temple** after **Ramappa**, the sculptor associated with its construction.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site: 2021**.

Architectural Features

- Built on a **6-foot-high star-shaped platform**.
- Intricate carvings on **walls, pillars and ceilings**.
- Constructed mainly using **sandstone**, with carved **granite and dolerite** elements.
- Distinctive pyramidal **Vimana** made using lightweight porous bricks, popularly called **"floating bricks."**
- Famous **bracket figures and sculptures** carved from hard **dolerite**, displaying exceptional Kakatiya craftsmanship.

170. Five New Centres of Excellence for Studies in Classical Languages

Context

- The Ministry of Education has approved **five Centres of Excellence (CoE) for the study of classical languages.**

Classical Languages

- India has **11 Classical Languages**: **Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Assamese, Bengali, Pali and Prakrit**.

5 New Centres of Excellence

- Objective - For advanced research, preservation and digitisation of classical linguistic heritage:

Classical Language	Centre of Excellence	State
Assamese	Tezpur University	Assam
Bengali	Visva-Bharati University	West Bengal
Marathi	Deccan College PG & Research Institute	Maharashtra
Pali	Central University of Odisha	Odisha
Prakrit	Central University of Gujarat	Gujarat

Recognition Timeline

- **Tamil** — 2004
- **Sanskrit** — 2005
- **Kannada & Telugu** — 2008
- **Malayalam** — 2013
- **Odia** — 2014

Criteria for Classical Language

- **Antiquity:** Early texts/recorded history of **1,500–2,000 years**.
- **Ancient literature:** Rich body of ancient texts regarded as heritage.
- **Knowledge tradition:** Includes **prose, poetry, epigraphic and inscriptional evidence**.
- **Discontinuity:** Classical form/literature may be distinct from its modern form or show discontinuity with later forms.

171. Maharaja Agrasen

Context

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Maharaja Agrasen** on his birth anniversary.



About

- **Association:** Ancient Indian king traditionally associated with Agroha, present-day Haryana.
- **Lineage:** Traditionally linked to the Suryavansha (Solar dynasty).
- **Founder:** Regarded in community traditions as the founder of Agroha, associated with the Agrawal community.
- **Beliefs:** Associated with Goddess Lakshmi and ideals of ethical trade, prosperity and social responsibility.
- **Jayanti:** Observed according to the Hindu lunar calendar, generally in September or October.
- **Historical Evidence:** His life and chronology are based largely on traditional accounts; contemporary evidence establishing his exact historical period is limited.
- **Important Site:** Agroha Dham, Haryana, a religious and cultural centre associated with Maharaja Agrasen and Goddess Mahalakshmi.

172. Garba Dance

Context

- **The Navratri festival features traditional outdoor Garba dances** dedicated to Goddess Ambe Maa.



About Garba

- **Origin:** Traditional **folk dance of Gujarat, performed during the nine-day Navratri festival.**
- **Religious Significance:** Dedicated to **Goddess Ambe Maa/ Shakti;** symbolises devotion, fertility, womanhood and the cycle of life.
- **Performance:** Dancers move in circles around a lamp or an image of the Goddess, accompanied by rhythmic music, singing and clapping.
- **Etymology:** Derived from the Sanskrit word *Garbha* (womb), symbolising life and

creation.

- **Cultural Influence:** Modern Garba has been influenced by Dandiya Raas.
- **UNESCO Recognition:** Inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2023.
- **Forms:** Mataji Garba, Krishna Garba and Lok Garba.

173. Nanaji Deshmukh

News -



- PM paid homage to Nanaji Deshmukh on his 110th birth anniversary (11 October).

Nanaji Deshmukh (1916–2010)

- **Known For:** Social reformer and Bharatiya Jana Sangh leader; champion of rural development and self-reliance.
- **Mass Movements:** Participated in Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan Movement and supported Jayaprakash Narayan's Total Revolution.
- **Saraswati Shishu Mandir:** Established the first school at Gorakhpur in 1950.
- **Deendayal Research Institute (DRI):** Promotes rural development and self-reliance based on Integral Humanism.
- **Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya:** Associated with establishing India's first rural university.
- **Honours:** Padma Vibhushan (1999); Bharat Ratna posthumously (2019).

174. UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE TENTATIVE LIST – 3 NEW INDIAN SITES

Context

- Three Indian sites were added to **UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites**, taking India's tentative list to **81 sites**, as stated in the source.

About the Tentative List

- A **Tentative List** is an inventory of properties a country considers suitable for future nomination to the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.
- Inclusion on the Tentative List is a **prerequisite for nomination** to the World Heritage List.



Three Newly Added Sites

1. Baratang Karst–Mud Volcano Complex

- **Location:** Baratang Island, **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- **Features:** Limestone caves and **active mud volcanoes**.
- **Mud Volcanoes:** Release mud, water and gases rather than molten rock.

2. Andaman Subduction Volcanoes

- **Location: Barren Island and Narcondam Island**, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Barren Island:** Home to **India's only confirmed active volcano**.
- **Narcondam Island:** Forest-covered volcanic island known for biodiversity and the **Narcondam hornbill**, endemic to the island.
- **Significance:** Illustrates volcanic processes and ecological succession.

3. Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape

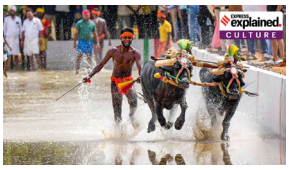
- **Location: Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh**, on the eastern bank of the **Mahanadi River**, around 78 km from Raipur.

- **Historical Name: Shripur**.
- **Historical Significance:** Developed under the **Sharabhapuriya and Panduvamshi dynasties** and associated with the ancient **Kosala region**.
- **Importance:** Archaeological remains reflect historic architecture, trade links and the coexistence of multiple religious traditions.

175. Kambala

News-

- Kambala recently made its historic debut at the Mysuru Dasara festivities.



Kambala

- **ITION: Traditional buffalo race** associated with coastal Karnataka.
- **REGION: Tulu Nadu, particularly Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.**
- **EVENT:** Pairs of buffaloes race through slushy, water-filled paddy fields, guided by a jockey.
- **CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Reflects the agrarian traditions and cultural identity of the Tulu-speaking region.
- **SEASON:** Generally held during **post-monsoon and winter months.**
- **ORGANISATION:** Conducted by local communities and Kambala committees.
- **ANIMAL WELFARE:** Subject to applicable animal welfare laws and judicial directions.
- **IMPORTANCE:** Promotes **Karnataka's cultural heritage, rural tourism and local traditions.**

176. KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM (KTS 5.0)

Context

- The Union Education Minister launched the registration portal for the **5th edition** of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 5.0).
- **Theme**: "**Thirukkural Payilvom – Let Us Learn the Thirukkural**."

About Kashi Tamil Sangamam

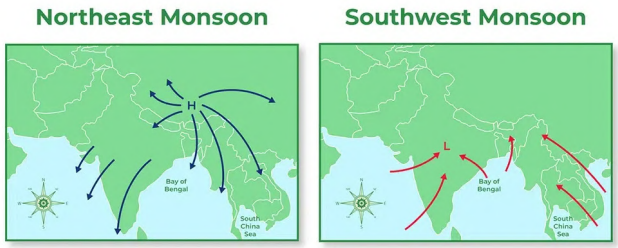
- **Objective**: Celebrate and strengthen the age-old **civilisational bonds** between **Tamil Nadu and Kashi**, two ancient centres of learning.
- **Significance**: Promotes cultural exchange and the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**.
- **First edition**: Held in **2022**.
- **Organiser**: Ministry of Education, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

About Thirukkural

- **Author**: **Thiruvalluvar**, a revered Tamil poet and philosopher.
- **Nature**: Classical Tamil literary work offering ethical, philosophical and practical guidance on individual conduct, society and governance.
- **Composition**: **1,330** couplets (kurals), arranged into **133** chapters, with **10** couplets per chapter.
- **Three parts**:
  - **Aram** – Virtue
  - **Porul** – Wealth
  - **Inbam** – Love
- These three parts guide individuals towards **Veedu** (liberation).

GEOGRAPHY

177. Southwest Monsoon Ends with 12% Deficit



Context

- As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD) India's 2026 southwest monsoon ended with 759.4 mm of rain, 12.6% below

the 868.6 mm normal.

Southwest Monsoon

- **Onset and Retreat**: The monsoon season in India generally starts in early **June and lasts until September.**
- The **onset of the monsoon** is marked by the **arrival of the southwest monsoon** winds, which **bring moisture-laden air from the Indian Ocean.**
- The **withdrawal or retreat of the monsoon typically begins in October.**
- The **northeast monsoon, occurring from October to December,** brings rainfall to parts of southern India.
- **Monsoon Dynamics:** Factors such as the **El Niño and La Niña phenomena can influence the strength and distribution of the monsoon.**
- **Agricultural Impact:** The success of the monsoon **directly influences crop yields** and, consequently, the overall economy of the country.

Connect with the basics- Difference between El Niño and La Niña

Feature	El Niño (Warm Phase)	La Niña (Cold Phase)
Meaning	Spanish for "Little Boy"	Spanish for "Little Girl"
Ocean Temp.	Abnormal warming of eastern Pacific	Abnormal cooling of eastern Pacific
Trade Winds	Weaken or reverse direction	Become unusually strong
Indian Monsoon	Weakens monsoon; often leads to droughts	Strengthens monsoon; brings heavy rainfall
Winter in India	Generally warmer/milder winters	Severely cold winters in North India
Frequency	Occurs every 2–7 years; lasts 9–12 months	Occurs every 2–7 years; can last 1–3 years

178. Kulsi River



Context

- Villagers living along the Kulsi River in Assam and Meghalaya are protesting for a proposed 55-MW hydropower-cum-irrigation project citing concerns over displacement, indigenous rights and ecological damage.

