



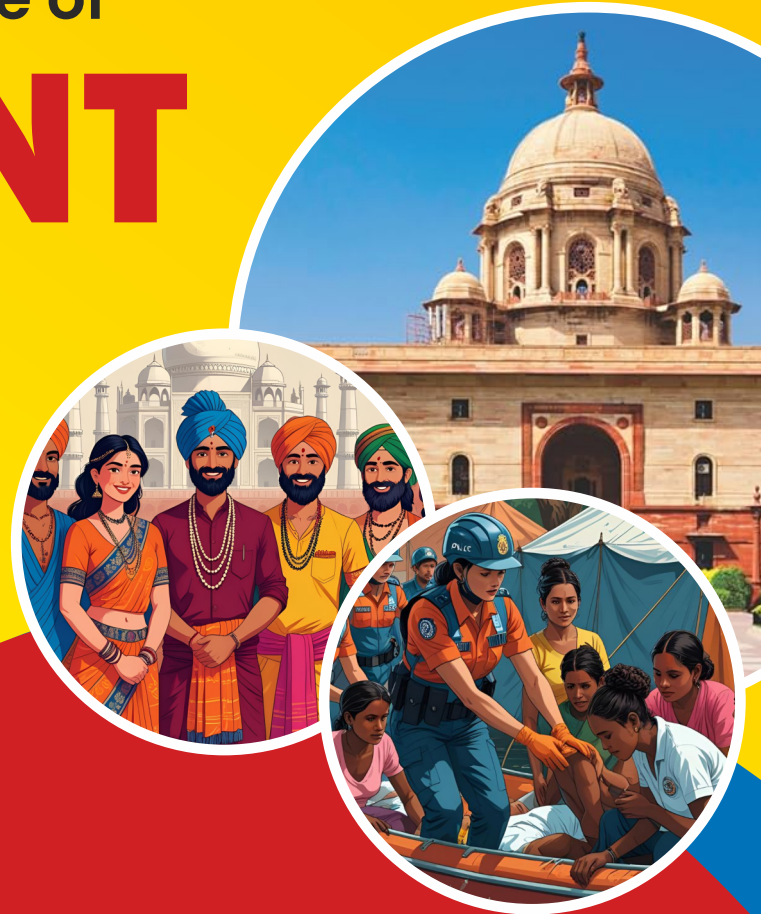
**AUGUST  
2025**

Comprehensive Coverage of

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

ENTIRE CONTENT OF

**JULY 2025**



- ✓ Polity and Governance
- ✓ International Relations
- ✓ History, Art & Culture
- ✓ Internal Security
- ✓ Science & Technology

- ✓ Economy
- ✓ Indian Society
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Games & Sports
- ✓ Persons in the News

**Useful for IAS / PCS / HCS / HAS & other Exams.**

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## HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

**Hul Diwas: Remembering the Santhal Uprising****Why Hul Diwas is Observed**

June 30 is celebrated as Hul Diwas. It marks the 1855 Santhal rebellion against British rule.

**Leaders and Participants**

The Santhal uprising was led by brothers Sidho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav Murmu. Sisters Phulo and Jhano also played a major role. The Santhals fought the British and their allies like zamindars, moneylenders, and officials, who were known as 'dikus'.

**Background of the Revolt**

In 1832, the British created a special area for the Santhals called Damin-i-Koh in present-day Jharkhand. It was meant for peaceful settlement and farming. But soon, outsiders exploited the Santhals and took their land. This led to anger and resistance.

**Course of the Revolt**

Around 60,000 Santhals joined the revolt. They used guerrilla tactics against the East India Company. The British captured and hanged Sidho in 1855 and Kanho in 1856.

**Impact of the Uprising**

The revolt forced the British to pass laws to protect tribal lands. These included the Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act of 1876 and the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908.

**Machilipatnam: Revival of a Historic Port****Context**

Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam), an ancient port town in Andhra Pradesh, is witnessing a revival.

**Ancient Maritime Significance**

- Located at the mouth of the Krishna River on the Bay of Bengal.
- Known as *Masulipatnam* or *Maisolos* (Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, 1st century CE).
- Functioned as a major gateway to the Deccan, trading with Roman, Arab, and Southeast Asian traders.

**Satavahana Period**

- Flourished under Satavahanas (1st BCE–3rd CE).
- Famous for exporting muslin, pearls, spices, and textiles.
- Linked to inland Buddhist centres like Amaravati and Dharanikota.

### Medieval and Colonial Era

- Gained prominence under the Golconda Sultanate (16th–18th centuries).
- Became a trading hub for Dutch, British, and French East India Companies.
- Declined when colonial focus shifted to Madras (Chennai).

### Other Ancient Indian Ports

Port City	Dynasty/Period
Lothal (Gujarat)	Indus Valley Civilization
Arikamedu (Puducherry)	Cholas and Tamil kingdoms
Kaveripattinam (TN)	Cholas
Sopara (Maharashtra)	Satavahanas
Tamralipta (West Bengal)	Mauryas and Guptas
Barygaza (Bharuch)	Indo-Greek and Kushan periods

\*\*\*\*\*

## Behdeinkhlam Festival: Meghalaya's Sacred Tradition

### Context

Behdeinkhlam Festival was celebrated in Jowai, Meghalaya.

### About the Festival

- *Behdeinkhlam* means “driving away the plague.”
- Celebrated annually in July after sowing season by the Pnar tribe of the Jaintia community.
- Aims to ward off diseases and ensure a good harvest.

### Cultural Significance

- Preserves the Niamtre religion (indigenous faith).
- Three-day rituals:
  - Men perform dances and processions.
  - Women prepare sacrificial food for ancestral spirits.
- Sacred wooden post (*Symbud Khnong*) carried and installed for protection from evil spirits.
- Unique football-like game *Dad-lawakor* played at Mynthong.

- Modern themes like climate change and drug abuse are now incorporated.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MY Bharat 2.0: A Digital Platform for Youth Empowerment

### What is MY Bharat 2.0?

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has partnered with Digital India Corporation to upgrade the MY Bharat platform. It aims to connect and empower India's youth digitally.

### Features of the Platform

MY Bharat allows youth to create digital profiles, take part in volunteering, and join learning programs. They can also connect with mentors and other young citizens.

### Reach and Registration

The platform was first launched in 2023. It now has over 1.76 crore youth and 1.19 lakh organizations registered.

### New Additions in Version 2.0

The upgraded version will have modular design for scalability. It will include AI-driven tools like a smart CV builder, chatbots, and personalized digital profiles. It will also have voice navigation and WhatsApp integration for better access.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 12 Maratha Forts Granted UNESCO Heritage Status

- Forts like Raigad, Shivneri, Sindhudurg, Gingee, and Vijaydurg showcase Maratha Empire's military genius.
- India now has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) – Jain Heritage Focus

### Two New Centres Sanctioned:

#### 1. Centre for Jain Manuscriptology – Gujarat University

- Digitization of ancient Jain manuscripts.
- Preservation of Jain literary heritage.

#### 2. Centre for Jain Studies – Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore

- Offers academic programs.

- **Focus:** Philosophy, science, art, environment based on Jain literature.
- Promotes interdisciplinary research.

### 3. Gyan Bharatam Mission

- **Aim:** Digitization of one crore manuscripts including Jain heritage.
- Supports national effort in preservation and accessibility of ancient texts.

### 4. Acharya Vidyanand Ji Maharaj Centenary Celebration

- Year-long national celebration.
- **Focus:** Cultural, literary, educational, and spiritual programs.
- **Objective:** Honouring his legacy of spiritual wisdom & social reform.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Return of Piprahwa Relics

### What are the Piprahwa Relics?

- Sacred relics believed to be mortal remains of Lord Buddha.
- Discovered in 1898 by British engineer W.C. Peppé at Piprahwa, Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh.
- Date back to 3rd century BCE, possibly Mauryan period (Ashokan stupas).
- Of immense spiritual significance for global Buddhist community.
- Among the earliest archaeological evidence linked to the Buddha's life.

### Repatriation Details (2025)

- Relics were scheduled for auction in Hong Kong (May 2025). Indian Government intervened timely to stop the auction.
- Secured and brought back through a Public-Private Partnership: Between Ministry of Culture and Godrej Industries Group.

### Significance

- Strengthens India's position as a global custodian of spiritual heritage.
- Reflects commitment to preserving ancient cultural identity.
- Example of cultural diplomacy & international collaboration.
- Aligns with vision of reclaiming Bharat's ancient treasures.

\*\*\*\*\*

## National Symposium on Bhagavad Gita & Natyashastra

**Organised by:** Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

**Venue:** New Delhi

**Theme:** "Timeless Texts and Universal Teachings"

To celebrate the inscription of two classical Indian texts:

- **Bhagavad Gita**
- **Natyashastra**

into the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register, recognizing their:

- Global intellectual significance
- Philosophical and artistic legacy
- Cultural influence beyond time and geography

**About the Texts**

- **Bhagavad Gita:** Philosophical dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna; core of Indian ethical, spiritual, and metaphysical thought.
- **Natyashastra:** An ancient Sanskrit treatise on performing arts by Bharata Muni, foundational to Indian classical dance, music, and theatre.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Sohrai Art Showcased at Rashtrapati Bhavan – Kala Utsav 2025

**Context:**

At Kala Utsav 2025 – Artists in Residence Programme held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the indigenous Sohrai art from Jharkhand was showcased

**Key Highlights:**

- **President’s Remarks:**  
President Droupadi Murmu praised Sohrai artists saying:  
*“These artworks reflect the soul of India – our connection to nature, mythology, and community life.”*
- Organised by IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts) and its Ranchi Regional Centre.
- **Participants:** Artists used natural earth pigments and bamboo brushes to paint on mud walls.

**About Sohrai Art:**

Feature	Description
<b>Region</b>	Primarily practiced in Jharkhand, especially Hazaribagh
<b>Artists</b>	Traditionally done by tribal women during harvest and festivals
<b>Materials</b>	Earth-based natural colors, bamboo brushes, mud walls
<b>Themes</b>	Animals, plants, geometric motifs, reflecting agrarian and spiritual life

\*\*\*\*\*

## National Mission on Libraries (NML)

### Objective of NML:

To modernize and digitally link public libraries across India and ensure easy access to knowledge and cultural resources for all citizens, especially the marginalized and specially-abled.

### Four Key Components of NML:

#### 1. National Virtual Library of India (NVL):

- Provides an open-access, user-friendly federated search interface.
- Aims to give access to India's knowledge resources and cultural heritage.

#### 2. NML Model Library:

- **Offers financial assistance for:**
  - Upgradation of infrastructure
  - Technological modernization
  - Facilities for specially-abled users
  - Outreach and advocacy programmes
- Targets one State Central Library and one District Library per State/UT + 6 libraries under Ministry of Culture.

#### 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Survey:

- To collect descriptive statistics on libraries across India.
- Evaluates infrastructure, services, user satisfaction, and perception.

#### 4. Capacity Building:

- Training programmes for:
  - **Library personnel**
  - **Library science students**
- Focus on skill development and use of modern technologies.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Keezhadi Excavation

### Location:

- **Keezhadi** (also spelled Keeladi) is a village near Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu, along the Vaigai River basin.

