



INSTA ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನ

A Weekly Current Affairs Initiative

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

ಕನ್ನಡ & English

By- Nandan Sir

October 5th Week 2025

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

OCTOBER 5TH Week 2025

Chrysanthemum Flowers or Gul-e-Dawood Syllabus: GS3/Environment



In News

- Kashmir's new Chrysanthemum Garden, Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood will open near the Zabarwan range, featuring over 30 lakh blooms across 50+ varieties.

Chrysanthemum

- It is a perennial flowering plant from the Asteraceae family.
- It is widely cultivated in China, Japan, Europe, and the U.S. for its medicinal properties and use in aromatic beverages.
- **Uniqueness** - It is rich in phenolic compounds and exhibits potent antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, and other therapeutic activities.

International Convention Against Doping in Sport

Syllabus: Miscellaneous

In News

- India was re-elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau representing the Asia-Pacific during the 10th Session of UNESCO's

International Convention against Doping in Sport, held in Paris.

Doping and its Concerns

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

Conventions and Declarations related to Anti-Doping

Copenhagen Declaration

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

International Convention Against Doping in Sport

- It is also known as the 'UNESCO Anti-Doping Convention'.
- It was adopted at the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris in 2005. It entered into force in 2007.
- **Objective** - To promote the prevention of and the fight against doping in sports, with a view to its elimination.

- **India ratified this convention in 2007.**
- **Note - National Anti-Doping Agency, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs, is responsible for adopting, implementing and enforcing anti-doping programmes in India.**

Strengthening Governance through Blockchain Technology

Syllabus: GS2/ Governance. GS3/ Science and Technology

Context

- **India is accelerating its adoption of blockchain technology to transform governance, enhance transparency, and strengthen digital trust through the National Blockchain Framework (NBF).**

Connect with the basics- Blockchain

- **Definition - Blockchain is a distributed, transparent, secure, and immutable database that functions like a ledger of records or transactions, resistant to tampering and accessible across a network of computers.**

Applications of Blockchain Technology

Blockchain technology has numerous applications across various industries due to its secure, transparent, and decentralized nature.

1. **Cryptocurrencies:** Enabling secure digital currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum.
2. **Smart Contracts:** Automating agreements without intermediaries.
3. **Supply Chain Management:** Enhancing transparency and traceability.
4. **Healthcare:** Securing patient records and improving data sharing.
5. **Banking and Finance:** Streamlining cross-border payments and fraud detection.
6. **Voting Systems:** Ensuring transparent and tamper-proof elections.
7. **Identity Management:** Offering secure, verifiable digital identities.

8. **Real Estate:** Simplifying property transfers with tokenized assets.
9. **Gaming:** Enabling ownership of in-game assets and NFTs.
10. **Energy Sector:** Supporting peer-to-peer energy trading.

National Blockchain Framework (NBF)

- **Launched in- 2024**
- **Developed by - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**
- **Objective - to accelerate the development and deployment of permissioned blockchain-based applications.**

Makhananomics

Syllabus: GS3/Economy

In News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the newly launched National Makhana Board as a transformative “revolution” for the sector.**

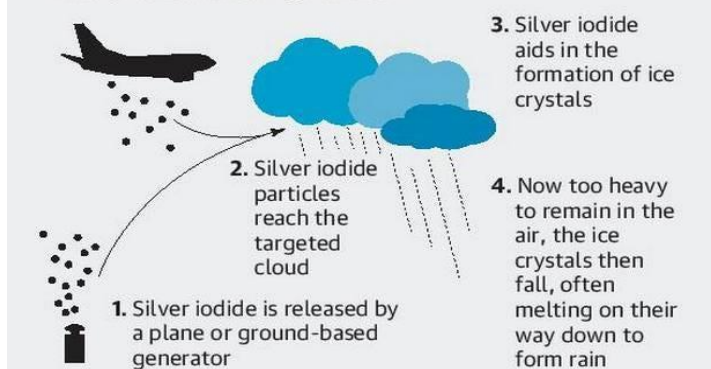
Makhana (Euryale ferox)

- It is a **flowering plant classified in the water lily family (Nymphaeaceae).**
- **Climatic condition:** Requires a **temperature range of 20-35°C**, and **annual rainfall between 100- 250 cm.**
- It is a **fully organic non-cereal food** found principally in India but also in Korea, Japan, as well as parts of eastern Russia.
- **Bihar accounts for ~90% of India’s makhana production.**
- **GI Tag: In 2022, ‘Mithila Makhana’ was conferred a GI tag.**

Cloud Seeding

Syllabus: GS3/Environment

How cloud seeding works



Context

- **Delhi Chief Minister has said cloud seeding is essential for the national capital as it could play a key role in controlling rising pollution levels during the winter season.**

Cloud Seeding or Artificial Rain

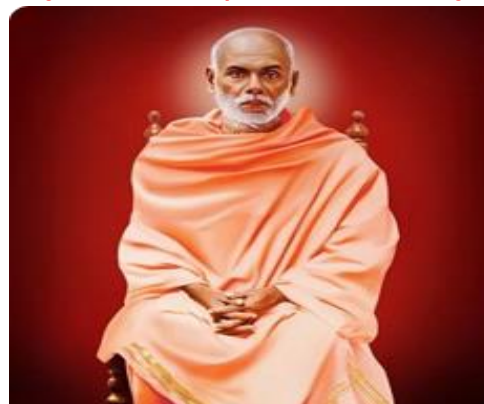
- **Definition - Artificial rain refers to inducing precipitation by injecting certain chemicals into clouds to accelerate the process of raindrop formation.**
- **Cloud seeding involves dispersing substances like:**
 1. **Silver iodide (AgI)**
 2. **Potassium iodide**
 3. **Sodium chloride**
 4. **Dry ice (CO₂)**
- **Conditions Required: Potential rain-bearing clouds, sufficient humidity and atmospheric instability & Favorable wind and temperature conditions.**

Advantages of Cloud Seeding

- **Air Pollution Mitigation:** In cities like Delhi, artificial rain can wash down particulate matter and other pollutants, providing temporary relief from severe air pollution.
- **Drought Mitigation and Water Resource Augmentation:** States like Maharashtra and Karnataka have used cloud seeding to combat water shortages (e.g., "Project Meghdoot" and "Varshadhari").

- **Forest Fire Control:** By increasing moisture levels, cloud seeding can potentially reduce the risk and intensity of wildfires.

Sree Narayana Guru Syllabus: GS1/Modern History



Context

- **The President of India inaugurated the observance of the Mahasamadhi centenary of Sree Narayana Guru at Sivagiri Mutt, Varkala, Kerala.**

Sree Narayana Guru (1856–1928)

- He was **born in 1856 in Kerala into the Ezhava community, which faced severe caste disabilities.**
- He was a **saint, philosopher, and one of the foremost social reformers** in modern India who **challenged caste oppression** and emphasized spiritual reform as the path to social reform.
- **Sree Narayana Guru known for blending Advaita Vedanta with a call for social justice.**

Key Contributions

- **Social Philosophy:** Propagated the radical message: **"One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man"**.
- Rejected **birth-based caste hierarchy and promoted dignity of labour.**
- **Institution Building:** Founded **Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam**

(SNDP, 1903) to advance **education, social empowerment, and reform.**

- **Aruvipuram Movement (1888):** Consecrated a Shiva idol himself, **breaking the Brahmin monopoly over temple rituals.** Built **temples, schools, and ashrams for the common people with egalitarian access.**
- **Political & Social Movements:** Extended moral and ideological support to the **Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25) for temple entry rights of lower castes.**
- **Educational Upliftment:** Stressed education as the foundation of empowerment and upliftment.

Gyan Bharatam Mission **Syllabus: GS1/Culture**

Context

- **The Gyan Bharatam Mission on manuscripts under the Union Culture Ministry, signed Memorandums of Understanding with around 20 institutes for conservation, upkeep and digitisation of manuscripts.**

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.

Saudi Arabia Ends Kafala System **Syllabus: GS2/ International Relations**

In News

- **In a landmark labour reform, Saudi Arabia has officially scrapped the decades-old Kafala (sponsorship) system.**

Kafala system

- The Kafala system required **foreign workers to have a Saudi sponsor, usually their employer, who controlled their visa and legal status.**
- This meant that workers **couldn't change jobs, leave the country, or even renew their residence permits** without the sponsor's consent.

Why did Saudi Arabia scrap the system

- Human rights bodies long argued that this system often led to worker exploitation and abuse, as employees were left with little legal recourse if their employers withheld salaries or passports.
- The reform aligns with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030, which aims to modernise the economy, attract foreign investment, and reduce the kingdom's reliance on oil.

Exercise Ocean Sky 2025 Syllabus: GS3/ Defence

Context

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise Ocean Sky 2025, a multinational air combat exercise hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base, Spain.