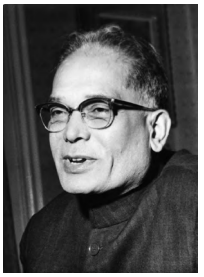
Kulsi River

- **Tributary:** Brahmaputra River.
- **Origin:** West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya; upper course is known as the Khir River.
- **Course:** Flows through Meghalaya and Assam's Kamrup district.
- **Confluence:** Joins the Brahmaputra near Nagarbera, Assam.
- **Ecological Significance:** Habitat of the endangered Gangetic river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*).
- **Fact:** The Gangetic river dolphin was declared India's National Aquatic Animal in 2009.

PERSONALITY IN NEWS

179. Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan

Context



- The Prime Minister has remembered Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan on his birth anniversary.

Jayaprakash Narayan (1902–1979)

- **Popular Name:** Lok Nayak ("People's Leader").
- **Freedom Struggle:** Participated in the Quit India Movement (1942) and escaped from Hazaribagh Jail.
- **Congress Socialist Party:** Prominent founder in 1934.
- **Bhoodan Movement:** Associated with Vinoba Bhave's movement for voluntary land donation.
- **Total Revolution (1974):** Called for political, social and economic reforms; launched at Gandhi Maidan, Patna, on 5 June 1974.
- **Key Ideas:** Decentralisation, participatory democracy, anti-corruption and non-violent social change.
- **Awards:** Ramon Magsaysay Award (1965); Bharat Ratna posthumously (1998).

PLACES IN NEWS

180. Tuvalu

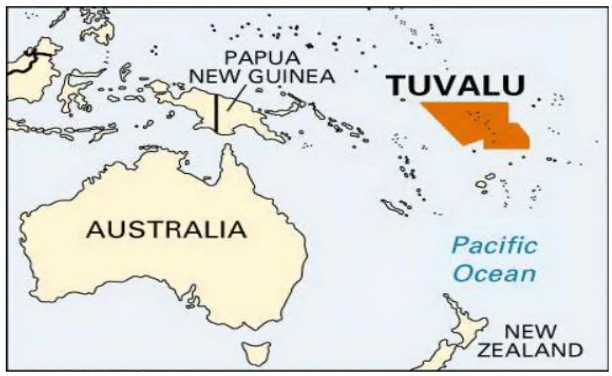
Context

- **Tuvalu is facing a combination of sea-level rise, marine heatwaves and declining fisheries**, highlighting the disproportionate climate vulnerability of small island developing states (SIDS).

Tuvalu

- **Location:** Small island country in the **South Pacific Ocean**, between **Hawaii and Australia**.
- **Composition: 9 islands/atolls**.
- **Former name: Ellice Islands**.
- **Independence:** Gained independence from the **United Kingdom in 1978**.
- **Capital: Funafuti**.
- **Topography:** Extremely **low-lying**; average elevation is only about **1–3 m above sea level**.

Map of Tuvalu



Climate vulnerability:

- Highly exposed to:

1. Sea-level rise
2. Coastal erosion
3. **Saltwater intrusion**
4. Storm surges

- **Significance:** Tuvalu is frequently cited as one of the countries **most vulnerable to climate change and sea-level rise**.

181. Ghana



Context

- **India and Ghana have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation** in agricultural research, education, technology transfer and commercialisation.

Ghana (Capital: Accra) — UPSC

- **Location:** West Africa, along the Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic Ocean); crossed by the Prime Meridian and located north of the Equator.
- **Political History:** Gained independence from British rule on 6 March 1957 under Kwame Nkrumah; formerly known as the Gold Coast.
- **Political System:** Unitary multiparty republic.
- **Major River:** Volta River system.
- **Lake Volta:** One of the world's largest artificial reservoirs; supports hydropower generation through the Akosombo Dam.
- **Mineral Resources:** Gold, bauxite, manganese and diamonds; also has offshore petroleum reserves.
- **Agriculture:** Major producer and exporter of cocoa.
- **Climate:**
  - **ITCZ:** Seasonal movement influences rainfall patterns.
  - **Harmattan winds:** Dry, dusty winds originating from the Sahara.
  - **Southwesterly monsoon winds:** Bring moisture from the Atlantic Ocean.

MISCELLANEOUS

APPOINTMENTS

1. 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**.

2. Three High Court Chief Justices Appointed as Supreme Court Judges

- Justices **Sunita Agarwal** (CJ, **Gujarat High Court**), **Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** (CJ, **Delhi High Court**), and **Aparesh Kumar Singh** (CJ, **Telangana High Court**) have been appointed as **Supreme Court Judges** by the **President of India** under **Article 124(2)** of the Constitution following the Collegium's recommendation. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice of India Justice **Surya Kant** on **October 6, 2026**, raising the apex court's working strength to **37 judges** against a sanctioned strength of **38**, with Justice Sunita Agarwal becoming the **third** sitting woman judge on the current bench.

3. Prakash Rajpurohit Appointed Deputy Election Commissioner

- **Prakash Rajpurohit**, a **2010-batch Rajasthan cadre IAS officer**, has been appointed as the **Deputy Election Commissioner** in the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. He takes charge for a combined tenure extending up to **April 8, 2030**, succeeding **Sanjay Kumar** following his earlier stint as Joint Secretary in the **Department of Defence Production**.

4. Sunil Kumar Appointed Next ONGC Chairman

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has appointed **Sunil Kumar** as the next Chairman of the **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, succeeding **Arun**

Kumar Singh. Currently an Executive Director, Kumar will assume charge on **December 7, 2026**, for a combined **three-year tenure** that includes a post-superannuation contractual engagement.

AWARDS

5. 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:

No.	Artist	Awarded Artwork	Medium	Category
1	**Chandra Shekhar Sain**	My Entire World – I	Terracotta	Sculpture
2	**Gopal Chandra Naskar**	The Tune of The Srimad Bhagavad Gita	Acrylic on Canvas	Painting
3	**Kishor Kumar Narkhadiwala**	Paryavaran	Oil on Canvas	Painting
4	**Mrinal Dey**	Hopeless Settlement	Acrylic on Canvas	Painting
5	**Nidhi Chopra**	Tangible Dreams	Ceramic	Sculpture
6	**Nimai Singh Sarungbam**	Mudra – I	Teak Wood	Sculpture
7	**Pankaj Kumar Sharma**	Haloed Traveler – II	Panel Works	Drawing
8	**Pooja Rajpoot**	Prakriti Shoshan	White Marble	Sculpture
9	**Praveen Kumar**	Where The Walls Remember	Mix Medium	Painting
10	**Pritam Madhukar Deuskar**	Of Time and The City	Etching	Printmaking
11	**Rajendra Prasad**	Sujata With Buddha	Water Color (Wash)	Painting
12	**Ramesh Vithal Thorat**	Untitled – II	Oil on Canvas	Painting
13	**Raviram Ramakrishnan**	Fisherwoman	Copper, Oxidised, Welded	Sculpture
14	**Sanjay Kumar**	When Memories Come Back – 7	Mix Media	Painting
15	**Sanjay Kumar Sahani**	Youth	Oil on Canvas	Painting
16	**Sanjib Kumar Gogoi**	Aakar Nirankar – II	Acrylic & Oil on Canvas	Painting
17	**Santa Deb**	Attraction of Simplicity	Ceramic	Sculpture

18	**Siddharth Shahjirao Shingade**	Trees	Mix Media	Painting
19	**Usha-ranjan Mandal**	Wheel of A Crowded City	Mix Media	Any Other Medium
20	**Vijendra Sharma**	Life 2025	Oil on Canvas	Painting

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Number Theory

Context:

- Indian mathematician Mahesh Kakde has been honored with a prestigious international mathematics prize for his groundbreaking research and contributions to algebraic number theory.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young

Mathematicians from Developing Countries (includes a USD 10,000 cash award).

- **Awardee: Professor Mahesh Kakde** (Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru).
- **Issuing Authority:** Jointly awarded by the **International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)** and the **International Mathematical Union (IMU)**.
- **Key Achievement:** Recognized for his fundamental results in algebraic number theory, particularly his outstanding work on noncommutative Iwasawa theory, the Gross-Stark conjecture, the Brumer-Stark conjecture, and for research that has implications for Hilbert's 12th problem.

About the Award:

- Established in **2005** to recognize and support mathematical excellence in the developing world.
- Awarded exclusively to outstanding mathematicians under the age of **45** who have conducted significant mathematical research while working in a developing country.

9. Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives Legion of Honour

Context:

- The founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises is being conferred with France's highest civilian honor for his instrumental role in fostering bilateral economic ties.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour (Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur).
- **Awardee: Sunil Bharti Mittal** (Founder and Chairman, Bharti Enterprises).
- **Issuing Authority:** The Government of France.
- **Presenter:** Conferred on behalf of French President Emmanuel Macron.
- **Key Achievement:** Recognized for advancing India-France collaboration in **telecommunications and satellite communications** over three decades, notably through early partnerships in 1992 and his current role as co-chairman of the Paris-based **Eutelsat**.

