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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

- ◆ NATIONAL MAKHANA BOARD
- ◆ ANTARCTIC OZONE HOLE
- ◆ INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE (IBCA)
- ◆ 23RD INDIA-RUSSIA ANNUAL SUMMIT
- ◆ 150 YEARS OF VANDE MATARAM
- ◆ DEEPAVALI ADDED TO UNESCO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE LIST.
- ◆ INTERNATIONAL AWARDS TO PM MODI
- ◆ E-SWATHU 2.0
- ◆ KARNATAKA'S HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIMES (PREVENTION) BILL
- ◆ MEKEDATU PROJECT



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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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- ✓ **Santosh Nidagundi** (Linguistic Resource)

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- 3-year-old Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha becomes world's youngest FIDE-rated chess player
- SQUASH WORLD CUP
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PRACTICE QUESTIONS (CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM THIS MAGAZINE)

- NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS
- Objective type Multiple choice Question with key answers on State issues:

KEY ANSWERS

- NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL:
- KARNATAKA DARSHANA:

TOP CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. National Makhana Board Holds First Meeting



NATIONAL MAKHANA BOARD HOLDS FIRST MEETING

IN NEWS

A **₹476.03 crore** Central Sector Scheme for holistic **makhana development** was rolled out during the National Makhana Board's first meeting.



National Makhana Board

OBJECTIVE

to strengthen and modernize India's Makhana sector.



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

Makhana (*Euryale ferox*)

It is a **flowering plant** classified in the **water lily family** (Nymphaeaceae).



Climatic condition: Requires a **temperature range of 20-35°C**, and **annual rainfall between 100- 250 cm.**

It is a **fully organic non-cereal food** found principally in India but also in **Korea, Japan**, as well as parts of eastern **Russia.**



Bihar accounts for ~90% of India's makhana production.

GI Tag: In 2022, 'Mithila Makhana' was conferred a GI tag.

2. E-swathu 2.0



E-swathu 2.0



In News



The state government launched e-swathu 2.0 to provide convenience to property owners in rural areas to get their documents.

Aim



To bring all **rural properties into a single digital database**, regularise unlisted holdings, and strengthen transparent property-tax collection.

Purpose



Swathu 2.0 is Karnataka's **upgraded online system for digitising rural property records and issuing e-Khata in Gram Panchayat areas.**

Nodal Agency



It is implemented by the **Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department** through Gram Panchayats and integrated with the **Panchatantra software.**

Property owners in Gram Panchayat limits can apply (via their Panchayat) for **e-Khata and Forms 9/11A/11B** by submitting title documents, ID/address proof and supporting records.

Benefits



Reduced fraud and disputes



Easier proof of ownership for loans and registrations



Increase in Panchayat and state revenue from rural property tax



3. Antarctic Ozone Hole Closes Early in 2025



ANTARCTIC OZONE HOLE CLOSES EARLY IN 2025



IN NEWS

The **Antarctic ozone hole** that formed in August 2025 closed earlier than usual, offering hope for recovery amid record global warming.

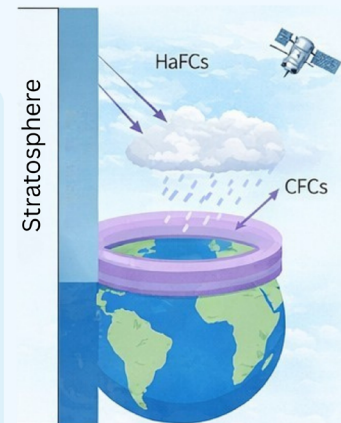
Basics - Ozone Layer (O₃)

It is a highly reactive molecule containing three oxygen atoms.

Found in - It is present between 10 and 50 km above the earth's surface, called the stratosphere.

Function - This ozone layer serves as a **natural filter for blocking deadly incoming UV radiation from the sun.**

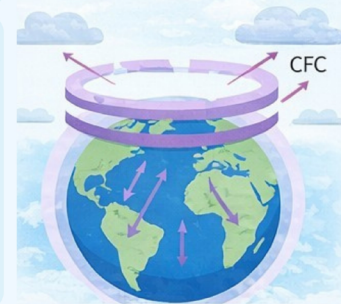
Significance - This ozone shield is necessary for the survival of human life on the earth.



OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

Definition - The decrease in ozone concentration in the middle layers of the atmosphere – mainly in the stratosphere is referred to as the depletion of the ozone layer.

Caused by - It is caused by emissions of anthropogenic halogenated hydrocarbons such as **CFCs, HCFCs, Halons, Carbon tetrachloride and Methyl bromide.**



Why is ozone depletion more in Antarctica than the equator?

The severe depletion of the Antarctic ozone layer known as the “ozone hole” occurs **because of the special weather conditions that exist there and nowhere else on the globe.**

The very low temperatures of the Antarctic stratosphere create ice clouds called **polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs).**

Measures to Prevent Ozone Layer Depletion

Vienna Convention

Objective - To protect human health and the environment from any harmful effects of the depletion of the ozone layer.

Held in - Vienna , Austria

Adopted in - 1985.

Came into force - 1988.



Montreal Protocol

Objective - To protect the Ozone layer by reducing the production of substances that are supposed to be responsible for Ozone layer depletion

Kigali Agreement-The protocol was further strengthened with the ratification of the legally binding Kigali Agreement in 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Significance - It seeks to phase out the production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that are potent greenhouse gases by the late 2040s.



4. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)



INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE (IBCA)

IN NEWS

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change addressed a high-level meeting of the Collaborative Initiative for Big Cat Conservation under the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) in New Delhi

HEADQUARTERS

India



OBJECTIVE

It is a **multi-country**, multi-agency coalition of **95 big cat range countries with an interest in big cat conservation**.

AIM

Conserving seven big cats - **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**.

GENESIS








IBCA was launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2023 during the event 'Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger'.

MEMBERS



have signed the Framework Agreement to formally become members of the IBCA.

CONSERVATION STATUS OF 7 BIG CATS

BIG CATS	IUCN STATUS	CITES STATUS	WILDLIFE PROTECTION 1972
 Tiger (Pantera Tigris)	Endangered	Appendix- I	Schedule I
 Lion (Pantera Leo)	Vulnerable	Appendix- I	Schedule I
 Leopard (Pantera Pardus)	Vulnerable	Appendix- I	Schedule I
 Snow Leopard (Pantera Uncia)	Vulnerable	Appendix- I	Schedule I
 Cheetah (Acinonyx Jubatus)	Vulnerable	Appendix- I	Schedule I
 Jaguar (Pantera Onca)	Near Threatened	Appendix- I	Not found in India
 Puma (Puma concolor)	Least Concern	Appendix- I	Not found in India

5. 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit



23rd INDIA-RUSSIA ANNUAL SUMMIT

IN NEWS

India and Russia held their 23rd annual bilateral summit, marking a major milestone — 25 years of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership (2000).



Key Outcomes of the Visit



Economic Programme 2030



The Leaders welcomed the adoption of the Programme for the **Development of Strategic Areas of India – Russia Economic Cooperation till 2030 (Programme 2030)**.

Trade Target



timely achievement of the **revised bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030**.

Strategic Agreements Signed



India and Russia exchanged sixteen agreements in areas **related to defence, trade, economy, healthcare, academics, culture and media**.

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Push



Both sides are working towards the **early conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union**.

Migration Cooperation



India will soon be launching a free 30-day e-tourist visa and a **30-day Group Tourist Visa for Russian citizens**.

Cooperation in Global and Multilateral Platforms



The Russian side has decided to join the **International Big Cat Alliance**.

6. 150 Years of Vande Mataram



150 Years of Vande Mataram

CONTEXT India is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its national song, Vande Mataram.

Historical Background



It was composed by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** in Sanskrit and first appeared in the novel *Anandamath* in 1882.



First sung by **Rabindranath Tagore** at the **1896** Indian National Congress session gave it national exposure.



The song celebrates the motherland as an embodiment of **strength, prosperity, and divinity** and provided a poetic voice to India's awakening national consciousness.

Rise of National Consciousness



During the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**, Vande Mataram emerged as the anthem of civil resistance.

Vande Mataram, as a **political slogan** was first **used on 7 August 1905**.



For many young revolutionaries facing execution, **Vande Mataram became the last chant before martyrdom**, turning the song into a symbol of sacrifice.

In **1907**, **Madam Bhikaji Cama** raised the tricolour flag for the first-time outside India in Stuttgart, Berlin. The words Vande Mataram were written on the flag.



In October **1905**, a **Bande Mataram Sampradaya** was founded in North Calcutta to promote the idea of the Motherland as a mission and a religious passion.



In **1906**, an **English daily titled Bande Mataram** was launched under the editorship of **Bipin Chandra Pal**, with Aurobindo later joining as joint editor.



National Song



After independence, the Constituent Assembly deliberated on the status of Vande Mataram.



On **24 January 1950**, the first two stanzas were adopted as India's National Song.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay



Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was one of the **architects of modern Indian literature**.

Other works: *Durgeshanandini* (1865), *Kapalkundala* (1866), and *Devi Chaudhurani* (1884).



As a distinguished **novelist, poet, and essayist**, his contributions significantly influenced the **development of modern Bengali prose** and the articulation of an **emerging Indian nationalism**.



7. Deepavali Added to UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List



DEEPAVALI ADDED TO UNESCO INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE LIST



CONTEXT:

- Deepavali has been inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 20th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee, held in New Delhi.
- India is hosting the 20th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2025 in Red Fort complex, New Delhi.

About Intangible Cultural Heritage

UNESCO defines "intangible" as "expressions that have:



1. Passed from one generation to another.



2. Evolved in response to their environments.



3. Contributed to giving us a sense of identity and continuity.

Deepavali



Deepavali, also known as Diwali, celebrated on Kartik Amaavasya, which typically falls in **October or November**.



It is followed by **Naraka Chaturdashi**.



The **third day** is the highlight of Deepavali- the sacred **Lakshmi- Ganesha Puja**.

According to an official document by UNESCO, 'intangible cultural heritage' includes "oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts."

To date, 16 Indian elements have been inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List (including Deepavali)

S. No.	ICH Heritage	Year of Inscription
1	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre	2008
2	Tradition of Vedic chanting	2008
3	Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana	2008
4	Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India	2009
5	Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala	2010
6	Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan	2010
7	Chhau dance	2010
8	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh	2012
9	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur	2013
10	Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India	2014
11	Yoga	2016
12	Nawrouz, Novruz, Nowrouz, Nowrouz, Nawrouz, Nauryz, Nooruz,	2016
13	Kumbh Mela	2017
14	Durga Puja in Kolkata	2021
15	Garba of Gujarat	2023
16	Deepavali	2025

8. PM Modi Becomes 1st Head Of Government To Receive Ethiopia's Highest Award



In News



Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred with Ethiopia's highest award, **'The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia'**, by his Ethiopian counterpart Abiy Ahmed Ali.



The award was conferred upon Prime Minister Modi in a special ceremony hosted at the **Addis International Convention Centre**.



Prime Minister Modi is the **first global head of state/head of government** to receive this award.



Prime Minister Modi was conferred with the award for his **exceptional contribution towards strengthening India-Ethiopia partnership** and for his visionary leadership as a global statesman

Ethiopia



Location

Ethiopia is a landlocked country located in the Horn of Africa.



Bordering countries

It shares borders with Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Sudan.



Geography

The country has diverse topography, including the Ethiopian Highlands, the Great Rift Valley, and the Danakil Depression (one of the hottest places on Earth).



Archaeological Importance: It is the Cradle of Humankind, with some of the oldest hominid fossils discovered here.



Ethiopia is widely recognised as the birthplace of coffee.



The **Blue Nile** originates from Lake Tana in Ethiopia.



INTERNATIONAL AWARDS TO PM MODI



SL. No	COUNTRY	AWARD NAME	Year
1	Oman	The First Class of the Order of Oman	2025
2	Ethiopia	Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia	2025
3	Namibia	Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis	2025
4	Brazil	Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross	2025
5	Trinidad and Tobago	Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago	2025
6	Ghana	Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana	2025
7	Cyprus	Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III	2025
8	Sri Lanka	Mitra Vibhushana	2025
9	Mauritius	Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean	2025
10	Barbados	Honorary Order of Freedom	2025
11	Kuwait	Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer	2024
12	Dominica	Dominica Award of Honour	2024
13	Guyana	Order of Excellence	2024
14	Nigeria	Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger	2024
15	Russia	Order of St. Andrew the Apostle	2019
16	Greece	Grand Cross of the Order of Honour	2023
17	France	Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour	2023
18	Egypt	Order of the Nile	2023
19	Fiji	Order of Fiji	2023
20	Republic of Palau	Ebakl Award	2023
21	Papua New Guinea	Order of Logohu	2023
22	Bhutan	Order of the Druk Gyalpo (Dragon King)	2021
23	Bahrain	King Hamad Order of the Renaissance	2019
24	Maldives	Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddeen	2019
25	United Arab Emirates	Order of Zayed	2019
26	United Nations	UN Champion of the Earth Award	2018
27	Palestine	Grand Collar of the State of Palestine	2018
28	Afghanistan	State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan	2016
29	Saudi Arabia	Order of King Abdulaziz	2016

9. Private Sector Entry in India's Nuclear Sector



PRIVATE SECTOR ENTRY IN INDIA'S NUCLEAR SECTOR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the government is moving towards opening up the nuclear sector for private players.

India's Nuclear Sector



Nuclear power plants in India are **owned and operated only by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)**.



Key legislations - To allow private sector participation the government has proposed amendments to key legislations.



Atomic Energy Act, 1962, a framework for nuclear energy development and regulation.



Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, ensuring compensation mechanisms for nuclear incidents.

Additional Information - Nuclear Energy



Definition - Nuclear energy is the **energy released during nuclear reactions**, either through fission (splitting of atomic nuclei) or fusion (merging of atomic nuclei).

Status of Nuclear power capacity in India



Nuclear power capacity of India - 8,180 MW, spread across 24 nuclear power reactors.



Nuclear power capacity target - 100 GW by 2047



Capacity Expansion: 10 new reactors (totaling 8 GW) under construction across **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh**.

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS UNDER OPERATION IN INDIA

RAJASTHAN ATOMIC POWER PLANT-1 (RAPS-1), (RAPS-2), (RAPS-3), (RAPS-4), (RAPS-5), (RAPS-6)
KOTA, RAJASTHAN

KAKRAPAR ATOMIC POWER PLANT-1, (KAPS-1)
TAPI, GUJARAT

TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER PLANT-1, (TAPS-1), (TAPS-2), (TAPS-3)
BOISAR, MAHARASHTRA

KAIGA GENERATING STATION-1 (KGS-1), (KGS-2), (KGS-3), (KGS-4)
KAIGA, KARNATAKA

NARORA ATOMIC POWER PLANT-1 (NAPS-1, 2)
NARORA, UTTAR PRADESH

MADRAS ATOMIC POWER PLANT-1, (MAPS 1,2)
KALPAKKAM, TAMIL NADU

KUDANKULAM NUCLEAR POWER STATION-1, (KKNS 1,2)
KUDANKULAM, TAMIL NADU



10. Karnataka's Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill

KARNATAKA'S HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIMES (PREVENTION) BILL



The State Cabinet approved the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025.

Objective - to effectively curb, prevent, dissemination, publication or promotion of hate speech and hate crimes, which cause disharmony and hatred in society.



Key Features of the Bill

Purpose and Scope: It seeks to prevent dissemination, publication, and promotion of hate speech and hate crimes.



It aims to curb actions causing injury, disharmony, enmity, or hatred against individuals, groups, or organisations.



It is applicable to both persons and institutions.



The prejudicial interest includes religion, race, caste or community, sex, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth, residence, language, disability or tribe.



The offences are cognisable, non-bailable, and triable by the Judicial Magistrate First Class.



Hate speech definition - It includes any expression which is made, published, or circulated in words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or through electronic communication in public view, with an intention to cause injury, disharmony, or feelings of enmity or hatred or ill-will against a person alive or dead, a class or group of persons, or a community to meet any prejudicial interest.



The punishment for hate crime includes imprisonment from one to seven years and a fine of ₹50,000.



Alignment with Central Laws: The Bill incorporates provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 for procedural uniformity.



Constitutional Provisions

Article 19(2) - It deals with the reasonable restrictions that can be placed on the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a).



Article 19(2)



Conditions under which speech can be restricted by the state: Security of the State, Public Order, Decency or Morality, Contempt of Court, Defamation, Incitement to Offense.



Steps taken address hate speech

Indian Penal Code (IPC) / Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023: Specific sections like Section 153A, Section 295A, etc in penal codes criminalize promoting enmity between groups (religion, race, language), outraging religious feelings, or inciting public fear/disorder.



Representation of the People Act, 1951: Sec. 123(3), 123(3A): Prohibit political speech that promotes hatred or appeals to religion, caste, community during elections.

In the case of Amish Devgan v. Union of India (2020) the Supreme Court of India addressed the balance between freedom of speech and expression (Article 19) and the need to restrict hate speech to maintain public order and communal harmony.



The Supreme Court, in the case of Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India (2014), acknowledged the lack of specific legislation on hate speech and recommended that the Parliament enact a comprehensive law to address this issue

11. Cantonment Railway Colony heritage site tag withdrawn



CANTONMENT RAILWAY COLONY HERITAGE SITE TAG WITHDRAWN,

In News

The state government has withdrawn the biodiversity heritage tag for the 8.61-acre wooded area near the Cantonment railway station.

BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITES (BHS)

Definition



They are specific locations with rich, unique, and ecologically fragile ecosystems, including terrestrial, coastal, inland, or marine areas.

Notified by



These are areas notified by state governments under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

India's first BHS was Nallur Tamarind Grove in Karnataka in 2007.



Objective



It aims to improve local livelihoods and conserve biodiversity through community participation via Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).



Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) of Karnataka



Biodiversity Heritage Site	Location	Year Accorded	Area/Details	Significance
Nallur Tamarind Grove	Bengaluru	2007	54 acres	India's first BHS; ancient tamarind trees, rich flora and fauna
Hogrekan Shola Forest	Chikkamagaluru	Notified pre-2020	Part of shola forests, wildlife corridor	Connects Kudremukha and Bhadra Sanctuaries; diverse vegetation
University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK)	Bengaluru	Notified pre-2020	Large green campus	Ecologically important urban biodiversity hotspot
Ambaragudda	Shivamogga	Notified pre-2020	Shola forest and grasslands	Important for endemic species and conservation
Mamadapura Reserve Forest	Vijayapura	2024	Approximately 1494 acres	Also called Shri Siddeshwara Swamiji BHS; deciduous forest with diverse flora and fauna

12. Technical team to expedite Mekedatu project

STATE FORMS TECHNICAL TEAM TO EXPEDITE MEKEDATU PROJECT



In News

- The Karnataka government has issued a notification to form a team led by the **Karnataka Engineering Research Station (KERS)** director **K.G.MAHESH** to expedite the Mekedatu project "in view of the favourable Supreme Court order".
- Composition : The team under the KERS director will comprise an executive engineer, three technical assistants, six assistant engineers, one accountant, a superintendent and other staff.
- Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that the **project office** for the mekedatu project would be set up in **Ramanagara**.
- The Cauveri Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (CNNL)** will take steps to set up the Mekedatu project office.

Connect with the basics - Cauvery River System

Origin - Talakaveri



Flowing - Eastern



Total length of the River - 805 km



Flows through - Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu & Pondicherry.

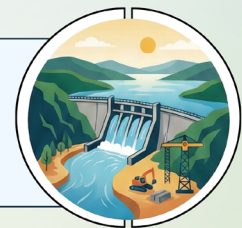


Tributaries - Arkavathy, Shimsha, Hemavati, Kapila, Honnuhole, Amravati, Lakshmana Tirtha, Kabini, Lokapavani, Bhavani and Noyyal.



Mekedatu Project

- The Mekedatu project is a balancing reservoir and drinking water project.
- Built across - It is to be built at the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers by the Karnataka Government.



Objective - The project is aimed at solving the drinking water problems of the Bengaluru and Ramanagara district.



Significance - It would also generate 400 MW of hydroelectric power.



Concerns with the project - Almost 63% of the forest area of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary will be submerged because of the project.



13. Karnataka Non-major Ports Iron Ore Handling Policy, 2025



KARNATAKA NON-MAJOR PORTS IRON ORE HANDLING POLICY, 2025

In News

State government approves policy for iron ore exports from non-major ports in Karnataka

Background



Amid large-scale violation of rules in extraction of iron ore and large quantities of iron ore export illegally, the State government had banned export of iron ore from 10 non-major ports in 2010 **under the Karnataka Ports (Landing and Shipping Fees) Act, 1961.**



However, in 2022, the Supreme Court allowed export of iron ore from these ports strictly under the policy of Indian government.



It permitted export of iron ore through ports in Karnataka as is being done in the rest of the country.

About new policy



Objective : handling of iron ore through non-major ports under the **Karnataka Maritime Board.**



To clear the **export of iron ore from minor ports in Karnataka**, the State government approved Karnataka Non-major Ports Iron Ore Handling Policy, 2025



“The policy is a **standard operating procedure** for the export of iron ore from these ports.



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Context

- ◆ The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 1, 2025.

The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- ◆ **The Bill seeks to amend the Central Excise Act, 1944.**
- ◆ The Act provides for the levy and collection of central excise duties on goods manufactured or produced in India.
- ◆ The Bill increases central excise duty on unmanufactured tobacco, manufactured tobacco, tobacco products, and tobacco substitutes.
- ◆ Unmanufactured tobacco (such as sun-cured tobacco leaves) from 64% to 70%.

2. SC widens ambit of POSH

In News

- ◆ **The Supreme Court has expanded the jurisdiction of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act),**
- ◆ SC said that the complaints should be filed not just at the accused's workplace but also at the complainant's workplace or any employment-related site.

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (PoSH)

- ◆ **Sexual harassment defined** - Sexual harassment includes "any one or more" of the following "unwelcome acts or behaviour" committed directly or by implication: Physical contact and advances, a demand or request for sexual favours, sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, any other unwelcome physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct of a

sexual nature.

- ◆ **Obligation** - Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at each office or branch with 10 or more employees.
- ◆ **Complaint Committees** - ICC has powers similar to those of a civil court in respect of summoning and examining any person on oath and requiring the discovery and production of documents.
- ◆ **Time** - The complaint must be made "within three months from the date of the incident".
- ◆ **Conciliation** - The ICC may (at the request of the aggrieved woman) allow the matter to be settled through conciliation (but no monetary settlement allowed)
- ◆ **Punishment** - Non-compliance with the provisions of the Act shall be punishable with a fine of up to Rs 50,000.

3. MahaCrimeOS AI

Context

- ◆ Microsoft Chairman Satya Nadella announced the statewide rollout of its AI-powered investigation platform for the Maharashtra Police "MahaCrimeOS AI".

MahaCrimeOS

- ◆ **Jointly developed by** - Microsoft & Maharashtra Government and its specialised AI policing initiative, MARVEL (Maharashtra Research and Vigilance for Enhanced Law Enforcement).

Key Features and Functionality

- ◆ **Instant Case Creation:** The system enables instant digital case file creation, reducing manual effort.
- ◆ **Multimodal Data Extraction:** It can ingest complaints in various formats, such as PDFs, audio files, handwritten notes, or images, and extract relevant data for analysis.
- ◆ **AI-Powered Investigation:** Using AI-based Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), it helps investigators link related cases and analyze digital evidence rapidly.
- ◆ **Legal Assistance:** It provides contextual legal assistance and guidance based on India's criminal laws, aiding officers in legal compliance and procedure.

4. Sanchar Saathi App



Context

- ◆ Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed phone makers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app on devices sold from March 2026 onwards.

Sanchar Saathi

- ◆ **Launched by** - Department of Telecommunications
- ◆ **Objective** - to help users report and protect against mobile related fraud and theft.

Key Features

- ◆ **Chakshu:** Users report suspected fraud via calls, SMS, or WhatsApp, targeting scams like fake KYC updates.
- ◆ **IMEI Tracking and Blocking:** Tracks and blocks lost/stolen phones nationwide across all telecom networks.
- ◆ **Verify Mobile Handset Genuineness:** Checks if a device is authentic using IMEI or barcode scan.
- ◆ **Report Masked International Calls:** Flags calls from abroad disguised as local (+91 followed by 10 digits).
- ◆ **Know Your Internet Service Provider:** Searches wireline ISPs by PIN code, address, or name.

5. Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025

Context

- ◆ The Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare introduced the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): Bill, 2025 in Lok Sabha.

Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025

- ◆ It will replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA).
- ◆ The move will mark a shift from a “demand-driven framework” to a “supply-driven scheme”.

Key Statutory Provisions

- ◆ **Enhanced Livelihood Guarantee:** It will enhance the statutory wage **employment guarantee to 125 from 100 days per rural household in every financial year**, for adults who volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work.
- ◆ **Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** The scheme will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with **shared responsibilities between the Centre and States**.
- ◆ The fund sharing pattern will be **90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States/UT and 60:40 for all other States**.
- ◆ **Normative Allocation to States based:** States will ensure transparent and need-based intra-State distribution of funds across Districts and Gram Panchayats, taking into account the category of the Panchayats and local developmental needs.
- ◆ **Wage rate specification:** **Wage rates for unskilled manual work will be specified by the Central Government;** until separate rates are notified, existing MGNREGA wage rates will apply.
- ◆ **Securing peak agricultural seasons:** States will be empowered to notify in advance, a period aggregating to 60 days in a financial year covering peak sowing and harvesting during which works under the Bill will not be undertaken, **facilitating sufficient farm labour at critical times**.
- ◆ **Unemployment allowance:** If eligible applicants are not provided work within the stipulated period, **State Governments will be obliged to pay unemployment allowance**.
- ◆ **State schemes within six months:** Every **State Government must notify its Scheme to operationalise the guarantee within six months of the Bill's commencement**.
- ◆ **VGPP based planning:** Planning will be undertaken through **Viksit Gram Panchayat**

Plans, prepared by Gram Panchayats and integrated with national spatial planning systems.

- ♦ **Institutional Oversight:** The Central Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Council and the State Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Councils shall be constituted for review, monitoring and effective implementation of the provisions of the legislation in their respective areas.

6. Appointment to Chief Information Commissioner



Context

- ♦ The President of India administered the oath of office to Raj Kumar Goyal as the Chief Information Commissioner of the Central Information Commission.

Central Information Commission (CIC)

- ♦ **Established** - in 2005 by the Central Government under the provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- ♦ **Objective** - It hears appeals against public authorities who have not provided information satisfactorily to the public and also addresses major issues concerning the RTI Act.
- ♦ **Annual report** - CIC submits an annual report to

the Union government on the implementation of the provisions of RTI Act.

Composition of CIC

- ♦ **Head** - The CIC is headed by the Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
- ♦ **Tenure** - The Chief Information Commissioner holds office for five years or until he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. He is not eligible for reappointment.
- ♦ **Appointment of the commissioner in CIC** - The commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a selection committee.
- ♦ **Selection committee** - It consists of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

State Information Commission

- ♦ **The Right to Information Act of 2005 provides for the creation of a State Information Commission at the state level.**
- ♦ The State Information Commission is a high powered independent body which inter-alia looks into the complaints made to it and decides the appeals.
- ♦ It entertains complaints and appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc under the concerned state government.
- ♦ **Composition** - State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten State Information Commissioners appointed by the Governor.

7. National Blood Transfusion Bill 2025

Context

- ♦ The National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025 was introduced in Parliament to establish a dedicated legal and institutional framework for blood transfusion services in India.

National Blood Transfusion Bill 2025

- ♦ **Background** - Blood transfusion services are regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics

Act, 1940, which is **considered inadequate for managing blood** as a life-saving public resource.

Key Provisions of the National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025

- ◆ Establishment of a **National Blood Transfusion Authority (NBTA) as a statutory body.**

NBTA to prescribe uniform national standards for:

- ◆ Collection, testing and processing of blood
- ◆ Storage, distribution, issuance and transfusion of blood and blood components.
- ◆ Mandatory registration of all blood centres across the country.
- ◆ Introduction of strict penalties for unsafe, unethical or non-compliant practices.
- ◆ Promotion of voluntary blood donation through coordinated national programmes.
- ◆ Creation of a national haemovigilance system to monitor transfusion-related adverse events.

8. Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Context

- ◆ The Supreme Court laid down **guidelines on how courts must sensitively appreciate the evidence of minor victims of trafficking and prostitution.**

Constitutional Safeguards in India

- ◆ **Article 23:** Prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labor.
- ◆ **Article 21:** Ensures the right to life and personal liberty, which has been interpreted to include the right to live with dignity.
- ◆ **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.

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.
- ◆ **India set up Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in 2007.**

9. 'Support to Poor Prisoners' Scheme

In News

- ◆ **The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) revised the guidelines of the 'Support to Poor Prisoners' scheme due to sub-optimal implementation by several States and Union Territories.**

'Support to Poor Prisoners' Scheme

- ◆ **Objective - to provide financial assistance to States/UTs for extending relief to poor prisoners who are unable to secure bail or release from prison due to non-payment of fine, on account of financial constraints.**

10. Anti dowry laws

In News

- ◆ The Supreme Court issued systemic directions to strengthen enforcement of anti-dowry laws.

Dowry Cases In India

- ◆ NCRB's Crime in India 2023 report confirms a **14% rise in cases under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, reaching 15,489 from 13,479 in 2022, alongside 6,156 dowry deaths nationwide.**
- ◆ **Uttar Pradesh topped with 7,151 cases and 2,122 deaths, followed by Bihar, Karnataka,**

and Madhya Pradesh.

Legal Status in India

- ♦ The **payment of dowry has long been prohibited** under specific Indian laws including the Dowry Prohibited under specific Indian law including:

Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

- ♦ **Mandate** - To prohibit giving or taking of dowry.
- ♦ **Imprisonment** - Anyone who violates this law is punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than five years, and fine of not less than Rs 15,000.

11. Citizenship Under CAA Only After Scrutiny: SC

Context

- ♦ **The Supreme Court of India has recently clarified that citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) is not automatic.**
- ♦ Applicants must meet all conditions of naturalisation, and the Union government must examine each case individually.

Key Features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

- ♦ **Purpose and Objective:** The CAA amends the Citizenship Act of 1955 to provide Indian citizenship to certain persecuted minorities from neighboring countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Bangladesh.
- ♦ **Eligible Communities:** The Act specifically covers six non-Muslim religious communities of Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians.
- ♦ Individuals from these communities **who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, without valid travel documents or whose documents expired, are eligible for citizenship.**
- ♦ **Exemption from 'Illegal Migrant' Status:** Such persons shall not be treated as illegal migrants under the Act, enabling them to apply for citizenship through naturalization.
- ♦ The required **period of residence in India for naturalization has been reduced from 11**

years to 5 years for these groups.

- ♦ **Applicability Exceptions: The Act does not apply to:**
- ♦ **Tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura** (as included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution).
- ♦ **Areas under the 'Inner Line Permit' system** (Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur).

Connect with the basics - Pathways to Indian Citizenship

- ♦ **Constitutional Foundations: Articles 5–11 of Constitution of India (Part II) lays down the initial framework for citizenship** at the time of its commencement:
 1. **Article 5:** Grants citizenship to persons domiciled in India at the commencement of the Constitution.
 2. **Article 6:** Covers migrants from Pakistan, granting citizenship under certain conditions.
 3. **Article 7:** Addresses those who migrated to Pakistan but later returned.
 4. **Article 8:** Provides for citizenship of Indians residing abroad.
 5. **Article 9:** Bars dual citizenship, if a person voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country, they forfeit Indian citizenship.
 6. **Article 10:** Ensures that existing citizens continue to enjoy rights unless terminated under law.
 7. **Article 11:** Empowers Parliament to regulate citizenship by law.

Statutory Provisions: The Citizenship Act, 1955:

- ♦ It provides the **legal framework for acquiring and terminating Indian citizenship.** Key modes of acquisition include:
 1. By Birth (Section 3)
 2. By Descent (Section 4)
 3. By Registration (Section 5)
 4. By Naturalization (Section 6)
 5. By Incorporation of Territory (Section 7).

12. Anti-Defection Law

Context

- ◆ A private member’s bill titled “The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Amendment of the Tenth Schedule)” has been introduced in Lok Sabha.
- ◆ The Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, popularly known as the Anti-Defection Law, was added to the Constitution by the Constitution(Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985.

Whip

- ◆ A whip refers to an order to members of a party in the House to abide by a certain direction of the party.
- ◆ Political parties issue whips to their MPs to either vote for or against the bill, depending on their party line.
- ◆ Once the whip is issued, the MPs from each party will necessarily have to obey the whip or else risk losing their seat in Parliament.
- ◆ It is not mentioned in the constitution but is considered a parliamentary convention.
- ◆ Parties appoint a senior member from among their House contingents to issue whips — this member is called a chief whip, and he/ she is assisted by additional whips.

