

November 2025 MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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POLITY GOVERNANCE

1 53RD CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

Why in the news?

Justice Surya Kant received his oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI) on November 24, 2025, with the ceremony conducted by the President of India.

Constitutional Provisions

Appointment of CJI Judges

- **Article 124(1):** Lays down the framework for establishing and structuring the Supreme Court (SC) of India.
- **Article 124(2):** The President appoints the CJI and fellow SC judges through official warrants bearing his signature and seal.

Consultation

- **For CJI:** The President seeks input from specific SC and High Court judges at his discretion.
- **For Other Judges:** Consultation with the CJI becomes compulsory.

Seniority Convention

The tradition dictates appointing the senior-most Supreme Court judge deemed suitable for the position, following the established Memorandum of Procedure for SC judge appointments.

Qualifications Tenure

Article 124 Eligibility Article 124(3)

1. Must hold Indian citizenship.
2. Either served as a High Court judge for at least 5 years, practised as a High Court advocate for 10 years, or was recognised by the President as a distinguished jurist.

Note: This distinguished jurist provision exclusively applies to SC appointments, not High Courts, and remains unutilized to date.

Tenure

Judges continue in office until reaching 65 years of age. Resignation must be submitted in writing directly to the President.

Ban on Practice Art 124(7)

Post-retirement, no SC judge may appear, plead, or represent cases before any Indian court or authority.

Key Roles of CJI

- **Master of the Roster:** Holds sole authority to form benches and distribute cases among them.
- **Administrative Head:** Oversees all operational and managerial functions of the Supreme Court.

2 16TH PRESIDENTIAL REFERENCE

Why in the news?

A Constitution Bench comprising five judges issued its advisory opinion on the 16th Presidential Reference under Article 143. The bench ruled that judicial intervention cannot enforce fixed timelines on the President or Governors for providing assent to legislative bills as outlined in Articles 200 and 201.

Power of the President to consult the Supreme Court

Article 143(1)

Whenever a question of law or fact emerges—or seems likely to emerge—that carries such public significance, making it advisable, the President may seek the Supreme Court's opinion. The Court conducts necessary hearings and submits its advisory report to the President.

Governors' Powers Article 200

Upon receiving a bill passed by the State Legislature, Governors possess four possible courses of action:

1. **Grant Assent:** The legislation transforms into an enforceable Act.
2. **Withhold Assent**
 - **Effect:** The bill terminates and fails to become law.
 - **Clarification:** Rulings from the State of Punjab (2023) and this 2025 decision mandate that Governors cannot indefinitely delay non-Money Bills; withholding assent requires returning the bill for legislative reconsideration.
3. **Return the Bill**
 - **Condition:** Permissible solely for non-Money Bills. Upon re-passage by the Legislature (with or without modifications), the Governor becomes obligated to assent—exercising a suspensive veto power.
4. **Reserve for President**
 - **Mandatory Reservation:** Applies if the bill potentially undermines the State High Court's authority.
 - **Discretionary Reservation:** Triggered when the bill conflicts with the Constitution, Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), or broader national interests.

Presidents' Powers Article 201

For bills reserved by the Governors, the President holds three alternatives:

1. **Grant Assent:** Converts the bill into an Act.
2. **Withhold Assent:** Permanently kills the bill—absolute veto authority.
3. **Return for Reconsideration:** Instructs the Governor to send the bill back to the legislative House, which must review it within six months.
 - **Crucial Difference:** Even if repassed, the President retains discretion and faces no compulsion to assent, unlike Governors.

Key Highlights of the Judgment

- **Separation of Powers:** Imposing strict deadlines equates to courts encroaching on executive constitutional domains; judges lack the authority to amend the Constitution by inserting absent time limits.
- **Deemed Assent Rejected:** Automatic passage assumption from prolonged gubernatorial delay contradicts constitutional design; assent demands deliberate, explicit action.
- **Presidents' Discretion:** No obligation exists for Presidents to routinely consult the Supreme Court under Article 143 for Governor-reserved bills; personal subjective assessment suffices.
- **Limited Judicial Review**
 - **General Rule:** Courts refrain from probing substantive reasons behind withheld or reserved assents.
 - **Exception:** Intervention permissible only for blatant, extended, unjustified inaction evidencing malafide purpose.
 - **Remedy:** Courts issue narrowly tailored mandamus urging a decision, without prescribing specific results.

3 TRIBUNALS REFORMS ACT, 2021

Why in the news?

The Supreme Court invalidated particular clauses within the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, noting their replication of provisions from the Tribunals Reforms Ordinance, 2021—previously deemed unconstitutional in the Madras Bar Association case (2021).

Key Provisions Struck Down

The Court relied on judicial independence—a core basic structure element—to nullify these elements.

Provision in the Act	Status	SC Ruling Direction
Minimum Age	Struck Down	The Act's 50-year minimum for tribunal appointments breaches Article 14 (equality) by unjustly sidelining capable younger advocates.
Tenure	Struck Down	Act's 4-year limit overturned; 5-year term reinstated to guarantee service stability and judicial autonomy.
Search-cum-Selection Committee (SCSC)	Modified	The Executive cannot dominate SCSC composition, given frequent government appearances as tribunal litigants; CJI's advice holds decisive weight.

National Tribunals Commission (NTC) Directive

The Supreme Court renewed its mandate for the central government to create an NTC.

- **Purpose:** Independent central entity overseeing tribunal appointments, operations, and administration.
- **Current Status:** Tribunals currently fall under diverse ministries (e.g., NGT under Environment Ministry, ITAT under Law/Finance), eroding autonomy; NTC seeks to eliminate this executive oversight.

Constitutional Provisions for Tribunals

Insertion: Introduced via the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 (Part XIV-A), based on the Swaran Singh Committee suggestions.

Subject Matter

- **Article 323A:** Exclusively governs Administrative Tribunals, addressing public servant recruitment and service disputes (government employees).
- **Article 323B:** Covers Tribunals for diverse matters, including taxation, foreign exchange, industrial labour disputes, land reforms, urban property ceilings, parliamentary/state election disputes, rent/tenancy rights, and foodstuffs.

Authority to Establish

- **Article 323A:** Parliament holds sole authority; State Legislatures are powerless.
- **Article 323B:** Both Parliament and State Legislatures are empowered, aligned with the subject legislative jurisdiction.

Hierarchy Structure

- **Article 323A:** Envisions a single Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) plus State Administrative Tribunals (SATs); no hierarchical layers permitted.
- **Article 323B:** Allows multi-tier structures (e.g., initial tribunals plus appellate bodies for identical subjects).

4 LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987

Why in the news?

November 9, 2025, commemorated the 30th anniversary of operationalising the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Constitutional Basis

Article 39A (Inserted by 42nd Amendment, 1976): Mandates State provision of free legal assistance, preventing denial of justice opportunities due to economic or similar hurdles.

Hierarchy of Legal Services Authorities

Administrative Bodies

These entities formulate policies, allocate funds, and coordinate Lok Adalats across levels.

- **National Level**
 - **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**
 - **Patron-in-Chief:** Chief Justice of India.
 - **Executive Chairman:** Serving or retired Supreme Court Judge.

- **Appointment:** The President nominates after consulting the Chief Justice of India.
- **State Level**
 - **State Legal Services Authority (SLSA)**
 - **Patron-in-Chief:** Chief Justice of the High Court.
 - **Executive Chairman:** Serving or retired High Court Judge.
 - **Appointment:** The Governor nominates post-consultation with the High Court Chief Justice.
- **District Level**
 - **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)**
 - **Chairman:** District Judge (ex-officio).
- **Taluk Level**
 - **Chairman:** Senior-most Civil Judge in the Taluk (ex-officio).

Court-Specific Committees (Implementation Bodies)

Beyond administrative authorities, the Act establishes:

- Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC)
- High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC)
- Taluk Legal Services Committee (TLSC)

Key Distinction: Authorities vs. Committees

- **Authorities (NALSA/SLSA/DLSA):** Primarily handle policymaking and fund disbursement, determining legal aid modalities and channelling resources downward.
- **Committees (SCLSC/HCLSC/TLSC):** Focus on execution, assigning lawyers to indigent litigants.

Eligibility for Free Legal Services

- Women and Children (income irrelevant).
- SC/ST Members (income irrelevant).
- Industrial Workmen.
- Victims of trafficking, begar, or mass disasters; ethnic violence; caste atrocities; floods; droughts; earthquakes; industrial disasters.
- Persons with disabilities (blindness, leprosy, hearing impairment, etc.).
- Persons in Custody (including juvenile homes, psychiatric hospitals).

Income Criteria

- Supreme Court Cases: Annual income below 5 Lakh.
- Other Courts: State Governments determine limits (typically 1 Lakh to 3 Lakh range).

Note: Senior Citizens' eligibility follows State-specific rules, not automatic under central legislation.

Other Key Initiatives

- **LADCS (Legal Aid Defence Counsel System):** NALSA initiative mirroring the public defender model for criminal case free assistance.

- **DISHA Scheme** (Ministry of Law & Justice): Umbrella covering
 - Tele-Law: Legal consultations via video conferencing.
 - Nyaya Bandhu: Pro-bono legal service facilitation.

5 DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION DPDP RULES, 2025

Why in the news?

The Union Government formally announced the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025, on November 14, 2025, following broad national consultations. Effective from January 2026, these rules comprehensively activate the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

Core Principles of the DPDP Act

Built on the SARAL framework (Simple, Accessible, Rational, Actionable), anchored by seven foundational tenets:

1. Consent and Transparency.
2. Purpose Limitation (confine data use to declared objectives).
3. Data Minimisation (gather only essential information).
4. Accuracy.
5. Storage Limitation (erase upon purpose fulfilment).
6. Security Safeguards.
7. Accountability.