### Excavating Agencies:

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) & Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA)

### Cultural and Historical Significance:

- The excavation is linked to the Sangam Age .
- Suggests presence of an urban, literate, and industrial society in Tamil Nadu during early historic times.
- Counters the earlier belief that **Sangam literature** was not supported by material evidence.

**Major Findings:**

Category	Findings
<b>Scripts</b>	Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions on pottery sherds (evidence of literacy)
<b>Architecture</b>	Brick structures, walls, floors – indicating urban planning
<b>Industrial activity</b>	Tools of iron, bone, spindle whorls – indicating weaving, craftsmanship
<b>Artifacts</b>	Beads of semi-precious stones, ivory objects, terracotta figurines
<b>Environmental evidence</b>	Rice husks, plant remains – show agrarian economy
<b>Dating</b>	Radiocarbon dating traces antiquity to <b>6th century BCE</b>

**Relevance for Indian History:**

- Provides archaeological support to Sangam literature.
- Establishes cultural continuity from Indus Valley Civilization to Iron Age Tamilakam.
- Indicates existence of Tamil-Brahmi script much earlier than previously thought.

**Associated Sites (Vaigai Valley Civilization):**

- Other related excavation sites: Konthagai, Agaram, Manalur, Kondagai.
- Often collectively referred to as part of the Vaigai River Valley Civilization.

\*timelines yet to be formalized\*

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## **Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS)**

**Implementing Ministry:**

- **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India

**Nodal Agency:**

- **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)** – an **autonomous body** under the Ministry of Culture

**Objectives:**

- Promote scientific temper and awareness among the general public, especially students.
- Foster informal science education through interactive learning environments.

- Encourage a culture of innovation and curiosity.

**Key Components Supported:**

1. **Science Cities**
2. **Science Centres**
3. **Innovation Hubs**
4. **Digital Planetariums**

**Key Highlights (As of July 2025):**

Aspect	Details
<b>Science Centres Established</b>	27 across India
<b>Activities</b>	Hands-on exhibits, mobile science exhibitions, workshops, innovation labs
<b>Category-III Centres</b>	Located in areas with <b>&lt;5 lakh population</b>
<b>North-East Focus</b>	Science Centres in <b>Shillong, Dimapur, Gangtok, Aizawl, Itanagar, Imphal</b> , etc.
<b>Funding Pattern (for NE)</b>	Up to <b>90% funded</b> by the Ministry of Culture

**Significance for India:**

- Supplements formal education with experiential learning.
- Reduces urban-rural disparity in science education.
- Supports NE Region inclusion under cultural and educational outreach.

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## **Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Resumes After 5 Years**

**About**

- Sacred Tibetan region includes Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar.
- Lake Mansarovar is one of the highest freshwater lakes in the world at 4,590 m elevation.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Munnar to Emerge as a Model Responsible Tourism Hub

### Kerala's New Initiative

The Kerala government plans to transform Munnar into a Responsible Tourism Destination. The aim is to protect its fragile ecosystem while making it a net-zero tourism hub.

### About Munnar

Munnar is a scenic hill station located in Idukki district, Kerala. It is 1,600 meters above sea level and lies at the confluence of three rivers: Muthirapuzha, Nallathanni, and Kundala.

### Geographical and Cultural Significance

It is surrounded by the Anamalai Hills and the Cardamom Hills. Munnar is famous for lush tea gardens, mist-covered valleys, waterfalls, and rolling green hills.

Historically, it was home to the Muthuvan tribal community. European planter A.H. Sharp started the first tea plantations here in the late 19th century, making it a major tea-growing region.

### Unique Attractions

Munnar is known for the Neelakurinji flower, which blooms only once every 12 years. It also hosts Eravikulam National Park, where the endangered Nilgiri Tahr lives. The park includes Anamudi Peak, the highest mountain in South India.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Peshwa Bajirao: The Maratha Empire's Legendary Commander

### Statue Unveiling in Pune

The Union Home Minister recently unveiled the statue of Shrimant Bajirao Peshwa I in Pune, Maharashtra.

### Who Was Bajirao I?

- Bajirao I was the 7th Peshwa of the Maratha Empire.
- He was the son of Balaji Vishwanath, the first Peshwa.
- He served under Chhatrapati Shahu I and expanded Maratha influence across India.

### Military Achievements

- Bajirao fought 41 battles in 20 years and won all of them.
- **Battle of Palkhed (1728):** Defeated the Nizam of Hyderabad using fast cavalry tactics.
- **Battle of Dabhoi (1731):** Fought against the Dabhade clan over Gujarat's revenue rights.
- **Invasion of Delhi (1737):** Forced the Mughals to surrender territories without capturing Delhi.

## Alluri Sitarama Raju: The Hero of the Rampa Rebellion

### Birth Anniversary Celebrations

The Defence Minister honoured Alluri Sitarama Raju on his 128th birth anniversary, highlighting his role in India's freedom struggle.

### Who Was He?

- Popularly called "Manyam Veerudu" (Hero of the Jungle).
- Mobilised tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha against British rule.
- Influenced by the Non-Cooperation Movement and revolutionaries from Bengal.

### Rampa Rebellion (1922-1924)

- Led a tribal uprising triggered by the Madras Forest Act of 1882, which restricted Adivasi rights.
- Practised guerrilla warfare against British forces.
- Captured and martyred on 7 May 1924.

### Legacy

- His sacrifice made him a folk hero in Andhra Pradesh.
- His birth anniversary is celebrated as a state festival.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dhammacakkappavattana Divas Observed on Āshāḍha Pūrṇimā

### Significance

Marks Lord Buddha's first sermon at Sarnath, known as the **First Turning of the Wheel of Dhamma**.

### Organisers

- International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) under the Ministry of Culture.
- Event held in collaboration with the Mahabodhi Society of India.

### About IBC

- Established in 2012 to unite Buddhist organizations worldwide.
- Headquartered in New Delhi with over 320 member institutions.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chautal: A Timeless Rhythm of Hindustani Music

### Showcasing Indian Culture Abroad

During his visit to Trinidad & Tobago, the Prime Minister presented a Bhojpuri Chautal performance, strengthening cultural ties with the Indian diaspora.

### About Chautal

- Chautal is a classical 12-beat rhythmic cycle in Hindustani music.
- It is mainly used in the Dhrupad style and played on the pakhawaj.
- “Chautal” means “four claps,” denoting its division structure.
- Known for its weighty, spiritual expression and improvisational “thapi” style.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mahabodhi Temple: Supreme Court Upholds Shared Control

### Recent Development

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea seeking sole control of the Mahabodhi Temple by the Buddhist community. It asked the petitioner to approach the High Court.

### About the Temple

The Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is one of four sacred Buddhist sites linked to the life of the Buddha. He attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree at this site.

### Historical Significance

The original temple was built by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE after his conversion to Buddhism. The present structure dates back to the 5th–6th centuries.

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## Civil Registration and Sample Surveys: Strengthening Vital Data

### Civil Registration System (CRS)

CRS is India’s official system for recording births, deaths, and stillbirths. It operates under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. The Office of the Registrar General of India under the Home Ministry manages it.

## Current Challenges

Reports show that Bihar still lags behind the national average in birth registration, even after two decades of efforts.

### Sample Registration System (SRS)

The SRS was started in 1964-65 as a pilot project and fully rolled out in 1969-70. It generates reliable and continuous data on birth and death rates. This helps governments make evidence-based policies.

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## Sheesh Mahal: Mughal-Era Monument Restored

### In News

Union Culture and Tourism Minister unveiled the restored **Sheesh Mahal** in Delhi's Shalimar Bagh.

### About Sheesh Mahal

- Built in 1653 during Shah Jahan's reign, located in North Delhi's Shalimar Bagh.
- Shalimar Bagh, originally known as **Aizzabad Garden**, was commissioned in memory of Aizzun-Nisha Begum.
- The palace gained historical significance as the site of Aurangzeb's first coronation in 1658.
- Both the palace and gardens are protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Kombucha: A Growing Health Drink in India

### What is Kombucha?

Kombucha is a fermented tea drink. It was first made in northeast China around 220 BCE. It is known for its detoxifying and energizing properties.

### Recent Study on Health Benefits

A study in Brazil showed that Kombucha improves gut bacteria in obese people. It increases good microbes and reduces harmful ones. However, it did not show significant improvement in blood sugar or inflammation markers.

### Rising Popularity in India

Kombucha is becoming more popular in India. The market size grew from \$45 million in 2020 to \$102 million in 2024. It is promoted for digestive and immune health, though strong human evidence is still limited.

## INDIAN SOCIETY

**India's First Transgender-Led Clinic Reopens in Hyderabad****Reopening of Mitr Clinic**

India's first transgender clinic, Mitr Clinic, has reopened in Hyderabad with support from Tata Trusts.

**Background and Significance**

Launched in 2021, it is the first clinic in India to be fully run and managed by members of the transgender community. This initiative ensures healthcare that is dignified, inclusive, and community-focused.

**Services Provided**

- General healthcare facilities
- Counselling and consultation on Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) and Gender Affirmation Surgeries
- Breast augmentation and other gender-related procedures
- HIV and STI treatment
- Mental health and psychological support

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**Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) Empower Tribal Students****Why in News?**

More than 600 EMRS students have cleared IIT-JEE and NEET this year, as per the Tribal Affairs Ministry.

**About EMRS**

- A Central Sector Scheme run by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide quality education to tribal children.
- One EMRS will be set up in every block with over 50% Scheduled Tribe (ST) population and at least 20,000 tribal residents.
- Target: 728 EMRS by 2026.

**Additional Features**

- Sports promotion through 15 Centres of Excellence.
- Up to 10% seats reserved for non-ST students (subject to a total cap of 480 seats).
- Managed by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS).

## Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK)

### Context

The 75th PMDK has been inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh.

### About

- Initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Provides integrated services under one roof: assessment, counselling, assistive devices, and rehabilitation.
- Implemented by ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India).

### Target Groups

- Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under the RPwD Act, 2016.
- Senior citizens from economically weaker sections.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ayurveda Aahara Products under Category A

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), in consultation with the **Ministry of Ayush**, has released a definitive list of Ayurvedic food preparations under the category of "Ayurveda Aahara." This significant step brings India's time-honoured food wisdom into the mainstream, following the introduction of the Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations in 2022.



### What is Ayurveda Aahara?

- Food products prepared in accordance with Ayurvedic principles.
- Based on recipes, ingredients, and processes found in authoritative classical Ayurvedic texts (e.g., Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita).
- Regulated under the FSSAI's Ayurveda Aahara Regulations, 2022.

### Category A Definition

- Refers to **Ayurveda Aahara without any disease-specific health claims.**

- Intended for general wellness, preventive care, and balance of body and mind.

### **Key Features of the 2025 FSSAI Notification**

#### **1. Inclusion of Additional Items:**

- FBOs may request addition of new products.
- Must submit references from authoritative Ayurvedic texts.
- Subject to FSSAI approval and notification.

#### **2. Scientific Validation & Compendium:**

- National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) is the nodal body.
- Developed a comprehensive compendium with scientifically validated classical formulations.

