

New Year. New KPSC Focus.

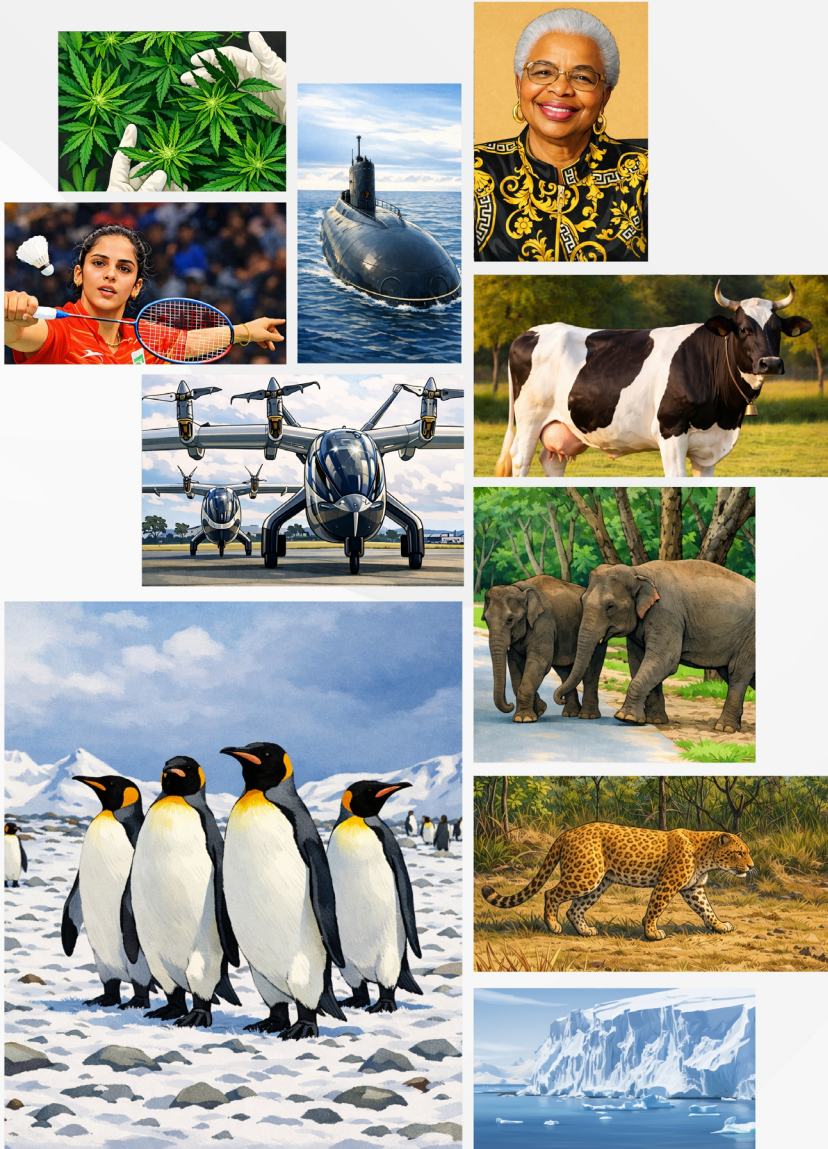
ANANYA SAADHANA

COMPREHENSIVE **CURRENT AFFAIRS ENGLISH** MONTHLY MAGAZINE

ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS IN
KAS, FDA/SDA/PDO/GROUP C, PSI/PC,
TEACHER'S EXAMS

IMPORTANT TOPICS

- ◆ CHABAHAR PORT
- ◆ CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION
- ◆ BRICS PLUS NAVAL EXERCISE
- ◆ INDIA-MIDDLE EAST EU ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEC)
- ◆ CHILD TRAFFICKING IN INDIA
- ◆ INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE
- ◆ HARAPPAN SITE OF RAKHIGARHI
- ◆ KARNATAKA'S SECOND MONKEY FEVER LAB
- ◆ LEOPARD OF ULTRA-RARE COLOUR
- ◆ 11 POTENTIAL BLUE FLAG BEACHES IN KARNATAKA



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EDITOR'S PAGE



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

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

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

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



To the future administrators of Karnataka,

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

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

Let's shape a prosperous Karnataka, together.

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

SOURCES



ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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

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

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

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

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

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2. Karnataka Darshana

ANSWER KEYS OF PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:
2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA



TOP CURRENT AFFAIRS
1. Himachal Pradesh Moves Towards Regulated Cannabis Cultivation


HIMACHAL PRADESH MOVES TOWARDS REGULATED CANNABIS CULTIVATION






Context : Detail strategies like digital marketing, social media, SEO, and content marketing to reach your audience

Cannabis/Marijuana


- It is a generic term used to denote the several psychoactive preparations of the plant **Cannabis sativa**. 
- The major psychoactive constituent in cannabis is **tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)**. 

Side-effects Cannabis use

- Its immediate effects include **impairments in memory and in mental processes, including ones that are critical for driving**. 
- Persistent cognitive deficits, and mental health problems like **schizophrenia, depression and anxiety**. 
- Exposure to cannabis in adolescence can alter brain development**. 

Legal Status in India


Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) of 1985:

Classifies cannabis as a Schedule I drug, meaning it has high potential for abuse. 


Possession and consumption:

Punishable with imprisonment for up to 6 months or a fine of ₹10,000 or both. 

Cultivation and sale:

More severe penalties, including imprisonment for up to 10 years and fines. 

Exclusions:

Bhang, which is made with the leaves of the plant, is not mentioned in the NDPS Act. 

Recent changes

2020:

CBD (cannabidiol) extracted from hemp plants legalized for medical purposes. 

2023:

Uttarakhand High Court ruled that the NDPS Act does not prohibit the cultivation of cannabis for research purposes. 

2. PM Chairs 50th Meeting Of PRAGATI



PM CHAIRS 50TH MEETING OF PRAGATI



Context:




- The Prime Minister chaired the 50th meeting of PRAGATI. PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation)
- It is a technology-driven governance and monitoring platform launched by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in 2015.

Aim

To improve public administration and accelerate implementation of government programmes and projects.



Objectives

- **Project Monitoring:**
 - Track progress of high-value and critical infrastructure projects and resolve delays or bottlenecks. 
- **Programme Implementation:**
 - Ensure timely and efficient execution of government schemes and missions. 
- **Grievance Redressal:**
 - Address persistent public grievances by integrating with systems like Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) for citizen complaints. 

Key Achievements



377 projects have been reviewed under PRAGATI, and across these projects, 2,958 out of 3,162 identified issues - i.e. around 94% have been resolved.



Several projects that had remained stalled for decades were completed or decisively unlocked after being taken up under the PRAGATI platform.

3. DRDO Conducts Salvo Launch Of Two Pralay Missiles



DRDO CONDUCTS SALVO LAUNCH OF TWO PRALAY MISSILES

Context: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted a salvo launch of two 'Pralay' missiles off Odisha coast in quick succession.



Pralay



- **Type** - It is an indigenous surface-to-surface short-range quasi-ballistic missile.
- **Range and Payload:** Pralay has an operational range of approximately 400 km and carries a payload capacity of 500 to 1,000 kg.
- The missile is equipped with a state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics, ensuring precision targeting even in challenging terrains.
- It is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads to engage a wide range of targets.



Additional Information - Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)



Launched in - 1983



Conceived by - IGMDP was conceived by Dr. APJ. Abdul Kalam in the 1980s.



Objective - To enable India to attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology.



The missiles developed under IGMDP are



Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile -
Prithvi



Intermediate-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile -
Agni



Short-range low-level surface-to-air missile -
Trishul



Medium-range surface-to-air missile -
Akash



Third generation anti-tank missile -
Nag



INDIAN MISSILE SYSTEMS

MISSILE	TYPE	RANGE
 Astra	air-to-air	80 km
 Trishul	surface-to-air	9 km
 Akash	surface-to-air	30 km
 Prithvi Air Defence (PAD)	surface-to-air	2000 km
 Nag	surface-to-surface Anti-tank missile	4 km
 Prahaar	surface-to-surface, SRBM	150 km
 BrahMos	land, naval, air, Supersonic Cruise Missile	300 km
 Nirbhay	land, naval, air, Subsonic Cruise Missile	1000 km
 K-15 Sagarika	underwater-to-surface, SLBM	700 km
 Dhanush	sea-to-sea/surface, SRBM	350 km
 Shaurya	surface-to-surface, SLBM	1900 km

4. Bulgaria Switches To Euro



BULGARIA SWITCHES TO EURO

Context:

Recently, Bulgaria became the 21st country to switch to the euro, nearly 20 years after the Balkan nation joined the European Union (EU).

European Union



► The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 established the European Union.



► It allowed the adoption of a common currency, which would be accepted as the sole legal tender, the euro.



► It also has a unified central banking system, which established the European Central Bank (ECB).



► It paved the way for the formation of a common economic and monetary union, which is the European Economic and Monetary Union.



► The euro was first rolled out in 12 countries on January 1, 2002. Croatia was the latest to join, in 2023.



► And a common economic region.



The remaining six use their own currencies instead.

► Four microstates, Andorra, Monaco, the Vatican City and San Marino, also use the euro through agreements with the EU, while Kosovo and Montenegro use the euro as their sole currency without an agreement. However, none of these countries are not regarded as members of the eurozone.



► Croatia was the last country to join the eurozone in 2023.

Eurozone

► The eurozone, or officially the euro area, refers to the geographic and economic region comprising those members of the EU that have fully adopted the euro as their official currency.



► **Composition:** Bulgaria's admission to the eurozone makes it the 21st nation out of 27 EU members to do so.

Additional Information - Bulgaria

► **Location:** It is a country occupying the eastern portion of the Balkan Peninsula in southeastern Europe.



► **Neighbourhood:** It is bounded by Romania to the north, with most of the border marked by the lower Danube River.



► The Black Sea lies to the east, Turkey and Greece to the south, North Macedonia to the southwest, and Serbia to the west.



► **Capital city- Sofia.**



5. Ganges Treaty Nears Expiry

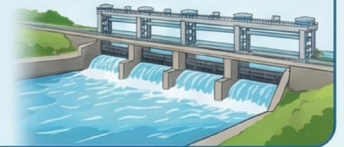
GANGES TREATY NEARS EXPIRY

Context: India and Bangladesh have initiated a joint water measurement initiative on the Ganga and Padma rivers as the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty enters its final year before expiry in December 2026.



Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996

- It was signed on 12 December 1996 between India and Bangladesh.
- It governs the sharing of Ganges waters at the Farakka Barrage, located in West Bengal, about 18 km upstream of the Bangladesh border.



Origins of the Ganges Water Dispute



- Construction of Farakka Barrage (1975):** India completed the Farakka Barrage in 1975 to divert water into the Hooghly River.
- Purpose was to flush out silt & improve navigability of the Kolkata Port.



Bangladesh's Concerns-

As a lower riparian state, Bangladesh argued that reduced downstream flows:



Harmed agriculture and fisheries



Disrupted river navigation



Increased salinity intrusion in coastal areas



Threatened the Sundarbans ecosystem

This disagreement became one of South Asia's most persistent transboundary water disputes.

Steps Taken:

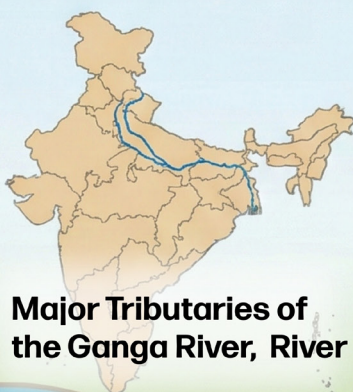


Five-year Ganges Agreement (Interim), 1977

Memoranda of Understanding on Flow Sharing in 1982 & 1985

Teesta Water Sharing Agreement: 2011; Proposed but unsigned.

About Ganga River



Origin: Gangotri Glacier in Uttarakhand



Length: Approximately 2,525 km.



Basin Area: Covers about 8,61,452 sq. km in India, nearly 27% of India's landmass over 11 Indian states.



Significance - It supports over 45% of India's population.



States Covered: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of several others.

Major Tributaries of the Ganga River, River

Left Bank Tributaries: Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Koshi, Mahananda.

Right Bank Tributaries: Yamuna, Tons, Karamnasa, Sone, Punpun, Falgu, Kiul, Chandan, Ajoy, Damodar, Rupnarayan.

The Ganga enters as the Padma River into Bangladesh below the Farakka Barrage, eventually merging with the Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

Delta: Forms the world's largest delta, the Sundarbans, shared by India and Bangladesh

6. Human Rabies To Be Declared Notifiable Disease In Delhi



HUMAN RABIES TO BE DECLARED NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IN DELHI

Context: The Delhi government is set to declare human rabies a notifiable disease in the National Capital Territory of Delhi under the Epidemic Diseases Act.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

A notifiable disease is one that must be legally reported to public health authorities upon diagnosis or suspicion.

Mandatory reporting enables real-time surveillance, early detection, rapid response, and evidence-based planning.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - 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.



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.



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



seizures



Confusion



hallucinations



salivation



paralysis



WORLD RABIES DAY

Celebrated on 28 September which marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death.

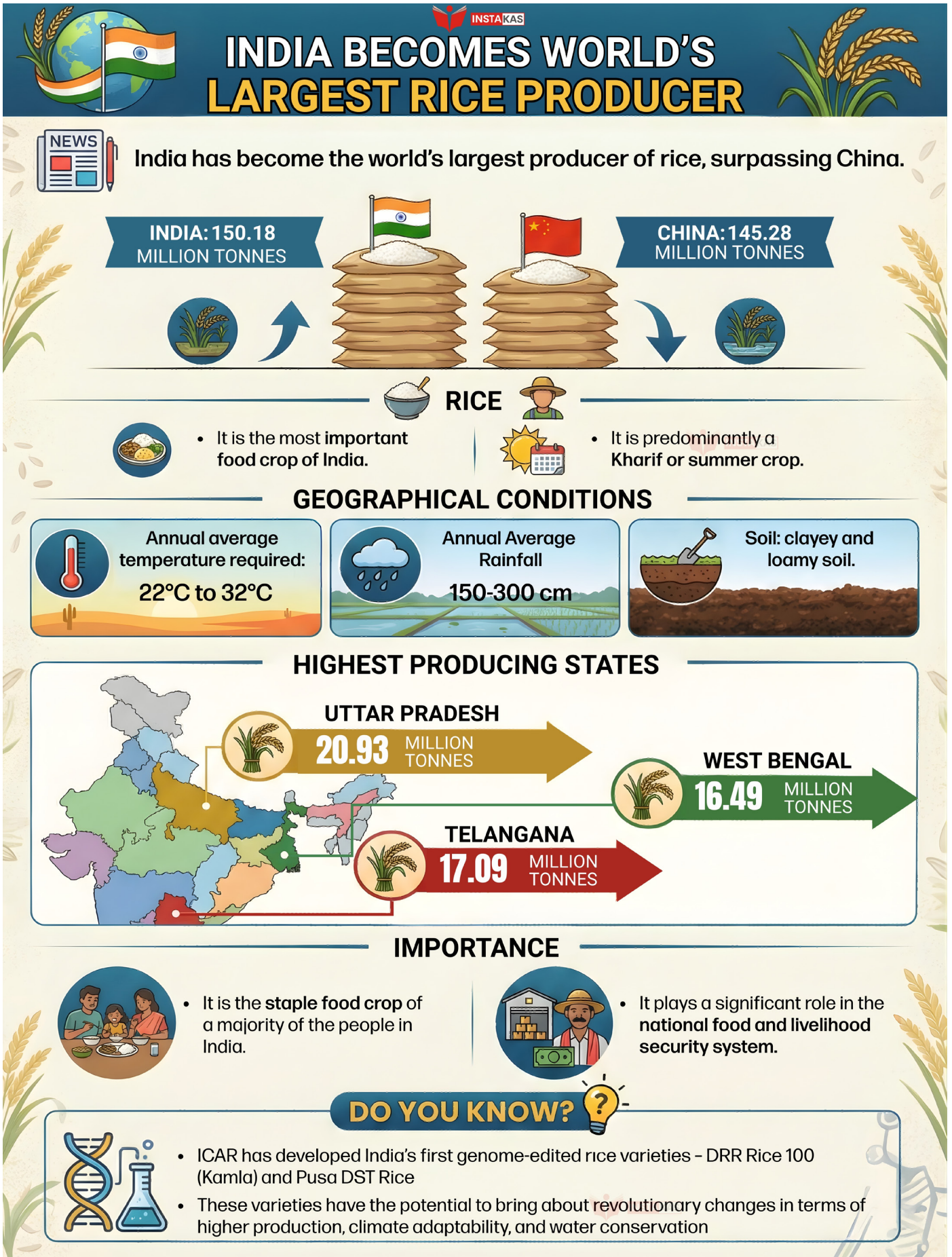


Louis Pasteur was a French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.



He also discovered Pasteurisation, Vaccines for Anthrax and Cholera and Chamberland filters.

7. India Becomes World's Largest Rice Producer



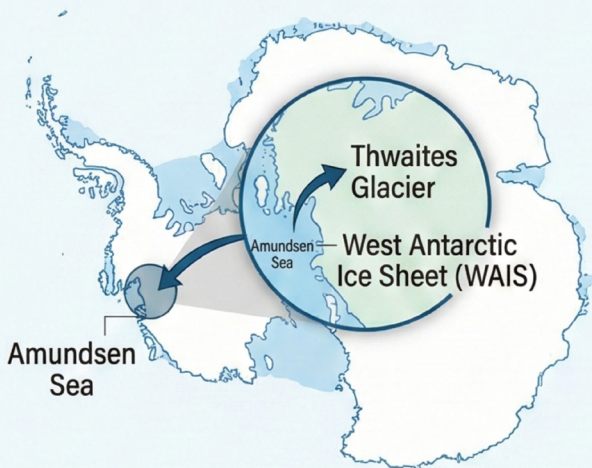
8. Doomsday Glacier



DOOMSDAY GLACIER

Context: A new study published in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface explains recent structural changes in the Thwaites Glacier region and shows how other Antarctic ice shelves may collapse in the future.

DOOMSDAY GLACIER (THWAITES GLACIER)



- It is an outflow glacier of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS), flowing into the Amundsen Sea.



- It is nicknamed 'Doomsday Glacier' due to its potential to cause major sea-level rise.



- The complete destruction of the Doomsday Glacier could lead to a global sea level rise of 3 meters.



ABOUT - CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF ANTARCTIC TREATY



The Treaty covers the area south of 60°S latitude.



It was signed at Washington D.C. in 1959 with the objective of the Demilitarisation of Antarctica.



The signatories are supposed to bring laws so that no activity in contravention of the treaty takes place.



India signed the treaty in 1983.

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)

Signed in - Canberra in 1980

Objective - To protect and preserve the Antarctic environment and, particularly, for the preservation and conservation of marine living resources in Antarctica.

India ratified the CCAMLR in 1985.

THE PROTOCOL ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO THE ANTARCTIC TREATY (MADRID PROTOCOL)

Signed in - Madrid in 1991.

Objective - It aims to strengthen the Antarctic Treaty system and develop a comprehensive regime for the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems.

India ratified the Madrid Protocol in 1998.

COUNCIL OF MANAGERS OF THE NATIONAL ANTARCTIC PROGRAMME (COMNAP)

India is also a member of the COMNAP which shows the significant position that India holds among the nations involved in Antarctic research.

9. ISRO's PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission Experienced an Anomaly During the Third Stage

ISRO's PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission Experienced an Anomaly During the Third Stage



IN NEWS


ISRO's first launch of the year, the PSLV-C62 mission failed to place its 16 satellites into the intended orbit, marking the second consecutive failure of the long-reliable PSLV rocket.

The PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission

- > It was the 64th flight of India's PSLV and ninth commercial mission by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).
- > It aimed to launch the EOS-N1 Earth observation satellite along with 15 co-passenger satellites.
- > EOS-N1 is an Earth observation satellite intended for environmental monitoring, resource mapping, and disaster management.



Additional information - Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)



3rd It is the third generation launch vehicle of India.

4th Stage It is a four-stage rocket in which each stage has its own engine and fuel.


It has also been called "the workhorse of ISRO" for consistently delivering various satellites into low earth orbits with a high success rate.

It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages.

Major launches:

- > First successful launch in October 1994.
- > PSLV successfully launched two spacecraft - Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013 that later travelled to Moon and Mars respectively.
- > It also launched India's first space observatory, Astrosat.

Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)



4th Gen > It is India's largest fourth-generation launch vehicle, designed to overcome the limitations of the PSLV by carrying heavier payloads to higher orbits.

3rd Stage > GSLV is a three-stage vehicle, capable of delivering up to 1,750 kg to low Earth orbit (up to 600 km) and smaller payloads to Geostationary Transfer Orbit.

> GSLVs use cryogenic engines with liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen, providing greater thrust than earlier launch vehicles.

> Its advanced variant, LVM-3 (formerly GSLV Mk III), employs solid, liquid, and cryogenic engines, carrying up to 8,000 kg to low Earth orbit (up to 2,000 km) and 4,000 kg to geosynchronous orbit (36,000 km), earning the nickname 'Bahubali' for its payload capacity.

Major launches:

- > LVM-3's first successful mission was in 2017 with GSAT-19.
- > It was followed by Chandrayaan-2 in 2019 and Chandrayaan-3 in 2023.

Note: ISRO is developing its heaviest rocket, the Lunar Module Launch Vehicle (LMLV), expected by 2035, to support future lunar missions, including India's first human Moon mission planned for 2040.



10. Delhi to Earn Revenue from 'Carbon Credits'



DELHI TO EARN REVENUE FROM 'CARBON CREDITS'



CONTEXT



Delhi government has announced that it has approved a framework for carbon credit monetisation.



Delhi government activities such as operating electric buses, plantation drives, promoting solar energy and waste management, will be used to generate carbon credits under the new policy.



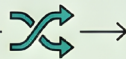
The reduction in emissions through these initiatives will be scientifically measured, registered as carbon credits, and sold in national and international carbon markets to generate revenue.

CARBON MARKETS

Carbon markets are trading systems in which carbon credits are sold and bought.



Companies/
Individual



Entities
Removing/
Reducing
Emission

Companies or individuals can use carbon markets to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CARBON CREDIT TRADING SCHEME (CCTS)

The CCTS aims to incentivize and support entities in their efforts to decarbonize the Indian economy.



CCTS laid the foundation for the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) by establishing the institutional framework.

GOVERNMENT STEPS TO STRENGTHEN CARBON MARKET READINESS



As highlighted during the COP 27, India balances its developmental needs with lower carbon emissions through Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) principles.



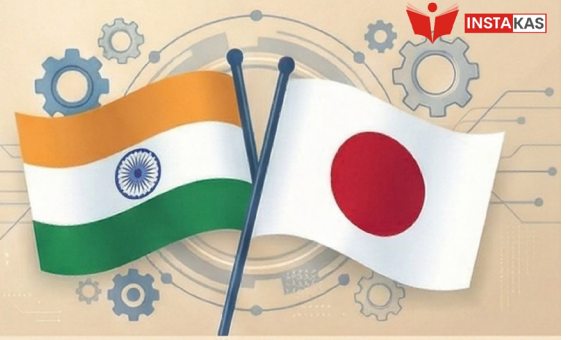
Mission LiFE and the Green Credit Program to promote a sustainable lifestyle.



Creation of the National Steering Committee for the Indian Carbon Market (NSCICM) and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power.

11. 18th Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue

18th Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue


CONTEXT


At the **18th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue**, India and Japan reaffirmed the upward trajectory of their Special Strategic and Global Partnership.


KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Security (B2B) & Private-Sector Dialogue

Announced the launch of **Japan-India Private-Sector Dialogue on Economic Security (B2B)** in early 2026.



It will help in identification of five priority areas: semiconductors, critical minerals, ICT, clean energy, and pharmaceuticals.


AI Strategic Dialogue & Future Technology

Establishment of the **Japan-India AI Strategic Dialogue** under the Japan-India AI Cooperation Initiative (JAI).



Japan will invite **500 highly skilled Indian AI professionals by 2030** for joint research.


INDIA & JAPAN RELATIONS


Military Exercises: Malabar, Dharma Guardian, and JIMEX exercises enhance interoperability and Indo-Pacific security.



Trade: Bilateral trade reached approximately \$23 billion in 2023-24.



FDI: Japan is India's fifth-largest source of FDI



Bullet Train: The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail exemplifies flagship India-Japan transport cooperation.



Energy: Clean Energy Partnership (2022) expands hydrogen, renewables, and climate cooperation.



Quad: Quad coordination ensures Indo-Pacific stability through collective maritime commitments.



SCRI: Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) reduces dependency on China for the supply of critical goods.



Forums: India and Japan cooperate in G20, International Solar Alliance (ISA), CDRI, and IPEF, strengthening multilateral governance.



Space: ISRO-JAXA LUPEX mission exemplifies frontier collaboration in space exploration.

12. Chabahar Port Amidst US-Iran Tensions

CHABAHAR PORT

IN NEWS

India has reaffirmed that it remains engaged with both the U.S. and Iran to continue operations at the strategic Chabahar port, countering reports that it plans to exit due to renewed U.S. sanctions.

CHABAHAR PORT

Location:
It is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti. It is only about 170 kilometers west of the Pakistani port of Gwadar.

STRATEGIC LOCATION

- India needs access to iron from Afghanistan's Hajigak mine
- Other natural resources from the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
- which is made possible by the Chabahar port.

INTERNATIONAL NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORT CORRIDOR (INSTC)

The port is also part of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal transport project to connect the Indian Ocean to Northern Europe.

13. Leopard of ultra-rare colour variation spotted in State for the first time

LEOPARD OF ULTRA-RARE COLOUR VARIATION SPOTTED IN STATE FOR THE FIRST TIME

In News

- An ultra-rare leopard colour morph has been documented for the first time in Karnataka, in the **Vijayanagara district**, by wildlife scientist **Sanjay Gubbi**.

Key Features & Significance

Distinctive Appearance:

tawny coat with black rosettes

pale reddish-pink coat (sandalwood hue) with light-brown rosettes

Standard Leopard **Sandalwood Morph**

Global Significance:

This is a **globally significant finding** as only a handful of such leopards have been documented worldwide.

Nomenclature:

internationally known as "**Strawberry leopards,**"

"Sandalwood leopard"

Mr. Gubbi has proposed naming this morph to honour Karnataka's cultural heritage.

14. Central Vigilance Commission



Central Vigilance Commission



IN NEWS



Praveen Vashista was appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission by the President of India.

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION (CVC)



ESTABLISHMENT & ORIGIN

It is India's apex statutory body entrusted with ensuring integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration.

It was established in 1964 following the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.

The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, provides for the appointment of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners.



The tenure of the Vigilance Commissioner is of four years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.



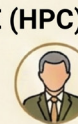
APPOINTMENT PROCESS



MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIR



PRIME MINISTER



LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (LOK SABHA)



PRESIDENT OF INDIA

The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of a High-Powered Committee (HPC)



POWER AND FUNCTIONS



- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) mandated under the CVC Act, 2003 to combat corruption and ensure integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration.



- The Commission exercises superintendence over vigilance administrations of Central Government ministries, departments, and organizations.



- The Central Vigilance Commission acts as the apex vigilance institution by supervising and guiding anti-corruption inquiries, including cases referred by the Lokpal and whistleblower complaints under the PIDPI framework.



- It supervises the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in cases related to offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988



- It plays a key role in senior appointments by chairing committees that recommend appointments of senior officers in the Directorate of Enforcement and the CBI (SP level and above, excluding the CBI Director).

15. BRICS Plus Naval Exercise

BRICS Plus Naval Exercise



IN NEWS

- > India skipped the BRICS Plus naval exercise “Will for Peace 2026” hosted by South Africa, opting out entirely despite holding the BRICS chair this year.
- > India clarified that such naval drills are not institutionalised activities of BRICS, but ad-hoc initiatives, and therefore participation is not automatic or obligatory.

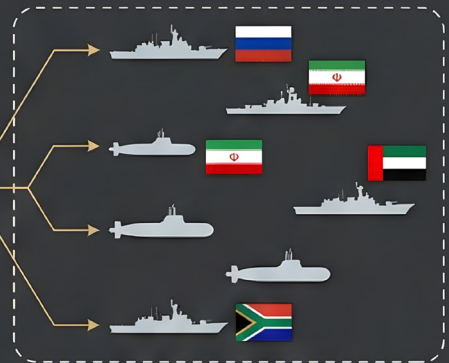


BRICS PLUS NAVAL EXERCISE

- > BRICS Plus naval exercises are **ad-hoc maritime drills involving BRICS members and selected non-BRICS partner countries.**
- > They are **not mandated under the BRICS framework** and do not form part of official BRICS mechanisms.
- > **Led by China**, the exercise features active naval participation from **Russia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and South Africa.**



Led by China



Ad-hoc Initiative



BRICS



> **Founded in - 2009**

> **HeadQuarters - Shanghai**



> **Origin -** The term “BRIC” was coined by the British Economist Jim O’Neill in 2001 to describe the four emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China.**



> **Member Countries:** - The group includes the five original members (**Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**) and six members admitted during the 2024-25 expansion (**Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates**).



> Share of BRICS



BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries, representing **41% of the global population**



24% of the global GDP



16% of the global trade



(By 2028, BRICS is expected to make up 35 percent of the global economy)



Financial Arm: The **New Development Bank (NDB)** acts as the group’s primary international **financial organization to support infrastructure and sustainable projects.**

16. BRICS Plus Naval IMEC's Relevance to India and its Chokepoints


BRICS Plus Naval IMEC's Relevance to India and its Chokepoints

Context: The current reciprocal tariff policies and protectionism by the US is a bad sign for the development of a multi-state, multimodal transport and trade corridor like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

INDIA-MIDDLE EAST EU ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEC)



Background: The IMEC is a proposed 4,800 km long route that was announced in 2023 on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.



Members: India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE and US.



Aim: Integration of Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

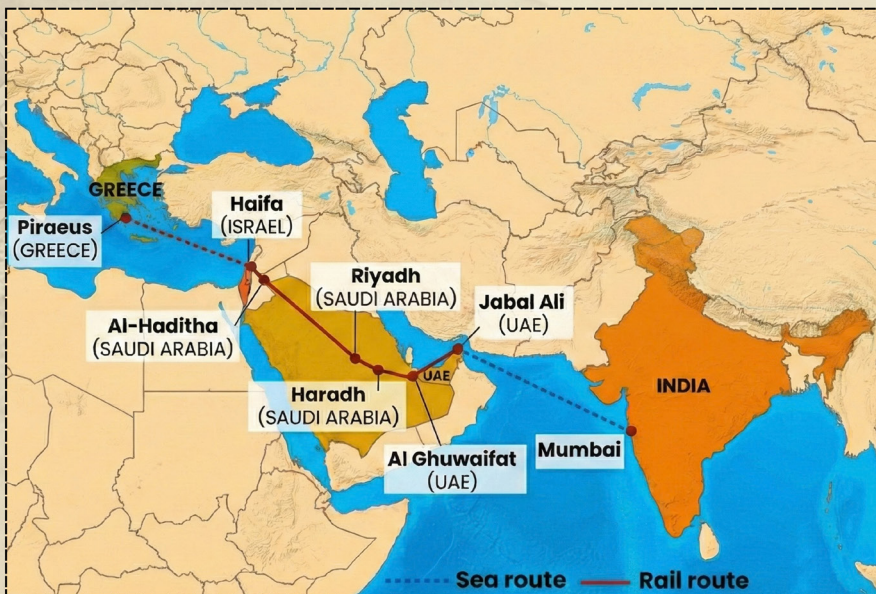
THE IMEC WILL COMPRISE OF TWO SEPARATE CORRIDORS



EAST CORRIDOR
The east corridor connecting India to the West Asia/Middle East



NORTHERN CORRIDOR
The northern corridor connecting West Asia/Middle East to Europe.



IMEC'S RELEVANCE TO INDIA AND ITS CHOKEPOINTS



SUEZ CANAL BLOCKAGE (2021)

It was blocked by the massive container ship, leaving several vessels stranded.

This disruption impacted nearly 12 percent of global trade until a major salvage operation successfully freed it.



RED SEA CRISIS (2023-24):

It was caused by the Houthis' attacks on commercial shipping, exposing the fragility of over-concentrated trade routes.

Nearly a quarter of India's cargo transiting the Red Sea faced delays.

SIGNIFICANCE OF IMEC FOR INDIA



Economic Development: By linking Asia, West Asia, the Middle East and Europe through enhanced connectivity and economic integration, the corridor aims to give a boost to economic development in the regions. y 12 percent of global trade until a major salvage operation successfully freed it.



Enhances India's Connectivity and Trade Access: IMEC provides India with a direct, faster, and safer trade route connecting Indian ports to Europe via the Arabian Peninsula and the Mediterranean.



Reduces dependence on the Suez Canal route, cutting shipping time by up to 40% and costs by 20-30%.

17. Child Trafficking in India



Child Trafficking in India



Context: Child trafficking continues to be a grave human rights challenge in India, despite a robust constitutional framework and multiple statutory protections.



CHILD TRAFFICKING



Section 143 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 defines **trafficking as; recruitment, transportation, harbouring, transfer or receipt of persons for exploitation.**



The means include threats, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or inducement.



Scope of exploitation includes, physical and sexual exploitation, slavery, servitude and forced labour, forced removal of organs.

CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS IN INDIA



Article 21: Ensures the right to life and personal liberty, which has been interpreted to include the right to live with dignity.



Article 23: Prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labor.



Article 24: Prohibits employment of children below 14 years in hazardous industries.



Article 39(e): The state should ensure that the health and strength of workers and children are not abused, and that citizens are not forced to take jobs that are not suitable for their age or strength.



Article 39(f): Mandates opportunities for children to develop in conditions of freedom, dignity, and protection from moral and material abandonment.

JUDICIAL INTERVENTION AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING



In **Vishal Jeet versus Union of India**, 1990 the court held that trafficking and child prostitution are serious socio-economic problems and hence a preventive and humanistic approach is essential to deal with them.



In **M. C. Mehta versus State of Tamil Nadu**, 1996, the Court issued guidelines with a view to prohibiting employment of children in hazardous industries.



In **Bachpan Bachao Andolan versus Union of India**, 2011, the Supreme court issued directions to address widespread exploitation and trafficking of children.



The Supreme Court in **K. P. Kiran Kumar versus State** The Supreme Court has given strict guidelines to prevent such offences, and held that trafficking grossly violates children's fundamental right to life as guaranteed by the Constitution.

LAWS GOVERNING ANTI-TRAFFICKING CRIMES



The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is targeted at stopping immoral trafficking and sex work. It went through two amendments, in 1978 and 1986.



The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, prevents children from partaking in certain employments and regulates the conditions of work for children in other fields.



The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, prohibits systems of labour where people, including children, work under conditions of servitude to pay off debt, and also provides a framework for rehabilitating released labourers.



The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, which governs laws relating to children alleged and found to be in conflict with law.



Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, which seeks to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children.

18. Graca Machel to get Indira Gandhi Peace Prize



GRACA MACHEL TO GET INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

Context:

- Mozambican rights activist and humanitarian Graca Machel has been selected for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2025, announced by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- Ms. Machel was chosen for her “path-breaking work” in the fields of education, health and nutrition, economic empowerment and humanitarian action.



INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE



It is an annual award established by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in India.



The prize is named in honor of the late Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi



It was instituted in 1986.



Prize money: Recently, the prize money has been increased from rupees 25 lakhs to rupees 1 crore.



OBJECTIVE



The award is presented to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to peace, the development of new international economic order, and the strengthening of democracy.



Generally, the award is presented on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi on November, 19th.

CATEGORIES: THE AWARD IS PRESENTED IN THREE CATEGORIES:

PEACE



Recognizes efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security.

DISARMAMENT



Acknowledges contributions to the reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

DEVELOPMENT



Honors work in promoting economic and social development.

19. Great Indian Bustard



GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD



In News

The Supreme Court of India has tightened safeguards for the protection of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) by revising and rationalising conservation areas in relation to Green Energy Corridor (GEC) transmission projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat.