About the Award:

- Instituted by **Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802**.
- France's highest order of merit awarded for distinguished civil and military service, regardless of nationality.
- The rank of **Chevalier (Knight)** is the first of the order's five classes.

10.2026 Nobel Prize Winners Announced

Context:

- The prestigious 2026 Nobel Prizes have now been fully announced across six disciplines to globally recognize outstanding contributions to science, literature, peace, and economics.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** The Nobel Prize (2026).
- **Issuing Authorities:** Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, Swedish Academy, and the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Key Achievements & Awardees:

Category	Awardee(s)	Key Achievement	Issuing Authority
Physiology or Medicine	**Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel**	Discoveries regarding light-gated ion channels and **optogenetics** (manipulating individual neuron functions with light).	Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet

Physics	**Francis Halzen**	Decisive contributions to the **IceCube Neutrino Observatory** and the discovery of high-energy cosmic neutrinos.	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Chemistry	**Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai**	Discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in **asymmetric organic synthesis**.	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
Literature	**Anne Carson** (Canada)	Original oeuvre characterized by a playful interplay with the **classical literary tradition**, creating new literary forms.	Swedish Academy
Peace	**Navi Pillay** (South Africa)	Relentless work in establishing a robust international law regime and prosecuting severe **human rights violations**.	Norwegian Nobel Committee
Economic Sciences	**Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford** (USA)	Developing the **microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation**, enhancing policymakers' tools to manage economic downturns.	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

About the Award:

- Instituted according to the will of Swedish inventor and industrialist **Alfred Nobel**.
- First awarded in **1901** across the five original categories (Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, and Peace).
- The **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences** was added later in **1968** by Sweden's central bank in memory of Alfred Nobel.

11. SIDM Champion Awards 2026

Context:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presented the SIDM Champion Awards 2026 during the 8th Annual Session of the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) to honor domestic industry contributions toward defence indigenization.

Key Highlights:

- **Award: SIDM Champion Awards 2026**
- **Awardees: 15 organisations** recognized across multiple categories.
- **Issuing Authority: Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)**
- **Presenter:** Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**
- **Core Focus Areas:** Achievements in **indigenous technology development**, **product innovation**, **design**, **import substitution**, **manufacturing excellence**, and **exports**.
- **Objective:** To incentivize domestic industries to invest in R&D and technological innovation, directly bridging capability gaps in the armed forces and supporting **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

About the Award & Eligibility:

- Open to all **Indian manufacturing companies**.
- Eligible entities must maintain a **maximum of 50% foreign holding** and must not be a subsidiary of any foreign company.

12. Oscar Whitfield Wins Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2026

Context:

- The Natural History Museum of London announced the winners of its 62nd annual international photography contest, with a 14-year-old securing the top youth prize for capturing a unique perspective on ecological behavior.

Key Highlights:

- **Award: Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year (2026)**.
- **Awardee: Oscar Whitfield** (14-year-old British photographer).
- **Issuing Authority: Natural History Museum**, London, UK.
- **Key Achievement:** Won for his black-and-white photograph titled **'Labour of Love'**, which depicts a dung beetle transporting a dung ball. The image was captured from the insect's eye level in Zimbabwe, showcasing the beetle's vital ecological role in nutrient recycling.

About the Award:

- The Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is a premier global platform recognizing high-quality photography focused on wildlife behavior and biodiversity.
- The 2026 edition (62nd overall) received a record **65,403 entries from 121 countries**.
- Historically notable, the 2026 contest marked the first time that the overall winners in both the adult and young categories won using **black-and-white photography**.

13. Mari ZT Lalrithangi Honoured Among FAO's 100 Women Heroes

Context:

- A female farmer from Mizoram achieved global recognition for successfully establishing and expanding a lucrative strawberry farming venture.

Key Highlights:

- **Award/Recognition:** Named among the **100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development**.
- **Awardee: Mari ZT Lalrithangi** (A 35-year-old farmer from Sangau village in the Lawngtlai district of Mizoram).
- **Issuing Authority:** The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations.
- **Key Achievement:** Starting with no prior experience in 2024, she successfully scaled her strawberry farming business from 1,000 saplings to over 10,000 plants across two hectares, increasing her annual income from ₹1.5 lakh to over ₹10 lakh by 2025. She is the first Mizo woman to receive this honour.

About the Award/Recognition:

- The recognition is part of the FAO's **International Year of Women Farmers 2026** campaign.
- Lalrithangi was chosen from over 600 nominations across 131 countries.
- The honour was officially conferred during the World Food Forum held by the FAO in Rome on October 15, 2026, highlighting the critical role women play in agricultural production and rural economic development.

14.Devadas Chimakode Selected for Karnataka Janapada Award 2026

Context:

- The Karnataka Janapada Academy selected Bidar folk artist Devadas Chimakode for its 2026 annual honorary award, recognising his contribution to the state's folk traditions.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Karnataka Janapada Academy Honorary Award 2026 (announced **21 October 2026**).
- **Awardee: Devadas Chimakode** (56), from **Chimakod village, Bidar taluk, Bidar district**.
- **Issuing Authority: Karnataka Janapada Academy**.
- **Key Achievement: 35 years** of practice in **folk**

singing, instrumental music, **Suggi Kunitha** (a folk dance) and **Halage** (a traditional percussion instrument), and taking folk traditions to villages across the region.

- **Prize: ₹25,000** cash and a citation.

About the Award:

- Conferred annually by the **Karnataka Janapada Academy**, the state's folk arts academy under the **Department of Kannada and Culture**.
- Honours folk artists for lifetime contribution to preserving and promoting Karnataka's **Janapada** (folk) traditions.

15. Ameena Nazreen A S Wins Global Youth Institute Award 2026

Context:

- Indian high school student Ameena Nazreen A S won the Global Youth Institute (GYI) Award at the World Food Prize Foundation's 2026 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue in Des Moines, Iowa (USA).

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Global Youth Institute Award 2026 (**US$500** cash prize)
- **Awardee: Ameena Nazreen A S**, one of **7 Indian high school students** selected through the **NAAS-YUVA** selection drive of the **National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)**.
- **Issuing Authority: World Food Prize Foundation (WFPF)**
- **Event:** Held alongside the **Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue** (**20–22 October 2026**; theme: **"Before Hunger Wins"**). Students presented research papers on food-security challenges.
- **Allied Development:** NAAS signed an **MoU** with the **Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), USA** for agricultural research, capacity building and knowledge exchange.

About the Award:

- The **Global Youth Institute** is the WFPF's annual programme that brings high school students from around the world to **Des Moines** to research and present solutions on **food and nutrition security** and **sustainable agriculture**.
- The WFPF also administers the **World Food Prize** (est. **1986** by Nobel laureate **Norman E. Borlaug**, father of the **Green Revolution**).

16. Ashoke Sen Becomes First v Indian to Win Oskar Klein Medal

Context:

- String theorist Ashoke Sen of ICTS Bengaluru received the 2026 Oskar Klein Medal after delivering the Oskar Klein Memorial Lecture in Stockholm, becoming the first Indian physicist to receive the honour.

Key Highlights:

- **Award:** Oskar Klein Medal 2026
- **Awardee: Ashoke Sen**, ICTS-Infosys **Madhava Chair** Professor at the **International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS-TIFR), Bengaluru**.
- **Issuing Authority: Stockholm University** and the **Nobel Committee for Physics**, **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.
- **Presentation:** Memorial Lecture titled **"Gravity from Strings and Strings from Gravity"**, delivered on **22 October 2026** at the **AlbaNova University Centre**, Stockholm.
- **Key Achievement:** Pioneering work in **string theory**, including **S-duality**, **string field theory** and the microscopic counting of **black hole entropy**.
- **Other Honours: Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics** (**2012**), **Dirac Medal** (**2014**), **Padma Bhushan** (**2013**), **Padma Shri** (**2001**), **FRS** (**1998**), **Infosys Prize** (**2009**), **S.S. Bhatnagar Prize** (**1994**) and **ICTP Prize** (**1989**).

About the Award:

- Instituted in **1988** in honour of Swedish theoretical physicist **Oskar Klein** (1894–1977), co-proposer of the **Kaluza–Klein**

theory. It is awarded annually to the physicist who delivers the Memorial Lecture.
- Notable past recipients include **Chen-Ning Yang** (first, **1988**), **Steven Weinberg**, **Edward Witten**, **Stephen Hawking**, **Peter Higgs** and **Kip Thorne**.

17. Usha Mangeshkar Gets First Bhupen Hazarika Award

Context:
- The Assam Government named playback singer Usha Mangeshkar the first recipient of the Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award.

Key Highlights:
- **Award:** Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award (inaugural)
- **Awardee: Usha Mangeshkar**, for contributions to Indian music and Hazarika's works.
- **Issuing Authority: Government of Assam** (announced **23 October 2026**).
- **Presenter:** PM **Narendra Modi**, **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi (**29 November 2026**), at the close of Hazarika's **birth centenary**.

About the Award:
- Instituted in **2026**. It is given **every three years** for music, arts or cinema and carries **₹10 lakh** and a citation.
- **Bhupen Hazarika** (**1926–2011**, born in **Sadiya**, Assam) was known as the **"Bard of the Brahmaputra"** and received the **Bharat Ratna** posthumously in **2019**.

18. SUVIKALP Wins SKOCH Gold Award 2026

Context:
- The **Coal Controller Organisation (CCO)** under the **Ministry of Coal** won the **SKOCH Gold Award 2026** for its **SUVIKALP** initiative.