### **Policy & Governance Significance**

- Joint initiative by FSSAI and Ministry of AYUSH.
- Aligns traditional knowledge with modern food regulatory systems.
- Supports Make in India and global positioning of Ayurveda and Millets as per the Prime Minister's vision at World Food India 2023.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Mental Healthcare Reforms in India**

### **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)**

- Flagship mental health initiative of the Government of India.
- Focus on accessible, affordable, and community-based mental healthcare.
- NMHP launched in 1982, major revamp under 12th Five Year Plan.
- Tele-MANAS is linked to National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

**District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)** component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 767 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission.

### **Services at CHC/PHC level:**

- Outpatient care
  - Assessment & counselling
  - Support for severe mental disorders
  - Free drugs, ambulance services
  - 10-bedded inpatient facility at district hospitals
- 
- **Focus areas:**

- School & college counselling
- Workplace stress management
- Life skills training
- Suicide prevention
- Stigma removal via IEC activities

### Tele Mental Health Initiatives

- National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele-MANAS) launched on 10 Oct 2022. Provide free, round-the-clock tele-mental health services
- **As of July 2025:**
  - 53 Tele-MANAS Cells operational in 36 States/UTs.
  - 23.82 lakh+ helpline calls handled.
- **Tele-MANAS Mobile App launched (Oct 10, 2024):**
  - Offers audio + video consultations.
  - Full-spectrum mental health support.

### Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (under Ayushman Bharat)

- 1.77 lakh SHCs & PHCs upgraded to include mental health services.
- Mental health included under Comprehensive Primary Healthcare.
- Operational guidelines for Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use (MNS) disorders released.

### Capacity Building

- Digital Academies offer online training for general healthcare workers (medical & paramedical).
- **Aim:** Address manpower shortage in mental health.

### Awareness & IEC Activities

- **Community-based awareness through:**
  - Schools, colleges, workplaces
  - Posters, campaigns, peer networks
- **Target:** Reduce stigma, promote early intervention.

\*\*\*\*\*

## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

## Removal Motion Against High Court Judge

## Context

The Union Government is preparing to start the constitutional process for removing Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court.

## How Judges Are Removed?

- **Legal Provision:** Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts can be removed under Article 124(4) and Article 217 for “proved misbehavior or incapacity.”
- **Initiation of Motion:**
  - Lok Sabha requires 100 MPs to sign the motion.
  - Rajya Sabha requires 50 MPs.
- **Admission of Motion:** The Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha must approve it.
- **Inquiry Committee:** Formed under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. It includes:
  - Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court Judge
  - Chief Justice of a High Court
  - A renowned jurist
- **Report:** The committee submits a report in three months (with possible extension).
  - If charges fail, the matter closes.
- **Parliamentary Voting:** If charges stand, the motion must pass with a special majority in both Houses:
  - Majority of the total members
  - Two-thirds of members present and voting
- **Presidential Order:** Once approved by both Houses, the President issues the removal order.

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## Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls in Bihar

## Why SIR Is Important

The Election Commission launched SIR in Bihar to clean and update voter lists.

## Process

- BLOs (Booth Level Officers) visit houses to enroll new voters and remove ineligible names.
- Legal basis: Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- Ensures fairness and accuracy in elections.

## Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan – Responsive Governance for Tribal India

**Why in news** - In a landmark step toward *Viksit Bharat by 2047*, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, launched the 3rd Regional Process Lab (RPL) of the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

### Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

#### Launched By:

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India (2024-25)**

#### Objective:

To empower tribal frontline functionaries (like ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, SHG leaders, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, Gram Sabha members) with leadership and governance skills for improved service delivery in tribal areas.

#### Key Features:

- **Nationwide Capacity Building Programme**
  - Target: **Train 20 lakh tribal functionaries**
  - Coverage: ~1 lakh tribal villages in 550+ districts across 30 States/UTs
- **Cascading Model of Training**
  - **State Master Trainers (SMTs) → District Master Trainers (DMTs) → Block-level Trainers**
  - Supported by civil society partners and State Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)
- **Regional Process Labs (RPLs)**
  - Serve as training hubs to implement the mission
  - Launched in cities like Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Dehradun
- **Integration with Flagship Schemes**
  - **PM JANMAN** (Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Nyaya Maha Abhiyan)
  - **DAJGUA** (Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan)

- **Digital Support:**

- Launch of Aadi Karmayogi Digital Platform for training, tracking and content delivery

**Core Principles:**

- **Seva (Service)**
- **Sankalp (Resolve)**
- **Samarpan (Dedication)**  
Leaders are envisioned as “Tribal Gurus” who serve their communities.

**Promotes responsive governance through:**

- Bottom-up visioning
- Real-time grievance redressal
- Collaborative implementation

**Convergence across key ministries and departments, including:**

- Tribal Affairs
- Rural Development
- Women & Child Development
- Jal Shakti
- School Education
- Environment and Forests

**NER District SDG Index 2nd Edition Released**

**About the Index**

- Developed by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of DoNER with UNDP’s support.
- Measures district-level performance of 8 Northeastern states on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Findings**

- **Categories:** Achiever (100), Front Runner (65–99), Performer (50–65), Aspirant (<50).
- All districts in Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura achieved Front Runner status.
- Mizoram’s Hnahthial ranked highest (81.43); Arunachal Pradesh’s Longding ranked lowest (58.71).

### Importance

- Serves as a planning tool for evidence-based policy and resource allocation.
- Provides recommendations to accelerate SDG progress by 2030.

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## National Commission for Minorities (NCM): Non-Functional Since April 2025

### About NCM

- Created under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**.
- Safeguards the interests of religious minorities: Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains.

### Structure

- Has a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and five members.
- All are nominated by the Central Government, and at least five must belong to minority communities.
- Members serve a three-year term and can be reappointed.

### Powers

- Can summon individuals, require documents, and receive evidence like a civil court.
- Can access public records to investigate issues concerning minority rights.

### Constitutional Safeguards

- **Article 29:** Protects the culture, language, and script of minorities and prevents discrimination in education.
- **Article 30:** Gives minorities the right to establish and manage educational institutions without discrimination in government aid.

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## Battery Passport: India to Introduce Digital Battery ID

### What is it?

- Each battery will have a unique QR code with information on origin, composition, performance, and recycling.

- Designed to improve quality standards and aid EV exports.

### **Who is Leading It?**

NITI Aayog is coordinating the framework with various ministries and departments.

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## **FaceAuth: Aadhaar-Based Ration Authentication in Himachal Pradesh**

### **About FaceAuth**

- First-of-its-kind facial authentication system for Public Distribution System (PDS).
- Reduces issues like OTP failure and biometric mismatch.
- Uses mobile phone cameras to authenticate beneficiaries at Fair Price Shops.

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## **BIND Scheme: Broadcasting Infrastructure Gets Boost**

### **About the Scheme**

- Launched by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- Supports modernization of Prasar Bharati's Doordarshan and All India Radio networks.
- Includes upgradation of DTH services and content production for domestic and international audiences.

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## **Zonal Councils: Role in Centre-State Cooperation**

### **What are Zonal Councils?**

- Created under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- Five zonal councils: Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, Southern.
- Headed by the Union Home Minister with state Chief Ministers as vice-chairpersons.
- Advisory bodies that promote cooperation and discuss interstate issues.

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## **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)**

### **Context**

A parliamentary panel recommended a review of NIRD&PR citing mismanagement and lack of transparency.

## About

- **Type:** Autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Location:** Hyderabad, Telangana; has a North-Eastern Regional Centre in Guwahati.
- Premier institute for rural development and Panchayati Raj capacity building.
- Recognised internationally as a UN-ESCAP Centre of Excellence.
- **Activities:** Training, research, and consultancy for PRIs, NGOs, bankers, and rural development functionaries.

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## World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector

### Context

The government is implementing the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan to strengthen rural agri-infrastructure and empower PACS.

### About the Plan

- Approved in 2023; currently under a pilot project.
- Focuses on godowns, custom hiring centres, food processing units, and Fair Price Shops at the PACS level.
- Converges schemes like AIF, AMI, SMAM, and PMFME.

### Importance

- Enhances transparency, record-keeping, and credit delivery in the cooperative sector.
- States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh are leading in PACS ERP onboarding.

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## TALASH Initiative for Tribal Students

### About TALASH

- Launched by NESTS and UNICEF India.
- Focuses on holistic development, career clarity, and life skills for EMRS students.
- Implemented across 28 states and 8 Union Territories.

## NMC Relaxes Medical Faculty Rules

### About the National Medical Commission (NMC)

- Formed under the **National Medical Commission Act, 2019**, replacing the Medical Council of India.
- Aims to improve medical education quality, ensure equitable healthcare, and maintain high ethical standards.

### New Faculty Regulations (2025)

- Support the government's plan to add 75,000 medical seats in five years.
- Key changes include:
  - Non-teaching government hospitals (220+ beds) can now be teaching institutions.
  - Experienced specialists can join as faculty without mandatory senior residency.
  - Age limit for senior residents in preclinical and paraclinical subjects raised to 50 years.
  - M.Sc. and Ph.D. holders can now teach in more departments.
  - Flexible criteria introduced for professor and assistant professor posts based on experience in NBEMS-recognised institutions.

### Impact

- NMC says the focus is now on competency and experience, not rigid norms.
- Supporters welcome the flexibility, but some doctors fear it may lower teaching standards and harm patient care.

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## Feeding Stray Dogs: Supreme Court Observation

### Context

SC observed that those feeding stray dogs should do so **inside their homes**.

### Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules 2023

- Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
- Mandates sterilization and vaccination to control stray dog populations and rabies.
- Uses term community animals instead of stray dogs.
- **Feeding protocols:**
  - Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) must designate clean feeding spots away from public areas.
  - Balances animal welfare with public safety.

## Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 21:** Right to life and liberty extended to animals (2014 Jallikattu verdict).
- **Article 51A(g):** Fundamental duty of citizens to have compassion for living creatures.

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## India Post Becomes Largest Logistics Network

### Recent Developments

The Communications Minister announced India Post's major digital transformation, including appointing its first Chief Technology Officer (CTO).

### About India Post

- Operates under the Ministry of Communications
- Managed by the Postal Service Board with a Chairman and six members
- Holds the world's largest postal network with 1,55,000+ post offices

### Importance and Services

- Provides mail services, small savings schemes, and life insurance (PLI & RPLI)
- Plays a major role in socio-economic development
- Disburses government benefits like MGNREGS wages and pensions

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ANURAG BACHAN'S

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### India and the Global South: Strengthening Ties

#### What is the Global South?

The Global South refers to less developed countries, mainly in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania. These nations often face poverty, weak health systems, and debt crises.

#### India's Historical Role

India has been a strong voice for the Global South for decades. It helped form key movements like the Bandung Conference (1955), the Non-Aligned Movement (1961), and the G-77 (1964).

#### Recent Efforts

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent 5-nation tour focused on strengthening ties with the Global South. India also organizes the 'Voice of Global South Summit', which in 2024 saw participation from over 120 countries.

#### India's Vision

India promotes inclusive growth and fairness in global decision-making. Its approach is guided by the idea of "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

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### QUAD's Sea Ship Observer Mission

#### About the Mission

India, Japan, the United States, and Australia launched the first-ever QUAD Sea Ship Observer Mission.