Anti Defection Law

- ◆ The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, also known as the anti-defection law, was added to prevent political defections.
- ◆ **Disqualification on ground of defection:** A legislator belonging to a political party will be disqualified if he/she:
 1. voluntarily gives up his party membership, or
 2. votes/abstains to vote in the House contrary to the direction issued by his political party.
 3. Independent members will be disqualified if they join a political party after getting elected to the House.
 4. Nominated members will be disqualified if they join any political party six months after getting nominated.
 5. A member is not disqualified if he has taken prior permission of his party, or if the voting or abstention is condoned by the party within 15 days.
 6. Exemptions in cases of merger: Members are exempted from such disqualification when at least two thirds of the original

political party merges with another political party.

7. the members must have become members of the party they have merged with/into,
8. or they should have not accepted the merger and choose to function as a separate group.
9. Decision making authority: The decision to disqualify a member from the House rests with the Chairman/Speaker of the House.

13. Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address (DHRUVA)

Context

- ◆ The Department of Posts (DoP) under the Ministry of Communications has proposed Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address (DHRUVA).

DHRUVA

- ◆ A national framework to create virtual, UPI-like address labels such as “name@entity” that serve as proxies for physical locations.
- ◆ The system is built as a part of its Digital Public Infrastructure initiatives and will allow private firms to participate.

14. Private Member Bill on Right to Disconnect

Context

- ◆ A private member bill “Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025”, reintroduced in the Lok Sabha.

Right to Disconnect

- ◆ The **Right to Disconnect** refers to an employee’s right to not engage in work-related communications—such as calls, emails, or messages—outside official working hours.
- ◆ It aims to protect workers from excessive digital connectivity and ensure a healthy work–life balance.

Key Features of the Bill

- ◆ The draft legislation proposes giving workers the legal right to ignore official communication outside designated working hours without

facing disciplinary action.

- ◆ Right to refuse after-hours calls, messages and emails without repercussions.
- ◆ Setting up an Employees' Welfare Authority to implement and monitor the right to disconnect.
- ◆ A national baseline study to assess digital communication burdens on employees outside work hours.

15. Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan Bill

Context

- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan Bill.

Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan Bill

- ◆ The bill proposes a **unified regulator for higher education, replacing existing statutory bodies** such as the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** and the **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)**.
- ◆ **UGC oversees non-technical higher education, the AICTE oversees technical education and the NCTE is the regulatory body for teachers' education.**
- ◆ **It follows recommendations in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for a single regulatory authority to streamline governance and oversight in India's higher education sector.**

16. Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill 2025

Context

- ◆ Recently, the Assam government introduced the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 in the State Assembly seeking to criminalize polygamy.

Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill 2025

- ◆ **Jurisdiction and Applicability:** The Bill, if become a law, is **applicable across Assam, except in areas under the Sixth Schedule (the Bodoland Territorial Region and the hill districts of Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong)** and among **Scheduled**

Tribes under Article 342, who are governed by customary laws that permit multiple marriages.

The Bill extends beyond Assam's borders to include:

- ◆ Residents of Assam entering into **polygamous marriages outside the State**, and;
- ◆ **Non-residents who own property in Assam** or benefit from State-funded schemes or subsidies.

Punishment and Penalties: The Bill prescribes:

- ◆ Up to **7 years of imprisonment and a fine for engaging in polygamy.**
- ◆ Up to **10 years of imprisonment** for those who **conceal an existing marriage before entering another.**
- ◆ **Double punishment for repeat offenders.**
- ◆ **Penalties for Religious Officials:** Clerics or priests who knowingly solemnize polygamous marriages may face fines up to **₹1.5 lakh, along with imprisonment.**
- ◆ Additionally, the Bill brings under its ambit **village heads, Qazis (Muslim clerics), and parents or guardians who assist in or conceal such marriages.**
- ◆ They may face up to **2 years in jail and fines up to ₹1 lakh.**
- ◆ A **designated authority aims to be established to process compensation claims from women affected by polygamous marriages** to ensure support and justice for victims.

17. Constitution Day

In News

- ◆ 26th November is being celebrated as Constitution Day to mark the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly (CA).

Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas, National Law Day)

- ◆ In 2015, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment notified the GOI's decision to celebrate the 26th November as Constitution Day.
- ◆ The day was celebrated as a tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar as Chairman of the Drafting

Committee.

Historical Background:

- ◆ **1934:** Demand for the Constituent Assembly was made by M.N. Roy.
- ◆ **1940:** Demand was accepted by the British government.
- ◆ **1946:** 9th December, CA conducted the first session on Draft Constitution.
- ◆ **1949:** 26th November, CA finally adopted the Constitution of India.
- ◆ **1950:** 26th January, the Constitution of India came into force.

Key Facts about Constituent Assembly

- ◆ Took **2 years, 11 months & 17 days** for drafting the Constitution of India.
- ◆ **Dr Sachchidananda Sinha** was appointed as **1st President of CA.**
- ◆ **Dr Rajendra Prasad** was the **chairman of the Constituent Assembly.**
- ◆ **Jawaharlal Nehru (PM)** made the ‘**Objectives Resolution**’ on **13th December 1946**, later adopted as **Preamble on 22nd Jan 1947.**
- ◆ The constituent assembly acted as the temporary legislature until a new one was to be constituted.

Brief About Constitution Of India

- ◆ **The longest written constitution of the World (25 Parts & 12 Schedules)**
- ◆ The **Constitution of India** wasn't typed or printed and is **handwritten & stored in a Helium filled case.**
- ◆ It was **handcrafted by the artists of Shantiniketan** under the guidance of **Acharya Nandalal Bose.**

inclusion in India.

Strategic Pillars of the Panch-Jyoti

- 1. Enhancing Financial Services:** Provide equitable, responsible, and affordable financial services for households and micro-enterprises.
- 2. Gender-Sensitive Inclusion:** Implement women-centric strategies and support vulnerable and underserved groups.
- 3. Linking Livelihoods and Finance:** Integrate skill development and livelihood programmes with formal financial services.
- 4. Financial Education:** Use financial literacy to promote responsible financial behaviour and discipline.
- 5. Consumer Protection:** Strengthen customer protection and grievance redressal mechanisms for better reliability and accessibility.

Government initiatives for financial inclusion

- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):** It was launched in 2015, to support small and micro enterprises with loans up to ₹10 lakh.
- ◆ **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** - It was launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to track the process of ensuring access to financial services.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** Launched in 2015, PMSBY is an accident insurance scheme covering death and disability.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):** Launched in 2015, PMJJBY is a government-backed life insurance scheme.
- ◆ **Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** It was launched in 2015 and provides social security to unorganised sector workers.
- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):** Launched in 2014, PMJDY aimed to bring the unbanked into the formal financial system by expanding access to savings accounts, credit, remittance, insurance, and pensions.

ECONOMY

1. National Strategy For Financial Inclusion 2025–30

Context

- ◆ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the **National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025–30**, outlining a **five-year plan (Panch-Jyoti)** to deepen and **widen financial**

2. Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

In News

- ◆ RBI's 2025 list confirms that State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank continue as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)

- ◆ D-SIBs are banks considered “too big to fail.”
- ◆ Their collapse can trigger system-wide financial instability, so they are placed under special regulation and higher supervision.
- ◆ Concept introduced globally after the 2008 Global Financial Crisis.
- ◆ Based on Basel-III guidelines, RBI released the D-SIB framework in 2014, it identifies banks based on: Size (Total exposures), interconnectedness, substitutability (difficulty of replacing services) & complexity.

3. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

Context

- ◆ Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance warned that systemic inefficiencies and structural delays are undermining India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) effectiveness.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016

- ◆ It provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals.
- ◆ **Insolvency definition** - It is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.
- ◆ **Bankruptcy definition** - It is a situation whereby a court of competent jurisdiction has declared a person or other entity insolvent, having passed appropriate orders to resolve it and protect the rights of the creditors. It is a legal declaration of one's inability to pay off debts.
- ◆ **Significance** - It aims to remove bottlenecks, streamline the corporate insolvency resolution process and protect the last mile funding in order to boost investment in financially distressed sectors.

Adjudicating authority

- ◆ National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for

companies and LLPs.

- ◆ Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for individuals and partnership firms.

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

- ◆ **Established under** - It is a quasi-judicial body constituted under section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013 in 2016.
- ◆ **Recommendation** - The tribunal was established based on the recommendation of the V. Balakrishna Eradi committee on the law relating to insolvency and the winding up of companies.
- ◆ **Objective** - The tribunal deals with matters mainly related to companies Act and insolvency law.

4. Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) Gets Navratna status

Context

- ◆ Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) has been accorded 'Navratna' status.
- ◆ It becomes the 27th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to be accorded the status.

Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)

- ◆ **Location**-It is a petroleum refinery situated at Numaligarh in Golaghat district of Assam.
- ◆ India's central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) are classified into three major categories – Miniratna, Navratna and Maharatna CPSEs.

Classification

- ◆ **Miniratna Status:** CPSEs are put in two sub-categories under the Miniratna status – Miniratna-I and Miniratna – II.
- ◆ **Navratna status:** PSUs that have a Miniratna-I status and have obtained an “Excellent” or “Very Good” MoU rating in three out of the last five years.
- ◆ **Maharatna status:** A PSU is eligible for being granted a “Maharatna” status, in case it meets the following criteria:
 1. Should have a “Navratna” status
 2. Should be listed on the Indian stock exchanges
 3. Should be compliant with minimum shareholding norms
 4. Average annual turnover of more than

₹25,000 crore and average annual net worth of over ₹15,000 crore in the last three years

- ♦ Average annual net profit of over ₹5,000 crore in the last three years along with significant global presence.
- ♦ BHEL, BPCL, Coal India, GAIL, HPCL, Indian Oil, NTPC, ONGC are some of the Maharatna PSUs.

5. Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

Context

- ♦ The Government has approved the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) with ₹25,060 crore to boost exports, especially for MSMEs and labour-intensive sectors.

Export Promotion Mission

- ♦ **Launched in** - Union Budget for 2025-26, the Finance Minister announced an Export Promotion Mission.
- ♦ **Objective** - It would facilitate easy access to export credit, cross-border factoring support, and support to MSMEs to tackle non-tariff measures in overseas markets.
- ♦ **Duration** - 2025-26 to FY 2030-31.

Two Integrated Sub-Schemes: Niryat Protsahan & Niryat Disha.

Financial Support (Niryat Protsahan)

- ♦ **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE):** Provides 100% coverage by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC).
- ♦ Additional credit facilities up to ₹20,000 crore to eligible exporters (including MSMEs).
- ♦ Enables collateral-free credit, improving liquidity and competitiveness.

Non-Financial Support (Niryat Disha)

- ♦ **Addressing Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs):** Funding for compliance, certifications, and technical standards.
- ♦ **Market Acquisition & Branding:** Assistance for international exhibitions, packaging, and branding.
- ♦ **Logistics Cost Reduction:** Support for supply chain efficiency and trade facilitation.

6. UPI Recognized as World's Largest Real-Time Payment System by IMF

In News

- ♦ **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) report** on 'Growing Retail Digital Payments (The Value of Interoperability)' dated June 2025 had recognized **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as the world's largest retail fast-payment system (FPS) by transaction volume.**

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

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

Additional Information - National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

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

Products of NPCI

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

7. 'Your Money, Your Right' Movement

In News

- ♦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to participate in the 'Your Money, Your Right' movement.

‘Your Money, Your Right’ movement

- ◆ It is an initiative, **launched in October 2025**
- ◆ It was designed to **ensure citizens can reclaim their rightful assets.**
- ◆ It aimed at **helping people recover unclaimed deposits, insurance proceeds, dividends and other financial assets.**
- ◆ Significance - It offers individuals a chance to **convert forgotten financial assets into usable funds.**

Do you know?

- ◆ Indian banks currently hold about **₹78,000 crore in unclaimed deposits.**
- ◆ **Insurance companies have nearly ₹14,000 crore lying unclaimed,** mutual fund companies around ₹3,000 crore, and unclaimed dividends amount to roughly ₹9,000 crore.

Various Steps

- ◆ Dedicated online portals have been created to enable easy tracking and claiming of funds:
- ◆ RBI UDGM Portal for unclaimed bank deposits
- ◆ IRDAI Bima Bharosa Portal for unclaimed insurance proceeds
- ◆ SEBI MITRA Portal for unclaimed mutual fund amounts; and
- ◆ IEPFA Portal for unpaid dividends and unclaimed shares.
- ◆ Facilitation camps have been held in 477 districts across the country, with a focus on rural and remote areas.

8. Trump Threatens Tariffs on Indian Rice

Context

- ◆ The US President warned of new tariffs on agricultural imports, especially on rice imports from India as trade talks continue without major progress.

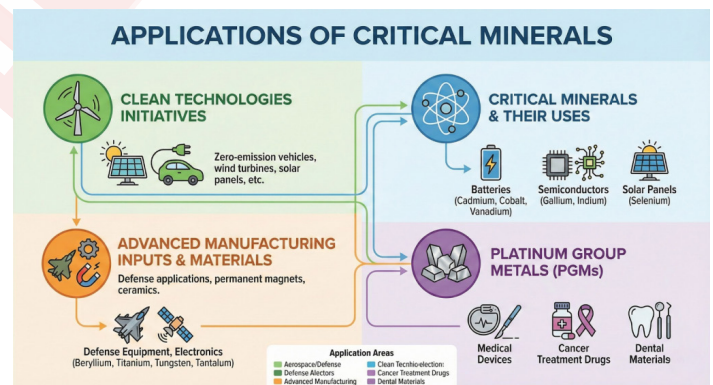
India’s Rice Exports

- ◆ **China is the largest producer of rice in the world, followed by India, Bangladesh and Indonesia.**
- ◆ **India is the world’s largest exporter of rice, accounting for 33 percent of the world’s total rice exports during 2023.**
- ◆ **India exports rice to 179 other countries.**

Facts and Conditions

- ◆ **Staple Food:** Rice is the primary **staple food for a majority of the Indian population.**
- ◆ **Production Leader:** **India is the world’s second-largest producer of rice** after China and the largest exporter globally.
- ◆ **Climatic Conditions:** It is a **Kharif (monsoon) crop requiring a hot and humid climate.**
- ◆ **Temperature:** Requires high temperatures, generally above 25°C.
- ◆ **Rainfall:** Needs **high annual rainfall, typically above 100 cm (ideally 150-300 cm).** It is grown with the help of irrigation in areas with less rainfall, such as Punjab and Haryana.
- ◆ **Soil:** Thrives in **fertile, clayey, or loamy soils that can retain water,** common in river valleys, flood plains, deltas, and coastal plains.
- ◆ **Major Producing States:** **West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab are leading producer states,** with Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Haryana known for high yields.

9. India out of Pax Silica Initiative



Context

- ◆ India has been excluded from the US-led Pax Silica initiative, a new US critical mineral diversification plan.

Pax Silica Initiative

- ◆ **Objective - It is a US-led strategic initiative to build a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain from critical minerals.**
- ◆ **Members - Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Australia.**

📖 Critical minerals

- ◆ **Definition** - Critical minerals are those minerals which are essential for economic development and national security
- ◆ Government has released a list of 30 critical minerals for India.
 - ◆ These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.
- ◆ The **Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957)** has identified critical and strategic minerals for the country.

10. CoalSETU Policy

📖 In News

- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the CoalSETU Policy.

📖 CoalSETU Policy

- ◆ **Objective** - It introduces a new system for coal linkage auctions aimed at improving transparency, efficiency, and flexibility in coal allocation for industrial use

11. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

📖 In News

- ◆ India showcased its achievements in rural development, women's empowerment and climate-resilient agriculture at the **IFAD-India Day event held in Rome.**

📖 International Fund for Agricultural Development

- ◆ **Headquartered in Rome, Italy,**
- ◆ It functions as a UN specialized agency established in 1977
- ◆ **Objective** - to combat rural poverty in developing nations through targeted financing.
- ◆ **Significance** - provides concessional loans,

grants, and technical assistance primarily to smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and rural entrepreneurs, emphasizing agriculture, climate resilience, value-chain development, and livelihood diversification.

12. Ponduru Khadi



📖 In News

- ◆ Ponduru Khadi from Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag recognition.

📖 Ponduru Khadi

- ◆ It is a handwoven fabric primarily produced from **short-staple, hill-variety, pest-resistant cotton** grown locally.
- ◆ This **cotton enables chemical-free farming practices, promoting sustainable agriculture and eco-friendly production** methods traditional to the region.

📖 Connect with the basics - Geographical Indication or GI Tag

- ◆ It is a name or a sign given to certain products related to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town, or country.
- ◆ **A certification for unique products** - GI Tag may be regarded as a certification for a particular product with certain specific qualities or has a

specific reputation because of its geographical origin.

- ◆ **GI Tags can be issued** for wine and spirit drinks, foodstuffs, agricultural products, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- ◆ **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** - At the International level, GI is governed by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- ◆ **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act** - In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in September 2003.
- ◆ **Darjeeling tea** - The first product in India to be accorded with the GI tag was Darjeeling tea in 2004-05.

13. Asian Development Bank (ADB)

In News

- ◆ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised India's growth forecast for FY26 to 7.2%, from 6.5%.
- ◆ About ADB
- ◆ ADB was established in 1966 as a regional development bank to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.
- ◆ Its headquarters is in Mandaluyong, Manila, Philippines.
- ◆ Its membership includes both regional (Asia-Pacific) and non-regional countries, with around two-thirds of UNESCAP members plus developed donor countries participating.
- ◆ India joined ADB in 1966 as a founding member.
- ◆ Major shareholders include Japan and the United States (15.6% each), followed by China (6.4%), India (6.3%) and Australia (5.8%), reflecting both regional and non-regional stake.

14. Trade Deficit

Context

- ◆ India's trade deficit dropped by more than 61% in November 2025 to \$6.6 billion, due to strong

growth in merchandise exports and a fall in merchandise imports.

Trade Deficit

- ◆ **Definition:** A trade deficit occurs when the value of a country's imports exceeds the value of its exports during a given period, leading to a negative Balance of Trade (BoT).
- ◆ **Balance of Trade (BoT) = Total Exports - Total Imports**

Types of Trade Deficit:

- ◆ **Merchandise (Goods) Trade Deficit:** Difference between exports and imports of physical goods.
- ◆ **Services Trade Deficit / Surplus:** Difference between services exports (IT, tourism, finance) and services imports. India typically runs a services surplus.
- ◆ **Bilateral Trade Deficit:** Trade deficit with a specific country (e.g., India-China trade deficit)
- ◆ **Indicator of net external demand:** Shows whether a country is a net importer or exporter in global trade.

15. GI-Tagged Indi Lime from Karnataka Enters Oman Market

In News

- ◆ India's agricultural exports received a boost with the export of 3 metric tonnes of GI-tagged Indi Lime from Vijayapura, Karnataka, to Oman.

Indi Lime

- ◆ Indi Lime is known for its distinctive aroma, high juice content and longer shelf life.
- ◆ It represents the agricultural heritage of northern Karnataka.
- ◆ The GI status of Indi Lime has played a crucial role in positioning the fruit competitively in global markets.
- ◆ The export of GI-tagged Indi Lime to Oman gains significance under the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) / Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which aims to strengthen economic ties and expand market access for Indian products.

Do you know?

- ◆ **The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** - It supports the **promotion, branding and export of GI-tagged agricultural products**, recognising the importance of promoting region-specific produce in international markets.

16. Securities Markets Code Bill 2025

Context

- ◆ The Union Finance Minister introduced the Securities Markets Code Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha.

Securities Markets Code Bill 2025

- ◆ The Bill proposes to consolidate the;
 1. Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956,
 2. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992, and
 3. The Depositories Act, 1996.

Key Provisions

- ◆ **Reforms in SEBI's Composition:** The strength of the **SEBI Board is proposed to be increased from 9 to 15 members, including the Chairperson.**

The reconstituted Board will include;

- ◆ The Chairperson.
- ◆ Two officials appointed by the Central Government.
- ◆ One ex-officio member from the Reserve Bank of India.
- ◆ Eleven other members, of whom at least five will be whole-time members. Currently there are three full-time members.

Additional Information - The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- ◆ It is the primary **regulatory body for the securities and capital markets in India.**
- ◆ Established as a **statutory body in 1992,**
- ◆ It operates under the **Ministry of Finance.**
- ◆ **Chairman: Tuhin Kanta Pandey** (as of 2025).
- ◆ **Headquarters: Mumbai with regional offices in New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Ahmedabad.**
- ◆ **Objective: To protect investor interests, promote market development, and regulate**

the securities market.

Key Functions and Powers

- ◆ **Protective:** Prevents insider trading, price rigging, and fraudulent practices.
- ◆ **Developmental:** Promotes investor education and trains intermediaries to enhance market transparency.
- ◆ **Regulatory:** Drafts regulations, conducts audits, and registers market participants like brokers and mutual funds.

17. New Logo for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)



FINANCE & TRUST

LIFE & GROWTH

In News

- ◆ **The Government of India, in collaboration with NABARD, has unveiled a common logo for all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under the "One RRB, One Logo" initiative, marking a significant step towards unifying the identity of RRBs across the country.**

"One RRB, One Logo" Initiative

- ◆ A reform measure **to introduce a single, uniform visual identity for all 43 Regional Rural Banks operating in India.**
- ◆ **Implemented jointly by** - Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance & National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

Objectives of the Initiative

- ◆ **Unified Identity:** Present RRBs as part of a single national banking system, rather than fragmented regional entities.
- ◆ **Customer Trust:** Improve public confidence by ensuring easy recognition and credibility.
- ◆ **Operational Integration:** Support recent

amalgamation and consolidation of RRBs.

- ◆ **Digital Readiness:** Align RRB branding with modern banking and digital financial services.

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

- ◆ Established under - Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976
- ◆ Objective - to expand institutional credit in rural areas & serve small farmers, SHGs, artisans and MSMEs.

RRBs have a tripartite ownership pattern:

- ◆ Government of India – 50%
- ◆ Concerned State Government – 15%
- ◆ Sponsor Bank – 35%.

18. Ratle Project

In News

- ◆ Recently, the **Jammu and Kashmir Police informed Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL)** that **29 workers employed at the under-construction 850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric Project in Kishtwar had alleged militant links or criminal backgrounds.**

The Ratle Hydroelectric Project (850 MW)

- ◆ **Location:** On the **Chenab River** near Drabshalla in Kishtwar district, Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir.**
- ◆ **Type and capacity:** Run-of-the-river scheme with a **total installed capacity of 850 MW** and a **133 m high concrete gravity dam** and associated underground power houses.

19. 11th India International Science Festival (IISF)

In News

- ◆ The 11th India International Science Festival (IISF) commenced in Panchkula, Haryana.

India International Science Festival (IISF)

- ◆ It was **launched in 2015**
- ◆ It is a major platform for scientific exchange, innovation, outreach, and public engagement.
- ◆ 2025 Theme : Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

IISF 2025 focus on five broad themes:

1. Science, Technology and Ecology of North-West India and the Himalayan Region;
2. Science for Society and Education;
3. Atmanirbhar Bharat through Science and Technology;
4. Biotechnology and Bio-economy; and
5. Integration of Traditional Knowledge with Modern Science.

20. Shyok Tunnel

In News

- ◆ The Defence Minister inaugurated Shyok Tunnel in eastern Ladakh and 124 other strategic border infra projects.

Shyok Tunnel

- ◆ It is the **920-metre cut-and-cover tunnel.**
- ◆ It would provide **all-weather connectivity to areas close to the LAC in eastern Ladakh, where India and China were locked in a military standoff.**
- ◆ **Significance** - It will also likely **reduce dependence on air maintenance and resolve logistical challenges in the difficult terrains.**
- ◆ **Uniqueness-** It is built in one of the world's toughest and most challenging terrain.

21. Dr. Verghese Kurien

In News

- ◆ 26th November commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien.

Dr. Verghese Kurien (1921-2012)

- ◆ He was the **architect of India's White Revolution** and is celebrated as the **“Father of the White Revolution.”**
- ◆ **Born in Kozhikode, Kerala, he spearheaded Operation Flood in 1970, which transformed India from a milk-deficient country into the world's largest milk producer.**
- ◆ He was instrumental in **establishing the Anand cooperative model, exemplified by Amul, which became a blueprint for dairy development across India.**
- ◆ His efforts also led to the **creation of**

institutions such as the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA).

- ♦ Dr. Kurien revolutionized the edible oil industry by launching the brand ‘Dhara’ in 1979.
- ♦ Awards received - Padma Vibhushan, Ramon Magsaysay Award, and the World Food Prize.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. Jal Jeevan Mission

In News

- ♦ Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of complaints and constituted about 84% of the total complaints received over financial irregularities and poor quality of work under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- ♦ Launched in - 2019
- ♦ Objective - to provide Functional Household Tap Connections
- ♦ Significance - to ensure 55 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water to all rural households by 2024.
- ♦ However, due to implementation challenges, the deadline has now been extended to 2028.
- ♦ Nodal Ministry - Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ♦ Financing - Central sponsored scheme

2. Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)

In News

- ♦ PM VIKAS is uplifting minority communities through skill development and promoting entrepreneurship.

Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)

- ♦ Financing - Central Sector Scheme
- ♦ Implementation - Ministry of Minority Affairs
- ♦ It converges five erstwhile schemes viz. ‘Seekho Aur Kamao’, ‘Nai Manzil’, ‘Nai Roshni’ and ‘USTTAD’ & ‘Hamari Dharohar’.

- ♦ Aim - It focuses on upliftment of six notified minority communities through skill development; entrepreneurship and leadership of minority women; and education support for school dropouts.

Do you know?

- ♦ Six officially recognized minority groups in India —Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians (Parsis)—on socio-economic fronts.

3. Jiyo Parsi Scheme

Context

- ♦ The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA), organised a comprehensive Advocacy and Outreach Workshop in Mumbai to promote the Jiyo Parsi Scheme.

Parsi Community in India

- ♦ According to the 2011 Census of India, the Parsi population in the country was 57,264.
- ♦ This represented a significant decrease of approximately 22% from the 2001 census figure of 69,601.

Jiyo Parsi Scheme

- ♦ Launched in - 2013-14
- ♦ Objective - to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions.

The scheme has three components:

- ♦ Medical Assistance: Provides financial aid for infertility treatments such as IVF, ICSI, surrogacy, and post-conception care.
- ♦ Advocacy: Provides for counselling of couples with fertility issues
- ♦ Health of the Community: Offers monthly financial support to Parsi couples with children as well as to dependent elderly members.

4. Samagra Shiksha Scheme

In News

- ♦ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan reiterated that States must meet the Samagra

Shiksha scheme's conditions to receive Central funds.

Samagra Shiksha Scheme

- ◆ **Launched in** - 2018-19
- ◆ **Financing** - Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- ◆ **Objective** - to provide equitable, inclusive, and quality education from pre-school to class 12.
- ◆ **Features** - It supports States and UTs through interventions such as composite school grants, libraries, sports, free uniforms and textbooks, ICT initiatives, remedial teaching, and leadership development.
- ◆ **Significance** - The scheme is aligned with NEP 2020

5. PM Internship Scheme

Context

- ◆ The PM Internship Scheme's pilot project has exceeded its target of providing 1.25 lakh internship opportunities in a year.

Prime Minister's Internship Scheme

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

6. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package

In News

- ◆ The Supreme court extends ₹50 Lakh Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKY) insurance to all doctors who died on COVID.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package

- ◆ The **PMGKY Insurance Scheme** is a specific component under the larger Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package, launched in March 2020.

- ◆ **Coverage:** Personal accident insurance cover of ₹50 lakh per eligible health worker.
- ◆ **Risks Covered:** Death due to COVID-19 infection.

7. ASPIRE Scheme

In News

- ◆ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is implementing the ASPIRE scheme to promote entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities in rural areas.

ASPIRE scheme

- ◆ **Launch:** In 2015 by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ◆ **Aim:** To create an enabling ecosystem for job creation through skill development, incubation and support to micro-enterprises.

Key Components:

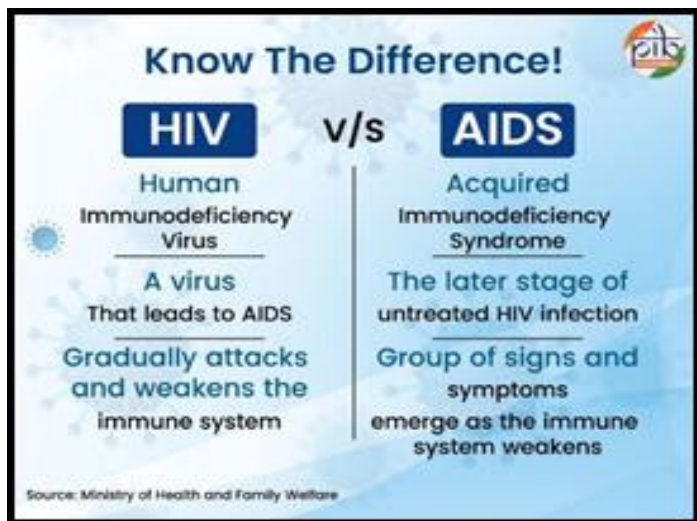
- ◆ **Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs):** Support agro-based ventures with grants up to ₹75 lakh (private) or ₹1 crore (government institutions) for training in food processing, handicrafts, and rural trades.
- ◆ **Technology Business Incubators (TBIs):** Focus on tech-driven rural innovation with similar funding.
- ◆ **Fund of Funds:** Managed by SIDBI with ₹200 crore corpus to back startups in agro-rural sectors.

Do you Know?

- ◆ Vendor Development Programmes for SC/ST and women entrepreneurs are being organised under the Public Procurement Policy for MSMEs.
- ◆ The 'Yashasvini Campaign' was launched in June 2024 to empower women entrepreneurs through awareness on formalisation, access to credit, capacity building and mentorship.
- ◆ The ministry is also implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), a credit-linked subsidy scheme to generate self-employment opportunities through micro-enterprises.

HEALTH AND SOCIETY

1. World AIDS Day



Context

- World AIDS Day is observed on December 1 every year.

World AIDS Day

- It is observed every year to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- It was first marked in 1988 by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Theme 2025: Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response.

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

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

- Treatment:** There is no cure for HIV infection. It is treated with antiretroviral drugs, which stop the virus from replicating in the body. Untreated HIV can progress to AIDS, often after many years.

Steps taken by Government of India

- National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) (Central Sector Scheme)**
- India has achieved the 6th MDG of halting and reversing the HIV epidemic.
- Prevention from Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) programme**
- HIV/AIDS Act 2017 (Prohibits discrimination against HIV-infected people on any grounds)**
- 90:90:90 strategy as adopted by UNAIDS** (90% (diagnosed, treatment (by anti-retroviral treatment (ART)) & suppression)) by 2020. Extended by 10 years with the goal post of 95-95-95.
- Project ACCELERATE (John Hopkin & NACO initiative):** To provide HIV Services through Safe Zindagi online portal.
- Mission Sampark:** Its purpose was to “bring back” people living with HIV (PLHIV) who had stopped antiretroviral therapy (ART).

2. WHO Backs Use of GLP-1 Drugs For Weight Loss

In News

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has released its first guideline on the use of Glucagon-Like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) therapies for treating obesity.

GLP-1 therapies

- GLP-1 therapies (glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists) are a class of medications that mimic the natural GLP-1 hormone, which helps regulate blood sugar and appetite.

Obesity

- It is a chronic complex disease defined by excessive fat deposits.
- It can lead to increased risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease, it can affect bone health and reproduction.
- It increases the risk of certain cancers and influences the quality of living, such as

sleeping or moving.

- ◆ As per NFHS-5, 24% of Indian women and 23% of Indian men are obese.

3. India's Commitment to Disability Rights

Context

- ◆ The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is observed annually on December 3.
- ◆ Aim - to promote the rights and well-being of people with disabilities.
- ◆ Theme 2025: "Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress."

India's Commitment to Disability Rights

- ◆ **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)** was adopted to ensure equal opportunity for PwDs.
- ◆ **According to Census 2011, there are 2.68 crore persons with disabilities in India** which constitute **2.21 percent of the total population.**

Constitutional Provisions

- ◆ **Article 21:** Guarantees the **right to life and personal liberty**, which includes the right to live with dignity.
- ◆ **Article 41(DPSP):** **Right to work, education, and public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, and disability.**
- ◆ **Seventh Schedule:** The subject of "**relief of the disabled and unemployable**" is listed under the state list, giving state governments jurisdiction over these matters.

India's Legal and Policy Framework for Disability Rights

- ◆ The **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** was enacted replacing the Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995.
- ◆ **India, as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**, is committed to building an accessible and inclusive society.

Government Initiatives and Schemes

- ◆ **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign):** Launched in 2015, the Campaign addresses **long-standing barriers faced by persons with disabilities.**
- ◆ The **Divyangjan Card**, also known as the

E-Ticketing Photo Identity Card (EPICS), is a **railway identity card for people with disabilities that allows them to get concessions on train travel.**

- ◆ The Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities project is being implemented to create a national database of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)
- ◆ **PM-DAKSH - It is a one-stop hub connecting persons with disabilities, training institutes, employers, and job aggregators** under the national skill & employment ecosystem.
- ◆ **Promotion of Indian Sign Language (ISL): The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)**, set up in 2015 under DEPwD, serves as the nodal institution for advancing ISL across India.
- ◆ In 2024, Government launched **PM e-vidya Channel 31 on DTH**, exclusively dedicated to ISL training for hearing-impaired students, special educators, and interpreters.

