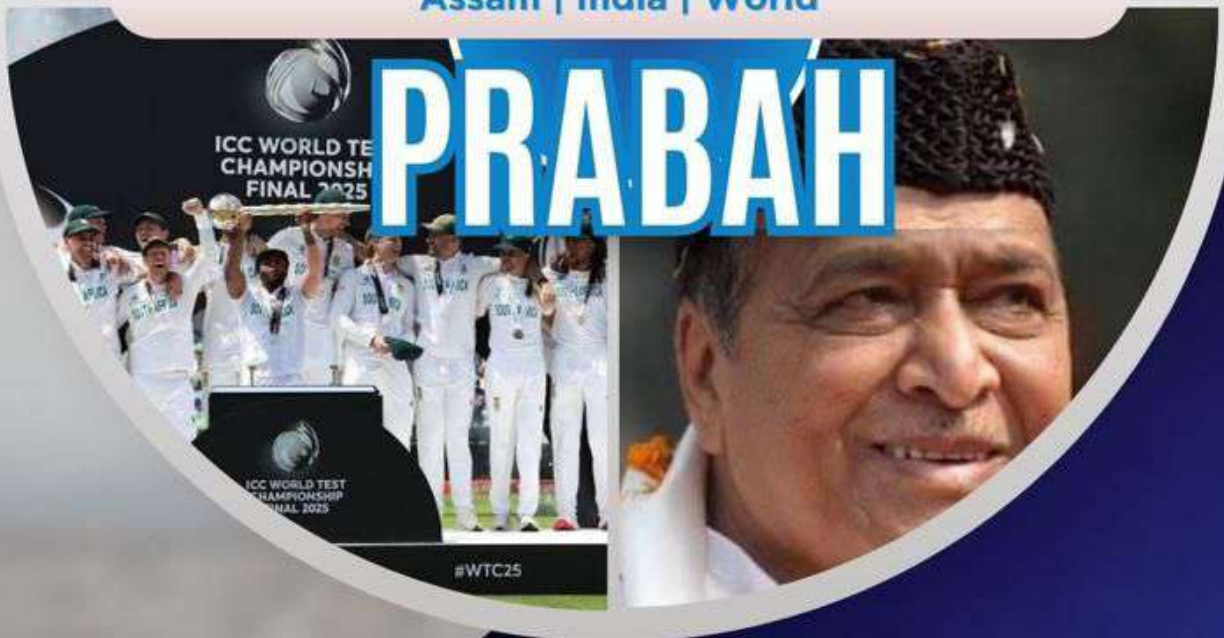


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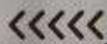
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Assam | India | World



PRABAH



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Assam Specific ~

1. Rising North East Summit

Context : Recently, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the summit organized by Mo DONER to showcase the potential for investments and trade in the Northeast Region of India. Highlighting the importance of Northeast India's strategic location, Prime Minister also gave the **Vision of EAST** (Empower, Act, Strengthen, and Transform) as a policy framework for Northeast.



Focus sectors of NER in the Rising North East Summit 2025

- Textiles, Handlooms & Handicrafts
- Renewable Energy
- Infrastructure and Logistics
- IT
- Tourism, Health, Education
- Agriculture
- Sports

Significance of the summit

- The summit offers a prime platform to establish alliances and partnerships while gaining invaluable insights into the vast

opportunities for business expansion in the region.

- The summit will also provide investors with a valuable opportunity to participate in the Northeast Region's development as a manufacturing and services hub for ASEAN and BBN (Bangladesh Bhutan Nepal).
- It will also serve as a crucial platform for companies to learn about the incentive and policy framework in Northeast India.

Significance of the Northeast Region in India's Developmental Outlook

- Strategic geopolitical shift for India's security and foreign policy.
- Untapped Hydrocarbon and Renewable Energy Potential
- Economic Gateway for India's Act East Policy and Regional Trade
- Diverse cultural heritage
- India's green hub : An ideal destination for ecotourism and agrobased industries.

Government initiatives

- PM DevINE
- North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme
- Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region
- Iconic projects like the Bogibeel Bridge, greenfield airports etc.

2. Etalin Hydropower Projects

Context : The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has granted in-principle forest clearance for the 3,097 MW Etalin run-of-the-river hydropower project.

Location : Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.

Key points :

- The project involves two gravity dams, one on the Dri River and another on the Talo

(Tangon) River, both tributaries of the Dibang River.

- As the project will require the felling of 270,000 trees, It has faced persistent opposition from the indigenous Idu Mishmi community.

What is **run of the river** hydropower project

It a type of hydroelectric generation whereby the natural flow and elevation drop of a river are used to generate electricity without the need for a large dam or major water storage reservoir.

3. Neolithic habitation in Assam

Context : Recent archaeological findings at Daojali Hading, Dima Hasao district in Assam, have reaffirmed its status as a Neolithic habitation site over 2,700 years old.

Artefacts recovered include:

- Polished double-shouldered celts, cord-marked pottery, mortars, pestles etc

Two significant Neolithic sites in Assam are Daojali Hading (Dima Hasao) and Sarutaru (Kamrup).

4. Dhole (Asiatic wild dog)

Context : A recent study by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) confirmed the reappearance of the dhole (Asiatic wild dog) in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape, marking its return after being considered locally extinct.



About Dhole (Cuon alpinus):

- The dhole is a shy social carnivore, also known as the Asiatic wild dog.
- IUCN status : Endangered
- **Distribution:** Found in parts of India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

4. Ambubachi Mela

Context: Devotees are converging at **Guwahati's Kamakhya temple** for the annual Ambubachi Mela, with festivities underway.



- The mela is held every year at Kamakhya temple during the monsoon in the Assamese month of Ahar.
- The festival celebrates the yearly menstruation course of goddess Maa Kamakhya and is also known as Ameti or Tantric fertility festival.

About Kamkhya temple :

- It is situated on Nilachal hills (or Kamagiri), the temple is believed to have been initially built by King Bhagadatta or Shashanka in the 7th century.
- The Koch King Biswasingha and his son Nara Narayan played a significant role in its reconstruction in the 16th century
- It is one of the 51 Shakti Peeth of the goddess Sati who was also the wife of Lord Shiva

5. Assam SAT : Assam's space into space technology

Context : Assam state government has announced plans to launch its own satellite, ASSAMSAT, to bolster data access for crucial socio-economic initiatives and enhance border security.

- It will be developed in collaboration with IN-SPACe & ISRO.
- The satellite, which will be geostationary.

Objectives :

- **Strengthening Border Security** - This will provide real-time surveillance over the state's borders, assisting in tracking any illegal movements and infiltration.
- **Disaster Management:** By offering early warning systems for floods and landslides, it will play a crucial role in mitigating natural calamities.
- **Infrastructure Development:** It will aid in urban planning, monitoring developmental projects

6. Astadah Mukhyamantrir unnoyine mela

Context : While presenting the State Budget for 2018-19, Assam CM announced eighteen flagship schemes called the Ashtadash Mukutar Unnoyonee Mala

the schemes are inspired by 18 chapters of the Bhagvad Gita.

7. Vistarita Asom Darshan

The scheme was introduced in the year 2019-20 for improving key infrastructure in religious place

as highlighted in the Assam Budget 2025, is a government initiative focused on preserving Assam's rich spiritual and cultural heritage by supporting Namghars and other religious institutions

As part of this initiative, ₹3 lakh each will be provided to 25,000 Namghars, ensuring

financial assistance for infrastructure development, maintenance, and overall welfare of these sacred spaces.

8. Wetlands of Assam

Several wetlands in Assam have been in the news recently, primarily due to eviction drives, identification for flood control, and biodiversity conservation efforts. The Assam government recently launched a massive drive to evict over 600 families from a 1,550-bigha wetland area (**Hashila Beel**) in Goalpara district.

More in news : The Assam Government has identified 16 wetlands so far in the flood-prone districts in the state so as to 'enhance water retention capacity and mitigate risk of flooding and erosion'.

What are beels (wetlands)?

Beels are lake-like wetland with static water (as opposed to moving water in rivers and canals).

Why are beels important ?

- They act as natural sponge and thus enhance water retention capacity and mitigate risk of flooding and erosion.
- It supports diverse flora and fauna, including migratory birds and various fish species, contributing to Assam's rich biodiversity.
- Beels help filter pollutants and impurities from water, contributing to improved water quality in the surrounding areas.
- Some beels, like Deepor Beel, are popular tourist destinations, attracting visitors interested in nature and wildlife, which can boost local economies.

16 wetlands in news and their location

Mansiri & Morabharali	Sonitpur
Nanai & Kawoimari Beel Jelengitup Chinamornigarh	Jorhat
Garjan	Kamrup

Ghuramora, Sankar, Borpak & Maerkolaboria	Golaghat
Feklai	Sivasagar
Maijan	Dibrugarh
Vokoti	Majuli
Morisutitup Beel	Morigaon

What are Ramsar Sites ?

Ramsar sites **are wetlands of international importance**, designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971). These wetlands are recognized for their ecological significance and are protected under strict guidelines to ensure their conservation and sustainable use.

- Total Ramsar sites in India : 91
- **Three Ramsar sites in Northeast India:** Deepor Beel in Assam, Loktak Lake in Manipur, and Rudrasagar Lake in Tripura.

Reserve Forests : Reserve forests are the most restricted forests and are constituted by the State Government on any forest land or wasteland which is the property of the Government.

- In reserved forests, local people are prohibited, unless specifically allowed by a Forest Officer

Protected Forests: The State Government is empowered to constitute any land other than reserved forests as protected forests

Facts :

- Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland.

9.Proton Therapy Center

Context : The Assam government has proposed to establish a Proton Therapy Centre at the State Cancer Institute at Guwahati. This will ensure access to cutting-edge cancer treatment to cancer patients.

It will be the first such facility in Eastern India and third in India.

What is Proton Beam Therapy ?

- PBT is a type of cancer treatment that uses a beam of high-energy protons to destroy cancer cells.
- Unlike traditional radiation therapy, which uses X-rays, PBT can precisely target the tumour while minimising radiation exposure.

10.Mission Olympic

The Assam Government, under Mission Olympic, will provide world-class training & coaching to 500 young athletes to help them compete at the highest levels, including the Olympics.

11.Jibon Prerana Scheme

The Assam Cabinet has approved a monthly financial support of ₹2,500 for eligible graduates under the Chief Minister's Jibon Prerana Scheme,

The assistance will be given for one year to graduates of the 2024–25 batch who are permanent residents of Assam.

The scheme is aimed at helping young graduates as they move from college into the job market, a time many struggle with financial uncertainty.

The scheme will also cover research scholars studying in public universities across Assam. While they won't receive a monthly stipend, they will be eligible for one-time financial assistance.

13. Best Aspirational Block

Assam's Tamulpur Development Block has been adjudged the best among 500 Aspirational Blocks across the country

- The ranking is based on **40 key performance** indicators across critical sectors such as health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and infrastructure development.
- Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) is an initiative by **NITI Ayog** to drive rapid and effective development in India's most underdeveloped regions.
- ADP was launched in 2018 and ABP was launched in 2023 by NITI Ayog.
- Sampoonata Abhiyan is a 3-month campaign to undertake a sustained effort to achieve saturation of 6 key indicators in Aspirational Districts and 6 key indicators in Aspirational Blocks across the country. It is a part of the broader initiatives of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)
- The seven aspirational districts in Assam are: Baksa, Barpeta, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Hailakandi, and Udalguri.