#### Purpose

This initiative strengthens maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. It follows the Wilmington Declaration adopted at the 2024 QUAD Leaders' Summit.

#### India's Role

The mission supports India's SAGAR doctrine (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. It shows the QUAD's shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

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## Taiwan Strait: A Key Geopolitical Hotspot

### About the Strait

- Also called the Formosa Strait, it separates Taiwan from China's Fujian Province.
- Connects the South China Sea with the East China Sea.
- It is around 180 km wide at its narrowest point and is a major global shipping lane.

### Why in News?

- Taiwan condemned China's decision to open a new aviation route through the strait.
- It warned that the move could increase tensions and affect regional stability.

### Geopolitical Importance

- China views Taiwan as a breakaway province and claims sovereignty over both the island and the strait.
- This waterway remains one of the most sensitive flashpoints in East Asia.

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## Blue Nile: Ethiopia Completes Africa's Largest Dam

### About the Blue Nile

- Originates in Lake Tana in Ethiopia and flows into Sudan, where it joins the White Nile in Khartoum.
- From there, the Nile continues north through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Nile River flows through 11 African countries and is the world's longest river.

### Why in News?

- Ethiopia announced the completion of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile.
- This hydro-electric project has been a source of tension with Egypt and Sudan, who fear reduced water availability downstream.

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## OPCW Regional Meeting Held in India

### About the Event

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), with India's NACWC, held the 23rd Regional Meeting for Asia.

### About OPCW

- Implements the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) since 1997
- Has 193 member countries
- Won the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize for efforts to eliminate chemical weapons

### India's Role

- India is an original signatory of the CWC
- The NACWC implements the convention at the national level
- In 2024, NACWC mentored Kenya's National Authority for better implementation
- Indian Chemical Council (ICC) won the 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award, the first time a chemical industry association received it

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## Trinidad & Tobago: Strengthening India's Ties

### Honour for PM Modi

- The Prime Minister was conferred the 'Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,' the nation's highest civilian award.
- The country also became the first Caribbean nation to adopt India's UPI system.

### About Trinidad & Tobago

- Located near Venezuela in the Caribbean Sea, part of the Lesser Antilles.
- Capital: Port of Spain.
- Trinidad is flat and fertile, while Tobago is hilly.
- Over 35% of the population is of Indian origin, tracing roots to indentured labourers during British rule.

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## Maitri Grants: India-Australia Partnership

### Context

Australia announced the 2025 Maitri Grants, Fellowships, and Scholarships.

### About

- Administered by the Centre for Australia-India Relations.
- Supports collaboration in technology, business, education, and culture.
- Initiatives include exhibitions (Raja Ravi Varma), research fellowships (quantum computing, clean energy), and cultural exchanges.

## Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) to be Ready by 2027

### What is KMTTP?

A major India-Myanmar connectivity project, entirely funded by India, combining sea, river, and road transport.

### Project Components

- **Sea Route:** Kolkata Port to Myanmar's Sittwe Port (539 km).
- **River Route:** Sittwe to Paletwa via Kaladan River (158 km).
- **Road Connectivity:** Paletwa to Mizoram.

### Importance

- Offers a strategic alternative to the vulnerable Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck).
- Strengthens Northeast India's access to sea routes and Southeast Asian markets.
- Enhances India's Act East Policy by boosting regional trade and integration.

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## Colombia and Uzbekistan Join New Development Bank

### About NDB

- Established by BRICS nations at the 6th BRICS Summit (2014) and operational since 2015.
- Headquarters: Shanghai, China.
- Focuses on funding sustainable infrastructure projects.
- Initial capital: \$100 billion, equally contributed by founding members.

### New Members

With the addition of Colombia and Uzbekistan, NDB now has 11 member countries, including India, China, Brazil, Russia, South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, and Algeria.

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## India-Saudi Arabia Fertilizer Supply Agreement

### Context

India signed long-term DAP fertilizer supply deals with Saudi Arabia's Maaden.

## Highlights

- Supply of 3.1 million metric tonnes annually from 2025–26 (up from 1.9 MT).
- Agreements valid for 5 years with possible extension.

## About DAP Fertilizer

- Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) contains phosphorus and nitrogen.
- Second most used fertilizer after urea.
- Nano-DAP uses nanoparticles for higher efficiency.

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## 10th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting

**Location:** Brasilia, Brazil

**India's Role:** Active participation; reaffirmed commitment to cultural diplomacy and heritage conservation.

### Key Outcomes:

#### Adoption of Declaration:

- Declaration of the 10th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting adopted.
- Aimed at enhancing cultural cooperation among BRICS nations.

#### Areas of Cultural Cooperation:

India promotes cultural exchange with BRICS nations in:

- Arts, dance, theatre
- Museums & galleries
- Literature & archives
- Puppetry & traditional art forms

India also maintains bilateral Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEPs) with BRICS countries.

#### Climate & Culture Linkage:

#### Integration of Culture into Climate Adaptation:

- India advocates the integration of indigenous knowledge systems into climate strategies.

- Examples include:
  - Traditional water management
  - Vernacular architecture
  - Sustainable artisanal crafts

#### **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment):**

- Recognizes that Indian culture and traditions promote sustainability.
- Focus on individual and community-led behaviour change.
- Inspired by ancient Indian teachings on conservation and harmony with nature.

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## **UAE's Golden Visa Programme Opens to Indians**

### **What is a Golden Visa?**

Long-term residency permits offered in exchange for investments in property or business.

### **Key Features of UAE's Scheme**

- Offers 5–10 years of residency without a sponsor.
- New nomination-based policy allows lifetime residency for Indians for a fee of AED 1,00,000 (₹23.3 lakh).
- Eligible categories: Investors, entrepreneurs, high-value professionals, and exceptional talents.
- Applicants undergo strict background checks and can apply remotely.

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## **Bulgaria to Join the Eurozone in 2026**

### **Why in News?**

EU finance ministers have approved Bulgaria's adoption of the euro from 1 January 2026, making it the 21st Eurozone member.

### **About the Eurozone**

- Group of EU countries using the euro (€) and under the European Central Bank's monetary policy.
- The euro was introduced in 1999 (electronic) and 2002 (physical currency).

### **Maastricht Convergence Criteria**

- Inflation rate close to the three most stable countries (within 1.5%).
- Government deficit  $\leq$  3% of GDP.
- Government debt  $\leq$  60% of GDP.
- Stable exchange rates for two years.
- Long-term interest rates  $\leq$  2% above the best-performing members.

## Enemy Property Act, 1968: HC Upholds Government Powers

### What is Enemy Property?

Assets left behind in India by nationals of Pakistan and China after wars (1947, 1962, and 1965).

### About the Act

- All rights over such properties rest with the **Custodian of Enemy Property for India**.
- Transfers by original owners are void.
- Strengthened by the 2017 amendment to prevent heirs' claims.

### Current Status

Nearly 2,000 enemy properties exist across states like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar, West Bengal, and Gujarat.

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## PM Modi Awarded Namibia's Highest Civilian Honour

### About the Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred the *Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis*, Namibia's highest civilian award. He is the first Indian leader to receive it.

### About Namibia

- Located on Africa's southwestern coast; bordered by Angola, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa, and the Atlantic Ocean.
- Named after the Namib Desert, the world's oldest desert.
- Major rivers: Zambezi, Orange, Cunene, and Okavango.

### Bilateral Ties

Namibia is the first African country to sign a licensing agreement to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system for real-time digital transactions.

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## Trade Connect e-Platform

### Context

DGFT showcased Trade Connect at IIGF and Toy Biz Expo.

### About

- Comprehensive hub for international trade services.
- Provides information on tariffs, certifications, trade events, buyers, and e-commerce for MSMEs.
- Enables electronic issuance and validation of Certificates of Origin (preferential & non-preferential).

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## INDIAN ECONOMY

### Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme Cleared

#### Cabinet Approval

The Union Cabinet has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme. It was announced in the Union Budget 2024–25 as part of the Prime Minister's employment and skilling package.

#### Key Goals

The scheme has a budget of ₹99,446 crore. It aims to create more than 3.5 crore jobs between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027. Around 1.92 crore of these will be for first-time workers.

#### Two Components of the Scheme

##### 1. For Employees:

- New EPFO-registered workers earning up to ₹1 lakh a month will get a direct incentive of up to ₹15,000.
- This will be given in two installments and linked to continued service and financial literacy training.
- Part of the amount will be saved for the employee.

##### 2. For Employers:

- Employers registered with EPFO will receive ₹1,000–3,000 per employee each month for retaining new jobs.
- The manufacturing sector will get extended benefits.

Payments will be made directly through Aadhaar-linked bank accounts for employees and PAN-linked accounts for employers.

## RailOne App: A Single Platform for Railway Services

### Launch and Purpose

The RailOne app was launched by the Union Railway Minister during the 40th Foundation Day of the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).

It aims to improve the passenger experience by integrating multiple services on one platform.

### Features of the App

- Single-sign-on with biometric or mPIN login.
- Works with existing RailConnect and UTS accounts.
- Space-saving as it replaces multiple apps.

### Services Offered

- Purchase of unreserved tickets with a 3% discount through R-Wallet.
- Live train tracking.
- Grievance redressal.
- E-catering, porter booking, and last-mile taxi service.

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## Aspirational DMF Programme Launched

### What is it?

The Ministry of Coal and Mines has issued guidelines for the *Aspirational DMF Programme* to align District Mineral Foundation (DMF) projects with central flagship schemes.

### Purpose and Priority

- Ensure effective use of DMF funds collected from mining firms for communities affected by mining.
- Focus sectors: health, nutrition, education, agriculture, skill development, and basic infrastructure.
- District Collectors and State Nodal Officers will lead the mission.

### About DMF

- Non-profit bodies set up under Section 9(B) of the MMDR Act, 1957 (amended 2015).
- Work for the welfare of mining-impacted regions as per state government directions.

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## Global Liveability Index 2025 Released

### About the Index

- Published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- Ranks 173 cities based on 30 indicators under five categories: Stability, Healthcare, Culture & Environment, Education, and Infrastructure

### Top and Bottom Rankings

- **Most Liveable City:** Copenhagen, Denmark (98/100), ending Vienna's three-year reign
- Zurich (97.1/100) and Vienna (97.1/100) share the second spot
- **Least Liveable Cities:** Damascus (Syria) is lowest at 30.7/100, followed by Tripoli (Libya) and Dhaka (Bangladesh)

### India's Rank

Delhi and Mumbai both scored 60.2, placing them jointly at 141st rank.

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## Roll-on Roll-off (RoRo) Ferries in Goa

### Context

Goa launched two eco-friendly RoRo ferries *Gangotri* and *Dwarka* on the Mandovi River.

### About RoRo Ferries

- Designed to carry wheeled cargo (cars, trucks, two-wheelers) driven on/off the ship.
- Part of India's first RoRo ferry service to enhance waterway connectivity.
- Reduce travel time from 30 to 12-13 minutes.

### Mandovi River

- West-flowing river originating in Karnataka.
- Length: 62 km; important tributaries include Khandepar and Mapusa.

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## FAO Report: Youth in Agrifood Systems

### Context

FAO's report "**Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems**" highlighted youth potential in agriculture.