4. Malaria Parasites

Context

- ◆ A recent Nature Physics study reveals that malaria sporozoites, the infectious forms injected by mosquitoes, move through human skin using right-handed helical (corkscrew) paths.

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.

5. Leprosy

Context

- ◆ The Supreme Court has directed the NHRC to address discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.

Leprosy in India

- ◆ **India continues to report about 57 % of leprosy cases worldwide,**
- ◆ **States with highest prevalence of leprosy** - Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha.

Elimination efforts -

- ◆ **National Strategic Plan (NSP) and Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27)** - Launched in 2023, to achieve **zero transmission of leprosy by 2027**.
- ◆ The **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.3** aims to **end leprosy by 2030**.
- ◆ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared **Jordan as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy in 2024**.

Leprosy

- ◆ Leprosy is also known as **Hansen's disease**.
- ◆ **Pathogen** - It is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria, **Mycobacterium leprae**.
- ◆ It is known to occur **at all ages ranging from early childhood to old age**.
- ◆ **Symptoms**: The disease predominantly affects the **skin and peripheral nerves**.
 1. **Loss of sensation** in affected areas.
 2. Left untreated, the disease may cause **progressive and permanent disabilities**.
- ◆ **Transmission**: Through **droplets from the nose and mouth**.
- ◆ **Treatment**: **Leprosy is a curable disease** through the multi-drug therapy (MDT).

6. Inhalable Microplastics (iMPs)

In News

- ◆ Recent study has revealed the **presence of inhalable microplastics (iMPs) in the air of major Indian markets**, marking them as a **new class of pollutants comparable to PM2.5 and PM10**.

Inhalable microplastics (iMPs)

- ◆ They are **plastic particles less than 10 micrometres (microns) in size and can enter human lungs through the nose**.
- ◆ It found the **highest concentrations in Kolkata and Delhi**, with iMPs contributing up to **5% of urban particulate matter, largely from synthetic clothing, packaging, tyre wear, and footwear**.
- ◆ **Inhalable microplastics (iMPs) can penetrate deep into the lungs, enter the bloodstream, and act as carriers for toxic chemicals like diethyl phthalate and heavy metals such as lead**.

- ◆ It poses risks of cancer, respiratory, hormonal, and neurological disorders.

7. Operation Hinterland Brew

In News

- ◆ The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) successfully dismantled a clandestine Mephedrone manufacturing facility in Wardha, Maharashtra, during a strategic operation codenamed “Operation Hinterland Brew.”

Mephedrone

- ◆ **Known as** - 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC) or 4-methylephedrone.
- ◆ It is classified as a **New Psychoactive Substance (NPS)**
- ◆ Mephedrone is **prohibited under the NDPS Act, 1985.**

National Drug Control Framework

- ◆ **Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan** (August 15, 2020)
- ◆ **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).**

8. FDA Approves Two Oral Therapies to Treat Gonorrhoea

Context

- ◆ The U.S. The Food and Drug Administration recently approved two new oral medicines to treat gonorrhoea.

Gonorrhoea

- ◆ **Pathogen** - It is a **preventable and curable sexually transmitted infection** caused by the bacterium **Neisseria gonorrhoeae.**
- ◆ **Concern** - **Antimicrobial resistance to gonorrhoea** is a serious and growing problem
- ◆ **Transmission** - Gonorrhoea can be passed from a pregnant mother to her baby.
- ◆ **Diagnosis:** Molecular tests, Gram stain microscopy.

9. World Inequality Report 2026 Released

Context

- ◆ The 3rd edition of the World Inequality Report was released by the World Inequality Lab.

Key Findings of Report

- ◆ **Wealth Concentration:** The richest **10% of the global population own approximately 75% of the total wealth**

Focus on India

- ◆ **India is identified as one of the most unequal large economies globally.**
- ◆ **Income:** The top **10% of earners capture 58% of the national income**, while the bottom 50% receive only 15%.
- ◆ **Wealth:** The richest **10% hold around 65% of India’s total wealth**, and the top 1% alone hold about 40%.
- ◆ **Gender:** **Female labor force participation remains very low and stagnant at 15.7%**

10. India Tops Global Doping Violations: WADA Report 2024

In News

- ◆ The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Report 2024 has ranked India as the worst doping offender globally for the third consecutive year.

Doping and its Concerns

- ◆ Doping refers to the practice of using **banned chemical substances, known as performance enhancing drugs (PEDs), by athletes.**

Global efforts to tackle Doping

Copenhagen Declaration

- ◆ **Held in** - Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping in Sport was agreed upon by governments at the Second World Conference on Doping in Sport **held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2003.**
- ◆ **Purpose** - The declaration was the political document through which governments signalled their intention **to formally recognise and implement the World Anti-Doping Code.**
- ◆ **Significance** - This declaration was the **first step toward the preparation of the UNESCO International Convention against doping in sports.**
- ◆ **India agreed to this declaration in the year 2003.**

International Convention Against Doping in Sport

- ◆ It is also known as the ‘**UNESCO Anti-Doping**

Convention?

- ◆ It was **adopted** at the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris in **2005**. It entered into force in **2007**.
- ◆ **Objective** - To promote the prevention of and the fight against doping in sports, with a view to its elimination.
- ◆ **India ratified this convention in 2007.**
- ◆ **Note** - **National Anti-Doping Agency**, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs, is responsible for adopting, implementing and enforcing anti-doping programmes in India.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

- ◆ **Founded in 1999** following the Lausanne Declaration
- ◆ It is **headquartered in Montreal**, Canada, with regional offices in Lausanne (Europe), Cape Town (Africa), and Montevideo (Latin America).
- ◆ The agency publishes the World Anti-Doping Code and the annual prohibited list.

India's Efforts to Tackle Doping

- ◆ **National Anti-Doping Act, 2022:** This landmark legislation gave the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) statutory status.
- ◆ **National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025** recently introduced to strengthen institutional autonomy.
- ◆ **India is a signatory to the UNESCO International Convention Against Doping in Sport.**
- ◆ **Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU):** A dedicated unit at NDTL was inaugurated in 2025 to monitor the Biological Passport of athletes.
- ◆ **NIDAMS Portal:** The NADA India Data Administration and Management System was launched in 2025. It **digitalizes the entire process—from planning tests and generating mission orders for Doping Control Officers (DCOs).**
- ◆ **“Know Your Medicine” (KYM) App:** A mobile tool that allows athletes to **scan or search medicines to check if they contain substances prohibited by WADA.**

11. Live in Relationship Not Illegal: Allahabad High Court

In News

- ◆ Allahabad High Court categorically held that **live-in relationships are not illegal and that consenting adults have the constitutional right to live together** with dignity and safety, irrespective of marital status.

Key Observations of the Allahabad High Court

- ◆ **Live-in relationship is not an offence:** Living together without marriage **does not violate any law in India if both partners are adults and give free consent.**
- ◆ **Right to life and personal liberty:** The Court emphasized that **Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees the right to life, dignity, and personal freedom** to all individuals, including those in live-in relationships.
- ◆ **State's duty to protect:** Once adults choose to live together, the **State is duty-bound to ensure their safety**, even against threats from family or society.
- ◆ **Social Morality vs Constitutional Morality:** The Court clearly prioritised **constitutional morality over social morality.**
- ◆ **Evidentiary Presumption of Marriage:** The Court referred to **Section 114 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and Section 119(1) of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.**
- ◆ These provisions state that if a **man and woman cohabit for a significant period in the nature of husband and wife, the law may presume them to be married.**

Key Supreme Court Judgments on Live-in Relationships

- ◆ **Tulsa v. Durghatiya (2008):** Children born from **prolonged live-in relationships cannot be treated as illegitimate.** It ensures inheritance and dignity of children.
- ◆ **D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaiammal (2010):** The Court clarified the concept of “relationship in the nature of marriage” under the Domestic Violence Act.
- ◆ Conditions laid down like a couple must hold themselves out as husband and wife, must be of legal age & must be otherwise qualified to marry.
- ◆ **Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma (2013):** Recognised that **live-in relationships may be morally**

debated, but courts must deal with social realities.

- ♦ **Shafin Jahan v. Asokan K.M. (2018):** The Court held that the right to marry a person of one's choice is an integral part of Article 21.

12. Nayi Chetna 4.0

In News

- ♦ Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Nayi Chetna 4.0' national campaign for gender equality and women's empowerment.

About Nayi Chetna 4.0

- ♦ It is a month-long campaign, organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development.
- ♦ **Objective** - It aims to strengthen community action against gender-based violence and promote women's safety, dignity and economic empowerment across rural India.
- ♦ **Significance** - The campaign focuses on enabling safe mobility, recognising women as key economic contributors, and addressing unpaid care work through shared community responsibility.

13. Saras Food Festival 2025

In News

- ♦ The **Saras Food Festival 2025** at Delhi's Sunder Nursery became a vibrant showcase of women's empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Saras Food Festival 2025

- ♦ It features over **500 traditional dishes served across 62 stalls**, representing states from Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Gujarat, and many more.
- ♦ It **showcases women's entrepreneurship and self-reliance, with around 300 "Lakhpati Didis" from SHGs across India** presenting food and rural products.

SARAS Aajeevika Mela

- ♦ It is organised by the Ministry of Rural Development under Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission.
- ♦ It provides rural women and self-help groups a national platform to sell their products directly, eliminate middlemen, and gain vital market exposure.
- ♦ It equips them with skills to upgrade their products, increase incomes, and connect with buyers from across the country and beyond through workshops on packaging, design, communication, and marketing, the Melas

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)

Context

- ♦ The first of its kind R&D Roadmap to Enable India's Net Zero Targets through Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) was launched.

Do you know?

- ♦ India is the **3rd largest emitter of CO₂** in the world after China and the US, with estimated annual emissions of about **2.6 gigatonne per annum (gtpa)**.
- ♦ The Government of India has committed to **reducing CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2050 and reaching net zero by 2070**.

Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS):

- ♦ **Capturing CO₂ from industrial plants/power plants or emission sources; then either using the CO₂ (utilization) or storing it permanently (storage, e.g. geological storage).**
- ♦ **Utilization Pathways Envisaged:** Converting CO₂ into value-added products — such as **green urea (fertilizer), building materials (concrete, aggregates), chemicals (methanol, ethanol), polymers/bioplastics, aggregates for construction, etc.**

2. State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW 2025)

In News

- ◆ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations recently released The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW 2025).

State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW)

- ◆ **Publishing organization - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
- ◆ It is a report on **land and water management**, aimed at **promoting sustainable use to achieve food security and rural development**.

Latest Findings

- ◆ The report warns that **agriculture must produce 50% more food by 2050 to meet global demand**, but this will **intensify pressure on already strained land, soil, and water resources**.
- ◆ **Agriculture now covers one-third of Earth's land and uses 72% of global freshwater**, leading to **water scarcity, groundwater overuse, and degradation of over 1.6 billion hectares of land**, much of it farmland.
- ◆ This cycle of degraded soils, declining water, and deforestation is **undermining agriculture's foundations and weakening food system resilience**.

3. PM JI-VAN

Context

- ◆ Recently, the Union Government has **expanded the timeline of the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana**, reaffirming its commitment to sustainable development and energy security.

PM JI-VAN

- ◆ It was **launched in 2019**
- ◆ **Implementation- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG)**.
- ◆ **Objective: To promote 2G ethanol projects, use agricultural waste (biomass), meet Ethanol Blending (EBP) targets, increase**

farmers' income and help in environmental goals (such as net-zero emissions).

- ◆ **Methodology: The scheme encourages ethanol production from molasses and non-edible biomass (such as crop residues) instead of the petrochemical route.**

Importance

- ◆ **Energy security:** reducing dependence on fossil fuel imports.
- ◆ **Rural Economy:** Providing farmers with new markets for their crop residues, increasing their income.
- ◆ **Environment:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, tackling pollution, contributing to the net-zero emissions target.
- ◆ **Investment:** Attracting private investment in the 2G ethanol sector.
- ◆ **Example: India's first 2G ethanol project (at Panipat by IOCL) was set up** under this scheme and dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister in 2022.

Additional Information - Biofuels

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

National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

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

Government Efforts for Biofuel Expansion

- ◆ **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana (Jaiv Indhan - Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran Yojana): It promotes 2G ethanol production from agricultural waste and residues.**
- ◆ **GOBAR-Dhan Scheme (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan): It promotes biogas and bio-CNG production from cattle dung and organic waste.**
- ◆ **SATAT Scheme (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation): It promotes Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production as a fuel alternative.**

4. BNHS to Reintroduce Two Vulture Species in Assam

Sr. No.	Name of the Vulture Species	IUCN status	Pictorial Representation
1.	Oriental White-backed Vulture (Gyps Bengalensis)	Critically Endangered	
2.	Slender-billed Vulture (Gyps Tenuirostris)	Critically Endangered	
3.	Long-billed Vulture (Gyps Indicus)	Critically Endangered	
4.	Egyptian Vulture (Neophron Percnopterus)	Endangered	
5.	Red-Headed Vulture (Sarcogyps Calvus)	Critically Endangered	
6.	Indian Griffon Vulture (Gyps Fulvus)	Least Concerned	
7.	Himalayan Griffon (Gyps Himalayensis)	Near Threatened	
8.	Cinereous Vulture (Aegypius Monachus)	Near Threatened	
9.	Bearded Vulture or Lammergeier (Gypaetus Barbatus)	Near Threatened	

Context

- ◆ The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), is set to reintroduce two critically endangered vulture species, Slender-billed Vultures (*Gyps tenuirostris*) and White-rumped Vultures (*Gyps bengalensis*), in Assam.

Vulture

- ◆ Vultures are one of the 22 species of large carrion-eating birds that live mostly in the tropics and subtropics.

India is home to nine species of Vulture namely

1. Oriental white-backed,
2. Long-billed,
3. Slender-billed
4. Himalayan,
5. Red-headed,
6. Egyptian,
7. Bearded,
8. Cinereous
9. Eurasian Griffon.

Threats

- ◆ **Use of Diclofenac:** A veterinary nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) found in the carcass of cattle the vultures feed on. The veterinary use of diclofenac was banned in 2008.
- ◆ **Pesticides:** The presence of organochlorine pesticide, polychlorinated biphenyls, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals were also the major cause of mortality.
- ◆ Other threats include **lack of nesting trees, electrocution by power lines, and food dearth and contaminated food.**

Conservation Efforts

- ◆ The **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** has approved an Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025. It includes:
 - ◆ **Vulture Conservation Centre: Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu** will get a vulture conservation and breeding centre.
 - ◆ **India has lost 99 percent of the population of the three species,** Oriental White-Backed Vulture, Long-billed Vulture and Slender-billed Vulture.

Conservation Status

- ◆ **Schedule-1 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Bearded, Long-billed, Slender-billed, Oriental white-backed.
- ◆ Rest are protected under 'Schedule IV'.

IUCN Red List;

- ◆ **Critically Endangered:** Oriental White-backed Vulture, Long-billed Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture and Red-headed Vulture.
- ◆ **Endangered:** Egyptian Vulture.
- ◆ **Least Concerned:** Eurasian Griffon.
- ◆ **Near Threatened:** Himalayan, Bearded and Cinereous.

Additional Information - Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

- ◆ It is one of the largest and **oldest non-governmental organizations in India**
- ◆ Founded on **September 15, 1883, in Mumbai,**
- ◆ **Objective - to conserve nature through action based on research, education, and public awareness.**

5. Invasive Alien Plants in India

In News

- ◆ **Invasive alien plants are rapidly transforming India's ecosystems, nearly doubling their range in sensitive regions like the Western Ghats, Himalayas, and the north-east,** driven by climate change, land-use shifts, and biodiversity loss.

Invasive Alien Plants

- ◆ Definition - Invasive species refer to **non native species that, when introduced to a new environment, can cause harm to the ecosystem, economy, or human health.**
- ◆ These species **often outcompete or negatively interact with native species,** disrupt natural processes, and can lead to significant ecological imbalances.
- ◆ They can be plants, animals, fungi, or even microbes.

Characteristics of Invasive Species

- ◆ Rapid reproduction and growth
- ◆ High dispersal ability
- ◆ Broad dietary range

- ◆ Physiological adaptability to new conditions
- ◆ Tolerance to a wide range of environmental factors
- ◆ Capacity to alter growth forms based on surroundings

Common Invasive Species Found in India

- ◆ Viper grass
- ◆ Lantana camara
- ◆ Prosopis juliflora
- ◆ Water hyacinth
- ◆ African catfish
- ◆ Cotton Mealy Bug
- ◆ Primrose Willow

Measures taken at the International Level

- ◆ **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD – 1992):** The Convention emphasizes the need to prevent the introduction of, control, or eradicate invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats, or species.
- ◆ **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF – 2022):** It has been agreed under the UN CBD and aims to reduce the rate of introduction and establishment of invasive alien species by at least 50% by 2030.
- ◆ **Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP):** It supports research, capacity building, and management strategies to address invasive species issues worldwide.

Measures taken at the National Level

- ◆ **National Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species (NAPINVAS):** It focuses on the prevention, early detection, control, and management of invasive species.
- ◆ **National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC) -** It provides information and resources on invasive species in India.
- ◆ The **Himalayan Environmental Foundation** is working to control invasive species like Lantana camara in the Himalayas.

6. World Soil Day

Context

- ◆ World Soil Day is observed annually on December 5 to raise awareness about the

importance of healthy soil and to advocate for sustainable management.

World Soil Day

- ◆ Observed on - December 5
- ◆ Observed by - International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS).
- ◆ 2025 theme - “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities”.

Initiatives for Soil Conservation

- ◆ **Soil Health Card Scheme:** It provides farmers with soil nutrient status reports to encourage balanced fertilizer use and improve productivity.
- ◆ **Promotion of Organic Farming:** Initiatives like **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** encourage organic farming practices to maintain soil health.

Global Initiatives

- ◆ **Global Soil Partnership (GSP):** It is an FAO-led initiative to improve global soil governance and promote sustainable soil management.
- ◆ **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):** It works to prevent land degradation and promote sustainable land management globally.
- ◆ It has a pledge for **land degradation neutrality (LDN) by 2030.**

7. Kuno National Park (KNP)

Context

- ◆ On International Cheetah Day (December 4), the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister released three cheetahs into the wild at Kuno National Park.

Kuno

- ◆ **Located in - Sheopur district, Madhya Pradesh.**
- ◆ **It is named after the Kuno River, a perennial tributary of the Chambal that flows through the park.**
- ◆ **Notified as - Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in 1981**
- ◆ **Forest type - Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous**

Do you know?

- ◆ Twelve years after the Supreme Court’s 2013 order to shift some Asiatic lions from Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh’s Kuno as a second home, the translocation still hasn’t materialised.

About

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

Project Cheetah

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

Translocations So Far:

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

Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

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

8. India's Groundwater Contamination Crisis

Context

- ◆ The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) highlights a disturbing rise in toxic contaminants across India's aquifers.

India's Groundwater Contamination Crisis

- ◆ **India holds 18% of the world's population but only 4% of its freshwater resources**, placing enormous pressure on available water systems.
- ◆ **India depends on groundwater for about 85% of its rural drinking water needs and around 60% of irrigation water**.

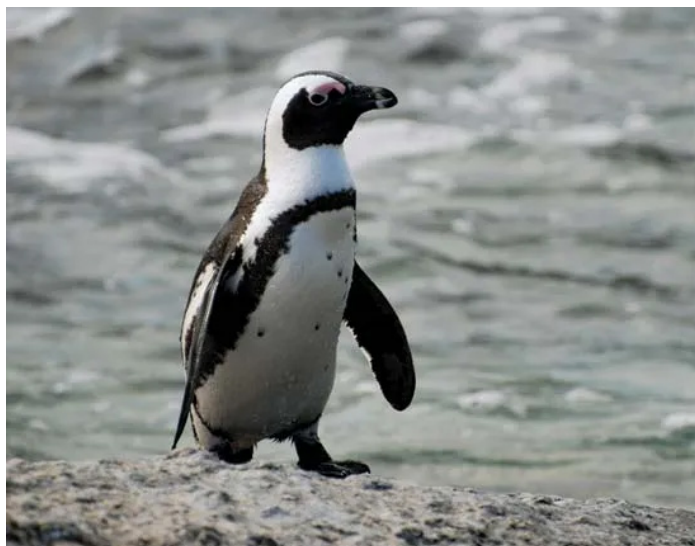
Crisis of Groundwater Contamination

- ◆ India's aquifers show **simultaneous contamination with, Arsenic, Fluoride, Nitrate, Uranium, Salinity and Heavy metals**.

Government Initiatives

- ◆ **Jal Shakti Abhiyan (2019):** Focuses on water conservation and groundwater recharge in water-stressed districts.
- ◆ **Amrit Sarovar Mission:** Aims to develop and rejuvenate 75 water bodies per district.
- ◆ **National Aquifer Mapping Program (NAQUIM):** Helps delineate and understand aquifers for sustainable management.
- ◆ **Atal Bhujal Yojana** - It was launched to improve groundwater management in priority areas with critical and overexploited blocks.

9. African Penguins



Context

- ◆ A new study finds that excessive sardine fishing off southern Africa led to the deaths of over 60,000 African penguins between 2004 and 2011, especially around Dassen and Robben Islands.

African Penguins

- ♦ **Scientific name: Spheniscus demersus**
- ♦ Among the smallest penguin species, fast swimmers, living along the coasts of South Africa and Namibia.
- ♦ **Unlike Antarctic penguins, they live on sandy beaches and rocky shores, not ice.**
- ♦ **Appearance - Have a bare pink patch above the eyes to regulate body temperature.** Each penguin has a unique chest-spot pattern, like human fingerprints.
- ♦ **Reclassified from “Endangered” to “Critically Endangered” (IUCN, 2024).**

Do You Know?

- ♦ **There are 18 penguin species globally** — with King, emperor and rockhopper among the most familiar.

10. India’s 1st Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Vessel

In News

- ♦ **India launched its first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel at Varanasi, marking a major step in green maritime transport.**

India’s 1st Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Vessel

- ♦ **Built by - Cochin Shipyard Ltd and owned by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).**
- ♦ **Hydrogen fuel-cell systems based on Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) technology represent a key frontier in India’s clean energy and green mobility transition.**
- ♦ **A Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC) generates electricity through an electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen without combustion, making it a clean and efficient power source.**

Importance

- ♦ The launch **supports India’s net-zero by 2070 target and aligns with Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, promoting clean, sustainable waterways.**
- ♦ The vessel offers **noise-free, pollution-free travel, reduces road congestion, boosts tourism, and showcases fully indigenous green technology.**

11. Red-Shanked Douc Monkeys



Context

- ♦ A passenger at the Kempegowda International Airport has been arrested for allegedly smuggling two Red-Shanked Doucs Monkeys.

Red-Shanked Douc Monkey (Pygathrix nemaeus)

- ♦ It is a **highly colorful Old World monkey species, often called the “Queen of Primates”.**
- ♦ **Distribution:** It is an **arboreal, diurnal primate native to the forests of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.**
- ♦ **Habitat - They live in the forest canopy in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests up to 2,000 meters (6,600 feet) in elevation.**
- ♦ **Appearance:** They are known for their distinctive appearance including a **gray body, maroon-red lower legs, white forearms and tail, and an orange-yellow face with light blue eyelids.**
- ♦ Males are distinguished by white spots on their rump.
- ♦ **IUCN Status: Critically Endangered.**

12. Subansiri Lower Hydrel Project

Context

- ♦ The Environment Ministry has turned down a NHPC proposal to use assets located on forest land as collateral to raise funds for the Subansiri Lower hydrel project.

Subansiri Lower hydel project.

- ◆ **Location:** On the Subansiri River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra.
- ◆ Situated at Gerukamukh on the Arunachal Pradesh–Assam border.
- ◆ **Capacity & Type:** It has a total installed capacity: 2,000 MW (8 × 250 MW).

Strategic Importance:

- ◆ Enhances clean energy generation in the Northeast.
- ◆ Strengthens grid stability and supports India's renewable energy goals.

13. Global Environment Outlook

Context

- ◆ The Global Environment Outlook, Seventh Edition: A Future We Choose (GEO-7), was released during the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi.

Global Environment Outlook (GEO)

- ◆ **Published by - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**
- ◆ **Mandate - to provide a comprehensive assessment of the planet's environmental health**
- ◆ **Significance - To bridge the gap between science and policy by providing data-driven insights and policy options to guide global action towards sustainable development**
- ◆ **Latest Edition:** The 7th edition, GEO-7, titled "A Future We Choose", was released in December 2025.

Key Findings of the GEO-7 Report (2025)

- ◆ **Climate Change & Tipping Points:** Global warming is accelerating, with the world already having warmed by approximately 1.3°C.
- ◆ **Pollution & Health:** Approximately 9 million deaths globally are attributed annually to air, water, and soil pollution. Air pollution alone causes millions of premature deaths each year.
- ◆ **Biodiversity Loss & Land Degradation:** One million species are at risk of extinction, and 20-40% of land is degraded, affecting over 3 billion people.

14. CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP20)

Context

- ◆ The 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) has concluded in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, marking the 50th anniversary of the Convention.

CITES

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

Appendices

- ◆ **Appendix 1 - It lists species that are threatened with extinction and are or may be affected by trade.**
- ◆ **Appendix 2 - This list includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.**
- ◆ **Appendix 3 - It contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade.**

15. Great Barrier Reef

In News

- ◆ A combination of extreme heat stress and a rare coral disease has wiped out 75 per cent of Goniopora colonies at a site on the Great Barrier Reef.

CORAL REEFS

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

Formation & Symbiotic relationship - (Coral polyps + zooxanthellae)

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

FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR FORMATION

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

TYPES OF REEF FORMATIONS

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

DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

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

THREATS

- ◆ Destructive fishing practices, Overfishing,

Careless tourism, Pollution, Sedimentation, Coral mining, Climate change.

CORAL BLEACHING

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

Causes of Coral Bleaching

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Rise in Sea Temperature ◆ Ocean Acidification ◆ Solar radiation & ultraviolet radiation ◆ Infectious Diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Chemical Pollution ◆ Increased Sedimentation ◆ Reducing light availability (Turbidity) ◆ Human Induced Threats
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16. Western Tragopan



In News

- ◆ Recent studies show that suitable habitats of western tragopan exist in Jammu & Kashmir but human disturbance and fragmentation still threaten the bird's survival.

Western Tragopan

- ◆ It is one of India's rarest pheasants and **Himachal Pradesh's state bird**.
- ◆ It now survives only in **small fragmented pockets across the western Himalayas**.
- ◆ The IUCN estimates only **3,000–9,500 mature individuals remain**

- ♦ **Threats:** It faces threats due to **habitat loss, hunting, and other anthropogenic factors.**
- ♦ **The IUCN Red List** of Threatened species classified it as **Vulnerable.**
- ♦ **Conservation efforts** - The **Sarahan pheasantry in Shimla has over the years seen successful captive breeding** of western tragopan.

17. Champions of the Earth Award

Context

- ♦ Supriya Sahu, a Tamil Nadu IAS officer honoured with the UN Environment Programme's 2025 Champions of the Earth Award.

Do you know?

- ♦ In 2000, **Supriya Sahu** launched a campaign called **Operation Blue Mountain to eliminate single-use plastic in the Nilgiris.**
- ♦ She introduced low-cost climate solutions, from **painting school roofs white under the Cool Roof Project to restoring mangroves, wetlands, and creating 65 new reserve forests.**
- ♦ Her nature-first approach has **created 2.5 million green jobs** and contributed significantly to India's national emissions-reduction goals.

Champions of the Earth Award

- ♦ **Launched in 2005**
- ♦ It is the **UN's highest environmental honor.**
- ♦ It recognizes outstanding figures from the public and private sectors as well as civil society, whose **actions have brought about a positive impact and a transformation on the environment.**
- ♦ **It is awarded across five categories:**
 1. Policy Leadership
 2. Entrepreneurial Vision
 3. Science and Innovation
 4. Lifetime Achievement
 5. **Inspiration and Action (Supriya Sahu has been honored in this category).**
- ♦ Past Indian recipients include: Madhav Gadgil (2024), Narendra Modi (2018), Cochin International Airport (2018) and Afroz Shah (2016).

18. Siliserh Lake and Kopra Jalashay Designated as New Ramsar Sites

Context

- ♦ India designated Siliserh Lake and Kopra Jalashay as its 95th and 96th Ramsar Sites, increasing the country's total to 96, up from 26 in 2014.

Newly Designated Ramsar Sites in Rajasthan

Siliserh Lake:

- ♦ It is a **man-made freshwater lake, constructed in 1845 by Maharaja Vinay Singh of Alwar.**
- ♦ It was originally built **to meet the drinking water needs of Alwar city.**
- ♦ The lake is situated **close to the Sariska Tiger Reserve, enhancing its ecological significance.**

Kopra Jalashay:

- ♦ **Located near Bilaspur, this is the first-ever Ramsar site in Chhattisgarh.**
- ♦ It is a reservoir situated in the **upper catchment of the Mahanadi River** and serves as a freshwater source and biodiversity habitat.

19. National Energy Conservation Award

In News

- ♦ **Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) has won the National Energy Conservation Awards 2025** under the State Energy Efficiency Performance Award (SDA Group-1) category.

National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA)

- ♦ **Instituted by: Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**
- ♦ **Ministry: Ministry of Power, Government of India**
- ♦ **Objective: Recognise exemplary performance in energy efficiency and conservation**
- ♦ Encourage States, industries and institutions to reduce energy intensity
- ♦ **First instituted: 1991** (as National Energy Conservation Award scheme)

20. Supreme Court Clarifies Aravalli Boundaries, Regulates Mining

Context

- ◆ The Supreme Court, in a recent order, settled on a uniform definition of the Aravalli hills and ranges, and paused the grant of fresh mining leases across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

Aravalli Range

- ◆ **Location** - The Aravalli Range, stretching over approximately 692 kilometers (430 miles) in a northeastern direction, traverses the Indian states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana before culminating in Delhi
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - It is the oldest mountain range in India.
- ◆ **Significance** - The Aravallis serve as a natural barrier against desertification, and helps regulate the climate, supports diverse ecosystems, and acts as a watershed for several rivers, including the Sabarmati, Luni, and Banas.

Aravalli Green Wall Project (AGWP)

- ◆ It is a major initiative aimed at restoring 1.15 million hectares of degraded land across four states in northwestern India (Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi).
- ◆ **National Goals:** The project is part of India's effort to achieve the national goal of creating an additional 2.5 billion tonnes of carbon sink by 2030.
- ◆ **Broader Impact:** The project contributes to India's commitments under international conventions such as:
 - ◆ UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification),
 - ◆ CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity),
 - ◆ UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).
- ◆ **Objectives and Features of AGWP:** The project focuses on combating desertification, land degradation, and drought.

21. Pamir Mountains/ Pamir-Karakoram Anomaly



Context

- ◆ Ice cores from the Pamir Mountains are being studied to understand why its glaciers have resisted melting despite global warming.

Pamir-Karakoram Anomaly

- ◆ It refers to the unusual behaviour of glaciers in parts of the Pamir and Karakoram ranges.

Unlike most glaciers worldwide, these glaciers have:

- ◆ Shown resistance to melting, and
- ◆ Experienced slight mass gain in recent decades.
- ◆ This makes the region scientifically significant for understanding glacier-climate interactions.

Pamir Mountains

- ◆ **Geology:** Formed by the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates, making it a seismically active zone.
- ◆ **Location:** Spans parts of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, China, and Kyrgyzstan.
- ◆ The Pamir Mountains, also known as the “Roof of the World,” form a massive convergence

zone (Pamir Knot) with the Himalayas, Karakoram, Hindu Kush, Kunlun, and Tian Shan ranges.

- ◆ **Ancient Routes:** Historically part of the Silk Road, with Marco Polo referencing the area.
- ◆ **Major Peaks & Features:** Ismoil Somoni Peak (Tajikistan), Kongur Tagh (China), Muztagh Ata (China) etc.
- ◆ **Tajik National Park:** A large protected area encompassing much of the Pamirs, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.
- ◆ **Drainage System:** The Pamirs are heavily glaciated, with the **Fedchenko Glacier** being the largest glacier in Central Asia.
- ◆ Meltwater from glaciers feeds major rivers such as, **Panj River and Vakhsh River**. These rivers are part of the Amu Darya river system, crucial for Central Asia.

22. Tundra Biome

In News

- ◆ A recent scientific study from Arctic Alaska reveals that wildfires in the tundra biome have become more frequent in the last century than at any time in the past 3,000 years.

Tundra Biome

- ◆ The tundra is a **cold, treeless biome found in high-latitude (Arctic) and high-altitude (Alpine) regions**. The word **tundra** comes from a Finnish term meaning “treeless plain.”