Key Terms: Provisions of the Act and Rules

- **Data Fiduciary (Companies)**: Determines objectives and methods for handling personal data.
- **Data Processor**: Processes personal data following Data Fiduciary instructions.
- **Data Principal (Users)**: The individual whose data concerns apply, encompassing child parents/guardians or lawful representatives for incapacity cases.

Rights of Data Principals (Users) ESTD 2022

- **Informed Consent**: Clear, knowledgeable approval is required before data gathering.
- **Access Correction**: Entitlement to view, amend, refresh, or seek deletion of personal data.
- **Right to Nominate**: Users designate successors to invoke rights posthumously.
- **Grievance**: Fiduciaries resolve user complaints within a maximum of 90 days.

Obligations of Data Fiduciaries (Companies)

- **Data Security**: Deploy appropriate protections against breaches.
- **Breach Notification**: Promptly alert the Data Protection Board and impacted individuals in straightforward language.

- **Consent Manager Framework:** Establishes mechanisms enabling users to oversee the consents platform-wide; operators must register as India-based entities.
- **Obligations for Significant Data Fiduciaries:** Enhanced requirements, including Data Protection Officer appointment, external audits, Data Protection Impact Assessments, plus adherence to government mandates on restricted data categories (potentially mandating localisation).

Protection for Children

Verifiable parental consent is mandatory for child data processing. Exceptions apply to critical services: healthcare, schooling, and immediate safety interventions.

Protection for Persons with Disabilities

A lawful guardian provides consent where the individual lacks capacity.

New Bodies and Enforcement

- **Data Protection Board of India (DPBI):** Primary digital adjudicator with four members; processes complaints through a web portal and app.
- **Appellate Tribunal:** Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) reviews Board orders.
- **Phased Implementation:** 18-month transition enabling organisational adjustments.
- **Penalties:** The Act prescribes substantial monetary fines for violations.

6 CONSTITUTION OF THE 8TH CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION

Why in the news?

The Central Government established the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC).

Chairperson: Retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.

About Pay Commissions

Non-statutory entities formed through the Government of India Cabinet resolutions/executive orders.

- **Frequency:** Typically constituted every decade.
- **First CPC:** Originated in 1946 under the Interim Government.

Mandate

Examine structures for salaries, retirement benefits, and service terms applicable to:

- Central Government employees.
- Defence personnel.

Implementation

Recommendations advisory only; government selectively implements, modifies, or discards. State governments generally adopt post-central action.

Terms of Reference (ToR) for 8th CPC

- **Fiscal Prudence:** Account for the prevailing economic scenario and imperatives of budgetary discipline.
- **Pension Reform:** Evaluate non-contributory schemes vis-à-vis Old Pension Scheme demands, quantifying unfunded obligations and fiscal impact.
- **Comparison:** Benchmark public sector remuneration against the private sector to enhance talent attraction.
- **Timeline:** Deliver report within 18 months.

ECONOMY

7 URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

Why in the news?

The Government pledges to broaden the urban cooperative credit network, committing to establish an Urban Cooperative Bank in every city exceeding 2 lakh population within the coming five years.

About Urban Cooperative Banks

UCBs represent a vital component of the cooperative banking framework, mainly serving urban and semi-urban communities. Registered as cooperative societies under the relevant State Cooperative Societies Acts for a single-state scope or the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 for broader operations. They function under dual regulation: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) supervises banking functions per the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (2020 amendments enhanced RBI's oversight and governance authority); Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) of the relevant State or Central Government manages administrative and directorial elements.

Significance of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)

- **Financial Inclusion:** Crucial in delivering credit to small-scale borrowers, low-income families, and neglected urban segments.
- **Community-Centric Operations:** Proximity to localities allows a deeper grasp of local requirements, enabling bespoke financial offerings.
- **Priority Sector Commitment:** Obligated to direct 60% of total loans toward Priority Sector Lending (PSL).

8 ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT FUND

Why in the news?

Having channelled ₹257.77 crore, the fund has nurtured 128 startups across the nation.

About

The Government of India initiated the Electronics Development Fund (EDF) on February 15,

2016. Operating under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), it drives research, innovation, and enterprise in electronics, nano-electronics, and information technology domains.

Objectives

- **Promote Innovation and R&D:** Stimulates industry-guided research and creativity in electronics, nano-electronics, and IT.
- **Support Daughter Funds:** Channels investments into venture and angel funds backing technology startups.
- **Encourage Product and Technology Development:** Backs enterprises crafting novel products, methodologies, and technologies domestically.
- **Strengthen Domestic Design Capabilities:** Bolsters India's homegrown prowess in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM).
- **Build a National IP Resource Pool:** Amplifies India's intellectual property reserves in pivotal tech fields.
- **Facilitate Strategic Acquisitions:** Aids procurement of essential overseas technologies to curb import reliance and foster self-sufficiency.

9 EXPORT PROMOTION MISSION

Why in the news?

Facing escalating pressures on Indian exports to the U.S. due to 50% tariffs, the Union Cabinet sanctioned a six-year Export Promotion Mission backed by ₹25,060 crore allocation.

About

Introduced in the Union Budget 2025-26, the six-year Export Promotion Mission (EPM) fortifies India's export infrastructure. It enhances export credit availability, aids MSMEs in fulfilling non-tariff standards, and introduces cross-border factoring options. Jointly directed by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the MSME Ministry, and the Ministry of Finance; Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) serves as the nodal executor. Entire processes—approvals, applications, disbursements—operate via an integrated digital platform linked to prevailing trade systems. Priority aid targets tariff-impacted sectors: textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, marine products.

Key Components

- **Niryat Protsahan (Financial Support):** Enhances MSME access to cost-effective trade financing via instruments like interest subvention, export factoring, collateral guarantees, e-commerce exporter credit cards, and credit boosts for novel market entries.

- **Niryat Disha (Non-Financial Support):** Delivers non-monetary boosters for market preparedness and edge, encompassing export quality/compliance aid, global branding/packaging support, trade fair involvement, export warehousing/logistics/inland freight refunds, trade intelligence, and skill enhancement programs.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced, economical trade finance reach for MSMEs.
- Superior capacity for international regulatory adherence.
- Broader market penetration and export variety.
- Reinforced outflows from emerging districts.
- Boosted job creation in manufacturing, logistics, and related areas.

10 LABOUR CODES

Why in the news?

The Union Government notified the four Labour Codes enacted by Parliament in 2020, operationalising them fully.

About

The quartet of new Labour Codes merges 29 prior central labour enactments into a cohesive system, streamlining labour administration for uniformity, equity, and efficiency.

Objectives Behind Overhauling Labour Laws

- Draw investments and spur industrial expansion.
- Protect current employment while generating fresh opportunities.
- Heighten process transparency.
- Elevate state fiscal inflows.
Optimise the business environment for investors.

Code on Wages

- **Universal Minimum Wages:** Secures legal minimum pay across organised and unorganised sectors.

- **Floor Wage Provision:** Central government fixes baseline wage rooted in minimal living norms, permitting regional adjustments; states barred from dipping below.
- **Gender Equality:** Prohibits pay/working condition discrimination based on gender (encompassing transgender) for equivalent roles.
- **Overtime Pay:** Excess hours compensated at minimum double the ordinary rate.

Industrial Relations Code

- **Fixed Term Employment (FTE):** Permits straightforward fixed-duration recruitment with proportional wages/benefits, gratuity eligibility after one year.
- **Trade Union Recognition:** A union securing 51% support becomes a Negotiating Union; otherwise, a council forms from $\geq 20\%$ unions.
- **Women's Representation:** Requires proportionate female inclusion on grievance redressal panels for sensitive handling.
- **Work-from-Home:** Authorised in service industries via mutual consent.

Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code

- **Unified Registration:** Standard 10-employee cutoff for digital enrollment; single form supplants six earlier ones, fostering a central repository and business ease.
- **Extension to Hazardous Work:** Applicable to any single-employee unit if activities pose life/health risks.
- **Health and Formalisation:** Mandatory free yearly medical examinations for workers.

Code on Social Security

- **Expanded ESIC Coverage** (Employee State Insurance Corporation): Nationwide applicability, eliminating area notifications; < 10 worker units voluntary (consent-based), compulsory for hazards/plantations.
- **Gig and Platform Worker Inclusion:** Fresh definitions for aggregator/gig/platform workers enable security nets; aggregators contribute 1-2% annual turnover (capped at 5% worker payments).
- **Commuting Accident Coverage:** Home-workplace travel mishaps qualify as employment injuries for claims.

- **Gratuity for Fixed-Term Workers:** Eligible post-one continuous year, replacing the prior five-year threshold.

11 UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME UBI

Why in the news?

Universal Basic Income (UBI) resurfaces as a viable mechanism for foundational income assurance and disparity mitigation.

About

UBI proposal gains momentum in India amid widening income chasms, automation-induced job erosion, and welfare delivery shortcomings.

What is UBI?

Universal Basic Income constitutes a regime where the government disburses regular, no-strings-attached cash payments to every citizen, bypassing income or employment criteria. Core aims: poverty eradication, inequality compression, and economic stability amid technological job upheavals.

12 MULE ACCOUNTS

Why in the news?

Hyderabad police detained an eight-person syndicate, including a private bank staffer, for generating 120+ mule accounts supplied to out-of-state cyber scammers.

About Mule Accounts

Mule accounts comprise bank accounts exploited by offenders to park, route, or cleanse illicit funds, frequently unbeknownst to holders. These obscure fraudster identities and fund origins. Money mules facilitate the movement of crime-derived cash for others. Prevalent tactics: fake loan app deposits, OTP swindles, bogus job cons, multi-account layering to dodge traces.

