

VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

(A book for TNPSC Examination)

APRIL 2026 - PART 1



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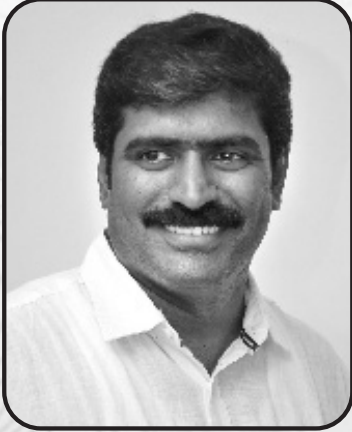
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Preface



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My Dear Aspirants,

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

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

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

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

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

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SCIENCE

GENERAL SCIENCE

GLP-1 Receptor Agonists

- **Context:** The Central Government has intensified its measures against the **misuse and illicit sale of GLP-1 receptor agonists.**

About GLP-1 Receptor Agonists

- GLP-1 receptor agonists are synthetic medications used to **treat Type 2 diabetes and obesity in adults.**
- They aid in **reducing obesity by suppressing appetite.**
- Furthermore, they stimulate insulin secretion to regulate blood sugar levels.

Microbial Methane Emissions

- **Context:** Non-producing oil and gas wells are releasing microbial methane at levels nearly 1,000 times higher than earlier estimates.
- These wells can remain a long-term source of methane leakage.

Microbial (Biogenic) Methane

- Methane produced by **microorganisms called methanogens (a type of archaea).**
- Formed through the **breakdown of organic matter in oxygen-free (anaerobic) conditions.**

Role in the Carbon Cycle

- An important part of the global carbon cycle.
- Naturally generated in environments such as: Wetlands, Rice fields, Landfills, Digestive systems of ruminant animals

Environmental Concern

- **Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas.**
- Its impact on climate change is significant regardless of whether it is natural or human-induced.

Implications of the Study

- Even after oil and gas reserves are exhausted, inactive wells may continue to emit methane.

LATEST INVENTIONS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CSIR's Bio-Bitumen

- **Context:** Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) held a Technology Transfer Event to promote its innovative solution titled "Bio-Bitumen from Lignocellulosic Biomass From Farm Residue to Roads."

About Bio-Bitumen

- The technology has been jointly developed by **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum.**
- It is intended for use by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** in road construction projects.
- Bio-bitumen is produced using agricultural biomass and crop residues as raw material.
- Through a thermochemical conversion process, these inputs are transformed into a renewable and eco-friendly substitute for conventional petroleum-based bitumen.
- The product matches the performance of traditional bitumen while providing significant environmental and economic advantages.

Bio-Bitumen Production Process

- The process includes collecting post-harvest residues like **rice straw, converting them into pellets, subjecting them to pyrolysis to produce bio-oil,** and finally blending this with conventional bitumen to create bio-bitumen.

Significance

- This innovation can help curb pollution caused by **crop residue burning.**

- Since India imports nearly half of its bitumen needs, adopting bio-bitumen can also reduce reliance on foreign sources and boost domestic production capacity.

About Bitumen

- Bitumen is a thick, black, and sticky hydrocarbon substance obtained during the refining of crude oil. It is widely used as a binding material in road construction.

SPACE

Pulsars and Measuring Cosmic Distances

- **Context:** Indian astronomers have introduced a new technique to estimate distances in space by observing how pulsars interact with the interstellar medium they move through.

About Pulsars

- **Nature:** Pulsars are extremely magnetised, fast-spinning neutron stars that release beams of electromagnetic radiation from their magnetic poles.
- **Formation:** They are the dense remnants left behind after massive stars (around 1.4–2.3 times the Sun’s mass) undergo supernova explosions.
- **Structure & Density:** A pulsar packs more mass than the Sun into a compact sphere of about 20 km, consisting mainly of neutrons.
- **Rotation Speed:** These objects rotate incredibly fast, from a few times per second to several hundred times per second in the case of millisecond pulsars.
- **Magnetic Strength:** Their magnetic fields are extraordinarily powerful – trillions of times stronger than Earth’s enabling them to accelerate charged particles and produce focused, beam-like radiation.

ISRO Successfully Conducts Second Air Drop Test for Gaganyaan (IADT-02)

- **Context:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) completed the **second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02)**.
- **Location:** Test carried out at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**.
- The system is essential **to ensure safe recovery of the crew module – the capsule in which astronauts sit during a human flight**.
- After the module’s release, a parachute system, comprising 10 parachutes, was deployed, helping the capsule decelerate to a safe splashdown speed.
- This test marks another significant step towards the readiness for the Gaganyaan G1 Mission, with active support and participation from **the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- Successfully recovered with support from the Indian Navy.
- **First Test (IADT-01): Successfully conducted on August 24, 2025 at Sriharikota.**

Execution Method

- A simulated Crew Module was lifted to ~3 km altitude.
- Deployment was done using an **Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter**.

About Gaganyaan

- Gaganyaan Mission is **India’s maiden human spaceflight initiative**, designed to send three astronauts into **Low Earth Orbit (about 400 km altitude) for a duration of three days**, and ensure their safe return to Earth.
- The program will proceed in stages, beginning with uncrewed test flights to validate systems,

followed by the **first crewed mission, which is currently targeted for early 2027.**

- Successful completion of Gaganyaan will make India one of the few nations alongside the United States, Russia, and China to achieve independent human spaceflight capability.
- The astronauts selected for the mission include: **Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, Shubhanshu Shukla.**

Critical Technologies Developed

- Human-rated launch vehicle (HLVM3)
- Life Support System (Earth-like environment in space)
- Crew Escape System (CES) for emergencies
- Crew training, recovery & rehabilitation systems

Human rated LVM3 - HLVM3

- LVM3 rocket - The well proven and reliable **heavy lift launcher of ISRO, is identified as the launch vehicle for Gaganyaan mission.**
- It consists of **solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage.**
- All systems in LVM3 launch vehicle are re-configured to meet human rating requirements and christened Human Rated LVM3.
- HLVM3 will be capable of launching **the Orbital Module to an intended Low Earth Orbit of 400 km.**
- HLVM3 consists of Crew Escape System (CES) powered by a set of quick acting, high burn rate solid motors which ensures that Crew Module along with crew is taken to a safe distance in case of any emergency either at launch pad or during ascent phase.

AAKA Space Studio – 3D Printed Mars Radiation Shield

- Context: Ahmedabad-based AAKA Space Studio has developed and successfully tested Asia's first 3D-printed radiation shield designed for Mars habitats.
- The technology was demonstrated during a large-scale analog space mission, highlighting future possibilities of sustainable construction on Mars.

Purpose of the Innovation

- The shield is designed to protect astronauts from harmful cosmic and solar radiation during long-duration stays on Mars.
- It aims to support safe human habitation on the Red Planet.

Radiation Protection is Important on Mars

- Mars has: No strong magnetic field, very thin atmosphere
- Because of this, the surface is exposed to high levels of cosmic and solar radiation.

Without protection, astronauts may face

- Serious radiation sickness
- Long-term damage to cells and tissues

Features of the 3D-Printed Shield

- Provides effective protection from space radiation
- Enhances thermal stability in extreme Martian conditions
- Offers structural strength suitable for long-term habitats

Significance

- Represents a key step toward:
- Sustainable habitat construction on Mars
- Future lunar and interplanetary bases

GEOGRAPHY

SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

The Konyak Tribe

- **Context:** Researchers at Nagaland University have discovered that a **traditional herbal medicine used by the Konyak tribe** possesses the potential to act against cancer.
- This highlights to the world the significance of the indigenous medical knowledge possessed by this tribe.

About the Konyak Tribe

- The **Konyak tribe is found in the Mon district of Nagaland**, as well as in the Tirap and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Konyak community follows a patriarchal system. Typically, the father's assets are inherited by the eldest son.
- **Aolingmonyu, Animo, and Laun-Ongmo** are their most important festivals.
- Their most significant harvest festival is **'Aoleang Monyu.'** It is celebrated during the first week of April.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Tar Balls

- **Context:** The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change has recently issued draft

rules to regulate and manage tar balls, aiming to safeguard coastal regions and marine ecosystems from the effects of oil pollution.

About Tar Balls

- Tar balls are small, dark, sticky lumps of degraded oil that are found in oceans, usually formed due to oil spills or natural leakage of crude oil.
- They are created when **crude oil undergoes weathering processes in the sea, including physical, chemical, and biological changes.**
- Ocean currents and waves carry these particles from offshore areas to coastlines.
- Over time, they become semi-solid or solid masses that wash up on beaches, leading to environmental harm and possible health risks.
- Their size can vary widely from tiny particles to large lumps as big as a basketball.
- Tar balls contain harmful substances such as heavy metals, trace elements, and long-lasting organic pollutants.
- They collect along beaches and can harm marine life. Birds, fish, and animals like sea turtles may accidentally eat them, mistaking them for food.
- The western coastline, especially from Gujarat to Goa, is highly prone to tar ball accumulation, particularly between April and September.

INDIAN POLITY

Cabinet Committee on Security

- **Context:** The Prime Minister recently chaired the second special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to assess India's preparedness and response strategies in light of the escalating tensions in West Asia.

About the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)

- The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** is the highest decision-making body in India for matters related to national security, defence spending, and foreign policy.
- It is a key committee under the Union Cabinet that deals with critical and strategic issues requiring top-level attention.
- **Chairperson:** The CCS is headed by the Prime Minister of India.
- **Members:** It includes the senior-most ministers of the Union Government Prime Minister (Chair), Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Finance.

Objective

- The main goal of the CCS is to safeguard national security by taking decisions on major defence deals, framing strategies to tackle internal and external threats, and coordinating India's diplomatic and economic responses during global crises.

Key Functions

- Oversees and guides actions during global conflicts, such as the ongoing West Asia situation, to protect India's interests.
- Ensures uninterrupted availability of essential resources like LPG, LNG, and fertilisers during international disruptions.

- Evaluates and approves significant capital purchases for the armed forces.
- Considers measures across sectors like agriculture, shipping, aviation, and MSMEs to reduce the impact of global uncertainties.
- Develops policies to address issues like terrorism, insurgency, and maintenance of law and order.
- Emphasizes timely dissemination of accurate information to curb misinformation and rumours during crises.

Significance

- The CCS serves as a centralized platform for swift and coordinated decision-making on sensitive national security matters.
- It also plays an important role in maintaining price stability and ensuring the steady supply of essential goods through measures like fuel duty adjustments and diversification of supply sources.

Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)

- **Context:** The Central Government has invited applications from eligible senior officials to fill the post of Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- The post is becoming vacant as the incumbent CVC, Praveen Kumar Srivastava (1988 IAS batch), is set to retire shortly.
- Consequently, the process for selecting a new Commissioner has been initiated.

About Central Vigilance Commissioner

- The CVC is India's apex anti-corruption body.
- It was established based on the recommendations of the **K. Santhanam Committee (1964) on the prevention of corruption.**
- It was **accorded statutory status under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.**

- The Commission comprises a **Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson)** and a **maximum of two Vigilance Commissioners**.
- The members are appointed by the **President of India based on the recommendations of a committee comprising the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Union Home Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha**.
- The tenure of office is **four years or until the age of 65**, whichever occurs earlier.

Sindhi Constitution Edition Released

- **Context:** The Vice President of India released the **Sindhi edition of the Constitution of India in New Delhi, coinciding with Sindhi Language Day**.
 - This new edition has been produced in both Devanagari and Perso-Arabic scripts.
 - Notably, this release marks the first time since independence that the Sindhi edition of the Constitution has been **published in the Devanagari script**.
 - The literary tradition of the Sindhi language reflects a unique confluence where **Vedanta philosophy and Sufi thought converge**, while also upholding universal values such as unity, love, and brotherhood.
 - India stands unique in ensuring that its Constitution is available in multiple languages.
 - The Constitution has also been translated into Tamil, Gujarati, Bodo, Dogri, Santhali, and Nepali.
 - Through the **21st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1967, Sindhi was included as the 15th official language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India**.
- Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**
- **Context:** The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026 proposes significant changes to the size and composition of the Assemblies by restarting the process of delimitation and removing the long-standing constitutional freeze, in effect since 1976, on readjustment of seats based on population.
- Changes to Assembly Size**
- Total number of seats in State Legislative Assemblies may change.
 - Seat allocation will now depend on updated population data.
- Redrawing of Constituencies**
- Territorial constituencies within States will be redefined.
 - Aimed at ensuring representation reflects current population distribution.
- Amendment to Article 170**
- Enables fresh readjustment of Assembly seats.
 - Allows delimitation based on a future Census chosen by Parliament.
- Removal of Delimitation Freeze**
- Deletes the third proviso of Article 170.
 - Removes the condition delaying delimitation until after the 2026 Census.
- Role of Delimitation Commission**
- Explicitly assigns delimitation to a Delimitation Commission.
 - Replaces earlier provision where Parliament decided the authority.
- Definition of "Population" Updated**
- "Population" will now mean the Census data adopted by Parliament.
 - Gives flexibility in choosing which Census to use.

Women's Reservation (Article 334A)

- Operationalises one-third reservation for women in Assemblies.
- Reservation will take effect only after delimitation based on latest Census.

Current Census Context

- As of now, the latest published Census is 2011.
- Future delimitation will depend on a newer Census notified by Parliament.

Safeguards for Tribal Representation

- Includes protections to prevent dilution of tribal representation.

- Especially relevant for Northeastern States.

Delimitation Commission Composition

- To be set up under the proposed Delimitation Bill, 2026.

Members include:

- A current/former Supreme Court judge (Chairperson)
- Chief Election Commissioner (or nominee)
- State Election Commissioner of the concerned State



INDIAN ECONOMY

Agricultural Credit Framework

- **Context:** The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has indicated that the flow of agricultural credit in India remains fundamentally strong and is expected to cross RS.32.5 lakh crore in FY 2025–26.

About NABARD

- NABARD, set up in 1982, is the apex statutory institution responsible for promoting agriculture and rural development in India.
- It was created based on the recommendations of the CRAFTICARD Committee led by B. Sivaraman.
- Rather than lending directly to farmers, NABARD provides refinance support to institutions such as Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and cooperative credit bodies.

India's Agricultural Credit Framework

- The Reserve Bank of India regulates agricultural credit and sets Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines, while NABARD oversees implementation and development.

Institutional Sources

- Formal credit mainly comes from SCBs (contributing over 70%), along with RRBs and cooperative institutions.
- The cooperative network includes Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), and State Cooperative Banks for short-term loans, while Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) cater to long-term financing.

Non-Institutional Sources

- Informal lenders such as moneylenders and traders still account for about 28% of agricultural credit.

Credit Mechanisms and Schemes

- RBI requires banks to allocate **18% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to agriculture.**
- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC):** Introduced in 1998, it ensures timely access to short-term credit for crop production and allied activities like animal husbandry and fisheries.
- Under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), farmers can access loans at **7% interest**, which may drop to 4% with timely repayment.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

- **Context:** The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has announced a one-time relief scheme that permits eligible manufacturing units in **Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to sell their products in the Domestic Tariff Area (within India) at reduced customs duty rates.**

- This measure will be **in force from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027**, and is aimed at supporting SEZ manufacturers in dealing with challenges arising from global trade disruptions.

About Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

- A policy was introduced on in April 2000 for the settling up of special Economic Zones in the country with a view to a hassle-free environment for exports.
- Units may be set up in SEZ units are on a self-certification basis.
- The policy provides for setting up of SEZs in the public, private, joint sector or by state governments.

- It is also envisaged the some of the existing Export Processing Zones, would be converted in to Special Economic Zones.
 - As of February 2026, India has 368 officially notified SEZs.
 - SEZs function under the provisions of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006, which ensure a simplified and business-friendly regulatory environment.
 - Accordingly, the government has converted Export Processing Zones located at following places.
 - Nanguneri SEZ - A multi product SEZ, Thirunelveli
 - Ennore SEZ - Thermal power project, Vayalur
 - Coimbatore SEZ - IT Parks
 - Hosur SEZ - Auto Engineering, Electronics, Defence and Aerospace
 - Perambalur SEZ - Multi product SEZ
 - Autocity SEZ - Automobile/Auto Components, Tiruvallur
 - India-Singapore SEZ - IT & ITES, Electronic Hardware, Logistics and Warehousing - Thiruvallur District
 - Bio-Pharmaceuticals SEZ - Clinical Research Organisation, Poison Control Centre, Centre for Regenera-tive Medicine, Medicine Research
- been under pressure due to rising oil prices and global uncertainties.
- After this step, the rupee strengthened from below **₹95 to around ₹93 per US dollar.**
 - The decision also helps align India's forex system with global regulatory and accounting standards.

Speculative Trading

- It refers to buying or selling assets **just to make profit from short-term price changes, without any real underlying transaction.**

Non-Deliverable Derivatives (NDDs)

- An NDD is a financial agreement where two parties fix an exchange rate in advance, but no actual currency is exchanged.

Key Features

- The difference between the agreed rate and actual market rate is paid in cash (usually in US dollars).
- These contracts are mostly traded outside India in financial hubs like Singapore and London.
- Used by investors to protect against currency risk (hedging) or to bet on changes in the rupee's value (speculation).
- NDD trading can influence exchange rate expectations and sometimes create extra volatility, especially when offshore rates differ from domestic market rates.

RBI's Upcoming Guidelines

RBI Ban on Non-Deliverable Derivatives

- **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **stopped banks from participating in Non-Deliverable Derivative (NDD) contracts** to control fluctuations in the rupee.