Types of Tundra:

- ◆ **Arctic Tundra:** Found in northern Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Siberia
- ◆ **Alpine Tundra:** Found at high altitudes on mountains (Himalayas, Andes, Rockies). No permafrost, but very cold conditions

Climatic Characteristics:

- ◆ **Temperature:** Extremely low; winters can reach -30°C to -50°C
- ◆ **Precipitation:** Very low (150–250 mm/year).

23. RISE Initiative

Context

- ◆ IIT Kharagpur launched Impact RISE (Research, Innovation, Skilling, and Entrepreneurship)

RISE Initiative

- ◆ **Mandate** - It focuses on **sustainable tech and management practices for societal transformation**.
- ◆ **Four pillars** – research, innovation, skilling, and entrepreneurship.
- ◆ **Significance**- It will involve research aligned with sustainable development goals and India’s climate and development priorities.

24. India Re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council

In News

- ◆ India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for 2026-27 with the highest vote tally.

International Maritime Organization

- ◆ It is the **United Nations specialized agency**
- ◆ **Mandate** - It is responsible for the **safety and security of shipping** and the **prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships**.
- ◆ **Genesis:** IMO was **established in 1948** following a UN conference in Geneva and **came into existence in 1958**.
- ◆ **Members:** IMO has **175 Member States**
- ◆ **Headquarters** - London, United Kingdom.
- ◆ **India joined the IMO in 1959**.
- ◆ **Structure:** The IMO is administered by a biennially convened Assembly of all member states and a 40-member Council elected for two-year terms.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

In News

- ♦ A large-scale cancellation of flights by a major Indian airline recently led the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** to grant a **one-time exemption** from the newly implemented **Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL)** rules.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

- ♦ **Establishment:** Created in 1927 as a government organisation.
- ♦ **Legal status** - It is a **statutory body** which is responsible for the implementation of the **Aircraft Act**.
- ♦ **Administrative Control:** Functions under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)**.
- ♦ **Aim:** To promote **safe, efficient, and reliable air transport** through ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) norms.

2. Technology Development Fund Scheme

In News

- ♦ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has handed over seven technologies developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme to the three Services.

Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme

- ♦ It is a flagship programme of the **Ministry of Defence** executed by DRDO under 'Make in India' initiative.
- ♦ **Objective** - It provides **grants-in-aid** to Indian industries, especially **MSMEs** and startups, to innovate, research, design, and develop indigenous defence and dual-use technologies.

3. Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)

In News

- ♦ The Union Minister of Communications, chaired the meeting of the apex council under the **Bharat 6G Mission** and reviewed the

progress of the **Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)**.

Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)

- ♦ It functions as the implementation arm of the **Bharat 6G Vision**, which India unveiled in March 2023 to position the nation as a **global leader in 6G technology by 2030**.

About 6G Technology

- ♦ **6G** represents the next frontier of wireless communication technology, succeeding **5G** as the sixth generation of mobile networks.
- ♦ 6G will deliver peak data rates of **1 terabit per second (1 Tbps)**, approximately **100 times faster than 5G**, which offers **10 Gbps**.
- ♦ 6G will achieve ultra-low latency of **0.1 milliseconds** (compared to 5G's 1 millisecond).

4. Cabinet Approves SHANTI Bill

Context

- ♦ The Union Cabinet has approved the **Atomic Energy Bill, 2025**, titled **SHANTI**

SHANTI Bill

- ♦ **Acronym** - Sustainable Harnessing of Advancement of Nuclear Technology for India.
- ♦ **Mandate** - The Bill seeks to create a **unified and modern legal framework for India's nuclear sector**.

About

- ♦ Traditionally, nuclear power plants in India have been owned and operated only by state-owned **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)** and its fully-owned subsidiary **Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (BHAVINI)**.
- ♦ To allow **private sector participation** government has to amend key legislations;
 1. **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**, a framework for nuclear energy development and regulation.
 2. **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010**, ensuring compensation mechanisms for nuclear incidents.

Key Provisions of the Bill

- ♦ **Partial Opening of the Nuclear Value Chain:** The Bill allows **private and global companies**

to participate in atomic mineral exploration, manufacturing of nuclear equipment and components.

- ♦ **Core and strategic areas** such as **reactor operation and weapons-related activities** will continue to **remain under government control**.
- ♦ **Nuclear Safety Authority:** The legislation proposes the establishment of an independent nuclear safety authority.
- ♦ **Dedicated Nuclear Tribunal:** It calls for a dedicated tribunal to handle nuclear-related disputes, intended to streamline resolution and enhance transparency in the sector.

5. Project Suncatcher

Context

- ♦ Google CEO Sundar Pichai has announced **Project Suncatcher**, a long-term research initiative to deploy solar-powered data centres in space by 2027.

Project Suncatcher

- ♦ It is Google's ambitious initiative to build solar-powered, AI-focused data centers in space using satellite constellations

Benefits

- ♦ **Environmental advantage:** Eliminates the need for terrestrial land, water, and cooling systems required by traditional data centers.
- ♦ **Continuous energy:** Access to uninterrupted solar power for consistent operation.
- ♦ **Resilience:** Avoids risks from power outages, natural disasters, and undersea cable failures.

Challenges

- ♦ **Technical difficulties:** Maintaining a tight satellite formation (within 1 km) for high-speed laser communication is complex.
- ♦ **Operational hurdles:** The high cost of building and maintaining space infrastructure and the difficulty of in-orbit repairs are major concerns.
- ♦ **Environmental conditions:** The hardware must be radiation-resistant and manage heat dissipation effectively in a vacuum.

6. Supreme Court's Ruling on Narco Tests

In News

- ♦ The Supreme Court ruled that forced or involuntary narco tests are unconstitutional and invalid.

Narco Test

- ♦ It is a **process of investigation** during which it is expected that the **accused, undergoing such a test, would express the concealed facts**.
- ♦ In this test the accused is sedated by administering a certain class of substances. **For example - Sodium Pentothal, to reduce a subject's inhibitions and reasoning ability.**
- ♦ It is a **non-violent method similar to those called polygraphs or brain mapping**.

Legality of Narco Test

- ♦ **Selvi guidelines** - SC ruled that any test conducted without free consent is unconstitutional and its results cannot be used as evidence.
- ♦ **Article 20** - It protects against ex-post facto laws, double jeopardy, and self-incrimination.
- ♦ **Article 21** - It also violates the Right to Privacy under
- ♦ **Articles 14 and 19** - It safeguards personal liberty and democratic principles.
- ♦ **Manoj Kumar Saini v. State of MP (2023) and Vinobhai v. State of Kerala (2025)** - SC court held that **narco test results alone do not prove guilt** and must be **corroborated with other evidence**.

7. Lunarcrete

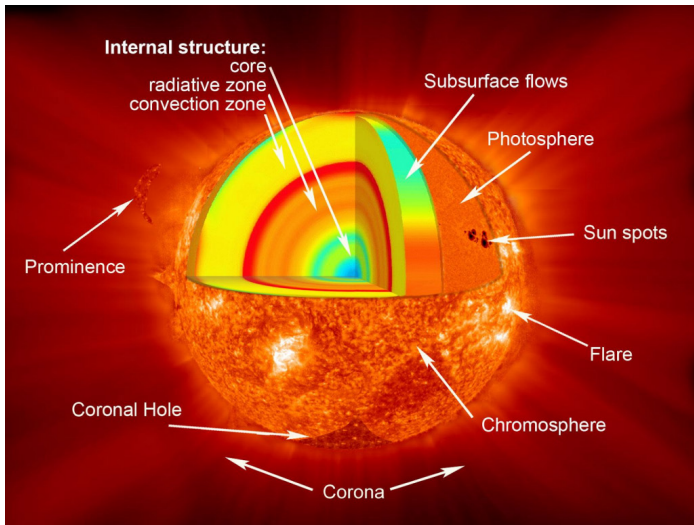
Context

- ♦ **Researchers are developing Lunarcrete, concrete produced using lunar materials for sustainable long-term habitats on the Moon.**

Lunarcrete

- ♦ Lunarcrete is an umbrella term for '**concrete made on the moon**'.
- ♦ It is a **proposed construction material made using lunar regolith (Moon soil)** instead of Earth-based sand and gravel.
- ♦ **Purpose:** It supports in-situ resource utilisation (ISRU) by enabling construction of habitats, landing pads, and roads on the Moon without transporting materials from Earth.

8. Aditya-L1 Joins Global Effort To Study the Solar Storm



Context

- India's solar observatory Aditya-L1 has revealed unusual behaviour of the May 2024 solar storm called "Gannon's storm". It was triggered by a series of giant explosions on the Sun known as Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).

Solar Storm

- The solar storm is composed of a series of giant explosions on the Sun, known as coronal mass ejections (CMEs).
- A CME is like a massive bubble of hot gas and magnetic energy thrown out from the Sun into space.
- Impact on earth** - When these bubbles hit Earth, they can shake earth's magnetic shield and cause serious trouble for satellites, communication systems, GPS, and even power grids.

Additional information - Aditya-L1 mission

- Uniqueness** - Aditya-L1 is the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun. It will be launched by the PSLV-C57.
- Note** - The solar mission will not see the spacecraft actually go to the sun, it will instead create a space observatory at a point from which the sun can be observed even during an eclipse.
- The spacecraft is planned to be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), around 1.5 million km from the Earth, of the Sun-Earth system.

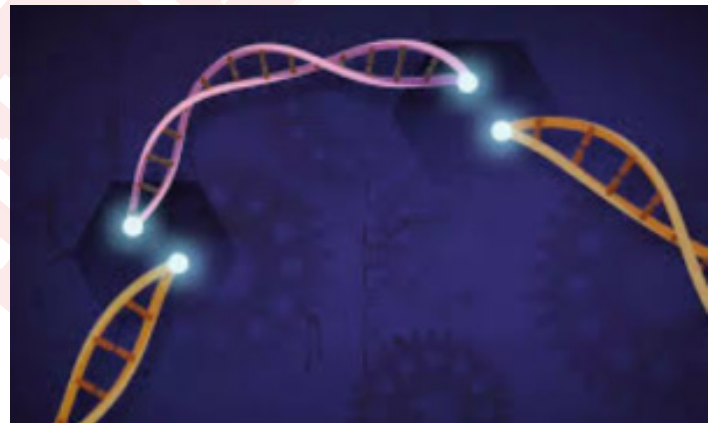
Major objectives of the mission

- The mission will focus on study of the **Solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics**.
- It will also identify what drives space weather, along with the origin, composition and dynamics of the solar wind.

Other missions to Sun

- NASA's Parker Solar Probe**, launched in 2018, has already gone far closer — but it will be looking away from the Sun.
- Helios 2 solar probe**, a joint venture between **NASA and the space agency of erstwhile West Germany**, was launched to investigate solar processes of the Sun's surface in 1976.

9. GlowCas9



In News

- GlowCas9 is a newly engineered variant of the CRISPR Cas9 enzyme that emits light while editing DNA.

GlowCas9

- It is a **bioluminescent Cas9** created at the **Bose Institute, Kolkata**, by fusing **Cas9 with a split nano-luciferase enzyme** derived from deep-sea shrimp proteins.

Connect with the basics - Gene Editing Technology

- It refers to technology that permits the change of an organism's DNA by allowing genetic material to be added, removed, or altered at particular locations in the genome.

CRISPR Cas9 Technology

- ♦ **Acronym** - Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats.
- ♦ **Significance** - With the use of the gene editing technique CRISPR, researchers can modify the DNA of living things.
- ♦ An enzyme called **Cas9 functions as molecular scissors**, guided by RNA molecules created to precisely match a certain DNA sequence.
- ♦ **GE (Genome Editing)**: Involves precise modification of specific genes within an organism's genome without introducing foreign genes, resulting in targeted genetic changes.
- ♦ **GM (Genetically Modified)**: Involves the insertion of foreign genes from unrelated organisms into an organism's genome to confer specific traits or characteristics.

Regulatory Bodies

- ♦ **GEAC (Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee)**: It is a regulatory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). GEAC is responsible for evaluating and approving genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- ♦ **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB)**: Ensures safe handling of GMOs that may impact biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur.

10. Jumping Genes

In News

- ♦ Polar bears in Southern Greenland show rapid genetic changes linked to jumping genes that may help them survive warming Arctic conditions.

Jumping Genes

- ♦ **Jumping genes**, scientifically called **Transposable Elements (TEs)**, are DNA sequences that can move (transpose) from one location to another within the genome.
- ♦ They were discovered by **Barbara McClintock in maize (corn)**, for which she received the **Nobel Prize (1983)**.
- ♦ In humans, they constitute 45% of the genome.

11. DHRUV64

In News

- ♦ India has launched the DHRUV64 microprocessor.

DHRUV64

- ♦ **Type**: General-purpose microprocessor
- ♦ **Developed By**: Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP) of the Government of India.
- ♦ **Architecture**: 64-bit, dual-core
- ♦ **Clock Speed**: 1.0 GHz
- ♦ **Status**: Fully indigenous (design and development in India)
- ♦ **Function**: Acts as the “brain” of electronic devices such as computers, mobiles, embedded systems and control units.

Significance

- ♦ Suitable for 5G infrastructure, automotive, consumer electronics, industrial automation, IoT, and strategic uses
- ♦ It reduces import dependence amid India's 20% global microprocessor consumption.

12. Andhra's Rare Earth Corridor

In News

- ♦ Andhra Pradesh's 974-km-long coastline has gained strategic importance due to large reserves of rare earth elements (REEs) embedded in beach sand minerals.

Andhra's Rare Earth Corridor

- ♦ **Location** - A continuous mineral-rich belt along Andhra Pradesh's coast from Srikakulam (north) to Nellore (south).

Rich in beach sand minerals such as:

- ♦ **Monazite** (primary source of REEs and thorium)
- ♦ **Ilmenite, rutile, zircon, garnet and sillimanite**
- ♦ **Note** - Andhra Pradesh holds 30–35% of India's total monazite reserves

Rare Earth Elements (REEs)

- ♦ They are a group of 17 elements, 15 lanthanides + scandium + yttrium.
- ♦ Though geologically abundant, they are termed “rare” because:
- ♦ They occur in low concentrations, and

- ◆ Their extraction and processing are complex, capital- and technology-intensive.

REEs are classified into:

- ◆ Light REEs (LREEs): lanthanum, cerium, neodymium, praseodymium, samarium, etc.
- ◆ Heavy REEs (HREEs): dysprosium, terbium, yttrium, etc.

13. RESPOND Basket 2025

In News

- ◆ Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the RESPOND Basket 2025.

RESPOND Basket 2025

- ◆ It invites **submission of research proposals from various premier universities**, and other recognised academic and R&D institutions in areas relevant to **ISRO's upcoming missions and national priorities**.
- ◆ It supports **ISRO's upcoming projects**, including **Bharatiya Antariksh Station**, **Chandrayaan-4**, **Gaganyaan missions**, **Venus orbiter**, and a **human Moon landing**.

14. Skyroot's first orbital rocket, Vikram-I



In News

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **Indian space startup Skyroot's Infinity Campus and Skyroot's first orbital rocket, Vikram-I**, with the capability to launch satellites to orbit.

Skyroot

- ◆ It is India's leading private space company, **founded by Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka**,
- ◆ In November 2022, **Skyroot launched its sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S**, becoming the **first Indian private company to launch a rocket to space**.

Vikram-I

- ◆ It is **built by Skyroot Aerospace** and is named **after Vikram Sarabhai**, the father of India's space programme.
- ◆ It is **India's first private orbital-class launch vehicle** designed to serve the **small satellite market with rapid, cost-effective launches**.

DEFENCE

1. Hansa-3 NG Trainer Aircraft



Context

- ◆ The **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)**, Bengaluru, launched a "production version" of the **indigenous Hansa-3(NG) trainer aircraft**.

Hansa-3

- ◆ It is **India's indigenous two-seat trainer aircraft** developed by **CSIR-NAL**.
- ◆ It is **designed for basic flight training** catering mainly to **flying clubs and pilot training schools**.

2. Heron Mk II UAVs



Context

- ◆ India has initiated the procurement of Heron MK-II drones from Israel under emergency provisions invoked after Operation Sindoor.

Heron Mk II UAVs

- ◆ **Developer:** Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)
- ◆ **Capability:** The Heron Mk II is a **medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) UAV**.
- ◆ It can carry close to **500 kg of payload and sustain more than 24 hours of continuous flight**.

3. Navy's new category in Indian Maritime Doctrine 2025

In News

- ◆ The Indian Navy's Maritime Doctrine 2025, released by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi.

Indian Maritime Doctrine

- ◆ It is a **foundational document guiding the Indian Navy in protecting India's sovereignty, securing trade routes**.
- ◆ It acts as the "first responder in the maritime domain" in the Indian Ocean Region and beyond..
- ◆ It was **First released in 2004, revised in 2009 and amended in 2015**.

Key Highlights of the Indian Maritime Doctrine 2025

- ◆ The **2025 edition reflects major shifts in the geopolitical environment and India's strategic outlook, focusing on modern security**

challenges and national development goals.

- ◆ **Formal Recognition of "No-War, No-Peace":** For the first time, the doctrine formally recognizes the "no-war, no-peace" category as a distinct operational phase between peace and full-scale war.
- ◆ **Emphasis on Jointness and Integration:** The doctrine prioritizes interoperability and **integration across the Army, Navy, and Air Force**,
- ◆ It aligns with national visions such as **Viksit Bharat 2047, Sagarmala, PM Gati Shakti, Maritime India Vision 2030, Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and MAHASAGAR**.

Additional Information -

- ◆ **Viksit Bharat 2047 (Developed India by 2047):** India's vision to **become a developed nation by its 100th year of independence**, focusing on economic, social, and environmental progress.
- ◆ **Sagarmala Programme:** A flagship program to **modernize ports, develop coastal communities, and create efficient logistics, reducing costs and boosting trade**.
- ◆ **PM Gati Shakti:** A national master plan for **integrated, multimodal connectivity (rail, road, ports, waterways, aviation)** to create efficient economic corridors.
- ◆ **Maritime India Vision 2030 (MIV 2030):** A roadmap for the maritime sector to **enhance capacity, modernize ports, boost shipbuilding, and promote cruise tourism by 2030**.
- ◆ **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047:** Extends MIV 2030, aiming for **India to be a global maritime hub by 2047**, focusing on new mega-ports, shipbuilding clusters, and green port development (Harit Sagar).
- ◆ **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions):** An overarching vision and doctrine promoting comprehensive **maritime security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

4. Exercise Harimau Shakti

In News

- ◆ India and Malaysia have commenced the 5th

edition of Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025 at the Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.

Exercise Harimau Shakti

- ◆ It is a **bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army.**
- ◆ The exercise aimed at training both forces in **jungle warfare, counter-insurgency operations, semi-urban combat** & enabling smoother cooperation in future missions.

5. First Indigenous Diving Support Craft 'DSC A20'



Context

- ◆ The Indian Navy is going to commission **DSC A20**, the first vessel of the **indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Craft (DSC)**, at Kochi under the aegis of Southern Naval Command.

DSC A20

- ◆ It is one of five Diving Support Craft **built by M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), Kolkata.**
- ◆ The ship offers **superior stability, enhanced deck area, and improved seakeeping characteristics**, and has a **displacement of approximately 390 tons.**
- ◆ With its induction, the Indian Navy's capability in **diving support, underwater inspection, salvage assistance, and coastal operational deployment** will be substantially strengthened.

6. AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters

Context

- ◆ The Indian Army received the final batch of three AH-64E Apache attack helicopters.

AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters

- ◆ The Apaches were **contracted in 2020 under a \$600 million deal with the United States.**
- ◆ The AH-64E Apache is regarded as the **world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopter.**
- ◆ It is equipped with cutting-edge avionics, sensors and weapon systems, and capable of operating in all weather and terrain conditions.

7. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

Context

- ◆ The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has introduced a revised posting policy for personnel assigned to Parliament security duties.

Central Industrial Security Force

- ◆ It is a **paramilitary force established in 1969, under the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.**
- ◆ Every year, **CISF Raising Day is observed on March 10.**
- ◆ **Operates under - Ministry of Home Affairs of India.**

Functions - It provides security to the strategic establishment including

- ◆ Department of Space
- ◆ Department of Atomic Energy,
- ◆ Airports, Delhi Metro and ports.
- ◆ Historical monuments
- ◆ **Basic areas of the Indian economy such as petroleum and natural gas, electricity, coal, steel and mining.**

Additional Information - Paramilitary forces of India

8. Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

Context

- ◆ 50 Years of Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

Bioterrorism

- ◆ **Definition** - It refers to the **deliberate release of biological agents** — such as **bacteria, viruses, or toxins** — to cause illness or death among humans, animals, or plants.
- ◆ **Examples** - **Bacillus anthracis (anthrax), Variola major (smallpox), and toxins like botulinum.**
- ◆ The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) serves as the key international treaty prohibiting the development, production, and possession of biological weapons.

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

- ◆ It was established and **entered into force on March 26, 1975.**
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - It is the first multilateral disarmament treaty to ban an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.
- ◆ **Objective** - It prohibits the **development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling, and use of biological and toxin weapons.**
- ◆ **Implementation** - **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).**
- ◆ **Membership: 189** countries including India.

9. Exercise Desert Cyclone 2025

Context

- ◆ India-UAE Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone is going to begin in UAE.

About the exercise

- ◆ The **first edition of Exercise Desert Cyclone was held in 2024 in Rajasthan, India.**
- ◆ The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability and foster defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the UAE Land Forces

10. Navy Inducts Second Seahawks Squadron



Context

- ◆ The Indian Navy commissioned its second MH 60R helicopter squadron, INAS 335, at INS Hansa in Goa.

Seahawks Squadron

- ◆ Twenty-four of these **submarine-hunting helicopters** have been acquired by India from the US.
- ◆ These are **US-origin Seahawks, maritime versions of the Black Hawk.**
- ◆ **The helicopter is designed for a wide range of operations: anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), search and rescue (SAR) missions.**
- ◆ These helicopters are **replacing the ageing British-origin Sea King helicopters**, which have been in service for long.

11. Government to Increase Reservation for Agniveers in CAPFs to 50%

Context

- ◆ The Union Home Ministry has decided to enhance reservation for ex-Agniveers in the Group C posts of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) from the existing 10% to 50%.

Agnipath Scheme

- ◆ **Objective** - It allows **patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.**

Features of the scheme

- ◆ **Agniveer** - Under this scheme, the youth joining the army will be called Agniveer. Youth will be able to be recruited into the army for a short duration.
- ◆ **Recruitment for Short term** - Under the new scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.
- ◆ However, after four years, only 25% of the batch will be recruited back into their respective services, for a period of 15 years.

Eligibility Criteria

- ◆ It is only for personnel below officer ranks (those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers).
- ◆ Aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 23 years will be eligible to apply.

Benefits for Agniveers

- ◆ **Seva Nidhi package** - Upon the completion of the 4-years of service, a one-time 'Seva Nidhi' package of Rs 11.71 lakhs will be paid to the Agniveers.
- ◆ **Life Insurance** - They will also get a Rs 48 lakh life insurance cover for the four years. In case of death, the payout will be over Rs 1 crore, including pay for the unserved tenure.
- ◆ **Rehabilitation** - The government will help rehabilitate soldiers who leave the services after four years. They will be provided with skill certificates and bridge courses.

Related Concerns

- ◆ **Difficult to Find Another Job** - The 'Agnipath' scheme opens the way for recruitment of soldiers for a short-term contract of four years. After the completion of the contract, 25% of them will be retained and the rest will leave the forces.
- ◆ **No Pension Benefit** - Those hired under the 'Agnipath' scheme will be given a one-time lump sum of Rs 11 lakh. However, they do not receive any pension benefits.
- ◆ **Training May Remain Unutilized** - Forces will lose experienced soldiers. The jawans joining the Army, Navy and Air Force will be given technical training so that they are able to support the ongoing operations. But these men and women will leave after four years, which could create a void.

Significance of Such Step for the Country

- ◆ **Future Ready Soldiers** - It will create "future-ready" soldiers.
- ◆ **More Employment Opportunities** - It will increase employment opportunities and because of the skills and experience acquired during the four-year service such soldiers will get employment in various fields.

12. Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)

In News

- ◆ The Union Home Minister convened a high-level meeting to initiate the constitution of a dedicated Bureau of Port Security (BoPS) to enhance the security of vessels and port facilities across the country.
- ◆ Under the revamped security framework, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation for ports.

Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)

- ◆ It will be established as a statutory body under Section 13 of the newly promulgated Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
- ◆ It will function under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- ◆ It will be headed by a Director General of the rank of an IPS officer.
- ◆ **Function** - It will be responsible for regulatory oversight and coordination related to the security of ships and port infrastructure.

13. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

Context

- ◆ The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) has begun receiving nearly 45,000 requests per month, reflecting a significant rise in its use by central and state security agencies.

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

- ◆ It is a real-time intelligence and data-access platform developed after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks (2008)
- ◆ **Objective** - to enable seamless information-sharing across agencies.
- ◆ It functions under the Ministry of Home

Affairs (MHA)

- ◆ It 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), 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.**

Significance of NATGRID

- ◆ **Counterterrorism:** NATGRID enhances the ability to detect and disrupt terror networks by correlating travel patterns, financial transactions, telecom data and social contacts.
- ◆ **Improved Crime Detection:** The platform assists in investigations related to organised crime, narcotics, human trafficking, cybercrime, fake currency networks, and cross-border smuggling.

14. Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

In News

- ◆ Defence Minister unveils ₹5,000 crore BRO roads, bridges and key assets across Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and seven states in major border infrastructure push.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- ◆ **Established in** - It was formed in **1960** by **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**
- ◆ **Objective** - To coordinate the **speedy development of an adequate road communication network of roads in the North and the North-Eastern border regions** of the country.
- ◆ **Functions under** - It works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Defence.**
- ◆ **Significance** - **Support the armed forces meet their strategic needs** by committed, dedicated

and cost-effective development and sustenance of the infrastructure.

- ◆ Works through Border Road Tasks Forces (BRTFs) and Projects (e.g., **Project Himank, Project Vijayak, Project Dantak, Project Vartak, Project Udayak, etc.**).

15. Russia’s S-500 Air Defence System

In News

- ◆ The Prime Minister of India and the President of Russia are expected to discuss India’s interest in the next-generation S-500 air defence system.

S-500 Air Defence System

- ◆ It is **Russia’s** most advanced **long-range, surface-to-air and anti-space defence system**, designed to intercept a wide spectrum of modern and future airborne threats.
- ◆ **It can intercept aircraft, missiles, and hypersonic threats at distances up to 600 km.**
- ◆ **It is operational at altitudes up to 200 km.** It has a **reaction time 3–4 seconds, nearly twice as fast as the S-400.**

Feature	S-400	S-500
Range	380 km	600 km
Target Altitude	30–40 km	Up to 200 km (near-space)
Threats Intercepted	Aircraft, cruise missiles, limited ballistic missiles	Ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons, stealth aircraft, LEO satellites
Reaction Time	9–10 sec	3–4 sec
Anti-Satellite Capability	No	Yes
Role	Long-range air defence	Air + space defence

16. Operation Pawan

Context

- ◆ The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, has paid homage to soldiers who laid down their lives during Operation Pawan (1987 – 1990) in Sri Lanka.

Operation Pawan

- ◆ It was **launched by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1987** after the **signing of the Indo–Sri Lanka Accord**.
- ◆ India deployed the **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka** during the **country’s civil war between the minority Tamil population, and the Sinhalese-majority government**.

India was deeply concerned due to:

- ◆ Ethnic and cultural ties with Tamil Nadu
- ◆ Escalating violence
- ◆ Rising refugee inflow into India

Do you know?

- ◆ The Sri Lankan civil war ended on May 18, 2009 with the defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).
- ◆ While **India had not formally commemorated Operation Pawan for decades, Sri Lanka maintains an IPKF memorial in Colombo**.
- ◆ Now, **this has changed with the Indian Army officially recognising the sacrifices made by troops during the operation**.

17. Param Vir Chakra (PVC)

Context

- ◆ **Portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees have been installed at Rashtrapati Bhavan**, replacing the portraits of 96 British Aide-de-Camps (ADCs).
- ◆ This move is part of the government’s broader effort **to dismantle colonial legacies**.

Param Vir Chakra

- ◆ It was **instituted on 26 January 1950** (Republic Day) **by Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, the first President of India.
- ◆ The name **Param Vir Chakra translates to “Wheel of the Ultimate Brave.”**
- ◆ The medal was **designed by Savitri Khanolkar**,

who drew inspiration from Sage Dadhichi, the Vedic rishi who sacrificed his body so that the gods could forge the Vajra (thunderbolt) from his spine.

- ◆ The medal is cast in bronze. In the centre, on a raised circle, is the state emblem, surrounded by four replicas of Indra’s Vajra, flanked by the sword of Shivaji. It is suspended from a swivelling bar and worn with a 32 mm purple ribbon.

Additional Information - Gallantry Awards

- ◆ **Honoured by** - Government of India
- ◆ It is given to honour acts of **bravery, sacrifice, and exceptional courage** by members of the **armed forces, paramilitary forces, and civilians**.
- ◆ They are classified as **wartime (gallantry in the face of enemy) and peacetime awards**.
- ◆ **Administered by: Ministry of Defence (for armed forces) and Ministry of Home Affairs (for police and civilians)**.
- ◆ **Awarded by: President of India**.
- ◆ These gallantry awards are **announced twice in a year** – first on the occasion of the **Republic Day** and then on the occasion of the **Independence Day**.
- ◆ **Wartime Gallantry Awards: Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Mahavir Chakra (MVC) and Vir Chakra**.
- ◆ **Peacetime Gallantry Awards: Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra**.

Gallantry Awards

- ◆ **Order of Precedence:** Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Ashoka Chakra (AC), Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), Kirti Chakra (KC), Vir Chakra (VrC), Shaurya Chakra (SC).
- ◆ **All six awards can be conferred posthumously.**

18. BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile

News -

The Indian Army on Monday (December 1, 2025) successfully carried out a combat missile launch of the BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile from a test range in the Bay of Bengal.

- ◆ equipped with advanced guidance and control systems, the missile demonstrated high-speed flight stability and terminal precision, striking its designated target accurately.

- ◆ The mission achieved all operational objectives under simulated battle conditions.

About brahmos missile

- ◆ **Universal Capability:** It is a long-range supersonic cruise missile system designed for “universal” use, meaning it can be launched from land, sea, and air.
- ◆ **Joint Development:** The system is a joint venture between DRDO (India) and NPOM (Russia).
- ◆ **Dual Roles:** It is designed with two specific variants to perform Anti-Ship and Land-Attack operations.
- ◆ **Operational Status:** The system has been successfully inducted and is currently operational with both the Indian Navy (IN) and the Indian Army (IA).

19. INS Aridhaman

News

India to commission INS Aridhaman as third Arihant-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine

- ◆ INS Aridhaman is India’s third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), following INS Arihant and INS Arighat, and is currently in the final phase of trials with commissioning expected soon.
- ◆ It features a modified “stretched” hull design that makes it significantly larger than its predecessors, allowing it to carry a heavier payload and more weaponry.
- ◆ The submarine is equipped with 8 missile launch tubes, double the capacity of the earlier vessels (which have only 4), significantly boosting its offensive firepower.
- ◆ It is designed to be armed with the K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), which has a range of 3,500 km, providing a much wider strategic reach compared to the 750 km range of the K-15 missiles used previously.
- ◆ The induction of this third SSBN will allow India to maintain at least one submarine on underwater patrol at all times, ensuring a “continuous at-sea deterrent” and strengthening the country’s second-strike capability.

20. Other Military Exercises in news

Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025

- ◆ **Countries Involved:** India and Malaysia
- ◆ **Place of Event:** Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan, India
- ◆ **Duration:** December 5 – December 18, 2025

Exercise Ekuverin 2025

- ◆ **Countries Involved:** India and Maldives
- ◆ **Place of Event:** Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
- ◆ **Duration:** December 2 – December 15, 2025

Exercise Surya Kiran XIX (19th Edition)

- ◆ **Countries Involved:** India and Nepal
- ◆ **Place of Event:** Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, India
- ◆ **Duration:** November 25 – December 8, 2025 (Concluded in early December)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. India Re-Elected to UNESCO Executive Board

In News

- ◆ India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for the 2025-29 term.

UNESCO Executive Board

- ◆ It is one of the **three constitutional organs of the U.N. agency** (the others being the General Conference and the Secretariat) and it is elected by the General Conference.
- ◆ It acts under the authority of the General Conference.
- ◆ It examines the programme of work for the organisation and corresponding budget estimates submitted to it by the Director-General.
- ◆ It consists of 58 Member States each with a four-year term of office.

2. Supreme Court on Rohingya Deportation Case

In News

- ◆ The Supreme Court heard a habeas corpus petition by activists alleging disappearance of several Rohingya persons who were in Delhi Police custody since May.

Rohingya Crisis

- ◆ **Rohingya** - They are an **ethnic group largely comprising Muslims who predominantly live in the Western Myanmar province of Rakhine.**
- ◆ In Myanmar, they are classified as illegal migrants and foreigners residents.

Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

- ◆ It is also known as the **1951 Refugee Convention.**
- ◆ It is a **United Nations multilateral treaty which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.**
- ◆ **India's membership** - India is not a signatory to this Convention.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

- ◆ **Adopted in** - It is a multilateral treaty adopted by the **United Nations in 1966.**
- ◆ The covenant commits its parties to **respect the civil and political rights of individuals including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial.**

India's Stand on Rohingyas

- ◆ **Operation Insaniyat:** In 2017, India launched "Operation Insaniyat" to **provide relief assistance for the refugee camps in Bangladesh.**

3. Thailand-Cambodia Conflict



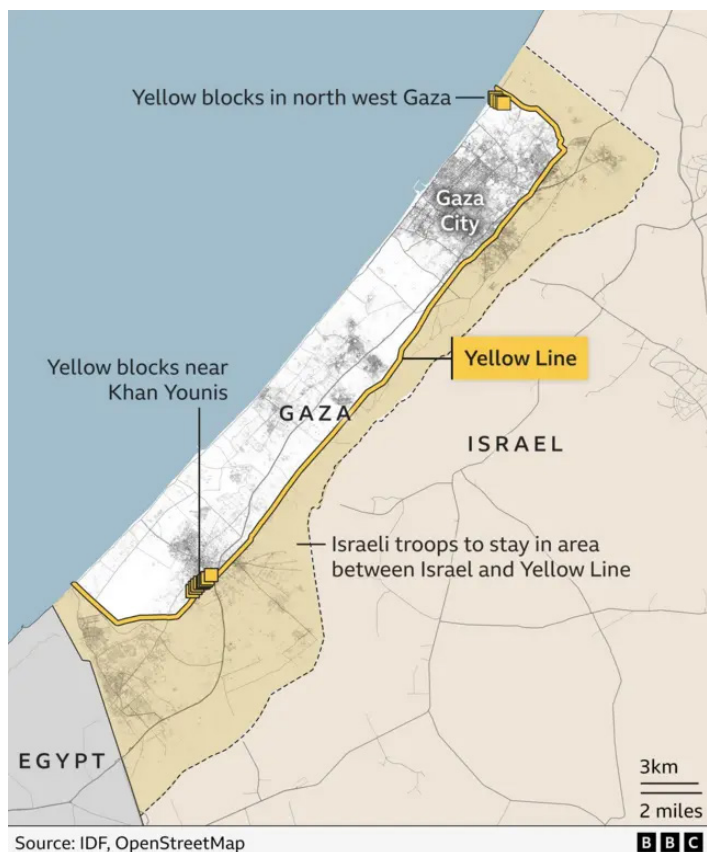
In News

- ◆ Recently, Thailand launched airstrikes on Cambodian military targets.

Background

- ◆ The conflict centers on a **long-standing territorial dispute** dating back to colonial-era **border demarcations made by France in 1907.**
- ◆ At the **heart of the dispute is the Preah Vihear temple**, a culturally significant **11th–12th century Khmer shrine claimed by both countries.**
- ◆ Though the International Court of Justice affirmed Cambodian sovereignty in 1962 and again in 2013, Thailand has rejected the rulings, and the area remains heavily militarized.

4. Yellow Line Defining New Gaza Border



Context

- ◆ The Israeli military has described the “Yellow Line”, a temporary withdrawal line agreed during Phase-1 of the 2025 U.S.-brokered ceasefire, as a “new border”.

Yellow Line

- ◆ The Yellow Line is a **temporary military demarcation line inside the Gaza Strip**.
- ◆ Territory east of the line remains under direct Israeli operational control.
- ◆ **Territory Controlled by Israel:** More than half of Gaza (53–58%) remains under Israeli control. It includes most agricultural land and Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

5. Blue Corner Notice



In News

- ◆ Interpol has issued a Blue Corner Notice to track owners of nightclubs in Goa, after a fire at the club killed 25 people.
- ◆ The Goa Police had requested the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to seek the notice from Interpol.

INTERPOL Notices

- ◆ **Red Notice:** To seek the location and arrest of persons wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.
- ◆ **Yellow Notice:** To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
- ◆ **Blue Notice:** To collect additional information about a person’s identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.
- ◆ **Black Notice:** To seek information on unidentified bodies.
- ◆ **Green Notice:** To provide warning about a person’s criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety.
- ◆ **Orange Notice:** To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
- ◆ **Purple Notice:** To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.
- ◆ **INTERPOL–United Nations Security Council Special Notice:** Issued for entities and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council Sanctions Committees.

6. Cabinet Approves India-Oman Free Trade Pact

Context

- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposed Free Trade Agreement between India and Oman.

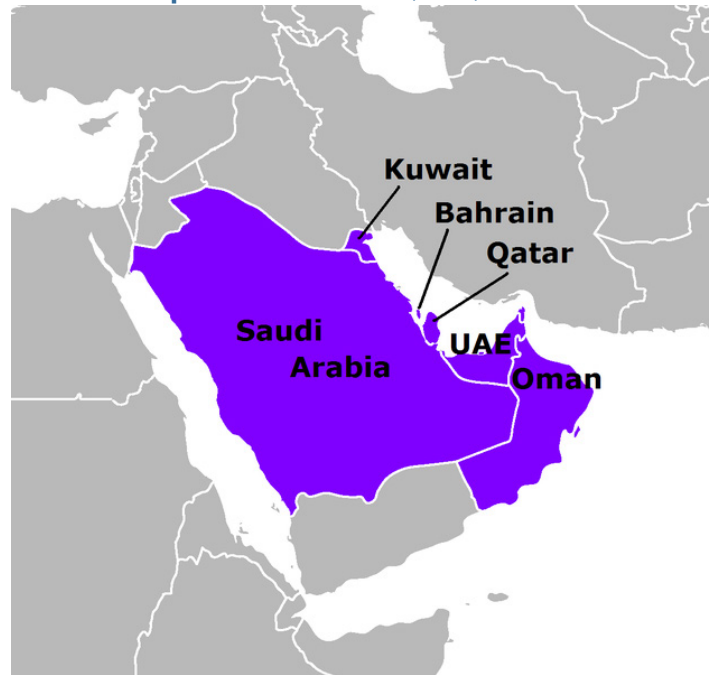
Highlights of the FTA

- ◆ With the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), **India will get access to 98% of its products in Oman and significant access in services.**

India-Oman Ties

- ◆ **Diplomatic relations** were formalised in **1955** and elevated to a **Strategic Partnership in 2008.**
- ◆ **Trade Relations:** Oman is **India's 30th largest trading partner in FY 2023-2024 with total trade of US\$ 8.947 billion.**
- ◆ India is among Oman's top trading partners and **Oman is the third largest export destination among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.**
- ◆ **India is the 4th largest market for Oman's crude oil exports** for the year 2023 after South Korea.
- ◆ **Defence Cooperation:** India and Oman conduct regular biennial bilateral exercises between all three services.
 - ◆ Army exercise: Al Najah
 - ◆ Air Force exercise: Eastern Bridge
 - ◆ Naval Exercise: Naseem Al Bahr
- ◆ **Maritime Cooperation:** **Oman is at the gateway of Strait of Hormuz** through which India imports one-fifth of its oil imports.
- ◆ India signed a pact with the country in 2018 to **access the Duqm port of Oman.**
- ◆ The **Port of Duqm is situated on the southeastern seaboard of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.** It is strategically located, in **close proximity to the Chabahar port in Iran.**

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)



- ◆ It is a **political and economic union of six Arabian Peninsula countries**
- ◆ **Members:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- ◆ **Establishment:** **Founded on May 25, 1981,** through an agreement signed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ◆ **Objectives:** To achieve unity and coordination among member states in all fields, including economic, security, cultural, and social cooperation.
- ◆ **Headquarters:** **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**

7. Gulf of Oman



In News

- ◆ Iran seizes foreign oil tanker carrying 6 million litres of smuggled Diesel in the Gulf of Oman.

Gulf of Oman

- ◆ The Gulf of Oman is the **north-western arm of the Arabian Sea.**
- ◆ **Connectivity** - It forms a vital maritime corridor connecting the **Indian Ocean with the Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz.**
- ◆ Through the **Strait of Hormuz, it provides access to the Persian Gulf,** making it vital for global oil and LNG trade.
- ◆ Source: TH

8. PM Visit to Jordan



Context

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his **two-day visit to Jordan.**
- ◆ The visit marks **India’s first full bilateral engagement with Jordan** and comes as the **two countries prepare to celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations.**
- ◆ Five memoranda of understanding were finalized covering culture, renewable energy, water management, digital public infrastructure and a twinning arrangement between the historic sites of Petra and Ellora.
- ◆ **India is Jordan’s third-largest trading partner,** Prime Minister Modi proposed **enhancing**

bilateral trade to \$5 billion over the next five years.

- ◆ He also encouraged **collaboration between Jordan’s digital payment system and India’s Unified Payments Interface.**
- ◆ **Note - Jordan is a leading supplier of phosphates and potash fertilizers for India.**

Additional Information - Jordan

- ◆ **West Asian country in the Middle East.**
- ◆ **Borders:** Israel & Palestine (West), Saudi Arabia (South & East), Iraq (East), Syria (North).
- ◆ **Dead Sea is a landlocked salt lake between Israel and Jordan** in southwestern Asia.
- ◆ **Landlocked except for a short coastline at Aqaba (Red Sea).**

9. UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

In News

- ◆ The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) has completed two decades of efforts aimed at bridging divides, reducing polarization, and promoting intercultural dialogue.

UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

- ◆ **Secretariat: New York**
- ◆ **Launched: 2005**
- ◆ **Initiated by: Republic of Türkiye & Spain,** under the auspices of the United Nations.

Objectives:

- ◆ Improve **cross-cultural and inter-religious relations** between nations and communities.
- ◆ To **counter polarisation, extremism, xenophobia and hate speech.**
- ◆ Promote **mutual understanding, inclusion, and peaceful coexistence.**
- ◆ **Relevance for India- Aligns with India’s civilisational ethos of pluralism and “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”.**

10.RELOS Agreement

In News

- ◆ **Russia’s lower house of parliament has ratified the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistic Support (Relos) Agreement with India.**
- ◆ Relos is similar to logistics agreements India

has signed with countries like the US, UK, Japan, Australia, France, Singapore, South Korea, and Vietnam.

India–Russia Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (Relos) Agreement

- ◆ It is a **bilateral military logistics pact**.
- ◆ It enables **both countries' military aircraft, ships, and personnel to use each other's bases for refueling, maintenance, spare parts, training, joint exercises, humanitarian missions, and disaster relief**.
- ◆ It **streamlines logistics by reducing paperwork, ensuring quicker support, and allowing rolling settlement of costs**.

11. Operation Sagar Bandhu

Context

- ◆ In the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah, which caused widespread devastation across Sri Lanka, India swiftly launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to support relief and rescue efforts.

Operation Sagar Bandhu

- ◆ It is a **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operation** launched by India to provide emergency aid to Sri Lanka.

Under the operation, India dispatched:

- ◆ Relief material
- ◆ Medical supplies
- ◆ Emergency equipment
- ◆ **Significance** - The operation reflects **India's commitment to its Neighbourhood First Policy and the broader maritime vision of MAHASAGAR**.

Additional Information - Cyclone Ditwah

- ◆ It is a **tropical storm** that rapidly formed over the southwest Bay of Bengal.
- ◆ The name **Ditwah** was contributed by Yemen.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

1. Ellora Caves



Context

- ◆ Scottish historian William Dalrymple has urged the Maharashtra government to bring greater visibility to the lesser-known heritage sites around the Ellora Caves.

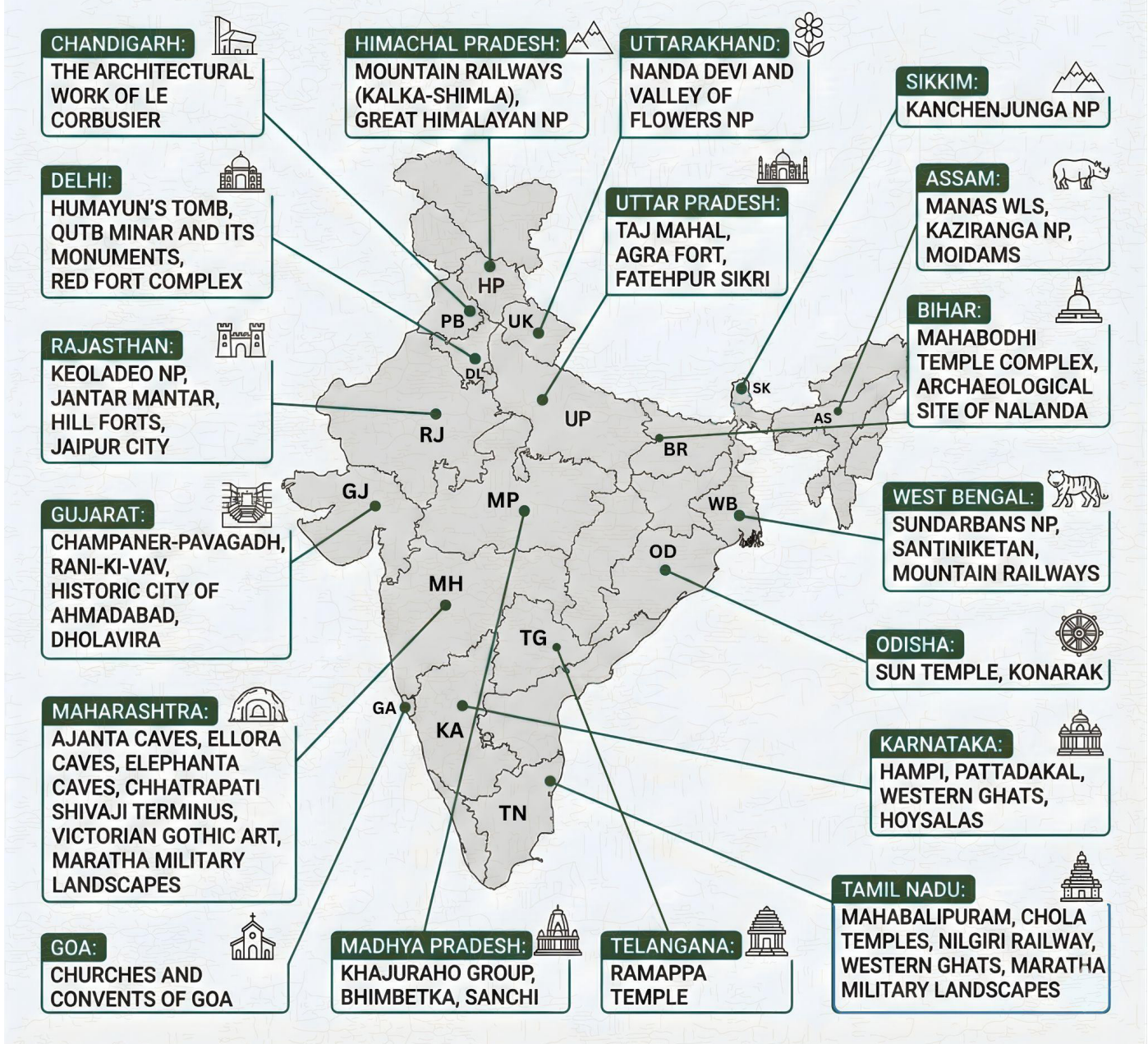
Ellora Caves

- ◆ **Located in - Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra**, the Ellora Caves are among **India's first UNESCO World Heritage sites**.
- ◆ The cave complex was **carved between 600 CE and 1000 CE**, spanning the rule of the **Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, and Yadavas**.
- ◆ **Religious Pluralism:** The complex comprises **34 major caves, 12 Buddhist, 17 Hindu, and 5 Jain, demonstrating a unique period of interreligious harmony and artistic exchange**.

Key Architectural Features

- ◆ **Kailasa Temple (Cave 16):** It is carved from a **single monolithic basalt rock, dedicated to the Hindu god Lord Shiva**.
- ◆ **Buddhist Caves:** These include **monasteries (viharas) and prayer halls (chaityas)**.
- ◆ **Jain Caves:** Built during the **later phase of Ellora's development**.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA



2. Hornbill Festival



In News

- ◆ The 26th edition of Nagaland's famed Hornbill Festival, known as the "Festival of Festivals," began at the Naga Heritage Village in Kisama, Kohima, coinciding with the state's Statehood Day (December 1st).

Hornbill Festival

- ◆ It is held annually in the **first week of December at Kisama near Kohima.**
- ◆ It is a vibrant **cultural showcase of all Naga tribes.**

Significance -

- ◆ It was conceived in 2000 to promote unity and

preserve ethnic heritage.

- ◆ It highlights both traditional and contemporary Naga culture through music, crafts, cuisine, and folklore.

Additional Information -Great Hornbill



- ◆ **Scientific name - Bucerus bicornis.**
- ◆ **Also known as -** It is also known as the concave-casqued hornbill, **great Indian hornbill** or **great pied hornbill.**
- ◆ **Habitat -** It is found in the **Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.**
- ◆ **Uniqueness -** The most prominent feature of the Great Hornbill is the bright yellow and black casque (hard structure on the head of some birds) on top of its massive bill.
- ◆ **Festival -** The **Hornbill Festival** is celebrated in Nagaland.
- ◆ **State Bird -** Great Hornbill is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala.

Conservation status

- ◆ **IUCN Status -** Vulnerable
- ◆ **Indian Wildlife Protection Act,1972 -** Schedule I
- ◆

3. 70th Mahaparinirvan Diwas

In News

- ◆ President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas at the Parliament complex in New Delhi.

Mahaparinirvan Diwas

- ◆ **Meaning -** Parinirvana, regarded as one of the major principles as well as goals of Buddhism, is a Sanskrit term which means **release or freedom after death.**
- ◆ As per the Buddhist text ‘Mahaparinibbana Sutta’, the death of Lord Buddha at the

age of 80 is considered as the original Mahaparinirvan.

- ◆ **Observed on -** 6th December is observed to commemorate the unfathomable contribution to society given by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and his achievements.
- ◆ Owing to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s status as a Buddhist leader, his death anniversary is referred to as Mahaparinirvan Diwas.

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

- ◆ Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was a **social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot (knowing or using several languages), orator, a scholar and thinker of comparative religions.**
- ◆ **Birth -** He was born in 1891 in Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).

Brief Profile

- ◆ He is known as the **Father of the Indian Constitution** and was India’s first **Law Minister.**
- ◆ He was the **Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution.**
- ◆ He was a **well-known statesman who fought for the rights of the Dalits and other socially backward classes.**

Contributions

- ◆ He led the **Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 against Hindus** who were opposing the decision of the Municipal Board which had barred the untouchables from using water from the mahad tank.
- ◆ In 1926, the Municipal Board of Mahad (Maharashtra) passed an order to open the tank to all communities.
- ◆ **He participated in all three Round Table Conferences.**
- ◆ In 1932, **Dr. Ambedkar signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhiji, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).**
- ◆ However, the **seats reserved for the depressed classes were increased from 71 to 147 in provincial legislatures and to 18% of the total in the Central Legislature.**
- ◆ His ideas before the **Hilton Young Commission** served as the foundation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Election and Designation

- ◆ In 1937, he was elected to the Bombay Legislative Assembly as a legislator (MLA).
- ◆ He was appointed to the Executive Council of Viceroy as a Labour member in 1942.
- ◆ In 1947, Dr. Ambedkar accepted PM Nehru’s invitation to become Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India.

Shift to Buddhism

- ◆ He resigned from the cabinet in 1951, over differences on the Hindu Code Bill. He converted to Buddhism in 1956.
- ◆ He was awarded India’s highest civilian honour the Bharat Ratna in 1990.

Important Works

Journals

- ◆ Mooknayak (1920), Bahishkrit Bharat (1927), Samatha (1929), Janata (1930).

Books

- ◆ Annihilation of Caste, Buddha or Karl Marx, The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables
- ◆ Buddha and His Dhamma
- ◆ The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women

Organizations

- ◆ Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)
- ◆ Independent Labor Party (1936)
- ◆ Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)

Death

- ◆ He died on 6th December 1956.
- ◆ Chaitya Bhoomi is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.

Relevance of Ambedkar in Present Times

- ◆ Caste-based inequality in India still persists. While Dalits have acquired a political identity through reservation and forming their own political parties, they lag behind in social (health and education) and economic dimension.

4. Preah Vihear Temple

In News

- ◆ India has expressed concern over reports of damage to conservation facilities at the Preah Vihear temple complex.

Preah Vihear Temple

- ◆ **Location** - It is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva located in Cambodia, near the border with Thailand.
- ◆ It was built mainly during the reigns of Khmer kings Suryavarman I and Suryavarman II (9th–12th centuries CE).
- ◆ It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008.

5. Bison Horn Maria Dance



Context

- ◆ The traditional Bison Horn Maria dance was performed during a village festival at Judiya Para in Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

Bison Horn Maria Dance

- ◆ **Performed by:** Dandami Madia (Maria /Gaur Maria) tribes of Bastar, Chhattisgarh.
- ◆ Both men and women perform the dance, during village festivals and major community occasions.
- ◆ **Costumes:** Male dancers wear horn-shaped headgear made of bamboo, decorated with bison horns, feathers, shells and bright cloth strips.
- ◆ Women wear brass chaplets and heavy necklaces.
- ◆ **Instruments:** Log drums slung around the neck provide rhythmic beats.
- ◆ **Performance:** Men mimic bison charging and hunting, while women dance alongside, often with sticks, in a synchronized, ritualistic way.
- ◆ Ritual chants invoke deities such as Budhadev and Danteshwari Mai, reinforcing spiritual continuity.

6. Swahid Diwas

In News

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured the courage of those who participated in the historic Assam Movement on Swahid Diwas.

Swahid Diwas

- ◆ It is observed annually on **December 10**
- ◆ **Objective - to honour those who sacrificed their lives during the Assam Movement**

Assam Movement

- ◆ It was a **mass agitation launched in 1979** by the Assam Students' Union (ASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) **against large-scale infiltration from Bangladesh.**
- ◆ The movement culminated in 1985 with the **signing of the historic Assam Accord.**
- ◆ The **accord ensures detection and deportation of illegal foreigners** and guarantees **constitutional, legislative, and administrative safeguards** to protect Assamese identity, culture, and heritage.

7. Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar

Context

- ◆ A commemorative postage stamp in honour of the king Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II (Suvaran Maran) was released by Vice President C P Radhakrishnan.

Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar (705 AD-745 AD),

- ◆ **He was also known as Suvaran Maran, was a ruler of the Mutharaiyar lineage, feudatories of the Pallavas.**
- ◆ He belonged to the illustrious Mutharaiyar dynasty, which **ruled the central regions of Tamil Nadu between the 7th and 9th centuries CE.**
- ◆ He **ruled from Tiruchirappalli for nearly four decades** and that his reign was **marked by administrative stability, territorial expansion, cultural patronage, and military prowess.**
- ◆ Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar is **believed to have fought bravely in several battles alongside the Pallava king Nandivarman, and is remembered as a great administrator.**

- ◆ **Religious Policies:** The Pallava reign saw a **religious revivalism of Hinduism amid the dominance of Jainism and Buddhism.**
- ◆ As their feudatories, the **Mutharaiyars were great temple builders.**

8. Goa Liberation Day

Context

- ◆ December 19 marks the day Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule and formally integrated into India in 1961.

Goa Liberation Day

- ◆ **First capture (1510): Albuquerque seized Goa** with help from the local chieftain Timoji.
- ◆ **Loss of Goa: Adil Shah's forces recaptured Goa** during the monsoon.
- ◆ **Final conquest (November 1510): Albuquerque** returned with reinforcements and decisively **defeated Bijapur forces.**

Reasons for Portuguese Success:

1. Superior naval power and artillery
2. Weak internal control of the Bijapur Sultanate
3. Local support from discontented groups
4. Effective leadership of Albuquerque

Impact:

- ◆ **Goa became the capital of Portuguese India (Estado da Índia).**
- ◆ It marked the **beginning of European territorial colonialism in India.**
- ◆ **Goa emerged as a centre of trade, administration, and Christianity.**
- ◆ Goa was the **first Indian Territory to be captured by European power and last to get its independence.**

Background:

- ◆ Following the **country's independence in 1947,** the regime had **major challenges to tackle: the integration of regions like Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Hyderabad among others.**
- ◆ The India government made several diplomatic outreach to persuade Portugal to hand over Goa peacefully.
- ◆ Portugal, which ruled Goa for 451 years, rejected all such requests.
- ◆ This led to the **Goa Liberation Movement, with**

significant participation from local leaders and the public.

📄 Operation Vijay

- ◆ Operation Vijay was **launched by the Indian Armed Forces to annex Goa and amalgamate it with the rest of India during Jawaharlal Nehru’s tenure as Prime Minister.**
- ◆ The **operation lasted for over 36 hours and involved coordinated strikes by the Indian Armed Forces across air, sea, and land.**
- ◆ **Outcome: Portuguese forces surrendered on 19 December 1961, leading to Goa’s liberation along with Daman and Diu.**
- ◆ On **30 May 1987, the Union Territory was split, and Goa was made India’s twenty-fifth state, with Daman and Diu remaining Union Territories.**

9. Turkiye’s “Stone Hills” Project

📄 Context

- ◆ Recent archaeological discoveries on Turkiye’s southeastern hills reveal life 11,000 years ago, during the emergence of early settled communities.

📄 “Stone Hills” project

- ◆ It was **launched in 2020 covering 12 sites in Sanliurfa province—described as the world’s Neolithic capital.**
- ◆ It includes **Göbekli Tepe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and oldest known megalithic structures in Upper Mesopotamia.**
- ◆ In India the Neolithic settlements have been found in the North-Western part (Such as Kashmir), Southern part (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh), North East (Meghalaya), and Eastern part (Bihar and Odisha) of India.
- ◆ Some of the important Neolithic settlements are Burzahom (Kashmir), Gufkral (Kashmir), Chirand (Bihar), and Utnur (Andhra Pradesh).

📄 Stone Age

- ◆ It is a **prehistoric period marked by the use of stone tools**, divided into three major periods: **Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic.**
- ◆ **Paleolithic Age:** Also known as the Old Stone Age.
- ◆ Began around 2.6 million years ago and lasted until around 10,000 BCE.

- ◆ Humans were hunter-gatherers, using stone tools for hunting, butchering, and food processing.
- ◆ **Mesolithic Age:** Occurred between 10,000 BCE and 5,000 BCE (varies by region).
- ◆ Characterized by specialized tools, environmental adaptations, and the early domestication of plants and animals.
- ◆ **Neolithic Age:** Began around 12,000 years ago and ended between 4500 BCE and 2000 BCE.
- ◆ Marked by the adoption of agriculture, animal domestication, and settled communities.
- ◆ Led to the development of pottery, weaving, and complex social structures.
- ◆ Agriculture revolutionized human societies and led to the rise of civilizations.

KARNATAKA DARSHANA

1. Committee to oversee unified waste management system for Bengaluru

📄 News :

- ◆ Govt to form high-level committee to implement end-to-end solid waste management system for city

📄 About

- ◆ **Purpose :** to roll out a technology-driven solid waste management (SWM) framework for the city.
- ◆ **Composition:** The committee will be headed by the **Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department**, who will serve as President, while the GBA Chief Commissioner will act as Vice-President.

2. Friends of Police mission

📄 News :

- ◆ Bengaluru Police has launched ‘Friends of Police’ mission.

📄 About

- ◆ **Aim :** aimed at **strengthening community policing and youth participation in crime prevention.**

- ◆ **Goal** : Bengaluru police **aiming to attract two lakh students as part of the team in policing** to build a safer and more informed city.
- ◆ **Coverage** : Over 10,000 students took the pledge and enrolled to help the police and be their 'eyes and ears'.
- ◆ "This is not only an awareness programme, but an initiative to strengthen **police and public relationship**,"

3. Michael Cunha commission

- ◆ The Inquiry Commission, headed by former Karnataka High Court Judge Justice John, submitted its report on the circumstances leading to the **death of COVID patients at the Chamarajanagar District Hospital** to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

4. Raj Bhavan renamed as 'Lok Bhavan'

News :

- ◆ The Governor's official residence in Karnataka has been renamed as '**Lok Bhavan**'.
- ◆ The change is made in **accordance with communication from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs** and has been approved by the Governor of Karnataka.

Additional Information-

- ◆ In July 2024, two important halls inside **Rashtrapati Bhavan** were renamed by President Droupadi Murmu:
- ◆ **Durbar Hall** → **Ganatantra Mandap** (to reflect the idea of "Republic" instead of the colonial term "Durbar").
- ◆ **Ashok Hall** → **Ashok Mandap** (to emphasise Indian cultural roots and the symbolism of Ashoka/Ashok tree)

5. BWSSB wins award for water management

- ◆ **Award Name:** Geospatial Excellence Award for Water Management
- ◆ **Awardee:** The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** GeoSmart India
- ◆ **Place of Event:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

6. 'Hygiene on Go'



In news -

- ◆ 'Hygiene on Go', a Mobile sanitation vehicle for police personnel launched in Bengaluru.

About the 'Hygiene on Go':

- ◆ **Aim** : In a bid to improve the working conditions of the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) personnel.
- ◆ **Launched by** : Department of Home Affairs. It's a first-of-its-kind mobile sanitation vehicle exclusively for the Bengaluru City Police.
- ◆ **Coverage area** : The vehicles will run from 8.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. along three major traffic-heavy routes - **Thanisandra, Adugoddi, and Mysuru Road**, covering 91 designated halting points to ensure timely and reliable access for personnel on duty.
- ◆ **Components**: The vehicles will feature **separate washrooms for male and female police officers**. They will also have **exterior CCTV coverage, GPS tracking, and an LED display carrying road safety messages**.
- ◆ **Benefits** : Mobile sanitation arrangement is very beneficial, especially for women, because washrooms are much more easily accessible for men than for women.

7. CFTRI to develop foods for astronauts, athletes, and ageing population

News -

- ◆ The Mysuru-based **Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI)** has now shifted its focus to developing **advanced food technologies**.

- ◆ These include foods for **astronauts (space foods)**, endurance-enhancing foods for **sportspersons (sports foods)**, and **nutrition-rich foods for the elderly (geriatric foods)**.

☰ Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI)

- ◆ It is a **constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, New Delhi.
- ◆ It is **located in Mysuru, Karnataka**.
- ◆ The institute was **established on October 21, 1950**.
- ◆ **Mandate** - It is a leading center for research and development in food science and technology

8. 'Digital Heritage Portal'

☰ In News -

- ◆ State to develop 'Digital Heritage Portal' to preserve cultural legacy.

☰ 'Digital Heritage Portal':

- ◆ **Vision** : Karnataka is to become a national leader in digital heritage preservation with a proposal to create a unified Karnataka Digital Heritage Portal .
- ◆ **Role** : it will integrate manuscripts, rare printed works, archival records and other cultural resources on a single platform.
- ◆ **Launched by** : The initiative, led jointly by the Oriental Research Institute (ORI), Mysuru, and the Karnataka State Archives.
- ◆ It aligns with the Union government's Digital India Mission and the National Mission for Manuscripts.

☰ Did you know?

- ◆ The **Oriental Research Institute (ORI)**, Mysuru houses more than **70,000 manuscripts and 45,000 rare printed works**, including the **Arthashastra, Aryabhatiya, Natya Shastra and Sritattvanidhi**.
- ◆ **Digitisation projects worth over ₹2.15 crore**, undertaken with the **Bengaluru Mythic Society and Save Our Country Foundation**
- ◆ **Note** - Bengaluru mythic society established in 1909 (asked in psi 402)

9. India-Taiwan Industrial Park to come up in State

☰ News -

- ◆ **The Allegiance International Co. Ltd. of Taiwan will establish an India-Taiwan Industrial Park (ITIP) in Karnataka with an investment of ₹1,000 crore.**
- ◆ **Significance of the move** - this collaboration will strengthen Karnataka's position as India's leading destination for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing

☰ Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)

- ◆ It is a not-for-profit organization established in 2021 by the Government of Karnataka.
- ◆ It serves as a "knowledge bridge" between the state government and the technology industry to accelerate digital growth and investments.

☰ Core Objectives

- ◆ **Economic Impact:** Aims to help Karnataka contribute \$300 billion toward India's goal of a \$1 trillion digital economy by 2030.
- ◆ **Startup Growth:** Targets the creation of 10,000 startups in regional clusters (outside Bengaluru) by 2030.
- ◆ **Employment:** Focuses on creating 5 million skilled and semi-skilled jobs within the digital sector.

☰ Key Focus Areas (Verticals)

- ◆ **Innovation & Startups:** Facilitating access to capital, mentorship, and networking for early-stage companies.
- ◆ **Beyond Bengaluru:** Decentralizing the tech industry by developing clusters in Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, and Tumakuru.
- ◆ **Electronics Systems Design and Manufacturing (ESDM):** Promoting Karnataka as a global hub for semiconductor and electronics manufacturing.
- ◆ **Talent Accelerator:** Bridging the skill gap through initiatives like Future Digital Jobs and the Karnataka Skill Connect Portal.
- ◆ **IT/ITeS, BPM & GCC:** Attracting Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and mid-sized IT firms to establish operations across the state.

