

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

JUNE 2026



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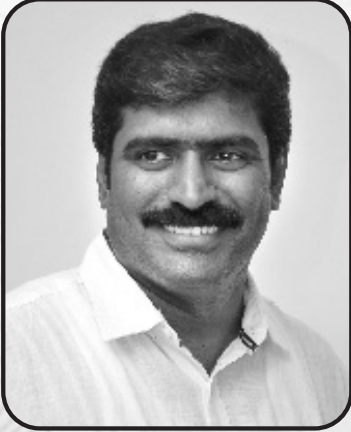
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Preface



M. SHUNMUGAM

Director

Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! "What we think we become" Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To make dreams come into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and continuous effort.

We at VETRII IAS Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirants to achieve his or her life's cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

The class room coaching at VETRII IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRII IAS Study Circle Study materials aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

We also thank other family members of Vetrii for making this effort a reality.

We wish the aspirants ALL THE VERY BEST
for their journey in Civil Services !

Published by:

VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE

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SCIENCE

LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NETRA A2000 – India's First Edge AI System-on-Chip (SoC)

- **Context:** Union Minister praised the successful development of NETRA A2000, India's first flagship Edge AI System-on-Chip (SoC).
- The chip was designed by Netrasemi under the **Design-Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**.
- The chip has successfully completed silicon bring-up and is preparing for commercial production.

About NETRA A2000

- India's first Edge AI SoC designed using an advanced **12 nm technology node**.
- Fabricated by TSMC using its **12nm process technology**.
- Designed for: **Smart surveillance systems, Automotive applications, Robotics, Drones, Smart vision devices, Edge AI platforms.**
- **Role of Government Support**
 - The milestone was achieved with support from:
 - **Design-Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**
 - **Design Infrastructure Support (DIS) Scheme**
- Netrasemi was among the **first four startups** selected under the DLI scheme in 2023.
- Received **₹15 crore** support from the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

About the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme

- The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme is a major initiative aimed at building a robust fabless semiconductor ecosystem in India.

- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** as part of the **Semicon India Programme**.

- **Objective:** To promote domestic semiconductor design capabilities, reduce reliance on imports, improve supply chain security, and increase value addition within the country.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Start-ups and MSMEs can avail both financial assistance and design infrastructure support for semiconductor design and deployment.
- Other Indian companies are eligible to receive financial incentives for the deployment of semiconductor designs.

- **Scope of Support:** The scheme provides support throughout the semiconductor product lifecycle, including design, development, testing, and deployment of: **Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, Systems-on-Chip (SoCs), Electronic systems, Intellectual Property (IP) cores.**

- **Nodal Agency:** The scheme is administered by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**.

Indian Government Proposed Isobutanol Blending in Diesel

- **Context:** The Government of India is likely to introduce a mandate for blending isobutanol with diesel by the end of 2026.

- The initiative is being considered by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**.

Objective

- Enhance India's energy security.
- Reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- Support decarbonisation of the transport sector.

About Isobutanol

- **Isobutanol (isobutyl alcohol)** is a type of alcohol that can be produced from plant-based sources.
- It is used in: **Biofuels, Pharmaceuticals, Fragrances and flavours, Paints, lacquers, and chemical manufacturing**

Significance of Diesel Blending

- Diesel consumption in India is nearly twice that of petrol.
- Blending biofuels with diesel can have a greater impact on: **Fuel import reduction, Energy security, Carbon emission reduction**

Ethanol Blending Programme

- India has increased **ethanol blending in petrol from 1% to nearly 20% (E20) over the last decade.**
- The programme has reduced crude oil imports significantly.
- **E20 refers to 20% ethanol blended with petrol.**

Higher Ethanol Fuel Initiatives

- Draft notifications have been issued for:
 - E85 fuel (85% ethanol + 15% petrol)
 - E100 fuel (nearly pure ethanol)
- Separate fuel dispensers are proposed for these fuels.

Gene Silencing and Nanomedicine

- **CONTEXT:** Scientists have created a specialized **nanomedicine** that uses **gene-silencing techniques** to effectively **stop the growth of breast cancer tumors.**

About Gene Silencing:

- Gene silencing is a **natural biological process** in which a cell reduces or completely stops the activity of a specific gene.
- It works by **blocking the instructions in DNA**, preventing the formation of the related protein.
- This process **helps cells control and regulate** their normal functions.

About Nanomedicine:

- Nanomedicine involves using nanotechnology in healthcare, especially tiny particles called

nanoparticles (about 1–100 nanometres in size).

- It is used for diagnosing, monitoring, preventing, and treating diseases.
- This approach improves accuracy in treatment and helps reduce unwanted side effects.

Pyroprocessing

- **Context:** **Pyroprocessing** is being researched in Japan, South Korea, and the USA, and is being explored as **part of advanced fast nuclear reactor programs.**

About Pyroprocessing

- Pyroprocessing is a **high-temperature process** used to induce physical or chemical changes in materials.
- It is a dry, energy-intensive process widely used in industries such as **cement manufacturing, metallurgy, and nuclear energy.**

Applications of Pyroprocessing

- **Cement Industry:** Used to convert limestone and other raw materials into clinker, the primary ingredient of cement.
- **Metallurgy:** Employed in processes such as roasting, smelting, and calcination to extract metals from ores.
- **Nuclear Energy Sector:** Used to recycle spent nuclear fuel through electrochemical separation in molten salts, enabling the recovery and reuse of valuable materials.

Sound waves drive next-generation spintronics

- **Context:** Researchers have discovered a method to **control spin currents using sound waves.**
- This **reduces energy loss and supports quantum computing and advanced communications.**

The Rise of Spintronics

- Spintronics utilizes **electron spin instead of electric charge for data transmission.**
- It offers lower energy consumption compared to conventional electronics.

The Role of Magnons

- Magnons are magnetic wave excitations that carry information.
- They operate with **significantly less energy loss than electrons**.

Research by INST Mohali

- Scientists from the **Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST)** developed this new mechanism.
- The institute operates under the Department of Science and Technology.

Use of Surface Acoustic Waves

- **Surface acoustic waves are used to control magnon-based spin currents.**
- These waves interact with magnetic materials and influence spin dynamics.

Innovative Material Model

- Researchers used an ultra-thin magnetic material, similar to graphene.
- The material was placed on a piezoelectric substrate for analysis.

Key Discovery

- Sound waves create minute deformations in the materials.
- These act as pseudo-magnetic fields that control magnon dynamics.

Future Applications

- Opens up new possibilities for low-energy electronic devices.
- Useful for quantum computing and next-generation communication technologies.

Herbicide-tolerant mustard hybrids

- **Context:** Starting from the 2026–27 Rabi season, **India is set to begin large-scale cultivation of IMI-resistant mustard hybrids.**

About herbicide-tolerant mustard hybrids

- These crops help control a parasitic weed known as **Orobanche**, which attaches itself to the mustard plant's roots.
- As this weed absorbs water and nutrients from the crop, both the crop's growth and yield are adversely affected.

- Since this weed grows underground, removing it manually is extremely difficult.

About IMI-resistant mustard hybrids

- These are mustard plants capable of surviving exposure to IMI-type herbicides.
- They are developed through natural mutation breeding rather than genetic modification.
- In other words, scientists utilize beneficial natural variations that occur within the plants.

Process

- **An enzyme known as ALS is essential for plant growth.**
- Typically, herbicides destroy weeds by inhibiting the activity of this enzyme.
- However, a minor genetic alteration in these mustard plants protects the enzyme.
- Consequently, when the herbicide is sprayed, the weeds are destroyed, while the mustard plants remain safe.

Quantum Lab at MNIT Jaipur

- **Context:** Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Railways and Information & Broadcasting announced an **Advanced Quantum Computing and Communication Lab at Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur.**

About quantum lab

- A Quantum Lab is a highly specialized research facility where theoretical physics and engineering merge to develop technologies based on quantum mechanics

Implementation

- The lab will be established under the Electronics and ICT Academic Project of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Focus Areas

- Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)
- Quantum computing simulation
- Quantum sensing hardware

Future of Technology

- AI is driving the current tech wave

- Quantum technology is expected to lead the next phase

National Importance

- The project is significant for India's technological growth
- QKD research is crucial for national security

Strategic Guidance

- The Minister encouraged MNIT Jaipur to lead in post-quantum cryptography.

Semiverse Platform & Semiconductor Development

- Students at **Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur** will get access to **Semiverse by Lam Research**.
- Semiverse is a **virtual platform** that helps students learn how semiconductor chips are designed and manufactured using 3D models and simulations.
- Students can study chip structures, understand manufacturing steps, and practice fabrication in a virtual environment.
- There is a **high demand (over 1 million)** for semiconductor design professionals, and India has the potential to meet this demand.
- Under the **Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme**, the Government provides advanced chip design tools to **300+ universities**.
- Using these tools, more **than 100 student-designed chips** have been manufactured at **Semiconductor Laboratory Mohali**.

Lunar Heater

- Context:** The **Indian Space Research Organisation** is working with the **Department of Atomic Energy** to develop an artificial heating system to protect lunar landers from extreme cold conditions on the Moon.
- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan shared this update at the **CSIR-RISE Conclave in Bengaluru**.

Chandrayaan-3 Data

- The **Chandrayaan-3** lander **Vikram**, powered by solar energy, functioned for about **14 Earth days on the lunar surface**.

New Mission Goal

- Future lunar landers are being designed to **survive up to 200 days** on the Moon using heating technology.

Moon Conditions

- Lunar **daytime temperature** reaches about **121°C**.
- Lunar **night temperature** drops to nearly **-129°C**.

CSIR Collaboration

- ISRO** and the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research** (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) have identified 40 areas for joint research.
- 17 projects** have already been approved for implementation.

DST & Private Sector

- ISRO is also collaborating with the **Department of Science and Technology** and private partners for space-related innovations.

Space Medicine

- Research is underway to develop medicines for astronauts under the **Gaganyaan** human spaceflight mission.

ISS Experiment

- These experiments were conducted by **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** during the **Axiom-4 mission** to the **International Space Station**.

ANCHOR

- Context:** IIT Madras has introduced '**ANCHOR**' (a 3D atlas of the neurochemical properties of the human brainstem).
- It was developed by the **Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre (SGBC)** at IIT Madras.
- ANCHOR is the world's most **comprehensive and complete 3D atlas** of the **human brainstem**.
- It was unveiled during the **3rd BRICS Neuroscience Seminar** held at IIT Madras from June 5 to 7, 2026.

Key Features of ANCHOR

- Provides **multi-dimensional, 3D cellular-level maps** of the human brainstem.

- Covers brain development from the fetal stage through childhood to adulthood.
- Includes over **200 brainstem nuclei and nerve fiber tracts**.
- Created using hundreds of serial sections and over **500 slices** stained with eight types of complementary immunostains.
- Integrates MRI, histology, and detailed chemo-architecture to generate a high-resolution map.
- This reduces the video generation process from **50 steps to just 4 steps**.
- Despite requiring fewer steps, it delivers output quality comparable to leading global models.

Cost-Efficiency

- Compared to many prominent international video AI models, this model operates at up to 10 times lower cost.

Significance

- Helps identify specific cell groups affected by brainstem lesions.
- Expected to have significant applications in the fields of **neuroscience and medicine**.
- Supports research into the following neurological disorders:
 - Rabies
 - Dementia
 - Alzheimer's disease.

Varya: India's Indigenous AI Video Model

- **Context:** The **India-AI Mission** has introduced a video AI model named '**Varya**'.
- The objective of Varya is to **make advanced video AI technology affordable, easily accessible, and effective**.

Significance

- It is one of the foundational AI models supported by the India-AI Mission.
- This launch marks a significant milestone in India's AI development journey.
- It reflects the government's commitment to fostering indigenous AI capabilities and promoting a robust 'deep-tech' ecosystem.

Developer

- '**Varya**' was developed by '**Avatar**', an AI-focused transformative company.
- The project was supported by the '**India-AI Mission**'.

Technology Used

- Varya utilizes a technique known as '**distillation**'.

Smart Seed Coating Technology

- **Context:** ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR-IIOR), Hyderabad, has developed and demonstrated an innovative **biopolymer-based Smart Seed Coating Technology** designed to enhance seed quality, crop establishment, and resilience against biotic and abiotic stresses across a wide range of agricultural crops.

About Smart Seed Coating Technology

- The biodegradable biopolymeric coating forms a multifunctional protective layer that carries beneficial microorganisms, nutrients, micronutrients, crop-protection agents and growth promoters directly to the seed-soil interface.
- It promotes **rapid germination, vigorous seedling and root growth**, and tolerance to **biotic and abiotic stresses** (drought, temperature extremes, soil degradation, pests) during the critical crop establishment phase.
- Field demonstrations in **Telangana** recorded nearly **30% higher yields in groundnut and soybean** over conventional practice; tested across soybean, maize, groundnut, chickpea, cotton, mustard and pigeon pea under **AICRP-Seed trials**.
- ICAR-IIOR is promoting partnerships with public and private seed systems for large-scale adoption, especially in rainfed agriculture.

Smartphone-Based Earthquake Early Warning System

- **Context:** Following the recent earthquake in Venezuela, many Android users reported receiving earthquake alerts on their smartphones moments before the tremors were felt.
- Both Android and Apple iOS support earthquake and emergency alerts through built-in notification systems.

Android Earthquake Alerts Work

- Most smartphones are equipped with an **accelerometer, a motion sensor used to detect device orientation and movement.**
- The accelerometer can also **detect the initial ground shaking** caused by an earthquake.
- It identifies the **Primary (P) waves, which travel faster than the more destructive Secondary (S) waves.**
- When a phone detects possible earthquake vibrations, it anonymously sends the data to Google's servers.
- Google analyses data from multiple nearby devices to:
 - Confirm that an earthquake is occurring.
 - Estimate its location and magnitude.
 - Send early warning alerts to users in affected areas.

Effectiveness of the System

- According to Google:
 - The system has issued around 790 million earthquake alerts.
 - It has detected and warned users about more than 2,000 potentially dangerous earthquakes since April 2021.
- The technology provides **valuable seconds of advance warning**, allowing people to take protective actions before stronger shaking begins.

SPACE

James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

- **CONTEXT:** The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has identified atmospheric weather patterns on the **exoplanet WASP-94A b**, situated approximately **700 light-years away from Earth.**

About JWST

- The JWST is the most sophisticated, powerful, and **largest space observatory ever deployed into space.**
- **Collaboration:** It is a joint project of **National Aeronautics and Space Administration, European Space Agency, and Canadian Space Agency.**
- **Launch Date:** The telescope was successfully launched on **25 December 2021.**
- **Operating Location:** It functions from **Lagrange Point 2**, located around 1.5 million kilometres from Earth.
- **Key Goals:**
 - Investigate the **origins and evolution of the early universe.**
 - Examine the formation, growth, and life cycles of galaxies.
 - Study how stars are born and how they end their lives.
 - **Explore exoplanets and planetary systems** to gain insights into the history of the cosmos and the possibility of life beyond Earth.

Kodaikanal Solar Observatory Study on Solar Supergranulation

- **Context:** Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) used over **100 years of solar observations** from the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory.
- The study was published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters.
- Researchers analyzed about **34,000 Ca II K spectroheliogram images** collected since 1907.

About Kodaikanal Solar Observatory

- Maintains the **oldest continuous solar data series in India**.
- Provides archival records spanning **more than nine solar cycles**.
- Plays a vital role in solar physics and space weather research.

About Supergranulations

- Large-scale convection cells present on the Sun's surface.
- Form a network-like structure due to the movement of hot plasma.
- Average size: **~30,000 km**, Average lifetime: **~24 hours**.
- Cooler intergranular lane width: **~6,000 km**.
- Supergranular lane widths and intensities show a strong correlation with **sunspot numbers**.

Significance of the Study

- Shows that supergranular properties are influenced by: Local magnetic flux and Solar activity levels.
- Improves understanding of: Solar dynamics, Magnetic flux transport, Solar irradiance variations, especially in the UV spectrum.
- May help improve **future solar cycle predictions** and **space weather forecasting**.

LVM3 Technology Transfer and IN-SPACe

- **Context:** The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the transfer of technology regarding the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) 'Launch Vehicle Mark-3' (LVM3).
- This initiative enables Indian private companies to manufacture, operate, and commercially utilize the **LVM3 India's heaviest operational rocket (also known as 'Baahubali')**.

Information about LVM3

- The 'Launch Vehicle Mark-3' (LVM3) is a heavy-lift rocket developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- It is a **three-stage rocket comprising**
 - A core liquid stage (L-110)
 - Two solid-fuel boosters (S-200)
 - A cryogenic upper stage (C-25)
- It weighs approximately 640 tonnes at lift off and has the capacity to carry a **payload of up to 4,000 kg into Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO)**.
- It is primarily a medium-lift launch vehicle used to place communication satellites into Geostationary Orbit.
- This rocket successfully deployed 36 broadband satellites for the company 'OneWeb' into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- This mission is considered a significant **achievement as it marks LVM3's entry into the global commercial launch market**.

Information about IN-SPACe

- IN-SPACe is an autonomous body operating under the Department of Space; it **functions as a 'single-window' system** to support private sector participation in the space sector.
- It promotes, authorizes, and oversees private space activities, such as the manufacturing of rockets and satellites and the provision of space-based services.
- Furthermore, it facilitates the sharing of ISRO's facilities and the creation of new space infrastructure.
- The organization connects ISRO with private companies, understands their requirements, and works towards expanding India's space activities.
- **Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat.**

GRAPES-3 (Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV Energies)

- **Context:** Researchers from India and Japan used the GRAPES-3 muon telescope to study 22 years of cosmic-ray data. This helped in understanding the Earth's upper atmosphere and the Sun's magnetic field.
- Muons are tiny particles formed when cosmic rays hit gases like oxygen and nitrogen in the atmosphere.

About GRAPES-3

- GRAPES-3 (Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV Energies-Phase 3) is a cosmic ray observatory situated at Ooty, Tamil Nadu, at an elevation of nearly 2,200 metres above sea level.
- It is managed by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

Objective

- The facility is intended to investigate the origin, acceleration, and propagation of cosmic rays.

Working

- GRAPES-3 examines extensive air showers, which are streams of secondary particles generated when high-energy cosmic rays or gamma rays interact with the Earth's atmosphere.
- It detects particles in the tera-electronvolt (TeV) to peta-electronvolt (PeV) energy range, representing some of the highest-energy particles found in nature.

Other Areas of Study

- Apart from cosmic rays, the observatory also focuses on:
 - Solar phenomena, especially the effects of solar activity on cosmic rays.
 - Thunderstorm-related processes, including atmospheric electric fields and their interaction with cosmic ray muons.
- The observatory employs:
 - A network of plastic scintillator detectors to record extensive air showers.

- A large area muon detector based on proportional counters to detect high energy muons reaching the Earth's surface.

TRISHNA Mission

- **Context:** Prime Minister announced that India and France will jointly launch the TRISHNA satellite in 2027, a mission designed to contribute to global water and food security.

About TRISHNA Mission

- TRISHNA (Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment) is a joint mission of Indian Space Research Organisation and CNES.

Objective

- It aims to provide high-resolution data on land surface temperature, vegetation condition, and water cycle processes.
- It will also support studies on urban heat islands, volcanic and geothermal activity, glacier melt, and snow runoff, along with atmospheric parameters like aerosols, water vapour, and clouds.

Payloads

- **TIR Payload (CNES):** A four-channel infrared sensor for accurate surface temperature mapping.
- **VNIR-SWIR Payload (ISRO):** A seven-band sensor for detailed surface reflectance and biophysical analysis.

Function

- Combined data will help estimate surface energy balance and heat flux.

Orbit & Life

- The satellite will operate in a sun-synchronous orbit at **761 km altitude** (12:30 PM equatorial crossing), with **57 m resolution** for land/coastal areas and 1 km for oceans/polar regions, and a **mission life of 5 years**.

ISRO Successfully Tests Semi-Cryogenic Engine

- **Context:** Indian Space Research Organisation successfully conducted the **8th hot test of the Semi-Cryogenic Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA) on 24 June 2026.**
- The test was carried out at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex.**

Power Head Test Article (PHTA)

- PHTA includes all engine systems except the thrust chamber.
- It is used to validate the engine's performance before integrating the complete engine.

Highlights of the 8th Hot Test

- Successfully tested at **175-tonne thrust (88% of full capacity) for the first time.**
- Previous PHTA tests were conducted at: **94 tonne (47%) thrust, 120 tonne (60%) thrust**
- Objectives achieved:
 - Studied engine build up after pre burner ignition.
 - Demonstrated steady-state operation at higher thrust levels.
 - Successfully operated the main turbopumps delivering:
 - 400 bar outlet pressure
 - 500 bar outlet pressure
- All engine parameters performed as predicted.

Significance of the Test

- Provides confidence for testing the engine at **200-tonne (100%) thrust level.**
- Marks a major milestone in the **indigenous development** of India's Semi-Cryogenic Engine.

Semi-Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (SC120)

- The **SC120 stage** is powered by the **2000 kN-class SE2000 engine.**
- It is being developed to replace the existing **L110 core stage** of the **LVM3 launch vehicle.**
- Expected benefits:
 - Higher payload capacity
 - Improved operational efficiency

- Enhanced launch performance for future missions.

Propellant Used

- Uses cleaner, non-toxic propellants:
 - Liquid Oxygen (LOX) as oxidizer.
 - Purified Kerosene (ISROSENE) as fuel.
- Offers better performance and efficiency compared to conventional propulsion systems.

Strategic Importance

- Supports ISRO's roadmap to increase the payload capability of LVM3.
- Combined with an uprated cryogenic upper stage, the **semi-cryogenic propulsion system** will significantly enhance India's heavy lift launch capability.
- Strengthens India's self-reliance in advanced rocket propulsion technology and future space missions.

About the Semi-Cryogenic Engine

- A **Semi-Cryogenic Engine (SCE)** is a type of **liquid-fuel rocket engine** that uses **Liquid Oxygen (LOX) as the oxidizer** and **refined kerosene (RP-1/ISROSENE) as the fuel.**
- The Indian Space Research Organisation is developing a **2000 kN-thrust semi-cryogenic engine** to power the core/booster stages of its present and future heavy-lift launch vehicles.

Advantages of the Semi-Cryogenic Engine

- **Better Performance:** The combination of LOX and kerosene provides a higher density impulse, enabling rockets to generate more thrust with a compact fuel system.
- **Lower Cost:** Refined kerosene is cheaper to produce, transport, and use than liquid hydrogen, making space missions more economical.
- **Easier Storage and Handling:** Unlike liquid hydrogen, kerosene can be stored at normal atmospheric temperatures, reducing the complexity of fuel storage and launch operations.

GEOGRAPHY

SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

Mahadev Koli Tribe

- **Context:** The **Mahadev Koli** tribe, an Indigenous forest-dwelling community of **Maharashtra's Western Ghats**, has preserved generations of ecological knowledge that helps monitor climate change, conserve biodiversity, and sustainably manage natural resources.

About Mahadev Kolis

- An Indigenous tribal community residing in the **Western Ghats**, one of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots.
- Traditionally hunter-gatherers and warriors, they are now primarily engaged in: Agriculture, Livestock rearing, Dairy farming.
- Major crops include: Rice, Finger millet, Barnyard millet, Wheat.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

- The community possesses extensive knowledge of local ecosystems acquired through centuries of close interaction with nature.
- The tribe interprets climate change through natural indicators such as:
 - Delayed or early flowering of trees.
 - Changes in bird migration.
 - Declining medicinal plant populations.
 - Drying of streams.
 - Altered crop-growing seasons.
- These ecological indicators complement modern scientific climate monitoring.

Conservation Practices

- Conservation is an integral part of the tribe's daily life.
- They promote:
 - Sustainable harvesting of forest resources.
 - Biodiversity conservation.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)

- **Context:** A powerful solar storm associated with **Solar Cycle 25** is expected under favorable conditions to make the **Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights)** visible at unusually low latitudes, including parts of **North India** like **Ladakh** and high-altitude **Himalayan** regions.

About the Aurora Borealis

- The Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) is a **natural light display primarily observed in high-latitude regions near the Arctic Circle**.
- Its southern counterpart is known as the **Aurora Australis (Southern Lights)**.
- It occurs when charged particles emitted by the **Sun** interact with gases in **Earth's upper atmosphere**.

Formation of the Northern Lights

- The **Sun** emits electrically charged particles via the **solar wind**.
- The number of particles increases significantly during solar flares and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).
- Earth's magnetosphere channels these particles toward the polar regions.
- Collisions with atmospheric gases produce colorful light emissions:
 - Green: Oxygen (most common)
 - Red: Oxygen at high altitudes
 - Blue/Purple: Nitrogen

Key Scientific Concepts

- **Solar Wind:** A stream of electrically charged particles emitted by the Sun.

- **Coronal Mass Ejection (CME):** A massive eruption of plasma and magnetic fields from the Sun.
- **Geomagnetic Storm:** A disturbance in Earth's magnetic field caused by solar activity.
- **Magnetosphere:** The protective magnetic shield surrounding Earth.
- These storms are driven by intense heat, dry conditions, and strong westerly/south-westerly winds.
- According to the **IMD's Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas**, parts of **northwest India** experience the **highest dust-storm frequencies**.
- Delhi records the highest dust-storm frequency in **June**, averaging about **2.5 dust-storm days**.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Aravalli Range: Natural Barrier against Dust Storms

- **Context:** A massive dust storm hit several districts of Rajasthan, including **Churu, Hanumangarh, Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Nagaur, Didwana-Kuchaman, Alwar, and Sikar** on May 30.
- Dust storms are common in Rajasthan during the pre-monsoon months (April-June).

Role of the Aravalli Range

- The Aravalli Range acts as a natural barrier between the **Thar Desert and the densely populated Indo-Gangetic Plains**.
- Dust-laden winds from the **Thar Desert and the Middle East** lose speed when they encounter the Aravallis.
- As wind speed decreases, sand and dust settle on the slopes, forming "**obstacle dunes**."
- Vegetation on the Aravallis further reduces dust movement through a natural filtering or "scrubbing" effect.

Importance of Obstacle Dunes

- Obstacle dunes are large sand deposits found on the western slopes of the Aravallis.
- They provide visible evidence of the mountain range's role in intercepting sand and dust.
- The vegetation growing on these dunes resembles desert vegetation.

Dust Storms in Northern India

- Dust storms originating from the Thar Desert are common in northern India during the pre-monsoon season.

Impact of Aravalli Degradation

- **Loss of vegetation and mining activities** have weakened the Aravalli Range's ability to block dust.
- Dust from Rajasthan now reaches the northern plains even during less intense storms.
- Dust transport increasingly affects **Delhi, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and other regions**.

State of the Aravalli Range

- A **2018 Forest Survey of India (FSI)** report found that **31 out of 128 Aravalli hills** in Rajasthan have disappeared due to human activities.
- Significant hill loss has occurred in **Naraina, Kalwar, Kotputli, Jhalana, and Sariska**.
- **Major causes of degradation include:** Mining (red silica, granite, and other minerals), Deforestation, Urbanisation, Construction activities, Land-use changes, Encroachments and pastoral activities.

Gaps in the Aravalli Range

- A **2009 Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** study identified 12 major gaps in the Aravalli Range.
- These gaps have expanded due to forest degradation and inadequate vegetation cover.
- Wider gaps allow greater movement of sand and dust towards northern India.

Environmental Consequences

- Increased dust transport can worsen air pollution, particularly in Delhi.

- Dust influences rainfall patterns and regional climate.
- Dust particles scatter sunlight, reducing solar radiation reaching the ground.
- This can temporarily lower surface temperatures over large areas.

World's Largest Known Living Coral Colony Discovered in Lakshadweep

- **Context:** Researchers have identified what may be the **largest known living coral colony** in the world near **Kadmat Island**.
- The coral colony, locally called "**Potato Patch**", belongs to the species **Pavona clavus**.
- The discovery was made during a **marine biodiversity survey in Lakshadweep**.

Age

- Estimated to be **700–1,800 years old** based on preliminary growth-rate calculations.
- Age confirmation requires scientific methods such as: **Sclerochronology, Radiometric dating**

Scientific Significance

- Appears to be the largest documented living colony of **Pavona clavus** globally.
- Larger than previously reported giant coral colonies in: **Great Barrier Reef, Red Sea, Solomon Islands**
- Represents a rare **long-lived coral structure** with valuable biological and climatic records.

Ecological Importance

- About **58.47%** of the coral tissue remains alive, indicating relatively good health.
- Supports diverse fish communities and marine biodiversity.
- Acts as a potential refuge for long-lived coral colonies in the Indian Ocean.

Threats

- Faces risks from: **Coral bleaching, Marine heatwaves, Tropical cyclones, El Niño events**

- Previous **El Niño events (1998, 2010, 2016)** caused major coral mortality in Lakshadweep reefs.

Coral Bleaching Event

- **Context:** Scientists have indicated that the fourth global coral bleaching event—the fastest and most widespread on record may have concluded by mid-2025.
- This event was confirmed by the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** on April 15, 2024.
- It caused heat stress leading to **coral bleaching across 84% of the world's coral reef areas**.
- It is believed to have ended following a coral bleaching event in Western Australia in early 2025.

Coral Reefs

- Coral reefs are formed by **tiny marine animals known as coral polyps**.
- These animals **extract calcium from seawater to build hard external skeletons**, which gradually form rock-like structures.
- Although coral reefs cover less than 1% of the ocean floor, they support more than 25% of all marine life.

About Coral Bleaching

- Coral bleaching occurs when **corals turn white**.
- This happens because **they lose the microscopic algae** (known as **zooxanthellae**) that live within them and provide both their color and food.
- Bleached corals do not always die, but they become weakened.
- They become susceptible to disease and lack sufficient nutrition; if this stress persists, they may die.

Coral Bleaching Events

- The first global coral bleaching event **occurred in 1998**.

- The second took place in 2010.
- The third event, occurring between 2014 and 2017, was particularly severe due to intense heat stress and affected approximately 68% of coral reefs worldwide.

Causes of Coral Bleaching

- **Climate Change:** Rising ocean temperatures are the primary cause. Even a slight temperature increase of around 1°C can lead to coral bleaching.
- **Ocean Acidification:** As oceans absorb excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the water becomes more acidic. This weakens corals and hinders their ability to build their skeletons.
- **Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation:** Reduced cloud cover exposes corals to intense sunlight and high levels of UV radiation, causing stress.
- **Human Activities:** Pollution, overfishing, coastal construction, and coral mining damage coral reefs and increase the likelihood of bleaching.

Conservation of Endangered Otters in the Thamirabarani River

- **Context:** Experts have urged that the stretch of the **Thamirabarani River** between the **Papanasam** and **Nadiyuni dams** in Tamil Nadu be declared a '**Biodiversity Heritage Site**'.
- The objective is to protect the remaining habitats of endangered otters and preserve the biodiversity of the Thamirabarani River ecosystem.

Facts about the Thamirabarani River

It originates in the **Pothigai Hills** of the **Tirunelveli** district.

- It is the **only perennial river** in Tamil Nadu.
- It flows through the **Tirunelveli** and **Thoothukudi** districts and empties into the sea at **Punnakayal**.

Ecological Significance of Otters

- Otters are primarily nocturnal mammals that inhabit both land and water.
- They feed on fish, crabs, snails, and other aquatic organisms.
- By consuming old and diseased fish, they help maintain the health of river ecosystems.
- They support aquatic biodiversity by regulating fish populations.

Otter Species Found in India

- Three species of otters are found in India:
 - Eurasian Otter
 - Smooth-coated Otter
 - Asian Small-clawed Otter
- All three species are found in the **Thamirabarani River**.

Historical Background

- Evidence of otters inhabiting this river dates back approximately **400 years**.
- Murals depicting otters can be found in the **Thiruppudaimaruthur temple**, which was built in the 17th century.
- References to otters are found in Sangam literature, particularly in the **Natrinal poems**.

Current Distribution

- **Fifty years ago**, otters were found along the entire stretch of the river from **Papanasam to Srivaikuntam**.
- Currently, they are found primarily within a **10-km stretch between Papanasam and the Nadiyunni anicut (near Manimutharu)**.
- This area still retains the dense riparian vegetation and grasslands essential for the survival of otters.

Major Threats

- Destruction of dense riparian vegetation.
- Illegal sand mining.

- Discharge of sewage into the river.
- Spread of invasive plant species.
- Shrinkage of riparian forests.
- Encroachment by invasive plant species replacing native trees like **Marudhu, (Arjun), Kadambu, and Iluppai (Mahua).**

Need for Conservation

- Nature enthusiasts recommend declaring the area between **Papanasam and the Nadiyunni anicut a 'Biodiversity Heritage Site'.**
- Protecting otter habitats will help conserve various other species that depend on the river.
- The continued presence of these three species indicates that the Thamirabarani River remains relatively unpolluted.

Recommended Conservation Measures

- Strengthening efforts to **restore the Thamirabarani river ecosystem.**
- Protecting and **rejuvenating riparian forests.**
- Planting native tree species suitable for riverbanks.
- Preventing **illegal sand mining and sewage** discharge.
- Controlling the spread of invasive plant species.

Biochar: Turning Farm Waste into 'Black Gold'

India's Agricultural Paradox

- Large quantities of agricultural biomass that could enrich soils are instead burned.
- Punjab and Haryana burn over **20 million tonnes of paddy straw annually** due to short post-harvest windows and lack of viable alternatives.
- Residue burning releases greenhouse gases and particulate matter, causing severe air pollution and loss of valuable organic matter.

Declining Soil Health

- Many agricultural regions, from Maharashtra's black soils to Kerala's red soils, suffer from:
 - Low soil organic carbon,
 - Poor water-holding capacity,
 - Rapid nutrient depletion.
- These factors reduce crop productivity despite improved seeds and irrigation.

Biochar

- Biochar is produced by heating agricultural waste under **low-oxygen conditions (pyrolysis).**
- The process yields a carbon-rich material that decomposes very slowly, enabling long-term carbon storage.
- It is considered a **carbon-negative technology.**

Benefits of Biochar

- Enhances soil structure and microbial activity.
- Improves water retention and nutrient-use efficiency.
- Increases crop yields by **10-30%.**
- Raises water-holding capacity by **10-25%,** especially in nutrient-poor soils.
- Helps maintain soil fertility and crop productivity over the long term.

Successful Field Studies in India

- In **Akola district, Maharashtra,** biochar from maize stalks improved soil organic carbon and fertility.
- Studies in **Kerala** found that biochar made from coconut leaf stalks enhanced soil quality across different cropping systems.
- Emphasizes the importance of utilizing locally available biomass resources.

Supporting Climate-Resilient Agriculture

- Biochar can help crops withstand droughts, heatwaves, and erratic rainfall.

- Reduces dependence on external agricultural inputs.
- Particularly beneficial for **small and marginal farmers** vulnerable to climate change.
- Can complement initiatives on:
 - Natural farming,
 - Soil health management,
 - Carbon farming.

Carbon Credit Opportunities

- Biochar can be integrated into **carbon credit markets**, creating economic incentives for farmers and cooperatives.
- It qualifies as a **persistent carbon dioxide removal technology** under international standards.
- Under the **VM0042 Agricultural Land Management Methodology**, each tonne of certified biochar can generate **2-2.8 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent carbon credits**.
- Carbon credits can provide an additional source of income.

Indian Innovation: KISAN Kiln

- Projects using the **KISAN kiln**, developed by **IIT-Kharagpur**, enable small farmers to convert farm waste into biochar and earn revenue from carbon markets.

Utilising Urban Organic Waste

- Biochar feedstock is not limited to crop residues.
- It can also be produced from:
 - Municipal biodegradable waste,
 - Sewage sludge,
 - Other organic waste streams.
- India generates about **62 million tonnes of municipal solid waste annually**, with over **50% being biodegradable**.

Promoting a Circular Economy

- Converting organic waste into biochar diverts waste from landfills and reduces methane emissions.
- Supports sustainable agriculture while contributing to climate mitigation.

Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) / Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)

- **Context:** The **Western Ghats**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and **global biodiversity hotspot**, may soon receive stronger legal protection through the notification of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs).
- The proposed ESA in the Western Ghats covers over **56,000 sq km across six states**, **based largely on the recommendations of the K. Kasturirangan Committee (2013)**.

About Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)

- ESAs, also known as **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** in certain contexts, are areas identified for special environmental protection due to:
 - Rich biodiversity
 - Fragile ecosystems
 - Critical ecological functions
 - Historical or environmental significance

- They are notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

- ESAs act as **“shock absorbers”** around ecologically important regions by regulating activities that may harm the environment.

Origin and Purpose

- The concept gained prominence under the **National Wildlife Action Plan (2002–2016)**.
- ESAs help:
 - Maintain ecological connectivity
 - Protect wildlife corridors
 - Reduce human pressure on protected areas

- Ensure long-term survival of flora and fauna

Extent of ESAs

- Around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, ESZs may extend up to 10 km from the boundary.
- Ecologically important corridors and landscape linkages beyond 10 km can also be included.
- In June 2022, the Supreme Court of India directed that every protected forest, national park, and wildlife sanctuary should have a minimum 1-km Eco-Sensitive Zone around its boundary.

Protection and Restrictions in ESAs

Prohibited or Highly Restricted Activities

- Mining and quarrying
- Thermal power plants
- Highly polluting (Red Category) industries
- Large construction and infrastructure projects

Regulated Activities

- Felling of trees
- Establishment of hotels and resorts
- Commercial use of natural water resources
- Erection of electrical transmission lines
- Road widening projects
- Major changes in agricultural practices involving heavy technology and pesticides

Encouraged Activities

- Organic farming
- Rainwater harvesting
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Adoption of green technologies
- Environment-friendly development practices

Western Ghats ESA Proposal

- Proposed restrictions include:
 - Ban or strict regulation of new mining and quarrying projects
 - Restriction on thermal power plants
 - Prohibition of Red Category industries
 - Ban on new construction or expansion projects exceeding 20,000 sq m built-up area

Important ESA/ESZ Areas in India

- Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape
- Gir National Park
- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve
- Sundarbans
- Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone
- Chilika Lake
- Deepor Beel
- Great Indian Bustard habitats in Rajasthan and Gujarat

INDIAN POLITY

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

- **Context:** Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** in which members discussed measures to sustain and accelerate India's economic growth amid an uncertain global environment.

About the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

- The **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** is an independent advisory body established to provide expert advice to the Government of India, particularly to the Prime Minister, on economic and related matters.

Functions of EAC-PM

- Examines economic and other issues referred to it by the Prime Minister and offers recommendations.
- Studies major macroeconomic developments and submits its views and policy suggestions to the Prime Minister.
- May take up issues on its own initiative or based on references received from the Prime Minister or other sources.
- Undertakes any additional assignments entrusted to it by the Prime Minister from time to time.

Nature of the Council

- The recommendations of the EAC-PM are **advisory** and are **not mandatory** for the Government to implement.
- Besides policy advice, the Council contributes to improving public understanding and awareness of economic issues.

Composition

- The Council is led by a **Chairperson** and comprises distinguished economists as members.
- Its work is supported by a team of administrative and professional staff.
- There is no predetermined or fixed number of members or supporting personnel.

Administrative Support

- For administrative, logistical, planning, and budgetary matters, **NITI Aayog** acts as the nodal agency for the EAC-PM.

Prime Minister of India

- **Context:** Having remained in power through successive electoral victories, Narendra Modi has now surpassed Jawaharlal Nehru to hold the distinction of being **India's longest-serving Prime Minister**.

About the Prime Minister of India

- **Constitutional Position (Article 75):** The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and serves as the key leader of the Union Government. **Real executive authority rests with him.**
- **Head of the Council of Ministers (Article 74):** The Prime Minister heads the Council of Ministers, which **aids and advises the President in the discharge of official duties.**
- **Role: The Prime Minister acts as a vital link between the President and the Council of Ministers.** In addition to communicating the Council's decisions to the President, he offers advice on significant matters such as appointments, the summoning of Parliament sessions, and the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
- **Head of Key Bodies:** The Prime Minister also heads several important organizations and committees, such as **NITI Aayog, the National Integration Council, and the Inter-State Council.**

First constitutional Amendment act

- Context: 2026 marks 75 years of passage of **The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951**, amending the constitution for the first time.

About the First Amendment

Land Reforms and Right to Property

- Amendments were made to **Article 19(1)(f)** and **Article 31** to give the State authority to place reasonable limits on property rights.
- This made it possible to carry out land reforms and acquire land for public purposes, helping **abolish the zamindari system**.

Freedom of Speech and Expression

- Changes to **Article 19(2)** widened the scope for restricting free speech.
- Grounds such as public order, national security, and relations with foreign countries were added as valid reasons for such restrictions.

Social Justice for SCs and STs

- New provisions, **Article 15(4)** and **Article 16(4)**, were introduced.
- These allow reservations in education and government jobs for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other backward classes.

Protection of Land Reform Laws

- **Article 31A** was added to safeguard land reform laws from being challenged on the basis of property rights.
- **Article 31B** along with the Ninth Schedule was introduced to keep such laws beyond judicial review.

Directive for Welfare of Weaker Sections

- **Article 46** was reinforced to ensure the State actively promotes the educational and economic welfare of SCs, STs, and other weaker sections with special attention.

Supreme Court Recognises Right to Walk as a Fundamental Right

- Context: The Supreme Court ruled that the **right to walk on demarcated footpaths is a fundamental right**.
- The judgment was delivered by a bench comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and A.S. Chandurkar.

Right to Walk Recognised Under Fundamental Rights

- The Court held that the right to walk forms part of:
 - **Article 19(1)(d)** – Right to move freely throughout the territory of India,
 - **Article 19(1)(a)** – Freedom of speech and expression,
 - **Article 19(1)(b)** – Right to assemble peacefully,
 - **Article 19(1)(c)** – Right to form associations, and
 - **Article 21** – Right to life and personal liberty.
- The right includes access to **safe and properly demarcated footpaths**.

Pedestrian Rights Take Priority

- The Court declared that pedestrians' rights on designated footpaths are **primary** and must take precedence over the movement of motor vehicles.
- It emphasized that the **fundamental right to walk overrides the privilege enjoyed by motorised vehicles**.

