



INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ

A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative

**KAS, FDA/SDA/PDO/ GROUP C,
PSI/PC, TEACHER'S EXAMS**

ಕನ್ನಡ & English

By- Nandan Sir

February 1st Week 2026

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 1ST Week 2026

FM Tables 16th Finance Commission Report Polity

In News

- The 16th Finance Commission, constituted in 2023 under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya has had its key recommendations accepted by the Government for implementation during 2026-27 to 2030-31.

Finance Commission

- **Constitutional Body:** Established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
- **Formation:** Constituted by the President of India every five years (or earlier).
- **Composition:** A Chairman and four other members.
- **Core Function:** It serves as a balancing wheel of fiscal federalism by recommending:
 1. **Vertical Devolution:** The distribution of net tax proceeds between the Centre and the States.
 2. **Horizontal Devolution:** The allocation of these proceeds among the States themselves.
 3. **Grants-in-Aid:** Principles governing financial assistance to States from the Consolidated Fund of India (Article 275).
 4. **Local Bodies:** Measures to augment State Consolidated Funds to support Panchayats and Municipalities.
- **Nature of Recommendations:** Advisory (not legally binding), though traditionally accepted by the Government.

Sant Guru Ravidas History

Context

- To mark the 649th birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas the Adampur airport is renamed Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Airport, Adampur.

Sant Ravidas

- He, born in the 14th century,
- He was a prominent figure in the Bhakti Movement, a socio-religious revolution that took place in India between the 14th and 17th centuries.
- He was a disciple of Sant Kabir and the founder of the Ravidassia religion. Mirabai was his pupil.

Life and Teachings

- He was a great social reformer and messenger of peace, love, and brotherhood.
- He worked tirelessly to remove caste and religion-based discrimination and worked for the upliftment of the downtrodden.
- His life is a unique example of sacrifice and penance, and wrote many compositions on different social issues.
- He gave a very broad message of 'karma' to society by coining in the popular Hindi saying 'Mann Changa to Kathauti Mein Ganga'.

Legacy

- The Sikh scripture, Guru Granth Sahib, contains forty-one of his devotional songs and poems.

- The Chief Architect of our Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar embodied the Constitutional principles around the values expressed by Guru Ravidasji.

Buddhist Circuits History

Context

- The Union Budget announced a pilot scheme for upskilling 10,000 guides in 20 iconic tourist sites and setting up of a National Institute of Hospitality to train professionals in the sector.

About

- A National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid to digitally document all places of cultural, spiritual and historic significance would be set up.
- The government also proposed a scheme for the development of Buddhist circuits in the region.
- These States include Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura.

Buddhist Circuits

- In 2016, the Ministry of Tourism announced the **Buddhist Circuit as the country's first transnational tourism circuit**, covering sites in **Nepal and Sri Lanka alongside those in India**.
- The Buddhist Circuit seeks to help tourists and pilgrims experience first-hand the teachings of Lord Buddha and trace the footsteps of Buddha.
- The main sites covered under the circuit span the life of Buddha from his birth to his Parinirvana and comprise Bodh Gaya, Vaishali, Rajgir, Kushinagar, Sarnath and Shravasti, along with Kapilavastu and Lumbini.

Four Holiest Buddhist Sites (Chaturmahāsthāna):

1. **Lumbini (Nepal): Birthplace of Gautama Buddha.**
2. **Bodh Gaya (Bihar): Attained Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.**
3. **Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh): First sermon (Dhammachakra Pravartana).**
4. **Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh): Mahaparinirvana (death).**

Coconut, Chocolate, Cashew Get Special Attention in Budget 2026-27 Economy

Context

- The Union Budget 2026–27 places renewed emphasis on high-value agriculture, with targeted support for coconut, cashew, cocoa, sandalwood, and select nut crops to enhance farmer incomes and export competitiveness.

Coconut Production

- **Type of Plant:** Coconut is a perennial plantation crop and a monocotyledonous palm belonging to the family **Arecaceae**.
- Coconut is **native to the Indo-Pacific region**, with its origin commonly traced to **Southeast Asia**.
- **Climatic Requirements:** Coconut requires a warm and humid tropical climate for optimal growth. It grows best in regions with temperatures ranging between **25°C and 30°C and requires high and evenly distributed rainfall**.
- **Soil Requirements:** Coconut thrives in well-drained **sandy loam, alluvial, laterite, and coastal soils**.
- **Distribution in India:** It predominantly grows in **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, and West Bengal**.

Cocoa Production

- **Type of Plant:** Cocoa is an evergreen perennial tree crop belonging to the family Malvaceae.
- Cocoa is **native to the Upper Amazon Basin of South America**. It was introduced to Asia and Africa during the colonial period for commercial cultivation.
- **Climatic Requirements:** Cocoa requires a warm, humid, and equatorial type of climate. It grows best in areas with temperatures between 21°C and 32°C and with well-distributed rainfall throughout the year.
- **Soil Requirements:** Cocoa grows well in deep, fertile, and well-drained loamy soils rich in organic matter.
- **Cultivation Pattern in India:** Major producing states include Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.