10. 'Karnataka is India's services export powerhouse, Bengaluru is the main engine'

News -

- ◆ Bengaluru emerged as the leader in India's service exports for 2024-25, contributing \$78.64 billion, nearly 35% of the country's total services exports.
- ◆ As per Vishveshvarayya-trade-promotion-centre-(VTPC) — Karnataka's export facilitation arm, the State contributed 41% of India's services exports in FY2021-22, valued at \$254.4 billion,
- ◆ Karnataka's economy is profoundly services-driven. The Economic Survey of Karnataka records services at 68.1% of GSV (2024-25), with Bengaluru Urban as the single largest contributor to GSDP.

11. SHUCHI SCHEME

News

- ◆ Govt. yet to procure sanitary pads under Shuchi scheme

SHUCHI SCHEME

- ◆ **Objective - to distribute free menstrual pads to school and college girls between the ages of 10 and 18 years.**
- ◆ **Launched in - 2013-14**
- ◆ **Aim - create awareness about menstrual hygiene among girls studying in government and aided schools and colleges across the state.**

Additional Information - Shuchi-Nanna Maithri

- ◆ It was a pilot project **launched in 2023**
- ◆ **It distributes Menstrual Cups instead of pads to pre-university students** in select districts like Dakshina Kannada and Chamarajanagar **to promote eco-friendly hygiene.**

12. Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority

News -

- ◆ **Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority** has prepared the road map for a 'disaster-resilient Karnataka' to reduce mortalities, economic loss and casualties

Karnataka State Disaster Risk Reduction (KSDRR) Road Map 2025-30

- ☒ According to this report **80% of the State's geographical area is prone to drought, 22% is prone to moderate earthquakes and 24% of the geographical area in the State is prone to cyclones, heavy winds, etc.,**
- ☒ **Human-induced disasters like road and industrial accidents too** are considered for risk assessment and disaster mitigation.

Additional information - Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority

- ◆ **Apex Body:** It functions as the **highest decision-making authority for disaster management in Karnataka.**
- ◆ **Leadership:** The authority is headed by the **Chief Minister** of Karnataka.
- ◆ **Facilitation & Monitoring:** It facilitates, coordinates, reviews, and monitors all disaster-related activities in the state, including capacity building.
- ◆ **Policy Formulation:** It lays down the State Disaster Management policy and guidelines for various government departments to follow.
- ◆ **Plan Approval:** It approves the State Disaster Management Plan and individual Departmental plans, ensuring they align with guidelines from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

13. Emergency response vehicles

News -

- ◆ The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) launched 'Accident Emergency Response Vehicles' aimed at providing swift assistance during road accidents and vehicle breakdowns involving State-run buses.

About Emergency response vehicles

- ◆ Initially, **two vehicles** will be deployed at central locations in **Bengaluru and Mysuru.**
- ◆ The **specially equipped vehicles will function as mobile workshops, enabling technical teams to quickly reach stranded buses with necessary tools, spare parts, and support to restore operations.**

14. 'Traveller Nooks' in Hampi set to be ready by March 2026

News -

- ◆ New "Traveller Nooks" aimed at improving visitor experience at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi are expected to be ready by March 2026.

Traveller Nooks

- ◆ **Aim** : To strengthen **tourism infrastructure** while ensuring that all interventions remain sensitive to **Hampi's archaeological and cultural significance**, thereby supporting sustainable tourism development in Hampi.
- ◆ **Launched by** : The initiative was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024** to provide essential amenities and information support to the growing number of tourists visiting the heritage town.
- ◆ **Ministry** : "The **Ministry of Tourism** has sanctioned the project 'Setting up of Traveller Nooks at Hampi' for the cost of ₹25.64 crore under its Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme to develop tourist amenities.
- ◆ **Implementing agency** : the State government has designated **Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Ltd. (KTIL)** as the State Implementing Agency for the scheme."
- ◆ **Benefits** : The Traveller Nooks are designed to address critical gaps in visitor facilities by providing **drinking water stations, hygienic toilets, ATMs, retail kiosks, and shaded resting areas.**

15. AI Centre of Excellence for Healthcare established at IISc

News -

- ◆ The Translational AI for Networked Universal Healthcare (TANUH) Foundation has been established at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru

AI Centre of Excellence for Healthcare established at IISc

- ◆ **Aim** : as a dedicated AI Centre of Excellence in Healthcare to advance AI-driven healthcare innovation at scale in the country.
- ◆ This has been established in line with the

government of India's vision of 'Make AI in India and Make AI Work for India',

- ◆ It will be a not-for-profit company that focuses on **developing and deploying scalable AI solutions** for the effective management of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the point of care.**
- ◆ The centre operates as a **multidisciplinary hub**, bringing together **clinicians, data scientists, and AI researchers.**

16. State-appointed probe finds lapses in KKHRAC Society

News

- ◆ The report, prepared by retired IAS officer Sudhir Kumar, was recently submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Findings

- ◆ A State-appointed inquiry has uncovered extensive **financial and administrative irregularities in the Kalyana Karnataka Human Resource, Agriculture and Cultural (KKHRAC) Society.**
- ◆ The investigator described the **alleged mismanagement as one of the biggest misuse of funds in Karnataka** in the three-year period from 2020-21 to 2022-23.

Additional information - Kalyana Karnataka Human Resource, Agriculture and Cultural Society (KKHRACS).

- ◆ **Nature:** It is a **registered society established by the Government of Karnataka**, not a constitutional or statutory commission.
- ◆ **Headquarters:** **Kalaburagi (Gulbarga).**
- ◆ **Mandate:** **To promote the culture, literature, and heritage of the Kalyana Karnataka region (Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Ballari, and Vijayanagara).**

17. Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) funds

News

- ◆ The State government has used a significant share of the amount earmarked for the

Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) towards implementing the five guarantee schemes of the Congress government since 2023.

Additional information

- ◆ The Government of Karnataka enacted the **Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Allocation & Tribal-Sub Allocation (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act, 2013. And Rules 2017**
- ◆ Its aim is to ensure allocation of a budget in proportion to the population of SC/STs in the States.
- ◆ **Karnataka became only the second state to have such an Act.**

18. Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Bill) 2025.

News -

- ◆ Recently the Karnataka assembly passed The Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Bill) 2025.

Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2025.

- ◆ **Objective** - The legislation aims to criminalize social exclusion and “unconstitutional practices” enforced by informal bodies like caste or community panchayats.
- ◆ **Uniqueness** - Karnataka is the second state in India to enact such a law, following Maharashtra’s 2016 Act.

Key Provisions & Features

- ◆ **Target Entities:** Specifically targets caste panchayats, community groups, or influential individuals who enforce social boycotts.
- ◆ **Definition of Social Boycott:** Defines it as any oral or written act/gesture resulting in social discrimination. It recognizes 20 forms of boycott, including:
 1. Denial of professional, social, or economic interactions.
 2. Obstruction from religious or community functions, marriages, and funeral rites.

3. Restricting access to public spaces, services, educational institutions, or water sources.
4. Forcing individuals to follow specific cultural norms (e.g., dress or language).

- ◆ **Criminal Liability:** Liability extends to those who directly impose the boycott, those who encourage it, and members of any body who vote in favor of such a decision.
- ◆ **Penalties:** Offenders face imprisonment for up to three years, a fine of up to ₹1 lakh, or both.

Enforcement Mechanism:

- ◆ **Social Boycott Prohibition Officer:** A Group ‘A’ officer will be appointed to detect offenses and assist victims during trials.
- ◆ **Police Powers:** The police are empowered to file suo motu (on their own initiative) complaints.
- ◆ **Victim Support:** Recovered fines may be awarded to victims as compensation.

19. Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers’ Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2025

News

- ◆ Karnataka government passed the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers’ Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2025,

Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025

- ◆ **Mandate** - to provide legal recognition and social protection to approximately 400,000 gig workers.
- ◆ It replaces the earlier ordinance promulgated in May 2025 and was formally notified on September 12, 2025.

Key Features

- ◆ **Welfare Board & Fund:** Establishes a **tripartite Gig Workers Welfare Board headquartered in Bengaluru** to oversee registrations and schemes.
- ◆ It also creates a **dedicated Welfare Fund** financed by a “welfare fee” of 1% to 5% of the **payout per transaction, levied on aggregator platforms.**
- ◆ **Registration:** All gig workers must be registered and assigned a **Unique ID applicable across all platforms** to access benefits.

- ◆ **Algorithmic Transparency:** Platforms are required to **disclose details about their automated monitoring and decision-making systems (algorithms) in simple language** to ensure fairness in task allocation and earnings.
- ◆ **Grievance Redressal: A two-tier mechanism is mandated:** first through an **Internal Dispute Resolution Committee (IDRC)** at the platform level, followed by an appeal to the **Welfare Board**.
- ◆ **Termination Protections:** Platforms **cannot deactivate or terminate a worker without providing a valid written reason and a 14-day prior notice** (except in cases of bodily harm).

20. Karnataka tops National Energy Conservation Awards 2025

- ◆ **Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL)** has won the National Energy Conservation Awards 2025.
- ◆ **Organised by :** The award ceremony, organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Union Ministry of Power
- ◆ **Category :** under the State Energy Efficiency Performance Award (SDA Group-1) category,
- ◆ **President Droupadi Murmu** presented the award in New Delhi on December 14 during the **National Energy Conservation Day celebrations**.

21. The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025

News -

- ◆ the **Legislative Assembly on Thursday** passed the much-debated **Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025**

Features of bill

- ◆ **Aim :** The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, that **seeks to provide legality** to the government orders related to **sub-classification of the 101 Scheduled Castes with a reservation share of 17%**
- ◆ As per the Bill, **Category-A, which has 16 castes**, and **Category-B, with 19 castes**, will

get **reservation of 6% each**, while **Category-C, comprising 63 castes**, will get reservation of 5%.

- ◆ Similarly, the Bill has three non-categorised Scheduled Castes – **Adi Andhra, Adi Dravida and Adi Karnataka** that are eligible to opt for reservation under **Category-A or Category-B**, based on caste certificates.
- ◆ The **one-man commission** led by retired **Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das** had submitted its report to the government on August 4 this year with **specific recommendations on sub-classification of Scheduled Castes** among various sub-groups of SCs.
- ◆ The government approved the recommendations of the commission with some modifications to implement the sub-classification among the SCs for ensuring a fair and equitable distribution of reservation benefits,

22. The Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2025

News -

The Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2025, was tabled in the Assembly

- ◆ The Bill seeks to **nominate a person belonging to the ST and a woman** as the members of the **Karnataka State Commission** for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- ◆ It also **seeks to empower the Karnataka State Commission for the SC and ST** to make necessary modifications in the reservation percentage of sub-classification to the members of SCs on the receipt of new data or information from the government.

23. CAG highlights inadequate preparedness in State's disaster management

NEWS-

The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has highlighted the vulnerabilities,

inadequate preparedness in disaster management system of Karnataka

Observations

- ◆ Report Analysing the efforts from 2017-18 to 2022-23 in managing calamities and risk reduction.
- ◆ The report pointed out that although the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) was established in 2008, the State Disaster Management Policy was published after 12 years, only in 2020.
- ◆ It said that the State Emergency Operation Centre was under-equipped in terms of human resources and infrastructure, which affected its functioning.
- ◆ The Disaster Response Force Units had huge vacancies — ranging from 67% to 96% — of the sanctioned strength resulting in the units facing difficulties in carrying out duties and rescue operations’
- ◆ The CAG has pointed out that although the State Action Plan for Flood Risk was established in 2021, it lacked preparation for flood management in critical sectors.
- ◆ It found that 49 out of the 100 Water Level Sensors installed in Bengaluru remained non-functional as on December 2023. The State has not established a legal framework for flood infrastructure.

24. Tungabhadra Dam

News-

- ◆ New crest gates for Tungabhadra Dam by June, says Deputy CM
- ◆ After the water level recedes to 1,613 ft in the Tungabhadra reservoir by December-end, the installation of new crest gates would be taken up and would be completed by June 2026

About thungabhadra dam

- ◆ **Location:** The dam is constructed across the Tungabhadra River (a tributary of the Krishna) at the confluence of Hosapete and Koppal in Karnataka.
- ◆ **Alternate Name:** It is also known as Pampa Sagar.
- ◆ **Storage :** Tungabhadra reservoir has a storage capacity of 101 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic

feet) with catchment area spreading to 28000 square kms. It is about 49.5 meters in height.

- ◆ **Purpose:** It is a multipurpose reservoir serving the objectives of irrigation, hydroelectricity generation, and flood control.
- ◆ **Structural Composition:** It holds the distinction of being India’s largest stone masonry dam.

25. ‘Arogya Sethu’ mobile health units

News-

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah flagged off 81 ‘Arogya Sethu’ Mobile Health Units (MHUs)

About ‘Arogya Sethu’ mobile health units

- ◆ **Aim:** aimed at delivering primary healthcare services to people living in remote, inaccessible, forest and hilly regions of Karnataka.
- ◆ initiative was intended to ensure that quality healthcare reaches citizens who have so far remained outside the formal health system.
- ◆ **coverage:** The mobile units, rolled out under the theme “Healthcare at the remotest village”, will provide doorstep healthcare services in hard-to-reach areas, including 32 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST)-reserved constituencies.
- ◆ **Implementation and fund :** Of the total 81 units, 49 are being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM), while 32 are funded through the State government’s Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) allocations.
- ◆ Each mobile health unit will be staffed with an MBBS doctor, a nurse and a laboratory technician.
- ◆ **The services** offered will include outpatient consultations, basic diagnostic tests using rapid diagnostic kits, free medicines, referral services and community health monitoring.
- ◆ The MHUs will be implemented at the district level with decentralised monitoring and supervision, enabling flexibility based on local needs and geographical conditions.
- ◆ units would also be deployed during medical emergencies and disasters.
- ◆ Of the total, 41 vehicles have been allotted to the North Karnataka region

26. 'VijAlpatha' labs

News-

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched 'VijAlpatha', a pilot Artificial Intelligence (AI) education initiative in Hosapete

- ♦ **Aim** : equipping government school students with future-ready skills in **Artificial Intelligence, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**, robotics, coding and digital innovation.
- ♦ **Implemented by** : the **Cyient Foundation** in partnership with the **Karnataka government**, was inaugurated at the **Government Girls' Pre-University College** at **Amaravati** in **Hosapete taluk** of **Vijayanagara district**.
- ♦ **Benefits** : "Programmes such as **VijAlpatha** will help **bridge the digital divide** and **prepare students from government schools for emerging technologies**,"

27. KMF's ghee consignments to U.S., UAE, and Australia

News-

Expanding its overseas market, the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) formally began exports of Nandini ghee to the U.S., Australia and the UAE.

- ♦ The **KMF has got orders** for supplying its ghee to the tune of **8 tonnes from the UAE, 5 tonnes from the U.S., and one tonne from Australia**.
- ♦ KMF was presently exporting its premium products like UHT tetra pack milk, ghee, butter, cheese, dairy whitener, ice cream, flavoured milk, sweets, and savouries to **Dubai, Qatar, Brunei, Maldives, and Singapore**, which have a sizeable concentration of Kannadigas

Additional information

About KMF

- ♦ KMF is the **Apex Body** representing Dairy Farmers Co-operatives in Karnataka and is owned and managed by milk producers.
- ♦ It is the **largest cooperative dairy federation in South India** and the **second largest** in the country in terms of procurement and sales.
- ♦ **Establishment**: The organization of Village Level Dairy Co-operatives **began in 1974** as part

of the country's first World Bank-funded Dairy Development Program.

- ♦ **Mission**: The core mission is to usher in rural prosperity through dairy development.
- ♦ **Motto**: The federation operates on the motto "**Quality Excellence from Cow to Consumer**," aiming to spread the "wealth of health."
- ♦ **Network**: The federation comprises **13 District Cooperative Milk Unions**, over 10,500 Dairy Cooperative Societies, and more than 2 million milk producers.

28. Gruha Arogya scheme

News-

Over 40 lakh people screened for cancers under Gruha Arogya scheme

- ♦ Since the **State Health Department** extended its **Gruha Arogya scheme** across Karnataka in August, **over 40 lakh people in rural areas** have been screened for oral, breast, and cervical cancers.

The Gruha Arogya Scheme

- ♦ **Launch Date**: The scheme was officially launched on **October 24, 2024**.
- ♦ **Initiative By**: It is a flagship program of the **Government of Karnataka** (Department of Health and Family Welfare).
- ♦ **Motto**: The initiative operates under the slogan "**Healthcare at Your Doorstep**".
- ♦ **Objective**: The main goal is the early detection and management of **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) to prevent complications and premature mortality**.
- ♦ **Target Population**: The scheme specifically targets individuals **aged 30 years and above targets 1.67 crore people**.
- ♦ **Operational Mode**: It involves door-to-door health screenings conducted by health workers (including ASHAs and Community Health Officers) on designated days (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday).
- ♦ **Diseases Covered**: The screening focuses on **Hypertension (Blood Pressure), Diabetes, and three common types of cancer: Oral, Breast, and Cervical cancer**.
- ♦ **Benefits**: Patients diagnosed with chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension

receive free medicines delivered to their doorsteps (supply for up to 3 months).

- ◆ **Pilot Project:** The scheme was initially rolled out as a pilot in the Kolar district before the planned statewide expansion.

29. Kuvempu national award

News -

- ◆ **Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail chosen for Kuvempu national award**
- ◆ **Award:** Kuvempu National Award 2025 (Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar)
- ◆ **Awardee:** Mahabaleshwar Sail (Noted Konkani writer)
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Pratishtana (Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust)

About Award:

- ◆ It is a **national-level literary award** conferred annually to a writer who has made significant contributions to any of the languages recognized by the Constitution of India.
- ◆ Instituted in **memory of the late Kannada Poet Laureate Kuvempu**, it is presented on his birth anniversary (December 29), which is observed as **'Vishwa Manava Dina' (Universal Brotherhood Day)**.
- ◆ The award carries a **cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation.**

About Mr. Sail

- ◆ Mr. Sail served in the Indian Army and participated in the Indo-Pak War in 1965. He also served in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force on the Israel-Egypt border in 1964-65. After his military service, he worked in the postal department.
- ◆ Mr. Sail's **first novel, Kaali Ganga**, was published in 1996 and it was based on the lives of farmers along Kali river in Karwar.
- ◆ Some of his well-known works include **Hawthan, Paltadcho Munis, Yug Sanvar and Vikhar Vilkho**

30. Digital Mobile Planetarium programme launched

- ◆ **Launch Date:** The upgraded programme was flagged off on November 27, 2025.
- ◆ **Implementing Authority:** Department of Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka and executed by **KSTePS (Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society)**.
- ◆ **Objective:** To bridge the rural-urban gap in science education and ignite scientific curiosity among students in remote areas who cannot access city planetariums.
- ◆ **Target Audience:** Students of Government schools in rural Karnataka.
- ◆ **Key Features:**
 - ◆ The initiative uses custom-built vehicles equipped with a 5-meter inflatable dome.
 - ◆ It features 360-degree fish-eye projection systems for an immersive experience.
 - ◆ The vehicles are air-conditioned and equipped with advanced audio systems.

31. Panel formed to implement SEP recommendations

- ◆ **Headed by :** The State government has appointed a **five-member expert committee headed by the Principal Secretary** of the Higher Education Department
- ◆ **Aim :** to examine and implement the recommendations related to higher education in the State Education Policy (SEP) final report, submitted to the government by the SEP Commission.
- ◆ **composition :** The vice-president of the Karnataka State Higher Education Council, the Commissioner of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education and the Director of the Department of Technical Education are members of the committee, and the Special Officer of the Higher Education Department is the member-secretary.
- ◆ **timeline :** The committee has been given two weeks' time to submit its report to the government.

Note :

- ◆ **The SEP Commission**, headed by **educationist Sukhdeo Thorat**, submitted the final report of

the State Education Policy consisting of 2,197 pages to the government on August 9, 2025.

- ♦ The report made a total of **26 major recommendations related to primary education, 52 to higher education, and 20 recommendations to professional education.**

Context:

- ♦ A massive number of ‘Rosy Starling’ (known locally as Gulabi Kabbakki) birds have migrated from Europe to the **Chintrapalli Tank** in Hagaribommanahalli, Vijayanagara district. This phenomenon highlights the rich biodiversity of the region.

Geographical and Historical Background

- ♦ **Location:** This tank is situated 15 km from the taluk headquarters, near the **Ankasamudra Bird Sanctuary.**
- ♦ **Area:** It spreads across approximately **275 acres.**
- ♦ **History:** The tank was constructed by **Somashekhara Nayaka**, the Palegar (ruler) of Harapanahalli.

Scientific Profile: Rosy Starling

- ♦ **Classification:** Scientifically known as *Pastor roseus*, it is a ‘passerine’ bird belonging to the **Sturnidae** family.
- ♦ **Physical Features:** It is characterized by a distinct pink body contrasted with a black head, wings, and tail.
- ♦ **Behavior:** They are highly social birds. Their synchronized and rhythmic collective flight patterns in the sky are known as ‘**murmuration.**’

Migration and Habitat

- ♦ **Migration:** They breed in parts of Central Asia and Europe and undertake transcontinental migration to India during the winter season.
- ♦ **Seasonality:** Their arrival coincides with the blooming of **Palash** (Flame of the Forest) and **Silk-cotton** trees. The nectar from these flowers serves as their primary food source.
- ♦ **Distribution:** These birds are found throughout India, including Karnataka.

Conservation Status

- ♦ **IUCN Red List:** Categorized as **Least Concern (LC).**
- ♦ **Population Trend:** According to the ‘State of India’s Birds Report-2020,’ their population has shown an increasing trend over the last 25 years.

Ecological Significance

- ♦ According to the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**, this migration serves as an indicator of environmental health and hygiene.
- ♦ A ‘Bird Habitat Complex’ is emerging in the region, comprising Ankasamudra, Tungabhadra backwaters, Malavi, Tigalana, Bhimanakere, and

32. Transport Dept. rolls out AI-powered ‘Smart Lock’ to curb LLR fraud

News-

- ♦ the Karnataka Transport Department has rolled out an AI-powered ‘Smart Lock’ system

About ‘Smart Lock’

- ♦ It uses artificial intelligence, facial recognition, and behavioural monitoring to ensure that only genuine applicants take the test
- ♦ **Aim :** To end malpractice and improve transparency in the licensing process.
- ♦ **Developed by :** the new mechanism developed by the **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
- ♦ It has been integrated into the **Sarathi Parivahan Seva portal** as an additional security layer.
- ♦ It uses **artificial intelligence, facial recognition, and behavioural monitoring** to ensure that only genuine applicants take the test.

33. Migration of ‘Rosy Starling’ to Chintrapalli Tank, Vijayanagara



Obalapura tanks.

Conservation and Challenges

- While this natural event boosts tourism potential, experts emphasize the urgent need for strict measures to control **illegal poaching** and to protect the natural ecosystem to ensure the safety of these migratory guests.

34. Implementation of 'Digital e-Stamp' System in Karnataka



DIGITAL E-STAMP

ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಇ-ಸ್ಟಾಂಪ್ ಮುದ್ರಾಂಕ ಕಾಗದ



Y26Y05MMBEY8AF7
INDIA NON JUDICIAL

Government of Karnataka
eStamp

eStamp Certificate No. : Y26Y05MMBEY8AF7
Issue Date : 09-May-2025
Description of Document : Lease of Immoveable property
As Per Stamp Act : (10-1-iii) Where the lease purports to be for a term exceeding one year and not exceeding ten years

Executor Detail : Ajay Kumar (Stamp Duty Paid By)
Executorant Details : Narayana M, Sanjay Kumar, Ram Kumar
Stamp Duty Amount : 2000 (Two Thousand Only) (₹)
Transaction Type : Online

Location of the Property	Survey No.	Area	North	South	East	West
Anekal Village	2/3	3.18(A0)	2/4	2/6	Road	2/5

Owner Name(a): Ajay Kumar, Harsha Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Ram Kumar

LEASE DEED

This deed of Lease is executed on 20 day of 06 month of 2025 year at Bengaluru BETWEEN Sri./Smt.XXXXX, S/o./YYYY W/o. ZZZZZ Occupation Engineer aged 46 years, Aadhaar No xxxxxxxx321 PAN VDRU4800B No 22/C residing atBSK 6th stage 11th block PIN Code 560080 herein after referred to as "the Lessor" of the one part and Represented by the GPA holder Sri./Smt. AAAAA, S/o./W/o.D/o BBBBBB occupation Doctor aged 36 years, Aadhaar No xxxxxxxx523 (May be added if required) AND Sri./Smt. CCCCC, S/o./ W/o./D/o DDDDD

Context:

- To prevent stamp fraud and enhance transparency in administration, the Revenue Department of Karnataka has launched the new 'Digital e-Stamp' system, replacing the existing 'e-Stamp' mechanism.

About the 'Digital e-Stamp' System:

- Technology:** Under this system, citizens can digitally sign documents using Aadhaar-based e-Sign or Digital Signature Certificates (DSC).
- Accessibility:** It is a 24/7 online service, enabling citizens to generate stamps from the comfort of their homes without the need for intermediaries.
- Payment Mechanism:** The stamp duty and fees are credited directly to the Government Treasury (State Exchequer).

Background and Necessity:

- Physical Stamps:** Physical stamp papers were previously discontinued to curb the menace of counterfeit stamps, notably following the Telgi scam.
- Limitations of Old e-Stamps:** The e-stamps issued through the Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd (SHCIL) faced challenges such as fraudulent photocopying, duplication, and illegal reuse.
- The Solution:** The Digital e-Stamp system is a paperless initiative that makes duplication and tampering virtually impossible.

Key Benefits:

- Security:** Effective prevention of identity fraud and forged signatures.
- Economic Advantage:** The commission previously paid by the government to SHCIL will now be saved, resulting in financial gains for the state exchequer.
- Eco-friendly:** Being a completely paperless system, it promotes environmental sustainability.
- Legal Validity:** Documents generated in digital format under this system carry full legal validity

35. Karnataka Ekalavya and Other Sports Awards



- ◆ **‘Mission Olympics-2028’:** For the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, 60 athletes from the state have been selected. Each athlete will receive an annual incentive of ₹10 lakh for their training.

📄 Award Details and Categories

Award	Eligibility/Field	Prize Details
Ekalavya Award	International/National Achievement	₹4 lakh cash + Bronze statue of Ekalavya + Certificate
Lifetime Achievement	Excellence in Sports Coaching	₹3 lakh cash + Statue + Certificate
Karnataka Kreedha Ratna	Rural/Indigenous Sports	₹2 lakh cash + Statue + Certificate
Sports Patron	Organizations/Institutions	₹10 lakh cash + Certificate

📄 Ekalavya Award Winners

2022 Awardees

- **Priya H. Mohan:** Athletics
- **Mithun Manjunath:** Badminton
- **Pratyanush Tomar:** Cycling
- **Sampath V. Pasmel:** Cycling
- **Mohammed Raheel:** Hockey
- **Dhanalakshmi A.:** Kayaking and Canoeing
- **Aditi Ashok:** Golf
- **S.D. Prajwal Dev:** Tennis
- **Yukti Rajendra:** Shooting
- **Ridhima Veerendrakumar:** Swimming
- **Manikandan K.:** Para Climbing
- **L.M. Manoj:** Volleyball
- **Pravalika V. Kushtagi:** Taekwondo
- **Ningappa P. Genennavar:** Wrestling
- **Rakshitha R.:** Para Athletics

📄 2023 Awardees

- **Nihal Joel:** Athletics
- **K. Sai Pratheek:** Basketball
- **R. Sanjana:** Basketball

📄 Context:

- ◆ Chief Minister of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, presented the prestigious **Ekalavya Award**, **Lifetime Achievement Award**, **Karnataka Kreedha Ratna**, and **Sports Patron Award** for the years 2022 and 2023. The ceremony took place at Yavanika in Bengaluru.

📄 Key Government Policy Announcements

The Chief Minister announced the following major decisions to encourage the sports sector:

- ◆ **Annual Award Presentation:** To maintain the value of the awards and respect the age limits of athletes, the Ekalavya Award will henceforth be presented every year.
- ◆ Rewards for Olympic Medalists:
 - ◆ **Gold Medal:** ₹6 crore cash prize and a Group ‘A’ or ‘B’ category government job.
 - ◆ **Silver Medal:** ₹4 crore cash prize.
 - ◆ **Bronze Medal:** ₹3 crore cash prize.

- **Anupama Guleda:** Cycling
- **Naidile B.:** Fencing
- **Ujwal Naidu:** Gymnastics
- **B. Abharan Sudev:** Hockey
- **Dadapir:** Kayaking and Canoeing
- **Divya T.S.:** Shooting
- **Aneesh S. Gowda:** Swimming
- **Priyanka S.:** Volleyball
- **Aishwarya P. Karigar:** Wrestling
- **Usha B.N.:** Weightlifting
- **Sridhar Nagappa Malagi:** Para Swimming
- **Ammu Mohan:** Para Badminton

📖 Karnataka Kreedha Ratna Winners

📖 2022 Awardees

- **Divya M.S.:** Ball Badminton
- **Bhaskara Devadiga:** Kambala
- **Rayappa Dhareppa Abbunavar:** Sangrani Stone Lifting
- **Chaitra B.:** Kho-Kho
- **Vittal Meti:** Kabaddi
- **Shankarappa K.:** Mallakhamba
- **Gopavva Manjunatha Khodki:** Wrestling
- **Mohammed Feroz Sheikh:** Yoga

📖 2023 Awardees

- **Gautam M.K.:** Kho-Kho
- **Sunil B. Padatara:** Wrestling
- **Vinayak M. Kongi:** Yoga
- **Meghana H.M.:** Ball Badminton
- **Atmiya M.B.:** Kabaddi
- **Manjula Hanamanta Hulagannavar:** Mallakhamba

📖 Lifetime Achievement and Sports Patron Awards

📖 Lifetime Achievement Award (Coaches):

- **2022:** B.N. Sudhakar (Badminton), R. Rajan (Basketball), Krishna (Football), Ishwar Angadi (Kabaddi), and Umesh Kalghatgi (Swimming).
- **2023:** Rahul B. (Para Athletics), H.N. Krishnamurthy (Kabaddi), K. Satyanarayana (Basketball), and H.B. Raveesh (Hockey).

📖 Sports Patron Award:

- **2023:** Seshadripuram Educational Trust, Bengaluru.

36. Karnataka's First Gen Z Post Office

📖 Context:

- ◆ Recently India Post inaugurated Karnataka's first Gen Z-themed revamped post office at the Acharya Institute of Technology (Achit Nagar Post Office) in Bengaluru.

📖 Features & Innovations

- ◆ **Student-Led:** Designed at Acharya Institute with the motto "Of, by, and for students".
- ◆ **Café Hub:** Provides free Wi-Fi, charging points, coffee, and a book/game booth.
- ◆ **Modern Tech:** Integrated self-booking kiosks and QR payments for "DIY" service.
- ◆ **Custom Philately:** Features a "MyStamp" counter for personalized postage.
- ◆ **On-Campus Logistics:** Offers dedicated parcel packaging to ease student shipping.
- ◆ **Expansion:** India Post plans to scale this model to campuses nationwide.
- ◆ **Goal:** To reposition India Post as a tech-driven, student-friendly community hub.

MISCELLANEOUS

AWARDS

1. Trump gets FIFA's new peace prize

📖 News -

The US leader Donald Trump, who has campaigned for the Nobel Peace Prize, gets FIFA award at the 2026 World Cup draw in Washington, DC.

📖 FIFA Peace Prize:

- ◆ **Year of Established:** 2025 (The inaugural award was presented on December 5, 2025).

- ◆ **Purpose:** To recognise and reward individuals who have taken exceptional and extraordinary actions for peace and, by doing so, have united people across the world.² It aligns with FIFA’s campaign motto, “Football Unites the World.”³
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association).⁴
- ◆ **Criteria:** The award is given to an individual who exemplifies an unwavering commitment to advancing peace, conflict resolution, and unity through notable leadership and diplomatic action.⁵

2. Raveena Tandon named PETA India’s 2025 Person of the Year

News -

In recognition of her vow to be meat-free, fierce dedication to protecting wildlife, tireless advocacy on behalf of community animals, and compassionate efforts to promote empathy for all living, feeling beings,

About PETA

Founded: PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) was founded in 1980.

Founders: Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco.

Global headquarters: Norfolk, Virginia, USA.

Main purpose: To honour those who work to protect animals and stop cruelty to animals.

3. Anant Ambani receives the Global Humanitarian Award

- ◆ **Award:** Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare
- ◆ **Awardee:** Anant Ambani (Founder of Vantara)
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** Global Humane Society
- ◆ **Purpose of the Award:** * To recognize visionary leadership in establishing Vantara, a 3,000-acre sanctuary in Jamnagar that has redefined large-scale wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

4. Miyana Railway Station Receives National Energy Conservation Award 2025 from the President of India

- ◆ **Award:** National Energy Conservation Award (NECA) 2025 (Best Performing Unit in Transport/Railway Station category)
- ◆ **Awardee:** Miyana Railway Station (Bhopal Division, West Central Railway)
- ◆ **Issuing Authority:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power
- ◆ **Purpose of the Award:** To recognize the station for saving 9,687 units of electricity through the implementation of LED lighting, energy-efficient BLDC fans, and smart lighting circuits (30-70% operation).