Enforceable Right and Remedies

- Citizens can seek **constitutional and legal remedies**, including: Restitution, and Compensation, if their right to walk on safe footpaths is violated.
- Such remedies are independent of those available under the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.

INDIAN ECONOMY

Index of Industrial Production (IIP) – April 2026

- **Context:** India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth slowed to 4.9% in April 2026.
- In April of the previous year, this figure stood at 5.7%.
- A slowdown in the energy sector—attributed to the geopolitical situation in the Middle East—is considered the primary reason for this decline in growth.

Sector-wise Performance

- **Manufacturing Sector:** 6.2% growth.
- **Electricity and Gas Supply Sector:** 4.9% growth.
- **Water Supply and Waste Management Sector:** 6.6% growth.
- **Mining and Quarrying Sector:** 5.1% decline.

Change in Base Year

- The base year for the IIP has been revised from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- This revision was undertaken by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The change was implemented to accurately assess industrial production in alignment with the current economic landscape.
- This marks the first set of official data released based on the new base year.

Changes to the IIP Basket

- **120 new items** have been added to the basket to reflect contemporary consumption patterns and technological advancements.
- **64 items** with diminishing relevance or usage have been removed from the list.

Newly Added Items

- CCTV Cameras
- Credit and Debit Cards
- Medical Stents
- Vaccines
- Aircraft and Spacecraft Parts

Removed Items

- Kerosene
- CFL Bulbs
- Sewing Machines
- Printing Machines

Significance of the New Changes

- Accurately reflects the diversity of Indian industry and recent technological advancements.
- Electricity generated from renewable and non-renewable energy sources will be tracked using separate codes.

Data Release Procedure

- The Ministry has announced that, henceforth, **IIP data** for each month will be consistently released within **28 days** of the conclusion of that month.

Transition from WPI to PPI

- **Context:** The Central Government has decided to gradually replace the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with the **Producer Price Index (PPI)** over the next five years.
- The move aims to provide a more accurate picture of inflation trends in the economy.

Revised WPI Series

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** will release a revised WPI series on 15 June.
- New Base Year: **2022-23**.
- It will replace the existing WPI series with base year 2011-12.

Introduction of Producer Price Index (PPI)

- A new **Producer Price Index (PPI)** series will also be launched on 15 June.
- PPI will include: **Output PPI, Input PPI (Trial), Services PPI**.
- Initially, **Services PPI will cover seven sectors:** Banking, Securities Transactions, Insurance, Pension Fund Management, Railways, Air Passenger Transport, Telecommunications

Reason-WPI Being Phased Out

- WPI is widely used in **price escalation clauses and contracts**.
- Therefore, it will continue to be published alongside PPI for five years.
- After the transition period, WPI is expected to be discontinued and replaced by PPI.

Advantages of PPI

- Provides a more comprehensive measure of producer-level inflation.
- Tracks prices of both inputs and outputs.
- Helps understand how increases in input costs are passed on to final products.
- Includes services sector inflation, which is not adequately captured by WPI.

Alignment with Global Standards

- The **shift from WPI to PPI** follows international best practices.
- It is in line with recommendations of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- Many advanced economies already use PPI as a key inflation indicator.

Data Release Schedule

- WPI and Output PPI will be **compiled and released every month**.

Monetary Policy Committee

- **Context:** The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** began its **three-day policy meeting** in Mumbai, with experts widely expecting the central bank to maintain the status quo on interest rates amid volatile global conditions driven by **ongoing tensions in West Asia**.

Meaning of Monetary Policy

- Monetary policy refers to the use of central bank instruments **to regulate interest rates, liquidity (money supply), and credit availability** in order to achieve overall economic objectives.
- In India, the Reserve Bank of India is empowered to conduct monetary policy under the **RBI Act, 1934**.

Core Objective

- The main goal is to **maintain price stability**, while also supporting economic growth.
- The underlying idea is that stable prices are essential for long-term and sustainable development.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC): Role and Purpose

- Its primary responsibility is to decide the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- It replaced the earlier mechanism where decisions were influenced by the **Technical Advisory Committee**.

Main Function of MPC

- The MPC **determines the repo rate**, which serves as the benchmark policy rate to control inflation within the prescribed limits.
- Its decisions are **binding on the RBI**.
- The RBI's Monetary Policy Department (MPD) assists the MPC by providing technical inputs and analysis.

Composition and tenure of MPC

- **Total members: 6**
- **From RBI:** RBI Governor (Chairperson), Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, One member nominated by the RBI's Central Board
- **From Government of India:** Three external members appointed by the Government
- **Tenure:** External members hold office for a period of four years.

Meetings and Voting Rules

- The MPC is required to meet at least **four times annually**.
- **The quorum is four members**
- In case of a tie, the **Governor has a casting vote** (second vote) to break the deadlock.

Wholesale Price Index

- **Context:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released a new series of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with an updated base year of 2022-23.
- The revised WPI has a broader coverage of goods and aligns with global best practices and IMF recommendations.
- Wholesale inflation rose to 9.7% in May 2026, the highest since April 2024, mainly due to rising prices of crude oil, natural gas, mineral oils, and manufactured products.
- Historical comparison beyond April 2024 is unavailable because of the change in the base year.
- Alongside the WPI, the government introduced:
 - **Output Producer Price Index (OPPI),**
 - **Trial Input Producer Price Index (IPPI),** and
 - **Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI).**
- The Service PPI currently covers seven sectors:
 - Banking,
 - Securities Transactions,
 - Insurance,
 - Pension Fund Management,
 - Railways,
 - Passenger Air Transport, and
 - Telecommunications.
- The government announced that the **Producer Price Index (PPI)** will gradually replace the **WPI** over the next **five years**.
- WPI will continue to be published during the transition period because of its extensive use in **price escalation clauses** and contracts.
- The shift from WPI to PPI is consistent with practices followed by **advanced economies**

and recommended by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.

- The sharp increase in wholesale inflation in May 2026 was largely caused by the **West Asia crisis**, which pushed up global fuel prices.
- Inflation in the **crude oil and natural gas** category rose to **61.5%** in May 2026, compared with **56.3%** in April.
- Inflation in the **mineral oils** category accelerated to **49.8%** from **40.7%** in the previous month.
- Inflation in the **manufacturing and food** sectors also increased, though at a slower pace than fuel-related categories.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

About

- The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** is an important macroeconomic indicator that tracks the **average movement in the prices of commodities sold in bulk at the wholesale stage**.

Key Features

- **Goods-Oriented Index:** WPI captures changes in the prices of **physical commodities only** and does not include services such as healthcare, education, and telecommunications.
- **Measures Producer-Level Prices:** It reflects prices at the **first point of transaction (wholesale/producer level)** and is therefore a useful measure of **supply-side inflation**.
- **Base Year:** The updated WPI series adopts **2022-23 as the base year (100)** for calculating price variations.

Major Components of WPI

- **Manufactured Products (Largest Weight):**
 - Comprises items such as processed food products, textiles, chemicals, machinery, metals, and other industrial goods.

▪ Primary Articles:

- Includes raw and unprocessed commodities like cereals, vegetables, oilseeds, and minerals.

▪ Fuel and Power:

- Covers energy-related products including coal, petroleum products, natural gas, and electricity.

Producer Price Index (PPI)

About

- The **Producer Price Index (PPI)** gauges the average variation over time in the prices that domestic producers obtain for the goods and services they supply.
- It measures inflation from the **producer's viewpoint**, recording price movements before they are passed on to consumers.
- Unlike the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, which reflects the prices paid by consumers, the PPI captures the prices received by manufacturers and service providers.
- The PPI acts as an **early signal of inflationary trends** and helps analyse how changes in production and input costs influence the prices of final products and services.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflows Surge

- **Context:** Despite the ongoing conflict in West Asia, India witnessed a **sharp rise in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in April 2026**.
- The increase came even as **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** recorded significant net outflows from the Indian market.

April 2026 FDI Performance

- Gross FDI inflows increased to \$15.3 billion in April 2026 from \$9.3 billion in April 2025.
- Net FDI inflows rose to \$6.6 billion from about \$1.6 billion during the same period.

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India**, **higher gross inflows and lower repatriation supported the rise in net FDI**.

FY26 FDI Performance

- Gross FDI inflows rose by 17.3% to \$94.8 billion in FY26 from \$80.6 billion in FY25.
- Net FDI inflows increased to \$6.9 billion in FY26 from around \$1 billion in FY25.

Significance

- The strong rise in FDI indicates continued long-term investor confidence in India's economy despite global geopolitical uncertainties.
- **Higher FDI inflows support:**
 - Capital formation
 - Employment generation
 - Technology transfer
 - Industrial and infrastructure development
- The trend contrasts with volatile portfolio flows, highlighting the relatively stable nature of FDI investments.

About Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- 'FDI' means investment through equity instruments by a **person resident outside India in an unlisted Indian company**; or in 10% or more of the post issue paid-up equity capital on a fully diluted basis of a listed Indian company.
- In case an existing investment by a person resident outside India in equity instruments of a listed Indian company falls to a level below 10% of the post issue paid-up equity capital on a fully diluted basis, the investment shall continue to be treated as FDI.
- 'Fully diluted basis' means the total number of shares that would be outstanding if all possible sources of conversion are exercised.

TAMIL NADU

INITIATIVES / SCHEMES

Online Student Admission in Government Schools via QR Code

- **Context:** A novel initiative has been undertaken and is currently being implemented to **facilitate online student admissions** at the Government School in Ambur using QR codes.
- **The Bethlehem Municipal Middle School** operates in **Ambur**, located in the **Tirupattur district**. For the **2026–2027 academic year**, the student admission process at the school has been innovatively advanced through digital means.
- With the dual objectives of **boosting student enrollment in government schools** and providing parents with a simple, rapid method to admit their children, the school teachers have collectively introduced a **QR code-based online admission system**.
- Awareness banners featuring the QR code have been strategically placed within the school campus, at major street intersections, and in public areas where large crowds typically gather.
- Informative leaflets have also been distributed. Parents can scan the QR code using their mobile phones to digitally register details—including the student's name, class, and parental information—thereby completing the admission process instantly.
- Consequently, there is no longer a need for parents to make multiple physical visits to the school campus. This initiative has proven to be particularly beneficial for working parents and those engaged in daily-wage labor.

Climate-Resilient Cooling Initiative

- On World Environment Day 2026, the Government of Tamil Nadu launched a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Cool Roof Coating application a first-of-its-kind state-level technical framework for establishing a structured framework for large-scale, quality-assured deployment of cool roof technology.
- The SOP promotes a passive cooling solution to reduce heat stress and improve indoor thermal comfort without relying on mechanical cooling systems.
- Developed jointly by the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Tamil Nadu Statewide Synchronised Bird Survey 2025–26

- **Context:** Hon'ble Minister of Forests and Hon'ble Minister of Environment released the survey reports on **5th June, 2026** on the occasion of **World Environment Day**, highlighting long-term monitoring of **avian diversity** of the state towards achieving our conservation goals through scientific management of critical habitats.

Overview

- The **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** has been conducting annual statewide synchronised bird surveys since 2023 to assess avifaunal diversity and support conservation planning.
- The latest wetland and terrestrial bird surveys were **held in December 2025 and February 2026** with participation from officials, experts, volunteers, and bird watchers.

Wetland Bird Survey (27–28 Dec 2025)

- Documented **35 IUCN Red List threatened species**
- Key species: **Flamingos, Cormorants, Egrets, Northern Pintail, Garganey, Little Stint**

Terrestrial Bird Survey (14–15 Feb 2026)

- Identified 36 IUCN Red Listed species
- Key species: Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon, Malabar Imperial Pigeon, Sri Lankan Frogmouth, Painted Bush-Quail

Ecological Significance

- The surveys highlight Tamil Nadu's rich avifaunal diversity supported by wetlands, forests, coastal ecosystems, estuaries, mangroves, and irrigation tanks, making the state a crucial habitat along migratory flyways.

Tamil Nadu's "Anywhere Registration" Facility

- Context: The Tamil Nadu Registration Department has introduced the "Anywhere Registration" system for property registration.
- It enables citizens to register eligible property documents completely online without visiting a Sub-Registrar Office.
- The system aims to reduce procedural delays, paperwork, and opportunities for corruption.

Previous System (STAR 3.0)

- STAR 3.0 is the new digital registration platform being developed by the Tamil Nadu Registration Department.
- It will replace the existing STAR 2.0 software used in Sub-Registrar Offices and TNREGINET services.
- It is a complete system modernization aimed at making registrations faster, more transparent, secure, and digitally managed.
- Under STAR 3.0, users could:
 - Prepare documents online.
 - Pay registration fees online.
 - Book appointments.
 - Obtain encumbrance certificates.
- However, buyers and sellers still had to visit the Sub-Registrar Office for identity verification and final registration.

Features of Anywhere Registration

- Eliminates the mandatory physical visit to the Sub-Registrar Office for eligible transactions.
- Allows buyers, sellers, and financial institutions to complete registration remotely.
- Approved documents are digitally signed by the Sub-Registrar.
- Registered documents are delivered electronically through:
 - User login accounts.
 - WhatsApp.
- Replaces the traditional stamped physical copy.

Chief Minister's Integrated Urban Transformation Mission (CMIUTM)

- Context: The Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) Department has formulated the 'Chief Minister's Integrated Urban Transformation Scheme' (CMIUTM) for the period 2026–2031, aimed at upgrading infrastructure in the state's urban local bodies.
- Financial Allocation & Timeline: ₹1.5 lakh crore; 2026–2031 (5 years)
- Objective: To enhance urban infrastructure in cities and town panchayats.

Key Focus Areas

- **Water & Sanitation:** 24-hour drinking water supply; improved sewage disposal and treatment facilities
- **Environment:** Restoration of rivers and water bodies (e.g., Cooum River, Buckingham Canal)
- **Urban Greening:** Additional public spaces and planting of 50 million saplings
- **Safety & Services:** Enhancing healthcare, e-governance, and safety for women and children
- **Roads:** Improvement of roads and urban aesthetics

Funding Sources

- State Government
- Central Government schemes (AMRUT, Swachh Bharat)
- Municipal bonds
- International agencies
- **Lead Department: Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department (MAWS)**

Tamil Nadu's First Raptor Census

- **Context:** Tamil Nadu conducted its **first-ever State-wide Raptor Census** to document birds of prey and create baseline conservation data.
- The census confirmed the presence of **68 raptor species** across the State.

Conducting Agencies

- Conducted by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.
- Supported by the **Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC)** and the **TN Raptors Research Foundation**.

Objectives

- Identify raptor hotspots.
- Map the distribution of raptor species.
- Support long-term monitoring and conservation planning.

Important Species Recorded

- Steppe Eagle
- Tawny Eagle
- Greater Spotted Eagle

High Diversity Regions

- Highest species diversity recorded in: Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Hosur
- Diversity attributed to proximity to the Western Ghats and greater forest cover.

Vulture Habitat Significance

- The Nilgiri-Eastern Ghats interface remains one of the **last viable vulture habitats in Southern India**.

- The landscape is crucial for the conservation of vulture populations in the region.

Wetland-Associated Raptors

- Presence of species such as:
 - **Greater Spotted Eagle**
 - **Eastern Marsh Harrier**
- Indicates the ecological importance of Tamil Nadu's wetlands and lowland habitats.

Central Asian Flyway Connection

- Findings suggest that Tamil Nadu forms part of the **Central Asian Flyway** wintering system.
- The Central Asian Flyway is one of the world's major migratory bird routes.

Conservation Importance

- Tamil Nadu serves as a **critical corridor for intercontinental bird migration**.
- The State provides important wintering, feeding, and resting habitats for migratory raptors arriving through the Central Asian Flyway.

Singappen Special Force

- **Context:** The **Singappen Special Force (SSF)** was launched by **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister** in Chennai.
- It is aimed at **preventing crimes against women through proactive policing**.
- The force has been launched with **280 personnel** operating through **70 patrol units**.
- An amount of **₹354 crore** has been earmarked for the **first phase** of the project.

Advanced Technology and Equipment

- SSF personnel will be equipped with:
 - **Advanced surveillance drones**.
 - **Four-wheeler and two-wheeler patrol vehicles**.
 - **Body-worn cameras** with live-streaming and video-call facilities.

Key Features

- The force focuses on **preventive policing**, aiming to stop crimes before they occur.
- **Drone patrolling for women's safety** is being introduced for the first time in India.

Objective

- To strengthen women's security through **technology-driven surveillance and rapid response mechanisms**.
- To create a safer environment for women across Tamil Nadu.

Heat Action Plan (HAP) 2026 – Tamil Nadu

- **Context:** The Government of Tamil Nadu has introduced the **State Heat Action Plan (2026)** to reduce heat-related illnesses and improve preparedness for heatwaves.

Objective

- To strengthen early warning systems, planning, and response mechanisms for heatwaves
- To ensure better coordination across different sectors during extreme heat conditions

Risk Assessment Method

- Uses the **Steadman Heat Index**, which combines **temperature and humidity**
- Helps measure how hot it actually feels to humans (heat stress level)

Planning Approach

- Conducts detailed heat-risk mapping
- Covers hazard, exposure, and vulnerability analysis
- Assessments are done at **village panchayat and urban ward levels**

Implementation Agencies

- Prepared by the **Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority**
- In collaboration with the **Tamil Nadu Disaster Risk Reduction Agency**

Key Measures

- Heatwave preparedness planning
- Strengthening hospitals and healthcare systems
- Quick response systems for heat-related emergencies

Significance

- Helps reduce deaths and illnesses due to extreme heat
- Improves **local-level preparedness and decision-making**
- Strengthens climate resilience in Tamil Nadu.

Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme – Tamil Nadu

- **Context:** The Chief Minister has announced the expansion of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme to cover students **up to the 8th standard**.

- He has directed **Social Welfare Department** officials to take steps to launch this expanded scheme on **September 17, the birth anniversary of Periyar**.

- The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme was **originally introduced in government primary schools for students in classes 1 through 5** during the previous administration.

- The scheme was inaugurated by the **then Chief Minister on September 15, 2022, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Anna**.

- Subsequently, the scheme was extended to government-aided primary schools; the Chief Minister inaugurated this expansion on **August 25, 2023**. Currently, 17.55 lakh students are benefiting from the scheme.

About the Scheme

- Tamil Nadu became the **first State in India** to introduce a government-funded breakfast programme for schoolchildren.
- It is a **social welfare initiative** aimed at improving the nutrition and health of students in government schools.

- The scheme was formally launched by the Tamil Nadu Government on **15 September 2022**, the birth anniversary of **Perarignar Anna**, at **Madurai**.

Objectives

- To provide nutritious breakfasts to children studying in primary schools.
- To ensure that students do not attend school on an empty stomach.
- To enhance children's health, concentration, self-confidence, and learning outcomes.
- To strengthen and complement the existing school nutrition programmes in the State.
- The scheme was introduced under the leadership of **Sir P. Theagaraya Chetty**, who is regarded as the pioneer of the mid-day meal programme in Corporation school of **Thousand Lights**.
- In **1956**, Chief Minister **K. Kamaraj** extended the free noon meal scheme across Tamil Nadu.
- The programme was inaugurated at **Ettayapuram**, the birthplace of **Subramania Bharati**.
- In **1982**, Chief Minister **M.G. Ramachandran** upgraded it into the **Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme** and extended coverage to Anganwadi children.

Beneficiaries and Implementation

- The scheme covers students of **Classes I to V**.
- Around **1.14 lakh students** benefited from the first phase.
- The programme is implemented through **local bodies** and is intended to be expanded across the State.
- The scheme was subsequently expanded to include children aged **5–9 years** and later students from **Classes VI to X**.
- In **1989**, Chief Minister **M. Karunanidhi** introduced the provision of **boiled eggs** as part of the nutrition programme.
- The scheme, later named the **Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme**, was expanded to urban areas.

Food Menu

- Students are provided with cooked breakfasts weighing **150–500 grams**, accompanied by **sambar and vegetables**.
- A separate menu has been prepared for each working day from **Monday to Friday**.
- During **Jayalithaa's tenure (2011–16)**, variety meals and **masala eggs** were added to the menu.

Need for the Scheme

- Many children leave for school early and often skip breakfast.
- Missing breakfast can lead to tiredness, irritability, and reduced attention in classrooms.
- The scheme aims to ensure that children receive the day's most important meal before beginning their studies.
- The **Mid-Day Meal Scheme** is a flagship school feeding programme of the **Government of India**.
- It aims to improve the nutritional status of children studying in primary and upper primary schools.
- India ratified the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** on **11 December 1992**, committing to ensure adequate nutrition for children.

Evolution of School Meal Programmes in Tamil Nadu

- The world's earliest school meal programme was initiated in **Madras in 1920**.
- The scheme is backed by the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.
- It provides **free cooked lunches on school working days** to students across the country.

Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant

- **Context:** The 320-tonne reactor pressure vessel has been successfully installed in Unit 5 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tirunelveli district.
- The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant operates with Russian collaboration.
- The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has announced the successful installation of the reactor pressure vessel inside the reactor building of Unit 5.
- The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board had granted permission to install key equipment at Unit 5 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant.
- Following this, the installation of major power plant equipment is proceeding in full swing.
- Accordingly, the reactor pressure vessel weighing 320 tonnes has been successfully installed within the reactor building.
- With this, NPCIL has achieved a significant milestone, serving as a testament to India's engineering prowess.
- This achievement marks the commencement of the installation of equipment for the nuclear steam supply system.
- A strong partnership continues between NPCIL and Russia's ASE.
- Once fully operational, the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant will generate 6,000 megawatts of electricity.

New Space Infrastructure in Thoothukudi: CTF and Industrial Park

- **Context:** Tamil Nadu is set to establish a new Common Technology Facility (CTF) for space vehicles in Thoothukudi, marking a significant step in strengthening the state's aerospace ecosystem.
- The agreement for the facility was signed between the State Industries Department and

the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).

Common Technology Facility (CTF)

- Provides advanced testing services such as vibration and shock testing
- Supports thermal-vacuum testing
- Handles electromagnetic interference and compatibility (EMI/EMC) testing
- Offers pressure and flow testing facilities
- Includes support for propulsion systems
- Enables launch vehicle assembly and component integration
- Acts as a key support system for space-related activities
- Allows space companies across India to use high-quality testing infrastructure

Space Industrial Park

- Being developed near the upcoming launch site at Kulasekarapattinam .
- Will function as a manufacturing centre for space-related components.
- Aims to strengthen India's space manufacturing ecosystem
- **Focus areas include:** Launch vehicle parts, Satellite systems, Propulsion systems, Aerospace electronics, Advanced composite materials.

About IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre)

- It is an independent organization functioning under the Department of Space (DoS).
- It was set up after the Space Sector Reforms of 2020 to encourage private sector involvement and boost India's space economy through cooperation between government and private players.

Main Functions:

- **Promotion:** Supports the growth of the private space sector by offering funding opportunities and transferring technology from ISRO.

- **Facilitation:** Helps reduce costs for startups by giving them access to ISRO's facilities, infrastructure, and laboratories.
- **Authorization:** Acts as the main regulatory body responsible for approving private space launches and related ground activities.
- On **26-08-2028**, the state government expand the benefits of TN Breakfast scheme to the students of Government Aided Schools.
- The expansion will benefit **2,23,536 children in 3,995 government aided primary schools** of the state.

Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme

- **Context:** The Tamil Nadu government has announced that the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme will be **extended to students of Classes VI to VIII from 17 September 2026**.
- After deep analysis, Government of Tamil Nadu observes that the attendance in Government Schools of Tamil Nadu is increased by on **average of 30 percent**.
- Every Student studying from **Class 1st to Class 5th** are eligible for free breakfast in their government primary school.

About Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme is the **social welfare scheme** of Tamil Nadu Government for School Students.
- Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme was announced on 07-05-2022.
- And on the birth date of Perarignar Anna i.e. on 15-09-2022, Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme was officially launched at Madurai by Tamil Nadu Government.
- Objective
 - To encourage children to join school for study.
 - To keep children out for suffering malnutrition.
 - To improve the nutritional status of school going children.

- Tamil Nadu Government will provide **Free Breakfast to all students of primary schools** under Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme.
- Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme of Tamil Nadu will be rolled out in phases.
- In first phase **1,54,108 students of 1969 schools** will be covered under Tamil Nadu Breakfast Scheme.
- And In Second Phase, **around 18,00,000/- students of 30,122 Tamil Nadu Government Primary School** will be covered.

Scheme Benefits

- The following benefits will be provided to Students of Primary School under Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme :-
 - Free Breakfast will be Provided to **all Government and Govt Aided Primary School Students**.
 - Breakfast has **13 Types of Food Items** which will be distributed among Students.
 - Free Breakfast will be distributed daily from Monday to Friday on School Working Days.

TNGECL to Create Five Zones to Speed Up Green Projects

- **Context :** Tamil Nadu is restructuring its renewable energy administration, with the state granting approval to the **Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL)** to create **five new Non-Conventional Energy Source (NCES) zones** across the state to speed up the implementation of wind and solar power projects.

Establishment of New Renewable Energy Zones

- Five dedicated renewable energy zones have been created to improve project coordination and execution.

- These zones will function under the supervision of Assistant Executive Engineers.
- Additional monitoring and implementation roles have also been set up at the **Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB)** headquarters in Chennai.

Headquarters and Regional Coverage

- The five zones are headquartered in: **Chennai, Tiruchy, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Madurai.**

Objective of the New System

- To reduce delays in approvals for renewable energy projects.
- To streamline administrative and technical processes.
- To ensure faster project implementation and coordination.

Key Functions of the Zones

- Repowering of old windmills.
- Conducting technical feasibility studies.
- Coordinating power evacuation infrastructure.
- Monitoring renewable energy project progress.

Benefits for Investors

- Introduction of transparent single-window clearance systems.
- Faster approvals and reduced bureaucratic delays.
- Improved ease of doing business in the renewable energy sector.

Major Green Energy Initiatives Covered

- **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**
- **PM-KUSUM 2.0** scheme
- **PM Rooftop Solar Scheme**
- **Model Solar Village projects**
- **Solar installations in government buildings**
- **Upcoming floating solar power projects.**

'Sol Pudhithu' Initiative

- **Context:** The Tamil Development Department has released Tamil equivalents for **22 foreign-language** words that have recently come into common usage.

- The 'Sol Pudhithu' initiative was launched to create and introduce to the **public pure Tamil equivalents for English and other foreign-language words** that are newly entering common usage.

Tamil equivalents for foreign terms

- Vegetarian hotel – காய்கறி உணவகம்
- Non-vegetarian hotel – மீன்கறி உணவகம்,
- Bike ride – உந்துருளிப் பயணம்
- Bike tour - உந்துருளி உலா
- Bike taxi – வாடகை உந்துருளி
- Handband – கைப்பட்டை
- Community villa/flat – சமூகச் சீர்மனை
- Delimitation – மறு வரையறை
- Digital hub – மின்னணு இணைய மையம்
- Prebiotic – நன்னுயிருட்டி
- Review of related literature – முன் ஆய்வுப் பார்வை; Sense of serenity – ஆழ்மன அமைதி
- Unified Payment Interface – தனித்த பணம் வழங்கிடை முகம்
- Peri-urban – புறநகர்
- Stand-up comedy – தனி நபர் நகைச்சுவை
- Black comedy – கருங்கூத்து நகை
- Sketch comedy – சித்திரக் குறுநகை
- Surreal comedy – இயல் மிகை நகை
- Cringe comedy – கடி நகை
- Prebiotic atmosphere – உயிர் முன்வளி மண்டலம்
- Pub – மயக்க மையம்

Thaaimaaman Thanga Mothira Thittam

- **Context:** The Tamil Nadu Government has launched the **Thaaimaaman Thanga Mothira Thittam**, under which a **one-gram gold ring** will be provided to babies born in government hospitals.
- The scheme has an annual allocation of **₹755.83 crore.**

- It is applicable **to parents who are permanent residents of Tamil Nadu.**
- The scheme will be inaugurated **on 15 September, the birth anniversary of C. N. Annadurai.**
- The benefit will be provided retrospectively from 22 June.
- The initiative forms part of the '**Vetri Tamizhagam**' Vision Document.
- The objective is **to honour every child born in government hospitals and recognize the contribution of mothers.**
- The scheme builds on Tamil Nadu's long-standing maternal and child welfare initiatives, including:
 - Financial assistance for pregnant women
 - Free delivery and newborn care services
 - Emergency obstetric care
 - Nutrition programmes
 - Birth planning services
 - PICME (Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation) software for tracking pregnant women and children
- According to the government, these initiatives have contributed significantly to improving maternal and child health indicators in the State.

POLITY

Appointment of 5 New Judges to the Supreme Court

- **Context:** Five individuals, including Senior Advocate **V. Mohana** from Tamil Nadu, have been appointed as judges of the Supreme Court.
- **The Union Ministry of Law** has issued the notification regarding these appointments.

Newly Appointed Judges

- **V. Mohana** – Senior Advocate, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- **Sri Chandrashekhar** – Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- **Sheel Nagu** – Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- **Sanjeev Sachdeva** – Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.
- **Arun Bali** – Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Increase in the Number of Judges

- Following the assumption of office by the new judges, **the total number of sitting judges in the Supreme Court will rise to 37.**
- Previously, the sanctioned strength (permitted number) of **judges in the Supreme Court stood at 34.**
- Through an emergency amendment act recently introduced by the Central Government, the total number of judges – **including the Chief Justice – has been increased to 38.**

Significance of V. Mohana's Appointment

- She holds the distinction of being the **12th female judge** in the history of the Supreme Court.
- Including the currently serving **Justice B.V. Nagarathna**, the number of female judges in the Supreme Court has now risen to two.
- She has achieved the distinction of being the **first woman from Tamil Nadu to be appointed as a Supreme Court judge.**
- She is the second woman to be elevated directly from the Bar (legal practice) to the position of a Supreme Court judge.
- Prior to this, only **Indu Malhotra** had been appointed directly in this manner.

Importance

- This appointment is regarded as a significant step forward in enhancing the representation of women within the Supreme Court.
- This is viewed as a measure to strengthen gender equality and inclusive representation within the judiciary.

CWMA Meeting Scheduled Amid Monsoon Concerns

- **Context:** The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) will convene the meeting comes during the initial phase of the **southwest monsoon** to assess the impact of the weak onset of rains on water availability.

Tamil Nadu Seeks New Tribunal on Mekedatu Project

- The **Mekedatu** issue has gained fresh momentum with Tamil Nadu demanding the constitution of a **new tribunal**.
- The proposed **₹9,000-crore Mekedatu balancing reservoir-cum-drinking water project** is at the centre of the dispute.

About Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)

- In **June 2018**, the Central Government constituted two important institutions under the **Cauvery Water Management Scheme, 2018**—the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** and the **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC)**.
- Established under **Section 6A of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**, the CWMA is a **statutory and quasi-judicial body**.
- It was created to enforce the revised award of the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT)** in accordance with the directions issued by the **Supreme Court in 2018**.

Major Functions of CWMA

- Its chief responsibility is to ensure adherence to and execution of the final allocation of Cauvery waters among the basin states.

- The Authority supervises and controls the discharge of water from major reservoirs in the basin, including the **Krishnarajasagara (KRS)** and **Kabini** reservoirs in Karnataka and the **Mettur Dam** in Tamil Nadu.
- During years of inadequate rainfall, the CWMA decides how the shortfall in water availability should be shared proportionately among the concerned states.
- With support from the **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC)**, it gathers daily information on reservoir storage, water inflows, and water levels.
- The Authority advises states to enhance water-use efficiency through measures such as **micro-irrigation techniques** and suitable modifications in cropping patterns.

Cauvery River

- The **Kaveri River** is one of the most important rivers of southern India and is popularly known as the **“Ganga of the South” (Dakshin Bharat ki Ganga)**.
- The sharing of its waters has given rise to one of India’s oldest and most intricate inter-state river disputes.
- The river originates at **Talakaveri**, situated in the **Brahmagiri Hills of the Western Ghats** in **Kodagu district of Karnataka**.
- Flowing southeastward for nearly **800 km**, the Kaveri traverses Karnataka and Tamil Nadu before draining into the **Bay of Bengal** near **Poompuhar**.
- The river basin extends across parts of **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala**, and the **Union Territory of Puducherry**.

Major Tributaries

- **Left-bank Tributaries:** Harangi, Hemavati, Shimsha, Arkavati
- **Right-bank Tributaries:** Lakshmana Tirtha, Kabini, Suvarnavathi, Bhavani, Noyyal, Amaravati

Important Dams

- **Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam** in Karnataka.
- **Mettur Dam (Stanley Reservoir)** in Tamil Nadu.

HISTORY & CULTURE

13th century inscription discovered in Sivaganga

- **Context:** Archaeologists have identified a 13th century inscription in Sivaganga district that records an incident involving a warrior and a merchant, offering insights into **trade, protection and social support practices in medieval Tamil society**.
- The inscription was found at **Cholapuram near Sivaganga** after local resident Balasundaram informed local archaeologists about an unusual stone located in **Etticheri tank**. A field study was subsequently conducted by K Kaaliraja.

About sivagangai inscription

- The inscription belongs to the **uncommon "Aasiriyam" category**, which is associated with **protection, assistance and support** rather than land grants or temple endowments commonly found in medieval inscriptions.
- The stone stands about **three feet tall and 1.25 feet wide** and is located near a sluice pillar in the inner section of the water tank.
- A tiger with one raised foot is carved at the top of the inscription.
- The text begins with the phrase "**Swasthi Sri**" and concludes with engravings of a **bow and arrow** flanked by two traditional lamps.
- The inscription records that a **person named Eriyan**, who held the title "**Etti**" associated with merchants, granted an Aasiriyam to a warrior identified as Pulikkutti Veeran.
- The word "**Etti**" was a title conferred on merchants and is referenced in the ancient Tamil epic '**Silappatikaram**'.

- An earlier inscription of **Maravarman Sundarapandiyan** found in the village refers to the settlement as **Mudikonda Cholapuram**, while the newly documented inscription identifies it as **Seyangonda Cholapuram**.
- Based on the style of the script, researchers have dated the **inscription to the 13th century**.

Discovery of a Tamil Brahmi-Inscribed Hero Stone

- **Context:** A 2,000-year-old hero stone bearing a **Tamil Brahmi inscription** was discovered in **Appanur**.
- Epigraphists believe the inscription dates to the **1st century BCE**, making it one of the earliest Tamil Brahmi hero stones found in Tamil Nadu.

Location of the Find

- The hero stone was found at the **Ariyanachchi Amman Temple, Ramanathapuram district**.
- It was discovered by **Muniasamy**.

Features of the Inscription

- The inscription is engraved on a **quartz stone in three lines**.
- Despite its age, the script remains **clear and legible**.
- Experts noted that engraving on quartz is difficult and would have required a highly skilled craftsman.

Content of the Inscription

- The inscription reads: "**Appanur eri mandu vizhuntha Atthiyan Kiran kal.**"
- It commemorates **Kiran**, the son of **Atthiyan**, who died while fighting in a conflict related to Appanur.
- The stone was erected in his memory, serving as a **hero stone (Nadukal)**.

Historical Importance

- This is the **first Tamil Brahmi-inscribed hero stone discovered in Ramanathapuram district**.

- The finding provides evidence of an advanced writing tradition in the ancient **Pandya region** around **2,000 years ago**.
- It is considered a landmark discovery for understanding the region's early literacy and commemorative practices.
- The exact purpose and use of the vessel will be determined through further analysis.

Other Findings

- A brick structure has been identified, believed to be an extension of structures uncovered in earlier excavation phases.
- **Copper coins** and several other artefacts have also been recovered.

Comparison with Other Tamil Brahmi Hero Stones

- Another important Tamil Brahmi hero stone was discovered at **Pulimankombai**.
- That inscription is believed to date to the **3rd century BCE**, making it one of the earliest known examples.

Archaeological Significance

- This is the **first known Tamil Brahmi inscription engraved on quartz rock**.
- The inscription demonstrates the technical skill and craftsmanship of ancient stone engravers, who likely used sharp chisels to carve the letters.

Leiden Plates: History and Legacy

- **Context:** The celebrated **Leiden Plates** (Anaimangalam copper plates) are expected to return to India. The plates have renewed interest in the fate of the Chola-era Buddhist monastery and its tax-free lands.

The Leiden Plates and Chudamani Vihara: A Historical Timeline

Foundation and Chola Patronage

- **1005 CE:** Monastery founded by **Chudamani Varman of Kadaram** (Sri Vijaya Kingdom).
- **Construction completion:** Finished by his son, **Maravijayottunggavarman**, to honour his father.

Keezhadi Excavation 2026

- **Context:** A **red-slipped pottery vessel with handles** has been unearthed during the ongoing excavation at Keezhadi in Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu.
- The excavation is being carried out by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology.
- So far, seven excavation quadrants have been laid out at the site.

Major Discovery

- This is the **first time** a clay pot with handles has been discovered by the department at Keezhadi.
- The pottery is a **fine red-slipped ware**, indicating advanced ceramic craftsmanship.

Features of the Pottery

- Approximately 1 foot in height and 1 foot in diameter.
- Features a **narrow neck and no rim**.

- **Initial land grant:** **Rajaraja Chola I** donated **Anaimangalam village** and surrounding lands.

- **Timeline of grant:** Land bestowed during the **21st year of Rajaraja Chola I's reign**.

- **Classification:** Classified as **Pallichchandham**, meaning tax-free land for non-Hindu religious institutions.

- **1035 CE:** **Rajendra Chola I** recorded boundaries on **21 copper plates** after Rajaraja's death.

- **1090 CE:** Sri Vijaya ruler sent envoys to **Kulothunga Chola I** to renew the grant.

- **Renewal charter:** Kulothunga Chola I issued a fresh charter on three additional copper plates.

Academic Discovery and Decipherment

- **European preservation:** The copper plates were moved to Europe and kept at Leiden University, Netherlands.
- **Research publication:** Findings documented in Menon's paper, Copper Plates to Silver Plates: Cholas, Dutch and Buddhism.

Evolution of Names and Land Control

- **Cross-era tracing:** Menon tracked land records across Chola, Nayak, Maratha, and Dutch documents.
- **Name change:** The original name "Anaimangalam" was later replaced by "Sangamangalam" in records.
- **Buddhist link:** Research suggests the new name stemmed from its association with the Buddhist Sangha.
- **Monastery decline:** Buddhism disappeared from the Coromandel Coast by the 19th century.
- **Land repurposing:** Lands were eventually granted to the Portuguese with similar tax-free rights.

The Architecture and Demolition of the Vihara

- **Maritime landmark:** Structure ruins were locally called b, serving as a guide for ships.
- **Design description:** Noted as a four-sided, three-storeyed brick tower featuring an open top.
- **Construction method:** Built using tightly fitted bricks without cement, featuring corniced mouldings.
- **Access points:** Designed with a central door or window opening on each side.

Ancient Iron Smelting Furnace Discovered at Keeladi

- **Context:** An iron smelting furnace, showcasing the skills of ancient Tamils, was discovered

during the ongoing 11th phase of excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district.

11th Phase Excavation Activities

- The 11th phase of excavation at Keeladi has been underway since **March 18**.
- Currently, excavation is being conducted across an **area of approximately one and a half acres**, with **nine trenches dug**.

Findings from Previous Excavations

- Numerous iron artifacts and structures indicating the presence of an industrial site were discovered during earlier excavations.

Discovery of the Iron Smelting Furnace

- An ancient iron smelting furnace was discovered during the ongoing 11th phase of excavation at Keeladi.
- This furnace was used to **smelt iron ore**. Archaeologists believe that during the Sangam era, this furnace may have been used to manufacture iron implements such as knives, sickles, and agricultural tools.
- The discovery of this furnace confirms that the Keeladi region was not merely a residential area but likely served as a significant industrial hub.

Iron Production and Metalworking Industry

- Comparing this furnace with iron artifacts found in previous excavations reveals that iron production and metalworking were carried out in a highly advanced manner at Keeladi.

Discovery of a New Prehistoric Site

- **Context:** A student from the **University of Madras** has discovered a **new prehistoric archaeological site** at **Ayilam village** in **Ranipet district, Tamil Nadu**, about **127 km from Chennai**.
- The site contains a **rock shelter, rock art, stone tools, pottery fragments, and megalithic**

burial structures, making it an important archaeological discovery.

Key Findings

- The **rock shelter** is located on an elevated hillock in the **Eastern Ghats** and is considered an ideal habitation site for prehistoric humans.
- A variety of **quartz-based stone tools** were discovered, including: Discoidal cores, Multiplatform cores, Scrapers, Burins, Notched tools, Debitage (stone flakes).
- The abundance of **scrapers** suggests the site may belong to the **Middle Palaeolithic period**, though further studies are needed for confirmation.

Pottery Discoveries

- Several types of pottery fragments were found, indicating continued human occupation:
 - Red ware
 - Red slipped ware
 - Rusticated ware
 - Black-and-red ware

Megalithic Burial Structures

- Researchers identified **four small megalithic burial structures**, likely **dolmens**.
- Of these:
 - Two are located at the foothills.
 - Two are situated on the hilltop.
- The burials consist of **orthostats (upright stone slabs)** and **capstones**, forming small stone chambers.

Rock Art

- The rock shelter contains **faded rock art** created using **white ochre**.
- The artwork features an **abstract motif**.
- Researchers believe it may date to the **Iron Age or Early Historic Period**, based on associated pottery and similar findings in nearby regions.

- Parts of the artwork are obscured by **calcium deposits**, highlighting the need for conservation.

Significance

- This is the **first recorded site in the region** where **rock art and quartz-based lithic tools** have been found together.
- The discovery provides valuable evidence for understanding:
 - Prehistoric human habitation
 - Stone Age technology
 - Cultural continuity from the **Middle Palaeolithic to the Iron Age/Early Historic period**
 - The evolution of early human societies in **South India**.

Megalithic Burial Urns Discovered

- **Context:** Villagers discovered **megalithic burial urns (Muthumakkal Thazhis)** near **Mudukulathur in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu**, during construction work near a temple.
- The discovery has attracted archaeological interest due to the **small size of the urns**, which may provide insights into ancient burial customs.

