July 2025

CURRENT AFFAIRS

- TOPIC WISE CURRENT AFFAIRS
- 150 QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE
- ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

SHAKTHII ACADEMY

Increasing Confidence; Reaching Goals

Shakthii Academy

PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of July 2025.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smarty along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.

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Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

1: Important Days

National Doctor's Day (India) : 01 July :-

National Doctor's Day in India is observed every year on July 1 to honor the invaluable contributions of doctors and medical professionals in the country. This day commemorates the birth and death anniversary of the renowned physician and second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, who was also a Bharat Ratna awardee. Dr. Roy's dedication to medical service and his significant role in establishing medical institutions in India made him a symbol of selfless service. This year's theme is "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?".

Chartered Accountants' Day (India) : 01 July :-

Chartered Accountants' Day, popularly known as CA Day, is celebrated in India every year on July 1 to mark the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 1949. The ICAI is one of the largest accounting bodies in the world and plays a crucial role in regulating the profession of chartered accountancy in India. This day celebrates the important role CAs play in maintaining financial transparency, ensuring tax compliance, auditing financial statements, and guiding businesses with strategic advice.

GST Day (India) : 01 July :-

GST Day is observed every year in India on July 1 to mark the anniversary of the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which came into effect on July 1, 2017. GST replaced a complex web of multiple indirect taxes with a single, unified tax regime, streamlining India's indirect tax structure. The reform aimed to create a common national market, improve ease of doing business, and curb tax evasion by bringing more transparency. GST subsumed various state and central taxes like excise duty, VAT, and service tax, thus simplifying tax compliance for businesses.

World UFO Day : 02 July :-

World UFO Day is observed every year on July 2nd to raise awareness about unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and to encourage people to look up at the skies and wonder about the possibility of extraterrestrial life. The date commemorates the supposed crash of a UFO near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947, which sparked one of the most famous UFO conspiracies in history. Celebrating

World UFO Day is also a way to remind people of the vastness of the universe and the possibility that humanity might not be alone, inspiring scientific exploration and healthy debate about what lies beyond our planet.

World Sports Journalists Day :-

World Sports Journalists Day is observed every year on July 2nd to honour the tireless efforts and contributions of sports journalists and to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) in 1924. This day recognizes the crucial role that sports journalists play in bringing sports stories, updates, and analyses to fans around the world. The date was chosen because AIPS was formed during the Paris Olympics, marking an important milestone in organizing and representing sports media professionals globally.

International Plastic Bag Free Day: 03 July :-

International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on July 3rd to raise global awareness about the environmental impact of single-use plastic bags and to encourage people, communities, and policymakers to adopt sustainable alternatives. International Plastic Bag Free Day was established in 2009 as an initiative by the

Zero Waste Europe network, originally promoted through the Bag Free World campaign. The aim was to create a specific day dedicated to raising awareness about the environmental damage caused by single-use plastic bags and to encourage communities, governments, and individuals to take concrete actions to reduce their usage.

International Day of Cooperatives 2025 : 05 July :-

The International Day of Cooperatives, celebrated every year on the first Saturday of July, will be observed on July 5, 2025. This global observance highlights the invaluable role that cooperative businesses and organizations play in promoting sustainable development, economic democracy, and community well-being. Its roots go back to 1923 when the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) began promoting an annual celebration to strengthen solidarity among cooperatives worldwide. In 1995, the United Nations officially proclaimed this day. This year's theme is "Cooperatives Build a Better World".

World Zoonoses Day : 06 July :-

World Zoonoses Day is observed every year on July 6th to raise awareness about zoonotic diseases — infections that are transmitted from animals to humans. The day marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur administering the

first successful rabies vaccine to a young boy named Joseph Meister in 1885. This milestone paved the way for the prevention and control of diseases that originate in animals but pose threats to human health. Zoonotic diseases include rabies, avian flu, swine flu, and COVID-19, highlighting how closely human health is linked to animal health.

**World Chocolate Day : 07 July :-**

World Chocolate Day is celebrated every year on 7th July, marking a special occasion for chocolate lovers worldwide. The day commemorates the introduction of chocolate to Europe in 1550, which is believed to have laid the foundation for chocolate's global popularity. On this day, people indulge in their favourite chocolate treats, share gifts, and celebrate the cultural and culinary impact of chocolate. The day not only highlights the joy and comfort chocolate brings but also serves as a reminder of the rich history of cacao cultivation.

National Fish Farmers Day (India) : 10 July :-

National Fish Farmers Day is observed every year in India on July 10 to honor the vital role played by fish farmers, aquaculture experts, and stakeholders in boosting the country's fish production and promoting sustainable

fisheries. The day commemorates the historic achievement in 1957 when Dr. Hiralal Chaudhuri and Dr. K. H. Alikunhi successfully induced breeding of major carps through hypophysation, which laid the foundation for modern aquaculture practices in India.
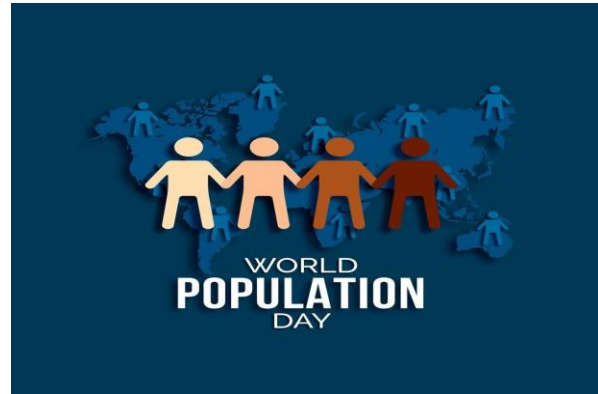

World Population Day : 11 July :-

World Population Day is observed every year on July 11 to focus global attention on population-related issues, including the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health, and human rights. The day was first established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, inspired by the public interest generated when the global population reached approximately five billion on 11 July 1987. Since then, this day has served as an annual reminder for governments and citizens to consider the impact of a growing population on sustainable development. This year the theme is "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world".

World Paper Bag Day : 12 July :-

World Paper Bag Day is observed globally every year on 12th July, and it reminds us of the crucial role that simple

paper bags play in promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle. The origin of World Paper Bag Day can be traced back to the invention of the first machine to mass-produce paper bags by American inventor Francis Wolle in the 19th century. Since then, paper bags have become a symbol of sustainable packaging because they are biodegradable, recyclable, and reusable. The observance highlights the power of small, daily choices in protecting the planet.
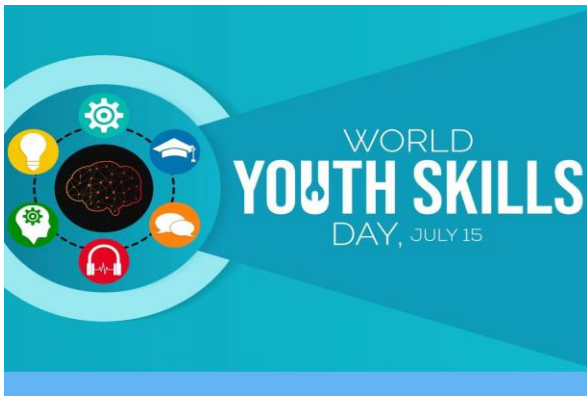
World Youth Skills Day : 15 July :-

World Youth Skills Day is observed every year on July 15 to highlight the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship. This day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 to recognize how crucial technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is for youth empowerment and sustainable development. The occasion serves as a reminder for governments, educational institutions, and industries to invest in skill-building initiatives so that the growing youth population can meet the demands of an evolving job market. The year 2025 theme is "Youth empowerment through AI and digital skills".

World Day for International Justice : 17 July :-

The World Day for International Justice, observed every year on July 17, is a significant occasion that highlights the importance of promoting international criminal justice and supporting the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC). This day commemorates the adoption of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998, which established the ICC — a permanent international tribunal to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.

International Nelson Mandela Day : 18 July :-

International Nelson Mandela Day is observed every year on July 18 to honor the legacy of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first Black president and a global symbol of peace, justice, and reconciliation. The United Nations officially declared this day in 2009, recognizing Mandela's 67 years of public service, including his fight against apartheid and his efforts in building a democratic and inclusive South Africa. The theme for Nelson Mandela International Day 2025 is – "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity."

National Football Day (India) : 19 July :-

India celebrates National Football Day every year on July 16, to honour the contribution of legendary footballer

Chuni Goswami, who was born on this day in 1938. Goswami is considered one of India's greatest footballers, having captained the national team to a gold medal at the 1962 Asian Games. He also played first-class cricket for Bengal, showcasing his multi-sport talent. The day aims to promote football across the country and inspire the youth to engage more in the sport. It is a tribute to India's footballing heritage and a step towards nurturing a stronger football culture nationwide.

World Chess Day : 20 July :-

World Chess Day is celebrated every year on July 20 to honor the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), which was founded in 1924 in Paris. The United Nations officially recognized this day in 2019, acknowledging chess as a global sport that promotes fairness, inclusivity, and intellectual growth. The day underscores how chess transcends linguistic and cultural barriers, fostering dialogue, strategy, and decision-making skills. The theme for World Chess Day 2025 is "Every Move Counts".

National Flag Day (India) : 22 July :-

National Flag Day in India is observed annually on July 22 to commemorate the adoption of the Indian national flag by the Constituent Assembly in 1947. This date holds great historical importance as it marks the official recognition of the tricolour – saffron, white, and green with the Ashoka Chakra at the center – as the national emblem of free India. The flag symbolizes the country's values of unity, sacrifice, peace, and growth. Observing this day is an opportunity to educate citizens, especially younger generations, about the journey of India's independence and the deep symbolism the flag holds.

National Broadcasting Day (India) : 23 July :-

National Broadcasting Day is observed annually in India on July 23rd to commemorate a landmark moment in the history of Indian media. This day marks the beginning of organized radio broadcasting in India, which started in 1927 when the first-ever radio broadcast was made from the Bombay Station of the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC). Later, this system was taken over by the government and renamed All India Radio (AIR) in 1936. Broadcasting has since evolved to play a vital role in shaping public discourse, spreading awareness, and preserving cultural heritage.

World IVF Day : 25 July :-

World IVF Day is observed every year on July 25 to commemorate the birth of the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, who was born in England on this

date in 1978. This day marks a major milestone in reproductive medicine, as it was the first successful birth through in-vitro fertilization (IVF), offering hope to countless couples facing infertility. The day raises awareness about advancements in assisted reproductive technologies and acknowledges the efforts of medical professionals and scientists in the field.
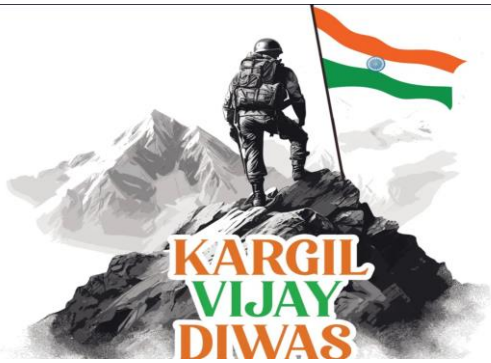
Kargil Vijay Diwas (India) : 26 July :-

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed annually on 26th July in India to commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999. The war, which lasted over two months from May to July, was fought in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir after Pakistani soldiers and militants infiltrated Indian territory and occupied strategic peaks along the Line of Control (LoC). Operation Vijay was launched by India to evict the infiltrators, and it resulted in the successful recapture of most of the occupied positions by the end of July. The day marks a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers, especially the 527 personnel who laid down their lives in the conflict.

World Nature Conservation Day : 28 July :-

World Nature Conservation Day is observed every year on July 28 to raise awareness about the urgent need to preserve the environment and natural resources. This day highlights the importance of maintaining a healthy balance in nature by protecting forests, wildlife, water bodies, soil, and air from degradation. The formal establishment of World Nature Conservation Day occurred in 1972 at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden. However, the exact history and origin behind celebrating this day are not definitively known. The World Nature Conservation Day theme for 2025 is "Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation."

World Hepatitis Day : 28 July :-

World Hepatitis Day is commemorated on July 28 every year to raise global awareness about viral hepatitis, a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E, that affect millions of people worldwide. The date was chosen to honor the birthday of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who discovered the Hepatitis B virus and developed its diagnostic test and vaccine. The day is officially recognized by the World Health Organization and serves as a crucial call to action for eliminating hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. The theme for 2025 is "Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down".

International Tiger Day : 29 July :-

International Tiger Day is observed annually on July 29 to raise global awareness for tiger conservation and to promote the protection of their natural habitats. The day was established in 2010 during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit, where 13 tiger-range countries committed to doubling the population of wild tigers by 2022 under the "Tx2" initiative. It highlights the alarming decline in tiger numbers due to habitat loss, poaching, and climate change. The theme for International Tiger Day 2025 is "Securing the future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the heart".

2: Agreements

PM Modi Inks Key Bilateral Pacts with Trinidad Tobago

During his visit to Trinidad Tobago, PM Modi held talks with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, resulting in significant bilateral agreements. The discussions focused on agriculture, healthcare, digital payments, and cultural exchanges. Six MoUs were exchanged, covering areas like sports, diplomatic training, and cultural cooperation. This visit reinforces the longstanding relationship between the two nations, highlighting shared goals in combating climate change, disaster management, and cybersecurity.

Tata Steel inks MoU with InQuik to bring modular bridge tech to India :-

Tata Steel, one of India's largest and most respected steel producers, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australian firm InQuik. This agreement aims to introduce InQuik's modular bridge technology to the Indian infrastructure sector. Modular bridges are built using prefabricated components that can be assembled rapidly on-site, making construction faster, safer, and more economical than traditional methods. This collaboration is expected to benefit remote and rural regions in India where connectivity is often hampered by the lack of reliable bridges.

France and Britain Enhance Nuclear Cooperation Amid Security Concerns :-

In a historic move, France and Britain have agreed to coordinate their nuclear arsenals to counter growing threats in Europe. This decision, formalized in the Northwood declaration, marks a significant step in European defense strategy amid uncertainties about U.S. commitment under Trump. The cooperation aims to strengthen deterrence capabilities without merging nuclear policies. The agreement highlights the shifting dynamics in global defense alliances and the strategic

importance of nuclear deterrence in maintaining regional stability.

Prasar Bharati Signs MoU to Promote Handball in India :-

India's public service broadcaster, Prasar Bharati, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Handball Federation of India (HFI) to boost the promotion and growth of handball across the country. This collaboration aims to give handball greater visibility by broadcasting national and international matches, covering domestic tournaments, and producing special programs to highlight the sport's potential and talent from various states. Through this partnership, both organizations hope to inspire young athletes to take up handball, a sport that has remained on the sidelines compared to India's more dominant games like cricket or football.

Andhra govt signs MoU with NaBFID for transaction advisory services :-

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) to obtain specialized transaction advisory services for its infrastructure projects. NaBFID, a development finance institution set up by the Government of India, focuses on mobilizing and managing investments for large infrastructure works like highways, energy, urban development, and transportation networks. Through this agreement, NaBFID will provide strategic support to the state government in planning, structuring, and executing complex transactions related to big projects.

EU Prepares to Retaliate Against US Tariff Threats :-

The European Union is ready to respond to the US's proposed 30% tariff on European goods, set to begin August 1. EU President Ursula von der Leyen stated the bloc will defend its interests, possibly imposing countermeasures to protect EU trade. The tariffs, part of escalating trade tensions, could affect $9.5 trillion of transatlantic business. EU trade ministers will meet to discuss next steps, as the situation threatens global economic stability. This development is significant for understanding international trade dynamics and potential impacts on global markets.

India Signs Major Fertilizer Agreements with Saudi Arabia :-

Union Minister JP Nadda concluded a visit to Saudi Arabia, securing vital fertilizer supply agreements. These agreements will see India receiving 3.1 million metric tons of Diammonium Phosphate annually from 2025-26, a significant increase to strengthen India's fertilizer supply chain. The visit also aimed to enhance cooperation in health and pharmaceuticals, marking a strategic partnership expansion between the two nations.

India and Argentina held the 2nd Joint Working Group meeting on Agriculture, focusing on cooperation in agricultural mechanization, genome editing, and climate-resilient practices. Both nations aim to enhance productivity and farmer welfare through knowledge exchange and joint research. This partnership highlights the potential for bilateral advancements in agriculture, vital for addressing global food security challenges and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Karnataka govt signs MoU with IISc to curb human-elephant conflict :-

In a significant step to address the recurring issue of human-elephant conflicts in the state, the Karnataka government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). This collaboration aims to leverage scientific research and technological innovations to develop effective strategies for mitigating conflicts between humans and elephants, which have been a persistent problem in many forest-fringe villages and agricultural areas of Karnataka.

India and Argentina Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation :-

NIEPID–JVF MoU for Structured Education for Children with Intellectual Disabilities :-

The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jaivakeel Foundation (JVF) to provide structured, inclusive, and evidence-based educational programs for children with intellectual disabilities. This partnership aims to integrate specialized pedagogical practices, technological tools, and personalized learning plans into the education system for these children. The initiative reflects a growing emphasis on inclusive education under the National Education Policy, ensuring that children with diverse needs are not left behind.

India-UK CETA benefits Indian auto component industry

The recently signed India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) promises significant advantages for Indian auto component manufacturers. With reduced import duties on automobiles, UK companies may shift production to India, attracted by lower costs and a burgeoning market. Sunil Mittal, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, highlighted the potential boost in exports from India to the UK. This agreement aligns with India's 'Make in India' initiative, bolstering the country's position as a global hub for auto components. It symbolizes a strengthening bilateral economic partnership.

UK FTA finalised after two decades :-

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced the finalization of the historic Free Trade Agreement with the UK. The agreement, which took over two decades to conclude, promises immense opportunities for Indian farmers, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs. Duty-free access for 99% of Indian exports is expected to unlock $23 billion in opportunities. The FTA marks a significant step in strengthening India-UK economic ties and fostering inclusive growth.

India Advances Siddha Medicine's Global Reach with WHO Support :-

In a significant move, India collaborated with WHO to finalize global training standards for Siddha medicine, enhancing its international credibility. The meeting, held on July 24-25, 2025, involved experts from 11 countries, emphasizing evidence-based practices. This initiative aligns with India's vision to promote traditional medicine globally, integrating it into national healthcare systems while preserving its cultural roots. The effort underscores India's leadership in promoting sustainable healthcare practices worldwide.

3: Appointments

Jennifer Geerlings-Simons Becomes Suriname's First Woman President :-

In a historic moment for Suriname, Jennifer Geerlings-Simons has been elected as the country's first woman president, breaking a significant glass ceiling in the South American nation's political landscape. Known for her long political career and active involvement in Suriname's parliament, Geerlings-Simons' rise to the presidency is being hailed as a milestone for gender representation and women's empowerment in the region. Her election reflects a growing trend in parts of the world where more women are ascending to top

leadership roles, inspiring greater participation and advocacy for gender equality in politics and governance.

Federal Bank appoints V Venkateswaran as executive director :-

Federal Bank, a leading private sector bank in India, has appointed V Venkateswaran as its new executive director, marking a significant addition to its leadership team. This appointment is seen as a strategic step to strengthen the bank's management bandwidth and drive its growth plans in an increasingly competitive banking landscape. Venkateswaran is expected to bring with him extensive industry experience and proven expertise in banking operations, risk management, and corporate strategy.

Raghavendra S. Bhat appointed MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank :-

Karnataka Bank has announced the appointment of Raghavendra S. Bhat as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD CEO). This leadership change comes as part of the bank's efforts to strengthen its executive management and steer the institution through an increasingly competitive banking landscape. Bhat, who is known for his vast experience in the banking

sector and deep understanding of financial operations, is expected to bring a fresh strategic vision and drive Karnataka Bank's growth plans forward.

BMRCL Appoints Dr J Ravishankar As MD :-

Dr. J Ravishankar has been appointed as the new Managing Director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), which oversees the planning and operation of the Namma Metro in Bengaluru. His appointment comes at a crucial time as BMRCL is involved in the expansion of metro corridors and enhancing urban mobility solutions in one of India's fastest-growing cities. Dr. Ravishankar brings extensive experience in public infrastructure and urban transportation. His leadership is expected to accelerate the pace of metro development projects, improve commuter services, and align the corporation's goals.

Prof Uma Kanjilal Appointed First Woman VC of IGNOU

Prof Uma Kanjilal has made history by becoming the first woman to be appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Her appointment marks a significant milestone in the university's history and in Indian higher education. A senior academic with extensive experience in open and

distance learning, Prof Kanjilal previously served as Pro-Vice Chancellor and Director of the Centre for Online Education at IGNOU. Her elevation signals greater inclusion and leadership roles for women in the academic field, especially within prestigious public institutions.


Tilak Varma Appointed South Zone Captain For Duleep Trophy :-

Rising Indian cricketer Tilak Varma has been named the captain of the South Zone team for the upcoming Duleep Trophy tournament. The Duleep Trophy is a prestigious domestic first-class cricket competition in India that features zonal teams. Tilak's appointment reflects his growing stature in Indian cricket and his performance at both domestic and IPL levels. As captain, he will be leading a team comprising top talent from southern states, and the role is seen as a stepping stone for national selection. His leadership will be closely watched by selectors and fans alike.

Advocate Sushil Ghodeswar Appointed Judge of Bombay High Court :-

Advocate Sushil Ghodeswar has been appointed as a judge of the Bombay High Court, marking a significant development in the judiciary's efforts to strengthen its bench with experienced legal professionals. His elevation was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium and later approved by the President of India. Prior to this appointment, Ghodeswar had an extensive legal career, especially in the Nagpur bench, where he handled a range of civil, criminal, and constitutional matters. His appointment is expected to add valuable depth to the Bombay High Court, which is one of India's busiest and most prominent high courts, serving Maharashtra, Goa, and parts of Union Territories.
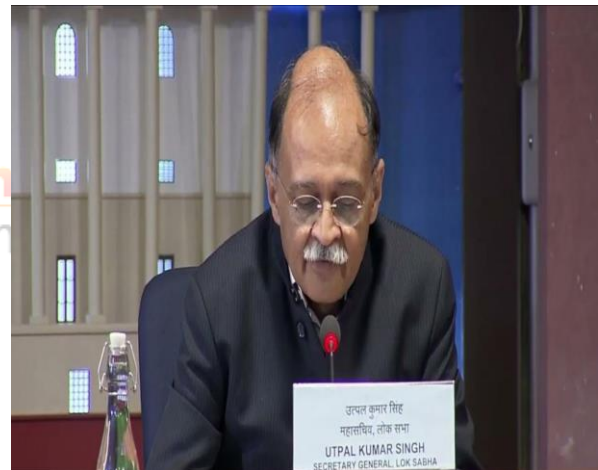
Utpal Kumar Singh Appointed as Sansad TV CEO :-

Utpal Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sansad TV, the official television channel that broadcasts proceedings from both Houses of Parliament. Singh, a 1986-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Uttarakhand cadre, has earlier served as the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha. His extensive administrative experience in governance, policy implementation, and legislative functioning makes him well-suited for this role. As CEO of Sansad TV, he will be responsible for overseeing content related to legislative proceedings, public policy discussions, and parliamentary outreach programs, aiming to enhance civic engagement and transparency in parliamentary affairs.

Kaushal Silva appointed Hong Kong head coach ahead of Asia Cup :-

Former Sri Lankan cricketer Kaushal Silva has been appointed as the head coach of the Hong Kong national cricket team ahead of the upcoming Asia Cup. His appointment comes at a crucial time as Hong Kong looks to strengthen its team strategy and performance on the continental stage. Silva brings a wealth of international playing experience and technical skill, having represented Sri Lanka in both Test and limited-overs formats. His leadership is expected to help Hong Kong improve their competitiveness against stronger Asian teams and foster the development of emerging cricketing talent in the region.

B.S. Murty appointed president of Indian Institute of Metals :-

B.S. Murty, an eminent metallurgist and Director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, has been appointed as the new president of the Indian Institute of Metals (IIM). Murty, who has an extensive background in materials engineering and alloy development, is expected to bring strategic direction to the institute's initiatives in research, education, and industry collaboration. The IIM, established in 1946, is a premier professional body for metallurgists and material scientists in India, and Murty's appointment is anticipated to further strengthen its global presence and technological advancements.

4: Awards

PM Modi Addressed Acharya Shri Vidyanand Ji Maharaj's Centenary :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the centenary celebrations of Acharya Shri Vidyanand Ji Maharaj, a revered Jain spiritual leader, emphasizing his contributions to India's spiritual and cultural heritage. The event marked the release of special coins and stamps, celebrating Acharya Vidyanand Ji's legacy of knowledge and service. PM Modi highlighted the Acharya's role in promoting inclusivity and social welfare, reflecting India's enduring spiritual traditions and commitment to holistic development.

PM Modi Honored with Ghana's Highest Civilian Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Ghana's highest civilian honor, the Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana, during his visit to the West African nation. The award recognizes his leadership in amplifying the voice of the Global South and strengthening India-Ghana relations. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hailed the honor as a tribute to Modi's commitment to global cooperation. This visit marks the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Ghana in over 30 years, emphasizing deep-rooted bilateral ties.

PM Modi to Receive Trinidad Tobago's Highest Civilian Honour :-

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar announced that PM Narendra Modi will be conferred with 'The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago' during his visit. The award recognizes Modi's global leadership, engagement with the Indian diaspora, and humanitarian efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic. This honor reflects the deepening friendship and shared heritage between the two nations, further cementing India's influence and diplomatic relations in the Caribbean.

PM Modi Receives Brazil's Highest Civilian Honour During State Visit :-

During his visit to Brazil, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded 'The Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross', Brazil's highest civilian honor. This accolade recognizes his efforts in enhancing India-Brazil relations and is a tribute to the people of India. The award acknowledges Modi's role in deepening the strategic partnership between the two nations, emphasizing shared values of democracy and sustainable development. Such honors reflect the growing influence of India on the global stage and highlight the importance of bilateral ties in fostering international cooperation.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2024 Nominations Open :-

The Ministry of Youth Affairs Sports has announced the opening of nominations for the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2024. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding achievements in adventure across land, sea, and air, alongside a lifetime achievement category. The award aims to foster endurance, teamwork, and quick reflexes among youth. Awardees receive a bronze statuette, a certificate, a blazer with a silken tie or saree, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. Nominations are open until July 15, encouraging individuals with exceptional performance and a spirit of adventure to apply.

President Murmu to Confer Swachh Survekshan Awards

President Droupadi Murmu will present the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Awards, recognizing top-performing cities and states in urban cleanliness. This year's awards, conducted by MoHUA, include the new Super Swachh League category, assessing over 4,500 urban bodies. The initiative, the world's largest urban cleanliness survey, aims to promote sustainable waste management and sanitation practices across India, fostering urban development and citizen engagement.

Ahmedabad Tops Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Cleanliness Rankings :-

Ahmedabad has been recognized as the cleanest metropolis in India in the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25. Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised the city's achievement, attributing it to the success of PM Modi's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The accolade reflects the collective commitment of Ahmedabad's citizens and officials towards maintaining high cleanliness standards. This recognition serves as a testament to effective urban management and community participation in cleanliness drives.

Kerala Announces Kathakali and Classical Arts Awards :-

The Kerala government has announced its annual awards for excellence in Kathakali and other classical performing arts, recognizing eminent artists for their contribution to preserving and promoting traditional art forms. These awards aim to honor both established masters and emerging talents across various disciplines such as Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Koodiyattam, and Carnatic music. The initiative reflects Kerala's commitment to sustaining its rich cultural heritage and supporting the artistic community. Along with cash prizes, the awards typically include citations and public recognition, further encouraging the younger generation to pursue classical arts professionally.

INCOIS Receives National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025 :-

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has been honored with the National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025, recognizing its outstanding work in geospatial science and ocean data services. INCOIS, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has developed crucial technologies for tsunami early warning systems, ocean forecasting, and coastal vulnerability assessments. The award acknowledges the institution's significant contributions to using geospatial technologies for societal benefit, particularly in disaster management, climate resilience, and marine navigation.

Amit Shah Felicitates Indian Contingent for World Police and Fire Games :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah felicitated the Indian contingent for their outstanding performance at the 21st World Police and Fire Games 2025, held in Alabama, USA. The team secured 613 medals, earning praise for their achievements. Shah announced incentives for the athletes and emphasized the Modi government's commitment to promoting sports. The event highlighted India's bid to host major sporting events like the Olympics, with initiatives like the Target Olympic Podium Scheme supporting athletes. Shah encouraged a sporting culture within security forces, underscoring the role of sports in resilience and teamwork.

**Meri Panchayat App Wins WSIS Champion Award for Digital Governance :-**

The 'Meri Panchayat' app, a digital governance initiative by India's Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has been awarded the WSIS Prizes 2025 Champion Award. Recognized for promoting citizen-centric governance, the app provides real-time access to panchayat budgets, development plans, and civic services, fostering transparency and participatory democracy. Supporting over 12 Indian languages, it empowers rural residents and elected representatives across 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats, exemplifying India's leadership in digital governance.

Geetanjali Shree Wins PEN Translates Award for 'Once Elephants Lived Here' :-

Renowned Indian author Geetanjali Shree has been awarded the prestigious PEN Translates Award for her upcoming book titled Once Elephants Lived Here, which has been translated into English by Daisy Rockwell. The award is presented by English PEN, a prominent UK-based literary organization that supports translation and the promotion of global literature in the English-speaking world. Geetanjali Shree, who gained international acclaim after winning the 2022 International Booker Prize for Tomb of Sand, continues to shine as a significant literary voice from India.

5: Banking
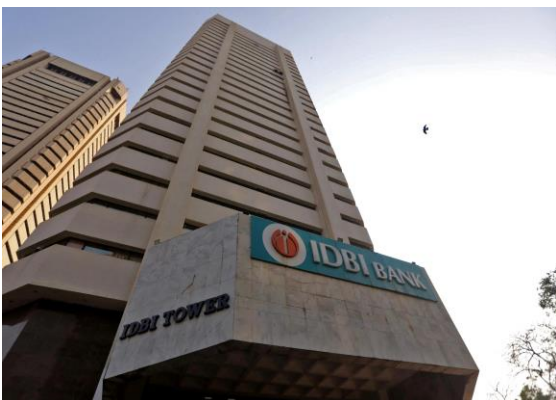
Financial bidding for IDBI Bank expected to conclude by October 2025 :-

The financial bidding process for the strategic sale of IDBI Bank is projected to reach its final stage by October 2025, according to officials familiar with the divestment timeline. IDBI Bank, which is co-owned by the Government of India and LIC, has been on the divestment radar as part of the government's broader plan to reduce its stake in public sector enterprises and attract private capital. The process involves potential

investors submitting their financial bids after clearing due diligence and regulatory requirements.

1.12 Lakh Counterfeit Rs. 500 Notes Found During 2024-25: RBI Governor :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor has revealed that during the financial year 2024–25, authorities detected a significant number of fake ₹500 currency notes — totaling about 1.12 lakh pieces — circulating within the country. This startling figure underlines ongoing challenges faced by India's banking and law enforcement systems in tackling counterfeit currency despite modern security features embedded in the redesigned notes after demonetisation. The ₹500 denomination remains one of the most targeted by counterfeiters because of its wide usage in daily transactions.

RBI fines HDFC Bank, Shriram Finance for violating certain norms :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which regulates and monitors the country's entire banking and financial system, has imposed monetary penalties on HDFC Bank and Shriram Finance Limited because they failed to adhere to specific regulatory requirements related to loan disbursement and customer verification processes.

According to the RBI, HDFC Bank was fined for lapses connected to its auto loan portfolio where the bank did not adequately follow proper guidelines while selling third-party non-financial products to its auto loan customers, which created issues of mis-selling and lack of transparency. On the other hand, Shriram Finance faced penalties due to non-compliance with certain norms under the NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company) framework.

NPCI International adds 13 more banks in UPI-PayNow linkage to ease remittances :-

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) International Payments Limited (NIPL) has significantly expanded the UPI-PayNow cross-border payment linkage by adding 13 more Indian banks to the network. This strategic move aims to further streamline and simplify real-time remittances between India and Singapore. The newly onboarded banks include Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, DBS Bank India, ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, South Indian Bank, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, and Yes Bank.

RBI drains Rs 2-lakh crore liquidity :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has undertaken a significant monetary action by draining Rs 2 lakh crore

worth of liquidity from the financial system. This move is typically aimed at controlling inflation, stabilizing currency volatility, and ensuring financial discipline in the banking sector. The liquidity withdrawal could have been carried out through instruments such as Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) operations or other open market tools. While it helps moderate excess cash flow that can fuel inflationary pressures, such an action may also lead to tighter credit availability in the short term.

Finance Minister Sitharaman Announces RRB Amalgamation to Boost Efficiency :-

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the reduction of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) from 43 to 28 to simplify management and enhance service delivery. This amalgamation, effective from May 1, 2025, aims to improve financial stability and operational efficiency by consolidating resources and leveraging advanced technology. The move aligns with the government's goal of achieving scale efficiency and cost rationalization, ultimately benefiting rural financial inclusion and service access. The initiative reflects the government's commitment to strengthening the rural banking infrastructure.

RBI extends tenure of oversight panel of IndusInd Bank by one month :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend the tenure of the oversight committee it had set up to supervise IndusInd Bank by an additional one month. This move indicates that the RBI still sees a need for close monitoring of the bank's functioning and internal systems, possibly due to governance or risk management concerns. Oversight panels are typically appointed to ensure enhanced regulatory compliance and to assess the progress of corrective actions suggested by the regulator. The extension suggests that more time is needed to meet satisfactory benchmarks.