Key Highlights:
- **Award: SKOCH Gold Award 2026**, in the category **"Digital Operational Efficiency – Data Driven Decision Making"**.
- **Awardee: Coal Controller Organisation**, **Ministry of Coal**.
- **Key Achievement: SUVIKALP**, an in-house **Mine Repurposing Tool** for the sustainable and productive reuse of **closed coal mines**.

About the Award:
- Conferred under the **SKOCH Awards** by the **SKOCH Group**, an independent think tank, since **2003**.
- Honours excellence in **governance**, **public service delivery**, **digital transformation** and **institutional efficiency**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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"

22. World Teachers' Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** October 5, 2026
- **Observing Organisation:** UNESCO, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF, and Education International.
- **Objective:** To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, address the global shortage of 44 million teachers, and advocate for the protection, professional development, and improved working conditions of educators worldwide.
- **Theme:** "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures."

23. World Habitat Day 2026

- **Observed Date:** October 5, 2026 (First Monday of October)
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and UN-Habitat
- **Objective:** To reflect on the state of our towns and cities, emphasize the fundamental human right to adequate shelter, and address the pressing global housing crisis exacerbated by fast-paced urbanization, climate change, and economic disparities.
- **Theme:** "Adequate Housing for All"

24. National Wildlife Week 2026

- **Observed Date: October 2–8, 2026** (Marks the **72nd edition** of the observance)
- **Observing Organisation: Government of India** (Initiated originally by the **Indian Board for Wildlife** in 1952)
- **Objective:** To promote nationwide awareness about **wildlife conservation**, **habitat protection**, and **biodiversity**, while encouraging action to prevent **poaching** and reduce **human-wildlife conflict** to safeguard India's natural ecosystems.
- **Theme: "Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife"**

25. World Cerebral Palsy Day 2026

- **Observed Date: October 6, 2026**
- **Observing Organisation:** Led by the **World Cerebral Palsy Alliance** alongside global disability rights organisations and communities.
- **Objective:** To raise global awareness about **cerebral palsy (CP)**, advocate for the **fundamental rights**, **accessibility**, and **inclusion** of over 17 million individuals living with the condition worldwide, and amplify their voices for equal opportunities in healthcare and education.
- **Theme: "Unique and United"** (also promoted as **#UniqueANDUnited**)

26. World Space Week 2026

- **Observed Date: October 4–10, 2026** (Annually held to commemorate the launch of Sputnik 1 on Oct 4, 1957, and the enforcement of the Outer Space Treaty on Oct 10, 1967).
- **Observing Organisation: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** (Coordinated globally by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs and the World Space Week Association).
- **Objective:** To celebrate international

contributions of **space science and technology** to the betterment of the human condition, promote **STEM education**, and foster global cooperation in **peaceful space exploration**.

- **Theme: "Rocket Revolution"** (Focusing on the transformation of space launches through reusable rockets, commercial spaceflight, and expanding access to orbit).

27. Indian Air Force Day 2026 (94th Anniversary)

- **Observed Date: October 8, 2026** (Marking the foundation of the IAF in **1932** during the colonial era).
- **Observing Organisation: Indian Air Force (IAF)** (Operating under the motto *"Nabhah Sparsham Diptam"* or "Touch the Sky with Glory").
- **Objective:** To commemorate the **94th anniversary** of the IAF's establishment, honoring its evolution into an integral defense system capable of advanced combat, surveillance, and disaster relief. The 2026 celebrations also prominently highlighted **Exercise Tarang Shakti**, a major multinational air exercise held in Jodhpur to enhance joint training and global interoperability.
- **Theme:** While the specific IAF Day 2026 theme has not been officially announced, the concurrent **Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026** operated under the theme **"Power in Partnership."**

28. International Day of Older Persons 2026

- **Observed Date: October 1, 2026** (Designated by the **UNGA in 1990** and first observed in **1991**).
- **Observing Organisation: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**, with global implementation led by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Objective:** To address the opportunities and challenges of population ageing, promote the human rights and well-being of senior citizens, and support the **UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)** by advocating for systemic reforms in social protection and healthcare for longer lives.
- **Theme: "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives"**

29. World Mental Health Day 2026

- **Observed Date: October 10, 2026**
- **Observing Organisation: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (India)** & global health organizations.
- **Objective:** To raise awareness regarding mental well-being, destigmatize mental disorders, and emphasize the necessity of accessible and inclusive mental health care services and policies. It also highlights India's ongoing community outreach and telehealth efforts.
- **Theme: "Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change"** (focusing on involving individuals who have experienced mental illness in shaping care policies).

Key Initiatives Highlighted (India):

- **Tele-MANAS (14416):** Launched on October 10, 2022, it provides 24/7 free, multi-lingual, and confidential counseling and guidance nationwide, bridging telephonic support with the broader public healthcare system.
- **MANN Jaagriti:** A community engagement program spanning schools, workplaces, and local organizations aimed at reducing stigma, motivating help-seeking behavior, and creating widespread awareness.
- **DMHP (District Mental Health Programme):** Implemented in 767 districts to provide out-patient care, psychosocial interventions, and medications, ensuring support goes beyond just telephonic counseling.

30. NHRC 33rd Foundation Day

- **Observed Date: October 12, 2026**
- **Venue:** Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- **Chief Guest:** Chief Justice of India, **Justice Surya Kant**
- **Key Event & Focus:** The milestone celebration includes a national conference themed **"Water as the Elixir of Life: Enhancing Human Dignity through the Right to Water,"** uniting academics, researchers, and civil society to discuss the preservation of water bodies and equitable access to drinking water as a fundamental human right.
- **Performance Metric / Key Achievements:** Over the past 33 years, the NHRC has processed over **24.33 lakh cases** (including 3,100 *suo motu* interventions) and recommended monetary compensation exceeding **₹274 crore** across 9,085 cases of human rights violations.

31. World Cotton Day

- **Observed Date: October 7**
- **Observing Organisation:** United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the global cotton community.
- **Objective:** To highlight the global economic, social, and environmental importance of cotton, recognizing its vital role in livelihoods, international trade, rural development, and sustainable value chains, particularly for developing economies.
- **Background:** The initiative originated from the "Cotton Four" nations in sub-Saharan Africa (**Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad, and Mali**) aiming to promote cotton by-products and their markets. The first event was hosted by the WTO in Geneva in 2019, and the UNGA officially recognized the date in August 2021.
- **Global Theme (2026): "Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership."** (The global celebrations were hosted in Tashkent, Uzbekistan).
- **Indian Observance (2026):** In India, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) organized the 5th Global Cotton Conference in New Delhi under the national theme: **"Collaborating for a Resilient Cotton Value Chain."**

32. Bathukamma Festival 2026 Begins in Telangana

- **Context:** The nine-day traditional floral festival of Bathukamma commenced in Telangana, celebrating nature, the unity of women, and the state's vibrant cultural heritage.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Festival State	**Telangana**
Dates	**October 10 to 18, 2026** (spanning the Navratri season)
Core Ritual	Women arrange seasonal flowers (like *Tangedu*, *Gunugu*, marigold) in dome-shaped stacks topped with a turmeric idol of **Goddess Gauri (Gauramma)**.
Key Phases	Begins with *Engilipula Bathukamma* and concludes with the grand finale, **Saddula Bathukamma**, marked by large processions and the immersion of the floral arrangements into water bodies.
Cultural Significance	Symbolizes the divine feminine, gratitude towards nature, and the state's cultural identity. Translates to "Mother Goddess, come alive."

33. World Students' Day 2026

- **Observed Date: October 15**

- **Objective / Focus:** To celebrate the birth anniversary of former Indian President and aerospace scientist **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** (marking his 95th birth anniversary in 2026). The day honors his immense dedication to education, scientific temper, and the empowerment of youth.
- **Background / Key Facts:** Dr. Kalam (born in 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu) was known as the 'People's President' and the 'Missile Man of India' for his vital role in ISRO's Launch Vehicle Programme (SLV-III) and DRDO's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme. He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1997**. After his presidency (2002–2007), he devoted his life to teaching and interacting with students until he passed away in 2015.
- **International Status Note:** While widely celebrated across educational institutions in India through seminars and science fairs, World Students' Day is *not* officially recognized as an international day by the United Nations (the UN recognizes October 15 as the International Day of Rural Women). No official global theme is declared for this day.

34. Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026

- **Observed Date: October 15**
- **Objective / Focus:** Organized by the **Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, the day commemorates the immense contribution of women farmers to Indian agriculture, food security, and rural development. The 2026 national-level celebration was held at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- **Theme (2026): "Role of Women Farmers in Developing Agriculture and Developed India"** (aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat).
- **Background / Key Facts:**
- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2025, females accounted for an estimated **59.8% of the total agricultural workforce** in India.
- The observance intentionally coincides with the UN's **International Day of Rural Women** (also October 15).
- The 2026 event holds special significance as the United Nations has officially declared 2026 as the **International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026)**.

35. World Food Day 2026

- **Observed Date: October 16**
- **Theme (2026): "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."** (emphasizing the role of innovation in creating inclusive, sustainable, and resilient agri-food systems).
- **Objective / Focus:** To highlight global issues of hunger, malnutrition, food security, and sustainable agriculture, aligning directly with **Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2: Zero Hunger)**.
- **Background / Key Facts:**
- The day commemorates the establishment of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations on **October 16, 1945**.
- The observance was officially adopted in 1979 during the FAO's 20th General Conference and was first observed globally in **1981**.
- The year 2026 marks the 46th observance of World Food Day. In India, it draws attention to key food security initiatives like the National Food Security Act (2013), PMGKAY, and PM POSHAN.

36. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2026

- **Observed Date: October 17**
- **Theme (2026): "Safe Homes for All"** (This falls under the broader multi-year UN theme for 2026-2028: *"United for Peace and Human Rights"*).
- **Objective / Focus:** To draw global attention

to the systemic issues of poverty, social exclusion, and the protection of human dignity. The 2026 observance specifically emphasizes the critical connection between adequate housing, human rights, and poverty eradication.

- **Background / Key Facts:**
- The observance traces back to October 17, 1987, when 100,000 people gathered in Trocadéro, Paris, to honor victims of extreme poverty, hunger, and violence.
- The United Nations General Assembly officially declared the international day in **1992** (Resolution 47/196).
- The 2026 observance prioritizes three key actions: treating housing rights as human rights, ensuring the participation of poverty-affected individuals in policy formulation, and mobilizing resources for secure/ affordable housing.

37.Police Commemoration Day 2026

- **Observed Date: October 21**
- **Objective / Focus:** To honor the bravery and ultimate sacrifice of police personnel from state/Union Territory forces, CAPFs, and other police departments killed in the line of duty.
- Background / Key Facts:
- The observance commemorates a specific tragic event on **October 21, 1959**, when ten CRPF members lost their lives in an ambush by Chinese forces at **Hot Springs in Ladakh**.
- The central ceremony takes place at the **National Police Memorial** in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi (unveiled in 2018), which features the Central Sculpture, the Wall of Valour, and the Police Museum.
- **2026 Special Event:** A 90-person police motorcycle rally themed **"Fight Against Drugs"** was organized to raise awareness about substance abuse while traveling to Ekta Nagar in Gujarat to culminate at the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) parade on October 31.

38. National Postal Week

- **Observed Date: October 9 to 15**
- **Objective / Focus:** Organized by the **Department of Posts (DoP)** to highlight the evolving role of the postal network in communication, grassroots financial inclusion, and technology-driven delivery services.
- **Background & Themed Days:** The week commences annually on **World Post Day** (October 9) and features dedicated observances to showcase different operational facets:
- **October 12 (Fun with Philately Day):** Highlights the rich cultural, educational, and historical dimensions of stamp collecting.
- **October 13 (Financial Inclusion & CCS Day):** Underscores the DoP's vital contribution to strengthening nationwide financial inclusion.
- **October 14 (Mails & Parcels Day):** Focuses on the department's continued efforts to provide reliable, efficient, and accessible delivery logistics.
- **October 15 (Technology & Innovation Day):** Concludes the celebrations by emphasizing modern digital and technological advancements within the postal infrastructure.

39.World Post Day

- **Observed Date: October 9**
- **Theme (2026): "World Post Day: One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities."**
- **Background / Key Facts:**
- The day marks the anniversary of the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.
- The observance was officially declared globally during the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan, in **1969**.
- World Iodine Deficiency Day
- **Observed Date: October 21**
- **Observing Organisation:** Global health community, led by **WHO**, **UNICEF** and the

Iodine Global Network

- **Objective:** To raise awareness of **iodine deficiency disorders** such as **goitre**, **hypothyroidism** and impaired **brain development**, and to promote universal use of **iodised salt**, which India pursues through its **National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP)**, launched in **1962** as the **National Goitre Control Programme** and renamed in **1992**.

40. Ashfaqulla Khan Birth Anniversary

- **Observed Date: October 22**
- **Observing Organisation: Government of India**
- **Objective:** To commemorate the revolutionary **Ashfaqulla Khan** (born **1900**, **Shahjahanpur**, UP), a member of the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** and a key participant with **Ram Prasad Bismil** in the **Kakori Train Action** (**9 August 1925**). He was hanged at **Faizabad Jail** on **19 December 1927**, and is remembered as a symbol of **Hindu–Muslim unity** in the freedom struggle.

41.International Day of the Snow Leopard

- **Observed Date: October 23**
- **Observing Organisation: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**, through **Resolution 79/143** (**December 2024**). The date marks the **Bishkek Declaration** (**2013**), which launched the **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP)** of **12 range countries**.
- **Objective:** To promote conservation of the **snow leopard** (***Panthera uncia***; **IUCN: Vulnerable**; **CITES and CMS Appendix I**) and its high-altitude ecosystems. India has an estimated **718** snow leopards (**SPAI, 2023**; highest in **Ladakh**) and runs **Project Snow Leopard** (**2009**).

42. United Nations Day

- **Observed Date: October 24**
- **Observing Organisation: United Nations**. The UNGA declared the observance in **1947**.
- **Objective:** To mark the entry into force of the **UN Charter** (signed **26 June 1945** in **San Francisco**; in force **24 October 1945**) and promote the UN's goals of **peace**, **security**, **human rights** and **development**. The UN has **193 member states** and **six principal organs**: the **General Assembly**, **Security Council**, **ECOSOC**, **Trusteeship Council**, **International Court of Justice** and **Secretariat**. **India** is a **founding member** (joined **30 October 1945**).

43. World Polio Day

- **Observed Date: October 24**
- **Observing Organisation: Rotary International**, with the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI**, launched **1988**: **WHO**, **UNICEF**, **CDC**, Rotary and the **Gates Foundation**)
- **Objective:** To honour **Jonas Salk**, developer of the first **inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)**, and push for global eradication of **wild poliovirus**, which remains endemic only in **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan**. India launched **Pulse Polio** in **1995**, recorded its last case on **13 January 2011** (**Howrah**, West Bengal), and was certified **polio-free** by **WHO** on **27 March 2014**.

44. ITBP Raising Day

- **Observed Date: October 24**
- **Observing Organisation: Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- **Objective:** To mark the raising of the ITBP on **24 October 1962**, during the **Sino-Indian War**. This **Central Armed Police Force** (governed by the **ITBP Act, 1992**; motto **"Shaurya – Dridhata – Karm Nishtha"**) guards the **3,488 km India–China border**

from the **Karakoram Pass** (Ladakh) to **Jachep La** (Arunachal Pradesh). **2026** is its **64th Raising Day**.

45. World Standards Day

- **Observed Date: October 14**
- **Observing Organisation: IEC**, **ISO** and **ITU** under the **World Standards Cooperation**. In India, the observance is led by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, and the **Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)** held a celebration in **New Delhi**.
- **Objective:** To honour the experts who develop voluntary **international standards** and to commemorate the **London** meeting of delegates from **25 countries** on **14 October 1946** that led to the creation of **ISO** (**1947**). The day has been observed since **1970**.
- **Theme: "Shared Vision for a Better World: Spotlight on SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy"**

46. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

- **Observed Date: October 13**
- **Observing Organisation: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**. The day was established by the **UNGA** in **1989** and fixed on 13 October in **2009** (**Resolution 64/200**).
- **Objective:** To shift focus from reactive **disaster relief** to proactive **risk reduction** and promote a global culture of **disaster resilience**.
- **Theme: "Resilience Starts at Home"**

MILITARY EXERCISES

47. 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

48. Exercise KAZIND

- **Context:** The 9th edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise commenced to enhance bilateral interoperability and tactical skills for joint counter-terrorism operations.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Participating Nations	**India and Kazakhstan**
Edition & Venue	**9th Edition (2026)** at **Oskemen, Kazakhstan**
Dates	Conducted from **September 28 to October 11, 2026**
Background / Inception	First instituted in **2016** under the name **'Exercise Prabal Dostyk'** before being upgraded and renamed to 'Exercise KAZIND'

Core Objective	Joint counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a United Nations mandate, with a focus on air mobility and the integrated employment of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)
Indian Contingent	A 60-member contingent primarily comprising personnel from the **Garhwal Rifles** alongside the Indian Air Force

49. Exercise ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME)

Context:

- The second edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) commenced in the Philippines to strengthen regional maritime cooperation, enhance interoperability, and ensure a stable and open Indo-Pacific.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Participating Nations	**India** and **ASEAN** (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states
Edition & Venue	**2nd Edition (2026)** at **Subic Bay, Philippines**
Theme	**"Anchored in Trust, United at Sea"**
Background	The inaugural 1st edition of AIME was hosted by **Singapore** in May 2023.
Core Objective	Enhancing joint maritime security, standardizing standard operating procedures (SOPs), and conducting cross-deck operations and anti-piracy drills. Aligns with India's **Act East Policy** and **MAHASAGAR** vision.
Key Indian Assets	The Indian Navy deployed indigenously built warships **INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kulish**.