Key Findings

- The burial urns are approximately **3 feet in height**, considered too small to accommodate a complete human body.
- Archaeologists suggest two possible explanations:
 - Secondary burial practice: After natural decomposition or scavenging, only the bones were collected and placed inside the urn along with offerings.
 - Infant burials: The urns may have been used to bury children.

Associated Artefacts

- Clay objects recovered include: Goblets, Plate, Bowl, Kumbha (pot), Small pots.
- Pottery fragments found include: Black-and-red ware, Red ware.
- Some pottery bears symbols such as: Multiplication mark, Inverted trident, Ladder-like sign.

Evidence of Settlement

- Archaeologists believe the burial site extends across **more than 10 acres**.
- A nearby location, **Raja Kovil Thidal at Vikramapandiyapuram**, contains extensive pottery remains spread over **30–50 acres**, indicating an ancient habitation site.
- The presence of pottery of different colours suggests a **nearby settlement associated with the burial ground**.
- These small burial urns, discovered in the plains, predate the large megalithic monuments commonly found in hilly regions.
- This discovery provides valuable evidence regarding the early burial rituals, pottery technology, and cultural practices of prehistoric South India.
- These artifacts are **estimated to be around 5,000 years old**, making them one of the earliest known megalithic-era remains in the region.

Dating the Site

- No **carbon dating** has been conducted yet.
- Literary evidence from **Manimekalai** (about **1,800 years old**) mentions **urn burial** as one of the burial practices in ancient Tamil society.

ECONOMY

Tamil Nadu's Own Tax Revenue 2025–26

- Despite recording an economic growth rate of 10.83% in 2025–26, Tamil Nadu witnessed

a **modest growth of 6.8% in its Own Tax Revenue (SOTR)**.

- The State's Own Tax Revenue increased from Rs.1.80 lakh crore in 2024–25 to approximately Rs.1.92 lakh crore in 2025–26.
- This tax revenue primarily comprises State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) and taxes on sales and trade.
- State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) collections saw a marginal increase from Rs.70,886.77 crore to Rs.72,008.47 crore, representing a growth of 1.6%.
- A similar gap between economic growth and tax revenue growth was observed in 2024–25; while the economy grew by 11.19%, the State's Own Tax Revenue grew by only 7.74%.

White Paper on Fiscal Management of Tamil Nadu (2021–22 to 2025–26)

- **Context:** Finance Minister released the White Paper titled "**Fiscal Management of Tamil Nadu – An Examination of Public Finances 2021–22 to 2025–26.**"

Actual Outstanding Debt

- Tamil Nadu's total outstanding debt is **₹13.18 lakh crore**, including debts of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- The headline figure of **₹10 lakh crore** represents only the State government's direct borrowings.
- PSU borrowings and liabilities guaranteed by the State add another **₹3.18 lakh crore**.

Power Sector – Largest Contributor to PSU Debt

- The power sector accounts for **₹2.47 lakh crore** of PSU debt.

Comparison with Peer States

- Tamil Nadu's fiscal indicators were compared with **Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat**.
- These States have similar:

- Per capita income levels.
- Industrial structures.
- Urban populations.
- Historical fiscal positions.

Rapid Growth in State Debt

- State debt increased from ₹5.13 lakh crore (April 1, 2021) to nearly ₹10 lakh crore (March 31, 2026).
- Debt has almost doubled in five years.

Rising Interest Burden

- Interest payments account for:
 - 23% of total revenue receipts.
 - 35% of State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR).
- Annual interest payments for 2025-26 are estimated at ₹67,050 crore.
- Interest payments exceed annual capital expenditure by nearly one-third.

Structural Revenue Deficit

- Revenue deficit for 2025-26 is projected at ₹78,324 crore.
- It equals 2.2% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- It is the highest ever in absolute terms and exceeds the COVID-19 period level.
- The State is borrowing to finance current expenditure rather than investment.

Demographic Challenges

- Elderly population is projected to reach 18.2% of total population by 2031.
- Tamil Nadu is expected to have the highest proportion of elderly people among major States.
- The report highlights:
 - Declining working-age population.
 - Rising dependency ratio.
 - Shrinking tax base.
 - Increasing social security obligations.

Suggested Corrective Measures

- The report stresses the need for long-term reforms in:
 - Revenue mobilisation
 - Expenditure management
 - Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) reforms
 - Debt management

ENVIRONMENT

Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

- **CONTEXT:** The Supreme Court directed the Government of Tamil Nadu to formulate a time bound plan—and implement it on a priority basis—to remove encroachments located within the protected areas of the Agasthyamalai ecological landscape in Tamil Nadu.
- The Court noted that the Agasthyamalai ecological landscape, which encompasses several districts across both Tamil Nadu and Kerala, spans an area of 3,500.36 square kilometers.

About Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

- The Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve is situated at the southern tip of the Western Ghats and extends across the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- This region is renowned for the 'Neelakurinji' flower, which blooms only once every 12 years.
- Currently, this Biosphere Reserve encompasses parts of the Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts in Tamil Nadu, as well as the Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, and Pathanamthitta districts in Kerala.

Establishment and Recognition

- It was designated as a Biosphere Reserve in 2001.

- In 2016, it was included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Origin of the Name

- The reserve is named after the revered Hindu sage Agasthya Muni.
- Its highest summit, Agasthya Malai, rises to an elevation of 1,868 metres.

Protected Areas within the Reserve

- Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary
- Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary
- Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

Climate and Vegetation

- The region experiences a tropical monsoon climate with abundant rainfall, particularly on the western side.
- It supports diverse ecosystems such as:
 - Tropical wet evergreen forests
 - Moist deciduous forests
 - Montane rainforests
 - Shola forests

Floral Diversity

- The reserve supports more than 2,250 species of plants.
- Around 405 species are endemic to the region.
- It is well known for its rich variety of medicinal plants, including Arogyapacha.

Faunal Diversity

- The reserve provides habitat to several important wildlife species, including: Bengal Tiger, Asian Elephant, Nilgiri Tahr, Grizzled Giant Squirrel
- It is also home to notable bird species such as the Great Indian Hornbill.

Indigenous Communities

- The biosphere reserve is inhabited by the Kanikaran tribe, one of the oldest indigenous tribal communities in the region.

Ammonia Gas Leak in Tamil Nadu

- **Context:** An ammonia gas leak occurred at a shrimp processing factory in Kannagiper village near Periyapalayam, Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu.

About Ammonia

- Ammonia (NH_3) is a colourless gas with a strong, sharp odour, consisting of nitrogen and hydrogen atoms.
- It is the most basic stable compound formed by these elements and serves as a key raw material for producing numerous commercially valuable nitrogen-based chemicals.

Occurrence in Nature

- Ammonia occurs naturally in the human body as well as in the environment.
- It forms an important component of the nitrogen cycle, being generated in soils through the action of bacteria.
- The decomposition of organic matter, including plants and animals, also releases ammonia naturally.

Industrial Production

- On an industrial scale, ammonia is mainly produced through the Haber-Bosch process, which combines nitrogen and hydrogen under controlled conditions.

Physical Properties

- Ammonia gas readily dissolves in water to form aqueous (liquid) ammonia.
- When exposed to the atmosphere, liquid ammonia rapidly evaporates and returns to its gaseous state.

Uses of Ammonia

- The principal application of ammonia is in the manufacture of fertilizers.
- It is a crucial ingredient in producing ammonium nitrate, which supplies nitrogen, an essential nutrient required for plant growth.

- Nearly 90% of global ammonia production is utilized for fertilizer manufacture.
- Other important uses include:
 - As a refrigerant,
 - A stabilizing agent,
 - A neutralizer and purifier, especially in water treatment and food transportation,
 - Production of plastics, explosives, textiles, dyes, and pharmaceutical products.
- Chemical disasters have become a serious concern for governments, industries, and communities.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984)

- India witnessed the world's worst industrial disaster, the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy**, in 1984.
- The accident occurred due to the leakage of **Methyl Isocyanate (MIC)** gas.
- Thousands of people lost their lives, making it one of the most devastating chemical accidents in history.

National Action Plan on Chemical Industrial Disaster Management (NAP-CIDM)

- The **National Action Plan on Chemical Industrial Disaster Management (NAP-CIDM)** has been finalized.
- It serves as the **roadmap for chemical disaster management in India**.
- The plan aims to strengthen preparedness, prevention, mitigation, and response mechanisms for chemical accidents.

About National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the **apex body for disaster management in India**.
- It is headed by the **Prime Minister of India**.
- The establishment of NDMA and institutional mechanisms at the State and District levels is mandated under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.

Health Effects

- Exposure to elevated concentrations of ammonia in the air can irritate the: **Skin, Eyes, Nose and throat, Respiratory tract and lungs**.
- Symptoms may include coughing, breathing difficulty, and chemical burns.

Safety Precautions

- Ammonia should never be mixed with other chemicals, particularly chlorine bleach, as the reaction can generate dangerous toxic gases.
- Proper handling and storage are essential to prevent the release of harmful fumes.

Chemical Disaster Management in India

About Chemical Disasters

- Chemical disasters are major industrial hazards arising from the manufacture, storage, transportation, and use of hazardous chemicals.
- They can cause:
 - Loss of human lives,
 - Injuries and suffering,
 - Damage to property, and
 - Environmental degradation.

NATIONAL - NEWS

Janjatiya Garima Utsav"

- **Context:**As part of the nationwide celebrations of "Janjatiya Garima Utsav", the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will organise a **Special Interactive Meeting of the Hon'ble President of India** with beneficiaries of the Ministry's flagship Central Sector Scholarship Schemes.
- The "Janjatiya Garima Utsav", being celebrated from **10th May to 9th June 2026**, honours the rich heritage, cultural legacy and invaluable contributions of **tribal communities to India**.
- Around 200 tribal students from across the country, who are beneficiaries of the Ministry's scholarship schemes, will participate in the interaction with the Hon'ble President.

Central Sector Scholarship Schemes are

- National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribes (NFST)
- National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education of ST Students
- National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme for ST Students

The National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribes (NFST)- (2005-06)

- The National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribes (NFST) is a **fully funded Central Sector Scheme** that supports meritorious ST students pursuing **Ph.D. programmes in India**.
- Every year, **750 fresh fellowships are awarded**, and currently **around 3,000 students** are benefiting under the scheme.

The National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education- 2008

- The National Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education supports ST students pursuing graduate and postgraduate studies in **265 premier institutions** across fields such as

Engineering, Medicine, Law, Management and Information Technology.

- Around **2,500 fresh scholarships** are awarded annually, while **nearly 7,000 students** are currently benefiting under the scheme.

The National Overseas Scholarship (NOS)- (1954-55)

- The National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme enables meritorious ST students to pursue higher education in **globally ranked universities abroad**. Implemented in coordination with Indian Missions overseas, the scheme provides **20 fresh awards** every year.
- At present, around **70 students** are pursuing studies in leading **international institutions** under the scheme.

National Seed Reserve (NSR)

- **Context:**The Union Agriculture Minister announced the creation of a **National Seed Reserve (NSR)** with a capacity of **1.74 lakh quintals**.

About National Seed Reserve

- It is an initiative under the **National Food Security and Nutritional Mission**, which functions under the **Krishionnati Yojana** (2005).
- **Objective:** To ensure the availability of **quality-certified and foundation seeds for farmers**, particularly during emergencies, natural disasters, or other crisis situations.
- **Implementing Agencies:**
 - National Seeds Corporation (1963).
 - State Seed Corporations
 - State Agriculture Departments/UT Administrations where State Seed Corporations are not available.
- All seeds stored under the NSR will be produced and monitored through the **SATHI Portal**.

- The SATHI Portal helps in **seed traceability, authentication, and inventory management.**

Samadhan Didi

- **Context:** The Central Government has introduced “**Samadhan Didi**”—an **AI-powered conversational technology** designed to assist citizens in submitting grievances against government departments via an online platform.

About Samadhan Didi

- It is an **AI-based grievance redressal conversational technology** that simplifies the process of registering complaints with government officials.
- This conversational technology functions as a voice-enabled, **multilingual grievance registration assistant**, featuring intelligent AI-based problem categorization.
- Citizens can register complaints using voice commands in various languages without needing to identify the specific department or category involved.
- It has been developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in collaboration with **Bhashini**—India’s **AI-based language technology platform.**
- This system operates within a secure government digital infrastructure, ensuring the safety and privacy of user data.
- It is integrated with the **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).**

Key Features

- It assists citizens who are unsure about where or how to submit their complaints.
- It supports users who are unable to draft their grievances in **Hindi or English.**
- It provides step-by-step guidance—in a simple and user-friendly manner—for drafting and submitting complaints.

- It enables users to describe their issues using ordinary, natural conversational language.
- It eliminates the need for users to manually select the relevant **Ministry, Department, Category, or Sub-category.**
- This **AI system analyzes the complaint and requests** additional information if required. Subsequently, it identifies the appropriate official and automatically forwards the complaint to the relevant department.
- Currently, it supports **all 22 of India’s scheduled languages**; plans are in place to extend its support to additional regional and local languages in the future.

India’s New HAD Drone for Weather Research

- Under the ‘**Mission Mausam**’ initiative, India has successfully test-flown a high-altitude drone.
- Designated as HAD, this drone was designed by the **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)** to facilitate precise atmospheric monitoring, environmental pollution assessment, and weather research.
- Launched from the coastal region of **Nellore in Andhra Pradesh** to an altitude of **approximately 4 kilometers**, the drone successfully acquired data regarding the **Air Quality Index**, levels of gaseous pollution, and weather conditions.
- This innovation is considered a major breakthrough, particularly given the inability of conventional drones to collect specific data while operating at such high altitudes.

MAHA Water Mission

- **Context:** The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** and the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** jointly launched the **MAHA Water Mission.**
- Total outlay: **₹200 crore.**

Objective

- To promote **innovation and entrepreneurship** in the water sector.
- To accelerate the development and deployment of advanced water technologies.
- To strengthen India's long-term water security.

Priority Themes

- The mission focuses on **five key areas**:
 - Water resource assessment and sustainable management
 - Drinking water
 - Water quality and ecological health
 - Water-use efficiency and circular economy
 - Climate resilience and adaptation

MAHA Missions

- ANRF has launched Missions for Advancement in High-impact Areas (MAHA) in sectors such as: **Electric Vehicles, Drones, Medical Technologies, 6G Communications, Water.**

Significance

- Encourages **research-driven innovation in water management.**
- Strengthens collaboration between **academia, industry, startups and government.**
- Supports sustainable and **climate-resilient water solutions** for India.

National Payments Corporation of India

- **Context:** National Payments Corporation of India has officially partnered with **ACLEDA Bank** to launch **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** acceptance in **Cambodia.**

About National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- NPCI is a not-for-profit organization established by the Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Banks' Association under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

- It serves as the central body responsible for managing and regulating retail payment and settlement systems across India.

Major Initiatives by NPCI

- Developed the **RuPay card network** and interlinked ATM systems nationwide.
- Introduced the **Unified Payments Interface** for instant digital payments.
- Also operates key systems such as:
 - National Electronic Toll Collection (via FASTag)
 - Immediate Payment Service
 - National Automated Clearing House
 - Aadhaar Payment Bridge System
- Overall, NPCI plays a crucial role in strengthening India's digital payment ecosystem.

About Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was **launched on April 11, 2016** by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) under the **regulatory oversight of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- UPI is an instant digital payment platform that facilitates real-time transfer of funds directly between bank accounts through mobile devices.

- **Regulation:** It is managed and operated by the National Payments Corporation of India.

Key Features:

- Allows immediate fund transfers.
- Available round-the-clock (24×7).
- Supports **payments via QR codes.**
- Enables both **person-to-person (P2P)** and **person-to-merchant (P2M)** transactions.

National Panchayat Awards 2025

- **Context:** The National Panchayat Awards 2025 Conferment Ceremony will be held on **3rd June 2026** in New Delhi.

- A total of **42 outstanding Panchayats** from across India will be honoured **AWARDS & HONOURS**
- The winners of the National Panchayat Awards 2025 (NPA-2025) have been announced by the **Ministry of Panchayat Raj (MoPR)**,

Categories of Awards

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSV):
 - Recognises top-performing Gram Panchayats.
 - Evaluation is based on performance across **9 themes of Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)**.
 - It covers **34 Gram Panchayat Awards**.
- Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDSPSV):
 - Awarded to the best-performing Panchayats overall.
 - Covers District, Block, and Gram Panchayat levels.
 - It covers **8 Gram panchayat Awards**.

Financial Incentives

- Award-winning Panchayats receive monetary rewards ranging from **₹50 lakh to ₹5 crore**, depending on the category and level.

Scheme and Implementation

- The awards are given under the **Incentivization of Panchayats (IoP) Scheme**.
- This scheme is a part of the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan**, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Tamil nadu State Achievement

- **Best District Panchayat: Coimbatore** secured the **3rd rank**, highlighting Tamil Nadu's strong performance in local governance.

First World Yogasana Championship 2026

- **CONTEXT:** Prime Minister inaugurated the **First World Yogasana Championship 2026** in Ahmedabad.

- The event marks a significant milestone in promoting Yogasana as a competitive sport at the global level and is being held shortly before International Yoga Day 2026.
- The championship is the **first global sporting event exclusively dedicated to Yogasana**.
- As **India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, Ahmedabad** represents the country's rich cultural traditions and heritage.
- The championship is being organized in the lead-up to **International Yoga Day**, observed annually on **21 June**.
- The theme for International Yoga Day 2026 is **"Yoga for Healthy Ageing"**.

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

- **CONTEXT:** The West Bengal Legislative Assembly signed a tripartite **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for the implementation of the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**, becoming the **33rd legislature** in the country to join the Centre's flagship initiative aimed at digitising legislative functioning.

About National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

- NeVA project officially approved by the Public Investment Board on January 15, 2020.
- NeVA is a **digital project by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**.
- It aims to make the work of **all State and UT legislatures online and paperless**.
- It is one of the **44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs)** under the **Digital India Programme of the Government of India**.
- It follows the idea of **"One Nation - One Application."**

Main Features:

- Runs on secure **NIC MeghRaj Cloud**.
- Provides **e-Books** for members.
- Allows **e-Attendance and e-Voting**.
- Stores all legislative work in digital form.

- Includes notices, questions, business lists, calendars, and press releases.
- Offers live webcasting of proceedings.
- Can be accessed on mobile phones by members and ministers.

Implementation & Funding:

- Funded by the central government for all states and UTs.
- Nagaland was the first to implement NeVA.
- Himachal Pradesh was the first to go paperless (2014), saving ₹5.08 crores every year.

Viksit Vibrant Village Programme (VVVP)

- **CONTEXT:** The Department of Youth Affairs, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, has started the first phase of the VVVP 2026 through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat).

About the Programme:

- The Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) was initially announced in the **Union Budget 2022-23** and officially launched in **2023 (specifically on April 10, 2023)**.
- It is a **youth-driven programme** focused on **developing border villages**.
- It aims to increase local participation, strengthen national unity, and support sustainable growth in these areas.
- It is carried out with the help of the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.

Objectives of the Project

- Develop a **self-reliant border village**.
- Promote **climate-resilient infrastructure** and livelihoods.
- Strengthen **economic opportunities** for local residents.
- Improve the quality of life in remote frontier areas.

- Enhance **sustainable development in high-altitude regions**.

Key Features:

- Around **500 MY Bharat volunteers** from across India will work with people in border areas of **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh**.
- Volunteers were chosen through an online quiz held across the country.
- The programme has two phases:
 - **First phase:** 250 volunteers will visit 43 villages.
 - **Second phase:** 250 volunteers will cover 50 more villages.
- It is a **7-day residential programme** where volunteers stay in villages
- They interact with **local people, Panchayats, officials, and security forces**
- The goal is to understand village life, culture, development needs, and the importance of border areas.

Special Focus:

- The programme promotes the **"Nation First Challenge."**
- Volunteers spread awareness on:
 - Using Swadeshi products
 - Healthy cooking habits
 - Using public transport and saving fuel
 - Encouraging natural farming
 - Supporting local tourism

India's First Model Border Village

- India has launched its **first Model Border Village Project at Chumur**, a remote settlement in **eastern Ladakh** near the **Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China**.
- The village is situated in the **Changthang region of Ladakh**.
- Under the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP)
 - **Chumur** has been selected under the Vibrant Village Programme.

- It is the **first village in Ladakh** to be developed as a **Model Border Village under the programme**.

Significance

- Marks a major step in **India's border area development strategy**.
- Aims to reduce migration from border villages by improving infrastructure and services.
- Strengthens the presence of vibrant communities in strategically important frontier regions.
- Serves as a model for the development of other border villages across India.

Public Accounts Committee Review of PMKVY

- **Context:** Parliament's **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** reviewed the implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**.
- The committee relied on findings from the audit report of the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**.
- The scheme disproportionately focused on training candidates for low-demand jobs, particularly in the retail sector.

About Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship skill development scheme of the Government of India.
- Launched in **2015**.
- Implemented by the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- Aims to provide industry-relevant skill training to youth.

Objectives

- Promote **skill development and certification** among Indian youth.

- Encourage participation in industry-oriented training programmes.
- Provide employment opportunities to school and college dropouts.
- Support **upskilling and reskilling of youth** across various sectors.
- Certify existing skills through the **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** programme.
- Enhance employability and livelihood opportunities.
- Targeted to train millions of youth for gainful employment.

Key Features

- Focus on industry-relevant skills.
- Offers Skill India certification upon successful completion.
- Includes **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** for previously acquired skills.
- Conducted through accredited training centres across the country.
- **Special focus on:** School dropouts, College dropouts, Unemployed youth

Eligibility Criteria

- **Age Group:** Generally 14–35 years.
- **Nationality:** Must be an Indian citizen.
- **Educational Qualification:** Open to individuals from diverse educational backgrounds, including those without formal education.
- **Employment Status:** Preference given to unemployed and underemployed individuals.
- **Aadhaar Card:** Usually mandatory for enrolment.

First-Ever Export of Botanical-Infused Millet

- **Context:** APEDA facilitated the **first-ever** sea shipment of botanical-infused ready-to-cook millet functional foods from India to New Zealand.

About APEDA

- **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)** supported the exporter through trade promotion initiatives.
- APEDA is a statutory organization set up by the Government of India under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985**.
- It was established in **December 1985** to support and regulate agricultural exports.
- **Administrative Ministry:** APEDA functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Primary Objective:** To promote, develop, and facilitate the export of notified agricultural and processed food products from India.
- The organization is led by a Chairman, who is appointed by the Central Government.
- The legal foundation for this framework was established through an amendment to the **Energy Conservation Act in August 2022**, which gave the government the authority to develop the domestic Indian Carbon Market.
- The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), launched under the **Indian Carbon Market (ICM)**, is a market-based system for trading carbon credits.
- It supports India's move toward a **low-carbon economy** by placing a price on **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.
- Its main objective is to reduce industrial emissions by shifting focus from energy efficiency (PAT Scheme) to lowering GHG emission intensity.
- The scheme is supervised by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the National Steering Committee for the Indian Carbon Market (NSCICM)**, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Significance

- Demonstrates the growing global demand for millet-based value-added products.
- Strengthens India's agri-food export basket.
- Promotes exports of traditional Indian grains in innovative forms.
- Expands opportunities for value-added agricultural exports.

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme: Promoting a Low-Carbon Economy

- **CONTEXT:** On the occasion of **World Environment Day**, India organised a special event titled "**Showcase of India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme and Standardisation in Renewable Energy**" during the **World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade and Environment Week 2026 in Geneva**, according to a Commerce Ministry statement issued.

About The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)

- India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) was officially notified by the government in **June 2023**.

Jan Samarth Portal

- **Context:** 4 years of Jan Samarth Portal Expanding Access and Bringing Credit Schemes Closer to Citizens

About Jan Samarth Portal

- Launched on 6 June 2022, the Jan Samarth Portal is a single-window digital platform that simplifies access to institutional credit across sectors like agriculture, business, housing, renewable energy, and livelihoods.
- It promotes transparency, accessibility, and efficient credit delivery.

Purpose and Vision

- The portal was designed to connect beneficiaries directly with lenders and streamline access to government credit-linked schemes, enhancing financial inclusion through a technology-driven approach.

Key Features

- End-to-end digital lending system
- One platform for multiple schemes
- Available in 8 languages
- Covers 16 credit-linked Central Government schemes

Beneficiaries

- Supports entrepreneurs, farmers, women-led enterprises, and individuals seeking livelihood opportunities across the country.

Major Schemes Covered Under Jan Samarth

- **Credit Guarantee:** Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)
- **e-NWR Financing:** e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi (EKUN)
- **Agri Loans:** Kisan Credit Card (including Fisheries)
- **Renewable Energy:** Rooftop Solar Financing
- **Agri Infrastructure:** Agriculture Infrastructure Fund
- **Business Loans:** PMEGP, PMMY, PM SVANidhi, WMS, NAMASTE, START, CCME
- **Livelihood Loans:** DAY-NRLM.

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve

- Context: The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam has 30 species of raptors and six species of storks, a rapid survey focused on these two categories of birds has revealed.
- The enumerators recorded 217 individual raptors buzzards, eagles, falcons, owls, and vultures across 30 species and 266 individual storks across six species.

About Kaziranga National Park

- Kaziranga National Park is located in the state of Assam, nestled between the Brahmaputra River and the Karbi Anglong (Mikir) Hills.
- It represents the largest intact and ecologically significant floodplain ecosystem in the Brahmaputra Valley.

- UNESCO Status: The park was recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985.

Physical Features

- The landscape comprises dense forests, extensive elephant grasslands, marshy wetlands, reed beds, and numerous shallow water bodies.
- The Diffalu River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, flows through the park, while the Moradifalu River forms part of its southern boundary.

Flora

- Kaziranga is renowned for its vast stretches of tall elephant grass interspersed with wetlands and swampy areas.
- Aquatic vegetation such as water lilies, lotus, and water hyacinths is found in abundance.

Fauna

- The park supports a rich diversity of wildlife, including the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, Royal Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, wild buffalo, Eastern swamp deer, Hoolock gibbon, and capped langur.
- The Gangetic river dolphin is also frequently seen in the park's riverine ecosystem.
- Kaziranga is particularly famous for harboring the world's largest population of the one-horned rhinoceros, along with numerous other mammal species.

Act East Policy

- Context: Following talks between the Indonesian Foreign Minister and the Indian External Affairs Minister in New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs stated that Indonesia serves as a key pillar of India's 'Act East' policy.

About the Act East Policy

- India's Act East Policy (2014) focuses on strengthening economic and strategic ties with Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Objectives

- Boosting trade and investment
- Enhancing cultural and people-to-people ties
- Building strong diplomatic partnerships
- Promoting regional cooperation
- Addressing security issues such as
- Terrorism and maritime security

Key Features

- Focus on ASEAN Nations
- 4C Approach: Culture, Commerce, Connectivity, and Capacity Building
- Promoting economic integration
- Strengthening security ties
- Improving connectivity (e.g., India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway)
- Active participation in groups like ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and the East Asia Summit

e-Jagriti

- **Context:** The Department of Consumer Affairs' e-Jagriti portal won the Silver Award under Category I 'Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation' at the National e-Governance Awards ceremony.
- Since its inception, the portal has facilitated the filing of over 2.29 lakh consumer cases and the resolution of more than 2.07 lakh cases.
- It has achieved an overall resolution rate of 90.75% and enabled consumers—both within India and abroad—to access justice seamlessly.

About e-Jagriti

- e-Jagriti is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven web portal developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, to handle consumer complaints through a unified platform.

Objective

- To deliver speedy, transparent, and paperless consumer justice.
- To assist Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), families, and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

Key Features:

- Unified Portal: E-filing, virtual hearings, and digital documents
- Access for NRIs: File and track cases from anywhere
- AI Support: Chatbot, multilingual assistance, and voice tools
- Faster Case Resolution: Reduces backlogs and delays
- Regular Updates: SMS and email alerts regarding case status
- Secure Payments: Online payments via PayGov and Bharat Kosh

E85 Fuel

- **Context:** The Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas **launched E85 fuel.**

About E85 Fuel

- E85 is a fuel blend consisting of **80–85% ethanol and 15–20% petrol.**
- It is specifically designed for **'Flex-Fuel' vehicles (FFVs).**
- FFVs are vehicles equipped with engines capable of running on ethanol-petrol blends with varying ethanol ratios, **ranging from E20 to E100 (100% ethanol).**

Significance

- Reduces **greenhouse gas** emissions.
- Enhances energy security by reducing crude oil imports.
- Boosts farmers' income by supporting ethanol production from agricultural feedstocks.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- **Context:** The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **'Learning Links Foundation' (LLF) to implement the 'Amazon Future Engineer' (AFE) program** in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across the country.

About Eklavya Model Residential Schools

- This is a flagship scheme launched by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 1998**.
- The objective of the scheme is to **provide quality residential education to tribal students (Classes 6 to 12)** living in remote areas, thereby offering them better educational opportunities and bringing them on par with the mainstream population.
- The scheme was restructured in 2018-19 to expand its geographical reach and improve the quality of facilities.
- EMRS schools are to be established in every block that has a tribal population of more than 50% and a minimum of 20,000 tribal people.
- Administration: An autonomous body named the **'National Education Society for Tribal Students' (NESTS)** has been set up under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** to establish and manage EMRS schools across the country.

All India Radio

- **Context:** Akashvani is celebrating its 90th anniversary today. On **June 8, 1936**, the **'Indian State Broadcasting Service'** was renamed **'All India Radio'**.

About All India Radio

- Officially known as **'Akashvani'** since 1957, All India Radio serves as India's national public radio broadcaster and is a **division of 'Prasar Bharati'**.
- **Launched in 1936**, it is the sister service of **'Doordarshan'**, India's television broadcasting service, which is also owned by Prasar Bharati.
- **All India Radio (AIR) is the country's most popular public service radio broadcaster.**
- It is administered by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India**.
- In terms of population coverage, All India Radio reaches approximately **99.19 percent of the country's population**.

- It produces programs in about **23 languages**.
- The **'Prasar Bharati Act'** (as amended in 1990) governs the content and objectives of All India Radio.

India's Semiconductor Vision 2035

- **Context:** NITI Aayog released a report on India's semiconductor future.
- India plans to build a semiconductor industry valued at **\$120–150 billion by 2035**.
- Target: **35–50% self-reliance** in chips and a **10–13% share** of the global market.
- **Based on the '5P' strategy:** Pioneering nature, Policy and Investment, Production, People, and Partnership.
- Focus areas: **Artificial Intelligence chips, SiC, GaN, advanced packaging, and quantum technology**.

Centralised Control and Monitoring System (CCMS)

- **Context:** The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** is set to implement a **Centralised Control and Monitoring System (CCMS)** for highway street lighting.
- The initiative aims to improve **highway safety, energy efficiency, and maintenance of lighting infrastructure**.

Key Features

- Cloud-based, web-enabled monitoring platform.
- Provides **real-time monitoring and control** of street-lighting systems.
- Supports: Automatic switching of lights.
 - Early fault detection.
 - Energy-saving verification.
 - Performance analytics.

Pilot Projects

- Pilot implementations have been successfully completed in: **Varanasi and Hyderabad**
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of technology-driven lighting management.

Significance

- CCMS will modernize highway lighting management through real-time monitoring, improved maintenance, enhanced road safety, and optimized energy usage across India's national highway network.

Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD)

- **Context:** The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kathmandu University Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence.
- The partnership aims to promote:
 - Language AI technologies.
 - Multilingual Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
 - Inclusive digital ecosystems in India and Nepal.

About DIBD

- DIBD functions under the Digital India Corporation (DIC) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It is India's national initiative for AI-driven multilingual digital inclusion and language technology.

National Hub for Language Technology (NHLT)

- Operates through the National Hub for Language Technology (NHLT).
- Provides scalable AI-powered speech and text services in multiple languages.
- Supports governance, public service delivery, digital platforms, and institutions.

BHASHINI Platform Capabilities

- Powers more than 800 government websites.
- Processes over 15 million AI inferences daily.
- Supports: 36 Indian text languages, 23 Indian voice languages, 35 international languages

Key Functions

- Development of multilingual AI solutions.
- Promotion of open-source innovation.
- Language technology research and development.
- Creation of language datasets.
- Support for startups and innovators.
- Collaboration with academic and research institutions.

Kirthai Stage-II Hydroelectric Project Revived

- **Context:** The Government of India has revived the long-pending Kirthai Stage-II Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River.
- The project is located in Kishtwar District.

Reason for Revival

- The project has been revived following India's decision to place the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025.
- Several hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir have been accelerated after the suspension of the treaty.

Project Details

- **Project Name:** Kirthai Stage-II Hydroelectric Project.
- **Installed Capacity:** 930 MW.
- **River:** Chenab River.
- **Location:** Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.

Historical Background

- The project was first conceived in 1984.
- It remained stalled for decades due to various procedural and treaty-related issues.

Significance

- Enhances hydropower generation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Strengthens energy security and infrastructure development.

- Supports greater utilization of the waters of the Chenab River.
- Expected to contribute to regional economic development and employment generation.

About Chenab River

- The **Chenab River** is one of the major rivers of the **Indus River system** and serves as an important tributary of the Indus.
- The river originates from the meeting of the **Chandra** and **Bhaga** rivers in the **Lahaul-Spiti region of Himachal Pradesh**.
- In its upper course, the river is commonly referred to as the **Chandrabhaga**.

Course of the River

- The Chenab flows through **Himachal Pradesh** and the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- After being joined by the **Jhelum River** near **Trimmu** in Pakistan, it eventually merges with the **Sutlej River**.

Important Tributaries

- **Left-Bank Tributaries** Niru, Tawi, Neeru, Liddrari.
- **Right-Bank Tributaries:** Ans, Bhut Nalla, Bichleri, Kalnai, Marusudar, Miyar Nalla.

Major Hydroelectric and Dam Projects

Important dams and hydropower projects constructed on the Chenab River include:

- **Salal Dam** – Rockfill dam.
- **Dul Hasti Project**.
- **Baglihar Dam**.
- **Aalal Hydroelectric Project** – Concrete dam.

Great Nicobar Island Development Project (GNIDP)

- **Context:** India plans to invest approximately **₹13,000 crore** under the **Great Nicobar Island Development Project (GNIDP)**.

- The project includes the construction of a **dual-use greenfield airport and runway** for both **civilian aviation and Indian Navy operations**.
- The project is expected to be completed within **five years**.
- Funding will be shared by the **Ministry of Defence** and the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.

Four Major Components

- The project comprises four key components:
 - **International Container Trans-shipment Port (ICTP)**
 - **Joint-user Greenfield Airport and Naval Air Station**
 - **Modern Township**
 - **Power Plant**
- These components aim to transform Great Nicobar into a major **maritime, economic, and strategic hub**.

Strategic Importance

- Great Nicobar Island is located just **40 km from the Six Degree Channel**, one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes.
- The Six Degree Channel connects the **Gulf of Aden** and the **Strait of Malacca**.
- The project is intended to:
 - Strengthen India's maritime security.
 - Enhance India's strategic presence in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
 - Improve monitoring of critical **Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs)**.
 - Reduce dependence on foreign trans-shipment ports.
 - Improve logistics and rapid military deployment capabilities.

Greenfield Airport

- The proposed airport has been approved by the Union Cabinet.
- It will be operated by the **Indian Navy**.
- Expected benefits include:

- Enhanced maritime domain awareness.
- Improved logistics support.
- Faster deployment of defence assets.
- Promotion of tourism in the islands.

Environmental and Tribal Safeguards

- The project underwent extensive environmental assessments.
- Institutions involved include:
 - Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
 - Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
 - Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)

FSSAI Advisory

- **Context:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Western Region has directed all food business operators to stop using newspapers for packing or serving food items.

Reason for Newspapers Should Not Be Used Chemical Contamination

- Printing inks contain harmful chemicals such as: Lead, Heavy metals, Chemical pigments.
- These substances can migrate into food and pose long-term health risks.

Hygiene Concerns

- Newspapers are often exposed to: Dust, Dirt, Moisture, Microbial contamination.
- This increases the risk of foodborne illnesses.

Regulatory Provision

- The use of newspapers for food packaging is prohibited under the: **Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018**
- Newspapers and similar non-food-grade materials cannot be used for: Storing food, Wrapping food, Serving food.
- All food business operators must use only **approved food-grade packaging materials**.

About FSSAI

- Constituted as an autonomous statutory body under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Headquarters at New Delhi.**
- Functions under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- Formulates science-based food standards and oversees the regulation of food production, storage, distribution, sale, and import to ensure food safety.
- Grants licences and registrations to Food Business Operators (FBOs) and monitors compliance with food safety norms.
- Consists of a **Chairperson and 22 members**, with **at least one-third of the members being women.**

VB-GRAM G

- **Context:** Union Rural Development Minister announced an interim allocation of ₹95,962 crore for the new rural employment scheme, the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-GRAM G).**

Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act, 2025

- The **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025** is a rural employment and development law **aligned with Viksit Bharat @2047.**
- It guarantees **125 days of unskilled wage employment** and promotes the creation of productive rural assets.

Implementation and Transition

- The Act will come into force across all rural areas **from 1 July 2026.**
- Mahatma Gandhi NREGA will stand repealed from the same date.
- Ongoing MGNREGA works will continue and be migrated under the new Act.

Employment Guarantee

- Guarantees 125 days of wage employment per financial year (increased from 100 days).
- Employment must be provided **within 15 days of application**.
- Failure to provide employment entitles workers to unemployment allowance.
- Employment is generally provided within 5 km of the applicant's village; work beyond 5 km attracts an additional 10% wage.

Eligibility and Registration

- Every rural household with adult members willing to undertake unskilled manual work is eligible.
- Existing MGNREGA job cards with completed e-KYC remain valid until new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are issued.

Wage Payment and Compensation

- Enhanced wage rates will be notified under the Act.
- Wages are paid weekly or within a fortnight after muster roll closure.
- Payments are made **directly to bank or post office accounts through DBT**.
- Delayed payments attract compensation of **0.05% per day of unpaid wages**.

Attendance and Worksite Facilities

- Attendance will be recorded through face authentication-based systems.
- Alternative arrangements will be available during network or technical failures.
- Worksites must provide: **Safe drinking water, Shade and rest facilities, First-aid box, Child-care arrangements**.

Seasonal and Agricultural Provisions

- States may suspend works during **peak agricultural seasons such as sowing and harvesting**.
- New works may be opened during transition if existing works are insufficient.

Administrative Structure**District Level**

- **District Collector** functions as the District Programme Coordinator (DPC).

Block Level

- An officer not below the rank of **Block Development Officer (BDO)** acts as Programme Officer.

Financial Pattern

- **90:10** funding ratio for **North-Eastern and Himalayan States**.
- **60:40** for other **States and UTs with legislature**.
- **100%** Central funding for **UTs without legislature**.
- Material expenditure **cannot exceed 40% at district level**.

Transparency Measures

- Every worksite must display a **"Janata Board"** containing work details and costs.
- Weekly disclosure of muster rolls, payments and sanctions is mandatory.
- Gram Panchayats shall conduct weekly disclosure meetings.

Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP)

- VGPP is a participatory and evidence-based development plan aligned with **Viksit Bharat @2047**.
- All works under the Act must originate from VGPPs approved by the Gram Sabha.
- It promotes convergence-based and saturation-focused rural development.

Permissible Works

- The Act permits works under four thematic areas:
 - Water Security Works
 - Core Rural Infrastructure
 - Livelihood-related Infrastructure
 - Extreme Weather Mitigation Works

Convergence with Other Schemes

- Encourages a “single-plan, multi-funding” approach.
- Allows convergence with Central, State and local schemes.
- PMAY-G housing works are eligible for 90/95 person-days wage support.

Restrictions

- Contractors are prohibited.
- Labour-displacing machinery shall not be used as far as practicable.
- Works are to be executed mainly through manual labour.

Special Provisions during Disasters

- During natural calamities or extraordinary situations, the Central Government may:
 - Expand permissible works.
 - Increase wage employment.
 - Relax documentation requirements.
 - Provide other special measures upon State Government recommendations.

India and the Paris Agreement

- **Context:** India has called for the shrinking pool of climate finance and a widening adaptation finance gap to be tackled head-on at the United Nations climate negotiations-linked talks under way in Bonn, Germany.
- It has urged that a Paris Agreement provision which obliges developed countries to provide funds to developing nations, be given dedicated agenda space to enable substantive progress.

Paris Agreement

- The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international climate pact adopted in 2015 during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It succeeded the Kyoto Protocol and broadened climate action responsibilities to all countries.

- **Aim:** To keep the rise in global temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

India and the Paris Agreement

- India submitted its **Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)** to the UNFCCC in 2015, which later became its first **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** under the Paris Agreement for the period up to 2030.
- Through its updated NDC, India has pledged to encourage sustainable lifestyles through the **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement**, adopt a cleaner and greener development pathway, cut the emissions intensity of GDP by **45% from 2005 levels by 2030**, and ensure that nearly **50% of installed power capacity** comes from non-fossil fuel sources.
- The updated commitments also include creating an additional **carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent**, enhancing climate resilience in vulnerable sectors, mobilising financial resources from domestic and international sources, and promoting technology transfer and climate-related research and development.
- India reaffirmed its dedication to the **UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement**, highlighting that these measures are crucial for achieving its long-term **net-zero emissions target by 2070**.

Achievements

- India attained the milestone of deriving **50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in 2025**, five years ahead of the 2030 target.
- At COP26, India announced its commitment to achieving **net-zero emissions by 2070**.
- The country has shown global leadership through initiatives such as the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, and the **LiFE movement**.

- India has aligned its climate strategy with the vision of **"Viksit Bharat 2047"**, identifying **solar energy and green hydrogen** as major engines of economic growth, employment generation, and sustainable development.

Rejuvenation of the Yamuna

- Context:** Union Home Minister chaired a high-level review meeting regarding **the rejuvenation of the Yamuna and called on Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana** to work through a coordinated action plan instead of adopting "a fragmented approach".