Karnataka based Karwar Urban Co-op Bank loses license :-

The Reserve Bank of India has canceled the banking license of Karwar Urban Co-operative Bank, located in Karnataka, due to its deteriorating financial position and inability to comply with regulatory norms. The decision was made as the bank lacked adequate capital and earning prospects, making it unfit to operate in the interest of depositors. As a result, the bank is prohibited from conducting banking business, and the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) will settle claims of eligible depositors. This reflects ongoing efforts by the RBI to protect customers from weak financial institutions.

Ashok Leyland partners with West Bengal Gramin Bank for vehicle financing :-

Commercial vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland has entered into a strategic partnership with West Bengal Gramin Bank to facilitate easy financing options for customers purchasing its vehicles. This collaboration aims to boost rural mobility and commercial vehicle ownership by offering affordable loan schemes to individuals and businesses, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas of West Bengal. Through this partnership, the bank will provide tailored financial products such as competitive interest rates, flexible repayment options, and faster loan approvals, while Ashok Leyland will expand its customer base and improve vehicle accessibility.

6: Books and Author

Book on POCSO Act released in Madurai :-

Justice L. Victoria Gowri of the Madras High Court officially unveiled a book aimed at spreading awareness about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Notably, the book has been published in both Tamil and Braille to ensure it reaches a wider audience, including the visually impaired. The book's author is Advocate K. Samidurai. The launch event was hosted by the Indian Association of Lawyers in collaboration with Thuimai Vizhigal Arakattalai. During the event, Justice Victoria Gowri emphasized the importance of educating people about the POCSO Act's key provisions.

Hyderabad witnesses two book launches, 'Travel Tales and Close Encounters' and 'Girl in the Meadow and Other Unusual Stories' :-

Hyderabad recently became the backdrop for the simultaneous release of two new books—'Travel Tales and Close Encounters' and 'Girl in the Meadow and Other Unusual Stories'. These launches brought together local authors, literature enthusiasts, and members of the city's vibrant reading community to celebrate new writing that promises to offer fresh perspectives and storytelling styles. 'Travel Tales and Close Encounters' likely shares engaging narratives inspired by the author's journeys, highlighting people, cultures, and experiences that leave a lasting impact on travelers.

Gujarat chief minister launches GCCI's book on Hindu Succession Act :-

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel officially launched a new book on the Hindu Succession Act, released by the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce Industry (GCCI). Written by Upendra Bhatt, the publication offers an in-depth examination of the Hindu Succession Act,

particularly its implications on Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and related tax assessments.Published by the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce Industry (GCCI). The event was organized and hosted under the aegis of GCCI.

'Sunny's Days,' Commemorative Book On Gavaskar Released :-

A special commemorative book titled Sunny's Days, authored by renowned sports journalist Clayton Murzello, has been released to pay tribute to the legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar. This book delves into the remarkable journey of Gavaskar, who is celebrated as one of India's most iconic batsmen and a pioneer who transformed Indian cricket with his fearless batting against the world's best bowlers. Murzello, known for his insightful cricket writings, has compiled a rich narrative featuring rare anecdotes, interviews, and archival photographs that shed light on Gavaskar's career milestones and personal stories behind the scenes.

E. Sivanagireddy's book on Telugu language antiquity launched at TANA conference :-

A new book authored by noted archaeologist and historian E. Sivanagireddy, focusing on the antiquity and historical journey of the Telugu language, was officially launched during the TANA (Telugu Association of North America) conference. The TANA conference, known for bringing together the global Telugu-speaking diaspora, provided a fitting platform for unveiling a scholarly work that delves deep into the roots and evolution of Telugu. E. Sivanagireddy's book aims to shed light on ancient inscriptions, literary works, and linguistic influences that have shaped the Telugu language over centuries.

'The Hidden Life Of A Yogi' released at Mysuru Literature Festival :-

The book "The Hidden Life Of A Yogi", written by acclaimed journalist and Founder-Editor of Star of Mysore and Mysuru Mithra, Dr. K.B. Ganapathy (who could not attend the event), was unveiled during the 9th Mysuru Literature Festival. Brought out by Maiya Publishing, Bengaluru, this work recounts the vibrant and adventurous experiences of a restless seeker's quest for spiritual enlightenment and ultimate liberation. The book offers an engaging narrative for readers drawn to themes of inner exploration and self-transformation.

Former IPS officer V.S. Ravi launched his book Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict :-

A new book titled Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict written by V.S. Ravi, a former Indian Police Service (IPS)

officer was launched in Hyderabad. V.S. Ravi, who served in various senior police positions during his career, has turned his attention to literature after retirement. In this book, he shares his deep admiration for the works of William Shakespeare, exploring how the English playwright's timeless writings have shaped his views on life and human nature. The book is likely to offer a unique perspective, blending reflections from Ravi's policing career with insights drawn from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets.

Punjabi edition of 'Kejriwal Model' book launched in Mohali :-

The Punjabi edition of the book Kejriwal Model was officially launched during a special event held in Mohali, Punjab, aiming to make the ideas and governance style of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal more accessible to Punjabi-speaking readers. This book highlights the distinctive policies and reforms that Kejriwal's administration claims to have implemented in Delhi, particularly in areas like education, healthcare, electricity, and water supply, which his supporters often refer to as the "Delhi Model."
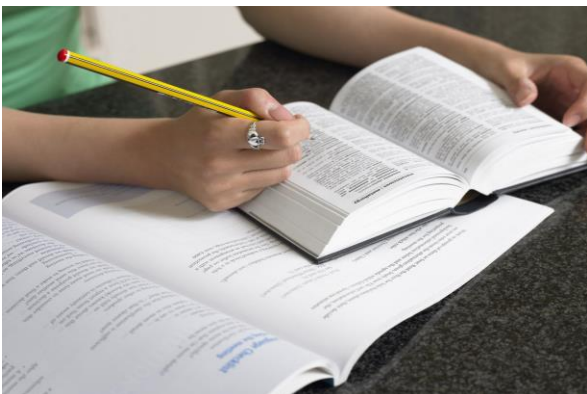
New Book Explores India's Linguistic Diversity and Cultural Strength :-

Amitabh Satyam's book 'The Hindi Medium Types' examines India's linguistic diversity and the cultural dynamics surrounding English education. The book delves into the societal mindset that elevates English as superior, challenging colonial attitudes and advocating for the preservation of local languages and culture. Satyam highlights the influence of English on Indian society, drawing from personal experiences and societal observations. The book encourages a reevaluation of colonial legacies and emphasizes the importance of embracing indigenous languages and cultural values for true freedom.

'Vicharon Ki Ladi: IRS Officer Maya Jaju Maheshwari's Debut Poetry Book Released In Bhopal :-

The debut poetry collection of IRS officer Maya Jaju Maheshwari, titled 'Vicharon Ki Ladi', was officially launched in Bhopal recently. The book brings together a series of poems that reflect on human emotions, societal values, and life experiences. Maheshwari, who is known for her literary inclination along with her professional career, has expressed that the book is an attempt to connect with readers through relatable verses and thought-provoking ideas. The release ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, literature enthusiasts, and her colleagues from the civil services, marking an important milestone in her creative journey.

7: Defence

Navy Rescues 14 Crew Members from Burning Vessel in Arabian Sea :-

The Indian Navy rescued 14 Indian crew members from the MT Yi Cheng 6 oil tanker after a fire broke out in its engine room near Fujairah, UAE. INS Tabar, deployed on a mission, responded swiftly and conducted firefighting operations, successfully evacuating the crew and containing the blaze. This operation underscores the Indian Navy's rapid response capabilities and commitment to maritime safety in the Indian Ocean Region.

Army Chief Commends Indian Military Training Team in Bhutan :-

General Upendra Dwivedi, India's Chief of the Army Staff, praised the Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) for its role in enhancing military cooperation with Bhutan. On his visit, he acknowledged their joint training efforts with the Royal Bhutan Army, underscoring the deep-rooted Indo-Bhutan defense ties. The visit also included discussions with Bhutan's leaders and a review of the Gyalsung initiative aimed at youth empowerment. This visit reaffirms India's commitment to supporting Bhutan in its nation-building efforts and strengthening strategic defense cooperation.

Indian Army Unveils Modernisation Roadmap :-

The Indian Army has announced an ambitious roadmap for modernization, focusing on advanced weapon systems and soldier-centric technologies. Key developments include hypersonic weapons, cyber warfare capabilities, and AI-powered systems for soldiers. This initiative aims to enhance India's defense capabilities in response to future warfare challenges. Industry partnerships will play a crucial role in achieving these goals, with a focus on innovation and self-reliance. The Army's vision aligns with India's broader strategy of strengthening its defense infrastructure and technological prowess.

Israeli Military Intercepts Missile from Yemen Amid Rising Tensions :-

The Israeli military successfully intercepted a missile launched from Yemen, amidst escalating regional tensions. This action follows a series of missile and drone attacks by Yemen's Houthi movement, disrupting trade in the Red Sea. Israel has warned of a potential naval blockade if such attacks persist, underlining the severe geopolitical strains in the Middle East. These developments come as part of a broader conflict involving multiple regional powers.

Trump Criticizes Putin, Approves More Weapons for Ukraine :-

U.S. President Donald Trump has approved the delivery of additional defensive weapons to Ukraine, in response to Russia's ongoing conflict. This decision comes amid Trump's criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin over the escalating death toll in the war. Trump is also considering new sanctions against Russia, highlighting a tougher stance on Moscow. This development underscores the complex geopolitical dynamics and the U.S.'s strategic commitment to supporting Ukraine's defense capabilities. The move is expected to impact the balance of power in the region and influence international diplomatic efforts.

India Unfazed by Nuclear Threats: CDS General Anil Chauhan :-

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan emphasized India's resilience against nuclear blackmail from neighboring countries. Speaking at an ORF event, he highlighted the importance of constant preparedness across the threat spectrum. General Chauhan reiterated India's stance on nuclear weapons as tools of deterrence, not war-fighting. This statement reflects India's strategic defense posture and its resolve to maintain national security amid regional tensions. The address also underscores the need for vigilance and readiness in modern warfare scenarios, crucial for India's defense strategy.

South Korea, Japan, and US Conduct Joint Air Drill Amid North Korean Threats :-

In a strategic response to North Korea's nuclear threats, South Korea, Japan, and the United States conducted a joint air drill involving a U.S. B-52 strategic bomber. This trilateral exercise highlights the importance of regional cooperation in enhancing deterrence capabilities. The defense chiefs' meeting in Seoul underscored the need for strong alliances to address security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. This initiative reflects the ongoing geopolitical tensions and the efforts of allied nations to maintain regional stability.

Indian Army Launches 'Operation SHIVA 2025' for Amarnath Yatra Security :-

The Indian Army has launched 'Operation SHIVA 2025' to ensure the safety of pilgrims during the Amarnath Yatra. Amid heightened security threats, over 8,500 troops have been deployed, supported by advanced surveillance and disaster response measures. The operation includes a dedicated counter-drone grid and comprehensive medical arrangements. The initiative underscores the Army's commitment to securing the pilgrimage and ensuring a safe passage for devotees.

Indian Railways to Install CCTV Cameras for Enhanced Safety :-

In a move to strengthen passenger security and ensure better surveillance, Indian Railways has announced plans to install advanced CCTV cameras across numerous trains and railway stations throughout the country. This initiative aims to deter criminal activities such as theft, harassment, and other security threats faced by commuters daily. The upgraded surveillance system will enable real-time monitoring by railway authorities and local police, allowing for quicker response to incidents.

Trump Announces Patriot Missile Deployment to Ukraine :-

Former U.S. President Donald Trump has announced plans to supply Ukraine with additional Patriot missile defense systems, signaling increased American support amid ongoing tensions and conflict with Russia. The deployment of these advanced air defense systems is intended to bolster Ukraine's ability to protect its cities and critical infrastructure from aerial attacks. This decision reflects a continued commitment to aiding Ukraine's defense capabilities while sending a strong geopolitical message to Moscow.

U.S. Declares TRF as Foreign Terrorist Organisation :-

The United States has designated The Resistance Front (TRF) as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation following the Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir. TRF, linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility for the deadly attack. India's Ministry of External Affairs welcomed the decision, emphasizing the importance of global cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. The designation underscores the U.S.-India partnership in addressing regional and international security threats.

HAL Receives Wing Assemblies for LCA Mk1A from L&T

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has received the first set of wing assemblies for the LCA Mk1A from Larsen Toubro. This milestone in India's aerospace sector highlights the collaborative efforts towards self-reliance in defence production. The LCA Mk1A, integral to India's air force capabilities, exemplifies the country's progress in indigenous manufacturing. The partnership between HAL and L&T reflects the growing synergy between public and private sectors in defence.

Indian Navy Commissions Indigenous Diving Support Vessel 'Nistar' :-

The Indian Navy has commissioned its first indigenously designed Diving Support Vessel, 'Nistar', at Visakhapatnam. Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Nistar enhances India's maritime capabilities with advanced technology for submarine rescue missions. The vessel's induction marks a significant achievement in India's pursuit of self-reliance in defence manufacturing, showcasing the contributions of over 120 MSMEs. 'Nistar' will play a crucial role in bolstering India's naval operations.

India Successfully Tests Akash Prime in Ladakh :-

India's Akash Prime air defence system has successfully intercepted high-speed aerial targets in Ladakh. This trial, conducted at high altitudes, demonstrates the system's enhanced capabilities with an indigenously developed RF seeker. Akash Prime represents a significant advancement in India's air defence technology, reinforcing national security. The successful test aligns with India's strategic focus on self-reliant defence solutions and operational readiness in challenging terrains.

India Tests Prithvi-II and Agni-I Ballistic Missiles :-

India successfully test-fired Prithvi-II and Agni-I ballistic missiles from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha. These tests, part of routine validation exercises, reaffirm the missiles' accuracy and readiness. The trials underscore India's commitment to maintaining a robust strategic arsenal and enhancing national defence capabilities. The successful launches reflect the efficacy of India's indigenous missile development program and its significance in safeguarding national security.

Indian Navy Set To Participate in SIMBEX 2025 :-

The Indian Navy is preparing to take part in the 2025 edition of SIMBEX, or the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise. This annual naval exercise, which began in 1994, exemplifies the strong defense

cooperation and strategic partnership between India and Singapore. SIMBEX focuses on enhancing maritime interoperability and mutual understanding between the two navies through advanced naval drills, tactical maneuvers, and simulated combat scenarios. The 2025 exercise is expected to feature participation from frontline warships, submarines, and maritime patrol aircraft, reflecting growing maritime collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region.

Indian Army receives first batch of Apache helicopters from US :-

The Indian Army has officially received its first batch of AH-64E Apache attack helicopters from the United States, marking a significant boost to its aerial combat capabilities. These state-of-the-art helicopters, known for their precision strike abilities, advanced sensors, and combat versatility, will be deployed primarily along India's western borders to enhance tactical operations. The delivery is part of a deal signed under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program, where the Army is acquiring six Apache helicopters, separate from those already in use by the Indian Air Force.

Thailand-Cambodia Border Clash Escalates, Fighter Jet Deployed :-

Tensions between Thailand and Cambodia escalated as a Thai F-16 jet bombed targets in Cambodia amid a border dispute. The clash led to civilian casualties, with both countries accusing each other of aggression. Thailand closed its border with Cambodia following landmine incidents. The conflict, centered around disputed territories, has reignited historical tensions. Diplomatic efforts are underway to de-escalate the situation, with both sides calling for adherence to international law.

India and China Review Border Situation, Plan Next Talks :-

India and China held the 34th WMCC meeting in New Delhi, reviewing the Line of Actual Control (LAC) situation and discussing peace and stability measures. Led by Gourangalal Das and Hong Liang, the delegations acknowledged improved bilateral ties and planned the next round of Special Representatives talks. The WMCC, established in 2012, continues to facilitate dialogue and confidence-building, addressing border management and diplomatic engagement at multiple levels.

Thailand and Cambodia engage in artillery fire amid conflict :-

Thailand and Cambodia have exchanged heavy artillery fire as border conflicts escalate, marking the worst fighting in over a decade. The clashes have resulted in casualties and widespread evacuations on both sides. The conflict underscores longstanding territorial disputes and poses a significant challenge to regional stability. International calls for a ceasefire have been issued, urging both nations to resolve the crisis through dialogue. The situation highlights the volatile nature of border disputes in Southeast Asia.

MoD Signs Rs 2,000 Crore Deal for Advanced Radars with BEL :-

The Ministry of Defence signed a Rs 2,000 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for air defence radars, aimed at modernizing India's air defence capabilities. These indigenous radars, with 70% local content, will detect aerial threats, enhancing the Indian Army's operational readiness. This procurement supports India's 'Make in India' initiative, encouraging local manufacturing and contributing to the nation's economic growth while strengthening defence preparedness.

Operation Mahadev: Three Terrorists Neutralized in Kashmir :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the successful neutralization of three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack during Operation Mahadev. The operation, conducted by the Indian Army, CRPF, and Jammu Kashmir Police, eliminated key Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives. This anti-terror initiative underscores India's commitment to counter-terrorism and restoring peace in the region. Such operations are crucial for dismantling terror networks and ensuring security in Jammu Kashmir. The government's proactive approach highlights its resolve in safeguarding national security and addressing cross-border terrorism.

Indian Army Foils Infiltration Attempt in J's Poonch Sector :-

In a successful operation, the Indian Army eliminated two terrorists attempting to infiltrate the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch sector. Codenamed Operation ShivShakti, the mission was based on precise intelligence inputs from the Indian Army and J Police. The operation highlights the vigilant efforts of Indian forces in maintaining national security amidst ongoing threats. This action follows a series of counter-terror operations in the region, underscoring the Indian military's readiness and strategic capabilities in thwarting terrorist activities along its borders.

8: Economy

India's Pharma Exports Reach $4.9 Billion in April-May FY26 :-

India's pharmaceutical exports surged to $4.9 billion in April-May FY26, marking a 7.38% increase compared to the previous year. The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) attributes this growth to strategic initiatives in sustainable manufacturing, expanded global market presence, and digital innovation. Drug formulations and biologicals dominated exports, accounting for 75.74% of the total. Key destinations include the US, Europe, and NAFTA regions. The ongoing India-UK Free Trade Agreement discussions are expected to enhance supply chains and attract foreign investments.

Gujarat Joins Top Trio with Over 1 Crore Stock Market Investors :-

Gujarat has become the third Indian state to surpass one crore registered stock market investors, joining Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. This milestone reflects the state's growing participation in financial markets, contributing significantly to the national investor base of 11.5 crore. Recent data from the National Stock Exchange highlights a surge in investor numbers, with North and East India leading growth at 24% and 23% respectively. This trend underscores a shift in investment momentum, with increasing participation across regions.

Aadhaar Authentication Transactions Reach Record High :-

Aadhaar authentication transactions surged to nearly 230 crore in June 2025, highlighting its growing role in India's digital ecosystem. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) reported significant increases in transactions and face authentication usage. This expansion underscores Aadhaar's importance in facilitating welfare delivery and enhancing ease of living for Indian citizens. The data reflects the continued integration of Aadhaar in various sectors, promoting efficiency and security.

Government Extends NPS Tax Benefits to Unified Pension Scheme :-

In a move to enhance retirement security, the Indian government has extended NPS tax benefits to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). This decision aims to make UPS more attractive for central government employees, offering parity between the two pension options. UPS provides a defined pension with government and employee contributions. The Finance Ministry's initiative underscores efforts to strengthen retirement planning, aligning with India's broader strategy of ensuring financial security for its workforce.

Oil Prices Drop as OPEC+ Increases August Output :-

Oil prices fell after OPEC+ announced a larger-than-expected increase in August output. The decision to raise production by 548,000 barrels per day comes amid ongoing uncertainties over US tariffs and their impact on global economic growth. The output hike reflects a strategic shift by OPEC+ to capture market share, despite potential price declines. Analysts anticipate further production increases in September, underscoring the complex dynamics influencing global oil markets.

India-Brazil Trade Set to Reach $20 Billion in Five Years

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced plans to enhance India-Brazil trade to $20 billion over the next five years. This ambitious target reflects the deepening economic ties between the two nations. During his visit to Brazil, PM Modi emphasized cooperation in trade, clean energy, defense, and AI. The two countries aim to expand the India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement, fostering a robust partnership. Such economic collaborations are crucial for strengthening bilateral relations and promoting mutual growth in the global economy.

Piyush Goyal Eyes ₹20 Lakh Crore Agri Exports with Processing Focus :-

Union Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted India's potential to increase agriculture and fisheries exports to ₹20 lakh crore by enhancing food processing and branding standards. Addressing the ICC: Krishi Vikram session, he emphasized the importance of resilient agricultural supply chains, water conservation, and adopting innovative practices. Goyal also advocated for the use of smart pumps and drip irrigation to improve crop yield and make Indian agriculture more climate-resilient, aligning with India's vision for self-reliance and global market expansion.

India Aims for Energy Independence by 2047: Hardeep Singh Puri :-

At the 9th OPEC International Seminar, Minister Hardeep Singh Puri outlined India's roadmap for energy security, targeting independence by 2047 and net-zero emissions by 2070. The plan includes expanding hydrocarbon exploration and diversifying crude oil sources. Puri emphasized India's role as a stabilizing force in global energy markets, with initiatives like the Global Biofuels Alliance and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, reflecting India's commitment to sustainable energy and affordable access for its citizens.

India's Gold Reserves Increase Amid Global Economic Uncertainty :-

India's gold reserves increased by $342 million, reaching $84.846 billion, as per the latest Reserve Bank of India data. This rise comes amid a rally in domestic and global bullion markets, driven by economic uncertainties and trade tensions. India's forex reserves stand at $699.736 billion. The increase in gold reserves highlights the country's strategic approach to maintaining economic stability and hedging against global market fluctuations.

Favourable Agricultural Output to Boost Rural Consumption in FY26 :-

A new report predicts that favourable agricultural output, easing inflation, and reduced income tax burdens will bolster rural consumption in India for FY26. With private final consumption expenditure constituting nearly 60% of India's GDP, this trend is crucial for overall economic growth. The report highlights the importance of monitoring household income factors to sustain private consumption growth. A good monsoon is expected to further support rural consumption, while policy measures like RBI rate cuts aim to enhance urban demand. These factors collectively contribute to India's economic resilience and growth prospects.

Bitcoin Reaches $120,000 Amid Industry Optimism :-

Bitcoin, the world's leading cryptocurrency, has surged to an unprecedented price of $120,000, driven by growing optimism within the crypto industry and increased institutional interest. This new record high comes as investors anticipate favorable regulatory developments and wider adoption of blockchain technology across various sectors. The price rally has reignited debates about Bitcoin's potential as a hedge against inflation and a digital store of value. Market analysts attribute this surge to renewed confidence, positive macroeconomic signals.

Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the second BIMSTEC Ports Conclave in Visakhapatnam :-

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the second BIMSTEC Ports Conclave in Visakhapatnam, highlighting the potential of the Bay of Bengal as a global trade and tourism hub. The conclave, attended by representatives from all seven BIMSTEC nations, focused on collaborative efforts to enhance maritime trade and sustainable development. Key discussions included port-led industrialization and digital integration to create a seamless and efficient port network, aiming to drive regional prosperity under India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

CPI Inflation Drops to 2.10% in June 2025 :-

India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation fell to 2.10% in June, marking its lowest level in over six years. The decline is attributed to easing food prices, offering relief to households. The data indicates that inflation is well within the Reserve Bank of India's target range, providing policymakers room to focus on growth and employment. Economists suggest that while food prices have moderated, the rise in services costs warrants careful monitoring to maintain economic stability.

India's Wholesale Inflation Turns Negative in June 2025 :-

India's wholesale inflation entered negative territory for the first time this year, with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) falling to -0.13% in June. The decline was driven by drops in food and fuel prices, while manufactured products saw a moderate increase. This aligns with the recent moderation in retail inflation, offering policymakers room to focus on stimulating economic growth. The Reserve Bank of India recently cut the repo rate, indicating optimism for economic recovery.

India's EV Sales Projected to Cross 7% Market Share by FY28 :-

A report by CareEdge Advisory projects that India's electric vehicle (EV) sales could surpass a 7% market share by FY28, contingent on supply chain resolutions for rare earth elements. The Indian EV market has seen significant growth, expanding from over 5,000 units in FY21 to over 1.07 lakh units in FY25. Government initiatives like FAME III and the PLI Scheme aim to boost adoption through policy support and infrastructure development. The report emphasizes the importance of expanding charging infrastructure and battery localization to sustain the growth trajectory.

Cabinet Clears Special Exemption for NLCIL's Renewable Energy Expansion :-

The Indian Cabinet has approved a special exemption allowing NLC India Limited to invest Rs. 7,000 crore in renewable energy projects without adhering to certain investment guidelines for Navratna CPSEs. This decision aims to enhance NLCIL's operational flexibility and aligns with India's climate commitments to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030. The move supports NLCIL's target of developing 10.11 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and expanding to 32 GW by 2047, contributing to India's broader sustainable energy goals.

NTPC's Renewable Energy Investment Powers Boosted by Cabinet :-

The Cabinet has granted NTPC Limited enhanced powers to invest up to Rs. 20,000 crore in renewable energy, significantly increasing from the previous Rs. 7,500 crore limit. This decision aims to accelerate NTPC's renewable energy capacity to 60 GW by 2032, supporting India's climate goals. The initiative will strengthen India's power grid, create employment, and foster economic growth, aligning with the nation's energy transition targets.
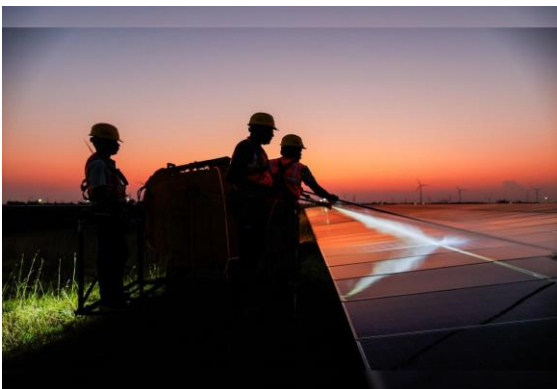
Tata Power secures first battery energy storage purchase agreement from NHPC :-

Tata Power has signed a landmark deal with NHPC (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation), marking the first-ever Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Purchase Agreement by the public sector hydropower company. The agreement includes a 150 MW/300 MWh battery storage capacity that will help NHPC integrate renewable energy sources more reliably into the grid. This collaboration is aimed at enhancing energy storage infrastructure in India and ensuring grid stability amid growing renewable energy deployment.

India-UAE Partnership Targets Nuclear Energy and Technology :-

India and the UAE are enhancing their strategic partnership, focusing on nuclear energy and advanced technology. Bilateral trade has exceeded $100 billion, with plans to expand cooperation in these sectors. Recent diplomatic engagements have strengthened economic ties, with significant investments and future projects in technology integration and education. The partnership aims to establish India as a global hub for content creation and sustainable growth, leveraging the strengths of both nations.

India's UPI Sets Global Benchmark with 18 Billion Transactions in June :-

India has emerged as a global leader in fast payments, with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processing over ₹24.03 lakh crore through 18.39 billion transactions in June, according to an IMF report. UPI now powers 85% of all digital transactions in India and nearly 50% of global real-time digital payments. It handles more than 640 million transactions daily, surpassing Visa's volume. UPI's success story, which started in 2016, is a testament to India's digital infrastructure, and its global expansion marks a new era in fintech innovation.

SAIL Supplies Steel for Zojila Tunnel: A Boost for Strategic Connectivity :-

The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has supplied over 31,000 tonnes of steel for the construction of the Zojila tunnel, India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. Located in the Himalayas, the 30-kilometer tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Leh, enhancing both civilian and military mobility. This infrastructure project is crucial for national security and regional economic development, reinforcing India's strategic infrastructure capabilities.

Over 34 Crore Jobs Created in MSME Sector Since 2014: Government :-

The Indian government reports that over 34 crore people have gained employment through the MSME sector since 2014, facilitated by platforms like Udyam and Udyam Assist. The sector is considered crucial for India's industrial growth, with measures to boost credit access and redefine MSME classifications. With 6 crore MSMEs in India, lending has surged significantly, highlighting the sector's role in economic development. Government initiatives continue to strengthen MSMEs as a backbone of India's economy.

India implements world's largest grain storage plan in cooperative sector :-

India has embarked on implementing the world's largest grain storage initiative in the cooperative sector, aiming to significantly expand its food storage infrastructure. Under this plan, large-scale grain storage facilities will be developed across rural areas with active participation from cooperative societies and Panchayats. The objective is to reduce post-harvest losses, ensure better price realization for farmers, and create an efficient supply chain. The initiative, coordinated by the Ministry of Cooperation, is expected to add over 700 lakh metric tonnes of storage capacity in phases.

India Achieves 20% Ethanol Blending in Petrol, Ahead of Schedule :-

India has successfully reached a milestone of 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025, five years ahead of its original target set for 2030. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri highlighted this achievement, noting significant economic and environmental benefits. Ethanol blending has surged from 1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025, resulting in ₹1.36 lakh crore saved in foreign exchange and ₹1.96 lakh crore paid to distilleries. The initiative supports India's clean energy goals, reduces carbon emissions by 698 lakh tonnes, and boosts rural incomes through increased payments to farmers.

Manufacturing Drives India's Flash PMI to 60.7 in July :-

India's private sector showed robust growth in July, with the HSBC Flash India Composite PMI Output Index rising to 60.7. The Manufacturing PMI reached its highest in 17-and-a-half years at 59.2, driven by strong sales, export orders, and output levels. Despite inflationary pressures, Indian companies remain optimistic about future growth. The survey highlights healthy job creation, particularly in the service sector, and indicates a quickening pace of economic expansion, attributed to buoyant demand and technological investment.

India's Digital Payment Surge: 65,000 Crore Transactions in Six Years :-

India has witnessed a remarkable surge in digital payments, recording over 65,000 crore transactions worth ₹12,000 lakh crore between FY20 and FY25. The government's initiatives, such as the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund, have significantly boosted digital adoption across the country, including in rural areas. Platforms like UPI have empowered small vendors and rural users, promoting financial inclusion. This digital transformation is crucial for India's economic growth, reducing cash dependency, and enhancing access to formal financial services. The trend underscores India's progress towards a more digital and inclusive economy.

India's Oil and Gas Exploration Focuses on Andaman Deepwater :-

India's oil and gas exploration is witnessing a resurgence, focusing on the Andaman-Nicobar basin. Union Minister Hardeep Puri attributes this to policy reforms and strategic seismic surveys. The 2022 decision to open 'No-Go' offshore zones has catalyzed exploration in promising deepwater blocks. ONGC and OIL's campaigns in the Andaman ultra-deepwater zone show positive indicators of hydrocarbon deposits. These efforts are part of India's broader strategy to enhance energy security and tap into frontier regions, leveraging technology and international collaborations for sustainable resource development.

9: International

Iran Reports 71 Casualties in Israeli Strike on Evin Prison
Iranian officials reported that an Israeli airstrike on Tehran's Evin Prison resulted in 71 deaths, including detainees and administrative staff. The strike marks an escalation in Israel's targets, extending beyond military sites to symbolic locations within Iran's ruling system. This attack raises concerns over regional stability and the safety of foreign nationals detained in Iran. The incident underscores the tense geopolitical dynamics and the potential for further conflict in the region.

US Bombing Damages Iran's Fordow Nuclear Site :-
Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi confirmed that the US bombing of the Fordow nuclear site has caused significant damage. This development follows US President Donald Trump's assertion that the strikes have obliterated Iran's nuclear capabilities. While intercepted communications suggest Iran is downplaying the damage, the full extent is under evaluation by Iran's Atomic Energy Organization. The incident underscores

the escalating tensions between the US and Iran over nuclear developments and regional security dynamics.

Ferry Sinks Near Indonesia's Bali: Four Dead, 30 Missing :-
A ferry carrying 65 passengers sank near Bali, Indonesia, resulting in four confirmed deaths and 30 missing individuals. The KMP Tunu Pratama Jaya capsized shortly after leaving East Java, with strong currents and winds hampering rescue efforts. Despite challenges, a search operation involving helicopters and underwater rescuers is underway. This incident highlights the recurring safety issues in Indonesia's maritime transport sector, where lax safety standards often lead to such tragic accidents.

Trump's Tax-Cut Bill Wins Congressional Approval :-
President Donald Trump's tax-cut package, aimed at funding immigration policies and making 2017 tax cuts permanent, has passed through Congress. The bill, which includes significant cuts to healthcare and safety net programs, has been met with mixed reactions. While Republicans tout the legislation as a boost to economic

growth, Democrats criticize it as benefiting the wealthy at the expense of the poor. The bill's approval marks a key legislative victory for Trump, albeit amidst concerns over its long-term fiscal impact.

F-16 Escorts Aircraft Out of Restricted Airspace Near Trump's Golf Course :-

An F-16 fighter jet intercepted a civilian aircraft that violated restricted airspace near President Trump's golf course in Bedminster, New Jersey. This incident marks the fifth airspace breach on the same day, prompting NORAD to conduct a 'headbutt maneuver' to safely escort the plane out. Such breaches highlight ongoing challenges in managing airspace security around high-profile locations, necessitating heightened vigilance and pilot awareness.

U.S. Condemns Attack on American Aid Workers in Gaza

Two American aid workers were injured in an attack at a food distribution site in Gaza. The U.S. blames Hamas for the grenade assault, which occurred during a humanitarian mission by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. The incident underscores the fragile security environment in Gaza and the challenges faced by aid organizations in conflict zones. The U.S. continues to call

for peace and condemns acts of violence against humanitarian efforts.