Exercise Ocean Sky 2025

- **Objective** - The exercise aims to foster mutual learning, enhance interoperability, sharpen air combat skills, and strengthen defence cooperation with friendly nations.
- The exercise brings together more than 50 aircraft from Spain, Germany, Greece, Portugal, India, and the United States, including India's Su-30MKI fighter jets.

Project Arunank Syllabus: GS3/Defence

In News

- Project Arunank of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) marked its 18th Raising Day in Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh.

Project Arunank

- It was established in 2008
- It has built over 696 km of roads and 1.18 km of major bridges, enhancing

connectivity to remote areas and supporting Armed Forces operations.

- It has embraced sustainable technologies such as **Steel Slag, Geo Cells, and GGBFS Concrete** to improve infrastructure durability.
- **Environmental efforts** include planting **23,850 trees** under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative.

Additional Information - Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- **Established in** - It was formed in 1960 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
- **Objective** - To coordinate the speedy development of an adequate road communication network of roads in the North and the North-Eastern border regions of the country.
- **Functions under** - It works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Defence**.
- **Significance** - Support the armed forces meet their strategic needs by committed, dedicated and cost-effective development and sustenance of the infrastructure.
- **Recent and upcoming Projects:** This includes the construction of **Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh** on Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang Road.

ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit Syllabus: GS3/Defence



In News

- The Indian Coast Guard launched two advanced Fast Patrol Vessels—ICG Ship

Ajit and ICGS Aparajit—at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit

- These vessels are the **seventh and eighth in a series of eight indigenously built Fast Patrol Vessels**
- **Built by - Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).**
- **Significance** - The FPVs are designed for multi-mission roles such as **fisheries protection, coastal patrol, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, and search and rescue operations**, especially around India's island territories and Exclusive Economic Zone.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Raising Day Syllabus: GS 3/Security Agencies



In News

- The **64th raising day of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** was observed recently.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- **Established on - October 24, 1962**
- It guards the **3,488 km-long India-China border**, stretching from the **Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- It also plays a crucial role in internal security operations, including anti-Naxal duties in Chhattisgarh.
- Many of the **ITBP's Border Out Posts** are located at altitudes between **9,000 and**

18,800 feet, where temperatures can plummet to **minus 45 degrees Celsius** during winters.

Relevance

- It is recognised as a **specialised armed police force.**
- It **trains its personnel in mountaineering, skiing, and tactical combat,** i
- to maintain **readiness for disaster response and relief operations** in the Himalayan region.

Carabid Beetles

Syllabus: GS3/ Environment



Context

- Recent research in Italy has shown that **carabid ground beetles** can serve as **potential bioindicators of microplastic pollution in soil.**

Carabid Beetles

- They belong to the **family Carabidae**
- They are **nocturnal predators** that inhabit nearly all terrestrial ecosystems worldwide.
- **Species diversity:** Around **34,000 species globally** and **over 1,000 species recorded in India.**
- **Physical traits:** Flattened, elongated bodies (mostly dark or metallic-shiny), and prominent mandibles for predation.

Ecological Role:

- **Natural pest controllers:** Feed on a variety of **agricultural pests like caterpillars, slugs, aphids, weevils, and snails.**

- **Indicator of soil quality:** High carabid diversity reflects **low pesticide use, good organic matter, and balanced soil moisture.**

Pilot Whales

Syllabus: GS3/Species in News



Context

- **More than two dozen pilot whales have died after becoming stranded on a remote beach in New Zealand.**

Pilot Whales

Scientific name:

1. **Globicephala melas** (Long-finned Pilot Whale).
 2. **Globicephala macrorhynchus** (Short-finned Pilot Whale).
- **Family: Delphinidae (Oceanic dolphins).**
 - Despite their name, **they are not true whales but large oceanic dolphins.**
 - They were **named pilot whales** because it was thought that **each pod followed a 'pilot' in the group.**
 - **Distinctive Appearance:** Pilot whales have a distinctive appearance characterized by a **bulbous forehead and a long, black body with a white or light-gray saddle patch** behind the dorsal fin.

Habitat & Distribution:

1. **Long-finned species** - They prefer cooler waters (**North Atlantic, Southern Ocean**).

2. **Short-finned species** - They prefer warmer tropical and subtropical waters (**Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea**).

- **Conservation Status: IUCN Red List**

1. **Short finned whales** - Least Concerned.
2. **long finned whales** - Data deficiency.

2025 Sakharov Prize

Syllabus: Miscellaneous



Context

- **Two imprisoned journalists Andrzej Poczobut in Belarus and Mzia Amaglobeli in Georgia—have won the 2025 Sakharov Prize.**

Sakharov Prize

- **Established in - 1988**
- **Named after** - Soviet dissident and Nobel Peace laureate **Andrei Sakharov.**
- It is the **European Union's highest human rights award,**
- **Mandate** - It honours individuals or groups defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Do you know?

- Several Sakharov laureates, including Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Denis Mukwege, and Nadia Murad, later went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Interestingly, Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado, who won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize earlier this month, received the Sakharov Prize last year.

Government Defends Forest Rights Act in Supreme Court

Syllabus: GS2/ Governance, GS3/ Environment

Context

- The Central Government has defended the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, before the Supreme Court.
- It emphasizes that the legislation is restoring the dignity, livelihoods, and cultural identity of India's forest-dependent communities.

Forest Rights Act, 2006

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, popularly known as the Forest Rights Act (FRA).
- It legally recognizes the rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land and resources they have traditionally used for generations.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)

Syllabus: GS2/Governance/GS3/Poverty

Context

- The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, is one of the world's largest poverty alleviation programmes.

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.

The UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative

Syllabus: GS 3/Environment

In News

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) rallied its 193 Member States to commit to universal early warning coverage by 2027 under the UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

Basics - Early Warning System (EWS)

- It is an integrated approach that combines hazard monitoring, forecasting, disaster risk assessment, communication, and preparedness to enable timely action for saving lives, livelihoods, and assets at risk.

UN's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative

- Launched in 2022
- **Co-led by** - WMO, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- **Aim** - Its goal is to ensure that every person — regardless of where they live — is protected by life-saving alerts for hazards such as cyclones, floods, heat waves or droughts.

Online National Drugs Licensing System
Syllabus: GS2/ Health, GS3/ Governance

Context

- The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has directed digital **monitoring on the Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLS)** for tracking the supply chain of high-risk solvents.

Online National Drugs Licensing System

- It is a **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** in India for **processing drug- and cosmetic-related applications for manufacturing and sales licences**, and various certificates.
- It is **developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)** in coordination with the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)**.

Additional Information - Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)

- **Established under** - It is the **Central Drug Authority** and is responsible for carrying out duties entrusted by the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - **Adoption of drugs.**
 - **clinical trials, please.**
 - **establishing the criteria for drugs.**
 - **control over the country's imported drugs' quality.**
 - **Coordination of state drug control organizations' efforts.**

Other Drug Regulatory Bodies in India

- **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI):** It is in charge of approving licenses for specific kinds of medications. He or she also serves as the **head of the CDSCO department of the Indian government.**
- **Drug Price Control Order (DPCO):** To keep certain necessary medications in India accessible for the general people, the **DPCO controls their prices.**

- **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:** This act regulates domestic drug use.

Cassava/Tapioca crops Syllabus: GS3/Agriculture

Context

- A tiny parasitic wasp, **Anagyrus lopezi**, has been successfully used for **biological control of the invasive cassava mealybug in tapioca plantations.**

Cassava (Also called 'Bread of the Tropics')

- **Known as - 'Yuca' or 'Manioc'.**
- It is a root vegetable grown through stem cuttings.
- It is a tall semi-woody perennial shrub or tree **native to South America** and was **introduced in Africa & Asia by Portuguese sailors.**
- **Nigeria is the world's largest producer of Cassava.**
- It has numerous health benefits as it is **rich in energy & vitamins.**
- **Significance** - Under India's **National Policy on Biofuels (2018)**, cassava is recognized as a raw material for **ethanol production**, enhancing its significance beyond food security.

5th Edition of "An Eye on Methane: From Measurement to Momentum" Syllabus: GS3/ Environment

In News

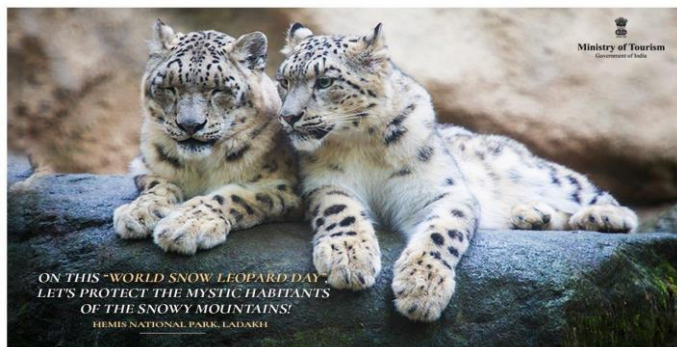
- The **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released the **fifth edition of its flagship publication — "An Eye on Methane: From Measurement to Momentum" report.**

Key Highlights of the 2025 Report

- **Methane emissions from energy, agriculture, and waste sectors remain high**, despite available cost-effective mitigation technologies.