Cashew Production

- **Type of Plant:** Cashew is an evergreen tropical tree crop belonging to the family Anacardiaceae.
- The cashew tree (*Anacardium occidentale*) is native to the coastal regions of northeastern Brazil in South America.
- Portuguese explorers introduced it to India and Africa in the 16th century.
- **Climatic Requirements:** Cashew requires a tropical climate with a pronounced dry season. It grows best in areas with temperatures between 20°C and 35°C and moderate to high rainfall.
- **Soil Requirements:** Cashew can grow in laterite, red sandy, and coastal soils and performs well even on poor and degraded land.
- **Distribution in India:** Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, and Tamil Nadu.

Carbon Capture Push in Union Budget 2026 (Environment)

Context

- The Union Budget 2026–27 announced a ₹20,000 crore push for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) over five years to support India's climate transition.

Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)

- CCUS refers to technologies that capture carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes and power generation.
- The captured CO₂ is either stored underground in geological formations or utilised in products such as chemicals, fuels, or construction materials.

CCUS supports India's commitment to:

- Achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.
- To reduce emission from industries such as steel, aluminium, cement and fertilizers.
- If these industries decarbonise their production processes, they may escape the tax burden under Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

India's Emission Reductions Commitments

- India has launched the LiFE mission (Lifestyle for Environment) and updated its NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) under the Paris Agreement.

Under its updated NDC 2022, India pledges:

1. 45% reduction in emissions intensity (amount of CO₂ per unit of GDP) by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.
2. 50% of installed electricity capacity will come from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
3. Creating a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (GtCO₂e) by increasing forests and tree cover.

Thaipusam Culture



News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted everyone with a blessed Thaipusam.

Thaipusam

- The name “Thaipusam” is a combination of “Thai” (the Tamil month) and “Poomam,” the star at its highest point during the festival.
- It is celebrated on the full moon in the Tamil month of Thai.
- It is a Hindu festival celebrated to honour Lord Murugan (also known as Lord Kartikeya), the Hindu god of war, victory, and wisdom, while also being a symbol of courage, determination, and spiritual growth.
- It is widely celebrated by the Tamil community in Tamil Nadu India and across the world, especially in Sri Lanka, Singapore and Malaysia.

India-US Signed Trade Agreement (IR)

In News

- India and the United States have announced a new trade deal, lowering tariffs and setting ambitious targets for bilateral trade.

- In August 2025, the US had levied tariffs up to 50% (25% reciprocal + 25% additional duty) linked to India’s Russian oil imports.

About the India-US Trade Deal

- **Tariff reduction:** US reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods reduced from 25% to 18%, effective immediately.
- **Additional 25% duty withdrawn,** which had earlier been imposed.
- **US claims on broader commitments:** The US asserts the deal includes zero tariffs and non-tariff barriers for US goods and that India committed to buy over \$500 billion of US products across energy, tech, agriculture, coal, etc.
- India will progressively reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers against US goods.

Importance of the Deal

- It strengthens India-US ties amid global geopolitical shifts, especially regarding China.
- Helps counter China’s dominance in global trade and manufacturing.
- Lower tariffs could improve competitiveness for Indian exporters (farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs) and attract investment.
- This would support Make, Design and Innovate in India for the world.
- Diversifying oil imports may reduce India’s dependence on Russia, though at higher costs.
- It would help stabilize the rupee amid global economic uncertainty.
- It will position India as a key partner in US-led trade and security frameworks.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission

Government Policy & Intervention

Context

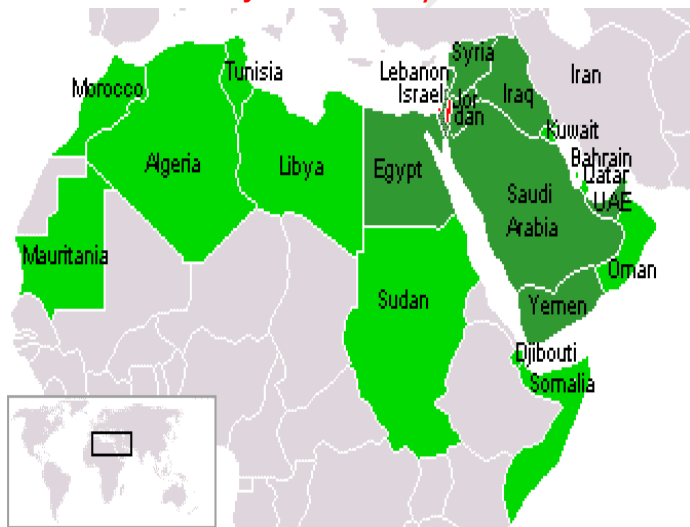
- The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY NRLM) is transitioning into a new phase, often referred to as **NRLM 2.0**, and prepares for the next five-year cycle (2026–27 to 2030–31).

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana

- **Launch:** It was launched in **2010** by restructuring the earlier **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)**, the initiative was renamed in **2016** as **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- **Financing** - It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- **Aim** - to reduce rural poverty through self-employment and skilled wage employment.
- **Women Centric Model:** The mission promotes economic independence by linking women to credit, markets, and technology through **SHGs** and federations.

