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A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative

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By- Nandan Sir

January 5th Week 2026

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- Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) award
- State govt. to extend financial protection to Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) patients

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY 5TH Week 2026

Abhay Manohar Sapre committee

Why in news

- Road Safety Advisory Committee chairman inspects NH 275

Observations and recommendations

- **Key Observation:** He appreciated the **reduction in road accidents on national highways in 2025** compared to previous years, attributing the positive trend to the installation of **AI-enabled cameras**.
- **Technological Recommendation:** Mr. Sapre proposed the installation of **digital speed control systems** to effectively regulate and **curb the over-speeding of vehicles**.
- **Infrastructure Measures:** He suggested installing adequate, **prominently visible signboards** specifically at accident-prone locations to alert motorists.
- **Enforcement Focus:** The recommendations included undertaking strict measures to ensure adherence to **lane discipline** and continuous prevention of over-speeding.
- **Note :** NH275 connects Bengaluru to Mysuru

Electric flying taxi



News-

- Bengaluru firm begins ground testing of electric flying taxi

About

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

Sarla's flagship programme :

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

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

Why in news

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

Key Highlights

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

stating that de-reservation requires Supreme Court permission.

- **Directive:** The judgment, authored by Justice Sandeep Mehta, directed the State to reclaim the land and **repopulate the forest with indigenous trees.**
- **State Position:** The Karnataka government confirmed via affidavit that the disputed lands fell under the category of "forest" and were under the ownership and possession of the State Forest Department.

"Mission 40+" (Karnataka Education Initiative)

Why in news :

- **Remedial teaching to improve SSLC results in districts of Kalyana Karnataka region**

Mission Overview

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

Note :

- The State government has earmarked **₹3.44 crore** for the project, to be borne by the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB).
- In 2024-25, **Kalaburagi district ranked last in the results with 41.35% results.** Other districts also had poor results- **Ballari**

(50.91%), Bidar (52.3%), Koppal (56.57%), Raichur (50.76%), Vijayapura (66.78%), and Yadgir (59.6%).

Bengaluru International Film Festival

Why in news

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

Key Highlights

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

KPME (Amendment) Bill, 2025

News -

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

Key objections

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

Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- **Mandate** - to modernise the regulatory framework for private healthcare.
- It seeks to replace a previous ordinance and further amends the principal Act of 2007.

Key Provisions & Changes

Two-Tier Registration System:

- **Provisional Registration:** New hospitals and clinics can obtain a 6-month provisional registration certificate within 10 days of application without prior inspection.
- **Permanent Registration:** Establishments with valid accreditations (like NABH, NQAS, or QCI audits) can receive permanent registration within 10 days without further checks.
- **Mental Health Inclusion:** The Bill formally brings mental health establishments under the legal purview of the KPME Act.
- **Stricter Penalties:** Employing unqualified medical or paramedical staff now carries a penalty of up to 3 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹1 lakh.
- **Structural Changes:** The District Registration and Grievance Redressal Authority will be headed by the Deputy Commissioner and must include representatives from the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and AYUSH practitioners.
- **Proximity Rules:** No new private clinical laboratory is permitted within 200 metres of a government hospital.

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

Why in news:

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

Key Highlights

- **Purpose:** To secure an increased total water allocation of 40 to 45 tmcft for Karnataka within the national river-linking frameworks,

specifically to address drinking water and irrigation needs.

- **Key Demands:** The State specifically urged the Centre to provide an additional 5 tmcft of water to the **Kalyana Karnataka (KK) region** via the Godavari-Cauvery link primarily for drinking water purposes.
- **Current Allocation Status:** Karnataka has currently been allocated a total of 34.40 tmcft under two major projects:
 - 15.90 tmcft from the Godavari-Cauvery link.
 - 18.50 tmcft from the Varada-Bedti link.
- **Godavari-Cauvery Project Data:** In the first phase, a total of 148 tmcft of water is set to be diverted; Karnataka has requested clarification on the usage and distribution of its 15.90 tmcft share.
- **Varada-Bedti Project Details:** A Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared for this intra-state link. The estimated cost is ₹10,000 crore, with 90% of the expenditure to be borne by the Centre.
- **Note :** The NWDA has been formed under the leadership of the Union Minister of Jal Shakti for river linking, and all States are its members.