14. Shradhanjali scheme

The Assam Cabinet on Sunday, June 22 approved the 'Shradhanjali' policy, a state-funded scheme designed to repatriate the mortal remains of Assamese youth who pass away while working or studying outside the state.

Under the newly approved policy, the Assam government will bear all transportation expenses to bring back the bodies of residents who die outside the state while pursuing work or education.

- The scheme does not apply to individuals who travel to other states for medical treatment and pass away during the course of their treatment.

- The policy is strictly applicable to those who leave Assam for work or academic purposes.
- The Special Branch of Assam Police will oversee the implementation of the policy.

15. Assam Meghalaya Hydropower Project

The Chief Ministers of both the state announced the plan for the 55-MW hydropower and irrigation project on the Kulsi River after a meeting on June 2.

The Kulsi River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, flows down from the West Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya into Kamrup district (Assam).

- Kulsi River, which is a known habitat for the endangered Ganges River dolphin.
- **IUCN Red List: Endangered**

16. NE 1st emergency landing airstrip (Emergency Landing Facility)

- **Located in Moran, Assam**
- It is part of the Dibrugarh–Moran National Highway (NH 127)
- This 4.2-km stretch is being developed to allow both civilian and military aircraft, including advanced fighter jets

17. Bodoland CEM Cup

Context : PM Modi hails Bodoland CEM Cup as 'symbol of unity & hope' in 'Mann Ki Baat'

- (CEM) Cup Football Tournament is a visionary initiative by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC),
- This multi-tiered tournament is organized at various levels—including Village Council Development Committees (VDCs), BTCLA Constituencies, Districts, and Council Level

Facts :

- The first national football player from Assam is Dr. Talimeren Ao.
- He captained the Indian football team in the 1948 London Olympics.
- He was born in the Naga Hills, which was then part of Assam.

18.Mission Bwiswmuthi 2.0

- **An initiative towards digitizing the land records of all the Revenue Villages of Bodoland Territorial Region(BTR).**
- This will include various government services like land mutation, updating of land records and delivery of these services to the people at their homes through online mode
- Will provide land rights to 47,000 indigenous landless families, including 9,000 small tea growers and rubber farmers.

19.Hemkosh & Chandrakanta Abhidhan

The Assam government will republish the iconic Assamese dictionaries Hemkosh and Chandrakanta Abhidhan and distribute free copies to schools and colleges across the state.

Just like Kirtan Ghosha and Naam Ghosha have no copyright, Hemkosh also does not fall under copyright anymore.

Facts :

- **Hemkosh is the first dictionary of the Assamese language compiled by Hemchandra Baruah in the early 20th century (1919 AD)**
- Its Braille edition holds the distinction of being the largest Braille dictionary in the world
- The Chandrakanta Abhidhan, first published by the Asam Sahitya Sabha in 1933

20.Assam and its CLEAN energy Sector

Context : A new rooftop solar mapping study shows that the State has the potential to

generate 13,000 MW of solar electricity – enough to meet 100% of Assam’s annual power demand.

Assam is actively pursuing the development of its renewable energy sector, aiming to become a clean energy hub by 2030.

Today, Assam sources more than 70% of its electricity from coal and gas. Just 9% comes from renewable sources.

The state has set a target of 10000 MW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and is offering incentives and streamlined approvals for renewable energy projects. The Assam government has also introduced an Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2025 to support this vision.

Assam is collaborating with central PSUs like NLCIL, SJVN, OTPC, and OIL to develop 6,500 MW of green power, boosting its green energy share to 40%

Rooftop solar (Pros) :

- Assam’s clean energy policy now targets 1,900 megawatts of rooftop solar by 2030, up from 300 megawatts earlier
- Rooftop solar is emerging as the most practical, inclusive, and sustainable way forward for Assam
- Unlike large solar parks or hydropower projects, it doesn’t need extra land or huge expenses and it is thus affordable, scalable and democratic.
- Assam gets over 280 sunny days a year, making rooftop solar a dependable option.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

- It is a Central Scheme that aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India, who opt to install roof top solar electricity units.
- The households will be able to get upto 300 units of electricity free every month.
- Assam has successfully generated 24 MW of electricity through rooftop solar panel installations under this scheme

21.India's largest planned dam project

Context : As China has approved the construction of the world's largest hydropower dam on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, India is gearing up to build its largest hydropower project on Arunachal's Siang River

It is a 2,880 MW hydroelectric power project.

The dam will be 278 meters high, making it the tallest concrete gravity dam in India.

The project is designed to hold a massive water storage capacity of 9.2 billion cubic meters, addressing not only energy needs but also potential water security threats.

It is a strategic step to counter China's infrastructural advancements along the border.

22.Renaming of Dibrugarh airport

The Assam Legislative Assembly, unanimously passed the resolution to **rename Dibrugarh Airport as Dr Bhupen Hazarika Airport.**

Further Assam is gearing up to celebrate the birth centenary of Bhupen Hazarika from September 2025 to 2026

Facts : Bhupen Hazarika was born on September 8 1926 in Sadiya, Assam.

He is recipient of several prestigious awards :

- Padmashri (1977)
- Dada Saheb Phalke award (1992)
- Padmabhushan (2001)
- Padmavibhushan (2012)
- Bharat Ratna (posthumously, 2019)

23.Sign Language as elective subject

Indian Sign Language (ISL) is being introduced as an elective subject in Class XI in Assam, making it the first state to do so.

This initiative aims to promote inclusive education and bridge communication gaps between hearing and deaf individuals.

The move aligns with the broader goals of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the National Education Policy, 2020, both advocating for inclusive classrooms and equal learning opportunities for students with disabilities.

Indian Sign Language

- Indian Sign Language (ISL) is the natural language of the Deaf Communities in India
- It is a full-fledged language on par with spoken languages, and has its own vocabulary and grammatical structures which are different from all spoken languages used in India.
- The number of ISL users is higher than the number of users of several scheduled languages.

24.Baan Theatre

Tezpur's 118-yr-old Baan Theatre seeks 'national platform' recognition from government.

It is regarded as the first permanent modern theatre in Assam .

It came into being in 1906 and was named after the legendary King Bana.

The Baan Stage (old) was constructed on the same plot of land donated to the Oxomiya Bhaxa Unnati Xadhini Xobha and with the donation from the public.

25.Reservation in Assam

Context : T'he Assam government has announced OBC classification for the transgender community and introduced a 50% reservation for Anganwadi workers in supervisory positions under the Women and Child Development Department.

Geography | Environment ~

1. International Conference on Glaciers Conservation .

Context: Tajikistan hosted the 1st UN International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation in Dushanbe (Tajikistan).

About Glaciers: Glaciers are slow-moving ice masses formed from compacted snow over centuries.

They mainly exist in polar regions (Greenland, Canadian Arctic, Antarctica) due to low solar insolation, while tropical glaciers occur at high altitudes near the Equator, like in the Andes.



Freshwater: Only 3% of Earth's water is **freshwater**, and glaciers hold about 70% of the world's freshwater supply.

River Systems: The Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH) are referred as "Water Tower Of Asia" and contribute approximately 40% of the **Indus River system's water flow**.

2. International Big Cat Alliance

Context : The first Assembly of the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** was held in New Delhi on Monday (June 16), presided over by the Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav.



The Indian government established the IBCA through the National Tiger Conservation Authority in 2024, with the mandate to protect seven big cats – the **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma**.

3. Agarwood

Context : India has successfully prevented inclusion of **Aquilaria malaccensis (agarwood)** in the Review of Significant Trade (RST) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

•**Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

CITES is an international agreement aimed at ensuring that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

It was signed in 1973 by 184 parties. It entered into force in 1975.

•**Aquilaria malaccensis (Agarwood) :**

Aquilaria malaccensis, commonly known as agarwood, is a species of tree belonging to the **Thymelaeaceae** family.

It is well-known for **producing a fragrant resinous wood**, which is highly valued for its distinct aroma.

Agarwood has been used for centuries in various cultures for religious, medicinal, and perfumery purposes. Some of its key uses include:

Perfumes and Incense: Agarwood is highly prized in the perfume industry for its unique and long-lasting fragrance.

Traditional Medicine: Agarwood is believed to have medicinal properties and is used in traditional medicine systems like Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine for its potential to treat various ailments.

Agarwood, known locally as "**Xasi**" or "**Sanchi**" in Assamese, is a fragrant resinous wood found predominantly in Assam and other parts of Northeast India.

Assam has a long history of agarwood cultivation, particularly in districts like Golaghat, Jorhat, and Sivasagar.

4. Project Elephant

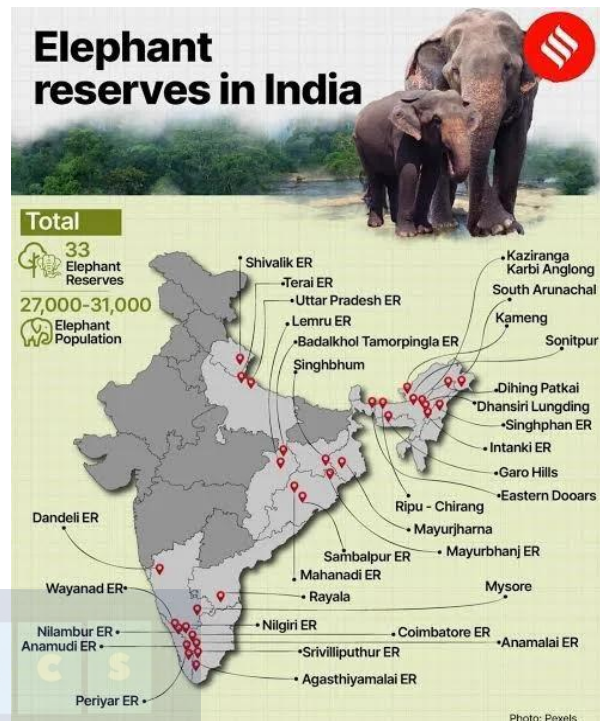
Context : The Union Environment Ministry reviewed key initiatives under **Project Elephant (1992)**, highlighting the completion of Phase-I of the synchronized **elephant population** estimation in **Northeastern states**.

Mortality Mitigation

Measures: Railway tracks were surveyed to identify high-risk zones for mitigating elephant-train collisions, which have resulted in **73 elephant deaths between 2019 and 2024**.

Genetic Profiling & Conservation: Created a genetic profile of captive elephants.

Conflict Management: Regional action plans to prevent human-elephant conflict in Southern and Northeastern India by protecting **elephant corridors**.



Karnataka recorded the highest elephant population, followed by Assam and Kerala.

In terms of protected areas, Sathyamangalam forest division has the highest number of elephants.

Conservation Status:

IUCN Red List: Endangered

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

5.50 Years of Crocodile Conservation Project and World Crocodile Day.

Context : On **World Crocodile Day (17th June)**, India commemorates 50 years of its **Crocodile Conservation Project (CCP) (1975–2025)**.



Odisha is the **only Indian state to host wild populations** of all three native crocodylian species (**Gharial** (*Gavialis gangeticus*), **Mugger crocodile** (*Crocodylus palustris*) and **Saltwater crocodile** (*Crocodylus porosus*)).

•**Crocodile Conservation Project:** India launched its CCP at Odisha's **Bhitarkanika National Park** with support from **United Nations Development Programme** and the **Food and Agriculture Organisation**.