Government Measures Key Features

- **RBI MuleHunter.AI:** Artificial intelligence platform for instantaneous mule account identification and surveillance.
- **I4C Suspect Registry:** Monitors mules; 24.67 lakh Layer-1 accounts marked, ₹8,031 crore suspect flows halted.
- **Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS):** National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) with 1930 helpline facilitates swift fraud alerts; ₹7,130 crore recovered from 23.02 lakh reports.
- **Operation Chakra-V:** Joint CBI-led offensive against cyber fraud syndicates.

Significance

Prevents monetary erosion and laundering. Fortifies synergies among banks, telecoms, IT platforms, and enforcement. Elevates tracking, legal pursuits, and proactive cyber defences.

13 IMF FLAGS GAPS IN INDIA'S GDP ESTIMATION

Why in the news?

IMF spotlighted deficiencies in India's national accounts and inflation metrics for inadequately reflecting core economy facets, notably informal operations and evolving household consumption trends, questioning GDP/price data modernity and precision.

About

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) assigned India's National Accounts Statistics (NAS) a C grade in yearly data evaluation (overall B rating), flagging GDP/GVA/consumption/savings/investment metric methodologies. Assessment targets statistical approaches, not growth performance.

What the IMF C Grade Means

IMF employs A/B/C/D spectrum:

- A: Thoroughly dependable and exhaustive.
- B: Solid with minor constraints.
- C: Numerous flaws impeding reliability.
- D: Severe lapses.

Key Issues Highlighted by the IMF

1. **Outdated Base Year:** 2011-12 GDP/CPI anchored to obsolete consumption/production profiles, overlooking the digital economy, platform services, and contemporary spending.
2. **Inadequate Deflators:** WPI reliance over comprehensive Producer Price Index (PPI) skews real GDP, especially services.
3. **Production/Expenditure Discrepancies:** Notable variances between production- and expenditure-based GDP computations.
4. **Limited Seasonal Adjustment:** Quarterly GDP lacks strong seasonal corrections, complicating trend/policy insights.
5. **Need for Better Statistical Techniques:** Lacking sectoral detail; antiquated models; improved Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)/quarterly coverage essential.

GEOGRAPHY

14 MEKEDATU RESERVOIR

Why in the news?

The Supreme Court dismissed Tamil Nadu's challenge against the Mekedatu dam Detailed Project Report (DPR), deeming objections premature pending final determination by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

About

A multi-purpose initiative (drinking water + power generation) proposed by the Karnataka government.

Location of the dam

Positioned at the junction where the Cauvery River merges with its tributary Arkavathi. Situated near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district, Karnataka, approximately 90 km from Bengaluru and merely 4 km from the Tamil Nadu boundary.

Key Specifications

Structure: 99-meter-high, 735-meter-long concrete gravity dam.

Storage Capacity: 67.16 TMC (Thousand Million Cubic feet).

Power Generation: Features an underground powerhouse generating 400 MW capacity.

Objectives

- **Drinking Water:** Annual supply of 4.75 TMC to Bengaluru city and adjacent regions fulfilling potable requirements.
- **Balancing Reservoir:** Captures excess monsoon flows presently wasted into the sea, enabling Karnataka to manage downstream releases to Tamil Nadu during scarcity periods.

CAUVERY WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Statutory-regulatory entity constituted by the Government of India in 2018 for equitable allocation and oversight of the Cauvery basin water among riparian states: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry. Established pursuant to the Interstate River Water Disputes Act of 1956.

15 CORONAL MASS EJECTION

Why in the news?

Astronomers detected stellar storm activity on a distant star for the first time. A star situated roughly 130 light-years distant ejected an enormous electrically charged gas cloud, verifying Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) manifest on other stars, akin to solar occurrences.

About CMEs

Definition

Massive eruptions of magnetised plasma alongside magnetic flux expelled from the Sun's corona (outermost atmospheric layer) into the heliosphere.

Composition

Distinct from continuous background Solar Wind, CME constitutes discrete explosive clouds comprising electrons, protons, and heavier ions.

Formation Mechanism

Magnetic Reconnection

Typically arise from active regions (sunspots) featuring twisted, entangled solar magnetic field lines. Line breakage and reconfiguration unleash tremendous energy, propelling plasma outwards.

Association with Flares

Frequently coincide with Solar Flares (intense luminosity bursts) yet remain separate phenomena.

Key Characteristics

Speed

Propagate outward at velocities spanning below 250 km/s to a maximum of 3,000 km/s.

Transit Time

Swiftest Earth-bound CMEs arrive within 15-18 hours; slower variants require several days.

Expansion

Enlarge substantially during solar departure; large CMEs reaching Earth span nearly a quarter of the distance between Earth and the Sun.

Solar Cycle

Peak frequency during Solar Maximum phase of Sun's 11-year cycle (presently Cycle 25)—period of maximal stellar activity.

Impact on Earth

Space Weather

Earth-directed CMEs trigger magnetosphere interactions yielding Geomagnetic Storms with consequences including:

- **Grid Failure:** Power network disruptions (e.g., 1989 Quebec Blackout).
- **Satellite Drag:** Upper atmosphere expansion heightens drag on Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites.
- **Communication Blackouts:** Interferes with radio and GPS transmissions.
- **Auroras:** Brilliant Northern/Southern Lights visible at unusually low latitudes.

Note: Solar flare represents a light burst (minutes to Earth arrival), whereas CME involves a material cloud (hours-days transit).

16 LANDSLIDES

Why in the news?

Indonesia escalated rescue operations following flash floods and landslides in Sumatra, claiming at least 49 lives during late November 2025, toll climbing as additional zones were accessed.

About

Landslide denotes abrupt, swift downslope movement of rock masses, soil, or debris propelled by gravitational forces. Commonly activated by heavy precipitation, seismic events, snow melting, and anthropogenic interventions like excavation and road construction.

Vulnerable areas in India

Landslides pose a major hazard covering a minimum 15% India's landmass (approximately 0.49 million sq km).

High-Risk Zones

- Himalayas
- Arakan-Yoma belt (North-East)
- Meghalaya Plateau
- Western Ghats
- Nilgiri Hills

17 SINTERED RARE EARTH PERMANENT MAGNETS REPM

Why in the news?

Union Cabinet cleared a ₹7,280 Crore scheme promoting the indigenous manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) within India.

About

High-performance permanent magnets fabricated by powder metallurgy: compressing rare-earth alloy powders followed by sintering (heating below the melting threshold).

Composition

Primarily derived from alloys of:

- **Neodymium-Iron-Boron (NdFeB):** Renowned for supreme magnetic potency.
- **Samarium-Cobalt (SmCo):** Distinguished by thermal stability endurance.

Key Elements

Dependent upon strategic minerals: Neodymium (Nd), Praseodymium (Pr), Dysprosium (Dy).

Significance of the Scheme

Strategic Autonomy

Presently, India's REPM requirements are heavily import-reliant; the scheme targets self-sufficiency vital for electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, and defence applications.

ENVIRONMENT

18) Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)

Why in the news?

The Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) was formally unveiled during **COP30**, held in **Belém, Brazil**, on **6 November 2025**. At the time of its launch, **53 nations** collectively supported and endorsed the **TFFF Launch Declaration**.

About

- The **Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)** is an international financial mechanism created to provide sustained rewards to tropical nations that successfully conserve and protect their forest ecosystems.
- It aims to mobilise financing up to **USD 125 billion** by blending **public (sovereign)** resources with **private capital**.
- Countries receive **annual payments** based on independently verified outcomes related to forest conservation performance.

Objectives

- To create strong financial incentives for countries to preserve tropical forests rather than convert them for economic activities.
- To ensure **stable, long-term, and predictable funding** for forest protection initiatives.
- To place leadership from the **Global South** at the core of a new global forest governance framework.
- To reinforce international efforts to combat **deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and climate change**.

Key Features

- **Performance-based disbursement:** Financial rewards are linked to measurable outcomes such as maintaining or expanding forest cover.
- **Fund composition:** Approximately **USD 25 billion** from public sources and **USD 100 billion** from private investors.
- **Inclusive approach:** A minimum of **20% of the total funds** is earmarked for **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)**.

- **Environmental safeguards:** Investments are strictly prohibited in activities related to **coal, oil, gas**, or deforestation-linked sectors.
- **Large-scale coverage:** Capable of supporting conservation across **over one billion hectares** in **more than 70 tropical countries**.

Institutional Arrangements

- The **World Bank** serves as the **trustee and interim host** of the facility.
- The **Tropical Forest Investment Fund (TFIF)** functions as the implementing arm for investment operations.
- Forest monitoring and verification rely on **transparent satellite-based remote sensing systems**.

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19) Gogabeel Lake

Why in the news?

In **November 2025**, **Gogabeel Lake** was designated as a **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance**, becoming **India's 94th Ramsar Site**. With this recognition, **Bihar** now hosts **six Ramsar-listed wetlands**.

About

- Gogabeel Lake is a **natural ox-bow wetland** located in the **Katihar district, Bihar**.
- It lies between the **Ganga (Ganges)** and **Mahananda rivers**, and during periods of flooding, the lake serves as a hydrological connector between the two rivers.
- The wetland covers an area of approximately **86.6 hectares**.
- Earlier, it had been notified as both a **Community Reserve** and a **Conservation Reserve**, making it **Bihar's first community-managed wetland reserve**.