Purpose of the Move

- The main aim is **to limit speculative trading and bring stability to the rupee**, which had

- **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to introduce final guidelines on "Responsible Business Conduct."

- **Aim: Prevent mis-selling by banks and protect customers.**

- **Likely implementation date: July 1.**

- **Focus area:** Transparent distribution of third-party financial products, especially insurance.

Role of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

- Responsible for regulating insurance commissions a major driver of mis-selling.
- Has been reviewing the issue since 2023.
- Earlier approach: Cap total management expenses (including commissions).
- Issue persists: Commissions are rising faster than premiums.

Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Statement

- **Context:** The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sanjay Malhotra, has announced that the central bank's policy interest rate will remain unchanged, continuing at the level of 5.25%.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected that the real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the financial year 2026-27 (FY27) will be 6.9 percent.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for the financial year 2026-27 has been revised upwards to 4.6 percent, from the previously projected 4.5 percent.

About the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- It is a statutory body constituted under the RBI Act of 1934.
- To determine the policy interest rate in order to maintain inflation within the prescribed target (currently 4% +/- 2%).
- Meetings: Must meet at least four times a year.

Members (Total 6)

- RBI Governor (Chairperson)
- RBI Deputy Governor
- RBI Official (One)
- Experts appointed by the Central Government (Three)

Quorum for Decision-Making

- A minimum of four members is required to constitute a quorum for decision-making.
- The Governor or the Deputy Governor must mandatorily participate in the meeting.
- Decisions are taken based on a majority vote; in the event of a tie, the Governor holds the casting vote

Retail Inflation Trends in India

- **Context:** Country's retail inflation accelerated to 3.4% in the last month, up from 3.21% recorded in February this year.
- According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, inflation in rural areas edged higher to 3.63%, while in urban regions it rose to 3.11%.
- The food inflation rate, based on the All India Consumer Food Price Index, stood at 3.87% in March, up from 3.47% in the preceding month.
- The top items showing high inflation includes Gold and Silver jewellery, Coconut, Tomato and Cauliflower.
- In contrast, items with lowest inflation include Onion, Potato, Garlic, Arhar or Tur and Peas or Chickpeas.

About Retail Inflation

- **Retail inflation, or Consumer Price Index inflation**, measures changes in the prices of goods and services that households regularly consume.
- It reflects the day-to-day cost burden on consumers.

CPI Indicates

- Tracks how expensive it is for households to maintain their standard of living.

- Shows the ability of consumers to buy goods and services.
- Reflects the relative cost of different goods and services.
- Indicates the real value of the Indian rupee in terms of purchasing capacity.

Method of Calculation

- CPI is expressed as a percentage index.
- It compares current prices with prices in a reference (base) year.
- CPI base year is revised to 2024, updating the consumption basket and weights for both rural and urban households.

Compiling Authority

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) compiles CPI data.**
- It releases monthly CPI figures for: Rural, Urban, Combined sectors, State-wise data

Uses of CPI

- Acts as a key indicator of inflation in the economy.
- **Helps the central bank and government in:** Inflation targeting, Maintaining price stability
- Used as a deflator in national accounts to adjust nominal values.
- **Assists in evaluating:** Real wages, salaries, and pensions, Purchasing power of money



TAMIL NADU

INITIATIVES / SCHEMES

Tamil Nadu Climate Initiative Gains Global Recognition

- **Context:** The Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) has been featured in a major global report by The Earthshot Prize in collaboration with Arup.
- The report titled “Champions of Change: How Cities and Regions are Designing a Low Carbon, Climate-Resilient Future” showcases 11 top public-sector climate innovations worldwide.
- **Flagship Initiative:** TNGCC’s CARES (Climate Action for Resilient Ecosystems and Societies) was recognized under the “Protect and Restore Nature” category.
- The Tamil Nadu model was chosen from 130+ global initiatives, highlighting its global competitiveness.
- Praised for its institutional design, the initiative coordinates climate action across 30+ government departments.
- CARES is described as India’s first government-backed climate company integrating: Wetlands, Forests, Coastal ecosystems and District-level climate missions
- **Aims to build climate resilience and restore biodiversity across ecosystems.**
- Tamil Nadu joins leading cities like: Oslo, Bogota, London.

Tamil Nadu Money Lending Portal

- **Context:** Launched by the Tamil Nadu government to prevent harassment and coercive practices by moneylenders.
- Enables victims to file complaints online.

- As part of the initiatives, the portal <https://tnmoneylending.tn.gov.in> – was made operational to act as a single window for registration, renewal, annual filings, public disclosure, and grievance redress mechanism.

Legal Framework

- Introduced under the Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Act, 2025.
- Aims to regulate lending activities and stop unfair recovery methods.

Objectives of the Act

- Ensure transparency in interest rates.
- Promote standardized loan agreements.
- Safeguard borrower rights.
- Establish a digital system for registration and monitoring of moneylenders.

Features of the Portal

- **Single platform for:** Registration and renewal of moneylenders, Annual filings, Public disclosures, Grievance redressal, Provides borrowers with information about their rights and legal options.

Focus on Vulnerable Groups

- Protects economically weaker sections such as farmers, women, and self-help groups.
- Targets elimination of illegal and unregistered lending practices.

Definition of Coercive Actions

- Use of violence or intimidation.
- Harassing or repeatedly following borrowers or their family members.
- Visiting homes/workplaces to pressure repayment.
- Using third-party agents to threaten or force repayment.

Penalties for Violations

- Imprisonment up to 5 years, or
- Fine up to Rs.5 lakh, or
- Both (as per Section 21 of the Act).

AWARDS

Sahitya Akademi Award for 2025

- **Context:** Writer **S. Tamilselvan** received the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2025 at a function in Delhi.
- His work **Tamil Sirukathaiyin Thadangal** won the award in the category of **literary criticism**.
- The book traces the history of the Tamil short story, offering critical insights beginning with **V.V.S.Iyer's Kulathankarai Arasamaram**,

widely regarded as the **first short story in Tamil**.

Sahitya Akademi Award 2025

- Established in **1954**, it is an organization that works to promote and develop literature in various Indian languages.
- It is presented annually for literary works including poetry, novels, short stories, and literary studies published in 24 languages.
- Nodal ministry- **Ministry of Culture**
- The awardees will receive an engraved **copper plaque, a shawl, and Rs.1 lakh**.



NATIONAL - NEWS

Census 2027

- **Context:** India will carry out its next population Census in a digital format, beginning in 2026 and finishing by **March 1, 2027**.
- A Census is a nationwide survey that gathers information about people, such as age, gender, and occupation. **It is usually conducted every ten years**, though the 2021 round was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The government requires all usual residents to be included in the **National Population Register (NPR)**, which is maintained under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and related rules of 2003.
- Historically, **India's first regular decennial Census was held in 1881 under W.C. Plowden, while independent India's first Census took place in 1951.**
- Since then, it has been conducted at the start of each decade. Although the Constitution mandates population enumeration, the Census Act of 1948 does not fix a specific schedule.
- The process is overseen by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Key features of the 2027 Census

- It will be **India's first fully digital Census**, using devices like smartphones and laptops.
- A self-enumeration portal will be available in **16 languages**.
- It will include detailed caste data collection for the **first time since 1931**, going beyond just SC and ST categories.

Morung System

- **Context:** Recently, Prime Minister appreciated the Morung system of education for its role in safeguarding cultural traditions while also supporting modern learning.

- Morung is a **traditional, community-based institution among several Naga tribes**, forming an important part of their social structure. It functioned as a residential learning space for village youth mainly boys, and is often described as a kind of bachelor's dormitory.
- Its key roles included teaching practical skills like crafts, farming, and warfare, as well as passing down cultural knowledge through oral traditions. It also helped build discipline and acted as a community centre, council space, and security post for the village.
- Today, the Morung system is being adapted to modern needs by linking it with formal schooling **under the Samagra Shiksha Nagaland program**, blending traditional knowledge with contemporary education.

Modernizing Internal Security through Artificial Intelligence

- **Context:** The **Ministry of Home Affairs is adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to enhance internal security by enabling predictive policing, cyber surveillance, and detection of financial fraud.
- The aim is to **support quicker decision-making, real-time monitoring, and analysis of crime trends across police and security agencies.**

Major initiatives under this AI-driven approach include

- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre is building an AI-powered system for the **1930 helpline to allow faster and multilingual complaint registration.**
- In partnership with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, AI tools are being developed to **identify and stop fraudulent financial transactions in real time.**
- **Collaboration with IIT Bombay is helping create AI models that assign risk scores to**

suspicious bank accounts used for illegal activities.

- An AI/ML-based application is being upgraded to detect and reduce risks from such accounts in the banking system.
- AI technologies are being used to track phishing networks, scam websites, and illegal activities on the dark web.
- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing has developed an AI tool to identify and verify child sexual abuse material from cyber tip-offs.
- A proposed system will create a database (hash bank) of illegal content for proactive detection across digital platforms.
- AI is being explored for digital investigations, though its role in detecting forged documents is still evolving.
- The Immigration, Visa Foreigners Registration and Tracking system will use AI/ML for smarter traveller profiling and may incorporate blockchain for secure data management.

India's Multi-Pronged Strategy and Progress in Eliminating Naxalism (LWE)

- **Context:** In the Lok Sabha, the Union Home Minister stated that almost the entire top leadership of Maoists has been eliminated in the last two years, with only one leader remaining.
- The government has set a target to make all affected areas **free from Left Wing Extremism by March 2026** through a coordinated strategy based on dialogue, security measures, and inter-agency coordination.

Success of Coordinated Measures in Addressing Naxalism

- **SAMADHAN Strategy:** This serves as a comprehensive framework guiding both immediate and long-term security operations at various levels.

- **Development Measures:** Schemes like **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** address gaps in infrastructure and public services in affected districts. Initiatives such as Aspirational District Programme and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan aim to improve socio-economic conditions.
- **Surrender & Rehabilitation:** Former militants are encouraged to surrender through financial aid and monthly stipends, along with skill development support.
- **Enhanced Security & Technology:** Advanced tools like drones, satellite imagery, AI-based analytics, and mobile data tracking are being used to strengthen operations.
- **Financial Disruption:** Funding channels are targeted using laws like the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to seize and block illicit funds.

About Naxalism (LWE)

- It began with **the Naxalbari Movement**.
- The movement seeks to challenge the Indian state through armed struggle and establish parallel systems of governance, often targeting security forces and institutions.
- It expanded across the **"Red Corridor,"** covering states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and others.
- Factors include social and economic marginalisation, lack of access to education and development, and governance gaps such as poor implementation of laws like **the Forest Rights Act and PESA**.

Energy Statistics India 2026

- **Context:** The National Statistics Office, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has published **Energy Statistics India 2026**.

Key Highlights

- **Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES):** Increased by 2.95% in FY 2024-25, reaching

approximately 9.3 lakh kilo tonnes of oil equivalent (KToE).

- Renewable Energy Capacity: As of 31 March 2025, total renewable generation stands at around 47 lakh Megawatts.
- Leading States: **Rajasthan (23.7%)**, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Major Sources: Solar energy accounts for the largest share (~71%), followed by wind power and large hydro projects.
- Despite growth in renewables, **coal continues to be the dominant energy source.**

Gujarat – Semiconductor Plant

- **Context:** The Prime Minister inaugurated the Micron Technology semiconductor manufacturing plant, valued at ₹3,300 crore, located within the Sanand GIDC complex near **Ahmedabad**.
- This is the second major commercial manufacturing facility established **under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) scheme.**
- It enhances the **country's chip manufacturing capabilities and accelerates efforts to position India as a global hub in this sector.**
- In its initial phase, this facility is set to manufacture advanced 'Intelligent Power Modules' (IPMs).
- These are critical components required for automotive and industrial applications.
- Each module contains 17 chips; these are slated to be supplied to the California-based company, Alpha and Omega Semiconductor.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

- The India Semiconductor Mission was **launched in 2021 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).**
- It forms part of a comprehensive program aimed at **establishing a sustainable**

semiconductor and display ecosystem within India.

Objectives

- To provide financial assistance and incentives to companies investing in semiconductor manufacturing, display fabrication, and chip design.
- To strengthen domestic capabilities and reduce reliance on imports.

India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 (ISM 2.0)

- ISM 2.0 is designed to position India as a reliable and globally competitive player within the semiconductor value chain.
- It supports the objectives of **'Self-reliant India' (Aatmanirbhar Bharat) and 'Make in India - Make for the World.'**
- To achieve this, the government has allocated a budget of ₹1,000 crore for the financial year 2026–27 to enhance domestic manufacturing, innovation, and supply chain resilience in the semiconductor sector.

Strengthening Rural Governance through Digital Innovation

- **Context:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has made notable progress in strengthening digital governance in rural India through initiatives like eGramSwaraj Portal and **SabhaSaar**.

About eGramSwaraj Portal

- eGramSwaraj is an integrated web-based platform and mobile app created by the ministry **to improve e-governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country.**
- It facilitates the preparation and tracking of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP), ensuring that local development activities are transparent and accessible to the public.
- By linking with the Public Financial Management System, it enables direct online payments to vendors, minimizing delays and reducing chances of corruption.

- The platform supports geo-tagging of village assets using GPS, allowing proper verification and supervision.
- Its integration with the Government e-Marketplace allows Panchayats to procure goods online at competitive prices.

About SabhaSaar

- **SabhaSaar is an AI-powered tool introduced in 2025** to automatically convert speech into text and generate summaries of meetings.
- It is integrated with the **BHASHINI platform, enabling transcription and translation across major Indian languages.**
- It runs securely on the **IndiaAI Compute Portal under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**
- The tool supports 23 Indian languages and is being used by over 1.15 lakh Gram Panchayats for automated recording and summarisation of meetings.

Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot

- **Context:** Vice-President of India and the **Minister of Law and Justice** recently launched the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot along with its **official mascot, Dishika, as part of the DISHA programme.**

About Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot

- Nyaya Setu is an AI-driven legal assistant that is voice-enabled, multimodal, and supports multiple languages.
- It acts as a digital bridge to simplify legal information, making it more accessible and understandable for citizens.
- The chatbot has been developed and fully implemented by the **Digital India BHASHINI Division.**
- The main objective of Nyaya Setu is **to make justice more accessible by removing language and procedural barriers,** helping

citizens easily comprehend their legal rights and procedures.

ISRO's Role in Advancing Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)

- **Context:** The Indian Space Research Organisation has created a wide range of space-based applications that serve different sections of society, thereby advancing the **idea of Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR).**
- **SSR is similar to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).** It emphasizes the ethical duty of scientists not only to generate knowledge but also to share it with and educate society.

ISRO's contributions to SSR

For tribal communities

- ISRO has set up around **75 "Space Labs" in Eklavya Model Residential Schools** across 19 states, encour-aging interest in **STEM subjects such as space science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.**

For farmers and fishermen

- Provides **Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ)** advisories that help fishermen locate areas with higher fish availa-bility.
- Supports crop insurance by using satellite data to monitor crops and assist in assessing insurance claims.

For students

- Runs initiatives like **YUVIKA (Young Scientist Programme), a two-week residential course for Class 9 stu-dents.**
- Offers tele-education services under programs like PM e-VIDYA.

For the general public

- Supplies geospatial data that helps in planning and monitoring major government schemes.
- Enables services such as telemedicine and early warning systems for disasters.

For women empowerment in space

- The Gaganyaan mission includes a female humanoid robot named “Vyommitra” as part of its test flight.

India’s Defence Exports Reach Record High

- **Context:** India’s defence exports climbed to a record ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025–26, registering a 62.66% increase compared to the previous year.
- **Sector Contribution:** Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs): 54.84% and Private Sector: 45.16%
- The strong growth reflects increasing international trust in Indian defence products and deeper integration into global supply chains.
- India exported defence equipment to over 80 countries, with the US, France and Armenia as top destinations.
- Partnerships are expanding with the Philippines, Indonesia, Egypt, and African nations.
- The defence budget has steadily increased from ₹2.53 lakh crore (2013–14) to ₹6.81 lakh crore (2025–26).
- India aims to achieve ₹3 lakh crore in defence production by 2029, strengthening its ambition to become a major global defence manufacturing hub.

‘Kar Saathi’

- **Context:** New Platform Introduced: The Income Tax Department has launched a new website called ‘Kar Saathi’, designed to make tax processes simpler, faster, and more user-friendly.
- **All-in-One Access:** The platform provides a single point of access for all direct tax-related information and services.

AI-Powered Assistance

- **Kar Saathi acts as an AI chatbot companion.**
- **Offers 24×7 support** for taxpayer queries and guidance.
- **Improved User Experience:** The website focuses on easy navigation and quicker access to services.
- **Digital Transformation Push:** Part of the government’s effort to modernize tax administration using advanced technology.
- **Linked Initiative:** Highlighted during the launch of PRARAMBH, an outreach programme for smooth implementation of the new tax system.
- **Meaning of PRARAMBH: Stands for Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat.**

Impact on Compliance

- Simplified procedures will ease taxpayer compliance
- May eliminate requirements for over 6 crore transactions
- **Broader Goal:** Transition to the Income Tax Act, 2025 aims to make the system simpler, clearer, and more reliable for taxpayers.

Mission Mitra: Strengthening India’s Astronaut Readiness

- **Context:** India’s Gaganyaan Mission has launched a special experiment called Mission Mitra in the extreme environment of Ladakh.
- Led by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), this initiative is aimed at evaluating human endurance, teamwork, and mental strength.
- As India prepares for long-duration space missions, the programme ensures astronauts are psychologically as well as physically ready for space challenges.