6. New Ramsar Sites

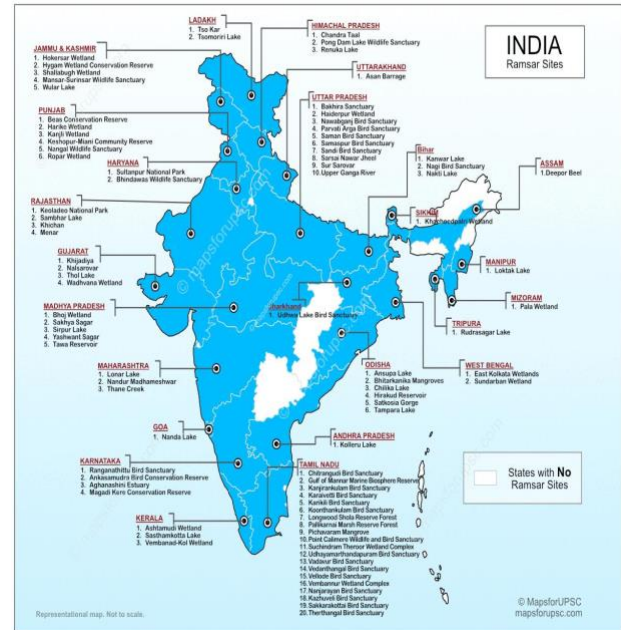
Context : The **Khichan (Phalodi)** and **Menar (Udaipur)** wetlands in Rajasthan have been declared **Ramsar Sites**, bringing India's total to **91**, the highest in Asia.

Khichan is famous for hosting thousands of **migratory Demoiselle cranes**, while **Menar (Bird Village)**, is recognized for its **community-led bird conservation efforts**.

Rajasthan now has **4 Ramsar Sites**, including **Sambhar Lake** (Nagaur & Jaipur) and **Keoladeo Ghana National Park** (Bharatpur).

About Wetlands: They are areas of **marsh, fen, peatland, or water (natural or artificial)** with **water that is static or flowing**,

including **marine areas with a depth not exceeding six meters**.



Ramsar Convention

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an international treaty for “the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.”

It is also known as the **Convention on Wetlands**.

The convention is named after the **city of Ramsar in Iran**, where it was signed on **February 2, 1971**. Since then, February 2 is celebrated annually as **World Wetlands Day**.

7. Dhansiri River

Context : **NU researchers develop policy proposals to revive Dhansiri**.

Researchers from Nagaland University have developed policy proposals to revive Dhansiri, after studying its pollution status across all four seasons of the year.

Dhansiri River : Dhansiri is the main river of Golaghat District of Assam and the Dimapur District of Nagaland.

It forms an important tributary to the Brahmaputra River.

Course: It originates from Laisang Peak of Nagaland.

It flows through the Nagaland -Assam border harbouring rich flora and fauna. On one side is the Dhansiri Reserved Forest, and on the other is Intanki National Park.



History, Art & Culture:

1. Discovery of furnace and iron slag at Daojali Hading:

Daojali Hading , The Neolithic site is located in the Dima Hasao district of Assam, India.

First Excavation: in 1961-63 by a team led by M C Goswami and T C Sharma. it is the first stratified neolithic site discovered in Northeast India dated to about 2,700 years before present. The recent Discovery of furnace and iron slag at Daojali Hading sheds light on early metallurgy in Assam, especially in Dima Hasao region.

“Sarutaru”, another Neolithic site located in kamrup district.

2. Satra Ayog submits its final report:

Formed on **24 November 2021** by the Assam government.

Purpose: To address the issues concerning **Satras**, which are socio-religious institutions of the **neo-Vaishnavite tradition** founded by **Srimanta Sankardev**.

The Aayog visited **126 Satras** across Assam. A report was submitted highlighting key challenges faced by the Satras, **especially land encroachment**.

Encroachment Data:

Barpeta: 7,137 bighas

Nagaon: 2,583.79 bighas

Bajali: 2,757.39 bighas

Lakhimpur: 896.76 bighas

Recommendations:

- Implementation of **protective and legal measures**.
- Focus on **reclaiming encroached land**.
- Ensuring **preservation of the cultural and spiritual heritage** of the Satras.

3. Jagannath Rath Yatra 2025:

The Jagannath Rath Yatra is an annual chariot festival held in Puri, Odisha. It marks the ceremonial journey of **Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra from the Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple**. Massive wooden chariots are pulled by devotees with great fervor. It symbolizes devotion, inclusivity, and the public appearance of the deities outside the temple sanctum.

- The festival is believed to have started as early as the 12th century CE, when King



Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva built the Jagannath Temple. However, some believe it has even older roots.

- It is also called the *Festival of Chariots* because the idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra are placed on huge wooden chariots and pulled by thousands of devotees using ropes.
- It begins on the **second day of the bright fortnight of the month of Ashadha (June-July)** and lasts for **nine days**.

4. Kang Festival – Manipur:

The Kang festival, which is also known as the Rath Yatra, is one of the popular and important festivals of the Meitei community of Manipur. The foundation of worship of Lord Jagannath was laid for the first time in Manipur during the reign of **Meidingu Charairongba** (1697-1709 AD) when a Brahmin from Puri, Odisha was given settlement at Brahmapur locality. Rath-Yatra became a public festival in Manipur in 1832 during the reign of **Maharaja Gambhir Singh** after the installation of the Shree **Shree Govindaji temple** which is the hotspot of the festival at the present.

5. Keeladi Excavations:

Significance of the News (Why in News)

- Recent controversies over the Keeladi excavation report submitted by archaeologist K. Amarnath Ramakrishna.
- Union Culture Minister stated the report lacks technical robustness and demands further scientific validation.
- Tamil Nadu Government and public have strongly backed the findings; Chief Minister Stalin has asserted that India's historical narrative will be rewritten from Tamil soil.
- Linked to a broader cultural and political assertion of Tamil identity against perceived north-centric historical narratives.
- Keeladi findings push back the Sangam Age to around **800 BCE**, *challenging earlier chronological assumptions.*

Keeladi is a village on the banks of the **Vaigai River**, about 12 km southeast of **Madurai, Sivaganga District**, Tamil Nadu. Excavations started in **2015** under the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, later taken over by the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** after administrative disputes. Over **18,000 artefacts** have been found.

6. Asom Sahitya Sabha Cultural Integration program in Northeast:

Context: Asom Sahitya Sabha, Assam's leading literary and cultural body, launched the Setubandhan (Bridge-building) campaign.

Aim: To promote Assamese cultural and linguistic influence across the Northeast and foster unity.

Key Initiatives:

1. Language Integration: Proposal to make Assamese the fourth official language in Arunachal Pradesh with the Objective of Cultural preservation and formal recognition of Assamese-speaking populations in border states.
2. Cultural Diplomacy: Launch of cultural exchange programmes with Nagaland and Planned cultural engagement with Meghalaya

with the Aim to Promote pan-Northeast cultural solidarity and mutual appreciation of diverse heritage.

3. Barak Valley Outreach (May 2025 Visit) :Visit to Barak Valley claimed as a "100% success" by Sabha officials. It was a Part of broader cultural outreach program of the Sabha within Assam.

7. UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was launched in 2004:

To foster international cooperation among cities that identify creativity as a key driver of sustainable urban development.

Aligned with **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities), UCCN promotes cultural vibrancy across seven creative fields: **crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature, and music**, encouraging innovation, heritage preservation, and inclusive growth through cultural exchange.

In 2023, **Gwalior** and **Kozhikode** were included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the fields of **music** and **literature**, respectively.

Lucknow has officially submitted its nomination for inclusion in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) under the category "City of Gastronomy".

8. Madhav Dev Jayanti:

Madhavdev (1489–1596) was a prominent figure in the Ekasarana Dharma, the Vaishnavite religious movement in Assam, and a key disciple of Srimanta Sankardev. He is renowned for his literary contributions, particularly his book of hymns, the "Naam Ghosa," and his collection of songs known as "*Borgeets*". Madhavdev also played a crucial role in propagating the teachings of Sankardev after the latter's death. Few of Madhavdev's works are - *Nam ghoxa* (the book of the Lord's Name) which is also known as *Hazari ghosa* (the book of thousand couplets), *Bhakti Ratnavali*, about 191 *Borgeets* (classical based devotional songs), 9 *Jhumuras* (one-act plays), *Janma Rahasya*, (a book on the creation and destruction of the world), *Naam Maalikaa*, *Adi Kanda of Valmiki's Ramayana* (the Assamese

rendering) and *Guru Bhattima* (a long poem praising his 'Guru' Srimanta Sankardeva).

9. Baikho Festival celebrated:



The Baikho festival is a significant pre-harvest festival celebrated by the Rabha tribe in Assam, India, primarily in the month of May-June (Assamese month of Jeth). It's an annual event dedicated to the worship of Baikho, an agricultural deity, and is known for its rituals, games, and community spirit.

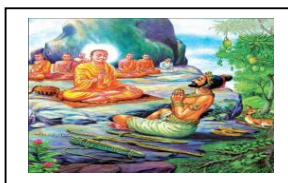
10. The Shirui Lily Festival (20-24, May, 2025):

This festival celebrates the iconic State Flower of **Manipur**. This celebration provides a platform for diverse communities and tribes to unite, explore Ukhrul's stunning landscapes, and gain insights into the indigenous Tangkhul Naga tribe.



11. Poson Poya:

Poson Poya celebrated on the full moon day of June, is a significant Buddhist festival in Sri Lanka, commemorating the arrival of Buddhism in the 3rd century BC.



Polity ~

1.Umeed portal

Context: The Centre will launch the 'UMEED' portal on June 6 to streamline the registration of Waqf properties and improve their management through digitization.

About UMEED Portal

- **UMEED** stands for *Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development*.
- It is a **central digital platform** for registering Waqf properties across India.
- Aims to ensure **better management** and **greater transparency** of Waqf assets.
- Being launched following the passage and presidential assent of the **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025**.
- **State Waqf Boards** will facilitate the property registration process.

Key Features of UMEED Portal

- **Time-Bound Registration:** All Waqf properties must be registered within 6 months of the portal's launch.
- **Geotagging and Digitization:** Properties must include exact measurements and location details.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Unregistered properties after the deadline will be treated as disputed and referred to the Waqf Tribunal.
- **User Support:** Offers legal guidance and helps users understand their rights under the new law.
- **Women-Centric Rule:** Properties in women's names cannot be declared as Waqf, but women, children, and the economically weaker sections (EWS) can still be beneficiaries.

2.Personality Rights

Context:The Delhi High Court upheld **Personality Rights** of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of Isha Foundation, and barred websites from using his image or voice through AI.

Personality Rights concept

- **Personality Rights** protect a person's identity, including their name, voice, image, signature, or any recognizable feature.
- These rights are not clearly defined in any Indian law but are part of the **right to privacy** and **right to publicity**. However, in India, **Personality Rights** are not specifically defined under any law.

Two Main Parts:

1. Right to Publicity:

- a. Protects a person's image or likeness from being used for commercial gain.
- b. Covered under the **Trade marks Act, 1999** and **Copyright Act, 1957**.

2. Right to Privacy:

- a. Protects against public use of one's personality without consent.
- b. Based on **Article 21** of the Constitution and the **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)** Supreme Court ruling.

3.Preventive detention

Context:The Supreme Court ordered the release of a Madhya Pradesh law student held under NSA, calling the detention unjustified.

About Preventive Detention

Preventive detention refers to the practice of detaining a person without trial to prevent them from committing a potential offense or posing a threat to public order or national security. It is a measure used by governments to act proactively rather than reactively.