Ecological Importance

- Acts as a crucial habitat for **migratory birds** along the **Central Asian Flyway**.
- Supports rich **fish diversity**, aquatic vegetation, and overall wetland biodiversity.
- Plays a key role in **flood moderation** and contributes to **groundwater recharge** in the surrounding region.

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20) Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in the news?

Following the **2025 bird census**, which recorded exceptionally high waterbird populations, conservation groups and researchers urged the government to grant **Ramsar Site status** to the **Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex**. The findings highlighted the area's ecological value and the need for enhanced protection.

About

Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex

- A naturally formed **floodplain wetland system** situated within **Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary**, Assam.
- Comprises two major wetlands, namely **Rowmari Beel** and **Donduwa Beel**.

Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary

- Located in **Nagaon district, Assam**, the sanctuary forms an integral part of the **Laokhowa–Burhachapori ecosystem** along the floodplains of the **Brahmaputra River**.

Key Features

- **Area:** 70.13 sq. km
- **Location:** On the banks of the Brahmaputra River, roughly **25 km from Nagaon town**
- **Landscape composition includes:**
 - Alluvial grasslands
 - Wetlands and marshes
 - Riverine forests
 - Seasonally flooded plains

Biodiversity

Flagship species include:

- Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros (reintroduction efforts underway)
- Royal Bengal Tiger
- Leopard
- Wild Buffalo
- Hog Deer
- Barking Deer

Beel

A “**beel**” refers to a **static, lake-like wetland**, commonly formed as an ox-bow lake or abandoned river meander, found extensively in the floodplains of **Assam, West Bengal, and Bangladesh**.

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21) Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in the news?

The **Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary** has been officially approved as the **third cheetah**

habitat in **Madhya Pradesh**, after **Kuno National Park** and **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary**. Cheetahs sourced from **Namibia** are proposed to be released here under **Project Cheetah**.

About

Project Cheetah

The Government of India initiated **Project Cheetah** to reintroduce the cheetah, which became extinct in independent India, by translocating individuals from **Namibia and South Africa**.

Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary

- Located in **Madhya Pradesh**, covering nearly **1,197 sq km**, making it one of the largest wildlife sanctuaries in the state.
- The landscape comprises **dry deciduous forests, grasslands, scrublands, and riverine ecosystems**.
- Acts as an important **wildlife corridor** linking the **Panna and Satpura Tiger Reserves**.
- The sanctuary spans two major river basins:
 - Nearly **three-fourths** lies in the **Yamuna (Ganga) basin**
 - About **one-fourth** falls within the **Narmada basin**
- Rivers such as the **Kopra, Bamner, and Bearma** flow through the sanctuary, enhancing its ecological viability.

Biodiversity

- **Herbivores:** Nilgai, chinkara, spotted deer, sambar, blackbuck, chousingha
 - **Carnivores:** Tiger, leopard, sloth bear, Indian wolf, dhole, hyena, jackal, fox
 - **Reptiles & Aquatic fauna:** Monitor lizards, turtles, freshwater crocodiles, snakes
 - **Avifauna:** Nearly **175 bird species**, including both resident and migratory birds
 - **Invertebrates:** At least **62 species of butterflies**, indicating healthy grassland and wetland-stream ecosystems.
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22) GRAP III to Tackle Air Pollution in Delhi

Why in the news?

In **mid-November 2025**, air quality in the **Delhi–NCR** region deteriorated sharply, with the **average AQI rising to around 425**. This led to the enforcement of **GRAP Stage III**, categorised as “**Severe**”, by the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)**.

About

- The **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** is a pre-defined emergency framework aimed at controlling air pollution in **Delhi–NCR** through progressively stricter interventions as air quality worsens.
- It was introduced in **2017** following directions from the **Supreme Court of India**.

- Implementation is overseen by the **CAQM**.

GRAP Stages Based on AQI Levels

- **Stage I – Poor:** AQI 201–300
- **Stage II – Very Poor:** AQI 301–400
- **Stage III – Severe:** AQI 401–450
- **Stage IV – Severe+:** AQI above 450

Measures under GRAP Stage III

- Prohibition of **non-essential construction and demolition activities**.
 - Closure of **stone crushers** and suspension of **dust-generating industrial operations**, among other stringent restrictions.
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23) Kovalam Beach – Blue Flag Certification

Why in the news?

Kovalam Beach received the **International Blue Flag certification** for the **fifth consecutive year (2025–26)**. This recognition confirms sustained compliance with international benchmarks related to environmental quality and sustainable tourism.

About

- The **Blue Flag** is a globally recognised **eco-label** awarded by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark**.
- It is granted to beaches, marinas, and tourism destinations that meet high standards of **cleanliness, safety, infrastructure, environmental management, and sustainability**.

Certification Criteria

- To qualify, a beach must fulfil **33 rigorous criteria**, covering aspects such as:
 - Water quality
 - Environmental education and information
 - Waste management
 - Safety measures (lifeguards, first aid)
 - Accessibility
 - Environmental management systems
 - Infrastructure quality
 - Cleanliness and sustainable tourism practices

Certification Process

- The Blue Flag is awarded following detailed inspections.
- Certification must be **renewed annually**, ensuring continuous compliance rather than one-time recognition.

- Kovalam became **Tamil Nadu's first Blue Flag beach**, initially receiving the certification in **September 2021**.

Other Blue Flag Certified Beaches in India

- **Gujarat:** Shivrajpur (Dwarka)
- **Diu:** Ghoghla
- **Karnataka:** Kasarkod, Padubidri (Udupi)
- **Kerala:** Kappad (Kozhikode)
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Rushikonda (Visakhapatnam)
- **Odisha:** Golden Beach (Puri)
- **Andaman & Nicobar Islands:** Radhanagar (Havelock)
- **Tamil Nadu:** Kovalam (Chennai)
- **Puducherry:** Eden Beach
- **Lakshadweep:** Minicoy Thundi, Kadmat
- **Maharashtra (New additions):** Shrivardhan, Nagaon, Parnaka, Guhagar, Ladghar

SPECIES IN NEWS

24) Corpse Plant

Why in the news?

A rare blooming event of the **Corpse Plant** was recently reported from the **rainforests of Sumatra**, drawing global attention due to its unusual biological characteristics.

About

- **Scientific name:** *Amorphophallus titanum*
- **Family:** Araceae (Arum family)
- **Native range:** Endemic to the **Sumatran rainforest** in Indonesia
- **IUCN Conservation Status:** Endangered
- The species is renowned for producing the **largest unbranched inflorescence** found anywhere in the plant kingdom.
- During flowering, it emits an intense odour similar to **decaying flesh**, which attracts carrion-feeding insects such as **flesh flies and beetles**, aiding pollination.

Distinctive Features

Corpse-like Odour

- The foul smell arises from the release of chemicals such as **putrescine** and **cadaverine**, compounds typically associated with decomposing organic matter.

Heat Generation (Thermogenesis)

- The inflorescence can warm up to **human body temperature**, enabling the smell to disperse over greater distances and improve pollinator attraction.

Rare and Short-lived Blooming

- Flowering usually occurs **once every 4 to 10 years**.
- Each bloom lasts for only **24 to 48 hours**, making sightings extremely rare.

Inflorescence Structure

- The Corpse Plant does not produce a single flower; instead, it bears an **inflorescence**, consisting of numerous tiny flowers arranged around a central structure known as the **spadix**.

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AGRICULTURE

25) Draft Seeds Bill, 2025

Why in the news?

The **Union Ministry of Agriculture** released the **Draft Seeds Bill, 2025**, for public consultation, inviting feedback until **11 December 2025**. The Bill aims to modernise India's seed regulatory framework and address emerging challenges linked to biotechnology, hybrid seeds, and the expanding seed industry.

About

- India's seed sector has undergone substantial transformation since the **1960s**, driven by technological advancements and private sector participation.
- During **2023–24**, seed availability surpassed domestic demand, highlighting the necessity for improved **quality assurance and regulatory oversight**.
- The existing **Seeds Act, 1966**, is widely viewed as inadequate for governing the present-day scientific, commercial, and technological realities of the sector.

Key Provisions of the Draft Seeds Bill

- Clearly defines key stakeholders such as **farmers, dealers, distributors, and seed producers** to ensure regulatory clarity.
- Proposes the establishment of **Central and State Seed Committees** responsible for setting standards related to **germination, genetic purity, and varietal traits**.
- Mandates **registration of seed processing units** and introduces a **National Seed Variety Register** to enhance transparency and traceability.
- Strengthens the seed-testing infrastructure and grants inspectors **enhanced enforcement powers** to ensure compliance.
- Introduces a system of **graded penalties** for violations related to seed quality and misrepresentation.
- Reaffirms and protects **farmers' rights to save, use, exchange, and sell unbranded seeds**, safeguarding traditional practices alongside modern regulation.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

26) Quantum Diamond Microscope (QDM)

Why in the news?

India has successfully developed its **first indigenous Quantum Diamond Microscope (QDM)**, marking a major advancement in **dynamic magnetic field imaging** capabilities.

About

- India's first home-grown **Quantum Diamond Microscope** has been developed by the **P-Quest Group at IIT Bombay** under the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- This innovation has earned **India's first patent** in the field of **quantum diamond microscopy**.
- The technology is based on **nitrogen–vacancy (NV) centres in diamond**, which enable ultra-sensitive detection of magnetic fields at the nanoscale.
- QDM provides **direct, high-resolution, three-dimensional magnetic imaging** of microelectronic systems such as **integrated circuits, batteries**, and other advanced devices.

Objective

- To establish a next-generation **quantum imaging platform** by integrating **Quantum Diamond Microscopy** with **AI/ML-driven computational imaging**, enabling applications in **medical diagnostics, biological imaging**, and **geological magnetisation studies**.