Additional information - Godavari-Cauvery River Linking Project.

- **Route Alignment (3-Stage Link):** The project proposes a massive transfer of water through the following path:
 - Godavari (Inchampalli Barrage) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar Dam)
 - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila Dam)
 - Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut)
- **Key Statistics:**
 - **Total Diversion:** Approximately 148 TMC (4,189 MCM) of unutilized water from the Godavari basin.
 - **Tamil Nadu Share:** 41 TMC earmarked for irrigation and drinking water supply to Chennai.
 - **Karnataka's Stance:** The State claims rights to 45 TMC of water before giving approval for the project.

- **Infrastructure & Technology:**
 - **Starting Point:** The **Inchampalli Barrage** on the Godavari river serves as the primary source.
 - **Transport Mechanism:** The project incorporates the use of **Steel Pipes** instead of traditional open canals in specific sections to significantly reduce evaporation losses.
- **Beneficiary Hierarchy:**
 - **Major Beneficiaries:** Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
 - **Minor Beneficiaries:** Puducherry.

Bedti - varada liking project

- **Proposed by:** The Karnataka State Government (Water Resources Department).
- **Core Purpose:** To divert approximately **22 TMC** of "surplus" water from the west-flowing Bedti river to the east-flowing Varada river (a tributary of the Tungabhadra) to mitigate water scarcity in North Karnataka.
- **Route & Mechanism:**
 - **Source:** Bedti River (Western Ghats, flowing to the Arabian Sea).
 - **Destination:** Varada River (Flows East).
 - **Engineering:** The project involves two mix-links utilizing **6.8 km tunnels** and lifting (pumping) stations at Pattanahalla and Suremane.
- **Target Objectives:**
 - **Irrigation:** Designed to irrigate approximately **1 Lakh Hectares** in the Tungabhadra Left Bank region.
 - **Usage:** Providing drinking water for arid towns and sustaining rain-fed crops such as **Cotton and Jowar**.
- **Beneficiaries:** The project targets the drought-prone districts of **Raichur, Gadag, Haveri, and Koppal**.
- **Infrastructure:**
 - **Dam 1:** At Menasagoda (Pattanahalla stream).
 - **Dam 2:** At Hirevadatti (Gadag district).
- **Financials:** The estimated cost ranges between **₹2,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore**, subject to final plan modifications.
- **Conflict & Status:**

- **Proponents:** Farmers in North Karnataka seeking drought relief.
- **Opponents:** Environmentalists and locals in Uttara Kannada (Sirsi), citing the potential loss of **2,100+ acres** of forest and damage to the ecologically sensitive **Myristica Swamps**.
- **Status:** Highly controversial; while the government has approved the preparation of a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)**, widespread implementation is stalled due to protests.

Karnataka's second monkey fever lab

Why in news :

- **Second KFD testing lab will come up in Sirsi soon**

Key Highlights

- **Launched by :** The **Health Department** is set to establish another Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) testing laboratory at Sirsi of Uttara Kannada district
- **Aim:** to strengthen early detection and control of the disease.
- **The first laboratory** is currently functioning in Shivamogga.
- **Benefits:** new laboratory would benefit residents of Sirsi, Siddapur and surrounding areas by enabling quicker diagnosis, which, in turn, would help reduce mortality to zero

Additional information - About Kyasanur Forest Disease

- **Origin :** First identified in **1957 in Karnataka's Kyasanur Forest**, it is commonly known as **Monkey Fever**.
- **Type:** It is a tick-borne viral hemorrhagic fever caused by the **Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (family Flaviviridae)**.
- **Transmission:** Spread to humans via **tick bites** (mainly *Haemaphysalis spinigera*) or **contact with infected animals**, particularly sick or dead monkeys.
- **No person-to-person transmission exists.**

- **Seasonality:** Epidemics usually last from October to June, with a peak period between January and April.
- **Symptoms: Sudden high fever, headache, and vomiting;** severe cases may involve bleeding (hemorrhagic) and neurological issues.
- **Mortality:** The disease has a **fatality rate of approximately 5% to 10%.**
- **Treatment: There is no cure;** management relies on supportive care (hydration, oxygen, and maintaining blood pressure).
- **Prevention:** A vaccine is available and widely recommended in affected regions of India.