- Methane has **80 times more warming potential than CO₂ over 20 years.**
- Approximately **60% of current methane emissions originate from human activities**, with the largest contributors being **agriculture, fossil fuel extraction and use, and landfill waste.**
- The **report highlights India's effective role in the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) and its efforts through SATAT, National Biogas Mission, and waste-to-energy projects.**

International Day of the Snow Leopard 2025 Syllabus: GS3/ Environment



Context

- India celebrated International Snow Leopard Day on October 23, with a nationwide campaign “#23for23”.

International Day of the Snow Leopard 2025

- In 2024, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed October 23 as the International Day of the Snow Leopard.
- **Objective** - to enhance international and regional cooperation for **Snow Leopard** conservation.
- The ‘#23for23’ campaign is an initiative of the **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP)** and the **Snow Leopard Trust Worldwide.**

Snow Leopard

- **Scientific name** - Panthera uncia

- **Habitats** - The Snow Leopard lives at high altitudes in the **steep mountains of Central and Southern Asia**, and in an **extremely cold climate.**
- **Range states** - Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim .
- **Ghost of the mountains** - The Snow Leopard is also **known as Ghost of the mountains**
- **Bio indicator** - It acts as an **indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem**
- **Snow Leopard capital of the world** - Hemis, Ladakh.
- **International Snow Leopard Day** - It is observed on 23rd October.

Conservation status

- **IUCN Red List**- Vulnerable
- **CITES convention** - Appendix I
- **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**- Schedule I

Conservation Efforts Launched by India

1. **Project Snow Leopard (PSL)**
 - **Launched in** - 2009
 - **Objective** - To promote an inclusive and participatory approach **to conserve snow leopards and their habitat.**
2. **Species recovery programme** - Snow Leopard is in the **list of 21 critically endangered species** for the recovery programme of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.
3. **Snow Leopard conservation breeding programme** - It is undertaken at **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal.**
4. **HimalSanrakshak** - It is a **community volunteer programme**, to protect snow leopards, launched on 23rd October 2020.
5. **First National Protocol** - was also launched In 2019.
6. **SECURE Himalaya - Global Environment Facility (GEF)** , **United Nations**

Development Programme (UNDP) funded the project on **conservation of high altitude biodiversity** and reducing the dependency of local communities on the natural ecosystem.

International Conservation Efforts

- **SNOW LEOPARD ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION PROGRAM** - It seeks to address high-mountain development issues using the conservation of the endangered snow leopard as a flagship program.
- **Bishkek Declaration** - In 2013, the 12 snow leopard range countries signed and agreed to secure at least 20 snow leopard landscapes across by 2020
- **International Year of the Snow Leopard - Year '2015'** was designated as International Year of the Snow Leopard

Recent Census -

- The exercise reported 718 snow leopards in India
- It was conducted from 2019 to 2023.
- **Conducted by** - The program was conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) with the help of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners - the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru (Karnataka), and WWF (World Wildlife Fund)-India.
- **Based on data analysis, the estimated population of 718 snow leopards in different states/UTs are as follows** - Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and J & K (9).

Japan Elects First Female Prime Minister
Syllabus: GS2/IR



Context

- The Prime Minister extended congratulations to Sanae Takaichi, Japan's newly-elected and first woman Prime Minister.
- He emphasized that partnership between India and Japan plays a vital role in ensuring peace, stability, and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region

Chandrayaan-2 mission
Syllabus: GS3 / Science and Technology

Context

- The Chandrayaan-2 mission has made the first-ever observation of the Sun's Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) on the Moon using its onboard scientific instruments.

Chandrayaan-1

- It was launched in 2008.
- It was India's first lunar mission.
- It made India the fifth country to reach the Moon.
- The mission's most significant discovery was the presence of water molecules on the lunar surface, a finding confirmed by NASA.

Chandrayaan-2

- It was launched in 2019 with an orbiter, a lander (Vikram), and a rover (Pragyan).
- The mission aimed to achieve a soft landing on the lunar surface, but ISRO lost contact with the lander just before touchdown, resulting in a crash landing.

- Despite this setback, the orbiter continued functioning and provided crucial data on the Moon's surface and atmosphere.

Chandrayaan-3,

- It is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2, successfully achieved a soft landing on the Moon's south pole in 2023.

Lander payloads:

- Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) - to measure the thermal conductivity and temperature
- Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) - for measuring the seismicity around the landing site etc.

Rover payloads:

- Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) & Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (LIBS) for deriving the elemental composition in the vicinity of landing site.

CAQM Invokes Stage-II of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Entire NCR Syllabus: GS3/ Environment

In News

- The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has invoked Stage-II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the entire National Capital Region.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- **Objective** - It is a set of emergency measures implemented in Delhi-NCR to control air pollution based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) levels.
- **Implementation** - It was formulated by the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) and enforced by CAQM from 2021.

GRAP is divided into four stages corresponding to AQI levels:

- Stage I – Poor (AQI 201–300)
- Stage II – Very Poor (AQI 301–400)
- Stage III – Severe (AQI 401–450)
- Stage IV – Severe+ (AQI >450)

Why Do Air Quality Deteriorate in NCR during Winters?

- Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana.
- Low wind speed and temperature inversion trapping pollutants.
- Vehicular emissions, construction dust, and Diwali fireworks add to the load.
- Urban heat island effect and regional topography aggravate stagnation of pollutants.

Commission for Air Quality Management

- **Constituted under:** The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.
- **Jurisdiction:** Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Purpose:** To coordinate and implement region-wide measures for air quality improvement, replacing the earlier EPCA.

New Monoclonal Antibody Shows Early Promise Against Malaria

Syllabus: GS2/ Health, GS3/ Science and Technology

Context

- A novel monoclonal antibody (mAb) named MAM01, has demonstrated strong, dose-dependent protection against malaria in an early clinical trial.

Monoclonal Antibodies (mAbs)

- **Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs)** are lab-created proteins that mimic your body's natural antibodies to fight specific

foreign invaders, such as viruses, bacteria, and cancer cells.

- They are a **powerful form of targeted therapy** because they are designed to bind only to a single, specific target

Malaria

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

Symptoms

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

Initiatives to Control Malaria by WHO

- **WHO's Global technical strategy for malaria 2016–2030** - It aims to **reduce malaria case** incidence and mortality rates by at least **40% by 2020, at least 75% by**

2025 and at least 90% by 2030 against a 2015 baseline.

- **'E-2025 Initiative'**: The WHO has identified **25 countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025** under the initiative.
- **High Burden to High Impact (HBHI) initiative**: WHO has initiated the initiative in **11 high malaria burden countries, including India.**

Indian Government Initiatives to Control Malaria

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

UDAN Scheme

Syllabus: GS3/Infrastructure

Context

- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme** has completed 9 Years.

UDAN Scheme

- It is a regional connectivity scheme **launched in 2016.**
- The first UDAN flight operated between Shimla and Delhi in 2017.
- **Ministry: Ministry of Civil Aviation.**
- **Aim: To make air travel affordable and accessible to the common citizen by connecting Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to major hubs.**

Implementation:

- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):** Financial support to airlines to ensure affordable fares.
- Airfare Cap to ensure affordability.

Gallantry Awards Syllabus: GS3/Defence



Context

- President Droupadi Murmu approved 127 Gallantry awards and 40 Distinguished Service awards to the Armed Forces.

Gallantry Awards

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

Gallantry Awards

- **Order of Precedence:** Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Ashoka Chakra (AC), Maha Vir Chakra

(MVC), Kirti Chakra (KC), Vir Chakra (VrC), Shaurya Chakra (SC).

- **All six awards can be conferred posthumously.**

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Syllabus: GS3/Security Forces

In News

- The Supreme Court transferred the investigation into the Karur stampede from the Tamil Nadu Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the Justice Aruna Jagadeesan Commission to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Central Bureau of Investigation

- **Set up in** - It was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- **Established under** - It comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.**
- **Recommended by** - It was established on the recommendation of the **Santhanam Committee.**
- **Legal status** - The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.**

Functions

1. The CBI is the main **investigating agency of the Central Government.**
2. It also provides **assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.**
3. It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates **investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries.**

Police Commemoration Day Syllabus: GS3/Internal Security

Context

- **Police Commemoration Day was observed on 21st October at the National Police Memorial to honour the valour and sacrifice of police personnel.**

About

- On October 21, 1959, **Indian policemen were martyred in an ambush by Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh.**
- The day commemorates their supreme sacrifice and all police personnel who have laid down their lives in the line of duty.
- A **memorial was erected at Hot Springs** and members of Police Forces from different parts of the country trek to Hot Springs to pay homage to the martyrs.
- Since the year 2012, the Police Commemoration Day Parade has been held at the National level at the Police Memorial.