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27) Man-Portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (MP-AUVs)

Why in the news?

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully developed a new class of **Man-portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (MP-AUVs)**.

About

- These **compact and lightweight AUVs** are designed for **rapid deployment** and **fully autonomous underwater operations**, significantly reducing operational risks to naval personnel.
- The systems have been developed by the **Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)** located in **Visakhapatnam**.
- The primary aim of these vehicles is to strengthen **India's underwater surveillance and defence capabilities**.

Key Features and Capabilities

- The core mission of MP-AUVs is the **autonomous detection and classification of underwater mines and mine-like objects (MLOs)**.
- Each vehicle is equipped with advanced sensors, including **Side Scan Sonar** for detailed seabed imaging and **underwater cameras** for visual verification.
- **Deep learning-based target recognition algorithms** enable autonomous classification of detected objects, substantially reducing operator workload and mission duration.
- The system supports **robust underwater acoustic communication**, allowing multiple AUVs to share data and operate cooperatively as a swarm to cover larger areas efficiently.
- Their **man-portable design** enables quick deployment from small vessels or even from shore-based platforms.

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28) India-Based Neutrino Observatory (INO)

Why in the news?

The **India-Based Neutrino Observatory (INO)** project continues to face prolonged delays, even as comparable international facilities begin producing scientific results.

About Neutrinos

- Neutrinos are **elementary subatomic particles** belonging to the **lepton family** of the Standard Model of particle physics.
- They possess **no electric charge** and an **extremely small (but non-zero) mass**, making them highly elusive.
- Neutrinos interact only through the **weak nuclear force and gravity**, allowing trillions of them to pass through the human body every second without detection.
- There are **three flavours** of neutrinos—**electron, muon, and tau neutrinos**—and they can **oscillate** between these forms during propagation.

Key Properties

- Nearly massless
- Electrically neutral
- Travel close to the speed of light
- Weak interaction with matter
- Act as **cosmic messengers**, carrying information from events such as **supernovae, solar nuclear reactions**, and deep-Earth processes
- Provide insights into the **early universe, dark matter**, and **fundamental particle physics**, with potential applications in **medical imaging**.

About the Observatory

- The INO is planned in **Theni district, Tamil Nadu**, housed deep underground within a mountain to shield experiments from cosmic radiation.

- The facility will use a **50-kiloton Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector** to study atmospheric neutrinos and determine the **neutrino mass hierarchy**.
 - The project is jointly funded by the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** and the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
 - In contrast, China's **Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO)** has recently become operational and begun releasing scientific data, highlighting delays in India's programme.
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29) Random Forest

About

- **Random Forest** is a powerful **ensemble machine-learning algorithm**.
- It works by constructing a large number of **decision trees**, each trained on randomly selected subsets of data and features.
- The final output is generated by **majority voting** (for classification tasks) or **averaging** (for regression tasks), resulting in improved accuracy and robustness.

Applications

- Random Forest is widely used in **classification tasks** such as spam filtering and fraud detection.
- It is also effective for **regression problems**, including stock price forecasting and risk modelling.
- The algorithm performs well on **large and complex datasets** and typically requires **minimal data preprocessing**.

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30) DRISHTI

Why in the news?

Indian Railways has announced the deployment of **DRISHTI**, an **AI-based Locking Monitoring System**, to enhance the security of freight operations.

About

- **DRISHTI** is an artificial intelligence-driven system designed to **continuously monitor the locking status of freight wagon doors in real time**.
- It automatically detects **unlocked, open, or tampered wagon doors**, helping prevent theft, pilferage, and safety breaches.
- The system has been jointly developed by the **Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)** and the **IIT Guwahati Technology Innovation and Development Foundation (IITG-TIDF)**.

Key Features

- Provides **real-time surveillance** without interrupting train movement.
- Uses **AI-enabled cameras and sensors** mounted on wagons to assess door position and locking integrity.
- Employs advanced **computer vision and machine-learning algorithms** to detect anomalies with high accuracy.
- Generates **automated alerts**, reducing dependence on manual inspection and significantly improving operational efficiency and freight security.

SPACE

31) Odd Radio Circles (ORCs)

Why in the news?

A citizen-science initiative involving trained volunteers has identified a **rare, highly energetic double Odd Radio Circle** using observations from **LOFAR**. The discovery significantly strengthens **India's radio astronomy capabilities** while showcasing meaningful public participation in frontline research.

About

- **Odd Radio Circles (ORCs)** are enormous, circular astronomical formations detectable **only at radio wavelengths**, with no corresponding optical, X-ray, or infrared signals.
- They were first identified in **2019** through the **ASKAP** telescope in Australia and later investigated using **LOFAR** and India's **GMRT (Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope)**.
- ORCs are believed to originate from **extreme galactic processes** such as massive black-hole eruptions, galaxy mergers, or powerful intergalactic shockwaves.
- These structures are **immense in scale**, often spanning **millions of light-years**, placing them among the largest known radio objects in the universe.
- Morphologically, ORCs appear as **ring- or bubble-like structures**, frequently brighter along their edges due to shock-induced compression.
- Some ORCs exhibit a **central host galaxy**, while others do not, adding to their astrophysical mystery.

LOFAR (Low-Frequency Array of Radio Antennas)

- Operates at **low radio frequencies**, close to the FM band, typically between **90 and 200 MHz**.
- Developed by the **Dutch Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON)** to study the **early universe, solar activity, and Earth's upper atmosphere**.
- LOFAR can observe multiple regions of the sky simultaneously, enabling **multi-user and wide-field observations**.

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HEALTH

32) Rift Valley Fever (RVF)

Why in the news?

The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has confirmed an outbreak of **Rift Valley Fever (RVF)** affecting **Mauritania and Senegal** in West Africa.

About

- Rift Valley Fever is a **zoonotic viral disease** that primarily affects **livestock** such as sheep, goats, cattle, and camels, with the potential to infect humans.
- Due to its ability to spread rapidly and cause large outbreaks, the disease is classified by the WHO as a **notifiable animal disease**.
- RVF is also listed as a **priority pathogen** under the WHO's **R&D Blueprint**, reflecting its epidemic potential.
- The disease was first identified in the **Rift Valley region of Kenya** during the **1930s**.

Transmission and Clinical Features

- RVF is caused by a **Phlebovirus** belonging to the **Phenuiviridae** family.
- Humans typically contract the infection through **mosquito bites** or by **direct contact with infected animals**, their blood, or tissues.
- **Incubation period:** Approximately **2–6 days**.
- **Common symptoms:** Sudden high fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, weakness, and sometimes nausea.
- **Severe manifestations:** Eye complications, **meningoencephalitis**, and **haemorrhagic fever**, which can be life-threatening.

Diagnosis and Treatment

- Laboratory confirmation is carried out using **molecular tests (RT-PCR)** or **serological assays (ELISA)**.
- There is **no specific antiviral treatment** available; management is largely **supportive and symptomatic**.
- Currently, **no licensed human vaccine** exists, though experimental vaccines are available for **high-risk occupational groups** such as laboratory workers and veterinarians.

33) ColoNoX Wound Dressing

Why in the news?

The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, through its research arm **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)**, has developed **ColoNoX**, India's **first nitric oxide (NO) releasing wound dressing**, specifically designed for the treatment of **diabetic foot ulcers (DFU)**.

About

- **ColoNoX** has been developed by **BARC** in collaboration with **Cologenesis Pvt. Ltd.**
- It is an advanced wound dressing that delivers **therapeutic nitric oxide (NOx)** directly at the wound site.
- The technology combines **controlled nitric oxide release** with a **collagen-based hydrogel matrix**.

Key Features and Benefits

- The **collagen hydrogel** component absorbs wound exudate, reduces pain, and promotes tissue regeneration.
- **Nitric oxide** provides multiple therapeutic effects, including:
 - Strong **antimicrobial action**
 - **Anti-biofilm properties**, preventing bacterial colonisation
 - Enhanced **tissue repair and regeneration**
- Together, these features create an optimal wound-healing environment by:
 - Controlling infection
 - Reducing microbial load
 - Accelerating healing processes
 - Potentially lowering the risk of severe complications such as **amputation**

Significance

- ColoNoX represents a **Make-in-India medical technology innovation**, reducing dependence on imported advanced wound-care products.
 - It offers a cost-effective and indigenous solution for managing chronic wounds, particularly those associated with diabetes.
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34) Auramine O

Why in the news?

Recent laboratory testing has revealed the presence of **Auramine O**, a **banned industrial dye**, raising serious concerns regarding **food safety and public health**.

About

- **Auramine O** is a **synthetic industrial dye** primarily used in the **textile, paper, and leather industries**.
- It is sometimes **illegally added to food items**, especially spices, to enhance colour and visual appeal.

Health and Safety Concerns

- Auramine O is classified as **toxic and carcinogenic**.
- Prolonged exposure or ingestion can lead to **serious health risks**, including:
 - Liver toxicity
 - Increased risk of cancer

- Potential damage to other vital organs
- Due to these risks, its use in **food products is strictly prohibited.**

Regulatory Status

- The dye is **banned for food use** under Indian food safety regulations.
- Detection of Auramine O in consumables highlights gaps in **food monitoring, enforcement, and quality control mechanisms.**

Significance

- The issue underscores the need for **stringent surveillance**, regular testing, and stronger enforcement by food safety authorities.
- It also emphasises the importance of **consumer awareness** regarding adulterated food products.

DEFENCE

35) Framework for the U.S.–India Major Defence Partnership

Why in the news?