Yamuna River System

- The Yamuna River System is an important part of the **Ganga River System**, one of the three major Himalayan river basins.
- The Yamuna River is a major tributary of the Ganga and flows for about **1,376 km**.
- Originates from the **Yamunotri Glacier** near **Bandarpooch Peak** in the Lower Himalayas.
- Located in **Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand**.
- The river begins as a small glacial stream. It joins the **Ganga River at Prayagraj (Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Yamuna holds great religious significance in Hinduism and forms part of the Char Dham pilgrimage.
- Left-bank Tributaries - Tons River** (Largest tributary), **Hindon River, Giri River, Sabi River**.
- Right-bank Tributaries - Chambal River** (Longest tributary of the Yamuna, **Betwa River, Ken River, Sindh River, Dhasan River**.
- States through Which Yamuna Flows -** Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh
- Economic Importance - Agriculture, Industrial Development, Fisheries, Transport and Trade, Hydropower and Multipurpose Projects, Tourism and Pilgrimage.**

11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog

- Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the **11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog**.
- Theme -"Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047"**
- Inspired by the Prime Minister's vision of **'Team India'**.
- Aims to ensure the well-being and development of every Indian irrespective of: Age, Region, Gender, Socio-economic background.

Participants

The meeting will bring together:

- Chairperson: The Prime Minister of India**
- Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories
- Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of UTs
- Union Ministers (Ex-officio Members and Special Invitees)
- Vice Chairman, Members and CEO of NITI Aayog

Four Pillars of the Inclusive Human Development Framework

- Foundational Human Capital and Future-Ready Skills
 - Strengthening education and skill development.
 - Preparing citizens for emerging opportunities.
- Productive Employment, Entrepreneurship and Decentralised Growth
 - Promoting entrepreneurship.
 - Enhancing skilling initiatives.
 - Creating sustainable employment opportunities across the country.
- Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing
 - Improving healthcare access and nutritional outcomes.

- Enhancing overall quality of life.
- Equity and Dignity for All
 - Ensuring inclusive and equitable growth.
 - Promoting social justice and dignity for every citizen.

Alignment of State and National Visions

- Emphasis on aligning **State Visions** with the **National Vision on Inclusive Human Development**.
- Reinforces a collaborative approach towards **equitable and sustainable growth**.

About NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was established on 1 January 2015 to replace the Planning Commission.
- It serves as the Government of India's premier **policy think tank**, promoting **cooperative federalism** and involving states in the policy-making process.

Major Functions of NITI Aayog

- Policy Formulation
- Cooperative Federalism
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Think Tank Role

Objectives of NITI Aayog

- Shared National Vision
- Strengthening Cooperative Federalism
- Focus on Vulnerable Sections
- **Bottom-Up Planning**
- Long-Term Strategy
- Innovation and Technology
- Knowledge and Resource Centre

RISA – Timeless Tribal

- **Context:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, through the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), launched **RISA – Timeless Tribal**, a premium brand for tribal textiles, embroideries and handicrafts.

- The initiative supports the vision of **Viksit Bharat** by promoting inclusive growth and preserving tribal heritage.

Objectives of RISA

- Create a distinct identity for tribal products.
- Strengthen market linkages for tribal artisans.
- Promote design development and product diversification.
- Enhance the presence of tribal products in premium domestic and international markets.
- Generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for tribal communities.

Role of RISA

- Develop a complete ecosystem for tribal crafts through: Design development, Skill upgradation, Product innovation, Improved packaging, Market promotion.
- Preserve traditional crafts and indigenous knowledge.

Implementing Agency

- The initiative is being implemented through the **National Design Centre (NDC)**, an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Textiles**.

Expected Benefits

- Economic empowerment of tribal communities.
- Greater opportunities for women artisans.
- Preservation of cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge.
- Promotion of sustainable production practices.
- Enhanced national and international visibility of tribal products.

12 Years of MSDE

- **Context:** The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has completed 12 years of promoting **Skills, Scale and Transformation**.
- The initiative contributes to India's vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

- It has developed one of the world's largest and most diverse skilling ecosystems.

Integrated Skilling Ecosystem

- MSDE has created a comprehensive framework encompassing: Vocational education, Industry-led training, Apprenticeships, Entrepreneurship development, Digital public infrastructure, International workforce mobility.

Other Institutions

- National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs).
- Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs).

Indian Institutes of Skills (IIS)

- Three Centres of Excellence have been established at: **Gandhinagar, Mumbai, Kanpur**
- These institutes provide industry-oriented and future-ready training.

India's Performance in WorldSkills Competitions

- India's global ranking improved:
 - 29th position in 2015
 - 13th position in 2024
- IndiaSkills and WorldSkills have become a movement promoting skill excellence among youth.

MSDE's Transformation of India's Skilling Ecosystem

PMKVY 4.0

- Shifted towards demand-based skilling with focus on future and green jobs.
- Integrated with major flagship schemes for a whole-of-government approach.

ITI Reforms

- Expanded ITI enrolment and modernised training infrastructure.
- PM-SETU and STRIVE linked training with industry and regional needs.

Apprenticeships

- Over 49 lakh apprentices engaged since 2016.

- Women's participation increased significantly.

Traditional Skills

- PM Vishwakarma formalised and upgraded traditional occupations.
- More than 23 lakh artisans received training and support.

Digital Platforms

- SIDH enabled integrated skilling and DBT-based governance.
- Bharatskills Portal strengthened digital learning resources.

Entrepreneurship

- Over 12.75 lakh individuals trained in entrepreneurship.
- Credit reforms and Swavalambini promoted enterprise creation.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan

- Expanded skilling among women, tribal and vulnerable groups.
- Ensured wider access to certification and employment opportunities.

Global Mobility

- Skill India International Centres supported overseas employment.
- G2G agreements promoted skill-based international migration.

Sangeet Natak Akademi

- **Context:** The Ministry of Culture has announced the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna), Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar), and the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** for the years 2024 and 2025.

About Sangeet Natak Akademi

- It is India's national academy for music, dance, and drama.
- It was established in 1953 by the Ministry of Education; P.V. Rajamannar was its first Chairman.

- The Akademi was created to preserve and promote **India's rich cultural heritage in the performing arts**.
- Today, it functions as an **autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture** and is fully funded by the government.
- Its **Chairman is appointed by the President of India** for a term of five years.

Objectives

- Coordinating the activities of state and regional academies
- Promoting research and establishing libraries and museums
- Collaborating with similar organizations to enrich Indian culture
- Encouraging the exchange of ideas and artistic techniques
- Supporting the development of theatre in regional languages

Awards

- The Academy confers the prestigious 'Sangeet Natak Akademi Award' upon artists.
- Additionally, it grants 'Fellowships' to eminent personalities and presents the 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar' to young talents.

PCPNDT Act, 1994

- **Context:** Highlighting concerns regarding prevailing gender discrimination in society and the persistent preference for male children, the Supreme Court recently emphasized the need for the strict implementation of the PCPNDT Act.

About the PCPNDT Act

- The 'Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994' was enacted in India to curb sex selection and female foeticide, which were contributing to the decline in the sex ratio.

Objectives

- The objectives of this Act are to completely **prohibit pre-conception and post-conception sex selection, protect the girl child, and ensure that medical technologies** are used solely for legitimate health purposes.

Key Provisions

- Techniques such as **ultrasound** are permitted only for detecting medical abnormalities.
- Determining or disclosing the sex of the fetus is strictly prohibited.
- Advertising sex-determination services is prohibited.
- All diagnostic centers must be registered under this Act.
- Violations can lead to imprisonment (up to 3 years) and fines.

Offenses

- Sex determination and sex selection are **punishable offenses**.
- Medical professionals found guilty of these offenses may face imprisonment, fines, and the suspension or cancellation of their medical licenses.

'Oilseeds Kisan Mitra'

- **Context:** To assist oilseed farmers, ICAR has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based WhatsApp service called 'Oilseeds Kisan Mitra'.
- It provides farmers with accessible, research-based advice in multiple Indian languages at any time to enhance cultivation and productivity.

About 'Oilseeds Kisan Mitra'

- A free AI-based WhatsApp chatbot service has been launched for oilseed farmers.
- Farmers can ask questions at any time and receive immediate, research-backed responses.

Development

- Developed by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR-IIOR), Hyderabad,

under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Key Features

- Operates via WhatsApp by saving a specific contact number.
- Supports multiple Indian languages.
- Provides guidelines on seeds, sowing, irrigation, pest control, and post-harvest practices.
- Covers crops such as groundnut, mustard, sesame, sunflower, soybean, and niger.

Policy Significance

- Helps enhance farm productivity by providing scientific advice directly to farmers.
- Serves as a low-cost and easily accessible agricultural extension tool by leveraging existing mobile platforms.

Link to the National Mission

- Supports the National Mission on Edible Oils and Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds).
- Aims to reduce India's dependence on other countries for edible oil imports.

Broader Significance

- Integrates agriculture, technology, and economic self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat).
- Serves as an excellent example of digital innovation in the field of agricultural extension.

Epichlorohydrin

- Context:** Recently, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) introduced stringent standards for tea bags, banning the use of hazardous chemicals such as epichlorohydrin.

About Epichlorohydrin

- Epichlorohydrin is an epoxide compound in which one of the hydrogen atoms of the methyl group is replaced by chlorine.
- It is a clear, colourless, volatile, and flammable chlorinated cyclic ether with a pungent odour resembling chloroform.

- On heating or decomposition, it releases toxic fumes containing hydrochloric acid and other chlorinated substances.

- It is readily soluble in water.

Uses

- Epichlorohydrin is primarily employed in the production of glycerol and conventional epoxy resins.
- It is also used in manufacturing elastomers, water treatment resins, surfactants, ion-exchange resins, plasticizers, dyes, pharmaceuticals, oil emulsifiers, lubricants, and adhesives.

About the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- The Bureau of Indian Standards is the national standards-setting body of India and was established under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016.
- Its objective is to promote the coordinated development of standardization, marking, and quality certification of goods, along with related activities.
- BIS succeeded the Indian Standards Institution (ISI), which had been established in 1947.
- It serves as India's representative in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).
- The organization functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- BIS is headquartered in New Delhi and operates through a network of regional and branch offices across the country.

NDMA and the "Resilient India 2047" Initiative

- Context:** Recently, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) launched an initiative to enhance disaster preparedness

among Central government ministries in line with the vision of **"Resilient India 2047"**, which supports the broader objective of **Viksit Bharat**.

Objective

- The initiative seeks to formulate comprehensive disaster management plans and hazard-specific response strategies so that disaster risk reduction becomes an integral part of national policies, programmes, and development projects.

Changing Approach to Disaster Management

- NDMA has stressed the need to shift the focus from merely providing relief and responding to disasters towards building resilience. It considers resilience a key component of sustainable development and an essential requirement for achieving a prosperous India.

Planning Framework

- The framework consists of two interrelated components:
- **Hazard-specific plans:** These involve coordinated efforts by multiple ministries to address a particular disaster or hazard, such as floods.
- **Ministry-level plans:** Individual ministries prepare strategies to deal with various hazards relevant to their respective sectors and functions.

Key Facts about the National Disaster

Management Authority (NDMA)

- NDMA was constituted under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, and serves as the apex statutory authority for disaster management in the country.
- The **Prime Minister of India** is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Authority.
- The Authority comprises **nine additional members**, one of whom acts as the **Vice-Chairperson**.

- NDMA is entrusted with the responsibility of framing policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management and coordinating efforts among ministries, States, and various agencies.

HAWK System and E-Court Integration

- **Context:** Recently, the Kerala Forest Department introduced the e-court integration feature to its HAWK platform, **making Kerala the first state in the country to establish a completely digitised wildlife offence management system integrated with the judiciary.**

About HAWK

- HAWK is a **cloud-based information management platform** that maintains interconnected databases relating to wildlife crimes, offenders, and wildlife deaths.
- It provides **ecological intelligence and end-to-end case management** support to forest officials.
- The system was created to identify repeat offenders, consolidate information in a single database, and bridge information gaps across the state, thereby improving the monitoring and prevention of wildlife-related crimes.

Development

- HAWK was jointly developed by the **Kerala Forest Department and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)**. Development work began in 2017, and the system was officially **launched in Kerala in 2019**.
- It was subsequently adopted by **Karnataka in 2022 and later expanded to Tamil Nadu and Odisha in 2025**.

E-Court Integration

- Through an Application Programming Interface (API), the platform is now digitally linked with the judiciary.
- This integration removes the need for paper-based processes and facilitates real-time monitoring of cases, covering every stage

from the Preliminary Offence Report (POR) to witness statements and final court judgments.

Scalability and Flexibility

- Built on an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) model, HAWK is modular and scalable in nature.
- It enables different states to customise the system according to their procedures, local languages, and changing requirements, while preserving a common and centralised database structure.

NBA Reconstituted Agrobiodiversity Expert Committee

- **Context:** The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has reconstituted the Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity under Section 13(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, for a period of one year to provide expert guidance on the conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit-sharing (ABS) of agricultural biodiversity and related matters.

Agrobiodiversity Expert Committee: Role & Impact

- The Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity has been advising the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) since 2005.
- It is updated from time to time to deal with new issues related to agricultural genetic resources. The committee includes experienced scientists and experts from agriculture, research, education, and policy fields.
- The committee helps implement the Biological Diversity Act by giving expert advice on important topics.
- These include **international agreements like the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)**, rules for sharing benefits when seeds or animal materials are exported, and guidelines for research projects involving biological resources.

- Going forward, the committee will guide the NBA on:

- Including **biodiversity in agriculture**
- Promoting **sustainable farming practices**
- Protecting native crops and livestock breeds
- It will also support India's role in **global agreements on agricultural biodiversity**.

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

- A **statutory and autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
- **Establishment** : Set up in 2003 by the Government of India
- Established under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**
- **Headquarters:** Located in **Chennai**
- **Objective** :To implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- **Associated Bodies**
 - State Biodiversity Boards (State level)
 - Biodiversity Management Committees (local/village level)
- **Functions**
 - Regulatory, advisory, and facilitative roles
 - Focus on conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing
 - Implements Biodiversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2004
- **Composition**
 - Chairperson (expert in biodiversity)
 - 10 ex-officio members (from Central Government)
 - 5 non-official expert members
- **Significance**
 - Ensures benefit-sharing with local communities
 - Promotes inclusive and sustainable development

- Supports India's biodiversity targets and global commitments.
- It helps save land, improve waterbody usage, strengthen renewable energy supply, and improve grid stability.

India's Floating Solar Potential (NISE Report)

- **Context:** According to a national assessment by the **National Institute of Solar Energy** under the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**, India's reservoirs can support about **102 GW of floating solar capacity**.

About Floating Solar

- Floating solar refers to solar power plants installed on water bodies like lakes, reservoirs, and ponds instead of land.

National Potential

- Around **1,946 sq. km of water surface** in India is suitable for floating solar projects.
- This translates to an estimated **102.18 GW potential**.

Cost Aspect

- Floating solar plants cost about **25% more** initially than land-based systems due to floating structures, anchoring systems, and waterproofing needs.

Agri-Photovoltaics

- The government is also promoting **agri-photovoltaics**, where solar panels are installed above farmland, combining farming with power generation.

State-wise Potential

- Maharashtra (16.28 GW), Madhya Pradesh (14.89 GW), Karnataka (13.69 GW), Odisha (12.81 GW), Telangana (10.72 GW)

Major Project

- The **Omkareshwar Floating Solar Park** on the **Narmada River** is India's largest **floating solar project (278 MW)**, planned to expand up to 600 MW.

Significance

- Floating solar supports India's goal of **500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030**.

Smart Village initiative

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)** has begun introducing advanced technologies in **Kusunpur, a remote village in Kendrapara district of Odisha**, as part of its Smart Village programme.

- Under this initiative, villagers may soon receive real-time warnings if crocodiles move close to human settlements, improving safety in the region.

About Smart Village initiative

- A Smart Village is a rural development model that uses modern technology and innovation to enhance living standards. It aims to build rural communities that are sustainable, inclusive, and resilient, while improving access to essential services.

- The project in **Kusunpur** has been launched under the guidance of the **Ministry of Science and Technology** and is aligned with the national vision of "**Viksit Bharat @ 2047**".

- It represents a mission mode effort to modernize rural life through science and technology.

Key features of a Smart Village include:

- **Digital Infrastructure:** Strong internet connectivity, digital awareness, and online governance systems to deliver services efficiently.

- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Use of modern farming methods, promotion of value-added agriculture, and encouragement of organic farming practices.

- **Healthcare and Education:** Better access to medical services through telemedicine and improved learning through digital education tools.

- **Physical Infrastructure:** Development of roads, reliable electricity, clean drinking water, and sanitation facilities to improve living conditions.
- **Community Involvement:** Active participation of villagers in planning and decision-making for local development.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Availability of banking services, microfinance options, and digital payment systems to support economic growth.
- It provides a structured ecosystem to support the entire innovation lifecycle—from idea generation to implementation.

Objectives of ATL

- To encourage curiosity, creativity, and imagination in students.
- To develop skills such as design thinking, computational thinking, and adaptive learning.
- To promote hands-on learning through tools like robotics, electronics, and physical computing.

First smart village in india

- Kusunpur village in Kendrapara district is set to become the first Smart Village in Odisha under this initiative, marking a significant step by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research toward technology-driven and sustainable rural transformation.

Eligibility

- Schools offering education from **Grade VI to X are eligible**.
- Both government schools and those managed by local bodies or private trusts/societies can set up ATL facilities.

Significance

- ATLs act as hubs for future-ready skills through practical, self-learning-based activities.
- They help students move beyond textbook learning into real-world innovation.
- These labs bridge the educational gap by providing equal opportunities for students across rural and urban areas.
- They introduce young learners to experimentation, innovation, and problem-solving at the grassroots level.

Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)

- **Context:** India and France on Sunday launched the **India-France ATL Bridge**, a landmark initiative aimed at strengthening bilateral innovation cooperation by connecting young innovators through school-level innovation labs inspired by **India's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) model**.

About Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)

- Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) were established in **2016** as a flagship initiative of the Government of India under the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, which was set up by NITI Aayog.
- These labs are established in schools to **encourage curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving from an early age**.

Atal Innovation Mission

- The Atal Innovation Mission is a flagship programme of the Government of India aimed at building a strong culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

- **Context:** The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), a **premier think tank** under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, Government of India, marked **50 years** of its work in supporting integrated and sustainable urban development at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

About National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

- The **National Institute of Urban Affairs** is a research, training, and information dissemination body focused on urban development and management.
- It is based in New Delhi, India, and was established in 1976 as an autonomous institution under the Societies Registration Act.
- The institute is supported by the **Ministry of Urban Development** along with state governments and other urban development agencies.

Governance Structure

- The institute is guided by a **Governing Council**.
- The Council includes a President appointed by the Government of India.
- It also has two Vice-Presidents, three ex-officio government members, twelve other members, and a Director who serves as the Chief Executive and Member Secretary.

Objective

- To work as an **independent research organisation** that studies and promotes urbanisation.
- To function as a centre for advanced learning on urban issues and provide training and research facilities.
- To assess **social, administrative, financial**, and other aspects of urban development programmes and policies.
- To establish or support regional, state, or local centres to strengthen urban development work.
- To collect, manage, and share information related to urban affairs through documentation centres.

Approval for 100% Ethanol Fuel Usage in India

- **Context:** The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways has signed and granted approval for the use of **100% ethanol fuel in vehicles in India**.
- This move provides legal sanction for the use of 100% ethanol fuel.

Plans by Vehicle Manufacturers

- This opens up new opportunities for vehicles running on 100% ethanol fuel in India.
- Companies such as **Maruti Suzuki, Toyota, Hyundai, and MG** are set to launch vehicles compatible with this fuel within the next month.

Composition of 100% Ethanol Fuel

- Although referred to as **100% ethanol fuel**, it actually contains **93% to 95% ethanol**.
- It also includes petrol and other chemical additives to facilitate easy starting of the vehicle.

Converting E20 Vehicles

- It will be relatively easy to convert existing vehicles designed for **20% ethanol-blended fuel to run on 100% ethanol fuel**.
- Adapting to **100% ethanol** will require modifications to components such as the vehicle's engine and fuel system.
- Nevertheless, 100% ethanol will prove to be an excellent long-term solution to address issues like crude oil shortages and price hikes caused by factors such as conflicts in West Asia.

100% Ethanol Blending in India

- **100% ethanol blending (E100)** refers to the use of pure ethanol as fuel instead of petrol.
- Since ethanol has a lower energy content than petrol, vehicles running on ethanol may experience lower mileage and performance.

- Most vehicles currently in use in India are designed to run on **E20 fuel (a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% petrol)** or blends with lower ethanol content. '**Flex-fuel**' vehicles are required to use fuels with high ethanol content, such as **E85 or E100**; these vehicles are capable of operating efficiently on various blends of ethanol and petrol.
- It seeks to contribute to the goals of:
 - **Viksit Bharat**, and
 - **Swasth Bharat**.
- The initiative aims to position India as a global centre for the development and manufacturing of **high-value biologics and biosimilars**.

Growing Importance of Biologics

- Biologics are expected to account for nearly **40% of prescription drugs by 2031**.
- India seeks to strengthen its capabilities in **next-generation biologics** while maintaining its leadership in affordable **generic medicines**.

Government Initiatives Supporting

Biopharma

- Key initiatives supporting innovation and manufacturing include:
 - **Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP) Scheme**,
 - **National Biopharma Mission**,
 - **Biotech Ignition Grant (BIG)**,
 - **Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)**, and
 - **Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP)**.
- These programmes are implemented through the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**.

Expected Outcomes of Biopharma SHAKTI

- The initiative is expected to:
 - Strengthen research and innovation,
 - Expand clinical research infrastructure,
 - Develop a skilled workforce, and
 - Enhance India's competitiveness in the global biopharmaceutical value chain.

National Institute of Urban Affairs

- **Context:** The **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)**, under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**,

About Flex-Fuel

- Vehicles designed to use high-ethanol blends require specific features, such as:
 - **Fuel systems resistant to ethanol-induced corrosion**
 - Sensors and electronic control units to regulate fuel delivery
 - Engines specifically engineered for efficient ethanol combustion
- **Global and Indian Context:** Countries like Brazil have successfully adopted flex-fuel vehicles on a large scale.
- In India, such vehicles are currently limited in number; however, companies like Toyota have introduced certain models, while Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai are developing new flex-fuel vehicles for the future.

Biopharma SHAKTI Initiative

India's Biopharmaceutical Ambition

- India aims to emerge as a **global leader in the biopharmaceutical sector**.
- The Government is committed to strengthening:
 - Innovation,
 - Manufacturing,
 - Clinical research, and
 - Regulatory capabilities.
- The objective is to establish India as a leading **global biopharmaceutical hub**.

Biopharma SHAKTI Initiative

- The **Biopharma SHAKTI Initiative** aims to launch **100 biologics by 2047**.

celebrated its **50th anniversary** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.

- The celebrations were organized under the theme **"Resilient Urban India @2047"**.

Significance of NIUA

- NIUA is a premier think tank supporting **integrated and sustainable urban development** in India.
- Since its establishment in **1976**, it has acted as a bridge between:
 - Research and policy,
 - National priorities and local realities,
 - Knowledge and implementation.

About the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

- **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** is a premier institution dedicated to **research, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination** in the fields of urban development and urban management.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- The Institute was established in **1976** as an **autonomous organization** under the **Societies Registration Act**.
- NIUA receives support from the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, State Governments, urban and regional development agencies, and various organizations dealing with urban issues.
- Serving as a centre of excellence for urban research and policy, NIUA promotes **innovative and evidence-based solutions** to address the challenges arising from rapid urbanisation and to foster **inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities** in India.

WT-MARUT Portal

- **Context:** Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy launched **WT-MARUT**, India's first dedicated **Wind Turbine Supply Chain Management Portal**.

- The portal aims to strengthen the domestic wind manufacturing ecosystem and support India's clean energy transition.
- The portal was unveiled during the **Global Wind Day Conference** held in Goa.

Development of WT-MARUT

- WT-MARUT has been developed under the aegis of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** with support from the **Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA)**.

Objectives of the WT-MARUT Portal

The portal is designed to:

- Improve visibility across the wind energy supply chain.
- Facilitate compliance with domestic sourcing requirements under the **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM)** framework.
- Support supplier identification and qualification.
- Strengthen collaboration among stakeholders.
- Enhance export preparedness.

Growth in India's Wind Energy Sector

- India added a record **6.1 GW** of wind power capacity during **FY 2025-26**.
- This represents a **46% increase** over the previous year.
- It is the highest annual wind capacity addition recorded so far.

Installed Wind Energy Capacity

- India currently has more than **56.1 GW** of installed wind energy capacity.
- The country is the **fourth-largest wind energy market** in the world.
- Only a small portion of the estimated **1,164 GW** wind energy potential has been utilized.

Export Projections

- India is expected to account for:
 - 10% of global wind turbine exports by 2030.
 - 20% of global wind turbine exports by 2040.

Yoga Park Portal

- Context:** The Ministry of Ayush launched the **Yoga Park Portal** to convert existing parks into community wellness centres.
- The initiative aims to **integrate yoga, meditation, and healthy living into people's daily lives.**

Launched By

- The portal was launched by **Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.**
- It was unveiled during the **25-day countdown event for International Day of Yoga 2026** at **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.**
- The portal was launched alongside the revamped **Yoga Sangam Portal.**

Objective of the Initiative

- To transform parks from mere recreational spaces into **community wellness hubs.**
- To promote: Regular yoga practice, Meditation, Preventive healthcare, Community participation, Healthy lifestyles.

Significance of Yoga Parks

- Yoga Parks are envisioned as permanent community assets.
- They are intended to:
 - Strengthen India's preventive healthcare ecosystem.
 - Ensure easy access to wellness facilities at the neighbourhood level.
 - Encourage long-term healthy habits.

Alignment with International Day of Yoga 2026

- The initiative aligns with the theme of **International Day of Yoga 2026: "Yoga for Healthy Ageing"**

India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management (IIIDEM)

- Context:** India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) is celebrating its **15th Foundation Day**. To commemorate the event IIIDEM organised a **two-day Conference** on Capacity Building and Strategic Roadmap on **16-17 June, 2026** in New Delhi.

About India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management (IIIDEM)

- The India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) is the **training and research wing of the Election Commission of India (ECI).**
- It was set up in **2011** to train election officials and other people involved in elections so that elections in India are free, fair, and smooth.
- IIIDEM also works as an international centre that shares knowledge and builds skills to improve democracy and ensure honest election processes.
- It is one of the few institutes in the world that not only trains Indian election officials but also helps **Election Management Bodies (EMBs)** from other countries.
- The institute has a team of experienced experts who manage its training, teaching, and research work.
- It conducts many training programmes and courses for both Indian and foreign participants. These programmes can be residential (stay at the institute) or non-residential.

- Earlier, IIIDEM functioned from the Election Commission of India's office. Now, it operates from its own full campus located in Dwarka, Delhi.

Air Pollution Reaches Remote Himalayas

- **Context:** A recent study has shown that even pristine Himalayan regions are being affected by air pollution.
- The study focused on **Munsyari**, a high-altitude tourist destination in the Himalayas.
- Researchers warned of potential long-term health risks from continued exposure to pollutants.

About the Study

- Conducted by researchers from the **Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**.
- ARIES is an autonomous institute under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- Measurements were carried out during **2022–2023**.
- The study monitored **Non-Methane Hydrocarbons (NMHCs)**.

About NMHCs

- **Non-Methane Hydrocarbons (NMHCs)** are reactive gases released from: **Fuel combustion, Vehicular emissions, Industrial and other human activities**.
- They play an important role in the formation of: **Ozone (O₃), Secondary aerosols**.
- These secondary pollutants affect air quality, climate, and human health.

Role of Aromatic Hydrocarbons

- Aromatic hydrocarbons such as: **Benzene, Xylene**
- Were found to significantly contribute to the formation of: **Tropospheric ozone, Secondary organic aerosols (SOA)**.
- These pollutants adversely affect: **Climate, Air quality, Human health**.

Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI)

- **Context:** Union Minister launched the **Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India (GHCI)**.
- The portal was launched during the National Workshop on **"Strengthening the National Green Hydrogen Mission: Through State Policies, Hubs & Infrastructure."**
- Developed by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- It will facilitate:
 - Transparent certification.
 - Regulatory compliance under the **Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India**.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- **Launch and Outlay**
 - Launched in **2023**.
 - Total outlay: **₹19,744 crore**.
- **Mission Targets**
 - Establish **5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)** of green hydrogen production capacity.
- Support with **125 GW** of dedicated renewable energy capacity.
- Mobilise investments exceeding **₹8 lakh crore**.
- Create over **6 lakh jobs**.
- Reduce **annual carbon emissions by 50 million tonnes**.

SIGHT Programme

- Incentives awarded for **8,62,000 MTPA** of green hydrogen production capacity.
- About SIGHT
 - **SIGHT (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition)** is a major component of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** aimed at supporting domestic manufacturing and green hydrogen production through financial incentives.

- Significance
 - Strengthens India's clean energy transition.
 - Promotes industrial decarbonisation.
 - Enhances domestic manufacturing capabilities.
 - Reduces dependence on fossil fuels and imports.
 - Supports India's net-zero and climate commitments.
- Registered under **Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.**
- **Objective:** To expand internet access in India and globally.
- **Main role:** Enables exchange of domestic internet traffic among ISPs and other networks.

Functions

- Strengthens India's internet system by managing .IN and .Bharat domains.
- Provides Internet Exchange services.
- Allocates IP addresses (IPv4/IPv6) through IRINN.
- Promotes a secure and inclusive digital ecosystem.
- Operates 79 Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) across India.
- Supports domain names in 22 Indian languages.

IITM-ARIES MoU for BCON Climate Monitoring

- **Context:** The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, have signed a long-term Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a climate observation station in the Himalayan region, a move aimed at strengthening climate change research and long-term atmospheric monitoring under the Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON).

BCON Initiative

- Bharath Climate Observation Network is a national programme launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and implemented by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.

Expected Outcomes of the National Green Hydrogen Mission by 2030

- Achieve a minimum annual green hydrogen production capacity of 5 million metric tonnes (MMT).
- Add around 125 GW of renewable energy capacity to support green hydrogen production.
- Attract investments exceeding ₹8 lakh crore.
- Generate more than six lakh employment opportunities.
- Cut fossil fuel import expenditure by over ₹1 lakh crore.
- Prevent nearly 50 MMT of greenhouse gas emissions every year.

Hydrogen Demand in India

- India currently consumes about 6 million tonnes of hydrogen annually, with the fertiliser sector and oil refineries accounting for the largest share of demand.
- Hydrogen demand is projected to increase significantly to 28 million tonnes by 2050, and the country aims to meet around 80% of this requirement through green hydrogen.

National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)

- **Context:** National Internet Exchange of India marked its 23rd Foundation Day on June 19.

About

- A non-profit organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

- It aims to establish a long-term and high-accuracy climate monitoring system across India.

Purpose of the Programme

- To generate reliable and high-quality climate data.
- To help identify long-term climate patterns and changes.
- To strengthen **climate research and informed policymaking**.

Role in Climate Modelling

- The data collected will be used to validate and enhance Earth System Models.
- It will improve the performance of **Earth System Model**, including IITM's model.
- This will lead to better climate predictions and future projections for India.

Abhigyan App

- **Context:** The **Union Home Minister** inaugurated the **Abhigyan app**, which has been developed by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**.
- The application is integrated with the **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)**, enabling fingerprint records of accused persons, convicted offenders, and prison inmates to be maintained on a single centralized database.
- Fingerprint impressions captured through the app can be compared with the NAFIS repository, with results generated in approximately **35 seconds**.
- The app allows law enforcement personnel to carry out biometric verification of suspicious individuals during routine vehicle inspections or street checks.
- This capability helps authorities quickly identify persons who are wanted or have links to criminal cases.

Initiatives for Women's Safety and Gender Equality in India

- **Context:** The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** organized a three-day 'Training of Trainers' program on '**Nirbhaya Chetna**' in New Delhi under the '**Nirbhaya Fund**' scheme. During the event, the Ministry also launched the '**Nirbhaya Chetna**' training module.

Nirbhaya Chetna

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched a **national-level initiative** called '**Nirbhaya Chetna**'.
- This initiative focuses on **raising awareness among men regarding issues concerning women, particularly women's safety and health**.
- It is recognized as the **largest initiative of its kind in the world**.
- The initiative aims to place women's safety and gender equality at the core of **grassroots-level administration in India**.
- '**Nirbhaya Chetna**' is a key component of the broader '**Nirbhaya Raho**' scheme.
- The initiative is implemented under the '**Nirbhaya Fund**'.
- It will cover all Panchayats across India.
- Training will be provided to over 17.5 lakh elected male representatives of Panchayati Raj institutions.
- **The training will cover the following:**
 - Gender equality
 - Women's rights
 - Women's safety
 - Responsibilities of elected representatives
- The overarching objective is to ensure a safe environment for women in local communities.

Nirbhaya Fund

- The '**Nirbhaya Fund**' was established by the **Government of India in 2013 following the 'Nirbhaya' case**.

- Its primary objective is to support initiatives **aimed at enhancing the safety of women.**
- The fund is administered by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development.**
- An '**Empowered Committee**' chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and comprising representatives from various ministries is responsible for recommending projects to receive financial assistance from this fund.
- Key initiatives supported under this fund include
 - Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF)
 - One Stop Centres (OSCs) – Integrated service centres
 - Expanded use of the Women Helpline (WHL)
 - Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) scheme
- Since its inception, the 'Empowered Committee' has approved projects worth approximately ₹9,800 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund.

Bhavishya Portal

- **Context:** Over the past 12 years, pension rules have been improved to simplify the lives of pensioners, and a centralized pension processing system named 'Bhavishya' has been introduced.

About Bhavishya

- Bhavishya is an online pension processing system launched by the **Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare.**
- It has been made mandatory for all Central Government departments since **January 1, 2017.**

Objective

- To minimize the delays, errors, financial losses, and hardships faced by pensioners during the pension processing stage.

Key Features of Bhavishya

Automated Registration

- Employees nearing retirement are automatically registered through payroll systems.
- Departments can view the number of employees due to retire in the next 15 months.

Self-Registration

- Officials and retirees can register themselves.
- Retirees can fill out pension forms independently, reducing errors.

Timely Processing

- The pension process begins 15 months prior to retirement.
- Automated reminders are sent to ensure deadlines are met.

Transparency

- The entire process is transparent, making it easier to track delays and ensure accountability.

Accurate Calculations

- Benefits are calculated automatically, minimizing manual errors and complaints.

Instant Updates

- Pensioners receive updates via SMS and email at every stage.

e-PPO System

- Digital Pension Payment Orders (e-PPOs) are generated.
- These are transmitted directly to the CPAO and the bank for faster processing.

Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project

- **Context:** The Prime Minister is laying the foundation stone for India's first commercial '**Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project**' at **Lakhanpur in the Jharsuguda district of Odisha.**

About the Project

- This is **India's first large-scale plant to convert coal into ammonium nitrate**. The project is being set up at **Lakhanpur in the Jharsuguda district of Odisha**.
- **Objective:** To produce ammonium nitrate domestically using the country's coal reserves, reduce imports, and support the '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' (Self-Reliant India) initiative.

Highlights

- Formed by BCGCL (a joint venture of BHEL and Coal India Limited).
- Converts coal into chemical grade ammonium nitrate.
- Produces around 2,000 tonnes daily.
- Uses 100% indigenous coal gasification technology.
- Received government funding of ₹1,350 crore under a national scheme.
- Helps promote industrial use of coal and better utilization of land.

Production Process

- Instead of burning high-ash coal, it is heated with steam and oxygen in a specialized unit.
- This process converts the coal into a gas known as 'syngas' (primarily a mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen).
- The gas is purified and adjusted to achieve the precise ratio required for ammonia production.
- The syngas is converted into ammonia (NH_3).
- The ammonia undergoes further processing to produce nitric acid; this is then combined with ammonia to produce ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3).

Ground-level Ozone Pollution

- **Context:** A study based on 21 years (2004–2024) of climate and air quality data reveals that severe heatwaves in India **exacerbate ground-level ozone pollution**.

About Ground-level Ozone Pollution

- Ground-level ozone is formed when **nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react in the presence of sunlight**.
- High temperatures accelerate this reaction. Ozone pollution levels can remain elevated for 3 to 4 days even after the heatwave subsides.

Vulnerable Regions

- Northwest India
- Indo-Gangetic Plain
- Western Himalayan region

Impact

- More than 800 people in India lost their lives due to ozone exposure during the 2024 heatwaves; heart diseases and lung diseases (COPD) were the primary underlying causes.

India Becomes the World's Leading Ship Recycling Nation (2025)

- **Context:** India emerged as the **world's top ship recycling nation in 2025**, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- India's share of global ship recycling increased from **30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025**, the highest in the world.
- Ship recycling volume rose to **2.99 million Gross Tons (GT) in 2025** from **1.86 million GT in 2024**, registering nearly **60% growth**.
- India achieved the **Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030** target of becoming the world's leading ship recycling nation **five years ahead of schedule**.

Significance

- The achievement reflects the impact of maritime sector reforms, ease-of-doing-business measures, and infrastructure development initiatives undertaken by the Government of India.
- It strengthens India's position as a global hub for **responsible, sustainable, and environmentally sound ship recycling**.

Importance for Sustainability

- Ship recycling promotes:
 - Resource recovery and reuse
 - Circular economy principles
 - Environmentally sound disposal of end-of-life vessels
 - Sustainable maritime development
- India's leadership demonstrates a successful blend of **regulatory reforms, environmental compliance, infrastructure development, and industry collaboration.**

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) Granted Navratna Status

- **Context:** The Government of India has conferred Navratna status on Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, one of India's leading oil refining companies.
- CPCL has been upgraded from a Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to a Navratna CPSE.
- With this elevation, CPCL becomes the 28th Navratna CPSE in the country.

About Navratna Status

- The Navratna Scheme was launched by the **Government of India in 1997** to grant selected public sector enterprises greater autonomy in financial and operational decision-making.
- The objective is to **enhance their competitiveness, efficiency, and ability to expand without excessive government intervention.**

Benefits of Navratna Status

A Navratna company is empowered to:

- Invest up to ₹1,000 crore or 15% of its net worth in a single project without seeking prior approval from the government.
- Establish joint ventures and subsidiaries overseas.
- Expand into new business areas and markets with greater flexibility.

- Undertake mergers and acquisitions more efficiently.
- Enter into strategic partnerships and technology collaborations to strengthen innovation and growth.

National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

- **Context:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** to establish an 'NHAI Centre' at NCAER dedicated to the **economics of transport, mobility, and logistics.**

About the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

- NCAER is one of India's oldest and most **well-known independent economic research organizations.**
- **Established in 1956** and **headquartered in New Delhi**, it focuses on applied economic research, data analysis, and policy recommendations. It bridges the gap between academic research and real-world policy formulation.
- NCAER was established during the period when India embarked on its journey of planned economic development following independence.
- The need for an independent organization to conduct reliable economic research led to its creation.
- It was registered in December 1956 under the **Societies Registration Act of 1860.**
- The organization received support from the Government of India, the Ford Foundation, and major Indian business groups such as the Tata Group.
- John Mathai served as its first Chairman.

Objectives and Goals

- To conduct research on economic issues related to India's development.
- To provide accurate data and independent analysis for policy formulation.
- To support the decision-making processes of both the public and private sectors.
- To promote evidence-based policies for economic growth and welfare.

Key Research Areas

- Agriculture and rural development
- Human development
- Industry and trade
- Infrastructure and energy
- Investment and growth
- Household-based studies and data

Key Contributions

- Conducted the 'Market Information Survey of Households' (MISH), one of India's early large-scale household surveys; developed the 'India Human Development Survey' in collaboration with the University of Maryland.
- Provided research-based support to bodies such as the Planning Commission (for India's Five-Year Plans) and NITI Aayog.

Evaluated major government schemes, including:

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- Smart Cities Mission
- Analyzed the impact of foreign investment, tax reforms, and globalization on the Indian economy.

Unique Land Parcel Identification Number / Bhu-Aadhaar

- Context: The 'Unique Land Parcel Identification Number' (ULPIN) also known as 'Bhu-Aadhaar' is a 14-character

alphanumeric code assigned to land parcels in India.

- As of November 2025, under the land records modernization framework, ULPINs have been assigned to over 36 crore land parcels **across 29 states and Union Territories**.

Details about ULPIN

- ULPIN stands for 'Unique Land Parcel Identification Number'.
- It is a 14-character alphanumeric code used for land parcels.
- It links land-related data with maps and spatial information.
- It helps maintain accurate and transparent land records.

Related Scheme

- 'Bhu-Aadhaar' is a component of the 'Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme' (DILRMP).
- The DILRMP scheme was launched in 2016.
- The scheme aims to improve land administration by digitizing records, ensuring clear ownership, reducing disputes, and effectively integrating revenue and registration offices.
- The scheme has been extended until the year 2025-26.
- The budget allocation for this is approximately ₹875 crore.

Legal and Administrative Aspects

- Under the Constitution of India, land is a subject falling under the State List.
- The responsibility for maintaining land records lies with the states.

Modernization activities include

- Cadastral maps
- Title documents
- Digital mutation

Objectives

- Enhancing transparency in land ownership.

- Reducing land-related disputes and fraud.
- Supporting digital governance in land administration.

President Appreciates Project Cheetah Support

- **Context:** President interacted with **Cheetah Mitras and members of the Sahariya tribe at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district.**
- She appreciated their contribution to Project Cheetah and said that the active participation of local communities is playing an important role in the success of the ambitious conservation programme.

Project Cheetah

- Project Cheetah is India's premier wildlife conservation initiative focused on bringing back cheetahs, a species that disappeared from the country in 1952.
- It is a landmark ecological effort, making **India the first nation to attempt the reintroduction of an extinct large carnivore through translocation from another continent.**

History and Background

- The cheetah was officially declared extinct in India in 1952.
- Project Cheetah was launched in 2022.
- The first group of cheetahs was brought from Namibia and released into **Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Another group arrived from South Africa in 2023.**
- The project is being executed by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** with support from Indian and international wildlife specialists.

Objectives of Project Cheetah

- To restore cheetahs to India after an absence of over seven decades.
- To develop a self-sustaining and free-ranging cheetah population in suitable habitats.