Mission Mitra in Ladakh

- The experiment is being conducted in high-altitude Ladakh, known for: **Severe weather conditions, Low oxygen levels, Isolation.**
- These conditions closely mirror the harsh environment of space.
- The programme is carried out by ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) along with research experts.
- Four selected astronauts are participating after completing acclimatization in Leh.

About Mission Mitra

- Full Form: **Mapping of Interoperable Traits & Reliability Assessment**
- Designed to simulate space-like conditions on Earth.
- Unlike conventional training, it emphasizes: Mental resilience under stress and Team coordination in isolated settings

Significance of the Mission

- Prepares astronauts for real space challenges such as: Isolation, Communication delays, Limited resources
- Enhances their ability to perform effectively in demanding conditions, making it a key step toward successful future human space missions.

Jan Vishwas Amendment Bill, 2026

- **Context:** Parliament has approved the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 to reform enforcement of laws across sectors.
- **Aims to promote trust-based governance, reduce excessive penalties, and simplify compliance for businesses and citizens.**
- Focuses on making regulations less complex and more practical, easing everyday legal requirements.

Reforms in Health Sector

- Several laws related to: Drugs, Food safety, Pharmacies, Hospitals, Healthcare

professionals have been updated to improve ease of compliance.

Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

- Minor violations (e.g., record-keeping errors) will now attract monetary fines instead of criminal cases.

New Adjudication System

- Designated officials can: Review cases, Issue notices, Hear explanations, Impose penalties, Ensures faster resolution and reduced court burden.

Other Health Laws Updated

- Similar penalty-based approach adopted for: Pharmacies, Food safety regulations, Clinical establishments
- Hospitals & Clinics: Minor lapses (not affecting patient safety) will lead to financial penalties instead of criminal charges.

Significance

- **Decriminalization of Minor Offences:** Shifts focus from punishment to correction and compliance.
- **Faster Justice Delivery:** Reduces legal delays and court workload.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** Encourages a business-friendly regulatory environment.
- **Efficient Governance:** Cuts down paperwork and procedural complexity.

SAMPANN Platform

- **Context:** As a key initiative to modernize pension disbursement, the Government of Goa and the Cochin Port Authority have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to implement the SAMPANN digital platform.

About the SAMPANN Platform

- It is a pivotal digital platform for **pension and financial management under the Department of Telecommunications.**
- It is administered by the **Controller General of Communication Accounts (CGCA).**

- This platform was created to integrate pension sanction, authorization, accounting, and payment processes into a unified digital system.
- It was launched on **December 29, 2018**.
- It facilitates the direct transfer of pension amounts to the beneficiaries' bank accounts.
- To facilitate informed decision-making, Mission Mausam serves various sectors, including agriculture, disaster management, and rural development.

Yuva Sangam

Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System

- **Context:** The Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System marks a significant advancement in India's weather forecasting and disaster risk management capabilities.
- It is a state-of-the-art digital forecasting platform developed by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**. It has been built using open-source technologies and indigenous expertise.
- This system is part of the digital transformation initiatives under the '**Mission Mausam**' project and was officially launched in **January 2024**.
- It operates in real-time and utilizes tools such as Geographic Information System (GIS) maps. This enables meteorologists to efficiently collect, analyze, and disseminate weather information in a clear and easily accessible format.
- The primary ministry overseeing this platform is the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- **Context:** Yuva Sangam is a Government of India program that helps **young people from different States and Union Territories connect with each other**.
- It is organized by the **Ministry of Education** along with other ministries.
- The program is part of the **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative**, which aims to promote national unity and cultural exchange.
- Under this, youth travel to other states to learn about local culture, traditions, and lifestyle, improving mutual understanding.
- It follows a similar idea to the **Kashi Tamil Sangamam**, which connects people from different regions.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

Mission Mausam

- **Context:** Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (meaning "One India, Great India") is a **national program started by the Government of India**.
- It was proposed by Prime Minister on **31 October 2015**, which is celebrated as **Rashtriya Ekta Divas in honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- Under this scheme, all States and Union Territories are paired with each other for one year.
- During this time, the paired regions interact and collaborate in areas like culture, language, food, festivals, tourism, and sports.
- The program is managed **mainly by the Ministry of Education** along with other central ministries such as Culture, Tourism, Youth Affairs, Sports, Home Affairs, and Railways.
- Mission Mausam was launched by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences in 2024**.
- This project is implemented by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD), the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**.
- Its objective is to **enhance weather and climate services** by providing timely and accurate monitoring, modeling, and forecasting data.

Objectives

- Build a strong feeling of oneness among people by connecting different regions of the country.
- Help people learn and appreciate each other's traditions, art, language, and food.
- Encourage people to visit and explore the cultural and historical places of other states.
- Promote exchange programs in schools and colleges, including learning different languages and sharing knowledge.
- Create lasting relationships between states through continuous cooperation involving both government and citizens.

Bharat Tribe Fest

- **Context:** Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 concluded today with a grand closing ceremony in New Delhi.
- The event marked the culmination of a 19-day celebration of tribal culture, craftsmanship, and enterprise.
- The closing ceremony witnessed the felicitation of top-performing tribal artisans and sellers across ten categories - Pottery, Cane and Bamboo, Jewellery, Cuisines, Gifts and Assortments, Metal, Naturals, Paintings, Textiles, and Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.
- Bharat Tribes Fest 2026, a **flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised in association with TRIFED.**
- The festival served as a comprehensive platform for tribal artisans, self-help groups, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, and entrepreneurs from across the country, facilitating direct market access and promoting sustainable livelihoods.
- A key highlight of the festival was the launch of the **RISA brand** on March 18, 2026, marking a significant **step towards positioning tribal craftsmanship in contemporary and global markets.**

- The initiative, launched by **Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram and Minister of State for Women & Child Development**

RISA brand

- Timeless Tribal is a high-end national brand that highlights tribal textiles, embroidery, and handicrafts.
- It aims to promote India's indigenous artistry in both domestic and international premium markets while safeguarding traditional cultural heritage.

Sadhana Saptah 2026

- **Context:** Sadhana Saptah 2026 is a week-long initiative launched by the Prime Minister of India to enhance the capabilities of government employees.
- It is organized by the **Department of Personnel and Training under the Mission Karmayogi program.**
- **Sadhana (Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement) aims to cultivate the skills necessary for citizen-centric governance.**

About Sadhana Saptah 2026

- Sadhana Saptah 2026 is a **nationwide, week-long skill development program for government employees.**
- It encompasses officials from Central Ministries, Departments, Organizations, and State Governments.
- Its objective is **to enhance the capability, efficiency, and performance of government employees.**
- Furthermore, it aims to align governance skills with the **vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India).**
- This program utilizes the **iGOT-Karmayogi platform for digital learning.**

- The training covers behavioral, functional, and domain-specific areas.
- Additionally, it focuses on emerging fields such as technology, artificial intelligence, governance reforms, and traditional knowledge.
- It promotes transparent, responsive, and citizen-centric governance.

Project Chetak Marks 47th Raising Day

- **Context:** Project Chetak, an initiative of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), recently marked its 47th Raising Day.

About Project Chetak

- Project Chetak is among the **largest BRO projects** in terms of the area it covers.
- **Established in 1980**, it has been instrumental in building and maintaining road infrastructure in **Rajasthan, Punjab, and the northern regions of Gujarat**.
- The project plays an important role in assisting the Defence Forces by ensuring the upkeep of vital feeder routes leading to the International Border.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- The BRO is responsible for **developing and maintaining crucial infrastructure such as roads, bridges, tunnels, and airstrips in remote and border areas**, serving both **military and civilian purposes**.
- **It operates under the Ministry of Defence. It was founded in 1960**
- Through its international projects in Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, the organisation enhances regional connectivity and strengthens strategic ties.

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- **Context:** The government has announced amendments to the **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016**.

Objective

- The changes are **intended to encourage a circular economy** by requiring the use of recycled plastics, enhancing compliance, increasing transparency, and cutting down plastic pollution.

Key Features of the Plastic Waste

Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- The rules set gradually rising targets for recycled plastic use in packaging, particularly for rigid plastics, **increasing from 30% to 60% by 2028-29**.
 - Producers are required to include recycled plastic in packaging, making circular practices mandatory by law.
 - Companies are allowed to carry forward unmet recycling obligations for up to three years instead of meeting strict yearly targets.
 - A formal system of tradable certificates has been introduced, enabling companies to buy credits from those that exceed their targets.
 - The rules permit disposal methods such as **incineration, waste-to-energy, co-processing, and conversion of waste into oil**.
 - Plastics are grouped into rigid (easily recyclable), flexible, and multi-layered (most difficult to recycle), with separate compliance requirements for each category.
- #### Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016
- Issued under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, these rules provide a legal basis for regulating plastic waste in India.
 - To reduce plastic waste generation, encourage recycling and reuse, and ensure safe and eco-friendly disposal.
 - **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** Makes producers, importers, and brand owners accountable for collecting and managing plastic waste.
 - Requires segregation of waste at the source and the creation of proper collection systems.

- The 2022 amendment banned specific single-use plastic items.
- Urban and rural local bodies are tasked with handling segregation, collection, processing, and disposal of plastic waste.
- Needs only power supply and a clear view of the sky, avoiding expensive infrastructure work.
- Helps quickly restore communication and serves as a backup when ground-based networks fail.

Meghalaya Partners with Starlink

- **Context:** Meghalaya has become the **third state in India, after Maharashtra and Gujarat**, to officially collaborate with Starlink.

Starlink Overview

- Starlink, a satellite internet project launched in **2019 by SpaceX**, aims to deploy around 42,000 satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to provide **global internet coverage**.

About Satellite Internet

- Satellite internet is a type of internet service delivered through satellites positioned in either **Geostationary Orbit (GSO) or Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO)**.
- **LEO and Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) are part of NGSO.**
- Unlike traditional internet systems such as fiber optics or cable networks, satellite internet does not depend on physical wires for data transmission, making it more accessible, quicker to deploy, and effective over long distances.

Infrastructure Components

- Consists of a network of communication satellites in orbit.
- Includes control systems, tracking stations, and gateway facilities.
- Comprises user-end equipment like satellite terminals.

Advantages over Traditional Internet

- Provides connectivity to remote and underserved areas without fibre or cellular networks.

ECINet Initiative

- **Context:** Ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections and by-elections, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has encouraged voters to make informed decisions by using the **“Know Your Candidates” (KYC) feature available on the ECINet platform.**

Election Schedule

- Elections are being held in **Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry**, along with by-elections in various constituencies. Voting for some regions is scheduled for April 9.

KYC Module on ECINet

- Provides details on candidates' criminal records, assets, liabilities, education, and social media accounts.
- Allows downloading of Form 26 (candidate affidavit) for transparency.

About ECINet Platform

- A unified digital platform integrating **40+ ECI applications and services.**
- Offers voter services like registration, electoral roll search, **application tracking, and grievance redressal.**
- Enables download of **e-EPIC (digital voter ID), interaction with officials, and booking appointments with BLOs.**

Additional Tools

- **cVIGIL:** For reporting violations of the Model Code of Conduct.
- **Saksham:** Ensures accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Objective

- To promote informed voting by giving citizens easy access to verified candidate information and enhancing participation in the democratic process.

India Achieves Criticality of Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)

- **Context:** India has reached a significant milestone in its nuclear energy programme as the indigenously developed **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, has achieved criticality.**

Major Achievement

- The PFBR attaining criticality marks a crucial step in India's civil nuclear programme, indicating a successful self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

Second Stage of Nuclear Programme

- This development advances the second phase of India's three-stage nuclear power strategy.

Technological Significance

- The reactor is designed to generate more fuel than it consumes, showcasing advanced nuclear technology and engineering strength.

Thorium Utilisation

- It is an important step towards utilising India's vast thorium reserves in the third stage of the nuclear programme.

Reactor Details

- Capacity: 500 Megawatt electric
- Location: Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu
- Operated by: Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd (BHAVINI)

Global Position

- Once fully operational, **India will become only the second country after Russia** to run a commercial fast breeder reactor.

Meaning of Criticality

- It is the stage where the reactor achieves a stable, self-sustaining chain reaction—an essential step before full power generation.

Indigenous Development

- The project has been built domestically with support from over 200 Indian industries, including MSMEs, supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Significance

- Strengthens India's capabilities in advanced nuclear technology and boosts clean energy generation.

India-Wind Power Generation Capacity

- **Context:** In the financial year 2025–26, India added an unprecedented annual **wind power generation capacity of 6.05 GW**. This surpasses the previous peak of 5.5 GW, which was achieved in the financial year 2016–17.

- This represents an increase of approximately 46% compared to the financial year 2024–25. It reflects the rapid growth witnessed in the deployment of onshore wind energy.

- Consequently, the country's total installed wind power generation capacity has crossed the 56 GW mark, demonstrating the continued expansion of this sector.

- Simultaneously, greater emphasis is being placed on hybrid wind-solar projects which enhance efficiency and grid integration as well as on Green Energy Open Access mechanisms.

- This progress strengthens India's journey toward achieving its **target of reaching 500 GW of electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by the year 2030.**

Tamil Nadu Wind Power Generation Capacity

- Tamil Nadu stands as a **pioneer in India's wind energy sector**. Its installed capacity stands at **11,361.855 MW**. This **contributes approximately 10% to the country's total**

electricity consumption, and the state ranks as the second-largest in India in terms of installed capacity.

- The state possesses an **onshore wind potential of 95 GW**.
- The **Muppandal Wind Farm is one of the largest operational onshore wind farms in the world**.
- Tamil Nadu was the **first state in India to implement a scheme for the modernization or repowering of older wind turbines**.
- Wind power generation is expected to increase by **25% through the 'Repowering, Refurbishment, and Lifetime Extension Policy 2024'**.
- The **National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)** has estimated that there is an offshore wind energy potential of approximately 35 GW along the coastal areas stretching from **Kanyakumari to Nagapattinam**.

India's Push Towards Deep Technology

- **Context:** The Union Government has taken several steps, including policy support, to encourage the growth of deep technology in India.

Deep Technology

- Deep technology refers to innovations that are based on advanced scientific discoveries and cutting-edge technological research.

Importance of India's Deep-Tech Goals

- It helps India emerge as a reliable global hub for research and development by using its large pool of STEM talent to lead in advanced technologies.
- It reduces dependence on foreign countries for critical sectors like defense, space, and national security, protecting India from global supply disruptions.
- Deep tech enables solutions tailored to India's needs, such as using AI for rural healthcare,

advanced farming methods for food security, and green hydrogen for clean energy.

- A strong deep-tech sector helps India move from low-cost services and basic manufacturing to high-value activities like innovation, design, and intellectual property creation.

Government Initiatives

- The Draft National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP) has been designed to boost innovation, economic development, and social progress through research-driven technologies, while improving India's global competitiveness.
- The government is supporting the development of India's own AI systems, including **Large Language Models (LLMs)** and other AI solutions suited to Indian conditions.
- The Indian Space Policy, 2023 clearly defines the roles of **ISRO, IN-SPACe, and private players**, encouraging private sector participation in the space industry.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules in the space sector have been relaxed, allowing up to **100% FDI in satellite manufacturing** and higher limits in other areas to attract global investment and technology.
- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), set up under the ANRF Act, 2023, aims to **provide funding, strategic guidance, and collaboration** between industry, academia, and government.
- The National Quantum Mission (2023–2031) focuses on **advancing quantum computing, communication, and sensing technologies**.
- The Bio-E3 Policy promotes biotechnology startups, biomanufacturing, and innovation in bio-based technologies.
- AI Centers of Excellence are being set up across India to support AI research and startups.

- The **Semicon India Program** launched in 2021 aims to develop the domestic semiconductor industry through incentives and partnerships.
- At the Global Investors Summit 2025, it was announced that **India's first domestically developed semiconductor chip** is expected to be ready for production by 2025.

Piprahwa Relics: Preserving India's Buddhist Heritage and Cultural Diplomacy

- **Context:** The Piprahwa relics are set to be brought to Leh as part of the exhibition "**The Light & the Lotus**", marking an important milestone in showcasing India's Buddhist heritage.

About Piprahwa Relics

- The relics consist of bone remains of Gautama Buddha, along with crystal and steatite containers, gold ornaments, and precious stones. A **Brahmi inscription confirmed that these relics belong to Buddha of the Shakya lineage.**
- These relics were unearthed in **1898 by William Claxton Peppé** at Piprahwa in Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh, which is believed to be the **ancient city of Kapilavastu.**
- A portion of the relics was gifted **by Lord Elgin to King Rama V**, while another portion remained with the Peppé family.
- In 2025, the Ministry of Culture ensured their return by preventing an auction in Hong Kong and acquiring the collection held by the Peppé family.
- This exhibition enhances India's Buddhist diplomacy by reinforcing its role as the **birthplace of Dhamma and a major spiritual hub.**

Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)

- **Context:** The National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has introduced the **Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE).**

About ASISSE

- It is the **first yearly survey** that focuses on **incorporated service sector companies across all States and Union Territories**, using 2024-25 as the reference year.
- The survey includes service enterprises registered under the **Companies Act 1956, Companies Act 2013, and Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008.**
- It spans multiple sectors such as trade, transportation, information technology, healthcare, education, and hospitality.
- The main goal is **to create a dependable database to support policymaking and economic research.**
- The survey relies on data from the Goods and Services Tax Network and covers around 1.21 lakh enterprises.
- It works alongside the Annual Survey of Industries and the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises to provide a complete picture of the non-agricultural economy.