2026 Delhi Declaration

Syllabus: GS2/IR



Context

- **India hosted the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers Meeting**

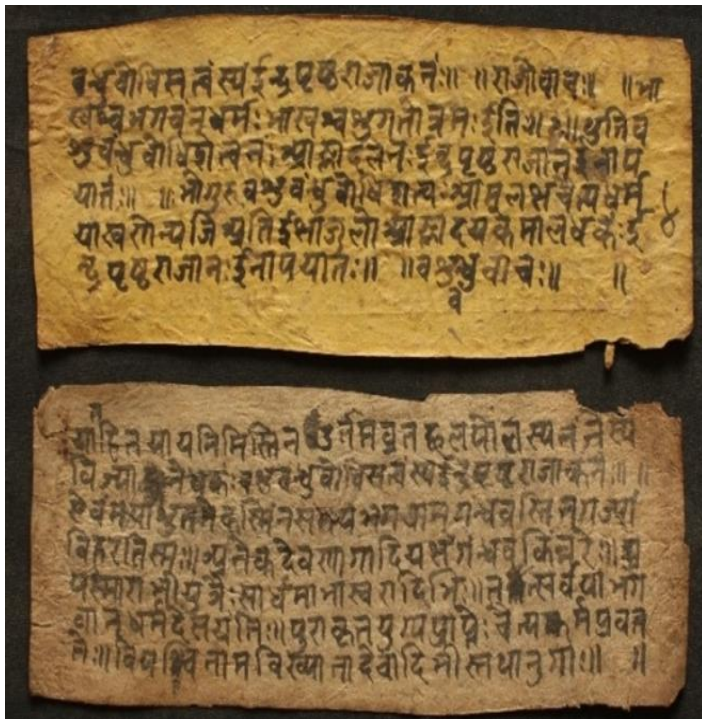
India–Arab League Engagement

- The Arab League, **officially known as the League of Arab States**.
- It was **established in Cairo in 1945**.
- **Member states - 22**.
- The **India–Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting** is the highest institutional mechanism guiding India's engagement with the Arab League.
- **India holds observer status in the Arab League**, which represents countries across West Asia and North Africa.

Highlights of the Delhi Declaration

- The Delhi Declaration reiterates **support for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Sudan, Libya and Somalia**.
- **Sudan:** UAE is accused of backing the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**, which has fought the Sudanese state since **2023** and formed a **parallel government in 2025**; the Declaration aligns with Sudan and condemns civilian atrocities.
- **Somalia:** **Israel alone recognises Somaliland**; UAE's **2025 recognition of Somaliland** passports diverges from Arab League consensus. **India firmly rejected recognition and backed Somalia's territorial integrity**.
- **Yemen:** India and the Arab League explicitly **condemned Houthi attacks in the Red Sea**, marking a shift from India's earlier indirect language post-2023.
- Support for Yemen's unity aligns with Saudi actions against the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council.

Gyan Bharatam
Syllabus: GS1/Culture



In News

- Over 7.5 lakh manuscripts have been digitized under Gyan Bharatam, of which 1.29 lakh manuscripts are accessible on the Gyan Bharatam Portal.

Gyan Bharatam Mission

- **Purpose** - The mission aims to preserve and protect manuscripts found across the country.
- **Objective:** To undertake the “survey, documentation and conservation” of more than one crore manuscript heritage lying with academic institutions, museums, libraries, etc.
- **Significance of Mission:** Preserving historical value, unveiling ancient Indian knowledge to the world, ensuring longevity and round-the-clock access to Manuscripts, etc.

Basic terms - Manuscripts

- A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, palm leaf etc. dating back at least 75 years that has

significant scientific, historical or aesthetic value.

- E.g. Bakhshali manuscript (Third or fourth century A.D.), an ancient Indian mathematical text written on birch bark, is considered to be the earliest recorded example of use of zero.
- India possesses an estimated 10 million manuscripts in 80 ancient scripts like Brahmi, Kushan, Gaudi, Lepcha, and Maithili.

Other initiatives for manuscript conservation in India

- **National Manuscripts Mission (NMM):** Launched In 2003, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to locate and preserve manuscripts.
- **National Library of India, Kolkata:** It has about 3600 rare and historically important manuscripts.
- **Asiatic Society of Bengal:** Founded on Jan. 15, 1784, by Sir William Jones, undertakes digitization of ancient manuscripts.

National Integration Council

Syllabus: GS2/Governance

Context

- Recently, there was a demand for the revival of the National Integration Council during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha.

National Integration Council

- **Established in** - 1961.
- **Objective:** To promote national integration, communal harmony, and unity in diversity, and to address issues that threaten the country’s social cohesion.
- **Composition:** Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of States and UTs, Leaders of major political parties, Eminent public figures, thinkers, and representatives of civil society.