50. Exercise MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN

Context:

- The India-UAE joint military exercise commenced to enhance bilateral interoperability and tactical proficiency in mountainous terrain.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Participating Nations	**India and the UAE**
Edition & Venue	**3rd Edition (2026)** at Chaubatia, **Uttarakhand**
Participating Troops	Indian Army (**Bhairav Battalion**) and UAE **Mountain Infantry Battalion** (including women combatants)
Core Objective	Joint mountain warfare, technology-enabled surveillance grids, and counter-insurgency operations

51.Exercise VARUNA

Context:

- The Indian Navy's guided-missile stealth frigate INS Trishul arrived at Toulon, France, to participate in the 24th edition of the annual bilateral maritime exercise with the French Navy.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Participating Navies	**India and France**
Edition & Venue	**24th Edition (2026)** at the port of **Toulon, France**

Inception	Bilateral naval exercises initiated in 1993; formally christened **'Varuna'** in **2001**
Key Indian Asset	**INS Trishul** (Talwar-class stealth frigate)
Core Objective	Enhancing bilateral naval interoperability, sharing operational best practices, and fostering mutual understanding through complex harbour and sea engagements

52. Exercise SAREX-2026

Context:

- The Indian Coast Guard conducted the 12th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise off the coast of Paradip, Odisha, to strengthen coordinated disaster response and validate maritime search and rescue protocols.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Conducting Force	**Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**
Edition & Venue	**12th Edition (2026)** off **Paradip, Odisha**
International Observers	**32 international observers** representing **30 friendly foreign countries**
Core Objective	Enhancing a faster, technology-enabled, and coordinated Search and Rescue (SAR) framework aligned with India's **SAGAR** vision and **MAHASAGAR** outreach
Operational Scope	Simulated large-scale **Mass Rescue Operations (MRO)** involving concurrent aeronautical and maritime distress scenarios

53. Exercise INDRA-2026

Context:

- The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri arrived at Vladivostok, Russia, to participate in the bilateral maritime exercise INDRA-2026 with the Russian Federation Navy.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Participating Navies	**India and Russia**
Edition & Venue	Scheduled from **October 13 to 18, 2026**, at **Vladivostok, Russia**, followed by coordinated activities at sea
Inception	Bilateral naval exercises held since **2003** (with the first tri-service INDRA held in 2017)
Key Indian Asset	**INS Sahyadri**, an indigenously built Shivalik-class guided-missile stealth frigate
Core Objective	Enhancing maritime cooperation, tactical interoperability, and operational coordination (through harbor and sea phases) while supporting India's broader **MAHASAGAR** vision

54. Assam Regiment Wins Gold at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026

Context:

- A patrol team from the Indian Army's Assam Regiment secured a gold medal at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026, an internationally recognized military patrol competition held in Wales, UK.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Event Name	**Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026**
Organizer & Venue	**British Army** (160th Welsh Brigade); held in the rugged terrain of **Wales, UK**

Inception	Founded in **1959** and globally recognized as "The Olympics of Military Patrolling."
Winning Indian Contingent	A team from the **Assam Regiment**, Indian Army
Core Evaluation	Teams (eight members per patrol) are assessed over approximately **48 hours** based on physical endurance, field craft, navigation, tactical leadership, and decision-making under severe fatigue.
Medal Criteria	Multiple gold, silver, or bronze medals are awarded simultaneously based strictly on whether military performance standards are met, rather than as a traditional race.

55. Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026

Context:

- The fifth edition of the bilateral joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND commenced in Kerala, focusing on interoperability between the Indian and Australian armies in coastal terrains.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Participating Armies	India and Australia
Edition & Venue	**5th Edition**; held from **October 19 to November 1, 2026**, at the Foreign Training Node in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
Core Theme	"Joint Sub-Conventional Operations in Island and Coastal Environment under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate."
Participant Scale	Approximately **240 personnel** (120 from each nation).
New Addition (2026)	An observer team from **New Zealand** participated in the exercise for the first time.
Previous Edition	The 4th edition (2025) was held in Perth, Australia.

56. Exercise IBSAMAR

Context:

- The **9th edition** of the **India–Brazil–South Africa Maritime Exercise** concluded in South Africa, strengthening **trilateral naval interoperability** and maritime cooperation.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Participating Nations	**India**, **Brazil** and **South Africa** (navies)
Edition & Venue	**9th Edition** (**2026**) at **Simon's Town** and **False Bay**, Western Cape, **South Africa**
Dates	**8–20 October 2026**, with **harbour** and **sea phases**
Lead Nation	**India** (host: **South Africa**)
Indian Contingent	**INS Tarkash**, a **Talwar-class stealth frigate**
Background / Inception	First held in **2008** off **South Africa**, under the **IBSA Dialogue Forum** (formed **2003**, **Brasilia Declaration**)
Core Objective	**Interoperability**, joint maritime drills, sharing best practices and upholding a **rules-based maritime order**

57. Exercise SIMBEX

Context:

- The **33rd edition** of the **Singapore–India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-2026)** began at **Visakhapatnam** to enhance naval interoperability and maritime security in the **Indo-Pacific**.

Salient Features:

Parameter	Key Details
Participating Nations	**India** (Indian Navy) and **Singapore** (Republic of Singapore Navy)
Edition & Venue	**33rd Edition** (**2026**) at **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh (**Eastern Naval Command**)
Dates	**21–26 October 2026**: **Harbour Phase** (21–23 Oct) and **Sea Phase** (24–26 Oct) in the **Bay of Bengal**
Participating Assets	**India: INS Nilgiri** (Project 17A stealth frigate) and **INS Kamorta** (ASW corvette); **Singapore: RSS Supreme** (Formidable-class frigate)
Background / Inception	Began in **1994** as **Exercise Lion King**
Core Objective	**Anti-Submarine**, **anti-surface** and **anti-air warfare** drills, seamanship and tactical manoeuvres to boost **interoperability**

OBITUARIES

58. Veteran Filmmaker Singeetham Srinivasa Rao Passes Away at 94

- Two-time National Award-winning legendary director and screenwriter **Singeetham Srinivasa Rao**, celebrated for pioneering genre-defying and experimental Indian cinema with classics such as the silent black comedy **Pushpaka Vimanam** (1987) and sci-fi landmark **Aditya 369** (1991), passed away from age-related complications at **94** in **Chennai** on **October 3, 2026**.

59. Veteran Actor Nana Patekar Passes Away at 75

- Three-time **National Film Award**-winning legendary Indian actor and **Padma Shri** recipient **Vishwanath 'Nana' Patekar**, celebrated for his intense, distinctive performances and monumental contributions to Hindi and Marathi cinema in iconic films such as ***Parinda*** (1989), ***Krantiveer*** (1994), and ***Natsamrat*** (2016), passed away from a cardiac arrest at the age of **75** at his residence in **Goa** on **October 8, 2026**.

SPORTS

60. 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.

61. 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

62. 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).

63. 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

64. 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.

65. India Secures 4th Position with 85 Medals at Asian Games 2026

Why in News:

- India concluded its highly successful campaign at the 20th Asian Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, securing a historic fourth-place finish with an impressive tally of 85 medals.

Key Highlights:

- **Medal Tally:-** India amassed a total of **85 medals**, comprising **21 Gold**, **27 Silver**, and **37 Bronze**, cementing its position among the continent's sporting elite.
- **Venue & Dates:-** The Games were held across Aichi and Nagoya, Japan, from **September 19 to October 4, 2026**.
- **Historic Team Sweeps:-** India asserted total dominance in team sports by clinching a clean sweep of double gold medals in both the men's and women's events across **Cricket, Hockey, and Kabaddi**.
- **Breakthrough Track Performances:-** Athlete **Vithya Ramraj** was a standout performer, winning three medals (Gold in women's 4x400m relay, Silver in mixed 4x400m, Bronze in 400m hurdles) and surpassing a longstanding national athletics benchmark by clocking **54.75 seconds** in the 400m hurdles.

Asian Games 2026: Final Medal Tally (Top 5 Nations)

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	169	89	83	341
2	Japan	83	95	91	269
3	South Korea	39	43	68	150
4	**India**	**21**	**27**	**37**	**85**
5	Uzbeki-stan	21	25	24	70

Asian Games 2026: Key Indian Medalists & Crucial Stats

Sport	Event	Indian Win-ner(s)	Medal & Remarks
Cricket	Men's & Women's T20	Team India	**Double Gold**
Hockey	Men's & Women's Team	Team India	**Double Gold**
Kabaddi	Men's & Women's Team	Team India	**Double Gold**
Athletics	Women's 4x400m Relay	Kiran Pahal, Poovamma Machetti-ra, Prachi Choudhary, Vithya Ram-raj	**Gold**

Athletics	Women's 400m Hurdles	Vithya Ramraj	**Bronze** (Clocked historic 54.75s)
Boxing	Women's 75kg	Lovlina Borgohain	**Gold**
Boxing	Women's 65kg	Parveen Hooda	**Gold**
Golf	Women's Individual	Pranavi Urs	**Gold**
Weightlifting	Women's 49kg	Mirabai Chanu	**Silver** (Total Lift: 198 kg - Snatch 87kg, Clean & Jerk 111kg)
Wrestling	Men's Freestyle 57kg	Aman Sehrawat	**Gold**
Wrestling	Men's Freestyle 65kg	Sujeet Kalkal	**Gold**
Archery	Women's Individual Recurve	Kumkum Mohod	**Gold**

66. Smriti Mandhana Appointed Captain of Indian Women's Cricket Team

Why in News:

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officially appointed star opening batter Smriti Mandhana as the full-time white-ball captain of the Indian women's cricket team, succeeding Harmanpreet Kaur.

Key Highlights:

- **Leadership Transition:-** Succeeds **Harmanpreet Kaur**, who voluntarily stepped down from captaincy across all formats to focus exclusively on her role as a player.
- **International Experience:-** Made her senior international debut in **2013** and previously led the national side as stand-in skipper in **18 T20Is** and **4 ODIs**.
- **Domestic & Franchise Track Record:-** Demonstrated proven tactical leadership by captaining the **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** to two **Women's Premier League (WPL)** titles in **2024** and **2026**.
- **Effective Scope:-** Formally entrusted with leading the national side across upcoming bilateral series and global ICC white-ball tournaments.