Government e-Marketplace

- **Context:** The Government e-Marketplace has reached a **major milestone by achieving a cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV)** of ₹18.4 lakh crore, including crossing ₹5 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.
- This reflects the platform's rapid growth and its increasing importance as a transparent, technology-driven public procurement system in India.

About Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- The Government e-Marketplace is India's official online platform for public procurement, **introduced in 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- It aims to **improve transparency, efficiency, and inclusiveness in government purchasing.**
- The portal is used by Central and State Government ministries, departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and other government bodies to procure goods and services.
- GeM is a completely digital and cashless platform that provides an end-to-end procurement solution for both buyers and sellers.
- It incorporates **AI-based tools and a multilingual Learning Management System (LMS)** to make the platform more accessible and user-friendly.
- Additional features include voice-assisted navigation and region-specific training modules, which help sellers—especially those from remote and underserved regions—participate easily in government procurement.

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- **Context:** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) aims to **install rooftop solar systems in 1 crore households under the PM Surya Ghar initiative by March 2027.**
- This is part of India's broader push toward clean energy adoption and reduced electricity costs for households.

ULA Model

- The government is promoting a "Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA)" model.

Under this model

- State electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) take the lead.

- They fund and install rooftop solar systems for households.

About PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

- The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was **introduced in 2024** with the objective of enabling households across India to access **free electricity through solar power.**
- The scheme supports households by **offering financial assistance (subsidy) for installing rooftop solar panels.**

Subsidy Structure

- A subsidy of **60% of the cost** is provided for solar systems with capacity up to 2 kW.
- For systems with capacity between 2 kW and 3 kW, an additional 40% subsidy is given on the extra cost.
- The total subsidy benefit is limited to systems of **up to 3 kW capacity.**

Additional Components

- The scheme also includes the creation of a **Model Solar Village in every district to promote solar energy adoption at the grassroots level.**
- Under the Incentives to Local Bodies component
 - Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) are awarded ₹1,000 per rooftop solar installation within their jurisdiction.
 - This aims to **encourage local governance institutions** to actively promote rooftop solar systems.

Implementation Mechanism

- At the national level, the scheme is overseen by a **National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA).**
- At the state level, execution is handled by State Implementation Agencies (SIAs).

Women's Reservation Act Amendment

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister, has approved a draft amendment Bill.
- The aim is to **implement women's reservation by the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.**

Law Being Amended

- The amendment relates to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which was **originally passed in 2023** to provide reservation for women in legislatures.

Increase in Lok Sabha Strength

- The proposal includes expanding the Lok Sabha's strength from 543 seats to 816 seats
- This increase **will follow a fresh delimitation exercise.**

Reservation for Women

- Out of 816 seats: **273 seats (≈ one-third) will be reserved for women.**
- Reservation will be applied vertically, means Women will also get quotas within Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) categories.

106th Constitutional Amendment Act

- **Article 239AA** (Delhi Assembly) - Provides one-third reservation for women in the Delhi Legislative Assembly.
- **Article 330A** (Lok Sabha) - Reserves one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha. Includes quota within SC/ST reserved seats.
- **Article 332A** (State Assemblies) - Ensures one-third reservation for women in State Legislative Assemblies. Also applies within SC/ST categories.
- **Article 334A** (Implementation Framework) - Reservation will be implemented after delimitation. Includes a 15-year sunset clause (can be extended). Provides for rotation of reserved constituencies.

Concerns Regarding the 106th Amendment

- Critics argue that reservation may conflict with merit-based competition and the constitutional principle of equality.
- Reserving constituencies may restrict voters' freedom to choose candidates from a wider pool.

Lack of Homogeneity among Women

- Women are a diverse group, unlike caste categories.
- A uniform quota may not address varied socio-economic challenges.

Proxy Representation Risk

- There is concern that some women representatives may act as symbolic figures, with actual power exercised by male relatives
- Similar patterns observed in the "Sarpanch Pati" phenomenon at the local level.

Uneven Impact Across States

- Rotation of seats and differing state dynamics may lead to inconsistent political outcomes.

Exclusion of Upper Houses

- No reservation is provided in Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Councils
- This limits women's representation to only **directly elected lower houses.**

Mohra Power Project

- **Context:** The Jammu & Kashmir government has decided to revive the historic Mohra Power Project.
- The move comes amid efforts to **boost power generation after the Indus Waters Treaty was kept in abeyance** following the Pahalgam terror attack.
- The Mohra hydroelectric plant was constructed **after the major floods of 1903 to support dredging operations in the Jhelum.**

Location & Historical Background

- Located on the **Jhelum River in Boniyar (Uri sector), Baramulla district.**

- Commissioned in 1905, making it one of the oldest hydroelectric plants in India.
- Originally built as a **run-of-the-river project**.

Unique Engineering Feature

- Known for its **10 km-long wooden water channel (flume) that carried water through mountainous terrain**.
- Considered an innovative, low-impact engineering design for its time.

Capacity & Decline

- Initial capacity: ~5 MW
- Later expanded to 10.5 MW (planned revival capacity)
- Damaged by 1992 floods, reducing output to ~3 MW before becoming non-operational.

Biological Resource Repositories

- **Context:** The National Biodiversity Authority, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, has facilitated the official recognition of two institutions as repositories under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- These repositories support the conservation and documentation of biological materials, particularly voucher specimens.
- Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, empowers the Central Government to **designate repositories for various biological resources**.
- To date, **18 institutions have been designated** as national repositories under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Proposals were received from the **Pavasagara Centre of the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) in Kochi, and from the Agharkar Research Institute in Pune**, for their respective microbial collections and the National Fungal Culture Collection.

National Biodiversity Authority

- It is a **statutory body** established under **India's Biological Diversity Act (2002)**.
- Headquartered in **Chennai**, it became **operational in 2003**.
- It performs regulatory and advisory functions for the Government of India regarding matters related to the conservation of biological resources, their sustainable utilization, and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from them.

India 3rd in Renewable Energy

- **Context:** Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy said **India ranks third globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity**, according to the Renewable Energy Statistics 2026.
- India has **moved ahead of Brazil** in the ranking. The International Renewable Energy Agency released the statistics as of December 2025.

Renewable Energy Breakdown

- Out of 283.46 GW
 - Solar Power: 150.26 GW
 - Wind Power: 56.09 GW
 - Large Hydro Power: 51.41 GW
 - Bio Energy: 11.75 GW
 - Small Hydro Power: 5.17 GW
 - Nuclear Power: 8.78 GW

Major Milestones

- **Achieved 50% of installed power capacity from non-fossil sources** in June 2025
- **Achieved 5 years ahead of 2030 target under Paris Agreement (NDC goals)**

India as a Leading Renewable Energy Player

- India has emerged as a **major global leader in the renewable energy sector**, supported by several targeted initiatives across different segments.

- Key programs **National Solar Mission, PM-KUSUM scheme, National Green Hydrogen Mission, National Bioenergy Programme,** and various **small hydropower development schemes.**
- These efforts collectively aim to expand clean energy capacity, promote sustainable development, and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Skills Outcomes Fund

- **Context:** Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship initiated the campaign to build a Skills Outcomes Fund, a **first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at unlocking aspirational livelihoods for youth from low-income backgrounds.**
- The fund envisages to mobilise public and private capital to scale outcomes-based financing (OBF) in India's skilling ecosystem, linking investments directly to verified employment outcomes.
- The Skills Outcomes Fund aims to unlock aspirational and sustainable livelihoods for youths from low-income backgrounds across India.
- This initiative is expected to become the largest outcomes-based financing (OBF) initiative for skilling globally and marks a significant step in strengthening the adoption of OBF within India's skilling ecosystem.
- The initiative builds on India's growing global leadership in outcomes-based financing, a theme highlighted at the Outcomes Finance Alliance Summit 2026 in Cape Town.

Implementation Structure

- Anchored by **National Skill Development Corporation**
- Under **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**

Key Features

- Largest proposed global OBF skilling initiative
- Focus on verified employment outcomes
- Employer-led, demand-driven skilling

Significance

- Strengthens India's demographic dividend
- Promotes outcome-based governance in skilling
- **Supports vision of Viksit Bharat 2047**
- Positions India as a global leader in skills financing innovation

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

- **Context:** The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) a Public Sector Undertaking under **the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India is celebrating its 25th Foundation Day on April 10, 2026.**

About the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation

- The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) was **established in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, with its headquarters located in New Delhi.**
- It is governed by a Board of Directors comprising representatives from the Central Government, State agencies, NABARD, IDBI Bank, TRIFED, and tribal communities.
- It generates self-employment opportunities by providing loans at concessional interest rates to facilitate the socio-economic and educational advancement of tribal communities.
- It **enhances employability and entrepreneurship skills** by offering financial assistance for higher education as well as skill development training programs for the youth.

BHASHINI Workshop on Pali Language & AI Development

- **Context:** The BHASHINI Sanchalan/Seva Workshop on Pali Language Preservation and Digital AI Model Development was organised at the University of Delhi.

Organising Bodies

- Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) under **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**
- In collaboration with the **Centre for Advanced Studies in Buddhist Studies**, Delhi University

Focus Language

- Emphasis on Pali, an ancient Middle Indo-Aryan language
- Primary language of early **Buddhist scriptures, including the Tripitaka**

Cultural & Policy Significance

- Supports preservation of heritage and minority languages
- Aligns with initiatives of the Ministry of Minority Affairs

AI Development Goals

- **Building AI models for the Pali language**
- Focus on: Data collection, Validation frameworks, Community participation

Indian Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0

- **Context:** India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 aims to broaden its scope beyond manufacturing to include R&D, materials, equipment production, and skill development, creating a comprehensive ecosystem.
- India has nearly **20% of the world's semiconductor design engineers**, but lacks sufficient domestic design companies, indicating a structural imbalance.
- The government is actively promoting **deep-tech sectors such as AI, semiconductors, and advanced materials** as key drivers of future economic growth.

About ISM 2.0

- Introduced in the Union Budget 2026–27, ISM 2.0 represents a significant step toward strengthening India's semiconductor capabilities.
- Around ₹1,000 crore has been earmarked for FY 2026–27 to support its rollout.
- Strong emphasis on training through initiatives like **Chips to Startup Programme (C2S)** and **collaboration with industry players**.

Domestic Manufacturing Push

- Focus on building indigenous capacity in: Semiconductor equipment, Materials and chemicals, Specialty gases
- Aim: Reduce dependence on imports

End-to-End Ecosystem

- Seeks to develop a complete semiconductor value chain, including: Chip design, Fabrication, Packaging
- Development of full-stack semiconductor intellectual property

Innovation & Collaboration

- Industry-academia partnerships
- Growth of startup-driven innovation
- Solutions targeting real-world technological challenges

Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project Agreement Signed

- **Context:** India and Bhutan have signed a Tariff Protocol for the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project.

About the Project

- It is a **1020 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project** built on the **Punatsangchhu River**.
- The Punatsangchhu River is formed by the **meeting of the Phochhu and Mochhu rivers in Bhutan**.
- It then flows southward into the **Indian state of West Bengal**.

- The river is a **tributary of the Brahmaputra River**.
- Builds a comprehensive and inclusive reading ecosystem across India

Publications Division Goes Digital on WAVES OTT

- **Context:** The Publications Division has made its major journals available free of cost on **WAVES OTT platform by Prasar Bharati**.
- **Aim: Enhance digital access to authentic and informative content across India.**

Journals Available for Free

- Popular publications include: **Yojana, Kurukshetra, Aajkal, Bal Bharati, Employment News**

These publications cover

- Socio-economic issues
- Rural development
- Literature & education
- Job opportunities & career guidance
- Free E-Books Collection
- Includes Bharat Year Book, known for detailed information on: Governance, Economy, Development programs

E-Books & Book Access Expansion

- About 300 more e-books will be added by end of April.
- These will be offered at affordable prices to ensure accessibility.
- Physical books can also be purchased via the **WAVES platform**.
- Enabled through: **CSC Grameen eStore**
- Open Network for Digital Commerce

Objective

- Promote knowledge accessibility and inclusivity
- Combine: Free digital content, Affordable paid resources, Physical book distribution

Significance

- Strengthens digital knowledge dissemination
- Expands reach to rural and remote areas

108th anniversary of Champaran Satyagraha

- **Context:** April 10 marks the 108th anniversary of the **Champaran Satyagraha**, a defining moment in India's freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi.

- **Indigo farmers** were forced to grow indigo under the **Tinkathia system by British planters**.

- This system was **exploitative and caused severe distress to peasants**.

- It also marked **Mahatma Gandhi's first experiment with Satyagraha** in the country.

- In response to the persistent efforts of local farmer **Raj Kumar Shukla**, Mahatma Gandhi visited the region and undertook a detailed inquiry into the plight of the peasants.

- Defying British orders to leave, he mobilised farmers through non-violent resistance and brought national attention to their suffering.

- The movement eventually led to the formation of an **inquiry committee, with Gandhiji as a member**, and by 1918, the movement successfully forced the abolition of the forced indigo system.

- The Champaran Satyagraha not only secured justice for farmers but also marked **the rise of Gandhi as a mass leader**, laying the foundation for India's larger freedom movement.

Boost to Compressed Biogas (CBG) in India

- **Context:** The Centre plans to **increase production and adoption of compressed biogas (CBG)**.

- **Aim:** Reduce dependence on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) amid global supply constraints.

Existing Biogas Initiatives

- SATAT Scheme (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation)

About SATAT Scheme

- The SATAT Scheme was launched by the Government of India in October 2018.
- It promotes the use of Compressed Biogas (CBG) as a clean and alternative fuel, especially for transportation.
- The scheme is supported under Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).
- SLWM is a key component of the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G).
- It also contributes to effective municipal waste management.

Objective

- To convert agricultural residue, cattle dung, and municipal solid waste into CBG.
- Encourages waste-to-energy conversion and promotes renewable energy use.
- Environmental Benefits
- Helps reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Supports clean energy transition and sustainable development.

Reducing Import Dependence

- India relies heavily on imports of natural gas and crude oil.
- CBG can significantly lower this dependence by providing a domestic fuel alternative.

Significance

- Promotes a circular economy by converting waste into energy.
- Strengthens sustainability, energy independence, and environmental protection.

National Biogas Programme (2021)

- Focuses on setting up biogas plants for clean cooking, lighting, and small-scale energy needs.

Objectives

- Setting up of biogas plants for clean cooking fuel, lighting, meeting thermal and small power needs of users which results in GHG reduction, improved sanitation, women empowerment and creation of rural employment.

- **For production of Organic enriched Bio-manure:** The digested slurry from biogas plants, a rich source of manure, shall benefit farmers in supplementing / reducing of use of chemical fertilizers

- To promote biogas based Decentralized Renewable Energy Sources of power generation (Off-Grid), in the capacity range of 3 kW to 250 kW or thermal energy for heating/ cooling applications from the biogas generation produced from Biogas plants above 25 M3 to 2500 M3 size

Energy Security Concerns

- Nearly 40–45% of India's LNG imports come from Qatar and other West Asian nations like United Arab Emirates and Oman.

- India meets about 55% of its natural gas demand domestically.

Most domestic gas is used for

- PNG (cooking)
- CNG (transport)
- Sectors like fertilizers, steel, and power rely heavily on imported gas.

Role of CBG in Future Energy Mix

- CBG is a sustainable and renewable alternative to natural gas.
- Can reduce import bills and improve energy self-reliance.

- Supports waste management and environmental goals.

Deendayal Port's Green Transition and Methanol Bunkering

- **Context:** The Deendayal Port Authority (Kandla Port) is spearheading a green transition in the maritime sector by enhancing its methanol bunkering capabilities.
- This initiative aims to reduce carbon emissions within the maritime industry and **achieve a Net-Zero target by 2050.**
- **Low-carbon alternative fuels**, such as e-methanol and e-ammonia, are being utilized to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in shipping operations.

About Methanol

- **Methanol (CH₃OH)** is also known as 'wood alcohol.'
- It is produced by subjecting natural gas to a 'steam reforming' process to generate synthesis gas, which is then converted into methanol using a catalyst.
- Methanol is a **colourless and highly volatile liquid.**
- Much like ethyl alcohol, **it possesses a mildly sweet taste, yet features a pungent odour.**
- It is extensively used in the **manufacturing of various chemical products.**
- It is utilized to remove water impurities from **motor vehicle and aviation fuels.**
- It serves as a solvent in the **production of paints and plastics.**

About Deendayal Port

- Deendayal Port (formerly Kandla Port) is **India's second-largest major seaport.**
- It is situated on **India's west coast, within the Kutch district of the state of Gujarat.**
- The port is located in the **Kandla Creek**, approximately 90 kilometers from the Gulf of Kutch.

Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project

- **Context:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister, has approved an investment of ₹14,105.83 crore for the construction of the **Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project on the Lohit River in Anjaw District in Arunachal Pradesh.**

About Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project

- The hydroelectric plant will have an **installed capacity of 1,200 MW**, comprising six units of 190 MW each and one unit of 60 MW.
- It is projected to generate 4,852.95 million units (MU) of electricity annually.
- As the **first hydro project in the Lohit Basin**, it will strengthen the state's power supply, assist in peak demand management, and support the national grid.
- The project will be implemented through a joint venture between THDC India Limited and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Arunachal Pradesh will receive 12% free power** and an additional 1% allocation for the Local Area Development Fund (LADF).
- The project is expected to improve local infrastructure, including 29 kilometres of roads and bridges, and provide employment, compensation, and CSR benefits to the local population.