SPORTS

1. Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone and Mondo Duplantis crowned 2025 Athletes of the Year

- ◆ Team USA star **McLaughlin-Levrone** scooped the overall **women’s prize**, having earlier topped the **women’s track category** at the ceremony in Monaco.



- ◆ Swedish pole vaulting sensation **Duplantis**

took the overall men's award after also being voted the men's field winner.



2. Narine becomes third cricketer to take 600 T20 wickets



- ◆ Known for his variations for the longest time, mystery spinner Sunil Narine etched his name in history after becoming the **third bowler to claim 600 wickets in competitive T20 cricket**.
- ◆ He achieved the milestone during the World T20 game for his franchise Abu Dhabi Knight Riders against Sharjah Warriorz on December 3, 2025.
- ◆ Before Narine, **West Indies legend Dwayne Bravo (631 wickets in 582 matches)** and Afghanistan spin sensation **Rashid Khan (681 wickets in 499 matches)** have achieved this feat.

3. McLaren's Lando Norris is Formula 1 World Champion 2025;



- ◆ Lando Norris has secured his **maiden Formula One World Championship** after a tense season finale in Abu Dhabi, bringing McLaren its first drivers' title in more than a decade.

📄 2025 Formula 1 World Championship results

- ◆ **Winner (Drivers' Championship): Lando Norris** (United Kingdom).
- ◆ **Winning Team: McLaren** (Based in Woking, UK).
- ◆ **Significance:** This is McLaren's first Drivers' Championship title since **Lewis Hamilton in 2008**, marking a resurgence of one of F1's historic teams.
- ◆ **Runner-up:** Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing) – Context: Norris ended Verstappen's multi-year dominance.
- ◆ **Constructors' Championship: McLaren** (Secured alongside the drivers' title, cementing their dominance in the 2025 season).

4. 3-year-old Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha becomes world's youngest FIDE-rated chess player



- ♦ The nursery student from **Sagar, Madhya Pradesh**, has become the **world's youngest FIDE-rated player at three years, seven months, and 20 days old**.
- ♦ With a rapid rating of **1,572**, **Sarwagya surpassed the record previously held by Kolkata's Anish Sarkar**, who achieved the milestone at three years, eight months, and 19 days in November last year

5. SQUASH WORLD CUP

News

India win its maiden title, defeating Hong Kong



- ♦ India produced a **clinical and commanding display to overwhelm top-seed Hong Kong 3-0** and lift the squash World Cup .
- ♦ This is the **first time that the two countries competed in the final**.
- ♦ **Joshna Chinappa**, world ranked 79, negotiated a few early hiccups to give India a winning start, overcoming **Ka Yi Lee** — ranked 42 places above — 7-3, 2-7, 7-5, 7-1 in 23 minutes.

About event

- ♦ India hosted the **Squash World Cup for the third consecutive time**, with the tournament took place at **SDAT Stadium in Chennai** .
- ♦ **Twelve nations have competed**, including hosts India, **defending champions Egypt**, and **2023 runners-up Malaysia**.

6. GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa won FIDE Circuit 2025

- ♦ Indian Grandmaster (GM) Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa won the International Chess Federation (FIDE) Circuit 2025 with 115.17 points,
- ♦ He became the only male player to qualify via the FIDE Circuit and will make his second consecutive appearance at the Candidates Tournament.
- ♦ Three Indian women GM Divya Deshmukh, Koneru Humpy, and Vaishali Rameshbabu have already qualified for the 2026 Women's Candidates Tournament.
- ♦ a year-long series of tournaments held from January to December 2025, securing direct qualification to the Candidates Tournament 2026.

About FIDE Circuit 2025:

- ♦ **Overview:** The 2025 FIDE Circuit served as a system of top-level tournaments that acted as a qualification path for the Candidates Tournament 2026.
- ♦ **Organiser:** International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation or Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE).
- ♦ **Scoring:** Players earned points based on performance and tournament strength, with final standings determined by the sum of each player's seven best results.
- ♦ **FIDE Circuit 2025 Standings:** R. Praggnanandhaa topped the FIDE Circuit 2025 with 115.17 points, finishing comfortably ahead of runner-up Anish Giri (Netherlands) with 81.18 points and Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan) with 71.61 points.

Rank	Player	Country	Points
1	Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa	India	115.17
2	Anish Giri	Netherlands	81.18
3	Nodirbek Abdusattorov	Uzbekistan	71.61
4	Fabiano Caruana	United States of America (USA)	65.55
5	Matthias Bluebaum	Germany	63.94

7. Germany win record-extending 8th Hockey Men's Junior World Cup

- Germany's 10th appearance in the final saw them winning **their eighth title**, by defeating **first-time finalists Spain** and defending their crown at the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025 in Chennai.
- The 13-day event, which began on November 28 and was held in Chennai and Madurai as the two host cities, concluded with a fitting finale that was decided in a shootout.
- The last day of the tournament also saw **two-time winners India** defeating **Argentina** in the **third-place match to finish** on the podium with a bronze medal.

Top 4 teams in the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025 (final standings):

- Germany – Champions (1st)
- Spain – Runners-up (2nd)
- India – Third place, bronze medal (3rd)
- Argentina – Fourth place (4th)

8. The Best FIFA Football Awards 2025

News-

The Best FIFA Football Awards 2025 were handed out in Doha,

Winners list

Category	Sub-category/Award	Winner
Men's Awards	FIFA Men's Player	Ousmane Dembélé (France / PSG)
	Men's Goalkeeper	Gianluigi Donnarumma (PSG)
	Men's Coach	Luis Enrique (PSG)
Best Men's XI	Puskás Award (Best Goal)	Santiago Montiel (Argentina)
	Goalkeeper	Gianluigi Donnarumma

	Defenders	Achraf Hakimi, William Pacho, Virgil van Dijk, Nuno Mendes
	Midfielders	Jude Bellingham, Cole Palmer, Vitorinha, Pedri
	Forwards	Ousmane Dembélé, Lamine Yamal
Women's Awards	FIFA Women's Player	Aitana Bonmatí (Spain / Barcelona)
	Women's Goalkeeper	Hannah Hampton (England / Chelsea)
	Women's Coach	Sarina Wiegman
Special Awards	Marta Award (Best Goal)	Lizbeth Ovalle (Mexico / Liga MX Femenil)
	FIFA Fair Play Award	Dr Andreas Harlass-Neuking (Germany)
	FIFA Fan Award	Zakho SC supporters

9. Jharkhand Clinched The Maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025

News-

Jharkhand created history by winning their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) title, defeating Haryana by 69 runs in the final of the 2025–26 season.

- Winner:** Jharkhand
- Runner-up:** Haryana
- Player of the Series:** Anukul Roy (Jharkhand)
- He scored 303 runs and took 18 wickets throughout the tournament.
- Man of the Match (Final):** Ishan Kishan (Jharkhand) for his match-winning 101 runs off 49 balls.



10. Ahmedabad formally named as 2030 Commonwealth Games host

News-

The Commonwealth Games will return to India after a gap of 20 years, with Ahmedabad hosting the 2030 centenary edition.

About commonwealth games

- ◆ The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event held **every four years**.
- ◆ It involves athletes from the **Commonwealth of Nations** (countries once part of the British Empire).
- ◆ The first edition was held in 1930 in Hamilton, Canada.
- ◆ The Games were founded to promote friendship, unity, and sportsmanship among member nations.
- ◆ Para-sports are also included under the Commonwealth Games Federation's inclusive policy.
- ◆ The last edition was held in **2022 in Birmingham, United Kingdom**.
- ◆ India has hosted the Games once, in 2010, in New Delhi.
- ◆ Winners receive medals for first (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) positions.

IMPORTANT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS

1. World AIDS Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 1
- ◆ **Organisation:** WHO / UN
- ◆ **Objective:** To unite people worldwide in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV, and commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** "Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response"

2. National Pollution Control Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 2
- ◆ **Organisation:** Government of India (CPCB)
- ◆ **Objective:** To honor the memory of the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and spread awareness about managing and controlling industrial pollution.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** "Sustainable Living for a Greener Future"

3. International Day of Persons with Disabilities

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 3
- ◆ **Organisation:** UN
- ◆ **Objective:** To mobilize support for critical issues relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities and promote their dignity and rights.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** "Fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress"

4. Indian Navy Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 4
- ◆ **Organisation:** Indian Navy
- ◆ **Objective:** To recognize the role and achievements of the Indian Navy and commemorate the launch of Operation Trident during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** "Combat Ready, Cohesive, Self-Reliant"

5. World Soil Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 5
- ◆ **Organisation:** UN (FAO)
- ◆ **Objective:** To focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities”

6. Armed Forces Flag Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 7
- ◆ **Organisation:** Government of India (Ministry of Defence)
- ◆ **Objective:** To collect funds from the people of India for the welfare of the Indian Armed Forces personnel.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** “Welfare and Gratitude”

7. International Civil Aviation Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 7
- ◆ **Organisation:** ICAO (UN)
- ◆ **Objective:** To highlight the importance of international civil aviation in the social and economic development of States.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** “Safe Skies and a Sustainable Future for All”

8. Human Rights Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 10
- ◆ **Organisation:** UN (OHCHR)
- ◆ **Objective:** To celebrate the day the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** “Our Everyday Essentials”

9. UNICEF Foundation Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 11
- ◆ **Organisation:** UNICEF
- ◆ **Objective:** To mark the establishment of the United Nations International Children’s

Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to provide aid to children worldwide.

- ◆ **2025 Theme:** “My Day, My Rights”

10. Universal Health Coverage Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 12
- ◆ **Organisation:** WHO / UN
- ◆ **Objective:** To call on leaders to ensure that everyone, everywhere can access quality health services without financial hardship.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** “Unaffordable health costs? We’re sick of it!”

11. National Energy Conservation Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 14
- ◆ **Organisation:** Government of India (BEE)
- ◆ **Objective:** To drive mass awareness about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** Focus on “Energy Transition and Efficiency”

12. Vijay Diwas

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 16
- ◆ **Organisation:** Indian Armed Forces
- ◆ **Objective:** To commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war, leading to the liberation of Bangladesh.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** Commemoration of 1971 Victory

13. National Mathematics Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 22
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** National Council of Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) / Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:** To celebrate the birth anniversary of the legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan and promote the importance of mathematics in daily life.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** Focus is expected on the role of mathematics in innovation, technology (AI, Data Science), and problem-solving for a

modern India (Official theme yet to be formally declared).

14. National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 23
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Government of India / Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- ◆ **Objective:** Commemorates the birth anniversary of the 5th Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and honors the contribution of farmers to the economy.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** Typically theme-less, focusing on farmer welfare and agricultural policies.

15. National Consumer Rights Day

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 24
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:** To highlight the importance of the consumer movement and the need to protect consumers from unfair trade practices (Marks the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986).
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** The specific national theme is often aligned with the global or ongoing department focus (e.g., "A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles" was a global focus for 2025 Consumer Rights).

16. Good Governance Day (Sushasan Divas)

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 25
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:** Celebrated on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to foster awareness of accountability and transparent administration.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" (Governance Towards Villages).

17. Veer Bal Diwas

- ◆ **Observed Date:** December 26
- ◆ **Observing Organisation:** Government of India
- ◆ **Objective:** To honor the martyrdom of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- ◆ **2025 Theme:** Focus on courage and sacrifice of the Sahibzadas.

PERSONALITIES

1. Dr Rajendra Prasad

Context

- ◆ The President of India, paid tributes to Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, on his birth anniversary.

Early Life and Education

- ◆ **Birth:** He was born in **1884 in the Siwan district of Bihar.**
- ◆ **Education:** He joined Presidency College, Calcutta, where he pursued his undergraduate studies. In 1915, he completed his Master of Law (LLM) with Honours.

Role in the Freedom Movement

- ◆ **Champaran Satyagraha (1917):** Gandhiji's call brought him to Champaran. This marked a **turning point, inspiring him towards national service.**
- ◆ **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–22):** Gave up his successful law practice and **founded the National College in Patna (1921).**
- ◆ **Stood firmly with Gandhiji after the Chauri Chaura incident.**
- ◆ **Salt Satyagraha (1930):** Led the Salt Satyagraha in Bihar at **Patna's Nakhas Ponds, where volunteers made salt and courted arrest.**
- ◆ **Congress President:** He presided over the **Bombay session of the INC in 1934.** Following the resignation of Subhash Chandra Bose as the **President of the Congress in 1939,** He was elected as President.
- ◆ **In July 1946, when the Constituent Assembly was established to frame the Constitution of India, he was elected its President.**

- ◆ He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1962** for his exemplary service.

Committees of Constituent Assembly chaired by Rajendra Prasad

1. Committee on the Rules of Procedure
2. Steering Committee
3. Finance and Staff Committee
4. Ad hoc Committee on the National Flag

Literary Contributions

1. Satyagraha at Champaran (1922)
2. India Divided (1946)
3. Atmakatha (1946)
4. Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar, Some Reminiscences (1949)
5. Babu Ke Kadmon Mein (1954)

2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Context

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, on his 75th death anniversary (15 December 1950).

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- ◆ **Born on - October 31, 1875,**
- ◆ **India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.**
- ◆ He is widely regarded as the **architect of India's national integration** and a key force behind the **establishment of modern civil services**
- ◆ He was posthumously honoured with the **Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in the country in 1991.**

Contributions in India's Freedom Struggle

- ◆ **Kheda Satyagraha, 1917:** As a prominent local leader in the Kheda district of Gujarat, Patel supported Mahatma Gandhi in organising the Satyagraha against unjust land revenue taxes imposed by the British.
- ◆ **Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920-22:** Patel significantly impacted the Non-Cooperation Movement, recruiting approximately 300,000 members and raising 1.5 million rupees.
- ◆ **Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928:** During the Bardoli Satyagraha, Patel supported the local population suffering from famine and increased

land taxes.

- ◆ **Civil Disobedience Movement 1930-34:** He actively participated in the Salt Satyagraha, a nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly.
- ◆ **Quit India Movement, 1942:** He organised protests and strikes against British rule, and delivered compelling and electrifying speeches throughout India, inspiring and mobilising people to join mass protests, engage in acts of civil disobedience, boycott tax payments, and stage civil service shutdowns.

Do you know?

- ◆ Since 2014, **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, also known as National Unity Day**, has been celebrated every year on October 31 to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.**
- ◆ The **Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue**, was unveiled on 31 October 2018 at **Kevadia in Gujarat** on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ◆ **Civil Services Day is observed on 21 April to mark Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's address to the first batch of civil servants of Independent India in 1947.**

3. C. Rajagopalachari

In News

- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to C. Rajagopalachari popularly known as Rajaji on his birth anniversary (10th December).

C. Rajagopalachari

Early Life and Education:

- ◆ He was a **close associate of Mahatma Gandhi.**
- ◆ Completed Bachelor of Law (1899) and began practicing law in Salem.
- ◆ Early political consciousness was shaped by **Curzon's Partition of Bengal (1905) and Tilak's call for Swaraj.**

Contributions to Freedom's Struggle:

- ◆ He left his legal career in 1919 and went on to play a leading role in several major movements, including the **protests against the Rowlatt Act, the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Vaikom Satyagraha, and the Civil Disobedience Movement.**

- ◆ Led the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (1930) in the Madras region, parallel to Gandhi’s Dandi March.
- ◆ After Quit India Movement, published “The Way Out”, proposing the C. R. Formula to resolve the constitutional deadlock with the Muslim League over Pakistan.

Post-Independence Contributions:

- ◆ Appointed Governor of West Bengal and later became the first Indian Governor-General of India (1947–1950) after independence.
- ◆ Worked to protect India’s secular fabric and integrate Muslims into the national mainstream.
- ◆ Served as Union Home Minister after Sardar Patel’s death; contributed to national integration & early planning processes, including the First Five-Year Plan.
- ◆ Legacy: He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1954 for his contributions to politics, literature and public service.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS (CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM THIS MAGAZINE)

1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS

- 1). Consider the following statements regarding HIV transmission:
1. HIV can be transmitted by mosquito bites if the mosquito has previously bitten an HIV-positive individual.
 2. HIV transmission risk can increase due to the presence of other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
 3. Breastfeeding by an HIV-positive mother can transmit HIV to the infant.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?
- A. Only one
 - B. Only two
 - C. All three
 - D. None

- 2). Match the following HIV/AIDS initiatives with their correct descriptions:

List – I (HIV/AIDS Initiative)	List – II (Description)
a. National AIDS Control Programme	1. Prevents HIV transmission from infected mother to child.
b. PPTCT Programme	2. Reintegration of PLHIV who discontinued ART.
c. Mission Sampark	3. National programme to control and treat HIV; Central Sector Scheme.
d. Project ACCELERATE	4. Prohibits discrimination against HIV-positive individuals.
e. HIV/AIDS Act, 2017	5. Online HIV services through Safe Zindagi portal.

Choose the correct option:

- A. a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4, e-5
- B. a-2, b-3, c-4, d-1, e-5
- C. a-3, b-1, c-2, d-5, e-4
- D. a-1, b-3, c-2, d-4, e-5

- 3). Match the following pairs of Nuclear Power Plants with their States (Location):

Nuclear Power Plants	States (Location)
a. Tarapur	1. Rajasthan
b. Kudankulam	2. Tamilnadu
c. Kakrapar	3. Gujarat
d. Rawatbhata	4. Maharashtra

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

Select the correct option:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. All

4). With reference to the Ellora Caves, consider the following statements:

1. The Hindu caves at Ellora were carved earlier than the Buddhist caves.
2. The Jain caves at Ellora belong to the final phase of architectural development at the site.
3. The majority of caves at Ellora are Hindu caves.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

5). Consider the following statements regarding the Hornbill Festival of Nagaland:

1. The festival is celebrated primarily to commemorate the migration history of Naga tribes.
2. It is held annually at Kisama, a heritage village established by the Government of Nagaland.
3. The festival coincides with Nagaland's Statehood Day.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

6). Consider the following statements regarding the UNESCO Executive Board:

1. It is the highest decision-making body of UNESCO.
2. Its members are elected by the UNESCO General Conference.
3. All member states of UNESCO are permanent members of the Executive Board.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

7). Consider the following statements regarding the CISF:

1. The CISF was established under the CISF Act, 1968.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Defence.
3. It provides security to the strategic establishments, such as Department of Space, Department of Atomic Energy, etc.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

8). With reference to HANSA-3 aircraft, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first indigenously developed all-composite light aircraft.
2. It was developed by CSIR-NAL primarily for basic pilot training.
3. The aircraft incorporates full glass-cockpit avionics for advanced flying training.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

9). Consider the following statements regarding the "International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture"

(ITPGRFA):

1. It is a legally binding treaty adopted under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
2. It aims to conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
3. It provides for fair and equitable benefit-sharing through a Multilateral System.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

10). Which institution plays a coordinating role in monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025–30?

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Reserve Bank of India
- D. SEBI

11). With reference to India and the Biological Weapons Convention, consider the following statements:

- 1. India is a signatory and a State Party to the BWC.
- 2. India is obligated to destroy existing biological weapon stockpiles.
- 3. India supports peaceful use of biological science under the BWC

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

12). Consider the following features of Sanchar Saathi:

- 1. Verification of mobile handset genuineness using IMEI or barcode scanning.
- 2. Identification of wireline Internet Service Providers based on geographic parameters.
- 3. Automated blocking of all spam calls using artificial intelligence.

Which of the feature/s listed above are actually provided under Sanchar Saathi?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

13). PM VIKAS represents a convergence of several erstwhile schemes. Which of the following schemes were merged into PM VIKAS?

- 1. Seekho Aur Kamao
- 2. Nai Manzil
- 3. Ujjwala Yojana
- 4. USTTAD
- 5. Hamari Dharohar

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

14). Consider the following statements regarding minority communities targeted under PM VIKAS:

- 1. The scheme applies to minorities notified under the National Commission for Minorities Act.
- 2. India officially recognizes six minority communities at the national level.
- 3. Zoroastrians (Parsis) are excluded from skill-development components.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. None

15). With reference to the “Heron Mk II” Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- 2. It belongs to the Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE) category of UAVs.
- 3. It is designed primarily for short-range tactical battlefield surveillance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

16). The theme for IDPD 2025, “Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress”, most directly emphasizes which of the following approaches?

- A. Charity-based welfare delivery
- B. Medical model of disability
- C. Rights-based and inclusive development approach
- D. Infrastructure-led urban development

17). With reference to the “Jiyo Parsi Scheme”, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched during 2013–14 to address demographic concerns of a specific minority community.
2. It aims to reverse population decline through scientific protocols and structured interventions.
3. It applies uniformly to all six notified minority communities in India.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

18). Which of the following correctly describes the financial and administrative structure of the Jal Jeevan Mission?

- A. Central Sector Scheme implemented exclusively by the Union Government
- B. Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through States with cost-sharing
- C. Finance Commission–recommended grant-based programme
- D. Public–Private Partnership–driven initiative

19). The Reserve Bank of India identifies D-SIBs in India based on criteria derived from Basel-III guidelines. These include:

1. Size (total exposures)
2. Interconnectedness
3. Substitutability of services
4. Profitability performance

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

20). With reference to the Indian Maritime Doctrine, consider the following statements:

1. It serves as a foundational guiding document for the Indian Navy to protect sovereignty and secure maritime trade routes.
2. It conceptualizes the Indian Navy as the “first responder” in the maritime domain, particularly in the Indian Ocean Region.
3. It was first released after the Kargil conflict as part of integrated theatre planning.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

21). With reference to the Rohingya community, consider the following statements:

1. They are an ethnic group predominantly residing in Myanmar’s Rakhine State.
2. The Government of Myanmar recognizes them as one of the officially notified ethnic nationalities.
3. They are largely classified as illegal migrants and foreign residents in Myanmar.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

22). With reference to the adjudicating authorities under the IBC, consider the following pairs:

Entity	Adjudicating Authority
1. Companies	Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)
2. LLPs	National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)
3. Individuals	National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)
4. Partnership firms	High Courts

Which of the pairs given above is/ are correctly matched?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

23). Assertion (A): GLP-1 therapies mimic a naturally occurring hormone involved in metabolic regulation.

Reason (R): GLP-1 therapies promote weight loss primarily by increasing basal metabolic rate.

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

24). Which of the following interventions are explicitly supported under Samagra Shiksha?

- 1. Composite school grants and libraries
- 2. Free uniforms and textbooks
- 3. ICT initiatives and remedial teaching
- 4. Vocational skill training for college students

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

25). Consider the following initiatives by WHO to control and eliminate malaria:

- 1. Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030.
- 2. E-2025 Initiative.
- 3. High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) Initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 3 only

26). Which of the following eligibility criteria correctly apply to the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme?

- 1. Must be an Indian citizen.
- 2. Age should be between 21–24 years.
- 3. Must not be employed full-time or engaged in full-time education.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

27). With reference to Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL), consider the following statements:

- 1. NRL is a petroleum refinery located in Golaghat district of Assam.
- 2. NRL has recently been accorded Navratna status, becoming the 27th CPSE with this recognition.
- 3. Navratna status allows PSUs to directly list on stock exchanges without prior approval.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

28). Consider the following statements regarding Maharatna PSUs:

- 1. Must have Navratna status before becoming eligible.
- 2. Must be listed on Indian stock exchanges and compliant with minimum shareholding norms.
- 3. Must have average annual net profit of over ₹5,000 crore in the last three years.
- 4. All Maharatna PSUs are automatically granted global operations privileges without performance review.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

29). Which of the following organizations is responsible for publishing the “State of the World’s Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture” (SOLAW) report?

- A. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- B. World Bank
- C. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- D. World Health Organization (WHO)

30). Dr. Rajendra Prasad's role in the Indian freedom movement included:

1. Participation in Champaran Satyagraha (1917).
2. Leading the Salt Satyagraha in Bihar at Patna's Nakhas Ponds.
3. Founding the National College in Patna after giving up his law practice.

How many of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. None

31). Which of the following are objectives of PM JI-VAN Scheme?

1. Encourage 2G ethanol projects using biomass.
2. Achieve Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) targets.
3. Reduce farmers' income dependency on agriculture.
4. Contribute to environmental goals like net-zero emissions.

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

32). Consider the following biofuel types and source material:

Biofuel Type	Source Material
1. 1G Ethanol	a. Crop residues and non-edible biomass.
2. 2G Ethanol	b. Organic waste and cattle dung.
3. Biogas/Bio-CNG	c. Molasses and sugarcane juice.

Which of the following is the correct matching?

- A. 1-a, 2-b, 3-c
- B. 1-c, 2-a, 3-b
- C. 1-c, 2-b, 3-a
- D. 1-b, 2-c, 3-a

33). Consider the following threats to vultures in India:

1. Use of the veterinary drug Diclofenac.
2. Pesticides such as organochlorines, PCBs, and heavy metals.
3. Electrocutation, habitat loss, and scarcity of food.

Which of the above is/ are correct threats responsible for vulture population decline?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3 only

34). With reference to leprosy in India, consider the following statements:

1. India reports about 57% of global leprosy cases.
2. States with the highest prevalence include Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha.
3. The WHO declared India as the first country to eliminate leprosy in 2024.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

35). Which of the following health problems are associated with exposure to inhalable microplastics (iMPs)?

1. Respiratory disorders
2. Hormonal and neurological disorders
3. Increased risk of cancer
4. Immunity to viral infections

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. 1, 2, 3 and 4

36). Which combination of traits makes a species likely to become invasive?

1. Rapid reproduction
2. Broad dietary range
3. High sensitivity to environmental fluctuations
4. High dispersal ability

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). With reference to World Soil Day, consider the following statements:

1. It is observed every year on December 5.
2. It is observed by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS).
3. The theme for 2025 is “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

38). Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary is important for:

1. Reintroduction of Asiatic lions from Gir National Park.
2. Habitat for Cheetahs in India.
3. Wetland bird conservation.

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

39). With reference to the Cheetah, consider the following statements:

1. It is the world’s fastest mammal.
2. Cheetahs can roar like other big cats.
3. It was the only large carnivore to go extinct in India in 1952.
4. Asiatic cheetahs are categorized as Critically Endangered.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

40). The term “Parinirvana” in Buddhism primarily refers to:

- A. Liberation from the cycle of rebirth during one’s lifetime.
- B. Release or freedom after death.
- C. Attaining enlightenment while alive.
- D. Worship of the Buddha after death.

41). Which of the following organizations was founded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1923?

- A. Independent Labour Party
- B. Scheduled Castes Federation
- C. Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha
- D. Indian National Congress

42). The Poona Pact of 1932 resulted in:

- A. Complete rejection of reserved seats for depressed classes.
- B. Separate electorates for the depressed classes.
- C. Increase of reserved seats for depressed classes in provincial legislatures.
- D. Reservation only in Central Legislature, not provincial legislatures.

43). Match the following water conservation schemes with their objectives:

Scheme	Objective
a. Jal Shakti Abhiyan	1. Develop and rejuvenate 75 water bodies per district.
b. Amrit Sarovar Mission	2. Improve groundwater management in critical areas.
c. National Aquifer Mapping Program (NAQUIM)	3. Delineate and study aquifers for sustainable use.
d. Atal Bhujal Yojana	4. Water conservation and groundwater recharge in water-stressed districts

Which of the above is/ are correctly matched?

Options:

- A. a-4, b-1, c-3, d-2
- B. a-1, b-4, c-2, d-3
- C. a-3, b-2, c-4, d-1
- D. a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

44). Match the following military exercises with their respective countries or focus:

Exercise	Partner Country
a. Harimau Shakti	1. Bilateral exercise between India and Malaysia.
b. Yudh Abhyas	2. India–USA joint military exercise.
c. Vajra Prahar	3. India–USA special forces exercise.
d. Indra	4. India–Russia joint military exercise.

Which of the above is/ are correctly matched?

Options:

- A. A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- B. A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
- C. A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
- D. A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1

45). Consider the following statements about the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme:

1. It is implemented by DRDO under the Ministry of Defence.
2. It exclusively supports large public sector defence companies.
3. The scheme is part of the ‘Make in India’ initiative.
4. Its primary objective is to promote indigenous defence and dual-use technologies through grants-in-aid.

Which of the statements is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
- B. 1, 3, and 4 only
- C. 2, 3, and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

46). Vande Mataram played a crucial role in India’s freedom struggle. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was first sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Indian National Congress session.
2. During the Swadeshi Movement of 1905, it became the anthem of civil resistance.
3. The first political use of Vande Mataram as a slogan was in 1907.

Select the correct statement/s

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

47). Consider the following statements regarding the “Preah Vihear Temple”:

1. It is an 11th–12th century Khmer shrine located on the Cambodia–Thailand border.
2. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) awarded sovereignty over the temple to Cambodia in 1962.
3. The dispute has occasionally led to armed clashes between Cambodia and Thailand in the 21st century.
4. The temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
- B. 1, 3, and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3, and 4
- D. 2 and 4 only

48). The IMF report “Growing Retail Digital Payments: The Value of Interoperability” mainly highlights the importance of:

- A. Cryptocurrency mining
- B. Interoperability in digital payment systems
- C. Cash-based transactions
- D. Trade finance reforms

49). Consider the following statements regarding the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

- 1. NPCI functions as an umbrella organization for retail payment systems in India.
- 2. It was established solely by the Government of India.
- 3. NPCI was set up under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- 4. RuPay and BHIM are among the products developed by NPCI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3, and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

50). The International Big Cat Alliance seeks to conserve which of the following species?

- 1. Tiger
- 2. Snow Leopard
- 3. Jaguar
- 4. Puma
- 5. Lynx

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
- B. 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
- D. 1, 3, 4, and 5 only

51). The Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (1930) is historically significant because:

- 1. It was the first salt satyagraha organized in British India.
- 2. It was led by C. Rajagopalachari in the Madras Presidency.
- 3. It was conducted parallel to Mahatma Gandhi’s Dandi March.
- 4. It marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement in South India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

52). Which of the following categories of assets are covered under the ‘Your Money, Your Right’ movement?

- 1. Unclaimed insurance proceeds
- 2. Unpaid dividends
- 3. Dormant cryptocurrency wallets
- 4. Unclaimed bank deposits

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

53). Mephedrone, recently in the news, is best described as:

- A. A naturally occurring narcotic derived from opium poppy
- B. A synthetic stimulant classified as a New Psychoactive Substance
- C. A prescription psychotropic drug regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act
- D. A semi-synthetic opioid used in pain management

54). With reference to the Yellow Line reported in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent international boundary recognized under international law.
2. Areas east of the line are under direct Israeli military operational control.
3. The demarcation lies entirely along the Gaza-Israel border.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

55). Assertion (A): Rice cultivation in Punjab and Haryana is largely dependent on irrigation.

Reason (R): These regions receive rainfall well below the optimal requirement for rice cultivation.

Choose the correct answer using the code below:

- 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

56). Consider the following pairs:

INTERPOL Notice	Primary Purpose
1. Red Notice	Seek arrest of a person wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.
2. Yellow Notice	Collect information on criminal activities of suspects.
3. Blue Notice	Locate missing persons, often minors.
4. Black Notice	Seek information on unidentified bodies.

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

57). Consider the following events related to India's freedom struggle, with which Sardar Patel was associated:

1. Quit India Movement
2. Bardoli Satyagraha
3. Kheda Satyagraha
4. Salt Satyagraha

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence?

- A. 3 – 2 – 4 – 1
- B. 3 – 4 – 2 – 1
- C. 2 – 3 – 4 – 1
- D. 3 – 2 – 1 – 4

58). With reference to the Bison Horn Maria Dance, consider the following statements:

1. It is performed exclusively by men of the Maria tribes of Bastar.
2. Male dancers wear horn-shaped headgear decorated with bison horns, feathers, and bright cloth strips.
3. The dance is accompanied by ritual chants invoking deities like Budhadev and Danteshwari Mai.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One Statement
- B. Only Two Statements
- C. All the Three Statements
- D. None of The Above

59). With reference to Geographical Indications in India, consider the following statements:

1. GI registration in India is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
2. GI registration for a product provides exclusive marketing rights for the registered product.
3. The first product to be GI-tagged in India was Ponduru Khadi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

60). With reference to MahaCrimeOS, consider the following statements:

1. It is an AI-based policing initiative jointly developed by Microsoft and the Maharashtra Government.
2. It functions under MARVEL, which stands for Maharashtra Research and Vigilance for Enhanced Law Enforcement.
3. MahaCrimeOS is a surveillance tool exclusively used for monitoring social media platforms.

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

61). What does the term “Lunarcrete” refer to?

- A. A type of concrete made using Martian soil.
- B. A type of concrete made using lunar regolith (Moon soil).
- C. A lunar rover developed for construction purposes.
- D. A space-grade adhesive for spacecraft.