Scientific name

Ardeotis nigriceps



Morphology

It is one of the heaviest flying birds (weighing up to 15kgs). It can be distinguished by its black crown on the forehead contrasting with the pale neck and head.



Habitat

It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent and is found in Rajasthan (Desert National park), Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in India and parts of Pakistan.



Bustard

CONSERVATION STATUS:



IUCN Red List

It is listed as 'Critically Endangered'.



Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

It is listed under 'Schedule I' of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



CITES

It is listed under 'Appendix I'

CONSERVATION MEASURES:



Project Great Indian Bustard

Launched in: It is a Rajasthan government project launched in 2018.

Objective: The main objective is to conserve the remaining population of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard.



Bustard Recovery Programme

Launched in: It was launched by the Union Environment Ministry in 2017.

Objective: To create awareness about the declining populations and highlighting the importance of implementing a focused bustard conservation programme at the national level.



WWF-India

is undertaking initiatives towards conservation of GIB in and around Desert National Park. istry in 2017.

20. Centre Allocating Funds for Harappan site of Rakhigarhi

CENTRE ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR HARAPPAN SITE OF RAKHIGARHI


Context


The Central Government has allocated Rs 500 crore in the Union Budget for the development of Rakhigarhi, a site of the ancient Harappan civilisation.

About



- Aim:** The initiative is expected to place Rakhigarhi strengthening India's archaeological presence worldwide.

Rakhigarhi:



It is the largest Harappan site in the Indian Subcontinent.

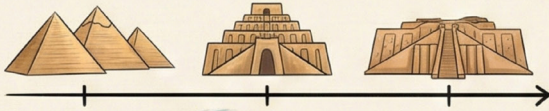


It is situated in the Hisar district of Haryana and is located in the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain.



The site was first excavated by Amarendra Nath of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

About Harappan Civilization



The Harappan civilization is believed to be one of the oldest world civilizations together with Egypt and Mesopotamia.

It was developed along the river Indus and for that reason it is also known as the Indus Valley Civilization.



The Harappan civilization is identified as a Bronze-age civilization because many objects have been found that are made up of copper based alloys.

Major Harappan Sites

Site	Present Day	Site	Present Day
 Harappa	Punjab, Pakistan	 Rakhigarhi	Haryana
 Mohenjo-Daro	Sindh, Pakistan	 Chanhudaro	Sindh, Pakistan
 Dholavira	Kutch district of Gujarat,	 Ganweriwala	Punjab, Pakistan
 Kalibangan	Rajasthan	 Sutkagendor	Baluchistan Province, Pakistan
 Lothal	Gujarat	 Alamgirpur	Uttar Pradesh

21. Karnataka's second monkey fever lab



KARNATAKA'S SECOND MONKEY FEVER LAB

In News : Second KFD testing lab will come up in Sirsi soon

Key Highlights



Launched by : The Health Department is set to establish another Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) testing laboratory at Sirsi of Uttara Kannada district



New Lab at Sirsi
Uttara Kannada



Aim : to strengthen early detection and control of the disease.



The **first laboratory** is currently functioning in Shivamogga.



Benefits: new laboratory would benefit residents of Sirsi, Siddapur and surrounding areas by enabling quicker diagnosis, which, in turn, would help reduce mortality to zero

About Kyasanur Forest Disease

Origin : First identified in **1957 in Karnataka's Kyasanur Forest**, it is commonly known as Monkey Fever.

Type: It is a tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever caused by the Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (family Flaviviridae).

Transmission: Spread to humans via **tick bites** (mainly *Haemaphysalis spinigera*) or **contact with infected animals**, particularly sick or dead monkeys. No person-to-person transmission exists.



Seasonality: Epidemics usually last from October to June, with a peak period between January and April.

Symptoms: **Sudden high fever, headache, and vomiting;** severe cases may involve bleeding (hemorrhagic) and neurological issues.

Prevention: A vaccine is available and widely recommended in affected regions of India.

Treatment: **There is no cure;** management relies on supportive care (hydration, oxygen, and maintaining blood pressure).

Mortality: The disease has a **fatality rate of approximately 5% to 10%.**

22. Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

CAUVERY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

In News

- Allegations of loss of grasslands surface over water harvesting pits inside Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary



Key Highlights



Allegation: There are concerns that water harvesting pits dug by the Forest Department are resulting in the loss of natural grasslands.



Location: The activity is reported inside the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, specifically impacting the Sangama, Halagur, and Mugguru ranges.



Method: Environmentalists report that heavy machinery is being used to dig these pits, causing the destruction of the landscape.



Ecological Impact: These grasslands are critical for providing fodder to herbivores such as elephants, sambar, spotted deer, and gaur.



Consequence: The destruction of natural grasslands is expected to impact fodder availability for wild ungulates, ultimately increasing the risk of human-wildlife conflict.

Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

Location :

Spread across **three districts: Chamarajanagar, Mandya, and Ramanagara**. It comprises two subdivisions (Hanur and Kanakapura) and seven ranges (Kothnur, Hanur, Cowdally, Gopinatham, Halagur, Sangam, and Muggur).

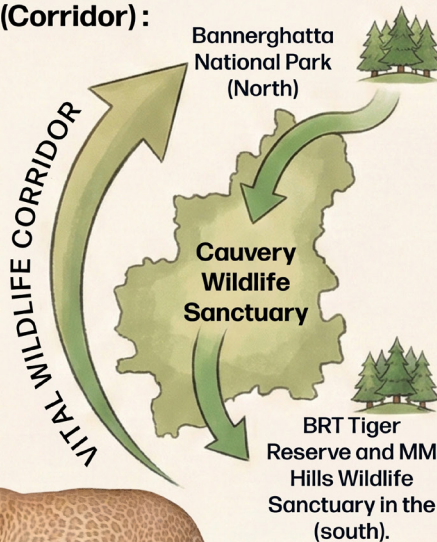


Area :

Originally notified in **1987 with 510 km²**, it has been expanded to its



Ecological Significance (Corridor) :



The sanctuary is drained by three major rivers:



along with numerous rivulets.

Forest Types :

Primarily consists of dry deciduous and scrub forests.



However, diverse types such as:



Hardwickia forests, riverine, shola



moist deciduous, and evergreen forests are found at varying altitudes.

Key Fauna:



Important species include Tiger, Elephant, Leopard, Honey Badger (Ratel), and the Kollegal Ground Gecko (a reptile of specific interest).



Other wildlife includes Bison, Wild Dog, Chevrotain (Mouse Deer), and Giant Squirrel.

23. 11 potential Blue Flag beaches in Karnataka

11 potential Blue Flag beaches in Karnataka


Why In News :

The Karnataka Tourism Department has identified 11 potential Blue Flag beaches in the State, as announced by Secretary K.V. Thrilok Chandra at the Coastal Karnataka Tourism Conclave. tion to Green Energy Corridor (GEC) transmission projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat.


Objective & Strategy

- **Purpose:** To elevate coastal tourism standards by developing 11 beaches as potential "Blue Flag" candidates, addressing the region's status as "under-developed" despite holding immense potential for hospitality experiences.
- **Target Area:** The initiative focuses on Coastal Karnataka, which currently accounts for 21% to 38% of total tourist visits to the State.
- **Development Strategy:** Involves a multi-faceted approach including educational programmes, installation of information signages, introduction of adventure and water sports, and the organization of beach festivals.
- **Maintenance & Standards:** Operational focus includes rigorous beach cleaning, garbage collection and disposal, regular water quality tests, and the maintenance of public amenities to meet international standards.

Identified Potential Beaches

UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT:

- Bailur Beach
- Apsarakonda Beach
- Rabindranath Tagore Beach

UDUPI DISTRICT

- Asare Beach
- Kodi Kanyana Beach
- Padukere Beach
- Kodi Beach (Kundapura)
- Shiroor Beach

DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT

- Someshwara Beach
- Ullal Beach
- Sasihitlu Beach

River Cruise Projects

Five national waterways have been identified for developing river cruise tourism:

- Kali River: 53 km
- Netravathi River: 30 km
- Sharavati River: 29 km
- Kabini River: 23 km
- Gurupura River: 10 km


Current Blue Flag Status (As of January 2026)

Karnataka currently holds two Blue Flag certified beaches:

- Padubidri Beach (Udupi District)
- Kasarkod Beach (Uttara Kannada District)


About Blue Flag Certification

Origin: Initiated in France (1985) and expanded globally in 2001.

Awarded By: Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

Aim: Promotes sustainable practices in marine and freshwater ecosystems.

Key Criteria:


• **Water Quality:** Maintains high cleanliness and safety standards.

• **Environmental Management:** Implements sustainable eco-friendly initiatives.

• **Safety Measures:** Ensures visitor security and accessibility.

• **Education:** Promotes environmental awareness and responsible tourism.

Blue Flag Beaches of India

- Shivrajpur (Gujarat)
- Golden Beach (Odisha)
- Ghoghla (Diu)
- Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka)
- Kappad and Chal (Kerala)
- Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh)
- Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)
- Kovalam (Tamil Nadu)
- Eden Beach (Puducherry)
- Minicoy Thundi and Kadmat (Lakshadweep)



KARNATAKA DARSHANA

1. Abhay Manohar Sapre committee

Why in news

- ◆ Road Safety Advisory Committee chairman inspects NH 275

Observations and recommendations

- ◆ **Key Observation:** He appreciated the reduction in road accidents on national highways in **2025** compared to previous years, attributing the positive trend to the installation of **AI-enabled cameras**.
- ◆ **Technological Recommendation:** Mr. Sapre proposed the installation of **digital speed control systems** to effectively regulate and curb the over-speeding of vehicles.
- ◆ **Infrastructure Measures:** He suggested installing adequate, prominently visible **signboards** specifically at accident-prone locations to alert motorists.
- ◆ **Enforcement Focus:** The recommendations included undertaking strict measures to ensure adherence to **lane discipline** and continuous prevention of over-speeding.

Note : NH275 connects Bengaluru to Mysuru

2. Electric flying taxi



Why in news:

- ◆ Bengaluru firm begins ground testing of electric flying taxi

About

- ◆ **What it is :** The ground testing for the half-scale electric vertical take-off and **landing (eVTOL) demonstrator, SYLLA SYL-X1** developed by Bengaluru-based Sarla Aviation.

Sarla's flagship programme :

- ◆ **Objective :** it is a **six-seater electric flying taxi**, designed to dramatically **reduce commute times in India's most congested cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, and Pune**.
- ◆ **Launched by :** the **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** and **Sarla Aviation**.

3. Forests can't be used for non-forestry purposes: SC

Why in news

- ◆ Bench upholds appeal filed by Karnataka government against **Gandhi Jeevan Collective Farming Cooperative Society**, which wanted extension of lease on 134 acres of forest

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Ruled by:** The Supreme Court of India, via a Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta.
- ◆ **Ruling:** The Court firmly established that forest lands cannot be utilized for **non-forestry purposes**, explicitly stating that **agriculture** falls under this prohibition as it essentially requires the clearing of forests.
- ◆ **Case Background:** The judgment upheld an appeal filed by the Karnataka State government against the **Gandhi Jeevan Collective Farming Cooperative Society**. The society had sought an extension of a lease on **134 acres** of forest land, which the Court noted had been "illegally granted" to them for cultivation in the first place.
- ◆ **Legal Basis:** The decision is grounded in **Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**, which precludes the de-reservation or use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval from the Central government. The Bench also reiterated a 2000 judgment stating that de-reservation requires Supreme Court permission.
- ◆ **Directive:** The judgment, authored by Justice Sandeep Mehta, directed the State to reclaim the land and **repopulate the forest with indigenous trees**.
- ◆ **State Position:** The Karnataka government confirmed via affidavit that the disputed lands fell under the category of "forest" and were under the ownership and possession of the State Forest Department.

4. "Mission 40+" (Karnataka Education Initiative)

Why in news :

- ◆ Remedial teaching to improve SSLC results in

districts of Kalyana Karnataka region

Mission Overview

- ◆ **Objective:** To improve the **SSLC (Class 10) examination results in the seven districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region** (e.g., Kalaburagi, Bidar, Raichur)
- ◆ **Launched by :** remedial teaching programme launched by the **Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB) and the Department of School Education** in Karnataka.
- ◆ **Target:** The specific goal is to **ensure students pass and to achieve an overall 90% pass result** in these districts.
- ◆ **Special Classes:** Conducted from January to March for “slow learners” or students needing extra help.
- ◆ **Funding:** Teachers conducting these classes receive extra honorariums (**₹1,000/month**), and **schools receive funds (₹6,000)** to cover student travel expenses.
- ◆ **Monitoring:** Includes home visits for students absent for more than seven days to bring them back to class.

Note :

- ◆ The State government has earmarked **₹3.44 crore** for the project, to be borne by the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB).
- ◆ In 2024-25, **Kalaburagi district ranked last in the results with 41.35% results.** Other districts also had poor results- Ballari (50.91%), Bidar (52.3%), Koppal (56.57%), Raichur (50.76%), Vijayapura (66.78%), and Yadgir (59.6%).

5. Bengaluru International Film Festival

Why in news

- ◆ The Bengaluru International Film Festival is scheduled to begin on January 29.

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Brand Ambassador:** Actor **Prakash Raj** has been named the brand ambassador for the **17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes).**
- ◆ **Dates:** The festival will be held from **January 29 to February 6.**
- ◆ **Venue Shift:** Cinapolis, Lulu Mall in Rajajinagar (Bengaluru).
- ◆ **Oscar Showcase:** The 17th edition is set to showcase movies shortlisted for the **98th Oscars.**
- ◆ **International Acclaim:** Films that gained appreciation at reputed global festivals such as **Cannes, Rotterdam, Berlin, Busan, and Locarno** will be screened at the event.
- ◆ **Theme:** The central theme for this edition is **“Women Empowerment” (“Woman: As She Is”).**

6. KPME (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Why in news :

- ◆ Private hospitals flag concerns over KPME (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Key objections

- ◆ the **removal of representation** from private medical establishments in the Registration and Grievance Redressal Authority.
- ◆ excluding hospital administrators from the decision-making process
- ◆ replacement of the earlier provision for “deemed approval” with a six-month provisional registration system. Under the original Act, it was three months.

7. State seeks allocation of 40 to 45 tmcft of water in river linking projects

Why in news:

- ◆ Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, representing the Karnataka State Government at the 24th meeting of the National Water Development Authority (NWDA) in New Delhi.

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Purpose:** To secure an increased total water allocation of **40 to 45 tmcft** for Karnataka within the national river-linking frameworks, specifically to address drinking water and irrigation needs.
- ◆ **Key Demands:** The State specifically urged the Centre to provide an additional **5 tmcft** of water to the **Kalyana Karnataka (KK) region** via the Godavari-Cauvery link primarily for drinking water purposes.
- ◆ **Current Allocation Status:** Karnataka has currently been allocated a total of **34.40 tmcft** under two major projects:
 - ◆ **15.90 tmcft** from the Godavari-Cauvery link.
 - ◆ **18.50 tmcft** from the Varada-Bedti link.
- ◆ **Godavari-Cauvery Project Data:** In the first phase, a total of **148 tmcft** of water is set to be diverted; Karnataka has requested clarification on the usage and distribution of its 15.90 tmcft share.
- ◆ **Varada-Bedti Project Details:** A Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared for this intra-state link. The estimated cost is **₹10,000 crore**, with **90%** of the expenditure to be borne by the Centre.

Note : The NWDA has been formed under the leadership of the Union Minister of Jal Shakti for river linking, and all States are its members.

Additional information

Godavari-Cauvery River Linking Project.

- ◆ **Route Alignment (3-Stage Link):** The project

proposes a massive transfer of water through the following path:

- ◆ **Godavari** (Inchampalli Barrage) -**Krishna** (Nagarjunasagar Dam)
- ◆ **Krishna** (Nagarjunasagar) - **Pennar** (Somasila Dam)
- ◆ **Pennar** (Somasila) - **Cauvery** (Grand Anicut)
- ◆ Key Statistics:
 - ◆ **Total Diversion:** Approximately **148 TMC** (4,189 MCM) of unutilized water from the Godavari basin.
 - ◆ **Tamil Nadu Share:** **41 TMC** earmarked for irrigation and drinking water supply to Chennai.
 - ◆ **Karnataka's Stance:** The State claims rights to **45 TMC** of water before giving approval for the project.
- ◆ Infrastructure & Technology:
 - ◆ **Starting Point:** The **Inchampalli Barrage** on the Godavari river serves as the primary source.
 - ◆ **Transport Mechanism:** The project incorporates the use of **Steel Pipes** instead of traditional open canals in specific sections to significantly reduce evaporation losses.
- ◆ Beneficiary Hierarchy:
 - ◆ **Major Beneficiaries:** Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
 - ◆ **Minor Beneficiaries:** Puducherry.

Bedti - varada liking project

- ◆ **Proposed by:** The Karnataka State Government (Water Resources Department).
- ◆ **Core Purpose:** To divert approximately **22 TMC** of “surplus” water from the west-flowing Bedti river to the east-flowing Varada river (a tributary of the Tungabhadra) to mitigate water scarcity in North Karnataka.
- ◆ **Route & Mechanism:**
 - ◆ **Source:** Bedti River (Western Ghats, flowing to the Arabian Sea).
 - ◆ **Destination:** Varada River (Flows East).
 - ◆ **Engineering:** The project involves two mix-links utilizing **6.8 km tunnels** and lifting (pumping) stations at Pattanahalla and Suremane.

Target Objectives:

- ◆ **Irrigation:** Designed to irrigate approximately **1 Lakh Hectares** in the Tungabhadra Left Bank region.
- ◆ **Usage:** Providing drinking water for arid towns and sustaining rain-fed crops such as **Cotton and Jowar**.
- ◆ **Beneficiaries:** The project targets the drought-prone districts of **Raichur, Gadag, Haveri, and Koppal**.
- ◆ Infrastructure:

- ◆ **Dam 1:** At Menasagoda (Pattanahalla stream).
- ◆ **Dam 2:** At Hirevadatti (Gadag district).
- ◆ **Financials:** The estimated cost ranges between **₹2,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore**, subject to final plan modifications.
- ◆ Conflict & Status:
 - ◆ **Proponents:** Farmers in North Karnataka seeking drought relief.
 - ◆ **Opponents:** Environmentalists and locals in Uttara Kannada (Sirsi), citing the potential loss of **2,100+ acres** of forest and damage to the ecologically sensitive **Myristica Swamps**.
 - ◆ **Status:** Highly controversial; while the government has approved the preparation of a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)**, widespread implementation is stalled due to protests.

8. Insurance coverage in Karnataka for forest officials

Why in news :

- ◆ Forest Department, outsourced personnel get insurance coverage in Karnataka

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Agreement:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the **Karnataka Forest, Ecology and Environment Department and Bank of Baroda**.
- ◆ **Coverage:** Provides ₹1 crore accidental death insurance to all permanent officers and staff, regardless of their cadre or salary.
- ◆ **Additional Duty Benefit:** In case of accidental death while on duty, the bank will provide an additional ₹25 lakh.
- ◆ **Life Insurance:** Permanent employees are also eligible for ₹10 lakh in life insurance coverage.
- ◆ **Outsourced Personnel Cover:** Outsourced staff are provided with insurance coverage of ₹20 lakh.
- ◆ **Pensioner Extension:** Personal accident insurance coverage remains valid up to the age of 70 for retired employees who continue their pension accounts with Bank of Baroda.

9. State Education Policy (SEP)

Why in news :

- ◆ The State Education Policy (SEP)-2025 has made several recommendations like discarding the three-language formula and adopting a two-language formula instead

Recommendations

- ◆ **Language Formula:** Recommends discarding the three-language formula in favor of adopting a two-language formula.

- ◆ **Medium of Instruction:** Proposes Kannada or the mother tongue as the medium of instruction for the primary education sector.
- ◆ **RTE Extension:** Suggests extending the Right to Education (RTE) eligibility up to 18 years of age.
- ◆ **Reservation Policy:** Recommends implementing a reservation matrix even within private educational institutes.

📖 **Current status**

- ◆ **Implementation Status:** The policy has not yet been implemented, with hopes for rollout in the 2026-27 academic year. While an expert committee exists for higher education implementation, no such exercise has begun for school education.
- ◆ **KPS Magnet Schools:** The government plans to develop 900 Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) as “magnet schools” (Pre-primary to II PUC) using an Asian Development Bank loan. 509 of these are set to be developed between 2025 and 2027.



📖 **Why in news :**

- ◆ Sanchara Yukta project may add 90 km of roads beyond GBA limits

📖 **About Sanchara Yukta project**

- ◆ **Project Overview:** The Sanchara Yukta project initially planned a 228-km road network within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits.
- ◆ **Expansion Scope:** The B-SMILE initiative identified an additional 90 km expansion potential, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).
- ◆ **Construction Strategy:** The government intends to construct roads along the buffer zones of storm-water drains (SWDs) and lakes to tackle the city’s growing traffic congestion.
- ◆ **Key Networks:** B-SMILE has planned seven road networks, including a specific link between Koramangala and Sarjapur.
- ◆ **Revival Plans:** The project aims to revive the Wind Tunnel Road expansion (shelved in 2022) to help decongest HAL Airport Road.
- ◆ **East Bengaluru Focus:** A significant portion covers the East City Corporation with a total length of 96.132 km, targeting areas with low road density (8–10 km per sq. km) and high congestion due to workspaces and floating populations.

10. Sharp increase in child kidnappings across Karnataka

📖 **Why in news :**

- ◆ In three years, 9,639 cases of missing children reported in Karnataka; 1,094 remain untraced

📖 **Key Highlights**

- ◆ **Regional Distribution:** Bengaluru city accounts for nearly one-third of the total cases, followed by Bengaluru Rural and Tumakuru districts.
- ◆ **Gender Statistics:** A significant number of missing cases involved girls (6,894 cases), with 825 of these cases still pending.
- ◆ **Yearly Trends:**
 - ◆ 2023: 3,039 cases reported; 77 unresolved.
 - ◆ 2024: 3,411 cases reported; 145 untraced.
 - ◆ 2025 (till Nov 15): 3,189 cases reported; 872 unresolved.

📖 **District-wise Breakdown:**

- ◆ Bengaluru: 3,268 cases reported; 426 pending.
- ◆ Bengaluru Rural: 694 cases reported; 55 untraced.
- ◆ Tumakuru: 450 cases reported in the last three years; 33 unresolved.

Note : the Supreme Court directed the Union government to furnish six years of nationwide data and appoint a dedicated officer to coordinate with States and Union Territories.

11. Sanchara Yukta project

12. SVALSA (Slope Vulnerability and Landslide Assessment).

📖 **Why in news :**

- ◆ Machine learning to predict landslips in Western Ghats

📖 **About SVALSA**

- ◆ **Developed by:** Researchers at NITK Surathkal have created an integrated early warning framework called SVALSA (Slope Vulnerability and Landslide Assessment).
- ◆ **Aim :** to provide reliable landslide warnings while significantly reducing false alarms, addressing incidents primarily triggered by intense and prolonged rainfall.

- ◆ **Target Region:** The system is designed specifically for the Western Ghats, a region that accounts for nearly 60% of reported landslides in India.
- ◆ **Mechanism:** The system operates through a three-stage warning mechanism implemented as a Python-based algorithm on a compact processing unit.
- ◆ **Technology & Inputs:** It combines rainfall analysis, real-time monitoring of soil behaviour, and surface movement.
- ◆ **Data Analysis:** In the first stage, the system analyzes rainfall data and past landslide records using a machine-learning method called K-Nearest Neighbour (KNN).

13. VB G-RAM G Act will hit Karnataka's finances

Why in news

- ◆ Concerns have been raised regarding the financial burden on the State due to the new rural employment Act which replaces the central funding model with a cost-sharing one.

Implications of the new rural employment Act for Karnataka

- ◆ **New Legislation:** The **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G)** has been introduced, replacing the MGNREGA Act.
- ◆ **Funding Mechanism:** Unlike the previous **MGNREGA framework** where the Centre funded the entire cost, the new Act mandates the State government to fund **40% of the project costs**.
- ◆ **Financial Impact:** Karnataka estimates an additional annual expenditure of **₹3,000 crore to ₹4,000 crore**, resulting in a cumulative burden of approximately **₹20,000 crore** over the next five years.
- ◆ **Fiscal Challenge:** This increased expenditure comes at a critical time when the State is already staring at a **revenue loss of about ₹18,000 crore annually** due to the rationalization of GST rates.

14. Demand for Kittur Karnataka Development Board grows louder

Why in news :

- ◆ Petition with signatures of MLAs from Kittur Karnataka region seeking creation of a separate development board for the region during the Winter Session of the State legislature in Belagavi.

About

- ◆ **Key Demand:** Legislators have petitioned for the formation of a Kittur Karnataka Development Board accompanied by an annual grant of ₹5,000

crore to facilitate comprehensive development.

- ◆ **Region Scope:** The proposed board covers the Kittur Karnataka region (formerly Bombay Karnataka), comprising seven districts: Dharwad, Belagavi, Gadag, Haveri, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, and Uttara Kannada.
- ◆ **Legislative Support:** A petition was submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with signatures from MLAs representing 56 Assembly constituencies in the region (excluding eight Ministers).
- ◆ **Rationale:** The demand highlights that the region lags in economic and human development indices, requiring a significant boost in industrial development and infrastructure to bridge the gap with other areas.
- ◆ **Economic Disparity:** As per the Economic Survey of Karnataka (2024-25), the per capita income of the Belagavi division is ₹2,00,457, significantly lower than the Bengaluru region (₹5,01,383) and Mysuru region (₹3,59,177).
- ◆ **Political Context:** This demand intensified after the State government passed a resolution seeking a matching grant for the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) from the Centre, based on the Vidarbha Model.

15. ARC recommends consolidating irrelevant schemes

Why in news

- ◆ The Second Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission recommends rationalizing revenue expenditure to address the growing deficit.

Commission & Purpose

- ◆ **Proposed by:** The **Second Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission**, headed by veteran Congress leader **R.V. Deshpande**.
- ◆ **Core Purpose:** To prioritize and rationalize **revenue expenditure**, addressing the **revenue deficit** which has increased over the last two financial years.
- ◆ **Priority Action:** The commission urges the government to **abolish functionally irrelevant posts** and focus on **filling long-pending frontline vacancies on priority**.

Key Recommendations

- ◆ **Scheme Rationalization:** The commission recommends ending or consolidating about 1,000 heads of accounts (HOAs)/schemes (out of a total 2,874) that are obsolete, unfunded, or part of debt servicing.
- ◆ **Recruitment Reforms:**
 - ◆ Restrict the **creation of new posts**.
 - ◆ Implement an **annual recruitment plan**.
 - ◆ **Freeze outsourcing** for **Group C and Group D** cadres.

Staffing Statistics

- ◆ **Vacancies:** The commission identified that **2.94 lakh posts are vacant** across 42 departments against a **sanctioned strength of 8.16 lakh**.
- ◆ **Current Status:** Only **5.18 lakh posts** are currently filled, with about **70,000 personnel outsourced**.

16. Bescom launches mobile app to monitor transformers

Why in news :

- ◆ Bescom has developed a new mobile application named 'Distribution Transformer Life Cycle Management System' (DTLMS)

About DTLMS

- ◆ **Developed by:** The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has created a mobile application called the **Distribution Transformer Life Cycle Management System (DTLMS)**.
- ◆ **Aim:** The primary objective is to ensure quality and uninterrupted power supply to consumers.
- ◆ **Target Scope:** The system helps monitor and systematically carry out preventive maintenance of more than five lakh distribution transformers across eight districts under Bescom's jurisdiction.
- ◆ **Mechanism:** The app enables officials to continuously monitor the operation, repairs, and efficiency of distribution transformers.
- ◆ **Data Input:** Field officers can enter all transformer maintenance details directly into the application, ensuring real-time tracking of assets.

17. Sarige Mitra' app

Why in news :

- ◆ KSRTC launches 'Sarige Mitra' HRMS mobile app 2.0 to boost employee services

About Sarige Mitra app

- ◆ **Launched by:** The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), inaugurated by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy as a **New Year initiative**.
- ◆ **Purpose:** The "**Sarige Mitra**" Human Resource Management System (Version 2.0) is designed to provide real-time human resource services through smartphones, enabling access to a wide range of information at the employees' fingertips.
- ◆ **Target:** The system is tailored for **KSRTC employees** to facilitate seamless digital interaction with their employment data.
- ◆ **Key Features:** It incorporates advanced utilities including a geo-fencing-based attendance system, monthly attendance tracking, and one-click

downloads of monthly payslips.

- ◆ **Mechanism:** The app functions as a comprehensive mobile interface offering immediate access to critical personal and professional records.

18. 1,000-bed hospital in Bengaluru for free organ transplant for poor

Why in news :

- ◆ The Karnataka government will facilitate setting up a 1,000-bed multi-speciality hospital meant for free organ transplants in collaboration with Azim Premji Foundation in Bengaluru.

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Purpose:** To benefit the poor by establishing a dedicated healthcare facility for free organ transplants (kidney, liver, lungs, and others) and facilitating smooth organ harvesting and transport due to its proximity to NIMHANS.
- ◆ **Location:** The facility will be built on 10 acres of land provided by the government on a 99-year lease, located adjacent to NIMHANS in Bengaluru.
- ◆ **Investment & Management:** The Foundation will invest **₹1,000 crore** to set up the facility and is estimated to spend **₹350 crore annually** for maintenance. The hospital will be managed by a board that includes three government representatives.
- ◆ **Capacity & Timeline:** A 350-bed facility is scheduled for completion within the next **three years**, which will be scaled up to a **1,000-bed** multi-speciality facility over the next **five years**.
- ◆ **Cost Model:** Billed as a unique model, **70% of beds will be free**, while **30% will be available at a nominal cost** (covered under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka scheme).
- ◆ **Current Context & Demand:** The initiative addresses the critical backlog of over **5,000 patients awaiting kidney transplants** and **1,000+ patients awaiting liver transplants** in the State, supplementing the existing liver transplant facilities functioning at the Institute of Gastro Enterology Sciences since 2016.

Additional information

Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka scheme.

- ◆ Originally introduced as "Arogya Karnataka" by the Government of Karnataka on **March 2, 2018**, and later integrated with the Union Government's Ayushman Bharat on **October 30, 2018**.
- ◆ The scheme is implemented in an "**Assurance Mode**" by the State Government under the co-branded name "Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka."

Aim or Objective

- ◆ The primary goal is to provide **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** to all residents of the State.
- ◆ It aims to provide financial protection against the costs of simple secondary, complex secondary, tertiary, and **emergency medical procedures**.

Benefits

- ◆ **Eligible Households (BPL and RSBY beneficiaries)** receive **100% coverage** with a Basic Sum Assured of **₹5,00,000 per family per annum**.
- ◆ **General Households (APL)** receive a government subsidy of **30% of the package rate** up to a limit of **₹1.5 lakh per family per annum** on a **co-payment basis**.
- ◆ Beneficiaries can access **emergency procedures** directly at any empanelled hospital (public or private) **without payment and without needing a referral**.

Criteria

- ◆ “Eligible Households” are defined as those covered under the **NFSA 2013**, holding **BPL ration cards**, or enrolled **RSBY beneficiaries**.
- ◆ “General Households” include residents not defined as eligible households, typically holding **APL cards**.
- ◆ Primary treatments and simple secondary procedures are **restricted to Public Health Institutes (PHIs)** only.
- ◆ Access to complex secondary and tertiary procedures in private hospitals is **conditional upon obtaining a referral** from a Public Health Institute.
- ◆ **Emergency treatment does not require a referral** and can be availed at any empanelled hospital.

Features

- ◆ The scheme operates on an “**Assurance Mode**” rather than a traditional insurance model.
- ◆ Beneficiaries are issued an **AB-ArK Card** at PHIs or Citizen Service Centers for a fee of **₹10 (paper)** or **₹35 (plastic)**.
- ◆ The **Government of India funds 60%** of the expenditure for SECC 2011 and RSBY families, while the **State Government bears the remaining 40%**.
- ◆ The **Government of Karnataka bears 100%** of the cost for all remaining eligible families and provides the subsidy for the **19 lakh APL families** not covered by the central scheme.

19. Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara: Annual awards

Why it in news :

- ◆ Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara, will hold a literary event on January 9 to present the 2025 Annual Honorary Awards and the 2024 Book Awards.

Honorary Awards winners

- ◆ Eminent personalities J.V. Karlo, Prof. **Vanamala Viswanatha**, **Dr. K.R. Sandhya Reddy**, **Dr. Vittalarao T. Gaikwad**, and **Dr. J.P. Doddamani** will receive the honorary awards.

The book awards winners

- ◆ The Book Awards will be conferred on **Dr. Nataraj Honnavalli**, **Dr. Sadanand R**, **Karthik R**, **Dr. Malleshappa Siddarampura**, and **Dr. Devaraj N** for their outstanding literary contributions.

20. New 153-acre lung space proposed for Bengaluru in the name of Basavanna

Why in news

- ◆ A new 153-acre lung space has been proposed for Bengaluru, named the **Vishwaguru Basavanna Biodiversity Park**.

Project Overview

- ◆ **Objective:** To establish the **Vishwaguru Basavanna Biodiversity Park**, fulfilling a decade-and-a-half-old dream of creating a significant “lung space” in the **northern part of the city**.
- ◆ **Location & Scale:** The park will be developed on **153 acres in North Bengaluru**.

Financial Details

- ◆ **Initial Sanction:** The government has sanctioned an initial **₹50 crore** for the first phase.
- ◆ **Total Cost:** The total project cost is estimated at **₹250 crore**, with additional funding expected from companies under **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**.

Historical Significance

- ◆ **Legacy:** This marks the **first major botanical garden project in over 150 years**, following the establishment of Bengaluru’s historic green spaces:
 - ◆ **Lalbagh:** Established in **1760** across **240 acres**.
 - ◆ **Cubbon Park:** Started in **1870** across **194 acres**.

21. Highest-ever organ donations made in 2025

Why in news

- ◆ Karnataka has recorded its highest-ever number of organ donations in a single year, with **198 donations** in 2025, surpassing its previous record.

Key Statistics

- ◆ **Record Achievement:** The State recorded **198 organ donations** in 2025, surpassing the previous peak of **178 donations in 2023**.
- ◆ **National Standing:** Karnataka ranked **third in the country** for organ donations in 2025, trailing only:
 - ◆ **Tamil Nadu:** 267 donations

- ♦ **Telangana:** 205 donations
- ♦ **Nodal Agency:** The **State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO)**, Karnataka, serves as the nodal agency facilitating these cadaver organ donations.

Drivers of Success

- ♦ **Network Expansion:** The increase is primarily attributed to the empowerment of more hospitals as **Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centres (NTORCs)**.
- ♦ **Tier-Two Cities:** The expansion includes facilities in **tier-two cities**, broadening the donation network beyond major metropolitan hubs.

22. Command centre launched to address man-animal conflict

Why in news

- ♦ Karnataka Forest Department launches tech-driven command centre to address human-animal conflict.

Launch & Objective

- ♦ **Launched by:** The **Karnataka Forest Department (KFD)**.
- ♦ **Aim:** To enhance the monitoring and management of human-animal conflict incidents through the deployment of **advanced technological tools**.

Infrastructure & Technology

- ♦ **Central Hub:** The initiative centers on a new **Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)** in Bengaluru.
- ♦ **Network:** The ICCC serves as a central hub connecting **11 Divisional Command and Control Centres (DCCC)** across the State.
- ♦ **Mechanism:** The system employs **GPS-based applications** to oversee ground-level patrolling and tracks **problem elephants fitted with radio collars**.
- ♦ **Key Functions:** The centre enables **real-time surveillance** of sensitive and conflict-vulnerable areas while ensuring effective oversight of field operations.

Regions Covered

The network covers critical wildlife zones, including:

- ♦ **Divisions:** M.M. Hills, Madikeri, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Mangaluru, and Bannerghatta National Park.
- ♦ **Tiger Reserves:** Nagarahole, Bandipur, Bhadra, BRT, and Kali.