Jallianwala Bagh

- **Context:** The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust is observing the **107th martyrdom day in their memory.**
- The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre took place in **Amritsar on April 13, 1919.** It marked a pivotal turning point in the Indian freedom struggle.
- It was triggered by protests **against the Rowlatt Act**, which permitted imprisonment without trial.
- This led to nationwide protests **under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, and the**

unrest intensified following the arrests of Satyapal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.

- On the **festival of Baisakhi**, a large, peaceful crowd gathered at Jallianwala Bagh. There, **Reginald Dyer** blocked the sole exit route and ordered his troops to open fire without warning.
- This paved the way for protest movements such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, as well as acts of dissent such as **Rabindranath Tagore renouncing his title of 'Knighthood.'**
- The British government appointed the **Hunter Commission**; although it condemned Dyer, it failed to take any punitive action against him.
- Subsequently, in **1940, Udham Singh assassinated Michael O'Dwyer in an act of retribution for the massacre.**
- In 1951, the Government of India established a memorial at **Jallianwala Bagh to honor the victims and to preserve this historical heritage. On the Occasion of Vaisakhi**
- Vaisakhi is celebrated as **the Sikh New Year.** On this day in 1699, **Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa.**
- Concurrently, in **Punjab and Haryana, it is also celebrated as a harvest festival marking the reaping of the Rabi crops.**
- This festival is celebrated through performances of Punjab's traditional dances: **Bhangra and Giddha.**

Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- **Context:** Unified Payments Interface has **completed 10 years since its launch** in 2016.
- The network has expanded rapidly, with participating banks rising from 216 (2021) to 691 (2026).
- Has significantly **improved access to digital payments.**
- Provides affordable and user-friendly payment options **across both urban and rural regions.**

- UPI services are now operational in more than **eight countries**, including: United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius, Qatar

About UPI

- A real-time payment platform that allows instant transfer **of money between bank accounts using a mobile device.**
- Eliminates the need for traditional banking details during transactions.
- Managed by **the National Payments Corporation of India.**
- Enables users to send and receive money across different banks and apps through a single UPI ID/interface.
- Ensures seamless integration across platforms.

Key Functional Features

- Instant fund transfer facility
- **24×7 availability**
- **QR code-based payments**
- Supports: **Person-to-Person (P2P), Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions**

Security Mechanism

- Uses two-factor authentication for verification.
- Built on secure digital protocols to ensure safe and reliable transactions.

Southern Railway – 75th Foundation Day

- **Context:** Southern Railway, **one of the oldest zones of Indian Railways**, celebrates its **75th Foundation Day today, April 14.**
- On April 14, 1951, Southern Railway was formed through the **amalgamation of the Madras & Southern Mahratta Railway, the South Indian Railway, and the Mysore State Railway.**
- The history of railways in **South India began in 1856** with the operation of the **first train from Royapuram to Arcot (Walajah Road).**

- The railway network expanded nationally through connections established with the **West Coast in the 1860s, Mumbai in the 1870s, and Howrah in the 1900s.**
- Key achievements of Southern Railway include the **Nilgiri Mountain Railway (1899) and the Pamban Bridge (1925).**
- While preserving its rich heritage, Southern Railway remains committed to providing modern technology, safety, and world-class amenities.

About Southern Railway

- Southern Railway's current network spans a vast region of the southern Indian peninsula.
- It covers the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry, as well as a small portion of Andhra Pradesh.
- Its coverage extends from Mangalore (West Coast) to Kanyakumari (South), and from Renigunta (Northwest) to Gudur (Northeast).
- The headquarters of Southern Railway is located in the city of Chennai.
- Southern Railway comprises a total of 6 divisions: Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Palakkad, Thiruvananthapuram, Salem

About Indian Railways

- In India, railway transportation was **first introduced in 1853 during the tenure of Lord Dalhousie as Governor-General between Bombay and Thane.**
- In terms of railway infrastructure, **India ranks 4th globally, following the United States, Russia, and China.**
- Indian Railways is divided into 18 zones.
- **Four sites associated with Indian Railways are included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list:**
 - Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (1999)
 - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (2004)

- Nilgiri Mountain Railway (2005)
- Kalka-Shimla Railway (2008)

National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)

- **Context:** Launched in **April 2016**, the **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** is a nationwide electronic trading platform designed to establish a single unified market for agricultural commodities by digitally linking existing mandis across the country.

Digital Integration of Mandis

- Integrates existing **APMC mandis (Agricultural Produce Market Committee)** into a single online platform.
- Enables seamless nationwide trading of agricultural produce.

Key Benefits

- Transparent price discovery through online bidding.
- Better market access for farmers, traders, and buyers.
- Reduces dependence on local intermediaries.

"One Nation, One Market" Vision

- Promotes a unified agricultural market across India.
- Allows farmers to sell produce beyond local mandis.

Digital Ecosystem Components

- Web portal and mobile application
- Dedicated helpline support
- Human assistance infrastructure
- AI-based quality assessment systems

Farmer-Centric Advantages

- Access to a larger pool of buyers
- Improved chances of better price realization
- Encourages competitive bidding

Financial Inclusion

- Promotes digital payments in agriculture
- Enhances transparency and efficiency in transactions

e-NAM Web Portal

- e-NAM Portal enables end-to-end digital trading.
- Connects mandis into a single national electronic platform.

e-NAM Portal-Key Digital Features

- **Single-window service:** Commodity arrivals, quality assaying, bidding, payment, all on one platform
- **Unique Lot ID tracking:** Each lot tracked from gate entry to final sale via mobile
- **Live price dashboard:** Real-time commodity prices, mandi arrivals, trade volumes, publicly accessible
- **12-language interface:** Hindi, English, Gujarati, Marathi, Telugu, Bengali, Tamil, Odia and others
- **Secondary sale module:** Enables resale of already-purchased lots within the platform
- **Inter-state trade facility:** State Unified License enables traders to bid across State boundaries

SARAL AI

- **Union Science & Technology Minister** announced that the Anusandhan National Research Foundation is developing an AI-based platform named SARAL AI.
- The platform aims to **transform complex research publications into simple, easy-to-understand content in 18 Indian languages**, thereby helping bridge the gap between scientific innovation and the general public.

About SARAL AI

- SARAL AI is designed to simplify scientific research and present it in formats that are **easily accessible and engaging for everyday users, making technical knowledge more understandable.**

Key Features of SARAL AI

- Converts research papers and patents into short videos, podcasts, and visual posters

- Generates social media-friendly content to reach a wider audience
- Supports 18 Indian languages, promoting inclusivity
- Produces business briefs and presentations for practical and professional use

Objective

- To make complex scientific and technological developments easy to understand for non-experts
- To enhance the reach and impact of research by making it more relatable and accessible to the public

India's First Quantum Computing Testbeds

- **Context:** India's first indigenous quantum computing test and reference facilities have been inaugurated in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.**
- These facilities are part of the **Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV)** initiative, which is designed to provide the sovereign infrastructure necessary to test, certify, and manufacture quantum hardware.
- The project comprises two testbeds dedicated to evaluating quantum devices such as cables, amplifiers, and control systems under extremely rigorous environmental conditions.
- To enable the operation of quantum qubits and ensure reliable performance, these facilities **operate at temperatures approaching absolute zero (-273°C).**
- Researchers will be provided with complete transparency regarding the hardware to prevent foreign intrusions or "backdoors" within the components, thereby ensuring national security.

- The project aims to foster an indigenous ecosystem for quantum-grade components, such as cryo-electronics and chips.

Quantum Computing

- Quantum computing is a field of computer science based on the principles of quantum theory, which govern the **states of atoms and subatomic particles**.
- It utilizes subatomic particles such as **electrons or photons to process information**.
- **Quantum computing employs qubits**, which can exist in a **state of 0, 1, or a superposition (a combination) of both states simultaneously**.
- It operates through cryogenic quantum processors, which require extremely **low temperatures to function**.
- Its programming is based on controlling quantum interference to **obtain high-probability solutions**.
- It possesses the potential to demonstrate exponential speedup in solving specific types of problems.
- It is analog in nature; furthermore, quantum error correction is essential to ensure accuracy.

Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor

- **Context:** Marking a significant milestone in Uttarakhand's developmental journey, the Prime Minister inaugurated the **Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor in Dehradun**.

About the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor

- The Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor is a 213-km long, six-lane expressway constructed at a cost of over ₹12,000 crore, featuring advanced infrastructure facilities.
- This corridor significantly **reduces the travel time between Delhi and Dehradun**.
- Special provisions have been made to protect the **region's rich biodiversity and wildlife**.
- A 12-km long elevated wildlife corridor has been constructed to ensure the safe and unhindered movement of animals.
- This elevated section ranks among the **longest wildlife corridors in Asia**.
- The project incorporates 10 dedicated wildlife crossing passages, including two specialized underpasses designed for elephants.
- Within a 20-km eco-sensitive zone, underpasses totaling 97 meters in length have been constructed to facilitate the safe crossing of wildlife.

NATIONAL SCHEMES

Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

- **Context:** Government Approves 29 Investment Proposals Worth Rs.7,104 Crore under ECMS

About ECMS

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology started the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) in 2015, with a total budget of Rs.40,000 crore over six years (FY16–FY21).
- To build a strong domestic electronics component manufacturing ecosystem by attracting both global and local investments, and linking India's electronic industry with Global Value Chains (GVCs).
- Incentive Structure: Offers turnover-based, capital expenditure-based, and hybrid incentives for manufacturing sub-assemblies, bare components, and developing the supply chain ecosystem.
- Focused on high-value electronic components such as PCBs, camera/display modules, and Li-ion cells.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin

- **Context:** Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) completed 10 years.
- **Launched in 2016,** PMAY-G is a revamped version of the earlier Indira Awas Yojana, which began in 1996.

Key Features of PMAY-G

- The scheme aims to achieve "Housing for All" in rural regions by providing financial support to eligible households.
- This includes families without homes and those living in kutchra houses with zero, one, or two rooms, enabling them to build durable houses with essential amenities.

- Initially, the government planned to construct 2.95 crore houses between 2016–17 and 2023–24.
- The scheme has been extended for another five years (2024–25 to 2028–29) with an added goal of building 2 crore more houses.
- Beneficiaries receive assistance for constructing houses of at least 25 square meters. The support provided is Rs.1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs.1.30 lakh in hilly regions.
- The cost is shared between the Centre and States in a 60:40 ratio for plain areas, while for Northeastern and Himalayan states, the ratio is 90:10.
- Beneficiaries are selected based on housing deprivation data from the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011, with final verification carried out by Gram Sabhas.
- The scheme is implemented and tracked through an end-to-end e-governance system using platforms like AwaasSoft and Awaas App.

Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme

- **Context:** The Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme, implemented by the Ministry of Textiles, has been extended until September 30, 2026.

About the RoSCTL Scheme

- This scheme was launched on **March 7, 2019**. Its objective is to rebate State and Central taxes and levies that are not reimbursed through any other mechanism.
- It operates on the principle of '**Zero-rating**' of exports; that is, it ensures the reimbursement of unrebat-ed taxes embedded in exported goods.
- It primarily benefits MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise) exporters.

Ammonium Nitrate Project

- **Context:** A lease agreement was signed between Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd. (BCGCL) and Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) for a project to produce ammonium nitrate from coal, to be established in Lakhanpur, Odisha.

About Ammonium Nitrate

- It is a white, crystalline, water-soluble solid substance. It is produced on a large scale in the industrial sector.
- It is a synthetic salt of ammonia and nitric acid; it does not occur naturally.

Properties

- Its melting point is approximately 170°C.
- It possesses the property of absorbing moisture from the air.
- When dissolved in water and heated, it produces nitrous oxide (laughing gas); furthermore, at higher temperatures, it explodes and releases nitrogen dioxide.

Applications

- In agriculture, it is used as a fertilizer rich in nitrogen content.
- In explosives, it acts as an oxidizer.

Trade Capability and Marketing Initiative (TMI)

- **Context:** The Minister of State for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) provided information in the Lok Sabha regarding trade promotion and marketing initiatives.

About the Trade Capability and Marketing Initiative

- This is a Central Sector Scheme falling under the “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance” (RAMP) program.
- It is designed to provide the necessary digital tools and support to enable Micro, Small, and

Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to participate effectively on e-commerce platforms.

- The scheme will be implemented for a period of three years, from 2024 to 2027.
- Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) registered under the ‘Udyam’ portal, operating in both the manufacturing and service sectors, are eligible to avail the benefits of this scheme.
- The initiative aims to cover 500,000 Micro and Small Enterprises, with 50% of the beneficiaries being women-led enterprises.
- The scheme is being implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).
- It has been launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.
- Its primary objective is to enhance market access for MSMEs through e-commerce platforms and to strengthen their digital presence.

Coal Gasification

- **Context:** The Union Minister has introduced India’s plan to reduce dependence on imports by using domestic coal more effectively, with the Coal Gasification Incentive Scheme playing a key role.

About Coal Gasification

- Coal gasification is a method where coal is converted into a useful gas called syngas (synthesis gas).
- This happens when coal reacts with steam and oxygen at very high temperatures.
- Syngas mainly contains: Hydrogen (H₂), Carbon monoxide (CO)

Uses of Syngas

- This gas can be further used to produce important products such as
 - Ammonia mainly used to make fertilizers
 - Methanol used as a fuel and in chemical industries

- **Hydrogen** a cleaner source of energy
- **Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG)** can replace imported LNG

Small Savings Schemes (SSS)

- **Context:** The **Ministry of Finance** has announced that interest rates on all **Small Savings Schemes (SSS)** will stay the same for the first quarter of FY27.

About Small Savings Schemes

- SSS are government-supported savings options designed to **promote secure and consistent saving habits, especially among middle- and lower-income groups.**
- These schemes are mainly available through post offices and authorised banks (both public and private).

Types of Schemes

They can be broadly divided into

- Postal Deposit- savings accounts, recurring deposits, and fixed (time) deposits
- Savings Certificates - like **Kisan Vikas Patra**
- Social Security Schemes - such as **Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana**

NSSF Mechanism

- The money collected under these schemes goes into the **National Small Savings Fund (NSSF).**
- This fund is part of the **Public Account of India.**

Interest Rates

- Interest rates are reviewed every quarter.
- They are linked to government bond (security) yields and are generally higher than bank fixed deposit rates.

Tax Benefits

- Some schemes offer **EEE (Exempt-Exempt-Exempt) status, meaning no tax on investment, interest, or maturity.**
- Others provide tax deductions under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act.

Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

- **Context:** India's strong performance in the smartphone PLI scheme has shown how export-focused manufacturing can drive growth, leading to suggestions that this model be extended to other sectors.

About the PLI Scheme

- The Production-Linked Incentive Scheme is a **performance-based program designed to encourage companies to manufacture goods within India.**
- **Launch:** Introduced in 2020 under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.**
- **Goal:** To boost exports, attract investments, reduce dependence on imports, and create jobs.
- Companies receive financial incentives based on the increase in production or sales compared to a fixed base year.
- This rewards firms that expand their manufacturing output.

Coverage

- The scheme applies to 14 sectors, including: Electronics, Pharmaceuticals, Automobiles, Telecom, Textiles, Solar equipment.

Key Concern

- Even though about ₹1.97 lakh crore has been allocated, only around 10% has been distributed so far.
- This indicates that many sectors have not fully benefited or achieved expected results.

Namo Drone Didi Scheme

- **Context:** Under the Namu Drone Didi Yojana, Karnataka has secured the top position in terms of the number of women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) trained as drone pilots.

About the Namu Drone Didi Scheme

- This is a **Central Government scheme implemented under the Deendayal**

Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission, aimed at empowering women Self-Help Groups by providing drone technology for agricultural services.

- The scheme facilitates SHGs in renting out drones to farmers for tasks such as **spraying fertilizers and pesticides**.
- Financial assistance covering **80% of the drone's cost (up to ₹8 lakhs) is provided as a subsidy**. The remaining amount is provided as a loan with interest subvention under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.
- Selected members of the Self-Help Groups receive **15 days of training** on drone operation and agricultural applications.
- The scheme is implemented through the coordination of the **Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Department of Rural Development, the Department of Fertilizers, and fertilizer companies**.

Key Details

- Type: Central Sector Scheme
- Budget: ₹1,261 crore
- Duration: 2023–24 to 2025–26

Objective

- The scheme aims **to support women in building a stable source of income by training them to use drones**.
- It helps them **earn over ₹1 lakh annually** through drone-based services.
- At the same time, it promotes the use of modern drone technology in agriculture, improving farming practices.

Three-Language Formula: CBSE Scheme

- **Context:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) plans to introduce a **three-language curriculum in schools, starting from Class 6, beginning with the 2026–27 academic year**.

▪ Based on the recommendations of the **New National Education Policy (NEP)** and the **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**, and as CBSE continues to implement a multilingual education system in a phased manner, the study of a third language is being made mandatory starting from Class 6.

▪ Under this three-language framework, students are required to learn **three languages, two of which must mandatorily be Indian languages**.

▪ In cases where students returning from schools abroad have studied a third language in Class 8 or 9 that is not taught in Indian schools, they will be granted an exemption in accordance with the regulations.

▪ Starting from the 2026–27 academic year, **Mathematics and Science subjects will be introduced at two distinct levels in Class 9**.

▪ All students are required to compulsorily study and pass the Basic level Mathematics and Science subjects; the examination for this will be conducted for 80 marks over a duration of 3 hours.

▪ A separate examination, carrying 25 marks, will be conducted for the Advanced level subjects.