Elon Musk Forms 'America Party' Amid Political Rift with Trump :-

Elon Musk announced the formation of the 'America Party', signaling a significant political shift and escalating his rift with President Trump. This move follows Musk's opposition to Trump's recent tax bill, which he claims threatens America's financial stability. Musk's political ambitions and the party's creation could reshape the U.S. political landscape, challenging the traditional bipartisan system and influencing future elections.

Typhoon Danas Hits Southern Taiwan, Causing Widespread Damage :-

Typhoon Danas struck southern Taiwan with record winds and heavy rain, resulting in two fatalities and over 330 injuries. The rare hit to the island's west coast led to power outages and flight cancellations. As the typhoon weakened, it continued its path toward eastern China, prompting heightened alerts. The impact on Taiwan underscores the increasing vulnerability of densely populated regions to extreme weather events,

highlighting the need for robust disaster preparedness and response strategies.

Floods on Nepal-China Border: Dozens Missing :-

Heavy rainfall in Tibet has triggered flooding in the Bhote Koshi River, affecting areas along the Nepal-China border. The deluge washed away the 'Friendship Bridge', leaving over two dozen people missing, including 18 in Nepal and 11 in China. The floods have also damaged infrastructure, including a hydroelectric plant and imported goods containers. Search and rescue operations are ongoing, with the Nepal Army having rescued 11 individuals so far. The incident highlights the region's vulnerability to natural disasters and the need for robust cross-border disaster management strategies.

US Restores $6.8 Million Aid for Tibetans :-

The United States has reinstated $6.8 million in aid for Tibetans in South Asia, reversing cuts made during the Trump administration. This funding aims to support Tibetan communities in securing food and preventing the spread of diseases. The U.S. has urged China to cease interference in the Dalai Lama's succession, emphasizing support for Tibetans' rights and cultural identity. The restoration of aid reflects the U.S.'s continued commitment to advancing human rights and dignity for Tibetan communities, amidst geopolitical tensions with China.

Japan to Continue Trade Talks with US Amid Tariff Threats :-

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced continued negotiations with the U.S. to secure a beneficial trade deal, following President Trump's announcement of 25% tariffs on Japanese goods. Ishiba highlighted the importance of protecting Japan's national interests while seeking mutual benefits. The discussions aim to mitigate potential economic impacts and strengthen bilateral trade relations. The situation highlights the complexities of international trade negotiations and the need for strategic diplomacy to navigate economic challenges.

UAE Clarifies Golden Visa Rules Amid Misleading Claims

The UAE's Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security has clarified the Golden Visa requirements after misleading reports in Indian media suggested easy access to lifetime residency. Official channels remain the only legitimate way to apply for these long-term residency permits, which offer significant independence and stability for foreign

nationals. The authority stressed that no external consultancy services are recognized in the application process and warned against false claims. This clarification is crucial for aspirants seeking to leverage the opportunities offered by the UAE's progressive residency policies.

PM Modi Concludes Five-Nation Tour with BRICS Summit Participation :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to New Delhi after a comprehensive five-nation tour, including Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia. The tour from July 2 to 9 also featured his participation in the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro under Brazil's chairmanship. The visits aimed to strengthen bilateral ties across various sectors such as economic development, defence, and energy. In each country, PM Modi received honors and discussed expanding strategic and comprehensive partnerships, reflecting India's growing global influence.

India Advocates Maritime Safety at 134th IMO Council in London :-

India emphasized its commitment to maritime safety and gender inclusivity at the 134th International Maritime

Organization Council session in London. The Indian delegation, led by T.K. Ramachandran, called for urgent global reviews of maritime incidents involving undeclared hazardous cargo. India proposed IMO-led investigations to develop best practices for safer maritime operations. Additionally, India highlighted its national initiative 'Sagar Mein Samman', promoting gender equality in the maritime sector, reflecting its commitment to a safe and inclusive workforce.

South Korea's Ex-Leader Yoon Suk Yeol Returns to Jail Amid Legal Woes :-

Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has been detained again over charges related to his martial law bid last year. The Seoul Central District Court approved a new detention warrant, citing concerns about evidence tampering. Yoon faces criminal charges of insurrection, which could result in life imprisonment. His legal troubles highlight the complex political landscape in South Korea and the challenges of upholding accountability and rule of law in democratic systems.

Trump Imposes 50% Tariffs on Brazil Amid Diplomatic Tensions :-

U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 50% tariff on Brazilian imports following a diplomatic spat with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The tariffs are linked to Brazil's treatment of former President Jair Bolsonaro. Lula has promised reciprocal measures, escalating tensions between the two nations. The move, criticized as damaging to bilateral relations, could impact trade, especially in sectors like agriculture, highlighting the volatile nature of international trade policies.

Iran to Cooperate with IAEA Amid Safety Concerns :-

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi announced plans for cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog, IAEA, despite new restrictions imposed by Iran's parliament. The law, passed after recent bombings, requires the Supreme National Security Council's approval for inspections. Iran emphasizes safety and security concerns for inspectors at its nuclear sites. While continuing cooperation, Iran insists on its right to enrich uranium. The situation presents challenges for future negotiations and emphasizes the need for careful safety assessments at nuclear sites. This development is critical for understanding Iran's stance on nuclear inspections and international relations.

India's EAM Jaishankar Visits Singapore to Strengthen Ties :-

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited Singapore to reinforce India's strategic partnership with the nation. He met with Singapore's President and key ministers to discuss investments, infrastructure, and regional developments. The visit follows key outcomes from Prime Minister Modi's recent Singapore visit, aiming to enhance bilateral cooperation in sectors like semiconductors and skill development.

UK Lifts Ban on Pakistani Airlines After Five-Year Suspension :-

The United Kingdom has lifted a five-year ban on Pakistani airlines, allowing them to apply for resuming UK flights. The ban, imposed in 2020 following a PIA plane crash investigation, was lifted after Pakistani authorities made safety improvements. This decision follows similar steps by the European Union. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plans to resume flights with the Islamabad-Manchester route, potentially restoring its profitable UK routes. The lifting of the ban coincides with Pakistan's efforts to privatize its national carrier, with several groups bidding for a significant stake, aiming to enhance the airline's value and operations.

US Grand Jury Documents in Epstein Case to be Released :-

The Trump administration seeks court approval to release grand jury documents related to Jeffrey Epstein's case. This decision follows public controversy and demands for transparency regarding Epstein's clients and his death in custody. The move aims to address conspiracy theories and provide clarity on the case, underscoring the complexities of high-profile legal proceedings and the public's interest in justice and accountability.

A US court is reviewing President Trump's executive order limiting birthright citizenship, following a Supreme Court decision affecting nationwide injunctions. Democratic attorneys general argue the order violates the 14th Amendment, posing challenges for federal benefits programs. The case highlights ongoing legal battles over immigration policies and the broader implications for citizenship rights. The court's decision will impact future interpretations of executive authority and the legal landscape surrounding immigration in the US.

Tragic Capsize in Vietnam's Ha Long Bay Claims 37 Lives

A cruise ship capsized in Vietnam's Ha Long Bay, leading to the tragic loss of 37 lives. The incident occurred amid a sudden storm, causing the vessel to sink with 48 passengers on board. Rescue efforts have pulled 11 survivors from the water, but many remain missing. This disaster has prompted a large-scale rescue operation and a call for a thorough investigation from Vietnam's Prime Minister. Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of Vietnam's top tourist destinations, making this incident particularly shocking.

Trump withdraws US from UNESCO for second time :-

President Donald Trump announced the US withdrawal from UNESCO, citing the agency's support for 'woke' and 'divisive' cultural causes. This move, echoing Trump's first-term decision, aligns with his 'America-first' policy and skepticism of multilateral organizations. The withdrawal, effective next year, reflects ongoing tensions over UNESCO's perceived anti-Israel bias and globalist agenda. While the decision is criticized for undermining international cooperation, it highlights the challenges in balancing national interests with global cultural and educational initiatives.

US Court Reviews Trump's Birthright Citizenship Order

UAE to Phase Out SMS and Email OTP Authentication by 2026 :-

The UAE Central Bank has mandated the elimination of SMS and email-based OTP authentication by March 2026, enhancing digital banking security. Financial institutions will adopt advanced methods like Emirates Face Recognition and biometric verification. The move is part of the UAE's Financial Infrastructure Transformation (FIT) Programme, supporting secure, risk-based authentication technologies and marking a significant shift in digital security standards.

India Resumes Tourist Visas for Chinese Citizens After Five Years :-

The Indian government has officially resumed the issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals after a five-year suspension that began in the wake of heightened tensions between the two countries, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic and border conflicts. This move signals a step toward easing strained diplomatic relations and promoting people-to-people exchanges between the Asian neighbors. The decision is expected to boost tourism-related sectors and reflects a broader effort to normalize bilateral engagement after years of limited connectivity.

Indian Embassy issues advisory amid Thailand-Cambodia tensions :-

Amid escalating tensions along the Thailand-Cambodia border, the Indian Embassy in Thailand has issued a travel advisory for Indian tourists. The advisory urges travelers to remain vigilant and stay informed through official Thai sources. The conflict has resulted in casualties and increased military activity along the border. Indian nationals are advised to avoid travel to certain regions, as authorities work to manage the situation. This advisory highlights the need for travelers to prioritize safety in conflict-prone areas.

France's plan to recognize Palestinian state draws criticism :-

French President Emmanuel Macron's announcement to recognize a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly has sparked criticism from Israel and the US. Macron's decision aims to support peace in the Middle East, but Israel views the move as rewarding terrorism. The US has expressed strong opposition, citing potential setbacks to peace efforts. The recognition is part of France's broader strategy to engage in Middle East peace processes, although it faces significant diplomatic challenges.

PM Modi, Maldivian President Inaugurate Defence Ministry Building in Male :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu inaugurated the new Ministry of Defence building in Male, symbolizing the strong defence ties between India and the Maldives. Built with India's financial assistance, the modern facility will enhance the Maldives' defence capabilities. The leaders discussed bilateral cooperation, focusing on India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. Modi also gifted health cubes to the Maldives, showcasing India's commitment to regional health and security cooperation.

Australia Adds YouTube to Social Media Ban for Teens :

Australia has included YouTube in its ban on social media for teenagers, reversing an earlier exemption. The move follows research indicating high exposure to harmful content on the platform among children aged 10 to 15. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese emphasized social media's responsibility in protecting children from online harm. The ban, effective from December, imposes significant fines for non-compliance. This decision aligns with Australia's broader strategy to safeguard young users and ensure online platforms adhere to stricter content moderation standards, addressing rising concerns over digital safety.
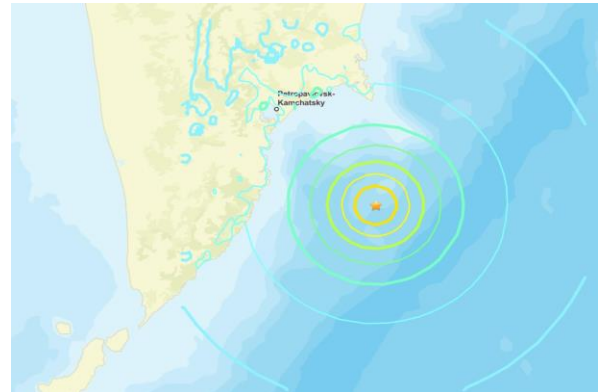
Tsunami Waves Reach Hawaii After Massive Russia Quake :-

A powerful 8.8 magnitude earthquake off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula has triggered tsunami waves reaching Hawaii, prompting evacuation orders. The earthquake caused significant damage in Russia and sparked alerts across the Pacific, including Japan and the U.S. West Coast. Hawaii's residents are advised to move to higher ground as precautionary measures are in full swing. The situation underscores the importance of international cooperation in disaster preparedness and response, as affected regions mobilize resources to mitigate the impact of this natural calamity.

10: Miscellaneous
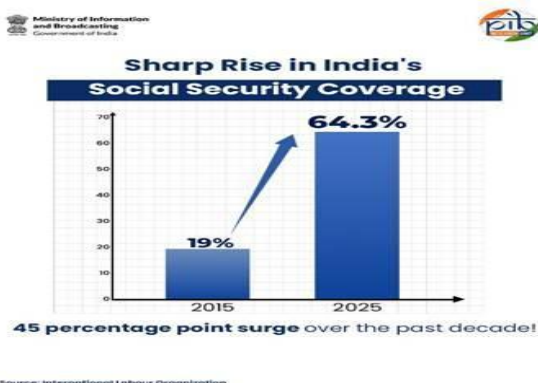
India's Social Security Coverage Surpasses 64%, Benefiting 94 Crore People :-

India's social security coverage has expanded from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025, benefiting over 94 crore people. This growth, recognized by the International Labour Organization, reflects India's commitment to inclusive welfare. The expansion is driven by initiatives like the codification of labor laws and digital infrastructure development. These efforts underscore

India's focus on social equity, with significant impacts on healthcare, income security, and overall quality of life.

MPEDA Hosts National Skill Olympiad to Boost Seafood Exports :-

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) organized its inaugural National Skill Olympiad on seafood value addition. Held at the Seafood Expo Bharat in Chennai, the event aimed to promote skilled workforce development and innovation in seafood exports. Thanseer K R of Abad Foods, Kerala, emerged as the winner, receiving a prize of ₹1,00,000. The competition saw participation from trained professionals across India's coasts, with finalists evaluated on quality, hygiene, and presentation. Plans are underway to make this an annual event.

PM Modi Announces OCI Cards for 6th-Generation Indians in Trinidad Tobago :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that sixth-generation members of the Indian diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago will now be eligible for Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards. This move strengthens the cultural and emotional ties between India and its diaspora, acknowledging their contributions and heritage. The

announcement was made during Modi's address to the Indian community, reflecting the enduring bonds and shared values that unite India and Trinidad and Tobago.

**Buddhists to Observe Āshāḍha Pūrṇimā at Sarnath :-**

The International Buddhist Confederation, in collaboration with the Mahabodhi Society of India, will observe Āshāḍha Pūrṇimā at Sarnath. This day, marking the First Turning of the Wheel of Dhamma by Buddha, is of great significance in Buddhism. The event at Sarnath will include a solemn ceremony and chanting, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the Buddha's teachings. Āshāḍha Pūrṇimā is observed across Buddhist-majority countries, coinciding with Guru Purnima, a festival honoring spiritual teachers. This observance underscores the enduring impact of Buddhist teachings on global cultures.

Commemorative Stamp Released for Syama Prasad Mookerjee's 125th Birth Anniversary :-

The Department of Posts released a commemorative stamp honoring Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 125th birth anniversary. The ceremony, attended by senior officials and dignitaries, celebrated Mookerjee's contributions as an educationist and statesman. The

event included cultural performances and exhibitions, highlighting his legacy in shaping India's educational and political landscape. The stamp symbolizes Mookerjee's lifelong commitment to public service and national unity, commemorating his impact on Indian society.
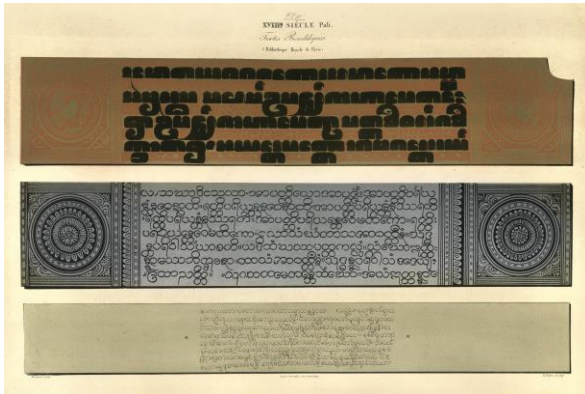
India to Host First Global Conference on Manuscript Heritage in September :-

India will host its first-ever global conference on manuscript heritage, focusing on preserving the country's vast manuscript wealth. Scheduled for September, the conference aims to promote India's knowledge legacy and enhance global engagement. It will cover themes like conservation, digitization, and integrating manuscript knowledge into education. This initiative highlights India's commitment to cultural preservation and knowledge dissemination, showcasing the importance of manuscripts in sustaining intellectual and cultural heritage.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Distributes Relief to Fire-Hit Artisans :-

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta distributed Rs 5 lakh each to 24 artisans affected by the Dilli Haat fire in April. The devastating fire destroyed artisan stalls showcasing

traditional crafts. Gupta's swift response included ex gratia relief and a six-month rent waiver for the affected artisans. The initiative underscores the government's commitment to supporting artisans and preserving cultural heritage. Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra emphasized the importance of safeguarding traditional arts and crafts, ensuring artisans' livelihoods, and promoting cultural continuity in Delhi.

Union Minister Inaugurates Mann Ki Baat Talent Hunt Season 5 :-

Union Minister Raksha Khadse inaugurated the final round of the 'Mann Ki Baat Talent Hunt Season 5' in Thiruvananthapuram. Organized by the Global Givers Foundation and Mera Yuva Bharat, the event aims to inspire students by engaging with themes from the Prime Minister's radio address. Competitions included radio jockeying and debates, fostering national pride and youth development.

Martian Meteorite Sells for Record $5.3 Million at Auction :-

A 54-pound Martian meteorite, the largest known piece of Mars on Earth, fetched $5.3 million at a Sotheby's auction. The bidding war highlighted the scientific and

collector interest in extraterrestrial artifacts. Discovered in Niger's Sahara Desert, the meteorite's journey from Mars to Earth involves a rare cosmic event. Its sale underscores the fascination and value placed on space exploration and the study of Martian geology.

CIL Pledges ₹10 Crore for Tribal Education in Chhattisgarh :-

Coal India Ltd (CIL) has pledged ₹10 crore to enhance tribal education in Chhattisgarh's Eklavya Model Residential Schools. The MoU with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs aims to support digital education, health, and entrepreneurship programs for over 28,000 tribal students. CIL's CSR initiative will fund computer labs, sanitary facilities, and mentorship programs, aligning with the National Education Policy 2020. This collaboration seeks to create an innovative learning environment and provide equal opportunities for students from marginalized communities.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Resigns Due to Health Concerns :-

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has resigned from his position, citing health concerns and the need to prioritize medical advice. His resignation, effective immediately, marks the end of his tenure as Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Dhankhar expressed gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their support during his term. His resignation comes at a time of political activity with the commencement of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

11: National

Railways Launches 'RailOne' App for Passenger Services
Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the 'RailOne' app, a comprehensive platform for railway passenger services. The app offers unreserved and platform ticket booking, live train tracking, and grievance redressal, among other services. It supports single sign-on and integrates with existing RailConnect and UTS credentials. The launch aligns with Indian Railways' digital infrastructure goals, and the app is part of initiatives to modernize passenger services, including the development of a new Passenger Reservation System.

I Ministry Proposes Overhaul of TRP Guidelines :-

The Ministry of Information Broadcasting has unveiled draft policy changes aimed at modernizing India's television viewership measurement system. The proposed guidelines, released on July 2, seek to update the outdated Television Rating Points (TRP) system to better reflect current viewing habits across diverse platforms like cable, DTH, and streaming services. This reform is designed to open up the field to multiple agencies, thereby enhancing competition and technology upgrades. Stakeholders are invited to submit feedback by the end of the 30-day consultation period, potentially leading to a more accurate and representative TRP system.

Govt Urges Use of BIS-Certified Helmets to Ensure Road Safety :-

In a significant step to enhance road safety, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has urged the public to use only BIS-certified helmets. With over 21 crore two-wheelers in India, helmet safety is a major concern. Despite mandatory certification under the Motor Vehicles Act, substandard helmets are rampant. BIS has conducted numerous operations, seizing thousands of non-compliant helmets. This initiative, integrated with road safety campaigns, aims to mitigate fatalities. BIS's new app features will help consumers verify licenses, promoting awareness of certified helmets.

Amarnath Yatra Sees Massive Pilgrim Turnout Amid Enhanced Security :-

The annual Amarnath Yatra has attracted nearly 48,000 devotees in its first three days, with stringent security measures in place following past security threats. The Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board reported that over 21,000 pilgrims visited the sacred shrine on opening day. The deployment of additional security forces, including CAPFs and local police, underscores the commitment to ensuring a safe pilgrimage. This year's Yatra is set to conclude on August 9, coinciding with the Raksha Bandhan festival.

NHAI Tightens Norms for Reporting and Blacklisting Loose FASTags :-

The National Highways Authority of India has strengthened norms for reporting and blacklisting 'Loose FASTags' to enhance tolling efficiency. This move aims to curb misuse and operational disruptions caused by FASTags not affixed to vehicles. With a FASTag penetration rate of over 98%, the initiative seeks to streamline toll operations and ensure seamless travel for

highway users, aligning with India's goal of efficient toll collection.

Semicon India 2025 to Showcase Global Participation and Innovation :-

Semicon India 2025, set to be held in New Delhi, will feature record participation from over 300 companies across 18 countries. The event aims to highlight India's expanding capabilities in the semiconductor sector. With international pavilions and country roundtables, the conference will focus on bilateral partnerships and workforce development. The initiative aligns with India's goal of becoming a global semiconductor powerhouse.

AI 171 Crash Preliminary Report: No Mechanical Faults Found :-

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson stated that the preliminary report on the AI-171 crash found no mechanical or maintenance faults. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's report confirmed that all mandatory maintenance tasks were completed, and no abnormalities were detected in the take-off roll. Wilson urged against drawing premature conclusions, emphasizing the ongoing investigation. The crash in Ahmedabad claimed 260 lives, highlighting the need for a thorough inquiry into the incident.

India Launches Talent Hunt for Young Chefs to Blend Tradition with Innovation :-

The PHDCCI, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, has launched the National Young Chef Competition to discover and nurture India's next generation of culinary innovators. Targeting final-year hospitality students, the competition encourages blending traditional Indian culinary practices with contemporary techniques. The initiative aims to preserve India's diverse culinary heritage and expand its global footprint in fine dining. Zonal rounds will be held nationwide, culminating in a grand finale in New Delhi. The competition also addresses declining hospitality education enrollment by promoting career opportunities in the culinary industry.

Air India to Partially Restore International Flights Post-Crash :-

Air India has announced plans to partially restore its international flight schedule after a safety pause following a recent crash. The airline will resume thrice-weekly services between Ahmedabad and London

Heathrow, replacing the current Ahmedabad-London Gatwick route. The crash involving a Boeing 787 Dreamliner had necessitated additional safety checks. Air India aims to fully restore its international operations by October 2025, with gradual adjustments to flight frequencies for destinations in Europe and North America. This move reflects the airline's commitment to safety and service continuity.

UIDAI Launches Portal to Deactivate Aadhaar of the Deceased :-

In a bid to prevent identity fraud, UIDAI has launched a portal for deactivating Aadhaar numbers of deceased individuals. Family members can report deaths via the myAadhaar Portal using the deceased's Aadhaar and Death Registration numbers. This initiative, part of a broader strategy, involves collaboration with state governments and aims to maintain the accuracy of the Aadhaar database, a critical identity tool for Indian residents.

India Intensifies Anti-Narcotics Efforts with Major Drug Seizures in 2024 :-

In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, India seized narcotics worth ₹25,330 crore in 2024, a 55% increase from the previous year. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), with expanded operations and inter-agency collaboration, played a pivotal role. Operations, including a joint effort with the Indian Navy and Gujarat Police, led to the confiscation of over 3,100 kg of drugs. The government's comprehensive approach also focuses on rehabilitation through the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, benefiting millions. This reflects India's commitment to a drug-free society, blending enforcement with community participation.

PM Modi Inaugurates Parliament's Monsoon Session with Call for Unity :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Monsoon Session of Parliament, emphasizing unity among lawmakers to strengthen national resolve. He highlighted achievements across defence, science, and economy, including Operation Sindoor's success and India's digital leadership with UPI. PM Modi urged a united celebration of these accomplishments in Parliament, aiming to inspire confidence in India's growth trajectory. The session's agenda includes key bills on taxation and governance, reflecting the government's commitment to national progress.

Parliament Clears Bills of Lading, 2025 to Modernize Maritime Law :-

India's Parliament has passed the Bills of Lading, 2025, replacing the archaic 1856 Act to align with global maritime standards. This legislation, pending Presidential assent, aims to simplify shipping documentation, enhance transparency, and reduce litigation risks. Presented by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the bill is part of the government's vision to build a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. By adopting internationally recognized norms, the reform strengthens India's position in global trade, ensuring a legal system reflective of India's constitutional values and economic aspirations.
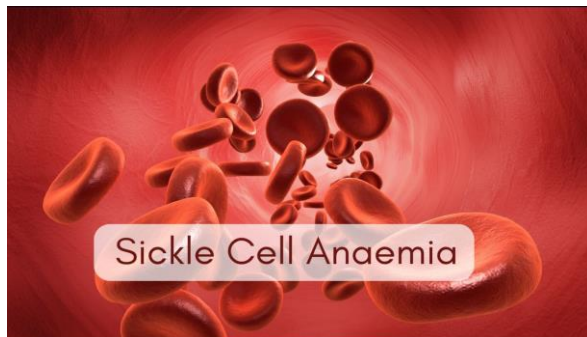
India's Achieved 6 Crore Sickle Cell Anemia Screening under the National Mission :-

India has successfully completed the screening of over 6 crore individuals for Sickle Cell Anemia under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, launched in 2023. This significant achievement aligns with the government's commitment to eradicate the disease by 2047, especially in tribal and high-risk regions. The mission focuses on early diagnosis, genetic counseling, and awareness to prevent the transmission of this hereditary blood disorder.

Supreme Court Stays Acquittal in 2006 Mumbai Train Blasts Case :-

The Supreme Court of India stayed the Bombay High Court's acquittal of 12 men convicted in the 2006 Mumbai train bombings. The Maharashtra government argued that the ruling could undermine ongoing cases under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). While the court's order does not affect the release of the 12 men, it seeks their responses to the state's appeal. The High Court had overturned their 2015 convictions, citing flawed investigations. The bombings, which occurred on July 11, 2006, left 189 dead and over 800 injured, marking one of India's deadliest terror attacks.

Kargil Vijay Diwas Padyatra to Commemorate 1999 War Victory :-

To mark the 26th anniversary of India's victory in the 1999 Kargil War, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organised a commemorative padyatra in Drass, Kargil. Led by Union Ministers, the event honored the bravery of Indian soldiers. Participants included youth volunteers, war veterans, and civil society members, symbolizing national unity and gratitude towards the armed forces.

PM Modi Announces Statues for Chola Kings in Tamil Nadu :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the construction of grand statues of Chola emperors Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola to honor their contributions to Indian history. Speaking at the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple, Modi praised the Chola Empire for its achievements in architecture, governance, and trade. He also highlighted the Cholas' pioneering democratic principles and water management systems, underscoring their influence on modern India. The statues aim to celebrate the Chola dynasty's enduring legacy and reinforce Tamil Nadu's historical significance.

Commemorative Coin for Rajendra Chola I Released by PM Modi :-

During the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival celebrations in Tamil Nadu, Prime Minister Modi released a commemorative coin honoring Rajendra Chola I. The event celebrated the Chola king's contributions to Indian history and maritime legacy. Modi, dressed in traditional Tamil attire, offered prayers at the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple. The ceremony also marked the millennial celebration of Chola's naval expedition to Southeast Asia, showcasing the dynasty's influence. The event highlighted the rich cultural and architectural heritage of the Chola Empire, reinforcing Tamil Nadu's historical pride.

PM Modi Mourns Lives Lost in Mansa Devi Stampede :-

Prime Minister Modi expressed deep sorrow over the tragic stampede at Mansa Devi Temple in Haridwar, which resulted in six fatalities. Extending condolences to the affected families, Modi emphasized the local administration's efforts in providing assistance. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh for the families of the deceased and ordered a magisterial inquiry. The incident highlights the need for improved crowd management and safety measures during religious gatherings, particularly in popular pilgrimage sites.

12: Obituaries

Michael Madsen, 'Reservoir Dogs' Actor, Passes Away at 67 :-

Actor Michael Madsen, known for his roles in iconic films like 'Reservoir Dogs' and 'Kill Bill,' passed away at the age of 67 due to cardiac arrest. Madsen's career spanned over four decades, with more than 300 screen credits to his name. His contribution to cinema, particularly in Quentin Tarantino's films, leaves a lasting legacy in Hollywood. Madsen's death marks the end of an era for

fans of his work, who remember him for his compelling performances and distinctive style.

Liverpool's Diogo Jota passes away in car crash in Spain

In deeply shocking news for the football world, Liverpool's forward Diogo Jota has reportedly died in a tragic car crash in Spain. Jota, who was known for his versatility and sharp attacking instincts, was a vital player for Liverpool and the Portuguese national team. His untimely death has sent shockwaves through fans and the football community, as he was considered one of the most promising talents in European football. The loss also brings attention to road safety and the vulnerability of even celebrated sports icons to such unfortunate accidents.

Australian-American actor Julian McMahon dies aged 56 :-

Julian McMahon, the Australian-American actor known for his roles in popular television series like Nip/Tuck and Charmed, has passed away at the age of 56. McMahon, who was also known for his appearances in films such as Fantastic Four where he portrayed the villain Doctor Doom, was widely admired for his charismatic screen presence and versatile acting skills. Throughout his

career, he earned recognition for playing complex and sometimes dark characters, which won him a dedicated fan following.

Former HUL Chairman Susim Dutta passes away in Mumbai :-

Susim Dutta, the former chairman of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), has passed away in Mumbai, marking the end of an era for one of India's biggest FMCG companies. Known for his impactful leadership, Dutta played a pivotal role in shaping HUL during his tenure, guiding the company through transformative phases that consolidated its market leadership in India's consumer goods sector. His passing is being mourned not only by the corporate fraternity but also by former colleagues and industry peers who remember him as a visionary leader with a strong commitment to business ethics and growth.

Nigeria's Former President Muhammadu Buhari Passes Away :-

Nigeria is mourning the loss of former President Muhammadu Buhari, who passed away in London at the age of 82. Buhari, known for his anti-corruption stance, led Nigeria from 2015 to 2023. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi expressed condolences, highlighting Buhari's commitment to India-Nigeria relations. Buhari will be buried according to Muslim rites in his home state of Katsina.

Veteran actor B Saroja Devi passes away at 87 :-

Renowned actress B Saroja Devi, who was an iconic figure in Indian cinema, has passed away at the age of 87, marking the end of an era that significantly shaped the golden age of South Indian films. Known for her extensive work in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi cinema, she was often celebrated for her elegance, emotive performances, and her ability to portray a diverse range of roles that resonated with audiences for decades. Saroja Devi, often hailed as the 'Abinaya Saraswathi,' acted in over 180 films and worked alongside legendary actors like M.G. Ramachandran, Sivaji Ganesan, N.T. Rama Rao, and Dr. Rajkumar, among others.

Veteran actor Kota Srinivasa Rao passes away at 83 :-

Celebrated Telugu actor Kota Srinivasa Rao, regarded as one of the finest character actors in South Indian cinema, has passed away at the age of 83, leaving behind a legacy of memorable performances that spanned over four

decades. Known for his impeccable comic timing, distinctive dialogue delivery, and the ease with which he could transform into diverse roles — from menacing villains to quirky comedic characters — Kota Srinivasa Rao carved a special place in the hearts of audiences and filmmakers alike. His extensive filmography, which includes over 500 films in Telugu and other South Indian languages, brought him critical acclaim and several prestigious awards, including the Padma Shri for his contribution to the arts.

Centenarian Marathon Runner Fauja Singh Dies in Accident :-

Fauja Singh, the world's oldest marathon runner, died at age 114 in a road accident in Punjab. Known for his remarkable achievements in long-distance running, Singh inspired millions by completing marathons past the age of 100. Born in 1911, Singh took up running to overcome personal grief and went on to set numerous records in the Masters' category. His legacy as a global icon of strength and willpower will continue to inspire future generations.

Telugu actor and comedian Fish Venkat passes away at 53 :-

Veteran Telugu actor and popular comedian Fish Venkat passed away at the age of 53, leaving a deep void in the Telugu film industry. Known for his unique screen presence and impeccable comic timing, Venkat had been a familiar face in Telugu cinema for over two decades, often playing supporting and humorous roles that resonated with the audience. His roles in films like Venky, Dubai Seenu, and Dookudu are particularly cherished by fans. The industry has lost a distinctive performer whose style was both entertaining and unforgettable.

Veteran Kerala CM V.S. Achuthanandan Passes Away at 101 :-

V.S. Achuthanandan, veteran Communist leader and former Kerala Chief Minister, passed away at 101 in Thiruvananthapuram. Known for his populist stance and uncompromising image, Achuthanandan led the CPI(M)-led LDF to victory in the 2006 Assembly elections. His tenure as Chief Minister marked significant political achievements and grassroots activism. Achuthanandan's passing marks the end of an era in Kerala politics, leaving a legacy of fierce ideological battles and commitment to public life.

Ozzy Osbourne, Black Sabbath's legendary frontman, dies at 76 :-

Ozzy Osbourne, the iconic frontman of Black Sabbath, passed away at 76. Known for his theatrical performances and contributions to heavy metal, Osbourne's legacy spans decades. His career, marked by hits like 'Paranoid' and 'War Pigs,' influenced countless musicians and fans worldwide. Despite controversies, including his infamous bat incident, Osbourne reinvented himself as a reality TV star, endearing himself to a new generation. His passing marks the end of an era in rock music, but his influence and contributions to the genre will continue to resonate.