### **Key Findings**

- 20% of world's 1.3 billion youth are NEET (Not in Employment, Education, or Training).
- Youth engagement in agrifood systems dropped from 54% (2005) to 44% (2021).
- Agrifood participation can boost global GDP by 1.4% (\$1.5 trillion).
- Women twice as likely to be NEET.

### **Recommendations**

- Modernize agrifood systems and infrastructure.
- Improve access to land, credit, training, and technology.
- Include youth in decision-making.
- Expand social protection and migration pathways.

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## **Nationwide Financial Awareness Saturation Campaign (July 1 to September 30, 2025)**

### **Nodal Agency:**

Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance

### **Objective:**

To ensure benefits of the following schemes are availed by 100% of the eligible beneficiaries (saturation) across approximately 2.70 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY),
2. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY),
3. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and
4. Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

### **Focus of the Literacy Programmes-**

1. Digital fraud awareness,
2. Access to unclaimed deposits,
3. Grievance redressal mechanisms

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## Grant in aid to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

(4 years from 2025-26 to 2028- 29)

### **Financial Outlay of Rs.2000 crores cleared.**

(Rs 500 cr for each year)

### **Nodal Agency:**

NCDC

### **Objective:**

To fulfil working capital requirements of cooperatives to expand their plants and/or undertake new projects.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

Likely to benefit 2.9cr members of 13,288 Cooperative societies of various sectors like Dairy, Livestock, Fisheries, Sugar, Textile, Food Processing, Storage and Cold Storage; Labour and Women led cooperatives. across the country.

- Creation of income generating capital assets
- Easy access to credit will help in capacity augmentation and raising productivity
- Employment Generation, increasing women participation
- Bridges socio-economic gap by promoting community spirits and equality

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## India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

*On July 24, 2025, India and the UK signed a landmark FTA called the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).*

### **Objective:**

To double bilateral trade in goods and services by 2030. (\$56 billion in 2025)  
The agreement aims to enhance trade flows, reduce tariffs, facilitate mobility of professionals, and increase mutual investment.

**Scope:** It covers trade in goods and services, investment, mobility, and strategic sectors like defence, technology, and climate.

### **Key Features:**

#### 1) **Tariff Reductions for Indian exports**

The FTA provides tariff-free access to 99% of Indian exports to the UK, covering nearly all trade

value. It will boost labour-intensive sectors like textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, fisheries, and MSMEs.

## 2) Concessions on UK Exports

- Import duty on British luxury cars to be reduced from over 100% to 10% over 15 years.
- Initial quota of 10,000 units to benefit from this duty cut, rising to 19,000 units by year five.
- Duties on Scotch whisky to be reduced from 150% to 75% and eventually to 40% over 10 years.
- Average tariffs on UK consumer goods like cosmetics, medical devices, and soft drinks will drop from 15% to 3%.

## 3) Exclusions from Tariff Concessions

India excluded certain agricultural products such as dairy, apples, walnuts, whey, blue-veined cheese, and specific seeds.

The UK excluded some meat products and egg-based items from concessions.

## 4) Services and Labour Mobility

- India allowed unlimited entry for UK service providers, with some regulatory carve-outs (e.g. legal, tax, and national security).
- The UK granted India rights in sectors like IT, consultancy, and environmental services.
- Professional mobility commitments were modest.  
A visa quota of 1,800 per year was established for traditional chefs, classical musicians, and yoga instructors.

## 5) Social Security Contributions Agreement (DCC)

Under this, short-term workers (up to 3 years) will only pay social security in their home countries. This lowers the cost of doing business and facilitates greater professional mobility, especially in tech and finance.

## 6) Strategic and Geopolitical Dimensions

- **Vision 2035 Document**- to deepen cooperation in defence, technology, education, climate, and people-to-people ties.
- A **Defence Industrial Roadmap** was launched to enhance co-development and co-production in defence. Cooperation to expand in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and critical minerals.
- **Global Cooperation**  
Leaders discussed issues such as Indo-Pacific security, the Ukraine conflict, and West Asia. Both sides condemned terrorism and agreed on the need to prevent misuse of democratic freedoms by extremist elements.

**Significance for India**

- Strengthens India’s strategic autonomy and global economic integration.
- Boosts sectors under Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Enhances India’s standing in global value chains and promotes foreign investment.
- Forges deeper institutional, people-to-people, and strategic ties with a major Western power.

**Challenges and Considerations**

- India retained protection for sensitive agricultural sectors.
- UK's conservative stance on labour mobility limits India's gains in services.
- Tariff cuts in automobiles and whisky are phased and quota-restricted.
- Political uncertainties (e.g. US tariffs under Trump) may affect trade momentum.

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it “a historic day” and described the deal as a “blueprint for shared prosperity.”*

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**5<sup>th</sup> Marine Fisheries Census 2025**

**Nodal Agency:**

Department of Fisheries and ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi

It is part of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

**Aim:**

To enumerate marine fisher households, fishing villages, and infrastructure - detailed data on fisher families, fishing crafts, gear, and related facilities using app-based, real-time digital methods

**Coverage:**

13 coastal states and UTs

**Integration of Technology:**

The data collection will be fully digital and geo-referenced supported by VyAS-NAV (web platform)

**Significance:**

Sustainable development and governance of the sector, which supports over a million families.

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**India- Maldives MoU to Boost Bilateral Cooperation in Fisheries and Aquaculture**

*Department of Fisheries under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, India and the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources of the Maldives have signed an MoU to enhance bilateral collaboration in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture.*

(Part of the several MoUs signed between the two nations on PM Narendra Modi's visit to the island nation)

**Aim:**

- To promote sustainable tuna and deep-sea fisheries
- Strengthen aquaculture
- sustainable resource management
- foster fisheries-based eco-tourism,
- support innovation and scientific research.

**Scope:**

Value chain development, mariculture advancement, trade facilitation, and capacity building within the fisheries sector, scale up fish processing capabilities by investing in cold storage infrastructure, hatchery development, improved production efficiency, and the diversification of cultured species.

**Significance for India:**

- The focused agreement on fisheries is aligned with the economy's blue revolution objective supported by several other schemes.
- Reflects the nation's commitment to "Neighbourhood First" policy via knowledge transfer and joint capacity building programmes.

## US Imposes 25% tariffs on India

*U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff plus an additional penalty on Indian imports.*

### Challenges Created for India-

Most obvious Impact- With imposition of tariffs, Indian exports would become more expensive to the US consumers, making them less competitive.

- Impact on GDP- the tariffs are expected to reduce India's GDP growth by 0.2%, lowering forecasts from 6.6% to 6.4%.
- Sectoral Impact- India's exports are concentrated from labour extensive sectors: textiles, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, electronics, steel, IT services, and refined petroleum products, likely to have an impact on employment and our MSMEs can be hit.
  - The steel sector will be directly impacted as it now faces pricing disadvantages in the global market.
  - IT services may encounter regulatory scrutiny and reduced demand for contracts.
  - Extension of tariffs to refined petroleum or energy-related inputs could harm long-term planning and profitability of refiners.
  - India's electronics industry got a two-week relief from the proposed, as the tariffs on electronic products such as smartphones and laptops remain under review amid ongoing bilateral negotiations.
- Credit Rating Agencies expect a further decline in Current Account Deficit if volume of exports indeed declines due to higher prices.
- RBI will face a dilemma on cutting interest rate to offset export led weakness amidst low inflation.

### Opportunities for India -

- With 25% tariffs, there are no clear winners among Asian economies. India now has comparable duties with Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand. India remains competitively positioned and in position to gain market share for its' products by undercutting the other economies. This relative position, helps India optimise on the China plus one strategy.

- Sectorally, India has a tariff edge over China, Mexico, and Canada in key sectors like nuclear reactors, iron and steel, textiles, electricals, and vehicles.
- Geopolitically, as uncertainties loom over tariffs on groupings such as the BRICS, it is a chance for the smaller nations to unite. This could pave the way for countries like India and Russia to diversify their trade partners.

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### **Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries & Establishments (ADEETIE) Scheme**

*Launched in July 2025 by the Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs*

#### **Implementing Agency:**

- **Ministry of Power, Government of India**
- **Implemented by:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

#### **Objective:**

To support MSMEs in adopting **energy-efficient technologies** by:

- Reducing energy consumption and carbon footprint
- Enhancing competitiveness and productivity
- Promoting cleaner and greener industrial growth

#### **Key Features:**

##### **1. Financial Support:**

- **Total Budgetary Outlay:** ₹1000 crore
- **Interest Subvention:**
  - 5% for Micro & Small Enterprises

- 3% for Medium Enterprises

- **Break-up of Allocation:**

- ₹875 crore for interest subvention
- ₹50 crore for Investment Grade Energy Audits (IGEAs)
- ₹75 crore for post-implementation handholding and Monitoring & Verification (M&V)

## **2. Technical Assistance:**

- **End-to-End Support to MSMEs including:**

- Conducting Investment Grade Energy Audits
- Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)
- Technology identification
- Post-implementation Monitoring & Verification

### **Target Beneficiaries:**

- Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- Particularly those operating in energy-intensive sectors

### **Sectors included**

The 14 energy-intensive sectors covered under the ADEETIE scheme are: Brass, Bricks, Ceramics, Chemicals, Fishery, Food Processing, Forging, Foundry, Glass, Leather, Paper, Pharmaceuticals, Steel Re-rolling, and Textiles.

### **Implementation Plan:**

- **Phase 1:** 60 industrial clusters
- **Phase 2:** 100 additional clusters

- **Timeline:** 3 years (FY 2025–26 to FY 2027–28)

### Expected Outcomes:

- Reduction in energy consumption by 30–50%
- Improved power-to-product ratio
- Mobilization of around ₹9000 crore in investments, including ₹6750 crore of MSME loans
- Boost to export competitiveness through energy efficiency
- Contribution to India’s climate goals and carbon neutrality targets

### Conclusion:

The ADEETIE scheme is a transformative step in India’s green industrial policy, aiming to decouple industrial growth from carbon emissions. By promoting energy-efficient technologies in MSMEs, it seeks to create a sustainable, competitive, and climate-resilient economy.

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### Living Wage

*India aims to move from “minimum wage” to a “living wage” approach by 2025 under the assistance of ILO.*

**Minimum Wage:** It is a minimum floor remuneration that an employer must legally pay to its employees. It is mandated under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 subject to the changes made by the Code on Wages, 2019, once it is implemented in all states.

Daily average minimum wage in India- Rs. 176

India’s minimum wage/ salary structure differs based on several factors-

- state,
- area within the state based on development level (zone),
- industry,
- occupation
- skill-level

Eg. Karnataka, an unskilled worker gets Rs 14,424 per month as minimum wage, while a highly skilled worker gets Rs 18,260. For Jharkhand, the respective wages are Rs 8,996 and Rs 14,351.

A **living wage**, as defined by the ILO, is "the wage level necessary to afford a decent standard of living for workers and their families, taking into account the country's circumstances and calculated for the work performed during normal hours."

Thus, it goes beyond the "minimum wage". While the minimum wage aims to protect workers from low pay, the living wage goes further by providing enough income to cover basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and more.

Currently, **Netherlands** follows a living wage norm, and the ILO is assessing whether it can be adopted in other countries.