▪ The marks obtained in these Advanced level subjects will not be included in the overall aggregate score; however, for students who secure more than 50 percent marks in these subjects, a separate grade indicator will be specified on their certificate.

▪ **This two-level curriculum for Mathematics and Science will also be introduced in Class 10, starting from the 2027–28 academic year.**

Evolution of the Three-Language Formula Policy

Constitution of India, Article 351:

- The Constitution of India emphasizes that it is the duty of the Central Government to

promote the growth of the Hindi language and to facilitate its propagation.

Kothari Commission (1964–66):

- This Commission was the **first to recommend the implementation of the Three-Language Formula.**
- This was subsequently incorporated into the National Policy on Education of 1968.

National Policy on Education 1968:

- This policy accorded importance to the use of regional languages at the school level.
- Furthermore, it encouraged the adoption of regional languages at the university level as well.

Right to Education Act 2009:

- This Act stipulates that, as far as practicable, a child's mother tongue should serve as the medium of instruction for that child.

National Policy on Education 2020:

- This policy advocates for the use of home language, mother tongue, local language, or regional language as the medium of instruction, at least until Grade 5 and preferably up to Grade 8 or beyond.

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)

- **Context:** India marks 11 years of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana was launched on 8 April 2015.
- It is a flagship scheme aimed at supporting **unfunded micro and small enterprises.**

Objective of the Scheme

- To provide collateral-free loans to small businesses.
- To promote financial inclusion and grassroots entrepreneurship.
- To simplify access to credit for small and informal sector enterprises.

Significance

- Reduced dependency on traditional banking barriers.
- Created opportunities for self-employment, especially among youth.
- Encouraged innovation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.
- Offered a more inclusive alternative to earlier credit systems.

Achievements

- Around 58 crore loans sanctioned.
- Total loan amount exceeds ₹40 lakh crore.
- Two-thirds of loans given to women entrepreneurs.
- About 20% loans provided to first-time entrepreneurs.

Loan Features

- Provides collateral-free loans up to ₹20 lakh.
- Easy and streamlined loan process for small businesses.

Categories of MUDRA Loans

- **Shishu:** covering loans upto Rs. 50,000/-
- **Kishore:** covering loans above Rs. 50,000/- and up to Rs. 5 lakhs
- **Tarun:** covering loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakhs
- **Tarun Plus:** Rs. 10 lakh and up to Rs. 20 lakhs

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)

- **Context:** Special measures have been initiated to automate the processes for receiving insurance claim amounts under the **Prime Minister's Ayushman Bharat Health Insurance Scheme.**
- Accordingly, facilities are being introduced to automatically scrutinize insurance claims submitted by hospitals and to release the funds immediately.

- This initiative will prevent situations where patients are compelled to wait for several hours to receive their insurance claim settlements.

About Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)

- This scheme was launched on **September 23, 2018, in Ranchi, Jharkhand.**
- The “Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana” is implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA), which operates under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- This scheme aims to provide cashless hospital treatment coverage of up to **₹5,00,000 per family per annum for secondary and tertiary medical care** to over 12 crore poor and vulnerable families.

National Quantum Mission

- **Context:** Under the National Quantum Mission, **India has successfully demonstrated a 1,000 km-long quantum communication network in less than two years.**
- This constitutes **one of the longest networks in the world.** Furthermore, it signifies rapid progress toward achieving the Mission’s **eight-year target of establishing a 2,000 km-long network.**
- This milestone achievement was realized using indigenous technology developed by **QNu Labs, an Indian quantum cybersecurity startup.**
- This network not only strengthens secure communication across the defense sector, financial systems, and critical infrastructure but also operates effectively in challenging terrains, including underwater and underground environments.

About the National Quantum Mission

- It is a flagship program of the **Department of Science and Technology.** A financial outlay of

₹6,003 crore has been allocated for this Mission for the period spanning 2023–24 to 2030–31.

- **It aims to position India as a global leader in quantum technology** by fostering scientific and industrial research and development.

- The Mission focuses on enhancing indigenous capabilities and accelerating technology-led economic growth.

It encompasses four key verticals

Quantum Computing

- Aims to develop medium-scale quantum computers with **50 to 1,000 ‘qubit’ capacity within eight years.**

Quantum Communication

- Targets satellite-based secure communication and **long-distance Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology over a range of 2,000 km.**

Quantum Sensing

- Focuses on the development of highly precise magnetometers and atomic clocks.

Quantum Materials

- Aims to **strengthen manufacturing capabilities** for the production of indigenous hardware.

Thematic Hubs

- The National Quantum Mission is implemented through **thematic hubs established across India.**

- Four T-Hub centers have been established at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), IIT Madras (in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Telematics), IIT Bombay, and IIT Delhi.**

- Each hub focuses on a specific domain: **Quantum Computing, Communication, Sensing and Metrology, and Materials and Devices.**

Hub-Spoke-Spike Model

- The Mission adopts a **Hub-Spoke-Spike model,**

wherein the hubs serve to coordinate research networks.

- “Spokes” represent collaborative research projects, while “Spikes” denote individual research groups.
- This model facilitates resource sharing among institutions and fosters greater coordination and research collaboration.

Nobel Prize – Quantum

- In 2023, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Mounqi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus, and Alexei I. Ekimov for the discovery and synthesis of Quantum Dots.
- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to John Clarke, Michael H. Devoret, and John M. Martinis for their discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunneling and the quantization of energy in electrical circuits.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)

- **Context:** The Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) has shown encouraging results, with cumulative investment exceeding nine thousand crore rupees against a committed investment of around seven thousand crore rupees.

About PLISFPI (Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry)

- Scheme Type: Central Sector Scheme
- Implementing Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)
- Duration: 6 years (2021–22 to 2026–27)
- It is a significant program focused on boosting India’s food processing industry, enhancing the international presence of Indian food brands, and developing world-class leaders in food manufacturing.

Key Objectives

- Develop global leaders in food manufacturing
- Promote Indian food brands in international markets
- Create off-farm employment opportunities
- Ensure better prices for farmers and enhance their income levels

Poshan Pakhwada 2026

- **Context:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development will celebrate the 8th edition of Poshan Pakhwada from April 9–23, 2026.
- It aims to improve nutritional outcomes and strengthen India’s fight against malnutrition.
- Theme 2026: “Maximizing Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life”

Highlights

- First 1,000 days are critical
- 85% of brain development occurs before age 6
- Focus on nutrition, caregiving, and early learning

The key focus areas under this year’s theme include

- **Maternal and Child Nutrition** – Promoting optimal nutrition during pregnancy, exclusive breastfeeding, and age-appropriate complementary feeding.
- **Early Stimulation for Brain Development (0–3 years)** – Encouraging responsive caregiving and early learning interactions.
- **Play-Based Education in Early Years (3–6 years)** – Supporting holistic development and school readiness.
- **Role of Parents and Community in Minimising Screen Time** – Promoting healthy habits and active engagement.
- **Strengthening Anganwadi Centres through Community Participation** – Enhancing infrastructure and service delivery through Jan Bhagidari and CSR.

- **Implementation & Activities:** Activities conducted nationwide through Anganwadi Centres.
- Through Poshan Pakhwada 2026, the Ministry aims to **further strengthen the Jan Andolan** by reinforcing that nutrition, care, early learning, and community participation together

Types of Activities

- Poshan Panchayats to promote community dialogue on nutrition
- Awareness sessions on health and nutrition
- Early stimulation activities for child development
- Play-based learning initiatives for young children
- Campaigns encouraging: Healthy lifestyles, Reduced screen time among children

POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition)

- POSHAN Abhiyaan is a flagship initiative designed to **enhance nutritional status among women, children, and adolescent girls.**
- Launch: Introduced in 2018
- Implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**
- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, executed by States and Union Territories.
- Mission POSHAN 2.0: **Initiated in 2021** as a comprehensive and integrated nutrition programme.
- Brings together multiple initiatives, **including the Supplementary Nutrition Programme and POSHAN Abhiyaan, under a single unified framework to improve efficiency and impact.**

NHAI Arogya Van

- **Context:** NHAI has taken the initiative to develop 'Arogya Van', the thematic medicinal tree plantations on **vacant land parcels along the National Highways.**

- The initiative aims to **enrich biodiversity along the National Highways by introducing medicinal tree species that support pollinators, birds and microfauna**, thereby strengthening ecosystem resilience.

Objectives

- Enhance soil and ecosystem health
- Support pollinators, birds, and microfauna
- Promote awareness of medicinal plants
- Strengthen climate resilience

Tree Species

- Around 36 medicinal plants selected
- Examples: **Neem, Amla, Jamun, Imli, Lemon, Gular, Maulsari**
- Chosen based on local climate suitability

Significance

- Promotes traditional medicine like Ayurveda
- Conserves indigenous medicinal flora
- Creates green corridors along highways

Soil Sakhis Initiative

- **Context:** The "Soil Sakhis" programme in the drought-affected regions of western Maharashtra is uplifting women from marginalised communities while also enhancing soil quality and boosting farm productivity.
- Launched (2023): By **Mann Deshi Foundation under Agriculture & Climate Action Programme**
- Coverage Area: Drought-prone districts of Maharashtra (Satara, Sangli, Solapur, Kolhapur, Pune)
- Concept: Train rural women as Soil Sakhis to test soil and guide farmers

Role of Soil Sakhis

- Collect soil samples
- Get lab testing done
- Provide scientific soil health insights to farmers

Income

- ₹8,000–₹10,000/month + petrol allowance
- Soil test cost: ₹400–₹900

Objectives

- Improve soil health & crop yield
- Promote climate-resilient farming
- Provide scientific knowledge access to farmers

Significance

- Empowers women economically
- Supports sustainable agriculture
- Reduces impact of drought on farming

Womaniya

- **Context:** The 'Womaniya' initiative facilitates women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to sell their products directly to government buyers through the e-marketplace platform ('GeM').
- It covers the procurement of specific product categories such as handicrafts, handlooms, jute, coir products, home décor items, and office furniture.

About the Womaniya Initiative

- It was launched in 2019 on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) platform under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It aims to encourage the participation of women-led Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in public procurement.
- It enables direct sales to government buyers without the involvement of intermediaries, thereby improving market access and transparency.
- In addition to covering handlooms, handicrafts, jute, coir products, textiles, and lifestyle-related goods, it also provides support to rural women producers.
- It is integrated with the 'SWAYATT' initiative, which further strengthens the contribution of women, youth, and startups.

In the Financial Year 2025–26 (FY 2025–26)

- More than 2.1 lakh women-led MSMEs have registered on GeM; 13.7 lakh orders have been placed.

Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- GeM is an online portal designed to facilitate the consolidated procurement of goods and services by Central and State government departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Panchayats, and Cooperatives.
- It was launched in 2016 with the objective of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance."

Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

- **Context:** The government has notified the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of ten thousand crore rupees to boost capital flow into the country's startup ecosystem.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that investments under the scheme will focus on Alternative Investment Funds supporting priority segments, including deep tech startups and early growth stage.

Focus Areas

- Investments will be routed through Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- **Priority sectors include:** Deep tech startups, Early growth-stage startups

Implementation Structure

- **Nodal ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Implementation agency:** Small Industries Development Bank of India.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade will: Issue operational guidelines and Define Venture Capital Investment Committee structure

Key Features of the Scheme

- Adopts a structured and sector-specific funding approach rather than a broad-based one.

- Encourages funding in cutting-edge technologies requiring sustained and patient capital.
- Provides financial backing to emerging entrepreneurs, helping reduce risks in initial phases.
- Promotes startup growth beyond metropolitan hubs, ensuring wider regional participation.
- Targets sectors where private investment is limited due to higher risks, especially strategic industries.
- Boosts local venture capital funds, with special emphasis on smaller and emerging funds.

e-SafeHER

- **Context:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has introduced e-SafeHER, a large-scale cybersecurity training initiative aimed at empowering women in rural India.

About the e-SafeHER Programme

- e-SafeHER is a focused cybersecurity awareness programme designed specifically for rural women.
- It functions under MeitY's broader Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) framework and follows a community-driven, peer-learning approach to address the gap between digital usage and online safety.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Aim

- To equip one million rural women with the skills to safely use digital platforms within the next three years (by 2029).
- To enhance cybersecurity awareness at the grassroots level, especially for women involved in digital payments and online livelihoods.
- To build a sustainable and gender-sensitive model for secure digital inclusion.

Key Features

▪ Cyber Sakhi Model

- Women are trained as Cyber Sakhis (peer educators).
- They spread awareness within their local communities, ensuring grassroots impact.

▪ Delivery Mechanism

- Uses Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for outreach in rural areas.
- Follows a peer-led, community-based model.
- Integrates with existing women's empowerment programmes (no new infrastructure needed).

▪ Content and Training Approach

- Multilingual, localized content developed by C-DAC.
- Use of audio-visual modules for better engagement.
- Blended learning: combines structured training with community interaction.

▪ Phased Implementation

- Initial rollout in: Madhya Pradesh, Odisha
- Will expand nationwide through partnerships.

▪ Expected Outcomes

- Improved cyber risk awareness
- Increased confidence in digital transactions
- Adoption of safe online practices
- Strengthened digital inclusion and security

▪ Long-Term Vision

- Build a scalable and sustainable model for cybersecurity awareness.
- Enable policy integration and replication across India.
- Contribute to the vision of a "Cyber Secure Bharat."

IMPORTANT DAYS

Utkal Divas 2026

- Utkal Divas is observed on **1st April 2026**, commemorating the creation of Odisha as a separate province in 1936.

RBI foundation day

- On **1st April**, India commemorated the foundation day of the Reserve Bank of India, which was set up in 1935.
- The RBI serves as the country's central bank and has a vital role in framing monetary policy, controlling inflation, managing currency fluctuations, and regulating the banking system.
- It was established under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, based on the recommendations of the Hilton Young Commission.
- Initially, the **RBI's headquarters was located in Kolkata**, but it was later shifted to Mumbai in 1937, where it continues to function today.
- The bank was nationalised in 1949, after which it came under the full ownership of the Government of India.
- **First Governor:** Sir Osborne Smith
- **First Indian Governor:** Sir C. D. Deshmukh
- The RBI was created to oversee and regulate India's currency and credit system.

The RBI performs several important functions that have a direct impact on the country's economy

- Formulating and implementing monetary policy to control inflation
- Issuing and managing the nation's currency
- Regulating and supervising banks and financial institutions
- Managing foreign exchange and maintaining stability in the external sector

World Autism Awareness Day

- World Autism Awareness Day is marked every year on **2nd April**.
- In addition, the whole month of April is recognised as Autism Awareness Month.
- This observance was first established by the **United Nations in 2007**.

Rajya Sabha Day

- Rajya Sabha Day is observed annually on **April 3rd**.
- This day marks the first constitution of the '**Council of States**' on **April 3, 1952**.
- It was subsequently renamed the 'Rajya Sabha'.
- Its first session was held on **May 13, 1952**.

About the Rajya Sabha

- The Rajya Sabha is also known as the '**Council of States**'. It is the Upper House of Parliament. It represents the interests of the States and Union Territories.
- Its maximum strength is **250 members**. This comprises 238 members elected from the States and Union Territories, and 12 members nominated by the President. Currently, its strength stands at 245 (233 + 12).
- Members are elected indirectly by the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies, based on the principle of proportional representation through the single transferable vote system.
- **It is a permanent House; it is not subject to dissolution. One-third of its members retire every two years. The tenure of a member is six years.**

Qualifications and Disqualifications

- The minimum age to become a member is **30 years**.
- A person may be disqualified on grounds such as holding an office of profit, being of unsound mind, being an undischarged insolvent, acquiring foreign citizenship, or engaging

in anti-defection activities under the **Tenth Schedule**.

International Day for Mine Awareness

- **The International Day for Mine Awareness 2026, observed on April 4**, emphasizes the worldwide effort to eliminate landmines, raise awareness about their dangers, support victims, and foster peace and safer, mine-free communities across the globe.

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

- The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2026, observed on April 6, recognizes the role of sports in fostering unity and inclusion.
- This year's theme, **"Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers,"** highlights how sports can bring communities together and encourage the involvement of youth and marginalized groups.

National Maritime Day

- National Maritime Day is observed annually on **April 5th** to commemorate the historic voyage of the **S.S. Loyalty—the first Indian merchant vessel—which traveled from Mumbai to London in 1919.**
- The theme for India's 63rd National Maritime Day (April 5, 2026) is **"Maritime India Empowering Progress."**

World Health Day

- World Health Day 2026, celebrated on **April 7**, highlights the theme **"Together for Health: Stand with Science,"** focusing on the importance of global collaboration and scientific research in safeguarding the health of humans, animals, and the environment.

Shaurya Diwas

- Shaurya Diwas is observed every year on **April 9** to commemorate the exceptional courage and bravery displayed by security forces during the 1965 India-Pakistan conflict.

World Homeopathy Day

- Observed annually on **April 10th**, World Homeopathy Day commemorates the birth anniversary of the founder of homeopathy, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann.
- The theme for World Homeopathy Day in 2026 is **"Homeopathy for Sustainable Health."**
- Samuel Hahnemann's most significant work is the **'Organon of Medicine.'**

Siachen Day

- Siachen Day was observed on **April 13**, the Indian Air Force and Indian Army today paid tribute to **bravehearts who have sacrificed their lives in defending the world's highest battlefield, Siachen in Ladakh.**
- **The operation Meghdoot was launched on this day in 1984**, when the Indian Army and Indian Air Force advanced to the Siachen glacier to secure the heights dominating the Northern Ladakh region.