- To revive and conserve grassland and savannah ecosystems, which have received relatively little conservation attention.
- To enhance biodiversity by restoring the ecological role of a top predator.
- To generate eco-tourism opportunities and improve livelihoods for local communities through their participation in conservation efforts.
- To reinforce India's position as a global leader in wildlife protection, species recovery, and ecosystem restoration.

Sahariya Tribe

- The Sahariya are recognized as one of India's **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**. They are known by several alternative names, including **Seher, Sair, Savar, Saonar, and Sahra.**

Habitat and Settlements

- The tribe primarily inhabits forested and rural areas of **Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.**
- They usually reside in separate hamlets known as "**Seharana**", consisting of clusters of houses.
- Traditional houses are constructed using stone blocks, with roofs made from locally available stone slabs called **Patore.**

Language and Religion

- The Sahariya have largely lost their original tribal language and now speak the regional dialects prevalent in their areas.
- Their religious practices combine elements of **Hinduism** with the worship of local deities such as **Bhavani, Gond Devta, and Bijasur.**
- They also retain animistic traditions that reflect their long association with forest environments.

Culture and Traditions

- The Sahariya are famous for **Saharia Swang**, a traditional folk dance performed during the **Holi** festival.

- A distinctive feature of the performance is a male dancer dressed in female attire who performs alongside other male dancers.

Livelihood

- The Sahariya mainly depend on forests for their sustenance and income.
- They collect and sell forest products, cultivate small agricultural plots, and often work as agricultural labourers.
- The community is particularly renowned for its expertise in producing **catechu (katha)** from **khair trees**.

V.O.C. Port

- **Context:** The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways commended the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority for transforming into a national model for sustainable maritime development.
- He also highlighted the port's significant achievements in reducing carbon emissions, utilizing renewable energy, driving digital innovation, and developing social infrastructure.
- The Minister drew attention to data from the port's inaugural sustainability report, which indicates that renewable energy now meets approximately 94 percent of the port's energy consumption needs.
- Furthermore, the report highlighted a reduction of about 45 percent in net carbon emissions.

About V.O.C. Port

- Formerly known as Tuticorin Port, it was renamed **V.O.C. Port in 2011 in honor of V.O. Chidambaram Pillai**, who established the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906 to challenge British dominance in maritime trade**.
- It is **an artificial, all-weather, deep-draft port situated** on the Coromandel Coast.

- It plays a pivotal role in India's trade with the Mediterranean region, Europe, and the Americas.

Location and Strategic Importance

- The port is located in the **Gulf of Mannar along the Coromandel Coast**.
- Situated near the **East-West international shipping route, it serves as a key gateway for international trade**.
- This strategic location offers a significant advantage for India's exports to and imports from major global markets.

Port Modernization

- By implementing a pilot project starting in late 2025, the **V.O.C. Port became India's first port to produce and utilize green hydrogen within its own premises**.
- Furthermore, it is the first Indian port to introduce a **'Digital Twin' platform**. This creates a real-time virtual model of port operations to enhance monitoring, predictive maintenance, and overall efficiency.
- In February 2026, it became **the first Indian port to install an advanced anti-drone system utilizing radar and radio-frequency technology** to safeguard critical infrastructure.

Outer Harbour Project

- The ongoing Outer Harbour Project **aims to handle large vessels and mega-carriers**.
- This expansion is expected to transform the V.O.C. Port into a major cargo transshipment hub for South India.

Significance

- The V.O.C Port is **one of India's most important strategic ports**; it contributes significantly to maritime trade, technological innovation, and the growth of South India's cargo handling and export sectors.

Launch of PortGPT Mobile App

- The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the **PortGPT** mobile app.
- With this, the VOC Port becomes the first major port in the country to offer an enterprise-level 'Generative' Artificial Intelligence platform via a dedicated mobile app.

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)

- **Context:** INCOIS has started issuing special 'El Niño' bulletins to inform the maritime community about the potential impacts of the prevailing 'El Niño' conditions.

About INCOIS

- INCOIS was established in 1999 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- It operates under the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).
- Its primary mandate is to provide ocean information and advisory services to the public, industries, government agencies, and researchers through sustained ocean observations and scientific research.
- INCOIS is a permanent member of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
- It has established the **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre**; this centre issues tsunami warnings within 10 minutes and provides services to India and 28 other countries in the Indian Ocean region.
- Its headquarters is located in Hyderabad.

Key Initiatives of INCOIS

Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT)

- SARAT assists the Indian Coast Guard, the Indian Navy, and the Coastal Security Police in locating missing persons, boats, or objects at sea.

SynOPS Visualization Platform

- The SynOPS platform integrates real-time oceanographic and meteorological data to enhance coordination and decision-making capabilities during disasters and extreme weather events.

Significance

- INCOIS plays a pivotal role in ocean monitoring, disaster management, maritime safety, and early warning services, thereby helping to protect lives, property, and marine resources.

Draft Amendments to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- **Context:** The Union Food and Public Distribution Department has released a draft amendment to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

Proposed Amendment

- A new provision in Section 3 of the NFSA, 2013 proposes:
 - Every person in an Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) household will receive 7 kg of foodgrains per month, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household.
 - Foodgrains for AAY beneficiaries will continue to be provided free of cost.
- **Current Provision:** Every AAY household receives 35 kg of foodgrains per month, irrespective of family size.

Reason for the Amendment

- The government states that the existing household-based allocation creates inequities:
 - Smaller households receive higher per-capita foodgrains.
 - Larger households receive lower per-capita foodgrains, sometimes less than priority households.
- **Objective:**
 - Remove intra-category inequities.

- Ensure more rational foodgrain allocation.
- Better align foodgrain entitlements with nutritional requirements.

Salient Features of NFSA

- Public Distribution System (PDS) is now governed by provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA).
- Coverage under PDS is de-linked from the erstwhile 'poverty estimates'.
- The Act provides coverage for nearly **2/3rd of the country's total population, basis Census 2011 population estimates.**
- **75% of Rural and 50% of Urban population** is entitled to receive highly subsidised foodgrains under two categories of beneficiaries - Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households (PHH).
- The Act entitles 35 kg of foodgrains per AAY Household per month, whereas 5 Kg of foodgrain per PHH Person per month.
- Identification of beneficiaries/households under NFSA is done by respective State/UT Government, which is required to frame its own criteria.
- Highly subsidised Central Issue Prices of Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.3 for Coarse-grains, Wheat and Rice respectively, kept unchanged till June 2019.
- No reduction in foodgrains allocation to any State/UT under NFSA. Allocation gaps if any, are covered with Tide-Over allocation

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is a flagship food security programme launched in **December 2000** to provide food support to the poorest and most vulnerable households in India.
- Through the Public Distribution System (PDS), the scheme supplies essential food grains at

highly subsidised rates to improve nutrition and reduce hunger in both rural and urban areas.

- Implemented by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- Aims to **ensure food security for the poorest sections of society** and move towards a hunger-free India.
- Initially covered 1 crore households, with coverage later expanding to around 2.5 crore families.
- Beneficiaries receive food grains through the **Public Distribution System (PDS).**
- The Central Government, through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), is responsible for procurement, storage and allocation of food grains, while State Governments identify beneficiaries and distribute food grains.
- The scheme is currently integrated with the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).**

Operation Amistad

- **Context:** Two major earthquakes struck the **San Felipe and Yumare areas in Venezuela's Yaracuy province.** They registered 7.2 and 7.5 on the Richter scale, respectively.
- India launched 'Operation Amistad' to provide humanitarian relief. ('Amistad' means 'friendship' in Spanish.)

BHISHM Cube Emergency Mobile Hospitals

About BHISHM

- BHISHM stands for 'Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri' (**India's Health Initiative for Cooperation and Friendship**).
- As part of the relief effort, India provided two BHISHM Cube emergency mobile hospitals to Venezuela.

- Each BHISHM Cube contains 1,000 medical items and essential medicines.
- It can treat up to 200 patients per day.
- It facilitates up to 20 surgeries per day.
- **A temporary hospital can be set up in 12 minutes** using the integrated tent system.
- It is equipped with facilities to instantly generate electricity and medical oxygen.
- It includes a dedicated communication app that supports 180 languages for patient interaction.
- India has previously supplied 'Bhishm Cube' emergency hospitals to the following countries: **Ukraine, Maldives, Jamaica, and Kyrgyzstan.**
- To assist families in accessing qualified and reliable professional caregivers for senior citizens.

Related Platform

- The 'Jeevan' app is a mobile application designed for senior citizens.
- It provides emergency assistance services and information regarding geo-tagged old-age homes.

Support Service

- Senior citizens can seek immediate assistance through the National Helpline for **the Elderly - 14567.**

Shatayu Dashboard

- **Context:** The Shatayu Dashboard has recently expanded its network of elderly caregivers to enhance care and support for senior citizens across India.

About Shatayu

- The 'Shatayu' dashboard dedicated to comprehensive **care assistance and training for the elderly** was launched on **May 22, 2026.**
- The expansion of the acronym Shatayu stands for '**Comprehensive Care Assistance and Training for Your Use (for Senior Citizens).**'
- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

Key Features

- Connects users with verified elderly caregivers and support agencies at the district level.
- Monitors caregiver training programs and certification standards to ensure quality and consistency.
- Consolidates information from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), healthcare skill councils, and other entities involved in elderly care.

Objectives

- To create and maintain a verified database of trained elderly caregivers.

Narcotics Coordination Centre (NCORD)

- **Context:** The Union Home Minister is set to chair the **10th high-level meeting of the Narcotics Coordination Centre (NCORD) in New Delhi.**

Details about NCORD

- NCORD was established by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2016** to enhance coordination between the **Central Government and the States in combating drug trafficking and drug abuse.**
- In 2019, the mechanism was strengthened by introducing a **four-tier coordination structure.**

Objectives

- To ensure effective coordination among States, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and other relevant stakeholders in tackling the drug menace.
- To enhance communication, inter-agency cooperation, and intelligence sharing among law enforcement and drug enforcement agencies.
- To adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach towards drug prevention and law enforcement operations.

Key Initiatives of NCORD

Mission Spandan

- It encourages collaboration with spiritual and religious organizations to create awareness about drug abuse and prevention.

MANAS Helpline

- 'MANAS' is a toll-free helpline (1933) launched to enable citizens to report drug-related information and seek assistance.

Integration of Pharma Jan Samadhan and Pharma Sahi Daam

- **Context:** The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) integrated the 'Pharma Jan Samadhan' portal with the 'Pharma Sahi Daam' portal on June 23, 2026.
- This integrated government platform provides a single interface for checking medicine prices and registering complaints related to drug pricing.

Pharma Sahi Daam and Price Verification

- Pharma Sahi Daam facilitates access to the prices of both scheduled and non-scheduled medicines.
- This tool allows consumers to verify whether a medicine is being sold within government-approved limits and to report overpricing via the app or website.

Pharma Jan Samadhan and Grievance

Redressal

- Pharma Jan Samadhan was launched on April 8, 2015, as a grievance redressal system concerning the pricing and availability of medicines.

Mann Ki Baat

- **Context:** The Prime Minister addresses the nation every month on the last Sunday through the 'Mann Ki Baat' (Voice of the Heart) radio programme.
- Accordingly, the Prime Minister's address during the 135th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat',

broadcast on Sunday (June 28), highlighted the following:

- He spoke about the achievements of the **Pradhan Mantri Accident Insurance Scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Life Insurance Scheme.**

Pradhan Mantri Accident Insurance Scheme

- The Pradhan Mantri Accident Insurance Scheme is a **one-year accident insurance plan**. It provides coverage for death or disability resulting from an accident and can be renewed annually.
- **Individuals aged between 18 and 70** who hold a personal bank account or a post office account are eligible to join this scheme.
- By paying an **annual premium of Rs. 20, a sum of Rs. 2 lakh** is provided in the event of accidental death or disability (Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability).

Achievements

- So far, more than **58 crore people** have joined this scheme.
- Of these, over **28 crore** are women.
- More than **Rs. 3,700 crore** has been disbursed to affected families through this scheme to date.

Pradhan Mantri Life Insurance Scheme

- The Pradhan Mantri Life Insurance Scheme is a **one-year life insurance plan**.
- It is renewable annually. It provides compensation upon death, regardless of the cause.
- **Individuals aged between 18 and 50** who hold a personal bank account or a post office account can register under this scheme.
- Individuals who join the scheme before turning 50 can continue the life insurance coverage up to the **age of 55** by paying the regular premium.
- For those paying an **annual premium of ₹436, a life insurance payout of ₹2 lakh** is provided in the event of death due to any cause.

Achievements

- Similarly, the **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** is a significant scheme.
- If an insured person under this scheme unfortunately passes away, their family receives an insurance payout of **₹2 lakh**.
- **Over 27 crore people** have joined this scheme so far.
- To date, **approximately 11 lakh families** have received insurance payouts **totaling nearly ₹22,000 crore**.

Rural Internal Audit Portal

- **Context:** Ahead of the implementation of the **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)** from **July 1**, Union Rural Development Minister launched a **"Rural Internal Audit Portal"**.

Key Features of the Rural Internal Audit Portal

- End-to-End Digital Audit Management
- Action Taken Reports (ATRs) and Para Settlement
- Centralized Audit Repository
- Multilingual and User-Friendly Interface
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Advanced Analytics

Objectives of the Rural Internal Audit Portal

- Digitize the internal audit process.
- Simplify audit procedures.
- Improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability.
- Create a centralized audit repository.
- Enable risk-based audit planning.
- Detect systemic weaknesses using technology.

Benefits

- Replaces manual, paper-based audit processes.
- Makes audits faster, transparent, and efficient.
- Supports better monitoring and decision-making.

Muzhiyan Kulam

- **Context:** The Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister inaugurated the renovated **Muzhiyan Kulam**, a historic pond that is **over 400 years old**.

About Muzhiyan Kulam

- **Location:** A **two-acre water body** near **Thavalakuppam in Pooranankuppam, Puducherry**.
- **Historical background:** Originates from the **Pallava era**.
- **Significance:**
 - Traditionally used as a key source of drinking water and irrigation for the local community.
 - Contains four natural wells fed by springs.
 - **Restoration basis:** Inspired by the traditional Naangu Mozhi system, an ancient South Indian water management technique focused on rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.
- **Structure:** A **central pond (kulam)** connected through underground channels to **four separate wells (mozhi)**, forming an integrated water system.

PM-Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)

- **Context:** Union Home Minister launched the pilot project of the **PM-Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT)** here and said the integrated digital platform would ensure no beneficiary of the Centre's welfare schemes related to women and children is left out.
- The digital platform would ensure that **pregnant women, mothers and children** receive all eligible government benefits through continuous monitoring and timely intervention.

Key Features

- Integrated digital platform developed for **Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency**.
- Combines data from **ICDS, RCH, Poshan Abhiyaan, and School Health Programmes**.

- Uses the **Birth Registration Number (BRN)** as a **unique ID** to link records.
- Integrates **TeCHO+**, **Poshan Tracker**, and **Child Tracking System (CTS)** databases.
- Tracks the **health, nutrition, and education** of children from pregnancy to 18 years.
- Covers **16 welfare schemes** across health, nutrition, education, and social welfare.

Working mechanism

- Sends alerts if a child misses vaccination.
- Flags school dropouts for follow-up by officials.
- Identifies underweight, stunted, or special-care children for early support.
- Monitors maternal health from pregnancy to the breastfeeding period.

Schemes Covered

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)
- Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)
- PM Poshan
- Mission Vatsalya
- Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)
- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)

Monitoring & Alerts

- Tracks maternal health, child vaccination, malnutrition, school enrolment, dropouts, adolescent girls' health, and education.
- Uses an automated alert system to notify officials at taluka, district, and state levels until action is completed.

GST – 10 Years: Use of AI to Enhance Efficiency

- **Context:** **July 1, 2026**, marks the completion of **10 years** since the introduction of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
- In this regard, the Central Government is taking steps to make **GST administration**

more efficient through **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and data integration.

Introduction of GST

- GST was launched by the then **President Pranab Mukherjee** at midnight on **July 1, 2017**, in the **Central Hall of the old Parliament House**.
- The then Prime Minister noted that this tax system would alleviate the various indirect tax-related complexities faced by traders and small business owners.
- The former Finance Minister played a pivotal role in implementing GST by securing the cooperation of the states.

Changes in Tax Rates

- Initially, there were four tax slabs: **5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%**.
- Subsequently, the structure was simplified into two main rates: **5% and 18%**.
- A decision was made to **levy a 40% tax exclusively on luxury goods**.

GST Growth (2017–2025)

- Average monthly GST collection in **2017–18: ₹89,700 crore**.
- It rose to **₹1.85 lakh crore in 2025–26**.
- Registered taxpayers:
 - 2017: 66.5 lakh
 - 2025: Approximately 1.6 crore

New Measures to Enhance GST Efficiency

- Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for:
 - **Detecting tax evasion.**
 - **Improving risk assessment.**
- Strengthening information sharing by integrating data from GST, Income Tax, and Customs departments.
- Accelerating the tax refund process.
- Expanding technological facilities to enable Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to easily comply with tax regulations.

Significance

- Enhances transparency, speed, and efficiency in tax administration.
- Helps curb tax evasion and fraudulent billing practices.
- Provides businesses with simplified compliance procedures.
- Strengthens digital tax administration while increasing government revenue.

World's First Nuclear Process Heat-Based Hydrogen Production Facility

- **Context:** The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has inaugurated the **world's first hydrogen production facility** that uses **nuclear process heat from a Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR)**.
- The pilot plant is located at the **Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**.
- The initiative marks a significant step in using **nuclear energy for clean hydrogen production**, in addition to electricity generation.

Key Highlights

- It uses **process heat from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)**, India's only operational fast reactor research facility.
- The project expands **India's three-stage nuclear power programme** into the field of **low-carbon hydrogen production**.

Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) Thermochemical Cycle

- The pilot plant produces hydrogen using the **Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical cycle**.
- It is a **thermochemical water-splitting process** that:
 - Uses **high-temperature heat** instead of electricity.
 - Splits water into **hydrogen and oxygen** through a sequence of chemical

reactions involving **copper and chlorine compounds**.

- It is considered an alternative to **electrolysis**, reducing electricity requirements.
- The heat required for this process is supplied by the **40 MWth Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)**.
- This is a **sodium-cooled fast nuclear reactor that achieved criticality on October 18, 1985**.
- The Copper-Chloride (Cu-Cl) hydrogen production cycle was designed and developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai.
- The engineering, development, installation, testing, and commissioning of this project were carried out jointly by BARC and IGCAR.
- According to the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), this facility serves as a technology demonstration tool.
- It demonstrates the feasibility of producing hydrogen using nuclear heat, scaling up from the laboratory level to the pilot-plant level.

Technology Development

- The **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** developed the hydrogen production technology.
- **IGCAR** integrated the system with the **Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR)**.

Significance

- Demonstrates the use of **nuclear energy for producing clean hydrogen**.
- Supports **India's energy security** by diversifying the use of nuclear power.
- Contributes to **decarbonisation** by producing **low-carbon hydrogen**.
- Showcases the potential of nuclear reactors to provide both:
 - Carbon-free electricity.
 - High-temperature process heat for industrial applications.

- It supports the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, which aims to produce 5 **million metric tonnes (MMT)** of green hydrogen **annually by 2030**.
- It introduces a third carbon-free hydrogen production pathway integrating carbon-free heat with **electrolysis and steam methane reforming for large-scale hydrogen production**.
- It highlights the broader benefits of India's Fast Breeder Reactor and three-stage thorium-based nuclear power programme, demonstrating their potential not only for electricity generation but also for clean fuel production and long-term energy security.
- The name represents a secure, stable, and cooperative global technology ecosystem.

Key objectives of the Pax Silica Declaration

- Reducing over-reliance on a single country for critical technologies and raw materials.
- Creating secure, reliable, and resilient supply chains for semiconductors, AI, and other critical technologies.
- Building secure and reliable digital infrastructure through cooperation among partner nations.

Significance

- Helps mitigate economic and geopolitical risks arising from excessive dependence on a single country for essential technologies and critical minerals.
- Strengthens resilience and international cooperation in the technology sector by diversifying supply sources.
- It makes a significant contribution to establishing a secure supply system for the global AI and high-tech sectors.
- Improves farmers' access to scientific, localized, and real-time agricultural information.
- Enhances awareness and accessibility of government schemes.
- Supports better farm decision-making, higher productivity, and improved farm incomes through technology-driven advisory services.

Pax Silica Summit

- **Context:** The **second Pax Silica summit** was held in **Washington**.
- **Thirty-five nations**, including India, joined and signed a **US-led initiative** to create secure and reliable global supply chains for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and critical technologies.

About Pax Silica

- Pax Silica is a multinational technology partnership initiative launched by the **US in December 2025**.
- Its objective:
 - To build secure and robust global supply chains for:
 - Semiconductors,
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI), and
 - Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
- Meaning of the name '**Pax Silica**'
- "**Pax**" - Signifies peace, stability, and cooperation.
- "**Silica**" - Refers to the silicon raw material used in semiconductor manufacturing.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

- **Context:** The **Union Cabinet** has approved an additional investment by the Government of India of **₹30,000 crore** in the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** to be used for its upcoming funds.

About National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

- The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** is a fund manager that invests in infrastructure and related sectors in India. It was established in **2015** and is India's **first Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF)**.
- NIIF is supported by the Government of India and provides a platform where both Indian and foreign investors can invest in infrastructure projects.
- It mainly invests in infrastructure, private equity, and other sectors with the aim of earning good returns while managing risks.
- The fund invests in **greenfield projects** (new projects), **brownfield projects** (existing projects), and stalled projects.
- The **Government of India owns 49% of NIIF**, while the remaining share is held by institutional investors.
- NIIF manages over **US\$4.9 billion** in assets, making it India's largest infrastructure investment fund.

- Although it is backed by the government, NIIF takes investment decisions independently.
- It is managed by experienced investment and infrastructure professionals.
- NIIF's funds are registered as **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- It raises money from Indian and international institutional investors.

Funds Managed by NIIF

- NIIF Master Fund
 - Invests mainly in infrastructure sectors such as: **Roads, Ports, Airports, Power**
 - It is the **largest infrastructure fund** in India.
- NIIF Private Markets Fund
 - Invests in funds managed by other professional fund managers that focus on infrastructure and related sectors.
- NIIF Strategic Opportunities Fund
 - Invests in and develops large businesses and **new (greenfield) projects** that are important for India's long-term growth.

NATIONAL SCHEMES

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0

- **CONTEXT** : A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Centre and Tamil Nadu was signed for the extended implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 in the State.
- The MoU for JJM, which provides functional household tap connections, was signed following the Union Cabinet's approval to extend the scheme till December 2028.
- During the extended phase, Tamil Nadu will receive an initial allocation of ₹2,177 crore from the Union Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Introduction

- Launched on 15 August 2019.
- Aim: Provide **Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)** to every rural household.
- Based on a **community-driven and decentralized approach**.
- **Gram Panchayats** and village water committees manage planning, implementation, and maintenance.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Key Features

- **Tap Connection for All**: Every rural household gets a tap water connection.
- **Service Standard**: Supply of 55 litres per person per day (LPCD).
- **Water Quality Monitoring**: Test kits provided and local women trained for monitoring.
- **Technology-Based Governance**: Use of digital dashboards, geo-tagging, and online monitoring.

- **Inclusive Approach**: Special focus on SC/ST villages, aspirational districts, and water-scarce areas.

Funding Pattern

- **General States**: Centre and State share costs in a **50:50 ratio**.
- **North-Eastern & Himalayan States**: Centre and State share costs in a **90:10 ratio**.
- **Union Territories (UTs)**: Fully funded by the Central Government.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 – Key Points

- Focus on sustainable rural piped drinking water supply through better governance and institutional mechanisms.

Sujalam Bharat Digital Framework

- Introduction of a national digital platform called “Sujalam Bharat”.
- Every village will receive a unique **Sujal Gaon/Service Area ID**.
- Complete drinking water supply system will be digitally mapped from source to tap.

Jal Arpan Initiative

- **Gram Panchayats (GPs)** and **Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs)** will participate in scheme commissioning and handover.
- Ensures transparency, accountability, and community ownership.

Har Ghar Jal Certification

- Gram Panchayats can declare themselves “**Har Ghar Jal**” only after:
 - Completion of works.
 - Functional operation and maintenance mechanisms are established.

Achievements Under JJM

- Rural households with tap water increased from **3.23 crore (17%) in 2019 to 15.80 crore (81.61%)**.

- More than **12.56 crore** new tap water connections provided.

JJM 2.0 Target

- Universal tap water coverage to all **19.36 crore rural households** by **December 2028**.
- Certification of all **Gram Panchayats as Har Ghar Jal villages**.

Vision of Viksit Bharat @2047

- Transition from infrastructure creation to citizen-centric utility-based service delivery.
- Aim to ensure **24×7 rural drinking water** supply.
- Emphasis on sustainable operation, maintenance, and source conservation through inter-departmental convergence.

Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026

- CONTEXT:** The Department of Higher Education has invited applications for the **Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026**.
- The initiative is designed to attract and engage talented Indians from across the world in strengthening India's research, innovation, and technology ecosystem.

Objective

- Connect global Indian talent with India's scientific and technological development.
- Promote advanced research and innovation in areas of national importance.
- Enhance collaboration between international experts and Indian institutions.

Focus Areas

- The scheme covers 13 priority thematic sectors, including:
 - Advanced Computing
 - Semiconductors
 - Cybersecurity
- Other strategic fields related to research, development, innovation, and technology.

Benefits for PMRC Fellows

- Fellowship support for research activities.
- Research grants to undertake innovative projects.
- Access to advanced laboratories and research infrastructure.
- Opportunities to collaborate with leading government institutions and research organizations in India.

Implementation Mechanism

- The scheme aims to integrate global expertise into India's expanding R&D ecosystem.
- Fellows will contribute to cutting-edge research and capacity building in priority sectors.

Jal Sanjay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) Initiative

- Context:** The Union Minister of Jal Shakti announced that, under the '**Jal Sanjay Jan Bhagidari' (JSJB) scheme**, more than **1.5 crore** artificial groundwater recharge and water conservation structures have been created across India.

Details regarding JSJB

- '**Jal Sanjay Jan Bhagidari' (JSJB)** is a nationwide, community-centric water conservation movement launched by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2024**, under the '**Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' (JSA: CTR) initiative**.
- Its objective is to transform water conservation into a '**people's movement**' by encouraging the participation of citizens, local bodies, industries, and government institutions.
- The scheme adopts a '**3C' approach—namely Community, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and Cost-sharing**—thereby fostering an inclusive framework for sustainable water management and enhanced water conservation.

- To foster healthy competition, financial incentives are awarded to top-performing districts:
 - Category 1: ₹2 crore each
 - Category 2: ₹1 crore each
 - Category 3: ₹25 lakh each
- Promotion of **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**.
- Establishment of **Common Facility Centres (CFCs)**.
- GI authentication under the unified “**Senehjori**” brand.

Mission Senehjori

- **Context:** Launched by the Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, in collaboration with the Government of Assam, the Central Silk Board, the Ministry of Textiles, and other central agencies.
- A comprehensive, cluster-based initiative aimed at transforming Assam’s Muga silk sector into a globally competitive luxury textile ecosystem.
- Supports the vision of **Atmanirbhar North East**.
- Preserves Assam’s cultural heritage while generating employment and sustainable rural livelihoods.
- Aims to establish Assam as a globally recognized center for premium silk and luxury textiles.

Launch

- Launched by **Union DoNER Minister** in collaboration with the **Government of Assam, Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles**, and other central agencies.
- A comprehensive cluster-based initiative to develop **Assam’s Muga silk sector** into a globally competitive luxury textile ecosystem.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**
- **Context:** The **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** is set to launch nationwide events in New Delhi to commemorate “**10 Years of PMSMA – A Decade of Care.**”
- As part of this event, a **special commemorative coin worth ₹75 and a postage stamp worth ₹5** will also be released.

Objective

- To strengthen the entire **Muga silk value chain**, from host-plant cultivation and silkworm seed production to weaving, branding, exports, digital traceability, and tourism.
- To improve the income of rearers and weavers while promoting Assam as a global hub for premium silk products.
- This campaign marks the completion of ten successful years of the ‘**Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan**’ (PMSMA) scheme.
- PMSMA, one of the government’s **flagship schemes**, aims to ensure **safe pregnancy and healthy motherhood**.

About Muga Silk

- Assam produces nearly **90% of the world’s Muga silk**.
- Known for its natural golden sheen.
- Recognized as **India’s first GI-tagged silk**.
- **About Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**
- **Launch:** Launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in 2016.

Key Features

- Strengthening host-plant ecology.
- Modernization of reeling infrastructure.
- **Objective:** To provide free, assured, comprehensive, and quality antenatal care to all pregnant women.

- **Commitment:** To provide a minimum package of antenatal care services to women during the second or third trimester of pregnancy.

Key features of PMSMA

- **Service providers:** Obstetricians and gynecologists, radiologists, and medical officers.
- Free antenatal care services, check-ups, and medicines (Iron and Folic Acid (IFA), Calcium) are provided at government health centers on the 9th of every month.
- **Special focus:** Attention is directed towards unregistered women, those who have missed care services, dropouts, and women with high-risk pregnancies.
- **Identification of high-risk pregnancies:** Green sticker – no risk; Red sticker – high risk.
- The PMSMA scheme complements other government programs such as Janani Suraksha Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, and Poshan Abhiyaan.

Gyan Bharatham Scheme

- **Context:** The Union Minister of Culture announced that the 'Gyan Bharatham' National Manuscript Survey Scheme has successfully cataloged over 10 million (1 crore) manuscripts across the country.

About the Gyn Bharatham Scheme

- **Year of Launch:** Union Budget 2025–26
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Culture
- **Objective:** To preserve India's manuscript heritage and convert them into digital format.

Key Objective

- Digitizing over 10 million manuscripts and creating a national digital repository using AI, OCR, and blockchain technologies.

Key Features

- Surveying and documenting manuscripts
- Preserving and restoring ancient texts
- AI-based digitization and digital storage

- Technological innovation (e.g., handwritten text recognition, AI tools)

Significance

- Preserves and promotes India's traditional knowledge (philosophy, science, medicine, arts, etc.) for future generations.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- **Context:** Amid prevailing pressure on supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) globally against the backdrop of the West Asia conflict, the Centre has reduced the number of subsidised refills available under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) from nine to four cylinders a year.
- Under the scheme, the government provides a targeted subsidy of ₹300 a cylinder for up to nine refills in a year.

About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

Launch:

- Launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) in May 2016.
- Inaugurated on 1 May 2016 at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister.

Objective:

- Provide clean cooking fuel (LPG) to rural and deprived households that previously relied on traditional fuels such as firewood, coal, and cow-dung cakes.
- Reduce health hazards faced by women and children and improve environmental outcomes.

Initial Target:

- Release 8 crore LPG connections by March 2020.
- The 8th crore connection was handed over on 7 September 2019 at Aurangabad.

Ujjwala 2.0:

- Additional allocation of 1.6 crore LPG connections with special provisions for migrant households.

- **Target achieved in December 2022**, taking total PMUY connections to 9.6 crore.

Further Expansion:

- Additional allocation of 75 lakh connections for FY 2023–24 to 2025–26.
- **Target achieved in July 2024**, increasing total connections to 10.35 crore.

Latest Approval:

- Government approved 25 lakh additional LPG connections under PMUY.
- Overall target increased to 10.6 crore connections, and releases are currently underway.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

- PMMVY is a flagship maternity benefit scheme launched in **2017** by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**.
- It provides financial assistance to **Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM)**.
- The scheme promotes improved nutrition and positive health-seeking behaviour.

Integration under Mission Shakti

- PMMVY was integrated under **Mission Shakti** from **1 April 2022**.
- The benefit structure was simplified from **three instalments to two**.
- Maternity benefits were extended to the **second child, provided the child is a girl**.

Financial Assistance

- **₹5,000** is provided in two instalments for the **first living child**.
- **₹6,000** is provided for the **second child if the child is a girl**.
- Benefits are linked to: Early pregnancy registration, Antenatal care, Child immunisation.

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

- Financial assistance is transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts through the **DBT mechanism**.

- Ensures transparency and timely disbursement of benefits.

Special Provisions

- Fresh eligibility is provided in cases of **miscarriage or stillbirth**.
- Financial assistance acts as **partial wage compensation**, enabling adequate rest before and after childbirth.

Achievements (as on 30 April 2026)

- **Total beneficiaries covered:** 4.27 crore.
- **Total amount disbursed:** ₹20,150 crore.

Impact

- Improved maternal health and nutritional outcomes.
- Encouraged institutional deliveries.
- Reduced financial burden on pregnant women.
- Facilitated access to nutritious food, antenatal check-ups, and medical care.
- Contributed to safer motherhood and healthier babies.

Promotion of Gender Equity

- Additional incentives for the **girl child** promote gender equality.
- Strengthens women's welfare and child development.

Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme

- **Context:** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has organized a national-level seminar on the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme in New Delhi.

About the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme

- The SHP Development Scheme is a **renewable energy initiative implemented by the Central Government** to promote the installation of small hydro power projects (with capacities ranging from **1 to 25 MW**) across India, particularly in remote and difficult terrains.

- **Implementation Period:** March 2026 (for the period from 2026-27 to 2030-31).
- **Implementing Agency:** **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India.**
- **Objective:** To harness untapped small hydro power potential in remote and rural areas, reduce power distribution losses through decentralized power generation, and achieve a power generation capacity of 500 Gigawatts (GW) from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

Key Features

- **Financial Allocation:** A total of ₹2,584.60 crore has been allocated for this scheme; it is expected to attract investments worth approximately ₹15,000 crore in the sector.
- **Project Preparation:** A dedicated sum of ₹30 crore has been allocated under the scheme to support state and central agencies in preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for future projects.
- **Focus on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat':** To avail support under this scheme, all machinery and equipment required for the projects must be sourced entirely from domestic sources.
- **Decentralized Nature:** By focusing on projects ranging from 1 MW to 25 MW, the scheme promotes decentralized power generation; this reduces the need for long-distance transmission lines and minimizes grid losses.

National SC-ST Hub Scheme

- **Context:** As India moves towards the goal of 'Viksit Bharat @2047' (Developed India @2047), the 'National SC-ST Hub' (NSSH) scheme launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in October 2016 has been creating a transformative impact by empowering Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs.

About the National SC-ST Hub Scheme

Objectives

- To create a robust support system for SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- To assist Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in achieving the 4% procurement target mandated under the 'Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises'.

Beneficiaries

- Existing SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- Individuals from the SC/ST community aspiring to start a business.

Key Benefits:

- Encourages the achievement of the 4% procurement target.
- Supports participation in vendor development programs.
- Provides guidance and advice for business growth.
- Collects and shares information regarding SC/ST enterprises.
- Provides industry-specific toolkits to trained participants.

Key Focus Areas

- Strengthening vendor development.
- Increasing participation in government procurement.
- Creating a reliable database of SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- Enhancing opportunities to access finance and credit facilities.

Ayushman Bharat Scheme

- **Context:** West Bengal has officially become a part of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), making it the final state in the country to be covered under the flagship health insurance scheme.

About Ayushman Bharat Scheme

- Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is the world's largest public healthcare scheme.

- It was launched on **23 September 2018** to achieve **Universal Health Coverage**.

Coverage under AB-PMJAY

- Provides health insurance coverage of up to **₹5 lakh per family per year** for secondary and tertiary care.
- Offers cashless treatment at empanelled public and private hospitals.

Pillars of Ayushman Bharat

AB-PMJAY

- Provides financial protection against high medical expenses.
- Ensures affordable secondary and tertiary healthcare.

Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM)

- Deliver accessible primary healthcare close to people's homes.
- Provide services for NCDs, mental health, palliative care, diagnostics and free medicines.

Features

- Upgraded infrastructure.
- Additional healthcare personnel.
- Essential drugs and diagnostics.
- Teleconsultation facilities.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

- Creates a digital health ecosystem through **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)**.
- Enables seamless sharing of health records across healthcare facilities.

PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)

- Launched on **25 October 2021**.
- Strengthens health infrastructure, disease surveillance and research systems.

Objectives

- Bridge critical gaps in healthcare facilities.
- Improve preparedness for future pandemics and health emergencies.

Importance of Ayushman Bharat

- Promotes affordable and quality healthcare for all.
- Strengthens primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services.
- Enhances digital health infrastructure.
- Improves healthcare accessibility in rural and remote areas.
- Builds resilient health infrastructure for future emergencies.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions

- **Context:** The Government of India has extended the validity of the **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0)**.
- The scheme will remain operational until **31 August 2026** or until guarantees amounting to **₹20,000 crore** are issued, whichever occurs earlier.

About CGSMFI-2.0

- The Central Government launched **CGSMFI-2.0** on **20 March 2026**.
- The scheme provides guarantee cover to **Banks and Financial Institutions (FIs)** through the **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)**.
- The guarantee protects lenders against expected losses on loans provided to **Non-Banking Financial Company-Microfinance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs)** and **MFIs**, which subsequently lend to small borrowers.
- Loans worth **₹770 crore** have been sanctioned under the scheme so far.

Key Features

- **Eligible Borrowers:** Small borrowers as defined by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), including both new and existing customers.
- **Guarantee Coverage:** 80% for small NBFC-MFIs/MFIs, 75% for medium-sized entities, and 70% for large entities.

- **Guarantee Fee:** 0.50% per annum on the sanctioned loan amount for the first year, and subsequently on the outstanding loan amount.

About Microfinance

- Microfinance involves providing **small-scale loans, savings, and insurance services to individuals and small businesses** that lack access to formal banking services.

MSME OSOP Support for Divyangjan Vishwakarma Artisans

- **Context:** The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has announced the implementation of the **'One Station One Product' (OSOP) scheme** under the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana to **enhance the prosperity of Vishwakarma artisans with disabilities (Divyangjan).**

One Station One Product Scheme

- The **'One District One Product' (ODOP)** scheme was **first launched in January 2018.**
- The **'One Station One Product' scheme** is an initiative launched by **Indian Railways under the Ministry of Railways to promote the 'Support for Local Products' campaign.**
- It provides specially designed outlets at railway stations across India, enabling **local people to sell their traditional products.**
- This initiative was conceptualized by the **National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad,** with the aim of transforming railway stations into hubs for promoting regional and locally produced goods.
- Its pilot phase commenced **on March 25, 2022.** It supports the livelihoods of local artisans such as **potters, weavers, and tribal communities.**
- Under this scheme, eligible applicants are allotted stalls or kiosks on a rotational basis for 15 days upon payment of a ₹1,000 deposit.
- Zonal Railways are responsible for selecting stations, identifying suitable products, and choosing vendors.

Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme

- The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme was **launched on September 17, 2023.**
- The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme is a **Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** to support traditional artisans and craftspeople.
- The scheme focuses on **preserving the 'Guru-Shishya' (teacher-student) tradition of skill transfer.**
- The scheme offers benefits such as **skill training, market linkage, and incentives for digital transactions.**
- This scheme will be implemented over a period of five years, from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Eligibility and Scope

- The scheme applies to artisans residing in **both rural and urban areas** across the country.
- It covers **18 types of traditional trades,** including blacksmithing, boat making, and tool making.
- Applicants **must be over 18 years of age** and currently engaged in a traditional trade; they must not have availed of similar loans in the past five years.

Key Features

- **Recognition:** Artisans will be provided with a **'Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma' certificate** and an identity card.
- **Skill Training:** Basic training (5-7 days) and advanced training (over 15 days) will be provided; a stipend of ₹500 per day will be given during the training period.
- **Toolkit Support:** Financial assistance of up to ₹15,000 will be provided through e-vouchers.
- **Credit Facility:** Collateral-free loan facility; loans totaling up to ₹3 lakh will be provided in two tranches (₹1 lakh + ₹2 lakh) at an interest rate of 5%.

- Target: The scheme aims to benefit 5 lakh families in the first year and a total of 30 lakh families over five years.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

- **Context:** BBBP has evolved as a Nationwide Movement Driving Behavioural Change and Girl Child Empowerment. Over the years, India has strengthened maternal and early childhood care through a combination of health services, nutrition support, and institutional delivery systems.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: Advancing Dignity at Birth and Early Childhood Care

Launch

- The scheme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was launched on 22 January 2015.
- It was started to address the problem of low child sex ratio and gender discrimination against girls.

Implementation

- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Education

Objective

- To protect, educate, and empower the girl child
- To ensure her survival, safety, and equal opportunities
- To promote dignity and equal treatment from birth

Key Improvements

- Sex Ratio at Birth improved from 918 (2014–15) to 929 (2024–25)
- Shows reduction in gender-biased sex selection

Education Progress

- Girls' enrolment at secondary level increased from 75.51% to 80.2%
- Indicates better school retention and continuation of education

Approach

- Focuses on the entire life cycle of a girl child

- Includes birth, early care, education, and empowerment
- Encourages behaviour change through awareness and community participation

Significance

- Promotes gender equality and social awareness
- Supports women-led development in India
- Ensures every girl child gets protection, education, and opportunities

DISHA Scheme

- Context: Regional Workshop under **Tele-Law Initiative of Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) Scheme** and 'Reforms Utsav' to be held on **15th June 2026** at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

About DISHA Scheme

- The DISHA Scheme is designed to **improve access to justice for citizens** while also supporting early identification and intervention for children with developmental disabilities.
- It promotes inclusion, empowerment, and overall development across society in India.

Objectives

- To offer free legal aid and pre-litigation advice to economically or socially marginalized citizens.
- To raise awareness about legal rights and encourage active participation in the justice system.
- To enable early detection of developmental disabilities in children.
- To provide timely therapeutic and developmental support for affected children.
- To equip parents and caregivers with training and counseling for home-based support.
- To ensure physical, emotional, cognitive, and social development of children with disabilities.

- To reduce the gap between marginalized groups and mainstream society.
- To improve independence and quality of life for beneficiaries.