23. Bhu Suraksha project

Why in news :

- ♦ Minister for Revenue Krishna Byre Gowda launched the Bhu Suraksha Project to expand the digitisation of land records to the offices of Assistant Commissioners (ACs) and Deputy Commissioners (DCs)

About the Bhu Suraksha project

- ♦ **Aim :** To curb malpractice, prevent the creation of fake entries or forged documents, and improve transparency by expanding the digitization of land records to higher administrative levels.
- ♦ **Launched by:** The Revenue Department, Government of Karnataka.
- ♦ **Scope:** The project expands the digitization drive from taluk offices to the offices of **Assistant Commissioners (ACs) and Deputy Commissioners (DCs)** across the State.
- ♦ **Mechanism:** The initiative involves the systematic scanning and permanent digital preservation of original revenue records to ensure data integrity.
- ♦ **Timeline:** The project aims to complete the scanning of all remaining pages within the next **three to four months**.
- ♦ **Current status :** Karnataka holds an estimated **100 crore pages** of land records, of which **62 crore pages** have already been scanned. Computerization has been fully completed in **70 of the State's 240 taluks**.

24. State-run KMIO gets ISO certification for solid waste management

Why in news

- ♦ The State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) has been awarded the ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System certification for its Solid Waste Management (SWM) facility.

Certification Details

- ♦ **Achieved by:** The State-run **Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO)**.
- ♦ **Certification:** The institute was awarded the **ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System certification** for its Solid Waste Management (SWM) facility in **December 2025**.
- ♦ **Significance:** This recognition makes Kidwai **one of the few hospitals in the country** to comply with international environmental standards, marking a major milestone in adopting **environmentally responsible practices** in public-sector healthcare.

Operational Mechanism

- ♦ **Purpose:** The initiative aims to **scientifically reorganize the handling of waste** generated within the tertiary care facility, a process that began in **March 2020**.
- ♦ **Mechanism:** The modern SWM facility was

established under a **10-year Build–Own–Operate–Transfer (BOOT) model**.

- ♦ **Process:** The facility was developed following a **transparent tender process** balancing cost and environmental standards, and the certification followed an **independent audit conducted in 2025**.

25. Restore ecozone around Bannerghatta: SC panel report

Why in news :

- ♦ The Central Empowered Committee has recommended to restore a 2016 draft notification and cancel a 2020 notification which warrants reconsideration and shall be withdrawn by MoEFCC

Recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC)

- ♦ **Mandate:** The committee has recommended the immediate withdrawal of the MoEFCC's **March 11, 2020 notification** and the full restoration of the June 15, **2016 draft notification regarding the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Bannerghatta National Park (BNP)**.
- ♦ **Ecological Rationale:** The recommendation aims to protect scientifically identified **elephant corridors** and **ecologically important patches** that were excluded in the 2020 notification. It argues that the adoption of a generic “one-km ESZ norm” ignores site-specific ecological requirements.
- ♦ The **report highlights** that the **ESZ was drastically reduced** without scientific justification from **268.96 sq. km** (in the 2016 draft) to **168.84 sq. km** (in the 2020 final notification).
- ♦ **Procedural Violation:** The CEC noted that the decision to reduce the ESZ was made by a Cabinet Sub-Committee in 2017, which violates **Para 6.2 of the 2011 Guidelines**. These guidelines require a specialized committee (Chief Wildlife Warden, Ecologist, Local Govt, and Revenue Officer) to assess ESZ extents.
- ♦ **Timeline:** The CEC has stipulated that the entire exercise to re-notify the ESZ to its original extent must be completed within the next **six months**.

26. State Film Awards

Why in news :

- ♦ The Lifetime Achievement Awards as part of the Karnataka State Film Awards 2020 and 2021 were announced.

About the State Film Awards

- ♦ **Announced by:** The **Karnataka State Government**, presenting the Lifetime Achievement Awards as part of the Karnataka State Film Awards for the years 2020 and 2021.

- ♦ **Award Categories:** The honors include the prestigious **Dr. Rajkumar Award**, the **Puttanna Kanagal Award**, and the **Dr. Vishnuvardhan Award**.

2020 Recipients:

- ♦ **Puttanna Kanagal Award:** Conferred upon renowned filmmaker and theatre personality **M.S. Sathyu**.
- ♦ **Dr. Rajkumar Award:** Awarded to actor-politician **Jaimala** for her contributions spanning over 50 years in the film industry.
- ♦ **Dr. Vishnuvardhan Award:** Given to veteran still photographer **Pragathi Ashwath Narayana**.

2021 Recipients:

- ♦ **Dr. Rajkumar Award:** Presented to **Sa. Ra. Govindu**, producer and former president of the Karnataka State Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC).
- ♦ **Puttanna Kanagal Award:** Awarded to director **K. Shivarudraiah**.
- ♦ **Dr. Vishnuvardhan Award:** Conferred upon actor-producer **M.K. Sundar Raj**

27. Dr. Madhav Gadgil report

Why in news

- ♦ Renowned Indian ecologist and environmentalist Dr. Madhav Gadgil passed away on January 7, 2026.

Report Highlights

- ♦ **The Panel:** The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), headed by ecologist Madhav Gadgil, submitted its report to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests in **August 2011**.
- ♦ **Recommendation:** The report recommended designating the **entire Western Ghats region as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)**, which would have covered a vast geographical portion of Karnataka.

Zoning & Target Regions

- ♦ **Target Region in Karnataka:** The recommendations applied to the Ghats stretching across districts including **Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu, Mysore, and Chamarajanagar**.
- ♦ **Zoning Mechanism:** It proposed a graded classification system—**ESZ-1 (High Priority), ESZ-2, and ESZ-3**—based on ecological sensitivity. A significant number of taluks in Karnataka were categorized as **ESZ-1**, implying the strictest level of protection.

Key Restrictions Proposed

- ♦ **Infrastructure:** A **complete ban on the**

construction of new large dams, specifically recommending against the **Gundia Hydroelectric Project** in Karnataka.

- ♦ **Mining:** An **indefinite moratorium** on new mining licenses in ESZ-1 and ESZ-2, with a proposal to **phase out existing mines in ESZ-1 by 2016**.
- ♦ **Industry:** A ban on **polluting industries (Red and Orange category)** in ESZ-1 and ESZ-2.

Governance & Response

- ♦ **Governance Model:** It proposed a **Western Ghats Ecology Authority (WGEA)** to oversee the region and emphasized a **“bottom-up” approach**, granting **Gram Sabhas** (local village councils) the power to **veto development projects**.
- ♦ **State Response:** The Karnataka government (along with Kerala and Goa) **strongly opposed the report**, arguing it would hinder development, power generation, and agriculture. This opposition led to the formation of the **Kasturirangan Committee** to review these recommendations.

Additional information

Sanjay Kumar Committee:

- ♦ Formed to review state objections on ESA demarcations and validate proposed exclusions.
- ♦ Will conduct field visits to verify if demands for village exclusions from ESA listings are justified.
- ♦ Seeks to finalize the ESA status for villages, restricting activities harmful to biodiversity.

28. India's first commercial Quantum Computer to be deployed at IIIT, Dharwad

Why in news

- ♦ India's first commercial Quantum Computer is set to be deployed at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Dharwad.

Key Highlights

- ♦ **Location:** The system is being installed at the **Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Dharwad**.
- ♦ **Announcement:** The initiative was announced by **Priyank Kharge**, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, IT & BT.
- ♦ **Status:** This deployment represents the country's **first indigenously built Quantum Computer for commercial use**.
- ♦ **Target:** The installation is proceeding at a quick momentum to secure **Karnataka's leadership** in the quantum space.

Strategic Importance

- ♦ **Purpose:** The initiative marks a significant milestone in building a **world-class quantum ecosystem** and

advancing the **“Karnataka Quantum Roadmap”** to ensure cutting-edge technology translates into real-world impact.

- ♦ **Infrastructure:** The State government has also recently announced the establishment of a **Centre of Excellence in Quantum AI and Computing** at IIIT Dharwad.

Key Collaborations

- ♦ **Tech Partner:** The project involves strong collaboration with the **Bengaluru-based deeptech company QpiAI** for quantum advancements.
- ♦ **Application Focus:** Discussions are held with **Singapore-based ZWEEC** regarding applications, specifically for **strengthening rural water security**.

29. NIT-K Surathkal develops jute-based geocell as alternative to plastic in roadworks

Why in news

- ♦ Researchers at NIT-K Surathkal have developed an industrially manufactured ‘jute geocell’ to replace conventional petroleum-based plastic geocells for sustainable road construction.

Project Overview

- ♦ **Aim:** To replace conventional petroleum-based plastic geocells with an industrially manufactured **‘jute geocell’** for sustainable road construction and slope stabilisation.
- ♦ **Developed by:** Researchers at the **National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal**.
- ♦ **Project Support:** The project is funded by the **National Jute Board** under the Union Ministry of Textiles and was executed in collaboration with **Birla Jute Mills**.

Mechanism & Function

- ♦ **Structure:** The geocells function as **three-dimensional, honeycomb-like structures**.
- ♦ **Application:** They are placed beneath roads or on slopes to **strengthen weak soil**, improve **load-bearing capacity**, and **control erosion**.

Sustainability & Impact

- ♦ **Environmental Benefits:** Unlike existing **high-density polyethylene or polypropylene** options that cause microplastic pollution, this solution is **cheaper, biodegradable**, and eliminates long-term environmental risks.
- ♦ **Target Areas:** The innovation is designed for **large-scale implementation**, particularly in **rural and ecologically sensitive regions** where environmental preservation is critical.

30. Indian Army officer from Bengaluru wins UN Secretary-General's Award 2025

Why in news

- ◆ An Indian Army officer from Bengaluru, **Major Swathi Shantha Kumar**, has won the **UN Secretary-General's Award 2025** for her project **Equal Partners, Lasting Peace**.

Award Details

- ◆ **Recipient:** Major Swathi Shantha Kumar, an Indian Army officer from Bengaluru.
- ◆ **Current Role:** She is currently serving on the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**.
- ◆ **Award:** She received the **UN Secretary-General's Award 2025** for her project titled "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace."

Project Overview

- ◆ **Title:** "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace."
- ◆ **Purpose:** The project aimed to significantly enhance **gender parity** and strengthen **grassroots-level engagement** within the mission's area of responsibility.

31. The Activity Point Tracking System (APTS) mobile app

Why in news :

- ◆ VTU to launch app to track activity points for students to prevent fraud

About APTS mobile app

- ◆ **Developed by:** Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).
- ◆ **Purpose:** The **Activity Point Tracking System (APTS)** mobile app aims to curb the **unethical practice of students** submitting fake documents to claim activity points, ensuring transparency and genuine participation in extracurricular activities.
- ◆ **Target group:** All engineering students under VTU who are required to earn at least **75 out of 100 activity points** over their **four-year course to qualify for their degree (mandated by AICTE from 2018-19)**.
- ◆ **Mechanism:** The system operates through a mandatory mobile application where students must upload **geo-tagged photos** as proof of their engagement in approved activities.
- ◆ **Objectives:** The initiative is designed to foster **entrepreneurial capabilities, social commitment, soft skills, leadership qualities, and team spirit** among students.
- ◆ **Key Activities:** Eligible activities include preparing business proposals for village income enhancement, developing sustainable water management systems, promoting tourism or appropriate

technologies, reducing energy consumption, skilling rural populations, and facilitating 100% digitised money transactions.

32. Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) award

Why in news :

- ◆ 2 senior scientists conferred with KSTA Lifetime Achievement Award

Prof. C.N.R. Rao – KSTA Lifetime Achievement Award

- ◆ **Awardee:** **Ramakrishna**, Scientist and former Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA).
- ◆ **Purpose:** In recognition of his significant contribution to the field of Science and Technology.
- ◆ **Cash Prize & Reward:** A gold medal worth ₹2 lakh and a cash prize of ₹1 lakh.
- ◆ **About Award:** This is a prestigious honor instituted by the KSTA to recognize distinguished senior scientists for their lifetime work.

KSTA Lifetime Achievement Award in Science Communication in Kannada (2023)

- ◆ **Awardee:** **Sreemathi Hariprasad**, former scientist at the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI).
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA).
- ◆ **Purpose:** For exceptional service in popularising **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Medicine) specifically in the Kannada language.
- ◆ **Cash Prize & Reward:** A gold medal worth ₹1 lakh and a cash prize of ₹75,000.
- ◆ **About Award:** This award focuses on bridging the language gap in science and acknowledging those who make technical knowledge accessible to the local population.

33. State govt.to extend financial protection to Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) patients

Why in news :

- ◆ The State government will extend financial protection to patients suffering from Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a rare neurological condition

Key Highlights

- ◆ **Launched by:** The Karnataka State Government, announced by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and implemented via a circular from the **Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST)**.
- ◆ **Core Purpose:** To extend financial protection to

patients suffering from **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)**, a rare neurological condition, by covering the cost of the critical and expensive **Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy**.

- ◆ **Scheme Integration:** The treatment is now brought under the **Ayushman Bharat–Arogya Karnataka (AB-PMJAY–CM’s ArK)** scheme.
- ◆ **Coverage & Financials:**
- ◆ The revised package covers up to **₹2 lakh per patient** for IVIG therapy.
- ◆ The drug price is fixed at **₹2,000 per gram**.
- ◆ Dosage coverage is calculated based on patient weight (2 grams per kg body weight, up to a **maximum of 20 grams per cycle**).
- ◆ Two specific procedure codes have been created for billing and auditing.

📖 **Additional information**

📖 **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)**

- ◆ **About :** GBS is a rare **autoimmune disorder** where the immune system attacks the **peripheral nerves**, causing muscle weakness and potentially paralysis.
- ◆ **Occurrence:** It affects about **1–2 per 100,000 people** annually, appearing more frequently in adults and males.
- ◆ **Triggers:** It usually follows a **viral or bacterial infection**, such as **Campylobacter jejuni**, influenza, Zika virus, or (rarely) vaccinations.
- ◆ **Symptoms:**
 - ◆ **Early:** Tingling and weakness starting in the legs and spreading upward, pins-and-needles sensation, and back pain.
 - ◆ **Severe:** Paralysis, difficulty breathing, loss of speech, and vision problems.
 - ◆ **Complications:** Can disrupt heart rate and blood pressure, or lead to respiratory failure.
- ◆ **Treatment:** While there is no definitive cure, treatments include:
 - ◆ **IVIG Therapy:** Infusing healthy antibodies to block the immune attack.
 - ◆ **Plasma Exchange:** Removing harmful antibodies from the blood.
 - ◆ **Supportive Care:** Use of ventilators (if breathing fails) and physical therapy for rehabilitation.

Strike’ in Syria to eliminate Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) fighters, infrastructure, and weapons sites.

📖 **Operation Hawkeye Strike**

- ◆ The operation comes days after a **suspected Islamic State attacker struck a convoy of US and Syrian forces** in the central **Syrian town of Palmyra**.
- ◆ The US personnel who were targeted were supporting **Operation Inherent Resolve, the international effort to combat IS**, which seized swaths of Syrian and Iraqi territory in 2014.
- ◆ **Note - The terrorist organisation, ISIS, is banned in India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.**

2. Kimberley Process

📖 **Context**

- ◆ The Kimberley Process (KP) Plenary has selected India to assume the chairmanship of the Kimberley Process from 1 January 2026.

📖 **Kimberley Process**

- ◆ It is an **international, multi-stakeholder initiative established to prevent “conflict diamonds”—rough diamonds used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate government**
- ◆ **History:** The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), established pursuant to a UN resolution, **came into effect on 1 January 2003**.
- ◆ **Members:** **The Kimberley Process (KP) is open to any country that can meet its standards.**
- ◆ Currently, it comprises **60 participants representing 86 countries**, with the EU and its 27 Member States counted as one participant under the European Commission.
- ◆ **India is a founding member of the KP.**
- ◆ **The members account for over 99 percent of the global rough diamond trade.**
- ◆ **Secretariat:** **The Kimberley Process Secretariat is headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana**

3. 3 Years of India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)

📖 **In News**

- ◆ **The India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) has completed three years of operation** since its implementation in December 2022.

📖 **Ind-Aus ECTA**

- ◆ The Ind-Aus ECTA is a **bilateral free trade agreement between India and Australia**, signed on 2 April 2022 and implemented from December 2022.

INTERNATIONAL

1. Operation Hawkeye Strike

📖 **Context**

- ◆ The US forces commenced ‘**Operation Hawkeye**

Key Features of the Ind-Aus ECTA

- ◆ Tariff Liberalisation in Goods:
- ◆ **Australia's commitments: Duty-free access for Indian exports on over 95% of tariff lines from day one.**
- ◆ **India's commitments: Gradual tariff reduction on Australian exports**, with sensitivity for sectors such as agriculture, dairy, and wine.

India–Australia Relationship

- ◆ Strategic and Geopolitical Significance: **India and Australia share a common vision of a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.**
- ◆ Cooperation under initiatives like the **Australia–India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership (AIPOIP)** strengthens maritime governance and regional stability.
- ◆ **Strategic Alliances:** Both are core members of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)** along with the US and Japan.
- ◆ **Joint military exercises** between both nations like **Malabar (naval, QUAD countries), AUSINDEX (bilateral naval exercise)** enhances interoperability, maritime security, and trust.
- ◆ **Multilateral Alignment:** India and Australia work closely in global and regional forums such as **G20, East Asia Summit (EAS) & Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).**
- ◆ **Critical Minerals Partnership:** Australia is a major global supplier of lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements. The **'Water Guardians' Initiative**
- ◆ These minerals are essential for **India's Electric Vehicle (EV) mission, battery manufacturing, and clean energy transition.**

4. US Strikes on Venezuela

Context

- ◆ The US strikes on Venezuela have brought to the forefront concerns over violations of international law, **breach of national sovereignty & reinforcing perceptions of U.S. imperialism.**
- ◆ However, data shows that the U.S. attack on Venezuela is unlikely to have any **direct impact on India's energy security.**

Probable Reasons for US Attack on Venezuela

- ◆ **Oil Reserves:** Venezuela holds about **18% of the world's oil reserves, more than Saudi Arabia (around 16%), Russia (about 5-6%), or the United States (around 4%).**
- ◆ **Venezuela alone has more crude oil reserves than the US and Russia combined.**
- ◆ **Countering China's Expansion in Latin America:** China, the world's largest crude oil importer, has emerged as the **biggest buyer of Venezuelan oil.**
- ◆ Venezuela is a strategic node in China's energy

security and global influence, making it geopolitically sensitive for the U.S.

- ◆ **U.S. Deals:** The United States has signed trade deals with partners such as the European Union, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom, getting commitments from them to buy U.S. petroleum products and LNG, without having sufficient crude oil or refining capacity.
- ◆ **Resurrection of the Monroe Doctrine:** The US has described the operation as consistent with the **US foreign policy known as the Monroe Doctrine.**

Other Stated and Unstated Motives:

- ◆ Allegations of state-sponsored drug trafficking
- ◆ Containment of socialist political ideology
- ◆ Addressing mass migration flows towards the U.S.

Venezuela Share in Oil Supply

- ◆ It is a member of the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**, a group of countries that **largely dominates the global oil market.**
- ◆ **Impact on India - India imported \$255.3 million worth of oil from Venezuela** in the current financial year in 2025, about **0.3% of its total oil import** during this period.

5. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas - 18th edition

Context

- ◆ The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated once in two years on 9th January.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

- ◆ **Objective - It is a significant event that honors the contributions of the Indian diaspora to their homeland.**
- ◆ **Historic background - It symbolises Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa in 1915.**
- ◆ **Organised by - Ministry of External Affairs.** Since 2015, it has evolved into a biennale event.

Indian Diaspora

- ◆ The diaspora encompasses a group of people **who can either trace their origins to India or who are Indian citizens living abroad, either temporarily or permanently.**
- ◆ As per the Indian Ministry of External Affairs [2024], the global Indian diaspora numbers **approximately 35.42 million**, consisting of **15.85 million non-resident Indians (NRIs) and 19.57 million people of Indian origin (PIOs).**
- ◆ **Top 5 countries where the Indian diaspora resides: United States of America (USA): 5.4Mn, United Arab Emirates (UAE): 3.6Mn, Malaysia: 2.9Mn, Canada: 2.8Mn and Saudi Arabia: 2.4Mn.**
- ◆ **India is the origin of the largest number of**

international migrants in the world, touching nearly 18 million, according to the UN World Migration Report 2024.

Importance of the Diaspora

- ◆ **Remittances:** In 2024, India received an estimated **\$129.1 billion worth of remittances, the highest ever for a country in any year.**
- ◆ **India's share in global remittances was 14.3% in 2025**, the highest such share since the turn of the millennium for any country.
- ◆ These contribute significantly to **foreign exchange reserves** and rural household incomes.
- ◆ **Investment & Trade: NRIs and PIOs invest in Indian real estate, startups, and infrastructure**, and act as trade facilitators between India and their countries of residence.
- ◆ **Tech & Innovation:** Indian-origin professionals in Silicon Valley, academia, and global corporations **contribute to knowledge transfer, mentorship, and innovation linkages.**
- ◆ **Cultural Ambassadors:** The diaspora promotes Indian languages, yoga, cuisine, Cinema, and festivals globally.
- ◆ **Policy Advocacy:** Diaspora communities often influence foreign policy decisions in host countries in favor of India.
- ◆ **Citizen Diplomacy:** Diaspora involvement helps India manage relations during bilateral tensions or negative media coverage.
- ◆ **Global Recognition:** Their achievements enhance **India's image as a land of talent and opportunity.**

6. Graham-Blumenthal Sanctions Bill

Context

- ◆ U.S. President Donald Trump has given his nod to the **Graham-Blumenthal sanctions bill that will authorise the US President to levy up to 500% tariffs on nations** that knowingly purchase Russian oil or uranium.

Graham-Blumenthal Sanctions Bill

- ◆ **Objective** - This Bill would give the **US tremendous leverage against countries like China, India, and Brazil to incentivise them to stop buying the cheap Russian oil.**
- ◆ In 2018, under similar pressure from the previous Trump administration, India had "zeroed out" its oil imports from Iran and Venezuela as well.
- ◆ **Tariffs on India: The United States has imposed high tariffs on Indian goods, up to 50%.**
- ◆ **Part of this tariff is connected to India's continued purchase of Russian oil.**
- ◆ **India's Stand: India says the decision to buy oil from Russia is based on national interest.** It wants

to ensure energy security and keep fuel prices affordable for its people.

7. U.S. Withdraw From International Solar Alliance

Context

- ◆ The United States has announced its withdrawal from the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

International Solar Alliance

- ◆ **Started** - The ISA, is an Indian initiative that was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris.
- ◆ **Solar powered countries** - It is an initiative with 124 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.
- ◆ **Objective** - To collectively address key common challenges to the scaling up of solar energy in ISA member countries.
- ◆ **Headquarter** - National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) campus, Gurugram.
- ◆ **Members:** Member Countries are countries which have signed and ratified the Framework Agreement of the ISA.
- ◆ At present, 120 countries are signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement.

8. US President Signs Order Withdrawing US from 66 International Organisations

In News

- ◆ **The US has withdrawn from 66 international organizations, including 31 UN entities and 35 non-UN bodies.**
- ◆ The entities include climate/energy/science forums such as the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the International Solar Alliance (ISA).**

US Withdrawing

- ◆ **Sovereignty Concerns:** Resistance to binding international rules perceived to constrain domestic policy autonomy.
- ◆ **Perceived Institutional Bias:** Allegations of politicisation, inefficiency, and bias against US or allied interests.
- ◆ **Domestic Political Pressures:** Multilateral commitments viewed as costly with limited direct electoral benefits.
- ◆ **Burden-Sharing Argument:** Claim that the US contributes disproportionately to global institutions.

- ♦ **Strategic Reorientation:** Preference for bilateral or minilateral arrangements over universal institutions.
- ♦ **Strategic Competition:** Desire to limit platforms where rival powers gain influence.

Potential Impacts

- ♦ **Climate Change Setback:** Weakens global efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and provides other countries an excuse to delay climate commitments and finance pledges.
- ♦ **Fragmentation of Multilateralism:** Further erodes international governance, intensifies power rivalries, and accelerates a shift towards protectionism and smaller ad-hoc regional blocs.
- ♦ **Development & Humanitarian Slowdown:** US funding cuts worsen already declining international development and humanitarian aid, affecting health, education, food security, and SDG progress.
- ♦ **Global Peace & Security Risks:** Reduced US support to bodies like the UN Peacebuilding Commission hampers peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery, especially in conflict-prone regions such as Africa and the Caribbean.
- ♦ **Weakening of Global Norms:** Encourages selective compliance with international law and treaty obligations by other states.
- ♦ **Leadership Vacuum:** Creates space for other major powers to shape global rules and institutions.

9. U.S. Takeover of Greenland would Mark End of NATO: Denmark

Context

- ♦ The Prime Minister of Denmark said that if Trump took over Greenland that would mark an end of the Nato military alliance.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- ♦ NATO, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an **intergovernmental military alliance**.
- ♦ **Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium**
- ♦ **Background:** It was established by 12 countries from Europe and North America with the signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty (also known as Washington Treaty) in 1949 in Washington, D.C** to provide collective security against the Soviet Union attack in the aftermath of World War II.
- ♦ **Collective Defense:** According to **Article 5, NATO works on the principle of collective defense**, where an attack on any NATO member is considered an attack on all NATO members. So far, **Article 5 has been invoked once - in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001**.
- ♦ **Members:** It comprises **32 member states** – two North American countries (USA and Canada) 28 European countries and one eurasian country

(Turkey). **Sweden became the 32nd member in 2024.**

10. OPEC+

Context

- ♦ **OPEC+ has agreed in principle to maintain steady oil output despite rising political tensions** among key members and widening geopolitical uncertainty.

OPEC+

- ♦ **Brief:** It is a coalition of oil-producing countries that includes members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and several non-OPEC nations. A partnership between OPEC and 10 non-OPEC oil-producing countries.
- ♦ **OPEC Established:** 1960 by Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- ♦ **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria.
- ♦ **Members:**
 - ♦ **Founding Members:** Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela.
 - ♦ **Additional Members:** Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, UAE.
 - ♦ **Non-OPEC members of OPEC+:** Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Malaysia, Oman, South Sudan, and Sudan.
- ♦ **Significance of OPEC+:** Controls around 40% of global oil supply.

11. India Germany Sign Pact to Shore Up Defence Industrial Cooperation

Context

- ♦ India and Germany signed agreements spanning sectors such as defence, technology, health, energy and human resources.

India and Germany Bilateral Ties

- ♦ **Establishment of Ties:** India and Germany entered into **diplomatic relationship in 1951**. 2026 marks the **75 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations**.
- ♦ **Strategic Partnership:** Since 2000, India and Germany have had a 'Strategic Partnership' and 2025 marks the **25 years of Strategic Partnership**.
- ♦ **Defence Cooperation:** Germany Participated in many multilateral exercises with India, such as: **MILAN, PASSEX, EX TARANG SHAKTI-1**.
- ♦ **Trade Cooperation:** India was Germany's **23rd largest trading partner in 2024** and Germany was the **8th largest trading partner for India** in and is India's largest trading partner in the EU.
- ♦ **Green and Sustainable Development Partnership**

(2022): Germany pledged €10 billion by 2030.

- ♦ Collaboration in **renewable energy, metro projects, green corridors, and smart cities** directly aids India's climate goals and SDG commitments.

📖 **Multilateral Cooperation:**

- ♦ **Support for India's permanent seat at UNSC.**
- ♦ **Coordination at G20, UN, WTO, COP climate talks.**
- ♦ **Indian Diaspora:** There are around 2.46 lakh (2023) Indian passport holders and Indian-origin people in Germany.

12. Pax Silica

📖 **Context**

- ♦ The US Ambassador announced that India would be invited next month to join Pax Silica.

📖 **Pax Silica**

- ♦ **Objective** - It is a US-led strategic initiative to build a **secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain from critical minerals.**
- ♦ The inaugural **Pax Silica Summit was held in December 2025** and the signatories include **Australia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the UK, the Netherlands, and the UAE.**
- ♦ Together, these countries are home to the most important companies and investors powering the global AI supply chain.
- ♦ **Note** - **Qatar became the latest signatory to Pax Silica.**
- ♦ **Significance** - Its objective is to **reduce coercive dependencies, protect the materials and capabilities foundational to artificial intelligence,** and ensure aligned nations can develop and deploy transformative technologies at scale.

📖 **Significance for India**

- ♦ Joining Pax Silica might help India diversify away from China to more secure suppliers like Australia for critical minerals.

13. EU Countries Approved the Mercosur Agreement

📖 **In News**

- ♦ The **European Union has approved a long-delayed trade deal with the South American Mercosur bloc,** despite strong opposition led by France and concerns from farmers across Europe.

📖 **Basics - Mercosur**

- ♦ Mercosur is a **South American trade bloc formed in 1991,**
- ♦ **Member countries** - Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, with Bolivia as the newest full member,
- ♦ **Mandate** - It aims for **free trade and economic**

integration.

- ♦ Note - Venezuela, once a member, has been suspended indefinitely.

📖 **EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement**

- ♦ It is the **EU's largest ever in terms of tariff reductions, eliminating over €4 billion in duties on EU exports.**
- ♦ **Trade between the two blocs stands at €111 billion,** with the EU exporting machinery, chemicals and transport equipment, and importing mainly agricultural products and minerals.
- ♦ Under the deal, **Mercosur will remove duties on 91% of EU exports over 15 years,** while the EU will **eliminate duties on 92% of Mercosur exports within 10 years.**
- ♦ Both sides **retain quotas on sensitive agricultural goods,** though the **EU will increase beef import quotas and Mercosur will allow duty-free cheese imports.**

14. 38th India-France Strategic Dialogue

📖 **Context**

- ♦ **India and France reaffirmed their strategic partnership during the 38th India-France Strategic Dialogue,** co-chaired by National Security Adviser and Diplomatic Adviser to the French President.

📖 **India-France Relations**

- ♦ **India-France Strategic Partnership:** It was launched on **26 January 1998** and is **India's first-ever Strategic Partnership.**
- ♦ **Rafale Fighter Jets:** India procured **36 Rafales from Dassault Aviation.**
- ♦ **Scorpene Submarines (Project P-75):** **Collaboration with France's Naval Group,** 6 submarines built in India; **latest is INS Vaghsheer.**
- ♦ Recently both nations formally concluded an **Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) to procure 26 Rafale-M fighter jets for the Indian Navy.**
- ♦ **Joint Exercises: Shakti, Varuna, FRINJEX-23.**
- ♦ **Economic Cooperation:** **Within the European Union, France remains India's fifth-largest trading partner,** following the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, and Germany.
- ♦ The process of enabling **Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has been successful in France.**
- ♦ **Joint missions: TRISHNA (satellite mission),** MDA systems, ground station support.
- ♦ **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** Co-founded by India and France in 2015 to promote solar energy worldwide.

15. Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

In News

- ◆ Senior Indian diplomat DB Venkatesh Varma has been nominated by the UN Secretary General to chair the **Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters** for the 2026–27 term, marking the **first time an Indian will hold the position**.

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

- ◆ It was **established in 1978**.
- ◆ **Composition** - The Board comprises **fifteen members**, with the **Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research** serving as an **ex officio member**.
- ◆ **Functions** : It advises the Secretary-General on **issues related to arms limitation and disarmament**

16. 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)

In News

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)** at Samvidhan Sadan, highlighting how India has transformed its diversity into a democratic strength.

28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)

- ◆ The conference, attended by **61 Speakers and Presiding Officers from 42 Commonwealth countries**.
- ◆ It aims to **promote knowledge and understanding of parliamentary democracy** in its various forms and to develop parliamentary institutions.
- ◆ **Note** - **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is the Chairperson of this Conference**.

Additional information - Commonwealth of Nations

- ◆ It is a **voluntary association of 56 independent member states**.
- ◆ While **most members are former territories of the British Empire**, any nation can apply to join if it adheres to the association's values.

Member States by Region

- ◆ The **56 member states** are located across five regions: **Africa (21), Asia (8), Caribbean and Americas (13), Europe (3), and the Pacific (11)**.
- ◆ These countries collectively represent approximately **2.7 billion people**, which is about **one-third of the world's population**.

Key Facts & Governance

- ◆ **Head of the Commonwealth: King Charles III** serves as the symbolic head of the association.

- ◆ **Secretary-General: Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey** is the current Secretary-General.
- ◆ **Non-British History: Four members joined without a historical link to the UK: Mozambique, Rwanda, Gabon, and Togo**.
- ◆ **Largest & Smallest: India** is the most populous member, while **Nauru and Tuvalu are the smallest**.
- ◆ **Summit: The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)** is **held every two years**. The next meeting will be in late **2026 in Antigua and Barbuda**.

17. 80 Years of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

In News

- ◆ The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) completed 80 years of its functioning.

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- ◆ It is one of the **six principal organs of the United Nations**, acting as the **central forum for international economic, social and environmental policy coordination**.
- ◆ It was **established in 1945 under the UN Charter**.

18. Tariff Threat Over Greenland May Imperil EU Trade Deal

In News

- ◆ EU lawmakers are moving to delay or block approval of the EU–US trade deal after **US President Donald Trump threatened tariffs on countries supporting Greenland's sovereignty**.

Greenland

- ◆ It is located in the Northern Hemisphere and is surrounded by the **Arctic Ocean in the north, the North Atlantic Ocean in the south, Baffin Bay in the west and the Greenland Sea in the east**.
- ◆ It lies **closer to North America**, but **culturally and politically it is tied to Denmark**.
- ◆ **Resources: It is mineral-rich with large deposits of gold, nickel, and cobalt**.
- ◆ It also has some of the biggest reserves of **rare earth minerals** such as **dysprosium, praseodymium, neodymium, and terbium**.
- ◆ **Governance** : **Greenland gained home rule in 1979 and expanded self-government in 2009**, giving it authority over domestic affairs like healthcare and education.
- ◆ **Denmark retains control over defense, foreign policy and monetary policy**.

Major powers are eyeing Greenland

- ♦ **Greenland, part of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) through the membership of Denmark**, has strategic significance for the US military and for its ballistic missile early-warning system since the shortest route from Europe to North America runs via the Arctic island.
- ♦ **China has shown strong interest in Greenland's rare mineral resources**, and infrastructural projects.

19. Chagos Islands



In News

- ♦ **The UK government defended its deal to transfer the Chagos Islands to Mauritius while retaining a lease for a strategic military base**, amid criticism from US President Donald Trump.
- ♦ In 2025 **The United Kingdom signed an agreement handing sovereignty over the contested and strategically located Chagos Islands to Mauritius.**

Chagos Archipelago

- ♦ It comprises more than **60 low-lying islands in the Indian Ocean roughly 1,600 km to the northeast of the main island of Mauritius.**
- ♦ **It was separated from Mauritius in 1965, when Mauritius was still a British colony.**
- ♦ **Britain purchased the islands for three million pounds but Mauritius has argued that it was illegally forced to give them away as part of a deal to gain independence from Britain.**
- ♦ In the late 1960s, **Britain invited the US to build a military base on Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Islands**, removing thousands of people from their homes.

Chagos archipelago

- ♦ Since the 1980s, **Mauritius has claimed sovereignty**

over the Chagos Islands.

- ♦ In 2019, the **UN's International Court of Justice ruled that Mauritius' decolonisation was incomplete** at independence in 1968 and advised that the **UK must end its administration of the islands as soon as possible.**

20. EU's Anti-coercion Instrument

Context

- ♦ The French President mentioned activating the EU's anti-coercion instrument, after US President's tariffs threats regarding Greenland.

European Union's Anti-coercion instrument

- ♦ It is a **trade tool that the bloc adopted in 2023** but has never used.
- ♦ **Aim: To respond to any country using trade weapons to pressure an EU member state.**

Measures:

- ♦ The armoury allows the EU to take measures such as import and export restrictions on goods and services in its single market.
- ♦ It also limits American companies' access to public procurement contracts in Europe.

21. Board of Peace for Gaza

In News

- ♦ The government is considering its response to US President Donald Trump's invitation to join the proposed Gaza Peace Board

Board of Peace

- ♦ It is an **international body chaired by US President Donald Trump, created to oversee the October 2025 ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war** and manage Gaza's post-war transition.
- ♦ The initiative was **proposed in October 2025** and was endorsed the following month by the United Nations Security Council.