62). Consider the following statements:

1. Ramman, Kutiyattam, and Mudi yettu are ritual theatre forms.
2. Chhau dance, Kalbelia, and Sankirtana are ritualistic dance forms.
3. Yoga, Navroz, and Deepavali are festival or practice-based heritage elements.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. All statements are correct

63). According to the “World Inequality Report”, India’s gender inequality in labor force participation is highlighted by which of the following?

- A. Female labor force participation is around 35% and increasing steadily.
- B. Female labor force participation is very low and stagnant at 15.7%.
- C. Male and female labor force participation rates are almost equal.
- D. Female labor force participation is higher than male in rural areas.

64). According to “Global Environment Outlook” (GEO-7) is published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which of the following statements is correct regarding global health impacts?

- A. Air pollution alone causes millions of premature deaths annually.
- B. Soil and water pollution are negligible compared to air pollution.
- C. Pollution-related deaths are decreasing due to technology.
- D. Pollution affects less than 1 billion people globally.

65). Consider the following about the Assam Movement (1979–1985):

1. It was led by the Assam Students’ Union (ASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP).
2. It culminated in the signing of the “Assam Accord” in 1985.
3. The Assam Accord aimed to grant Assam independence from India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All 1, 2 and 3

66). Which of the following is/are true regarding ADB’s membership?

1. It includes only Asia-Pacific countries.
2. Around two-thirds of UNESCAP members participate in ADB.
3. Developed donor countries outside the region are also members.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

67). **Assertion (A):** Coral bleaching occurs due to the expulsion of zooxanthellae from coral tissues.

Reason (R): Coral polyps produce toxins under stress that force the algae to leave.

Choose the correct answer using the code below:

- 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

68). **Consider the following statements regarding the Western Tragopan:**

- 1. It is the state bird of Himachal Pradesh.
- 2. The species survives in large continuous habitats across the Himalayas.
- 3. The IUCN Red List classifies it as Vulnerable.

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. All 1, 2 and 3

69). **Consider the following statements about private sector participation under the “SHANTI Bill”:**

- 1. Private companies can participate in atomic mineral exploration.
- 2. Private companies can manufacture nuclear equipment and components.
- 3. Private companies can manufacture nuclear weapons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All 1, 2 and 3

70). **The Port of Duqm is situated in:**

- A. Northern coast of Oman, overlooking the Persian Gulf.
- B. Southeastern coast of Oman, overlooking the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.
- C. Southwestern coast of Oman, near the Red Sea.
- D. Northeastern coast of Oman, near the Gulf of Oman.

71). **Assertion (A):** The Pax Silica Initiative is strategically important for the global technology sector.

Reason (R): Silicon is a critical raw material for semiconductor manufacturing and advanced electronics.

Choose the correct answer using the code below:

- 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

72). **Which of the following risks are covered under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) Insurance Scheme?**

- A. Death due to accidents at the workplace.
- B. Death due to any infectious disease.
- C. Death due to COVID-19 infection only.
- D. All of the above.

73). **Which of the following statements about Makhana (*Euryale ferox*) is/are correct?**

- 1. It belongs to the water lily family (Nymphaeaceae).
 - 2. It is a fully organic non-cereal food mainly found in India, Korea, Japan, and parts of eastern Russia.
 - 3. It requires a temperature range of 15-25°C and annual rainfall below 100 cm.
- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 1 and 3 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. All 1, 2 and 3

74). **Consider the following statements about “Project Suncatcher”:**

- 1. It is Google’s initiative to build space-based, solar-powered, AI-focused data centers using satellite constellations.
- 2. It aims to reduce reliance on terrestrial infrastructure like land, water, and cooling systems.
- 3. It involves establishing data centers on the Moon to harness lunar solar energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All 1, 2 and 3

75). The Indian recipients of the “Champions of the Earth Award” a UN’s highest environmental honour, awarded by UNEP include:

1. Madhav Gadgil
2. Narendra Modi
3. Cochin International Airport
4. Afroz Shah
5. Supriya Sahu

How many of the above is/are correct?

- A. 4
- B. 3
- C. 5
- D. 2

76). Which of the following countries does NOT have a coastline along the Gulf of Oman?

- A. Iran
- B. United Arab Emirates
- C. Oman
- D. Saudi Arabia

77). The Blue Nile, a major tributary of the Nile River, originates from:

- A. Lake Victoria
- B. Lake Albert
- C. Lake Tana
- D. Lake Turkana

78). How many of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Scheme / Initiative	Aim/Purpose
1. ASPIRE Scheme	Promotion of innovation, skill development and incubation for micro-enterprises.
2. PMEGP	Credit-linked subsidy for self-employment through micro-enterprises.
3. Startup India	Direct wage employment in government sector.
4. Yashasvini Campaign	Empower women entrepreneurs through awareness on formalisation, credit access and mentorship.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. Only One Pair
- B. Only Two Pairs
- C. Only Three Pairs
- D. All are Correctly matched

79). Consider the following statements:

1. A services trade surplus can exist even when both merchandise and bilateral trade balances are negative.
2. Reduction in merchandise trade deficit automatically leads to reduction in current account deficit.
3. A bilateral trade deficit is influenced by trade policy, currency valuation and demand patterns.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

80). The term “Jumping genes” refers to:

- A. Genes that mutate only during cell division
- B. DNA sequences that can change their position within the genome
- C. RNA molecules that move between cells
- D. Proteins involved in chromosome segregation

81). With reference to the AH-64E Apache attack helicopter, consider the following statements:

1. It is regarded as one of the world’s most advanced multi-role combat helicopters.
2. It is capable of operating in all-weather and all-terrain conditions.
3. India’s contract for the AH-64E Apache was signed under a government-to-government agreement with the United States in 2020.

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

82). With reference to the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.
2. It shifts the rural employment framework from being demand-driven to supply-driven.
3. It completely abolishes the provision of unemployment allowance.
4. The scheme is to be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The fund-sharing ratio is uniform across all States and Union Territories.

How many of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

- A. Only One Statement
- B. Only Two Statements
- C. Only Three Statements
- D. All the statements are correct

83). With reference to the selection committee for appointing the Chief Information Commissioner, consider the following statements:

1. The Prime Minister is the Chairperson of the selection committee.
2. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha is a member of the committee.
3. The Chief Justice of India is also a member of the committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

84). Match the following:

Water Body	State/UT	Environmental Feature
a. Siliserh Lake	1. Rajasthan	P. Close to Sariska Tiger Reserve.
b. Kopra Jalashay	2. Chhattisgarh	Q. First Ramsar site in the state.
c. Loktak Lake	3. Manipur	R. Floating phumdis (wetland).

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. a-1-P, b-2-Q, c-3-R
- B. a-1-Q, b-2-P, c-3-R
- C. a-1-P, b-2-R, c-3-Q
- D. a-1-R, b-2-P, c-3-Q

85). Consider the following statements regarding the religious and cultural policies of Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar:

1. He patronized Hindu temples and contributed to Shaivism and Vaishnavism revival.
2. The period of his rule saw Hinduism revive amid the influence of Jainism and Buddhism.
3. He promoted Jainism as the state religion under Pallava suzerainty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

86). Consider the following statements about Jordan:

1. Jordan is part of the Levant region in West Asia.
2. It is landlocked except for a short coast on the Red Sea.
3. The Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth, lies between Jordan and Palestine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

87). Consider the following statements about the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC):

1. It was launched in 2005 and was initiated by the Republic of Türkiye and Spain.
2. Its secretariat is located in Geneva.
3. It includes improving cross-cultural and inter-religious relations by countering polarisation, extremism, xenophobia, and hate speech.
4. Promote mutual understanding, inclusion, and peaceful coexistence. Provide military and economic aid to developing nations.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

88). Which of the following are provisions of the National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025?

1. Mandatory registration of all blood centres across the country.
2. Introduction of strict penalties for unsafe, unethical, or non-compliant practices.
3. Promotion of voluntary blood donation through national programs.
4. Authorization of commercial blood banks to set their own pricing.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

89). What is DHRUV64?

- A. A satellite launched by ISRO.
- B. A general-purpose microprocessor developed by C-DAC.
- C. A new Indian missile system.
- D. A space telescope.

90). Consider the following statements regarding the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA), 2025?

1. Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) won the award under the State Energy Efficiency Performance Award (SDA Group-1) category.
2. It is instituted by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
3. It is to recognise exemplary performance and encourage in energy efficiency and conservation among States, industries, and institutions.
4. Only awarded to central government institutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4

91). With reference to international commitments, “Aravalli Green Wall Project” contributes to India’s obligations under:

1. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
2. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
3. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
4. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

92). The “Copenhagen Declaration” focuses on:

- A. Promoting professional leagues.
- B. Anti-doping measures in sports.
- C. Privatization of sports federations.
- D. Organizing international sports tournaments.

93). Consider the following statements about the Pamir Mountains:

1. The Pamirs are formed by the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.
2. They are also referred to as the “Roof of the World.”
3. The range lies entirely within Tajikistan.

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

94). India acquired “Seahawk helicopters” from which country?

- A. Russia
- B. United States
- C. United Kingdom
- D. France

95). Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Gallantry awards are announced twice a year, on Republic Day and Independence Day.
2. Wartime awards are awarded by the Ministry of Defence, while peacetime awards are awarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. Param Vir Chakra can be awarded posthumously, but Ashoka Chakra cannot.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

96). Match the Acts with their primary objectives:

Acts	primary objectives
a. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956	1. Prevent child labour and regulate employment conditions.
b. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986	2. Prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation.
c. Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976	3. Protect children from sexual offences.
d. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012	4. Abolish bonded labour and provide rehabilitation.

Options:

- A. a- 2, b- 1, c- 4, d- 3
- B. a- 4, b- 3, c- 1, d- 2
- C. a- 1, b- 2, c- 3, d- 4
- D. a- 3, b- 1, c- 2, d- 4

97). Consider the following statements regarding the Agnipath Scheme:

1. The scheme allows youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years as Agniveers.
2. After four years, all Agniveers are automatically recruited into regular service.
3. Only personnel below officer ranks are eligible under the scheme.
4. Provision of skill certificates and bridge courses, mandatory placement in government jobs, support for entrepreneurship and vocational training.

How many of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All are correct

98). Which of the following institutions supports the promotion, branding, and export of GI-tagged agricultural products like Indi Lime?

- A. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- B. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- C. NABARD
- D. National Horticulture Board

99). The Arctic tundra is found in:

- A. Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Siberia
- B. Alaska, Antarctica, Greenland, Siberia
- C. Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Antarctica
- D. Alaska, Canada, Antarctica, Siberia

100). Consider the following statements regarding the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS):

1. BoPS will be established as a statutory body under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
2. It will function under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. It will be headed by a Director General of the rank of an IPS officer.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

101). Operation Vijay (1961) was launched to liberate which territories from Portuguese rule?

- A. Goa, Daman, and Diu
- B. Goa only
- C. Daman and Diu only
- D. Pondicherry and Goa

102). Consider the following statements regarding the Securities Markets Code Bill 2025:

1. The Bill seeks to consolidate the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, SEBI Act, 1992, and the Depositories Act, 1996.
2. The SEBI Board's strength is proposed to be increased from 9 to 15 members, including the Chairperson.
3. The Reserve Bank of India will appoint the Chairperson of SEBI under the new Bill.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

103). The ownership pattern of Regional Rural Banks is:

- A. Government of India 50%, State Government 25%, Sponsor Bank 25%.
- B. Government of India 50%, State Government 15%, Sponsor Bank 35%.
- C. Government of India 60%, State Government 20%, Sponsor Bank 20%.
- D. Government of India 40%, State Government 30%, Sponsor Bank 30%.

104). Apart from monazite, which of the following minerals are commonly found in Indian beach sands?

- A. Ilmenite, rutile, zircon, garnet, sillimanite
- B. Copper, bauxite, chromite, lead
- C. Iron ore, manganese, gold, silver
- D. Coal, limestone, dolomite, feldspar

105). The Ratle Hydroelectric Project is located on which river?

- A. Jhelum
- B. Chenab
- C. Ravi
- D. Indus

106). RESPOND Basket 2025 is an initiative of which organisation?

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Department of Science & Technology

2. Objective type Multiple choice Question with key answers on State issues:

1). Consider the following statements about the high-level committee for Bengaluru's waste management:

1. It has been formed to implement an end-to-end solid waste management (SWM) system in the city and complete privatization of waste disposal services.
2. The committee will be headed by the Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department.
3. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner will act as Vice-President of the committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All 1, 2 and 3

2). Consider the following statements about the Friends of Police Mission:

1. It is aimed at strengthening community policing and youth participation in crime prevention.
2. The initiative aims to enroll two lakh students to support the police.
3. It is only an awareness programme without any active role in assisting the police.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All 1, 2 and 3

3). **Assertion (A): E-Swathu 2.0 strengthens transparent property-tax collection in rural Karnataka.**

Reason (R): By digitising property records and issuing e-Khata, the system reduces disputes and ensures easier tracking of properties.

Choose the correct answer using the code below:

- 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

4). **With reference to the Michael Cunha Commission constituted by the Karnataka government, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. It is a judicial commission of inquiry appointed under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952.
- 2. It investigated the June 2025 Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede that occurred during RCB's IPL victory celebrations.
- 3. Its report led to recommendations that a stadium committee be formed by the Supreme Court of India.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. All 1, 2 and 3

5). **Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) won the Geospatial Excellence Award for Water Management.
- 2. The award was issued by GeoSmart India.
- 3. The award recognises outstanding initiatives in urban solid waste management.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

6). **Consider the following statements about 'Hygiene on Go':**

- 1. It is a mobile sanitation vehicle exclusively for Bengaluru Police personnel.
- 2. It was launched by the Home Department of Karnataka.
- 3. Its primary aim is to improve the working conditions of Bengaluru Traffic Police personnel.

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

7). **Consider the following statements about Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI):**

- 1. It is a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- 2. The institute is located in Mysuru, Karnataka.
- 3. CFTRI recently shifted its focus to develop advanced food technologies, which includes foods for astronauts, athletes and elderly.

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

8). **The Karnataka Digital Heritage Portal is being jointly led by:**

- A. Archaeological Survey of India and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.
- B. Oriental Research Institute (ORI), Mysuru and Karnataka State Archives.
- C. National Archives of India and Sahitya Akademi.
- D. University of Mysore and CSIR.

9). **With reference to Karnataka's role in India's Semiconductor and ESDM ecosystem, consider the following statements:**

- 1. Karnataka contributes around 10% to India's national electronics output.
- 2. The state hosts more than 100 fabless chip design houses.
- 3. Karnataka accounts for the largest share of semiconductor fabrication plants in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

10). With reference to the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Bill criminalises both the commission and attempted commission of hate speech.
2. Hate crime under the Bill applies only to acts against living persons.
3. The Bill prescribes a minimum punishment of one year imprisonment for first-time offences.

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

11). Consider the following statements regarding Karnataka's Gross State Value Added (GSVA):

1. The services sector contributes more than two-thirds of the State's GSVA.
2. Agriculture contributes a larger share to GSVA than industry.
3. Bengaluru Urban district is the single largest contributor to Karnataka's GSDP.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

12). Which of the following correctly describes the beneficiary profile of the SUCHI Scheme?

- A. All adolescent girls aged 10–18 years in Karnataka.
- B. Adolescent girls enrolled in private schools and colleges.
- C. All women between menarche and menopause.
- D. Adolescent girls aged 10–18 years enrolled in government or government-aided institutions.

13). Consider the following statements regarding the leadership structure of disaster management authorities in India:

1. The National Disaster Management Authority is chaired by the Prime Minister.
2. The Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority is chaired by the Governor of the State.
3. District Disaster Management Authorities are chaired by the elected Mayor of the district.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One Statement
- B. Only Two Statements
- C. All the Three Statements
- D. None of The Above

14). With reference to the 'Accident Emergency Response Vehicles' initiative of KSRTC, consider the following statements:

1. The initiative aims to provide rapid assistance during road accidents and vehicle breakdowns involving State-run buses.
2. The emergency response vehicles are designed to function as mobile workshops.
3. In its initial phase, the initiative covers all district headquarters of Karnataka.

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

15). Which agency has been designated as the State Implementing Agency for the Traveller Nooks project?

- A. Archaeological Survey of India.
- B. Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Ltd. (KTIL)
- C. Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation.
- D. Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority.

16). The Translational AI for Networked Universal Healthcare (TANUH) Foundation has been established at:

- A. IIT Madras
- B. AIIMS Delhi
- C. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
- D. National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)

17). Who headed the State-appointed inquiry committee that examined irregularities in the Kalyana Karnataka Human Resource, Agriculture and Cultural (KKHRAC) Society?

- A. Justice Santosh Hegde
- B. Sudhir Kumar
- C. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar
- D. R.S. Sharma

18). The Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) in Karnataka are governed by which legislation?

- A. Karnataka Social Justice Act, 2010
- B. Karnataka Budget Allocation Act, 2017
- C. National SC/ST Finance Act, 2014
- D. Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Allocation & Tribal-Sub Allocation Act, 2013

19). Who has been appointed as the head of the technical team formed for the Mekedatu project?

- A. K.G. Mahesh
- B. Sudhir Kumar
- C. R.S. Sharma
- D. M.B. Patil

20). With reference to the Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2025, MOST directly seeks to uphold which of the following constitutional values?

- 1. Article 14 – Equality before law.
 - 2. Article 17 – Abolition of untouchability.
 - 3. Article 21 – Right to life and personal liberty.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One Statement
 - B. Only Two Statements
 - C. All the Three Statements
 - D. None of The Above

21). With reference to Supercomputing India 2025 (SCI 2025), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is India's first comprehensive conference covering high-performance computing, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing.
- 2. The maiden edition was held at the Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), Yelahanka.
- 3. The conference was organised by the C-DAC, under the aegis of the National Supercomputing Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3 only

22). With reference to the scope of applicability of the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers' Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Act applies to every aggregator or platform operating services listed in the Schedule within Karnataka.
- 2. It applies automatically to all gig workers engaged by platforms, irrespective of registration.
- 3. Registration of gig workers with the Welfare Board is a prerequisite for coverage under the Act.

Which of the statements given above 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 theme of National Pollution Control Day 2025 is:

- A. "Beat Air Pollution"
- B. "Clean Environment, Healthy Life"
- C. "Sustainable Living for a Greener Future"
- D. "Zero Carbon India"

24). Consider the following pairs:

Military Exercise	Countries Involved with India
1. Harimau Shakti	Malaysia
2. Ekuverin	Mauritius
3. Surya Kiran	Nepal
4. Desert Cyclone	Saudi Arabia
5. Avialndra	Russia

How many of the pairs given above is/ are correctly matched?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. Only Four
- D. All

25). With reference to the National Energy Conservation Award 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The award is conferred by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power.
2. The award recognizes only large-scale industrial units and not transport or railway sectors.
3. Miyana Railway Station saved 9,687 units of electricity by implementing LED lighting, energy-efficient BLDC fans, and smart lighting circuits.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

26). With reference to Biodiversity Heritage Sites, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The power to notify a Biodiversity Heritage Site vests with the State Government. India's first Biodiversity Heritage Site was Nallur Tamarind Grove is located in Telangana.
2. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 provides the statutory basis for their declaration. They may include terrestrial, inland water, coastal, and marine ecosystems.
3. The National Biodiversity Authority directly manages all notified BHS.
4. Community participation through Biodiversity Management Committees is integral to their management.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

27). Match the following Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) with their Location and Significance:

BHS	Location	Significance
i. Nallur Tamarind Grove	1. Shivamogga	a. Wildlife corridor linking Kudremukha and Bhadra.
ii. Hoglekan Shola Forest	2. Bengaluru	b. India's first Biodiversity Heritage Site.
iii. Ambaragudda	3. Chikkamagaluru	c. Endemic species-rich shola-grassland ecosystem.
iv. University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK)	4. Shivamogga	d. Urban biodiversity hotspot.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. i-2-b, ii-3-a, iii-1-c, iv-2-d
- B. i-2-b, ii-3-a, iii-4-c, iv-2-d
- C. i-1-b, ii-3-a, iii-4-c, iv-2-d
- D. i-2-d, ii-3-c, iii-4-a, iv-1-b

28). Under the Shuchi–Nanna Maithri initiative, which of the following menstrual hygiene products is distributed?

- A. Disposable sanitary pads
- B. Biodegradable napkins
- C. Menstrual cups
- D. Cloth pads

29). With reference to the sub-classification framework under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, consider the following pairs:

Category (Sub-classification)	Reservation Share
1. A- Madiga and their related communities.	7%
2. B- Holeyá and their related communities.	6%
3. C- Touchables	5%

Which of the pairs given above is/ are correctly matched?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3 only

30). The commission whose recommendations form the basis of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill, 2025, was headed by:

- A. K.G. Balakrishnan
- B. Usha Mehra
- C. H.N. Nagamohan Das
- D. B.P. Jeevan Reddy

31). With reference to the audit jurisdiction of the CAG of India, consider the following entities:

- 1. Union Government departments
- 2. State Government departments
- 3. Public Sector Undertakings
- 4. Non-governmental organisations receiving public funds

How many of the above is/are subject to audit by the CAG?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. All of the Above
- D. None of the Above

32). Consider the following statements regarding the Tungabhadra Dam:

- 1. The Tungabhadra River is the largest tributary of the Krishna River in Karnataka.
- 2. It is located at the confluence of Hosapete and Koppal districts in Karnataka.
- 3. The reservoir created by the dam is also known as Pampa Sagar.
- 4. The dam is India's tallest masonry dam.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

33). Consider the following statements regarding the 'Arogya Sethu' mobile health units initiative of Karnataka:

- 1. It aims to deliver primary healthcare services to remote, forested and hilly regions.
- 2. The initiative is implemented entirely under the National Health Mission.
- 3. It specifically targets constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- 4. It follows a decentralised, district-level monitoring framework.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

34). Consider the following statements regarding 'VijAlpatha', recently seen in the news:

- 1. It is a pilot initiative aimed at imparting Artificial Intelligence and STEM education to government school students.
- 2. The programme is implemented solely by the Karnataka Department of Education.
- 3. It includes training in robotics, coding and digital innovation.
- 4. It was inaugurated at a Government Girls' Pre-University College in Hosapete taluk.

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

35). The KMF is presently exporting its premium Nandini products to which of the following countries?

- A. Canada, UK, Italy, France and Germany.
- B. Qatar, Brunei, Maldives, Singapore, UAE, USA and Australia.
- C. Qatar, Brunei, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.
- D. Japan, China, South Korea and Thailand.

36). Consider the following statements regarding the “Gruha Arogya” Scheme of Karnataka:

- 1. It focuses on early detection and management of Non-Communicable Diseases.
- 2. It is implemented entirely through fixed health facilities such as PHCs and CHCs.
- 3. It targets individuals aged 30 years and above.
- 4. It was initially rolled out as a pilot in the Kolar district.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

37). With reference to the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is awarded to writers contributing to any language included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- 2. The award is presented annually on the birth anniversary of Kuvempu.
- 3. The award is instituted and conferred by the Government of Karnataka.
- 4. In 2025 the award was presented to Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail and it includes ₹5 lakh cash prize, a silver medal, and a citation.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

38). Which of the following is a literary work of Mahabaleshwar Sail?

- A. Godan
- B. Hawthian
- C. Malgudi Days
- D. Gitanjali

39). The Digital Mobile Planetarium programme is executed by:

- A. ISRO
- B. NCERT
- C. KSTePS
- D. Vigyan Prasar

40). Consider the following ports of Karnataka:

- 1. Karwar
- 2. Belekeri
- 3. Mangaluru
- 4. Tadri
- 5. Kundapura
- 6. Byndoor

Which of the above are non-major ports covered under the Karnataka Non-major Ports Iron Ore Handling Policy, 2025?

- A. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
- B. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only

41). The State Education Policy (SEP) Commission was headed by whom?

- A. Romila Thapar
- B. Sukhdeo Thorat
- C. Bibek Debroy
- D. Yash Pal

42). With reference to the AI-powered ‘Smart Lock’ system introduced in Karnataka, consider the following statements:

- 1. It uses artificial intelligence and facial recognition to verify the identity of driving licence applicants.
- 2. It has been developed by the Karnataka Transport Department as an in-house technological solution.
- 3. It has been integrated as an additional security layer into the Sarathi Parivahan Seva portal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

43). Consider the following statements regarding fiscal federalism under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025:

1. The scheme is proposed as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
2. The Centre will bear a higher share of funding for North-Eastern and Himalayan States/UTs.
3. States have no role in intra-State allocation of funds once central allocation is made.

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

44). Match the following important days with their observing Organizations and Theme:

Important Days	Observing Organizations	Theme
i. World AIDS Day	1. FAO	a. “Combat Ready, Cohesive, Self-Reliant”.
ii. National Pollution Control Day	2. WHO / UN	b. “Sustainable Living for a Greener Future”.
iii. International Day of Persons with Disabilities	3. Indian Navy	c. “Fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress”
iv. Indian Navy Day	4. CPCB	d. “Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response”.
v. World Soil Day	5. United Nations	e. “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities”.

Which of the following is the correctly matched set?

- A. i-2-d, ii-4-b, iii-5-c, iv-3-a, v-1-e
- B. i-5-d, ii-4-e, iii-2-c, iv-3-a, v-1-b
- C. i-2-c, ii-1-b, iii-5-d, iv-3-a, v-4-e
- D. i-2-d, ii-1-b, iii-5-c, iv-4-a, v-3-e

45). With reference to National Energy Conservation Day in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is observed annually to commemorate the enactment of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
2. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
3. The observance aims at promoting demand-side management and efficient use of energy across sectors.
4. The theme for 2025 emphasises reduction of fossil fuel consumption exclusively through renewable energy deployment.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

46). The 2025 theme of National Mathematics Day is expected to focus primarily on:

- A. Ancient Indian mathematical texts
- B. Mathematics in space exploration
- C. Role of mathematics in innovation, AI, data science, and problem-solving
- D. Mathematics in financial accounting

47). The 2025 theme of Good Governance Day, “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” reflects which of the following principles of good governance?

1. Decentralisation
2. Participatory governance
3. Transparency at the grassroots level
4. Exclusive top-down administration

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

48). With reference to the BrahMos missile system, consider the following statements:

- A. It is a supersonic cruise missile capable of being launched from land, sea, and air platforms.
- B. It has been jointly developed by India's DRDO and Russia's NPOM.
- C. It is designed exclusively for land-attack missions.
- D. It has been inducted into service with both the Indian Army and the Indian Navy.

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

49). With reference to INS Aridhaman, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is India's third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN).
- 2. It has the same hull design as INS Arihant and INS Arighat.
- 3. It is designed to be armed with K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).
- 4. It carries 8 missile launch tubes, double the capacity of its predecessors.

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

50). With reference to the FIFA Peace Prize, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was established in 2025 and the inaugural award was presented to the US President Donald Trump on December 5, 2025.
- 2. The award recognises exceptional contributions to peace, conflict resolution, and global unity.
- 3. The award is issued under the United Nations in collaboration with FIFA.
- 4. The award aligns with FIFA's motto, "Football Unites the World."

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

51). The Global Humanitarian Award received by Anant Ambani was issued by:

- A. United Nations Environment Programme
- B. World Wildlife Fund
- C. Greenpeace International
- D. Global Humane Society

52). With reference to the 2025 World Athletics Athletes of the Year awards, consider the following statements:

- 1. Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone won both the overall women's award and the women's track category.
- 2. Mondo Duplantis won the overall men's award and the men's field category.
- 3. The ceremony was held in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 4. The awards are exclusively given for Olympic performances.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

53). With reference to Sunil Narine's milestone in T20 cricket, consider the following statements:

- 1. He became the third bowler to claim 600 wickets in competitive T20 cricket.
- 2. He achieved this milestone while playing for Abu Dhabi Knight Riders in the World ILT20.
- 3. Rashid Khan and Dwayne Bravo were the only other two bowlers to have reached 600 wickets before him.
- 4. He achieved the milestone on December 3, 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

54). With reference to the 2025 Formula One season, consider the following statements:

1. Lando Norris won his maiden Drivers' Championship in 2025.
2. McLaren secured its first Drivers' Championship title since 2008.
3. Max Verstappen finished as the runner-up in the Drivers' Championship.
4. McLaren also won the Constructors' Championship in 2025.

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 and 3 only

55). Who became the world's youngest FIDE-rated chess player in 2025?

- A. Anish Sarkar
- B. Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa
- C. Sarwagya
- D. Nihal Sarin

56). With reference to India's victory in the Squash World Cup 2025, consider the following statements:

1. India defeated Hong Kong 3-0 to win its maiden Squash World Cup title.
2. Joshna Chinappa, ranked 79th in the world, won her match against Ka Yi Lee, who was ranked 42 places above her.
3. The final was the first-ever meeting between India and Hong Kong in a World Cup final.
4. India hosted the Squash World Cup for the first time in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. 2 and 3 only

57). With reference to the FIDE Circuit, 2025 consider the following statements:

1. It is a performance-based qualification pathway introduced by FIDE for the Candidates Tournament, 2026.
2. R. Praggnanandhaa became the only male player to qualify via the FIDE Circuit 2025.
3. The circuit consists of a fixed set of tournaments notified in advance by FIDE.
4. The circuit operates on a calendar-year basis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

58). With reference to the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025, consider the following statements:

1. Germany won the tournament by defeating Spain. Germany successfully defended the title they had won in the previous edition also.
2. This was Germany's 10th appearance in the final of the tournament, marking their record-extending 10th title in the tournament's history.
3. Chennai and Madurai jointly hosted the tournament.
4. India defeated Argentina to secure third place and became first-time podium finishers in the Junior World Cup.

Which of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

59). Consider the following pairs of the best FIFA Football awards, 2025 with the Winners:

1. FIFA Men's Player- Ousmane Dembélé
2. FIFA Women's Player- Aitana Bonmatí
3. Puskás Award- Santiago Montiel
4. FIFA Fan Award- Zakho SC supporters

Which of the pairs given above is/ are correctly matched?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. 2 and 4 only

60). Consider the following pairs of the best FIFA Football award category with the Winners of 2025:

1. Men's Goalkeeper- Gianluigi Donnarumma
2. Women's Goalkeeper- Hannah Hampton
3. Men's Coach- Luis Enrique
4. Women's Coach- Aitana Bonmati

Which of the pairs given above is/ are correctly matched?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

61). With reference to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025–26 , consider the following statements:

1. Jharkhand won their maiden SMAT title by defeating Haryana.
2. Anukul Roy selected as a player of the match He scored 303 runs and took 18 wickets in the tournament.
3. Ishan Kishan selected as a player of the series He scored 101 runs off 49 balls in the final.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

62). With reference to the 2030 Commonwealth Games, consider the following statements:

1. Ahmedabad will host the centenary edition of the Commonwealth Games. It will return to India after a gap of 20 years.
2. The first Commonwealth Games were held in the United Kingdom and it will held once every four years.
3. India has hosted the last Commonwealth Games at New Delhi in 2010 and hosted more than once in the past.
4. The last edition of the Commonwealth Games was held in Birmingham and it includes both Olympic and non-Olympic sports.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

KEY ANSWERS

1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL:

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1) B | 21) A | 41) C |
| 2) C | 22) B | 42) C |
| 3) B | 23) C | 43) A |
| 4) C | 24) A | 44) A |
| 5) C | 25) C | 45) B |
| 6) B | 26) A | 46) A |
| 7) B | 27) B | 47) C |
| 8) A | 28) A | 48) B |
| 9) D | 29) C | 49) B |
| 10) C | 30) D | 50) A |
| 11) B | 31) A | 51) C |
| 12) A | 32) B | 52) A |
| 13) A | 33) C | 53) B |
| 14) B | 34) B | 54) A |
| 15) A | 35) A | 55) A |
| 16) C | 36) A | 56) C |
| 17) A | 37) D | 57) B |
| 18) B | 38) D | 58) B |
| 19) A | 39) B | 59) A |
| 20) C | 40) B | 60) C |



- 61) B 84) A
62) D 85) A
63) B 86) B
64) A 87) A
65) B 88) C
66) C 89) B
67) C 90) C
68) A 91) A
69) B 92) B
70) B 93) A
71) A 94) B
72) C 95) C
73) A 96) A
74) B 97) B
75) C 98) B
76) D 99) A
77) C 100) B
78) B 101) A
79) A 102) C
80) B 103) B
81) D 104) A
82) B 105) B
83) A 106) B

2. KARNATAKA DARSHANA:

- 1) B 22) B 43) A
2) A 23) C 44) A
3) A 24) B 45) B
4) C 25) B 46) C
5) D 26) D 47) B
6) D 27) B 48) A
7) A 28) C 49) A
8) B 29) D 50) C
9) A 30) C 51) D
10) C 31) C 52) A
11) C 32) A 53) C
12) D 33) B 54) B
13) A 34) A 55) C
14) A 35) B 56) A
15) B 36) C 57) B
16) C 37) A 58) B
17) B 38) B 59) C
18) D 39) C 60) A
19) A 40) A 61) C
20) C 41) B 62) A
21) C 42) B

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