#### **Potential Benefits:**

1. By design, living wages are higher than minimum wages. Thus it has the potential to lift millions out of poverty with higher decent wages.
2. Especially helpful for women employment. A recent report by Quess Corp and Udaiti Foundation showed that 54% of female blue- and grey-collar workers are dissatisfied with their pay, and 80% save less than ₹2,000 per month, this means that current minimum wages are inadequate for sustaining a decent life. Correcting this will help get women back into formal employment.
3. From a business standpoint, providing a living wage helps create a robust economic cycle, as it enhances people's ability to buy goods and services. This further promotes economic growth of the country.
4. Additionally, living wages can promote upward social mobility, enabling individuals to pursue entrepreneurial ventures and contribute more meaningfully to their local economies. This also supports the development of vibrant and resilient communities, which are essential for the long-term sustainability, continuity, and stability of businesses

#### **5. Aligns with the Constitutional Mandates:**

- Article 39 states that the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing; that the citizens, men and women equally shall have the right to an adequate livelihood and that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women.

- **Article 43** states that the State shall endeavour, by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way, to give all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work,

6. Aligns with the SDG 2030- particularly the goal of promoting decent work and economic growth.

**Way Forward:**

The implementation of living wages should be complemented by supportive actions like expanding social security coverage, promoting skill development programs, and adopting economic policies that encourage job creation and overall economic growth.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Altermagnets: A New Discovery in Magnetism**

**Breakthrough by Indian Scientists**

Scientists at S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences discovered a unique magnetic property in Chromium Antimonide (CrSb).

**What are Altermagnets?**

Altermagnets are a new class of materials. They combine the spin ordering of anti-ferromagnets with the advantages of ferromagnets. They show zero external magnetization but allow special control over electron movement.

**Significance of the Discovery**

Chromium Antimonide is the first known altermagnet to show direction-dependent conduction polarity. It can act as both p-type and n-type conductor based on the direction.

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**Helgoland: Birthplace of Quantum Mechanics**

**Where is Helgoland?**

- Helgoland is a small red-sandstone island in the North Sea, 50 km off Germany's coast.

- It is less than 1 sq. km in size and was once a naval fortress. Later, it became a popular holiday destination for fresh air and relaxation.

### Why is it Important in Science?

- In June 1925, 23-year-old Werner Heisenberg developed the foundation of quantum mechanics here.
- He replaced the idea of electrons orbiting nuclei with a focus on measurable data like light frequencies and intensities.
- He organized these data into matrices, discovering that the order of multiplication affected results.
- This led to equations that accurately explained hydrogen's spectrum, marking the start of **matrix mechanics**.
- Contributions by Max Born, Pascual Jordan, and Erwin Schrödinger followed, leading to the uncertainty principle and other breakthroughs.
- Quantum mechanics later shaped modern technologies like semiconductors and lasers.

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## Sugar and Fat Boards in Government Offices

### Context

The Health Ministry has directed all government offices to display boards showing sugar and fat content in foods sold on premises.

### Purpose

- Supported by ICMR–NIN to encourage healthy eating.
- Recommended daily intake:
  - **Sugar:** 25 grams
  - **Visible fat:** 30 grams

## Relevance

- India faces a rising burden of lifestyle diseases like diabetes and heart disease.
- Helps create awareness and discourage foods with harmful **trans fats**:
  - **Natural trans fats**: Found in dairy and meat.
  - **Artificial trans fats**: Found in vanaspati, bakery items, fried and street foods cooked in reused oil.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Senegal Free from Trachoma

### Context

WHO declared Senegal free from **trachoma** as a public health problem.

### Senegal

- Westernmost point of Africa, bordered by Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Atlantic Ocean.
- Capital: Dakar.

### Key Points

- Second neglected tropical disease eliminated after **Guinea-worm (2004)**.
- 25th country globally and 9th in Africa to achieve this milestone.
- Trachoma is a **bacterial eye infection** caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis*, a leading cause of preventable blindness.

\*\*\*\*\*

## National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

### Context

NPPA fixed prices of 71 essential medicines used in diabetes and cancer treatment.

### About NPPA

- Independent regulator under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, set up in 1997.
- Mandate: Fix, revise, and monitor prices of drugs to keep them affordable.
- Exercises powers under the **Drug (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013**.

\*\*\*\*\*

## GOSAT-GW: Japan's Climate Watch Satellite

### About the Satellite

Japan has launched the GOSAT-GW (Global Observing Satellite for Greenhouse gases and Water cycle). It will monitor carbon, methane, and other greenhouse gases.

### Features and Goals

It will provide high-resolution data on sea surface temperature and rainfall within a year. This will help global climate monitoring agencies like the US NOAA.

### A Milestone Launch

The mission was the 50th and final flight of Japan's H-2A rocket. The rocket will now be replaced by the more advanced H3 model.

It was among the earliest temples built entirely of brick and marked an important step in Indian brick architecture.

### Management History

The temple was managed by Buddhists until Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion in the 13th century. Later, in the 16th century, Hindu monk Ghamandi Giri set up the Bodh Gaya Math at the site.

Since 1949, the Mahabodhi Temple has been managed under the Bodh Gaya Temple Act, with a committee that includes both Hindu and Buddhist representatives.

### **Important Fact**

Although Buddhists are defined as part of the Hindu category in law, they were recognized as a minority community under the National Commission for Minorities Act in 1993.

### **India's First Equine Disease-Free Compartment**

#### **New Facility in Meerut**

India has established its first Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC) at the RVC Centre & College in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Importance**

- Recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).
- Helps control equine diseases like Influenza, Piroplasmosis, and Glanders.
- India remains free from African Horse Sickness since 2014.

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## **Earth Intelligence: Emerging AI-Powered Tool**

#### **What is Earth Intelligence?**

- Uses AI and advanced analytics on satellite images, drones, and IoT data to produce actionable insights.
- Can track fallen trees, monitor industrial operations, and map traffic patterns.

#### **Importance**

- Expected to generate \$20 billion in revenue globally by 2030.
- In India, it is widely used in mineral exploration, disaster response, and agriculture.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in Space

### Why in News?

Scientists have studied the **indenyl cation** ( $C_9H_7^+$ ) to understand how PAH molecules survive in space.

### About PAHs

- Carbon and hydrogen molecules in ring shapes.
- Make up nearly 20% of interstellar carbon and may have carried life-building molecules to Earth.
- Found even in extreme conditions of the Taurus Molecular Cloud (TMC1), 430 light-years away.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Aluminium and Copper Vision Documents Launched

### Boosting Non-Ferrous Metals Production

India has released vision documents to scale up aluminium and copper production by 2047.

### Aluminium Goals

- Production to rise from 4.5 MTPA to 37 MTPA.
- Focus on recycling, bauxite mining, and low-carbon technology.
- Investment of ₹20 lakh crore expected.

### Copper Goals

- Demand to grow sixfold by 2047.
- Increase smelting and refining capacity by 5 MTPA by 2030.
- Boost domestic recycling and acquire overseas mineral assets.

### Significance

- Essential for clean energy, electric mobility, and modern infrastructure.
- Part of India's vision to become a developed nation by 2047.

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## Botrytis Cinerea: A Fungus with Unique Genetics

### Recent Finding

Scientists found that Botrytis cinerea cannot be cloned. Its nuclei do not hold complete chromosome sets individually.

### About the Fungus

It is also called noble rot and infects over 200 plant species. It is used in wine-making to create sweet wines like Sauternes (France) and Tokaji Aszú (Hungary).

### Agricultural Concerns

Botrytis causes grey mould in crops like tomatoes, lettuce, and strawberries. It spreads fast in humid areas and is resistant to many fungicides, making control difficult.

\*\*\*\*\*

## India Energy Stack: A Unified Digital Energy System

### Why is it Needed?

India's energy sector is fragmented. It lacks unique IDs for consumers and real-time data sharing. This creates inefficiency.

### What is the Energy Stack?

The India Energy Stack will be a digital public infrastructure for the power sector. It will connect producers, consumers, regulators, and fintech companies.

### Benefits

It will allow peer-to-peer energy trading, carbon tracking, decentralization, and data-driven decisions. A 17-member task force led by Nandan Nilekani is designing the framework.

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## Bharat 6G Alliance: India's Push for 6G Leadership

### Vision

- Aim: 6G pre-commercial trials by 2026 and rollout by 2029–30.

- Goal: Secure 10% of global 6G patents.

### Significance

- B6GA brings together industry, academia, and government to create a globally competitive 6G ecosystem.

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## Glutathione Injections Under Scrutiny

### Reason for Attention

The death of actor Shefali Jariwala has drawn focus to glutathione injections, which she reportedly took as part of anti-ageing treatment.

### What is Glutathione?

Glutathione is a strong antioxidant naturally produced by the liver. It repairs tissues, strengthens immunity, slows ageing, and even helps fight cancer cells.

As people age, natural levels decline. This leads many to use supplements or injections to boost glutathione levels.

### Risks and Regulations

High doses, particularly through injections, can lead to dangerous side effects. These include allergies, kidney damage, low blood pressure, and imbalance in the body's antioxidant system.

India's drug regulator, CDSCO, has not approved glutathione for skin lightening, though it is widely used for this purpose without official sanction.

\*\*\*\*\*

## EPABX: Modern Communication Systems for Businesses

### What is EPABX?

Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange (EPABX) is a private phone network used in offices and businesses. It connects internal extensions and outside lines without needing a manual operator.

### Switching Mechanism

Earlier systems used electromechanical switches like crossbar relays. Modern EPABX systems use digital circuits, which convert voice signals into digital form using Pulse Code Modulation (PCM).

They employ Time Division Multiplexing (TDM), which allows many calls to share the same line by assigning each call a time slot.

### **Advanced Features**

Today's EPABX systems often use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). They also support:

- Voicemail and call recording.
- Interactive Voice Response (IVR).
- Mobile and remote access.
- Integration with Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tools and other business software.

These features make office communication faster and more efficient.

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## **SAKSHAM-3000: A New Generation Data Switch**

### **Launch**

The Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development launched SAKSHAM-3000, a state-of-the-art data centre switch-cum-router.

### **Features**

- Developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)
- Compact design with 25.6 Tbps capacity
- Supports 32 ports of 400G and Ethernet speeds ranging from 1G to 400G
- Ultra-low latency, energy-efficient, and ideal for data centres, AI workloads, and 5G/6G networks
- Runs on the modular CROS (C-DOT Router Operating System)

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## **Vera C. Rubin Observatory: New Era of Astronomy**

### **About the Observatory**

- Located in northern Chile at 8,684 ft altitude.
- Formerly known as LSST, renamed in honour of astronomer Vera C. Rubin.

### Significance

- Will scan the southern sky every three nights for 10 years.
- Can detect supernovae, asteroids, and transient cosmic phenomena.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Shinkansen (Alfa-X) Bullet Train

### Context

India to adopt next-generation E10 Shinkansen bullet trains.

### Features

- Speed up to 400 km/h (current E5 model: 320 km/h).
- Enhanced energy efficiency, passenger comfort, and safety.
- Equipped with Automatic Train Control (ATC) to maintain flawless safety records.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI)

### Context

US President Donald Trump diagnosed with CVI, common in older adults.