National Police Memorial (NPM)

- **Dedicated by: Prime Minister on Police Commemoration Day, 2018.**
- **Location: Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.**
- The Memorial gives police Forces a sense of national identity, pride, unity of purpose, common history and destiny.
- It comprises a Central Sculpture, a Wall of Valour and a museum.
- The Wall of Valour: 30 feet tall granite sculpture stands at the police memorial with the names of over 35,000 martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

Additional Information

- **'Police' and 'Public Order'** are state subjects under the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India**
- **SMART Policing:** The SMART Policing Initiative was introduced by the Prime Minister of India in 2014 **to modernize and transform Indian policing.**
- **Assistance to State & UTs for Modernization of Police (ASUMP) Scheme**

- to strengthen police infrastructure with the latest technology, weaponry, communication equipment, etc

- **'CyTrain' portal:** It is a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform, developed for capacity building of police officers/judicial officers. It provides online courses on critical aspects of cybercrime investigation, forensics, prosecution, etc.

Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025

Syllabus: GS3/ Environment

Context

- **India has moved up to the 9th position in terms of total forest area globally, as per the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025, released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bali.**

Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025

- It is published once in 5 years
- Total Global forests cover - 4.14 billion hectares (32% of total land area).
- Countries with largest forest cover - **Russia** has the largest forest cover followed by **Brazil, Canada, the USA, China, Congo, Australia, Indonesia, India and Peru.**
- Note- **the world continues to lose 10.9 million hectares of forest every year (2015-2025), a rate still considered alarmingly high.**

India's Forest Cover Status:

- **India's forest cover - 72.7 million hectares (2% of global forest area.**
- India has maintained its **third position worldwide after China and Russia In terms of annual forest gain.**
- **India Moves up to 9th Position Globally in Forest Area**

Government Initiatives toward forest conservation

- **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign** - It encourages citizens to plant trees and enhance environmental consciousness.
- **National Mission for a Green India (GIM):** A mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) that aims to increase forest cover and improve existing forest quality to combat climate change.
- **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (2016):** An act that ensures funds for afforestation and related activities by requiring users of forest land for non-forest purposes to pay compensatory levies.
- **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs):** Areas designated around Protected Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries) to act as a buffer and minimize the negative impact of certain human activities on fragile ecosystems.
- **Joint Forest Management (JFM):** A program that fosters partnerships between state forest departments and local communities to protect, and regenerate forest resources.

Iran Ratifies UN Convention Against Terror Financing

Syllabus: GS2/ International Relations, GS3/ Security

Context

- **Iran has ratified a law to join the United Nations International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) in a bid to align with global financial norms.**
- **FATF status:** As of October 2025, Iran remains on the FATF blacklist for its failure to adopt sufficient anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CFT) standards.
- The ratification is seen as a first step toward potential re-evaluation by the FATF.

Convention Against Terror Financing

- **Adoption** - It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on **9 December 1999 (Resolution 54/109)**.
- **Objective: To criminalize the financing of terrorism** and establish international cooperation mechanisms to **prevent, investigate, and prosecute such offences.**
- **International Legal Framework:** Complements other UN instruments such as the **UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001)** and the **UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)**.

India has ratified the CFT and has incorporated its provisions through:

- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967**
- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.**

Additional Information - Financial Action Task Force

- **Established** - The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
- **Objective** - To set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- **Secretariat** - It is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- **Member Countries** - 37 member countries where India is also a member.

FATF has two lists

- **Grey List** - Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey

list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

- **Black List** - Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Syllabus **GS3/Economy**

In News

- **India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) came into effect .**

European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership

- It is the **intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.**
- It was **set up in 1960** by its then seven Member States for the promotion of **free trade and economic integration between its members.**

The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

- It is a modern and ambitious agreement signed by India with a commitment linked to investment and job creation.
- The agreement was signed in March 2024 at New Delhi.

Climate Change Spurs Growth in Amazon Rainforest Trees

Syllabus: GS1/ Geography, GS3/ Environment



Context

- A recent study published in Nature Plants reveals that trees in the **Amazon rainforest are steadily increasing in size due to rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂).**

Amazon Rain Forests

- **Location:** The region belongs to **nine nations of the South American continent.**
- **Surrounded by** - It is bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.
- **Area Covered:** The majority of the forest, **60%, is in Brazil, followed by Peru with 13%, Colombia with 10%, and with minor amounts in Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela.**
- **Climate:** Hot and humid climate with temperatures of **26-30°C throughout the year.** There are no periodic seasons. The precipitation ranges from **2,000 mm to 10,920 mm annually.**
- **Tribes:** Yanomamo, Kayapo, Akuntsu, Matses, Tupi etc.
- **Fauna:** Anaconda, Jesus lizard, howler monkey, golden lion tamarin, jaguar, sloth, spider monkey, Amazon River dolphin, toucan and the scarlet

macaw,poison dart frog and the glass frog.

- **Flora:** Moist broadleaf tropical rainforest like myrtle, laurel, palm, acacia, rosewood, Brazil nut, rubber tree, mahogany and Amazonian cedar.

Significance of the Rainforests

- **Lungs of the planet:** Rainforests generate about 20% of the world's oxygen and its trees play a key role in reducing pollutant levels.
- **Fight climate change:** They act as a crucial buffer in the global fight against climate change as it holds tremendous capacity to store carbon.
- **Medicinal Properties:** Many of these plants contain bioactive compounds capable of treating diseases that are not yet curable, especially cancer.

Threat to the forests

- **Climate Change:** Due to climate change the forests are witnessing various challenges like changes in rainfall patterns,pollution etc.
- **Deforestation:** The size of the Amazon forest shrank dramatically as a result of settlers' clearance of the land to obtain lumber and to create grazing pastures and farmland.
- **Wildfires:** It causes threat to the survival of ecosystems and biodiversity. The 2019 forest fires in the region have led to widespread devastation in the region.

Additional Information - Amazon River

- It is the largest river by volume of water and second longest river after the Nile river of Africa in the world.
- **Source:**River has its source in the Peruvian Andes, at an elevation of 5,598 m.
- **Length:**6400 km.

- **Basin:**The basin includes the greater part of Brazil and Peru,some parts of Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia and a small area of Venezuela.
- **Tributaries:**Japurá , Juruá, Madeira, Negro, Purus, and Xingu rivers.
- **Mouth:**Atlantic Ocean on the northeastern coast of Brazil.

Historic India-Bhutan Railway Projects Set to Transform Connectivity

Syllabus: GS2/ International Relations



Context

- The Union Government announced two cross-border railway projects which will connect Bhutan with the bordering areas of Assam and West Bengal.

Basics - Gelephu and Samtse

- Gelephu and Samtse are the major export-import hubs in Bhutan and serve the 700-km long India-Bhutan border.
- Gelephu is being developed as "Mindfulness City" and Samtse is being developed as an industrial town by the Government of Bhutan.

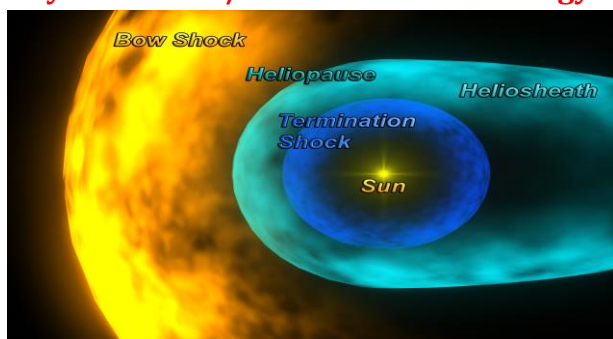
Rail Projects

- **Kokrajhar-Gelephu Line:** It will connect Sarpang district in Bhutan with Kokrajhar and Chirang districts in Assam.
- It will span 69 km and is estimated to cost Rs 3,456 crore.

- **Banarhat-Samtse Line:** It will connect **Samtse district in Bhutan with Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal.**
- The line will cover **20 km** and is estimated to cost Rs 577 crore.

Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)

Syllabus :GS3/Science and Technology



In News

- NASA launched the Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) to map the heliosphere's boundary, track energetic particles, and enhance space weather forecasting.

Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)

- It is a space mission designed to explore the heliosphere—the Sun's protective bubble around the solar system—and its interaction with interstellar space.
- It is positioned at the Earth-Sun Lagrange Point 1 (L1).
- It uses 10 instruments to study solar wind, energetic particles, magnetic fields, and cosmic remnants.

Features and Objectives

- It aims to uncover how solar particles are energized and how the heliosphere shields Earth from galactic radiation.
- It also provides real-time space weather data to protect astronauts and technology, while advancing our

understanding of cosmic materials and the habitability of planetary systems.

India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay **Syllabus :GS3/Species**



In News

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has officially recognized India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu, at the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress.

India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve

- It was established in September 2022, by the Tamil Nadu government under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It covers 448.34 sq. km. in northern Palk Bay and is home to over 12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows, vital feeding grounds for dugongs (Dugong dugon)

Dugongs(Dugong dugon)

- Dugongs are primarily herbivorous, grazing on 30 kg-40 kg of seagrass a day.
- They are known as "sea cows," and peacefully graze on seagrass in shallow coastal waters of the Indian and western Pacific Oceans.
- They are often referred to as the "farmers or gardeners of the sea" for their important role in preserving the coastal ecosystems and aiding fish production.