Insurance coverage in Karnataka for forest officials

Why in news :

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

Key Highlights

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

State Education Policy (SEP)

Why in news :

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

Recommendations

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

Current status

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

Additional Information - KPS Magnet Schools in Karnataka

- It is an an initiative to **upgrade selected government schools into resource centers, merging smaller nearby schools (within 5-6 km)**
- **Objective - to provide better infrastructure, digital learning, and comprehensive education (Pre-primary to Class 12) under one roof,**
- **Significance - It aims to improve government education quality,**
- **Concerns - The plan faces significant opposition due to fears of rural school closures, student displacement, and negative impacts on poor communities.**

Sharp increase in child kidnappings across Karnataka; 1094 children still missing

Why in news :

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

Key Highlights

- **Regional Distribution:** Bengaluru city accounts for nearly one-third of the total cases, followed by Bengaluru Rural and Tumakuru districts.
- **Gender Statistics:** A significant number of missing cases involved girls (6,894 cases), with 825 of these cases still pending.
- **Yearly Trends:**
 - ❖ 2023: 3,039 cases reported; 77 unresolved.
 - ❖ 2024: 3,411 cases reported; 145 untraced.
 - ❖ 2025 (till Nov 15): 3,189 cases reported; 872 unresolved.
- **District-wise Breakdown:**
 - ❖ Bengaluru: 3,268 cases reported; 426 pending.
 - ❖ Bengaluru Rural: 694 cases reported; 55 untraced.
 - ❖ Tumakuru: 450 cases reported in the last three years; 33 unresolved.

Sanchara Yukta project



Why in news :

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

The Sanchara Yukta project

- It is a major infrastructure initiative by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) designed to decongest Bengaluru's traffic by constructing nearly 300 km of new roads

along the buffer zones of stormwater drains (rajakaluves).

Key Objectives and Features

- **Buffer Zone Roads:** The project focuses on utilizing the buffer zones of stormwater drains to create additional road capacity, strengthen neighbourhood streets, and prevent illegal encroachments.
- **Vehicle Restrictions:** To ensure stability on these buffer zones, heavy vehicles are generally prohibited; most of these routes will be reserved for cars and two-wheelers.
- **Funding & Land:** The project is part of the ₹3,000 crore (₹30 billion) "Brand Bengaluru" concept.

Additional Information - BRAND BENGALURU

- Brand Bengaluru concept has been classified into eight categories

SUGAMA SANCHARA (FREE MOVEMENT)

- **Focus -** Bengaluru City Comprehensive Mobility Plan (BCCMP) + construction of a tunnel road.

CLEAN BENGALURU

- Land parcels of 50 to 100 acres each will be identified in different directions for treating waste for the next 25 to 30 years (Rs 100 crore)

SHE TOILETS

- **Make public infrastructure woman-friendly -** By Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML)
- **Sharane Satyakka award** with an amount of Rs 50,000 will be paid to eight pourakarmikas (workers who carry out cleaning of public places) in eight zones in recognition of their honest and dedicated work.