India and the United States have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral defence cooperation through an updated framework governing their **Major Defence Partnership.**

About

- The **India–U.S. Major Defence Partnership** provides a long-term institutional framework for enhancing defence collaboration, technology sharing, and industrial cooperation.
- It focuses on expanding **defence trade**, increasing **interoperability between armed forces**, and promoting **co-development and co-production** of advanced defence technologies.
- The framework encourages collaboration across emerging domains such as **artificial intelligence, space, cyber security, and maritime security.**
- It also aims to deepen coordination through **joint exercises, logistics cooperation, and information sharing.**

Significance

- Strengthens India's access to **advanced defence platforms and technologies.**
- Enhances India's role in maintaining **stability in the Indo-Pacific region.**

- Supports India's objective of building a **self-reliant defence industrial base** through technology partnerships.
-

36) Exercise Trishul

Why in the news?

Exercise Trishul, a tri-services military exercise, was recently conducted to enhance operational coordination among India's armed forces.

About

- **Exercise Trishul** involves the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**, focusing on joint planning and execution of combat operations.
- The exercise is designed to test **inter-service coordination**, real-time intelligence sharing, and integrated command structures.
- It simulates diverse operational scenarios, including **conventional warfare, coastal defence**, and rapid force mobilisation.

Significance

- Improves **jointmanship** among India's three services.
- Enhances preparedness for **multi-domain and multi-front challenges**.
- Reinforces India's shift towards **integrated theatre-level operations**.

37) Ikshak

Why in the news?

India has inducted **Ikshak**, an indigenous **all-terrain, armoured vehicle**, to strengthen troop mobility and protection.

About

- **Ikshak** is a **light armoured vehicle** developed under the **Make in India** initiative to meet the operational requirements of the armed forces.
- It is designed for deployment across **diverse terrains**, including deserts, mountains, and counter-insurgency environments.

- The vehicle provides enhanced **crew protection**, mobility, and adaptability for modern battlefield conditions.

Significance

- Reduces dependence on imported armoured platforms.
 - Enhances the survivability and operational efficiency of troops.
 - Strengthens India's indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem.
-

38) 15th India–Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue

Why in the news?

The **15th Defence Policy Dialogue** between India and Vietnam was held to review and expand bilateral defence cooperation.

About

- The dialogue serves as a high-level institutional mechanism for defence engagement between **India and Vietnam**.
- Discussions covered **maritime security**, defence industry collaboration, training exchanges, and capacity building.
- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring **freedom of navigation and overflight** in the Indo-Pacific region.

Significance

- Strengthens strategic ties between India and Vietnam under India's **Act East Policy**.
 - Enhances cooperation in safeguarding the **South China Sea and the wider Indo-Pacific**.
 - Expands defence diplomacy and regional security collaboration.
-

39) India Fortifies Siliguri Corridor

Why in the news?

India has taken steps to **strengthen security infrastructure** in the **Siliguri Corridor**, a strategically sensitive region connecting mainland India with the North-East.

About

- The **Siliguri Corridor**, often referred to as the “Chicken’s Neck”, is a narrow stretch of land critical for **strategic connectivity**.
- Fortification measures include enhanced **troop deployment**, improved **surveillance systems**, and infrastructure upgrades.
- The region holds significance due to its proximity to **China, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh**.

Significance

- Ensures uninterrupted **logistical and military connectivity** to the North-Eastern states.
- Strengthens deterrence against potential external threats.
- Enhances India’s overall **border management and strategic depth**.

40) Coastal Security & CISF as Regulator

Why in the news?

The role of the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has been expanded to act as a key regulator in India’s **coastal security framework**.

About

- CISF has been entrusted with enhanced responsibilities related to the **security of coastal infrastructure**, including ports and critical maritime installations.
- It works in coordination with the **Indian Navy, Coast Guard**, and state marine police.
- The objective is to ensure **uniform security standards** across major and minor ports.

Significance

- Strengthens protection of **critical maritime assets**.

- Improves coordination among multiple agencies involved in coastal defence.
 - Reduces vulnerabilities to **maritime terrorism, smuggling, and infiltration**.
-

41) Colombo Security Conclave

Why in the news?

Member countries of the **Colombo Security Conclave** met to deepen cooperation on regional security challenges.

About

- The **Colombo Security Conclave** is a regional security forum involving **India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Mauritius**.
- It focuses on collaboration in areas such as **maritime security, counter-terrorism, cyber security**, and humanitarian assistance.
- The forum aims to build a **rules-based security architecture** in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Significance

- Enhances collective security in the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- Strengthens trust and operational coordination among member states.
- Supports India's vision of **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**.

42) Operation Sagar Bandhu

Why in the news?

India conducted **Operation Sagar Bandhu** to enhance regional cooperation in maritime safety and disaster response.

About

- **Operation Sagar Bandhu** is a maritime initiative aimed at improving **coordination, information sharing, and joint response mechanisms** among Indian Ocean littoral states.

- It focuses on **search and rescue operations**, disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance at sea.
- The operation aligns with India's broader maritime diplomacy objectives.

Significance

- Strengthens India's role as a **net security provider** in the Indian Ocean.
- Enhances preparedness for **maritime emergencies and natural disasters**.
- Reinforces cooperative security frameworks with neighbouring countries.

43) CSIR-NAL

Why in the news?

The **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL)** has been in focus due to its ongoing contributions to **indigenous aerospace research, aircraft development, and advanced aviation technologies**.

About

- **CSIR-NAL** is a premier aerospace research institution functioning under the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.
- It is headquartered in **Bengaluru** and serves as a key national centre for **civil aviation research and development**.
- The laboratory is actively involved in the **design, development, testing, and certification support** of aircraft and aerospace systems.

Core Areas of Work

- **Aircraft Design & Development:** Development of indigenous aircraft platforms, including light transport and trainer aircraft.
- **Aerostructures & Materials:** Research on advanced composites, metallic structures, and fatigue-resistant materials.
- **Aerodynamics & Wind Tunnel Testing:** Provides critical testing facilities for aircraft and aerospace components.
- **Avionics & Flight Systems:** Development of navigation, control, and flight-testing systems.

- **Civil Aviation Support:** Assists in certification, safety assessment, and technology support for India's growing civil aviation sector.

Strategic Significance

- Strengthens India's **self-reliance in aerospace technology** in line with the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision.
- Reduces dependence on foreign design and testing facilities.
- Supports both **civil and strategic aviation programmes**, including collaboration with defence and space agencies.
- Acts as a crucial bridge between **research laboratories, industry, and aircraft manufacturers**.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

44) IBSA (India–Brazil–South Africa) Dialogue Forum

Why in the news?

Member countries of the **IBSA Dialogue Forum** recently reiterated their commitment to strengthening cooperation among major democracies of the **Global South**.

About

- The **IBSA Dialogue Forum** is a trilateral grouping comprising **India, Brazil, and South Africa**, formally established in **2003**.
- It brings together three **large, multicultural democracies** from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- The forum promotes collaboration on **political coordination, economic cooperation, and sectoral partnerships**.

Key Areas of Cooperation

- **Political coordination:** Joint positions on global governance reforms, UN restructuring, and South–South cooperation.
- **Economic engagement:** Trade facilitation, investment flows, and development cooperation.
- **Sectoral collaboration:** Cooperation in areas such as agriculture, science and technology, education, health, and defence.
- **IBSA Fund:** Supports sustainable development projects in the least developed countries through capacity building and technical assistance.

Significance

- Strengthens the collective voice of **emerging powers** in global forums.

- Promotes **South–South cooperation** as a complement to North–South engagement.
 - Reinforces democratic values in international relations.
- November-Digest-2025
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45) NATO

Why in the news?

The **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** continues to remain central to global security discussions amid evolving geopolitical tensions.

About

- NATO is a **military alliance** established in **1949** under the **North Atlantic Treaty**.
- It currently consists of **31 member countries** from North America and Europe.
- The organisation is based on the principle of **collective defence**, enshrined in **Article 5**, which treats an attack on one member as an attack on all.

Objectives and Functions

- To safeguard the **freedom and security** of member states through political and military means.
- To promote **deterrence and defence**, crisis management, and cooperative security.
- To adapt to new security challenges such as **cyber threats, terrorism, and hybrid warfare**.

Relevance

- Plays a major role in shaping **Euro-Atlantic security architecture**.
 - Influences global strategic alignments and security dynamics beyond Europe.
- November-Digest-2025
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46) K Visa

Why in the news?

India has introduced the **K Visa** category to facilitate smoother travel and long-term engagement for people of Indian origin.

About

- The **K Visa** is a special visa category designed for **Overseas Citizens of India (OCI)** and **Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)**.
- It aims to simplify travel, residency, and engagement procedures for the Indian diaspora.

- The visa reflects India's intent to strengthen its ties with the **global Indian community**.

Significance

- Enhances **people-to-people connections** between India and its diaspora.
 - Supports cultural, educational, and economic linkages.
 - Reinforces India's soft-power outreach abroad.
- November-Digest-2025
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47) G20 Summit

Why in the news?

The **Group of Twenty (G20)** Summit focused on addressing pressing global economic and developmental challenges.

About

- The G20 is a multilateral forum comprising **19 countries and the European Union**, representing the world's major advanced and emerging economies.
- It was established in **1999** to promote international financial stability and coordination.
- The forum addresses issues such as **global economic growth, financial stability, development, climate change, and debt relief**.

Key Functions

- Facilitates coordination on **macroeconomic policies**.
- Acts as a platform for managing **global economic crises**.
- Promotes inclusive growth and development-oriented agendas.

Significance

- Serves as a key forum for **global economic governance**.
 - Enhances India's role in shaping international economic discourse.
- November-Digest-2025
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48) IRIGC-M&MTC

Why in the news?