Constitutional Provisions on Preventive Detention (Article 22)

Article 22(3) of the Constitution allows authorities to detain individuals without trial for preventive reasons like protecting public order or national security.

However, certain safeguards are provided:

- A person cannot be detained for more than **three months** unless an **Advisory Board** approves it.
- The **reasons for detention** must be shared with the person **as soon as possible**.
- The person should be given the **earliest chance to challenge the detention**.

Two Types of Detention under Article 22 of the Constitution:

1. Preventive Detention:

- a. A person is detained **based on suspicion** that they may commit a criminal act or pose a threat to public order or national security.
- b. It is **pre-emptive** in nature and aims to prevent potential harm.
- c. The police can detain individuals **without a warrant or magistrate's approval** in certain cases.
- d. Article 22(3) permits such detention but provides limited safeguards.

2. Punitive Detention:

- a. This is detention **as punishment for an offence** that has already been committed or attempted.
- b. It follows proper **judicial procedures**, including arrest, charge, and trial.
- c. Article 22(1) and 22(2) provide safeguards such as the right to be informed of grounds of arrest, consult a lawyer, and be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours.

Related preventive laws

3. Public Safety Act (PSA)

4. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), 1985

5. National Security Act (NSA)

4. Official language

Context: Established in 1975, the Department of Official Language recently marked its **50th anniversary**. The union home minister emphasized the role of Indian languages in preserving cultural identity, calling language the "soul of a nation."

About Official Language

- **Part XVII** of the Constitution deals with official languages.
- **Article 343:** Hindi in Devanagari script is the official language of the Union.
- **Official Language Act, 1963:** Allows the use of **English along with Hindi** for official purposes and Parliament work.
- **Article 344:** Provides for setting up a **Commission and Committee** on the official language.

- **Article 345:** States can choose any **regional language or Hindi** as their official language.

5. Narco -analysis test

Context: The Supreme Court has held that an accused has the right to voluntarily undergo a narco-analysis test, but only with the permission of the court.

More about the news

In *Amlash Kumar v. State of Bihar*, the Supreme Court ruled that an accused can **voluntarily choose to undergo a narco-analysis test**, but **only at the right stage during the trial—specifically, while presenting their own evidence.**

What is narco-analysis test?

It involves giving drugs like **sodium pentothal** to lower a person’s inhibitions, aiming to make them speak more freely and reveal hidden information or emotions.

Key points from the judgements

- The **Patna High Court’s order** allowing police to conduct narco-tests on all accused in a dowry harassment case was **overturned.**
- **Involuntary narco-tests** violate:
 - **Article 20(3)** – Protection against self-incrimination.
 - **Article 21** – Right to life and personal liberty (as upheld in *Selvi v. State of Karnataka*).
- Even **voluntary narco-test results:**
 - **Cannot be directly used as evidence in court.**
 - **Cannot be the sole basis for conviction** without other

supporting proof (as clarified in *Vinobhai and Manoj Kumar Soni* cases).

- An accused **does not have an absolute right** to undergo such a test—it depends on court permission and timing.

6. Centre’s FRA Cell Initiative

Context: The Centre has sanctioned the establishment of FRA (Forest Rights Act) Cells to strengthen and facilitate the effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act.

More in the News:

The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved the setting up of **324 district-level FRA Cells** in **18 States/UTs** to boost the implementation of the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** under the **Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA).**

What are the FRA Cells?

- These are **support units at the district level** to help implement the FRA effectively.
- Set up under the **DAJGUA scheme** and funded by the Centre through **Grants-in-aid.**
- **Purpose:** To assist **tribal claimants** and **Gram Sabhas** in filing forest rights claims.
- They help **reduce delays and rejections** by improving **documentation, field support, and data management**, especially in tribal-dominated areas.

About Forest Rights Act 2006

The FRA aims to fix historical injustices faced by **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** and **Other Traditional**

Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) who lived in forests but had no legal rights over land or resources.

Objectives:

- Give legal rights over forest land and resources.
- Ensure livelihood security.
- Support community-led forest management.
- Protect against forced evictions.

Key Provisions:

- **Ownership Rights:**
 - Gives rights to collect and sell **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** like bamboo, brushwood, cane, etc.
- **Community Rights:**
 - Recognizes traditional forest usage such as **Nistar rights** (community forest use).
- **Habitat Rights:**
 - Protects the rights of **primitive tribal groups** to live in their traditional forest habitats.
- **Community Forest Resource (CFR):**
 - Allows communities to manage, protect, and conserve their traditional forest areas.
- **Public Projects:**
 - Forest land can be used for government welfare projects **only with Gram Sabha (village assembly) approval.**

Governance Structure (Bottom-Up Approach):

- **Gram Sabha:** Starts and verifies land/resource claims.
- **Forest Rights Committees (FRCs):** Set up by Gram Sabha to process claims.

- **Sub-Divisional & District Level Committees (SDLCs & DLCs):** Review and approve claims.
- **State Monitoring Committees:** Oversee implementation.
About Dharti Aaba Jana Jatiya gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan
- **Launched on:** October 2, 2024
- **Objective:** Holistic development of tribal villages for socio-economic upliftment
- **Named after:** Birsa Munda, tribal freedom fighter

Key Features:

- Covers ~63,000 tribal villages across 30 States/UTs
- Launched 40 **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**
- Focus on improving **rural infrastructure** and **tribal welfare projects.**

7. Contempt of court

Context: The Supreme Court (SC) has clarified that **laws made by the Parliament or State Legislature cannot be considered an act of Contempt of Court (CoC).**

More in the news

The **Supreme Court** in *Nandini Sundar & Others vs. State of Chhattisgarh* held that:

- Making a law that contradicts earlier court orders **does not amount to Contempt of Court (CoC).**
- The **legislature has the power** to change the basis of a court judgment or validate a law struck down by the court through proper amendments.
Contempt of court means disobeying or showing disrespect to the court, which harms its authority and dignity.

Legal Framework:

- **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**
- **Rules for Contempt of Supreme Court, 1975**

freedom of speech (Article 19(1)) on grounds like **contempt of court**.

Types of Contempt:

1. Civil Contempt:

- a. Wilful disobedience of court orders or promises made to the court.

2. Criminal Contempt:

- a. Any act (spoken, written, or otherwise) that:
 - i. Scandalises or lowers the court's authority
 - ii. Affects ongoing court proceedings
 - iii. Obstructs the justice process

Major Exceptions (as per 1971 Act):

- Innocent publication
- Fair and accurate reporting of court proceedings
- Fair criticism of judicial actions

Related Constitutional provisions

- **Article 129:**

Declares the **Supreme Court** as a *court of record* with the power to punish for **contempt of itself**.

- **Article 215:**

Gives the same **contempt powers to High Courts**.

- **Article 142:**

Allows the **Supreme Court** to pass any order to ensure **complete justice**, including in contempt cases.

- **Article 19(2):**

Permits **reasonable restrictions** on



ECONOMICS ~

1. RBI has reduced the Priority Sector Lending target for Small Finance Banks

Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** target for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) from 75% to 60% to enhance lending flexibility and profitability.

What it is?

RBI's revised PSL norms aim to ease lending restrictions for SFBs, allowing them to diversify and improve asset quality.

Old PSL Criteria: SFBs were mandated to allocate 75% of their **Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC)** to PSL, which led to challenges in sourcing quality borrowers and lower margins.

New PSL Criteria: Overall PSL target reduced from 75% to 60%.

The additional PSL component reduced from 35% to 20%.

SFBs still required to maintain 40% ANBC towards specific PSL sub-sectors.

2. Labour ministry study on Gig Workers in India

• **Definition** - workers engaged in income-earning activities outside traditional employer-employee relationships.

• Types

- Platform Workers – Connected to customers via apps or digital platforms
- Non-Platform Gig Workers – Casual workers, part-time or project-based independent workers

Size of Gig Economy in India

- 2020–21: 7.7 million gig workers (NITI Aayog)
- 2030: 23 million (expected)
- 2047: 32.5 million (Conservative scenario)

3.6th meeting of General Council of NIIF(National Investment and Infrastructure Fund) convened.

- Established: 2015
- Type: Sovereign-linked Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)
- Registered with: SEBI as Category II AIF
- Set up as: A Trust
- **Objective**
 - Mobilize long-term capital for infrastructure development
 - Facilitate investments from domestic and international investors
- Governing Council chaired by: Union Finance Minister
- **Significance**
 - India's first sovereign-backed investment platform
 - Crucial to bridge the infrastructure financing gap

4. The 16th Finance Commission, whose recommendations take effect from FY 2026–27, is under increasing pressure to reassess the formula used to divide the divisible pool of tax collections between the Centre and the States.

About the Divisible Pool of Tax Collections
The Divisible pool is that portion of gross tax revenue which is distributed between the Centre and the States. It consists of all taxes, except surcharges and cess levied for a specific purpose, net of collection charges.

Key Points :

Present Share: States currently receive 41% of the divisible pool.

Demand: 22 out of 28 States (including BJP-ruled ones) want it increased to 50%.

Rationale Behind Demand: Cesses and surcharges have risen from 12.8% to 18.5% of the Centre's gross tax revenue in recent years.

Major Contention: The effective share of States in the Centre's gross tax revenue has dropped

from 35% (2015–2020) to around 31% (2020–2024) due to increasing use of cesses and surcharges, which are not part of the divisible pool.

5. India's trade deficit narrowed to \$6.6 bn in May on low oil prices, strong services exports

India's trade dynamics for May 2025 reflect significant shifts in export and import patterns, influenced primarily by global oil price trends.

- **Trade Deficit :** The overall trade deficit narrowed to \$6.6 billion, marking a nearly 30% reduction compared to May 2024.
- **Exports:** Total exports increased to \$71.1 billion, up from \$69.2 billion in May 2024, demonstrating a growth of 2.8%.
- The services sector played a crucial role, with exports rising 9.4% to \$32.4 billion.
- Merchandise exports, however, saw a contraction of 2.2%, totaling \$38.7 billion.
- **Imports :** Total imports decreased by 1% in May 2025.
- Merchandise imports contracted by 1.7%.
- Non-petroleum imports experienced a 10% growth.
- Services imports grew by 1.5%.

6.RBI injects around Rs 24,000 crore in the banking system via bond buyback

Context and Background:

Why RBI did this:

Since mid-December 2024, the Indian banking system entered a liquidity deficit, meaning banks had less than required cash on hand. To reverse this trend, the RBI has resorted to a mix of tools—Open Market Operations (OMO), Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions, forex swaps, and bond buybacks—to restore a comfortable liquidity surplus of roughly ₹3 lakh crore .

Timing & Strategy:

This buyback took place on June 5, 2025, with settlement on June 6, just one day before its bi-monthly monetary policy review (June 6–7). That timing wasn't accidental—it signals the RBI's intent to stabilize short-term interest rates and bond yields ahead of key policy decisions

This operation reflects a deliberate, pre-emptive action by the RBI to ensure liquidity buffers are plentiful, stabilize funding conditions, and manage short-term interest rates ahead of the June policy review on June 6–7, 2025. It is part of an ongoing series of liquidity-driven interventions spanning OMOs, VRRs, forex swaps, and **buyback**.

7 . India aims to double the share of manufacturing in GDP to 23% helped by sunrise sectors.

About Sunrise Sectors

It refers to industries that are relatively new, rapidly growing, and have significant potential to drive future economic growth, innovation, and employment.