Key Features

- The scheme targets children aged 0–10 years with developmental disabilities and citizens requiring legal assistance.
- Legal Support Services
 - provides tele-law consultation through video calls at Common Service Centres (Common Service Centres).
 - Offers support via the Tele-Law Mobile App.
 - Connects beneficiaries with pro bono lawyers under the Nyaya Bandhu programme for free legal aid.
- Early Intervention Support
 - Includes therapies such as physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioural interventions.
 - Helps prepare children for mainstream schooling through school-readiness programmes.
- Parental & Community Support
 - Provides counselling and training for parents and caregivers.
 - Encourages active involvement of families in child development.
- Individualised Care
 - Offers customised intervention plans based on each child's specific needs.
 - Focuses on improving long-term developmental outcomes.
- Awareness & Inclusion
 - Conducts legal awareness programmes to educate citizens about their rights.
 - Promotes social inclusion and community participation.
- Delivery Mechanism

- Implemented through CSCs, DISHA centres, and organisations under the National Trust framework.

- Uses ICT tools such as mobile apps, e-courts, and digital platforms for efficient service delivery.

Capacity Building

- Strengthens independence, adaptability, and social integration for beneficiaries through structured support systems.

DigiDukaan

- **Context:** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade in partnership with the **Open Network for Digital Commerce**, recently held a **Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) roundtable** where the **DigiDukaan initiative** was discussed.

About DigiDukaan

- DigiDukaan is a digital initiative launched in 2026.
- It is an **ONDC-led programme aimed at digitising kirana stores for B2B procurement**.
- The initiative focuses on improving overall efficiency in the retail supply chain.

Purpose

- The platform is designed to **help small retailers transition into digital commerce systems**.
- It streamlines procurement processes and strengthens supply chain transparency.

Benefits for Kirana Stores

- Helps **local grocery shops** improve profit margins through direct procurement.
- Provides better visibility of discounts, schemes, and offers.
- Improves stock availability and working capital management.

Benefits for Distributors

- Expands market access without increasing field sales expenses.

- Enables digital order placement and payment collection.
- Enhances retailer reach and coverage efficiency.
- To strengthen **Self Help Group (SHG) institutions** and support business expansion.
- To help women transition from income earners to business owners.

Benefits for Brands

- Offers direct insights into retailer demand patterns.
- Improves visibility of retail outlets and consumer demand signals.
- Enables **better planning, execution, and monitoring** of promotional schemes.

Early Adoption

- DigiDukaan has already seen early implementation in **Hyderabad**.
- More than **10,000 retailers** in the city have begun using the system.

SHE-MART Initiative

- **Context:** The government will establish **700 SHE-MARTs and 1,000 district fulfilment centres** to strengthen market access for **women-led enterprises** and support the goal of creating six crore “**Lakhpatti Didis**”, the **Ministry of Rural Development**.

About SHE-MART Initiative

- **SHE-MART (Self Help Entrepreneurs - Marketing Avenues for Rural Transformation)** is a Government of India programme designed to empower women entrepreneurs.
- It promotes **community-managed retail spaces** within cluster-level federations of **Self Help Groups (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission)**.
- The initiative strengthens market access, improves product visibility, and supports the growth of women-led enterprises.

Purpose

- To build stronger market linkages for **rural women entrepreneurs**.
- To enhance visibility and reach of locally produced goods.

Product Scope

- SHE-MART focuses on products made by SHGs, including: **Handicrafts, Textiles, Food items, Agricultural produce, Processed and value-added goods**.

Nodal Ministry

- The initiative is led by the **Ministry of Rural Development** and implemented under the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission framework**.

Key Features

Community Ownership

- Retail outlets are owned and managed by women's SHG federations.
- Ensures local control and collective decision-making.

Direct Market Access

- Provides structured retail platforms for women entrepreneurs.
- Eliminates middlemen and enables direct sales to consumers.

Economic Empowerment

- Helps women move up the economic ladder from self-employment to entrepreneurship.
- Encourages sustainable income generation and financial independence.

Permanent Retail Infrastructure

- Establishes long-term retail outlets for SHG products.
- Supports value addition and consistent product availability.

Social & Economic Empowerment

- Enhances women's control over marketing, branding, and income streams.
- Strengthens both economic independence and social status in rural communities.

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

- **Context:** Under Project GIB, three Great Indian Bustard chicks have been successfully hatched, taking the captive breeding population to 94 birds.

About the Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

- The Great Indian Bustard is a terrestrial bird that inhabits **grasslands, scrublands, and semi-arid ecosystems**.
- It is **native to the Indian subcontinent** and is presently found mainly in **Rajasthan**, with remnant populations in **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **Desert National Park** in Rajasthan, extending across the **Jaisalmer and Barmer districts** and containing several human settlements, constitutes one of the species' most important natural habitats.
- It is among the **world's heaviest flying birds** and has an omnivorous diet consisting of **grass seeds, insects, small reptiles, and rodents**.
- The species faces severe threats from **loss and fragmentation of habitat**, infrastructure expansion, and **fatal collisions with overhead transmission lines**.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** Critically Endangered
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Listed under Schedule I
- **CITES:** Included in Appendix I
- **Conservation Programme:** Protected under the **Species Recovery Programme** of the **Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) Scheme**.
- **State Symbol:** It is the **State Bird of Rajasthan** and is popularly known as "**Godawan**" in the region.

'Kavach'

- **Context:** The Ministry of Railways has approved the 'Kavach' scheme, valued at ₹341

crore, for the Northern and Western Railway zones.

- 'Kavach' is an automatic train protection **system developed indigenously by Indian Railways**.

- It prevents accidents by performing functions such as preventing head-on collisions between trains, automatically halting the train if a driver passes a **signal due to inattention, and providing warnings during foggy conditions**.
- The train's speed is continuously monitored, and it is regulated whenever it exceeds the prescribed limit.

About Kavach System

- **Kavach** is an indigenous **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system developed to improve the safety of railway operations.
- It has been developed by the **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** of Indian Railways.
- Kavach is an advanced digital safety network comprising **five key interconnected components**, including continuous **Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)** along railway tracks and telecom towers to ensure seamless communication.
- The system employs a mix of **electronic equipment and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** devices installed on locomotives, signalling infrastructure, and tracks, which communicate through **ultra-high-frequency radio signals**.
- Using predefined safety algorithms, Kavach can **warn locomotive pilots, initiate automatic braking, and avert dangerous train movements**.
- Extensive field testing on passenger trains has been underway since **2016**, ahead of its wider implementation across the railway network.

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- **Context:** About 60 lakh first-time employees, including over 18 lakh women have benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY).
- PM-VBRY is the Centre's Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme operational from **August 1, 2025**.

About Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)

- The **Union Cabinet approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme on 1 July 2025**.
- The scheme is named **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)**.
- It aims to:
 - Promote employment generation.
 - Enhance employability.
 - Strengthen social security.
 - Support MSMEs and rural enterprises.
 - Give special emphasis to the manufacturing sector.

Duration of the Scheme

- Incentives are applicable to jobs created during the **two-year registration period**:
 - **1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027**.
- The scheme seeks to create **more than 3.5 crore jobs** across the country over two years.

Part A – Incentives for First-Time Employees

- Applicable to first-time employees in both existing and new establishments.
- Employees will receive an incentive equivalent to **one month's EPF wage**, subject to a maximum of **₹15,000**.
- The incentive is paid in **two instalments**:
 - **First instalment:** Up to **₹7,500** after completion of **six months** of continuous employment.
 - **Second instalment:** After completion of **twelve months** and successful completion

of the prescribed **Financial Literacy Programme**.

- The second instalment will be credited to an appropriate **savings instrument or savings account** for a specified period.

Part B – Incentives for Employers

- Employers will receive up to **₹3,000 per month** for each additional employee.
- The employment must be sustained for at least **six months**.

Coverage

- Covers all sectors of the economy, including:
 - MSMEs
 - Rural enterprises
 - Manufacturing sector (special focus)

DISHA Scheme

- **Context:** The **Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India**, is organizing a Regional Workshop under the DISHA Scheme.

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** being implemented by **Department of Justice and 'Reforms Utsav'**.

- A major highlight of the event will be the launch of **"Nyaya Prabodh – Awakening to Justice,"** a year-long legal awareness campaign aimed at deepening citizens' understanding of their constitutional and legal rights and responsibilities.

- Under the Nyaya Prabodh initiative, several citizen-centric activities will be launched, including:

- **Know Your Rights in 90 seconds**, a legal awareness initiative designed to promote greater understanding of legal rights and remedies among citizens;

- **Nyaya Quiz**, an interactive platform aimed at enhancing awareness of constitutional values, legal institutions and citizens' rights, particularly among youth and students; and

- **Pro Bono Pledge**, encouraging advocates, law students and legal professionals to voluntarily contribute their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the underprivileged and vulnerable sections of society.

DISHA Scheme (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice)

- The **DISHA Scheme** is a comprehensive initiative of the Government of India aimed at ensuring **people-centric access to justice** while also providing **early intervention and developmental support for children with disabilities**.
- Implemented across the country, the scheme addresses both **legal empowerment** and the developmental requirements of children with special needs.
- The scheme is guided by the principles enshrined in the **Preamble of the Constitution of India** and draws support from **Articles 14, 21, and 39A**, which guarantee equality, protection of life and liberty, and free legal aid to disadvantaged sections of society.
- Under the provisions of the **National Trust Act**, the scheme also focuses on early identification and school preparedness of children with developmental disabilities, facilitating their inclusion in mainstream education and society.

Objectives of the DISHA Scheme

- The scheme seeks to promote inclusive growth and improve access to justice and developmental support throughout the country.
- To provide free legal assistance and pre-litigation counselling to vulnerable and marginalized citizens.
- To increase awareness regarding legal rights and strengthen citizens' interaction with the justice delivery system.
- To identify developmental disabilities in children at an early stage and ensure timely intervention.

- To provide therapeutic services and training to prepare children for inclusive schooling.
- To equip parents and caregivers with guidance and skills necessary to support children's development.
- To encourage physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development for overall well-being.
- To reduce barriers between marginalized communities or children with disabilities and the mainstream population.
- To improve quality of life and promote self-reliance and social integration.
- **Community-Based Delivery:** Services are implemented through CSCs, recognized DISHA centres, and organizations registered under the National Trust.
- **Use of Technology:** Employs mobile applications, e-Courts, and other ICT-based platforms to ensure efficient and accessible service delivery.

Nasha Mukh Bharat Saptah 2026

- **Context:** The **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)** launched 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Saptah 2026' from **17-26 June 2026**.
- **Theme:** "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan - Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchaan."
- The campaign is being observed in connection with the **International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June)**.

Major Launches

- **Nasha Mukh Bharat Saptah 2026** was formally launched.
- A **Personal Dashboard for Nasha Mukti Mitra (NMM)** was introduced to strengthen volunteer engagement and monitor grassroots activities.

Objective

- To strengthen the **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** and promote drug

demand reduction through mass awareness and community participation.

About Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

- **Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** was launched on **15 August 2020** by the **Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (DoSJE)**.
- Initially implemented in **272 identified vulnerable districts**.
- Expanded to all districts of the country from **15 August 2023**.
- **Objective:** To spread awareness and reduce substance abuse through mass participation.

About NMBA App 2.0

- Launched under the **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)**.
- Serves as a **centralized digital platform** for monitoring and implementation.
- Facilitates real-time reporting, coordination and data-driven governance at National, State, District and institutional levels.

Existing Features of NMBA App

- Enables States, districts, spiritual organisations and stakeholders to upload and monitor activities.
- Provides a consolidated dashboard with near real-time visibility.
- Offers **Information, Education and Communication (IEC)** materials.
- Supports **Nasha Mukti Mitras** in awareness campaigns.
- Facilitates onboarding and management of master volunteers.
- Allows institutions to organize pledge-taking activities.

National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)

- A flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- **Focuses on:**
 - Preventive education and awareness.
 - Treatment and rehabilitation.

- Capacity building.
- Community participation.
- Monitoring and evaluation of drug demand reduction efforts.

PMAY-U 2.0

- **Context:** The Government approved more than 2.13 lakh additional houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0.
- With these approvals, the total number of houses sanctioned under PMAY-U 2.0 has crossed 16.13 lakh

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)

About

- PMAY-U 2.0, launched in **2024**, is the **upgraded version of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) introduced in 2015**.
- It seeks to provide **all-weather pucca houses to one crore poor and middle-class urban families** through construction, purchase, or rental options.
- The scheme will be implemented for five years by States, Union Territories, and **Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs)**.
- The Centre has earmarked **₹10 lakh crore** for the programme, including **₹2.30 lakh crore** as subsidy support.

Eligibility

- Beneficiary families should not own a pucca house anywhere in India in the name of any family member.
- The scheme covers:
 - **Economically Weaker Section (EWS):** Annual income up to ₹3 lakh.
 - **Low Income Group (LIG):** Annual income between ₹3 lakh and ₹6 lakh.
 - **Middle Income Group (MIG):** Annual income between ₹6 lakh and ₹9 lakh.

- An adult earning member without ownership of a house is treated as a separate household for eligibility purposes.

Coverage

- PMAY-U 2.0 covers all statutory towns identified in **Census 2011** and those notified later by State Governments.
- Areas under Urban Development Authorities, Industrial Development Authorities, and notified Planning Areas are also included.
- Under In-situ Slum Redevelopment, eligible slum dwellers receive a grant of **₹1 lakh per house**.

Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS)

- Provides a **4% interest subsidy** on housing loans up to **₹25 lakh**, for houses costing up to **₹35 lakh**.
- The subsidy applies to the first **₹8 lakh of the loan** with a repayment period of **12 years**.
- Beneficiaries can receive a maximum subsidy of **₹1.80 lakh**, credited in five annual instalments to their bank accounts.

Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan

- **Context:** Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare chaired a high-level review meeting with all States and Union Territories to assess the progress of the **TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan** and chart the way forward towards achieving a TB-free India.

About

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** launched this initiative to speed up India's efforts to **eliminate tuberculosis (TB)** by 2025.

Objectives

- To give extra **support to TB patients** so that their treatment is more effective.
- To increase participation of the community in achieving the goal of ending TB.
- To make use of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** contributions for TB elimination efforts.

Components

Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative:

- Aims to provide additional help such as diagnosis, nutrition, and skill development support to TB patients during treatment.
- Ni-kshay Mitras (donors) can adopt:
 - Health facilities (individual donors)
 - Blocks, urban wards, districts, or even states
- Their role is to strengthen and support government actions in fighting TB.

Ni-kshay Digital Portal:

- An online platform that connects donors and community members to support TB patients.
- Helps organize and track assistance provided to people undergoing TB treatment.

REWARD Programme

- **Context:** The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) recently convened a meeting to discuss the draft **National Technical Guidelines (NTG)** for improved watershed management under the **REWARD Programme**.

About REWARD Programme

- **Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development** is a watershed development initiative backed by the **World Bank**.
- Duration: **2021 to 2026**.
- It is currently being carried out in the states of **Karnataka and Odisha**.

Key Features

- The programme focuses on **adopting advanced and scientific approaches for watershed management**.

- It is implemented by the **Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development**.
- It follows the **Program-for-Results (PforR)** funding approach.
- Under this model, the World Bank releases funds only after specific performance targets, known as **Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs)**, are achieved.
- When initiated – Only when the market price of produce meeting Fair Average Quality (FAQ) standards falls below the announced Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Beneficiaries and Eligibility

- **Farmers must register in advance** on portals approved by the State Government, providing valid land records.
- Produce must meet FAQ criteria.
- All payments will be made directly to the farmer's registered bank account.
- Procurement operations continue until market prices stabilize above the MSP or for a period of 90 days (whichever is earlier).

Objectives

- To build stronger institutions at **both national and state levels** for better watershed governance.
- To improve the ability of farmers to handle climate-related risks.

Focus Areas

- Promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices.
- Enhancing livelihood opportunities for farmers.
- Supporting value chain development in selected watershed regions.

Impact

- Development of stronger institutions and policies for effective watershed management.
- Implementation of science-based watershed practices to improve climate resilience and livelihoods.

Objectives

- To protect farmers from economic losses during market slumps and to make essential commodities available to consumers at affordable prices.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- **Context:** The 23rd installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was recently released.

About PM-KISAN

- Launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** on **24 February 2019**
- A **Central Sector Scheme**
- Provides **₹6,000 annually** to eligible farming families in **three installments of ₹2,000 each via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**

Objective

- To supplement farmers' income for agricultural needs and daily expenses, and to reduce reliance on informal credit

Eligibility

- Covers all land-holding farming families (husband, wife, and minor children)
- Selection based on State/Union Territory land records

Price Support Scheme (PSS)

- **Context:** The Central Government has recently approved the large-scale procurement of pulses and oilseeds under the PSS.

About the Price Support Scheme (PSS)

- PSS – A Central Government agricultural procurement scheme.
- Operates under the **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)** scheme.
- Nodal Ministry – **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

- Aadhaar-linked bank account and e-KYC are mandatory

Key Features

- Direct Benefit Transfer to Aadhaar-linked accounts ensures transparency
- Beneficiary lists displayed in villages for public awareness
- Annual physical verification of 5% of beneficiaries
- Online grievance redressal system

Technology Used

- e-KYC via OTP, biometrics, and facial recognition
- PM-KISAN mobile app for registration and status tracking
- Kisan-eMitra AI chatbot for multilingual support (in collaboration with EkStep Foundation & Bhashini)

BHARATI Programme – APEDA's Export Acceleration Initiative

- **Context:** The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has successfully completed the first cohort of BHARATI (Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Innovation), a flagship programme aimed at promoting innovation-driven growth in India's agri-food export sector.

About BHARATI

- Launched by APEDA under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- Designed to identify, mentor, and support startups developing innovative products, technologies, and solutions for agricultural and processed food exports.
- Supports India's goal of achieving **USD 50 billion in APEDA-scheduled product exports by 2030**.

- Focuses on entrepreneurship, technology adoption, value addition, export readiness, and global market access.

Key Features of BHARATI

- The programme focuses on promoting the export of **high-value agricultural and food products**, including **GI-tagged products, organic produce, superfoods, processed foods, livestock products, and AYUSH-based products**.
- It encourages the adoption of emerging technologies such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and Agri-FinTech** to address challenges related to packaging, shelf life, sustainability, traceability, and supply chain management.
- BHARATI supports startups and innovators in developing **export-oriented solutions** by helping them comply with global food safety, quality, and regulatory standards through a structured **three-month acceleration programme**.

- The initiative complements national programmes such as **Atmanirbhar Bharat, Vocal for Local, Digital India, and Start-up India**.

- APEDA collaborates with **state agencies, universities, IITs, NITs, industry associations, and startup accelerators** to build a robust innovation ecosystem and ensure the programme's expansion on a larger scale every year.

About APEDA

- The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** is a statutory organization established under the **APEDA Act, 1985**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

- APEDA is responsible for promoting and facilitating the export of agricultural and processed food products from India.
- It provides assistance in areas such as **export marketing, quality improvement, infrastructure development, transportation, packaging, and value addition** to enhance the competitiveness of Indian products in international markets.

REPM Manufacturing Scheme

- **Context:** The **Ministry of Heavy Industries** has extended the deadline for submitting global tenders under the scheme to promote the manufacturing of 'Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets' (REPM).

About the REPM Manufacturing Scheme

- **Objective:** To establish an REPM manufacturing facility with a production capacity of 6,000 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA).
- Supports the complete manufacturing process:
 - Rare earth oxides to metals
 - Metals to alloys
 - Alloys to finished REPMs
- Through this scheme, India aims to set up its first integrated REPM manufacturing facilities.

Key Features

- Total financial outlay: ₹7,280 crore
- Production capacity: 6,000 MTPA
- Beneficiaries: 5 companies (up to 1,200 MTPA each)
- Selection method: Global competitive bidding
- Duration: 7 years

About Rare Earth Magnets

- These are a type of permanent magnet made from alloys of rare earth elements.
- Properties: Compared to other types of magnets, they possess superior magnetic strength, high energy density, and excellent performance.

Types

- Neodymium (Nd-Fe-B): Composed of Neodymium, Iron, and Boron
- Samarium Cobalt (SmCo): Composed of Samarium and Cobalt
- Both are classified as powerful permanent magnets.

Applications

- Electric Vehicles (EVs)
- Renewable energy (wind turbines)
- Electronic devices
- Aerospace sector
- Defense equipment

ASPIRE Scheme

- **Context :** India's ASPIRE scheme is helping transform rural livelihoods by supporting aspiring entrepreneurs with training, incubation and business development assistance

About Aspire scheme

- Launched in 2015.
- Implemented by the **Ministry of MSME**.
- Aims to promote **entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation**, especially in rural and agro-based sectors.
- Provides financial, technical, and mentoring support through incubation centres and cluster development.

Key Features

- Promotes rural entrepreneurship through incubation support.
- Sets up **Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs)** in rural and underdeveloped areas.
- Encourages agro-based and rural enterprises with high job potential.
- Supports **Technology Business Incubators (TBIs)** for innovation and start-ups.
- Provides capital grants to establish incubation centres.

- Government institutions and PSUs can receive up to **₹1 crore** support.
- Private or PPP incubators can receive up to **₹75 lakh** support.
- Offers up to **₹1 crore** operational assistance for incubators.
- Provides seed funding for early-stage entrepreneurs.
- Supports cluster-based development to improve productivity and market access.

Bharat Taxi

- **Context:** The 'Bharat Taxi' service was launched in Delhi under the Union **Ministry of Cooperation—a first-of-its-kind initiative** in the country.
- This ride-hailing service was introduced to challenge the dominance of corporate entities like **Ola and Uber**.
- The **Union Home Minister** inaugurated the Bharat Taxi service at an event held yesterday in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- Private ride-hailing companies currently in the market systematically exploit their workers. To counter corporate dominance, the government has established a cooperative framework modeled after the '**Amul**' milk cooperative.
- This new alternative model ensures a fair system where neither the customer nor the service provider (driver) faces any form of exploitation.

Kisan Sarathi

- **Context:** **Kisan Sarathi**, launched in **July 2021**, is India's largest integrated digital agro-advisory platform.
- It provides timely, authentic, and multilingual agricultural advisories along with weather updates, government scheme information, and expert consultations.

Implementing Agencies

- A joint initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** and the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- Implemented by the **Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI)** and the **Digital India Corporation**.

Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS)

- **Kisan Sarathi** operates through the **Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS)**.
- Enables **two-way communication between farmers and agricultural experts**.
- Facilitates the lab-to-land transfer of agricultural knowledge.

Integrated Digital Platforms

- Kisan Sarathi brings together several national digital platforms on a single interface:
 - Kisan Call Centre
 - Common Service Centre (CSC)
 - India Meteorological Department (IMD)
 - MyScheme
 - BHASHINI
- **Kisan Sarathi Helps Farmers**
 - Connects farmers directly with agricultural experts.
 - Provides region-specific, real-time advisories on: **Weather, Market prices, Crop management**
- Helps farmers identify suitable government schemes and track benefits such as PM-KISAN.
- Covers both Central and State/UT Government schemes.

Key Features

- Personalized advisories based on farmer and farm profiles.
- Live interaction with agricultural experts in **13 regional languages**.
- Call and conferencing facilities as per farmers' requirements.

- Access to a comprehensive agricultural knowledge database.
- Location-specific push alerts and advisory messages.
- Simple registration through a **toll-free mobile number** or the web portal.

Significance

- Strengthens digital agriculture by integrating multiple advisory services on a single platform.

Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)

- **Context: Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda will launch the Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK) during the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) at Vigyan Bhawan.**
- The programme aims to provide comprehensive, accessible, and quality healthcare for children from **birth to 36 months**.

About SSBSK

- A unified national programme providing a continuum of home- and community-based care for children from **birth to three years**.
- Based on the vision of “**Comprehensive care for the first three years**”, recognizing the importance of early childhood for survival, nutrition, growth, and brain development.

Integration of Existing Programmes

- Merges two flagship initiatives into a single framework:
 - Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC)
 - Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC)
- Ensures uninterrupted care from **birth to 36 months**.

Risk-Stratified Care

- Introduces a risk-based approach for the first time.

‘At-risk’ newborns will receive up to 9 home visits during the first 42 days.

‘At-risk’ children will receive up to 8 home visits up to 36 months.

Community-Based Healthcare

- Joint home visits by:
 - Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)
 - Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs)
 - Community Health Officers (CHOs)
 - Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)
- Introduces:
 - Well-Baby Sessions during every **Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)**.
 - **Monthly Shishu Shivir at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** for early identification and management of at-risk children.

Maternal and Early Childhood Care

- Includes post-partum maternal mental health screening.
- Integrates Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development (ECD) by promoting: **Responsive caregiving, Early learning, Age-appropriate play, Child safety, Family participation.**

Use of Digital Technology

- **Utilizes:** Decision Support Systems (DSS), Child tracking applications, Referral and alert mechanisms.
- **Integrated with:** JANANI Portal, U-WIN Portal, MPCDSR Portal, RBSK 2.0 Portal, POSHAN Tracker.
- Ensures seamless data exchange using ABHA and Baal-ABHA IDs.

Urban and Digital-Era Focus

- Includes special strategies for: Urban slums, Migrant families, Underserved populations.
- Addresses challenges of the digital age by:
 - Promoting physical activity and age-appropriate play.

- Discouraging excessive screen time to support healthy brain, emotional, and social development.

Significance

- Strengthens child survival, nutrition, growth, and early childhood development through an integrated approach.
- Ensures early identification and management of high-risk children.
- Improves coordination among frontline health workers.
- Enhances digital monitoring and continuity of care.
- Reinforces the Government's commitment to equitable maternal and child healthcare and the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Anaemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (AMB)

- **Context:** The Union Health Ministry is set to launch revised operational guidelines for the **Anaemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (AMB)**, expanding the **national programme's strategy** to include a new beneficiary group, greater emphasis on dietary interventions, and digital tracking of beneficiaries.

Key Changes

- Added **low birth weight babies (0-6 months)** as the 7th beneficiary group.
- Introduced **"Eating Right"** as the 7th intervention to promote iron-rich and diverse diets.
- Strengthened digital tracking for monitoring and evaluation.
- Replaced **T3 Strategy with T4 Strategy: Test, Treat, Talk, Track**

Objectives of T4 Strategy

- Routine haemoglobin testing.
- Treatment as per national protocols.
- Track beneficiaries for referral and follow-up.
- Counsel on healthy and iron-rich diets.

NFHS-5 Anaemia Data

- **Children (6-59 months):** 67.1%
- **Women (15-49 years):** 57%
- **Pregnant women:** 52.2%
- **Adolescent girls (15-19 years):** 59.1%.

About Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Abhiyaan

- It was officially launched in **2018**.
- It is an intensified public health initiative by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and **POSHAN Abhiyaan** to combat widespread anemia in India.
- It targets children, adolescents, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

Anemia Mukh Bharat: 6x6x6 Strategy

- The Anemia Mukh Bharat strategy is designed to reduce the prevalence of Anemia by **3% points per year between the years 2018 and 2022** with 6 beneficiaries, 6 interventions, and 6 institutional mechanisms.

6 Beneficiaries

- Children (6-59 months), Adolescent boys (15-19 years), Adolescent girls (15-19 years), Women of reproductive age, Pregnant women, Lactating women.

6 Interventions

- Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid supplementation
- Deworming
- Year-round awareness campaign "Solid Body, Smart Mind" and delayed cord clamping (3 minutes after birth) to improve the baby's iron levels.
- Use digital and quick blood tests for anaemia, with special focus on pregnant women and school-going adolescents.
- Provide iron- and folic acid-fortified foods through government programmes, including staple foods like rice, milk, and salt.

- Increase screening and treatment for anaemia caused by diseases, with focus on malaria, genetic blood disorders (hemoglobinopathies), and fluorosis.

6 Institutional Mechanisms

- National Anemia Mukht Bharat Unit
- Intra Ministerial Coordination
- Strengthening Supply Chain and Logistics
- Convergence with other ministries
- National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anemia Control
- Anemia Mukht Bharat Dashboard and Digital Portal- One-stop Shop for Anemia.

Corporate Mitra Scheme

- **Context :** The Corporate Affairs Ministry announced that the Corporate Mitra Scheme will commence with 2,000 participants, including 200 candidates from the North East region.

Objective

- To support MSMEs through trained and certified Corporate Mitras.
- Helps MSMEs handle compliance and focus on growth and innovation.
- Improves ease of doing business.

Role of Corporate Mitras

- Provide affordable support in:
 - GST and tax compliance
 - Accounting and financial advisory
 - Cost accounting
 - Company secretarial services

Focus Area

- Mainly targets Tier-II and Tier-III cities to expand professional support beyond metros.

Implementation

- Jointly implemented with: ICAI, ICSI, ICAI
- Training structure: 6 months academic training, 6 months practical training

- Includes:

- 144 hours of online learning
- Webinars/physical sessions

- Real-world exposure through firms and LLPs.
- Managed through SWAYAM Plus Portal.

Eligibility

- Age limit: Up to 30 years.
- Graduates from recognized universities and final-year students eligible.
- On-the-job training in ICAI/ICSI/ICMAI-recognized firms/LLPs.

Eligibility

- Government bodies, PSUs, and private/PPP institutions can set up incubators.
- MSMEs with valid registration are eligible for support.
- Open to individual entrepreneurs, innovators, and start-ups.
- Priority given to rural, agro-based, and tech-driven sectors.
- Institutions must have required infrastructure and capacity to run incubation centres.

e-Sushrut Clinic

- **Context:** The Central Government has introduced 'e-Sushrut Clinic,' a low-cost, lightweight Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) software designed for small medical centers.

Key Features

- Cloud-based HMIS software developed for small hospitals and clinics.
- Created as an alternative to the expensive and complex HMIS systems currently in use.
- Designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- Does not require specialized IT expertise.
- Easily accessible via various internet-enabled devices.

Automated Services

- Patient registration
- Generation of payment receipts
- Management information reports
- Speech-to-text facility
- Clinical decision support
- Automation of hospital administrative functions.

DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) – India's 'One Nation, One Digital Platform'

- **Context:** The Central Government has stated that DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) has emerged as India's 'One Nation, One Digital Platform' for school education.
- It provides curriculum-aligned digital learning resources to students and teachers across the country.

About DIKSHA

- Launched in 2017.
- Implemented under the leadership of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in collaboration with the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET).
- Supports foundational literacy and numeracy (covering education up to the higher secondary level).

- Adopted by education boards across most Indian states and Union Territories.

Key Features

- States can customize content in their regional languages and align it with their respective curricula.
- Ensures continuous learning through digital technology.
- Provides the following digital learning resources: Videos, 2D and 3D animations, Augmented Reality, Virtual labs, Simulations, Indian Sign Language videos, QR-coded books, Accessibility features

- For students with disabilities:

- DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) format
- Text-to-Speech facility
- Indian Sign Language videos
- Personalized learning
- Teacher training

- Teacher training is provided under the NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) program.

- State-level training courses are also offered.

Objective

- To provide quality, equitable, and accessible digital school education across India under the vision of "One Nation, One Digital Platform."

IMPORTANT DAYS

'Telangana Formation Day'

- 'Telangana Formation Day' is observed annually on **June 2nd** to mark the creation of Telangana as a separate state.
- In 2026, this occasion celebrates the 12th anniversary of the formation of Telangana, which separated from the unified state of Andhra Pradesh in 2014.

World Bicycle Day

- World Bicycle Day 2026 is celebrated on **June 3** under the theme "Cycling for a Greener Future."

Classical Language Day

- The Tamil Nadu state government officially celebrates **Classical Language Day** on **June 3** of every year.
- Additionally, the state observes **October 12** as **Classical Tamil Day**, marking the exact day in 2004 when **Tamil became India's first language to receive official Classical Language status.**

World Environment Day

- It has been observed on **5th June** every year since **1973** as part of the **United Nations Environment Programme** to build awareness to save life on Earth
- The theme for World Environment Day 2026 is "**Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future**".

World Peatlands Day

- World Peatlands Day, observed annually on **June 2.**

- On the occasion of World Peatlands Day (2 June), the **Food and Agriculture Organization** emphasized how important peatlands are.

About Peatlands:

- Peatlands are a **type of wetland ecosystem** that remain saturated with water. They are created over time from **partly decayed organic materials**, known as peat.

World Food Safety Day

- World Food Safety Day is observed annually on **June 7.**
- Theme: "**From burden to solutions – safe food everywhere.**"

World Oceans Day

- World Oceans Day is celebrated globally on **June 8.**
- Theme: "**Reimagine: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean.**"

World Accreditation Day

- '**World Accreditation Day**', a global initiative established to promote the value of accreditation, is observed on **June 9, 2026.**
- Theme for 2026: "**Innovation, Trust and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation.**"

International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations

- Observed annually on **June 10**, this day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to celebrate cultural diversity as a shared human heritage.
- The theme for the 'International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations' in 2026 is "**Promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations; and strengthening international solidarity and cooperation.**"

World Day against Child Labour

- **June 12** is observed as 'World Day against Child Labour' across India and the globe.
- The theme for the World Day against Child Labour for the year 2026 is: "**Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults.**"
- **Child Helpline Number-** 1098.

International Albinism Awareness Day

- International Albinism Awareness Day is celebrated annually on **June 13th** to celebrate the human rights of persons with albinism worldwide.
- The theme for IAAD 2026 is: "**Proudly In My Skin: Celebrating All Skin Tones.**"

World Blood Donor Day

- World Blood Donor Day is celebrated globally on **June 14th** every year.
- The official theme for the World Blood Donor Day 2026 campaign is: "**One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives.**"

Global Wind Day

- 'Global Wind Day' is observed annually on **June 15** to raise awareness about the role of wind energy in addressing climate change and supporting clean energy production.
- Global Campaign Theme: "**Our Wind, Our Community**".
- India Focus Theme: "**Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration**".
- The theme for Global Wind Day 2026 highlights the rapid growth of India's wind energy sector.
- India has an installed wind power capacity of approximately **56 GW** and is also developing offshore wind energy projects.

- India has set a target to achieve a wind power capacity of **100 GW by 2030**.
- India currently ranks **fourth globally** in terms of installed wind energy capacity.

World Dengue Day

- World Dengue Day is observed annually on **June 15**.
- The 2026 global theme is "**One World Against Dengue**".

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is marked globally on **June 15** every year.
- The international theme for the 2026 observance is "**Beyond Awareness: Making Elder Abuse Prevention Work**".

World Crocodile Day

- **World Crocodile Day** is celebrated annually on **17 June** to raise awareness about crocodiles and emphasize the importance of their conservation.
- The theme for World Crocodile Day 2026 is "**Legacy in Every Scale**".

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is being observed on **June 17**.
- The theme for this year is "**Rangelands: Recognise. Respect. Restore**".

Sustainable Gastronomy Day

- On **June 18**, we celebrate 'Sustainable Gastronomy Day,' recognizing that everyone has a role to play in making sustainable choices for a future of healthy eating and food security.

National Fishing Day

- National Fishing Day (also known as National Go Fishing Day) is celebrated annually on **June 18**.

World Sickle Cell Day

- World Sickle Cell Day is observed annually on **June 19** to raise global awareness about **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)**.
- The official global theme for World Sickle Cell Day is **"Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease"**.

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

- The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is a United Nations observance marked annually on **June 19**.
- The theme for the 2026 International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is **"Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Against Children: Safeguarding Futures and Empowering Caregivers"**.

Autistic Pride Day

- 'Autistic Pride Day 2026' will be observed worldwide on **June 18, 2026**, to celebrate neurodiversity and promote acceptance, dignity, and social inclusion for individuals with autism.
- The theme of this day is based on three interconnected key aspects: **recognition, representation, and reform**.

National Reading Day

- The day is celebrated annually on **19th June** to honour the birth anniversary of **Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker**, the **father of the Library Movement in Kerala**.

- In 2017, Prime Minister launched the **National Reading Day and Reading Month**.

World Refugee Day

- World Refugee Day is an annual international observance on **June 20**, designated by the United Nations to honour refugees worldwide.
- The theme for World Refugee Day 2026 is **"Until Everyone Is Safe"**.

Paschimbanga Divas

- **Paschimbanga Divas (West Bengal Day)** is observed on **June 20** to commemorate the rich history, cultural heritage, and unique identity of West Bengal.

World Camel Day

- World Camel Day is celebrated annually on **June 22**.
- The theme for the 2026 International Camel Conference is **"Camel as Climate Resilient Dairy Animal"**.

International Day of Yoga

- Yoga Day is observed to recognize the practice of Yoga; following its adoption by the United Nations in 2014, it is celebrated worldwide every year on **June 21**.
- The theme for the 12th International Day of Yoga, to be observed on **June 21, 2026**, is **"Yoga for Healthy Ageing"**.

United Nations Public Service Day

- United Nations Public Service Day is observed every year on **23 June**.
- The theme for the 2026 observance is: **"Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing Innovation, Participation, and Inclusion"**.

International Day of Women in Diplomacy

- The International Day of Women in Diplomacy is observed annually **on June 24**.
- The **theme for the International Day of Women in Diplomacy** for the year 2026 is **"Advancing Equal Leadership in Global Affairs."**

Samvidhan Hatya Diwas

- **'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas'** (meaning **'Constitution Murder Day'**) is observed annually in India on **June 25**.
- Established by the Government of India, this day commemorates the declaration of a **nationwide Emergency by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on June 25, 1975**, and honors the millions of citizens who were affected by it.

Day of the Seafarer

- Observed annually **on June 25**, the **'Day of the Seafarer'** is an official special day designated by the United Nations.
- The theme for the Day of the Seafarer for the year 2026 is **"Carrying world trade. Carrying the risks."**

World Vitiligo Day 2026

- **World Vitiligo Day** was observed across the globe on **25 June 2026** to raise awareness about vitiligo, support those living with the condition
- The global theme for the World Vitiligo Day 2026 is **"From Stigma to Strength."**

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

- The **'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'** – also known as **'World Drug Day'** – is observed globally every year on June 26.

- The theme for World Drug Day 2026 is **"The evidence is clear: Invest in prevention."**

- As part of the nationwide observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, **launched 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Saptah' (Drug-Free India Week) from June 17 to 26, 2026**, under the local theme **"Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan - Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchan"** (Drug-Free India - The Identity of a Developed India).

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

- The United Nations' **'International Day in Support of Victims of Torture'** is observed annually on June 26.
- The theme for the **'International Day in Support of Victims of Torture'** in 2026 is **"Torture: a crime against humanity."**

International MSME Day

- **Every year on 27 June**, the world marks Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day to recognise the vital contribution of MSMEs to economic growth, employment generation, innovation, and sustainable development.
- The 2026 Theme is the **"Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development"**

International Day for the Deaf and Blind

- The International Day for the Deaf and Blind is observed globally on June 27.
- The theme for 2026 is **"Connected by Touch: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges."**

International Fisherman Day

- International Fisherman Day is observed annually on **June 29**.
- This annual observance recognizes the global fishing community and their essential work in providing food and sustaining livelihoods.

National Statistics Day

- National Statistics Day is celebrated every year on **June 29th** in India.
- The day commemorates the birth anniversary of **Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**, widely recognized as the **Father of Indian Statistics**.
- The theme for India's 20th National Statistics Day in 2026 is "**Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data**".

International Day of the Tropics

- The International Day of the Tropics is observed globally every year on **29 June**.
- The International Day of the Tropics was established by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** on **14 June 2016**.
- The day was declared to commemorate the release of the **State of the Tropics Report**,

which was launched on **29 June 2014** by Nobel Laureate **Aung San Suu Kyi**.

World Social Media Day

- **World Social Media Day** is celebrated annually on **June 30** to recognize the profound impact digital platforms have on global communication, human connection, and business.
- It was originally established by the media and technology website **Mashable** in **2010**.

International Asteroid Day

- International Asteroid Day is an official United Nations observance held annually on **June 30**.
- The theme for International Asteroid Day 2026 is "**Planetary Defence and Asteroid Impact Hazards**".

International Day of Parliamentarism

- The International Day of Parliamentarism, also known as **World Parliament Day**, is celebrated annually on **June 30**.
- The theme for the International Day of Parliamentarism on **June 30, 2026**, is "**Bring human rights into focus**".

REPORTS & INDICES

India's Digital Economy Status 2026 Report

- **Context:** The report titled 'India's Digital Economy Status 2026' was released by the ICRIER-Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy.
- This report evaluates the **digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related activities of 71 countries.**

Key Findings

- India has emerged as the **5th most digitized economy** in the world.
- In the 'CHIPS-AI Index,' India ranks **4th globally**, following the United States, China, and Singapore.
- India's global digital economy ranking has advanced from **the 8th position held in 2025 to secure the 5th position in 2026.**

India's Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Achievements

- India outperforms several developed economies, including **Germany, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Canada.**
- India stands as the country with the **second-largest Artificial Intelligence (AI) talent pool in the world.**
- This report recognizes India as an emerging global AI superpower.

Global AI Trends

- Approximately **72% of global AI users** are currently located in developing nations.
- Together, India and China account for nearly **two-fifths of global AI usage.**
- Among all major technologies in history, 'Generative AI' has witnessed the fastest adoption rate.

Digital Economy Performance

- India has generated approximately **\$328 billion** worth of trade digitally.
- The factors driving this robust growth are: **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, expanding internet connectivity, a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, and a skilled digital workforce.

The Emerging Global Digital Order

- Three of the world's top five digital economies belong to the Indo-Pacific region: **China, Singapore, and India.**
- This report highlights the emergence of a tripartite digital order, standing alongside the traditional North Atlantic digital powers.

SIPRI Yearbook 2026

India's Nuclear Arsenal

- **Context:** According to the annual report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2026, India's nuclear stockpile increased from **about 180 warheads in 2025 to around 190 warheads by early 2026.**
- India continued its **nuclear modernisation programme**, focusing on the development of **longer-range nuclear delivery systems.**
- The modernization effort is increasingly aimed at enhancing capabilities to reach targets across China while maintaining deterrence against Pakistan.

India-Pakistan Military Crisis (2025)

- SIPRI described **Operation Sindoor** as an **"unusually severe military crisis"** between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.
- SIPRI noted that **India and Pakistan integrated cyber operations into active military conflict for the first time**, highlighting the growing importance of cyber warfare in modern conflicts.

India's Defence Expenditure

- India remained the **world's fifth-largest military spender in 2025.**

- Military expenditure reached **\$92.1 billion**, marking an **8.9% increase** compared to the previous year.
- Only the **United States, China, Russia, and Germany** spent more on defence than India.