67. Djokovic and Alcaraz Clinch ATP Titles in Beijing and Tokyo

Why in News:

- Tennis superstars Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz secured major ATP 500 championships on October 6, 2026, winning the China Open and Japan Open men's singles titles respectively.

Key Highlights:

- **Djokovic's 102nd Title:-** Serbian legend Novak Djokovic claimed his record-extending **seventh China Open** title in Beijing after Australia's Alex de Minaur retired due to a groin injury in the second set of the final.
- **Historic Dominance in Beijing:-** The 39-year-old Djokovic improved his flawless China Open win-loss record to **34-0**, becoming the oldest ATP 500 champion in history while securing his first ATP tour title of the 2026 season.
- **Alcaraz Defends Tokyo Crown:-** Spanish star Carlos Alcaraz successfully defended his **Japan Open** title by defeating the Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka in straight sets, marking his second consecutive win at the prestigious Asian event.
- **Comeback Triumph:-** The Japan Open victory stands as Alcaraz's **third title of 2026** (following the Australian Open) and pushes his career tally to 27.

68. Indian Cricketers Sweep September 2026 ICC Player of the Month Awards

Why in News:

- Indian cricketers Shubman Gill and Shafali Verma were named the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for September 2026, marking the third time Indian players have swept both categories in the same month.

Key Highlights:

- **Record-Equalling Men's Winner:- Shubman Gill** won his **fifth** Men's Player of the Month award, tying the all-time record held by West Indies captain Hayley Matthews. His recognition follows a phenomenal ODI series against the West Indies, where he scored 110 runs in Thiruvananthapuram and a blistering 223 runs off 133 balls.
- **Standout Women's Winner:- Shafali Verma** secured her second career monthly award (previously winning in Nov 2025). She amassed 360 runs at an average of 72 (strike rate 184.61) and took six wickets across seven T20Is in September.
- **Crucial Tournaments:-** Verma was instrumental in India's dual triumphs: scoring 236 runs to win the **Women's Asia Cup** in the UAE (including a 68 in the final), and starring in the **Asian Games** in Japan where she hit a 49-ball century in the semi-final to help India secure the gold medal.
- **Issuing Authority:-** International Cricket Council (ICC).

69.Punam Raut Retires from International Cricket

Why in News:

- Indian women's cricket team top-order batter Punam Raut officially announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket on October 15, 2026.

Key Highlights:

- **Career Span & Stats:-** The Mumbai-born batter represented India in 112 international matches between 2009 and 2021. Across formats, she played 4 Tests (scoring 264 runs, including a top score of 130 against South Africa), 73 ODIs (scoring 2,299 runs with three centuries), and 35 T20Is.
- **Defining Milestone:-** In her retirement statement, Raut highlighted the 2017 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup—where India reached the final—as a career-defining moment that inspired a generation of young girls and transformed the landscape of women's cricket in India.

70.Indian Shooters Dominate at 2026 Para Asian Games

Why in News:



- Indian para-shooters Mona Agarwal and Avani Lekhara secured a historic 1-2 finish in the women's 10m air rifle event at the 2026 Para Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, securing India's first medals of the competition.

Mona Agarwal (Gold) and Avani Lekhara (Silver). Source: The Indian Express



- Avani Lekhara in action. Source: Olympics.com / Paris 2024 Paralympics

Key Highlights:

- **Record-Breaking Gold:- Mona Agarwal** (from Rajasthan) won the gold medal with a score of 250 points, establishing a new Asian Para Games record. She also set a new qualification record with 629.1 points.
- **Silver & Olympic Quota:-** Reigning Paralympic champion **Avani Lekhara** secured the silver medal with 249.6 points. Crucially, this performance booked a quota place for India at the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games (LA28).
- **Athlete Backgrounds:-**

- Mona Agarwal is an Arjuna Awardee (2024) who transitioned from para-athletics, powerlifting, and sitting volleyball before taking up rifle shooting in late 2021. She previously won bronze at the Paris 2024 Paralympics.
- Avani Lekhara is one of India's most decorated para-athletes, having won consecutive Paralympic golds (Tokyo 2020, Paris 2024) in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.

71. Ayush Verma Wins Shot Put Gold at Asian Para Games 2026

Why in News:

- Indian para-athlete Ayush Verma secured the gold medal in the men's shot put F53 event at the Asian Para Games 2026 in Nagoya, Japan, taking India's total medal tally to 38.

Key Highlights:

- **Golden Throw:-** Verma claimed the top spot on the podium with a decisive throw of **8.16 meters** on his fifth attempt. He defeated Iran's Alireza Hemami (8.09m, Silver) and Kazakhstan's Makhambet Serikkaliyev (6.81m, Bronze).
- **Double Medalist:-** This gold marks Verma's second medal of the 2026 games, following his earlier bronze medal victory in the men's javelin F53/54 event.

72. Yashaswini–Harmeet Win Asian TT Bronze

Why in News:

- **Yashaswini Ghorpade** and **Harmeet Desai** won **bronze** in **mixed doubles** at the **Asian Table Tennis Championships 2026**, ending India's **72-year** medal drought in the event.
- **Key Highlights:**
- **Venue:- Tashkent**, **Uzbekistan**; organised by the **Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU)**.
- **Players:- Yashaswini Ghorpade** (**Karnataka**) and **Harmeet Desai** (**Gujarat**).
- **Historic Feat:-** India's previous mixed doubles medal was a **silver** in **1954** (**Yatin Vyas–Meena Parande**). India's only mixed doubles **gold** came at the inaugural **1952** edition (**Kalyanpur Jayant–Gool Nasikwala**).
- Asian TT Championships 2026: Indian Mixed Doubles Progression

Stage	Opponents	Score	Result
Quarter-final	Park Ganghyeon–Lee Daeun (**South Korea**)	**3–2**	Won
Semi-final	Sora Matsushima–Miwa Harimoto (**Japan**)	**0–3**	**Bronze**

73. S Meghana Retires from All Cricket

Why in News:

- Indian women's batter **Sabbhineni Meghana** (**30**) announced her retirement from **all formats** of cricket.
- **Key Highlights:**
- **Profile:-** Born **1996** in **Krishna** district, **Andhra Pradesh**; played domestic cricket for **Andhra** and **Railways**.
- **International Honours:-** Won the **Women's T20 Asia Cup 2016** and **silver** at the **2022 Commonwealth Games** (Birmingham).
- **WPL Career:-** Played for **Gujarat Giants** (**2023**) and **Royal Challengers Bangalore** (**2024–**), and was part of RCB's **WPL 2024** title-winning squad.

74.India's Record Haul at Asian Para Games 2026

Why in News:

- India finished **4th** with a record **114 medals** (**30 gold**, **35 silver**, **49 bronze**) at the **5th Asian Para Games** in **Aichi-Nagoya**, **Japan** (**18–24 October 2026**).

Key Highlights:

- **Record Tally:-** Surpassed the previous best of **108** medals at **Hangzhou 2022** (originally **111**, revised after doping disqualifications).
- **Contingent:- 168** para-athletes (**112 men**,

56 women) across **11 sports**; flag bearers **Pramod Bhagat** and **Bhavina Patel**.

- **Top Sport:- Para-athletics** with **65 medals** (**22 gold**).

Asian Para Games 2026: India's Sport-wise Medals

Sport	Total Medals
Para-athletics	**65**
Para-badminton	**16**
Para-swimming	**11**
Para-table tennis	**7**
Para-archery	**6**
Para-shooting	**5**
Para-judo	**2**
Para-powerlifting	**2**

Asian Para Games 2026: Key Indian Gold Medallists

Athlete	Sport	Gold Medal Event(s)
Sumit Antil	Athletics	Men's javelin F42–44/ F61–64
Pranav Soorma	Athletics	Men's discus F51–53 and club throw F51 (**2 golds**)
Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's long jump and high jump T47 (**2 golds**)
Dilip Mahadu Gavit	Athletics	Men's 100m and 400m T47 (**2 golds**)
Simran	Athletics	Women's 100m and 200m T12 (**2 golds**)
Sheetal Devi	Archery	Women's compound and compound mixed team (**2 golds**)
Mona Agarwal	Shooting	Women's 10m air rifle SH1 and 50m rifle 3P (**2 golds**)
Nitesh Kumar	Badminton	Men's singles SL3
Naveen Sivakumar	Badminton	Men's singles SL4
Manasi Joshi–Thulasimathi Murugesan	Badminton	Women's doubles SL3–SU5

75. Nihal Sarin, Humpy Win European Club Cup Golds

Why in News:

- Indian Grandmasters **Nihal Sarin** and **Koneru Humpy** won **individual board gold medals** at the **41st European Chess Club Cup 2026**.

Key Highlights:

- **Venue:- Budva, Montenegro** (**17–23 October 2026**); organised by the **European Chess Union (ECU)**, with **108** teams.
- **Team Champions:-** Open: **Bayegan Pendik** (**Turkey**), ahead of **Novy Bor** (**Czech Republic**) on tiebreaks. Women: **Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo** (Humpy's club).
- **Indian Haul:- 4** individual board medals: **2 gold**, **1 silver** and **1 bronze**.