- **Geographic Range:** These gentle giants are found in warm waters along coastlines, mainly confined to seagrass beds which occur in calm sheltered habitats such as bays and lagoons.
- **Distribution** - They are found in the **Gulf of Mannar, the Palk Bay, the Gulf of Kutch and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands** in India.
- **Threats** - Their population was on the decline over the past several decades owing to a variety of factors, including **hunting for meat, commercial fishing practices leading to accidental drowning, and habitat degradation.**

Protection status :

- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List - Vulnerable**
- **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 - Schedule I**

Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) **Syllabus :GS3/Economy**

In News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) to oversee the country's payment systems.

Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)

- It replaces the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS), a committee of the RBI's Central Board.
- **Legal status** - The new board derives its authority from the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.**
- It will be supported by the RBI's Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS), which will report directly to it.

Composition(total members)

- **Chaired by** - RBI Governor

- **Two other RBI officials** - the Deputy Governor and Executive Director for Payment Systems
- **Three Central Government nominees.**
- **Note - Decisions will be made by majority vote, with the chairperson (or deputy governor in absence) holding a casting vote in case of a tie.**
- The Board must **meet at least twice annually.**

Functions

- The Board is responsible for the regulation and supervision of all payment systems including electronic and non-electronic, domestic and cross-border systems.

Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India: NCRB Report (2023)

Syllabus: GS2/Governance; Government Policy & Intervention

Context

- Recently, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released its **Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2023** report, offering a snapshot of the India's public health and safety landscape.

Key Findings of Report (2023)

- **Age Groups:** 30-45 Years (31.7%; 1,40,933 deaths); **18-30 Years** (24.4%; 1,08,254 deaths).
- **Road Accidents:** India witnessed a staggering **1.73 lakh deaths and 4.47 lakh injuries due to road accidents in 2023**—a 1.6% increase from the previous year.
- Accidents due to Forces of Nature: 6,444 deaths were attributed to natural forces like **lightning (39.7%), heat stroke (12.5%), exposure of cold (11.4%) and floods.**
- Accidents due to Other Causes: The major causes of **accidental deaths were traffic accidents (45.2%), sudden deaths**

(14.5%), drowning (8.6%), falls (5.7%), poisoning, and electrocution (3.2%).

- **Farmer Suicides:** The agricultural sector saw 10,786 suicides in 2023 (declined by 10% from 2022), including 4,690 farmers and 6,096 agricultural laborers.
- It translates to nearly one farmer suicide every day, underscoring the deep-rooted agrarian distress.
- Maharashtra led with 2,518 farmer suicides, followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India: NCRB Report (2023)

- **Mental Health and Illness-Linked Suicides:** Report highlights a 3.2% rise in suicides due to illnesses, with nearly 20% of cases linked to conditions like cancer, paralysis, and mental health disorders.
- Mental illness accounted for 13,978 suicides.
- Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka reported the highest illness-related suicides.
- Alarmingly, suicides due to cancer rose by 14%, and abortion-related fatalities spiked by 59%.

Additional Information - National Crime Record Bureau

- Set-up in - 1986
- Functions under - Ministry of Home Affairs
- Objective - It acts as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- Headquarter - New Delhi

Projects being implemented by NCRB

- Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project

- **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems(CCTNS)**
- **Reports** - NCRB brings out three annual reports i.e. These reports are **principal reference points for police officers, researchers, media & policymakers.**
- 1. **Crime in India**
- 2. **Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India**
- 3. **Prison Statistics India.**

Model Youth Gram Sabha initiative Syllabus: GS2/Governance

Context

- The Union Government is set to launch the **Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS) initiative from October 2025.**
- It is inspired by the Model UN framework, to **instill awareness about Panchayati Raj institutions among school students.**

Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS)

- The initiative **will train rural and tribal students in grassroots democracy.**
- **Vision: To create a new generation of informed and responsible citizens who see local governance as central to development and social justice.**
- The **program involves students in mock Gram Sabha sessions**, where they take on roles like sarpanch and ward members to discuss village issues and pass resolutions.
- Each school receives ₹20,000 financial support to conduct the activity.
- **Implementing Ministries:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Tribal Affairs.

Bathukamma Festival Creates Two Guinness World Records

Syllabus: GS1/Culture



Context

- The Bathukamma festival set Guinness World Records for the largest floral arrangement and the most synchronized female dance participants.

Bathukamma Festival

- The Bathukamma festival is celebrated predominantly in Telangana.
- The term “Bathukamma” translates to “Mother Goddess Come Alive”, reflecting the divine feminine energy and protection.
- Folklore connects the festival to legends of Goddess Gauri as well as King Dhramangada and Queen Satyavati of the Chola dynasty.
- Bathukamma’s timing coincides with Navratri, celebrating life, devotion and the triumph of good over evil.

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) incentive scheme

Syllabus: GS3/Economy

Context

- The Government has extended the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) incentive scheme for exporters until March 31, 2026.

RoDTEP incentive scheme

- Launched in - 2021.
- It replaced the older Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), which

was not compliant with World Trade Organization (WTO) norms.

- **Objective** - It is an **incentive scheme** by the Indian government to refund various embedded central, state, and local duties and taxes that were previously not reimbursed for exporters.
- **Significance** - By neutralizing these costs, the scheme aims to make Indian products more competitive in the global market.
- **Implementation** - Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Amazon’s ‘flying rivers’

Syllabus: GS1/ Geography



The forest acts like a pump relaying the water

In News

- The Amazon rainforest plays a critical role in South America’s water cycle through the phenomenon called “flying rivers”.

Flying Rivers

- “Flying rivers” are massive streams of water vapour carried in the atmosphere, invisible to the eye.

Flying Rivers

Process:

- Moisture originates from the Atlantic Ocean.
- Trade winds push moist air westward across the equator.

- Amazon trees act as a “biological pump” – absorb water from soil → transpire it back into the air → release huge amounts of water vapour.
- This recycled water forms clouds and rainfall further inland, supplying regions as far as the Andes and southern South America.

Sir Creek

Syllabus: GS1/Places



In News

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh warned Pakistan that any aggression in the disputed Sir Creek area will be met with a strong response.

Sir Creek region

- Sir Creek is a 96-km-long tidal estuary between Gujarat’s Rann of Kutch and Pakistan.
- The Rann lies on the border between Gujarat and the Pakistani province of Sind.
- It is considered a **disputed region due to varying interpretations of maritime boundary lines** by both sides.
- Sir Creek is a **strategic and sensitive zone along the Gujarat coastline**

DigiLocker

Syllabus: GS2/ Governance

Context

- **The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced that candidates’ documents, including caste, income, and disability certificates, will now be verified through DigiLocker.**

DigiLocker

- **Launched by** - It is a flagship initiative launched in 2015 of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under the Digital India programme.
- **Mandate** - It is a digital platform and a paperless solution designed to ensure that a user can access the latest and updated versions of their documents online.
- **Significance** - It aims to provide a **digital wallet to every citizen so that all lifelong documents, including educational, identity, health records, insurance policy papers, PAN records, and driving licences and certificates, can be accessed anywhere, anytime.**

Hike in Wheat MSP

Syllabus: GS3/ Agriculture

Context

- The Union Cabinet, approved a 6.59% increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat to Rs 2,585 per quintal for 2026-27 marketing year.

Minimum Support Prices (MSP)

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

- **Significance** - MSP protects the producer-farmers against distress sale during bumper production years.

Crops Covered

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

These include

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

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane

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

Wheat Production in India

- **Area:** In 2023-24, the area under wheat stood at 318.33 lakh hectares, while the production is estimated at 113.92 million tonnes.
- In India wheat is the second largest crop after paddy in terms of area coverage.
- Major producing states - Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Major Export Destinations (2023-24): Nepal, Iraq, South Korea, UAE and Mongolia.

Top Producing Countries

Market	% of Global Production	Total Production (2024/2025, Metric Tons)
China	18%	140.1 Million
European Union	15%	121.3 Million
India	14%	113.29 Million
Russia	10%	81.5 Million
United States	7%	53.65 Million

Condition for Wheat Cultivation

- **Climate: Temperature:** Requires 10-15°C during sowing (germination) and 21-26°C during ripening and harvesting.
- **Rainfall:** Optimal rainfall is 50-100 cm. Excess rainfall can damage the crop.
- **Soil Type:** Grows best in well-drained loamy and clayey soil.

Biomedical Research Career Programme Syllabus: GS3/ S&T

In News

- The Union Cabinet has approved Phase-III (2025-26 to 2030-31) of the **Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)** to significantly boost India's biomedical research ecosystem and global impact.