Members

- ♦ Around **35 global leaders have agreed to join the proposed Board of Peace**, out of about 50 invited.
- ♦ Participants include key Middle Eastern allies such as Israel, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar and Egypt, along with NATO members Turkey and Hungary. Several other countries across Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America—including Pakistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Morocco, Armenia and Azerbaijan—have also joined.
- ♦ **Membership terms would run for three years, with the option of renewal.**
- ♦ **Countries seeking to extend their participation beyond the initial term may be required**

to contribute \$1 billion, while short-term participation would not involve any financial commitment.

Mandate of Board

- ◆ The Board will supervise a **transitional Palestinian technocratic administration in the Gaza Strip**, known as the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG).
- ◆ The Board's mandate also includes **efforts to disarm Hamas and oversee the deployment of an International Stabilization Force (ISF)**, a multinational peacekeeping mission tasked with maintaining security and training a new Palestinian police force.

22. Israel fully Legalises West Bank Outpost as New Settlement



Context

- ◆ Israel has fully legalized the West Bank outpost as a new settlement called Yatziv.

About

- ◆ The **newly legalized Jewish settlement called Yatziv sits adjacent to the Palestinian town of Beit Sahour in the West Bank.**

West Bank

- ◆ The West Bank lies to the **west of the Jordan River, bordered by Israel to the west, Jordan to the east, and Jerusalem to the south-west.**
- ◆ **Major cities include Ramallah** (administrative capital of the Palestinian Authority), **Hebron, Nablus, Jenin, and Bethlehem.**

West Bank

- ◆ 1948: After the Arab-Israeli War, the West Bank was occupied and later annexed by Jordan (1949–1967).
- ◆ 1967: During the Six-Day War, Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan, and it has remained under varying degrees of Israeli control since.
- ◆ 1993–1995 Oslo Accords: These agreements created the Palestinian Authority (PA) and divided the West Bank into three areas:

- ◆ Area A: Full Palestinian civil and security control.
- ◆ Area B: Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli–Palestinian security.
- ◆ Area C: Full Israeli control (about 60% of the West Bank).
- ◆ The Palestinians seek the West Bank, captured by Israel in 1967, as part of a future state.

NATIONAL

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. National Consumer Day

In News

- ◆ Recently, **National Consumer Day was observed in India to highlight the significance of consumer rights**

National Consumer Rights Day and Consumer Protection Act

- ◆ This act was **approved by the President of India on December 24, 1986.**
- ◆ Since then, **24th December has been celebrated as National Consumer Day.**
- ◆ The **Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.**
- ◆ **Mandate** - It was enacted to **protect consumer rights, address grievances related to goods and services, and ensure fair treatment and access to justice for consumers.**

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

- ◆ It was **established under Section 10(1) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, and became operational on 24th July 2020.**
- ◆ **Mandate** - It is tasked with regulating matters related to the **violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and false or misleading advertisements.**
- ◆ It can penalise manufacturers or endorsers of false or misleading advertisements with **fines up to ₹10 lakh and imprisonment up to two years,**
- ◆ It may increase to **₹50 lakh and five years for repeat offences, and can also ban endorsers from future promotions for up to one year, extendable to three years** for subsequent violations.

Other related steps

- ◆ The Department of Consumer Affairs in India has strengthened consumer protection through multiple initiatives:
- ◆ **Consumer Welfare Fund** – Provides financial support to States/UTs to **promote consumer protection, with funding through corpus interest.**

Rs.38.68 crore released in 2024–25.

- ♦ **e-Jagruti Platform** – Launched in January 2025, it integrates multiple grievance systems for filing, tracking, and resolving complaints digitally.
- ♦ **National Consumer Helpline 2.0** – AI-enabled, multilingual platform handling over 12 lakh complaints annually, resolving many within 21 days, with digital channels accounting for 65% of filings.
- ♦ **Jago Grahak Jago Portal & Apps** – Digital tools to detect dark patterns, provide verified e-commerce information, and allow consumers to report suspicious websites.
- ♦ **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** – Ensures product safety and quality through standards, certification, and hallmark verification via the BIS Care app.

2. Good Governance Day

Context

- ♦ Good Governance Day is observed on 25th December every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Good Governance Day

- ♦ According to the United Nations, **Good governance is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive**, and follows the rule of law.
- ♦ In 2014, the government announced that December 25 would be celebrated as Good Governance Day.

Good Governance Index

- ♦ **Introduced by** - Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), on December 25, 2019
- ♦ **Mandate** - to evaluate governance performance across states and union territories and encourage improvements.
- ♦ The Index identifies 10 key sectors and assesses governance performance through 58 citizen-centric indicators.

Government initiatives for Good Governance

- ♦ **Government e Marketplace (GeM)**: Facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments/ Organizations/ PSUs. GeM aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.

- ♦ **UMANG App**: Developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and National eGovernance Division, the UMANG App serves as a single platform to access PAN India services of the Government.
- ♦ It brings together major government services on a single mobile app so as to enable the accessibility of government services on mobile phones of citizens.
- ♦ **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**: A 24x7 online platform for time-bound redressal and monitoring of public grievances through dashboards, enhancing transparency and accountability in service delivery.
- ♦ **e-HRMS 2.0 Mobile Application**: The e-HRMS 2.0 app, available on Android and iOS, was launched to provide government employees seamless access to human resource services.

3. Constitution of India Released in Santhali Language

Context

- ♦ President Droupadi Murmu released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language.

About

- ♦ The Constitution of India is now available in the **Santhali language, written in the Ol Chiki script**.
- ♦ The **Santhali language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution through the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003**.
- ♦ It is spoken by a significant number of tribal people in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar.

Additional Information - Eighth Schedule

- ♦ The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India.
- ♦ **Part XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with the official languages in Articles 343 to 351.**
- ♦ **The Eighth Schedule includes the recognition of the following 22 languages:**
- ♦ Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
- ♦ Of these languages, **14 were initially included in the Constitution**. Subsequently, Sindhi was added in 1967; Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added in 1992; and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.

- ◆ English is absent from the list of 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule. It is one of the 99 non-scheduled languages of India.

4. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

In News

- ◆ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is planning to expand full-fledged Aadhaar enrolment and update centres for adults from 88 to 473 by September 2026, aiming to ensure at least one centre for every two districts.

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

- ◆ It is a **statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (“Aadhaar Act 2016”) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**
- ◆ **UIDAI issues aadhaar numbers to Indian residents**, ensuring they are robust, verifiable, and cost-effective to prevent duplicates and fraud.
- ◆ **It is responsible for the enrolment, authentication, and management of the entire Aadhaar lifecycle**, including policy development, system operation, and security of identity and authentication data.

5. National Sports Governance Act Comes Into Effect Partially

In News

- ◆ The Central Government has notified that select provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025..

National Sports Governance Act, 2025:

- ◆ It was **originally notified in August 2025**, allowing different provisions to be implemented on different dates.
- ◆ It is a landmark legislation aimed at **restructuring the governance of sports bodies in India.**
- ◆ It seeks to **align Indian sports administration with global standards** while prioritizing athlete welfare and transparency.

Features

- ◆ **National Sports Governing Bodies:** The Act provides for establishing: **National Olympic Committee, National Paralympic Committee.**
- ◆ The national bodies will have **affiliation with respective international bodies.**
- ◆ **National Sports Board:** The Act empowers the central government to establish a National Sports Board (NSB). **It will grant recognition to the**

national sports bodies.

- ◆ **National Sports Tribunal:** The Act provides for constituting a National Sports Tribunal to **adjudicate sports related disputes.**

Objectives

- ◆ It aims to promote **transparency, accountability, ethical practices** and good governance in sports administration.
- ◆ It will also **ensure welfare of sportspersons**, and provide effective and **timely resolution of sports-related disputes**, in consonance with the Olympic Charter, the Paralympic Charter and international best practices.
- ◆ It will ensure representation of sportspersons in decision-making.

6. SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension)

Context

- ◆ **SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension)** is an integrated, **online pension management system for Department of Telecommunications (DoT) pensioners.**

SAMPANN

- ◆ It creates a **single platform for processing, sanctioning and disbursing pension directly to the bank account of pensioners.**
- ◆ Implementing agency:- **Controller General of Communication Accounts, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.**
- ◆ It also **offers online grievance redressal**, digital profile management and transaction record, **enhancing transparency and efficiency for telecom retirees.**

7. National Youth Day 2026

In News

- ◆ Recently, National Youth Day was observed to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

National Youth Day or Rashtriya Yuva Divas

- ◆ It is **celebrated on 12th January every year in commemoration of the great spiritual leader, philosopher and thinker Swami Vivekananda**
- ◆ His unwavering belief in the potential of youth continues to resonate deeply with young citizens of the country.

Related Steps

- ◆ **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) :** It is an **autonomous, technology-driven platform** under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

that empowers youth by connecting them with volunteering, skill development, leadership, and experiential learning opportunities.

- ◆ **National Service Scheme (NSS):** It is a scheme under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and aims at instigating social consciousness of the student youth with an overall objective of personality development of the youth through community service.
- ◆ **Agnipath Scheme:** The Government launched the Agnipath scheme in 2022.
- ◆ Under the scheme, both male and female aspirants are recruited into the 'below the officer's rank' cadre of the three services for a four-year period as Agniveers.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU):** In October 2025, the Government launched PM-SETU and it is a flagship, centrally sponsored scheme to modernise India's network of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and align vocational training with global industry standards.
- ◆ **The Skill India Mission (SIM) :** Launched in 2015 on World Youth Skills Day, it provides training to skill, re-skill, and up-skill individuals through a wide network of centres and institutes.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** It was launched in 2015 to provide short-term skill training and upskilling or re-skilling, including through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), to youth across India.
- ◆ **The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme,** initially launched as Shramik Vidyapeeth (SVP) in 1967, aims to provide skill training in a non-formal mode.
- ◆ **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS):** The scheme launched in August 2016, promotes apprenticeship by offering financial support for apprentice stipends.
- ◆ **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY):** Launched in 2014 and is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana:** In 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana with an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore.
- ◆ It will offer financial incentives of up to ₹15,000, disbursed in two installments, to newly employed youth. In addition, employers will receive support of up to ₹3,000 per month for each new employee, encouraging the creation of new job opportunities.
- ◆ **Startup India:** Launched in 2016 to foster a robust ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship.

- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY):** It is aimed at Funding the Unfunded micro enterprises and small businesses.
- ◆ **The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)** was launched in 2014 by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to address the holistic health needs of adolescents aged 10–19 years across India.

Conclusion

- ◆ National Youth Day 2026 highlights the vital role of India's youth in shaping the nation's future through education, startups, service, and leadership.
- ◆ Inspired by Swami Vivekananda, the day underscores that youth are not just inheritors but architects of India's journey toward 2047.

Additional Information - Swami Vivekananda

- ◆ He was born **Narendra Nath Datta** in Kolkata on **January 12, 1863,**
- ◆ He was a key figure in introducing **Hindu philosophies of Yoga and Vedanta to the West.**
- ◆ He was a **disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa** and he devoted himself to **spiritual and social reform in India,** traveling across the country to educate people on economic improvement and spiritual knowledge.
- ◆ He gained global recognition with his **1893 address at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago,** advocating universal tolerance, acceptance of all religions, and pride in Indian traditions.
- ◆ **After returning to India, he founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897 and Belur Math in 1899,** promoting the integration of spirituality with material progress.
- ◆ Through his **teachings, lectures, and writings—including Raja Yoga, Jnana Yoga, and Karma Yoga—he spread the practice of yoga and the principles of 'neo-Vedanta',** leaving a lasting legacy as a messenger of Indian wisdom and a visionary for social and spiritual upliftment.
- ◆ **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called him the "maker of modern India."**

8. Centre Notifies National Sports Governance Rules, 2026

In News

- ◆ The Union Government has notified the **National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026,** under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

Objectives of the Rules

- ◆ To professionalise and standardise the functioning

of National Sports Bodies (NSBs).

- ◆ To ensure meaningful participation of athletes in sports administration.

About the Rules

- ◆ **Inclusion of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOMs):** Minimum 4 SOMs must be included in the General Body of every National Sports Body.
- ◆ Gender representation mandate is 50% of the SOMs must be women sportspersons.
- ◆ **SOM Eligibility Tiers:** In the Tiered criteria, 10 Tiers have been prescribed, starting from sportspersons who have won a gold, silver or bronze medal in the Summer Olympic Games, Paralympic Games or Winter Olympic Games, to sportspersons who have won a gold, silver or bronze medal in the National Games or a National Championship.
- ◆ **Disqualification Criteria:** Convicted individuals facing imprisonment are barred from General Body membership, Executive Committee elections, or Athletes Committees.
- ◆ **Governance Framework:** The National Sports Board oversees recognition, affiliate registration, and inquiries into governance or fund misuse.
- ◆ **Election Framework:** The National Sports Election Panel shall maintain a minimum strength of 20 members at all times to oversee the conduct of elections for National Sports Bodies.

9. Ministry of Rural Development Launches National Campaign on Entrepreneurship

In News

- ◆ A National Campaign on Entrepreneurship was launched to strengthen non-farm livelihoods for rural women under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- ◆ The campaign aims to train 50,000 Community Resource Persons (CRPs) on enterprise promotion and impart Entrepreneurship.

Government Steps To Foster Rural Entrepreneurship

- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):** Implemented by KVIC, it provides subsidies up to 35% on project costs (higher in rural areas) for new micro-enterprises in manufacturing and services, targeting unemployed youth and artisans with loans up to Rs. 25 lakh.
- ◆ **ASPIRE Scheme:** Launched by MSME, it funds Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs) in rural areas with up to Rs. 1 crore for infrastructure, skill programs, and innovation support to nurture agro-rural startups.
- ◆ **Lakhpati Didi Initiative:** “Lakhpati Didi” designates SHG women achieving ₹1 lakh+ annual household

income (₹10,000+ monthly) over four seasons/cycles via farm/non-farm activities.

Additional Information - DAY-NRLM

- ◆ **Launch:** 2011 (restructured from Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)).
- ◆ **NRLM was renamed as DAY-NRLM in 2016.**
- ◆ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development
- ◆ **Funding Pattern:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme (60:40; 90:10 for NE & Himalayan states)
- ◆ **Objective:** Reduce poverty by enabling poor rural households to access sustainable livelihoods and enhanced incomes.

Core Strategy:

- ◆ Universal mobilisation of rural poor women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
- ◆ Capacity building, access to credit, and livelihood diversification

Key Focus Areas:

- ◆ Farm livelihoods
- ◆ Non-farm livelihoods and enterprises
- ◆ Financial inclusion and social empowerment

10. Kuki-Zo Council and Demand for Union Territory

Context

- ◆ The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), the apex civil body representing the Kuki-Zo people, has reiterated its demand for the creation of a Union Territory for Kuki-Zo tribes in Manipur.

Background

- ◆ An ethnic conflict erupted in May 2023 between:
- ◆ The Meitei community, which predominantly inhabits the Imphal Valley, and the Kuki-Zo community, which largely resides in the surrounding hill areas.
- ◆ The conflict was triggered by the Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, which was opposed by the Kuki-Zo groups due to concerns over land rights and political representation.
- ◆ The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) was formed in October 2024, following nearly 18 months of violence (2023–2025), during which the Kuki-Zo community alleged bias.

Kuki-Zo Groups

- ◆ The Kuki-Zo people are an ethnic community spread across Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Assam, and Myanmar.
- ◆ They share close ethnic and cultural ties with other Chin–Mizo groups of Myanmar and Mizoram.
- ◆ Since the 1980s–90s, several Kuki-Zo insurgent

groups have emerged, primarily demanding:

1. Greater autonomy and self-determination,
2. Protection of tribal land and rights, and
3. In some cases, separate statehood.

11. India's First National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers

Context

- ◆ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is organizing India's first National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers on Strengthening Health Outreach in Tribal Areas.

India's first National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers

- ◆ **Objective** - The initiative will recognize and integrate tribal and indigenous healers as trusted community-level partners within India's public health ecosystem.
- ◆ **Healers possess deep-rooted ethnomedicinal knowledge, are accessible to the community, and often act as the first point of health contact.**
- ◆ **Implementation** - An MoU will be signed between ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) and MoTA to establish India's first National Tribal Health Observatory – the Bharat Tribal Health Observatory (B-THO) under Project DRISTI.

12. Responsible Nations Index (RNI)

In News

- ◆ India has recently introduced the Responsible Nations Index (RNI)

Responsible Nations Index (RNI)

- ◆ It is a global benchmarking framework that shifts the focus from mere economic power to ethical governance, sustainability, and global responsibility in assessing national performance.
- ◆ The index evaluates countries across four core dimensions ethical governance, social well-being, environmental stewardship & global responsibility
- ◆ It is developed by World Intellectual Foundation (WIF) in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) & Indian Institute of Management Mumbai.
- ◆ Singapore, Switzerland & Denmark topped the list & India ranks 16th globally.

13. Statehood Day of Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura

Context

- ◆ The President of India has extended greetings to the people of Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur on their Statehood Day.
- ◆ Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura were granted statehood on January 21, 1972, following the enactment of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.

About

- ◆ **Manipur:** Formerly a princely state, it merged with India in 1949. It functioned as a Union Territory from 1956 until it was granted statehood.
- ◆ **Tripura:** Also a princely state, it joined the Indian Union in 1949. Like Manipur, it was a Union Territory from 1956 before becoming a full state in 1972.
- ◆ **Meghalaya:** Originally part of Assam, it was first made an autonomous state within Assam in 1970 before being carved out as a separate state in 1972 to recognize its unique tribal and cultural identity.

ECONOMY

1. Camellia sinensis

Context

- ◆ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a clarification to address misleading labelling of beverages marketed as tea.

Regulatory Framework

- ◆ As per Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, **tea must originate from Camellia sinensis.**
- ◆ **Use of the word 'tea' for other products amounts to misbranding under the FSS Act, 2006.**

Indian Tea Industry

- ◆ India is the 2nd largest tea producer and largest black tea producer.
- ◆ **Export destinations** - Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia etc. India is the 4th largest tea exporter in the World.
- ◆ **Employment** - The Indian tea Industry is employing 1.16 million workers directly.
- ◆ **Note** - Assam grows about 55% of the teas produced in India. India's tea production has increased by 39% in 2022 from 2008.
- ◆ **Prominent tea regions:** Assam (Assam Valley, Cachar) and West Bengal (Dooars, Terai, Darjeeling).
- ◆ **Global reputation:** Indian teas, especially Assam, Darjeeling, and Nilgiri, are renowned for their quality.

Geographical Condition for Tea production

- ◆ The tea plant grows well in tropical and subtropical

climates.

- ◆ **Soil:** It requires deep and **fertile well-drained soil, rich in humus and organic matter.**
- ◆ **Temperature:** The average annual temperature for tea plants to grow well is in the range of **15-23°C.**
- ◆ **Precipitation:** The rainfall needed is between **150-200 cm.**
- ◆ Frequent showers evenly distributed over the year ensure continuous growth of tender leaves.
- ◆ **Major tea producing states** are **Assam, hills of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**
- ◆ Apart from these, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura are also tea-producing states in the country.

📖 **Asia Tea Alliance**

- ◆ **Member countries** - It is a coalition of tea associations from major tea-producing countries in Asia like **India, China, Sri Lanka, Japan etc.**
- ◆ **Objective** - It aims to promote the collective interests of member nations within the global tea market.

📖 **Tea Board of India**

- ◆ It was set up as a **statutory body in 1954 under the Tea Act, 1953.**
- ◆ It was established for the **purposes of regulating the Indian tea industry and protecting the interests of tea producers in India.**
- ◆ **Headquarters-Kolkata.**

2. Quality Council of India Announces Quality Reforms

📖 **In News**

- ◆ **The Quality Council of India(QCI) announced a set of next-generation quality reforms on the eve of Sushasan Divas 2025 (Good Governance Day)**

📖 **Quality Council of India (QCI)**

- ◆ It is a **non-profit autonomous organisation registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860.**
- ◆ **It was set up in 1997 jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry,** represented by the three premier industry associations, i.e.,
 1. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)
 2. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
 3. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ◆ It is under the **administrative control of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

📖 **Functions:**

- ☒ It works as the **national accreditation body.**
- ◆ It has been established to **create a mechanism for independent third-party assessment of products, services, and processes.**
- ◆ It plays a pivotal role at the national level in **propagating, adoption, and adherence to quality standards in all important spheres of activities.**
- ◆ It leads a **nationwide quality movement in the country through the National Quality Campaign.**

3. RBI Financial Stability Report

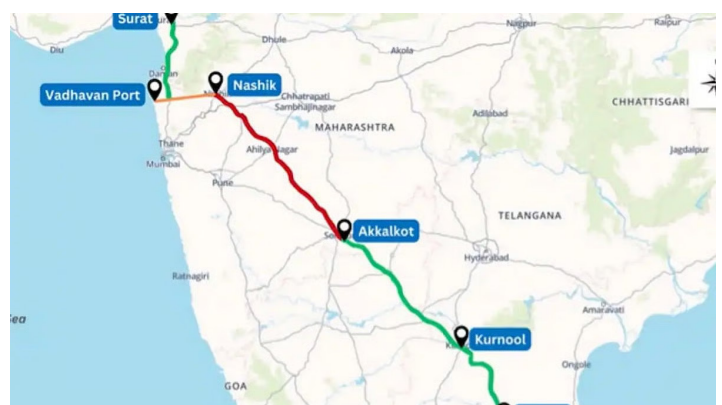
📖 **Context**

- ◆ The Reserve Bank of India's December 2025 Financial Stability Report (FSR) assesses systemic risks to India's financial sector and evaluates the resilience of banks amid domestic strength and global uncertainties.

📖 **Financial Stability Report (FSR)**

- ◆ It is a **biannual publication by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
- ◆ **Aim** - It assesses the **stability and resilience of the Indian financial system.**
- ◆ **Significance** - It offers insights into the **health of various components of the financial sector,** including **banking, non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs), mutual funds, insurance companies, and financial markets.**

4. Key Six-lane Green Corridor in Maharashtra Approved



📖 **Context**

- ◆ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the **construction of a six-lane, access-controlled greenfield corridor connecting Nashik, Solapur and Akkalkot in Maharashtra.**

📖 **Six-lane Green Corridor in Maharashtra**

- ◆ The **374-kilometre-long project** will be developed

on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) toll mode.

- ◆ A **Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model** is a project framework where a **private company builds, finances, and runs a large project for a set period, recovers costs/makes profit, and then transfers ownership back to the government.**
- ◆ **Significance** - This will improve regional and inter-state **connectivity while strengthening India's integrated transport infrastructure under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.**

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP)

- ◆ It was launched in 2021
- ◆ **Objective** - It provides multimodal **connectivity infrastructure** to various economic zones and **improves logistics efficiency across India.**
- ◆ It is not under a single ministry but is **coordinated by** the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- ◆ **Significance** - The plan will provide seamless and efficient connectivity for the movement of people, goods, and services.
- ◆ **PM GatiShakti is driven by seven engines: Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport and Logistics Infrastructure.**

5. JIVA Programme

Context

- ◆ The JIVA programme in drought-prone Nanded district of Marathwada has been beneficial for small and marginal farms.

JIVA programme (Joint Initiative for Village Advancement)

- ◆ Launched in - 2022
- ◆ Launched by - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD),
- ◆ Aim - It is an agroecology-based initiative to promote natural farming in India.

Objectives of the Programme:

- ◆ Promote long-term sustainability of farming systems using natural and low-cost inputs.
- ◆ Strengthen resilience against climate variability and drought through ecological methods.
- ◆ Enhance soil health, biodiversity, and food security in rural landscapes.
- ◆ Facilitate a shift from input-intensive to ecosystem-based agriculture for small and marginal farmers.

Natural Farming

- ◆ It is a **chemical free farming, involving livestock** (preferably local breed of cow) integrated natural farming methods and **diversified crop systems** rooted in the **Indian traditional knowledge.**

- ◆ It is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on **biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations;** maintaining soil aeration and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs.

Additional Information- National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

- ◆ Launched in - November 2024
- ◆ It is a centrally sponsored Scheme
- ◆ Objective - to promote chemical-free, ecosystem-based natural farming rooted in traditional knowledge.

6. New BIS Standard for Incense Sticks

Context

- ◆ The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, released IS 19412:2025 – Incense Sticks (Agarbatti) — Specification, an Indian Standard developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

About the notified standards

- ◆ The standard specifies **prohibited use of certain insecticidal such as Alethrin, permethrin, cypermethrin, deltamethrin, and fipronil,** as well as synthetic fragrance intermediates like **benzyl cyanide, ethyl acrylate, and diphenylamine.**

Incense Sticks Sector in India

- ◆ India is the **world's largest producer and exporter of agarbattis,** with the industry estimated at around **₹8,000 crore annually and exports of about ₹1,200 crore to more than 150 countries.**
- ◆ The sector supports a large ecosystem of **artisans, MSMEs and micro-entrepreneurs, providing substantial employment, particularly for women in rural and semi-urban areas.**

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- ◆ **Established under - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.**
- ◆ It is established by the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016** which came into effect on 12 October 2017.
- ◆ **Headquarters: New Delhi.**

Functions:

- ◆ Formulation of **Indian Standards (IS)** across many sectors.
- ◆ **Product Certification Schemes,** both voluntary and compulsory.
- ◆ Release of **Quality Control Orders (QCOs):** Making compliance with certain Indian Standards

mandatory for some products.

- ♦ **The schemes operated by BIS are,** Product Certification (**ISI mark**), Management Systems Certification, **Hall Marking of Gold and Silver Jewellery/Artefacts** and Laboratory Services for the benefit of the industry and in turn aiming at consumer protection.

7. Narasapuram Lace Craft



In News

- ♦ The Prime Minister recently highlighted Narasapuram (Narsapur) lace craft as a powerful example of women's empowerment, self-reliance, and grassroots economic progress.

Narasapuram Lace craft

- ♦ **Location:** Narasapur / Narsapur, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh
- ♦ **Origin:** Introduced in the 19th century by Christian missionaries
- ♦ **Alternate Name:** Crochet lace craft
- ♦ **Technique & Material:** Handcrafted using fine cotton threads
- ♦ Made with crochet needles
- ♦ **Products:** Bedspreads, table covers, cushion covers, Curtains, mobile covers, decorative items
- ♦ **Design Features:** Intricate floral, geometric, and paisley patterns.
- ♦ **Motifs inspired by nature and traditional art**
- ♦ **Social Significance:** Around 60% artisans are women
- ♦ Promotes women's empowerment through home-based livelihoods
- ♦ **Economic Importance:** Source of supplementary income for rural households
- ♦ Supports traditional artisanal economy
- ♦ **Recognition:** Granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag
- ♦ Selected under One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.

8. Payments Regulatory Board

In News

- ♦ The first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) was held under the chairmanship

of RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, marking the operationalisation of India's new payments governance framework.

Payments Regulatory Board

- ♦ It is a **statutory body** through which the Reserve Bank of India exercises regulatory and supervisory control over payment and settlement systems in India.
- ♦ **Established under - Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007.**
- ♦ **Mandate -** Its objective is to ensure safety, efficiency, stability, and consumer protection in digital and non-cash payments.

9. Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)

Context

- ♦ The Union Ministry of Agriculture has proposed to merge three separate ongoing schemes with its flagship Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY).

The schemes to be merged with PM-RKVY are

1. Krishonnati Yojana (KY) to boost farmers' income,
2. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)
3. National Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM).

- ♦ **PM-RKVY, KY and NMNF are Centrally sponsored** with implementation done by the state governments using funds jointly provided by both, while **NBHM is a Central sector scheme** that is funded and implemented by the Centre.

Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)

- ♦ It was initiated in 2007 as an umbrella scheme for ensuring holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.
- ♦ **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.**
- ♦ **Objective - It allows states to choose their own agriculture and allied sector development activities** as per the district/state agriculture plan.
- ♦ **Financing -** It is a central sponsored scheme

10. First Fully Organic Village of Rajasthan

In News

- ♦ Bamanwas Kankar Panchayat, Rajasthan, has become the first fully organic village body in the state, covering seven hamlets.

📖 Natural Farming

- ♦ It is a **chemical free farming, involving livestock** (preferably local breed of cow) integrated natural farming methods and **diversified crop systems** rooted in the **Indian traditional knowledge**.
- ♦ It is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on **biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations**; maintaining soil aeration and **exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs**.

📖 Additional Information- National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

- ♦ Launched in - November 2024
- ♦ It is a centrally sponsored Scheme
- ♦ Objective - to promote chemical-free, ecosystem-based natural farming rooted in traditional knowledge.

11. NIRANTAR Platform

📖 In News

- ♦ The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change chaired a meeting of the **National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR)**.

📖 NIRANTAR

- ♦ Established under - It is a platform of institutions under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** aimed at improving coordination and collaboration.
- ♦ **Objective** - Its four verticals **focus on research, assessment, and utilisation of resources, particularly bioresources, to ensure their sustainable use for development**.
- ♦ **Significance** - The NIRANTAR platform can play a key role in **ensuring bioresources sustainable use for development**.

12. Quick Commerce Platforms to stop 10-minute Service

📖 Context

- ♦ Indian quick commerce firms **Swiggy and Zepto** have changed the branding of their quick commerce operations to stop promoting it as a **“10-minute” service** following a government order.
- ♦ The move is aimed at **ensuring greater safety, security and improved working conditions for gig workers**.

📖 Gig Workers

- ♦ According to Code on Social Security, 2020, a **gig worker is a person who performs work or**

participates in work arrangements and earns from such activities, outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship.

- ♦ According to Niti Aayog, **7.7 million workers are engaged in the gig economy (2020–21), which is expected to expand to 2.35 crore by 2029–30**.

📖 Initiatives for Gig workers in India

- ♦ **Code on social Security 2020:** Envisages various benefits to gig workers e.g. **life and disability cover, accident insurance etc**.
- ♦ **E-Shram Portal:** Establishes a National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) and aims to enhance employability and provide them with **social security scheme benefits**.
- ♦ **Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2024:** Establish a **gig workers welfare board**, call for a welfare fee etc

13. Global Risk Report 2026

📖 In News

- ♦ **The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the 21st edition of the Global Risks Report (2026)**, warning that **gloeconomic confrontations** pose the biggest risk to major powers.

📖 Global Risks for 2026

- ♦ **Geoeconomic Confrontation:** Rated as the top risk for 2026. This includes the **“weaponization” of trade, finance, and technology through sanctions and tariffs** (such as the US tariffs imposed by the US, banning critical minerals by China etc).
- ♦ **State-Based Armed Conflict:** This is the second highest risk, fueled by ongoing **wars like the conflict in Ukraine and recent volatility in regions like Venezuela and the Middle East**.
- ♦ **Extreme Weather:** While environmental risks remain the top priority for the next decade, they have slipped to third place (8%) in the immediate two-year outlook due to the urgency of economic and military conflicts.
- ♦ **Societal Risks:** **Polarization, misinformation, and AI-generated deepfakes** are cited as major threats to social stability, especially during election cycles.

📖 Biggest Risks to India

- ♦ **Cybersecurity:** This is ranked as the top risk for India and **India is going more towards digital payments**.
- ♦ **Wealth Inequality and Social Safety Nets:** Lack of robust social welfare schemes combined with

rising income inequality poses a significant threat to internal stability.

- ♦ **Economic External Shocks:** India is susceptible to domestic slowdowns caused by **global supply chain disruptions and international tariffs.**
- ♦ **Critical Infrastructure & Resource Security:** The report highlights “**water security**” as a potential flashpoint, specifically noting that the **Indus River Basin remains a point of contention between India and Pakistan,** especially following the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.

14. Employment and Social Trends 2026 Report: ILO

Context

- ♦ Recently, the **International Labour Organization (ILO) released its latest World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) Report** highlighting persistent inequalities in the global labor market.

Key Findings of Report

- ♦ **Global Unemployment:** The global unemployment rate is projected to remain at **4.9% in 2026, equivalent to 186 million people.**
- ♦ However, progress toward decent work has stagnated, with millions still lacking access to quality, secure employment.
- ♦ **Persistent Poverty Despite Economic Growth:** Nearly **300 million workers live in extreme poverty, earning less than US\$3 per day.**
- ♦ **Youth Employment Crisis Deepens:** Youth unemployment rose to **12.4% in 2025.**
- ♦ **Persistent Gender Gaps:** Women make up only **two-fifths (40%) of global employment.**

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- ♦ It is a **specialised agency of the United Nations.**
- ♦ It was established in **1919 by the Treaty of Versailles** as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations, and became the **first affiliated specialised agency of the United Nations in 1946.**
- ♦ **Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland.**
- ♦ **India is a founder member of the ILO.**
- ♦ **Aim:** To promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues.

Flagship Reports of ILO:

- Global Wage Report;
- World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO);
- World Social Protection Report;
- World of Work Report

15. Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024

Context

- ♦ **NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024.**

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024

- ♦ **Objective** - It is a comprehensive **assessment of export readiness across India's states and union territories.**
- ♦ **Significance** - It provides an evidence-based framework to **evaluate the strength, resilience, and inclusiveness of sub-national export ecosystems.**

Export preparedness index (epi) 2024

- ♦ **Top Performers:** In 2024, **Maharashtra, along with Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh,** are leading performers among large states.
- ♦ **Category of small states, northeastern states and union territories** - **Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Goa** are listed as leading performers.

16. Jathiya Devi

In News

- ♦ Recently, **Jathiya Devi has been identified for an ambitious urban development project** to be executed by the Himachal Pradesh Housing and Urban Development Authority (HIMUDA).

Jathiya Devi

- ☒ It is Located about **14 km from Shimla city**
- ♦ It derives its name from the existence of an old **Jathiya Devi shrine** in the area.
- ♦ The project is envisioned as a **planned satellite mountain township to ease pressure on Shimla.**
- ♦ **It creates new economic hubs, and promotes sustainable, disaster-resilient urban growth.**
- ♦ **Concerns:** The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) acknowledges **possible displacement and loss of assets such as temples, schools, shops, canals, and homes**

17. A Decade of Startup India

Context

- ♦ **PM Modi participated in a programme marking a decade of the Startup India initiative on National Startup Day.**

Startup India

- ♦ **Launched on - January 16, 2016.**
- ♦ **Objective** - to promote entrepreneurship and

enable investment-driven growth.

India's Startup Ecosystem

- ◆ India has rapidly evolved into one of the world's largest startup ecosystems, with more than **2 lakh startups as of 2025**.
- ◆ **India has the 3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world.**
- ◆ Major hubs like **Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR** have been at the forefront of this transformation.
- ◆ India has over **120 unicorns with a valuation exceeding \$350 billion.**
- ◆ **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 ranking:** It provides performance metrics and **ranks around 140 economies on their innovation ecosystems.**
- ◆ **India has made a steady climb from 48 rank in 2020 to 38 in 2025.**

18. Synthetic Cattle Breeds

Context

- ◆ India registers two new synthetic cattle breeds **Karan Fries** and **Vrindavani** developed by the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI).

Karan Fries

- ◆ It is a **synthetic cow breed** developed through **crossbreeding Holstein Friesian, a globally recognised high-yielding breed with India's indigenous Tharparkar zebu cattle, known for their hardiness and resilience.**
- ◆ The synthetic Karan Fries cow breed **combines high productivity with resilience**, delivering peak daily milk yields of up to **46.5 kg.**
- ◆ **Synthetic cattle breeds are those developed through planned cross-breeding of two or more breeds usually indigenous (Bos indicus) with exotic (Bos taurus) followed by stabilisation of desired traits over generations.**
- ◆ Once stabilised, they breed true and are recognised as distinct breeds.

Significance:

- ◆ Higher productivity than indigenous cattle.
- ◆ Better climate resilience than pure exotic breeds.
- ◆ Improved economic returns for dairy farmers.
- ◆ Lower mortality and better reproductive efficiency.

19. Seed Act 2026 and Its Impact on Farmers

Context

- ◆ Recently, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) briefed in detail about the features of the Seed Act 2026 and its impact on farmers.

- ◆ The Seed Act 2026 is expected to be introduced in the Upcoming Budget Session of Parliament.