India and Russia held discussions under the **IRIGC-M&MTC** framework to review and advance bilateral cooperation.

About

- The **India–Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC)** operates through sector-specific mechanisms, including the **Mineral & Metals Trade Cooperation (M&MTC)** track.
- This platform facilitates dialogue on **trade, investment, technology transfer**, and industrial collaboration.

Key Focus Areas

- Cooperation in the **mining, minerals, and metals sectors**.
- Enhancing **bilateral trade and supply-chain resilience**.
- Promoting joint ventures and technology partnerships.

Significance

- Strengthens the economic pillar of **the India–Russia strategic partnership**.
- Diversifies cooperation beyond defence and energy.
- Supports long-term industrial and resource security objectives.

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PLACES IN NEWS

49) Yonaguni Island

Why in the news?

Yonaguni Island has recently drawn attention due to its strategic location and regional security significance in East Asia.

About

- Yonaguni Island is the **westernmost inhabited island of Japan**.
- It lies in the **East China Sea**, forming part of Japan's **Ryukyu (Okinawa) island chain**.
- Geographically, it is located very close to **Taiwan**, at a distance of roughly **110 km**, making it strategically sensitive.

Significance

- Its proximity to Taiwan gives it major importance in the context of **regional security dynamics** involving East Asia.
- Japan has enhanced its **defence infrastructure and surveillance** on the island to monitor maritime and aerial activities.

- The island plays a role in Japan's broader strategy to secure its **south-western island chain**.
-

50) Gaza Strip

Why in the news?

The **Gaza Strip** remains in focus due to continuing conflict, humanitarian concerns, and geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

About

- The Gaza Strip is a **narrow coastal territory** located along the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- It is bordered by **Israel** to the east and north, and **Egypt** to the southwest.
- The region is home to a **densely populated civilian population**, making conflicts particularly devastating.

Significance

- Gaza is a central flashpoint in the **Israel–Palestine conflict**.
- Recurrent violence has resulted in severe **humanitarian crises**, including shortages of food, water, electricity, and medical supplies.
- The situation has major implications for **regional stability in West Asia** and international diplomacy.

51) Senkaku Islands

Why in the news?

The **Senkaku Islands** have once again featured in the news amid heightened diplomatic and strategic tensions in the East China Sea.

About

- The Senkaku Islands are a group of **uninhabited islands** in the **East China Sea**.
- They are **administered by Japan**, but are **claimed by China** (as Diaoyu Islands) and **Taiwan**.

- The islands are believed to be surrounded by **rich fishing grounds** and potential **hydrocarbon resources**.

Significance

- The dispute is a major source of **tension between Japan and China**.
 - The islands are strategically located along key **sea lanes**.
 - The issue has broader implications for **regional security and freedom of navigation** in the Indo-Pacific.
-

52) Crimea, Luhansk, Donetsk

Why in the news?

The regions of **Crimea, Luhansk, and Donetsk** continue to be in the spotlight due to the ongoing **Russia–Ukraine conflict**.

About

- **Crimea** is a peninsula located along the **Black Sea**, annexed by Russia in **2014**, a move not recognised by most of the international community.
- **Luhansk and Donetsk** are regions in **eastern Ukraine**, collectively known as the **Donbas region**.
- These areas have witnessed prolonged conflict involving Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatist groups.

Significance

- Control over these regions is central to the **geopolitical contest between Russia and Ukraine**.
- The conflict has resulted in large-scale **displacement, economic disruption, and security instability** in Eastern Europe.
- Developments in these regions have far-reaching consequences for **global energy security, international law, and geopolitics**.

ORGANISATIONS

53) Coal India Limited (CIL)

Why in the news?

Coal India Limited (CIL) has been in focus due to developments related to coal production, supply management, and energy security.

About

- Coal India Limited is a **Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the **Ministry of Coal**.
- It is the **largest coal-producing company in the world**, contributing the majority of India's domestic coal output.
- The company operates through several **subsidiaries** spread across major coal-bearing regions of the country.

Functions and Role

- Extraction and supply of coal to **power, steel, and cement sectors**.
- Ensuring **energy security** by maintaining adequate coal availability for thermal power plants.
- Implementation of **sustainable mining practices** and land reclamation measures.

Significance

- Backbone of India's **thermal power generation**.
- Plays a critical role in reducing dependence on **coal imports**.
- Contributes substantially to **government revenues and employment**.

54) International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

Why in the news?

The **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** has remained central to discussions on maritime safety, environmental protection, and global shipping regulations.

About

- IMO is a **specialised agency of the United Nations**, established in **1948** and headquartered in **London**.

- Its primary mandate is to ensure **safe, secure, and environmentally responsible shipping**.
- India is a **member state** of the organisation.

Core Functions

- Formulation of international conventions on **maritime safety**, including ship design and operation standards.
- Prevention of **marine pollution** from ships, including oil spills and emissions.
- Promotion of **capacity building and technical cooperation** among member states.

Significance

- Regulates nearly **90% of global trade** carried by sea.
- Plays a key role in reducing the **environmental footprint of the shipping industry**.
- Supports global maritime governance and safety standards.

55) Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

Why in the news?

The **Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)** has undertaken investigations into major corporate fraud cases.

About

- SFIO is a **multi-disciplinary investigative agency** functioning under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.
- It was established to probe **serious, complex, and high-value corporate frauds**.
- The agency draws experts from fields such as **law, finance, taxation, forensic auditing, and information technology**.

Powers and Functions

- Investigation of corporate frauds as assigned by the **Central Government**.

- Authority to arrest individuals involved in serious offences under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- Submission of investigation reports to courts and regulatory authorities.

Significance

- Strengthens **corporate governance and accountability**.
- Acts as a deterrent against **white-collar crimes**.
- Enhances investor confidence in India's corporate sector.

56) International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)

Why in the news?

The **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)** has released assessments and reports related to democratic processes worldwide.

About

- International IDEA is an **intergovernmental organisation** established in **1995**.
- It is headquartered in **Stockholm, Sweden**.
- The organisation supports **sustainable democracy** by strengthening democratic institutions and processes.

Key Areas of Work

- Electoral processes and political participation.
- Constitutional building and institutional design.
- Political parties, representation, and inclusion.
- Democracy assessments and policy advice.

Significance

- Provides **comparative data and global indices** on democratic performance.

- Assists countries in improving **electoral integrity and democratic resilience**.
- Serves as an important knowledge partner for governments, civil society, and international organisations.

REPORTS AND INDICES

57) Global Inequality Report 2025

Why in the news?

The **World Inequality Lab** released the **Global Inequality Report 2025**, highlighting persistent and widening income and wealth disparities across countries.

About

- The report provides a comprehensive analysis of **income and wealth distribution** at global, regional, and national levels.
- It draws on tax records, household surveys, and national accounts to present long-term inequality trends.

Key Highlights

- Inequality remains structurally high, with a **disproportionate concentration of wealth among the top income groups**.
- The report flags unequal access to **education, healthcare, and opportunities** as key drivers of inequality.
- It emphasises the role of **public policy, taxation, and social spending** in reducing inequality.

Significance

- Serves as a critical evidence base for debates on **inclusive growth and redistributive policies**.
- Supports policymaking aimed at reducing **economic and social disparities**.

58) International Migration Outlook 2025

Why in the news?

The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** released the

International Migration Outlook 2025, examining global migration patterns and policy responses.

About

- The report analyses trends in **international migration flows**, labour mobility, and refugee movements.
- It focuses on migration to **OECD member countries**, while also examining global spillover effects.

Key Findings

- Migration continues to play a crucial role in addressing **labour shortages**, especially in ageing economies.
- Rising forced displacement due to **conflicts, climate change, and economic stress** is highlighted.
- The report stresses the need for better **integration policies** for migrants.

Significance

- Informs governments on designing **balanced migration and labour policies**.
- Highlights migration as a factor shaping **demographic and economic futures**.

59) State of the World's Children (SOWC) Report 2025

Why in the news?

UNICEF published the **State of the World's Children (SOWC) Report 2025**, focusing on challenges faced by children globally.

About

- SOWC is UNICEF's flagship annual report assessing the **well-being of children and adolescents** worldwide.
- It examines issues related to **health, nutrition, education, protection, and digital inclusion**.

Key Observations

- Millions of children continue to face risks from **poverty, malnutrition, conflict, and climate shocks**.
- Learning gaps and digital divides have widened, particularly in **low-income and fragile regions**.
- The report stresses the importance of **early investment in children** for long-term development.

Significance

- Acts as a global advocacy tool for **child-centred policy formulation**.
 - Guides governments and international agencies in prioritising **child welfare and rights**.
-

60) World Urbanisation Prospects Report 2025

Why in the news?

The **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)** released the **World Urbanisation Prospects Report 2025**, analysing global urban population trends.

About

- The report provides projections on **urban and rural population growth** across countries and regions.
- It tracks the pace and scale of **urbanisation** over time.

Key Findings

- A growing share of the world's population now lives in **urban areas**, with most future growth expected in **Asia and Africa**.
- Rapid urbanisation poses challenges related to **housing, infrastructure, employment, and basic services**.
- Sustainable urban planning is identified as essential for achieving **inclusive and resilient cities**.

Significance

- Serves as a planning tool for **urban development and infrastructure policy**.
 - Supports implementation of **SDG-11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**.
-

61) Financial Sector Assessment Report

Why in the news?

The **Financial Sector Assessment Report** was released following an evaluation of India's financial system.

About

- The report is prepared under the **Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP)** jointly conducted by the **International Monetary Fund** and the **World Bank**.
- It evaluates the **stability, resilience, and regulatory framework** of a country's financial sector.