Key Functions:

- Discusses and recommends measures to **combat communalism, casteism, regionalism, separatism, and extremism.**
- Advises the government on policies to **strengthen constitutional values, secularism, and social harmony.**
- Acts as a forum for consensus-building on sensitive national issues.
- Nature: It is an **advisory body (not statutory, not constitutional).**
- Its **recommendations are non-binding.**
- **Meetings: Not held regularly;** convened as and when required depending on national circumstances.
- **The National Integration Council has not had a meeting since 2013.**

Bharat-VISTAAR

Syllabus: GS2/Governance; GS3/Agriculture

Context

- The Union budget 2026-27 has proposed 'Bharat-VISTAAR' (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources)

Bharat-VISTAAR

- It is a multilingual AI tool that aims to **provide information to farmers in their own language on crop planning, packages of practices and pests,** weather forecasts, markets, scheme information, eligibility, application, and grievance.
- It shall **integrate the AgriStack portals and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) package** on agricultural practices with AI systems.
- **Significance** - This will **enhance farm productivity, will lead to better farmer decision making and reduce risk** through customized advisory support for the farmer.
- The Finance Minister allocated **Rs 150 crore for the Bharat-VISTAAR for the next financial year (2026-27).**

Additional information - AgriStack portal

- It is a **centralized digital ecosystem** developed by the Government of India to **streamline agricultural services.**
- It creates a **unique Farmer ID (similar to Aadhaar)** that links a **farmer's identity, land records, and crop data into one secure digital "passport".**

Core Components

- **Farmer Registry:** A database providing **unique digital identities to farmers.**
- **Crop Sown Registry:** A standardized national database tracking **seasonal crop patterns.**
- **Geo-referenced Village Maps:** Precision mapping that links land parcels with geographic coordinates.

Key Benefits

- **Direct Benefits:** Faster access to **PM-KISAN subsidies, crop insurance (PMFBY), and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans.**
- **Paperless Access:** Once registered, **land records are digitally verified,** reducing the need for physical documents in future applications.
- **Market Connectivity:** Direct links to buyers and **real-time market price updates via platforms like e-NAM.**

GOBARdhan Scheme

Syllabus: GS3/Economy

In News

- **The GOBARdhan scheme is contributing significantly to the rural economy** by creating employment opportunities, increasing farmers' income, developing a manure and bio-energy supply chain, and supporting rural infrastructure development.

Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) scheme

- It was **launched in 2018** under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)
- **Objective - It aims to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste.**
- **Significance - The main focus of GOBAR-Dhan is to keep villages clean, increase the income of rural households, and generate energy and organic manure from cattle waste.**

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) (Welfare Schemes)

In Context

- A recent controversy erupted over alleged misuse of MPLADS funds and critics demanding the scheme should be discontinued.

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme launched in 1993,**
- **Implementation - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).**
- **Objective: To enable Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend works for the creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs such as drinking water, sanitation, roads, public health infrastructure.**
- **Funds allotted: Each MP is entitled to ₹5 crore per year under MPLADS.**
- It requires MPs to recommend **at least 15% of funds for SC-inhabited areas and 7.5% for ST-inhabited areas annually.**
- **Non Lapsable Fund: MPLADS funds are non-lapsable, meaning unutilised funds are carried forward to subsequent years, ensuring continuity of projects.**

- **Geographical coverage: Lok Sabha MPs can recommend works within their constituencies, Rajya Sabha MPs within their state of election, and nominated MPs anywhere in the country.**
- **Exceptions: MPs may recommend up to ₹25 lakh per year outside their constituency/state, and up to ₹1 crore for an affected district during natural calamities.**

Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 Syllabus: GS3/Environment



In News

- The **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026,** superseding the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026

- The rules have been **notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and will come into full effect from April 1, 2026.**
- The rules provide for the **levy of environmental compensation based on the 'Polluter Pays' principle for non-compliance,** including cases of operating without registration, false reporting, submission of forged documents or improper solid waste management practices.
- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will prepare the relevant guidelines, while State Pollution Control Boards and**

Pollution Control Committees will levy the environmental compensation.

Major Features

- **Four-stream Segregation of Solid Waste at Source** has been made mandatory under the SWM Rules, 2026.
1. **Wet waste** includes kitchen waste, vegetables, fruit peels, meat, flowers, etc., which shall be composted or processed through bio-methanation at the nearest facility.
 2. **Dry waste** comprises plastic, paper, metal, glass, wood and rubber, etc., and shall be transported to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for sorting and recycling.
 3. **Sanitary waste** includes used diapers, sanitary towels, tampons and condoms, etc., which shall be securely wrapped and stored separately.
 4. **Special care waste** includes paint cans, bulbs, mercury thermometers and medicines, etc., which shall be collected by authorised agencies or deposited at designated collection centres
- **Clear definition of Bulk Waste Generators:** Bulk Waste Generators include entities with a **floor area of 20,000 square metres or more, or water consumption of 40,000 litres per day or more, or solid waste generation of 100 kg per day or more.**
 - **Duties of Local Bodies and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs):** Under the revised rules, **local bodies must collect, segregate, and transport solid waste in coordination with Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs).**

New START Treaty
Syllabus: GS2/IR

In News

- **Experts caution that the expiry of the New START Treaty would eliminate the last**

remaining legally binding constraint on the nuclear arsenals of the world's two largest nuclear powers.