Features:

- High rates of expansion
- Technological advancement
- Ability to attract substantial investments and talent

Importance of sunrise sector: It helps in



scaling up manufacturing potential of a country to absorb a youthful workforce, reduce import dependencies and build competitive global supply chains.

Sunrise sectors in India

India aims to significantly boost its manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP from 12% to 23% in the next two decades,

prioritizing job creation and economic expansion.

Recognition: The Indian government has identified 14 sunrise sectors such as semiconductors, renewable energy components, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, hydrogen mission, electrical vehicles and batteries, Agro and Food Processing (A&FP) and so on in order to strengthen manufacturing. India has introduced the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to promote them. PLI is also offered to sectors that also have greater employment potential like electronic goods and similarly labour intensive sectors like textile and leather.

8. Finance Ministry says, there is no plan to levy MDR charge on UPI transactions

The Finance Ministry has said that speculation and claims that the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be charged on UPI transactions are completely false, baseless, and misleading. UPI processed 18.68 billion transactions in May. In value terms, UPI transactions totalled 25.14 lakh crore rupees in May, up from 23.95 lakh crore rupees in April.

The success of UPI placed India in a leadership position with a share of 48.5 per cent in global real-time payments by volume.

MDR refers to the fee charged to merchants by banks or payment service providers for processing digital payments made via credit cards, debit cards or other digital modes.

Purpose: It serves to compensate multiple stakeholders involved in a digital transaction, including the issuing bank, acquiring bank, payment gateway, and network operator.

Fee Structure: MDR is typically calculated as a percentage of the total transaction amount, usually ranging from 1% to 3%

9. RBI has formed a committee chaired by A.P. Hota to explore a proposal to set up a Digital Payments Intelligence Platform that will harness advanced technologies to mitigate payment fraud risks.

Domestic payment frauds surged by 70.64% to Rs 2,604 crore in the six months ending March

[UPSC 2017] Which one of the following best describes the term "Merchant Discount Rate" sometimes seen in news?

- Options: (a) The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank. (b) The amount paid back by banks to their customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions for purchasing goods or services. (c) The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank's debit cards. * (d) The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machines and debit cards.

2024, with the number of cases rising to 15.51 lakh from 11.5 lakh.

Other Proposals:

Bulk Deposits Limit Raised: The RBI also plans to increase the threshold for bulk deposits from Rs 2 crore to Rs 3 crore for commercial banks and small finance banks, with local area banks set at Rs.1 crore.

It also allows banks flexibility in setting interest rates based on their needs and Asset- Liability Management (ALM) projections.

Automatic e-Mandate: The RBI plans to allow automatic balance replenishment for Fastag and NCMC under the e-mandate framework, exempting the need for a 24-hour pre-debit notification.

UPI Lite e-Mandate: The RBI plans to integrate UPI Lite into the e-mandate framework, Enabling automatic reloads of the wallet when its balance drops below a user-set threshold, Eliminating the need for extra authentication or pre-debit notifications.

International Relations~

1.G7 Summit

Context : 51st G7 Summit 2025 –Canada

Host : The 51st G7 Summit was held from June 15 to June 17, 2025, in **Kananaskis, Canada.**

The member countries include **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**



•**The summit's agenda was wide-ranging. It included discussions on:**

Global trade and economic realignments

Energy security and transition to renewable energy

Governance of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity

Geopolitical security threats including terrorism, wildfires, and smuggling

Regional conflicts such as the Russia–Ukraine war and the Israel–Iran escalation

•**PM Modi at G7 session**

He addressed the session on the theme: **'Energy Security: Diversification, Technology, and Infrastructure to Ensure Access and Affordability in a Changing World'**

India's commitment to a green future was front and center.

2.11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum

Context : Recently, the 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum concluded in Brasilia, Brazil.

The BRICS is a group formed by eleven countries: **Brasil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran.**



The primary goals of BRICS are to promote economic growth, development, and cooperation among its member Countries .

India was officially handed over the chairmanship of the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, scheduled to be held in 2026.

The chairmanship of Forum rotates annually

3.Shangri La Dialogue

Context: 22nd edition of Shangri La Dialogue held at Singapore .Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan attended the 22nd Edition .



The Shangri-La Dialogue stands as Asia's foremost defense and security summit, uniting defense ministers, military leaders,

policymakers, and strategic experts from around the world.

It is the most influential multilateral security exchange platform in the Asia-Pacific region.

Established in - 2002.

Organized by - International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London, in collaboration with Singapore's Ministry of Defence.

It is held in June every year in Singapore's Shangri-La Hotel.

4. SIPRI Year Book

Context: The SIPRI Yearbook 2025 revealed that India now possesses more nuclear warheads than Pakistan, but less than china.



SIPRI Yearbook 2025 provides an overview of developments in international security, weapons and technology, military expenditure, arms production and the arms trade, and armed conflicts and conflict management, along with efforts to control

conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

India's Status in SIPRI Yearbook 2025:

- **Total Warheads:** India has **180 stored nuclear warheads** as of January 2025.
- **Modernization:** India continues to **develop new nuclear delivery systems**, including canisterised missiles capable of carrying multiple warheads.
- **Triad Development:** India's nuclear capability is structured into a **mature nuclear triad**—land-based missiles, aircraft, and sea-based submarines (SSBNs).
- **Strategic Shift:** Indications suggest a move toward **mating warheads with launchers** in peacetime, changing India's traditional de-alerted postures.

5. Indus water Treaty

Context : **Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty:** India has suspended the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

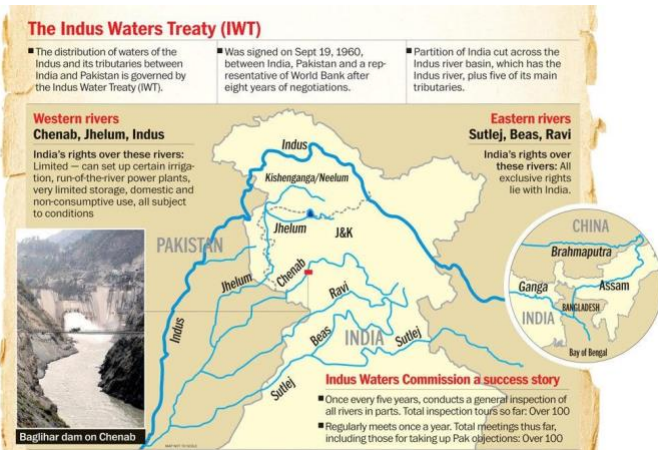
Indus Waters Treaty: The IWT, signed in 1960 in Karachi after nine years of negotiations between **India and Pakistan**.

The treaty allocates the "**Eastern Rivers**" of the **Indus system** (Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej) to India for unrestricted use, while the "**Western Rivers**" (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab) are reserved for Pakistan, effectively giving **Pakistan access to about 80% of the total water**.

India is allowed limited **non-consumptive uses of the Western Rivers**, such as for navigation, agriculture, and hydroelectricity,

subject to design and operational conditions under the treaty.

Pakistan: The suspension of the IWT



threatens Pakistan's water security, as **80% of its cultivated land relies on these rivers.**

Article 62 of the Vienna Convention allows a country to withdraw from or repudiate a treaty if there is a fundamental change in circumstances that makes the continuation of the treaty untenable.

6. SCO Defence minister's Meeting

Context : India has refused to sign a joint declaration at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Qingdao, China.



India is not satisfied with the language of the joint document and there was **no mention of cross-border terrorist activities** specially recent Pahalgam Terror attack.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Shanghai Five emerged in **1996** from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks between **4 former USSR republics and China.**

Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the **Shanghai Five.**

With the accession of **Uzbekistan** to the group in **2001**, the Shanghai Five was renamed the **SCO.**

Members: China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus and the four Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

• India became a full member in **2017** and assumed the rotating **chairmanship in 2023.**

7. India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor

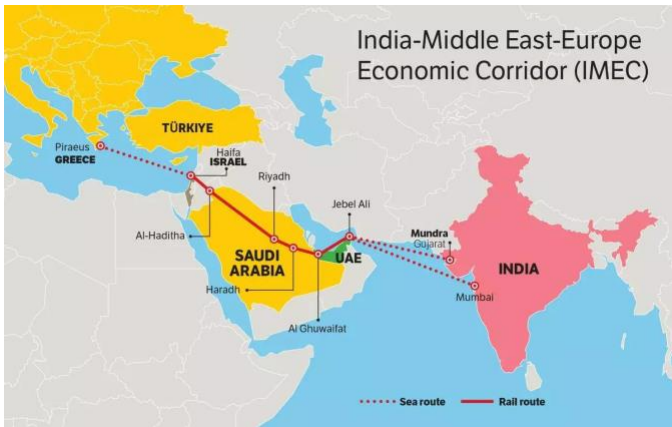
Context : The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry emphasized the potential of **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** as a **modern-day Silk Route** aimed at connecting Asia with **Europe through the Middle East.**

Establishment: The MoU signed by leaders from India, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and the US at the G20 Summit (2023) in New Delhi.

The description of a multi-modal connectivity project involving ports, railways, roads, sea lines, and pipelines to enhance trade between India, the Arabian Peninsula, the Mediterranean region, and Europe perfectly aligns with the stated goals of the IMEC.

Strengthens ties with West Asia and Europe: It enhances India's diplomatic and trade engagement with countries like UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and EU nations.

Corridor Segments: IMEC has two parts the **Eastern Corridor (India to Gulf)** and the **Northern Corridor (Gulf to Europe)**.



Importance for India: IMEC is set to reduce logistics costs by up to **30%** and **transportation time by 40%**, compared to the Suez Canal Maritime route making Indian exports more competitive globally.

8. Interpol: Silver Notice

Context: Interpol has issued its first-ever **Silver Notice** at India's request to track illicit assets linked to former French Embassy official **Shubham Shokeen**, accused in a major visa fraud.

Silver Notice

A **colour-coded Interpol alert** launched in **January 2025**.

Aimed at **identifying, tracking, and recovering criminally acquired assets** worldwide.



Member countries can request a Silver Notice to locate assets linked to crimes such as:

Fraud, corruption, money laundering, narcotics, and environmental crimes.

It enables countries to exchange asset-related intelligence and initiate: Freezing, seizure, or confiscation of these assets under domestic laws.

In India, the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** acts as the **nodal agency** for all Interpol matters.

9. UN Ocean Conference

Context : The **2025 UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3)**, held in **Nice, France**, adopted the declaration "**Our Ocean, Our Future: United for Urgent Action**", reinforcing global commitments to **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 14 (Life Below Water)**.

Over **175 countries**, including **60 represented by heads of state**, along with NGOs, scientists, academics, and civil society actors, convened to adopt the **Nice Action Plan**, reaffirm commitments to the **High Seas Treaty (BBNJ)**, and pledge new investments and conservation goals.



Importance of Oceans in Global Sustainability

- Oceans cover **over 70%** of the Earth's surface, regulate the climate, and are a **vital source of food, jobs, biodiversity, and oxygen**.

- They absorb **25% of global CO₂ emissions** and **90% of excess heat** from global warming (UNEP).
- Over **3 billion people** rely on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods (UN).

10. UNFPA State of World Population Report 2025

Context :The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** has released its **State of World Population (SOWP) 2025** report titled “**The Real Fertility Crisis**”.



It reaffirms India as the **world’s most populous country** and highlights **critical shifts in fertility, ageing, and reproductive autonomy**, urging focus on **people’s unmet fertility goals** instead of fear of population decline.