Hulk Hogan, WWE Icon and Global Pop Culture Phenomenon, Dies at 71 :-

Wrestling legend Hulk Hogan, widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in professional wrestling history, has passed away at the age of 71. Born as Terry Eugene Bollea, Hogan rose to global stardom in the 1980s and 1990s through his dynamic charisma, signature catchphrases, and memorable rivalries in the World Wrestling Federation (now WWE). He became a pop culture icon not only for his achievements in the ring but also for his appearances in movies, television shows, and endorsements. Hogan's persona helped usher wrestling into mainstream entertainment and inspired generations of fans and wrestlers alike.

Lord Meghnad Desai, Renowned Economist, Passes Away at 85 :-

Eminent economist and UK House of Lords member Lord Meghnad Desai passed away at 85. Known for his contributions to Marxian economics and globalization, Desai's academic work spanned over six decades. He was a pivotal figure in India-UK relations, advocating cultural diplomacy and founding the Meghnad Desai Academy of Economics in Mumbai. Desai's efforts in unveiling Mahatma Gandhi's statue in London symbolized India-UK solidarity. Tributes from global leaders highlight his impact as a scholar and thought leader, leaving a legacy of public service and international collaboration.

13: Ranks & Reports

India's Services Sector Hits 10-Month High in June :-
India's services sector achieved a 10-month high in June, driven by strong domestic and export demand. The HSBC India Services PMI rose to 60.4, indicating robust growth and new orders. This expansion reflects increased employment and improved overseas demand, particularly from Asia, the Middle East, and the US. As input cost inflation eases, the sector's optimism remains high, although slightly below long-term averages. This performance signifies India's resilient economic recovery and expanding service industry.

NCSC Submits 2023-24 Report, Recommends SC Welfare Measures :-
The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) submitted its Annual Report for 2023-24 to President Droupadi Murmu. The report reviews the implementation of constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Castes and recommends measures for their welfare and socio-economic development. It highlights issues such as atrocities and crimes against these communities. The NCSC's recommendations aim to enhance institutional accountability and empower Scheduled Castes, reflecting the government's commitment to social justice and equality. This report is a vital tool for policymakers in addressing systemic challenges and promoting inclusive development.

India's Economy Resilient Amid Global Uncertainties: Bank of Baroda Report :-
A recent report by Bank of Baroda highlights India's economic resilience despite global challenges. Key

sectors like services and manufacturing show improvement, with significant contributions from increased electronic imports and government expenditure. The report notes a healthy monsoon and stable inflation trends, suggesting a favorable environment for sustained growth. The fiscal deficit has narrowed, and the rupee's outlook remains positive, reflecting India's robust economic framework amidst geopolitical tensions. This analysis provides insights into India's economic trajectory, crucial for understanding fiscal policies.

India's UPI Leads Global Faster Payments: IMF Report :-
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recognizes India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a global leader in faster payments. Launched in 2016, UPI processes over 18 billion transactions monthly, revolutionizing India's digital payments landscape. The IMF highlights interoperability as a key driver for UPI's success, offering users flexibility and encouraging innovation among providers. This report underscores the transformative impact of UPI on India's economy, showcasing its role in promoting digital financial inclusion and setting a benchmark for other nations.

Maratha Military Landscapes Recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Site :-
The Maratha Military Landscapes of India, featuring twelve strategically located forts from the Maratha Empire, have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This marks India's 44th World Heritage site, celebrating the country's rich architectural heritage. The nomination process involved an extensive evaluation by ICOMOS. Prime Minister Modi expressed pride, urging citizens to visit these historical sites. The recognition underscores India's efforts to preserve its cultural legacy and enhances its global standing in cultural diplomacy.

North Eastern Region SDG Index Highlights Progress :-
The North Eastern Region of India has shown notable improvement in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as per the NER District SDG Index 2023–24. The index, released by NITI Aayog and MoDoNER, reveals significant gains in areas like poverty reduction, education, and sanitation. Mizoram's Hnahthial district emerged as the top performer. Despite progress, challenges remain in addressing climate action and inequality. The report underscores the importance of targeted interventions and collaborative planning for sustained development.

India's Trade Resilience Highlighted in NITI Aayog Report :-

NITI Aayog's 'Trade Watch Quarterly' report highlights India's trade resilience amid global uncertainties. The report reveals a 3% growth in merchandise exports and a robust 17% increase in services exports during Q3 FY 2024–25. India's strategic advantage in the US market, particularly in sectors like pharmaceuticals and textiles, offers opportunities for expansion. The report emphasizes the need for adaptive policymaking to enhance export competitiveness.

India Reaffirms Its Position as a Compelling Investment Destination :-

India remains an attractive investment destination due to its economic stability and structural reforms, according to KKR's 2025 Mid-Year Global Macro Outlook. The report highlights India's growth prospects, driven by a resilient consumer base and favorable market conditions. With production-linked incentives and eased FDI rules, India is poised for increased capital inflows. The private sector's focus on infrastructure and credit investments further enhances its appeal. This optimism underscores India's strategic importance in the global investment landscape.

India Sees Strong Growth in Investment Confidence in Q3 2025 :-

India recorded a significant 12.6% growth in investment confidence for Q3 2025, the highest among 32 economies surveyed by the Dun Bradstreet Global Business Investment Confidence Index. Despite a slight decline in business investment confidence, India outperformed other economies, which faced a broad-based confidence drop. The report highlighted that supply chain stability was a critical factor influencing investment decisions, contrary to tariff uncertainty and domestic interest rates. Advanced economies, excluding the U.S., saw a steeper decline in confidence compared to emerging markets, with manufacturing sectors facing the most significant drops.

India's GDP Projected to Grow at 6.5% in FY26: Crisil Report :-

India's GDP is forecasted to grow at 6.5% in FY26, driven by domestic consumption and favorable economic indicators, according to a Crisil report. The report highlights global uncertainty as a potential risk but points to factors like a strong monsoon and income tax relief as supportive. Inflation is expected to average 4%, and the RBI may implement further rate cuts. This economic outlook reflects India's resilience and growth potential amid global challenges, offering insights into fiscal policy and economic planning.

GST Milestone: Revenue Growth and Women's Inclusion in Economy :-

A recent SBI report highlights significant growth in GST revenue and increased women's participation in India's formal economy. With over 1.52 crore active GST registrations, women now represent one-fifth of registered taxpayers, indicating greater empowerment. The report notes a doubling of gross GST collection in five years, reflecting improved transparency and economic integration since the GST's introduction in 2017. These developments underscore the GST's role in fostering a more equitable and integrated Indian economy.

Mother-to-child HIV transmission declined in India by 84%: Anupriya Patel :-

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel, announced that mother-to-child transmission of HIV in India has decreased by 84% between 2010 and 2024. This significant reduction highlights the success of government initiatives, especially the efforts of the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) in raising awareness and implementing targeted intervention projects. These projects focus on high-risk groups and involve self-help groups and grassroots workers to foster community-level awareness and reduce stigma.

Narendra Modi surpasses Indira Gandhi as second-longest serving PM :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become India's second-longest serving PM in consecutive terms, surpassing Indira Gandhi's record with 4,078 days in office. Modi first took oath on May 26, 2014, and has served for over 11 years. Notably, he is the longest-serving non-Congress PM and the first non-Congress leader to complete two full terms with a majority. This milestone reflects his significant political influence and the trust placed in him by the Indian electorate. Modi's tenure has been marked by major policy shifts and economic reforms.

Study: Vaccines Prevented Over 2.5 Million COVID Deaths Globally :-

A comprehensive study by researchers from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Italy has revealed that vaccines averted more than 2.5 million deaths caused by COVID-19. The study, published in JAMA Health Forum, found that one death was prevented for every 5,400 vaccine doses administered. It highlighted that vaccines

saved 14.8 million years of life globally, emphasizing their crucial role during the pandemic. The analysis used global data and statistical models to quantify the impact of vaccination, offering valuable insights into the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.

India's GDP Growth Revised Upward to 6.4% by IMF :-

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised India's GDP growth forecast upwards to 6.4% for FY26 and FY27, reflecting a more favorable external environment. The IMF's World Economic Outlook report highlights improved global financial conditions and fiscal expansion in major jurisdictions. Despite global inflation easing, U.S. inflation remains above target. The report warns of downside risks like higher tariffs and geopolitical tensions, which could impact global supply chains and commodity prices. India's revised growth outlook is seen as a positive indicator for its economy amidst global uncertainties.

14: Schemes & Committees

MNRE Revises Waste-to-Energy Guidelines to Boost Efficiency :-

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy announced revised guidelines for Waste-to-Energy projects, aiming to enhance efficiency and accelerate financial support. The updated framework simplifies processes, ties financial assistance to plant performance, and supports improved waste management. This initiative aligns with India's net-zero emissions goal, fostering a business-friendly environment for bioenergy deployment. The revisions mark a significant step toward supporting sustainable waste management and renewable energy development in India.

Cabinet Approves Scheme to Create 3.5 Crore Jobs :-

The Union Cabinet has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, aiming to create over 3.5 crore jobs with a budget of ₹99,446 crore. The scheme targets employment between August 2025 and July 2027, offering incentives for first-time employees and employers. It includes benefits for manufacturing industries and aims to enhance social security and formal workforce integration. The scheme is part of a broader government initiative to promote employment and skill development among youth.

National Sports Policy 2025 Approved by Cabinet :-
The Union Cabinet has approved the National Sports Policy 2025, aiming to transform India's sports ecosystem and prepare for the 2036 Olympics. The policy focuses on talent identification, infrastructure development, and sports governance modernization. It promotes sports tourism, event hosting, and private sector participation. The policy emphasizes social inclusion, indigenous games revival, and fitness promotion. It outlines a national monitoring framework and encourages states to align their sports policies with national objectives.

Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches Railway Projects in Bihar :-
Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated several infrastructure projects at Karpoorigram railway station, Bihar, aiming to modernize regional rail facilities. The projects include station redevelopment, improved passenger amenities, and an underground subway to alleviate traffic congestion. Vaishnaw highlighted the government's achievements in expanding railway lines and emphasized Bihar's role in the vision of a 'Developed India'. These developments are part of broader efforts to

enhance travel experiences and support regional growth through improved transportation infrastructure.

PM Modi to Distribute 51,000 Appointment Letters Under Rozgar Mela :-
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute over 51,000 appointment letters to newly appointed youth, emphasizing the government's commitment to job creation. The Rozgar Mela, an initiative launched in 2022, has already facilitated over 10 lakh appointments across various government sectors. This effort aims to streamline recruitment processes and enhance public services while contributing to national development goals. The initiative reflects the government's focus on employment generation, crucial for India's socio-economic growth.

Finance Minister Sitharaman Lays Foundation for Projects in Meghalaya :-
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated and laid foundation stones for infrastructure projects worth over Rs 1,000 crore in Meghalaya. Highlighting the state's progress, Sitharaman praised the effective implementation of central schemes under Chief Minister

Conrad K. Sangma's leadership. The projects aim to enhance connectivity and development in the region, aligning with the government's focus on empowering the Northeast. The initiative underscores the Centre's commitment to regional development and infrastructure enhancement.

Sanchar Mitra Scheme Scaled Nationwide to Boost Digital Literacy :-

The Department of Telecommunications has expanded the 'Sanchar Mitra Scheme' across India, engaging student volunteers to promote digital literacy. Volunteers will spread awareness on digital safety, cyber fraud prevention, and responsible mobile use. The initiative aims to empower youth as digital ambassadors, enhancing digital literacy and promoting safe digital practices nationwide. The scheme reflects the government's commitment to fostering digital awareness and inclusion.

India Launches First Electric Truck Scheme Under PM E-DRIVE Initiative :-

India has launched its first electric truck incentive scheme under the PM E-DRIVE initiative, offering subsidies for N2 and N3 category electric trucks. The scheme aims to reduce emissions and promote sustainable transport solutions. With a maximum incentive of Rs 9.6 lakh per vehicle, the initiative targets key sectors like logistics and ports. The scheme aligns with India's green mobility vision and commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

Indian Railways to Install CCTV Cameras for Enhanced Safety :-

In a move to strengthen passenger security and ensure better surveillance, Indian Railways has announced plans to install advanced CCTV cameras across numerous trains and railway stations throughout the country. This initiative aims to deter criminal activities such as theft, harassment, and other security threats faced by commuters daily. The upgraded surveillance system will enable real-time monitoring by railway authorities and local police, allowing for quicker response to incidents.

Union Cabinet Approves PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana to Boost Agriculture :-

The Indian government has launched the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity across 100 districts. This six-year scheme focuses on improving crop productivity,

irrigation, and credit access. It operates through the convergence of 36 existing schemes and involves partnerships with state initiatives and the private sector. Each district will have a customized plan to align with national goals, tracked via a digital dashboard. The initiative represents a significant effort to transform India's agricultural landscape and support farmers.

Free Electricity for Bihar Households Announced by Nitish Kumar :-

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has announced that households in the state will receive 125 units of electricity free each month from August 1. This initiative, benefiting 1.67 crore consumers, aims to reduce financial burdens and promote renewable energy. The state plans to install solar power plants to generate 10,000 MW of energy, reflecting its commitment to sustainable development. The move is seen as a strategic pre-election step, aiming to improve energy access across socio-economic lines.

Prime Minister Modi to Unveil Projects Worth Rs 12,000 Crore :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch developmental projects worth over Rs 12,000 crore in Bihar and West Bengal. These initiatives aim to boost infrastructure, employment, and digital innovation in the regions. Key projects include rail and road enhancements, IT facilities, and fisheries infrastructure. The investments reflect the government's commitment to regional development and economic growth, aligning with the broader vision of nationwide progress.

Mahila Aarogyam Kaksh Inaugurated to Boost Women's Health in Workplaces :-

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated the 'Mahila Aarogyam Kaksh' at Shastri Bhawan, promoting women's health and wellness in government workspaces. The facility, featuring gym equipment and a lactation room, supports physical fitness and work-life balance for women employees. Meghwal emphasized the initiative's alignment with the 'Hum Fit Toh India Fit' campaign, highlighting the importance of employee well-being. Law Secretary Dr. Anju Rathi Rana noted the challenges women face in balancing professional and personal responsibilities, underscoring the facility's role in fostering an inclusive work environment.

PM Modi Launches ₹5,400 Crore Projects in Durgapur :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched development projects worth over ₹5,400 crore in Durgapur, West Bengal, aimed at enhancing infrastructure and economic growth. The projects focus on connectivity, gas-based

economy, and industrial identity, aligning with the 'Make in India' vision. PM Modi highlighted significant progress in rail connectivity, energy sector advancements, and employment generation. Initiatives include road overbridges, gas pipeline projects, and pollution control systems, positioning Durgapur as a key player in India's development journey towards a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

**India's SASCI Scheme to Develop Iconic Tourist Destinations :-**

The Ministry of Tourism has launched the SASCI scheme to elevate select tourist destinations to global standards. This initiative focuses on comprehensive development and enhancing the end-to-end tourist experience. Funding support will be provided for infrastructure, branding, and sustainability projects. The scheme aims to transform iconic sites into world-class attractions, promoting tourism and cultural heritage. State governments will implement and manage projects, bolstered by promotional efforts from the Ministry of Tourism.

NSDC and PMKVY Train Over 3.3 Crore Individuals in 10 Years :-

Over 3.3 crore individuals have received skill training through NSDC and PMKVY initiatives in the past decade, enhancing employability across India. The government

emphasizes quality and industry relevance, with a focus on emerging sectors like AI and robotics. PMKVY 4.0 embeds On-the-Job Training for practical exposure, aiming to make the workforce future-ready. These efforts highlight the government's commitment to skill development as a key driver of economic growth and job creation.
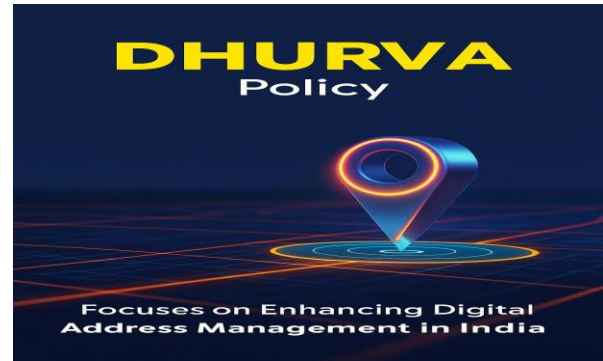
Dhruva Policy Introduces Geo-Coded Address System in India :-

The Centre has launched the 'Dhruva' Policy, introducing a geo-coded grid system that assigns unique DIGIPIN codes to locations, enhancing address accuracy. This digital address layer simplifies navigation and logistics, supporting sectors like postal services and telecommunications. Built on indigenous technology, the initiative aligns with Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, promoting digital inclusion. The policy, currently at the proof-of-concept stage, aims to improve service delivery and infrastructure planning, with stakeholder consultations underway.

Centre to Launch Employment Incentive Scheme on August 1 :-

The Indian government will roll out the Employment Linked Incentive Scheme on August 1, targeting the creation of 3.5 crore jobs over two years. The scheme,

with a budget of ₹99,446 crore, aims to boost employment in various sectors, providing EPF-linked incentives to first-time employees and supporting employers in job creation.

**Govt Approves 1.46 Lakh Smart Classrooms Under 'Samagra Shiksha' :-**

The Indian government has approved the establishment of 1,46,040 smart classrooms across the country under the Samagra Shiksha scheme. This initiative aims to enhance digital learning infrastructure, especially in rural areas, by providing technological resources and training. The move aligns with the National Education Policy 2020's focus on integrating technology into education. By improving access to digital tools and resources, the government seeks to bridge the learning divide and foster an inclusive, quality education system. This development marks a significant step towards transforming India's educational landscape.

15: Science & Technology

ICMR-AIIMS Study Confirms No Link Between COVID-19 Vaccines and Sudden Deaths :-

A comprehensive study by India's leading health research bodies, including ICMR and AIIMS, found no evidence linking COVID-19 vaccines to sudden deaths in adults aged 18-45. The research, spanning 47 hospitals across 19 states, identified pre-existing health conditions and genetic factors as primary causes of unexplained deaths. The findings reinforce the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, emphasizing the importance of vaccination in public health. Officials urge against spreading misinformation that could fuel vaccine hesitancy.
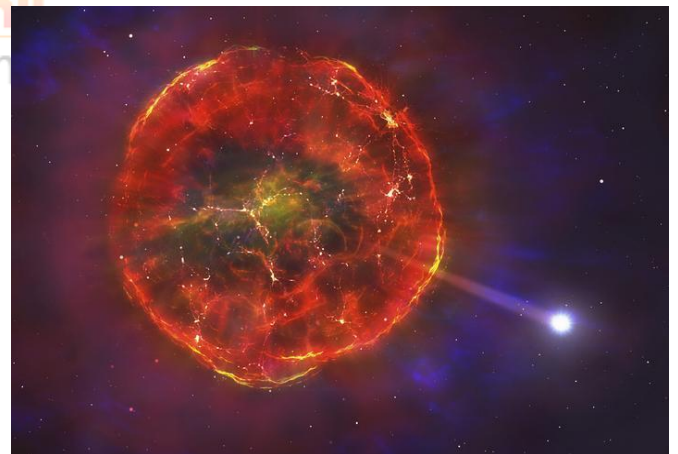
Astronomers Capture Rare Double Detonation Supernova Aftermath :-

In a groundbreaking discovery, astronomers have captured the aftermath of a rare double detonation supernova using the Very Large Telescope in Chile. This event involved a white dwarf star in the Large Magellanic Cloud, located 160,000 light-years from Earth. The supernova's unique double explosion mechanism was confirmed through the presence of two calcium shells in the aftermath. This discovery enhances our understanding of stellar evolution and the cosmic cycle of matter, showcasing the birth of elements like calcium and iron.
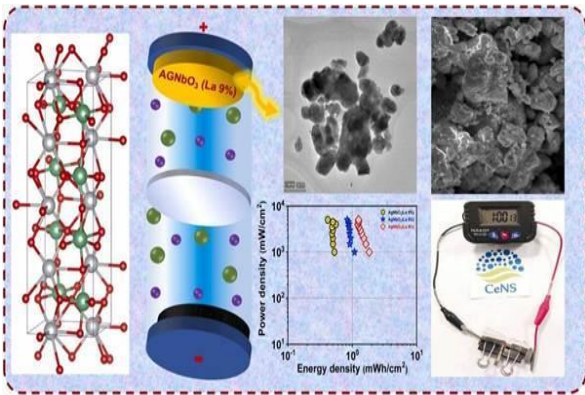
## Indian Scientists Develop Green Energy Material for Supercapacitors :-

Indian researchers have created a groundbreaking green energy material, lanthanum-doped silver niobate, enhancing supercapacitor performance. Developed by the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences and Aligarh Muslim University, this innovation increases energy density and efficiency. The material showcased 118% energy retention and 100% coulombic efficiency, marking a significant advancement in energy storage technology. This breakthrough positions India as a leader in sustainable energy solutions, aligning with global efforts for cleaner technologies.

India's First Equine Disease-Free Compartment Recognized Internationally :-

India has established its first Equine Disease-Free Compartment at the RVC Centre in Meerut, recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health. This facility ensures India's sport horses meet global biosecurity standards, enabling international competition. The initiative aligns with India's strategy to promote equine trade and sports, showcasing its commitment to animal health systems. This recognition enhances India's

position in the global equestrian community, supporting its goals of expanding international participation.
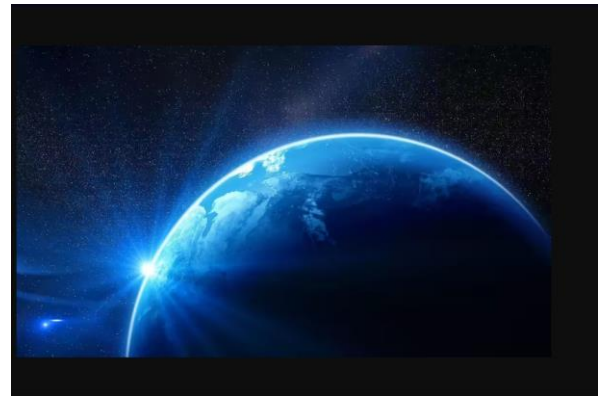
Scientists discover a 'second Earth' twice the size of our planet near a red dwarf star, 154 light-years :-

Scientists have made an exciting breakthrough with the discovery of an exoplanet named TOI-715 b, which is already being hailed as a possible 'second Earth.' This intriguing planet was identified by astronomers using data from NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a mission dedicated to finding planets beyond our solar system. Located about 154 light-years away, TOI-715 b orbits a relatively cool red dwarf star that provides the kind of stable environment often thought to be ideal for potentially habitable worlds.

Meerut Inaugurates Agritech Innovation Hub to Boost Farming Technology :-

The Uttar Pradesh Agritech Innovation Hub was inaugurated in Meerut by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. This initiative aims to promote precision farming and sustainable agriculture, aligning with modern agricultural needs. The hub, equipped with advanced technologies like IoT and AI, will serve as a collaborative platform for farmers, researchers, and

startups. It signifies a significant step towards enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability in India. The hub's launch reflects the government's commitment to integrating technology in agriculture to empower farmers and ensure food security.

India Releases Roadmap for Quantum-Safe Cybersecurity :-

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has released a whitepaper outlining a plan to transition to quantum-resilient cybersecurity systems. The document emphasizes the need to identify vulnerabilities in current encryption systems and adopt quantum-resistant algorithms. As quantum computing advances, India's digital economy faces potential threats, making this roadmap crucial for national security. The initiative highlights the importance of public-private collaboration in addressing emerging cyber threats.

Shubhanshu Shukla Returns to Earth After Historic ISS Mission :-

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to reach the International Space Station, returned to Earth after a successful 18-day mission. Part of Axiom Space's Ax-4 program, Shukla's mission was extended to conduct additional research. His return marks a proud moment for India, contributing to the country's growing presence in global space exploration. Shukla's journey serves as an inspiration for aspiring astronauts and underscores India's capabilities in the field of space technology.

Scientists Discover Over 200 Hidden Proteins Linked to Alzheimer's :-

A groundbreaking study has identified more than 200 previously undetected misfolded proteins in the brains of aging rats with cognitive decline, potentially contributing to Alzheimer's and other dementias. Unlike the well-known amyloid and tau proteins, these 'stealth' proteins do not form visible aggregates but may impair brain function. Conducted by Johns Hopkins University, the research offers new insights into neurodegenerative diseases and could lead to novel treatment strategies. The study analyzed over 2,500 protein types in the hippocampus, revealing a strong link between protein misfolding and cognitive decline.

ICMR Develops Indigenous Malaria Vaccine, AdFalciVax, for Dual Protection :-

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is developing an indigenous malaria vaccine, AdFalciVax, targeting two critical stages of the Plasmodium falciparum parasite. This novel vaccine aims to provide

broader protection and reduce community transmission. Early studies show promising results, with potential for long-term immunity and thermal stability. AdFalciVax represents a significant advancement in India's efforts to combat malaria, aligning with the Make in India initiative and showcasing India's capabilities in vaccine development and public health innovation.

Google and OpenAI Achieve Milestone at Global Math Competition :-

Google and OpenAI's AI models have achieved gold medals at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), marking a significant breakthrough in AI math capabilities. This achievement, the first of its kind, suggests AI is nearing the capability to assist mathematicians in solving complex research problems. Both companies utilized general-purpose reasoning models, highlighting AI's potential in expanding reasoning capabilities beyond math. This development could revolutionize collaboration between AI systems and human experts across various scientific fields.

Microsoft Warns of Ransomware in SharePoint Server Attacks :-

Microsoft revealed that a cyber-espionage campaign targeting its SharePoint server software has escalated to involve ransomware. The group, dubbed 'Storm-2603', exploits vulnerabilities to paralyze networks for digital ransom. The campaign has affected over 400 victims, including U.S. agencies like the Department of Homeland Security. The attack follows Microsoft's failure to fully patch a security flaw, with Chinese hackers among those exploiting it. The situation highlights the growing threat of ransomware beyond traditional data theft.

Yoga could reduce type 2 diabetes risk by 40%, study finds :-

A new report suggests regular yoga practice could reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 40% among high-risk individuals. The study, presented to Health Minister J.P. Nadda, emphasizes yoga's preventive role, especially for those with a predisposition to diabetes. Led by Dr. S.V. Madhu of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India, the study highlights yoga's potential in preventive healthcare. The findings align with India's wellness goals and underscore the integration of traditional practices with modern health strategies.

India Successfully Tests First Hydrogen Train Coach :-
In a significant advancement for green mobility, Indian Railways successfully tested the nation's first hydrogen-powered coach at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai.

This marks a crucial step in India's 'Hydrogen for Heritage' initiative, aiming to deploy 35 hydrogen trains on heritage routes. The initiative aligns with India's sustainable transport goals, reducing carbon emissions and setting a precedent for future eco-friendly transportation solutions.

NISAR Mission to Launch with ISRO-NASA Collaboration :-

The NISAR mission, a joint venture between ISRO and NASA, is set to launch on July 30, 2025, from India's Satish Dhawan Space Center. This mission aims to revolutionize earth science by providing detailed radar imaging of Earth's surface, which is crucial for monitoring natural hazards, glaciers, and crop management. With advanced radar systems, NISAR will offer unprecedented insights into land movements and ecosystems, aiding scientists and policymakers in addressing climate change and natural disasters. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in US-India space diplomacy, emphasizing India's growing role in global space exploration.

16: Sports

Smriti Mandhana's Century Leads India to T20 Victory Over England :-

In a thrilling T20 match, stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana scored her first T20I century, leading India to a 97-run victory over England. Mandhana's 112 off 62 balls set a record for the highest individual score by an Indian woman in T20Is. Debutante spinner N Shree Charani's four-wicket haul contributed to India's dominant performance. This victory marks a strong start for India in the five-match T20 series, showcasing their prowess in women's cricket.

Cricket: Sri Lanka Wins Test Series Against Bangladesh :

Sri Lanka clinched a 1-0 victory in their two-test series against Bangladesh, winning by an innings and 78 runs. Spinner Prabath Jayasuriya led the charge with a five-wicket haul, as Bangladesh collapsed in their second innings. Sri Lanka's commanding performance on Colombo's spin-friendly track secured their win. This victory marks a significant achievement for Sri Lanka, showcasing their prowess in test cricket and setting the stage for upcoming ODI and T20 matches against Bangladesh.

Steve Smith Returns for Second Test Against West Indies :-

Australia's cricket team will be bolstered by the return of Steve Smith for the second Test against West Indies in Grenada. Smith missed the series opener due to a dislocated finger. His return strengthens Australia's top order, replacing Josh Inglis. The team hopes to improve on their first innings performance in Bridgetown, where they were all out for 180. Smith's experience is expected to be crucial, especially as West Indies aim to rectify their slip cordon issues after dropping seven catches in the first match.

Australia Confirms $2.2 Billion for 2032 Brisbane Olympics Venues :-

The Australian government has committed A$3.435 billion towards the construction of venues for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics, marking the largest investment in the country's sporting infrastructure. This funding, part of a broader A$7.1 billion project, will be complemented by contributions from Queensland taxpayers and private finance. The development includes a main stadium and aquatics center, set to leave a lasting legacy akin to the Sydney 2000 Games. This announcement signifies a

significant step towards hosting a successful and impactful Olympic event.

Gukesh Stuns Carlsen Again, Takes Lead in Chess Tournament :-

Indian chess prodigy D Gukesh defeated World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen for the second time in a month, this time with black pieces, during the Grand Chess Tour SuperUnited Rapid 2025. Gukesh's victory places him at the top of the standings, showcasing his exceptional skill and composure. The win reinforces Gukesh's rising status in the chess world, marking a significant achievement in his career and highlighting India's growing prominence in international chess.

Gill's Double-Ton Leads India to Dominate England in Edgbaston Test :-

Shubman Gill's career-best 269 anchored India's commanding performance against England in the Edgbaston Test. Supported by key partnerships with Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar, India posted a formidable total of 587. The Indian pacers then dismantled England's top order, leaving them at 77/3 at stumps. Gill's innings, marked by patience and precision,

set new records, reinforcing his leadership credentials and India's dominance in the series.

Djokovic Achieves 100th Wimbledon Win, Advances to Last 16 :-

Novak Djokovic marked a milestone with his 100th win at Wimbledon, advancing to the last 16. The seven-time champion defeated Miomir Kecmanovic in a commanding performance, showcasing his dominance on grass courts. Djokovic aims to equal Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon titles and surpass Margaret Court's 24 Grand Slam victories. His consistent form and strategic play position him as a favorite for this year's championship.

Shubman Gill Joins Elite Club with 430 Runs at Edgbaston :-

Shubman Gill achieved a historic feat at Edgbaston, scoring 430 runs across two innings, joining an elite group of cricketers. His performance places him alongside legends like Graham Gooch and Brian Lara, showcasing his potential as a future leader in Indian cricket. Gill's innings were pivotal in setting a formidable target against England, reflecting his technical prowess and strategic acumen on the international stage.

India's Sakshi, Jaismine, Nupur Win Gold at World Boxing Cup :-

Indian boxers had a historic performance at the World Boxing Cup in Astana, with Sakshi, Jaismine, and Nupur clinching gold medals. Sakshi showcased her prowess in the 54kg category, while Jaismine and Nupur triumphed in their respective weight classes. India concluded the tournament with 11 medals overall, marking its best-ever show at the event. This success underscores the rising prominence of Indian women in global boxing, providing a significant morale boost ahead of future international competitions.

India's Historic 336-Run Test Win Over England at Edgbaston :-

India achieved a historic 336-run victory over England in the second Test at Edgbaston, marking their biggest overseas win by runs. Skipper Shubman Gill and pacers Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj played pivotal roles in the triumph. The win not only leveled the series but also underscored India's dominance in overseas conditions. This landmark victory is a testament to the team's resilience and strategic prowess, setting the stage for future successes in international cricket.

Curtis Campher Sets Record with Five Wickets in Five Balls :-

Ireland's Curtis Campher became the first male cricketer to take five wickets in five balls, achieving this historic feat in a T20 match against North-West Warriors. Campher's performance included dismissals across two overs, showcasing his exceptional bowling skills. This achievement highlights the unpredictable and thrilling nature of cricket, adding a remarkable chapter to the sport's history. Campher's record-breaking performance serves as a testament to the evolving dynamics and competitive spirit within international cricket.

Verbeek and Siniakova Win Wimbledon Mixed Doubles Title :-

Katerina Siniakova and Sem Verbeek claimed the Wimbledon mixed doubles title, defeating Joe Salisbury and Luisa Stefani. The Czech-Dutch duo showcased composure under pressure, marking Siniakova's first mixed doubles Grand Slam and Verbeek's maiden Grand Slam victory. Their triumph highlights the unpredictable and competitive nature of doubles tennis, adding to the rich history of Wimbledon. This victory reflects the dynamic partnerships and evolving strategies within the sport.

Swiatek Wins Maiden Wimbledon Crown with Historic Victory :-

Iga Swiatek achieved a historic victory by winning her first Wimbledon title, defeating Amanda Anisimova with a 6-0 6-0 scoreline. This win makes Swiatek the youngest woman since Serena Williams in 2002 to win major titles on all three surfaces. Her triumph also marks the first time a Wimbledon final ended with a double-bagel since 1911. Swiatek's victory adds to her achievements as a U.S. Open champion and four-time French Open winner. This win highlights her rising dominance in women's tennis and solidifies her position among the sport's greats.

Kudermetova and Mertens Win Wimbledon Women's Doubles Title :-

eronika Kudermetova and Elise Mertens have secured the prestigious Wimbledon Women's Doubles championship by defeating their opponents in a hard-fought final match. Their win at the All England Club marks a significant milestone in both players' doubles careers, showcasing their excellent teamwork and

strategic gameplay on grass courts. This victory not only boosts their rankings in the doubles circuit but also adds another Grand Slam title to Mertens' growing list of achievements.