Equality Day

- In India, Equality Day is celebrated every year on **April 14.**
- This day marks the **birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (April 14, 1891), the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.**
- A prominent politician, legal scholar, and social reformer, he dedicated his entire life to fighting against social discrimination and oppression.
- Furthermore, by continuously striving for the rights of women, labourers, and oppressed

communities, he laid a strong foundation for building a society based on inclusive equality and justice.

Himachal Pradesh Day

- On April 15, 2026, Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 79th Foundation Day.
- Himachal Pradesh Day is celebrated annually on April 15th to commemorate the formation of the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- On April 15, 1948, Himachal Pradesh was constituted as a 'Chief Commissioner's Province.'
- Following the enactment of the Constitution of India, it became a 'Part C' state on January 26, 1950.
- Subsequently, on November 1, 1956, it was converted into a Union Territory. In 1966, it was expanded through the merger of the hilly areas of the state of Punjab.
- Finally, under the Himachal Pradesh Statehood Act of 1970, it attained full statehood status as the 18th state of India on January 25, 1971.



REPORTS & INDICES

EFAO Food Price Index

- **Context:** The FAO Food Price Index **increased to 128.5 points** in March 2026, mainly due to rising energy prices linked to tensions in the Middle East.

About the FAO Food Price Index

- It is an index released by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
- It tracks **monthly changes** in global food prices.
- The index is based on a basket of **widely traded food commodities**.

Key Features

- **Base Period:** 2014–2016
- **Covers Five Commodity Groups:** Cereals, Vegetable oils, Dairy products, Meat, Sugar

South Asia Economic Update April 2026

- **Context:** The **South Asia Economic Development Report**, published by the **World Bank**, indicates that India's economy remains in a strong position.
- Previously, in its South Asia Economic Development Report, the World Bank noted that India's economic growth stood at 7.1 percent in 2025, driven by robust domestic demand and the resilience of the export sector.
- India's growth is projected to rise to **7.6 percent in 2026, reaching a peak level**.
- The growth rate is forecast to moderate slightly to 6.6 percent in 2027.
- The current estimate represents an upward revision compared to the 6.5 percent projection made last January.
- Indian exports continue to demonstrate strong performance, despite facing heightened global tariff pressures.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **Vice President released the book Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament** authored by Sudha Murty.

- The book presents India's long civilizational history through the murals displayed in Parliament, combining elements of art, history, and cultural heritage into a distinctive and engaging narrative.

SPORTS & GAMES

Khelo India Tribal Games

- Karnataka emerged as the champion of the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026, securing

the highest number of medals. Odisha and Jharkhand came in second and third, while the host state, Chhattisgarh, ranked ninth in the overall medal standings.

EMINENT PERSONALITIES

Jyotirao Phule

- Jyotirao Phule was born on **April 11, 1827**. He was a pioneering social reformer **who opposed caste hierarchies and championed the rights of Dalits and women**.
- In collaboration with **Savitribai Phule**, he **opened India's first school for girls in 1848**.
- Furthermore, in **1855**, he established **night schools in Pune for workers, farmers, and women**.
- In 1873, he founded the **Satyashodhak Samaj** to combat caste discrimination and promote equality.
- In his **book Gulamgiri**, he drew a parallel between the caste oppression prevalent in India and the institution of slavery in America.
- He advocated for the provision of **compulsory education and economic empowerment for oppressed communities**.
- In 1888, he was honored with the **title "Mahatma"** by **Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar**.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- **Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (14 April 1891 - 6 December 1956)** was a brilliant legal scholar, economist, politician, and social reformer.
- He spearheaded the **Mahad Satyagraha in 1927** against social discrimination.
- He participated in **all three Round Table Conferences**.
- In **1932**, he signed the **Poona Pact with Gandhi**, agreeing to drop the demand for separate electorates for the oppressed classes.
- He served as the **Labour Member in the Viceroy's Executive Council (1942)**.
- He was the **Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution**.
- He described **Article 32 of the Constitution as the "Soul and Heart of the Constitution."**
- In 1947, he became the **first Law Minister of independent India**.
- In 1956, Ambedkar converted to Buddhism along with his followers. **The day of his passing is observed as Mahaparinirvan Diwas.**

Key Works

- Annihilation of Caste
- Buddha or Karl Marx
- The Untouchables
- Who were Shudras?
- The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution

Journals

- Mooknayak (1920)
- Bahishkrit Bharat (1927)
- Samata (1929)
- Janata (1930)

Organizations

- Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)
- Independent Labour Party (1936)
- Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)

Awards

- He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1991**.

DEFENCE

INS Malvan

- **Context:** INS Malvan—the **second of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)—has been delivered to the Indian Navy.
- This vessel is capable of detecting **enemy submarines and destroying them using torpedoes and rockets.**
- The ship measures between 30 and 80 meters in length, weighs 1,100 tons, and is powered by waterjet propulsion systems.
- It is equipped with modern systems and sensors, including torpedoes, rockets, radar, and sonar.
- Over 80% of the components used in the ship's construction are indigenously manufactured.
- It is designed to operate in shallow coastal waters and is **integrated with the Indian Navy's modern de-fense systems**

Survey Vessel Sanshodhak

- **Context:** The Indian Navy has formally inducted Sanshodhak (Yard 3028), the fourth and last vessel un-der the Survey Vessel (Large) project.

About Survey Vessel Sanshodhak

- Sanshodhak, meaning “Researcher,” is the final ship in the Survey Vessel (Large) (SVL) series designed by the Indian Navy’s Warship Design Bureau.
- It serves mainly as a platform for hydrographic surveys and data collection.
- With its induction, the series alongside INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak, and INS Ikshak completes the project approved in October 2018.

Development

- The vessel has been designed and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers.
- It has over 80% indigenous content by cost, reflecting strong participation from domestic industries and MSMEs.

Objective

- The SVL programme aims to **replace the older Sandhayak-class ships with modern, technologically ad-vanced survey platforms.**
- It also contributes to the goal of self-reliance under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative while strengthen-ing India’s maritime capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region.

Key Features

- Around 110 meters in length with a displacement of nearly 3,400 tonnes.
- Equipped with twin diesel engines, enabling speeds above 18 knots.
- Includes a Data Acquisition and Processing System, along with Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) and Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs).
- Fitted with DGPS-based long-range positioning systems and Digital Side Scan Sonar for detailed seabed mapping.

INS Aridhaman

- **Context:** INS Aridhaman **India’s new nuclear submarine** is a fully indigenously developed, nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) that has recently been inducted into the Indian Navy.
- India now stands alongside nations such as the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China as a country possessing nuclear-powered submarines.
- Under **India’s Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarine (SSBN)** program, these submarines are being constructed entirely domestically and inducted into the fleet.

- It is noteworthy that these vessels are not only nuclear-powered but also possess the capability to carry long-range missiles, including nuclear ballistic missiles.

About INS Aridhaman

- This is India's third domestically manufactured, nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine.
- It is the second vessel in the Arihant class of submarines.
- It was constructed at the Shipbuilding Centre in Visakhapatnam under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project.

India's Nuclear Submarines

- **INS Arihant:** India's first indigenous nuclear submarine was commissioned into service in 2016.
- **INS Arighat:** The second nuclear submarine was commissioned in 2024.

INS Trikand Visits Tanzania

- **Context:** The Indian Navy's frontline warship, **INS Trikand**, arrived at Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania as part of its deployment in the South West Indian Ocean Region.
- The visit is aimed at **strengthening cooperation and friendly relations between India and Tanzania.**
- The training will enhance interoperability and maritime cooperation.
- In addition, a range of social and community engagements are planned, including friendly sports fixtures and yoga.
- During the visit, critical stores ferried from India will be handed over to the other side.
- The port call by INS Trikand is aligned with **India's vision of MAHASAGAR - Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.**

MAHASAGAR Vision

- MAHASAGAR focuses on deepening partnerships with smaller maritime nations, improving maritime domain awareness, and tackling illegal activities at sea.
- Many medium and smaller countries are looking for trustworthy strategic partners, influenced by their interactions with China and the US.
- India is viewed as a friendly and reliable partner in the Indo-Pacific region, providing long-term opportunities for cooperation in maritime security and development.

Indian Army Releases Roadmap for Unmanned Aerial Systems and Loitering Munitions

- **Context:** The Indian Army has introduced a technology roadmap in New Delhi for **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and loitering munitions to guide future capability development.**

Strategic Initiative

- The roadmap provides long-term clarity on the Indian Army's requirements in the field of drones and loitering munitions.

Guidance for Stakeholders

- It offers clear and actionable direction to industry, academia, and R&D organisations to align investments and innovation with priority areas.

Bridging Gap

- The document acts as a link between operational needs and technological advancement, **ensuring a structured and demand-driven growth of India's drone ecosystem.**

Modern Warfare Focus

- Lieutenant General Rahul R. Singh highlighted the growing importance of drone technology in warfare, noting the need to balance large-scale deployment with precision strikes.

Collaborative Approach

- The event saw participation from the armed forces, defence industry, startups, and academic institutions.

National Objective

- Reinforces a “whole-of-nation” approach to build a strong, resilient, and self-reliant drone ecosystem in India.

Cyclone-IV

- An Indian Army contingent has departed for Egypt to participate in the fourth edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise, Cyclone-IV.
- The exercise aims to enhance joint mission planning capabilities and improve interoperability through the exchange of best practices in special operations.

Operation HimSetu

- The Indian Army has initiated Operation HimSetu to evacuate and rescue more than 1,400 stranded tourists and local residents in North Sikkim.
- The situation was caused by severe landslides along with the collapse of a newly constructed bridge near Lachen, which severely affected regional connectivity.

INS Sudarshini at Escale à Sète 2026

- **Context:** The Indian Navy’s sail training ship INS Sudarshini successfully completed its first-ever participation in the Escale à Sète 2026 festival.
- Escale à Sète is a maritime heritage festival held every two years in Sète, France.
- The event is conducted under UNESCO patronage and aims to promote maritime traditions, raise environmental awareness, and encourage the sharing of knowledge between generations.

- INS Sudarshini’s presence at the festival was part of the “Lokayan 26” initiative, which seeks to enhance global maritime cooperation and strengthen international relations.

DUSTLIK

- DUSTLIK is a bilateral joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan.
- Its 7th edition is being held at the Gurumsarai Field Training Area in Uzbekistan from April 12 to 25, 2026.
- Its objective is to enhance joint operational capabilities in semi-mountainous terrain.
- It focuses on joint planning, tactical drills, and special operations.
- Key activities include terrain navigation, assault missions, and handling armed groups.
- It strengthens operational capabilities, coordination, and defense ties between the two nations.

Samudra Sahas Expedition

- **Context:** The Indian Army today flagged off its first blue-water sailing expedition, Samudra Sahas, from Marve in Mumbai as part of the bicentenary celebrations of the Regiment of Artillery.
- The 520 nautical mile expedition along the Konkan coast will be conducted in four legs from Mumbai to Vijaydurg, Goa and back, using 21-foot Seabird class sailing boats.
- The team will sail about 7 nautical miles off the coast, navigating varying wind conditions.
- Led by Captain Kshitij Nair and Subedar Prakash Funde, with ground support from Major Vardhan Shidhye, the mission aims to promote endurance, teamwork and leadership.
- It is being conducted with support from the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Yudh Seva Medal

- **Context:** Yudh Seva Medals were awarded to two naval officers for their exceptional service during '**Operation Sindoor,**' an operation conducted by the Indian Navy targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan.
- Yudh Seva Medals were also conferred upon senior officers for their distinguished service in combat situations; among those **honoured was Vice Admiral A.N. Pramod Rahu Gokhale.**

Operation Sindoor

- 'Operation Sindoor' was a precision strike conducted by the Indian Armed Forces on **May 7, 2025, in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack.**
- This operation was undertaken in response to the terrorist attack that took place in Pahalgam the previous year.
- During Operation Sindoor, terrorist camps were destroyed, and several terrorists were killed.



CURRENT FACTS

- India's current global semiconductor market stands at Rs.4.5 lakh crore, with a target of reaching Rs.9 lakh crore by 2030.
- India's current global semiconductor market stands at ₹4.5 lakh crore, with a **target of reaching ₹9 lakh crore by 2030.**
- On **Mahavir Jayanti 2026**, Prime Minister inaugurated the **Samrat Samprati Museum in Gandhinagar**. The museum celebrates Jain heritage, displaying rare artefacts and ancient manuscripts, while promoting the principles of non-violence and preservation of cultural traditions.

Powers of the Election Commission of India

- The Election Commission of India holds extensive authority to maintain the fairness, neutrality, and transparency of elections across the country.
- **Key Powers**
 - **Administrative Powers:** Manages election schedules, polling arrangements, and the deployment of staff for elections.
 - **Advisory Powers:** Provides guidance to the President and Governors on issues like disqualification of elected members.
 - **Quasi-Judicial Powers:** Resolves disputes related to political party recognition and allocation of symbols under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
 - **Regulatory Powers:** Ensures compliance with the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and supervises election expenditure.
 - **Disciplinary Powers:** Can transfer, suspend, or take action against officials involved in election-related misconduct.
- **Operation Green Hunt (2009-2010):** A major military-style campaign carried out by Indian security forces targeting Maoist insurgents, mainly across the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Maharashtra.
- **Sloth Bear-** IUCN: Vulnerable, CITES: Appendix I, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1.
- **NASA** has launched the **Artemis II mission**, sending four astronauts on a 10-day voyage around the Moon. This mission represents the first time humans are traveling toward the Moon since 1972.

NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization

- NATO is a military alliance dedicated to ensuring peace and collective security. According to its Article 5, an attack against one member state is considered an attack against all member states.
- It was established on **April 4, 1949, by 12 nations from Europe and North America.**
- **Founding Nations:** Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (USA).
- **Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium**
- It has expanded from its original 12 member nations to its current total of 32 nations.

Yuva Vigyani Karyakram (YUVIKA) Program

- The objective of the 'YUVIKA' program is to **impart basic knowledge regarding space science, space technology, and space applications to young students.**

- This program is conducted by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- Students studying in the 9th grade across India are eligible to apply for ISRO's '**Young Scientist Programme - 2024**' (YUVIKA).
- Covering **CBSE, ICSE, and State Board curricula**, three students from each state and Union Territory will be selected to participate in this program.
- Special priority has been accorded to students hailing from rural areas within the selection criteria.
- **Part VI, Article 161**- Power of Governor to grant pardons, etc., and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases
- **Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act 1974**

Chola-era copper plate inscriptions found at Anbil in early 1900s

- A set of 16 copper plate inscriptions was found at **Anbil village on the banks of River Kollidam in Tiruchi** district in the early 1900s.
- The inscriptions were issued during the fourth regnal year of **Sundara Chola (835 CE)**.
- They were written in both **Tamil and Sanskrit**.
- This is one of the earliest Chola copper plate inscriptions discovered.
- **Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1988**
- **The National Security Act, 1980**
- The Tamil Nadu Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders and Slum-Grabbers Act, **1982** (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982).
- **Part XV, Article 324**- Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission
- The Government of India has designated renowned sand artist **Sudarshan Pattnaik** as the brand ambassador for the Census 2027.

Muppandal boasts one of the largest onshore wind farms

- **Muppandal**, located close to the southernmost tip of India in Kanniyakumari district, is known for **one of the largest onshore wind farms**.
- Situated near the **Aralvaimozhi Pass**, the Muppandal Wind Farm is operated by the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited.
- It has an installed capacity of **1,500 MW**.
- **Helium**, a colourless, odourless, non-toxic, and inert gas and primarily used to cool superconducting magnets, MRI scanners, spectrometers and semiconductor fabs, has no or a few substitutes.

The Chennai Port

- Tamil Nadu has the highest number of major ports in India.
- Of the total 13 major ports in the country, the State hosts three: **Chennai, Ennore, and Thoothukudi**.
- The Chennai Port started operations as early as the 1880s, making it one of the oldest ports in India.
- It is also the largest container port on the eastern coast.

Pulikulam breed of cattle is native to Madurai, Sivaganga

- The Pulikulam breed of cattle is native to villages **in Madurai and Sivaganga districts**.
- The ferocious bulls of this breed are widely used for testing the skills of **bull-fighters in jallikattu**.
- Earlier, they were commonly used for ploughing.
- Pulikulam is one of the approved **indigenous cattle breeds of Tamil Nadu**.

Kumarikalpayam Menhir is one of the tallest in India

- Kumarikalpayam, located in **Uthukuli taluk of Tiruppur district**, is known for one of the tallest menhirs in India.
- The 26-foot-tall menhir is believed to date back to the megalithic period.
- It lies near **Kodumanal in Erode district**, an ancient industrial and trade centre on **the banks of River Noyyal**.

Mission Karmayogi

- Launched by the Union Cabinet on **September 2, 2020**, Mission Karmayogi (**NPCSCB – National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building**) is a national reform program aimed at enhancing the capabilities of civil servants through the iGOT-Karmayogi digital platform, thereby transforming governance from a 'rule-based' system into a 'role-based' system.

Antariksh Venture Capital Fund

- This is a fund established in India **exclusively for the space sector**. Its primary objective is to foster and support space technology startups.
- It is managed by **SIDBI Venture Capital Limited (SVCL)**.
- The process of evaluating startups is currently underway; four projects have advanced to the next stage of assessment. Necessary guidance and support regarding documentation and due diligence are being provided to these projects.
- The first round of investments is expected to be undertaken at the beginning of the Financial Year 2027 (FY2027).
- Its key goals **are to encourage private sector participation, foster innovation, and position India as a global leader in the space sector**.