Key Features of the Seed Act 2026

- ◆ **Nationwide Seed Traceability:** Every packet of commercial seed sold will carry a **QR code** that farmers can scan.
- ◆ **Scanning reveals key information:** who produced the seed, where it was sourced, and which dealer sold it.
- ◆ It aims to **eliminate anonymous seed sales** and quickly detect fake or substandard seeds, enabling faster remedies for aggrieved farmers.
- ◆ **Mandatory Registration of Seed Companies and Dealers:** The Act proposes compulsory registration of commercial seed producers, traders, and dealers.
- ◆ **Strong Penalties for Substandard and Fake Seeds:** The new Act proposes fines up to ₹30 lakh and possible imprisonment for deliberate violations.
- ◆ **Protection of Traditional Seed Practices:** Government officials have emphasised that traditional farmer practices like saving, sharing, and exchanging seeds within the community will not be restricted.
- ◆ The new act focuses on commercial seed quality, not on traditional, non-branded seed systems.
- ◆ **Scientific Evaluation of Imported Seeds:** Imported seeds will undergo rigorous scientific assessment before entering the Indian market, ensuring they meet ecological, agronomic, and quality criteria.
- ◆ It protects local farmers from inferior foreign seeds that may not be suited to Indian growing conditions.
- ◆ **Institutional Mechanisms and Federal Cooperation:** The Act may create oversight committees at the Central and State level to improve coordination in seed testing, registration, and enforcement across regions.
- ◆ **Agriculture remains a State Subject (Schedule VII of Indian Constitution),** meaning states will play a key role in implementing and enforcing the Act alongside the Centre.

20. Root Wilt Disease

In News

- ◆ Coconut cultivation in peninsular India is facing a serious threat due to phytoplasma-induced Root Wilt Disease (RWD).

Root Wilt Disease (RWD)

- ◆ Root Wilt Disease of coconut is **caused by phytoplasma, a cell wall-less bacterial pathogen,** and is classified as a non-fatal but debilitating disease.
- ◆ It was **first reported more than 150 years ago in Erattupetta, Kerala,** and despite long-term

research efforts, **no definitive curative treatment has been developed so far.**

- ♦ The disease is characterised by **gradual yellowing and wilting of leaves, followed by a sharp decline in nut yield** and eventual shedding of all nuts.
- ♦ Root Wilt Disease **spreads through insect vectors**, mainly sucking pests, and its transmission is further **facilitated by wind movement** and large, uninterrupted coconut plantations.

Additional Information - Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*)

- ♦ It is a major **perennial horticultural plantation crop of India**, predominantly grown in the **humid tropics and coastal regions.**
- ♦ It thrives in **well-drained sandy loam soils, high humidity, and temperatures between 27–32°C.** It requires plenty of sunlight.
- ♦ India is one of the leading producers of coconut globally. **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka together contribute about 82–83% of India's coconut production.**

21. India's Power Sector

Context

- ♦ India's power distribution utilities have recorded a collective Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹2,701 crore in FY 2024–25.

India's Power Sector

- ♦ India is the **third-largest producer and consumer of electricity** in the world, with an **installed capacity of 476 GW as of June 2025.**
- ♦ India ranks **fourth globally in renewable energy installed capacity, fourth in wind power, and third in solar power as of 2025.**
- ♦ Electricity consumption remains led by **industry at 41.8%, followed by households at 24.3%, agriculture at 17%, and commercial use at 8.3%.**
- ♦ India achieved **100% village electrification by 2018** and has since connected more than 2.8 crore households to the grid.

Government Initiatives

- ♦ **National Solar Mission (NSM):** It was launched in 2010, it has set ambitious targets for solar capacity installation, including grid-connected and off-grid solar power projects.
- ♦ **National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF):** It was established to support research and innovation in clean energy technologies and projects that help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- ♦ **National Wind Energy Mission:** Focuses on the development and expansion of wind energy in India. The target for wind energy capacity is set at 140 GW by 2030.
- ♦ **PM-KUSUM Scheme** for solarizing agricultural

pumps.

- ♦ **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)** to strengthen DISCOMs.

22. India's First-ever Open-sea Marine Fish Farming Project

Context

- ♦ The government launched India's first-ever open-sea Marine Fish Farming project from the Andaman Sea.

About

- ♦ **Implementation** - The project is a collaboration between the **Ministry of Earth Sciences, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- ♦ The pilot initiative **focuses on open-sea cultivation of marine finfish and seaweed in natural ocean conditions**, integrating scientific innovation with livelihood generation.
- ♦ The project aims **to boost seafood production and reduce pressure on coastal fishing.**

Open-sea Fish Farming

- ♦ Open-sea marine fish farming **refers to the cultivation of marine fish species in offshore waters, away from the coastline.**
- ♦ It is done using cages, or submersible systems designed to withstand high waves, currents, and wind conditions.
- ♦ Open-sea marine fish farming holds significant potential for sustainable fisheries, livelihood security, and blue economy expansion.

23. Centre Likely to Amend Sarfaesi Act

Context

- ♦ The Union government is **considering amendments to the SARFAESI Act, 2002** to remove legal ambiguities and strengthen regulatory oversight.

SARFAESI Act, 2002

- ♦ **Abbreviation** - Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act
- ♦ **Mandate** - It provides a **legal mechanism for banks and financial institutions to recover non-performing assets.**
- ♦ It **allows lenders to enforce security interests without court or tribunal intervention.**
- ♦ The Act applies when the **outstanding loan amount exceeds ₹1 lakh.**
- ♦ **Recovery can be carried out by taking possession of secured assets of borrowers or guarantors.**

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

In News

- ◆ The 25th anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was observed recently.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- ◆ It was **Launched in 2000**
- ◆ **Objective - to provide all-weather road connectivity to eligible, previously unconnected rural habitations.**
- ◆ It established the foundation for **universal rural access by linking villages with markets, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities.**
- ◆ It has emerged as a **key enabler of agricultural growth, employment generation, improved access to education and health services, and poverty alleviation.**

Objectives

- ◆ It aims to ensure all-weather access to habitations with population thresholds
- ◆ It aims to facilitate access to schools, healthcare, and markets.
- ◆ It aims to spur rural job creation through construction and maintenance.
- ◆ It aims to reduce isolation and improve income opportunities.

2. NPS Vatsalya Scheme, 2025

In News

- ◆ The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has issued guidelines for the NPS Vatsalya Scheme, 2025**, expanding the National Pension System (NPS) framework to enable early-life pension inclusion for minors.

NPS Vatsalya Scheme, 2025

- ◆ It is a **pension savings scheme for minors under the National Pension System.**
- ◆ It **allows a parent or legal guardian to open and operate an NPS account on behalf of a child.**

Key Features

- ◆ **Eligibility:** Indian citizens **below 18 years of age.**
- ◆ **Account Type:** Individual pension **account in the name of the minor.**
- ◆ **Operation:** Managed by parent/guardian until the child attains majority.
- ◆ **Conversion:** On turning 18, the account is converted into a regular NPS account.
- ◆ **Minimum Contribution:** Minimum initial and annual contribution of **₹250 and no maximum**

limit on contributions.

- ◆ **Investment:** Funds invested through Pension Fund Managers (PFMs) as per NPS guidelines.

3. Womaniya Initiative

In News

- ◆ Government e-Marketplace (GeM) marked seven years of the Womaniya initiative

Womaniya initiative

- ◆ It was **launched in 2019**
- ◆ **Objective - It aims to enhance access for women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to government markets** by providing a direct, transparent, and fully digital interface with buyers, removing intermediaries and entry barriers.
- ◆ **Significance-** It is aimed at **strengthening the participation of women-led Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in public procurement.**

Additional information - Government e-Marketplace

- ◆ **Purpose -** GeM is an Online Market platform that **was set up in 2016 to facilitate procurement of goods and services by the government ministries, departments, public sector undertakings (PSU) etc.**
- ◆ **Known as -** It has been envisaged as **National Procurement Portal of India.**
- ◆ **Developed by -** It has been developed by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (**Ministry of Commerce and Industry**) with technical support of the National e-governance Division (**Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology**).
- ◆ **Functions under-** It functions under the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- ◆ **Significance -** GeM is a completely **paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place that enables procurement of common use goods and services with minimal human interface.**

4. One Station One Product (OSOP)

In News

- ◆ Indian Railways' One Station One Product (OSOP) scheme has expanded to over 2,000 Railway Stations, empowering 1.32 Lakh Artisans.

One Station One Product (OSOP) scheme

- ◆ It was **launched in 2022**
- ◆ **Objective - to promote local, indigenous, and specialised products** by leveraging India's vast railway network.
- ◆ **Uniqueness - The Ministry of Railways has**

designed the OSOP stalls to be aesthetically uniform yet locally distinct.

- ◆ These stalls are often **designed by the National Institute of Design (NID)** to ensure they are functional and attractive to travelers.
- ◆ The **OSOP scheme is a key component of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan**, which aims to provide seamless multi-modal connectivity and improve the logistics of local goods.

5. Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

Context

- ◆ The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister approved the continuation of **Atal Pension Yojana (APY) up to FY 2030-31** along with extension of funding support for promotional and developmental activities and gap funding.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- ◆ It was launched in 2015
- ◆ **Objective - to provide old-age income security to workers in the unorganised sector.**
- ◆ **Target Group:** Initially available to all citizens of India between 18 and 40 years of age.
- ◆ **Scheme Features:** APY offers a guaranteed minimum pension of Rs.1,000 to Rs.5,000 per month starting at age 60, based on contributions.
- ◆ **Administering Body:** Administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ◆ **Managed under the National Pension System (NPS) architecture.**
- ◆ **Progress:** As of January, 2026, over 8.66 crore subscribers have been enrolled, making APY a cornerstone of India's inclusive social security framework.

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

1. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)

Context

- ◆ The Union Health Ministry recently said that the rate of institutional deliveries in the country has increased to 89%, which led to a **significant reduction in the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR).**

Maternal Mortality

- ◆ **Maternal death** is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes.

- ◆ **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** is the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births.
- ◆ **Maternal Mortality Rate:** This is calculated as maternal deaths to women in the **ages 15-49 per lakh of women in that age group**, reported under Sample Registration System (SRS).
- ◆ The **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1** targets reducing the global **maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030.**

Progress Made by India

- ◆ In India the MMR declined from 130 per 100,000 live births in 2014-16 to **97 per 100,000 live births in 2018-20.**
- ◆ **Institutional births** have increased significantly from 79% (2015-16) to **89% (2019-21) at the national level.**
- ◆ **Institutional delivery is 100% in Kerala, Goa, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu** and more than 90% in eighteen other States/UTs.
- ◆ Even in rural areas, approximately **87% of births are delivered in institutions, while 94% are delivered in urban areas.**

Government Initiatives to Reduce MMR

- ◆ **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):** Launched in 2005 with the objective of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, JSY promotes institutional delivery among pregnant women especially with weak socio-economic status.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY),** is a maternity benefit program run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
- ◆ The maternity benefit, of Rs. 5000/-, is available to a woman for the first living child of the family subject to fulfilment of conditionalities.
- ◆ Further under '**Mission Shakti**', the scheme (PMMVY 2.0) provides additional cash incentive for the second child, if that is a girl child.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):** Launched in 2016, PMSMA provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality Antenatal Care on the 9th day of every month.
- ◆ **LaQshya:** Launched in 2017, LaQshya aims to improve the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure the quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.

2. Invasive Mosquito Species Threatens India's 2030 Malaria Elimination Goal

Context

- ◆ As per the Malaria Elimination Technical Report, **2025 urban malaria has emerged as a national**

concern threatening India's goal of eliminating the mosquito-borne disease by 2030.

📖 Malaria

- ◆ **Responsible pathogen** - Malaria is an acute febrile illness caused by **Plasmodium parasites**.
- ◆ **Vector** - It spreads from people to people through the bites of infected female **Anopheles mosquitoes**. It is preventable and curable.
- ◆ **Transmission** - **Malaria is not contagious and cannot spread from one person to another**; the disease is transmitted through the bites of female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- ◆ **Five species of parasites can cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax – pose the greatest threat.**

📖 Symptoms

- ◆ **Infants, children under 5 years, pregnant women, travelers and people with HIV or AIDS are at higher risk.** Severe symptoms include:
 - ◆ extreme tiredness and fatigue
 - ◆ impaired consciousness
 - ◆ multiple convulsions
 - ◆ difficulty breathing
 - ◆ dark or bloody urine
 - ◆ jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin)
 - ◆ abnormal bleeding.

📖 Initiatives to Control Malaria by WHO

- ◆ **WHO's Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030** - It aims to **reduce malaria case incidence and mortality rates by at least 40% by 2020, at least 75% by 2025 and at least 90% by 2030** against a 2015 baseline.
- ◆ **'E-2025 Initiative'**: The WHO has identified **25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025** under the initiative.
- ◆ **High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) initiative**: WHO has initiated the initiative in **11 high malaria burden countries, including India.**

📖 Indian Government Initiatives to Control Malaria

- ◆ **National target** - The Government of India set a **target to eliminate malaria in India by 2027.**
- ◆ **National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME)** - It has been developed and launched in 2016 aligned with the Global Technical Strategy (GTS) for **malaria elimination 2016-2030.**
- ◆ **Malaria Elimination Research Alliance-India (MERA-India)**: It was **established by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** as a

conglomeration of partners working on malaria control.

3. 'Fake Rabies Vaccine' in India

📖 Context

- ◆ Recently countries like the UK, US, and Australia have issued an advisory about the counterfeit batch of Abhayrab, a rabies vaccine manufactured by government-owned Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL).

📖 Abhayrab Counterfeit Controversy

- ◆ Abhayrab is a cell-culture **rabies vaccine manufactured by Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL)**, in use since 2000 in India and over 40 countries.

📖 About 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.

4. Huntington's Disease

Context

- ♦ Huntington's Disease is increasingly recognised as underdiagnosed in India due to limited awareness and delayed diagnosis.

Huntington's Disease (HD)

- ♦ It is a rare, progressive, hereditary neurodegenerative disorder that affects the brain and leads to motor dysfunction, cognitive decline, and psychiatric disturbances (depression, psychosis, irritability, OCD), resulting in lifelong disability.
- ♦ The disease is caused by a mutation in the huntingtin (HTT) gene and follows an autosomal dominant inheritance pattern, meaning a child inheriting the mutated gene from either parent will develop the disorder.
- ♦ Consanguineous marriages significantly increase the probability of transmission, up to 75%.
- ♦ Symptoms typically begin between 40 and 50 years of age and progress over 15–20 years.
- ♦ While there is no cure for the disease, treatments are available that can improve patients' quality of life and ease the burden on caregivers.

Policy Perspective

- ♦ The WHO defines rare diseases as those affecting 1 or fewer per 1,000 people. Although over 7,000 rare diseases exist globally, fewer than 5% have treatment options.
- ♦ In 2021, the Union government formulated the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD)-2021 for identification, prevention and providing support to families with rare diseases.
- ♦ The NPRD recognises 63 rare diseases in India, but Huntington's Disease is not included. Patients with any of the 63 recognised diseases are eligible for financial assistance of up to ₹50 lakh under PM-JAY.

5. PANKHUDI Portal

In News

- ♦ The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched PANKHUDI Portal.

PANKHUDI Portal

- ♦ It is an integrated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and partnership facilitation digital portal.
- ♦ **Objective** - It is aimed at strengthening coordination, transparency, and structured

stakeholder participation in initiatives for women and child development.

Features

- ♦ It is developed as a single-window digital platform that brings together individuals, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributors, corporate entities, and government agencies working in the domain of women and child development.
- ♦ It supports and strengthens the implementation of the Ministry's flagship missions—Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti—through a structured and transparent digital mechanism.

Additional Information - Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0

- ♦ This is an integrated nutrition support program focused on combating malnutrition and improving early childhood development.
- ♦ **Target Beneficiaries:** Children (0–6 years), adolescent girls (14–18 years), and pregnant/lactating women.

Mission Vatsalya

- ♦ This mission focuses on child protection and the welfare of children in difficult circumstances, aiming to ensure “No Child is Left Behind”.
- ♦ **Objectives:** To secure a healthy, happy childhood for every child through better implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act (2015) and POCSO Act (2012).

Mission Shakti

- ♦ This umbrella scheme is dedicated to the safety, security, and economic empowerment of women. It is divided into two sub-schemes:

Sambal (Safety and Security):

- ♦ **One Stop Centres (OSC):** Integrated support for victims of violence.
- ♦ **Women Helpline (181):** 24/7 emergency assistance.
- ♦ **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** Prevention of gender-biased sex selection and promotion of girls' education.
- ♦ **Nari Adalats:** Community-level alternative dispute resolution forums.

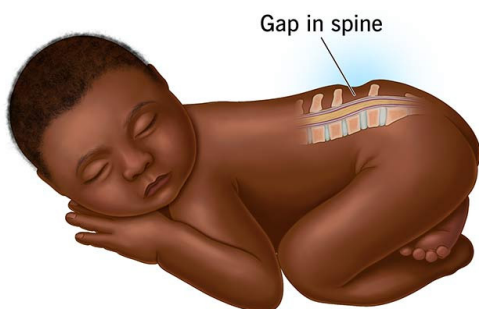
Samarthya (Empowerment):

- ♦ **Shakti Sadan:** Rehabilitation homes (merging former Swadhar Greh and Ujjawala schemes).
- ♦ **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Maternity benefit scheme.
- ♦ **Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW):** Facilitating access to government services.

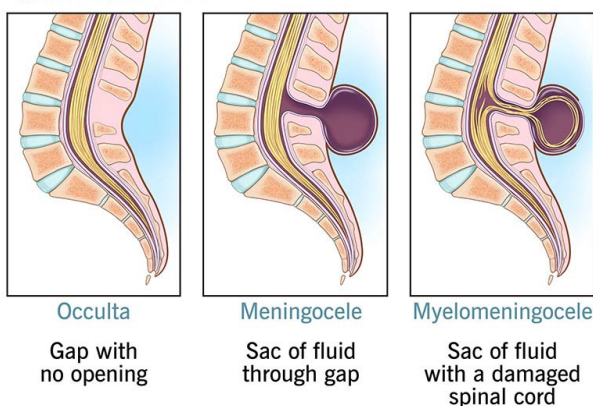
6. Spina Bifida

Spina bifida

Birth defect where the two sides of a fetus's spine do not join as they should, leaving a gap.



Types of spina bifida



Cleveland Clinic ©2023

Context

- Many countries launched national awareness campaigns and programs to prevent spina bifida through folic acid supplementation.

Spina Bifida

- It is a **congenital defect of the spinal cord** caused by **improper closure of the neural tube during early pregnancy**.
- The condition results in **varying degrees of paralysis**, ranging from **mild weakness of the feet to complete paralysis of the lower limbs**.
- Many affected children also suffer from hydrocephalus, urinary and bowel incontinence, and orthopaedic deformities such as clubfoot.
- Role of Folic Acid in Prevention: Periconceptual folic acid intake prevents over 70% of Spina Bifida cases.**
- Folic acid is a B-complex vitamin that supports neural tube development in the embryo.

7. HPV Vaccination

Context

- A large population-based study has shown that high HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination coverage

can reduce precancerous cervical lesions even among unvaccinated women, highlighting a strong herd-protective effect.

Cervical Cancer

- Cervical cancer develops in a woman's cervix (**the entrance to the uterus from the vagina**).
- Spread:** Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk **human papillomaviruses (HPV)**, an **extremely common virus transmitted through sexual contact**.
- Prevalence:** Cervical cancer is the **fourth most common cancer in women**.
- It is the **second most common type of cancer in India for women**.
- Treatment:** When diagnosed, cervical cancer is one of the **most successfully treatable forms of cancer**, as long as it is detected early and managed effectively.
- Vaccination:** There are, at present, two vaccines available in the country against the human papillomavirus (HPV) which causes cervical cancer, namely **Merck's Gardasil and Serum Institute of India's Cervavac**.

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Supreme Court's Uniform Definition of Aravalli Hills

Context

- The Supreme Court of India has accepted a uniform definition of the Aravalli hills, as recommended by a Central Government-appointed expert committee, and issued additional directions to strengthen conservation.

Aravalli Range

- Length - It is **approximately 692 kilometres** & traverses through the states of **Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana before culminating in Delhi**,
- It is the oldest mountain range in India.
- Ecological significance** - It acts as a critical **ecological barrier preventing the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert** into Haryana, Rajasthan, and western Uttar Pradesh.
- The Aravallis **support water-recharge systems** and are the **source of rivers such as the Sabarmati and Luni**.
- The region is rich in **minerals including sandstone, limestone, marble, granite, lead, zinc, copper, gold, and tungsten**.

Initiatives for Protection

- Matri Van Initiative:** Development of a **750-acre**

urban forest in Aravalli hills. Linked to 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

- ♦ **Aravalli Green Wall Project: Creation of a 5 km green buffer around Aravalli across four states.** Aims to combat desertification and land degradation.

2. Rhino Dehorning

Context

- ♦ As of 2024, fewer than 28,000 rhinos remain on the planet, all five species combined.

Do you Know?

- ♦ **Greater Kruger**, the southern African reserves protecting the world's largest rhino population, alone lost 1,985 black and white rhinos between 2017 and 2023.
- ♦ There are currently five species of Asian and African rhinoceros left in the world: Black, Javan, white, Sumatran, and Great one horned.
- ♦ Three of the five are critically endangered: Black, Javan, and Sumatran.

Rhino

- ♦ **Habitats** - Rhinos' habitats include tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannas and shrublands, tropical moist forests, deserts and shrublands.
- ♦ In India, it is found in Assam – Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Pobitora Reserve Forest, Orang National Park, and Laokhowa Reserve Forest.
- ♦ **Three species of rhino** - There are three species of rhino in Asia — Greater one-horned, Javan, and Sumatran.
- ♦ **Rhino range countries** - India, Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia, and Malaysia. These countries are also known as Asian Rhino Range Countries.
- ♦ **Great one-horned rhino** - The Indian state of Assam is home to the largest population of greater-one horned rhinos, with more than 90% in Kaziranga National Park.
- ♦ **World Rhino Day** - It is celebrated on September 22nd of every year.

Conservation status of Great one-horned rhino

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

Conservation practices

NEW DELHI DECLARATION ON ASIAN RHINOS 2019

- ♦ It was signed by Asian Rhino Range Countries (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Malaysia, Indonesia).
- ♦ **Objective** - To increase the population of three species of Asian rhinos, including the Greater one-horned rhinoceros found in the Indian subcontinent.

National Rhino Conservation Strategy

- ♦ Launched in - 2019
- ♦ **Objective** - To conserve the greater one-horned rhinoceros.

INDIAN RHINO VISION 2020

- ♦ Launched in - 2005
- ♦ It is an ambitious effort to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020.

3. Amazonian Stingless Bees To Get Legal Rights

In News

- ♦ Stingless bees have become the first insects in the world to be granted legal rights considering the bees' ecological and cultural importance.

Stingless bees

- ♦ They are native to the Peruvian part of the Amazon rainforest, who have no sting unlike their European counterparts.
- ♦ **Ecological Role:** They are key rainforest pollinators, sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- ♦ They are the oldest bee species on the planet and are responsible for pollinating over 80 per cent of Amazonian flora, including globally cherished crops like coffee, chocolate, avocados, and blueberries.
- ♦ **Threats:** They face a deadly confluence of climate change, deforestation and pesticides, as well as competition from European bees.
- ♦ **Rights granted:** The Declaration of Rights for Native Stingless Bees recognizes their right to exist, thrive, maintain healthy populations, live in pollution-free habitats, regenerate natural cycles, and be legally represented if harmed.

Additional Information - Amazon rainforest



- ♦ The Amazon rainforest, often Amazon rainforest

- ◆ It is home to about **10% of all known plant and animal species**.
- ◆ The Amazon spans 8 countries and one overseas territory: **Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, and French Guiana** (a French overseas territory).
- ◆ It stores around **250–300 billion tonnes of carbon, equivalent to 15–20 years of global greenhouse gas emissions**, and generates rainfall that supports some of the world’s largest cities and most vital agricultural regions.
- ◆ It is home to **over 47 million people, including 2.2 million Indigenous and traditional communities**, whose cultures and livelihoods are deeply tied to the forest.

4. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

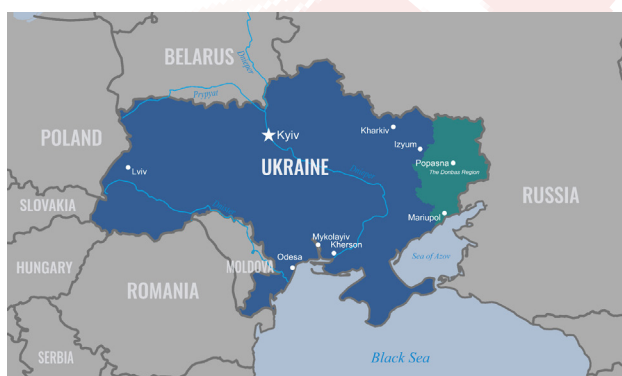
In News

- ◆ The European Union has begun rolling out the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which will significantly impact steel and aluminium exporters.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

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

5. Water Guardians: A Local Fight Against Desertification



Context

- ◆ A group of local farmers and **volunteers, called water guardians, are attempting grassroots water restoration** in the semi-arid **Homokhátság region in Hungary**.
- ◆ Parts of Central Europe, particularly **Hungary’s Great Hungarian Plain (Homokhátság)**, are

witnessing rapid desertification, driven by climate change, falling groundwater levels, and unsustainable land and water management.

- ◆ The initiative aims to **retain and redistribute water locally, rather than allowing it to drain away unused**.

Desertification

- ◆ **Definition** - It is a gradual process of soil productivity loss and the thinning out of the vegetative cover because of human activities and climatic variations such as prolonged droughts and floods.

Reasons for the Rise in Desertification

- ◆ **Climate Change:** Increasing global temperatures intensify evaporation, reducing soil moisture and drying surface layers.
- ◆ **Declining Groundwater Levels:** Excessive extraction of groundwater for agriculture and urban use leads to falling water tables. Further channelisation of rivers and drainage of wetlands disrupt natural flooding and recharge cycles.
- ◆ **Unsustainable Agricultural Practices:** Overgrazing removes protective vegetation cover, exposing soil to wind erosion.
- ◆ **Deforestation:** Clearing forests for agriculture, infrastructure or mining reduces root systems that bind soil. Also Loss of tree cover increases surface runoff and accelerates land degradation.

Impacts of Desertification

- ◆ **Environmental Impacts:** Decline in biodiversity as grasslands, wetlands and forests degrade. It also leads to increased soil erosion, dust storms and reduced ecosystem services.
- ◆ **Economic Impacts:** Reduced agricultural yields affect farmer incomes and rural livelihoods leading to rising costs of irrigation, land reclamation and drinking water supply.
- ◆ **Social Impacts:** Food insecurity and nutritional stress, especially among marginal farmers.
- ◆ **Climate Change:** Loss of vegetation reduces carbon sequestration, accelerating climate change. Dry soils intensify heatwaves, creating a vicious cycle of warming and degradation.

Steps Taken to Combat Desertification

United Nations Convention to combat Desertification (UNCCD)

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

CoP 14

- ◆ **Note** - This was the first time that India hosted an edition of the UNCCD COP.
- ◆ **Held in** - Greater Noida
- ◆ **Theme of the Conference** - 'Restore land, Sustain future'.
- ◆ **Significance** - In 2019 the conference adopted the 'Delhi Declaration'. The country parties have agreed to make the Sustainable Development Goal target of achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030.

UNCCD Conference of the Parties (COP)

- ◆ **Decision-making body** - The UNCCD Conference of the Parties (COP) was established by the Convention as its main decision-making body.
- ◆ **Objective** - It is made up of governments and organizations such as the European Union and is responsible for guiding the Convention so that it can respond to global challenges and national needs.
- ◆ **Biennial meeting** - The COP has been meeting biennially since 2001 and has held 14 sessions.
- ◆ **Note** - India had hosted the **14th session of the Conference of Parties** of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in **2019 in New Delhi**.
- ◆ **16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16)** to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) took place from December 2 to 13, 2024, in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

6. Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)

In News

- ◆ The National Green Tribunal issued a notice to the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government over non-compliance with environmental norms in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ).

Taj Trapezium Zone

- ◆ **Purpose:** It is a 10,400 sq. km trapezoidal shape area to safeguard the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri (all UNESCO World Heritage Sites) from the damaging effects of air pollution.
- ◆ **Establishment:** In 1996 by the Supreme Court to control pollution affecting the Taj Mahal.
- ◆ **SC Directive:** The Supreme Court mandated that industries within the TTZ switch from using coal and coke to cleaner fuels like natural gas.

Additional Information - National Green Tribunal

- ◆ **Legal status** - It is a **statutory body** established under the **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010**
- ◆ **Mandate** - to ensure speedy and effective disposal of cases related to environmental protection and conservation.
- ◆ **It hears matters linked to major environmental**

laws in Schedule I, including the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**, among others.

7. Satellite Tagging of Sea Turtles Aims to Aid Conservation

Context

- ◆ In a **first-of-its-kind initiative**, **Olive Ridley sea turtles** nesting on Chennai's coast have been **satellite-tagged** and released as part of a two-year telemetry study (2025–27) to strengthen conservation efforts.
- ◆ It will **track turtle movements, nesting behaviour, migratory routes**, and interactions with fishing activities across key sites.

Olive ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

- ◆ They are the **smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles in the world**.
- ◆ **Distribution** - They get their name from the **olive green colour of their heart-shaped shell**, and inhabit warm waters of the **Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans**.
- ◆ These are carnivores and **feed mainly on jellyfish, shrimp etc.**
- ◆ These turtles are best known for their **unique mass nesting called Arribada**, where **thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs**.
- ◆ Major nesting sites in India are **Rushikulya rookery coast (Odisha), Gahirmatha beach (Bhitarkanika National park) and the mouth of the Debi River**.
- ◆ **Odisha is the largest mass nesting site for Olive Ridleys in the world**.

Conservation status

- ◆ Protection status: IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- ◆ CITES: Appendix I

8. Madhav Gadgil

Context

- ◆ Noted ecologist Madhav Gadgil, known for his work on the conservation of Western Ghats, has passed away.

Major Contributions

- ◆ In 2010, the **Ministry of Environment and Forests appointed Madhav Gadgil to chair the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)**, known as the Gadgil Commission.
- ◆ His 2011 report recommended **classifying 64% of the 1,40,000 sq km Ghats, spanning six states, as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)**
- ◆ It led to **debate and discussion on the significance**

of the Western Ghats as an ecological hotspot and the efforts to conserve them.

- ◆ He played a **key role in declaring the Nilgiris as India's first biosphere reserve in 1986.**
- ◆ He later **helped shape the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and Forest Rights Act 2006.**
- ◆ He **served on the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council and the National Tiger Authority**, successfully bridging academic research with grassroots environmental activism.
- ◆ His contributions were widely recognised with major honours, including the **Padma Shri (1992), Padma Bhushan (2006), the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement (2015) and the UNEP Champions of the Earth award (2024).**
- ◆ Note - The annual Champions of the Earth award is the U.N.'s highest environmental honour awarded for his seminal work in the Western Ghats.

9. Biohappiness

In News

- ◆ The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation has begun work on a project on Biohappiness in Keyi Panyor district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Do you know?

- ◆ Keyi Panyor became Arunachal Pradesh's 26th district, with its headquarters at Ter Gapin-Sam Sarth, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the Nyishi community.

BioHappiness

- ◆ It is a term **coined by late agricultural scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.**
- ◆ It is a **state of well-being and fulfillment achieved by conserving and using biodiversity to improve human health, nutrition, and livelihoods, fostering harmony between people and nature.**
- ◆ **Significance** - The new Biohappiness Project in Keyi Panyor district of Arunachal Pradesh would look at the livelihoods of the residents, the agro-biodiversity of the district, and other ecological aspects within its boundaries.

10. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and India

In Context

- ◆ **At COP29, carbon markets under Article 6 (A6) of the Paris Agreement were made fully operational to improve the delivery and efficiency of climate finance.**
- ◆ Earlier, India took a major step by signing the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), effectively operationalising Article 6.2 and marking India's formal entry into international carbon market cooperation.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

- ◆ It creates a framework **that allows countries to cooperate voluntarily to achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** through two main routes:
- ◆ Article 6.2: Enables bilateral or plurilateral cooperation through the trading of emission reductions, called Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs).
- ◆ Article 6.4: Establishes a centralized Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM), evolved from the earlier Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), to validate and verify projects generating carbon credits.
- ◆ Both mechanisms are backed by strong accounting rules to avoid double counting and ensure transparency and environmental integrity.

India and the Joint Crediting Mechanism

- ◆ India's entry into Article 6 through its JCM partnership with Japan represents the operationalisation of Article 6.2. The JCM framework will facilitate the adoption of low-carbon and advanced industrial technologies, offering mutual benefits—emissions reduction for Japan and technology transfer and finance for India.
- ◆ The Indian government has identified 13 eligible activities under A6, focusing on high-impact, emerging technologies such as:
 - ◆ Renewable energy with storage and offshore wind
 - ◆ Green hydrogen and compressed bio-gas
 - ◆ Sustainable aviation fuel and fuel-cell mobility
 - ◆ High-end energy efficiency applications

Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS)

- ◆ These reflect a strategic alignment between India's growth priorities and long-term decarbonisation goals, particularly for industries like steel, cement, and power generation.

11. Valley of Flowers



Context

- ◆ A fire has been raging near the Valley of Flowers forcing the Forest Department to seek the help of

the Air Force.

Valley of Flowers

- ◆ **Location-** It is situated in the **Chamoli district of Uttarakhand** inside the **Valley of Flowers National Park, which is part of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve.**
- ◆ It is called the Valley of Flowers because the entire valley comes alive with **thousands of blooming flowers during the monsoon.**
- ◆ It was **declared a National Park in 1982. In 2005, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site** because of its unmatched beauty and unique alpine ecosystem.
- ◆ The valley was **officially discovered by British mountaineer Frank Smythe** in 1931 when he accidentally reached the location.

12. Pufferfish Poisoning

News

- ◆ Scientists have confirmed **India's first case of pufferfish poisoning, drawing attention to a largely unrecognised riverine health risk.**

Pufferfish

- ◆ It belongs to the order Tetraodontiformes
- ◆ **Locally known as - Toadfish, patkafish, balloonfish and fugu.**
- ◆ Global catalogues list approximately **190–193 valid species.**
- ◆ It is **omnivorous and benthic in habitat** and **Freshwater pufferfish species reported from India are often endemic** to specific geographical areas and **serve as indicators of healthy river ecosystems.**

Status in India

- ◆ **Indian waters** currently support eight genera and **32 species of pufferfish.**
- ◆ Their distribution is specific to certain regions and river systems, primarily the **Western Ghats** and major basins such as the **Ganga, Brahmaputra and Mahanadi.**
- ◆ **IUCN Red List status :** The dwarf pufferfish is classified as **Vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List**

13. Kurinji Rajkumar

In News

- ◆ G. Rajkumar, a former bank employee and environmentalist known as "Kurinji Rajkumar," passed away in Thiruvananthapuram.

Neelakurinji

- ◆ It is a **purplish flowering shrub, which blooms once in 12 years in the hills of the Western Ghats and Himalayan hills.**
- ◆ It is said that **Nilgiris gets its name due to the magical blue hue** imparted by these stunning flowers.
- ◆ It is an **endemic shrub species** seen only in the natural high-altitude montane grasslands of **southwest India, with an altitude ranging from 1,340 to 2,600 m.**
- ◆ It is predominately found in the valley of **Western Ghats and Nilgiri Hills of South India (Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu)**
- ◆ It has most recently been assessed for The **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2024 and listed as Vulnerable** emphasising the need for its conservation."