Population Size and Projections: India’s population in **April 2025** is estimated at **146.39 crore**, the **highest in the world**. It is expected to **peak at 170 crore in the early 2060s**.

About: **UNFPA** is a subsidiary body of the **UN General Assembly** and serves as the UN’s key agency for **sexual and reproductive health**.

It operates in over 150 countries, covering 80% of the global population.

Establishment: Started in **1969** as the **United Nations Fund for Population Activities**, renamed in **1987** as **United Nations Population Fund** (UNFPA acronym retained).

Science and Technology ~

1. Axiom 4 Mission

Context: The AXIOM-4 mission to International Space Station (ISS) launched.



The mission is organized by Texas-based startup Axiom Space in partnership with SpaceX.

It is NASA's fourth all private astronaut mission to the International Space Station.

The crew includes members from the USA, India, Poland, and Hungary.

Shubhanshu Shukla will be India's second national astronaut to go to space since 1984.

About Axiom 4

The mission is a collaboration involving **Axiom Space (private company), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), and European Space Agency (ESA).**

Crew Members (4) :

1. Peggy Winston (U.S.A)
2. Subhanshu Shukla (India)
3. Tibor Kapu (Hungary)
4. Slawosz Uznanski (Poland)

Key Features: Axiom Space's 14-day mission aboard the ISS will conduct **scientific experiments, tech demonstrations, and educational outreach**, advancing its goal to build the first commercial space station and

transition from ISS reliance to an independent orbital platform.

2. Ejiao

Context : Recently, there has been a sudden surge in donkey prices in Pakistan due to China's demand for ejiao.

About Ejiao

It is a gelatin used in traditional Chinese medicine, **made by stewing and concentrating donkey skin.**



It is widely used in clinics for its biological advantages of being anti-fatigue, immunity-improving properties, for tumour suppression, and for its anti-anaemia effect.

It is produced from the collagen extracted from donkey skin.

Q. Ejiao, which was making news recently, is a hard gel made from the skin of which animal?

Answer: Donkey

3. Solar Storms and Space Debris

Context : Solar Storms are causing Starlink Satellites to fall from the Sky.



Starlink has lost 523 satellites from 2020 to 2024, the years associated with the peak of Solar Cycle.

Solar cycle is an approximately 11-year cycle that tracks the rise and fall of activity on the Sun's surface.

This cycle affects the Sun's magnetic field, solar flares, coronal mass ejections (CMEs), and the overall "space weather".

Space debris:

It is defined as all non-functional, man-made objects, including fragments and elements thereof, in Earth orbit or re-entering into Earth's atmosphere.

Space debris objects larger than 1 cm in size (Large enough to be capable of causing catastrophic damage) is estimated to be over 1.2 million (ESA Space Environment Report 2025).

4. New Covid Variant 'Nimbus'

A newly emerging COVID-19 variant, NB.1.8.1, informally known as Nimbus, is gaining global attention due to its rapid spread and unusual symptom described as "razor blade throat".

Variant Name: NB.1.8.1 (Nimbus)

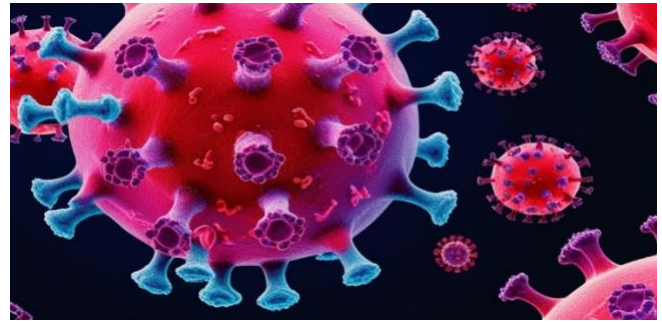
Lineage: Descendant of Omicron

First Identified: January 2025

Symptom Highlight: "Razor blade throat" – intense sore throat

Detected In: 13 US states, UK, China, Singapore, Thailand, India (monitoring stage)

Global Presence: Detected in 22 countries, accounting for 10.7% of sequenced cases (April 21–27, 2025)



Razor Blade Throat :

Not a medical term, but a popular description of severe throat pain

Feels like glass shards in the throat

Common in other viral and bacterial infections as well

WHO risk level: **Low.**

About WHO :

World Health Organization

Estd: 1948

Headquarters: Geneva , Switzerland

5. First images of the Sun's South Poles.

It was made possible by the tilted orbit of the Solar Orbiter, enriching our understanding of the Sun's magnetic field, solar cycle etc. The Solar Orbiter is a joint solar mission between the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA launched in 2020

With the objective to take close-up images of the Sun, observe solar wind and the Sun's Polar Regions.



Other Solar Missions:

ESA-NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) (1995)

NASA Parker Solar Probe (2018): First spacecraft to “touch” the Sun’s corona.

China’s Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S) (2022)

India’s Aditya-L1 (2023)

NASA’s PUNCH (Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere) mission (2025)

6. Discovery of New Organelle

Context : Previously unknown organelle, described as a “**hemifusome**”, is found to exist in human cells.

Researchers from the University of Virginia School of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have discovered a previously unknown cellular structure—the hemifusome—that could fundamentally reshape our understanding of how cells recycle their contents and sort and direct intracellular cargo.

The hemifusome is a brand-new organelle, and we believe it plays a central role in a newly discovered pathway for building multivesicular bodies—key recycling centers within our cells.”

7. Bharat Gen

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches ‘Bharat Gen’ – India’s first of its kind Indigenously developed government funded AI based Multimodal LLM for Indian Languages at BharatGen Summit.



BharatGen is a Multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) project focused on creating Generative AI systems that can generate high-quality text and multimodal content (audio and imagery) in various Indian languages.

The platform integrates text, speech, and image modalities, offering seamless AI solutions in 22 Indian languages

Aim and Purpose:

To revolutionize public service delivery and boost citizen engagement through AI.

Position India as a leader in the generative AI space.

Crafting a path tailored to India’s diverse linguistic, cultural, & societal fabric.

Pushing AI technology boundaries & ensuring relevance to India’s context & use cases.

8. World’s First Fission Fusion Nuclear Plant

China aims to construct the World’s First Hybrid Fusion-Fission Nuclear Plant, named Xinghuo.

About Fusion-Fission Hybrid Reactor

The **Xinghuo** fusion-fission hybrid reactor represents a pioneering approach to

nuclear energy generation by merging two distinct nuclear processes—fusion and fission:

Nuclear Fission

Process: Fission involves splitting heavy atomic nuclei (e.g., uranium) into smaller fragments, releasing energy in the process.

Challenges: Fission produces radioactive waste, which poses long-term environmental concerns.

Nuclear Fusion

Process: Fusion merges light atomic nuclei (such as hydrogen) to form a heavier nucleus, releasing massive amounts of energy.

Advantages:

Energy Efficiency: Fusion can produce **four times more energy per kilogram of fuel** compared to fission.

Cleaner: Fusion produces minimal hazardous waste compared to fission.

Potential for the Future: Fusion is seen as a sustainable, efficient energy source for the future.

9. Shukr Gene in flowering Plants

A recent paper published in **Nature Plants** by the **CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad sheds light on the molecular innovations** in flowering plants that could solve **Charles Darwin's "abominable mystery" question.**

•The study **described the role of a newfound gene called SHUKR** (meaning 'sperm' in many Indian languages) and **its effect on the plant Arabidopsis thaliana.**

About SHUKR Gene

SHUKR is a gene found in the sporophyte (the dominant stage in flowering plants).

The SHUKR gene first emerged in eudicots (The group comprises 75% of all flowering plants) about 125 million years ago.

It controls the development of pollen, which contains the sperm needed for reproduction.

Earlier, scientists believed that the development of pollen (gametophyte) was independent of the sporophyte.

10. Strawberry Moon

The name "**strawberry moon**" is deeply rooted in cultural traditions, which includes



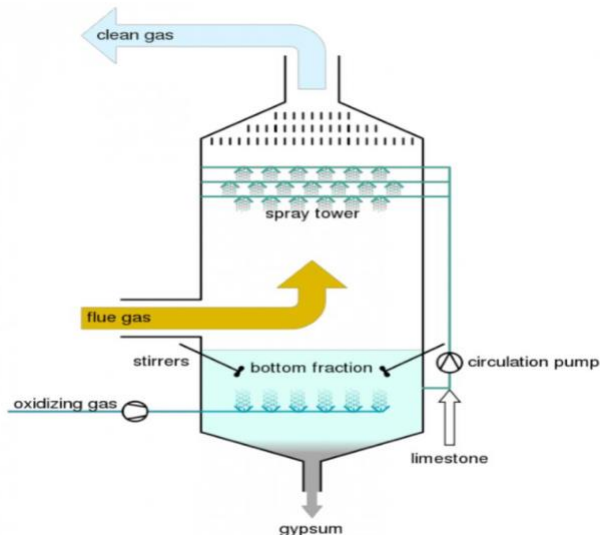
Native American, Colonial American and European sources, according to The Old Farmer's Almanac.

During this time, the Moon reaches the extremes of its orbit around the Earth. It rises and sets at the most northerly and southerly positions on the horizon. Such a situation takes place every 18.6 years, while its effects are most visible at the time of full Moon.

11. Flue gas desulphurisation (FGD)

Context : Power Minister says that the Central Pollution Control Board will decide on future of flue gas desulphurisation units.

Flue gas desulphurisation (FGD).



12. BioRemediation Process in Guwahati

Purpose: To treat polluted drainage water flowing through NH drain, especially during dry weather flow.

Addresses absence of a functional sewerage system in the region.

Bioremediation : A biological treatment method that uses living organisms (e.g., bacteria, fungi, algae) to:
Break down or neutralize harmful pollutants
Clean up contaminated soil, water, and air.

Significance in Guwahati Context: Improves drainage water quality and supports urban sanitation

Flue-gas desulfurization (FGD) is a **set of technologies** used to **remove sulfur dioxide (SO₂)** from **exhaust flue gases of fossil-fuel power plants** and from the emissions of other sulfur dioxide-emitting processes such as **waste incineration**.

Flue Gas

Flue gas (sometimes called exhaust gas or stack gas) refers to the gas that is released from combustion plants.

It is a by-product of burning fossil fuels.

Flue gas actually contains a mixture of gases, such as carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), water vapor, nitrogen oxides (NO & NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), other trace pollutants, and often some particulate matter.

Defence|Operations|Exercises ~

1. Operation Spider Web

Context: Ukraine executed Operation Spider's Web, its largest drone offensive, destroying \$7 billion worth of Russian aircraft.

Spider's Web :

• Operation Spider's Web is a high-precision, long-range [drone operation](#) launched by Ukraine targeting Russian airbases deep within enemy territory.



Nations Involved:

Ukraine: Executing the offensive through its military and intelligence agencies.

Russia: The target of the drone assault, which affected strategic airpower assets.

Airbases attacked: Belaya (Irkutsk), Olenya (Murmansk), Dyagilevo (Ryazan), Ivanovo Severny, and Ukrainka

Drone Deployment:

117 explosive-laden drones launched.

Aircraft types hit: Tu-95, Tu-160, Tu-22M bombers and A-50 early-warning planes.

2. Operation Sindhu

Context : India announced launching 'Operation Sindhu' to evacuate **Indian nationals** from **Iran** .

Launched By:

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India

Supported by Indian Embassies in Iran and Armenia

• **Evacuation Route:** From northern Iran to Yerevan, Armenia to New Delhi.