Biomedical Research Career Programme

- **Objective** - The programme aims to strengthen research systems, reduce regional disparities in scientific capabilities, and establish world-class biomedical research capacity.
- BRCP is implemented through a partnership between the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India; the Wellcome Trust (WT), United Kingdom; and the India Alliance—a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created for this initiative.

US Tomahawk Missiles

Syllabus: GS3/ Defence

Tomahawk cruise missile

The Tomahawk Land Attack Missile is an all-weather, long-range, subsonic cruise missile used for land attack warfare. It is launched from U.S. Navy surface ships and U.S. Navy and Royal Navy submarines.



Source: Jane's Fighting Ships, U.S. Navy, Department of Defense @latimesgraphics

Context

- **Ukraine has requested long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles from the United States.**

Tomahawk missiles

- Tomahawks are **long-range subsonic cruise missiles** that can be **launched from ships, submarines or ground launchers.**
- They have **long-range, deep-strike capabilities**, and can hit targets **1,250km-2,500km** away.
- They carry **high-explosive warheads** designed to penetrate hardened targets like military bunkers.
- They **avoid radar detection by flying at high subsonic speeds** while maintaining low altitudes.

India Emerges as the Fastest-Growing Dairy Producer Worldwide

Syllabus: GS3/ Agriculture

Context

- **India's dairy sector has expanded by 70% in the past 11 years**, with milk production rising from 146 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 239 million tonnes in 2023-24.

Dairy Sector of India

- **Global Leadership: India is the world's largest milk producer**, contributing **24.76% of global milk output.**

- **Economic Contribution: Dairy is India's single largest agricultural commodity**, contributing **5% to GDP** and employing **over 8 crore farmers.**
- **Per Capita Availability: Rose to 471 g/day in 2023-24**, substantially above the **world average of 322 g/day.**
- **Top Producing states: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.**

Key Enablers of India's Dairy Success

- **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** - It was established in 1965 at Anand to replicate the Amul cooperative model across India.
- **Operation Flood(1970)** - It transformed India into the world's largest milk producer by creating a nationwide cooperative structure for procurement and distribution.

India-Russia Celebrate 25 Years of Strategic Partnership

Syllabus: GS2/IR

In News

- **Russia and India have significantly advanced their 25-year strategic partnership amid a changing global landscape.**

Background

- In 2000, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee signed the declaration on strategic partnership, which opened a new chapter in bilateral relations.
- In December 2010, the **Strategic Partnership was upgraded to a "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership."**
- Multiple institutional dialogues, including the Intergovernmental Commission and 2+2 Dialogue, ensure strong cooperation across politics, defense, trade, science, and culture.

Leadership-level engagements

- The India-Russia Annual Summit is the highest dialogue mechanism, with **22 meetings held alternately in both countries.**
- The **Indian PM received Russia's highest honor, the Order of Saint Andrew.**

Multilateral engagement

- India and Russia closely cooperate in multilateral forums like the **UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO.**
- **Russia supports India's bid for a permanent UN Security Council seat.**

Trade & Economic relations

- India and Russia aim to **boost bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030 and investment to \$50 billion by 2025.**
- In FY 2023-24, trade hit a record **\$65.7 billion**, with India exporting **pharmaceuticals and machinery**, and importing **oil, fertilizers, and minerals from Russia.**

Defence & Security Cooperation

- **Joint military exercises** - INDRA, Vostok & ZAPAD.
- **Defence projects include** - S-400 systems, T-90 tanks, Su-30 MKI jets, MiG-29 and Kamov helicopters, INS Vikramaditya, AK-203 rifles, and BrahMos missiles..
- **Science & Technology Cooperation** - nanotech, quantum computing, and nuclear energy (Kudankulam plant).

Pandit Chhannulal Mishra
Syllabus: Personality in News



Context

- The Prime Minister has expressed deep sorrow at the **passing away of Padma Vibhushan Pandit Chhannulal Mishra ji.**

Pandit Chhannulal Mishra (1936-2025)

- **Born:** He was **born on August 3, 1936, in Azamgarh U.P.**
- He was a **renowned Indian Hindustani classical music singer.**
- **Known for his mastery in khayal, Kirana gharana, thumri, dadra, and bhajans as well.**
- **Major Honours:** Padma Bhushan (2010), Padma Vibhushan (2020), Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship
- **Legacy:** He is known for **rigorous discipline in riyaz and deep devotion to accuracy.**

NATO Pipeline System (NPS) **Syllabus: GS2/IR**



In News

- **Recently, Poland announced plans to join NATO Pipeline System (NPS) with a €4.7 billion investment.**

NATO Pipeline System (NPS)

- **Mandate** - It was established during the Cold War. **It supplies fuel and lubricants to NATO forces with modern flexibility.**
- It spans about **10,000 km across 12 countries**, has a **storage capacity of 4.1 million cubic meters**, and **connects depots, air bases, airports, refineries, and transport points.**

Additional Information - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

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

Aspirational Agriculture Districts Syllabus:GS3/Economy

In News

- The Centre announced 100 Aspirational Agriculture Districts to be developed under

the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) across 29 states and UTs.

- Uttar Pradesh leads with 12 districts, followed by Maharashtra (9), Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (8 each) and Bihar (7).

Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

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

Key Focus Areas:

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

Building Rural Prosperity and Resilience Program

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

Additional Information - Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

- **Launched in - 2018**
- **Objective** - It aims to rapidly and effectively transform **112 of the country's most socio-economically underdeveloped districts.**
- **Implementation** - NITI Aayog

H125 Helicopters

Syllabus: GS3/ Defence

Context

- **Airbus Helicopters, in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems, is setting up a final assembly line for the Indian made H125 utility helicopter in Vemagal, Karnataka.**

H125 Helicopters

- The **Airbus H125** is a light, single-engine utility helicopter.
- It is known for its versatility and **exceptional performance in high-altitude and high-temperature conditions.**
- **The H125 was formerly known as the Eurocopter AS350.**
- The H125 will cater to **civil needs like emergency medical services, tourism, disaster relief, and law enforcement,**
- Its **military version (H125M)** will serve **India's armed forces, especially in high-altitude areas like the Himalayas.**

Ladakh Delegates Offered Terms of Article 371

Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance

Context

- Ladakh's two key socio-political amalgams, Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) decided to resume talks with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Statehood and Sixth Schedule.
- The Centre has reportedly proposed special provisions under Article 371 of the Constitution as a potential alternative to Sixth Schedule status.

Background

- In 2019, the former State of Jammu & Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh, the latter without a Legislative Assembly.
- After its special status was removed, several political groups in Ladakh have been

demanding that land, employment, and the cultural identity of Ladakh, should be protected under the Sixth Schedule.

- In 2019, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes recommended the inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule.

Sixth Schedule

- The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.
- This Schedule contains provisions regarding the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The Schedule also gives ARCs and ADCs the power to collect land revenue, impose taxes, regulate money lending and trading, collect royalties from licenses or leases for the extraction of minerals in their areas, and establish public facilities such as schools, markets, and roads.

Protections offered under Article 371

- Articles 371 and 371-A through J provide “special provisions” for specific states, often to give representation to certain religious and social groups and to allow these groups to exercise autonomy over their affairs without interference from the state and central governments.
- Special provisions under Article 371 would allow protections to be extended to the local population of Ladakh.

100 Years of UPSC : the guardian of meritocracy

Syllabus: GS2/Polity and Governance

Context

- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) marks a century of its establishment on October 1.

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

- **Establishment:** The Government of India Act, 1919, first provided for such a body, and in October 1926, the Public Service Commission was set up, following the recommendations of the Lee Commission (1924).
- Later named the Federal Public Service Commission (1937), it was renamed the Union Public Service Commission with the adoption of India's Constitution on 26th January 1950.
- **Functions-** The UPSC conducts civil services examinations to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service and the Indian Police Service, among others.
- **Members:** Besides the chairman, it can have a maximum of 10 members.
- **Appointment -** A UPSC chairman is appointed for a term of six years or until attaining 65 years of age, all members have the same term.
- **Reappointment:** The UPSC Chairman is not eligible for reappointment after completing their term.
- **Removal (317): Removal by President:**
 1. Can only be done on the ground of misbehaviour.
 2. Requires a Supreme Court inquiry and report confirming the misbehaviour.
 3. Reference to the Supreme Court is made by the President.
 4. Can remove without Supreme Court inquiry if the person: Is adjudged insolvent, engages in paid employment outside office duties, is unfit due to mental or physical infirmity.

Civil Services Day

- Civil Services Day is observed on 21st April every year
- Reason - to commemorate the day in 1947 when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of civil servants at the Metcalfe House, New Delhi.
- He termed civil servants as the "Steel frame of India," emphasizing their role in maintaining unity and integrity.