### About

- Failure of leg veins to return blood to the heart → pooling of blood in lower limbs.
- Symptoms: pain, swelling, skin thickening, leg ulcers.
- Risk factors: obesity, pregnancy, hypertension, sedentary lifestyle.

### Treatment

- Physical activity and avoiding prolonged sitting.
- Minimally invasive procedures like laser ablation **or** vein glue in severe cases.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Winter Fog Experiment (WiFEX)

### Context

WiFEX completed 10 years of research into dense winter fog in North India.

### About

- **Launched:** 2015 by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune under MoES.
- **Aim:** Generate quality data and develop reliable fog prediction models.
- **Coverage:** Initially IGI Airport, Delhi, later expanded to airports in North & Northeast India (e.g., Guwahati, Jewar).

### Link with SAFAR

- SAFAR, also led by IITM, provides air quality and weather forecasts in major cities.

## National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission

### Context

India achieved 6 crore screenings under this mission.

### About the Mission

- Launched 1 July 2023 by PM Modi at Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Objective:** Eliminate sickle cell anemia by 2047.
- **Target:** Screen 7 crore individuals aged 0-40 years in tribal areas by FY 2025-26.
- Implemented under National Health Mission with dashboard and disease portal for real-time data.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NISAR Mission

### NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar

- **Type:** Earth observation satellite mission
- **Collaborators:** Jointly developed by NASA (USA) and ISRO (India)

### Purpose / Objectives

- **Monitor minute changes on Earth's surface**
- **Track natural disasters:**
  - Earthquakes
  - Volcanoes
  - Landslides
- **Study:**
  - Ecosystems
  - Agriculture
  - Ice sheet dynamics

### Technology & Features

- Equipped with dual-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR):
  - **L-band SAR** (1.257 GHz): Penetrates dense forests and soil to detect deep ground movement
  - **S-band SAR** (3.2 GHz): Captures surface-level details like crops and water
- **Synthetic Aperture:**
  - Simulates a large antenna by combining multiple radar echoes over time
  - Provides high-resolution imagery
- **SweepSAR Technology:** Allows large-area mapping with wide swath (~242 km)
- **Radar-based observation:**
  - Works day & night
  - Operates in all weather conditions
  - Can see through clouds, smoke, and vegetation

### Orbit and Accessibility

- **Orbit:** Sun-synchronous polar orbit at 747 km altitude and 98.4° inclination.
- **Launch Vehicle:** GSLV-F16
- **Revisit Time:** 12-day cycle for global scans – all-weather, day and night

- **Data:** Freely available, usually within a few hours
- **Mission life:**
  - Planned: **3 years**
  - Design: **5+ years**

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Therapeutic Approach for Liver Cirrhosis Using VEGF-C Nanocarriers

### Developed By:

- Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi
- National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati
- **Funded by:** *Department of Science and Technology (DST) – Nano Mission*

### Liver cirrhosis :

- leads to distorted lymphatic and blood vessels.
- **In advanced stages, cirrhosis causes:**
  - Portal hypertension
  - Ascites (fluid accumulation)
  - Dysfunctional mesenteric lymphatic vessels (mLVs)

### Problem:

- 30-fold increase in lymph production in cirrhosis.
- Existing lymphatic drainage is impaired.
- No effective treatments for decompensated cirrhosis exist currently.

### Research Innovation:

### Key Molecule:

- **VEGF-C (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor-C)**
  - Promotes lymphangiogenesis by binding to VEGFR-3.

- Improves lymphatic drainage and immune response.

**Breakthrough:**

- Developed VEGF-C-loaded reverse micelle-based nanocarriers (NIPER).
- Oral delivery ensures gut lymphatic uptake- ensures VEGF-C reaches exactly where it's needed — the damaged lymph vessels in the gut and liver

**What are Lymphatic Vessels?**

They are part of the lymphatic system, that:

- Drain extra fluid from tissues.
- Carry immune cells to fight infections.
- Help remove waste and toxins from the body.

**What is Lymphangiogenesis?**

Lymphangiogenesis is a biological process in which new lymphatic vessels (tiny tubes that carry lymph fluid) are formed from existing ones.

**What is VEGF-C?**

- VEGF-C is a special protein that helps grow and repair lymphatic vessels (the tiny tubes that carry lymph fluid in our body).
- It's useful in diseases like liver cirrhosis, where these vessels are damaged or not working properly.

**What is a Reverse Micelle-Based Nanocarrier?**

- It's a special type of nanocarrier designed to carry water-loving substances (like VEGF-C protein).
- "Reverse micelle" just means it can hold VEGF-C inside it and protect it from being destroyed in the stomach or blood.

**In Simple Words:** Scientists at NIPER created a tiny "capsule" (nanocarrier) that carries a helpful protein (VEGF-C). When taken by mouth, it goes to the gut, enters the lymphatic vessels, and helps fix or grow new vessels — like repairing broken water pipes to drain fluid properly in liver disease.

**Animal Trial Findings :**

- Increased lymphatic drainage
- Reduced ascites
- Lower portal pressure

- Improved cytotoxic T-cell response
- Reduced bacterial load (systemic & gut)

**Significance:**

- First study to show therapeutic lymphangiogenesis using VEGF-C nanocarriers in advanced cirrhosis.
- Paves way for alternative, non-invasive treatment options.

**Next Steps:**

- Preclinical trials in larger animals.
- Phase I human trials (safety, dosage, efficacy).

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**INTERNAL SECURITY**

**Akash Air Defence System: Interest from Brazil**

**About the System**

Akash is a mobile, medium-range surface-to-air missile system developed by DRDO with Bharat Dynamics and Bharat Electronics.

**Capabilities**

It can neutralize aircraft, drones, and missiles at a range of 4.5-25 km and altitudes of 100 m-20 km. It travels at supersonic speeds (Mach 1.8-2.5).

**Global Demand**

Brazil has shown interest in buying the system ahead of the 17th BRICS Summit. This strengthens India's presence in the global defence market.

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**Apache AH-64E Helicopters to Join Indian Forces**

**About Apache AH-64E**

- One of the world's most advanced multi-role attack helicopters

- Developed by Boeing, with unmatched firepower and agility
- Equipped with Hellfire missiles, 70mm rockets, and a 30mm chain gun

### **Operational Features**

- Can destroy ground targets, armoured vehicles, and low-flying aircraft
- Advanced sensors, radar, and night vision make it effective in all weather conditions
- Used by multiple countries including Israel, Japan, UK, and Egypt

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## **Defence Acquisition Council Clears ₹1.05 Lakh Crore Proposals**

### **About DAC**

- Established in 2001 after the Kargil War
- Headed by the Defence Minister
- Grants Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for armed forces' capital acquisitions
- Approves the 15-Year Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP)

### **Recent Decision**

DAC has approved acquisitions worth nearly ₹1.05 lakh crore, strengthening India's defence capabilities.

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## **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act: Arms Dealer Declared FEO**

### **About FEO Act (2018)**

- A person involved in economic offences worth ₹100 crore or more who has fled India can be declared a Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO).
- Allows authorities to confiscate property and assets of such offenders.
- Orders of special courts can be appealed in High Courts.

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## Indian Air Force to Retire MiG-21 Jets

### Context

IAF will retire its last **MiG-21 Bison jets** in September 2025.

### About MiG-21

- Inducted in 1963; India's first supersonic jet fighter.
- Backbone of IAF for decades; over 700 variants procured, many built by HAL.
- Played key roles in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War and the 1999 Kargil War.

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## Sanchar Mitra Scheme Goes Nationwide

### Purpose

- To create awareness about cyber safety, digital literacy, and responsible mobile use.
- Student volunteers trained by DoT and National Communications Academy.

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## INS Nistar: First Indigenous Diving Support Vessel

### Context

INS Nistar was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 18 July 2025 at Visakhapatnam in the presence of Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth.

### About INS Nistar

- The original INS Nistar (1971–1989) was a Soviet-built submarine rescue vessel.
- The new INS Nistar is the first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel (DSV) with over 80% indigenous content and contributions from ~120 MSMEs.
- Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, it is the first of two such DSVs.

### Features

- Displacement: 10,000+ tons; Length: 118 m.
- Diving and salvage operations up to 300 m depth.

- Advanced equipment:
  - Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)
  - Self-Propelled Hyperbaric Life Boat (SPHLB)
  - Diving compression chambers.
- Serves as the Mother Ship for deep submergence rescue vessels (DSRVs).
- Includes medical facilities: operation theatre, ICU, 8-bed hospital with hyperbaric capabilities.
- Has a 15-tonne subsea crane and supports helicopter operations.

### **Significance**

- Enhances India's capability in submarine rescue and deep-sea operations, a facility only select navies possess.
- Strengthens India's position as a First Responder and Preferred Security Partner in the region.
- Boosts the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative with all 57 warships currently in the pipeline being built indigenously.

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## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **New Garcinia Species Discovered in Assam**

#### **About the Discovery**

A new plant species, *Garcinia kusumae*, has been discovered in Baksa district, Assam. It honours Kusum Devi, the mother of environmentalist Jatindra Sarma.

#### **Characteristics**

- Known locally as thoikora
- Dioecious evergreen tree that grows up to 18 metres

#### **About the Genus Garcinia**

- Belongs to the Clusiaceae family
- Comprises 414 species globally, mainly in tropical rainforests

- Known for medicinal and culinary uses
- India hosts 33 species and 7 varieties, with Assam home to 12 species

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## Assam's Woolah Tea Gets 20-Year Patent

### Innovation in Tea Industry

Woolah Tea from Assam has received Patent No. 567895 for its bagless tea innovation.

### Features of the Product

- Uses compressed whole-leaf tea tied with a natural string, removing tea bags
- Avoids microplastic contamination from regular tea bags
- Promotes sustainability and value addition to India's tea exports

### Global Expansion Plans

Woolah Tea plans to export its product to the US, UK, UAE, Australia, and New Zealand, helping India's tea industry reach wider markets.

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## Seine River: Paris Allows Swimming After 100 Years

### Why in News?

Swimming has been permitted in designated zones of the River Seine in Paris for the first time in a century. This follows a €1.4 billion cleanup programme launched as part of preparations for the 2024 Olympics.

### About the Seine River

- **Origin:** The river rises from the Langres Plateau in northeastern France.
- **Length:** Around 777 km long.
- **Major Tributaries:** Aube, Marne, Yonne, Oise, and Eure.
- **Economic Importance:** Carries 20 million tonnes of goods annually, making it France's second-busiest river and reducing heavy truck traffic.

- **UNESCO Recognition:** The riverbanks in Paris were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.

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## Kerala Fisheries Department Excellence Awards 2025

### Why in News?

Kasaragod district won the award for best implementation of fisheries schemes.

### Individual Awards

- **Ravi P.P.:** 2nd place for backwater fish seed production.

**Sea Pearl Aquafarm:** 3rd place for innovative fish farming

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## India Maize Summit 2025 Highlights Growth Potential

### Maize in India

- Third most important cereal crop after rice and wheat.
- Known as the “Queen of Cereals” due to high genetic yield potential.

### Production Facts

- Cultivated in almost all states; top producers include Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Bihar, and UP.
- Production has grown from 10 million MT (1990s) to 42.3 million MT currently, with a target of 86 million MT by 2047.