Major Contributions of "Kurinji Rajkumar,"

- ◆ He was the driving force behind the **Save Kurinji Campaign, which played a key role in raising awareness about the conservation of the Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana) and its fragile grassland ecosystem.**
- ◆ His commitment began after witnessing the mass flowering in 1982, leading to **treks and awareness efforts that evolved into a major environmental movement.**
- ◆ He later focused on campaigns in the Munnar region, culminating in the **establishment of the 32-sq km Neelakurinji Sanctuary in 2006, fulfilling his lifelong dream.**

14. 2025 Warmest La Nina Year on Record

In News

- ◆ According to a new report, **2025 was the third warmest year on record and the warmest La Niña year.**

La Niña

- ◆ It is a **Pacific Ocean weather pattern where warm water and clouds shift westward.**
- ◆ This causes **heavier rainfall in regions like Indonesia and Australia.**
- ◆ Conversely, areas like the southwestern **United States** experience **drier-than-usual conditions.**

Impacts on India

- ◆ In India, **El Niño usually causes less rainfall and higher temperatures, while La Niña brings more rainfall and cooler temperatures.**

15. UN High Seas Treaty Comes Into Effect

Context

- ◆ A **UN-backed treaty on biodiversity in international waters, formally known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty, has entered into force, creating the first legally binding global framework to conserve and sustainably use the high seas.**

What are the High Seas

- ◆ **High seas refer to ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction, i.e., beyond 200 nautical miles (Exclusive Economic Zones – EEZs).**
- ◆ They cover nearly **two-thirds of the global ocean** and about half of the Earth's surface.
- ◆ **Earlier governed mainly by general principles under UNCLOS**, with limited biodiversity-specific regulation.

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty

- ◆ **Adoption & Background:** The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement was **adopted in 2023** by an Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, convened under the auspices of the United Nations.
- ◆ **Legal Status under UNCLOS:** It is **agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, after:
- ◆ **Objective:** To ensure the **conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)**, commonly known as the **high seas**.
- ◆ **Membership Status:** 83 countries have ratified the treaty so far & India has signed but not yet ratified the BBNJ Agreement.

16. Elevated Wildlife Corridor in Kaziranga

Context

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate a 34.5-km elevated wildlife corridor in Assam's Kaziranga.

Elevated Wildlife Corridor in Kaziranga

- ◆ **Objective-** This aims to enable **safe animal movement, especially during annual floods**.
- ◆ Also, this would **improve connectivity between Guwahati, Kaziranga National Park, and Numaligarh**.

Kaziranga National Park

- ◆ It is the largest undivided representative **area of Brahmaputra valley floodplain grassland**, where various stages of biotic **succession in the grassland ecosystem** are explicit.
- ◆ The Park is the **abode of more than 70% of One Horned Rhinoceros in the world**.

- ◆ It was declared a **Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950, and notified as Kaziranga National Park in 1974** under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, of 1972.
- ◆ It was declared a **World Heritage Site back in 1985**. It is recognized as an **Important Bird Area** by **BirdLife International**.

17. Green Aluminium

In News

- ◆ NALCO CMD said India's aluminium sector is not yet ready for green aluminium under the EU's CBAM due to high power costs and dependence on thermal energy.

Do you know?

- ◆ India is the 2nd largest Aluminium producer after China, and top-10 producer in refined copper.
- ◆ Applications of Aluminium - It is widely used across power, transport, construction, packaging, machinery, aerospace and consumer goods, and demand is rising, especially in automobiles, housing, solar energy and power transmission.

Green Aluminium

- ◆ It refers to **aluminium produced using methods that minimize greenhouse gas emissions** and environmental impact.
- ◆ Traditional aluminium production is energy-intensive and relies heavily on fossil fuels, contributing to carbon emissions.
- ◆ **Green aluminium is manufactured using renewable energy sources, recycled materials, and innovative technologies to reduce its environmental footprint.**

Importance

- ◆ Green aluminium significantly **cuts carbon emissions, saves energy through recycling**, and supports a circular economy by reducing waste.
- ◆ It enhances corporate sustainability credentials while retaining aluminium's key qualities—**lightweight, durable, corrosion-resistant, and versatile—without compromising performance.**

18. Environmental Protection Fund

In News

- ◆ The Union Government has formally notified comprehensive rules governing the administration and utilisation of the Environmental (Protection) Fund.

Environmental (Protection) Fund

- ◆ The Environmental (Protection) Fund is a statutory, **dedicated fund under the Environment**

(Protection) Act, 1986.

- ♦ **Objective - to channel monetary penalties from environmental violations into pollution control, restoration, monitoring, research, and capacity building.**
- ♦ Is administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) or any body notified by the Central Government
- ♦ **75% of penalty proceeds transferred to the Consolidated Fund of the State/UT, 25% retained by the Centre.**
- ♦ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to audit the Fund.

19. Antarctic Penguins

In News

- ♦ A decade-long study in Antarctica has found that **penguins are shifting their breeding seasons earlier, likely due to climate change.**

Penguins

- ♦ Penguins are **flightless birds that are highly adapted for the marine environment.**
- ♦ They are **excellent swimmers and can dive to great depths.**
- ♦ They play a key role in Antarctic food chains, including **bringing nutrients from deep water up to the surface**, which is vital to algae being able to complete their photosynthesis.
- ♦ They **live primarily in the Southern Hemisphere.**

Major species and IUCN Red List status

1. Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) is listed as Near Threatened
2. Royal Penguin (*Eudyptes schlegeli*) is listed as Least Concern
3. Adelie Penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) listed as Least Concern
4. Humboldt Penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*) is listed as Vulnerable
5. Magellanic Penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) is listed as Least Concern
6. Fiordland Penguin (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*) is listed as Near Threatened
7. Gentoo Penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*) is listed as Least Concern.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. National Mathematics Day

Context

- ♦ National Mathematics Day is observed every

year on 22 December to commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.

Srinivasa Ramanujan

- ♦ He was an Indian mathematician **born in 1887 in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.**
- ♦ **Contribution to Mathematics:** Despite having almost no formal training in pure mathematics, he made substantial **contributions to mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions**, including solutions to mathematical problems then considered unsolvable.
- ♦ **In 1913, he wrote to British mathematician G.H. Hardy**, leading to his invitation to Cambridge.
- ♦ He became **one of the youngest Fellows of the Royal Society** and the **first Indian Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.**
- ♦ He passed away at the age of 32.

What is the Hardy–Ramanujan number?

- ♦ The Hardy-Ramanujan number is 1729, the smallest number that can be expressed as the sum of two cubes in two different ways:
 - ♦ $1^3 + 12^3 = 1 + 1728 = 1729$; and
 - ♦ $9^3 + 10^3 = 729 + 1000 = 1729$.

2. Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant

Context

- ♦ Japan is set to resume operations at the world's largest nuclear plant (Kashiwazaki-Kariwa) for the first time since the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant

- ♦ **Location:** It spans the towns of Kashiwazaki and Kariwa in Niigata Prefecture, (Island of Honshu) Japan, on the coast of the Sea of Japan.
- ♦ **Capacity: Approximately 8,200 MW**, making it the **largest nuclear power plant globally.**
- ♦ **Operator: Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO).**

Japan's Focus on Nuclear Energy

- ♦ Japan is the **world's fifth-largest single-country emitter of carbon dioxide, after China, the United States, India and Russia**, and is heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels.
- ♦ Nearly **70% of Japan's power** needs in 2023 were **met by power plants burning coal, gas and oil.**
- ♦ Before the 2011 quake and tsunami, **nuclear power generated about a third of Japan's electricity.**
- ♦ Fourteen reactors, mostly in western and southern regions, have resumed operation since the **post-Fukushima shutdown after strict safety standards were imposed.**
- ♦ **Japan aims to make renewables its top power source by 2040.**

3. BlueBird Block-2 Satellite

In News

- ◆ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the LVM-3 rocket carrying the BlueBird Block-2 satellite.

BlueBird Block-2 satellite

- ◆ The BlueBird Block-2 satellite is the **largest-ever commercial communications satellite to be deployed in low Earth orbit (LEO)**.
- ◆ Nore - **Low Earth orbit (LEO)** is an orbit that is **relatively close to Earth's surface**. It is normally at an **altitude of less than 1,000 km**.
- ◆ It was **designed by the US company AST SpaceMobile** and will be part of an LEO constellation.
- ◆ It is among the **heaviest commercial satellites, weighing around 6.5 tonnes**.

Applications

- ◆ It will provide **direct-to-mobile connectivity, allowing satellites to communicate directly with smartphones** without ground stations.
- ◆ It will **enable 4G and 5G calls, messages, streaming, and data services anytime and anywhere**.
- ◆ Importance
- ◆ The **BlueBird Block-2 mission marks ISRO's third commercial launch using the LVM-3**, following OneWeb satellite launches in 2022 and 2023
- ◆ **Significance** - Through this launch, ISRO aims to **demonstrate its ability to conduct heavy-lift missions at a lower cost than competitors like SpaceX's Falcon-9 and Ariane-6**.

4. National Technology Readiness Assessment Framework (NTRAF)

In News

- ◆ Recently, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India launched the National Technology Readiness Assessment Framework (NTRAF).

National Technology Readiness Assessment Framework (NTRAF)

- ◆ **Objective** - to assess the maturity of technologies from early laboratory research to full commercial deployment using 9 Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs).
- ◆ **Significance** - It aims to serve as the operational backbone for various R&D funds launched under National Missions.

5. Wolf Supermoon

Context

- ◆ **The January 2026 Wolf Supermoon occurred recently.**
- ◆ A Wolf Supermoon combines two distinct concepts: Wolf Moon and Supermoon.

Wolf Moon:

- ◆ The term refers to the full moon occurring in January.
- ◆ Such traditional names for full moons originated from seasonal patterns and were popularised through folklore and almanacs to mark time before modern calendars.
- ◆ The name is associated with winter stories of wolves being heard more frequently, though it has no astronomical significance.

Supermoon:

- ◆ A supermoon is an astronomical phenomenon that occurs when a full moon coincides with the Moon's closest approach to Earth, known as perigee.
- ◆ The Moon follows an elliptical orbit, with its farthest point called apogee.

Key Features

- ◆ During a Wolf Supermoon, the Moon appears slightly larger and brighter than a typical full moon.
- ◆ An associated visual effect is the Moon Illusion, where the Moon appears larger near the horizon due to human perception, not actual size change.

6. Suryastra Rocket Launcher System

Context

- ◆ The Indian Army has signed a ₹293 crore contract with the NIBE Limited, in collaboration with Israel, for the supply of the long-range Suryastra Rocket Launcher system.

Suryastra Rocket Launcher

- ◆ It is **India's first indigenously manufactured universal multi-calibre rocket launcher**.
- ◆ It is capable of precision **surface-to-surface strikes up to 300 km**.

7. India's First State-funded BSL-4 lab for deadliest pathogens in Gujarat

In News

- ◆ The Union Home Minister laid the foundation stone for a **Bio-Safety Level 4 (BSL-4) Containment Facility and laboratory in Gandhinagar**, describing it as a **"health shield" for India**.

BSL-4 Facility

- ◆ Bio-Safety Level 4 (BSL-4) labs represent the **highest level of biological containment**.
- ◆ It is **designed to safely study the world's most dangerous and highly infectious pathogens** that

often lack vaccines or treatments.

- ♦ Scientists conduct **advanced research, develop diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics**, and carry out rapid outbreak investigation and response under strictly controlled and internationally monitored conditions.
- ♦ **Significance** - The **BSL-4 laboratory coming up in Gandhinagar, along with an Animal Bio-Safety Level (ABSL) facility**, will be a strategic national asset where research is conducted on the deadliest pathogens known to mankind, including the **Ebola virus, Marburg virus, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) virus, Kyasanur Forest Disease virus, and Nipah virus**, among others.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

1. Thanjavur Painting



In News

- ♦ The Department of Posts successfully transported a priceless Thanjavur-style painting of the divine Shri Ram from Bengaluru to Ayodhya.

Thanjavur Painting

- ♦ It is also called **Tanjore Painting**
- ♦ It is a **classical South Indian painting style known for its rich colours, surface relief work, and extensive use of gold foil.**
- ♦ It was **developed during the Nayaka and Maratha rule (16th–18th century)** in Thanjavur.
- ♦ It **primarily depicts Hindu deities, especially Krishna, Rama, Lakshmi, Saraswati and scenes**

from Puranas.

- ♦ Traditionally **made on wooden planks with cloth backing**, the paintings use **gold foil and decorative stones or beads, giving them their distinctive luminous look.**
- ♦ It has also received the **Geographical Indications (GI) tag.**

2. National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal in Gujarat

Context

- ♦ **India and the Netherlands have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in maritime heritage, marking a step toward the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.**

National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

- ♦ It is a **comprehensive cultural and heritage project aimed at presenting India's long and continuous maritime tradition.**
- ♦ It is being developed near **Saragwala village, close to the archaeological site of Lothal in Gujarat.**

Key Components of the NMHC include;

- ♦ A museum featuring 14 galleries,
- ♦ A Lothal Town and Open Aquatic Gallery,
- ♦ A Lighthouse Museum, a Bagicha Complex, Coastal State Pavilions, and the Recreation of Lothal City.
- ♦ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) is the nodal ministry for the project.
- ♦ The Indian Ports Association (IPA) has been appointed as the nodal agency.

Historical Significance of Lothal

- ♦ **Lothal, meaning “the mound of the dead,” dates back to around 2400 BCE.**
- ♦ It was one of the **prominent urban centres of the Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilization.**
- ♦ Lothal emerged as a **thriving port city and trading hub, facilitating inland and overseas commerce.**

3. Dhanu Yatra

In News

- ♦ Recently, ‘Dhanu Yatra’ was inaugurated at **Bargarh in Odisha.**

Dhanu Yatra

- ♦ It is the **largest open-air theatre in the world** and It attracts thousands of visitors from across Odisha and beyond.
- ♦ It is the **eleven-day annual cultural spectacle that brings mythology, tradition and performance together in a unique celebration .**

- ◆ It transforms the **entire town into the mythical city of Mathura** and dramatizes episodes from Lord Krishna's life, from his birth to the death of King Kansa.
- ◆ The Central Government has **accorded National Festival status to 'Dhanu Yatra'**.

4. Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Culture

In News

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Guru Gobind Singh Ji on the auspicious occasion of his birth anniversary.

Guru Gobind Singh

- ◆ He was **Born on December 22, 1666, in Patna Sahib, Bihar.**
- ◆ He was a **renowned warrior, poet, philosopher, and the last of the ten Sikh Gurus.**
- ◆ **He succeeded his father, Guru Teg Bahadur, the 9th Guru, who was executed by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb** for standing up against religious persecution.

Contributions

- ◆ Guru Gobind Singh is perhaps best known for **founding the Khalsa in 1699, a warrior community devoted to protecting the faith and upholding justice.**
- ◆ The **Khalsa's five guiding principles**, symbolized by the **"Five K's"** (**Kangha, Kesh, Kara, Kirpan, and Kachhera**), remain central to Sikh identity today.
- ◆ He also introduced a **strict code of discipline for the Khalsa**, including the **prohibition of chewing tobacco, eating halal meat, and engaging in adultery or fornication.**
- ◆ He established the **Panj Pyare** to symbolize **purity, courage, and dedication.**

Literary works

- ◆ Guru Gobind Singh has contributed **many beautiful hymns and prayers to the holy scripture of Sikhism, the Guru Granth Sahib.**
- ◆ These **hymns, known as Shabad**, are recited and sung during Sangats, or gatherings, with fellow believers.
- ◆ He declared the **Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib as the permanent Guru of Sikhs.**
- ◆ He added the writings of Guru Teg Bahadur into the 'Adi Granth'.
- ◆ His works **possess a sublime poetic beauty; they were later compiled into the 'dasm granth'.**

Values and Leadership

- ◆ He displayed **courage, compassion, and commitment** to justice from childhood.

- ◆ He believed **strong character is essential to withstand adversity.**
- ◆ He was an **exceptional strategist, administrator, and leader of the masses.**
- ◆ He believed in **protecting human rights, even through armed resistance when peaceful means failed.**

Military Prowess

- ◆ He **supported oppressed communities like Kashmiri Pandits against Mughal oppression.**
- ◆ He Fought numerous **battles, e.g., Anandpur Sahib, Bhangani, Chamkaur Sahib.**
- ◆ He gained support across society and inspired even enemies to respect him.

Legacy and Influence

- ◆ Guru Gobind Singh Ji's life and teachings **continue to inspire unity, service to humanity, national integrity and the principle of "Nation First."**
- ◆ He was **Praised by Swami Vivekananda for courage, self-sacrifice, and heroism.**
- ◆ He **Unified Hindus and Muslims under common principles of justice.**

Do you know ?

- ◆ Guru Gobind Singh's sons displayed immense valour and sacrifice.
- ◆ While two died in battle, the other two were executed by a Mughal governor for refusing to convert to Islam, embodying the spirit of defiance and courage that Guru Gobind instilled in his followers.

5. Veer Bal Diwas

In News

- ◆ The Prime Minister addressed the national programme marking 'Veer Baal Diwas' at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Veer Bal Diwas

- ◆ **Historical linkages: Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Fateh Singh Ji, the two youngest sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru, were bricked alive and martyred at Sirhind (present-day Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab) on December 26, 1704** for refusing to abandon their faith under coercion.
- ◆ Veer Bal Diwas is observed on **December 26 every year in remembrance of the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh ji's sons Sahibzada Zorawar Singh ji and Sahibzada Fateh Singh ji.**
- ◆ The day honour the bravery of the two young heroes of the country, and help inculcate the spirit of exemplary courage and sacrifice in the youth of today.

- ♦ The martyrdom of the Sahibzadas symbolizes faith, courage, and moral strength, reflecting the heritage and bravery of the Sikh Gurus.

6. Sabarimala Temple Opens for Makaravilakku Festival

Context

- ♦ The Sabarimala Ayyappa temple will reopen on 30 December for the Makaravilakku festival, marking the second phase of the annual pilgrimage season.

Makaravilakku Festival

- ♦ Makara Vilakku is one of Kerala's most sacred festivals, celebrated annually at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple.
- ♦ It is observed on the first day of Makara Masam in the Malayalam calendar, coinciding with Makara Sankranti.
- ♦ On this divine day, devotees gather to witness two powerful events:
- ♦ **Makara Jyoti:** The bright celestial star (Sirius) appearing in the eastern sky.
- ♦ **Makara Vilakku:** The sacred light that appears thrice from the forests of Ponnambalamedu.
- ♦ These two sightings are considered spiritually transformative, symbolizing the presence, blessings, and grace of Lord Ayyappa.
- ♦ The key rituals during the Makaravilakku festival include Kalamezhuthu Pattu, Nayattu Vili, and Guruthi, performed before the closing of the shrine doors.

7. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

In News

- ♦ Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the historic occasion of December 30, 1943, when Netaji unfurled the tricolor at Port Blair with unmatched courage and valor.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

- ♦ **Early Life:** He was an Indian nationalist leader who played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence against British rule.
- ♦ He was born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Odisha
- ♦ He studied at the University of Calcutta and later went to England for the Indian Civil Services (ICS) exam.
- ♦ **Political career :** He abandoned ICS aspirations to join the Indian National Congress (INC), advocating for complete independence rather than moderate reforms.
- ♦ He was Elected INC President in 1938 and 1939 but

resigned due to differences with Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders over non-violent strategies.

- ♦ **Contributions in Freedom struggle:** Bose's vision for India's freedom was to leverage the support of Axis powers during World War II.
- ♦ He escaped from house arrest in India in 1941, travelling through Afghanistan to Germany, where he sought support from Adolf Hitler.
- ♦ In 1943, he went to Japan, where he took command of the Indian National Army (INA), which had been formed by Indian prisoners of war and expatriates.
- ♦ The INA's actions and post-war trials had a strong psychological impact, weakening British authority.
- ♦ **Death:** He died in a plane crash in Taiwan in August 1945; circumstances remain mysterious and controversial.
- ♦ **Legacy:** He is remembered as a symbol of courage and determination; numerous institutions, monuments, and awards are named after him.
- ♦ In 2018, The Government of India, renamed three islands of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago as a tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. They are:
 1. Ross Island → Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island
 2. Neil Island → Shaheed Dweep
 3. Havelock Island → Swaraj Dweep
- ♦ This was done to honor Netaji, who hoisted the tricolour flag on Havelock Island in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago and declared it as India's first free territory.

Do you know?

In 2024, the Government of India renamed Port Blair, the capital city of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, as "Sri Vijaya Puram." Reason:

- ♦ This is inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to free the nation from its colonial legacy.
- ♦ It also symbolizes the victory achieved in our country's freedom struggle.
- ♦ It aims to reflect historical significance by connecting to the ancient Srivijaya Empire, who ruled over the Malay peninsula and Indonesia's Sumatra Island and the role of the Chola Empire's naval base.

8. INSV Kaundinya

Context

- ♦ Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Kaundinya, sailed on her maiden overseas voyage from Gujarat to Oman.

INSV Kaundinya

- It is a **stitched sail ship**, based on a **5th century CE ship depicted in the paintings of Ajanta Caves**.
- It is named after Kaundinya, the Indian mariner who sailed across the Indian Ocean to Southeast Asia.
- It has been constructed using traditional stitched shipbuilding techniques, employing natural materials and methods that date back centuries.
- The project was undertaken through a tripartite agreement between the Ministry of Culture, the Indian Navy and Hodi Innovations as part of India's efforts to rediscover and revive indigenous knowledge systems.
- The voyage retraces ancient maritime routes that once connected the western coast of India with Oman.
- Significance: The expedition is expected to significantly enhance bilateral relations between India and Oman by reinforcing shared maritime heritage and strengthening cultural and people-to-people ties.

9. Sangita Kalanidhi Award Culture



Context

- Sangita Kalanidhi award was conferred on violinist R.K. Shriramkumar.

Sangita Kalanidhi award

- It was **instituted in 1942 by the Madras Music Academy**.
- The award is considered the **highest recognition for excellence in Carnatic music** and is often regarded as the **“Nobel Prize” of Carnatic music**.
- The award comprises a **gold medal and a birudu patra (citation)**.
- Since 2005, the Sangita Kalanidhi awardees have also received the MS Subbulakshmi Award instituted by The Hindu.

Additional Information - M.S. Subbulakshmi's Legacy

- M.S. Subbulakshmi was an iconic Carnatic singer**, She was the

- first Indian musician to receive the Ramon Magsaysay award in 1974
- first Indian to perform at the United Nations General Assembly in 1966.
- first musician to be awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, in 1998.

10. Alo Prabhat: Dance of the Dawn

Context

- Dong, India's easternmost village in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh, celebrated India's first sunrise of 2026** with “Alo Prabhat: Dance of the Dawn”.

'Alo Prabhat: Dance of the Dawn'

- The sunrise was welcomed with a cultural performance titled “Alo Prabhat: Dance of the Dawn.”
- Celebrated by - indigenous Meyor and Mishmi communities**, with traditional chants, songs and indigenous rhythms using traditional musical instruments.

11. Somnath Swabhiman Parv

Context

- PM Modi commemorated 1,000 years since the first attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026 AD**, describing the iconic shrine as a timeless symbol of India's civilisational resilience and unbreakable spirit.

Somnath Temple

- Somnath is revered as the **first of the twelve Jyotirlings of Lord Shiva**, as mentioned in the Dwadasha Jyotirling Stotram.
- The temple is located at **Prabhas Patan on the western coast of Gujarat**, a region historically associated with maritime trade, cultural exchange, and prosperity.
- The shrine was **first attacked in January 1026 by Mahmud of Ghazni**, marking the **beginning of a series of invasions aimed at destroying symbols of Indian civilization**.
- Despite repeated devastation, the temple was rebuilt multiple times.

Restoration of the Temple

- Ahilyabai Holkar** played a crucial role in **restoring the temple in the 18th century**, demonstrating the role of indigenous rulers in cultural revival.
- After Independence, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel envisioned the reconstruction of Somnath**.
- The present structure was completed and **inaugurated on May 11th 1951, by Dr. Rajendra**

Prasad, reflecting the constitutional ethos of cultural freedom.

- ◆ **K.M. Munshi was instrumental in the reconstruction of the temple.**
- ◆ **Swami Vivekananda** viewed Somnath as a symbol of India's national spirit that regenerates despite adversity.

12. Bhadrakali Inscription

In News

- ◆ Recently, it has been highlighted that **Prabhas Patan has a rich historical and spiritual heritage, with inscriptions like Bhadrakali, copper plates, and memorial stones** showcasing its prosperity, valor, and devotion.
- ◆ **Note - Prabhas Patan, also known as Dev Patan, is a historic and sacred locality in Veraval, Gujarat, celebrated as the site of the Somnath Temple. It remains one of India's most significant pilgrimage destinations, housing the first of the twelve holy Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.**

Bhadrakali Inscription

- ◆ It was **carved in 1169 CE** (Valabhi Samvat 850 and Vikram Samvat 1255) and currently protected by the State Department of Archaeology.
- ◆ It is **located near the museum in Prabhas Patan, beside the old Ram Temple in Bhadrakali lane.**
- ◆ It is a eulogistic inscription of **Param Pashupata Acharya Shriman Bhavabrihaspati, the spiritual preceptor of Maharajadhiraj Kumarapala of Anhilwad Patan.**

Features

- ◆ It **records the ancient and medieval history of the Somnath Temple.**
- ◆ It mentions the **construction of Somnath Mahadev in all four yugas.**

Accordingly, in the

1. Satya Yuga, Chandra (Soma) built it of gold;
 2. In the Treta Yuga, Ravana built it of silver;
 3. In the Dvapara Yuga, Shri Krishna built it of wood
 4. In the Kali Yuga, King Bhimdev Solanki constructed a beautifully artistic stone temple.
- ◆ **History confirms that Bhimdev Solanki built the fourth temple on the earlier remains, followed by the fifth temple constructed by Kumarapala in 1169 CE at the same site**

Importance

- ◆ Prabhas Patan embodies the **spiritual pride of Sanatan Dharma.**
- ◆ The **Bhadrakali inscription highlights the devotion of Solanki rulers and scholars**

like **Bhavabrihaspati, and its rich artistic, architectural, and literary legacy** continues to inspire, affirming that devotion and self-respect remain timeless.

13. Kashi-Tamil Sangamam

Context

- ◆ **PM Modi hailed the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam** in strengthening cultural understanding, fostering academic and people-to-people exchanges and creating lasting bonds.

Kashi-Tamil Sangamam 4.0

- ◆ **Organized by: Ministry of Education.**
- ◆ **Launched in: 2022.**
- ◆ **Universities: IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU).**
- ◆ **Aim: To rediscover, reaffirm, and celebrate the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.**
- ◆ It is in sync with **NEP 2020's emphasis on integrating the Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge.**
- ◆ **Significance** - It provides an opportunity for **scholars, students, philosophers, and artists from the two regions to share their knowledge.**
- ◆ It also aims to make the youth aware and experience cultural oneness.
- ◆ **Note - Both Kashi and Chennai have been recognised by UNESCO as 'Creative Cities of Music'.**

14. Thiruvalluvar Day

In News

- ◆ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Thiruvalluvar, acknowledging the enduring influence of his timeless works and ideals across generations.**

About

- ◆ Thiruvalluvar Day was first celebrated on May 17 and 18 in 1935.
- ◆ In the present time, it is usually **observed either on January 15 or 16 in Tamil Nadu and is a part of Pongal celebrations.**

Thiruvalluvar

- ◆ **Great Tamil poet - Thiruvalluvar, commonly known as Valluvar, was a celebrated Tamil poet and philosopher.**
- ◆ **Thirukkural** - He is best known as the **author of Thirukkural, a collection of couplets on ethics, politics, economy and love.**

15. Jallikattu

Context

- ◆ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin attended the jallikattu in Alanganallur.

Jallikattu

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

Key Concerns:

- ◆ **Animal Cruelty & Suffering:** Bulls are often provoked with alcohol, sticks, knives, and chili powder in their eyes; tail-bending and physical abuse during training and the event cause extreme stress, pain, and severe injuries.
- ◆ **Human Injuries & Fatalities:** The event poses significant risks, with numerous injuries and deaths reported for both participants and bulls over the years.
- ◆ **Ethical Considerations:** Animal rights groups argue that using bulls for entertainment is unethical, regardless of cultural significance, and that the practice exploits and traumatizes the animals.
- ◆ However, in 2023, A **five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the amendments made by the legislatures of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka to The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960,** allowing bull-taming sports like jallikattu, kambala, and bullock-cart races.

16. Bagurumba Dance

Context

- ◆ The Prime Minister visited Assam and attended the Bagurumba Dwhou 2026.

Bagurumba Dance

- ◆ It is often referred to as the **“butterfly dance”**,
- ◆ It is one of the most significant and **graceful folk dances of Assam.**

- ◆ It is a mass folk dance of the Bodo community.
- ◆ It was traditionally performed by young women, the **dance symbolises harmony with nature, celebrating themes of fertility, peace and joy.**
- ◆ The dance is **closely associated with the Bwisagu festival, which marks the Bodo New Year and the advent of spring.**

DEFENCE

1. Indian Navy Receives ‘Anjadip’

Context

- ◆ The Indian Navy received Anjadip, the third of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC).

Anjadip

- ◆ The ship is named after **Anjadip Island, located off the coast of Karwar in Karnataka,** and carries forward the **legacy of the erstwhile INS Anjadip, a Petya-class corvette** that was decommissioned in 2003.
- ◆ It is indigenously designed and **built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.**
- ◆ The project has been executed under a public-private partnership.
- ◆ The **ASW SWC is the largest Indian naval warship** to be propelled by waterjets.
- ◆ The craft is **equipped with advanced lightweight torpedoes, indigenously developed anti-submarine rockets and shallow water sonar systems,** enabling effective detection and engagement of underwater threats.
- ◆ **Significance** - The platform is expected to significantly **enhance the Navy’s anti-submarine warfare, coastal surveillance and mine-laying capabilities.**

2. Ghost Pairing

In News

- ◆ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has warned that a **cyber campaign known as “Ghost Pairing” is being used to hijack WhatsApp accounts.**

Ghost Pairing

- ◆ It is a **cyber attack that targets WhatsApp and Telegram users through social engineering.**
- ◆ Attackers pose as known contacts, bank officials, or government representatives and send messages like “Hi, check this photo” with a link.
- ◆ The link leads to a verification process where

users unknowingly grant hackers access to their WhatsApp accounts.

- ◆ No password theft or SIM swapping is needed. Once accessed, attackers can steal sensitive photos, videos, or bank information and use them to blackmail victims or steal money.

3. Evaluation Trials of Akash-NG

In News

- ◆ **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed the User Evaluation Trials (JET) of Next Generation Akash missile (Akash-NG) system.**

Akash-NG

- ◆ It is a **Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) system**
- ◆ **Operational Range:** Approximately **70–80 km**, a significant increase from the original 25–30 km range of the legacy Akash.
- ◆ **Speed & Altitude:** It can fly at speeds up to **Mach 2.5 and reach an altitude ceiling exceeding 20 km.**
- ◆ **Guidance System:** Equipped with an indigenous Active Radio Frequency (RF) seeker for high-precision terminal guidance, even against low-radar-cross-section (RCS) targets.

4. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) linked to the National Population Register (NPR)

Context

- ◆ The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), has been linked to the National Population Register (NPR), aimed at **strengthening intelligence gathering and expediting criminal investigations.**

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

- ◆ NATGRID is a **real-time intelligence and data-access platform developed after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks (2008) to enable seamless information-sharing across agencies.**
- ◆ It functions **under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and consolidates over 20 categories of civil and commercial data**, such as bank transactions, telecom usage, passport/immigration records, tax IDs, police FIRs (CCTNS), and other e-governance sources.

Data accessibility: Initially restricted to;

- ◆ Intelligence Bureau (IB), the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), and the National Investigation Agency (NIA),
- ◆ The Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) etc.

- ◆ Access to NATGRID is now available to Superintendent of Police (SP) rank officers.

Gandiva: The Analytical Backbone of NATGRID

- ◆ Gandiva' is an upgraded analytical tool deployed on the NATGRID platform.
- ◆ It supports multi-source data collection, facial recognition, and entity resolution.
- ◆ If an image of a suspect is available, Gandiva can match it with Telecom KYC databases, Driving licences, Vehicle registration records and Other photo identity documents.

Significance of Linking NATGRID with NPR

- ◆ The integration allows agencies to access verified family-linked demographic information of suspects or persons of interest.
- ◆ Access to NPR data through Gandiva allows retrieval of details of all family members linked to a suspect, if available.

National Population Register (NPR)

- ◆ It is a register of usual residents of the country.
- ◆ **Objective - To create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country.**
- ◆ **Usual Resident - A usual resident for NPR, is defined as a person who is residing or intends to reside in a local area for 6 months or more.**
- ◆ **Conducted by -** The process of updating NPR will be carried out under the aegis of the Registrar General and ex-Officio Census Commissioner, India.
- ◆ **Legal Backing -** The NPR is prepared under the provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- ◆ **Note - It is mandatory for every "usual resident of India" to register in the NPR.**

5. Samudra Pratap

In News

- ◆ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) inducted the first in-built Pollution Control Vessel (PCV), SAMUDRA PRATAP (Yard 1267) under the O2 PCV project of Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

'Samudra Pratap'

- ◆ **Uniqueness-** It is the **first indigenously designed and built Pollution Control Vessel of the Indian Coast Guard.**
- ◆ It is the **largest ship in the ICG fleet**, significantly enhancing the Coast Guard's operational reach and capability.
- ◆ It is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including a 30mm CRN-91 gun, two 12.7mm stabilised remote-controlled guns with integrated

fire control systems.

- ◆ **Significance** - With over 60% indigenous content, the induction of this ship reinforces the vision of Government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

6. National Investigation Agency (NIA)

Context

- ◆ In 2025, the NIA achieved a conviction rate of over 92%, secured the extradition of 26/11 accused Tahawwur Rana, and intensified its crackdown on terrorism and organised crime across the country.

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- ◆ **Established under:** NIA Act, 2008 after 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
- ◆ **Function:** Central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency.
- ◆ **Mandate:** Investigates offences affecting India's sovereignty, security, international treaties, etc.
- ◆ **NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019:**
 - ◆ **Jurisdiction extended:** Can investigate scheduled offences committed outside India involving Indian citizens/interests.
 - ◆ **Expanded mandate:** Covers offences under Explosive Substances Act, 1908 Human Trafficking, Cyber Terrorism Arms Act, 1959.
- ◆ **Governing body:** Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
- ◆ **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- ◆ **Special Courts:** Total NIA Special Courts: 51
 - ◆ Exclusive NIA Courts: 2 (Ranchi & Jammu)

7. Village Defence Guards (VDG)

Context

- ◆ Amid growing focus of terrorists on the Chenab Valley in the Jammu region, the Army provided a step-by-step training to local civilians who offered to work as Village Defence Guards (VDG).

Village Defence Guards (VDG)

- ◆ **Aim:** Enhancing their operational readiness and coordination with security forces.
- ◆ **Training:** The VDG were provided basic training in self-defence and taking position in bunkers. They were also trained in mountain combat.
- ◆ VDGs were also trained to enhance their operational capabilities, with a focus on weapon handling, firing practices and basic battle drills.

8. Maiden Flight Test of Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket



In News

- ◆ The maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) was successfully conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.

Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR 120)

- ◆ **Developed by** - DRDO
- ◆ **Range** - 120 kilometres.
- ◆ It is an extended-range, precision-guided rocket developed for the Indian Army's Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS).

Additional Information - Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launch (MBRL) System

- ◆ **Developed by** - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India.
- ◆ The system is named after "Pinaka," a mythical weapon used by Lord Shiva.
- ◆ It has the capability to hit targets at 75 kilometers and beyond.
- ◆ The Pinaka MBRL is capable of launching a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds, which makes it an effective weapon for quickly overwhelming enemy defenses.
- ◆ Armenia became the first export customer for the indigenously developed Pinaka with interest expressed by several countries in the system.

9. INS Vagsheer



In News

- ◆ President Droupadi Murmu created history by undertaking a dive and operational sortie aboard the indigenous Kalvari-class submarine INS Vaghsheer.