Abhidhamma Divas Syllabus :GS1/History

In News

- The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), in collaboration with Gautam Buddha University (GBU), Antarrashtriya Baudh Shodh Sansthan and the Ministry of Culture celebrated International Abhidhamma Day

Abhidhamma Divas

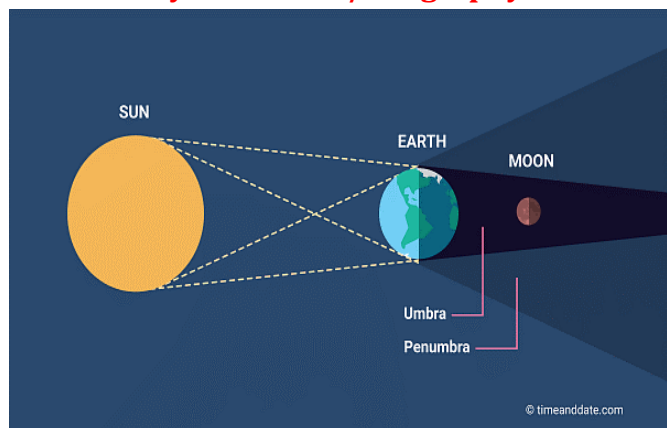
- It commemorates the Buddha's descent from the Tāvatiṃsa Heaven after imparting Abhidhamma teachings.
- According to tradition, after attaining enlightenment, the Buddha spent three months in the Tāvatiṃsa Heaven. He taught the Abhidhamma to his mother, Māyā, who had passed away and was reborn there.

Significance in Modern Times:

- Abhidhamma Divas encourages mindfulness, self-reflection, and spiritual growth.
- It reinforces the core values of Buddhism, including compassion and the pursuit of wisdom.
- The observance also highlights the importance of connecting with the teachings of the Buddha to lead a life of peace and purpose.

Supermoon

Syllabus: GS1/Geography



Context

- The **Supermoon**, also known as the **Harvest Moon**, was observed recently.

Supermoon

- A supermoon occurs when a full moon or new moon coincides with the moon's closest approach to the earth in its elliptical orbit — a point known as the perigee.
- Because the moon's orbit is not a perfect circle, its distance from the earth varies throughout the month by around 50,000 km.
- When the moon is near its perigee and also directly opposite the sun, the full moon appears about 14% larger and 30% brighter than when it is at its farthest point. This is the supermoon.
- Culturally, supermoons have long captured human imagination, inspiring folklore and spiritual observances across civilisations.
- The term "supermoon" was first used by astrologer Richard Nolle in the 1970s and is now common in astronomy and the media.

Moscow Format Talks

Syllabus: GS2/ International Relation

In News

- **India, China, Pakistan attend 10-nation Moscow Format talk.**

Moscow Format Talks

- **Established in - 2017**

- **Objective** - It is a regional diplomatic initiative to address the Afghanistan conflict, promote stability, and foster national reconciliation.
- **Significance** - It serves as a platform for regional countries to coordinate on Afghan peace and stability.
- **Members** - India, Afghanistan, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Polar Silk Road

Syllabus: GS2/ International Relation



In News

- The Chinese ship "Istanbul Bridge" became the first commercial vessel to sail from Ningbo-Zhoushan (China) to Felixstowe (UK) via the Arctic in 18 days, marking the operational launch of the Polar Silk Route.

Polar Silk Road

- The Polar Silk Road is a part of China's broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), envisioned as a "blue economic corridor" through the Arctic Ocean.
- It focuses on developing navigable Arctic sea routes connecting East Asia, North America, and Western Europe via the Northern Sea Route (NSR) along Russia's coast.
- **Significance** - It establishes a new shipping corridor between Asia and Europe — shorter and more cost-effective than the Suez Canal route.

Additional Information - China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

OBOR

1. One Belt One Road (OBOR) is an ambitious project of China that focuses on connectivity and cooperation among multiple countries spread across the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. OBOR spans about 78 countries.
2. Initially announced in the year 2013, the project involves building networks of roadways, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines and associated infrastructure projects.

The project Covers two parts

- **Silk Road Economic Belt** - It is land-based and is expected to connect China with Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Western Europe.
- **21st Century Maritime Silk Road** - It is sea-based and is expected to connect China's southern coast to the Mediterranean, Africa, South-East Asia and Central Asia.

Operation HAECHI-VI

Syllabus: GS2/International Institutions; GS3/Cybersecurity

Context

- **The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested eight accused and identified 45 suspects as part of Interpol's Operation HAECHI-VI.**

Operation HAECHI-VI

- **The operation focused on seven categories of offences:**
 1. cyber-enabled financial crime,
 2. voice phishing,
 3. love and romance scams,
 4. online sextortion,
 5. investment fraud,
 6. money laundering linked to illegal online gambling,
 7. business email compromise,

8. e-commerce fraud.

- Investigators worked together **to detect and disrupt online fraud** as well as money laundering activities, **blocking over 68,000 associated bank accounts and freezing close to 400 cryptocurrency wallets.**

Additional Information - International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

- It is an intergovernmental organization established in **1923**.
- **Objective** - To facilitate worldwide **police cooperation and crime control in around 195 countries.**
- **Headquarters** - Lyon, France

Different Types of Notices issued by INTERPOL

- INTERPOL issues various notices to facilitate worldwide police cooperation and crime control.

1. Red Notice

- It is issued to **seek the arrest of a person.**
- The person is in the wanted list of an international tribunal or in a judicial jurisdiction.

2. Green Notice

- It is issued **to warn about the criminal activities of a person.**
- It is issued if the person is considered as a possible threat to public safety.

3. Blue Notice

- It is issued to **obtain information about a person.**

4. Yellow Notice

- **To locate a missing person.** It is also issued when a person is unable to identify himself or herself.

5. Black Notice

- **To seek information about unidentified bodies.**

6. Orange Notice

- It is issued to process an **imminent threat or danger to property or person.**

7. Purple Notice

- To provide information on procedures, modus operandi, devices or hiding place

Central Bureau of Investigation

- **Set up in** - It was set up in **1963** by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Established under** - It comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.
- **Recommended by** - It was established on the recommendation of the **Santhanam Committee**.
- **Legal status** - The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**.

Functions

1. The CBI is the main investigating agency of the **Central Government**.
2. It also provides **assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal**.
3. It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates **investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries**.

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan Syllabus: GS3/Infrastructure

Context

- The Union Cabinet on Economic Affairs approved four multi-tracking projects under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.
- These projects span across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh, adding about 894 km to the Indian Railways network.

PM GatiShakti

- It was launched in - 2021

- **Objective** - to enhance the country's infrastructure and promote seamless connectivity across various sectors.
- **Significance** - It is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development which is driven by seven engines – **railway, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport and logistics infrastructure**.
- **Implementation:** PM Gati Shakti will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like **Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN** etc.

WHO Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Use Syllabus: GS2/ Health

In News

- The WHO Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Use 2000–2024 and projections 2025–2030 has been released.

Key Highlights

Global Trends:

- **Decline in Use:** Global adult tobacco use dropped from 26.2% (2010) to 19.5% (2024).
- **Still Prevalent:** Despite progress, 1 in 5 adults globally still consumes tobacco.
- **E-Cigarettes Rise:** Over 100 million people worldwide now use e-cigarettes, posing new regulatory and health challenges.

India's Progress & Status:

- **Tobacco Users (2024):** Around 243.48 million Indians aged 15+ use tobacco.
- **Global Standing:** India is the 2nd largest producer (after China) and 2nd largest exporter (after Brazil).

Initiatives taken by India to Control Tobacco Consumption

- **Cigarettes Act, 1975** - The act mandated the display of statutory **health warnings in advertising and cigarette packages.**
- **Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003** - The act replaced the Cigarettes Act of 1975. It aims to **provide smoke-free public places and also place restrictions on tobacco advertising and promotion.**
- **Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill, 2019** - To prohibit the Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement of e-Cigarettes.
- **National Health Policy 2017** - It has set an ambitious target of **reducing tobacco use by 30% by 2025.**
- **Tobacco Quit line service - 1800-112-356** - It was initiated in 2016 to reach a large number of tobacco users. It **aims to provide telephone-based information, advice and support for tobacco cessation.**
- **National Tobacco Control Programme (launched in 2007-08):** Aims to create awareness about harmful effects, **aligned with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).**
- **Tobacco-Free Film Rules (2024):** Enforced new standards for tobacco depiction in films and TV.
- **Yellow Line Campaign:** Introduced **visible indicators (yellow lines) around schools to reinforce bans on tobacco sales** within 100 yards.
- **Taxation and Price Interventions:** **Incremental increases in excise and GST duties**, though experts recommend further hikes to maximize impact.

About Tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*)

- **Cultivation** - It is an annual herbaceous plant **native to tropical and subtropical**

regions of South America and widely cultivated worldwide.