Sinner Wins Maiden Wimbledon Title, Defeats Alcaraz :-

Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner has captured his first-ever Wimbledon men's singles title after defeating defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling final. The victory marks a historic moment in Sinner's young career, establishing him as one of the brightest talents in the sport. His performance on the iconic grass courts of Wimbledon impressed both fans and critics, as he showcased exceptional skill, mental fortitude, and strategic play. Overcoming Alcaraz makes this triumph even more significant for Sinner, who is now poised to become a major force in men's tennis.

England Fined and Docked Two WTC Points for Slow Over Rate at Lord's :-

England's cricket team has been penalized two World Test Championship points and fined 10% of match fees for a slow over rate during the third test against India at Lord's. Despite their victory, the team was found two overs short of the target in a match where ball replacements occurred frequently. Captain Ben Stokes accepted the sanction, resulting in England slipping to third in the WTC standings. The incident emphasizes the importance of maintaining match pace and adherence to regulations in international cricket, impacting championship standings.

Sujeet Kalkal Shines with Gold at Budapest Wrestling Series :-

Indian wrestler Sujeet Kalkal clinched a gold medal in the 65kg men's freestyle category at the Polyak Imre Varga Janos Memorial 2025 in Budapest. His victory over Ali Rahimzade of Azerbaijan marked India's first gold in this year's Ranking Series events. Sujeet's journey included wins over seasoned competitors, showcasing India's prowess in international wrestling. The success at Budapest enhances India's standing in global wrestling circuits and bolsters the country's preparations for upcoming world championships.

Srihari Nataraj B. Benediction Rohit Set New Swimming Benchmarks :-

Indian swimmers Srihari Nataraj and B. Benediction Rohit made headlines by setting new national swimming

records at the FISU World University Games 2025, held in Rhine-Ruhr, Germany. This prestigious international multi-sport event for university athletes witnessed stellar performances by both swimmers. Srihari Nataraj broke his own 'Best Indian Performance' timing in the men's 200m freestyle while B. Benediction Rohit became first Indian man to swim 50m butterfly under 24 seconds.

India to Host 2025 Chess World Cup, Strengthening Its Global Chess Stature :-

India will host the 2025 Chess World Cup from October 30 to November 27, as announced by the International Chess Federation (FIDE). This prestigious event will bring together 206 players in a knockout format, with the top three earning spots in the 2026 Candidates Tournament. India's selection as the host reflects its growing influence in the chess world, following successful events like the 2022 Chess Olympiad. The tournament promises to enhance India's reputation as a hub for international chess competitions.

ECB to Host Next Three World Test Championship Finals Till 2031 :-

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) will host the next three finals of the World Test Championship until 2031, as announced by the ICC. This decision reflects the

passion for test cricket in England and the support from global fans. The 2025 final at Lord's saw a record attendance and digital viewership, showcasing the format's enduring appeal. Hosting these finals reaffirms England's status as a premier destination for international cricket events, promoting the sport's rich tradition and competitive spirit.

Venus Williams becomes oldest WTA match-winner since 2004 :-

Venus Williams, at 45, became the oldest player to win a WTA singles match since 2004, defeating Peyton Stearns at the Washington Open. Returning to singles after a 16-month hiatus, Williams showcased her enduring passion for the sport. Her victory is a testament to her resilience and commitment, inspiring both fans and fellow athletes. As a seven-time Grand Slam champion, Williams continues to defy age-related expectations, proving her place in the competitive tennis world. Her journey highlights the importance of perseverance and the lasting impact of sports legends.

Australia secures series lead with victory over West Indies :-

Australia clinched an eight-wicket victory over West Indies in the second T20I, with Josh Inglis and Cameron

Green's unbeaten half-centuries sealing the win. Andre Russell's final international appearance was marked by a valiant 36 runs, but West Indies fell short with a total of 172-8. Australia's strong partnership showcased their dominance, putting them 2-0 ahead in the series. The match highlighted Australia's cricketing prowess and strategic gameplay, while West Indies' fielding errors cost them dearly. The series win marks a significant achievement for Australia in the cricketing arena.

Max Verstappen Wins Belgian GP Sprint, Marking New Red Bull Era :-

Formula One champion Max Verstappen secured victory in the Belgian GP sprint race, marking Red Bull's first win under Laurent Mekies' leadership. Verstappen's strategic driving kept McLaren's Oscar Piastri at bay, showcasing Red Bull's dominance. The win is a significant milestone for Verstappen, as he navigated the challenging Spa-Francorchamps track. The race demonstrated the intense competition in Formula One, with drivers pushing the limits of their skills and vehicles, setting the stage for an exciting main race.

Australia Completes T20 Series Sweep Against West Indies :-

Australia achieved a historic 5-0 sweep in the T20 series against the West Indies, marking their first complete clean sweep in the Caribbean. The final match saw impressive performances from Ben Dwarshuis and other Australian players, showcasing their dominance in the series. This victory adds to Australia's successful tour, having also swept the Test series. The team's consistent performance and strategic gameplay highlight their strength in international cricket. This achievement boosts Australia's confidence as they prepare for upcoming series against South Africa and other cricketing challenges.

Divya Deshmukh becomes Women's Chess World Cup winner :-

Indian chess prodigy Divya Deshmukh has achieved a major milestone by winning the Women's Chess World Cup, an international competition that draws top talent from across the globe. The 19-year-old's triumph in the all-Indian final against veteran grandmaster Koneru Humpy marks a significant milestone in Indian chess. Divya's rise from winning the World Junior Championship to now claiming the top title underscores her exceptional talent and dedication. This achievement highlights India's growing prowess in the global chess arena and the potential of its young players to excel on the world stage.

17: State

Char Dham Yatra Suspended Due to Heavy Rainfall in Uttarakhand :-

Authorities in Uttarakhand have temporarily suspended the Char Dham Yatra due to continuous heavy rainfall and the risk of landslides. Pilgrims are advised to stay put until conditions improve, as several routes are blocked by debris. The suspension follows a cloudburst near Silai Band, highlighting the region's vulnerability to extreme weather. This precautionary measure aims to ensure the safety of thousands of devotees and residents, emphasizing the need for disaster preparedness.

Cabinet Approves Highway Project in Tamil Nadu for ₹1,853 Crore :-

The Cabinet has approved a 46.7 km 4-lane highway project between Paramakudi and Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu, costing ₹1,853 crore. The project aims to alleviate congestion and improve connectivity in the region, benefiting trade, tourism, and economic development. It is expected to generate significant employment and links strategic transport hubs,

enhancing the mobility needs of rapidly developing towns. The project is part of broader efforts to improve infrastructure in southern India.

Cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh Cause Devastation :-

Himachal Pradesh experienced multiple cloudbursts, leading to flash floods and landslides. Key routes, including the Shimla-Sunni-Karsog highway, were blocked, and several houses were washed away. Rescue operations are ongoing, with the SDRF and district administration evacuating affected residents. The state government has closed schools as a precautionary measure. The incidents highlight the vulnerability of hilly regions to extreme weather and the need for disaster preparedness.

Death Toll in Telangana Pharma Unit Blast Rises to 35 :-
The death toll from the explosion at a chemical factory in Telangana's Sangareddy district has risen to 35. The blast at Sigachi Industries Limited caused a building collapse and a massive fire. Rescue operations continue, with many victims being migrant workers. The state

government has launched an investigation into the incident and announced compensation for the victims' families. This tragedy highlights industrial safety concerns and the need for stringent regulations.

**SDRF Rescues 40 Devotees Stranded by Landslide in Uttarakhand :-**

In a daring nighttime operation, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) rescued 40 pilgrims stranded near Sonprayag, Uttarakhand, due to a sudden landslide. The incident, triggered by relentless rainfall, blocked the Kedarnath Yatra route with debris. Multiple agencies, including local police and forest personnel, are collaborating to ensure the safety of pilgrims and residents. The India Meteorological Department has forecasted continued heavy rain and thunderstorms, prompting authorities to remain vigilant in managing further disruptions.

Amit Shah Laid Foundation for India's First Cooperative University :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah Laid the foundation stone for Tribhuvan Sahkari University, India's first cooperative university, in Gujarat. This initiative aims to transform education and research in the cooperative sector, promoting innovation and employment opportunities. The university will offer multidisciplinary programs aligned with the National Education Policy 2020. It will serve as a hub for capacity building, addressing the needs of India's expansive cooperative sector and fostering sustainable development.
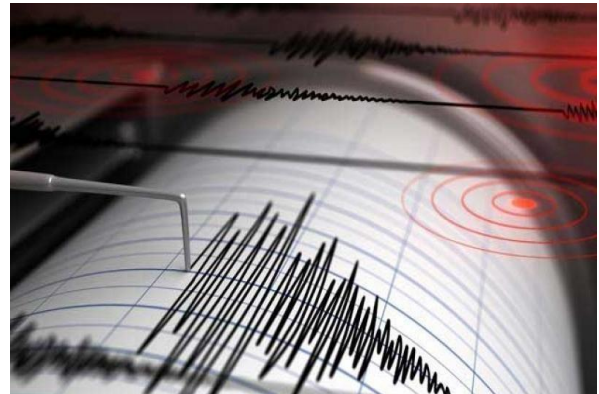
4.1 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Assam's Karbi Anglong :-

A 4.1 magnitude earthquake struck Assam's Karbi Anglong district, as reported by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The tremor occurred at a depth of 25 km. This follows a series of recent seismic activities in the region, including a 4.5 magnitude quake in the Andaman Sea. The frequent tremors highlight the region's seismic activity, necessitating preparedness and awareness among residents. Authorities are monitoring the situation closely to assess any potential damage or aftershocks.

ECI Achieves 80% Enumeration in Bihar Voter Drive :-
The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced significant progress in Bihar's voter enumeration drive, achieving over 80% form submission. With the support of 77,895 existing Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and 20,603

new BLOs, the initiative is rigorously monitored across all 243 Assembly Constituencies. The drive focuses on inclusivity, ensuring participation of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable groups. The swift digitization of forms aims to strengthen Bihar's electoral process. This achievement marks a substantial step in enhancing voter engagement and ensuring a robust democratic process in the state.

Amit Shah Inaugurates Cooperative and Employment Festival in Rajasthan :-

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the Cooperative and Employment Festival in Dadiya village, Jaipur. This event coincides with the International Cooperative Year celebrations and aims to bolster food security and sustainable agriculture. 24 food grain storage warehouses and 64 millet outlets were inaugurated virtually. The festival is part of a nationwide initiative, with Rajasthan playing a key role. Shah also distributed appointment letters to new government recruits, reflecting the Centre's commitment to employment generation.

Union Education Minister Inaugurates First Foreign University Campus in India :-

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the University of Southampton's India campus in Gurugram. This marks the first foreign university to establish under new UGC regulations, enhancing the India-UK strategic partnership. The campus offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs in various fields, aiming to provide world-class education at affordable costs. The event highlights India's role as a global educational hub under NEP 2020, as it continues to foster international collaborations.

PM Modi Inaugurates ₹7,200 Crore Infrastructure Projects in Bihar :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated infrastructure projects worth ₹7,200 crore in Bihar, aiming to transform the state into a growth hub. Key initiatives include the launch of four Amrit Bharat trains and significant rail infrastructure upgrades. Modi emphasized Bihar's potential to drive national development, aligning with the Viksit Bharat mission. The projects focus on connectivity and infrastructure enhancement, addressing regional disparities and fostering economic growth. This underscores the government's commitment to equitable development and infrastructure-led growth.

Maharashtra Unveils Vidarbha's First Integrated Steel Plant in Gadchiroli :-

The Maharashtra government has inaugurated Vidarbha's first integrated steel plant in Gadchiroli, a move expected to boost local economic development and generate employment. The plant has been developed with the aim of utilizing local iron ore resources more effectively and industrializing the tribal-dominated, mineral-rich region. It is part of a broader state initiative to tap into the mineral potential of Gadchiroli and bring industrialization to underdeveloped regions. The facility will also help reduce dependence on external steel supplies, support infrastructure development, and attract ancillary industries.

Amit Shah to Attend Uttarakhand Investment Grounding Ceremony :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will attend the Uttarakhand Investment Festival and Global Investors Summit Grounding Ceremony in Rudrapur. The event marks a significant step in the state's industrial growth, with major industrialists and business leaders expected to participate. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami emphasized the government's commitment to turning investment promises into actionable projects, creating employment opportunities for the youth. The ceremony underscores the central government's focus on boosting investments and infrastructure in Uttarakhand, positioning the state as a preferred industrial destination.

Ashwini Vaishnaw and Devendra Fadnavis Inaugurate IICT Campus in Mumbai :-

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the Mumbai campus of the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT). The new campus aims to empower youth in creative sectors, offering advanced programs in animation, VFX, and XR. The institute has partnered with technology leaders for industry exposure. Vaishnaw emphasized the government's focus on expanding opportunities for youth, while Fadnavis highlighted the campus as a cultural landmark. The IICT seeks to institutionalize India's AVGC-XR sector, fostering growth in the global digital economy.

PM Modi Flags Off Amrit Bharat Trains in Bihar, Boosts Connectivity :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off four new Amrit Bharat trains in Bihar, enhancing connectivity between major cities. The trains will run between Patna, Delhi, Bapudham Motihari, and Lucknow. Modi also inaugurated development projects worth over ₹7,200 crore, focusing on rail infrastructure and employment

generation. The initiatives include automatic signaling and rail line doubling projects, aimed at reducing delays and improving operations. The visit aligns with the government's commitment to infrastructure development and regional growth, ahead of upcoming state elections.

Bihar Sets New Standard with Capping Polling Stations Below 1,200 Electors :-

Bihar has become the first state in India to ensure all polling stations have fewer than 1,200 electors, a move aimed at reducing overcrowding and enhancing voter convenience. This development involved adding 12,817 new polling stations across the state. It serves as a model for other regions, ensuring inclusive voter registration and improving electoral processes. As states prepare for upcoming elections, Bihar's initiative highlights efforts to strengthen democratic participation and accessibility.

India's First Mining Tourism Project in Jharkhand :-

India has launched its first-ever mining tourism project in Jharkhand, a state known for its mineral wealth. The initiative aims to showcase the region's rich mining history and industrial legacy by allowing tourists to visit operational and historical mines in a structured, safe,

and educational format. This tourism project seeks to boost the local economy, create employment opportunities, and increase public understanding of mining activities and their environmental impact. Sites like the Rajhara and Kiriburu mines are expected to be part of this unique tourism experience.

Uttarakhand Panchayat Polls: Voting Begins, CM Dhami Casts Vote :-

Uttarakhand commenced its three-tier panchayat elections, with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami casting his vote in Khatima. The elections, held in two phases across 12 districts, will decide thousands of local representatives. Despite monsoon showers, voter turnout was high as people queued at polling booths. Security measures ensured smooth election conduct, with CM Dhami urging voters to elect capable representatives. The second phase of voting is scheduled for July 28, with counting on July 31.

PM Modi to unveil major development projects in Tamil Nadu :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Tamil Nadu from July 26-27, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for several key infrastructure projects worth over ₹4800 crore. These projects aim to enhance

regional connectivity, logistics, and energy efficiency. A highlight of the visit is the inauguration of the New Terminal Building at Tuticorin Airport, designed to handle up to 20 lakh passengers annually. Additionally, significant rail and highway projects will be dedicated, improving travel and trade in the region. The visit underscores the government's commitment to southern India's growth.

18: Summits & Conferences

PM Modi Embarks on Five-Nation Tour to Strengthen Global Ties :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia to enhance India's ties with Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The tour focuses on cooperation in agriculture, defense, critical minerals, and digital infrastructure. Key highlights include attending the BRICS Summit in Brazil and discussions on trade, energy, and mineral supplies in Namibia. This diplomatic effort aims to bolster South-South cooperation and India's global presence.

Foreign Secretary Misri Discusses Bilateral Ties with Mauritius :-

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's official visit to Mauritius reaffirmed bilateral cooperation under the Enhanced Strategic Partnership. During his visit, Misri met with key Mauritian leaders, including President Dharambeer Gokhool, to discuss strengthening ties in trade, security, and anti-drug efforts. The visit highlights India's commitment to its 'Neighbourhood First' policy and engagement with the Global South. Misri also delivered anti-drug equipment to Mauritius, underscoring joint efforts to combat drug-related social issues.

Quad Ministers Demand Justice for Pahalgam Terror Attack :-

Quad foreign ministers renewed their commitment to counterterrorism, condemning the Pahalgam terror attack and urging justice for the perpetrators. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, along with counterparts from the US, Japan, and Australia, emphasized cross-border terrorism's threat to regional stability. The statement highlighted expectations from UN Member States to cooperate in bringing the attackers to justice, reinforcing the Quad's collective security priorities in the Indo-Pacific region.

APNEUROCON conference begins in Nellore :-

The APNEUROCON conference, a significant annual gathering for neurologists and healthcare professionals, has begun in Nellore, a city in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, and will be held from July 5 to July 7. This respected event brings together experts in the field of neurology to discuss the latest research, technological advances, and treatment practices for various neurological disorders such as epilepsy, strokes, dementia, migraines, and movement disorders like Parkinson's disease.

BRICS Summit Calls for Wealthy Nations to Fund Climate Transition :-

At the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, leaders demanded that wealthy nations finance the global mitigation of greenhouse emissions. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva emphasized the importance of the Global South in addressing global warming. The summit's joint statement underscored that climate finance is a responsibility of developed countries towards developing ones. BRICS leaders also criticized policies like carbon border taxes as discriminatory and protectionist,

highlighting the ongoing challenges in global climate negotiations.

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar Meets Iranian Counterpart :-

On the sidelines of the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi. The discussions focused on regional developments, particularly the escalating tensions in West Asia. Jaishankar reiterated India's call for dialogue and diplomacy to restore peace and stability in the region. The meeting underscores the importance of India-Iran relations, rooted in historical ties and mutual interests across various sectors.

PM Modi Welcomes Indonesia as BRICS Member at Summit :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Indonesia as a full member of BRICS during the 17th Summit in Brazil. Modi's participation underscored India's pivotal role in the bloc, as it prepares to assume the chairmanship next year. The inclusion of Indonesia and other partner countries signals BRICS' commitment to expanding cooperation in the Global South. The summit highlighted

the group's focus on strengthening multilateralism and addressing global challenges through inclusive governance.

Netanyahu Discusses Ceasefire with Trump Amid Gaza Conflict :-

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House to discuss a potential Gaza ceasefire and relocation of Palestinians. The meeting follows ongoing indirect negotiations with Hamas in Qatar. Trump indicated progress in talks with Iran and proposed a controversial relocation plan for Palestinians. The discussions reflect the complex geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East and the U.S.'s role in facilitating peace efforts. The potential ceasefire could mark a significant development in the ongoing conflict.

King Charles Hosts Macron: Celebrating UK-France Ties :-

King Charles is hosting French President Emmanuel Macron at Windsor Castle for a state visit, marking the first by a European leader since Brexit. The visit aims to celebrate renewed UK-France ties, focusing on economic and defence cooperation amidst global security challenges. The ceremonial event, filled with pageantry, underscores the importance of diplomatic relations and mutual cooperation in addressing shared concerns, such as people-smuggling and supporting Ukraine. The visit symbolizes a new era in UK-France relations, post-Brexit.

AIIA Hosts Shalyacon 2025: National Seminar on Ayurvedic Surgery :-

The All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is hosting Shalyacon 2025, a three-day seminar on Ayurvedic surgery from July 13 to 15. Coinciding with Sushruta Jayanti, the event celebrates Acharya Sushruta, the Father of Surgery. Organized by AIIA's Shalya Tantra Department, the seminar features live surgical demonstrations, scholarly presentations, and discussions on advancements in Ayurvedic practices. The event aims to integrate Ayurvedic principles with modern surgery, attracting over 500 participants. Shalyacon 2025 underscores AIIA's commitment to advancing Ayurveda and its global relevance in healthcare.

G20 Finance Chiefs to Meet in South Africa Amid Tariff Concerns :-

G20 finance ministers will convene in South Africa against the backdrop of tariff threats and global

economic challenges. The meeting aims to address issues such as trade disputes and climate change funding, with an emphasis on promoting African interests. The gathering highlights the complexities of international economic cooperation and the importance of multilateral dialogue in navigating geopolitical tensions and fostering global financial stability.
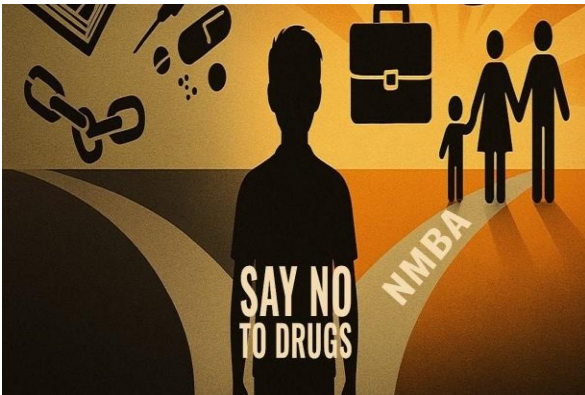
Youth Spiritual Summit in Varanasi Launches Anti-Drug Movement :-

The Youth Spiritual Summit in Varanasi, organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, launched 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat,' a youth-led movement against drug abuse. The summit combines cultural engagement with policy dialogue, featuring the Kashi Declaration, a roadmap for sustained anti-drug efforts. This initiative highlights the role of spiritual and moral strength in addressing addiction, promoting youth leadership in national development. It represents a significant step in India's strategy to combat drug abuse through community engagement and policy innovation.

PM Modi to Visit UK and Maldives to Strengthen Bilateral Ties :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the United Kingdom and the Maldives from July 23 to 26. His UK visit includes discussions with PM Keir Starmer on India-UK relations, while in the Maldives, he will attend the 60th Independence Anniversary celebrations. These visits underscore India's commitment to strengthening diplomatic ties and promoting regional cooperation. The engagements are expected to enhance partnerships in trade, security, and cultural exchange, reflecting India's strategic focus on global collaboration.

PHDCCI Hosts Heritage Tourism Conclave in Vadodara :-

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry held its 14th International Heritage Tourism Conclave in Vadodara, emphasizing community-driven cultural tourism. The event, themed 'Cherishing Heritage,' sought to advance heritage-led tourism in India. It featured discussions on public-private partnerships, adaptive reuse of built heritage, and the role of women as cultural custodians. The conclave highlighted Gujarat's inclusive model, aiming to connect heritage with economic revitalization and cultural preservation.

SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1) The share of equities in Indian household savings increased to what percentage in FY24, as per the latest SBI Research report?

A) 2.5%

B) 4.0%

C) 5.1%

D) 6.8%

2) Who recently clinched his maiden BWF Super 300 title by winning the US Open 2025 men's singles?

A) Brian Yang

B) Tharun Mannepalli

C) Ayush Shetty

D) Chou Tien Chen

3) Which city was selected as the headquarters for the newly inaugurated National Turmeric Board in India?

A) Hyderabad

B) Nizamabad

C) Nagpur

D) Bengaluru

4) Which international spiritual leader is set to reveal his succession plan around his 90th birthday, drawing global and Chinese attention?

A) Pope Francis

B) Dalai Lama

C) Patriarch Kirill

D) Thich Nhat Hanh

5) Who among the following is scheduled to inaugurate Uttar Pradesh's first AYUSH University in Gorakhpur?

A) Ram Nath Kovind

B) Pranab Mukherjee

C) Droupadi Murmu

D) Venkaiah Naidu

6) When will the Indian Railways' revised fare structure for passenger train services take effect?

A) July 1, 2025

B) August 1, 2025

C) June 30, 2025

D) January 1, 2026

7) Which countries are part of the 'QUAD at Sea Ship Observer Mission' launched to enhance maritime security?

A) India, Japan, US, Australia

B) India, China, US, Russia

C) India, UK, Australia, France

D) India, Japan, South Korea, US

8) What is the primary focus of PM Narendra Modi's first-ever bilateral visit to Ghana in July 2025?

A) Defence Agreements

B) Economic Agenda

C) Space Cooperation

D) Tourism Promotion

9) Which country has shown keen interest in acquiring India's Akash Air Defence System and other indigenous defence platforms in 2025?

A) Brazil

B) Indonesia

C) France

D) South Africa

10) Which mission is Puducherry set to play a key role in, as discussed between Union Minister Jitendra Singh and the LG in June 2025?

A) Smart City Mission

B) Deep Ocean Mission

C) Digital India Mission

D) Swachh Bharat Mission

11) Which newly commissioned Indian Navy frigate, built in Russia with 26% indigenous systems, was inducted in July 2025 to reinforce Indo-Russian naval cooperation?

A) INS Tushil

B) INS Talwar

C) INS Tamal

D) INS Teg

12) What is the primary objective of India's three new criminal laws—BNS 2023, BNSS 2023, and BSA 2023—recently celebrated as the 'Golden Year of Trust in the Justice System'?

A) Promote foreign investment

B) Modernize and make justice citizen-centric

C) Strengthen rural healthcare

D) Privatize the legal system

13) Which Indian scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025 with a budget outlay of ₹1 lakh crore, aims to encourage private sector-led research and innovation?

A) Production Linked Incentive Scheme

B) Employment Linked Incentive Scheme

C) RDI Scheme

D) Digital India Mission

14) Which new Indian government scheme seeks to create over 3.5 crore jobs in two years by offering direct incentives to both employees and employers?

A) Skill India Mission

B) Startup India

C) Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

D) Digital Employment Scheme

15) Which newly launched Indian Railways app aims to provide a one-stop solution integrating ticket booking, live tracking, and other passenger services?

A) RailSeva

B) RailOne

C) UTS Mobile

D) RailConnect

16) What major initiative did India announce for Ghana during PM Modi's July 2025 visit?

A) Establishment of a Defence Academy

B) Skill Development Centre for youth

C) Launching a space research project

D) Free trade agreement

17) Which shared digital infrastructure is India offering to Ghana to boost financial connectivity?

A) Bharat BillPay

B) RuPay Card

C) Bharat UPI

D) Aadhaar

18) Which flagship fisheries scheme did the Union Minister highlight as a key driver for J&K's fisheries sector?

A) Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

B) Blue Revolution

C) Operation Greens

D) PM Kisan

19) Which Indian cricketer scored his second Test hundred as captain during the 2nd Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy in July 2025?

A) Virat Kohli

B) KL Rahul

C) Shubman Gill

D) Ravindra Jadeja

20) What is 'SPREE 2025', recently launched by ESIC?

A) A nutrition program for children

B) A scheme for labor registration

C) A digital payment gateway

D) A pension scheme for farmers

21) Which country did Prime Minister Narendra Modi announce OCI cards for sixth-generation members of the Indian diaspora in July 2025?

A) Ghana

B) Trinidad and Tobago

C) Nigeria

D) Guyana

22) Who became the second Indian captain to score a double century in Test cricket in England in July 2025?

A) Virat Kohli

B) Ravindra Jadeja

C) Shubman Gill

D) Rohit Sharma

23) Which chess player defeated Magnus Carlsen with black pieces in the SuperUnited Rapid 2025 in Zagreb?

A) Viswanathan Anand

B) R Praggnanandhaa

C) D Gukesh

D) Nodirbek Abdusattorov

24) Which international organization co-hosted the 23rd Asia Regional Meeting in New Delhi to boost Chemical Weapons Convention implementation?

A) UNESCO

B) WHO

C) OPCW

D) UNICEF

25) Which country did PM Modi become the first Indian Prime Minister to address Parliament in July 2025?

A) Trinidad and Tobago

B) Ghana

C) Namibia

D) Brazil

26) Who recently became the first woman fighter pilot of the Indian Navy?

A) Colonel Sofiya Qureshi

B) Wing Commander Vyomika Singh

C) Sub Lieutenant Aastha Poonia

D) Lieutenant Atul Kumar Dhull

27) Which Indian city recently established the country's first globally recognised Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC)?

A) Pune

B) Meerut

C) Hyderabad

D) Bhopal

28) What is the primary aim of the Indian Army's newly announced modernisation roadmap?

A) Increase troop numbers

B) Expand foreign bases

C) Transform capabilities with next-gen technology

D) Focus solely on infantry training

29) Which scientific breakthrough was achieved by Bengaluru's CeNS researchers recently?

A) Discovery of a new element

B) Creation of tunable colour-shifting materials using nanospheres

C) Development of a COVID-19 vaccine

D) Invention of a superconducting battery

30) Who laid the foundation stone for India's first national-level cooperative university in Gujarat?

A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi

B) Union Minister Amit Shah

C) President Droupadi Murmu

D) Gujarat CM Bhupendrabhai Patel

31) Which South American country did Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit in July 2025, marking the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM in 57 years?

A) Brazil

B) Argentina

C) Chile

D) Peru

32) Which critical mineral was highlighted during PM Modi's Argentina visit as vital for India's clean energy transition?

A) Gold

B) Copper

C) Lithium

D) Cobalt

33) Who presented Prime Minister Modi with the symbolic 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires' in July 2025?

A) President Javier Milei

B) Randhir Jaiswal

C) Jorge Macri

D) P. Kumaran

34) Which city will host the 17th BRICS Summit attended by PM Modi in July 2025?

A) Brasilia

B) New Delhi

C) Rio de Janeiro

D) Shanghai

35) Which Indian athlete won the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 with a throw of 86.18m?

A) Shivpal Singh

B) Julius Yego

C) Neeraj Chopra

D) Rumesh Pathirage

36) At which BRICS Summit was Indonesia welcomed as a full member and ten new partner countries inducted?

A) 15th Summit, India

B) 16th Summit, Russia

C) 17th Summit, Brazil

D) 18th Summit, India

37) Who did EAM S. Jaishankar meet on the sidelines of the 17th BRICS Summit to discuss regional developments in West Asia?

A) Russian President Vladimir Putin

B) Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi

C) South African President Cyril Ramaphosa

D) Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

38) Which theme did Brazil adopt as Chair of BRICS in 2025?

A) Global Peace and Security

B) Strengthening Global South Cooperation

C) Technology and Innovation for the Future

D) Economic Growth for All

39) What major support did BRICS countries express for India at the 17th Summit?

A) Permanent UNSC seat

B) Hosting COP 33 in 2028

C) Nuclear Suppliers Group membership

D) G20 Presidency

40) Who became the youngest Indian captain to win a Test match overseas after India's historic win at Edgbaston in 2025?

A) Virat Kohli

B) Ajinkya Rahane

C) Shubman Gill

D) Rishabh Pant

41) Who has been appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in July 2025?

A) Geoff Allardice

B) Jay Shah

C) Sanjog Gupta

D) Shashank Manohar

42) What major initiative did the Modi government announce to boost inland waterways in Northeast India?

A) ₹1,000-crore investment

B) Kaladan Multi-Modal Project

C) ₹5,000-crore investment

D) Sagarmala Project

43) According to the RBI estimate, what is India's projected real GDP growth rate for 2024–25?

A) 5.2%

B) 6.5%

C) 7.8%

D) 4.3%

44) What theme will India promote for BRICS during its upcoming chairmanship, as announced by PM Modi?

A) BRICS for Economic Growth

B) Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability

C) BRICS for Peace and Security

D) Technology and Trade for All

45) Which technology is India exploring with Norway to advance its climate goals?

A) Solar panel manufacturing

B) Hydroelectric power

C) Carbon capture and storage (CCS)

D) Wind turbine recycling

46) Which country recently conferred its highest national honour, 'The Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross', on PM Narendra Modi?

A) Namibia

B) Brazil

C) Chile

D) South Africa

47) At which university in Uttar Pradesh was the Agritech Innovation Hub inaugurated to promote precision farming?

A) IIT Kanpur

B) SVPUAT Meerut

C) BHU Varanasi

D) Allahabad University

48) Which Indian state government approved 35% reservation in all state jobs for women in July 2025?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Bihar

D) Rajasthan

49) Which Indian city recently hosted the inauguration of the 2025 ASMITA Weightlifting League?

A) Lucknow

B) Patna

C) Modinagar

D) Indore

50) According to a July 2025 CareEdge report, what percentage of the world's rare earth element reserves does India hold?

A) 3%

B) 5%

C) 8%

D) 12%

51) What is the target year by which India aims to achieve energy independence, according to Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri?

A) 2030

B) 2047

C) 2050

D) 2070

52) Which country became the first in the world to sign a licensing agreement to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) technology in July 2025?

A) Kenya

B) Namibia

C) South Africa

D) Nigeria

53) Who was conferred with Namibia's highest civilian honour, 'The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis', in July 2025?

A) Amit Shah

B) Droupadi Murmu

C) Narendra Modi

D) S. Jaishankar

54) Which Indian defence vessel, inducted in July 2025, is the first indigenously designed Diving Support Vessel capable of deep-sea rescue?

A) INS Vikrant

B) INS Arihant

C) Nistar

D) INS Chakra

55) Which Indian leader's 125th birth anniversary was commemorated by a special postage stamp released in July 2025?

A) Syama Prasad Mookerjee

B) Rajendra Prasad

C) Lal Bahadur Shastri

D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

56) What is the primary goal of the newly launched Khelo Bharat Niti 2025?

A) Hosting the 2028 Olympics

B) Improving India's cricket infrastructure

C) Making India a top-10 sporting nation by 2036

D) Increasing sports scholarships

57) What is the significance of the INS Nistar, being inducted by the Indian Navy in July 2025?

A) India's first nuclear submarine

B) First indigenously designed Diving Support Vessel

C) First aircraft carrier built in India

D) Largest battle ship in Indian Navy

58) Which recent initiative aims to empower tribal youth in India through education and employment partnerships with UNICEF and Tata Motors?