INS Vaghsheer

- ◆ It is the **sixth and final submarine of the Indian Navy's Kalvari-class (Scorpène-class) under Project 75, built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited with French technology transfer.**
- ◆ Other submarines of this class are **Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj, Vagir and Vela.**
- ◆ It is named after the **sandfish**, it enhances India's **underwater combat capabilities with advanced stealth features.**

10. DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Third-Generation MPATGM

Context

- ◆ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully flight-tested the **third-generation Fire & Forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile, or MPATGM, with top attack capability against a moving target.**

Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile

- ◆ The fire-and-forget missile was **developed indigenously by DRDO.**
- ◆ **'Fire and forget' type of missile** - It refers to a weapon system that **locks onto a target before launch and does not require further guidance from the operator after firing.**
- ◆ It is **equipped with state-of-the-art indigenous technologies**, including an Imaging Infrared homing seeker, tandem warhead, all-electric control actuation system, fire control system, propulsion system and a high-performance sighting system.
- ◆ The missile is **capable of day and night combat operations and can effectively defeat modern main battle tanks.**
- ◆ It can be launched from a tripod as well as a military vehicle launcher.

11. C-295 aircraft

In News

- ◆ The first **'Made in India' C-295 aircraft from the Airbus-Tata Vadodara assembly line is set to roll out before September 2026, highlighting deepening India-Spain defence collaboration.**

C295

- ◆ It is a **versatile, reliable tactical transport aircraft** capable of **troop/cargo transport, maritime patrol, surveillance, medical evacuation, and firefighting.**
- ◆ It **carries up to 8 tonnes or 70 troops**, cruises at 260 knots, and operates from short, unpaved runways.
- ◆ It offers **13-hour endurance, excellent maneuverability, and fuel efficiency.**
- ◆ The Airbus C295 (previously CASA C-295) is a **medium-range twin-engine turboprop tactical transport aircraft that was designed and initially manufactured by the Spanish aerospace company CASA, which is now part of the European multinational Airbus Defence and Space division.**

12. INS Sindhughosh
Context : Decommissioning of INS Sindhughosh (2025)


- ◆ **Event:** Formal decommissioning of the lead ship of the **Sindhughosh-class** submarines.
- ◆ **Date of Decommissioning:** December 24, 2025.
- ◆ **Total Service:** Over **40 years** of active duty in the Indian Navy.
- ◆ **Submarine Class/Type:** * **Class:** Sindhughosh-class (Project 877EKM).
 - ◆ **Type:** Diesel-electric attack submarine.
 - ◆ **Origin:** Built in the former **Soviet Union** (now Russia).
- ◆ Historical Significance:
 - ◆ **Commissioning:** Inducted into the Indian Navy in **April 1986**.
 - ◆ **Leadership:** It was the “class leader” (the first of ten submarines of this class).

Key Operational Roles:

- ◆ Played a vital role in **maritime security** and strategic surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ◆ Participated in numerous major naval exercises (such as TROPEX) and strategic deployments.
- ◆ Acted as a crucial deterrent during various national security crises.
- ◆ **Legacy & Modernization:** * The decommissioning marks the gradual phasing out of older Russian-origin vessels as the Navy shifts toward the **Kalvari-class** (Scorpene) and indigenous Project-75I submarines.

13. Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise (RPREX-2025)

Context:

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted RPREX-2025, a Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise off the Mumbai coast, to test preparedness against major oil spill incidents.

- ◆ **Conducting Authority:** Organized and executed by the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, the nodal agency for marine pollution response in India.
- ◆ **Date & Location:** Conducted off the **Mumbai coast** in the Arabian Sea on **December 26, 2025**.
- ◆ **Framework:** Performed strictly under the guidelines of the **National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP)**.
- ◆ **Major Partners:** A collaborative effort primarily between the **ICG** and **ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation)**.
- ◆ **Simulated Scenario:** A realistic emergency drill involving a **collision between a motor tanker and a fishing boat**, resulting in a major crude oil spill.
- ◆ **Phase I (Planning):** Focused on theoretical readiness, including technical lectures and **tabletop exercises** for decision-makers.

- ◆ **Phase II (Execution):** A **live-action sea exercise** featuring real-time deployment of ships and containment equipment.
- ◆ **Specialized Assets:** Deployed dedicated **Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs)**, equipped with oil booms, skimmers, and chemical dispersant systems.
- ◆ **Environmental Focus:** A high priority was placed on “**Sea-to-Shore**” **coordination** to protect sensitive **mangroves** and coastal livelihoods (fisheries).
- ◆ **Strategic Aim:** To enhance India’s **maritime resilience** and validate the inter-agency communication protocols required for large-scale disaster management.

14. INSV Kaundinya

Context :

INSV Kaundinya begins journey to Oman

- ◆ **Event:** First international expedition of the indigenously built **stitched sailing vessel**.
- ◆ **Date of Voyage:** December 29, 2025 – January 14, 2026 (18-day journey).
- ◆ **Route:** Retraced ancient maritime trade routes from **Porbandar, Gujarat** to **Muscat, Oman**.
- ◆ **Class:** Stitched Sailing Vessel (Ancient Indian Design).
- ◆ **Type:** Engine-less, wind-powered wooden sailing vessel.
- ◆ **Origin:** Built in **Goa** by traditional artisans from **Kerala** using the ancient “**Tankai**” method.
- ◆ **Design Inspiration:** Based on a 5th-century CE ship depicted in the **Ajanta Cave** murals.
- ◆ **Naming:** Named after **Kaundinya**, a legendary 1st-century Indian mariner.
- ◆ **Technique:** Constructed without modern nails; wooden planks were “stitched” using coir rope and natural resins.
- ◆ **Crew:** 16-member team led by **Commander Vikas Sheoran** (Skipper).
- ◆ **Navigation:** Relied entirely on traditional wind-power and ancient seafaring techniques.
- ◆ **Diplomatic Context:** Commemorates **70 years of India-Oman diplomatic relations**.
- ◆ **Objective:** To showcase India’s 5,000-year-old maritime heritage and debunk colonial narratives about Indian seafaring.

15. Military exercises in news

DESERT CYCLONE-II (2025)

- ◆ **Participants:** India and **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- ◆ **Dates:** December 18 – December 30, 2025.
- ◆ **Location:** Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- ◆ **Focus:** Joint military operations in desert terrain,

counter-terrorism, and enhancing interoperability between the two armies.

Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI (2025)

- ◆ **Participants:** India and **Malaysia**.
- ◆ **Dates:** December 5 – December 18, 2025 (Concluding phase overlapped with your requested period).
- ◆ **Location:** Umroi, Meghalaya (India).
- ◆ **Focus:** Enhancing military capability for multi-domain operations in sub-conventional scenarios.

Exercise SANJHA SHAKTI (2026)

- ◆ **Participants:** **Indian Army** and 16 civilian agencies (including Maharashtra Police, Force One, and Fire Departments).
- ◆ **Type:** Military-Civil Fusion Exercise.
- ◆ **Dates:** January 8 – January 9, 2026.
- ◆ **Location:** Diggi Range, Khadki Military Station, Pune.
- ◆ **Focus:** Validating “Whole of Nation” approach for disaster management and internal security challenges.

Exercise POORVI PRACHAND PRAHAR (2026)

- ◆ **Participants:** **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force** (Tri-Service Exercise).
- ◆ **Dates:** Early January 2026 (Ongoing throughout the first two weeks).
- ◆ **Location:** Mechuka, Arunachal Pradesh (Eastern Command).
- ◆ **Focus:** Joint operational capability in high-altitude areas and mountainous terrain along the LAC.

Indo-Indonesia Maritime Engagement (MAHASAGAR)

- ◆ **Participants:** Indian Navy (First Training Squadron) and **Indonesian Navy**.
- ◆ **Dates:** January 20 – January 23, 2026 (Commenced within your period).
- ◆ **Location:** Belawan, Indonesia (Northern mouth of the Malacca Strait).
- ◆ **Focus:** Part of the “MAHASAGAR” (Maritime Headlines for All in the Region) initiative focusing on Maritime Domain Awareness and security against “Grey-Zone” threats.

- ◆ **Awardee :** **Advocate Shubham Awasthi** has been honored for his excellence in legal practice at the Supreme Court of India, his impactful Public Interest Litigations (PILs), and his humanitarian leadership.
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** BW Legal World
- ◆ **Purpose of Award :** To recognize and celebrate the brightest young legal professionals and influencers under the age of 40 who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, ethics, and contributions to the legal landscape.



About the award

- ◆ It is an annual award established by **BW Legal World** (a community of BW Businessworld).
- ◆ The prize is titled to honor the **brightest young lawyers and legal influencers** under the age of 40.
- ◆ It was instituted in **2020** (The 2025 ceremony marked the 6th edition).
- ◆ Prize money: **There is no monetary grant; recipients are honoured with a distinct trophy and a citation.**
- ◆ Objective - The award is presented to **individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, professional excellence, and a commitment to legal ethics and public service.**
- ◆ Generally, the award is presented **annually in December** (The 2025 edition was held on December 21, 2025, in New Delhi).

2. Turner Prize



AWARDS

1. 40 Under 40 Lawyer Award (2025)

Context :

Shubham Awasthi received the 40 Under 40 Lawyer Award 2025

- ◆ **Award:** BW Legal World 40 Under 40 Lawyers and Legal Influencers Award (2025)

Context : Nnena Kalu received the Turner Prize 2025, becoming the first artist with a learning disability to win the prestigious accolade.

- ♦ **Award :** Turner Prize (2025)
- ♦ **Awardee Nnena Kalu** has been honored for her monumental, rhythmic sculptural installations created through wrapping and binding materials, marking a historic milestone in contemporary art.
- ♦ **Issuing Authority :** Tate Britain
- ♦ **Purpose of Award :** To promote public discussion of new developments in contemporary British art and recognize an outstanding exhibition or presentation of work by a British artist.

3. Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025

Context :

President Droupadi Murmu confers Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025



- ♦ **Award:** Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025
- ♦ **Issuing Authority:** Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India
- ♦ **Event Held At:** Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

Here are the winners separated by award category:

1. Vigyan Ratna (Lifetime Achievement)

Recipient	Field	Contribution
Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (Posthumously)	Physics	For pioneering work in cosmology (Hoyle-Narlikar theory) and popularizing science in India.

2. Vigyan Team (Collaborative Contribution)

Recipient	Field	Contribution
Team Aroma Mission (CSIR)	Agricultural Science	For the “Purple Revolution” (lavender cultivation) and advancing aromatic crop technologies.

3. Vigyan Shri (Distinguished Contributions)

Recipient	Field
Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh	Agricultural Science
Dr. Yusuf Mohammad Seikh	Atomic Energy
Dr. K. Thangaraj	Biological Sciences
Prof. Pradeep Thalappil	Chemistry
Prof. Aniruddha Bhalchandra Pandit	Engineering Sciences
Dr. S. Venkata Mohan	Environmental Science
Prof. Mahan Mj	Mathematics & Computer Science
Shri Jayan N	Space Science & Technology

4. Vigyan Yuva: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (Young Scientists)

Recipient	Field
Dr. Jagdish Gupta Kapuganti	Agricultural Science
Dr. Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia	Agricultural Science
Dr. Deepa Agashe	Biological Sciences
Shri Debarka Sengupta	Biological Sciences
Dr. Dibyendu Das	Chemistry
Dr. Waliur Rahaman	Earth Science
Prof. Arkaprava Basu	Engineering Sciences
Prof. Sabyasachi Mukherjee	Mathematics & Computer Science
Prof. Shweta Prem Agrawal	Mathematics & Computer Science
Dr. Suresh Kumar	Medicine
Prof. Amit Kumar Agarwal	Physics
Prof. Surhud Shrikant More	Physics
Shri Ankur Garg	Space Science & Technology
Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam	Technology & Innovation

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025

- ♦ **Establishment:** It is an annual award established by the Government of India (Ministry of Science and Technology).
- ♦ It is the highest national recognition in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation in India.
- ♦ **History:** It was instituted in **2023** (replacing earlier science awards like the Bhatnagar Prize).
- ♦ **Prize Money:** The award does not carry any cash prize; recipients receive a **Sanad** (certificate) and a medallion.
- ♦ **Objective:** The award is presented to scientists, technologists, and innovators (individually or in teams) for path-breaking research, innovation, or discovery in science and technology.
- ♦ **Presentation:** Generally, the award is presented on **National Space Day on August 23rd** (marking the Chandrayaan-3 landing).

4. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025

Context :

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the **Pradhan**

Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025 upon 20 exceptional children at a ceremony in New Delhi.

- ♦ The awards were presented on **December 26, 2025**, coinciding with **Veer Bal Diwas**, to honor the courage and sacrifice of the Sahibzadas.
- ♦ **Award :**Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025
- ♦ **Awardee : 20 Children** from 18 States and Union Territories were awarded for their exceptional achievements in Bravery, Art & Culture, Environment, Social Service, Science & Technology, and Sports.
- ♦ **Issuing Authority:** Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India (Presented by the President of India)
- ♦ Purpose of Award
- ♦ To celebrate the energy, determination, and potential of children in India.

To recognize exceptional achievements in fields like innovation, scholastic, social service, arts & culture, bravery, and sports.

To inspire young citizens to contribute to nation-building.

Winners List (Source: PIB)

Category	Awardee	State/UT	Achievement / Note
Bravery	Vyoma Priya (Posthumous)	Tamil Nadu	Saved a child from an electrical accident.
	Kamlesh Kumar (Posthumous)	Bihar	Sacrificed life to save a child from drowning.
	Muhammed Sidan P	Kerala	Saved friends from electrocution.
	Ajay Raj	Uttar Pradesh	Saved his father from a crocodile attack.
Sports	Vaibhav Sooryavanshi	Bihar	Youngest IPL player & cricket sensation.
	Dhinidhi Desinghu	Karnataka	Youngest Indian Olympian (Paris 2024).
	Vaka Lakshmi Pragnika	Gujarat	Under-7 World Chess Champion.
	Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti	Telangana	Youngest to complete Seven Summits Challenge.
	Shivani Hosuru Uppara	Andhra Pradesh	Para-athlete (Shot put/Javelin).
	Yogita Mandavi	Chhattisgarh	National-level Judoka from Naxal-affected area.
	Jyoti	Haryana	International Para-athlete.
	Anushka Kumari	Jharkhand	Footballer (U-17 Women's Team).
	Anish Sarkar	West Bengal	Youngest FIDE-ranked chess player.
Art & Culture	Jyoshna Sabar	Odisha	Weightlifting prodigy.
	Esther Lalduhawmi Hnamte	Mizoram	Singer known for patriotic renditions.

	Suman Sarkar	West Bengal	Tabla prodigy.
Environment	Pooja	Uttar Pradesh	Innovated machine to reduce agricultural dust.
Social Service	Shvan Singh	Punjab	Supported soldiers during Operation Sindoor.
	Vansh Tayal	Chandigarh	Dedicated to rehabilitation of special needs children.
Science & Tech	Aishi Prisha Borah	Assam	Promotes eco-friendly farming & sustainability.

Note: The 2025 awards saw a shift in the ceremony date to **December 26** (Veer Bal Diwas), differing from the traditional pre-Republic Day schedule.

5. Italy Honours Goa Industrialist Shrinivas Dempo with Prestigious Civilian Award



- ◆ **Award** Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy (Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia)
- ◆ **Awardee Shrinivas Dempo** (Chairman of Dempo Group) has been given this award for his significant contribution to strengthening economic and consular ties between Italy and India, and for his service as the Honorary Vice Consul of Italy in Goa.
- ◆ **Issuing Authority** Republic of Italy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation)
- ◆ **Purpose of Award** To recognize individuals who have acquired special merit in the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between Italy and other countries, and for promoting national prestige abroad

6. Samurai Martial Arts Honour (2026)

Context :

Pawan Kalyan becomes 1st Indian to receive rare samurai-tradition martial arts honour



- ◆ **Award/Title:** **Tiger of Martial Arts & Induction into Kenjutsu** (Japanese Swordsmanship).
- ◆ **Awardee:** **K. Pawan Kalyan** (Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh & Actor), for his 30+ years of dedication to martial arts.
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** **Sogo Budo Kanri Kai** (conferred the 5th Dan Black Belt) and the **Golden Dragons** organization (conferred the "Tiger" title).
- ◆ **Purpose of Award:** To recognize technical mastery, lifelong discipline, and the rare achievement of a non-Japanese practitioner being inducted into the historic **Takeda Shingen Samurai Clan**.

7. Golden Globes award

Context :

The Golden Globe Awards have been handed out in Los Angeles, honouring the best in film and television of the past 12 months.



Category	Winner
Best Motion Picture – Drama	<i>Hamnet</i>
Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy	<i>One Battle After Another</i>
Best Director	Paul Thomas Anderson (<i>One Battle After Another</i>)
Best Actor – Drama	Wagner Moura (<i>The Secret Agent</i>)
Best Actress – Drama	Jessie Buckley (<i>Hamnet</i>)
Best Actor – Musical or Comedy	Timothée Chalamet (<i>Marty Supreme</i>)
Best Actress – Musical or Comedy	Rose Byrne (<i>If I Had Legs I'd Kick You</i>)
Best Supporting Actor	Stellan Skarsgård (<i>Sentimental Value</i>)
Best Supporting Actress	Teyana Taylor (<i>One Battle After Another</i>)
Best Screenplay	Paul Thomas Anderson (<i>One Battle After Another</i>)
Best Animated Feature	<i>KPop Demon Hunters</i>
Best Non-English Language Film	<i>The Secret Agent</i> (Brazil)
Best Original Score	Ludwig Göransson (<i>Sinners</i>)
Best Original Song	"Golden" (<i>KPop Demon Hunters</i>)
Cinematic and Box Office Achievement	<i>Sinners</i>

Golden Globe Awards (USA)

- ♦ **Established By:** It is an annual award originally established by the **Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Association** (the precursor to the Hollywood Foreign Press Association).
- ♦ **Naming:** The prize is named for its trophy, which features a **shiny globe encircled by a film strip**, representing the world and the global reach of cinema.
- ♦ **Inaugurated:** It was instituted in **1944** (first ceremony held at 20th Century Fox studios).
- ♦ **Prize:** Unlike the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, there is **no official prize money** given to winners. Awardees receive a 24-karat gold-plated statuette, which costs approximately **\$800** to manufacture. **Note for Exams:** The value of the award is in "career momentum" and prestige, often leading to higher fees for actors and directors.
- ♦ **Objective:** The award is presented to individuals to recognize **excellence in both domestic and international film and television**. It serves as a

major precursor to the Academy Awards (Oscars).

- ♦ **Presentation:** Generally, the award is presented in **early January** each year at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, marking the official start of the Hollywood "Awards Season."

8. Padmapani Award (2026)

Context :

Ilaiyaraaja to be honoured with Padmapani Award at Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival

- ♦ **Award:** **Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award**
- ♦ **Awardee:** **Ilaiyaraaja** (Veteran Music Composer), for his unparalleled contribution to Indian cinema spanning over five decades and 1,500+ films.
- ♦ **Issuing Authority:** **Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AIFF)**
 - ♦ **Supported by:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (GoI) and Department of Cultural Affairs (Govt. of Maharashtra).
- ♦ **Purpose of Award:** To recognize individuals who have made extraordinary and lasting contributions to the field of cinema and allied arts.
- ♦ **Prize Details:** Includes a **Padmapani Memento**, a citation certificate, and a cash prize of **₹2 lakh**.

IMPORTANT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

1. International Human Solidarity Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** December 20
- ♦ **Organisation:** United Nations
- ♦ **Objective:** To celebrate our unity in diversity and remind governments to respect their commitments to international agreements.
- ♦ **2025 Theme:** "Solidarity for Sustainable Development: Uniting Communities for a Shared Future"

2. National Mathematics Day

- ♦ **Observed Date:** December 22
- ♦ **Organisation:** Ministry of Education, Government of India
- ♦ **Objective:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan and highlight the importance of mathematics in national development.
- ♦ **2025 Theme:** "Mathematics for Sustainable Development"

3. Kisan Diwas (National Farmers' Day)

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 23
- ◆ **Organisation:** Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:** To celebrate the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh and recognize the contribution of farmers to India's food security.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** "Vikasit Bharat 2047 – The Role of FPOs in Globalising Indian Agriculture"

4. National Consumer Rights Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 24
- ◆ **Organisation:** Department of Consumer Affairs, India
- ◆ **Objective:** To create awareness about consumer rights and the responsibilities of being an informed consumer.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** "Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice"

5. Good Governance Day (Sushasan Divas)

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 25
- ◆ **Organisation:** Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:** To honor the birth anniversary of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and promote accountability in government administration.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" (Governance Towards Villages)

6. Veer Baal Diwas

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 26
- ◆ **Organisation:** Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:** To pay tribute to the unparalleled sacrifices made by the 'Sahibzades' (sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji).

7. World Braille Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** January 4
- ◆ **Organisation:** United Nations
- ◆ **Objective:** To raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of human rights for the blind.
- ◆ **Theme :** "Bridging Accessibility in a Digital-First World"

8. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day)

- ◆ **Observed Date:** January 9
- ◆ **Organisation:** Ministry of External Affairs, India
- ◆ **Objective:** To mark the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa in 1915 and recognize the contribution of the Indian diaspora.

- ◆ **2026 Theme:** "Indian Diaspora's Role in Viksit Bharat 2047"

9. National Youth Day (Rashtriya Yuva Diwas)

- ◆ **Observed Date:** January 12
- ◆ **Organisation:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, India
- ◆ **Objective:** To celebrate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and mobilize the youth toward nation-building.
- ◆ **2026 Theme:** "Ignite the Self, Impact the World – Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue"

10. Indian Army Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** January 15
- ◆ **Organisation:** Indian Army
- ◆ **Objective:** To commemorate Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949.
- ◆ **2026 theme :** "Year of Networking and Data Centricity."

11. National Start-up Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** January 16
- ◆ **Organisation:** DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India
- ◆ **Objective:** To recognize and reward the spirit of Indian entrepreneurship and innovation.
- ◆ **2026 Theme:** "Let's shape the future together, one innovative idea at a time" (Marks a decade of the Startup India initiative).

SPORTS

1. Saina Nehwal Retires from Competitive Badminton

Why is in News

- ◆ **Saina Nehwal**, Olympic medallist and former World No.1, has announced her **retirement from competitive badminton** after battling chronic knee injuries for nearly two years, bringing an end to one of the most influential careers in Indian sport.

About

- ◆ **Reason for Retirement:** Severe cartilage degeneration and arthritis in knees; unable to sustain elite-level training
- ◆ **Last Competitive Match:** Singapore Open 2023
- ◆ **Olympic Achievement:** Bronze medal in Women's Singles at **London 2012** (first Indian woman to win Olympic badminton medal)

- ♦ **World Ranking:** Achieved **World No.1 in 2015** (second Indian after Prakash Padukone)
- ♦ **Major Milestones:**
 - ♦ First Indian to win a **BWF Super Series title** (Indonesia Open, 2009)
 - ♦ Silver (2015) and Bronze (2017) at **BWF World Championships**
 - ♦ Gold at **Commonwealth Games 2018**
- ♦ **National Honours:** Khel Ratna, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Arjuna Award

2. Smriti Mandhana Achieves Major International Batting Milestones

Why is in news :

- ♦ **Smriti Mandhana**, Indian vice-captain, achieved **two historic batting milestones** in women's international cricket against **Sri Lanka** in December 2025

Records:

10,000 International Runs Milestone:

- ♦ Achieved during the **4th Women's T20I vs Sri Lanka** at **Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram**
- ♦ **Second Indian woman** after **Mithali Raj**
- ♦ **Fourth woman globally**, joining **Mithali Raj, Suzie Bates, Charlotte Edwards**
- ♦ Match performance: **80 runs off 48 balls** (11 fours, 3 sixes); India posted **221/2**, their **highest-ever Women's T20I total**

4,000 Women's T20I Runs Milestone:

- ♦ Achieved during the **1st Women's T20I vs Sri Lanka** at **Visakhapatnam**
- ♦ **First Asian** and **first Indian** to reach 4,000 T20I runs
- ♦ Total at milestone: **4,007 runs in 154 matches**
- ♦ **Second-highest run-scorer** in Women's T20Is (behind Suzie Bates)

Career Snapshot (Across Formats):

- ♦ **Tests:** 629 runs (Avg 57.18)
- ♦ **ODIs:** 5,322 runs (6th highest all-time in women's ODIs)
- ♦ **T20Is:** 4,102 runs; **most 50+ scores** in Women's T20Is (32)

3. Humpy, Erigaisi Win Bronze at World Rapid Chess

Why is in news :

- ♦ Indian chess players **Koneru Humpy** and **Arjun Erigaisi** won **bronze medals** in the **Women's and Open** sections respectively at the **FIDE World Rapid**

Chess Championships 2025, held in Doha, Qatar.

- ♦ **Event:** FIDE World Rapid Chess Championships 2025
- ♦ **Venue:** Doha, Qatar
- ♦ **Koneru Humpy (Women's Section):**
 - ♦ Finished with **8.5 points** after 11 rounds
 - ♦ Tied with **Zhu Jiner** (China) and **Aleksandra Goryachkina** (Russia)
 - ♦ Placed **third due to tie-break rules** (Buchholz-based system)
 - ♦ **Two-time World Rapid Champion:** 2019 and 2024
 - ♦ Missed chance to become **first woman to win the title three times**
- ♦ **Arjun Erigaisi (Open Section):**
 - ♦ Scored **9.5 points** to win **bronze**
 - ♦ Finished behind **Magnus Carlsen** (Gold, 10.5 points) and **Vladislav Artemiev** (Silver)
 - ♦ Strong finish helped him edge past other top contenders on tie-breaks

4. New Sports Governance Law Comes into Force

Why is in news :

- ♦ The **National Sports Governance Act, 2025** have come into effect from **January 1, 2026**

Key Provisions & Institutional Changes:

- ♦ **Law Notified:** August 2025
- ♦ **Effective Date (Partial):** January 1, 2026
- ♦ **Coverage:** National Olympic Committee, National Paralympic Committee, and National Sports Federations
- ♦ **New Oversight Bodies:**
 - ♦ **National Sports Board (NSB):** Grants affiliation, monitors finances, decides funding eligibility, and acts against misconduct
 - ♦ **National Sports Tribunal (NST):** Specialised body for speedy resolution of sports-related disputes
- ♦ **Federation Reforms:**
 - ♦ Executive Committees capped at **15 members**
 - ♦ Mandatory inclusion of **at least two Sportspersons of Merit**
- ♦ **Objective:** Reduce political interference, ensure ethical governance, and make sports administration **athlete-centric**

CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:

- 1). With reference to PRAGATI, consider the following statements:

1. It is a technology-driven platform launched by the Prime Minister's Office.
2. It focuses only on monitoring central sector projects and reviewing progress of government schemes.
3. It also integrates a mechanism for grievance redressal of citizens.
4. Monitoring infrastructure and high-value projects. Facilitating inter-ministerial coordination Conducting parliamentary oversight of projects.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One Statement
- B. Only Two Statement
- C. Only Three Statement
- D. None of the above

2). Assertion (A): The Financial Stability Report focuses exclusively on the banking sector.

Reason (R): Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are regulated separately and are not part of the financial system.

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. Both A and R are false

3). With reference to recent legal and policy developments regarding cannabis in India, consider the following statements:

1. Cannabidiol (CBD) extracted from hemp plants has been permitted for medical use in India.
2. Courts have clarified that cannabis cultivation for research may be allowed under appropriate permission.
3. No Indian state has shown interest in regulating cannabis for industrial purposes.

How many of the statements given above is/ are **NOT** correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

4). With reference to PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to integrate planning and implementation of infrastructure projects across different ministries, including state projects.
2. It seeks to reduce logistics costs as a percentage of GDP.
3. It is coordinated by the DPIIT and NITI Aayog act as

an exclusive project-level approval authority.

4. It is implemented exclusively by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

5). With reference to India's missile development programme, consider the following statements:

1. Pralay has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. It fills the gap between long-range ballistic missiles and conventional artillery systems.
3. It is designed for quick reaction and high-precision battlefield support.
4. It is a part of India's anti-tank guided missile programme.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

6). Match the following

List – I (Missile)	List – II (Features/Type)
a. Prithvi	1. Medium-range surface-to-air missile.
b. Agni	2. Third-generation fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile.
c. Trishul	3. Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
d. Nag	4. Intermediate/long-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
e. Akash	5. Short-range, low-level, quick reaction surface-to-air missile.

Select the correct match:

- A. a-3, b-4, c-5, d-2, e-1
- B. a-1, b-3, c-4, d-2, e-5
- C. a-5, b-2, c-3, d-1, e-4
- D. a-2, b-4, c-1, d-3, e-5

7). Which of the following sectors are most likely to benefit directly from the National Technology Readiness Assessment Framework (NTRAF)?

1. Space technology
2. Biotechnology and pharmaceuticals
3. Renewable energy systems

4. Deep-tech start-ups

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. All Four
- D. None

8). Paragraph:

This tropical pollinator species is among the oldest groups of bees on Earth and is predominantly found in rainforests of the Amazon and other humid regions. Unlike its European counterpart commonly used in apiculture, it lacks a functional sting but actively defends its colonies through biting and the use of plant resins. It plays an irreplaceable role in maintaining rainforest ecology, pollinating a very high proportion of native flowering plants and several economically significant crops such as cocoa, coffee, avocados and berries. However, its populations are increasingly threatened due to deforestation, climate change, pesticide exposure and competition from introduced bee species. Recognizing its ecological significance, certain declarations have recently acknowledged its right to exist, thrive, live in pollution-free habitats, and be legally represented in environmental harm cases.

The species described in the passage is:

- A. Stingless bee
- B. Bumble bee
- C. Apis mellifera
- D. Carpenter bee

9). With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), consider the following statements:

1. NIA was established under the NIA Act, 2008 following the 9/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
2. The 2019 amendment allows NIA to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India involving Indian citizens or interests.
3. NIA is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
4. NIA has exclusive jurisdiction over all terrorism-related cases in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All four

10). With reference to Village Defence Guards (VDG), consider the following statements:

1. VDG volunteers receive training in mountain warfare and bunker defence.

2. The training includes weapon handling, firing practices, and basic battle drills.
3. VDGs operate independently without coordination with security forces.
4. The program aims to enhance local operational readiness in insurgency-prone areas.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. All four
- D. Only one

11). Paragraph:

A programme launched by NABARD in 2022 aims to promote agroecology and natural farming in India. It seeks to enhance soil health, biodiversity, and climate resilience, particularly for small and marginal farmers, by encouraging low-cost, ecosystem-based inputs instead of input-intensive agriculture.

Which programme is being described in the paragraph is:

- A. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- B. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- C. National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
- D. JIVA (Joint Initiative for Village Advancement)

12). In the context of the Balance of Payments (BoP), which of the following would increase the Current Account Deficit (CAD)?

1. Increase in remittances from abroad
2. Increase in gold imports
3. Rise in software service exports
4. Increase in crude oil prices

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

13). With reference to the QUAD, consider the following statements:

1. QUAD comprises India, the US, Japan, and South Korea.
2. It was initially conceived in 2007 and revitalized after 2017.
3. The forum promotes a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.
4. Malabar naval exercise is a key military cooperation initiative under QUAD.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only

D. All four

14). Which of the following challenges are directly addressed by the 'Water Guardians' initiative in regions like Hungary's Great Hungarian Plain?

1. Falling groundwater levels.
2. Desertification caused by climate change.
3. Unsustainable land and water management practices.
4. Industrial pollution from urban centers.

How many of the above challenges are addressed?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only One
- C. All Four
- D. Only Three

15). With reference to Rabies, consider the following statements:

1. Rabies is a zoonotic viral disease caused by an RNA virus in the Lyssavirus genus.
2. Rabies is 100% fatal but cannot be prevented by vaccination.
3. In South Asia, domestic dogs are the most common reservoir of the virus.
4. Symptoms of rabies include anxiety, confusion, excessive salivation, seizures, and paralysis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. All four

16). With reference to the Makaravilakku Festival, consider the following statements:

1. It is celebrated on the first day of Makara Masam in the Malayalam calendar.
2. Makara Jyoti refers to the sacred light appearing thrice from the forest.
3. Makara Vilakku coincides with Makara Sankranti.
4. Key rituals include Kalamezhuthu Pattu, Nayattu Vili, and Guruthi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All four

17). Consider the following statements regarding Indian National Army (INA) under Subhas Chandra Bose:

1. INA gave the slogans "Jai Hind" and "Delhi Chalo" prominence.
2. INA soldiers faced public trials at the Red Fort after World War II.

3. The psychological impact of INA trials contributed to unrest in the Royal Indian Navy.
4. INA achieved territorial control over large parts of Eastern India before surrender.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. Only one
- D. All four

18). With reference to INSV Kaundinya, consider the following statements:

1. It is inspired by a ship depiction dating back to the Gupta period.
2. The vessel is constructed using iron nails and wooden planks following medieval Indian maritime techniques.
3. It retraces ancient maritime trade routes between India and Oman.
4. The expedition is part of a project implemented solely by the Indian Navy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

19). With reference to the incense sticks sector in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest producer as well as exporter of agarbatti in the world.
2. The sector is largely dominated by large corporate manufacturers with limited involvement of MSMEs.
3. It provides significant employment particularly to rural women and micro-entrepreneurs.
4. Exports of incense sticks are largely limited to South Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

20). With reference to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), consider the following statements:

1. BIS is a statutory body established under an Act of Parliament.
2. BIS is responsible only for voluntary certification schemes in India.
3. Hallmarking of gold jewellery is administered by BIS.
4. BIS can issue Quality Control Orders making certain

Indian Standards mandatory.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

21). With reference to the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120), consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed as a precision-guided munition to extend the range capability of the existing Pinaka system.
2. Its range enhancement has been achieved only by increasing the propellant mass without any change in guidance architecture.
3. The rocket is intended primarily for use with the Pinaka Multi-Launch Rocket System of the Indian Army.
4. It is designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. Only one
- D. All four

22). With reference to “Narasapuram Lace Craft”, consider the following statements:

1. It originated as a court craft under the Vijayanagara Empire.
2. It is primarily produced using crochet techniques with fine cotton thread.
3. A majority of the artisans engaged in this craft are women working from home.
4. It has been recognized both under the GI regime and the ODOP initiative.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

23). With reference to INS Vaghsheer, consider the following statements:

1. It is the last submarine constructed under Project 75.
2. It is a nuclear-powered attack submarine.
3. It has been built through technology transfer from France.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only

- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

24). With reference to the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), consider the following statements:

1. The EMU was formally established by the Maastricht Treaty.
2. All EU member states are legally required to adopt the euro immediately upon joining the EU.
3. The European Central Bank (ECB) conducts monetary policy for all members of the EU.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

25). With reference to the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Act provides for the establishment of both a National Olympic Committee and a National Paralympic Committee as national sports governing bodies.
2. Affiliation of national sports bodies with international sports federations automatically grants them legal recognition in India.
3. Recognition of national sports governing bodies is vested in a National Sports Board created under the Act.
4. The Act provides for constituting a National Sports Tribunal to adjudicate sports related disputes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4

26). With reference to the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996, consider the following statements:

1. The treaty was signed between India and Bangladesh to govern the sharing of Ganges waters at the Teesta Barrage.
2. It aims to divert water into the Hooghly River to flush out silt and improve Kolkata Port navigability.
3. Bangladesh argued that it would harm agriculture and fisheries, disrupt river navigation, increase salinity intrusion in coastal areas, and threaten the Sundarbans ecosystem.

How many of the statements given above is /are **Not** correct?

- A. Only One Statement
- B. Only Two Statements

- C. All Three Statements
- D. All Three are Correct

27). With reference to the tributaries of the Ganga River, consider the following statements:

1. The Koshi River joins the Ganga downstream of the confluence of the Gandak River.
2. The Damodar River ultimately contributes to the Ganga system through the Hooghly distributary.
3. The Mahananda River is the easternmost major tributary of the Ganga.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All Three
- D. None

28). With reference to the Sangita Kalanidhi Award, consider the following statements:

1. It was instituted in 1942 by the Madras Music Academy to confer exclusively on vocalists of Carnatic music.
2. The award is often referred to as the “Nobel Prize of Carnatic music”. It consists of a gold medal and a birudu patra.
3. Since 2005, all Sangita Kalanidhi awardees have also received the MS Subbulakshmi Award instituted by The Hindu.
4. The 2025 award is conferred to renowned Carnatic violinist “R.K. Shriramkumar”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

29). With reference to “Alo Prabhat: Dance of the Dawn”, consider the following statements:

1. It is a cultural performance organised to welcome the first sunrise of the calendar year in India. It is celebrated by the Meyor and Mishmi communities.
2. It is celebrated in Dong village, India’s easternmost inhabited village in Arunachal Pradesh.
3. Traditional chants, songs and indigenous rhythms form a key part of the celebration.
4. The performance makes use of traditional musical instruments of the region.