New START Treaty

- **Abbreviation- Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.**

START treaty -

- It was signed between the **US and the former USSR in 1991 and came into force in 1994.**
- It **limited each side to 6,000 nuclear warheads and 1,600 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) but expired in 2009.**
- It was **succeeded by the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT, also called the Treaty of Moscow) and later by the New START treaty (signed in 2010 & entered into force in 2011).**

New START treaty

- It **caps the number of deployed strategic warheads at 1,550 on each side, with no more than 700 deployed ground- or submarine-launched missiles and bomber planes, and 800 launchers.**

Implications of Expiration

- Without a treaty, Russia and the US could freely expand their arsenals, risking a renewed nuclear arms race amid global tensions.
- The absence of a framework heightens nuclear risks and removes the transparency and stability that arms control agreements provide.

Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)

Syllabus: GS2/Governance/GS3(Economy)

In News

- **PM VIKAS has allocated targets to train about 1.51 lakh beneficiaries through Project Implementing Agencies across States and UTs.**

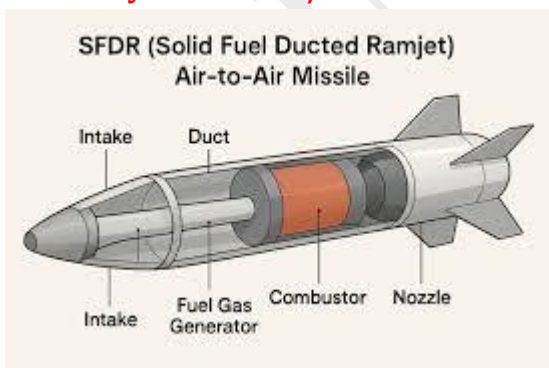
Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)

- **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.

India has Entered an Elite Group of Possessing SFDR Technology **Syllabus: GS3/ Defence**



In News

- DRDO successfully demonstrated **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha,** advancing India's long-range air-to-air missile capabilities.

Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)

- SFDR is a **missile propulsion system that uses a ramjet engine to provide sustained thrust.**
- Unlike traditional rockets, it is an **air-breathing system, meaning it does not carry an onboard oxidizer, using atmospheric oxygen instead.**
- Since ramjets only function at **high speeds,** the missile is first launched using a nozzle-less solid booster to reach **supersonic speeds (Mach 2+).**

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund **Syllabus: GS3/Economy**

In News

- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) has sanctioned ₹80,224.15 crore in loans for over 1.5 lakh projects,** mobilising investments of ₹1.27 lakh crore since 2020.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

- It is a **central sector scheme**
- **Objective - to mobilize medium and long-term debt financing for the development of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.**
- It focuses on strengthening agri-logistics, reducing post-harvest losses, promoting modern storage, processing and value-addition facilities and improving farm-gate level infrastructure for efficient supply chains.

NAMASTE Scheme **(Schemes)**

In News

- For the first time, the **Union government has released nationwide enumeration data of waste-pickers under the NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme.**

National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)

- Launched in - July 2023
- Financing - Central Sector Scheme
- Implemented by - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs,

Objectives:

- Zero fatalities in sanitation work.
- All sanitation operations to be performed by skilled workers.
- No direct contact with human faecal matter.
- Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers.

Key Interventions:

- **Profiling:** Digital profiling of Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs).
- **Safety:** Providing PPE kits, safety devices, and training to workers.
- **Empowerment:** Capital subsidy for purchasing sanitation machinery to become "sanipreneurs".
- **Health:** Occupational safety training and health insurance.
- **Significance:** Aligns with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and promotes the dignity and safety of sanitation workers.

Lake Urmia

Syllabus: GS1/Places in News



In News

- Iranian authorities have resorted to cloud seeding to induce artificial rainfall over the Lake Urmia basin amid Iran's worst drought in decades.

Lake Urmia

- It is situated in the Azerbaijan region of northwestern Iran and lies between East Azerbaijan and West Azerbaijan provinces.
- High evaporation rates make it extremely saline.
- **Uniqueness** - It is the largest lake in the Middle East.
- Designated a Ramsar wetland and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the lake has shrunk dramatically since the 1990s.

Rafah border (Places in news)

The Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt

Egypt is the only country apart from Israel to share a border with the Gaza Strip, which is home to 2.3 million people. The Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza is the sole route for aid to enter Gaza from outside Israel and the only non-Israeli exit.



News

- Israel has reopened the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt for limited civilian movement after months of closure.

- The crossing has largely been closed since the Gazan side was captured by Israeli forces in May 2024.

Why is Rafah important to Gaza?

- **Location:** Rafah border is located on the Gaza-Egypt border, which was recognized by the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty.
- **Significance:** The Rafah Border Crossing or Rafah Crossing Point is the **sole crossing point between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.**

FORGE Initiative Syllabus: GS2/ IR

In News

- **India has expressed support for the FORGE Initiative at the inaugural Critical Minerals Ministerial hosted by the United States in Washington DC.**

FORGE Initiative

- It is a multilateral international cooperation framework **aimed at de-risking global critical mineral supply chains by bringing together like-minded countries.**
- It has been created as a **successor to the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP).**
- **Significance - to reduce over-dependence on a few dominant suppliers,** build trusted, transparent and resilient critical mineral ecosystems

Sarus Cranes Census data Environment



In News

- **The population of sarus cranes in Uttar Pradesh has gone up by 634 or 3.1% in a year, as per a government census.**

Sarus crane

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

Exercise KHANJAR Syllabus: GS3/Defence

Context

- **The 13th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan joint military exercise KHANJAR has begun in Sonitpur district of Assam.**

Exercise KHANJAR

- It is an annual training event conducted alternately between India and Kyrgyzstan since 2011.
- **Objective** - to enhance interoperability between the Special Forces of both nations, with a focus on joint operations in urban warfare and counter-terrorism scenarios under the United Nations mandate.

Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Governance



In News

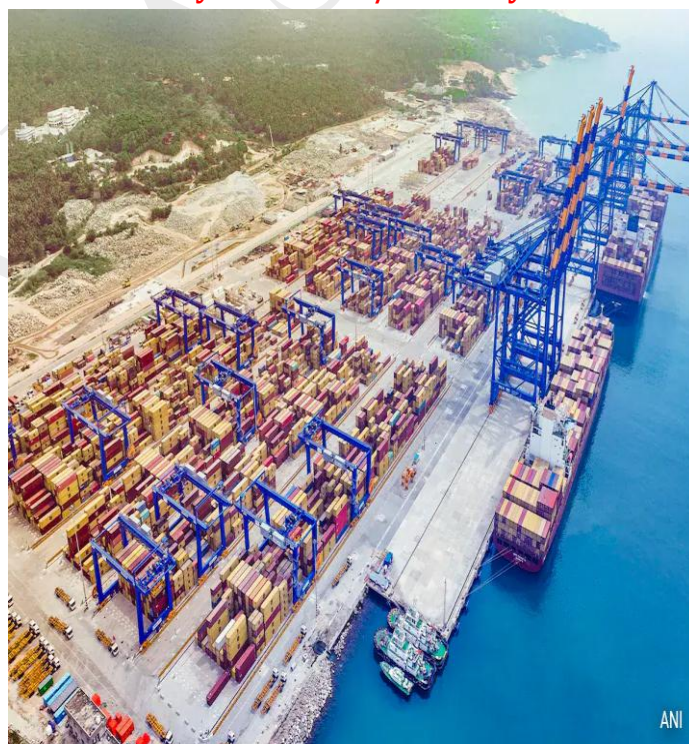
- The Government of India, the Government of Nagaland, and representatives of the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) have signed a **historic agreement for the creation of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)**.

Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority

- FNTA will cover six districts — Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator inhabited by eight major Naga tribes.
- **Objective** - The agreement provides for devolution of powers enhancing administrative and developmental autonomy.

- **Mini-Secretariat** - It is headed by an **Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary-level officer**.
- **Significance** - It aims to promote balanced regional development, financial autonomy, and participatory decision-making in a historically underdeveloped region.
- **Note** - However, the arrangement does not dilute Article 371(A) of the Constitution, which safeguards Naga customary practices, land rights, and social institutions.

Vizhinjam Port Syllabus: GS3/Economy



News

- **Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala has risen to the 83rd position globally in container handling**, reflecting the rapid scale-up of India's newest deep water transshipment hub.

Vizhinjam Port

- **Location:** Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- **Key Features:** One of the deepest ports in India.
 - Capable of handling **Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCVs)**.
 - Developed under the **Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT)** model.
- **Significance:** Efficient cargo movement, reduces India's dependence on foreign ports like Colombo (Sri Lanka), Singapore, and UAE for transshipment, strengthens India's maritime security

International Space Station (ISS) (Science and Technology)



Context

- The International Space Station (ISS) is scheduled to be de-orbited in 2030, marking the end of nearly three decades of continuous human presence in space.

International Space Station (ISS)

- It is a **modular, habitable, microgravity laboratory in low Earth orbit**, orbiting **400 km above Earth**.
- It was **launched in 1998**, and has been continuously inhabited since 2000, making it **one of the longest-running human space missions in history**.

- It is operated collaboratively by **five major space agencies:** NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), ESA (Europe), JAXA (Japan) and CSA (Canada).

Key Features:

- It is the **largest human-made structure in space**, with a mass exceeding **400,000 kg**, and a structure nearly **109 meters long**.
- **Power is supplied by solar arrays** generating tens of kilowatts of electricity.
- The ISS plays a crucial role in **studying the effects of long-term space radiation and microgravity on the human body**, helping scientists **understand bone loss, muscle atrophy, and immune system changes**.

NDMA's First-ever Guidelines For Identification of Disaster Victims

Syllabus: GS3/Disaster Management

In News

- Recently, the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has released the country's first-ever Standard Operating Procedure with **guidelines for the identification of victims in the event of "mass fatality incidents"**.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- Headed by - Prime Minister of India.
- It is the apex body for **Disaster Management in India**.
- It was established under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- **Objective** - It is responsible for **formulating policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management** and promoting an ethos of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response.

CAR T-cell therapy (Science and Tech)

In News

- **Researchers at IIT Bombay addressed a critical challenge in CAR T-cell and other adoptive T-cell transfer (ACT) therapies.**

T-cells

- They are **white blood cells that act as the body's frontline defenders**, detecting and **destroying infections or abnormal cells like cancer**, and coordinating other immune cells to respond—making them crucial for immunotherapy.