Key Focus Areas

- Strength of banks and non-bank financial institutions.
- Risk management, supervision, and regulatory effectiveness.
- Ability of the financial system to withstand **economic and external shocks**.

Significance

- Helps identify **systemic risks** and policy gaps in financial regulation.
 - Supports reforms aimed at maintaining **financial stability and investor confidence**.
-

62) NITI Aayog's Report on Water Budgeting in Aspirational Blocks

Why in the news?

NITI Aayog released a report on **water budgeting in Aspirational Blocks** to promote sustainable water management.

About

- The report focuses on implementing **water budgeting practices** at the local level in India's most underdeveloped blocks.
- It emphasises **community participation**, data-driven planning, and decentralised water governance.

Key Recommendations

- Assess local **water availability and demand** before planning interventions.
- Promote **efficient irrigation practices** and crop diversification.
- Strengthen institutional capacity for **long-term water sustainability**.

Significance

- Supports India's efforts to address **water stress and climate vulnerability**.
- Enhances grassroots-level planning under the **Aspirational Districts/Blocks Programme**.

SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

63) PM-DEVINE

Why in the news?

The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** continues to implement **PM-DEVINE** to accelerate development in the North-Eastern Region.

About

- **PM-DEVINE (Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** aimed at addressing development gaps in the North-Eastern states.
- It complements existing schemes by focusing on **infrastructure creation, livelihood generation, and social development**.

Objectives

- To fund **high-impact projects** that improve connectivity, healthcare, education, and livelihoods.
- To ensure **balanced and inclusive growth** across the North-Eastern Region.

- To strengthen the **last-mile delivery** of development outcomes.

Significance

- Enhances regional integration with the national economy.
 - Supports long-term socio-economic transformation of the North-East.
-

64) National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

Why in the news?

The **Ministry of Rural Development** reviewed the performance of the **National Social Assistance Programme**.

About

- **NSAP** is a **centrally sponsored scheme** that provides **financial assistance** to vulnerable groups living below the poverty line.
- It targets the **elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities**.

Components

- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)**
- **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)**
- **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)**
- **National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)**

Significance

- Acts as a critical **social safety net**.
 - Helps reduce economic vulnerability among marginalised populations.
-

65) National Beekeeping and Honey Mission

Why in the news?

The **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission** has been highlighted for promoting income diversification in rural areas.

About

- The mission is implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- It aims to promote **scientific beekeeping** and develop the honey value chain.

Objectives

- Increase farmers' income through **supplementary livelihood options**.
- Enhance **pollination services**, thereby improving agricultural productivity.
- Strengthen infrastructure for **honey processing, branding, and marketing**.

Significance

- Supports the vision of **doubling farmers' income**.
- Contributes to **biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture**.

66) Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari

Why in the news?

The **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari** initiative has been promoted to strengthen community involvement in water conservation.

About

- This initiative emphasises **people's participation** in water harvesting and conservation activities.
- It focuses on restoring **traditional water bodies** and promoting efficient water use.

Key Focus Areas

- Rainwater harvesting
- Groundwater recharge

- Revival of ponds, tanks, and local water structures

Significance

- Encourages **decentralised water management**.
 - Enhances resilience against **water scarcity and climate variability**.
-

67) Research, Development, and Innovation Scheme

Why in the news?

The government approved the **Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Scheme** to strengthen India's research ecosystem.

About

- The scheme aims to boost **private-sector participation** in research and innovation.
- It focuses on funding **high-risk, high-impact research**.

Objectives

- Promote collaboration between **industry, academia, and research institutions**.
- Support the development of **indigenous technologies** in strategic sectors.
- Reduce India's dependence on imported critical technologies.

Significance

- Strengthens India's **innovation-driven growth model**.
 - Supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision.
-

68) Digital Initiatives in Food Storage and Distribution

Why in the news?

Digital reforms have been introduced to modernise **food storage and public distribution systems**.

About

- The initiatives leverage **digital technologies** to improve efficiency in the storage, movement, and distribution of food grains.
- They are implemented under the **Department of Food and Public Distribution**.

Key Features

- End-to-end **digitisation of supply chains**.
- Real-time tracking of food stocks and logistics.
- Integration with beneficiary databases to reduce leakages.

Significance

- Enhances **transparency and accountability**.
- Improves food security and service delivery under welfare schemes.

69) e-Jagruti

Why in the news?

The **e-Jagruti** initiative has been launched to strengthen consumer awareness and grievance redressal mechanisms.

About

- **e-Jagruti** is a **digital consumer awareness platform**.
- It aims to educate consumers about their **rights, responsibilities, and grievance mechanisms**.

Objectives

- Provide easy access to **consumer information and advisories**.
- Enable online filing and tracking of **consumer complaints**.
- Promote informed and responsible consumer behaviour.

Significance

- Empowers consumers through **digital literacy and awareness**.
- Strengthens consumer protection in a rapidly expanding digital marketplace.

ART & CULTURE

70) UNESCO: Creative Cities

Why in the news?

Several cities across the world, including those from India, have received recognition under **UNESCO's Creative Cities Network**, highlighting the growing role of culture-driven urban development.

About

- The **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)** was launched in **2004** to promote cooperation among cities that recognise **creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development**.
- Cities are designated based on excellence in one of seven creative fields:
 - Crafts & Folk Art
 - Design
 - Film
 - Gastronomy
 - Literature
 - Media Arts
 - Music

Objectives

- To integrate **culture and creativity** into local development strategies.
- To encourage **international cooperation** among culturally vibrant cities.
- To strengthen cultural industries as drivers of **inclusive growth and social cohesion**.

Significance

- Enhances global visibility of cities' cultural heritage and creative industries.
 - Supports the **SDGs**, particularly sustainable cities and communities.
-

71) Guru Tegh Bahadur

Why in the news?

Observances and commemorative events were organised to honour the legacy of **Guru Tegh Bahadur**, the ninth Guru of Sikhism.

About

- Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was the **ninth Sikh Guru** and the father of **Guru Gobind Singh**, the tenth Guru.
- He is remembered for his **stand against religious persecution** during the Mughal period.
- He sacrificed his life in **1675** to defend the **right to freedom of belief**, particularly protecting Kashmiri Pandits from forced conversions.

Cultural and Historical Significance

- Known as "**Hind di Chadar**" (Shield of India) for defending religious freedom.
- His teachings emphasised **detachment, courage, compassion, and spiritual discipline**.
- His martyrdom remains a defining moment in Indian history, symbolising **pluralism and tolerance**.

72) Vrindavani Vastra

Why in the news?

Vrindavani Vastra, a rare and historically significant textile, has gained renewed attention for its cultural and artistic value.

About

- **Vrindavani Vastra** is a **16th-century Assamese textile masterpiece**, commissioned by the Vaishnavite saint **Srimanta Sankardeva**.

- It was created during the reign of the Koch dynasty and narrates episodes from the **life of Lord Krishna**.

Artistic Features

- Made using **natural dyes** on handwoven cloth.
- Depicts scenes such as Krishna's childhood, Ras Leela, and other mythological narratives.
- Represents a fusion of **religion, storytelling, and textile craftsmanship**.

Significance

- Considered one of the earliest narrative textiles of India.
 - Reflects the **Bhakti movement's influence** on visual and material culture in Assam.
-

73) "Gift of Peace" at Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF)

Why in the news?

India presented a symbolic "**Gift of Peace**" at the **Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF)**, reinforcing its cultural diplomacy.

About

- The **Global Peace Prayer Festival** is an international platform promoting **interfaith harmony, peace, and universal brotherhood**.
- India's offering highlighted its civilisational ethos of **non-violence, coexistence, and spiritual unity**.

Cultural Significance

- Demonstrates India's tradition of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** (the world is one family).
 - Uses culture and spirituality as tools of **soft power diplomacy**.
 - Reinforces India's global image as a promoter of peace and dialogue.
-

74) Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol

Why in the news?

The phrase “**Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol**” has resurfaced in discussions related to regional identity and cultural heritage.

About

- “Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol” translates to “**The Soil of Bengal, The Water of Bengal**”.
- It is a patriotic song composed by **Rabindranath Tagore** during the **Swadeshi Movement (1905)**.

Cultural Importance

- The song symbolised resistance against the **Partition of Bengal** by the British.
- It invoked emotional attachment to Bengal’s land and rivers.
- Continues to inspire regional pride and cultural unity in Bengal.

75) Sirpur Archaeological Site

Why in the news?

The **Sirpur Archaeological Site** has gained attention for its archaeological and historical significance.

About

- Sirpur is located in **Chhattisgarh** and was a major centre of **Buddhism, Shaivism, and Vaishnavism** between the **6th and 10th centuries CE**.
- It flourished under the **Panduvamshi dynasty**.

Key Features

- Home to ancient monasteries, temples, and brick structures.
- The **Laxman Temple** is a notable example of early brick temple architecture.
- Archaeological remains indicate strong cultural and trade links with Southeast Asia.

Significance

- Reflects India's **religious pluralism** in the early medieval period.
 - Provides insights into temple architecture, urban planning, and trans-regional connections.
-

76) Lachit Borphukan

Why in the news?

Commemorative events were held to honour **Lachit Borphukan**, a legendary military commander from Assam.

About

- Lachit Borphukan was a **17th-century Ahom general** known for leading Assamese forces against the Mughal army.
- He played a decisive role in the **Battle of Saraighat (1671)**, defending Assam's sovereignty.

Historical and Cultural Significance

- Symbol of **valour, patriotism, and leadership**.
- Remembered for prioritising duty and national interest over personal considerations.
- Lachit Divas is observed annually in Assam to inspire youth with ideals of courage and integrity.