How many of the statements given above is /are **Not** correct?

- A. Only Two Statement
- B. Only Three Statements
- C. Only One Statements
- D. All Four are Correct

30). With reference to Venezuela’s oil sector and its implications for India, consider the following statements:

1. Venezuela is a member of OPEC, which significantly influences global oil markets.
2. India’s oil imports from Venezuela form a marginal share of its total oil imports.
3. Any instability in Venezuela can have indirect impacts on global oil prices affecting India.
4. India is among the top three importers of Venezuelan crude oil.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

31). With reference to the Somnath Temple, consider the following statements:

1. It is regarded as the first among the twelve Jyotirlings of Lord Shiva as per the Dwadasha Jyotirling Stotram.
2. It is located at Prabhas Patan on the coast of present-day Gujarat and historically benefitted from maritime trade and cultural exchanges.
3. The first recorded attack on the Somnath Temple was carried out by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026 CE.
4. Somnath’s prominence was enhanced by its association with both religious pilgrimage and trade networks.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One Statement
- B. Only Two Statements
- C. Only Three Statements
- D. All Four Statements

32). With reference to notifiable diseases in India, consider the following statements:

1. A notifiable disease is one that must be reported to public health authorities by law.
2. Declaration of a disease as notifiable automatically makes its treatment free of cost across the country.
3. Mandatory notification helps in real-time disease surveillance and early outbreak detection.
4. States and Union Territories have the authority to declare diseases as notifiable.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

33). With reference to India's rice production, consider the following statements:

1. China has surpassed India to become the world's largest producer of rice.
2. India is the world's largest exporter of rice primarily because of higher per-hectare productivity than China.
3. Rice is predominantly a Kharif crop grown during the southwest monsoon season.
4. Rice occupies the largest share among foodgrain crops in India by area cultivated. Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of rice in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 4 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

34) DRR 100 (Kamla) and Pusa DST are examples of:

- A. Traditional landrace rice varieties
- B. Hybrid rice varieties
- C. Improved stress-tolerant rice varieties
- D. Genetically modified rice varieties

35). With reference to the SAMPANN system, consider the following statements:

1. It is an integrated online pension management system for Department of Telecommunications (DoT) pensioners.
2. It facilitates pension disbursement through state treasuries and post offices.
3. The system provides digital profile management and transaction records for retirees.
4. The implementing agency is the Controller General of Communication Accounts under the Ministry of Communications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

36). With reference to Huntington's Disease (HD), consider the following statements:

1. HD is a hereditary neurodegenerative disorder affecting motor, cognitive, and psychiatric functions.
2. It follows an autosomal dominant inheritance pattern. Symptoms typically begin in childhood and progress rapidly within 5–10 years.
3. Consanguineous marriages can increase the probability of disease transmission up to 75%.
4. Huntington's Disease is included in the National Policy for Rare Diseases-2021 list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

37). **Assertion (A):** The Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) has the power to regulate interest rates and lending policies of commercial banks.

Reason (R): The Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) is part of RBI's framework to regulate and supervise payment and settlement systems in India.

Choose the correct option:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. A is false, but R is true

38). With reference to the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), consider the following statements:

1. It is a trapezoidal area of about 10,400 sq. km created to protect the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri.
2. It was established by an Act of Parliament in 1996 to curb industrial pollution.
3. The Supreme Court directed industries within TTZ to shift from coal and coke to cleaner fuels such as natural gas.
4. All industrial activities within the TTZ were completely prohibited.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

39). With reference to the Wolf Supermoon, consider the following statements:

1. It occurs when a full moon occurring in January coincides with the Moon's closest approach to Earth in its elliptical orbit.
2. During a Wolf Supermoon, the Moon's actual physical size increases temporarily.
3. The increased brightness of a Supermoon is due to its reduced distance from Earth.
4. The Moon Illusion is a perceptual phenomenon related to human visual processing. It affects the apparent size of the Moon but not its brightness.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only

D. 2, 3 and 4 only

40). With reference to the Suryastra Rocket Launcher system, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first indigenously manufactured universal multi-calibre rocket launcher.
2. It is capable of precision surface-to-surface strikes up to a range of 300 km.
3. The system is exclusively designed and manufactured without any foreign collaboration.
4. It has been procured by the Indian Army under a contract worth ₹293 crore.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

41). With reference to the PANKHUDI Portal, consider the following statements:

1. It is an integrated digital portal for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and partnership facilitation in the domain of women and child development.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
3. It functions as a single-window platform connecting individuals, NRIs, NGOs, corporates, and government agencies.
4. It is exclusively meant for private sector CSR contributors and excludes government agencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

42). Consider the following pairs:

Mission	Core Objective	Primary Beneficiary Group
a. Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0	1. Combating malnutrition & early childhood care development.	i. Children (0-6 yrs), adolescent girls, pregnant & lactating women.
b. Mission Vatsalya	2. Child protection & welfare	ii. Children in difficult circumstances.
c. Sambal	3. Safety & security of women	iii. Women facing violence & distress.

d. Samarthya	4. Women empowerment	iv. Adult women across the life cycle.
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Choose the correct pairs from the option:

- A. a-1-i, b-2-ii, c-3-iii, d-4-iv
- B. a-2-ii, b-1-i, c-3-iii, d-4-iv
- C. a-3-iii, b-2-i, c-1-ii, d-4-iv
- D. a-1-iii, b-3-ii, c-2-i, d-4-iv

43). The Graham-Blumenthal Sanctions Bill is primarily aimed at:

- A. Imposing sanctions directly on Russia's domestic oil companies.
- B. Authorising the US President to impose very high tariffs on countries including India, China, and Brazil buying Russian oil or uranium.
- C. Banning all imports of Russian oil into the United States.
- D. Creating a new multilateral sanctions regime under the United Nations.

44). Spina Bifida is best described as:

- A. An infectious disease affecting the spinal cord.
- B. A congenital defect due to improper closure of the neural tube.
- C. A degenerative disorder of the peripheral nerves.
- D. An autoimmune disease affecting the central nervous system.

45). With reference to the International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statements:

1. The ISA was launched in Paris during the COP-21 climate summit.
2. Only countries lying entirely between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn are eligible for ISA membership.
3. Member countries are those that have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement.
4. The headquarters of the ISA is located on the campus of the National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

46). The phenomenon known as "Arribada", often mentioned in the context of Olive Ridley turtles, refers to:

- A. A seasonal long-distance migration between feeding and breeding grounds
- B. A synchronized mass nesting event where thousands of females lay eggs on the same beach

- C. A behavioural adaptation for avoiding marine predators
- D. A nesting strategy limited only to island beaches of the Indian Ocean

47). Which of the following international entities are correctly included among those from which the United States has withdrawn?

1. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
2. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
3. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
4. International Solar Alliance (ISA)
5. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

48). The Doomsday Glacier (Thwaites Glacier) is located in which of the following regions?

- A. East Antarctic Ice Sheet
- B. Greenland Ice Sheet
- C. West Antarctic Ice Sheet
- D. Arctic Ocean Basin

49). Madhav Gadgil's ecological interventions in India are correctly associated with which of the following?

1. Declaration of the Nilgiris as India's first biosphere reserve.
2. Enactment of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002
3. Enactment of the Forest Rights Act, 2006
4. Establishment of the National Green Tribunal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

50). With reference to NATO's principle of collective defence, consider the following statements:

1. Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty embodies the principle that an attack on one NATO member is considered an attack on all.
2. Article 5 has been invoked only once since NATO's establishment.
3. The only invocation of Article 5 was in response to the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only

- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

51). BioHappiness best refers to:

- A. Economic prosperity achieved through intensive industrial agriculture.
- B. Psychological well-being resulting from technological advancement.
- C. A state of well-being and fulfillment achieved by conserving and using biodiversity to improve human health, nutrition and livelihoods.
- D. Happiness derived solely from forest-based ecotourism.

52). With reference to the euro and the Eurozone, consider the following statements:

1. The euro was first introduced in 12 countries on January 1, 2002.
2. It is the sole legal tender for all 27 members of the European Union.
3. The eurozone refers only to those EU members that have fully adopted the euro.
4. Bulgaria's entry makes the eurozone comprise 21 out of 27 EU members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

53). With reference to the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Act provides for establishing a National Olympic Committee and a National Paralympic Committee.
2. These national bodies are required to have affiliation with their respective international bodies.
3. The Act mandates that all sports federations must compulsorily be brought under the control of state governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

54). With reference to the Sangita Kalanidhi Award, consider the following statements:

1. It was instituted in 1942 by the Madras Music Academy and is regarded as the highest recognition in Carnatic music.
2. The award comprises a gold medal, a birudu patra (citation), and, since 2005, the MS Subbulakshmi Award instituted by The Hindu.

3. It is sometimes referred to as the “Nobel Prize” of Hindustani classical music.
4. Recent recipient includes violinist R.K. Shriramkumar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

55). Consider the following statements about the celebration of India’s first sunrise in Dong village, Arunachal Pradesh:

- 1 The first sunrise of the year was welcomed with a performance titled “Alo Prabhat: Dance of the Dawn.”
2. The celebration was organized by the Meyor and Mishmi communities.
3. The event included traditional chants, songs, and indigenous rhythms using modern instruments.
4. Dong is located in the Anjaw district, India’s easternmost village.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

56). Matching Schemes – Funding & Implementation

Scheme	Type / Funding & Implementation
a. Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana	1. Central Sector Scheme – fully funded and implemented by the Centre.
b. Krishi Yantra (KY)	2. Centrally Sponsored Scheme – funds shared and implementation by state governments.
c. National Mission on Natural Farming	3. Centrally Sponsored Scheme – joint funding, state implementation.
d. National Bee and Honey Mission	4. Centrally Sponsored Scheme – state implementation, joint funding.

Options:

- A. a-4, b-2, c-3, d-1
- B. a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
- C. a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- D. a-2, b-3, c-4, d-1

57). Which of the following correctly reflect Swami Vivekananda’s philosophical and social contributions?

1. He introduced the Hindu philosophies of Yoga and Vedanta to the West.
2. He propagated neo-Vedanta, integrating spirituality with material progress.
3. He emphasized only spiritual liberation, discouraging social or economic reform.
4. He advocated universal tolerance, acceptance of all religions, and pride in Indian traditions.

Options:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

58). With reference to Human Papillomavirus vaccination (HPV) in India, consider the following statements:

1. HPV vaccination is included under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) across all Indian states.
2. Indigenous HPV vaccines have been developed to improve affordability and access.
3. HPV vaccination contributes to the long-term goal of eliminating cervical cancer.
4. HPV vaccination completely eliminates the need for cervical cancer screening.

Which of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

59). Exercise Sanjha Shakti is a joint military exercise between:

- A. India and China
- B. India and Nepal
- C. India and France
- D. India and Russia

60). Consider the following statements regarding India’s renewable energy profile by 2025:

1. India ranks fourth globally in total renewable energy installed capacity.
2. India ranks fourth in wind power installed capacity.
3. India ranks third in solar power installed capacity.
4. India ranks second globally in overall renewable energy generation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only

- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

61). With reference to the New Development Bank (NDB), consider the following statements:

1. It was established during the Fortaleza BRICS Summit.
 2. Its lending is restricted only to BRICS member countries.
 3. It focuses on infrastructure and sustainable development projects.
 4. Its headquarters is located in Beijing.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

62). With reference to India's first-ever open-sea Marine Fish Farming project, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first-ever open-sea Marine Fish Farming project involving both marine finfish and seaweed cultivation.
2. The project is implemented jointly by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the National Institute of Ocean Technology.
3. The project is located in the Arabian Sea to leverage existing coastal infrastructure.
4. One of the objectives of the project is to reduce pressure on traditional coastal fisheries.

How many of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All are correct

63). Consider the following statements regarding the composition and functioning of UNECOSOC:

1. ECOSOC consists of 54 member states elected by the UN General Assembly.
2. Members of ECOSOC are elected for a term of three years.
3. ECOSOC oversees the functioning of several specialized agencies of the UN system.
4. Permanent membership in ECOSOC is restricted to Security Council members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only

- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

64). With reference to Green Aluminium, consider the following statements:

1. Traditional aluminium production is energy-intensive due to the electrolytic reduction process.
2. Green aluminium production relies solely on recycled aluminium scrap.
3. Use of renewable energy significantly lowers the carbon footprint of aluminium smelting.
4. Green aluminium production supports the objectives of a circular economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

65). Assertion (A): IMEC consists of an eastern corridor connecting India to West Asia and a northern corridor connecting West Asia to Europe.

Reason (R): The corridor aims to integrate Asia, Europe and the Middle East through alternative land-sea routes.

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- B. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true but R is false
- D. A is false but R is true

66). With reference to child trafficking in India, consider the following statements:

1. Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 defines trafficking as recruitment, transportation, harboring, transfer, or receipt of persons for exploitation.
2. Means of trafficking include threats, coercion, abduction, fraud, abuse of power, or inducement.
3. Scope of exploitation covers physical and sexual exploitation, slavery, forced labor, and forced removal of organs.
4. Trafficking is only punishable if it involves cross-border transportation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

67). With reference to Bagurumba Dance, consider the following statements:

1. It is a folk dance of the Bodo community of Assam and it is popularly known as the “butterfly dance.”
2. Traditionally, only men perform Bagurumba Dance to invoke fertility and prosperity.
3. The dance is associated with the Bwisagu festival, marking the Bodo New Year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

68). With reference to the Responsible Nations Index (RNI), consider the following statements:

1. RNI shifts the focus from economic power to ethical governance, sustainability, and global responsibility.
2. It evaluates countries across four dimensions: ethical governance, social well-being, environmental stewardship, and global responsibility.
3. The index is developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
4. India ranks 16th globally, while Singapore, Switzerland, and Denmark top the list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

69). With reference to the Environmental (Protection) Fund, consider the following statements:

1. The Fund is a statutory fund created under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. Its objective is to channel monetary penalties from environmental violations into pollution control, restoration, monitoring, research, and capacity building.
3. 75% of the penalty proceeds are transferred to the Consolidated Fund of the State/UT, while 25% is retained by the Centre.
4. It is administered solely by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

70). In 2025, the UK transferred sovereignty over the Chagos Islands to which country?

- A. Seychelles
- B. India
- C. Mauritius

D. Maldives

71). With reference to the One Station One Product (OSOP) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. OSOP was launched in 2022 to promote local, indigenous, and specialised products across India.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the National Institute of Design (NID).
3. OSOP stalls are designed to be aesthetically uniform yet locally distinct, often with NID’s design inputs.
4. The scheme is a key component of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan to improve logistics and multi-modal connectivity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

72). What is the main purpose of the EU’s Anti-Coercion Instrument?

- A. To provide financial aid to EU countries
- B. To respond to countries using trade measures to pressure an EU member state
- C. To regulate migration in the EU
- D. To promote EU cultural exchange programs

73). What is the full form of SARFAESI Act?

- A. Securitisation and Recovery of Assets and Financial Enforcement of Security Interest
- B. Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest
- C. Securities and Financial Assets Regulation Act for Enforcement of Security Interest
- D. Securitisation and Regulation of Financial Assets and Security Enforcement

74). Consider the following statements:

1. Penguins are exclusively found in Antarctica and nowhere else.
2. Some species of penguins are found in temperate regions, like South Africa and South America.
3. Penguins are flightless but are excellent swimmers and divers.
4. Penguins contribute to nutrient cycling in marine ecosystems by bringing deep-sea nutrients to surface waters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

75. With reference to the Board of Peace, consider the following statements:

1. The Board of Peace was proposed in October 2025 and endorsed by the UN Security Council in the following month.
2. It is chaired by the US President and aims to oversee the ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict and Gaza's post-war transition.
3. Around 50 countries were invited to join, of which roughly 35 global leaders agreed to participate.
4. Membership of the Board is permanent and cannot be renewed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

76. Consider the following statements:

1. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is managed under the National Pension System (NPS) architecture.
2. Subscribers' pension depends on the contribution made and is guaranteed by the government.
3. APY is only for organized sector employees contributing through employers.
4. Contributions are voluntary and vary based on the chosen pension amount.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

77). With reference to the C-295 aircraft, consider the following statements:

1. The first "Made in India" C-295 will roll out from the Airbus-Tata Vadodara assembly line before September 2026.
2. The aircraft is designed and manufactured entirely in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
3. The C-295 is a medium-range twin-engine turboprop tactical transport aircraft originally designed by the Spanish company CASA.
4. CASA is now part of Airbus Defence and Space.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

78). Consider the following statements regarding the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize:

1. It is awarded annually by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust by recognising contributions towards peace,

disarmament and development.

2. Recently, Michelle Bachelet, a former President of Chile has been a recipient for promoting gender equality, human rights and democracy.
3. It is restricted only to Indian citizens and the award is generally presented on Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary.
4. The prize money was recently increased from ₹25 lakh to ₹1 crore. It can be awarded to both individuals and organizations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

79). Consider the following statements regarding the Turner Prize:

1. It is awarded by Tate Britain which aims to promote public discussion on contemporary British art.
2. It is awarded exclusively for lifetime achievements in art and it recognises outstanding exhibitions or presentations by British artists.
3. Nnena Kalu became the first artist with a learning disability to receive the Turner Prize, 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

80). Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Award	Recipient
1. Vigyan Ratna	Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar
2. Vigyan Team	Team Aroma Mission (CSIR)
3. Vigyan Shri	Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh
4. Vigyan Ratna	Prof. Pradeep Thalappil

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

81). Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP):

1. It is conferred annually to recognise exceptional achievements by children in various fields.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and it is presented by the Prime Minister of India.

3. It covers achievements in Bravery, Sports, Science & Technology, and Social Service.
4. The date coincides with Veer Bal Diwas which commemorates the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

82). Consider the following statements regarding the Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy:

1. It is conferred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Italy.
2. It recognises individuals who promote friendly relations between Italy and other countries.
3. It is awarded exclusively to Italian citizens.
4. Shrinivas Dempo was honoured for strengthening economic and consular ties between Italy and India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

83). Consider the following statements regarding the Kenjutsu honour conferred on Pawan Kalyan:

1. He became the first Indian to be inducted into the Kenjutsu tradition under the Takeda Shingen Samurai Clan.
2. He was awarded a 5th Dan Black Belt by Sogo Budo Kanri Kai.
3. The title “Tiger of Martial Arts” was conferred by the Golden Dragons organization.
4. The honour was conferred primarily for his political contributions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

84). Match the Following Golden Globes Awards category with its winners:

Category	Winner
a. Best Motion Picture – Drama	1. Paul Thomas Anderson
b. Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy	2. Hamnet

c. Best Director	3. One Battle After Another
d. Best Actress – Drama	4. Jessie Buckley

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- B. a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4
- C. a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
- D. a-4, b-3, c-1, d-2

85). Consider the following statements regarding the Padmapani Lifetime Achievement Award:

1. It is conferred by the Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival, which includes a Padmapani Memento, a citation certificate, and a cash prize of ₹2 lakh.
2. It recognises extraordinary and lasting contributions to cinema and allied arts.
3. It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
4. Recently Ilaiyaraaja, a veteran Music Composer to be honoured with this Award.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

86). Consider the following statements regarding INS Sindhughosh:

1. It belongs to the Sindhughosh-class, developed under Project 877EKM.
2. It is a nuclear-powered attack submarine and it was built in the former Soviet Union.
3. It was the first submarine of its class inducted into the Indian Navy in 1986.
4. It marked India’s first indigenous submarine programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

87). Consider the following statements regarding a Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise (RPREX-2025):

1. It is a Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise conducted by the Indian Coast Guard.
2. It was aimed at testing preparedness against major oil spill incidents and it was conducted under the framework of the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP).
3. It was organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

4. It was conducted off the Mumbai coast in the Arabian Sea and the ONGC was a major partner in the exercise.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

88). Consider the following pairs of Military Exercise and Participating Countries/Forces:

Exercise	Participants
1. Desert Cyclone	India – UAE
2. Harimau Shakti	India – Malaysia
3. Sanjha Shakti	India – Indonesia
4. Poorvi Prachand Prahar	Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force
5. MAHASAGAR	Indian Navy-Indonesian Navy

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. Only Four
- D. All Five

89). Match the Day with Observed date and Theme:

Day	Observed date	2025 Theme
a. National Mathematics Day	1. December 24	i. Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore.
b. Kisan Diwas	2. December 22	ii. Mathematics for Sustainable Development.
c. National Consumer Rights Day	3. December 23	iii. Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice.
d. Good Governance Day	4. December 25	iv. Vikasit Bharat 2047 – The Role of FPOs in Globalising Indian Agriculture.

Codes:

- A. a-2-ii, b-3-iv, c-1-iii, d-4-i
- B. a-2-i, b-3-ii, c-1-iv, d-4-iii
- C. a-1-ii, b-2-iv, c-3-iii, d-4-i
- D. a-2-ii, b-4-iv, c-1-iii, d-3-i

90). Match the Day with Theme and Observed Date

Day	2025 Theme	Observed Date
a. World Braille Day	1. Ignite the Self, Impact the World.	i. January 12
b. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	2. Bridging Accessibility in a Digital-First World.	ii. January 4
c. National Youth Day	3. Indian Diaspora's Role in Viksit Bharat 2047.	iii. January 9
d. Indian Army Day	4. Year of Networking and Data Centricity.	iv. January 15
e. National Start-up Day	5. Let's shape the future together, one innovative idea at a time.	v. January 16

Codes:

- A. a-2-ii, b-3-iii, c-1-i, d-4-iv, e-5-v
- B. a-2-iii, b-3-ii, c-1-i, d-4-v, e-5-iv
- C. a-1-ii, b-2-iii, c-3-i, d-4-iv, e-5-v
- D. a-2-ii, b-5-iii, c-1-i, d-3-iv, e-4-v

91). With reference to Saina Nehwal, consider the following statements:

1. She was the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in badminton.
2. She became World No.1 in women's singles in 2015, making her the first Indian shuttler to do so.
3. She was the first Indian to win a BWF Super Series title.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

92). With reference to the FIDE World Rapid Chess Championships 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The championship was held in Doha, Qatar.
2. Indian chess players won medals in both Open and Women's sections.
3. Koneru Humpy won a silver medal in the Women's Rapid category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

93). With reference to the National Sports Board (NSB) under the Act, consider the following statements:

1. It grants affiliation to National Sports Federations.
2. It decides eligibility for government funding of sports bodies.
3. It acts as the appellate authority for sports-related disputes.
4. It monitors the financial functioning of sports organisations.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

94). Which of the following cities are located in the West Bank?

- A. Jenin, Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus
- B. Gaza City, Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem
- C. Tel Aviv, Nablus, Jenin, Ramallah
- D. Gaza City, Jerusalem, Hebron, Ramallah

CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Karnataka Darshana

1). With reference to the Abhay Manohar Sapre Committee on road safety, consider the following statements:

1. The committee attributed the decline in road accidents in 2025 mainly to AI-enabled surveillance systems.
2. The committee recommended replacing conventional speed breakers with digital speed control systems.
3. The committee functions under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

2). SYLLA SYL-X1, recently in news, is related to:

- A. A reusable space launch vehicle developed by ISRO.
- B. An electric flying taxi (eVTOL) developed by Sarla Aviation.
- C. A hypersonic missile system developed by DRDO.
- D. A naval surveillance drone developed by HAL.

3). With reference to the recent Supreme Court ruling on the use of forest land, consider the following statements:

1. The Court held that agriculture constitutes a non-forestry activity under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. The judgment allows State governments to permit agricultural use of forest land without Central approval.
3. The Court reiterated that de-reservation of forest land requires Supreme Court permission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

4). With reference to Mission 40+, consider the following statements:

1. It is a targeted remedial education programme for SSLC students in the Kalyana Karnataka region.
2. It is jointly implemented by the Kalyana 3. Karnataka Regional Development Board and the Department of School Education.
3. It aims to achieve a universal (100%) pass percentage in all the beneficiary districts.
4. It includes both academic intervention and financial support mechanisms.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

5). With reference to the 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes), consider the following statements:

1. Actor Prakash Raj has been named as the brand ambassador of the festival.
2. The theme of the festival is "Women Empowerment."
3. BIFFes is organized annually by the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce.
4. The festival exclusively screens Kannada films from India.

Which of the statements given above is/are wrong?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

6). With reference to the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Amendment Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill removes representation of private medical establishments from the Registration and Grievance Redressal Authority.
2. Hospital administrators are excluded from the decision-making process under the amended provisions.
3. The amendment reduces the “deemed approval” period for registration from three months to one month.
4. The amendment replaces the previous provision with a six-month provisional registration system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

7). With reference to the 24th National Water Development Authority (NWDA) meeting, consider the following statements:

1. Karnataka requested an increase in total water allocation from 34.40 tmcft to 40–45 tmcft under national river-linking projects.
2. The State specifically requested an additional 5 tmcft for the Kalyana Karnataka region via the Godavari-Cauvery link, primarily for drinking water.
3. Karnataka’s current allocation includes 15.90 tmcft from the Varada-Bedti link and 18.50 tmc ft from the Godavari-Cauvery link.
4. The NWDA functions under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, with all States as members.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. All Four
- D. Only One

8). With reference to the Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), consider the following statements:

1. KFD is caused by a virus belonging to the family Flaviviridae.
2. Transmission to humans occurs mainly through mosquito bites.

3. First identified in 1957 in Karnataka’s Kyasanur Forest, it is also called Monkey Fever.
4. Person-to-person transmission of KFD has been reported in rare cases.
5. The Health Department of Karnataka is set to establish another KFD testing lab at Sirsi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

9). With reference to the insurance coverage for Karnataka Forest Department personnel, consider the following statements:

1. All permanent officers and staff are provided ₹1 crore accidental death insurance, irrespective of cadre or salary.
2. In case of accidental death while on duty, an additional ₹25 lakh is provided.
3. Outsourced personnel are not covered under this insurance scheme.
4. Permanent employees are eligible for ₹10 lakh in life insurance coverage.
5. A MoU was signed between the Karnataka Forest Department and Canara Bank.

How many of the statements given above is/are wrong?

- A. Only Three Statements
- B. Only Two Statements
- C. Only Four Statements
- D. All are Correct

10). With reference to the State Education Policy (SEP) 2025 of Karnataka, consider the following statements:

1. The SEP recommends replacing the three-language formula with a two-language formula.
2. Kannada or the mother tongue is proposed as the medium of instruction for primary education.
3. The policy allows for the extension of RTE benefits only to government schools up to 18 years of age.
4. It recommends implementing a reservation matrix even within private educational institutions.
5. The government plans to develop 900 Karnataka Public Schools as magnet schools from Pre-primary to II PUC, with the support of a World Bank loan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 5

11). Which two districts follow Bengaluru city in the number of reported kidnapping cases?

- A. Mysuru and Mandya
- B. Kalaburagi and Ballari
- C. Bengaluru Rural and Tumakuru
- D. Shivamogga and Hassan

12). With reference to the Sanchara Yukta Project, consider the following statements:

- 1. It envisages a 228-km road network within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits.
- 2. The project is part of an urban mobility strategy aimed at decongesting city traffic.
- 3. The project excludes road development along storm-water drains due to environmental concerns.
- 4. The project is implemented exclusively by the Bangalore Development Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

13). With reference to the SVALSA (Slope Vulnerability and Landslide Assessment) framework, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an integrated early warning system developed by NITK Surathkal.
- 2. It aims to provide reliable landslide warnings while reducing false alarms.
- 3. It is designed primarily to predict earthquake-induced landslides.
- 4. It specifically targets the Western Ghats region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 4

14). With reference to the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is spread across the districts of Chamarajanagar, Mandya, and Ramanagara.
- 2. It serves as a crucial wildlife corridor between Bannerghatta National Park and BRT Tiger Reserve.
- 3. It is drained exclusively by the Cauvery River.
- 4. Dry deciduous and scrub forests form the dominant vegetation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

15). With reference to the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G), consider the following statements:

- 1. It replaces the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY- NRLM).
- 2. Under the new framework, the Centre continues to bear the entire financial responsibility.
- 3. The State governments are mandated to fund a portion of the project costs.
- 4. Karnataka estimates a cumulative financial burden of around ₹20,000 crore over five years due to this change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

16). Which of the following districts are included in the proposed Kittur Karnataka Development Board region?

- 1. Dharwad
- 2. Belagavi
- 3. Bagalkot
- 4. Ballari
- 5. Uttara Kannada

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

17). With reference to the Second Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission consider the following statements:

- 1. It is headed by T.M. Vijay Bhaskar.
- 2. It primarily focuses on restructuring revenue expenditure rather than capital expenditure.
- 3. Its recommendations are legally binding on the State government.
- 4. It aims at containing the revenue deficit which has widened in recent financial years.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

18). With reference to the Distribution Transformer

Life Cycle Management System (DTLMS) developed by BESCO, consider the following statements:

1. It is a mobile-based application for monitoring the operational health of distribution transformers.
 2. It enables a shift from breakdown maintenance to preventive maintenance.
 3. It covers all power utilities across Karnataka.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

19). Consider the following statements about KSRTC's "Sarige Mitra" HRMS (Version 2.0):

1. It provides real-time human resource services through smartphones.
 2. It incorporates a geo-fencing-based attendance system.
 3. It has been implemented across all State Transport Corporations in India.
 4. It allows one-click download of monthly payslips.
- Which of the statements given above is/are True?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. All are true

20). Consider the following statements about the Karnataka government's 1,000-bed multi-speciality organ transplant hospital in Bengaluru:

1. The hospital is being set up in collaboration with the Azim Premji Foundation.
 2. Its primary objective is to provide free organ transplants to the poor.
 3. All beds in the hospital will be available free of cost under the Ayushman Bharat – Arogya Karnataka scheme.
 4. Its location near NIMHANS facilitates smooth organ harvesting and transport.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

21). Which of the following combinations correctly matches the award type with its recipients as per the recent announcement by Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara?

- A. Honorary Awards – Dr. Nataraj Honnavalli, Dr. Sadanand R, Karthik R
- B. Book Awards – J.V. Karlo, Prof. Vanamala Viswanatha,

Dr. J.P. Doddamani

- C. Honorary Awards – J.V. Karlo, Prof. Vanamala Viswanatha, Dr. Vittalarao T. Gaikwad
- D. Book Awards – Dr. K.R. Sandhya Reddy, Dr. Vittalarao T. Gaikwad

22). Consider the following statements about organ donation achievements in India in 2025:

1. Karnataka recorded its highest-ever organ donations with 198 cases.
2. Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of organ donations in the country.
3. Telangana recorded fewer donations than Karnataka.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

23). The Bhu Suraksha Project, recently launched in Karnataka, primarily aims to:

- A. Provide free land titles to farmers.
- B. Expand the digitisation of land records to higher administrative offices and curb malpractice.
- C. Introduce GIS mapping for urban planning only.
- D. Replace traditional land records with blockchain-based land registries.

24). Match the 2020 recipients of Karnataka State Film Awards with their respective categories:

Award	Recipient
1. Dr. Rajkumar Award	a. M.S. Sathyu
2. Puttanna Kanagal Award	b. Jaimala
3. Dr. Vishnuvardhan Award	c. Pragathi Ashwath Narayana

Select the correct matching:

- A. 1–b, 2–a, 3–c
- B. 1–c, 2–b, 3–a
- C. 1–a, 2–b, 3–c
- D. 1–b, 2–c, 3–a

25). Assertion (A): The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) recommended declaring the entire Western Ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).

Reason (R): Because the Panel aimed to restrict only mining activities while permitting all other forms of development in the region.

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

- B. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- C. A is true but R is false
- D. A is false but R is true

26). India's first commercial quantum computer is to be deployed at:

- A. IISc Bengaluru
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIIT Dharwad
- D. IIT Madras

27). Consider the following statements regarding the jute geocell technology developed by NITK Surathkal:

1. It aims to replace conventional petroleum-based plastic geocells used in road construction and slope stabilization.
2. It is developed exclusively for urban infrastructure projects.
3. It promotes the use of biodegradable and renewable materials in civil engineering.
4. It contributes to reducing microplastic pollution in sensitive ecosystems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

28). With reference to the Blue Flag certification and Karnataka's beaches, consider the following statements:

1. At present Karnataka has exactly two beaches awarded the Blue Flag certification.
2. Padubidri Beach is located in Udupi district.
3. Kasarkod Beach is located in Dakshina Kannada district.
4. Blue Flag certification is awarded based on criteria including environmental management, safety, and water quality.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. All Four
- D. None

29). Who won the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for the project "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace"?

- A. Major Swathi Shantha Kumar
- B. Colonel Ritu Karidhal
- C. Major Leena Nair

D. Wing Commander Abhilasha Barak

30). Consider the following statements regarding the Activity Point Tracking System (APTS) mobile app:

1. It has been developed by Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).
2. It seeks to curb the unethical practice of submitting fake documents to claim activity points.
3. It replaces the academic credit system prescribed by AICTE.
4. It is mandatory for all engineering students under VTU.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

31). Consider the following statements regarding the KSTA Lifetime Achievement Award:

1. It is instituted by the Karnataka Science and Technology Academy and Ramakrishna was the recipient of the award.
2. It is awarded to distinguished senior scientists for their lifetime contribution to Science and Technology.
3. It carries a gold medal worth ₹2 lakh and a cash prize of ₹1 lakh.
4. It is awarded annually only to scientists working in Karnataka-based institutions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

32). Consider the following statements regarding the financial protection for Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) patients in Karnataka:

1. The initiative was announced by the Karnataka Health Minister and implemented through Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST).
2. It provides financial protection specifically for Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy.
3. The coverage is extended under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka scheme.
4. It covers all neurological disorders requiring immunotherapy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER KEYS OF PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES:

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1). B | 26). A | 51). C | 76). A |
| 2). D | 27). C | 52). A | 77). B |
| 3). A | 28). D | 53). C | 78). B |
| 4). B | 29). D | 54). B | 79). C |
| 5). A | 30). A | 55). A | 80). A |
| 6). A | 31). D | 56). A | 81). B |
| 7). C | 32). A | 57). B | 82). C |
| 8). A | 33). B | 58). A | 83). A |
| 9). C | 34). C | 59). C | 84). A |
| 10). B | 35). A | 60). A | 85). B |
| 11). B | 36). B | 61). D | 86). B |
| 12). A | 37). D | 62). A | 87). C |
| 13). B | 38). A | 63). C | 88). C |
| 14). D | 39). C | 64). B | 89). A |
| 15). C | 40). B | 65). A | 90). A |
| 16). B | 41). C | 66). C | 91). B |
| 17). B | 42). A | 67). B | 92). A |
| 18). C | 43). B | 68). A | 93). C |
| 19). C | 44). B | 69). B | 94). A |
| 20). A | 45). A | 70). C | |
| 21). B | 46). B | 71). D | |
| 22). D | 47). A | 72). B | |
| 23). A | 48). C | 73). B | |
| 24). C | 49). B | 74). C | |
| 25). D | 50). D | 75). A | |

2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1). B | 23). B |
| 2). B | 24). A |
| 3). A | 25). C |
| 4). C | 26). C |
| 5). C | 27). A |
| 6). A | 28). B |
| 7). B | 29). A |
| 8). A | 30). A |
| 9). B | 31). C |
| 10). B | 32). B |
| 11). C | |
| 12). A | |
| 13). D | |
| 14). A | |
| 15). A | |
| 16). D | |
| 17). A | |
| 18). D | |
| 19). A | |
| 20). B | |
| 21). C | |
| 22). A | |

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VIDYAMANA



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DARSHANA



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(365 Days CA Challenge)



SAADHAKARA
SANDARSHANA
(Toppers Corner)



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TAHASILDAR
KPSC TOPPER 2022



HEMA P
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF
CO-OPERATIVE AUDIT
KPSC TOPPER 2022



DR CHIKKAPPA NAYAK
TAHASILDAR
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