HASIRU BENGALURU (GREEN BENGALURU)

- Bengaluru's first ever Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP Climate Action and Resilience Plan) was launched on 27 November 2023
- 'Hasiru Rakshak', - a mobile application has been developed to sensitize school/college

students on the importance of plants and trees in the environment and 2 lakhs saplings will be planted in the current year

HEALTHY BENGALURU

- **Twenty-seven e-vehicles (1 per constituency)** under 'Mane Bagilige Chuchhu Maddu' shall be made functional to improve immunization and cover last mile coverage

EDUCATION BENGALURU

- **To enhance the quality of education**, the BBMP will set up a **well-equipped computer lab, digital lab, Information technology lab and e-libraries (Rs 10 crore)**

TECH BENGALURU

- **Strengthening IT staff (Rs 50 crore)**

VIBRANT BENGALURU

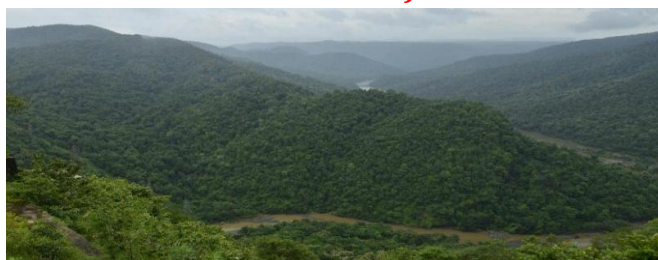
- **To provide a grant of Rs100 crore to illuminate with attractive electric lights in flyovers, underbridges, road junctions and parks**
- **The BBMP will set up 'Pink Rooms' that will have sanitary napkins at malls, bus stations and toilets and they would act as rest rooms for women during menstruation**

WELFARE PROGRAMMES

E-Sarathi scheme for the welfare of women,

- **Targeted beneficiary - Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward minorities, and the transgender community**
- **Objective - to providing financial assistance for the purchase of approximately 250 electric autos or goods e-autos (Rs 5 crore)**
- **'Savitri Vasathi' hostels for working women.**

SVALSA (Slope Vulnerability and Landslide Assessment).



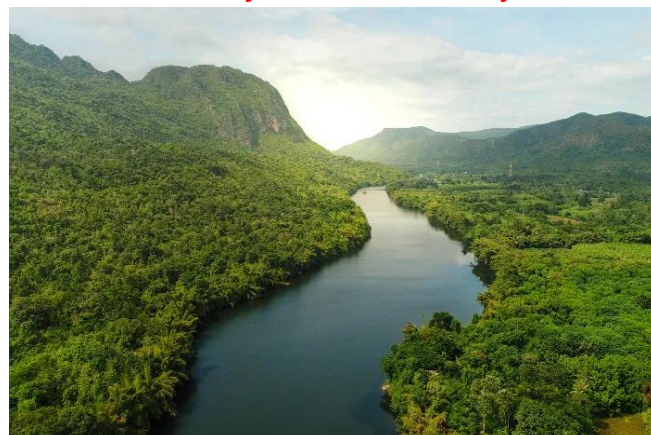
Why in news :

- **Machine learning to predict landslips in Western Ghats**

About SVALSA

- **Developed by:** Researchers at NITK Surathkal have created an integrated early warning framework called SVALSA (Slope Vulnerability and Landslide Assessment).
- **Aim :** to provide reliable landslide warnings while significantly reducing false alarms, addressing incidents primarily triggered by intense and prolonged rainfall.
- **Target Region:** The system is designed specifically for the Western Ghats, a region that accounts for nearly 60% of reported landslides in India.
- **Mechanism:** The system operates through a three-stage warning mechanism implemented as a Python-based algorithm on a compact processing unit.
- **Technology & Inputs:** It combines rainfall analysis, real-time monitoring of soil behaviour, and surface movement.
- **Data Analysis:** In the first stage, the system analyzes rainfall data and past landslide records using a machine-learning method called K-Nearest Neighbour (KNN).

Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary



News -

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

Key Highlights

- **Allegation:** There are concerns that **water harvesting pits dug** by the **Forest Department** are resulting in the **loss of natural grasslands**.
- **Location:** The activity is reported inside the **Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary**, specifically **impacting the Sangama, Halagur, and Mugguru ranges**.
- **Method:** Environmentalists report that **heavy machinery is being used to dig these pits, causing the destruction of the landscape**.
- **Ecological Impact:** These grasslands are critical for **providing fodder to herbivores such as elephants, sambar, spotted deer, and gaur**.
- **Consequence:** The destruction of natural grasslands is expected to impact fodder availability for wild ungulates, ultimately increasing the risk of human-wildlife conflict.