Other key operations :

Operation	Year	Location	Context
Operation Kaveri	2023	Sudan	Evacuation during violent military clashes
Operation Ajay	2023	Israel	Evacuation during the Israel-Hamas conflict
Operation Ganga	2022	Ukraine	Evacuation during the Russia-Ukraine war
Operation Devi Shakti	2021	Afghanistan	Evacuation after Taliban takeover
Operation Samudra Setu	2020	Various (via sea)	Evacuation during Covid-19 pandemic (Vande Bharat Mission)
Operation Raahat	2015	Yemen	Evacuation during civil conflict
Operation Safe Homecoming	2011	Libya	Evacuation during civil war in Arab Spring

3. Operation True Promise III

Context: Iran launched Operation True Promise 3, escalating military strikes on Israel.

Operation True Promise 3 is Iran's latest retaliatory military campaign targeting Israeli cities and infrastructure in response to Israeli airstrikes on its nuclear and command facilities.



Impact:

- Key Israeli cities like **Tel Aviv, Haifa,** and **Rehovot** were hit.
- Power stations, refineries, and scientific institutions were damaged.



Implications of Iran-Israel Conflict

- Regional Instability (spill over effect):** E.g. Involvement of Lebanon and Gaza

•**Disruption in Global Trade:** Shipping will be affected in the **Strait of Hormuz** and **Red Sea**.

•**Energy security:** E.g. India imports majority of its crude oil requirements through Strait of Hormuz route.

Iran Israel Conflict:

Since Iran's 1979 revolution, it has refused to recognize Israel and backs proxies like Hezbollah and Hamas. Ideological hostility, coupled with Iran's nuclear ambitions, fuels long-standing tensions. Israel views Iran's influence and nuclear potential as existential threats.

Under "Operation Rising Lion," Israel carried out airstrikes and drone attacks on key locations in Iran, including Tehran, the Natanz uranium site, a nuclear research center, two military bases in Tabriz, and a missile storage site in Kermanshah. The aim was to stop Iran from moving closer to making a nuclear weapon.

The Israel-Iran conflict puts India in a tough spot, as it has strong ties with both countries. Rising tensions risk disrupting oil supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, affecting India's economy. Key projects like Chabahar Port and the INSTC may also face setbacks, harming India's trade and connectivity plans.

Note - Hampering India's Energy Security: For India, which imports nearly **2 million barrels of oil daily** through the crucial **Strait of Hormuz**, any instability would mean **supply shortages, spiraling energy costs, rising inflation, and constraints on economic growth.**

4. Important Military Exercises

•Exercise Khan Quest

Context: Exercise Khaan Quest 2025 is a multinational military exercise being hosted by Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar from June 14 to June 28.

It is an annual joint military exercise that brings together military forces from around the world. This year's exercise involves military contingents from over 20 countries, including India.



- Objective:** To collaborate and enhance their **peacekeeping capabilities**.
- Focus:** The exercise focuses on a high degree of physical fitness, joint planning and joint tactical drills.

•Exercise Passex

The **Indian Navy** and the UK Royal Navy conducted a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** in the **North Arabian Sea**.

PASSEX refers to **joint naval exercises carried out between allied navies** when their deployments intersect. It strengthens **interoperability, communication, and strategic collaboration at sea**.

India: INS Tabar (stealth frigate), a conventional submarine, and P-8I long-range maritime aircraft.



United Kingdom: HMS Prince of Wales (aircraft carrier) and HMS Richmond (frigate) of the UK Carrier Strike Group.

•Exercise Tiger Claw

Context : The first-ever joint special forces exercise between the Indian Air Force and the US Air Force, named Tiger Claw, successfully concluded on June 10, 2025.



Venue : Garud Regimental Training Centre, Chandinagar, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh

Aim of Exercise Tiger Claw :

Strengthen interoperability between Indian and US Air Force Special Forces.

Promote exchange of best practices in special operations.

Enhance combat readiness and joint operational capability in varied terrains.

•Exercise Shakti

The **8th edition of Exercise Shakti**, a joint military exercise between **India and France**, is

scheduled from **18th June to 1st July 2025** at La Cavalerie, France.

It is a **biennial training engagement** between the **Indian and French Armies**, aimed at enhancing **interoperability, operational coordination**, and **military-to-military connect**.



•Other **exercise** between **France** and **India**:

Exercise Varuna (Navy), **Exercise Garuda** (Air), and **Exercise Desert Knight** (India, France, and UAE).

***Static info:**

These operations focus on providing aid during natural disasters and emergency situations, showcasing India's commitment to humanitarian causes.

Operation Kaveri: Evacuation from Sudan

Operation Karuna: Aid to Myanmar post-Cyclone Mocha

Brahmapuram Firefighting Assistance: Support in Kochi, India

Operation Dost: Earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria

Operation Ajay: Medical and disaster relief in Israel and Gaza

5.Rudrastra Drone

Context : Indian Army Successfully Tests Rudrastra VTOL Drone for Precision Strikes

- Conducted at the Pokhran firing range.
- Demonstrated precision targeting capabilities with live feed relay and automated return.
- Target range during Army-led VTOL drone trials: up to 50 km.
- Rudrastra UAV by SDAL successfully tested with extended range and payload capabilities.



- **Range:** Total range of 170 km, including loitering time.
- **Endurance:** Up to 1.5 hours of flight time.
- **Warhead:** Equipped with airburst munitions, effective for anti-personnel roles.
- **Strike Mechanism:** High-altitude deployment to maximize destruction over a wide radius.
- **Features:** Can operate autonomously, relay real-time video, and return to base.

6.Barak Magen

Context : The 'Barak Magen' system is an advanced aerial defence system developed by the Israel Aerospace Industries.

Iran and Israel continued exchanging missiles as the conflict between the two Middle Eastern countries entered the fourth day on Monday, raising the risk of escalation in the region.



The 'Barak Magen' system is an advanced aerial defence system developed by the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), which is capable of detecting and taking down a range of airborne threats.

7.INS TAMAL

Context : In a landmark step toward naval self-reliance, the Indian Navy will commission INS Tamal, a state-of-the-art stealth multi-role frigate, on July 1, 2025, at **Kaliningrad, Russia**



Key Features and Capabilities of INS Tamal

- **Class:** Krivak/Tushil class frigate
- **Length:** 125 metres
- **Displacement:** 3,900 tons

- **Stealth Design:** Enhanced low radar signature and stability
- **Missile Arsenal:** Equipped with BrahMos long-range cruise missiles.

8. INS ARNALA

Context : The Indian Navy has taken delivery of 'Arnala', the first in a series of eight ASW SWCs, marking a major milestone in indigenous shipbuilding and enhancing India's coastal anti-submarine capabilities.



- **Ship Name:** Arnala (named after the historic Arnala Fort in Maharashtra)
- **Delivered On:** 8 May 2025
- **Designed & Built By:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata
- **Built At:** L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli
- **Ship Type:** Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)
- **Length:** 77 meters
- **Propulsion System:** Diesel Engine-Waterjet – Largest Indian warship with this combination

10. Operation Midnight Hammer

Context : The operation that the US launched on Iran was named Operation Midnight Hammer.

12.Operation Deep Manifest.

Context: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized Pakistani-origin goods worth ₹9 crore under 'Operation Deep Manifest'.

A targeted enforcement operation by the **DRI** to detect and disrupt **illicit trade routes** being used to smuggle banned Pakistani-origin goods into India.

Launched By: Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance.

Objective: To enforce India's **comprehensive import ban** on Pakistani goods and prevent economic infiltration via third-country transshipment.

Objective: To severely degrade Iran's nuclear weapons infrastructure and demonstrate US strategic air power.

Weapons used:

B-2 Spirit stealth bombers with GBU-57A/B Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP).

Tomahawk Land **Attack Cruise Missiles** launched from a US submarine.

Decoy aircraft and support fighter jets for air defence suppression.



11.Operation Shield

Operation Shield is a nationwide civil defense mock drill exercise in India, designed to enhance preparedness for potential threats like air raids, drone attacks, and missile attacks.

Operation Shield' is designed to simulate hostile situations, including air raid sirens, blackout protocols, and various emergency response actions, to evaluate the preparedness of civil authorities, emergency services, and local populations.

The drills aim to replicate real-time scenarios that may arise from potential external threats, particularly in sensitive districts near the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB).

Schemes/Policies/Govt. Initiatives ~

1. NAMASTE Scheme

Context:

NAMASTE Scheme seeks to formalize sanitation workers and promote safe, mechanized cleaning of sewers and septic tanks through proper training.

About NAMASTE Scheme (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem):

Objective:

To formalize sanitation workers, promote machine-based cleaning, and ensure their safety.

Implemented By:

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

Implementing Agency:

National Safai Karmacharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC)

Duration:

2023–24 to 2025–26 (3 years)

Target Group:

- Sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs)
- Waste pickers (included from 2024)

2. Price support scheme

Context:

The Government of India has approved the procurement of **54,166 metric tonnes (MT) of Moong** under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** for the **summer crop season 2025–26**. This procurement will be carried out in the states of **Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat**.

About Price Support Scheme (PSS)

The **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** is part of the **PM-AASHA** (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan) umbrella scheme, launched in **2018** to support farmers.

Implemented by:

- The **Department of Agriculture & Cooperation** runs the scheme.
- **NAFED** (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India) is the main central agency that carries out procurement.
- **FCI** (Food Corporation of India) may also help in some states or districts.
- If the market price of **oilseeds, pulses, or cotton** falls below the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)**, the government steps in.
- Agencies like NAFED or FCI buy the crops directly from farmers at the **MSP** if they meet **Fair Average Quality (FAQ)** standards.

Benefits to farmers:

- Farmers are protected from losses when prices drop.
- It ensures they get fair prices and prevents distress selling.
- Procurement continues until prices rise and stay above the MSP.

ENSURING REMUNERATIVE PRICES TO FARMERS

Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan

- PRICE SUPPORT SCHEME (PSS)**
Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds & Copra by Central Nodal Agencies. Central Government to bear procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement
- PRICE DEFICIENCY PAYMENT SCHEME (PDPS)**
To cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. Farmers to get direct payment to the difference between MSP & selling price
- PILOT OF PRIVATE PROCUREMENT & STOCKIST SCHEME (PPPS)**
Private sector participations in procurement operation to be piloted. For oilseeds, states have the option to roll out PPPS on pilot basis

The infographic features a farmer character on the right side, holding a stack of money, symbolizing the financial support provided by these schemes.

Minimum Support Price (MSP)

The **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** is the minimum price the government promises to pay farmers for their crops, even if market prices fall. It helps protect farmers from losses and ensures they get fair value.

MSP was introduced in **1966–67** during the **Green Revolution** as a key part of agricultural reforms and food security.

Key Points:

- MSP is announced **twice a year**—before the **Kharif (monsoon)** and **Rabi (winter)** seasons.
- It is recommended by the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- Final approval is given by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**.

MSP encourages farmers to grow important crops and ensures income stability.

3. Index Cards

Context:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has replaced manual entry of electoral Index Cards with an automated, data-integrated system to ensure faster and more accurate reporting.

About Index Card

Index Cards are **non-statutory** reports used by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** after elections to share key **constituency-level data**.

They are a **suo moto initiative** by the ECI and are meant for use by the **public, researchers, and academics**.