CAR T-cell therapy

- It is an advanced treatment that **modifies a patient's T-cells to more effectively attack cancer.**
- Doctors first collect T-cells from the patient's blood and then **introduce a gene that gives them special receptors called chimeric antigen receptors (CARs).**
- These **receptors function like GPS, directing the T-cells to locate and target cancer cells.**
- After engineering, the T-cells are expanded in the lab and then infused back into the patient's body.
- **NexCAR19 is the world's first humanised CAR-T therapy developed in India by ImmunoACT.**

Benefits

- **Targeted Precision:** : CAR-T cell therapy Specifically attacks cancer cells while sparing healthy cells, reducing side effects compared to chemotherapy.
- **Personalised Treatment:** CAR-T cell therapy Uses the patient's own T-cells, engineered to target their unique cancer, enhancing effectiveness.

- **Long-Lasting Effects:** Engineered T-cells can persist in the body, providing extended protection against cancer recurrence.
- **Reduced Hospitalisation & Costs:** Fewer hospital stays and less supportive care needed, leading to potential cost savings.
- **Advances in Cancer Treatment:** Opens new avenues in immunotherapy, expanding treatment options and research possibilities.
- **Technological Evolution:** Continuous development of CAR constructs allows targeting of diverse cancers and combination therapies.
- **Affordability:** Indigenous therapies like NexCAR19 in India make CAR-T treatment more accessible and cost-effective.

Agni-3 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Syllabus:GS3/Defence

In News

- **India successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable Agni-3 ballistic missile from Chandipur, Odisha, with a strike range exceeding 3,000 km.**

Agni-3 ballistic missile

- **Developed by - Defence Research and Development Organisation.**
- **Strike range- 3,000 km.**
- **Uniqueness - It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads.**

Agni

- It is India's **indigenously developed long-range missile system** by DRDO
- **Agni-I to Agni-IV: Range 700–3,500 km, payload 12–40 kt**, developed in 1990s, deployed mid-2000s.
- **Agni-V: Three-stage solid-fuel, MIRV-capable, range up to 5,000 km, potentially intercontinental (5,500+ km).**
- **Agni-P: Two-stage solid-fuel, weight 11,000 kg, range 1,000–2,000 km**, incorporates advanced propulsion/navigation, **can carry**

high-explosive, thermobaric, or nuclear warheads.

Jiyo Parsi Scheme **Syllabus:GS2/Social Justice**

- In News
- The Jiyo Parsi Scheme has supported the birth of over 490 Parsi children and provided ₹35.05 crore in financial assistance to Parsi couples

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.

Global Teacher Prize 2026 **Miscellaneous**

Context

- Indian teacher Rouble Nagi has won the **Global Teacher Prize 2026**, receiving the one million dollar award at the World Government Summit in Dubai.

Global Teacher Prize

- It was **Launched in 2014** and is often referred to as the “Nobel Prize of Teaching”.
- It is **Presented by GEMS Education** and organised by the Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO.
- **Mandate** - It recognises **exceptional educators for their outstanding contributions to teaching and social transformation.**

Do you know?

- **Rouble Nagi**, is a pioneering educator from India, dedicated to making learning accessible to the most marginalised communities.
- Over the past two decades, she has established more than 800 learning centres across over 100 underserved communities and villages.

Supreme Court Allows Abortion of 30-week Pregnancy of a Minor **Polity and Governance; Social Justice**

Context

- The Supreme Court has permitted the medical termination of a 30-week pregnancy of a minor, emphasising that no woman can be compelled to carry a pregnancy to full term against her will.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021

- The Act permits abortion up to 20 weeks in the opinion of one registered medical practitioner.
- Between 20–24 weeks, termination is allowed for specified categories of women (including minors, rape survivors, and differently-abled women) on the opinion of two doctors.
- Beyond 24 weeks, termination is permitted only in cases of substantial

fetal abnormalities as diagnosed by a Medical Board.

Key Observations of the Supreme Court

- The Court reiterated that **reproductive autonomy is an integral part of personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.**
- The Court observed that the **pregnancy of a minor is “ex facie illegitimate”** because she lacks legal capacity to consent to sexual relations.

Hakki-Pikki tribe Society



In News

- **The Embassy of India assisted Hakki-Pikki community members from Davangere, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagaluru districts, who were at risk of imprisonment in Chad.**

The Hakki Pikki tribe

- It is a **tribe that lives in several states in west and south India**, especially near forest areas.
- **Hakki Pikkis (Hakki in Kannada means ‘bird’ and Pikki means ‘catchers’)** are a **semi-nomadic tribe**, traditionally of bird catchers and hunters.
- Hakki Pikki people are believed to **hail originally from the bordering districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan.**

- Hakki Pikkis in Karnataka **follow Hindu traditions and celebrate all Hindu festivals.**
- They are **non-vegetarians.** The **eldest son in a family is not supposed to cut his hair** so that he can be identified easily.
- The tribe prefers **cross-cousin marriages.** The **society is matriarchal**, where the **groom gives dowry to the bride’s family.** Monogamy is the norm.