European Club Cup 2026: Indian Individual Medallists

Player	Club	Board	Score	Medal
Nihal Sarin	Novy Bor	2	**5/6** (unbeaten)	**Gold** (Open)
Koneru Humpy	Monte-Carlo	2	**4.5/6**	**Gold** (Women)
Pentala Harikrishna	Novy Bor	3	**5/6** (unbeaten)	**Silver** (Open)
Karthikeyan Murali	Elektroprivreda	2	**4.5/6**	**Bronze** (Open)

RANKS & REPORTS

76.World Bank Report: India and Artificial Intelligence

- **Released By: World Bank**
- **Key Observations:** The report, ***"India and Artificial Intelligence"***, ranks India among the **top 10 emerging markets** globally in **AI readiness**, driven by a massive **technical workforce**, strong **IT sector**, and robust **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**. Concurrently, the World Bank upgraded India's **FY 2026–27**

GDP growth forecast to **7.1%** amid rapidly expanding AI-focused **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**.

- **Performance Metric:**
  - **Emerging Market Rank:** Top 10 globally in AI readiness
  - **Private AI Investment (2025): $4.1 billion** (tripled from **$1.2 billion** in 2024)
  - **GCC Employment Base: 2.36 million** professionals (up from **1.9 million** in 2024)
  - **Enterprise AI Adoption Rate: 23%** of domestic firms (compared to **43%** in the US)

77. World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence

- **Released By: World Bank Group**
- **Key Observations:** The flagship annual report examines how developing nations can leverage AI to enhance productivity, overcome development challenges, and improve public services. Launched in New Delhi on October 8, 2026, by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the report stresses that low- and middle-income countries do not need to build highly sophisticated AI from scratch. Instead, they can utilize "Small AI" (low-cost, targeted applications) to bridge gaps in expertise (e.g., healthcare diagnostics, agricultural updates).
- **Performance Metric / Framework:**
  - **Core Framework:** Recommends a three-part approach: **Adopt** (existing AI tools), **Adapt** (localize for language/data), and **Advance** (build domestic capacity and R&D).
  - **Key Challenges Identified:** The digital divide (lack of reliable internet/electricity), data quality, skill deficits, and technological dependence on single providers.

78. Jaipur on NatGeo 'Best of the World 2027'

Context:

- **National Geographic** named **Jaipur** among the **25** destinations on its **Best of the World 2027** list, ahead of the city's **300th founding anniversary**.

Key Highlights:

- **List:** National Geographic **Best of the World 2027** (**25** destinations chosen by its editors, photographers and explorers).
- **Reason for Selection: Tricentenary** in **2027**; heritage architecture such as **Jal Mahal**; traditional **textile** and **gem-cutting** crafts; and the **Jaipur Literature Festival** (**14–18 January 2027**).
- About Jaipur:
- Founded on **18 November 1727** by **Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II** of the **Kachhwaha** dynasty, as one of India's earliest **planned cities**.
- Inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **2019** (**Jaipur City, Rajasthan**). It is known as the **"Pink City"**.

79. Noida International Airport Renaming

- **Action:** The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a proposal to rename the upcoming Jewar greenfield airport to **Narendra Modi International Airport**.
- **Reasoning:** To commemorate PM Modi completing **25 consecutive years** as a head of government (Chief Minister and Prime Minister).
- **Key Fact:** The airport is being developed under a PPP model by **Zurich Airport International** to boost connectivity for the National Capital Region (NCR).

80. India's Classical Languages Rise to 11

Context:

- With **Marathi**, **Pali**, **Prakrit**, **Assamese** and

Bengali granted classical status, India now has **11 Classical Languages**, and **Centres of Excellence** have been approved for the new entrants.

Key Highlights:

- **Approving Authority: Union Cabinet** (**October 2024**), on revised criteria; the **Ministry of Culture** is the nodal ministry.
- **Revised Criteria (2024): 1,500–2,000 years** of recorded history; ancient literature regarded as **heritage**; **knowledge texts** (prose) plus **epigraphic** and **inscriptional** evidence; the classical form may be **distinct** from the modern language.
- **Benefits:** Research grants, **Centres of Excellence**, manuscript **digitisation**, translation and international awards for scholars; promotion led by the **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL)**, **Mysuru**.

Classical Languages of India

S.No.	Language	Year	Family
1	**Tamil** (first)	**2004**	Dravidian
2	**Sanskrit**	**2005**	Indo-Aryan
3	**Telugu**	**2008**	Dravidian
4	**Kannada**	**2008**	Dravidian
5	**Malayalam**	**2013**	Dravidian
6	**Odia**	**2014**	Indo-Aryan
7–11	**Marathi**, **Pali**, **Prakrit**, **Assamese**, **Bengali**	**2024**	Indo-Aryan

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

81. TRISHNA Satellite Mission 2027

- **Approved Mission:** The **Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment (TRISHNA)** is a joint international Earth observation mission being developed by **India's ISRO** and **France's CNES**.
- **Core Objective:** The mission aims to monitor the energy and water budgets of the continental biosphere. Key goals include assessing terrestrial water stress, detecting the urban heat island effect, studying inland/coastal water dynamics, and determining geothermal/volcanic anomalies.
- **Technical Facts:**
- Slated for launch from Sriharikota, the satellite will operate in a **sun-synchronous orbit at 761 kilometers** with a 5-year design life.
- It carries two primary instruments: a **Thermal Infrared (TIR) Instrument** (provided by CNES for surface temperature mapping) and a **Visible-Near Infrared-SWIR Instrument** (developed by ISRO for surface reflectance and vegetation parameters).
- Spatial resolution targets: **57 meters** on land/coastlines and **1 kilometer** over oceans/polar zones.

INSTAKAS

Integrated Foundation Program for UPSC CSE 2027

OGP OFFLINE & ONLINE GUIDANCE PROGRAM

BATCH-11 | **CLASSES STARTS ON**

10th December 2026

- Integrated Coverage of Prelims & Mains by In-House Faculties
- Daily & Weekly Tests +Free All India Prelims Test Series
- Personalized One-on-One Mentorship by Experts
- Weekly Current Affairs Classes & Daily Current Affairs Soft Copy

10% OFF

FEE OFFLINE CLASSES:
~~₹ 1,38,000/-~~
₹ 1,24,200/-

FEE ONLINE CLASSES:
~~₹ 1,00,000/-~~
₹ 90,000/-

SUBSCRIBE HERE

FDA / SDA / PSI / PC / PDO: GROUP C & D EXAMS CLASSES @ BENGALURU

MISSION AARAKSHAKA

BATCH-10 | **CLASSES STARTS ON**

13th November 2026

- Course Duration: 5 Months
- One-on-One Mentorship
- Test-driven approach
- High priority areas will be discussed by our experts.
- Separate Essay and Translation classes
- Available in both Online & Offline

COURSE FEE:
~~₹ 25,000/-~~
₹ 20,000/-

20% OFF

SUBSCRIBE HERE

PROGRAM AT BENGALURU

KPSC PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2026

BATCH-9 | **CLASSES STARTS ON**

2nd December 2026

- Integrated Classes for Prelims & Mains (7-8 Months)
- Emphasis on Mains Answer Writing Practice
- One-on-One Personalized Mentorship by Faculty
- Medium of Classes English & Kannada
- Basic & Advanced Classes by Experienced Faculty
- Offline & Online Classes & Prelims & Mains Test Series

10% OFF

FEE OFFLINE CLASSES:
~~₹ 55,000/-~~
₹ 49,500/-

FEE ONLINE CLASSES:
~~₹ 45,000/-~~
₹ 40,500/-

SUBSCRIBE HERE

KPSC & KEA GROUP C TEST SERIES 2026
FOR: PSI / ESI / FDA / SDA / VAO & ALL GROUP C EXAMS

RAKSHAKA 3.0

STARTED ON

2nd November 2026

Total Tests		Sectional Tests		Full-Length Tests
24	=	16	+	8

- High-Quality Questions & Detailed Synopsis
- Complete Coverage of Syllabus
- Instant Results with Analytics
- KPSC & KEA Standard Questions

20% OFF

TIME TABLE

FEE OFFLINE CLASSES:
~~₹3,000/-~~
₹2,400/-

FEE ONLINE CLASSES:
~~₹2,000/-~~
₹1,600/-

SUBSCRIBE HERE

INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

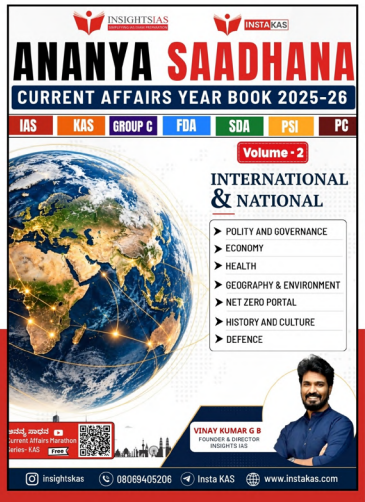
INSTAKAS

ANANYA SAADHANA

CURRENT AFFAIRS YEAR BOOK 2025-26

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

ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹತ್ತಿರದ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯ









SPECIAL OFFER

Both Kannada & English

Volume 1 & 2 Editions are Available Now

BUY NOW

Get the Best Discounts at All Book Stalls

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ 8904070202 / 08069405206

Head Office: OGP-1, 3rd Floor, Nanda Ashirwad Complex, Above Village Hyper Market, Chandra layout, Bengaluru.

Insta KAS: 2nd floor, 30 feet road, 1133/B, Service Rd, opposite to Bunt's Sangha, Hampi Nagar, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru,

insightskas | 08069405206 | Insta KAS | www.instakas.com