What they include:

- Candidate details
- Vote counts
- Party performance
- Gender-wise voting data
- Regional voting trends

Earlier, all this data was manually recorded on physical cards at the constituency level, which was slow and caused delays. Now, the process is digital and faster.

These cards help present important election results in a clear and structured way.

4. PM Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

Context: The **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** has successfully completed **nine years** since its launch.

About Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

Launched: 2016 by the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.

Aim: To provide **free, quality antenatal care (ANC)** to **all pregnant women**, especially in their **2nd and 3rd trimesters**.

Key Features:

- **Services provided** by gynecologists, radiologists, and physicians (including private doctors).
- **Free check-ups**, tests (including **1 ultrasound**), and medicines (like **Iron, Folic Acid, and Calcium**) are given on the **9th of every month** at government health centers.
- Focus on women who are **unregistered, missed check-ups**, or have **high-risk pregnancies**.

- **Risk Identification:**
 - **Green sticker** – No risk
 - **Red sticker** – High risk

Supports other schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), and POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Extended PMSMA (E-PMSMA) – 2022

Aim: Track High-Risk Pregnant (HRP) women till safe delivery.

Key Points:

- Extra PMSMA sessions (up to 4/month).
- Individual tracking till 45 days after delivery.
- SMS alerts to beneficiaries and ASHAs for HRP registration and follow-ups.

5.Green India Mission

Context:

The MoEFCC released the **Revised Green India Mission Document** on **June 17, 2025**, during **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**, to boost climate action and ecosystem restoration.

Revised Green India Mission

The Centre released an updated plan for the Green India Mission (GIM).

Key focus areas:

- Restoring forests and green cover
- Ecological restoration in Aravallis, Western Ghats, Himalayas, and mangroves
- Tackling land degradation and desertification
- Boosting climate and environmental resilience

About Green India Mission (GIM)

- **Launched:** 2014, under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**
- **Goal:**
 - Increase forest/tree cover (afforestation on 24 million hectares)
 - Improve ecosystem services and carbon storage
 - Create 2.5–3.0 billion tonnes of carbon sink by 2030
- **Sub-Missions:**
 - Improve forest quality and ecosystem services
 - Expand and restore green cover
 - Boost incomes of forest-dependent communities
- **Funding:** From GIM allocation + **CAMPA Fund**

- **Timeline:** 2021–2030

- **Approach:** **Bottom-up** model via **Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs)**

6.India AI Mission

Context:The **IndiaAI Mission** has recently selected **three new startups—Soket AI, Gnani.ai, and Gan.ai**—to develop **indigenous foundation AI models**.

About IndiaAI Mission

- **Launched:** 2023 by MeitY and NASSCOM
- **Aim:** Boost India’s AI ecosystem by providing high-end computing to startups and researchers

Key Goals:

- **“Make AI in India”** – Build AI within the country

- **“Make AI Work for India”** – Apply AI across key sectors

Implementing Agency: IndiaAI (under MeitY)

Focus: Democratize AI benefits, ensure ethical use, and make India a global AI leader

Main Pillars:

1. Common Compute Facility
2. AI Kosha (Dataset platform)
3. AI Safety Institute (upcoming)
4. Innovation Centre
5. AI Application Development
6. Future Skills Training
7. Startup Funding

7.10 years of AMRUT

Context: India is celebrating the **10th anniversary** of the **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**, marking a decade of efforts to improve urban infrastructure, water supply, sewerage, and green spaces across cities to enhance urban living.

About AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- **Main Goal:**
 - Provide every household with a tap and sewer connection.
 - Improve city amenities like parks.
 - Reduce pollution by encouraging public transport.
- **Type of Scheme:**
 - Centrally sponsored, with funds shared between the Centre and States/UTs based on urban population and number of towns.

- **Coverage:**

- Initially covered 500 cities and towns; now covers 485 cities (including 15 merged ones).

Other Key Initiatives under AMRUT:

- **Jal Hi AMRIT:** Focuses on treating and safely reusing water.
- **AMRUT Mitra:** Trains women from Self Help Groups (SHGs) in water management skills for their communities.

Population census 2027

Context:

India will conduct the Population Census-2027 along with a caste-based enumeration for the first time since 1931. The aim is to collect detailed socio-economic data to improve policy planning.

More about the news:

- **History:**
 - First systematic census: 1872
 - First synchronous census: 1881 (conducted by W.C. Plowden)
 - This will be the 16th decennial census overall and the 8th since Independence.
- **Importance:**
 - It serves as the key official source of data for government policies, schemes, and planning.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has announced that India’s next population census will be conducted in two phases and completed by March 1, 2027. This is the first census since 2011, as the 2021 census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Highlights:

- **Official Notification:** Will be issued under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948.
- **Phases:**
 - Phase I – House Listing: Collects data on buildings, amenities, and assets.
 - Phase II – Population Enumeration: Collects data on individuals, including caste details.
- **Reference Dates:**
 - October 1, 2026: Applies to Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
 - March 1, 2027: Applies to the rest of India.
- First caste count since 1931.
- India's first digital census.



About Census in India:

- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 246 (Union List Entry 69)
- **Legal Framework:** Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990
- **Headed By:** Registrar General and Census Commissioner

Miscellaneous ~

1. ICC hall of Fame

Context: Former India captain MS Dhoni has been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2025, becoming the **11th Indian** to receive this global honour.



Eligibility & Criteria:

Cricketers become eligible **five years after retirement** from international cricket.

Induction is based on **overall impact, records, consistency, leadership, and influence** on the game.

Both men and women across formats are eligible.

Indian Cricketers in the ICC Hall of Fame :

Total Indian inductees: 11

Headquarters of ICC – Dubai, UAE

2. French Open

Context : **Carlos Alcaraz** wins French open final with a historic comeback.



Q. French Open is related to which sports?

Ans : Tennis

3. ICC World Test Championship

Context : South Africa wins ICC WTC 2025 against Aussies

•Man of the Match in Finals : Aiden Markram

•Venue – Lords , England



List of WTC winners :

- 2021 – New Zealand
- 2023 – Australia
- 2025 – South Africa

4. IPL 2025

Context : RCB won the 18th season of IPL



Runners up : Punjab Kings.

Man of the match in final : Krunal Pandya

Orange cap winner : Sai Sudarshan(GT)

Purple cap winner: Prasidh Krishna(GT)

Apsc prelims 2025~

Q.Who among the following won Golden Bat in ICC Champions Trophy?

- A) Rachin Ravindra
- B)Shareyas Iyer
- C)Ben Ducket
- D)Joe Root

5.ICC women's World Cup

Context : India and srilanka to host 13th edition of Women World Cup .



Venues : M. Chinnaswamy Stadium (Bengaluru), ACA Stadium (Guwahati), Holkar Stadium (Indore), ACA-VDCA Stadium (Visakhapatnam), and R. Premadasa Stadium (Colombo).

6.Paris Diamond League

Context : Indian javelin throw ace Neeraj Chopra managed to fend off Germany's Julian Weber to win the men's javelin throw competition at the Paris Diamond League 2025.



Q.The Diamond League is an annual series of competitions in which area?

- (A) Swimming
- (B) Badminton
- (C) Gymnastics
- (D) Track and Field Events

7.Miss world 2025

Opal Suchata Chuangsri of Thailand was crowned Miss World 2025 during the grand finale of the 72nd Miss World pageant held at the HITEX Exhibition



Centre in Hyderabad,Zana on 31st May 2025.

8. World Environment Day

World Environment Day (WED) 2025 is being celebrated on **5th June 2025**, with **South Korea (Republic of Korea)** serving as the **global host**

• **Theme:** The theme "**Beat Plastic Pollution**," aims to raise awareness about the **production, use, and disposal of plastics**, and promote solutions like **refusing, reducing, reusing, and recycling** plastic use.



About: WED was established by the **United Nations General Assembly** in 1972, coinciding with the opening day of the **Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment**—the first major global summit focused on environmental issues.

9. International Yoga Day -21 June



Theme: Yoga for one earth , One health

10. 2026 as International Year of Women Farmers

Context : UN Declares 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF WOMEN FARMERS 2026



AGRICULTURE & GK

The United Nations has officially declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, a pivotal initiative led by the U.S. to enhance the role of women in agriculture globally. This global observance aims to focus on the critical contributions of women to food and agricultural production worldwide.

•Women in Global Agriculture:

Women contribute to ~50% of the global food supply.

In developing countries, they produce 60–80% of food.

In India, ~80% of economically active women are in agriculture.

However, only 8.3% own farmland (NFHS), and 76.95% rural women are engaged in agri-work (PLFS 2023–24).

11. India's First Butterfly Sanctuary

Context : India's First Butterfly Sanctuary Inaugurated in Kerala's Aralam Forest

• **Location:** Kannur district, Kerala, within the Western Ghats.

• **Size:** 55 square kilometres.

• **Habitat Type:** Tropical and semi-evergreen forests.

• Established in 1984

12. Air India Crash

Context : Air India Plane Crash in Ahmedabad.

An **Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner** crashed into a college hostel in Ahmedabad, causing more than 200 casualties.

The **two black boxes** will help in revealing what triggered the tragic crash of the Air India plane.



The **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)** recovered “**black boxes**”, from the crash site of **Air India Flight Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner** airline in Ahmedabad.

•Black boxes in aviation are composed of two primary devices: **Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR)** and **Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR)** which continuously record data during flight.



Despite its name suggesting black, it is painted **bright orange** (with **reflective tape** for visibility), **rectangular in shape** and **crash-resistant devices**, designed to survive **extreme impact and fire**.

Working Mechanism: DFDR records important flight parameters like **speed, altitude, engine performance, heading, and flight control movements** and stores data for the **last 25+ hours** of flight.

CVR records audio from the cockpit, including **conversations between pilots, alarms, and ambient sounds** and stores data for **at least 2 hours**.

13. Chenab Rail Bridge

Prime Minister inaugurated the World’s highest railway arch bridge (Chenab Bridge) over Chenab River and the Anji Bridge, India’s first cable-stayed rail bridge over Anji River, tributary of Chenab.



About Chenab Rail Bridge

Height and Length: 359 metres above Chenab and 1,315-metre-long.

Key Features: Steel Arch Bridge engineered to withstand seismic and wind conditions.

Enhance connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar.

Both the Anji and Chenab Bridge are the part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project.

14. Fully Literate State

Context : After Mizoram and Goa, Tripura declared third fully literate state in country.

About Literacy

As per the Office of the Registrar General of India, a literate person is someone aged 7 or above who can read and write with understanding in any language.

A state/UT achieving **95% literacy is considered fully literate.**

15.Sahitya Akademi Yuva and Bal Purashkar

The **Sahitya Akademi (India's National Academy of Letters)** announced the **Yuva Puraskar for 23 writers** and **Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 24 authors** across 24 Indian languages for 2025.

Award Components: Rs 50,000 cash prize, an **engraved copper plaque**, and a **citation**.



Sahitya Akademi Yuva & Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Awardees from Assam :

Suprakash Bhuyan (Yuva Puraskar, Assamese) – *Kuchiyanama* (Short Stories)

Amar Khungur Boro (Yuva Puraskar, Bodo) – *Ang Asur* (Poetry)

Surendra Mohan Das (Bal Puraskar, Assamese) – *Mainaahatar Padya* (Children's Poetry)

Binay Kumar Brahma (Bal Puraskar, Bodo) – *Khanthi Bwswn Arw Akhu Danai* (Children's Stories)

About Sahitya Akademi: It is an autonomous organisation established in 1952 and formally inaugurated in 1954, dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India.