Greater Flamingos Syllabus: GS3/Environment



Context

- **Nearly 70 Greater Flamingos were recorded for the first time at Hope Island in the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kakinada Bay, Andhra Pradesh.**

Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)

- **Description:** The **greater flamingo** is the most widespread and **largest species of the flamingo family**, averaging **110–150 cm tall and weighing 2–4 kg.**
- **Distribution:** They are found in **Northern (coastal) and Sub-Saharan Africa**, the **Indian subcontinent (south of the Himalayas)**, the **Middle East**, the **Persian Gulf**, the **Gulf of Aden**, the **Red Sea**, and the **Mediterranean countries of Southern Europe.**

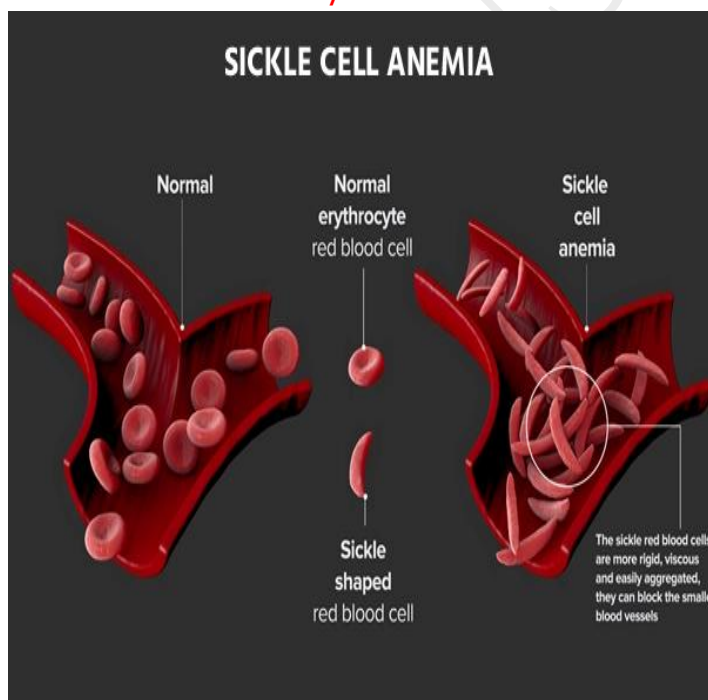
- Greater flamingos usually **migrate to India from Israel, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.**
- **Diet and lifespan:** Average lifespan is **30-40 years, and they feed on small fish and other aquatic organisms.**
- **Threats:** The primary threats to flamingo populations are **bacteria, toxins, and pollution in water supplies**, which is usually **run-off from manufacturing companies, and encroachment on their habitat.**
- **State Bird:** **The greater flamingo is the State bird of Gujarat.**

Types and IUCN status:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. The greater flamingo | - | Least Concern |
| 2. Chilean flamingo | - | Near Threatened |
| 3. American flamingo | - | Least Concern |
| 4. Lesser flamingo | - | Near Threatened |
| 5. Andean flamingo | - | Vulnerable |
| 6. James's flamingo | - | Near Threatened. |

Sickle Cell Disease

GS2/Health



Context

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) has granted Orphan Drug Designation (ODD) to treat Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

Orphan Drug Designation

- Orphan drugs are pharmaceutical agents developed specifically **to treat rare (orphan) diseases.**
- Once designated, orphan drugs receive several incentives to encourage their development, including market exclusivity, tax credits for research and development (R&D) expenses, and fee waivers for regulatory applications.

Sickle cell anaemia

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

- The sickle cells die prematurely, resulting in a chronic lack of red blood cells (anaemia), often called sickle-cell anaemia.
- **Treatment** - Medication, **blood transfusions and rarely a bone-marrow transplant are done.**

Mountain Gorillas **Environment / Species**



Context

- **Rare twin mountain gorillas were recently born in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).**

Mountain gorillas (Gorilla beringei beringei)

- They are a **subspecies of the eastern gorilla**, one of the two gorilla species found globally (eastern and western gorillas).
- In the wild, **gorillas can live for over 40 years, and humans share nearly 98% DNA** with them.
- **Habitat and Distribution:** They live at **elevations of about 8,000–13,000 feet** and have **thicker fur than other great apes** to adapt to cold mountain climates.
- They are typically found in **Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa.**
- **Diet mainly includes leaves, shoots, and stems, along with insects, roots, bark, and decaying wood** as a source of minerals.

- **Conservation Status and Population: Endangered (IUCN Red List);** estimated population is around **1,063 individuals in the wild.**

ರಕ್ತಕ 2026

PSI/ESI/FDA/SDA/ ಎಲ್ಯಾ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ C ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಸರಣಿಗಳು

ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:
2ನೇ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 2026

13 + 8 = 21
 SECTIONAL TESTS FULL LENGTH TESTS TOTAL TESTS




ಉತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಣಾತ್ಮಕ ಸಾರಾಂಶ



ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮವು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ



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ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿಯ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ಸರಣಿ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸಗಳು



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ಕೈಗೆಟುಕುವ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ



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ಒಟ್ಟು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು **25**

ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:
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- ಪ್ರಚಲಿತ ಘಟನೆಗಳು + **2 ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು** [ಬಜೆಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತವೆ]
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