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## Melting Glaciers and Volcanic Eruptions: New Research

### Key Findings

- Glacial melting reduces pressure on magma chambers, allowing eruptions.
- Historical evidence: Iceland saw 30–50 times higher volcanic activity during the last deglaciation (15,000–10,000 years ago).

- Increased rainfall or snowmelt can trigger magma interactions and eruptions.

### Dual Impacts

- Short-term global cooling from sulfur aerosols.
- Long-term warming from greenhouse gas emissions.

## Himalayan clouds carrying toxic metals pose health risks

### Context:

- Recent study by Bose Institute (under DST) found that clouds in the Eastern Himalayas carry toxic heavy metals, posing carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health risks.
- **Study Region:** Eastern Himalayas (e.g., Darjeeling) and Western Ghats (e.g., Mahabaleshwar).

### Key Findings:

#### 1. Toxic Metals in Clouds:

- Heavy metals like Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Copper (Cu), and Zinc (Zn) found in non-precipitating clouds.
- Clouds in Eastern Himalayas had 1.5 times higher pollution than in Western Ghats.

#### 2. Source of Pollution:

- **Vehicular emissions and industrial activities in foothill areas identified as primary contributors.**
- Long-range transport of pollutants through clouds from lowlands to mountains.

#### 3. Health Risk Analysis:

- Carried out using statistical models.
- Exposure routes: inhalation, ingestion, dermal absorption.
- Children are at 30% higher risk compared to adults.
- Cr (Chromium) in clouds causes carcinogenic risk primarily through inhalation.

### Health Implications:

- **Carcinogenic effects:** Linked to metals like Cr, Cd.
- **Non-carcinogenic effects:** Respiratory disorders, developmental impacts.

- Exposure can occur via:
  - Inhalation of polluted cloud air.
  - Skin contact with mist.
  - Drinking precipitation-collected water.

#### Global Comparison:

- Though India is at risk, it remains in a relatively safer zone compared to:
  - **China**
  - **Pakistan**
  - **Italy**
  - **USA**
- **Heavy Metal Pollution Index (HPI)** of Indian clouds is lower than these nations.

The Heavy Metal Pollution Index (HPI), developed by Moan Atal in 1996, is a tool used to assess the overall impact of heavy metal contamination on water quality. An HPI value below 100 generally indicates low pollution, while values above 100 suggest increasing levels of contamination.

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### Tokara Islands: Earthquake Swarm in Japan

#### About the Islands

- Located in southern Japan between Yakushima and Amami-Oshima.
- Comprise 7 inhabited and 5 uninhabited islands.
- Japan lies on the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” making it one of the most earthquake-prone regions globally.

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### Islands Protection Zone (IPZ) Notification Updated

#### What is IPZ?

- Issued under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 to protect coastal ecosystems of India’s islands.
- Applies to Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

#### New Update

- Project clearances valid for 10 years (earlier 7 years).
- Comes amid increased island development, including the Great Nicobar Project.

## **Lotus Returns to Kashmir's Wular Lake**

### **Why in News?**

Lotus blooms returned to Wular Lake after 30 years due to ecosystem restoration by WUCMA.

### **About Wular Lake**

- Located in Bandipora district of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Largest freshwater lake in India and second largest in Asia.
- Fed by the River Jhelum and designated a Ramsar site in 1990.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Turkana Basin: Fossil Study Reveals Ancient Mammals**

### **Where is it?**

- Located in Kenya and southern Ethiopia, centred around Lake Turkana.
- Known for its fossil records and role in understanding human evolution.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Green Climate Fund Approves \$200 Million for India**

### **Purpose**

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has sanctioned \$200 million for the Asian Development Bank's India Green Finance Facility (IGFF).

### **About GCF**

- Established in 2010 under the UNFCCC
- World's largest climate fund supporting mitigation and adaptation projects
- Headquarters: Songdo, Incheon, South Korea

- Works through a country-driven approach

### Significance for India

The IGFF will attract investments in clean energy technologies from domestic and private players, accelerating India's climate goals.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Roll Cloud: A Rare Coastal Phenomenon

### Spotted in Portugal

A rare roll cloud was seen over the coastline of Póvoa do Varzim in Portugal.

### What is a Roll Cloud?

- A long, tube-shaped arcus cloud that appears to “roll” horizontally.
- Formed when cool ocean air meets warm land air, causing rapid condensation.
- Can stretch hundreds of miles but is not dangerous.
- Often seen before thunderstorms, more common in Australia than Europe.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Kariyachalli Island: Tamil Nadu's Effort to Save a Shrinking Island

### New Restoration Project

The Tamil Nadu government will begin the TNSHORE project in August 2025 to restore Kariyachalli Island.

### About the Island

- Part of the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.
- This gulf hosts one of India's four major coral reefs.
- Located between Rameswaram and Thoothukudi.
- The island has shrunk by over 70% since 1969 and could submerge by 2036 if left unprotected.

### Restoration Plan

- Artificial reef modules will be set up.
- Seagrass beds will be planted.
- Marine life will be revived through sustainable interventions.

## Kharai Camels: Unique 'Swimming Camels' of Gujarat

### About the Breed

- Indigenous to coastal Kutch, Gujarat.
- Known for swimming up to 3 km to graze on mangrove islands.
- Maintained by the Rabari and Fakirani Jat tribes for 400 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Great Hornbill: Rare Sight in Kerala

### About the Bird

- Kerala's state bird, also called the Great Indian Hornbill.
- Large frugivorous bird found in India and Southeast Asia.
- **Conservation Status:** Vulnerable (IUCN) and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Hindu Kush Himalayas and GLOFs

### Context

ICIMOD reported an unprecedented increase in glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region due to climate change.

### About GLOFs

- Sudden release of water from a glacial lake caused by melting glaciers.
- Increasingly linked to dynamic supraglacial lakes (on glacier surfaces) that are difficult to detect.

### Hindu Kush Himalaya Region

- Spans 3,500 km across 8 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.
- Source of 10 major rivers: Amu Darya, Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong, Yangtze, Yellow River, and Tarim.
- Supports food, water, and energy security for 2 billion people.
- Home to unique and endangered species.

### **ICIMOD**

- Intergovernmental knowledge centre based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Works for the sustainable development of the HKH region.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Beetle-Fungi Threat to Kerala's Rubber Plantations**

### **Context**

Rubber plantations are being damaged by ambrosia beetles (*Euplatypus parallelus*) and fungi (*Fusarium ambrosia*, *F. solani*).

### **Beetle-Fungus Mutualism**

- Beetles bore tunnels in trees, introduce fungi that decompose wood tissues.
- Beetle larvae feed on fungal mycelia, not directly on trees.

### **Rubber in India**

- Kerala contributes 70% of India's rubber production.
- India is the 6th-largest producer globally, 2nd in productivity.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Lion-tailed Macaque and Forest Diversion**

### **Context**

NBWL granted in-principle approval for diverting 142.76 ha of forest land in Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary for a 2,000 MW pumped storage project.

### **Sharavathi Valley Sanctuary**

- Located in Western Ghats, Karnataka.
- Houses ~700 lion-tailed macaques, the highest population in any protected area.

### **Lion-tailed Macaque (*Macaca silenus*)**

- Endemic to the Western Ghats.
- Recognizable by its silver-white mane.
- Population: ~2,500 individuals (IUCN data).
- Arboreal, prefers tropical evergreen rainforests (Sholas).
- **Protection status:**
  - *IUCN*: Endangered
  - *CITES*: Appendix I

## **GAMES AND SPORTS**

### **Durand Cup Tournament 2025: Trophy Flag-Off**

#### **Event at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

The President of India unveiled the trophies of the Durand Cup 2025, including the Durand Cup, President's Cup, and Shimla Trophy.

#### **About the Tournament**

- Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament.
- Started in 1888 in Shimla as a British Indian Army competition.
- Later opened to civilian teams.
- Named after Sir Mortimer Durand, British India's Foreign Secretary.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PERSONS IN THE NEWS****Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Nationalist Leader and Visionary****Why in News?**

The Ministry of Culture has announced a two-year commemoration to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

**Life and Career**

- Started his political journey with the Indian National Congress but later joined the Hindu Mahasabha.
- Became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University at 33 in 1934.
- Served as Bengal's Finance Minister (1941–42) in the Fazlul Haq ministry.
- Launched the English daily *Nationalist* in 1944.
- Presided over the Bilaspur session of the Hindu Mahasabha and met M.A. Jinnah to discuss Hindu-Muslim unity.

**Role in Independent India**

- Joined the interim government (1947–1950) as Minister for Industry and Supply but resigned due to policy differences.
- Founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951, which later evolved into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- Advocated for cultural nationalism, unity, and economic self-reliance.

**Legacy**

- Remembered as an educationist and a staunch nationalist.
- Institutions and the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata are named in his honour.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thiru K. Kamaraj: Remembering a Stalwart****Context**

PM Modi paid tribute to K. Kamaraj on his birth anniversary.

### About

- Born in 1903 in Tamil Nadu.
- Played key roles in the freedom movement and Congress politics.
- Chief Minister of Madras (1954–63).
- **Introduced the Kamaraj Plan:** Senior leaders resigned from government posts to strengthen the party.
- Bharat Ratna awarded posthumously in 1976.

## DEFENCE EXERCISE

### SIMBEX Exercise

#### Context

Indian Navy to participate in the 32nd edition of SIMBEX with the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

#### About

- Started in 1994 as *Exercise Lion King*.
- One of India's longest-running uninterrupted maritime exercises.
- Supports India's SAGAR vision and Act East Policy.

#### Significance

- Strengthens bilateral naval cooperation.
- Enhances maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PLACES IN THE NEWS

### Socotra Island: Yemen

#### Context

WHO and UAE completed a health assessment on Socotra Island.

#### About

- Remote Yemeni archipelago in the Indian Ocean, 380 km south of the Arabian Peninsula.

- Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (2008).
- Famous for unique biodiversity, with one-third of plant species endemic.
- Faces challenges from Yemen's civil war.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Great Ruaha River

### Context

Tanzania's Vision 2050 plans to address the climate crisis threatening the Great Ruaha River, a critical water source for agriculture and biodiversity.

### About the River

- A major river in south-central Tanzania.
- Flows northeast through Usangu wetlands and Usangu plains, which are crucial for agriculture and livestock.
- Passes through Ruaha National Park, supporting wildlife and ecosystems.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mhadei River

### Context

Goa has approached the Supreme Court accusing Karnataka of illegally diverting water from the Mhadei river's Kalasa tributary.

### About the River

- **Origin:** Western Ghats, Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka).
- **Basin Distribution:** Goa 78%, Karnataka 18%, Maharashtra 4%.
- Flows through Karnataka into Goa, where it is called Mandovi, and empties into the Arabian Sea.

\*\*\*\*\*

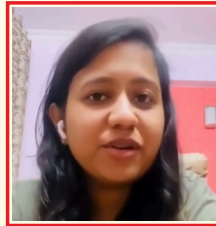


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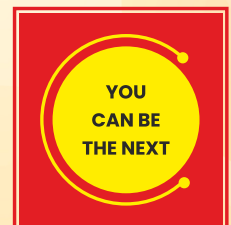
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