A) Mission Shakti

B) TALASH platform by NESTS

C) Skill India Mission

D) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

59) According to a recent report, by which year is India's quick commerce (Q-commerce) market expected to reach Rs 2 lakh crore?

A) 2026

B) 2027

C) 2028

D) 2029

60) Which Indian city hosted the Vice-Chancellors' Conference to align universities with NEP 2020 and Viksit Bharat 2047?

A) Delhi

B) Ahmedabad

C) Kevadia

D) Chennai

61) What is the maximum financial incentive per vehicle offered under India's first electric truck scheme launched in July 2025?

A) Rs 5 lakh

B) Rs 7.5 lakh

C) Rs 9.6 lakh

D) Rs 12 lakh

62) Which operation was launched by the Indian Army in 2025 to secure the Amarnath Yatra?

A) Operation Trident

B) Operation Vijay

C) Operation SHIVA

D) Operation Rakshak

63) Who is the first registered member of the National Cadet Corps Alumni Association (NCCAA) in India?

A) Rajnath Singh

B) Amit Shah

C) Narendra Modi

D) Manoj Tiwari

64) Which companies are partnering to set up India's sixth semiconductor manufacturing unit near Jewar Airport?

A) Tata and Intel

B) Vedanta and Foxconn

C) HCL Group and Foxconn

D) Reliance and Samsung

65) Which scheme was scaled up nationwide in July 2025 to empower youth as digital ambassadors?

A) Digital Bharat

B) Sanchar Mitra Scheme

C) Digi Yuva

D) Bharat Net

66) Which group of Indian forts was inscribed as the 44th UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2025?

A) Chola Temples

B) Hill Forts of Rajasthan

C) Maratha Military Landscapes

D) Sun Temples of Odisha

67) Which recent recognition did the WHO give to India in July 2025 regarding traditional medicine?

A) Ayurvedic patent approval

B) Leader in herbal exports

C) Pioneering AI integration in Ayush systems

D) Largest homeopathy trials

68) Which major sports achievement did Iga Swiatek accomplish at Wimbledon 2025?

A) First American champion since 2016

B) Winning on all three surfaces

C) Oldest winner in history

D) First player to win 10 straight finals

69) Which two global partners faced newly announced 30% US tariffs in July 2025?

A) China and Japan

B) EU and Mexico

C) India and Canada

D) Brazil and South Korea

70) What is the theme of Shalyacon 2025 organized by the All-India Institute of Ayurveda?

A) Modern Surgery Only

B) Innovation, Integration, and Inspiration

C) Herbal Medicine

D) Yoga for Surgeons

71) Who became the first Italian to win a Wimbledon singles title in July 2025?

A) Carlos Alcaraz

B) Jannik Sinner

C) Matteo Berrettini

D) Fabio Fognini

72) Which Indian astronaut became the first to visit the International Space Station (ISS) in 2025?

A) Rakesh Sharma

B) Sunita Williams

C) Shubhanshu Shukla

D) Kalpana Chawla

73) Which company announced a $2 billion investment in Elon Musk's xAI startup in July 2025?

A) Tesla

B) Alphabet

C) SpaceX

D) OpenAI

74) What major directive did the Union Agriculture Minister issue to Indian states in July 2025?

A) Promote organic farming

B) Crack down on fake fertilizers

C) Increase MSP for wheat

D) Ban pesticide imports

75) Who are among the four distinguished individuals nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Murmu in July 2025?

A) Ujjwal Nikam and Dr. Meenakshi Jain

B) Amit Shah and Kapil Sibal

C) Gita Gopinath and Kiran Bedi

D) Raghuram Rajan and Sudha Murthy

76) Which Indian institution received recognition from the World Health Organization under the Asia Safe Surgical Implant Consortium Quality Improvement Programme in 2025?

A) AIIMS New Delhi

B) PGIMER Chandigarh

C) AIIMS Bhubaneswar

D) CMC Vellore

77) What was India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate in June 2025, marking the lowest in over six years?

A) 3.5%

B) 2.10%

C) 4.25%

D) 5.2%

78) What is the name of the new platform launched by the Election Commission of India to streamline electoral roll management in Bihar's 2025 revision?

A) ECI Connect

B) ECINet

C) VoterLink

D) ElectroNet

79) Which major scheme celebrated training 1.63 crore Indians over 10 years, with a focus on skilling youth for diverse sectors?

A) Startup India

B) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

C) Digital India

D) Make in India

80) Which index, released by NITI Aayog and MoDoNER in July 2025, showcased district-level SDG progress in the North Eastern Region?

A) Aspirational Districts Index

B) NER District SDG Index 2023–24

C) Ease of Living Index

D) National Progress Index

81) Which agency recently unveiled India's first indigenous low-cost carbon fibre foot prosthesis?

A) ISRO

B) CSIR

C) DRDO and AIIMS Bibinagar

D) IIT Madras

82) Which city will host the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 awards ceremony?

A) Bengaluru

B) Mumbai

C) New Delhi

D) Ahmedabad

83) What was India's trade deficit in June 2025 as per official data?

A) $25.10 billion

B) $18.78 billion

C) $21.88 billion

D) $35.14 billion

84) Which electric vehicle model did Tesla officially launch in India in July 2025?

A) Model S

B) Model X

C) Model Y

D) Model 3

85) Which Indian state signed a significant MoU with Texmas in July 2025 to promote textile and industrial collaboration?

A) Gujarat

B) Madhya Pradesh

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Punjab

86) Which of the following statements best describes India's achievement in renewable energy as of July 2025?

A) India met 90% renewable energy capacity target

B) India has achieved 50% of its total installed energy capacity target

C) India's renewable energy share is below 40% as of 2025

D) India is yet to announce any renewable energy target

87) In July 2025, which product category led India's export growth with a year-on-year jump of over 46%?

A) Textiles

B) Electronic Goods

C) Petroleum Products

D) Automobiles

88) Which major international agreement was a key focus at the BIMSTEC Ports Conclave 2025?

A) SAARC Free Trade Agreement

B) BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation (AMTC)

C) ASEAN Maritime Pact

D) Quad Security Dialogue

89) Which of the following best describes the trend in India's average retail inflation during PM Modi's tenure as of June 2025?

A) Consistently above 9%

B) Average of 8.1% since 2014

C) A steady decline, averaging 5.1%

D) No significant change since 2011

90) Which sector was the main driver behind India's narrowing trade deficit in June 2025?

A) Rise in gold imports

B) Growth in services exports

C) Decline in petroleum exports

D) Increase in textile imports

91) Which two countries held their 2nd Joint Working Group meeting on Agriculture in July 2025 to enhance cooperation in mechanization, climate-resilient farming, and research?

A) India and Brazil

B) India and Argentina

C) India and Israel

D) India and Australia

92) What is the main objective of the newly approved 'Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana'?

A) To subsidize fertilizer prices

B) To boost agricultural productivity in low-performing districts

C) To increase minimum support prices

D) To support only organic farming

93) Which Indian organization celebrated its 97th Foundation Day in July 2025, highlighting significant achievements in foodgrain, horticulture, and milk production?

A) Food Corporation of India

B) Indian Council of Agricultural Research

C) National Dairy Development Board

D) Ministry of Agriculture

94) Which state-owned power company received Cabinet approval in July 2025 to invest up to Rs. 20,000 crore in its green energy subsidiaries?

A) NHPC Limited

B) Power Grid Corporation

C) NTPC Limited

D) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

95) According to a July 2025 CareEdge report, what is India's projected electric car market share by FY28 if supply chain challenges are addressed?

A) 3%

B) 5%

C) 7%

D) 15%

96) Which Indian city topped the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 rankings as the cleanest city?

A) Ahmedabad

B) Lucknow

C) Indore

D) Vijayawada

97) The Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, launched in 2025, aims to benefit how many districts in India?

A) 50

B) 75

C) 100

D) 200

98) Which Indian Grandmaster defeated Magnus Carlsen in the Las Vegas Chess Grand Slam Tour in July 2025?

A) Viswanathan Anand

B) Arjun Erigaisi

C) Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa

D) Vidit Gujrathi

99) Which state government announced 125 units of free electricity per household from August 1, 2025?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Bihar

C) Punjab

D) Gujarat

100) Who inaugurated India's first foreign university campus under the new UGC regulations in July 2025?

A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi

B) President Droupadi Murmu

C) Dharmendra Pradhan

D) Amit Shah

101) What new financial incentive did PM Modi announce for first-time private sector employees in Bihar?

A) ₹10,000 grant

B) ₹25,000 bonus

C) ₹15,000 incentive

D) ₹50,000 stipend

102) Which summit in Varanasi launched a nationwide youth-led movement against drug abuse in July 2025?

A) MY Bharat Summit

B) Kashi Wellness Conclave

C) Youth Spiritual Summit

D) Fit India Conference

103) Which Indian city will host the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in 2025?

A) Mumbai

B) Goa

C) Chennai

D) Hyderabad

104) What major educational initiative did Coal India Ltd commit ₹10 crore to in July 2025?

A) Digital University in Odisha

B) Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Chhattisgarh

C) Skill India Mission

D) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

105) What is the main goal of the National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutes 2.0 (NSCSTI 2.0) launched in July 2025?

A) Enforce stricter disciplinary rules

B) Modernize and improve civil services training

C) Promote foreign language learning

D) Outsource training to private firms

106) According to the Dun Bradstreet Global Business Investment Confidence Index for Q3 2025, which country recorded the highest year-on-year growth in investment confidence?

A) United States

B) Brazil

C) India

D) Germany

107) Which terrorist organization was designated as a global terrorist group by the US in July 2025?

A) Jaish-e-Mohammed

B) ISIS-Khorasan

C) The Resistance Front (TRF)

D) Al-Qaeda

108) Which two sectors are identified as the next frontiers for India-UAE strategic partnership, as per July 2025 developments?

A) Agriculture and Textiles

B) Nuclear Energy and Advanced Technology

C) Tourism and Handicrafts

D) Automobiles and Pharmaceuticals

109) What major announcement did PM Modi make to boost youth employment during his Motihari rally in Bihar in July 2025?

A) Free laptops for students

B) ₹15,000 incentive for first-time private sector employees

C) 100% government job reservation

D) Interest-free business loans

110) Which newly launched government framework aims to upgrade civil service training institutes in India as of July 2025?

A) Mission Karmayogi

B) NSCSTI 2.0

C) PM e-Vidya

D) Digital India Academy

111) On which date was the World Day for International Justice commemorated?

A) 19 July

B) 18 July

C) 17 July

D) 16 July

112) Which Indian Institute of Management introduced its new education-focused centre named Gyanodaya?

A) IIM Lucknow

B) IIM Kozhikode

C) IIM Bangalore

D) IIM Ahmedabad

113) Who was newly designated as the Chief Secretary in Manipur?

A) Sanjay Kaul

B) Sahil Kinni

C) Puneet Kumar Goel

D) Abhijeet Seth

114) Which female player from India's national hockey team received Magic Skill Award for her exceptional individual skills?

A) Deepika

B) Gurjit Kaur

C) Rani Rampal

D) Savita Punia

115) In which city did Minister Mansukh Mandaviya recently open the Khelo Bharat sports conclave?

A) Ahmedabad

B) Chennai

C) Mumbai

D) New Delhi

116) Who recently resigned as the Vice President of India, citing health reasons?

A) M. Venkaiah Naidu

B) Jagdeep Dhankhar

C) Om Birla

D) Rajiv Pratap Rudy

117) Which scheme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism to develop iconic tourist destinations to global standards?

A) PRASAD

B) SASCI

C) SWADESH

D) UDAAN

118) Bihar has become the first Indian state to ensure all polling stations have fewer than how many electors?

A) 1,000

B) 1,500

C) 1,200

D) 2,000

119) Between 2014 and 2025, how many jobs were reportedly created in India's MSME sector according to the Centre?

A) 10 crore

B) 20 crore

C) 34 crore

D) 6 crore

120) Which bill, passed in July 2025, replaces the colonial-era Indian Bills of Lading Act, 1856?

A) Shipping Reform Bill

B) Bills of Lading Bill, 2025

C) Maritime Commerce Act

D) Shipping Modernisation Act

121) Which two countries is Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting from July 23 to 26, 2025, to strengthen strategic partnerships?

A) United States and Japan

B) United Kingdom and Maldives

C) France and Sri Lanka

D) Germany and Australia

122) Which new policy is Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled recently?

A) National Agriculture Policy 2025

B) National Cooperative Policy 2025

C) National Industrial Policy 2025

D) National Housing Policy 2025

123) Which port is set to add 23.2 million TEUs to India's maritime capacity, strengthening the IMEC corridor?

A) Jawaharlal Nehru Port

B) Chennai Port

C) Vadhavan Port

D) Kandla Port

124) What is the forecasted GDP growth for India in FY26 according to Standard Chartered's 2025 outlook?

A) 5.4%

B) 7.5%

C) 6.6%

D) 8.1%

125) Which country's Olympic tennis champion Zheng Qinwen withdrew from the 2025 U.S. Open due to elbow surgery?

A) Japan

B) China

C) France

D) Russia

126) India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol in which year, five years ahead of its original target?

A) 2024

B) 2026

C) 2025

D) 2030

127) According to the Asian Development Bank's July 2025 outlook, what is India's projected GDP growth rate for 2026?

A) 6.0%

B) 6.7%

C) 7.2%

D) 5.5%

128) Which Indian state received a nearly nine-fold increase in railway budget allocation over 11 years, as per July 2025 data?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) West Bengal

C) Bihar

D) Maharashtra

129) What is the aim of the recently launched 'Dhruva' Policy by the Indian government?

A) Unique digital identity for citizens

B) Geo-coded address system

C) Satellite-based navigation

D) Digital land records

130) Which two countries are involved in peace talks in Turkey in July 2025 after seven weeks, as reported?

A) Ukraine and Poland

B) Russia and Ukraine

C) Russia and Belarus

D) Ukraine and Moldova

131) Which significant trade agreement was signed between India and the United Kingdom in July 2025?

A) Bilateral Investment Treaty

B) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

C) Strategic Partnership Accord

D) Free Movement Protocol

132) Which sector in India is expected to benefit most from the elimination of tariffs under the India–UK CETA?

A) Textiles and Garments

B) Aerospace

C) Petroleum

D) Real Estate

133) Which Indian economic sector achieved its highest PMI index in nearly 17.5 years in July 2025?

A) Agriculture

B) Services

C) Manufacturing

D) Mining

134) Which recent financial measure is expected to inject Rs 2.5 lakh crore liquidity into India's banking system by late 2025?

A) Increase in CRR

B) Phased CRR cut

C) GST rate hike

D) Repo rate hike

135) Which Indian government scheme was highlighted for providing affordable sanitary napkins to women at ₹1 per pad?

A) Ujjwala Yojana

B) Suvidha under PMBJP

C) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

D) Ayushman Bharat

136) Which milestone was commemorated during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's July 2025 visit to the Maldives?

A) 50 years of India–Maldives diplomatic ties

B) Independence of Maldives from Portugal

C) 60 years of India–Maldives diplomatic relations

D) Signing of a defense treaty

137) Who was recently nominated as Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July 2025?

A) Ajay Seth

B) Sanjay Malhotra

C) Anuradha Thakur

D) Rajesh Kumar Singh

138) Which major infrastructure was jointly inaugurated by PM Modi and President Muizzu in Male in July 2025?

A) Greater Male Connectivity Bridge

B) Hanimaadhoo International Airport

C) Maldives Ministry of Defence building

D) Male–Addu Highway

139) Which city has been recognised as an international Wetland City at Ramsar COP15, as highlighted by India's Environment Minister in July 2025?

A) Surat

B) Indore

C) Chennai

D) Varanasi

140) Which technological milestone was achieved by Indian Railways in July 2025?

A) First bullet train launch

B) 100% electrification

C) Successful test of the first hydrogen-powered coach

D) Inauguration of Vande Bharat Express

141) Which scheme was recently launched to promote insurance and entrepreneurship among rural women in India?

A) Jan Dhan Yojana

B) Bima Sakhi Yojana

C) Lakhpati Didi Yojana

D) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

142) Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended which country's 60th Independence Day as the Guest of Honour in July 2025?

A) Sri Lanka

B) Bangladesh

C) Maldives

D) Nepal

143) Which traditional Indian medical system is being aligned with WHO global standards, furthering its international reach?

A) Ayurveda

B) Unani

C) Siddha

D) Naturopathy

144) Who was recently nominated as a Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

A) Ajay Seth

B) Sanjay Malhotra

C) Anuradha Thakur

D) Monalisa Dash

145) Which project was inaugurated in Drass to enhance visitors' understanding of the 1999 Kargil War conditions?

A) Kargil War Museum

B) Drass Memorial Park

C) Indus Viewpoint

D) Operation Vijay Gallery

146) Which Indian city was the site of a major infrastructure push with projects worth over ₹4800 crore inaugurated by PM Modi, including a new airport terminal and highway works?

A) Chennai

B) Coimbatore

C) Thoothukudi

D) Madurai

147) Indian Railways recently completed a significant project connecting which region to the rest of the country, featuring engineering marvels like the Chenab Bridge?

A) North-East India

B) Ladakh

C) Jammu Kashmir

D) Sikkim

148) Which sports policy, aiming to make India a sporting superpower and supporting grassroots talent, was highlighted by PM Modi in his recent 'Mann Ki Baat'?

A) Fit India Movement

B) Khelo Bharat Niti 2025

C) Mission Olympic Gold

D) Play for India Scheme

149) The launch of which initiative in July 2025 aims to digitize ancient manuscripts and make them available to the public?

A) Digital India Mission

B) Gyan Bharatam Mission

C) Heritage India Program

D) Bharat Manuscript Digitization Yojana

150) Which environmental group from Odisha gained national attention for spreading awareness about forest fires through devotional songs?

A) Green Odisha Mandali

B) Radhakrishna Sankirtan Mandali

C) Van Suraksha Samiti

D) Odisha Environmental Choir

ANSWERS

1) Correct Answer: C

The SBI Research report notes the share of equities in household savings rose to 5.1% in FY24. This reflects a growing trend of financialisation of household savings in India. The rise from 2.5% in FY20 highlights a structural shift in investment patterns. This is significant for India's economy as it indicates increased public participation in capital markets, aiding financial sector depth.

2) Correct Answer: C

Ayush Shetty won the men's singles title at the BWF US Open 2025. He defeated Canada's Brian Yang 21-18, 21-13 in the final. This victory marks his breakthrough on the BWF World Tour. It signals the rise of a new Indian badminton talent on the international stage.

3) Correct Answer: B

Nizamabad in Telangana is now the headquarters of the National Turmeric Board. The inauguration was led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in June 2025. Nizamabad is widely recognized as India's 'turmeric capital.' This move promises to boost farmers, exports, and global branding for Indian turmeric.

4) Correct Answer: B

The Dalai Lama, turning 90 in July 2025, is expected to share details about his succession. He has indicated his successor will be born outside China, challenging Beijing's claims. The issue is geopolitically significant, involving India, China, and the US. The Dalai Lama's succession affects Tibetan autonomy and global diplomatic relations.

5) Correct Answer: C

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate UP's first AYUSH University in Gorakhpur on July 1, 2025. The event marks a push for traditional and holistic healthcare education. This signals the government's commitment to promoting Ayurveda, Yoga, and related systems. It also highlights Gorakhpur's increasing educational prominence.

6) Correct Answer: A

The new fare structure will be effective from July 1, 2025. This rationalisation aims to streamline fares while maintaining affordability. The revised fares apply to all tickets booked on or after this date. Such changes are crucial for Indian Railways' financial sustainability and passenger convenience.

7) Correct Answer: A

The initiative includes India, Japan, United States, and Australia. Launched in June 2025, it marks a significant step in QUAD cooperation for Indo-Pacific maritime security. The mission strengthens joint readiness and interoperability. It underlines India's SAGAR doctrine and regional leadership.

8) Correct Answer: B

The economic agenda will dominate PM Modi's Ghana visit from July 2-3, 2025. The discussions aim to boost bilateral trade and collaboration in agriculture, vaccines, minerals, and digital infrastructure. Strengthening economic ties with Ghana cements India's role as a partner in Africa's development.

9) Correct Answer: A

Brazil is interested in India's Akash Air Defence System and other indigenous technologies. Talks are scheduled during PM Modi's Brazil visit in July 2025. This interest reflects India's rising stature in defence exports and global strategic partnerships.

10) Correct Answer: B

Puducherry is set to participate in India's Deep Ocean Mission, as discussed on June 30, 2025. The mission aims to boost ocean research, seabed mineral exploration, and marine technology. It supports India's technological and economic advancement in marine sciences.

11) Correct Answer: C

INS Tamal was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 2, 2025, at Kaliningrad, Russia. It is the latest stealth frigate under Project 1135.6 and includes 26% indigenous systems like BrahMos missiles. This induction highlights the enduring Indo-Russian defense partnership and strengthens India's maritime security.

12) Correct Answer: B

The three new criminal laws are designed to modernize India's justice system and make it more affordable, accessible, and transparent. They replace colonial-era laws, prescribe strict timelines for trials, and incorporate technology-driven measures. This reform is considered the biggest since Independence, aiming for time-bound and citizen-centric justice.

13) Correct Answer: C

The Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme, approved in July 2025, aims to boost private sector participation in strategic and sunrise sectors. It provides long-term, low-interest financing for research projects, supporting India's self-reliance and technological advancement. The scheme is a key step toward strengthening India's research ecosystem.

14) Correct Answer: C

The ELI Scheme was approved in July 2025 with a budget of Rs 99,446 crore. It targets the creation of 3.5 crore jobs by offering wage-based incentives to first-time employees and employers, particularly in the manufacturing sector. The scheme aims to formalize and expand India's workforce.

15) Correct Answer: B

RailOne was launched by the Railway Minister on July 1, 2025, as a comprehensive, user-friendly app for various passenger services. It integrates booking, live tracking, e-catering, and grievance redressal, simplifying access for users and supporting Indian Railways' digital transformation.

16) Correct Answer: B

India announced it would set up a Skill Development Centre in Ghana. This initiative aims to train youth and support Ghana's 'Feed Ghana' programme. It was revealed during PM Modi's landmark state visit. The project strengthens India's development partnership and South-South cooperation.

17) Correct Answer: C

India plans to share its digital payments system, Bharat UPI, with Ghana. This was announced during PM Modi's July 2025 visit. It aims to enhance financial inclusion and connectivity. The move reflects India's commitment to digital public infrastructure globally.

18) Correct Answer: A

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was underscored as a key scheme in J&K. Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh discussed this during a July 2025 meeting in J&K. PMMSY aims to strengthen fisheries, infrastructure, and employment. It supports rural income and nutritional security in the region.

19) Correct Answer: C

Shubman Gill scored his second Test hundred as captain in the July 2025 India vs England 2nd Test. He finished unbeaten on 114 on Day One at Edgbaston. This achievement makes him only the second Indian captain after Azharuddin to score consecutive hundreds in Tests in England. Gill's form is crucial for India's overseas Test success.

20) Correct Answer: B

SPREE 2025 or Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees was launched by ESIC in July 2025, it promotes registration under the ESI scheme without penalties for unregistered employers and workers. The scheme aims to expand social security coverage, especially in informal sectors.

21) Correct Answer: B

PM Modi announced on July 4, 2025, that sixth-generation members of the Indian diaspora in Trinidad Tobago would now be eligible for Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards. This move acknowledges the deep, historic ties between India and the Caribbean nation. The announcement was made during his address to the Indian community in Port of Spain.

22) Correct Answer: C

Shubman Gill scored a marathon 269 at Edgbaston in July 2025, becoming only the second Indian captain to score a double century in England. His innings set a new record for the highest individual Test score by an Indian in England. Gill's performance displayed endurance and leadership, boosting India's dominance in the series.

23) Correct Answer: C

D Gukesh defeated World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen with the black pieces in the Grand Chess Tour SuperUnited Rapid

2025 in Zagreb. This was his second win against Carlsen in just over a month. Gukesh now leads the tournament standings. His repeated victories signal a new era for Indian chess talent on the world stage.

24) Correct Answer: C

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), with India's NACWC, hosted the 23rd Regional Meeting in New Delhi in July 2025. The OPCW oversees the Chemical Weapons Convention, aimed at eliminating chemical weapons globally. India plays a key role as an original signatory and mentor.

25) Correct Answer: B

On July 3, 2025, PM Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address Ghana's Parliament. His speech emphasized democratic values and the Global South's voice in governance. This historic address deepened bilateral relations. It also showcased India's outreach and leadership in Africa.

26) Correct Answer: C

Sub Lieutenant Aastha Poonia became the Indian Navy's first woman fighter pilot in July 2025. She was awarded the 'Wings of Gold' at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam. This marks a significant step towards gender equality in the armed forces. It demonstrates India's progress in promoting Nari Shakti and inclusivity in defence.

27) Correct Answer: B

Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, set up India's first internationally recognised EDFC in July 2025. The facility was certified by the World Organisation for Animal Health. It enables Indian sport horses to compete globally under strict biosecurity. This boosts India's equestrian trade and participation in international events.

28) Correct Answer: C

The Indian Army's roadmap, unveiled in July 2025, seeks to transform its capabilities using next-generation technology. Focus areas include hypersonic weapons, cyber warfare, and AI-based systems. The goal is to prepare for future warfare and enhance self-reliance. This vision aligns with India's push for defence innovation and atmanirbharta.

29) Correct Answer: B

Researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, created tunable colour-shifting materials using polystyrene nanospheres. Their July 2025 study demonstrates structural coloration inspired by nature. This innovation enables vibrant, fade-resistant colours without pigments. It has potential applications in eco-friendly paints, sensors, and anti-counterfeit technology.

30) Correct Answer: B

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for Tribhuvan Sahkari University in Anand, Gujarat. This is India's first national cooperative university. It aims to strengthen cooperative education and innovation nationwide.

31) Correct Answer: B

Prime Minister Modi arrived in Argentina on July 5, 2025, marking the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 57 years. The visit aimed to strengthen India-Argentina ties in trade, minerals, and energy. Argentina holds strategic significance for India's energy and mineral security. This historic visit signifies India's deepening engagement with Latin America.

32) Correct Answer: C

During his Argentina visit, PM Modi discussed cooperation in critical minerals, especially lithium. Argentina is part of the 'Lithium Triangle' and holds rich lithium reserves. Lithium is crucial for rechargeable batteries in EVs and electronics. Its availability supports India's ambitions in clean energy and sustainable industrial growth.

33) Correct Answer: C

Jorge Macri, Chief of the City Government of Buenos Aires, presented the symbolic 'Key to the City' to PM Modi. This honor represents trust and friendship between India and Argentina. The gesture occurred during Modi's productive two-day visit. Such recognitions highlight India's growing international stature.

34) Correct Answer: C

The 17th BRICS Summit is scheduled in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in July 2025. PM Modi departed for Brazil after his Argentina visit to attend this important multilateral

event. BRICS is a key platform for India's global diplomacy. Participation strengthens India's voice in global economic and strategic matters.

35) Correct Answer: C

Neeraj Chopra won the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 with a throw of 86.18m. The event took place in Bengaluru and is a World Athletics gold-level meet. Chopra continues to inspire in javelin on the world stage. His success boosts Indian athletics and Olympic prospects.

36) Correct Answer: C

Indonesia was welcomed as a full member at the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The summit also inducted ten new partner countries, reflecting the bloc's expanding global footprint. This marks a major shift in BRICS' inclusivity and influence. The expansion strengthens BRICS' role in representing the Global South.

37) Correct Answer: B

EAM S. Jaishankar met Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi at the 17th BRICS Summit. Their talks focused on recent tensions in West Asia, including Iran-Israel conflict. Such dialogues reinforce India's commitment to peace and regional stability. These interactions are vital for India's foreign policy in the region.

38) Correct Answer: B

Brazil assumed the BRICS Chairship on January 1, 2025, with the theme 'Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance'. This reflects Brazil's focus on inclusivity and development. The theme drives the agenda for deeper cooperation among emerging economies.

39) Correct Answer: B

BRICS nations welcomed and supported India's candidacy to host the 33rd Conference of Parties (COP 33) of the UNFCCC in 2028. This highlights India's leadership on climate action. Hosting COP 33 would be a significant opportunity for India to shape global climate policy. It strengthens India's voice in international climate negotiations.

40) Correct Answer: C

Shubman Gill, at 25 years and 301 days old, became the youngest Indian captain to win a Test overseas after India's victory at Edgbaston in 2025. This surpassed Sunil Gavaskar's previous record. Gill's leadership marked a milestone in Indian cricket history. The win boosts India's reputation in world cricket.

41) Correct Answer: C

Sanjog Gupta, an Indian executive, took over as ICC CEO in July 2025. He succeeded Australia's Geoff Allardice, marking a significant leadership change. Gupta's prior experience includes leading JioStar Sports. His appointment is expected to strengthen cricket's global expansion, including Olympic ambitions.

42) Correct Answer: C

On July 7, 2025, the government announced a ₹5,000-crore investment for Northeast waterways. The plan includes new terminals, jetties, and maritime skill centers. It aims to enhance connectivity, trade, and employment in the region. Such investment is crucial for regional economic integration and growth.

43) Correct Answer: B

India is projected to achieve a real GDP growth rate of 6.5% for 2024–25, as per the Reserve Bank of India. This estimate highlights India's resilience amid global volatility. Strong domestic demand and stable inflation underpin this growth.

44) Correct Answer: B

India will redefine BRICS as 'Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability.' PM Modi announced this at the 17th BRICS Summit in Brazil, July 2025. The theme emphasizes inclusive, people-centric progress. It affirms India's commitment to global cooperation and sustainable development.

45) Correct Answer: C

India is exploring Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology with Norway, as stated by Minister Hardeep Puri in July 2025. Norway's Northern Lights project serves as a model. CCS helps reduce industrial CO_2 emissions. This collaboration could accelerate India's transition to net-zero emissions.

46) Correct Answer: B

On July 9, 2025, Brazilian President Lula awarded PM Modi the highest national honour of Brazil. The accolade recognizes Modi's efforts in deepening India-Brazil ties. This is the 26th global honour for the Indian PM. Such awards reflect the strengthening of India's global diplomatic profile.

47) Correct Answer: B

The Uttar Pradesh Agritech Innovation Hub was inaugurated at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology (SVPUAT), Meerut, on July 8, 2025. The hub focuses on modernizing agriculture with AI and IoT. Such initiatives are crucial for boosting rural incomes and sustainable farming in India

48) Correct Answer: C

The Bihar government, led by Nitish Kumar, approved 35% reservation in state government jobs for women on July 8, 2025. This progressive move aims to empower women and enhance their participation in the workforce. Such policies are crucial for social equity and gender balance in governance.

49) Correct Answer: C

The 2025 ASMITA Weightlifting League was inaugurated in Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh, on July 8, 2025. The league promotes women's participation in sports and identifies new talent. Such initiatives support gender equality and grassroots sports development in India.

50) Correct Answer: C

India holds 8% of the world's rare earth element reserves, as reported in July 2025. Despite large reserves, actual mining is less than 1% of global output. Rare earths are critical for clean energy and technology sectors, making this reserve significant for India's strategic interests.

51) Correct Answer: B

India has set 2047 as the target year for energy independence. This was announced by Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at the OPEC International Seminar in July 2025. The roadmap includes expanding hydrocarbon exploration and transitioning to cleaner fuels. Achieving this goal is crucial for India's long-term energy security and sustainable growth.

52) Correct Answer: B

Namibia became the first country to sign a licensing agreement for India's UPI. This agreement was announced during PM Modi's state visit to Namibia in July 2025. The adoption of UPI will enable secure and fast digital transactions in Namibia. It marks a major step in India's digital diplomacy and fintech leadership.

53) Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Namibia's highest civilian honour in July 2025. The award, named after a unique Namibian plant, recognises distinguished service and leadership. Modi is the first Indian leader to receive this honour. It further strengthens India-Namibia bilateral ties and India's global image.

54) Correct Answer: C

'Nistar' is the first indigenously designed Diving Support Vessel inducted by the Indian Navy in July 2025. Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, it supports deep-sea diving and rescue up to 300 meters. The vessel enhances India's self-reliance in advanced naval capabilities. It marks a significant step in indigenous defence manufacturing.

55) Correct Answer: A

The Department of Posts released a commemorative stamp for Syama Prasad Mookerjee's 125th birth anniversary in July 2025. Mookerjee was a key educationist, statesman, and founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. The stamp honours his contributions to Indian education, industry, and constitutional development. Such commemorations reinforce national heritage and unity.

56) Correct Answer: C

Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 aims to propel India into the top-10 sporting nations by 2036. The policy envisions an integrated approach linking sports with education and grassroots talent identification. Supported by significant funding and public-private partnerships, it seeks to transform sports into a major economic and social driver.

57) Correct Answer: B

INS Nistar is India's first indigenously designed Diving Support Vessel, commissioned in July 2025. Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, it enhances India's deep-sea diving and submarine rescue capabilities. With over 80%

indigenous content and advanced features, it reflects the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

58) Correct Answer: B

TALASH, launched by NESTS in collaboration with UNICEF and Tata Motors, focuses on education, life skills, and employability for tribal students. It includes psychometric assessments, career guidance, and industry partnerships for skill development. The initiative aims to bridge educational gaps and enhance career opportunities among tribal youth.

59) Correct Answer: C

India's Q-commerce market is projected to reach Rs 2 lakh crore by FY28. This growth is driven by rapid digital adoption, evolving consumer preferences, and expanding internet penetration. The sector, though a small part of the overall grocery market, is growing at a remarkable pace. This signals a major shift in retail and consumer behavior in India.