Arms Imports

- India remained the **world's second-largest importer of major arms** during the **2021–25 period**.
- India accounted for **8.2% of global arms imports**.
- The five largest arms importers during 2021–25 were: Ukraine, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan.

India's Improving Business Environment

Regulatory Reforms

- India has undertaken continuous reforms to improve the business regulatory framework.
- The focus has shifted from a compliance-intensive system to a facilitation-oriented and trust-based governance model.
- Reforms have enhanced speed, transparency, and ease of doing business.

Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)

- Growing investor confidence has strengthened India's business environment.
- In the **World Bank's Doing Business Report 2020**, India's rank improved from **142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019**, a gain of **79 positions**.

IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2025

- The ranking evaluates economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency, and infrastructure.
- India's rank improved from **43rd in 2021 to 41st in 2025**.
- This reflects improvements in governance, digital reforms, and the overall business ecosystem.

World Bank GovTech Maturity Index

- India was placed in **Group A** in **2020, 2022, and 2025**.
- Group A represents countries with advanced practices in: Core Government Systems, Public Service Delivery, Digital Citizen Engagement, GovTech Enablers.

United Nations E-Government Survey

- India secured a high overall score in the survey.
- The country achieved a **very high score in the Online Services Index**.

Global Peace Index 2026

- India's Rank: India is placed at **127th position** in the 2026 Global Peace Index.

Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026

- Published by: It is released by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent and non-partisan research organization.
- Coverage: This is the 20th edition of the index, covering 163 countries.
- Objective: It evaluates the level of peace in countries and examines its economic impact.

Top Ranked Countries

- Iceland holds the top position for the 19th year in a row.
- It is followed by New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia, and Ireland.

Lowest Ranked Countries

- Russia ranks last.
- Other countries at the bottom include Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and Israel.

Methodology

- The rankings are based on **23 indicators grouped** into three main areas:
 - Safety and security in society
 - Ongoing domestic and international conflicts
 - Level of militarization

- India also performed strongly in:
 - Telecommunication Infrastructure.
 - Human Capital Index.
- These indicate robust digital governance and expanding access to technology-enabled services.

Simplification and Compliance Reduction

- The Government has continuously simplified regulations and streamlined procedures.
- Compliance burden has been reduced across the entire business lifecycle.
- Reforms cover areas ranging from business registration and logistics to insolvency resolution.

Impact

- The reforms are transforming business practices in India.
- They are making it easier for entrepreneurs and investors, both domestic and global, to operate in the country.

Global Peace Index (GPI)

- The **Global Peace Index (GPI)** measures the overall level of peacefulness of countries.
- 1st Iceland – World's Most Peaceful Country, 2nd New Zealand, 3rd Switzerland**

QS Rankings 2027

- Context:** The QS World University Rankings 2027 has been released by Quacquarelli Symonds, assessing higher education institutions worldwide.

Key Findings

- The ranking covers over 1,500 universities from 106 countries and regions.
- India has 52 universities featured, making it the fifth most represented country globally.
- Indian Institute of Technology Delhi is the highest-ranked Indian institute, placed at 118th position worldwide.

- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Indian Institute of Technology Madras are also included among the top 200 universities globally.

Top Global Institution

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, has secured the No. 1 rank for the 15th consecutive year.

QS Global Future Skills Index 2027 – India

Overall Ranking

- India ranked 13th globally in the QS Global Future Skills Index 2027.
- The index was released by QS Quacquarelli Symonds on June 23, 2026.

- India secured an overall score of 89.4 out of 100.

'Future of Work' Category

- India ranked 5th in the 'Future of Work' category.
- India achieved a high score of 96.0 in this category.

Details about the Index

- The QS Global Future Skills Index measures the extent to which countries are prepared for economic shifts driven by artificial intelligence.
- It assesses readiness based on skills, education, and economic transformation.
- As a new methodology was employed for the 2027 edition, comparing it with the 2025 pilot edition would not be reliable.

Index of Service Production (ISP)

- Context:** The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** is set to launch the '**Index of Service Production**' (ISP) in July 2026 a new monthly macroeconomic index aimed at measuring short-term

fluctuations in the growth of India's services sector.

- Designed as a services-sector counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the ISP will provide continuous and accurate data on the performance of the formal services sector and strengthen the country's economic monitoring framework.

About Index of Service Production (ISP)

- The Index of Service Production (ISP) is an index proposed to **continuously measure and monitor the performance and growth of India's service sector**.
- It has been proposed by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- Its framework has been developed by adhering to international best practices and following the guidance of the Technical Advisory Committee for the ISP.
- The ISP will function alongside the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to provide continuous information on the service economy.
- The **base year for this index will be 2024–25**.
- It will primarily utilize data obtained from the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN).
- The index will cover key service sectors such as trade, transport, banking, insurance, hospitality, real estate, and professional services.
- It will assess data availability, sectoral coverage, and appropriate price adjustment factors in accordance with global standards.
- It is proposed that services from the informal sector will not be included in the index for the time being due to a lack of adequate data.

- The health and education sectors which **contribute approximately 10% to the service sector's Gross Value Added (GVA)** will also be temporarily excluded until data from the 'Annual Survey of Registered Service Sector Enterprises' becomes available.

International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 & Food Sovereignty

- **Context:** The **United Nations** has designated 2026 as the **International Year of the Woman Farmer**.
- The initiative recognizes women farmers as central to achieving **food sovereignty**, sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, and social justice.

About Food Sovereignty

- Food sovereignty is the **right of people and communities to decide how food is produced, distributed, and consumed**.
- It promotes:
 - Local and sustainable food systems.
 - Community control over agriculture.
 - Protection of biodiversity and traditional knowledge.
 - Equitable access to food and natural resources.

Role of Women Farmers

- Women are the backbone of:
 - Agricultural production.
 - Household nutrition.
 - Seed conservation.
 - Biodiversity protection.
 - Climate adaptation.
- They preserve traditional farming knowledge and contribute significantly to sustainable food systems.

Challenges Faced by Women Farmers

- Limited ownership of land and productive assets.
- Restricted access to:
 - Credit and financial services.

- Agricultural inputs and technology.
- Government welfare schemes.
- Underrepresentation in agricultural policymaking and decision-making.
- Heavy burden of unpaid labour in farming, household work, and caregiving.
- Increased responsibilities due to **male out-migration** from rural areas.

Women and Climate Resilience

- Women farmers are adapting to climate change by:
 - Modifying cropping patterns.
 - Diversifying crops.
 - Conserving seeds.
 - Improving local water management.
- Despite these efforts, their contributions remain largely **unrecognized and unpaid**.

Significance of Food Sovereignty

- Goes beyond food security by emphasizing:
 - Community control over food systems.
 - Cultural identity and indigenous knowledge.
 - Ecological sustainability.
 - Social and economic justice.
- Challenges centralized, corporate-controlled food systems and promotes local decision-making.

Government Initiatives Supporting Women Farmers

- NAMO Drone Didi Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
- Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)
- Krishi Sakhis
- National Gender Resource Centre in Agriculture (NGRCA)

Release of SDG Publications on the Occasion of 20th Statistics Day (29th June 2026)

- **Context:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

released a series of publications on the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to mark the 20th Statistics Day**, highlighting India's progress across social, economic and environmental indicators under the **National Indicator Framework (NIF)**.

- On the occasion of the **20th Statistics Day, on 29th June 2026**, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** released the following publications on **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:

- Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2026
- Data Snapshot on Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2026;
- Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework, 2026 (along with metadata);
- Transforming Lives: India's Achievements under the People Dimension of the SDGs.

National Indicator Framework (NIF) for SDGs

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) developed the National Indicator Framework (NIF) to monitor India's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The NIF was prepared in consultation with: **Concerned Ministries and Departments, NITI Aayog, United Nations (UN) agencies, Other stakeholders**
- The report is prepared using data provided by different Ministries and Departments.
- MoSPI releases the SDG Progress Report every year on **29 June**.

Publications Released on 29 June 2026

Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2026

- Presents the latest time-series data on India's SDG indicators.
- Helps track India's progress in achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

- Serves as an important source of information for: **Policymakers, Planners, Researchers, Other stakeholders**

Thematic SDG Bulletin – “Transforming Lives: India’s Achievements under the People Dimension of the SDGs”

- It is part of a series of data-based SDG bulletins based on the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: **People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnerships**

People Dimension of the SDGs

- The bulletin highlights India’s achievements in human development and social welfare, focusing on: **SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality**

Key Focus of the Bulletin

- Highlights major government schemes and policy initiatives that support human development.
- Shows India’s progress in improving people’s lives.
- Reaffirms India’s commitment to the SDG principle of “Leave No One Behind.”

Highlights of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report, 2026

- The National Indicator Framework (NIF) 2026 has **277 indicators** covering all **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- The report shows that India has made good progress in achieving the SDGs.
- **Major Highlights**
 - **Social Protection:** People covered under social protection schemes increased from **22% (2016) to 65.3% (2026)**.
 - **Conservation of Genetic Resources:**
 - Plant genetic resources increased from 4,32,564 (2014–15) to 4,91,864 (2025–26).
 - Animal genetic resources increased from 1,40,364 to 3,61,794.

- Fish genetic resources increased from 47 to 105.
- This shows better conservation of plants, animals, and fish for agriculture and food security.

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):** MMR reduced from 122 (2015–17) to 87 (2022–24) per 1,00,000 live births.
- **Sex Ratio at Birth:** Improved from 896 girls per 1,000 boys (2015–17) to 918 girls per 1,000 boys (2022–24)
- **Renewable Energy:** Installed renewable energy capacity increased from 64.04 watts per person (2014–15) to 193.36 watts per person (2025–26).
- **Unemployment Rate:** The unemployment rate fell from 6.1% (2017–18) to 3.1% (2025).

Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026

- The Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026 was published by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** in partnership with **Accenture**.
- India secured the **70th position**, moving up **two places** compared to the previous edition of the index.
- The country emerged as one of the **best-performing nations in terms of improvement in energy transition preparedness**.
- India’s advancement was attributed to enhanced **transition readiness**, aided by:
 - the expansion of **renewable energy capacity**,
 - development of **power grid infrastructure**,
 - promotion of **green hydrogen programmes**, and
 - greater investments in **sustainable and clean-energy projects**.
- At the global level, **Sweden, Finland, and Denmark** continued to occupy the **top three ranks**, respectively.

SPORTS & GAMES

Singapore Open Badminton

- In the men's doubles category of the **Singapore Open Badminton tournament**, the Indian pair of **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** emerged victorious.
- They earned the distinction of becoming the **first Indians to become champions in the doubles category of this tournament.**

Boxers world rankings

- **Jaismine Lamboria** climbed to World No. 1 in the women's 57kg category.
- **Minakshi** extended her reign as World No. 1 in the 48kg category.

Norway Chess 2026

- **Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa** delivered a landmark performance by winning the **Norway Chess 2026 tournament**, showcasing exceptional skill and consistency against top global players.
- He secured the title with outstanding gameplay, including **two victories over reigning world champion Magnus Carlsen**, highlighting his dominance in the tournament.

French Open

- **Alexander Zverev** claimed his maiden Grand Slam title by winning the French Open. The German second seed defeated Italy's **Flavio Cobolli**.

2026 Asian Women's Individual Chess Championship

- 19-year-old **Savitha Shri Baskar** won the 2026 Asian Women's Individual Chess Championship held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.
- With this victory, she has also qualified for the 2027 FIDE Women's World Cup.

2026 FIFA World Cup (23rd Edition)

- **Context:** The 2026 FIFA World Cup is the current and 23rd edition of the FIFA World

Cup, the quadrennial international men's soccer championship contested by the national teams of the member associations of FIFA.

- The tournament is currently taking place from June 11 to July 19, 2026.
- The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the biggest and most ambitious edition of the tournament so far.
- **Team Expansion:** For the first time, the competition will feature 48 teams, increased from the earlier 32-team format.
- **Host Countries:** United States, Canada, Mexico
- **Hosting Significance**
 - This will be the **first World Cup since 2002** to be hosted by more than one country.
 - **Canada will host the tournament for the first time ever.**
 - Mexico will become the first country to host the Men's World Cup three times (after 1970 and 1986).
- New debutant teams include: **Cape Verde, Curacao, Jordan, Uzbekistan**
- **Defending Champion: Argentina national football team** enters the tournament as the reigning champion, having won the 2022 World Cup.

Archery World Cup

- India clinched gold medals in two categories – including the men's individual event – at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 tournament held in Turkey.
- It is noteworthy that in the finals of both events, India defeated South Korea, a formidable team and a long-standing, challenging rival.
- Notably, Indian archer **Dhiraj Bommadevara** won gold in both categories.

National Senior Athletics Championship

- The Inter-State National Senior Athletics Championship was held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- Tamil Nadu won the overall championship title.

EMINENT PERSONALITIES

Anjalai Ammal (1890–1961)

Introduction

- Freedom fighter Anjalai Ammal's **birth anniversary on June 1**.
- Anjalai Ammal was an Indian **freedom fighter, social reformer, and politician from Cuddalore**.
- She actively participated in India's freedom struggle.
- She spent about **7½ years in prison** for her involvement in the independence movement.
- She was among the **first women elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly**.
- She was elected as a **Congress MLA in 1937 and 1946**.

Role in the Freedom Movement

- Joined the **Non-Cooperation Movement in 1921**.
- Participated in:
 - Neil Statue Satyagraha(1927)
 - Salt Satyagraha(1930)
 - Quit India Movement(1942)
- Her bravery earned her the title **"Jhansi Rani of South India"** from Mahatma Gandhi.

Meeting with Gandhi

- When Gandhi visited Cuddalore to meet her, the British government tried to prevent the meeting.
- Anjalai Ammal successfully met Gandhi by disguising herself in a burqa.
- She encouraged her nine-year-old daughter to participate in freedom protests.
- Gandhi named her daughter **Leelavathy**.

Imprisonment and Sacrifices

- Arrested several times for participating in nationalist activities.
- In **1930**, she was arrested for picketing foreign goods shops in Madras.

- During her court appearance, she defended herself and criticized police actions against protesters.
- In 1932, she was imprisoned in **Vellore Prison** while pregnant.
- Released temporarily for childbirth.
- Returned to prison within two weeks after giving birth.
- She gave birth to her last son during her period of imprisonment.

Women's Leadership

- Presided over the **All India Women Congress Meet in 1931**.
- Worked to encourage women's participation in the freedom movement.

Political Career

- After Independence, she continued in public life.
- Elected to the **Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly three times**.
- Served as a Congress representative.

Family Contributions

- Her **husband Murugappa**, daughter **Leelavathy**, and son-in-law **Jamadhagni** were also freedom fighters.

Death

- Passed away on **20 February 1961**.
- Remembered as one of Tamil Nadu's prominent women freedom fighters and political leaders.
- The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to **celebrate Anjalai Ammal's birth anniversary on June 1 every year as a State function**.

V.V.S. Iyer

- **Context:** On the occasion of the **death anniversary of V.V.S. Iyer** — a freedom fighter and renowned writer — the Vice President of India paid tribute to him.

About V.V.S. Iyer (1881–1925)

Birth and Early Life

- **Full Name:** Varahaneri Venkatesa Subramaniam Iyer (V.V.S. Iyer)
- **Born:** April 2, 1881, Varahaneri, Trichy.

- He completed his legal studies and practiced as a lawyer.
- He was a polyglot, proficient in several languages including Tamil, English, Sanskrit, French, and Latin.

Life in London and the Revolutionary Path

- In 1907, he enrolled at **Lincoln's Inn** in London to pursue his legal studies.
- His meeting with **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar** there proved to be a turning point in his life.
- He served as a key member of the '**India House**' revolutionary movement.
- As a revolutionary freedom fighter, during his three-year stay in London, he abstained from food on more than 600 occasions; he utilized the money saved through these fasts to purchase arms and ammunition.
- He assisted in translating Savarkar's book, **The Indian War of Independence**, from Marathi into English.

The Puducherry Period (1910–1920)

- Fleeing from an arrest warrant issued by the British government, he escaped to Puducherry.
- There, he collaborated with **Subramania Bharati** and **Sri Aurobindo** to engage in activities aimed at national liberation.
- He lived in **Puducherry** for approximately 10 years.

Contribution to the Freedom Struggle

- A nationalist leader who advocated for armed revolution.
- In 1911, **Robert William Ashe** served as the **District Collector and District Magistrate of the Tirunelveli district**.
- He did everything within his power to dismantle the '**Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company**,' which had been founded by **V.O. Chidambaram Pillai**; furthermore, he played a pivotal role in ensuring V.O.C. was imprisoned.
- This act ignited a desire for vengeance among the revolutionaries.
- Preparations to assassinate Ashe began as early

as **January 1911**. Vanchinathan was selected to carry out this mission.

- He received marksmanship training from **V.V.S. Aiyar and Muthukumarasamy Pillai**, a school teacher from the local region.
- He provided arms training to young men in the service of India's independence struggle.

Contributions to Tamil Literature

- He is hailed as the "**Father of the Modern Tamil Short Story**."
- He translated the **Thirukkural** into English.
- He translated Rabindranath Tagore's story, **Kabuliwala**, into Tamil.
- He authored a scholarly treatise on the **Kamba Ramayanam**.
- He wrote **biographies** of **Garibaldi** and **Guru Gobind Singh**.

Journalism and Politics

- He served as the editor of the journal **Deshabhakthan**.
- In 1921, he was arrested on charges of sedition and served a prison sentence of nine months.

Significance

- A prominent revolutionary freedom fighter from Tamil Nadu.
- A multifaceted personality who was an armed revolutionary, writer, translator, and journalist.
- He made indelible contributions to both the Indian independence movement and the growth of Tamil literature.

Perumal Varadarajulu Naidu

- Perumal Varadarajulu Naidu (4 June 1887 – 23 July 1957) was a physician, freedom fighter, politician, and journalist.
- Founder of **The Indian Express (1931/32)** and **Tamil weekly Tamil Nadu (1925)**.
- Joined the **Indian National Congress**; gave up medical practice in 1917 to join the freedom struggle.
- Participated in the **Indian Home Rule Movement**.

- Opposed caste-based discrimination in the **Cheranmadevi Gurukulam** along with **Periyar E. V. Ramasamy**.
- Supported **temple-entry movements** for marginalized communities.
- Known as a labour leader and advocate for handloom workers and small-scale industries.
- Studied in **Kerala** and joined **Madras Christian College** in 1903.
- Completed **M.A. in Philosophy** from the **University of Edinburgh**.
- Studied Law in London (Middle Temple) in 1908.
- Met many Indian freedom fighters during his stay in London.
- Returned to India in January 1909.

Quaid-e-Millat

Birth and Early Life

- Born on **June 5, 1896**, in **Pettai, Tirunelveli district**.
- His original name was **Mohamed Ismail**.

Role in Freedom Movement

- Inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi's** ideals.
- Actively participated in India's independence struggle.
- Served as a **leader in the Congress Party** for 16 years (from 1920).

Leadership in Muslim League

- Became the leader of the **Madras Province Muslim League** in 1945.
- Later served as the leader of the **Indian Union Muslim League** from 1948.

Legislative Contributions

- Elected to the **Madras Provincial Legislative Assembly** in 1946.
- Served as **Leader of the Opposition**.
- Also contributed as a member of the **Constituent Assembly**.

Parliamentary Career

- Elected to the **Rajya Sabha** in 1952.
- Served as a **Member of Lok Sabha** from 1962 to 1972.

Legacy

- Remembered for his lifelong service to the nation and his community.
- Upheld strong values of **integrity, duty, and dedication**.

George Joseph

Early Life and Education

- Born on **June 5, 1887**, in **Chengannur, Kerala**.

Fight Against Criminal Tribes Act (CTA)

- Strongly opposed the **Criminal Tribes Act**.
- Worked through courts and newspapers to protect their rights.
- Helped reduce harsh rules like forced police reporting at night.
- Earned the title "**Rosapoo Durai**".

Labour Movement

- Helped start the **Madurai Labour Union** in 1918.
- Worked for better wages and working conditions for workers.

Association with Gandhi

- Met **Mahatma Gandhi** in 1919 and became his supporter.
- Hosted Gandhi in **Madurai**.
- Organized large public meetings and protests against the **Rowlatt Act**.
- Played a key role in **Satyagraha and hartals** in **Madurai**.

Journalism and National Role

- Became editor of **Motilal Nehru's The Independent**.
- Arrested in 1921 for sedition.
- Later edited Gandhi's **Young India** in 1923.

Vaikom Satyagraha(1924)

- Participated in **Vaikom movement** for **Dalit rights**.
- Believed it was a fight for basic human rights.
- Took part even though Gandhi did not fully support his role.

Social Work and Later Activities

- Promoted **khadi**, removal of untouchability, and communal harmony.
- Took part in political activities throughout his life.
- Elected to **Central Legislative Assembly** in 1937.

Relations with Leaders

- Worked with leaders like **Rajaji, Kamaraj, and Periyar**.
- Supported **Kamaraj** in a legal case.
- Admired **B.R. Ambedkar** and discussed social issues with him.

Death and Legacy

- Died on **March 5, 1938**, in Madurai at the age of 50.
- Buried at **East Gate Cemetery**.
- A statue was **erected in his memory** in 1966 at Madurai.

Birsa Munda

- **Context:** June 9 marks the 126th death anniversary of **Birsa Munda**, a prominent tribal leader and freedom fighter.
- The Vice President paid tribute to **Bhagwan Birsa Munda on the occasion of his death anniversary**.

About Birsa Munda

Early Life

- Born in 1875 at **Ulihatu** in the **Khunti** district of **Jharkhand**.
- He belonged to the **Munda** tribe of the **Chotanagpur** region.

Teachings and Beliefs

- **Monotheism:** Advocated the worship of a single God; founded the '**Birsait**' sect.
- **Tribal Reform:** Opposed the dominance of missionaries; revived traditional beliefs.
- **Moral Values:** Promoted hygiene, hard work, and abstinence from alcohol.

Demise and Legacy

- Passed away due to cholera in **Ranchi Jail** in 1900.

- Referred to as '**Bhagwan**' and '**Dharti Abba**' (**Father of the Earth**).
- November 15th is celebrated as '**Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**' (**Tribal Pride Day**).

Contribution to the Freedom Struggle

- Led the '**Ulgulan**' (**Munda Rebellion**) in 1899.
- Raised slogans against British rule, advocating for self-rule.

Ram Prasad Bismil

- **Context:** The birth anniversary (June 11) of **Ram Prasad Bismil**, a prominent freedom fighter and revolutionary leader, was commemorated.

Notes on Ram Prasad Bismil (1897–1927)

- Born in **Shahjahanpur**, **Uttar Pradesh**, he was deeply influenced by the principles of the **Arya Samaj** from a young age.

Key Contributions

- **Revolutionary Activities:** He emerged as a prominent revolutionary through the '**Mainpuri Conspiracy**' (1918), which involved the distribution of literature banned for propagating nationalist ideas.
- **Founding the HRA:** In 1924, he co-founded the '**Hindustan Republican Association**' (HRA) alongside **Sachindranath Sanyal** and others; this organization was later known as the '**Hindustan Socialist Republican Association**' (HSRA).
- **Kakori Conspiracy (1925):** He planned and led the **Kakori** train robbery.
- **Prison Protest:** While incarcerated, Bismil and his associates undertook a **hunger strike** to demand recognition as political prisoners and to protest against the harsh conditions within the prison.
- **Literary Work:** He composed **patriotic songs in Hindi and Urdu** under pseudonyms such as **Bismil, Ram, and Agyat**.
- **Sacrifice:** Following a controversial trial regarding the **Kakori** case, he was executed by hanging on **December 19, 1927**.

Vanchinatha Iyer (Sankara Iyer)

- **Context:** Vice President paid floral tributes to Freedom Fighter Vanchinathan on his **death anniversary** at Uprashtrapati Bhavan.

Early Life and Background:

- Birthplace: **Shenkottai**, Tamil Nadu.
- Family: He was the son of **Shri Raghupathy Iyer**
- Education: He studied up to **primary school level**
- **Occupation:** After completing his schooling, he worked in the Forest Department

Role in the Freedom Struggle

- He took part in revolutionary movements against British rule in India

Assassination of Robert Ashe and Its Consequences

- Assassination of Robert Ashe: On **17 June 1911**, at the age of 25, **Vanchinatha Iyer shot and killed Robert Ashe**, the District Collector of Tirunelveli, also called "**Collector Dorai**"
- The incident occurred at **Maniyachi Railway Station** when Ashe was travelling to kodaikanal.
- **Aftermath:** Soon after carrying out the attack, **Vanchinatha Iyer** ended his life.

Revolutionary Network and Bharatha Matha Sangam

- **Nilakanta Brahmachari** played a major role in recruiting revolutionaries across the Madras Presidency and planning attacks on British officials.
- **Connections:** **Shankar Krishna Iyer**, who was Vanchinatha's brother-in-law, introduced him to Nilakanta Brahmachari.
- **Organization:** Vanchinatha Iyer, along with **Nilakanta Brahmachari**, **Shankar Krishna Iyer**, and others, established the **Bharatha Matha Sangam**
- This group was involved in planning assassinations of important British officials.

Honour and Remembrance

- The **Maniyachi Railway Station**, where the assassination took place, was later renamed **Vanchi Maniyachi** in his memory.

Rani Lakshmibai

- **Context:** Home Minister paid homage to the great warrior queen **Rani Lakshmibai on her martyrdom day**.

Early Life

- She was born on **19 November 1828** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Her father was **Moropant Tambe**.
- Her birth name was **Manikarnika**, and she was lovingly called "**Manu.**"
- She had a son named **Damodar Rao**, who passed away within four months of his birth.
- After this loss, the Maharaja adopted a relative's child, **Anand Rao**, who was renamed **Damodar Rao** shortly before the Maharaja's death.

Role in India's Freedom Struggle:

- **Rani Lakshmibai** was one of the most courageous figures in India's struggle for independence.
- In **1853**, after the death of the Maharaja of Jhansi, **Lord Dalhousie** rejected the adopted heir and applied the **Doctrine of Lapse** to annex Jhansi.
- She strongly resisted the British and fought to protect her kingdom from being taken over. She attained martyrdom on **18 June 1858** while fighting on the battlefield.
- When the **Indian National Army** formed its **first women's unit in 1943**, it was named in honour of the brave Queen of Jhansi.

Rani Durgavati

- **Context:** The Union Home Minister paid tribute to **Rani Durgavati on the day commemorating her sacrifice**.

Early Life and Reigen

- Rani Durgavati was born in **1524 into the Chandela dynasty at Mahoba**, located near the border of present-day Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- The Chandela rulers are renowned for constructing the Khajuraho temples in the 11th century.
- She ruled the '**Garha-Katanga**' region, which encompassed the Narmada Valley and parts of northern Madhya Pradesh.

Resistance against the Mughals

- She fiercely resisted the expansion of the Mughal Empire during the 16th century.
- She fought **valiantly against Asaf Khan, a commander of Akbar**.
- She also engaged in conflicts with Baz Bahadur.
- She is remembered for the courage and strong leadership she demonstrated on the battlefield.

Notable Battle

- The most significant of the battles she fought against the Mughals was the '**Battle of Narrai**' (1564).

Ma Po Si**Birth and Early Life**

- Birth: He was born on **June 26, 1906**, in Mylapore, Chennai, to the couple Ponnusamy and Sivakami Ammal.

Honours

- He was conferred the title '**Silambu Chelvar**' by '**Sollin Chelvar**' Ra. Pi. Sethupillai.
- **The Universities of Madras and Annamalai** honoured him by awarding him honorary doctorates.
- Madurai University conferred upon him the title '**Peravai Chelvar**'.
- The Central Government honoured him with the **Padma Shri award**.
- In **2006**, marking his centenary, the Government of Tamil Nadu honoured him by **nationalizing his literary works**.

Literary Works**Books**

- Vallalarum Bharathiyum [1965]
- Engal Kavi Bharathi [1953]
- Bharathiyarum Angilamum [1961]
- Bharathi Kanda Orumaippadu [1962]
- Ulaga Mahakavi Bharathi [1966]
- Bharathiyar Paathaiyile [1974]
- Bharathiyin Porkkural [1979]

Sahitya Akademi Award-winning book

- Vallalar Kanda Orumaippadu- 1966

Historical works

- Kappalottiya Tamilan (Biography of V.O. Chidambaranar)
- Viduthalai Poril Tamilagam (Tamil Nadu in the Freedom Struggle - Volumes 1 & 2)
- Viduthalaikku Pin Tamil Valarndha Varalaru (History of Tamil's Growth After Independence)
- Naan Arindha Rajaji (The Rajaji I Knew)

Works on Silappathikaram

- Kannagi Vazhipadu
- Madhaviyin Maanbu
- Kovalan Kuttravaliya

The Legacy of Kappalottiya Tamilan

- Ma.Po.Si. was the one who brought the sacrifices made by V.O. Chidambaranar to the attention of the world. **Ma.Po.Si.'s book titled *Kappalottiya Tamilan* (The Tamil Who Steered the Ship)**, which chronicles the life of V.O.C., is a distinguished work.
- Consequently, V.O.C. came to be celebrated across Tamil Nadu by that very title **Kappalottiya Tamilan**.

Struggles

- He campaigned to rename '**Madras State**' to '**Tamil Nadu**'. When states were being reorganized on a linguistic basis and people from Andhra demanded Chennai claiming "**Madras Manadhe**" (**Madras is ours**) he fought against this and ensured Chennai remained the capital of Tamil Nadu.

- He also fought to **include Thiruvengadam (Tirupati)** in Tamil Nadu, though he did not succeed in that effort; however, **that struggle resulted in Thiruttani** being secured for Tamil Nadu.
- He campaigned for the inclusion of the **Kumari district, Sengottai, Peermade, and Devikulam in Tamil Nadu**. While Kumari and Sengottai were successfully secured for the state, **Peermade and Devikulam were merged with Kerala**.
- **This novel evoked a sense of patriotism** and became closely associated with India's freedom struggle.
- India's national song, "**Vande Mataram**," was taken from the novel 'Anandamath'; it served as a powerful slogan during the freedom struggle.

Notable Works

Periodicals run by Ma.Po.Si

- He published a weekly magazine named 'Sengol'.
- He also published a magazine named 'Tamil Murasu'.

Beginnings in the Congress

- He started his political career as a supporter of the Indian National Congress.
- He participated in the 'Quit India' movement and endured imprisonment for several years.
- While active in the Congress movement, he also raised his voice for the rights of Tamils.

The Tamil Arasu Kazhagam and the Border Reclamation Struggle

- He founded the organization known as the Tamil Arasu Kazhagam in 1946.
- When the Andhra state was being carved out, he championed the cause of retaining Chennai as the capital of Tamil Nadu, famously declaring, "We shall safeguard the capital even at the cost of our lives."

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

- **Context:** The Prime Minister paid tribute to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay a renowned litterateur and nationalist thinker on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

About Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was born on **June 26, 1838, in Naihati, West Bengal**.
- His famous novel 'Anandamath' which was later banned by the British was based on the **Sannyasi Rebellion**.

- 'Rajmohan's Wife' was the first English novel written by an Indian.

His well-known Bengali novels include:

- Durgeshnandini (1865)
- Kapalkundala (1866)
- Vishavriksha (1873)
- These literary works addressed important social issues such as women's rights, child marriage, and caste discrimination.
- His renowned religious work is 'Krishna Charitra'.

Role in the Bengal Renaissance

- In 1872, Bankim launched a literary magazine named '**Bangadarshan**'.
- This magazine helped propagate Bengali nationalism and fostered literary and cultural growth.
- Bankim wanted the magazine 'Bangadarshan' to serve the purpose of bridging the gap between the educated and the **common people, as well as strengthening the Bengali identity**.
- Rabindranath Tagore was deeply impressed by the magazine; he later revived it and used it to publish nationalist ideas and writings.

Dadabhai Naoroji (1825–1917)

- **Context:** Dadabhai Naoroji, widely known as the "**Grand Old Man of India**," passed away on **June 30, 1917**, in Bombay. His death anniversary is commemorated annually to honor his foundational role in the Indian freedom struggle and his pioneering economic theories.
- Dadabhai Naoroji was a famous Indian nationalist, economist, social reformer,

educationist, and scholar. He was also the first Indian to become a Member of the British Parliament.

Early Life and Education

- Born on **4 September 1825 in Bombay** (some sources mention Navsari) in a middle-class Parsi family.
- Studied at the **Elphinstone Institute**, where he was an excellent student, especially in Mathematics and English.
- Became the **first Indian Professor at Elphinstone College**, marking an important step in modern Indian education.

Contributions to the Indian Freedom Movement

Economic Contributions

- Proposed the **Drain of Wealth Theory**, which explained that British rule was making India poor by taking away its wealth through: Salaries of British officials, Pensions, Money sent to Britain
- Wrote important books:
 - Poverty and Un-British Rule in India
 - Poverty of India
- His efforts led to the formation of the **Welby Commission (1895)** to examine India's financial burden, and he served as one of its members.
- Promoted economic nationalism, which later inspired the Swadeshi Movement and the idea of self-reliance.

Political Contributions

- One of the founding members of the Indian National Congress (INC).
- Served as INC President three times: **1886, 1893, 1906**
- In **1892**, became the **first Indian elected to the British Parliament**, representing Central Finsbury as a Liberal Party candidate.
- Supported self-government (Swaraj) through constitutional and democratic methods.

- Helped maintain unity between the Moderates and Extremists in the INC.

- Presided over the **1906 Calcutta Session**, where Swaraj was officially accepted as the national goal.

- Guided future national leaders like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Mahatma Gandhi**.

Social Reforms

- Strong supporter of women's education and helped organise special classes for girls at Elphinstone.
- Started the **Rast Goftar**, a Gujarati newspaper that promoted social reform.
- Co-founded the **Rahnumai Mazdayasan Sabha (1851)** to reform Parsi society.

- Along with **Jyotiba Phule**, gave recommendations to the **Hunter Commission (1882)** for introducing compulsory primary education.

Institution Building

- Founded important organisations to spread awareness about India's issues in Britain:
 - London Indian Society (1865)
 - East India Association (1866)
- These organisations later supported the activities of the Indian National Congress and helped present India's concerns internationally.

Important Facts

- Known as the **"Grand Old Man of India."**
- Also called the **"Unofficial Ambassador of India"** because he represented India's interests in Britain.
- Taught Gujarati at **University College London**, becoming one of the first Indians to do so.
- Among the first economists to study poverty in India using facts and statistical data.
- His **1906 INC Presidential Address** was the first to officially declare **"Swaraj"** (self-rule) as the goal of the Indian National Congress.

DEFENCE

BrahMos Missile: India's Key Defense Export

- **Context:** Following Vietnam, the **Union Defense Secretary** has announced that an agreement to **export India's state-of-the-art BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles** (missiles traveling faster than the speed of sound) to Indonesia has reached its final stages.
- In 2022, the Philippines signed a contract with India to acquire **BrahMos missiles worth approximately \$375 million.**
- This earned the **Philippines the distinction of being the first foreign nation to acquire this missile system.**
- In this context, it is noteworthy that Indonesia is now set to join this list, following in the footsteps of Vietnam.

The BrahMos Missile

- BrahMos is a **long-range, supersonic cruise missile** capable of being launched from land, sea, and air platforms, and is capable of carrying nuclear warheads.
- It is one of the **fastest cruise missiles in the world**, capable of reaching **speeds of up to Mach 3.**
- This missile was jointly developed by **India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPOM;** it was successfully test-fired for the first time in 2001.
- The name "**BrahMos**" is derived from the **Brahmaputra River in India and the Moskva River in Russia.**
- This missile has already been inducted into the **Indian Armed Forces and is currently operational.**

- Its **high maneuverability** and unpredictable flight path make it extremely difficult for enemy missile defense systems to intercept.

Key Features

- It features an advanced guidance system equipped with stealth technology and sophisticated onboard software.
- Operates on the principle of "**fire-and-forget**," requiring no further guidance after launch.
- Maintains **supersonic speed** throughout its flight, reaching **speeds of up to Mach 3.**
- Offers a long operational range with **multiple flight path options.**
- Enhances survivability due to its **low radar cross-section.**
- Features a **short flight time**, enabling rapid strikes against targets and minimizing enemy reaction time.
- Delivers **high-precision strikes** with significant destructive capability.
- Carries a **conventional warhead weighing between 200 and 300 kilograms.**

RudraM-II

- **Context:** The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted flight tests of the **RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile.**
- The missile was launched from an airborne platform under extreme release conditions.
- **RudraM-II was developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat** as the lead laboratory.
- **Significance**
 - Demonstrates India's growing capability in indigenous precision-guided weapon systems.
 - Strengthens Aatmanirbhar Bharat in advanced defence technologies.

- Enhances the Indian Armed Forces' capability to engage high-value ground targets with precision.

37th Foundation Day of BRO's 'Uday' Project

- **Context:** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated the 37th Raising Day of Project UDAYAK on 1 June 2026 at Doomdooma.
- The event marked over three decades of service in developing strategic infrastructure in Northeast India.

Area of Responsibility

- Project UDAYAK is responsible for maintaining and developing over 1,457 km of road network.
- It operates in eastern Arunachal Pradesh and parts of Assam.

Strategic Importance

- Enhances connectivity in remote and sensitive border regions.
- Supports infrastructure development along:
 - Line of Actual Control (LAC)
 - Indo-Myanmar Border
- Plays a key role in strengthening national security and border accessibility.

Significance

- Improves military mobility and border connectivity.
- Contributes to socio-economic development in remote northeastern regions.
- Supports nation-building in challenging operational environments.

S-400 Air Defence System

- **Context:** India has received the fourth squadron of the Russian made S-400 air defence system, strengthening the country's long-range air defence network.

- The delivery is part of a **agreement \$5.43 billion** signed between **India and Russia in 2018** for the acquisition of five **S-400 regimental systems**.

About S-400 Air Defence System

- It is a highly mobile, **long-range surface-to-air missile defence system**.
- Developed by a **Russian government-owned enterprise**.
- The system is capable of defending against a wide variety of aerial threats such as drones, ballistic and cruise missiles, rockets, and fighter aircraft.

Key Features:

- Comprises a command and control unit, advanced tracking and targeting systems, missile launchers, and supporting vehicles.
- **Range:** Can engage aerial targets up to **400 km**, with surveillance capabilities extending to about **600 km**.
- Can track and engage up to **80 targets** simultaneously.
- **Altitude coverage:** Up to **30 km**.

C-295 Aircraft

- **Context:** The first indigenously manufactured C-295 military transport aircraft recently completed its maiden flight, marking a significant milestone for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

About the C-295 Aircraft

- The C-295 is a modern medium tactical transport aircraft designed for a wide range of military operations.
- It is a dependable and versatile platform capable of performing missions such as **troop and cargo transport, maritime surveillance, airborne early warning, intelligence gathering, close**

air support, medical evacuation, and air-to-air refuelling.

Features of the C-295 Aircraft

- The aircraft can remain airborne for **up to 11 hours and is capable of operating in all weather conditions.**
- The C-295 possesses excellent low-altitude flying capabilities and can undertake tactical missions at speeds as low as 110 knots.
- It is equipped with two turboprop engines.
- The aircraft has Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) capability, enabling operations from short and unprepared airstrips.

Project Kusha

- **Context:** Defence Minister described the indigenous Project Kusha air defence programme as a “game changer” for India’s security architecture, asserting that its importance had already been demonstrated during Operation Sindoor.

About project kusha

- This indigenous air defense system is designed to detect and destroy a wide array of threats, including stealth fighters, aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, and precision-guided munitions at ranges of up to 350 km.
- **Developed by:** Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
- **Aim:** It seeks to establish a formidable three-layered defense system with the capability to neutralize enemy aircraft and missiles from extended distances effectively.
- **Estimated Cost:** 21,700 crore

Key Features

- The long range surface to air defence system(LR-SAM) incorporates advance long range surveillance and fire control radars.

- Interceptor missiles with a range of **150 km, 200 km and 350 km**, provide the ability to detect and strike hostile targets at different distances.
- The firing units of “Project kusha” can be seamlessly integrated with IAF’s air command and control system, facilitating coordination with wide range of military radars
- Impressive single shot probability of around **80%**. When two missiles are fired consecutively, kill probability rises **to 90 percent**.

India’s BMD Interceptor Missile Tests

- **Context:** Successful tests have been conducted from the launch site at **Chandipur, Odisha**, for **BMD (Ballistic Missile Defence) missiles**—designed to intercept and destroy **Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)** in mid-air—and for missiles designed to strike and destroy warships.

Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)

- Only the **USA, Russia, China, France, India, the UK, North Korea, and Israel** possess **Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)**.
- These missiles travel beyond Earth’s atmosphere, reenter the atmosphere at high speed, and precisely strike and destroy designated targets.

Significance of the BMD Missile System

- Intercepting and destroying ICBMs in mid-air is extremely difficult.
- Only the **USA, Russia, China, and Israel** possess interceptor missiles capable of destroying ICBMs.
- India has now joined this group.

Tests Conducted by DRDO

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted tests for a BMD missile capable of intercepting ICBMs in mid-air and an **NASM-**

MR (Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range) missile designed to strike and destroy warships.

- All three tests, conducted from the Chandipur launch site in Odisha, were completely successful.
- One of these missiles is capable of intercepting and destroying targets outside the Earth's atmosphere.
- The other intercepts and destroys targets after they have re-entered the atmosphere.
- It possesses the capability to intercept and destroy hostile missiles.

Inception of the BMD Program

- DRDO initiated the **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) program in 1999** to intercept and destroy **Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)**. Tests have been conducted continuously across various phases.

Swordfish Radar System

- As part of this program, the **state-of-the-art 'Swordfish' radar** was procured from Israel in 2000.
- These radars are now being manufactured indigenously with Israel's permission.
- This system enables the precise detection of enemy missiles within a **range of 1,500 to 5,000 km**.
- Notably, it can simultaneously track up to 200 missiles.

AD-1 and AD-2 Interceptor Missiles

- As a result of years of research, DRDO has developed BMD interceptor missiles named **AD-1 and AD-2**.
- Using the Swordfish radar and these BMD missiles, enemy intercontinental ballistic missiles can be intercepted and destroyed mid-air.