Additional information - Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Location :** Spread across **three districts: Chamarajanagar, Mandya, and Ramanagara**. It comprises two sub-divisions (Hanur and Kanakapura) and seven ranges (Kothnur, Hanur, Cowdally, Gopinatham, Halagur, Sangam, and Muggur).
- **Area :** Originally notified in **1987 with 510 km²**, it has been expanded to its **present extent of 1,027 km²**.
- **Ecological Significance (Corridor):** Serves as a vital wildlife corridor **connecting Bannerghatta National Park in the north to BRT Tiger Reserve and MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in the south**.
- **River Systems:** The sanctuary is drained by **three major rivers: Cauvery, Arkavathi, and Shimsha**, along with numerous rivulets.
- **Forest Types:** Primarily consists of **dry deciduous and scrub forests**. However, diverse types such as Hardwickia forests, riverine, shola, moist deciduous, and evergreen forests are found at varying altitudes.
- **Key Fauna:** Important species include **Tiger, Elephant, Leopard, Honey Badger (Ratel), and the Kollegal Ground Gecko (a reptile of specific interest)**. Other wildlife includes

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

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

Why in news

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

Implications of the new rural employment Act for Karnataka

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

Demand for Kittur Karnataka Development Board grows louder

Why in news :

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

About

- **Key Demand:** Legislators have petitioned for the **formation of a Kittur Karnataka Development Board accompanied by an annual grant of ₹5,000 crore** to facilitate comprehensive development.

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

ARC recommends consolidating irrelevant schemes

Why in news

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

Commission & Purpose

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

Key Recommendations

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

Staffing Statistics

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

Bescom launches mobile app to monitor transformers



Why in news :

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

About DTLMS

- **Developed by:** The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has created a mobile application called the **Distribution Transformer Life Cycle Management System (DTLMS).**

- **Aim:** The primary objective is to ensure quality and uninterrupted power supply to consumers.
- **Target Scope:** The system helps monitor and systematically carry out preventive maintenance of more than five lakh distribution transformers across eight districts under Bescom's jurisdiction.
- **Mechanism:** The app enables officials to continuously monitor the operation, repairs, and efficiency of distribution transformers.
- **Data Input:** Field officers can enter all transformer maintenance details directly into the application, ensuring real-time tracking of assets.

Sarige Mitra' app launched



Why in news :

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

About Sarige Mitra app

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

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

Cabinet approves 1,000-bed hospital in Bengaluru for free organ transplant for poor

Why in news :

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

Key Highlights

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

Additional information

Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka scheme.

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

Aim or Objective

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

Benefits

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

Criteria

- "Eligible Households" are defined as those covered under the **NFSA 2013**, holding **BPL ration cards**, or enrolled **RSBY beneficiaries**.
- "General Households" include residents not defined as eligible households, typically holding **APL cards**.
- Primary treatments and simple secondary procedures are **restricted to Public Health Institutes (PHIs)** only.
- Access to complex secondary and tertiary procedures in private hospitals is **conditional**

upon obtaining a referral from a Public Health Institute.

- Emergency treatment does not require a referral** and can be availed at any empanelled hospital.

Features

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

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



Why in news

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

Key Features & Significance

- Distinctive Appearance:** Unlike the standard leopard which possesses a tawny coat with black rosettes, this morph is characterized by a **pale reddish-pink coat (sandalwood hue)** with **light-brown rosettes**.

- **Global Significance:** This is a **globally significant finding** as only a handful of such leopards have been documented worldwide.
- **Nomenclature:** While internationally known as "**Strawberry leopards**," Mr. Gubbi has proposed naming this morph the "**Sandalwood leopard**" to honour Karnataka's cultural heritage.

Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara: Annual awards

Why it in news :

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

Honorary Awards winners

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

The book awards winners

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

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

Why in news

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

Project Overview

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

Financial Details

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

Historical Significance

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

Highest-ever organ donations made in 2025

Why in news

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

Key Statistics

- **Record Achievement:** The State recorded **198 organ donations** in 2025, surpassing the previous peak of **178 donations in 2023**.
- **National Standing:** Karnataka ranked **third in the country** for organ donations in 2025, trailing only:
 - **Tamil Nadu:** 267 donations
 - **Telangana:** 205 donations
- **Nodal Agency:** The **State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO)**, Karnataka, serves as the nodal agency facilitating these cadaver organ donations.

Drivers of Success

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

donation network beyond major metropolitan hubs.

Command centre launched to address man-animal conflict

Why in news

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

Launch & Objective

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

Infrastructure & Technology

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

Regions Covered

The network covers critical wildlife zones, including:

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

Bhu Suraksha project

Why in news :

- **Minister for Revenue Krishna Byre Gowda launched the Bhu Suraksha Project to expand the digitisation of land records to the offices**

of Assistant Commissioners (ACs) and Deputy Commissioners (DCs)

About the Bhu Suraksha project

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

State-run KMIO gets ISO certification for solid waste management

Why in news

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

Certification Details

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

adopting **environmentally responsible practices** in public-sector healthcare.

Operational Mechanism

- **Purpose:** The initiative aims to **scientifically reorganize the handling of waste** generated within the tertiary care facility, a process that began in **March 2020**.
- **Mechanism:** The modern SWM facility was established under a **10-year Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model**.
- **Process:** The facility was developed following a **transparent tender process** balancing cost and environmental standards, and the certification followed an **independent audit conducted in 2025**.

Restore ecozone around Bannerghatta: SC panel report



Why in news :

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

Recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC)

- **Mandate:** The committee has recommended the immediate withdrawal of the MoEFCC's **March 11, 2020 notification** and the full restoration of the June 15, **2016 draft notification regarding the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Bannerghatta National Park (BNP)**.

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

State Film Awards

Why in news :

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

About the State Film Awards

- **Announced by:** The **Karnataka State Government**, presenting the Lifetime Achievement Awards as part of the Karnataka State Film Awards for the years 2020 and 2021.
- **Award Categories:** The honors include the prestigious **Dr. Rajkumar Award**, the **Puttanna Kanagal Award**, and the **Dr. Vishnuvardhan Award**.
- **2020 Recipients:**
 - **Puttanna Kanagal Award:** Conferred upon renowned filmmaker and theatre personality **M.S. Sathyu**.
 - **Dr. Rajkumar Award:** Awarded to actor-politician **Jaimala** for her contributions spanning over 50 years in the film industry.

- **Dr. Vishnuvardhan Award:** Given to veteran still photographer **Pragathi Ashwath Narayana**.
- **2021 Recipients:**
 - **Dr. Rajkumar Award:** Presented to **Sa. Ra. Govindu**, producer and former president of the Karnataka State Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC).
 - **Puttanna Kanagal Award:** Awarded to director **K. Shivarudraiah**.
 - **Dr. Vishnuvardhan Award:** Conferred upon actor-producer **M.K. Sundar Raj**

Dr. Madhav Gadgil report

Why in news

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

Report Highlights

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

Zoning & Target Regions

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

Key Restrictions Proposed

- **Infrastructure:** A **complete ban on the construction of new large dams**, specifically

recommending against the **Gundia Hydroelectric Project** in Karnataka.

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

Governance & Response

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

Additional information

Sanjay Kumar Committee:

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

India's first commercial Quantum Computer to be deployed at IIT, Dharwad

Why in news

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

Key Highlights

- **Location:** The system is being installed at the **Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Dharwad**.
- **Announcement:** The initiative was announced by **Priyank Kharge**, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, IT & BT.

- **Status:** This deployment represents the country's **first indigenously built Quantum Computer for commercial use.**
- **Target:** The installation is proceeding at a quick momentum to secure **Karnataka's leadership** in the quantum space.