60) Correct Answer: C

The Vice-Chancellors' Conference was held in Kevadia, Gujarat, in July 2025. The event focused on implementing NEP 2020's Panch Sankalpa to guide universities towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. It emphasized inclusivity, innovation, and the transformation of higher education. Such initiatives are key to equipping India's youth for future challenges.

61) Correct Answer: C

The scheme offers a maximum incentive of Rs 9.6 lakh per electric truck. Announced under the PM E-DRIVE initiative, this move aims to accelerate green freight and reduce emissions. Incentives are provided as upfront discounts for eligible N2 and N3 category trucks. This supports India's net-zero ambitions and cleaner transport sector.

62) Correct Answer: C

Operation SHIVA 2025 was launched to ensure safe and smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra. This high-intensity exercise involves over 8,500 troops and advanced surveillance tools. The operation's multi-layered security aims to counter threats and protect pilgrims. It highlights India's commitment to religious safety and national security.

63) Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the first registered member of the NCCAA. The association unites former and current NCC cadets to strengthen nation-building. This was highlighted at the first Governing Council Meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in July 2025. NCCAA plays a crucial role in youth development and national integration.

64) Correct Answer: C

A joint venture between HCL Group and Taiwan's Foxconn will establish India's sixth semiconductor unit. Approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025, the facility will have a 20,000 wafer per month capacity. This is part of the ₹76,000-crore Semicon India programme. The move strengthens India's position in global chip manufacturing.

65) Correct Answer: B

The 'Sanchar Mitra Scheme' was expanded nationwide by the Department of Telecommunications. This scheme trains student volunteers to promote digital safety, cyber fraud prevention, and responsible mobile use. Its rollout is aimed at improving digital literacy and empowering youth. Such initiatives are vital for India's digital transformation.

66) Correct Answer: C

The Maratha Military Landscapes were inscribed as India's 44th UNESCO World Heritage Site at the 47th session in Paris in July 2025. This group includes twelve strategically significant forts, mainly in Maharashtra and one in Tamil Nadu. The recognition followed an extensive evaluation by ICOMOS. This boosts India's global heritage profile and highlights the Maratha Empire's military and cultural legacy.

67) Correct Answer: C

The WHO recognized India for its visionary integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Ayush (traditional medicine) systems in its first technical brief on AI in traditional medicine. Announced in July 2025, this positions India as a leader in digital health innovation, supporting both national and global advancements in evidence-based healthcare.

68) Correct Answer: B

Iga Swiatek won her maiden Wimbledon in July 2025, achieving Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces at age 24. She became the youngest since Serena Williams (2002) to do so. Her dominant 6-0, 6-0 win also marked her as a rising tennis great, boosting the profile of Polish sports globally.

69) Correct Answer: B

In July 2025, US President Donald Trump announced 30% tariffs on imports from the European Union and Mexico, escalating trade tensions. This move followed failed negotiations and prompted threats of retaliation. The tariffs impact major US trading partners, affecting global trade and economic stability.

70) Correct Answer: B

Shalyacon 2025, held in July at AIIA Delhi, is themed 'Innovation, Integration, and Inspiration.' The three-day seminar coincides with Sushruta Jayanti and focuses on advancements and integration in Ayurvedic surgery. It aims to equip Ayurvedic surgeons with modern skills, fostering research and global relevance.

71) Correct Answer: B

Jannik Sinner won his maiden Wimbledon crown in July 2025. He defeated Carlos Alcaraz in the final, making history as the first Italian singles champion at Wimbledon. Sinner's victory came after a high-octane four-set match. This is significant as it highlights Italy's growing presence in global tennis.

72) Correct Answer: C

Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to visit the ISS in July 2025. He participated in the Axiom-4 mission, conducting India-specific experiments. This mission advances India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme. It marks a major achievement for India's growing space ambitions.

73) Correct Answer: C

SpaceX committed $2 billion to xAI in July 2025. This investment deepens ties among Musk's ventures and values xAI at $113 billion. The Grok AI chatbot is central to this integration, with future roles in Starlink and Tesla. It reflects the expanding role of AI in technology businesses.

74) Correct Answer: B

The Union Agriculture Minister directed all states to crack down on fake and substandard fertilizers in July 2025. This move aims to protect farmers and maintain input quality. The directive enforces strict monitoring and legal action under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. Ensuring genuine fertilizers is crucial for India's food security.

75) Correct Answer: A

In July 2025, Ujjwal Nikam, C. Sadanandan Master, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, and Dr. Meenakshi Jain were nominated to the Rajya Sabha. The nominations recognize contributions in law, diplomacy, social service, and scholarship. Such appointments enrich parliamentary debates. They ensure diverse expertise in India's upper house.

76) Correct Answer: C

AIIMS Bhubaneswar received WHO recognition under the Asia Safe Surgical Implant Consortium Quality Improvement Programme in 2025. The institute was also praised for its sanitation standards and healthcare services. This recognition reflects AIIMS Bhubaneswar's growing reputation for quality healthcare and its contribution to medical excellence in eastern India.

77) Correct Answer: B

India's CPI inflation rate for June 2025 was 2.10%, the lowest since January 2019. This drop was due to easing food prices and marks significant relief for households. The low inflation keeps the rate within the RBI's target range and gives policymakers more room to focus on economic growth.

78) Correct Answer: B

The Election Commission of India launched ECINet, a platform that integrates 40 previous ECI applications. It played a pivotal role in Bihar's 2025 Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, enabling online form submission and verification. ECINet enhances efficiency, accuracy, and voter convenience in the electoral process.

79) Correct Answer: B

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) empowered 1.63 crore Indians in 10 years. It's the government's flagship skilling program, preparing youth for jobs in traditional and emerging sectors. PMKVY's

inclusive and innovative approach is central to India's Skill India Mission.

80) Correct Answer: B

The NER District SDG Index 2023–24, released by NITI Aayog and MoDoNER, measures Sustainable Development Goal progress across North Eastern districts. The report highlights significant gains and regional disparities, serving as a key tool for targeted policy interventions in the region.

81) Correct Answer: C

DRDO and AIIMS Bibinagar launched ADIDOC, India's first advanced carbon fibre foot prosthesis, in July 2025. The device is cost-effective, priced under ₹20,000 compared to imported ones costing about ₹2 lakh. It enhances affordability and accessibility for amputees, promoting social inclusion under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

82) Correct Answer: C

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on July 17, 2025. The awards recognize India's top-performing clean cities. This event is part of the world's largest urban cleanliness survey, promoting sanitation and sustainable urban development across India.

83) Correct Answer: B

India's trade deficit narrowed to $18.78 billion in June 2025, down from $21.88 billion in May. This figure was released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry. The narrowing deficit shows cautious resilience amid global uncertainties and has implications for India's economic planning and currency stability.

84) Correct Answer: C

Tesla debuted in India with the Model Y, as announced in July 2025. The RWD variant starts at ₹59.89 lakh with deliveries beginning in Q3 2025. Tesla's entry is expected to accelerate EV adoption and infrastructure growth in India, supporting cleaner mobility.

85) Correct Answer: B

Madhya Pradesh signed an MoU with Texmas during its Chief Minister's investment visit to Dubai in July 2025. The agreement aims to strengthen the state's textile and industrial sectors. This move is expected to boost investment, create jobs, and deepen India-UAE economic ties.

86) Correct Answer: B

India reached 50% of its installed energy capacity from renewable sources before the 2030 deadline. This milestone was confirmed by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi in July 2025. The achievement demonstrates India's global leadership in the renewable sector. It is significant for India's climate commitments and sustainable growth.

87) Correct Answer: B

Electronic Goods exports surged by 46.93% in June 2025. This growth was highlighted in official trade data for April–June 2025. The sector outperformed others, reflecting India's growing electronics manufacturing and export capability. Such trends help diversify and strengthen India's export portfolio.

88) Correct Answer: B

The BIMSTEC Ports Conclave 2025 focused on operationalizing the BIMSTEC Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation (AMTC). This agreement aims to improve connectivity and trade in the Bay of Bengal. India was the first to ratify it. It is crucial for regional economic integration and trade.

89) Correct Answer: C

India's average retail inflation dropped to 5.1% during the Modi government (2014–2025). In June 2025, it reached a 6-year low of 2.1%. This reduction has eased the cost of living and boosted economic growth. Stable inflation supports inclusive development and policy stability.

90) Correct Answer: B

Growth in services exports was a key factor in narrowing India's trade deficit in June 2025. Services exports reached $32.84 billion, outpacing imports. Strong performance in this sector helped offset the merchandise trade gap. This is crucial for India's overall trade balance and economic stability.

91) Correct Answer: B

The 2nd Joint Working Group on Agriculture between India and Argentina was held virtually on July 16, 2025. This meeting emphasized mutual collaboration in mechanization, pest control, and research. Officials from

both sides highlighted the importance of sharing technologies. The partnership aims to boost productivity and welfare for farmers in both countries.

92) Correct Answer: B

The Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana was approved in July 2025 to uplift 100 districts with low agricultural productivity. The scheme focuses on productivity, diversification, irrigation, and credit access. It is inspired by NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme. This initiative aims to transform India's agricultural landscape for inclusive growth.

93) Correct Answer: B

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) marked its 97th Foundation Day on July 16, 2025. The event celebrated ICAR's role in driving agricultural innovation and improving foodgrain and milk output. ICAR's research has been pivotal in India's food security. It remains vital for the nation's farmer welfare and export growth.

94) Correct Answer: C

NTPC Limited received Cabinet approval to invest up to Rs. 20,000 crore in NGEL and its renewable energy arms. This move, announced July 16, 2025, aims to accelerate NTPC's renewable energy projects. The investment supports India's 2030 and 2070 climate goals. NTPC's expansion is crucial for energy transition and employment.

95) Correct Answer: C

The CareEdge Advisory report projects India's electric car sales to surpass a 7% market share by FY28. This depends on resolving rare earth supply chain issues. Government policies and PLI schemes are key drivers. The growth aligns with India's clean mobility and climate goals.

96) Correct Answer: C

Indore secured first place in the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 rankings. The awards were presented by President Droupadi Murmu on July 17, 2025. Indore has consistently led urban cleanliness initiatives. Its performance sets a benchmark for sanitation efforts nationwide.

97) Correct Answer: C

The scheme targets 100 districts across India beginning 2025-26. With an annual outlay of ₹24,000 crore, it focuses on agricultural development and infrastructure. Districts are selected based on low productivity and credit disbursement. This initiative seeks to transform rural livelihoods and boost productivity.

98) Correct Answer: C

Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa defeated world number one Magnus Carlsen in Round 4 of the Las Vegas Chess Grand Slam Tour. The win in 39 moves highlights his rapid rise in international chess. Praggnanandhaa's performance strengthens India's reputation in the global chess arena.

99) Correct Answer: B

Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced 125 units of free electricity for households starting August 1, 2025. This move is expected to benefit 1.67 crore domestic consumers. The policy aims to reduce financial burden and promote renewable energy. It reflects the state's commitment to welfare and sustainability.

100) Correct Answer: C

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the University of Southampton's India campus in Gurugram. This marks the first foreign university campus in India under new UGC rules. The initiative aligns with the NEP 2020. It enhances India's status as a global education hub.

101) Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Modi announced a ₹15,000 incentive for first-time private sector employees at a rally in Motihari on July 18, 2025. The scheme starts August 1 with a ₹1 lakh crore allocation. It aims to boost youth employment, especially in Bihar. This initiative supports India's broader employment and economic growth strategy.

102) Correct Answer: C

The Youth Spiritual Summit in Varanasi, held from July 19, 2025, launched the 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat' movement. It brought together over 500 youth delegates and spiritual leaders. The summit's Kashi Declaration sets a roadmap for a drug-free India. This initiative empowers youth to lead social reform.

103) Correct Answer: B

The 56th IFFI is scheduled for November 2025 in Goa, as confirmed in the Steering Committee meeting on July 18, 2025. IFFI Goa is India's flagship global film festival. The event will focus on innovation, inclusivity, and youth engagement. It cements Goa's status as a global film destination.

104) Correct Answer: B

Coal India Ltd pledged ₹10 crore to support Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Chhattisgarh. The funding supports digital education, health, and entrepreneurship for over 28,000 tribal students. This aligns with inclusive education policies. It enhances opportunities for marginalized communities.

105) Correct Answer: B

NSCSTI 2.0, launched on July 18, 2025, aims to modernize and improve civil services training in India. It introduces streamlined, outcome-focused frameworks and AI-driven models. This enhances performance and adaptability in public administration. The reform supports a future-ready, citizen-centric civil service.

106) Correct Answer: C

India topped the year-on-year growth in investment confidence for Q3 2025 with a 12.6% increase. Despite a global decline, India led among 32 economies surveyed. This reflects India's relative economic resilience and growing attractiveness for business investment, crucial for its development trajectory.

107) Correct Answer: C

The US designated The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba, as a global terrorist organization in July 2025. This followed TRF's claim of responsibility for the Pahalgam attack. The move is significant for India-US counter-terror cooperation and increases pressure on Pakistan to curb terror groups.

108) Correct Answer: B

Nuclear energy and advanced technology are the next key areas for India-UAE cooperation as of July 2025. This comes after bilateral trade surpassed $100 billion. The partnership aims to build resilient supply chains and sustainable growth, boosting India's energy security and tech sector.

109) Correct Answer: B

PM Modi announced a ₹15,000 incentive for each youth employed for the first time in the private sector, effective from August 2025. The scheme, with a ₹1 lakh crore outlay, aims to address youth unemployment and support Bihar's development. This underscores the government's focus on employment generation.

110) Correct Answer: B

NSCSTI 2.0 (National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutes 2.0) was launched in July 2025. Developed by the Capacity Building Commission, it streamlines evaluation metrics and integrates AI and hybrid learning. This reform strengthens India's civil services and promotes citizen-centric governance.

111) Correct Answer: C

World Day for International Justice was celebrated on July 17, 2025, marking the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998, which established the International Criminal Court (ICC). This day honors efforts to combat impunity for serious international crimes like genocide and war crimes.

112) Correct Answer: B

The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) launched the Gyanodaya Centre for Pedagogical Innovation and Publishing, a pioneering initiative aimed at transforming management education. Announced under IIM-K's Vision 2047, Gyanodaya focuses on developing peer-reviewed content, case studies, and simulations.

113) Correct Answer: C

Puneet Kumar Goel, a 1991-batch IAS officer from the AGMUT cadre, was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Manipur in July 2025. He replaced Prashant Kumar Singh and assumed charge during a period of political unrest and President's Rule in the state.

114) Correct Answer: A

Deepika, a forward in the Indian women's hockey team, made history by becoming the first Indian to win the Poligras Magic Skill Award. She earned global acclaim for her solo goal against the Netherlands during the FIH Pro League 2024–25.

115) Correct Answer: D

Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Khelo Bharat Conclave in New Delhi on July 17, 2025. The event brought together stakeholders from sports federations, institutions, and corporates to discuss India's roadmap to becoming a global sporting powerhouse by 2047.

116) Correct Answer: B

Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned as Vice President on July 22, 2025, due to health concerns. He submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu under Article 67(a) of the Constitution. Dhankhar had served as Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. This marks a significant change in India's constitutional offices, impacting parliamentary proceedings.

117) Correct Answer: B

The 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale' (SASCI) scheme was launched in July 2025. SASCI focuses on comprehensive development and global branding of select tourist sites. It aims to enhance the end-to-end tourist experience and competitiveness. The scheme is significant for boosting India's tourism sector.

118) Correct Answer: C

Bihar set a new benchmark by capping all polling stations below 1,200 electors, announced on July 21, 2025. This was achieved by adding 12,817 new stations, reducing overcrowding and improving voter convenience. The move is expected to serve as a model for other states. It strengthens voter accessibility and electoral process efficiency.

119) Correct Answer: C

Over 34 crore jobs were created in the MSME sector since 2014, as stated by Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on July 21, 2025. This growth was facilitated through the Udyam and Udyam Assist portals. MSMEs are considered the backbone of India's industrial development. The sector's expansion is vital for employment and economic growth.

120) Correct Answer: B

The Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, passed by both Houses in July 2025, replaces the 1856 Act. It modernizes India's legal framework for shipping documents, supporting the nation's growing maritime sector. The bill simplifies procedures and aligns with international standards. This reform is significant for boosting India's trade competitiveness.

121) Correct Answer: B

On July 23–26, 2025, PM Modi is visiting the United Kingdom and Maldives. The visit aims to deepen India's diplomatic and regional cooperation, including reviewing strategic partnerships and participating in the Maldives' 60th Independence Day. This tour reinforces India's global outreach and its 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

122) Correct Answer: B

Amit Shah unveiled the National Cooperative Policy 2025 on July 24, 2025. This policy sets a roadmap for the cooperative sector from 2025 to 2045, aiming to modernize and revive India's cooperative movement in line with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

123) Correct Answer: C

Vadhavan Port will add 23.2 million TEUs to India's maritime capacity. Located on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), this deep-draft port will make India a global maritime hub and boost local employment through skilling initiatives.

124) Correct Answer: C

India's GDP growth is forecasted at 6.6% for FY26 by Standard Chartered's 2025 report. This is supported by consumption demand, monetary easing, and good monsoon, reflecting India's robust macro fundamentals despite global uncertainties.

125) Correct Answer: B

China's Zheng Qinwen, Olympic gold medalist and world number six, withdrew from the 2025 U.S. Open post elbow surgery. Her absence affects the tournament, highlighting the impact of injuries on top athletes in global sports events.

126) Correct Answer: C

India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025. This accomplishment came five years ahead of the original 2030 target. The milestone marks a thirteenfold increase since 2014 and supports energy security, rural incomes, and climate goals. The move significantly

reduces crude oil imports and carbon emissions, aligning with India's clean energy ambitions.

127) Correct Answer: B

India's GDP growth rate for 2026 is projected at 6.7% by the Asian Development Bank. The forecast is driven by strong domestic demand and monetary easing. The country's inflation is expected to remain within the RBI's target range. This sustains India's status as the fastest-growing major economy globally.

128) Correct Answer: C

Bihar's railway budget allocation increased nearly nine times in 11 years, rising from ₹1,132 crore (2009–14 average) to ₹10,066 crore in 2025–26. The investment led to major infrastructure developments, including bridges and new tracks. This expansion enhances connectivity and economic growth in the region. Such focus supports balanced regional development.

129) Correct Answer: B

The Dhruva Policy introduces a geo-coded address system using DIGIPINs for every 4×4 metre area. This aims to improve location accuracy and service delivery across India. The system aids postal, telecom, and logistics sectors, especially in remote regions. It supports the vision of Digital India and Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

130) Correct Answer: B

Russia and Ukraine held their first direct peace talks in seven weeks in Turkey in July 2025. The conflict has lasted over three years, and previous talks yielded prisoner exchanges but no ceasefire. The new talks follow recent escalations and international pressure. Their outcome has major implications for regional and global security.

131) Correct Answer: B

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed in July 2025. CETA aims to enhance market access for goods and services and is the largest post-Brexit trade deal for the UK. It offers duty-free access for 99% of Indian exports, boosting bilateral trade. This agreement is a milestone for both economies and strengthens India's position in global trade.

132) Correct Answer: A

The textiles and garments sector stands to benefit most from the elimination of tariffs under CETA. Tariffs as high as 12% on textiles and clothing have been reduced to zero. This improves export competitiveness, boosts employment, and directly supports MSMEs and artisans. It enhances India's global manufacturing hub status.

133) Correct Answer: C

The manufacturing sector recorded a PMI of 59.2 in July 2025, the highest in nearly 17.5 years. The PMI indicates robust expansion and strong demand. This surge is driven by growth in output, sales, and export orders. It reflects India's industrial resilience and economic momentum.

134) Correct Answer: B

A phased Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) cut from September 2025 will inject about Rs 2.5 lakh crore into the banking system. This move aims to support margin recovery for banks. It comes as part of efforts to stabilize net interest margins and boost loan growth. Such liquidity infusions are vital for economic expansion.

135) Correct Answer: B

The Suvidha sanitary napkins, sold at ₹1 per pad, are provided under the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). With over 16,000 outlets, this initiative improves menstrual hygiene and health for women. It also promotes dignity and well-being, especially in rural areas.

136) Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Modi's July 2025 visit to the Maldives marked 60 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries. This visit featured commemorative events and symbolized the enduring partnership. The occasion included the release of special stamps and infrastructure inaugurations. Strengthening India–Maldives relations has strategic importance for regional stability and development.

137) Correct Answer: C

Anuradha Thakur, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, was nominated as Director on the RBI Central Board in July 2025. She replaces Ajay Seth in this key policy-making role. The Central Board oversees monetary policy and banking regulation. Such

appointments are crucial for India's financial governance.

138) Correct Answer: C

The state-of-the-art Ministry of Defence building in Male was inaugurated by PM Modi and President Muizzu. This 11-storey structure, built with Indian financial assistance, enhances Maldives' defense capacity. It highlights India's commitment to regional security cooperation. Such projects deepen bilateral defense and strategic ties.

139) Correct Answer: B

Indore, along with Udaipur, was recognised as an international Wetland City at Ramsar COP15 in Zimbabwe. This recognition underscores India's progress in wetland conservation. India now hosts Asia's largest Ramsar site network. Such achievements enhance India's global environmental leadership.

140) Correct Answer: C

Indian Railways successfully tested its first hydrogen-powered coach at ICF Chennai in July 2025. This marks a significant step toward clean and green rail technology. Hydrogen trains have zero emissions, aiding India's climate goals. The initiative positions India among global leaders in sustainable transport.

141) Correct Answer: B

The Bima Sakhi Yojana was launched on July 26, 2025. The scheme aims to empower rural women by appointing trained Self-Help Group members as 'Bima Sakhis' to promote insurance. It aligns with the 'Insurance for All by 2047' mission and advances women's financial independence. This initiative supports economic resilience in India's rural areas.

142) Correct Answer: C

PM Narendra Modi attended the Maldives' 60th Independence Day celebrations on July 26, 2025. This marks the first time an Indian Prime Minister was the Guest of Honour at the event. The visit reinforced the deepening diplomatic and strategic ties between India and the Maldives. Such engagement highlights India's commitment to its neighbourhood policy.

143) Correct Answer: C

India, with WHO, finalized global standards for Siddha on July 24–25, 2025. Siddha is an ancient Indian system of medicine, and the new standards aim to boost its evidence-based global credibility. This move is part of India's effort to become a global knowledge hub for traditional medicine. It raises Siddha's profile in international healthcare.

144) Correct Answer: C

Anuradha Thakur, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, was nominated as a Director on the RBI Central Board on July 24, 2025. Her appointment reflects the government's focus on maintaining strong financial oversight. The RBI Central Board plays a crucial role in India's monetary policy and banking regulation. Such appointments are significant for economic governance.

145) Correct Answer: C

The Indus Viewpoint was inaugurated in Drass during the 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas in July 2025. This site allows visitors to see up to the Line of Control and appreciate the extreme conditions faced by soldiers. It aims to educate the public about the strategic and historical significance of the Kargil War. Such initiatives foster national pride and remembrance.

146) Correct Answer: C

On July 27, 2025, PM Modi inaugurated multiple projects in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. The initiatives included a new terminal at Thoothukudi Airport and highway expansions. Such investments are set to boost connectivity and economic growth in southern Tamil Nadu. This reflects the government's focus on regional development and infrastructure-led progress.

147) Correct Answer: C

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link in Jammu Kashmir was inaugurated in June 2025. It includes the iconic Chenab Bridge, enhancing connectivity and safety. The project marks a turning point for the region's integration with India. Improved infrastructure promotes economic growth and national unity.

148) Correct Answer: B

Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 was emphasized by PM Modi on July 27, 2025, as a policy to make India a sporting superpower. It focuses on promoting sports in villages and supporting startups in the sector. The policy aims to

nurture talent and foster team spirit. Its implementation is key for India's international sports ambitions.

149) Correct Answer: B

The Gyan Bharatam Mission, announced in the 2025 Union Budget, was highlighted by PM Modi on July 27, 2025. It aims to digitize ancient manuscripts and create a National Digital Repository. The mission supports preserving and sharing India's intellectual heritage. This benefits researchers and promotes cultural awareness.

150) Correct Answer: B

The Radhakrishna Sankirtan Mandali from Keonjhar, Odisha, was praised by PM Modi on July 27, 2025. They use traditional devotional songs to raise awareness about forest fires. This creative approach combines culture and environmental conservation. It demonstrates the power of grassroots activism for environmental protection.

Detailed Analysis of Important Events

Economics

What is India Energy Stack?

Why in the News?

The Union Ministry of Power announced the formation of a task force to design the India Energy Stack (IES) — a new Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the energy sector.

About India Energy Stack (IES):

- Overview: The Ministry of Power launched IES as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) project.
- India's whole energy ecosystem, including producers, grid operators, discoms, customers, regulators, and markets, is to have a single, safe, and interoperable digital backbone.
- Task Force: With REC Ltd serving as the nodal agency and Nandan Nilekani serving as Chief Mentor and RS Sharma as Chair, the task force consists of 17 members.
- Implementation: In states like Delhi, Gujarat, and Maharashtra, a 12-month proof of concept (PoC)

will test important elements including the Utility Intelligence Platform (UIP).

- Greater Impact: It is anticipated to facilitate consumer involvement in energy trading, manage the growing share of renewable energy, and aid India's transition to Net Zero.

Key Features of India Energy Stack:

- Scalability and Integration: In line with India's energy digitization objectives, it facilitates the integration of smart meters, real-time analytics, and battery storage systems.
- Unique IDs: Facilitates easy tracking and verification by offering digital identification for customers, assets, and energy transactions.
- Real-Time Data Sharing: Efficiency and transparency are increased when stakeholders use standardized, consent-based data exchange procedures.
- Open APIs: Promote innovation and empower fintech ecosystems by enabling the integration of third-party solutions.
- Interoperability: Enables connectivity between various state utilities' and regulators' existing disjointed digital platforms.
- Grid monitoring, load forecasting, demand-response, and consumer insights are made possible by the Utility Intelligence Platform (UIP), a modular analytics layer.
- Peer-to-peer energy trading uses a digital marketplace to enable prosumers (consumers and producers) to purchase, sell, or store energy.
- Carbon Offset Tracking: Provides clear and verifiable accounting for emission reductions, supporting environmental compliance.
- Through the use of virtual power plants and smart contracts, decentralized energy management allows communities and small-scale producers to take part in energy markets.

Invisible Exports of India

Why in the News?

As of 2024–25, India's "invisibles" trade—comprising services exports and private money transfers—has not only surpassed its merchandise exports but also emerged as a key stabiliser of the current account deficit.

What are Invisible Exports (in India's context)?

- What it is: International commerce in services and revenue flows that do not entail the cross-border movement of tangible goods are referred to as invisible exports. Instead of being visible at ports or airports, these transactions are financial or digital.

- Service Types Covered: They include a broad variety of service-based exports, including R&D, financial consulting, accounting and legal services, IT services, and business process outsourcing.

- Incorporating Remittances: In India's Balance of Payments (BoP), private remittances—money paid home by Indians employed overseas—are included in the invisibles.

- BoP Classification: These transactions are listed under the BoP's "Current Account," more precisely under the subcategories of primary income, secondary income, and services.

- Features: Invisible exports depend significantly on skilled human resources, face fewer trade barriers, and don't need shipping like physical exports do.

- Leading Examples: Software and IT-enabled services (provided by companies such as Infosys, TCS, and Wipro), Global Capability Centers, financial and legal services, and services related to education, travel, and health care are among India's main invisible exports.

- Function of Migrant Remittances: One of the main contributors to India's invisible receipts, remittances from migrant workers and non-resident Indians (NRIs) are vital.

Their Contribution in Trade

- Greater Value than Goods Exports: India's gross invisible revenues in 2024–2025 surpassed $441.8 billion in merchandise exports, totaling $576.5 billion. Remittances contributed $135.4 billion, and services alone generated $387.5 billion, a significant increase from $26.9 billion in 2003–04.

- Protect Against Trade Deficits: A net invisible surplus of $263.8 billion helped bring the entire current account deficit down to just $23.4 billion, bringing much-needed stability, even though the merchandise trade deficit was $287.2 billion.

- Resilience amid Global Crises: Unlike commercial commerce, invisible exports shown stronger resilience amid significant interruptions such as the 2008 financial crisis, the COVID-19 epidemic, and ongoing geopolitical tensions.

- Human Capital-Driven Growth: India's trained labor force, not its physical infrastructure, is what drives its services exports. India is thriving as the "office of the world," surpassing the conventional designation of "back office."

- Less Policy Dependency: Trade agreements and significant government incentives were not necessary for the growth of invisible exports. Strong provisions pertaining to the service sector are still absent from India's key trade agreements.

Ancient Port Machilipatnam is set for big Revival

Why in the News?

Machilipatnam, once a flourishing ancient port city on India's east coast, is witnessing a major transformation with the construction of a modern Greenfield port.

About Machilipatnam:

- **Alternate Names**: Also known as Masulipatnam, Maisolia, or Manjarika.
- **Geographic Location**: Located in **Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh**, on the southeastern Coromandel Coast, at the mouth of River Krishna, ~70 km east of Amaravati.
- **Historical Importance**:
  o One of the most significant east coast port cities for ~1,700 years.
  o Played a key role in maritime trade across ancient, medieval, and early modern periods.
- **Global Trade Connections**:
  o Attracted traders from Rome, Arabia, Persia, Southeast Asia, and Europe.
  o Known for exporting high-quality Muslin textiles prized in Roman markets.
  o The term "**muslin**" likely derives from "**Maisolia**," an ancient name of the city.
- **Cultural Contributions**:
  o Known for **Kalamkari art**, a traditional textile art featuring hand-painted or block-printed designs.
- **Dynastic Port Usage**:

  o **Satavahanas (1st BCE – 2nd CE)**: Used as a major trade gateway.
  o **Vishnukundins (4th–6th CE)**: Trade wealth supported Buddhist monument construction (e.g., Nagarjunakonda).
  o **Qutb Shahis (16th–17th CE)**: Transformed it into a global hub for diamonds, muslin, and Kalamkari.
  o **Nizams of Hyderabad (18th century)**: Controlled the port until partial cession to the British.
- **Mentions in Ancient Texts**:
  o Appears as **Maisolia** in *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*.
  o Listed as **Maisolos** in Ptolemy's *Geographia*.
- **Colonial Involvement**:
  o **Dutch** built a fort in the 17th century.
  o **British East India Company** established its first Bay of Bengal factory here in 1611.
  o Between 1686–1759, it changed hands among **French, Dutch, and British**; seized by British from the French in 1759.
- **Decline of the Port**:
  o **Anchorage Issue**: Unsuitable for large ships, with anchorage 5 miles offshore.
  o **Cyclone Damage**: A severe cyclone in 1779 killed ~20,000 and destroyed Dutch structures.
  o **Trade Shift**: Decline due to growing prominence of Madras (Chennai) and Visakhapatnam under British rule.
- **Post-Independence Claim**:
  o In 1947, **7th Nizam of Hyderabad** attempted to reclaim it for sea access to an independent Hyderabad state.
- **Modern Revival**:

o A **Greenfield port at Manginapudi** is under construction, expected to be operational by 2026.

o Aims to **restore Machilipatnam's historical maritime legacy**.

MoSPI to integrate 8th Economic Census with 16th Population Census

Why in the News?

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is preparing for India's 8th Economic Census by integrating it with the upcoming 16th Population Census.

About the Economic Census:

- **Conducting Body**: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Purpose**: Creates a detailed database of **non-agricultural economic establishments** in India.
- **Key Data Captured**: Covers location, clustering, ownership, employment size, and type of economic activity.
- **Unorganised Sector Inclusion**: Includes informal units, vital for understanding employment dynamics.
- **Historical Background:**
    o The Visvesvaraya Committee (1925) proposed the Economic Enquiry Committee, which the Bowley-Robertson Committee (1934) established.

o As a result, national statistics systems and the Central statistics Office (CSO) were established in 1951.

o The first census, which focused on non-agricultural units with at least one hired worker, was carried out in 1977 (excluding Lakshadweep).

- **Timeline of Economic Censuses:**
    o 1980, 1990, 1998, 2005, 2013, and 2019–21 (7th Census) were the years that were conducted.
    o Integration with the Population Census: The 1981 and 1991 Population Censuses were matched with the second and third rounds.
    o 7th Census Status: Completed in 2021, but results are still pending because of problems with the quality of the data caused by COVID.
    o Execution Support: For deployment at the local level, MoSPI collaborated with the Common Service Center (CSC) network.

Integration with the 16th Population Census:

- **Objective**: Improve efficiency and reduce costs by leveraging shared field operations.
- **Data Collection**: Enumerators will note household-based economic activity for MoSPI processing.
- **Census Schedule**:
    o **Oct 1, 2026**: Snow-bound and remote regions (e.g., Ladakh, J&K, HP, Uttarakhand).
    o **Mar 1, 2027**: Rest of the country.
- **Preparatory Work**: State and district committees have been formed to plan the 8th Census.

Environment & Diversity

Places in News: Kariyachalli Island

Why in the News?

The Tamil Nadu government, with World Bank support, has launched a ₹50 crore restoration project for the sinking Kariyachalli Island.

About Kariyachalli Island:

- Overview: The Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park contains 21 deserted islands, including Kariyachalli Island.
- It is located between Rameswaram and Thoothukudi, 20 km northeast of Thoothukudi and 4 km south of Sippikulam.
- Consisting of sand dunes, spits, sandy plains, and reef debris, the island is a low-lying landform.
- Biodiversity Hotspot: Found in the coral reef zone of India, it is home to over 4,300 marine species, including the endangered dugong and 132 different types of coral.
- Its coral reefs and seagrass beds give marine life food and shelter, making it an important ecological feature.