India's New Capability

- Through recent tests, India has acquired the capability to destroy ICBMs at a range of **5,000 km**.

Four-Tier Air Defence

- The Air Force is establishing a **four-tier air defence shield** to thwart enemy fighter jets and missile attacks.
- In the first tier of air defence, **Israeli-made Python and Derby missiles** will be used to destroy enemy drones.
- In the second tier, **Barak-8 missiles** will be used to intercept and destroy enemy short-range missiles.
- In the third tier, **Russian S-400 missiles** will be used to destroy enemy medium-range missiles in mid-air.
- In the fourth tier, BMD-class missiles will be used to destroy enemy **intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)**. These missiles will destroy enemy missiles outside the Earth's atmosphere.

Exercise Pitch Black

- **Context:** The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will participate in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026**, the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) premier multinational air combat exercise, scheduled to be held in Australia's Northern Territory.
- Exercise Pitch Black is the **RAAF's largest international exercise**.

Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)

- **Context:** The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the flight test of the **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)**.
- The test was carried out from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha**.

Indigenously Developed Missile

- The LRLACM is a fully indigenous missile system.
- All its sub-systems have been developed by various DRDO laboratories in collaboration with Indian industry partners.

Achievement of Test Objectives

- According to the Ministry of Defence, all the objectives of the flight test were successfully achieved.
- The missile met all mission requirements during the test.

Validation of Critical Technologies

- The successful trial validated several critical technologies.
- It demonstrated India's growing capability in long-range precision strike systems.

Boost to Defence Self-Reliance

- The achievement marks another important step towards the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- It strengthens India's indigenous defence ecosystem and enhances national security.

Exercise KHAAN QUEST

- **Origin:** Launched in 2003 as a joint exercise between the United States and Mongolia, it evolved into a multinational peacekeeping exercise in 2006.
- **Host:** Conducted by the Mongolian Armed Forces.
- **Objective:** Aims to strengthen peacekeeping skills, improve interoperability among participating forces, and boost military preparedness in line with Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
- **Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2026**, scheduled to be held from 20 June to 3 July at the Five Hills Training Area in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Indian Navy Inducts Three Indigenous Warships

- **Context:** The Indian Navy is set to commission three indigenously built frontline platforms Dunagiri, Sanshodhak and Agray in Kolkata on June 21 marking a significant milestone in India's maritime capability development.

Dunagiri

- Dunagiri, the fifth stealth frigate under Project 17A, is equipped with advanced weapons and sensor systems, including BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles and the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) system.
- The vessel is expected to significantly enhance the Navy's combat capabilities.

Sanshodhak

- Sanshodhak, the fourth Survey Vessel (Large), has been designed to undertake coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys and collect oceanographic and geophysical data for both defence and civilian applications.
- The ship is equipped with advanced survey technologies, including Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) and Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs).

Agray

- Agray, the fourth vessel of the Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft series, is fitted with lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers and shallow-water sonar systems.
- The platform is designed to detect and engage underwater threats in littoral and coastal waters.

Significance

- The three platforms underscore the growing maturity of India's indigenous shipbuilding ecosystem, with indigenous content exceeding 75 per cent.

- Their construction involved extensive participation from domestic industry, including more than **200 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**, generating substantial direct and indirect employment.
- aircraft to be assembled domestically by a private company.
- It reflects the country's efforts to strengthen indigenous defence production and reduce dependence on imports.

India's First Indigenous C295 Transport Aircraft

- **Context:** India is set to achieve a major milestone in defence manufacturing with the delivery of its first Made-in-India C295 transport aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF) in September 2026.
- Built by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) in collaboration with Airbus, it will be the first military aircraft produced in India by a private-sector company.

About the C295 Aircraft

- The C295 is a medium-range tactical transport aircraft developed by Airbus Defence and Space.
- It is capable of performing a variety of missions, including troop deployment, cargo transportation, medical evacuation, disaster response, and special operations.
- It can operate from short, semi-prepared, or unpaved airstrips, making it suitable for remote and challenging locations.
- Several countries already use the C295 for tactical airlift missions due to its operational efficiency and versatility.

Significance for India

- The aircraft marks a historic step in India's defence-industrial growth as the first military

Netra AEW&C System

- **Context:** The indigenous **Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C)** system has received **Final Operational Clearance (FOC)**.
- It serves as a major force multiplier for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and played a crucial role during the **2019 Balakot air strikes** and **Operation Sindoor**.

About Netra AEW&C

- Developed indigenously by the **Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS)**, Bengaluru, under the **DRDO**.
- Integrated on the **Brazilian Embraer EMB-145I** aircraft platform.
- India is the **fifth country in the world** to develop indigenous AEW&C capability.

Objective

- The Netra programme was launched to establish **indigenous capabilities in airborne surveillance and early warning systems**.
- It enhances the Indian Air Force's ability to monitor national airspace, detect hostile activities, protect sensitive borders, and support **network-centric military operations** through real-time intelligence and coordination.

AWARDS & HONOURS

National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG)

- **Context:** The National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) are presented annually to recognize excellence in the implementation of e-Governance initiatives.
- 17 Projects/ Initiatives selected for the National Awards for e-Governance 2026 across 7 Award categories.

About National Awards for e-Governance

- The National Awards for e-Governance aim to encourage and honour outstanding e-Governance initiatives.
- They were established in 2003 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- The awards are open to Central and State government bodies, Union Territories, districts, local authorities, public sector undertakings, and academic or research institutions.
- Winners receive a trophy, a certificate, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh for gold awards and ₹5 lakh for silver awards.

Major Award-Winning Projects

- **Agri Stack** – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- **e-Jagruti** – Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- **Mahakumbh 2025** – Prayagraj Mela Authority, Uttar Pradesh
- **Blood Bag Traceability & Citizen Interaction Portal** – K-DISC, Kerala
- **AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support System in eSanjeevani** – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- **District Court Case Management System (DCMS)** – High Court of Kerala

- **ICMR-MINDS** – Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- **Security Product for Threat Intel Distribution and DNS Filtering Service** – Space Applications Centre, ISRO
- **E-Nagar Palika with Cyber Security** – Madhya Pradesh
- **Integrated Cyber Security Framework for Digital Banking Ecosystem** – Bank of Baroda

Grassroots & Local Governance Awardees

- **E-Aarogya Dhamni** – Zilla Parishad, Nandurbar, Maharashtra
- **Pune 360** – Pune Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra
- **Kadepur Gram Panchayat** – Sangli District, Maharashtra
- **Bijoy Nagar Gram Panchayat** – West Tripura District, Tripura
- **TRINETRA AI-based Video Surveillance System** – Mahakaleshwar Temple Trust, Ujjain
- **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)** – Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Award Benefits

- **Gold Award:** Trophy + Certificate + ₹10 lakh incentive
- **Silver Award:** Trophy + Certificate + ₹5 lakh incentive
- Incentives are to be used for project implementation and public welfare initiatives.

Grammy Award

- **Context:** Tibetan spiritual leader and Nobel laureate 14th Dalai Lama formally received his Grammy Award.
- The award was won for the spoken-word album Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Grammy Recognition

- Won at the Grammy Awards 2026 in the

Best Audio Book, Narration and Storytelling Recording category.

Maan Bahadur Singh Lakak Samman

- **Perumal Murugan** was awarded the 'Maan Bahadur Singh Lakak Samman'.
- A Tamil writer renowned for works such as 'One Part Woman' (Madhorubagan) and 'Pyre' (Pookkuzhi), he receives this award for the year 2026 on behalf of the 'Indian Languages Unity Forum' (Indhiya Mozhigal Otrumai Mandram).

Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026

- **Context:** President conferred gallantry awards during **Phase 1 of the Defence Investiture Ceremony** held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **Seven Kirti Chakras** were awarded, including **two posthumously**, for acts of exceptional courage, bravery, and devotion to duty.
- The **Kirti Chakra** is **India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award**.
- **Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, an Indian Air Force pilot and Gaganyatri**, was among the recipients of the **Kirti Chakra**.
- The President also conferred:
 - **15 Vir Chakras**, including **three posthumously**.
 - **29 Shaurya Chakras**, including **one posthumously**.

Navika Sagar Parikrama 2 Recognition

- **Lt. Commander Dilna K. and Lt. Commander Roopa A.** were awarded the **Shaurya Chakra**.
- They were honoured for their **bravery, determination, and devotion to duty** during **Navika Sagar Parikrama 2**, the Indian Navy's all-women global circumnavigation expedition.

UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

- Prime Minister congratulated Major Abhilasha Barak on being conferred the UN Military

Gender Advocate of the Year Award and said the honour is a recognition of her exemplary service and also of India's longstanding contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping efforts.

- Major Barak, currently serving with the United Nations mission in Lebanon, has been honoured with the award for her outreach efforts with women and girls during her deployment in the West Asian nation.

Order of the White Double Cross

- During his first official visit to Bratislava on 15 June 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Slovakia's highest civilian distinction, the Order of the White Double Cross (First Class).
- The honour was bestowed by Slovak President Peter Pellegrini

Sangeetha Natak Academy Awards 2024-25

- Sangeetha Natak Akademi is a **national academy for music, dance and drama**.
- It was **established in 1953** and functions under the **Ministry of Culture of the Central Government**.
- Seven people have been shortlisted for the **Akademi Ratna award**, including **Tamil Bharatanatyam artist Sudharni Raghupathi**.
- **Tamil Nadu's N.Vijay Siva and A.S.Krishnan** were selected for the 12 awards for music artists.
- The 12 awardees for dance include **Tamils Roja Kannan for Bharatanatyam**, K. Hariprasad of Kalashetra and Nagajyothi and Seetha Nagajyothi for Kuchupudi.
- Among the couple from Delhi is Nagajyothi, former vice-president of Delhi Tamil Sangam, Delhi Education Corporation.
- **Tamil actor Vagai Chandrasekhar** is among the 10 recipients of the award for theater actors.

- **Puducherry's K. Murugan** is one of the 13 awardees for folk arts. Also, 5 artists have been shortlisted for the award in all categories. 40 people have been selected for the fellowships.
- They will be honored with a **cash prize of Rs.3 lakh**.
- 106 young artistes have been selected for Sangeet Natak Akademi Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar award.
- These awards are presented by the President.
- This day commemorates **Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh**.
- They were the sons of Guru Gobind Singh.

Award Categories

- Approximately 25 awards are presented across six fields: Bravery, Social Service, Environment, Sports, Art and Culture, and Science and Technology.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be an Indian citizen residing in India.
- Must be between the ages of 5 and 18.
- Must not have received this award previously.

Objective

- To encourage children's talents and achievements.
- To motivate the younger generation to contribute to society.
- To recognize exceptional talents demonstrated in various fields at a young age.

Wolf Prize 2025

- Rajasthan-born theoretical physicist **Jainendra K. Jain** has been awarded the **2025 Wolf Prize in Physics**.
- The award was presented by **Israeli President Isaac Herzog** at a ceremony in the Knesset, Jerusalem on 18 June 2026.
- He was honoured for the **discovery of composite fermions**, related to the **fractional quantum Hall effect**.

Wolf Prize in Physics

- Wolf Prize in Physics is an annual award given by the **Wolf Foundation**.
- It was established in **1978** and is among the most prestigious global physics awards.
- The prize can be shared by multiple winners in a single year.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Introduction

- The 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' is the **highest national award for children in India**.
- It recognizes and honors the talent, bravery, and achievements of children aged between 5 and 18 years.
- These awards are presented annually in **New Delhi by the President of India**.

Awards presented on Veer Bal Diwas

- These awards are presented on '**Veer Bal Diwas**' (December 26).

'Guardian of the Blue Horizon'

- **Context:** The **Prime Minister** visited **Seychelles** and met with the country's President. During this visit, **19 key agreements** were signed between the two nations across sectors such as **education, defense, fisheries, space, and energy**.

- In this backdrop, the Prime Minister was conferred with Seychelles' highest honor, the '**Guardian of the Blue Horizon**' award, at an event held yesterday.

- The President of Seychelles presented the award. It was conferred in recognition of the Prime Minister's contributions to environmental protection, climate change initiatives, and his commitment to fostering the development of small nations.

- With this latest honor, the Prime Minister has received a total of **33 international awards to date**.



114th International Labour Conference (ILC)

- **Context:** Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment led the Indian delegation at the 114th International Labour Conference (ILC).
- The conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

India's Key Priorities

- Reaffirmed India's commitment to: **Inclusive growth, Gender equality, Social dialogue**
- Showcased India's active and coordinated diplomatic engagement through discussions and bilateral meetings.

About the International Labour Conference (ILC)

- The International Labour Conference (ILC) is the highest policy-making and deliberative body of the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- It convenes every year and brings together tripartite delegations from the ILO's 187 member countries, along with several observers.

Functions of the International Labour Conference

- Formulates and adopts international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations.
- Monitors the implementation of labour standards through its Committee on the Application of Standards.
- Approves the ILO's biennial programme and budget and determines the contribution of

member countries towards organizational expenses.

- Elects the members of the Governing Body.
- Admits new member states that are not part of the United Nations.
- Examines reports submitted by the Director-General and the Chairperson of the Governing Body.
- Passes resolutions that guide the ILO's overall policies and shape its future activities.

Significance

- India's participation in the 114th International Labour Conference strengthened international cooperation in labour and employment.
- The bilateral meetings reinforced India's commitment to enhancing partnerships in skills, workforce development, and social security, particularly with countries in Asia and Africa.

India Advocates Human-Centric AI Approach

- **Context:** India presented a human-centric and inclusive approach to Artificial Intelligence at VivaTech 2026 in Paris and at the G7 Summit session in France in June 2026. Prime Minister described India's AI vision as "AI for all", with an emphasis on access, safety, accountability, and global benefit.

AI for All & Human-Centric Design

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) involves machines performing human-like tasks such as recognizing patterns, understanding language, and aiding decisions.
- India promotes a people-focused approach, termed "AI for all," ensuring inclusive and widespread access.

- At **VivaTech 2026**, where India was the AI Country Partner, this vision was linked to growth, accessibility, and sustainability.
- **Vivek Aggarwal**, Secretary, **Ministry of Culture**, has been appointed to this post.

About FATF

India's Four Suggestions for Safe AI

- **Safe-by-design**: Integrating safety features during development.
- **Regulatory sandboxes**: Testing innovations in supervised settings.
- **Deepfakes**: AI-generated fake media content.
- **Global South**: Refers to developing regions across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania.
- Financial Action Task Force is an **international body** that monitors and **combats money laundering and terrorist financing**.
- It was created in **1989 following a G7 initiative in Paris**.
- The headquarters/secretariat is located at the **OECD headquarters in Paris**.

Objectives

M.A.N.A.V. Vision

- Focuses on **Moral and Ethical Systems, Accountable Governance, National Sovereignty, Accessible and Inclusive AI, and Valid and Legitimate Systems**.
- It was highlighted at the **AI Impact Summit 2026** and later at the **G7 Summit 2026**.
- India also initiated AI governance guidelines through its IT ministry, based on principles like trust, fairness, and people-first.
- Initially focused on preventing money laundering.
- After 2001, its scope expanded to include terrorist financing.
- In 2012, it further added measures against financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

Membership

Global Cooperation

- At the **G20 Summit 2025**, India supported open, human-centric AI systems.
- It reaffirmed this stance at the **UNAOC Dialogue on AI for One Humanity**, emphasizing inclusive and collaborative AI development.
- The FATF consists of 39 member countries, representing major financial systems worldwide.
- It also has observer participation, with Indonesia being the only observer country.

India's Position

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- **Context**: In a major global recognition, India has for the **first time assumed the Vice-Presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.
- India became an observer in 2006 and a full member in 2010.
- It follows FATF standards through laws like the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

APPOINTMENTS

National Statistical Commission (NSC)

- **Context:** The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** officially approved the appointment of **Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay as Chairperson**, along with three prominent domain experts as part-time members of the **National Statistical Commission (NSC)**.

About National Statistical Commission (NSC)

- The National Statistical Commission (NSC) was established in 2005.
- It serves as the nodal body for core statistical activities in the country.
- Its mandate is to:
 - Evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards.
 - Ensure coordination among statistical agencies.
 - Improve public trust in official statistics.

Composition of NSC

- Part-time Chairperson.
- Four part-time Members with expertise in statistics and related fields.

- CEO of NITI Aayog serves as an ex-officio Member.
- Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) acts as the Secretary to the Commission.
- Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay appointed as the chairperson of National Statistical Commission.

Functions of the NSC

- Formulates national policies and priorities relating to the statistical system.
- Recommends measures to enhance public confidence in official statistics.
- Standardizes statistical concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies.
- Suggests measures for effective implementation of statistical standards.
- Promotes coordination:
 - Between the Centre and States/UTs.
 - Among Ministries, Departments and agencies of the Central Government.
- Conducts statistical audits to ensure quality and integrity of statistical outputs.
- Monitors and reviews the functioning of the statistical system and recommends measures for improved performance.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Bhawaiya folk music

- The Vice President released a book titled **"Sanskriti Ratna Bhandar: Bhawaiyar Itibritto" (Bhawaiya: A Cultural Treasure and Its Historical Journey)**.
- The book has been authored by **Lok Sabha Member Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy and Sangeeta Roy**.
- Bhawaiya is a **traditional folk music** genre originating from North Bengal, Assam, and surrounding regions.

Air Force Chief releases astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla's memoir

- Air Force Chief Amar Preet Singh released the memoir of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, titled **'Second Orbit: One Man's Hope... Dreams of 1.4 Billion Hearts'**.
- The book chronicles Group Captain Shukla's journey from fighter pilot to astronaut and his historic mission to the International Space Station as part of the Axiom-4 mission.

CURRENT FACTS

Chennai Suburban Rail Service – A 95-Year Journey

- With this year, the Chennai Suburban Rail Service marks the completion of 95 years since its inception. Chennai's journey in suburban rail transportation began in the year 1931.
- Suburban electric train services were introduced along a stretch of approximately 29 kilometers between Chennai Beach and Tambaram.
- Through this initiative, Chennai earned the distinction of becoming the first city in South India to feature an electric suburban rail service.
- In its initial phase, services were characterized by a limited number of trains and extremely low fares – priced in 'Annas' – making them highly affordable.
- The 'Flying Train' Service: Another significant milestone in Chennai's urban rail transportation history is the 'Flying Train' (MRTS) project. The first elevated rail corridor, connecting Chennai Beach and Chepauk, was inaugurated in 1995.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTPAA) 1971

- MTP, 1971, legalises abortion in India up to 20 weeks of pregnancy when provided by a registered medical practitioner (RMP) at a registered medical facility.
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTPAA) 2021 amended the MTP Act 1971 to increase the upper gestation limit for termination of pregnancy under certain conditions.
- **Features of MTPAA, 2021**
 - A pregnancy may be terminated up to 20 weeks by a married woman in the case of failure of a contraceptive method or device
 - It allows unmarried women to also terminate a pregnancy for this reason
 - The Act Increases the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women.
 - The Medical Board will decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks due to substantial foetal abnormalities.

Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation

- The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation is a state-government Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of Tamil Nadu located in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- It is managed by the Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department and was established in July 1971.
- It is the nodal agency responsible for the promotion of tourism and development of tourist related infrastructure in the state.

Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Limited

- TAHDCO a state-government-owned corporation established in 1974 to uplift the economic and social status of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Tamil Nadu.
- Registered under the Companies Act, 1956.
- **Main Activities of the Corporation**
 - To implement economic development schemes for the Welfare of Scheduled Caste / ST in the State.

- To provide skill development training to youth belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes for job / self employment
- To undertake construction activities entrusted by the Government.

Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs)

- Officially started on June 25, 2015.
- ICCCs are advanced real-time monitoring and management centers established in over 100 Smart Cities across India.
- Role – They function as the central hub for city administration, coordinating and managing various urban services and operations.
- Launched in – 2015 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Under the Scheme – Implemented as a key component of the Smart Cities Mission.
- Objective – To integrate data from multiple city departments, facilitate coordinated monitoring, and support faster, data-driven decision-making for efficient urban governance.

India's 18th Railway Zone

- The South Coast Railway (SCoR) zone became fully operational on June 1, 2026, following a formal gazette notification by the Ministry of Railways.
- Headquartered in Visakhapatnam, it marks India's 18th railway zone.

BHASHINI

- BHASHINI is India's national initiative for AI-driven multilingual digital inclusion.
- Operates through the National Hub for Language Technology (NHLT).
- Supports:
 - 36 Indian text languages
 - 23 Indian voice languages
 - 35 international languages
 - Powers over 800 government websites.
 - Processes more than 15 million AI inferences daily.

Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute

▪ Introduction

- Established in 2001.
- Located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- It is the apex institution for promoting entrepreneurship education, innovation, and self-employment in Tamil Nadu.

▪ Administration

- Constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu as a not-for-profit society.
- Functions under the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

▪ Vision

- To create an inclusive and entrepreneurial culture across Tamil Nadu.
- To make EDII-TN the state's leading centre for entrepreneurship and innovation education, training, research, and practice.

Udham Singh Convicted (1940)

- On June 4, 1940, the revolutionary freedom fighter Udham Singh was formally convicted in a London court for the assassination of Michael O'Dwyer on March 13, 1940, at Caxton Hall in London, England.
- Michael O'Dwyer, the former Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab responsible for the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

GeM Portal

- Launched: In 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Aim: It is a dedicated digital e-commerce portal for mandatory procurement and sale of goods and services by Central and State Government Organisations/ Departments/ PSUs.
- Objective: GeM seeks to establish a transparent, efficient, and inclusive procurement ecosystem, replacing the traditional Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D).

Other Features

- Automated rule-based enforcement of MSE provisions.
- Advanced analytics for decision support, fraud, and anomaly detection.
- Faceless, transparent procurement process concealing seller identity.

TAMIL NADU INSTITUTE OF LABOUR STUDIES (TILS)

- The Tamil Nadu Institute of Labour Studies (TILS) was established by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1973.
- It was registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act and functions as a Society from the year 1988.
- This is an educational cum-training institute now functioning in Ambattur, Chennai under the control of the Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department.

India Emerges as the World's Second-Largest Solar Power Market

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that India has emerged as the world's second-largest solar market.
- Highlighted that the country overtook the United States of America in annual solar capacity additions in 2025.
- India surged ahead by adding over 37 GW of solar power in 2025, compared to the U.S. additions of 34 GW.
- By adding over 37 GW in annual capacity in 2025, the country crossed a total installed capacity of 155 GW, a massive 5,370% increase since 2014.

AI in Media and Entertainment Academy (AIME)

- The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) has established the AIME Academy in New Delhi to serve as a national center for promoting the use of artificial intelligence in the media and entertainment industry.

India's 100th Ramsar site

- India has achieved a significant milestone in wetland conservation with the designation of the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh as the country's 100th Ramsar Site.

Nilgiri Tahr

- The Nilgiri Tahr is a unique animal endemic to the Western Ghats.
- The name 'Varaiyadu' is derived from the Tamil word 'Varai' (meaning rock or cliff); it is so named because it inhabits steep, rocky terrains.
- Of the three species of Tahr known globally, this is the only one found in South India.
- As the state animal of Tamil Nadu, it inhabits altitudes ranging from 300 to 2,600 meters above sea level.
- The Nilgiri Tahr and its mountain habitats are mentioned in Sangam literary works such as Silappathikaram, Seevaka Chinthamani, Manimekalai, Natrinai, Ainkurunuru, and Paripadal.
- This highlights the long-standing significance of the Nilgiri Tahr in Tamil culture.
- Rock paintings of the Nilgiri Tahr, dating back to the Mesolithic period, have been discovered at the Ezhuthupparai site near Marayoor in Kerala.
- This signifies a connection between humans and the Nilgiri Tahr spanning thousands of years.
- The Tamil Nadu government's 'Nilgiri Tahr Conservation Project' serves as a crucial initiative to restore and protect the Shola-grassland ecosystem.
- October 7, the birth anniversary of Nilgiri Tahr researcher E.R.C. Davidar, has been declared 'Nilgiri Tahr Day'.
- According to the third synchronized census conducted jointly by the Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the population of the endangered Nilgiri Tahr—Tamil Nadu's state animal—has risen to approximately 1,364.
- This figure represents a 4.68% increase compared to the 1,303 Tahrs recorded in 2025, and a 32% increase compared to the 1,031 Tahrs estimated during the first synchronized census conducted in 2024.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) Growth rate

- The growth in India's gross domestic product (GDP) has been estimated at 7.7% in 2025-26, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, compared with 7.1% in the previous financial year of 2024-25.
- Rise in elephant deaths due to electrocution in India (2009–2025): The states of Odisha, Karnataka, Assam, and Tamil Nadu are the most affected.

Right to privacy

- The Supreme Court's landmark decision of Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India in 2017 which ruled that the right to privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution, the court has continuously ruled that compulsory DNA testing interferes with an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy.

Regional Meteorological Centre

- Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences inaugurated the new Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) at Jammu and announced that a similar centre would soon be established in Lucknow, expanding India's regional weather forecasting network.
- The Jammu facility becomes the country's seventh Regional Meteorological Centre and will serve Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, providing specialised weather services, disaster warnings and climate support tailored to the Himalayan region.

Bhavya Portal

- The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry launched the 'Bhavya' portal with the aim of accelerating the development of 100 industrial parks across the country.

- The objective of this portal is to create integrated industrial ecosystems that encompass multi-modal connectivity, reliable utility services, digital administrative processes, worker-centric infrastructure, and sustainable development features.

Organ Donation in Tamil Nadu

- As of April 2026, 64% of organ donors in Tamil Nadu were from government hospitals.
- The number of deceased organ donors rose from 156 in 2022 to 268 in 2024, and remained high at 266 in 2025.
- Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centres (NTORCs) facilities that retrieve organs but do not perform transplants contributed approximately 15% of organ donations and helped increase the number of donors.
- The Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) coordinates activities related to organ donation and transplantation across the state.

Zojila Tunnel

- Situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet on the Zojila Pass, the Zojila Tunnel links Baltal in Jammu & Kashmir with Meenamarg in the Drass-Kargil region of Ladakh.
- The tunnel will provide year-round connectivity, reduce travel time from three hours to about fifteen minutes, and facilitate seamless military movement and faster logistics support to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

APEDA

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, facilitated the first export consignment of GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi from Assam to Dubai on marking a significant milestone in expanding international market access for agricultural products from the North Eastern Region.

Approval for Solar-BESS Project on Defence Land in Uttar Pradesh

- Defence Minister has approved the first large-scale solar power project on defence land in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Ministry of Defence stated that this is its first project to develop a large-scale solar power plant integrated with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on defence land.
- The Ministry noted that this 250 MW Solar-BESS project would enhance energy security for defence establishments in Uttar Pradesh and reduce long-term electricity costs.
- It will be developed by NTPC using vacant defence land.

Shigellosis

- A severe outbreak of Shigellosis in Kerala recently led to the hospitalization of many people.
- Shigellosis is a serious intestinal infection caused by Shigella bacteria.
- It is the second leading cause of diarrheal deaths worldwide, following Rotavirus.

Project Ganga

- 'Project Ganga' is a digital connectivity initiative launched by the Government of Uttar Pradesh
- Its objective is to provide 'last-mile' broadband internet access in rural areas through a network of local digital service providers.
- It will serve as a "digital expressway" for rural Uttar Pradesh.

Nipah virus (NiV)

- The Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic pathogen, meaning it is capable of spreading from animals to humans.
- It is classified under the Paramyxoviridae family of viruses.
- People may become infected through close contact with infected animals, especially fruit bats and pigs, or by consuming food contaminated by the virus.
- In addition, the infection can be transmitted from one person to another. The disease commonly presents with symptoms such as fever and respiratory complications.
- Nipah virus has emerged as a major public health concern because of several outbreaks reported in recent years, particularly across South and Southeast Asia.
- At present, no approved vaccine is available to prevent Nipah virus infection.

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)

- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), enacted in 1958, is a controversial legislation in India that provides extensive powers to the armed forces in regions declared as “disturbed areas.”
- Under the Act, security forces are authorized to use necessary force, including opening fire after giving due warning, arrest individuals without a warrant, and carry out searches of premises on the basis of suspicion.
- AFSPA is generally implemented in areas affected by insurgency or internal disturbances that threaten the country's unity and sovereignty.
- The power to declare a region as a “disturbed area” lies with both the Central Government and the State Governments.

Pariksha Karmayogi: Capacity-Building Programme

- The National Testing Agency (NTA) has launched the Pariksha Karmayogi: Capacity-Building Programme for Examination Officials on the iGOT Karmayogi Bharat platform.
- The initiative aims to strengthen supervision and invigilation processes for NTA examinations and ensure the smooth, secure, and standardised conduct of offline, pen-and-paper-based tests.
- NTA said that the course is designed for examination functionaries, particularly Centre Superintendents and Invigilators, who are involved in conducting NTA examinations, including NEET (UG).

Army Chief

- Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth has been appointed as the next Army Chief. He will assume office on June 30. The current Army Chief, General Upendra Dwivedi, is set to retire at the end of this month.

G7

- The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal association of seven major industrialized nations – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It was originally established in 1975 as the G6, and Canada joined the grouping in 1976, leading to its expansion into the G7.

Brain-Eating Amoeba

- Brain-eating amoebae are free-living, microscopic single-celled organisms commonly present in warm freshwater environments such as lakes, rivers, and hot springs, as well as in soil.
- Among the various free-living amoebae, three are known to cause serious infections in humans:
 - Acanthamoeba – responsible for Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis (GAE).

- *Naegleria fowleri* – causes Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM).
- *Balamuthia mandrillaris* – associated with rare but severe infections affecting the brain and other organs.
- These amoebae can gain entry into the body through the nasal passages, broken skin, or inhalation, and in certain cases may reach and infect the brain.
- They are referred to as brain-eating amoebae because they damage and destroy brain tissue, resulting in serious and often fatal infections of the central nervous system.

Battle of Haldighati

- 450 years have passed since the Battle of Haldighati, which took place on 18 June 1576 in the Aravalli hills, in present-day Rajsamand district of Rajasthan.
- The battle was fought between the forces of Mewar, led by Maharana Pratap, and the Mughal army of Emperor Akbar. The Mughal side was commanded by Asaf Khan I and Man Singh I of Amber.

WT-MARUT (Wind Turbine Materials and Resources Utility Tracker)

- WT-MARUT is India's first specialized digital platform designed to strengthen and organize the domestic wind turbine supply chain. It was introduced by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy during the Global Wind Day Conference 2026.
- The platform enables digital logging and monitoring of each component used in wind turbines, ensuring complete traceability across the supply chain. It also supports adherence to regulations and promotes transparency in documentation and processes.

Project Super 50

- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) organizes "Project Super 50", a Civil Services Examination Guidance Programme aimed at mentoring Scheduled Caste (SC) youth under the theme "Guide • Mentor • Empower".
- The event involves serving officers and Commission members providing strategic guidance on the exam.

'Kanchan Devi Committee'

- The Kanchan Devi Committee is a committee constituted by the Supreme Court on May 25, 2026, to reconsider its earlier decision regarding the protection of the Aravalli mountain range.

Vibe Coding

- Vibe Coding is an AI-assisted software development approach where developers describe what they want in natural language, and the AI generates the majority of the code.

Kalamkari Painting

- This is a highly popular art form from Andhra Pradesh, involving hand-painted or block-printed designs on cotton fabric.
- It emerged as a textile-based art tradition during the reign of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, which ruled Golconda in the 16th and 17th centuries.
- The word 'Kalam' refers to a pen, while 'Kari' signifies craftsmanship.

Dongria Kondh Tribe

- This is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) community.
- The Dongria Kondhs are ancient inhabitants of the Niyamgiri Hills, spread across the Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha.

OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries)

- OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization of major petroleum-exporting nations; it coordinates petroleum policies to stabilize global oil markets and crude oil prices.
- Baghdad Conference (1960): Established on September 14, 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- Headquarters: Relocated from Geneva, Switzerland, to Vienna, Austria, in 1965.

Article 99 in Constitution of India

- Every member of either House of Parliament shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the President, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.

Project BRAHMANK

- Project BRAHMANK is a Border Roads Organisation project in Arunachal Pradesh that was formally commissioned in December 2011. It completed 16 years of Raising Day on 29 June 2026 at Ranaghat in Arunachal Pradesh.

TIRUKKURAL

Easy to every man the speech that shows the way;

Hard thing to shape one's life by words they say

- **Explanation:** To say (how an act is to be performed) is (indeed) easy for any one; but far difficult it is to do according to what has been said.

The man of energy of soul inflexible,

Good fortune seeks him out and comes a friend to dwell

- **Explanation :** Wealth will find its own way to the man of unfailing energy.

When water fails, functions of nature cease, you say;

Thus when rain fails, no men can walk in 'duty's ordered way'

- **Explanation:** If it be said that the duties of life cannot be discharged by any person without water, so without rain there cannot be the flowing of water.

For Hate, that ill-conditioned thing not e'en in jest

Let any evil longing rule your breast

- **Explanation :** The evil of hatred is not of a nature to be desired by one even in sport.

With rising flood the rising lotus flower its stem unwinds;

The dignity of men is measured by their minds

- **Explanation :** The stalks of water-flowers are proportionate to the depth of water; so is men's greatness proportionate to their minds.

Let those that need partake your meal; guard every-thing that lives;

This the chief and sum of lore that hoarded wisdom gives

- **Explanation** : The chief of all (the virtues) which authors have summed up, is the partaking of food that has been shared with others, and the preservation of the manifold life of other creatures.

Thirukkural - 483 Knowing the fitting Time

Can any work be hard in very fact,

If men use fitting means in timely act

- **Explanation** : Is there anything difficult for him to do, who acts, with (the right) instruments at the right time.

Thirukkural - 439 chapter The Correction of Faults

Never indulge in self-complaisant mood,

Nor deed desire that yields no gain of good

- **Explanation** : Let no (one) praise himself, at any time; let him not desire to do useless things.

Thirukkural - 1024 chapter - The Way of Maintaining the Family

Who labours for his race with unremitting pain,

Without a thought spontaneously, his end will gain

- **Explanation** : Those who are prompt in their efforts (to better their family) need no deliberation, such efforts will of themselves succeed.

Can any work be hard in very fact,

If men use fitting means in timely act

- **Explanation** : Is there anything difficult for him to do, who acts, with (the right) instruments at the right time ?.

All earth looks up to heav'n whence raindrops fall;

All subjects look to king that ruleth all

- **Explanation** : When there is rain, the living creation thrives; and so when the king rules justly, his subjects thrive.

The foes who thought to triumph, find their thoughts were vain,

If hosts advance, seize vantage ground, and thence the fight maintain

- **Explanation**: If they who draw near (to fight) choose a suitable place to approach (their enemy), the latter, will have to relinquish the thought which they once entertained, of conquering them.

A minister is he who grasps, with wisdom large,

Means, time, work's mode, and functions rare he must discharge

- **Explanation**: The minister is one who can make an excellent choice of means, time, manner of execution, and the difficult undertaking (itself).

No kinsman's love, no strength of friends has he;

How can he bear his foeman's enmity

- **Explanation** : How can he who is unloving, destitute of powerful aids, and himself without strength overcome the might of his foe?.

Say not, 'Tis hard', in weak, desponding hour,
For strenuous effort gives prevailing power

- **Explanation** :Yield not to the feebleness which says, "this is too difficult to be done"; labour will give the greatness (of mind) which is necessary (to do it).

Wisdom restrains, nor suffers mind to wander where it would;
From every evil calls it back, and guides in way of good

- **Explanation** : Not to permit the mind to go where it lists, to keep it from evil, and to employ it in good, this is wisdom.

Without ally, who fights with twofold enemy o'ermatched,
Must render one of these a friend attached

- **Explanation** : He who is alone and helpless while his foes are two should secure one of them as an agreeable help (to himself).

By punishment of death the cruel to restrain,
Is as when farmer frees from weeds the tender grain

- **Explanation:** For a king to punish criminals with death, is like pulling up the weeds in the green corn.

His joy who guards not 'gainst the coming evil day,
Like straw before the fire shall swift consume away

- **Explanation:** The prosperity of him who does not timely guard against faults, will perish like straw before fire.

FACTS

Since 2011

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak famously declared, "Freedom [Swaraj] is my birthright, and I shall have it" at a public meeting in Ahmednagar on June 1, 1916.
- General N.S. Raja Subramani, hailing from Tamil Nadu, assumed charge as the Chief of the Tri-Services on Sunday.
- The base year for the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has been revised from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- Valluvan, a farmer from Tamil Nadu, transformed his coconut grove—which was facing an economic crisis—into a successful multi-crop agroforestry system, earning recognition as a 'Soil Farmer Hero' from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO).
- The Mountbatten Plan, announced on June 3, 1947, was a historic proposal that led to the partition of British India into two independent dominions—India and Pakistan. It was formulated by Viceroy Lord Louis Mountbatten.
- The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), located in Jammu, is gearing up to host the 4th Lavender Festival under the theme "Lavender Goes Global."

- Article 325 - No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex
- Article 326 - Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage
- TNPDCCL - Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited
- The AI committee of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha, has issued the draft regulations titled "Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026."
- The ICMR National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE), Chennai, has announced the launch of ADARV (Advanced Data Analytics for Public Health Action and Research Venture), a first-of-its-kind platform designed to support epidemic intelligence and strengthen outbreak response through data-driven analytics.
- The first pink police booth of the State was launched in Ponneri under the Avadi Police Commissionerate .
- India became the world's third-largest domestic aviation market in April 2024, with airline capacity of 15.6 million seats.
- Droughts can increase the levels of antibiotic resistance in soil, researchers from the California Institute of Technology have reported. Their study also projected that by 2050, several parts of India and other drought prone countries will grapple with severe antibiotic resistance (ABR).
- The state has introduced a localised, colour-coded heat early warning system as Chennai and several interior districts, until recently, faced an unusually prolonged heat spell, marked by high daytime temperatures and warm nights that offer little relief.
- Partition Approval (June 15, 1947): The All India Congress Committee passed the resolution accepting the Mountbatten Plan on June 15, 1947, which formally approved the Partition of India.
- Union Minister of Communications has announced the launch of drone-based mail transmission service by Department of Posts in Himachal Pradesh. The service has been started between Mandi Head Post Office and Rehardhar Branch Post Office in the State.
- Union Agriculture Minister said that BRICS nations represent nearly half the world's population and contribute around 42% of global agricultural output.
- The Kerala government formally inaugurated the Priyadarshini free bus travel scheme for women and transgender persons on 15 June 2026.
- Priyadarshini' free travel scheme for all women and transgender persons on ordinary buses operated by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).
- The Centre constituted a committee chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice P.P. Naolekar to study demographic changes in India.

- Surface ozone is a harmful air pollutant that affects the heart and lungs and is formed through sunlight-driven reactions among other pollutants. Besides ozone, gases such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and formaldehyde (HCHO) also contribute to ozone formation and directly harm the respiratory system.
- Tripura's traditional musical instrument, the Sarinda, has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, marking another significant achievement for the state in safeguarding and promoting its rich cultural heritage.
- Following a recommendation by the National Testing Agency – amidst allegations that fraudsters misused Telegram's 'edit message' feature to deceive candidates participating in the NEET UG 2026 re-examination – the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology temporarily blocked the Telegram service in India under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology said India has emerged as a major electronics manufacturing hub and is now the world's sixth-largest exporter of electronics.
- Yoga Park Portal : Digital initiative of the Ministry of Ayush to transform existing public parks into community wellness hubs for yoga, meditation, and preventive healthcare.
- The Supreme Court of India declared the freedom to walk on demarcated and well-maintained footpaths a fundamental right. The ruling linked this right with Article 19(1) (d), Article 19(1) (a), Article 19(1)(b), Article 19(1)(c), and Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- On June 22, 1897, in Pune, the Indian national revolutionaries known as the Chapekar brothers (Damodar and Balkrishna) killed Walter Charles Rand, the British Plague Commissioner, along with the military officers accompanying him as his security.
- According to the latest data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India's vast road network is the second-largest in the world; it handles 64 percent of the country's freight traffic and 90 percent of its passenger traffic.
- SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (reducing global Maternal Mortality Ratio to less than 70 deaths per 1,00,000 live births and to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age by 2030)
- Kunal Shah, a leading Indian fintech entrepreneur, has been appointed as the Global CEO of WhatsApp.
- Bangladesh joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) as its 27th member nation on June 24, 2026.
- Kamarajar Port, commissioned 25 years ago, now stands as one of the major ports in the country and has a cargo handling capacity of 58.44 million tonnes with nine operational berths. In 2024-25, the port registered its highest cargo handling volume of 48.41 million metric tonnes (MMT).
- The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in Scotland has unveiled a statue honouring Sushruta, the ancient Indian physician believed to have lived around 2,600 years ago and widely associated with the early development of plastic surgery.

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) today launched AIR SUVIDHA 2.0, an upgraded contactless Passenger Health Self-Declaration Portal, to strengthen public health surveillance at Points of Entry in response to the ongoing Ebola disease outbreak.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced the 'Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026', which significantly overhaul the 2011 rules by introducing stringent regulatory compliance requirements for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and associations in India that receive foreign funding.
- TANTIA - Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association
- TANSIDCO - Tamil Nadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited
- SIDCO - Small Industries Development Corporation
- China has surpassed the United States to secure the top position in the global supercomputing rankings. The LineShine supercomputer, installed at the National Supercomputing Center in Shenzhen, has been recognised as the fastest supercomputer in the world.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has stated that a passport is primarily a "travel document" and not conclusive proof of citizenship.
- The Battle of Plassey was fought on June 23, 1757. This year marked the 269th anniversary of the Battle of Plassey (1757), which laid the foundations for British colonial expansion in India.
- e-Zero FIR is a digital initiative of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) that automatically transforms verified high-value cyber financial fraud complaints into Zero FIRs, allowing police to begin investigations immediately without waiting for jurisdiction-related procedures.
- June 30 marks Hool Diwas (or Hul Day) in the Indian National Movement, commemorating the outbreak of the historic Santhal Rebellion of 1855.
- The Sujalam Sufalam Jal Abhiyan is a water conservation campaign in Gujarat linked with pond deepening, check dam desilting, check dam repair, and groundwater recharge.