- **Climatic conditions** - It requires a **frost-free period of 90–120 days**, with **optimal temperatures of 20°C–30°C and at least 500 mm of rainfall;**
- **Soil** - It prefers **well-drained sandy loam or alluvial soils.**
- **Nicotine content** - Every part of the plant (except the seed) contains nicotine (2–8% nicotine), concentrated mostly in the **leaves (about 64% of total plant nicotine content).**

Reforming Passive Euthanasia in India Syllabus: **GS2/Polity and Governance;** **GS4/Ethics**

Context

- Despite the legal validity of passive euthanasia, its implementation remains mired in procedural complexity, institutional gaps, and ethical ambiguity.
- **Note - Karnataka is the second State after Kerala to implement the directive.**

Supreme Court Ruling

- **Common Cause vs. Union of India & Anr. (2018) case** - It recognised **right to die with dignity as a fundamental right under Article 21 and upheld legal validity of passive euthanasia.**
- **Definition of Euthanasia** - It is an act of **deliberately ending a person's life to relieve suffering from painful and incurable disease or disorder.**

Passive euthanasia v/s Active euthanasia

- **Passive euthanasia** - It is **withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for terminally ill patients** undergoing prolonged medical treatment **with no hope of recovery** and do not have decision-making capacity.

- Active euthanasia - It is the intentional act of killing a terminally ill patient on voluntary request. It is illegal in India.

MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS)

Awards

Syllabus: Miscellaneous

Context

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2022-23 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS)

Awards

- **Instituted by** - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- **Aim** - These awards are conferred annually to acknowledge outstanding voluntary community service.

National Service Scheme (NSS)

- **Launched in** - 1969 during the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi,
- It is one of the **flagship youth programmes** of the Government of India.
- It aims to **foster the personality and character development of students through voluntary community service**, inspired by the Gandhian ideals of selfless service.
- **The motto of NSS - "Not Me, But You" (स्वयं से पहले आप)** – reflects its core philosophy of prioritising community welfare above individual interest.

PM-SETU Yojana

Syllabus: GS2/Governance

Context

- The Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs- PM - SETU.

PM-SETU Yojana

- **Abbreviation** - Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
- **Financing** - It is a centrally sponsored scheme
- **Objective** - to transform 1,000 Government ITIs across India into modern, industry-aligned training institutions.

All Jal Jeevan mission Pipelines to be mapped

Syllabus :GS2/Governance

In News

- The Union government is planning to map all drinking water assets, including pipelines under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), on the GIS-based PM Gati Shakti platform.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

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

Securities Transaction Tax

Syllabus: GS3/Economy

In News

- The Supreme Court of India decided to examine a plea challenging the constitutional validity of the Securities Transaction Tax (STT).

Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

- It is a direct tax levied on the transaction value of securities traded on the Indian

stock exchange under the Finance Act, 2004.

- It aims to **combat tax evasion in the stock market**.
- It includes – **derivatives, shares, and equity-oriented mutual funds**.
- It is applied on the **buying and selling of securities irrespective of the profit or loss made in the transaction**.

VLGC Shivalik

Syllabus: GS3/Economy



Context

- **The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) received India's third Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC), Shivalik,**

Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC), Shivalik

- It is built in South Korea and **named after the Himalayan range**.
- It is an **82,000 cubic metre LPG carrier** equipped with **advanced safety, temperature control, and operational systems**.
- The vessel joins the **Shipping Corporation of India Limited's (SCI) two existing VLGCs — Sahyadri and Anandamayi**.
- **Significance** - The arrival of Shivalik symbolizes **India's march toward maritime self-reliance**.

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

Syllabus: GS3/ Agriculture, GS3/ Environment

Context

- **The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), launched in 2015 under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, has emerged as a flagship initiative to promote organic farming in India.**

Basics - Organic farming

- Organic farming is a **sustainable agriculture system that excludes synthetic inputs like chemical fertilizers and pesticides**.
- It relies on **natural resources like crop residues, farmyard manure, and compost to maintain soil health and manage pests and diseases**.

Organic farming in India

- **India ranks at 4th place** in organic farming globally in terms of area.
- **Madhya Pradesh has the largest area under organic certification** followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka.
- **Sikkim is India's first fully organic state**.
- **India ranks first globally in terms of number of farmers practicing organic farming**.

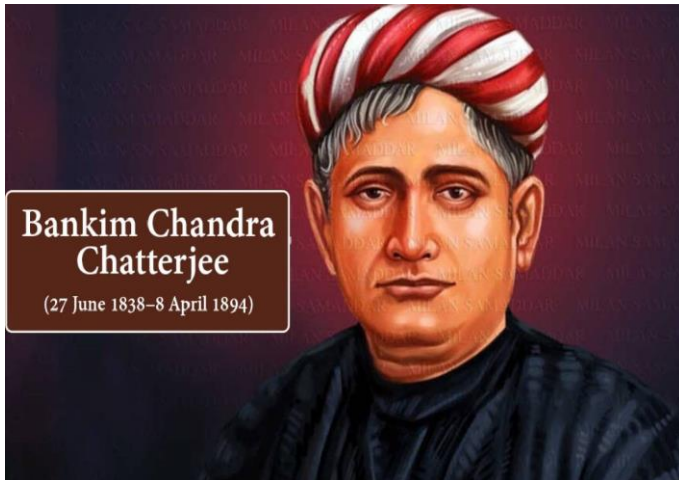
Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

- It was launched in 2015 under the **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture**
- **Aim** - The schemes stress on **end-to-end support to farmers engaged in organic farming** i.e. from production to processing, certification and marketing and post-harvest management.
- **Objective** - to advance a scalable model of eco-agriculture that **integrates low-cost, chemical-free techniques**.

- Significance - to enhance food safety, income generation, and environmental sustainability.

150th anniversary of Vande Matram

Syllabus: GS1/ Culture



In Context

- The Union Cabinet announced nationwide celebration of the 150th anniversary of the national song 'Vande Mataram'.

Vande Matram

- Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in Sanskrit and first appeared in the novel Anandamath(1882).
- Its first public recital by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 INC session gave it national exposure.
- The national song has equal status with Jana Gana Mana, as declared by a 1950 Presidential order.
- Article 51A(a) mandates respect for the anthem but not for a national song, indicating a sensitive balance.
- The song was a rallying cry for anti-colonial revolutionaries and a symbol of collective resolve during the independence movement.

Leprosy in India

Syllabus: GS2/ Health



Context

- India's leprosy prevalence rate has fallen from 57.2 per 10,000 population in 1981 to just 0.57 in 2025.

Leprosy

- Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease.
- It is a chronic neuromuscular disorder. It is caused by several strains of Mycobacterium leprae.
- Leprosy can be cured with Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT).

National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)

- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the National Health Mission (NHM).
- Objective - It aims at eliminating leprosy in each of the districts by 2030.
- NIKUSTH- A real-time leprosy reporting software implemented across India..

Namchik Namphuk Coal Block

Syllabus: GS3/ Environment



In News

- **Arunachal Pradesh has launched its first commercial coal mining project at the Namchik-Namphuk coal block in Changlang district.**

Namchik-Namphuk Coal Block

- **Location:** Changlang district, southeastern Arunachal Pradesh, part of the Upper Assam coal belt region.
- **Reserves:** Estimated 1.5 crore tonnes of coal, enabling long-term production viability.
- **Economic Impact:** Expected to generate ₹100 crore annual revenue for the state.
- **Environmental Features:** Operates under Mission Green Coal Regions, focusing on land reclamation, afforestation, and eco-responsible mining.
- **Social Impact:** Creation of local employment; reduction of illegal mining activities.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Supports the PM EAST vision - balanced Northeast development.

Falling Camel Counts

Syllabus: GS3/Species in News



Context

- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is planning to launch the National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI) — a national mission

aimed at reversing the steady decline in India's camel population.

Key findings -

- India is witnessing a rapid and alarming decline in its camel population, especially in the traditionally camel-rearing states of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- According to the 20th Livestock Census, India's camel population stood at 2.52 lakh in 2019, down from about 11 lakh in 1977 and 4 lakh in 2013.
- Nearly 90% of these camels are concentrated in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Camels in India - Dromedary Camel (*Camelus dromedarius*)

- India mainly has one species of camel. It is a one-humped camel, adapted to desert conditions.
- Chinkara and Camel are the two State Animals of Rajasthan.

Economic & Cultural Importance:

- **Transport & Labor:** Traditionally used for carrying goods, plowing, and transport in desert regions.
- **Milk Production:** Camel milk is nutritious and in demand.
- **Tourism:** Camel safaris are popular in Rajasthan.
- **Cultural Festivals:** Camel fairs, especially the Bikaner Camel Festival, celebrate the animal.
- **Defense Use:** Camels are used by the Border Security Force (BSF) in desert patrols.

Exercise KONKAN-25

Syllabus: GS3/Defence

Context

- India and the United Kingdom conducted the 2025 edition of Exercise KONKAN, an annual bilateral maritime exercise that began in 2004.

Exercise KONKAN-25

- Participating countries - **India and the United Kingdom**
- **Type - It is an annual bilateral maritime exercise**

Other India-UK Bilateral Exercises

- **AJEYA WARRIOR (Army)**
- **Exercise Indradhanush (Air Force)**
- **Exercise Cobra Warrior (multinational air exercise hosted by the UK).**

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