E20 Fuel

- E20 fuel is a blend consisting of **20 percent ethanol and 80 percent petrol**.
- It is a biofuel derived from agricultural sources such as sugarcane, maize, and other grains.
- **Chemical formula for ethanol: C₂H₅OH**.
- It possesses a high 'octane' rating and offers relatively cleaner combustion efficiency, making it an excellent alternative fuel.
- In India, the octane rating of regular petrol typically ranges between 91–92 RON, whereas E20 fuel has a minimum rating of 95 RON.
- This higher octane rating facilitates superior engine performance, allowing the fuel to burn more smoothly and generate greater energy.
- **India has successfully achieved the target of blending 20% ethanol into petrol by 2025 – five years ahead of its original deadline set for 2030.**

- Women in **Kerala** have attained high levels of educational attainment, and the highest life expectancy in the country.

Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

- Located in the **Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh**, the **Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary** spans an area of approximately 245 square kilometers.
- It features tropical dry deciduous forests rich in **Teak and Sal trees**.
- Furthermore, efforts have been undertaken to **reintroduce Blackbucks** to the sanctuary in order to restore and enhance its grassland ecosystem.
- **Plastic Waste Management Rules, first introduced in 2016.**
- **India's first nuclear power reactor went operational in 1969 in Tarapur.**

The Juang Tribe

- They are a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** of **Odisha**. They primarily inhabit the districts of **Keonjhar and Dhenkanal**.
- They speak a language belonging to the **Austro-Asiatic (Munda) language** family. Furthermore, they have traditionally engaged in occupations such as **hunting, food gathering, and basket weaving**.

Rongali Bihu

- Also known as **Bohag Bihu**, this festival marks the **Assamese New Year and celebrates the arrival of spring in the month of April**.
- During this festival, people exchange traditional towels known as '**Gamocha**' or '**Bihuwaan**' with one another as a token of respect.
- The **Gamocha (or Gamusa)** a **handloom-woven textile of Assam** received a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Central Government in December 2022**.

About the Indian Census

- Early references to the census can be found in the **Rigveda (800–600 BC)**, the **Arthashastra (300 BC)**, and the **Ain-i-Akbari (16th century)**.
- **India's first non-synchronous census was conducted in selected regions in 1872**, under the tenure of **Governor-General Lord Mayo**.
- Subsequently, the **first synchronous census covering all of British India was conducted in 1881 by W.C. Plowden**, during the era of **Lord Ripon**.
- Until 1951, organizations were established on an ad-hoc basis for each census. However, since then, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner functioning **under the Ministry of Home Affairs has assumed responsibility for this task**.
- The Census falls under the **Union List** of the Constitution, as stipulated by **Article 246**.
- It is conducted in accordance with the **Census Act of 1948**.
- **Article 142** empowers the Supreme Court to pass any order or decree necessary for complete justice in any pending case before it.
- **Calcium carbide** is a grey-black industrial compound commonly used in welding, but it is often misused as an inexpensive and fast method for artificially ripening fruits.

Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI)

- The Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI) was registered in Delhi on July 29, 1972.
- Although registered in Delhi, the RSSDI Secretariat is currently located in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

NALSA v. Union of India (2014)

- The Supreme Court of India delivered the landmark ruling of the **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) v. Union of India (2014)**, which established transgender people as the **'third gender' while protecting their constitutional rights**.
- Through this judgment, the Supreme Court established legal transgender recognition and created pathways for complete protection of fundamental rights, which placed transgender individuals under equality principles.

Rabies

- This is a viral disease transmissible from **animals to humans**. It is caused by the **Rabies Virus (RABV)**, a member of the Lyssavirus genus within the **Rhabdoviridae family**.
- It primarily attacks the **central nervous system, causing progressive neurological damage**.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified this disease as a **Neglected Tropical Disease**.
- Once symptoms of the disease begin to manifest, **it is almost 100% fatal**.
- Timely vaccination for prevention is the single most effective method to avoid fatalities.

One Nation, One Election (ONOE)

- This initiative proposes **holding elections for the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament) and State Legislative Assemblies simultaneously**.
- It aims to conduct both **national and state elections concurrently** within a single, unified electoral cycle.
- This framework does not encompass elections for **Panchayats, Municipalities, or by-elections**.
- Voters cast their ballots for both **Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly representatives on the same day**.
- Depending on logistical requirements, the elections may be conducted in a single phase or across multiple phases.
- During its first four general elections from 1951-52 to 1967 India conducted simultaneous elections for **both the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies**.
- **Part III, Article 25**- Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion
- **Part III, Article 26**- Freedom to manage religious affairs
- **Part V, Article 124**- Establishment and constitution of Supreme Court
- **Divya Singh (28)**, a teacher from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, has set a record as the first Indian woman and the second woman globally to reach the **Everest Base Camp by bicycle**.
- Nammazhvar wrote four works: **Thiruvirutham, Thiruvasiriyam, Peria Thiruvandadi and Thiruvaimozhi**. His four works give us the essence of the four Vedas.

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

- In September 2023, Parliament passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, or the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**, which commits to reserving **one-third of**

seats in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas for women, including in constituencies already earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

- **According to Article 124(4)** of the Constitution of India, a Supreme Court Judge can be removed from office on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity only through an order of the President, following the passing of a resolution by a special majority in both Houses of Parliament.
- **Article 324(5)** of the Constitution of India safeguards the independence of the Election Commission of India by stipulating that the Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through a procedure equivalent to that of a Supreme Court Judge.
- **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners** (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023

Unnatha Tamizhagam

- The UEF Trade Summit 2025 took place at the Chennai Trade Centre.
- The event centered around the theme **“Unnatha Tamizhagam - 4Tn for TN by 2047,”** which expresses a forward-looking goal of transforming Tamil Nadu into a highly developed and thriving state by the **100th year of India’s independence.**
- The **“4Tn”** concept represents an ambitious economic milestone aimed at driving sustained growth and long-term prosperity.

Sundarbans

- The Sundarbans is the largest mangrove forest ecosystem in the world.
- Situated in the delta formed by the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers along the Bay of Bengal.
- Spread across India (about 40%) and Bangladesh (around 60%).
- Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Declared a Biosphere Reserve under the Man and Biosphere Programme
- Also designated as a Ramsar wetland of international importance
- Includes rivers such as Muriganga, Raimangal, Harinbhanga, Saptamukhi, Thakuran, and Matla
- Home to the largest population of tigers in the world, specially adapted to a semi-aquatic (amphibious) lifestyle
- Dominated by salt-resistant vegetation, particularly the Sundari trees
- The **Urban Flood Management Cell (UFMC)** is **India’s first artificial intelligence-based system** designed for early warning and decision-making in urban flood situations, set up in **Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Tamil Nadu ranks first in India in the production of footwear and leather goods.** The state accounts for a **47% share of India’s total leather exports** and contributes **38% to the production of footwear and leather goods.**

India Records Highest-Ever Solar Capacity Addition (FY 2025–26)

- **India has recorded its highest-ever annual solar capacity addition of around 45 gigawatts** in the financial year 2025-26.
- Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy said that **Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra** have led this extraordinary growth, powering India’s transition towards a cleaner, greener and more self-reliant future.

- The Minister further informed that the country has recorded **6.65 Giga Watt solar capacity in March 2026**, the highest-ever solar installation in a single month.

'THIRAN' Scheme

- The **'THIRAN' (Targeted Help for Improving Remediation and Academic Nurturing)** educational enhancement scheme was implemented in July 2025 with the objective of identifying **slow learners among students studying in Grades 6 through 9 in Tamil Nadu government schools**, providing them with special remedial training in English, Tamil, and Mathematics, and thereby **bridging their learning gaps**.
- National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (National Authority CAMPA)

Sagarmala 2.0

- The Sagarmala Programme was **launched in March 2015**.
- Sagarmala 2.0 is built upon the foundation of previous achievements.
- For a comprehensive maritime development strategy, it has been integrated with the **'Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030' and the 'Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047'**.
- Its objective is **to position India as a global maritime hub through modernized ports and enhanced maritime infrastructure**.
- The program focuses on **port-led industrialization, connectivity to coastal and hinterland regions, inland waterways, and coastal shipping services**.

The Sagarmala Programme is based on five key pillars

- Port Modernization (Capacity Enhancement)
 - Port Connectivity (Road, Rail, and Waterway Linkages)
 - Port-led Industrialization (Coastal Economic Zones)
 - Coastal Community Development (Livelihood Enhancement)
 - Coastal Shipping and Inland Waterways (Logistics Development)
- Hawksbill Turtle **Eretmochelys imbricata** has most recently been assessed for The **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2008**. *Eretmochelys imbricata* is listed as **Critically Endangered**.
 - The **Lanjia Saora community**, a particularly vulnerable tribal group living in the forested regions of **Rayagada and Gajapati districts in Odisha**.
 - **Part XVI, Article 334-** Reservation of seats and special representation to cease after certain period.
 - India is the **second largest fish producer in the world**. Now, it is also the second largest globally in aquaculture production.
 - A life-size bronze statue of Swami Vivekananda was unveiled for the **first time in the United States at Westlake Square in Seattle** on April 12, 2026, honoring the legacy of the Indian spiritual leader.

Mission Amrit Sarovar

- With a view to conserve water for the future, the Prime Minister has launched a new initiative named **Mission Amrit Sarovar on 24th April 2022**.
- The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating **75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**.

Coffee Production in India

- **India ranks 7th globally in coffee production**, following countries such as
- Brazil and Vietnam.

- It is a **tropical plant** that is typically cultivated under the shade of trees.
- Coffee Varieties: **Robusta and Arabica**.
- **Major Coffee-Producing States:** It is primarily cultivated in the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha.
- Among these, **Karnataka holds the leading position, contributing over 70% to the total production.**

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), launched in **September 2020** to drive a “Blue Revolution” in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
- Its main goal is to **upgrade fisheries infrastructure, boost fish production, raise the income of fishers, and promote the sustainable use of aquatic resources.**
- The scheme is executed by the **Department of Fisheries India under the Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying**. PMMSY is a **centrally sponsored scheme**.
- It includes both marine and inland fisheries, covering brackish water as well as freshwater aquaculture.
- A key feature of PMMSY is the promotion of modern technologies such as biofloc systems, cage culture, recirculatory aquaculture systems, mariculture, and seaweed farming to improve productivity and efficiency.
- Financial assistance is provided for developing fish ponds, hatcheries, fishing boats, cold storage facilities, ice plants, and processing units.
- The funding pattern is shared between the **Centre and States in a ratio of 60:40 for general states**, 90:10 for northeastern and Himalayan states, and full central funding (100%) for Union Territories.

Project Cheetah

- Initiated in **2022 as part of Project Tiger**, **Project Cheetah** focuses on reintroducing cheetahs to India, where they had gone extinct in 1952.
- It is recognized as the **first project in the world to relocate a wild carnivore across continents.**
- The project is implemented by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- At present, **Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh** function as the main habitats for the relocated cheetahs.
- Additionally, Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has been identified as a potential site for expanding the cheetah habitat in the future.

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)

- This scheme was launched by the Government of India on **September 23, 2018**, to ensure that healthcare coverage is accessible to all.
- Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is the **world’s largest public health scheme**.
- It aims to **provide medical insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh annually to every eligible family.**
- It aims to provide **financial protection to poor and vulnerable families** for secondary and tertiary medical care.

The other key pillars under this scheme are as follows

- **Ayushman Arogya Mandir:** This focuses on providing easily accessible primary healthcare services and community-level services in close proximity to people's homes.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):** This aims to create an integrated digital health ecosystem by connecting hospitals, clinics, and patients through digital infrastructure.
- **PM - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM):** This strengthens the infrastructure capacity of the healthcare sector, ranging from rural health centers to district hospitals.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM JUGA)

- This scheme was **launched on October 2, 2024**, from **Hazaribagh in the state of Jharkhand**.
- Also known as the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, PM JUGA aims to benefit more than 5 crore tribal people about half of India's tribal population through comprehensive development initiatives.
- **Seventeen-line ministries** are collaborating on PM JUGA.
- These ministries are implementing flagship schemes to bridge critical gaps in **social infrastructure, healthcare, education and livelihoods in tribal-majority villages and Aspirational Districts**.
- It is the **largest tribal development program in India's history**.
- **Part V, Article 81-** Composition of the House of the People
- **Part V, Article 82-** Readjustment after each census

Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023

- The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act), provides for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognizes both the rights of individuals to protect their personal data and the necessity to process such personal data for lawful purposes.

Subhas Chandra Bose's Philosophy and Political Doctrine

- Subhas Chandra Bose **died in a plane crash in 1945**, ending a major intellectual-political project.
- He aimed to create a "higher synthesis" **between Eastern spirituality and Western material progress**.
- Initially influenced by **Adi Shankaracharya and Vedanta**.
- Rejected the **Doctrine of Maya** as impractical for revolutionary action.
- Transitioned from **absolutism** → **pragmatism**.
- Core principle: Reality is fundamentally LOVE and moral in nature.
- **Adopted ideas from Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel**.
- **Doctrine of Samyavada (Harmonious Equality)**
 - Indigenous Indian ideology not borrowed from the West.
 - Aimed to synthesize opposing systems, especially: **Fascism, Communism**
 - Rejected blind imitation of foreign ideologies.
 - Envisioned as **India's contribution to global political thought**.
 - Strong Central Authority
 - Favoured a powerful central government during reconstruction.
 - Suggested temporary authoritarianism for nation-building.

- Influenced by global trends (e.g., Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, Imperial Japan).
 - Believed decentralised democracy might slow urgent reforms.
- **Critical Perspective**
 - His ideas must be viewed in historical context (rise of authoritarian regimes).
 - Modern democratic societies question: Risks of authoritarianism, Balance between efficiency and rights
 - **Socialist framework**
 - Social ownership of production and distribution.
 - Scientific and industrial development.
 - Equality and social justice as core principles.
 - Dynamic, evolving doctrine not rigid or dogmatic.
 - **Vision of Freedom**
 - Freedom = holistic liberation, not just political:
 - Social equality, Gender equality, Economic justice
 - **End of caste discrimination and communalism**
 - **Economic and Political Blueprint**
 - Strong advocate of industrialisation and scientific planning.
 - Opposed purely agrarian models (contrast with Mahatma Gandhi).
 - **Proposed:** State control of key industries, Elimination of poverty through planned economy
 - **Equality in Action: Policies and Praxis**
 - Samyavada as Social Experiment
 - Subhas Chandra Bose treated India as a laboratory for Samyavada (synthesis of equality and socialism).
 - Emphasised secular, scientific training to eliminate caste, communalism, and gender inequality.
- Early Socialist Programme (1931)**
- At the All-India Naujawan Bharat Sabha, proposed Abolition of caste system, Removal of superstition and Organisation of peasants, workers, and women on socialist lines
 - Military Reforms in INA
 - Abolished caste/ethnic-based “class companies” used by British.
 - Promoted unity across religions and communities in the Indian National Army.
- National Unity in Practice**
- Advocated Hindu-Muslim-Sikh unity as brothers-in-arms.
 - Promoted inclusive slogans like “Jai Hind” over divisive symbols.
 - Used a Hindustani version of Jana Gana Mana as INA anthem.
- Equality in Governance**
- Provisional Government of Azad Hind guaranteed: Religious liberty, Equal rights and opportunities and National unity beyond colonial divisions
- Women’s Empowerment**
- Recognised active role of women in freedom struggle.
 - Established Rani of Jhansi Regiment.
 - Called for mass participation of women in nation-building.

Workers' Rights and Socialism

- Advocated: Right to work, Right to a living wage
- Positioned himself between: Soviet-style communism, Moderate reformism
- Supported indigenous socialism tailored to India.

Equality in Daily Life

- INA soldiers practiced social equality (shared food, no caste barriers).
- Reflected real-world implementation of egalitarian ideals.

Pragmatism: Dealing with the Axis Powers

- Strategic, Not Ideological Alliance
 - Bose's alignment with Axis powers was purely pragmatic ("enemy of my enemy").
 - Goal: India's independence, not ideological support for Fascism.
 - Balanced View on Japan
 - Admired Japan's challenge to Western dominance.
 - Criticised its imperialism in China.
 - Criticism of Nazi Ideology
 - Rejected Adolf Hitler's racial theories as unscientific and historically false.
 - Opposed racial supremacy and domination.
 - Independent Political Position
 - Refused subservience to Axis powers.
 - Prioritised India's dignity and interests above all.
- Part XVI. Article 330 - Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People
 - Part XVI. Article 332 - Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

India's Diverse New Year Celebrations

- Poila Boishakh or Nobo Borsho: This is celebrated as the Bengali New Year in West Bengal.
- Vishu: In Kerala, this is celebrated to mark the Spring Equinox.
- Bohag Bihu: In the state of Assam, this is celebrated as both a harvest festival and the New Year.
- Puthandu: This is celebrated as the Tamil New Year in Tamil Nadu.
- Vaisakha: In the state of Bihar, this is celebrated to honor the Sun God, Surya.

El Nino and La Nina

- El Nino is a climate phenomenon marked by an abnormal warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- During this phase, sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific increase, while the trade winds blowing east to west near the Equator become weaker.
- In contrast, La Nina, the cooler phase of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, is characterised by below-average sea surface temperatures in the same region.
- During La Nina, trade winds strengthen, pushing warm ocean waters toward Asia.
- For India, El Nino is generally associated with reduced rainfall and higher temperatures, whereas La Nina tends to enhance monsoon rainfall, especially over north western India and regions like Bangladesh.