Strategic Importance

- **Purpose:** The initiative marks a significant milestone in building a **world-class quantum ecosystem** and advancing the "**Karnataka Quantum Roadmap**" to ensure cutting-edge technology translates into real-world impact.
- **Infrastructure:** The State government has also recently announced the establishment of a **Centre of Excellence in Quantum AI and Computing** at IIT Dharwad.

Key Collaborations

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

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

Why in news

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

Project Overview

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

Mechanism & Function

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

Sustainability & Impact

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

11 potential Blue Flag beaches in Karnataka

Why in news

- The Karnataka Tourism Department has identified 11 potential Blue Flag beaches in the State, as announced by Secretary K.V. Thrilok Chandra at the Coastal Karnataka Tourism Conclave.

Objective & Strategy

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

Identified Potential Beaches

- **Dakshina Kannada District:**

- Someshwara Beach
- Ullal Beach
- Sasihitlu Beach
- **Udupi District:**
 - Asare Beach
 - Kodi Kanyana Beach
 - Padukere Beach
 - Kodi Beach (Kundapura)
 - Shiroom Beach
- **Uttara Kannada District:**
 - Bailur Beach
 - Apsarakonda Beach
 - Rabindranath Tagore Beach

River Cruise Projects

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

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

Tourism Statistics (2023-2024)

The region has seen a significant rise in tourism numbers:

- **Domestic Footfall:** Increased from **28 crores** to **30 crores**.
- **Foreign Footfall:** Increased from **4.09 lakh** to **4.85 lakh**.

Current Blue Flag Status (As of January 2026)

Karnataka currently holds two Blue Flag certified beaches:

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

About Blue Flag Certification

- **Origin:** Initiated in France (1985) and expanded globally in 2001.
- **Awarded By:** Denmark-based **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**.
- **Aim:** Promotes sustainable practices in marine and freshwater ecosystems.
- **Key Criteria:**
 - **Water Quality:** Maintains high cleanliness and safety standards.
 - **Environmental Management:** Implements sustainable eco-friendly initiatives.
 - **Safety Measures:** Ensures visitor security and accessibility.

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

Blue Flag Beaches of India

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



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

Why in news

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

Award Details

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

Project Overview

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

The Activity Point Tracking System (APTS) mobile app

Why in news :

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

About APTS mobile app

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

Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) award

Why in news :

- **2 senior scientists conferred with KSTA Lifetime Achievement Award**

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

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

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

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

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

Why in news :

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

Key Highlights

- **Launched by:** The Karnataka State Government, announced by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and implemented via a circular from the **Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST)**.

- **Core Purpose:** To extend financial protection to patients suffering from **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)**, a rare neurological condition, by covering the cost of the critical and expensive **Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy**.
- **Scheme Integration:** The treatment is now brought under the **Ayushman Bharat–Arogya Karnataka (AB-PMJAY–CM’s Ark)** scheme.
- **Coverage & Financials:**
 - The revised package covers up to **₹2 lakh per patient** for IVIG therapy.
 - The drug price is fixed at **₹2,000 per gram**.
 - Dosage coverage is calculated based on patient weight (2 grams per kg body weight, up to a **maximum of 20 grams per cycle**).
 - Two specific procedure codes have been created for billing and auditing.
- **Supportive Care:** Use of ventilators (if breathing fails) and physical therapy for rehabilitation.

Additional information

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)

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

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ಬ್ಯಾಚ್ - 4 ತರಬೇತಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ **23ನೇ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 2026**

ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ

ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18ನೇ ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 2026

SCHOLARSHIP TEST DETAILS

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 ಉಚಿತ ಪ್ರವೇಶ

6-10 Ranks: 50% Scholarship

11-25 Ranks: 30% Scholarship

26-50 Ranks: 20% Scholarship



ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಕರು

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ಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಇನ್‌ಸೈಟ್ಸ್‌ಐಎಎಸ್

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SHASHANK SIR
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SHIVANANDA SIR
 POLITY
 (HONORARY ADVISOR)



DHRUVA SIR
 WORLD INDIAN &
 KARNATAKA GEOGRAPHY



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