- Natural Coastal Shield: Kariyachalli protects the Tamil Nadu coast by acting as a barrier against storms and tsunamis.
- Historical Significance: It helped lessen the effects of the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

Why is it sinking?

- Rapid Land Loss: From 20.85 hectares in 1969 to less than 6 ha in 2024, the island has decreased by more than 70%.
- High Tide Erosion: According to a 2025 study from IIT Madras, only 3.14 ha are left at high tide.
- Wave and Sediment Pressure: Erosion is being accelerated by wave action, sediment loss, and a lack of natural coastline protection.
- Impact of Climate Change: The island's natural defenses have been undermined by coral bleaching and rising sea levels.
- Seagrass Depletion: The island's capacity to retain sediments and withstand erosion has decreased due to the loss of seagrass meadows.
- Extreme Weather Events: The island is becoming increasingly susceptible due to the frequent cyclones and hurricanes.
- Future Risk: Kariyachalli might disappear by 2036 if the present pattern persists.

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for FAO

Why in the News?

India has expressed serious concerns over proposed changes to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)—popularly known as the Plant Treaty.

About the Plant Treaty, 2001:

- **Adoption**: It was adopted by the FAO on **3rd November 2001** and came into force in **2004**.
- **Purpose**: It governs the **Multilateral System (MLS)** for the **access and benefit-sharing** of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA).
- **Key Features**:
  o Crop Coverage: Approximately 80% of the world's plant-based food needs are currently met by the 64 key food crops and forages mentioned in Annex I, which are currently part of the MLS.
  o Mechanism of Access: A Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) grants access to these genetic materials for breeding, training, and research purposes.
  o Benefit-Sharing Approach: The Treaty, which focuses on promoting biodiversity in developing nations, includes both monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing measures.
  o IP Limitations: It forbids any claims to intellectual property pertaining to the

unprocessed genetic elements that are obtained through the system.
  o Acknowledgment of Farmers' Rights: It upholds farmers' rights, including the preservation of traditional knowledge, fair benefit distribution, and involvement in national decisions about the use and conservation of PGRFA.
- **India's Participation**: India is a signatory and active participant and implements the Treaty alongside domestic legislation like the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001.

Proposed Amendments:

- Goal: The next proposal seeks to broaden the MLS's coverage to encompass all PGRFA, not simply those listed in Annex I.
- New Inclusions: Under the MLS framework, the expansion would include community-protected heirloom seeds, non-commercial crops, and indigenous variations.
- Effect on India's Obligations: Should the change be approved, nations such as India will be required to transfer all plant germplasm via the current SMTA procedure.
- Benefit Terms Remain the Same: The current benefit-sharing arrangements, which opponents claim are frequently non-monetary or only symbolic, are preserved in the amendment.
- IP Rights Concerns: Repackaging or genetically altering traditional seeds could result in intellectual property loopholes because to the expanded scope.
- Biopiracy Allegations: According to critics, the plan permits "backdoor biopiracy," particularly of the abundant seed diversity found in the Global South.

India's Concerns:

- Loss of Seed Sovereignty: India worries that its capacity to preserve distinctive plant biodiversity will be weakened if it loses control over which seeds to distribute.

- Undermining of Farmers' Rights: The plan may supersede the rights that farmers have under India's PPV&FR Act and the Plant Treaty, which regard them as stewards of the seed heritage.
- Erosion of National Authority: Articles 10 and 11 of the Treaty, which provide nations autonomous control over their genetic resources, may be broken by the expansion.
- Violation of Federal Principles: Since agriculture is a State issue under Schedule VII of the Constitution, it is believed that the absence of State consultation violates India's federal framework.
- Marginalization of Biodiversity Boards: Although State Biodiversity Boards are crucial for governing local germplasm and community rights, their function may be lessened.
- Absence of Equitable Returns: India questions the fairness and justice of benefit-sharing, claiming that the global system provides little actual benefits.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAM)
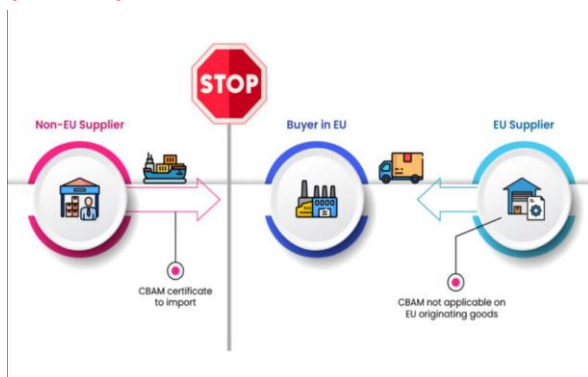
Why in the News?

BRICS group has condemned and rejected the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and other similar climate-linked trade measures.

What Is the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)?

- Overview: The European Union levies this import tax on products whose manufacturing produces more carbon emissions than are allowed within the EU.
- The EU's "Fit for 55" climate package, which includes CBAM, aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.
- Coverage Area: The regulation mandates that importers disclose the amount and embedded carbon emissions of specific products, including power, steel, aluminum, cement, fertilizer, hydrogen, and fertilizer.
- Compliance Mechanism: EU importers are required to turn in CBAM certificates, which are valued according to the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), in order to offset these emissions.
- Carbon Price Adjustment: The CBAM payment may be reduced if a non-EU producer has already paid a carbon price in their nation.
- Timeline for Implementation: The definitive regime of CBAM starts on January 1, 2026, while the transitional phase lasts from 2023 to 2025.

Issues with CBAM:

- Concerns about Trade Discrimination: Developing nations, such as China and India, contend that CBAM enforces discriminatory, punitive, and unilateral trade restrictions in the name of environmental preservation.
- Violation of Climate Agreements: The Paris Agreement, which supports the idea of shared but distinct obligations, is thought to have been broken.
- Neglect of Historical Emissions: Nations in the Global South argue that trade instruments connected to climate change, such as CBAM, disproportionately affect nations that continue to rely on carbon-intensive development while ignoring historical emissions.

Implications of CBAM for India:

- Effect on Exports: Under CBAM, Indian exports—especially those of iron, steel, aluminum, and cement—would be subject to more inspection

and carbon costs, which will lower their competitiveness.

- Carbon Taxation Timeline: Starting on January 1, 2026, certain sectors of shipments to the EU will be subject to carbon taxes, which might range from 19.8% to 52.7%.
- High Carbon Intensity Risk: India's products are particularly susceptible to CBAM tariffs because of its high carbon intensity, which is mostly caused by its 75% reliance on coal.

Revising Guidelines to declare Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) has decided to review and revise the 2011 guidelines on the declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) around wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

What are Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)?

- **Overview:** ESZs, also called **Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs)**, are areas notified by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** around **Protected Areas (PAs)** like national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- **Purpose:**
  - o Act as **"shock absorbers"** to protect areas by regulating potentially harmful activities.
  - o Serve as **transition zones** from highly protected to less protected ecosystems.

- o Help conserve **biodiversity**, maintain **landscape connectivity**, and prevent **fragmentation of habitats**.
- **Legal Basis**:
  - o **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, particularly Section **3(2)(v)**.
  - o **Rule 5(1)** of Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986.
- **Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 2002**: Recommended declaring **10 km radius** around PAs as default ESZ.
- **Demarcation Process**:
  - o ESZ boundaries vary in width based on ecological sensitivity and ground realities.
  - o **Factors considered**: species presence, migration routes, landscape linkage, human settlements, etc.
- **Activity Zonation**:
  - o **Prohibited**: Commercial mining, polluting industries, major hydro projects, wood logging.
  - o **Regulated**: Tree felling, large-scale agriculture change, road widening, tourism infrastructure.
  - o **Permitted**: Rainwater harvesting, organic farming, green energy use.
- **Present Status**:
  - o **347 final notifications** issued.
  - o Where no ESZ is notified, a **default 10-km ESZ** is applicable (SC 2022 ruling).

2011 Guidelines on ESZs:

- Issued by MoEFCC to standardize and guide the process of ESZ declaration.
- **Key Features:**
  - o Emphasized flexibility and site-specific demarcation.
  - o Classified activities into permitted, regulated, prohibited.
  - o Directed preparation of a Zonal Master Plan (ZMP) within 2 years of ESZ notification.

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o Called for community involvement, scientific input, and buffer management.

Recent Context:

- **Reasons Behind:** Revision One-size-fits-all (**10-km blanket rule**) is not effective:
  o Urban examples: Sanjay Gandhi National Park (Mumbai), Asola Bhatti Sanctuary (Delhi).
  o In Himachal Pradesh, ~65% area already under forest cover.
  o Kerala: Fear of new sanctuary leading to more restrictions.
- **Over-generalized**: Existing guidelines unsuitable for **marine sanctuaries**, need ecosystem-specific norms.

Scientists decode Locust Pheromones for Eco-Friendly Control

Why in the News?

Researchers in China have discovered a method to curb locust swarming by manipulating their pheromones, paving the way for eco-friendly locust control.

What are Locust Swarms?

- Large grasshoppers, locusts may travel 150 km per day in favorable winds, form enormous swarms, and consume up to their entire weight in food each day.
- They are extremely damaging, destroying crops and endangering the supply of food. 35,000 people's worth of food can be consumed everyday by a single swarm.
- The management of locusts in India is supervised by Locust Control and Research (LC&R).
- In states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana, locust activity is tracked and managed by the Locust Warning Organization (LWO), which was founded in 1939.
- One of the deadliest desert locust outbreaks in decades, the 2019–2022 outbreak devastated nearly 200,000 hectares of crops in East Africa, India, and Pakistan.
- Because locusts can breed quickly, outbreaks are still challenging to control despite current control measures.

About Locust Pheromones:

- **Locust Behavioural Phases**: Locusts exhibit two behavioural phases—solitary (non-swarming) and gregarious (swarming). The shift to gregariousness leads to swarm formation.
- **Key Pheromone – 4-Vinylanisole (4VA)**:
  o Identified in 2020 by Chinese researchers.
  o Released from locusts' hind legs after feeding, especially due to the digestion of phenylalanine (a plant compound).
  o Acts as an aggregation pheromone, attracting other locusts and triggering group behaviour.
- **Biochemical Pathway**:
  o Enzymes 4VPMT1 (dominant) and 4VPMT2 convert a precursor molecule (4VP) into 4VA.

o This process is crucial in converting solitary locusts into swarm-forming gregarious ones.

Recent Breakthrough and Its Implication:

- Findings: By genetically inhibiting 4VPMT1, scientists at the Chinese Academy of Sciences were able to stop locusts from generating 4VA and halt the development of swarms.

- Restrictions: Because 4NP is hazardous and persistent in the environment, its widespread use raises questions.

- The suggested approach is to use biopesticides based on RNA interference (RNAi) that target the 4VPMT genes to stop the production of 4VA without being harmful.

- **Wider Implications**:
  - Can reduce reliance on synthetic pesticides, protect crops, and support sustainable agriculture.
  - Offers a precision pest control model based on insect behavioural biochemistry.

Governance

NAKSHA Programme

Why in the News?

The Department of Land Resources (DoLR) under the Ministry of Rural Development is set to launch the second phase of capacity building for the NAKSHA programme (NAtional geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of urban HAbitations).

About NAKSHA Program:

- Overview: On February 18, 2025, it was introduced. The Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development, started the geospatial land survey project as part of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

- The program's objectives are to streamline urban governance, modernize urban land records, and increase property ownership transparency.

- Funding: It has an estimated cost of ₹194 crore and is entirely financed centrally.

- Significance: In response to India's rapidly expanding urban population—which is predicted to reach 600 million by 2031—the program was started.

Key Features:

- **Pilot Coverage**: Implemented in 157 ULBs covering an area of 4,142.63 sq km, focusing on towns with an area of <35 sq km and a population of <2 lakh.

- **Drone-Based Survey**: Uses drones equipped with LiDAR sensors and 5 cm resolution cameras to conduct aerial surveys.

- **Three-Stage Survey Process**:
  - **Drone Survey & Data Collection**
  - **Field Verification & Draft Mapping**
  - **Public Review & Finalisation**

- **Integration with Legal Records**: Field surveys validate and update property tax, ownership, and registration data.

Child Adoption in India

Why in the News?

In a major step toward digital adoption reform, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has confirmed that digitally certified adoption orders sent by e-mail are now legally valid under current rules.

Child Adoption in India: Legal Framework and Process

- Adoption in India is governed by **multiple laws**, depending on the religion and category of the child:

    1. Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists are all covered by the 1956 Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA).
    2. Adoption of orphaned, abandoned, and surrendered children is governed by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which is applicable to all religions.
    3. Muslims, Christians, Jews, and Parsis are all covered by the Guardians and Wards Act of 1890, which permits guardianship but not complete adoption.

- **Who can be adopted:**
    - **Children declared legally free** by a Child Welfare Committee (CWC).
    - **Children of relatives** (uncle, aunt, or grandparent).
    - **Stepchildren** surrendered by biological parents.

- **Who can adopt:**
    - OCIs, NRIs, Indian citizens, and some foreign nationals (with tight restrictions).
    - must be free of life-threatening illnesses and in good mental, physical, and financial health.
    - Couples who are married: At least two years of stability in a partnership; a combined age of no more than 110 years.
    - Girls cannot be adopted by single men, but any child can be adopted by single women.
    - The child and the adoptive parent must be at least 25 years apart in age.
    - Unless they are adopting children with special needs, couples with three or more children are typically ineligible.

- **Adoption Process:**
    - Registering online using CARA's CARINGS site; submitting documentation and the Home Study Report.
    - counseling sessions conducted by authorized organizations.
    - Parent-child matching; foster care and acceptance phases.
    - The District Magistrate's legal adoption order (post-2021 modification).
    - The adoption agency will follow up after two years.

Role of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA):

- As the primary regulatory agency for all adoptions in India, CARA is a statutory entity under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- CARA was founded in 1990, and in 2015, Section 68 of the JJ Act made it a statutory entity.
- It is the sole body with legal jurisdiction to adopt Indian children both domestically and abroad.

- India, which accepted the Hague Convention in 2003, is the major authority in charge of regulating adoptions abroad.

Key Functions of CARA:

CARA plays a pivotal role in the adoption ecosystem through the following functions:

- **Regulation and Oversight**
  - Monitors all adoptions—**domestic and inter-country**—through licensed agencies.
  - Ensures adoptions are in **compliance with laws** and **child rights standards**.
- **Platform and Technology:** It operates the **CARINGS portal** (Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System) for:
  - Registration of prospective adoptive parents.
  - Tracking adoption progress.
  - Referrals and matching children with parents.
- **Inter-Agency Coordination**: It coordinates with:
  - **State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARAs)**
  - **District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)**
  - **Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAAs)**
  - **Authorized Foreign Adoption Agencies (AFAAs)**
- **Legal and Policy Role**
  - Provides Conformity Certificates and No Objection Certificates (NOC) for international adoptions.
  - Adoption Regulations are drafted and revised (the recent version: 2022).
  - Provides advice and explanations, such as acknowledging adoption orders that have been digitally certified.
- **Promotion of In-country Adoptions**
  - Favors domestic adoption above international adoption, particularly for children who have been abandoned or are orphans.

- starts awareness-raising initiatives to lessen child trafficking and unauthorized adoptions.
- **Post-Adoption Monitoring**
  - Ensures the **well-being of adopted children** through follow-up reports for two years.
  - Promotes **integration of children into adoptive families** through counseling and support.
- **Policy Innovation and Reforms**
  - Oversees the transition from foster care to adoption, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.
  - Agency networks are growing—245 new agencies were added between 2024 and 2025.
  - New modules for adopting relatives and stepparents.

CJI assures 'complete transparency' in Collegium System

Why in the News?

Recently, CJI B.R. Gavai affirmed that the collegium system will ensure merit, transparency, and inclusive representation, and will not be swayed by external pressures.

What is the Collegium System?

- **About**: The Collegium System is the process by which judges are appointed and transferred in the **Supreme Court and High Courts of India**.
- **Origin**: It was developed by the **Supreme Court itself** and is **not mentioned in the Constitution**.
- **Purpose**: It aims to ensure judicial independence by minimizing the role of the executive in judicial appointments.
- **Basis for Appointments**:
  - o Judges of the Supreme Court: In accordance with Article 124, the President selects judges after conferring with pertinent Supreme Court and High Court judges.
  - o High Court Judges: In accordance with Article 217, the President appoints judges after conferring with the Chief Justice of India, the State Governor, and the Chief Justice of the relevant High Court.
- **Structure of the Collegium**:
  - o The Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the four seniormost Supreme Court judges make up the Supreme Court Collegium, which has five judges.
  - o The Chief Justice of the High Court and the two most senior justices on the court make up the High Court Collegium.

Qualifications for SC Judges:
- **Citizenship**: Must be an **Indian citizen**.
- **Judicial Experience**: At least **5 years as a High Court judge** or **10 years as an advocate** in one or more High Courts.

- **Alternative Route**: Can also be a **distinguished jurist**, in the President's opinion.

Qualifications for HC Judges:
- **Experience**: Must have held a **judicial office for 10 years** or practiced as an **advocate for 10 years** in a High Court.
- **Bar Enrollment**: Must be **enrolled with the Bar Council of India**.

Evolution of the Collegium System:
- The Supreme Court held in the First Judges Case (1981) that the executive had the last say over appointments and that the CJI's judgment was not legally binding.
- Second Judges Case (1993): The Court gave the judiciary precedence and formally established the Collegium System by reinterpreting "consultation" to mean "concurrence."
- Third Judges Case (1998): The CJI and the four seniormost judges were added to the Collegium upon Presidential Reference.

How does it Work?
- Chief Justice of India (CJI) appointment: The departing CJI suggests the successor CJI based on seniority. The PM advises the President after receiving it from the Law Minister.
- High Court Judge Appointment: Started by the Chief Justice of the High Court, authorized by the High Court Collegium, and sent to the Union Law Ministry through the state government.

PARAKH Survey reveals deficits in Student Learning

Why in the News?

The Ministry of Education recently released the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan (RS) Report, an extensive nationwide student performance assessment for Grades 3, 6, and 9.

About PARAKH:

- Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development is the full form of PARAKH.
- As an independent organization under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), it was founded in 2023.
- As India's national assessment authority, PARAKH's mission is to harmonize school-level evaluations across boards and states.
- Policy Alignment: The program supports competency-based, equitable, and inclusive learning, which is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Developing norms, standards, and recommendations for evaluating learning outcomes at the national level is its primary goal.
- **Key Functions**:
  - Board Standardization: PARAKH aims to guarantee that the academic standards of different state and central school boards are equivalent.
  - Assessment Focus: It moves away from rote learning by creating and implementing competency-based examinations.
  - Creating Holistic Progress Cards for the Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary levels is the unit's responsibility.
  - Execution of the Survey: To monitor student learning outcomes at scale, it administers large-scale achievement surveys, like as the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan (RS), which was first introduced in 2021 as the National Achievement Survey (NAS).

Key Highlights of the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan (RS) Report – 2024:

- **Scale of the Survey**: Assessed over 21.15 lakh students from Grades 3, 6, and 9, across 74,229 schools in 781 districts.
- **Top performers:** Punjab, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu; low-performing districts were concentrated in Meghalaya, Jharkhand, and Arunachal Pradesh.
  - Although many students had trouble with geometry and spatial reasoning, between 60 and 70 percent of third-graders showed basic reading, vocabulary, and early math skills.
  - Less than 40% of sixth graders were able to comprehend fractions or solve real-world arithmetic problems, demonstrating gaps in conceptual knowledge and application.
  - Less than half of Grade 9 students understood fundamental political and scientific concepts like the Constitution, biodiversity, and electricity; just 28–31% applied percentages or comprehended numerical systems.

High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs)

Why in the News?

Maharashtra's transport department has now made HSRP number plate mandatory with a final deadline set for 15 August.

What is a High-Security Registration Plate (HSRP)?
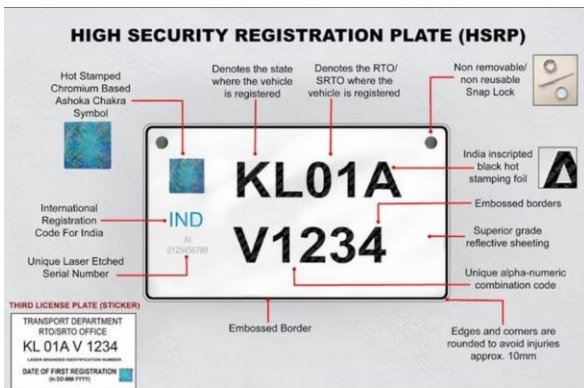
- **About:** It is a standardised, tamper-proof vehicle number plate mandated for all vehicles in India.
- **Launch**: It was officially introduced in **2001** under Rule 50 of the **Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), 1989**, and later made mandatory by the **Supreme Court in 2012**.
- **Composition**: The plate is made of **aluminium** and includes several embedded security features to prevent counterfeiting and enhance traceability.
- **Key Features:**
  o A snap lock that cannot be removed from each HSRP keeps it from being tampered with or reused.
  o A 10-digit unique identifying number that has been laser-etched onto the plate connects it to the vehicle's registration information.
  o To verify the plate and avoid duplicates, a hologram of the Ashoka Chakra made of chromium is incorporated.
  o A retro-reflective material facilitates automated detecting systems and enhances visibility at night.
  o The vehicle's windshield is covered with a third registration sticker that is color-coded and shows important details including the engine, chassis, and registration numbers.
  o Because of the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology included in the plate, authorities can digitally follow

the car for traffic control and enforcement purposes.

Compliance and Enforcement in India:

- All vehicles registered after April 1, 2019, must have HSRPs in accordance with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) regulations.
- By the dates established by the individual state governments, vehicles registered before to April 1, 2019, must be refitted with HSRPs.
- To improve road safety and reduce vehicle-related crimes, the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Road Transport have instructed governments to severely enforce HSRP installation.
- Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Rule 50 of the CMVR both impose a ₹1,000 fine on non-compliant vehicle owners.
- Transport officials in Maharashtra and other states are directing retrofitting at authorized centers, issuing challans, and conducting daily enforcement activities.
- Vehicle owners must schedule appointments online in advance for HSRP fittings, and certain states have authorized zone-wise providers to expedite installation.

What are Zonal Councils?

Why in the News?
Union Home Minister recently highlighted that **83% of issues discussed in Zonal Council meetings have been resolved**, reaffirming their role as effective platforms for intergovernmental cooperation.
What are Zonal Councils?

- Establishment: They are not constitutional bodies; rather, they are statutory bodies created by the States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
- Promoting coordination and collaboration between states, union territories, and the federal government is their primary objective.
- Natural divides, linguistic and cultural affinities, river systems, and security requirements served as the foundation for the zoning process.
- **Zonal Division**: India is divided into **five zones**—Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, and Southern—with a separate **Zonal Council for each**:
    1. **Northern Zonal Council**: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Chandigarh
    2. **Central Zonal Council**: Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh
    3. **Eastern Zonal Council**: Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal
    4. **Western Zonal Council**: Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu
    5. **Southern Zonal Council**: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry

Note:
- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Sikkim are members of the North-Eastern Council (NEC), a distinct entity that was added in 2002.
- None of the Zonal Councils include the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, which are union territory. They currently receive special invitations to the Southern Zonal Council, nevertheless.

Composition and Structure of Zonal Councils:
- Chairperson: The Union Home Minister serves as the chair of each Zonal Council.

- State Representation: The Council is composed of the chief ministers of each state in the corresponding zone.
- Additional Members: Two more ministers are nominated by each state, and administrators of union areas also take part.
- The Vice-Chairperson Function: Every year, the Chief Ministers alternate in the position of Vice-Chairperson.
- Standing Committees: These are established in collaboration with state chief secretaries and convene prior to regular sessions in order to determine the agenda.

Functions and Responsibilities:
- Cooperation & Consensus: Encourage conversation and consensus-building to advance interstate and center-state cooperation.
- Key topics covered include border disputes, interstate transportation, linguistic minority issues, economic and social planning, and more.
- Advisory Role: Although the councils' suggestions are merely suggestions, they are extremely important for resolving conflicts and coordinating the creation of policies.

Recent Developments and Significance:
- Leadership in NEC: A move toward greater integration was signaled in 2018 when the Union Home Minister was appointed Chairperson of the North Eastern Council.
- Revitalization under the Modi administration: Instead of being passive advising bodies, zonal councils have changed into vibrant, action-oriented forums.
- Federalism is being strengthened by these councils, which now actively support cooperative federalism, settle conflicts, and promote regional development.
- Efficacy in Implementation: Zonal Councils are demonstrating a growing political will and efficacy in tackling regional concerns, as seen by the resolution of 83% of agenda items.

TALASH Initiative

Why in the News?

The National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) and UNICEF India launched TALASH (Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills and Self-Esteem Hub), a first-of-its-kind national initiative for holistic development of tribal students in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).

About the TALASH Initiative:

- Overview: In collaboration with UNICEF India, the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) established the nationwide initiative known as TALASH (Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills and Self-Esteem Hub).
- The target group is indigenous kids enrolled in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) around the nation, with an emphasis on their overall development.
- Goals: The program helps tribal adolescents develop self-awareness, emotional fortitude, life skills, and a clear professional path.
- Focus: It is India's first nationwide program created especially for pupils from tribal communities.
- Broader Policy: By supporting inclusive, equitable, and competency-based education, TALASH supports the National Education Policy 2020.
- Coverage Objective: It is anticipated that more than 1,38,336 students from 28 States and 8 Union Territories will gain.

- Implementation: TALASH intends to be deployed in every EMRS across the country by the end of 2025.

Key Features of TALASH:

- **Psychometric Assessments**:
  - Inspired by NCERT's 'Tamanna', TALASH offers aptitude tests to help students discover their interests, abilities, and potential.
  - Based on the results, students receive Career Cards suggesting suitable career options.
- **Career Counselling**: The platform offers structured career guidance to help students make informed decisions aligned with their strengths and aspirations.
- **Life Skills & Self-Esteem Modules**: TALASH teaches communication, problem-solving, emotional regulation, and self-confidence through interactive modules.
- **E-Learning for Teachers**:
  - A dedicated online portal provides training and resources to teachers to help them mentor students effectively.
  - So far, 189 teachers from 75 EMRSs have been trained to lead school-level sessions.

Sanchar Mitra Scheme

Why in the News?

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched an expanded Sanchar Mitra Scheme to engage engineering students as digital ambassadors for

promoting telecom literacy, digital safety, and citizen engagement.

What is the Sanchar Mitra Scheme?

- **Launching Body**: An initiative by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India.
- **Primary Aim**: To engage student volunteers as "Sanchar Mitras" or digital ambassadors to spread awareness about telecom-related issues.
- **Purpose**:
  o Bridge the communication gap between citizens and the telecom ecosystem.
  o Promote safe and informed use of telecom services.
  o Encourage public participation in India's digital transformation.
- **Implementation Status**:
  o Piloted in select institutions.
  o Now being scaled up for nationwide rollout.

Key Features and Highlights:

- Students with technical and engineering backgrounds, such as those in computer science, electronics, cybersecurity, and telecommunications, are its main target audience.
- Volunteer Selection: After consulting with DoT field units and educational institutions, students will be nominated as Sanchar Mitras.
- Training Modules: Volunteers will receive instruction on how to run community-based

campaigns about preventing cyber fraud, EMF radiation, and appropriate online conduct.

- Training Institutions: The DoT's Media Wing and the National Communications Academy–Technology (NCA-T) will provide training.
- Promotion of Tech Awareness: Sanchar Mitras will raise awareness of cutting-edge telecommunications technologies like cybersecurity, AI, 5G, and 6G.
- Community Outreach: To promote an informed digital citizenship culture, students will interact with local communities, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions.
- Strategic Alignment: It complements India's strengths in the "Four Ds": delivery, digitization, democracy, and demography.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India

Why in the News?

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (CAG) audit has flagged ₹573 Crore irregularities in Indian Railways.

About Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

- Foundation: Founded in accordance with Article 148 of the Indian Constitution.
- Independence: A constitutional power that is unaffected by the executive.
- Appointment: Selected by the Indian President.
- Tenure: Serves for six years or until the age of sixty-five, whichever comes first.
- Removal: The President may dismiss someone in the same way and for the same reasons as a Supreme Court of India judge.
- Post-Retirement Bar: After leaving office, you are not eligible to hold any more positions with the Indian or any state government.
- Funding: To ensure financial independence, administrative costs are deducted from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Parliamentary Independence: The CAG cannot be represented in Parliament by any minister.
- Function: regarded as the protector of the public coffers and a fundamental element of Indian democracy.

Powers and Functions:

- **Audits:**
  - o Audits of Funds: Examines spending from the Union Territory, State, and Consolidated Funds of India.
  - o Audits of other funds: both federal and state audits of public accounts and contingency funds.
  - o Departmental audits: Examine government departments' balance sheets, subsidiary accounts, and profit and loss statements.
  - o Authority Audits: Examines organizations and authorities that get significant funding from the government.
  - o Accounts of corporations and companies held by the government are examined through company audits.

- o Special Audits: Conducts audits of other authorities upon request from the governor or president.
- Parliamentary Role: Serves as the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament's advisor, confidante, and thinker.
- Public Accountability: Revealed significant frauds, including the coal block allocation and 2G spectrum instances.
- Sectoral Reviews: Draw attention to inefficiencies in state enterprises such as railroads and the defense sector.

Issues with the Comptroller and Auditor General:

- Absence of Real-Time Control: Checks can be issued without CAG's prior approval; withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund cannot be stopped or approved.
- Appointment Opaque: There are no set requirements or open selection processes; appointments are made under complete executive supervision.
- **Limited Audit Scope**:
  - o Excludes several government organizations, such as public sector banks and the Life Insurance Corporation.
  - o cannot audit public-private partnerships or funds such as the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund and the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund.
  - o The audit's purview does not extend to off-budget borrowings (such as those made through the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund).
- **Post-Facto Nature**: Audits occur after expenditure, limiting preventive or real-time oversight.

History

Dalai Lama and His Reincarnation

Why in the News?

Turning 90 on July 6, 2025, the 14th Dalai Lama gave his clearest message yet that the Dalai Lama lineage will continue, challenging China's stance.

Who is the Dalai Lama?

- Spiritual Head: The most powerful school of Tibetan Buddhism, the Gelug (Yellow Hat) school, is headed by the Dalai Lama.
- Meaning: Originally bestowed by Mongol emperor Altan Khan in the 16th century, the title "Dalai Lama" translates to "Ocean of Wisdom."
- Function: He is regarded as the human reincarnation of Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Compassion.

Tenzin Gyatso: the 14th Dalai Lama:

- Early Life: Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, was born in Taktser, Tibet, in 1935. He was recognized in 1939 and enthroned in 1940.
- Exile to India: He created the Tibetan Government-in-Exile in Dharamsala after seeking sanctuary in India in 1959 when China occupied Tibet.
- Political Transition: He kept his spiritual function but ceded political control to an elected leader of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE) in 2011.
- Global Peace Advocate: A well-known advocate for secular ethics and interfaith cooperation, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his nonviolent campaigning.

Key Notes on Tibetan Buddhism:

- Theology: Tibetan Buddhism combines Bon customs, Tantric (Vajrayana) rituals, and Mahayana philosophy.
- Four major schools are included: Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya, and Gelug. Je Tsongkhapa established the Gelug school in the fourteenth century.
- Reincarnation System: The Tulku system includes leaders who are thought to be reincarnated instructors, such as the Karmapa and Panchen Lama.
- Textual Foundation: The Tengyur (scholarly commentary) and Kangyur (Buddha's teachings) are essential works.
- Meditation Traditions: Dzogchen and Mahamudra are two techniques that emphasize understanding the fundamental nature of the mind.
- Institutional Legacy: Important hubs for ritual and education include monasteries like Ganden, Tashi Lhunpo, and Drepung.
- Global Impact: Tibetan Buddhism is thriving throughout the Himalayas and is spreading

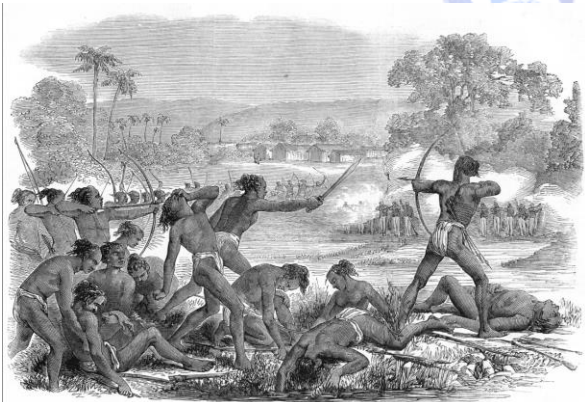around the world, particularly in Western nations.

170th Anniversary of Santhal Revolt
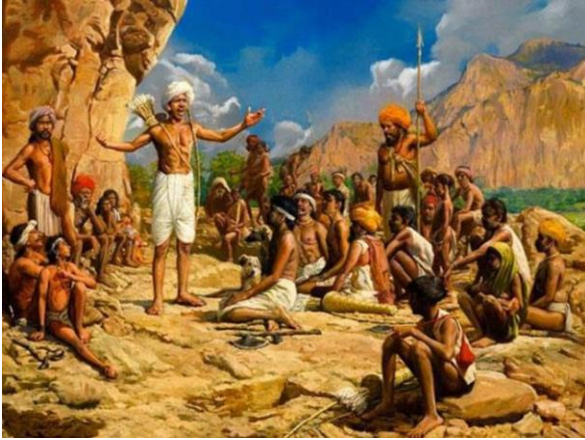
Why in the News?

Jharkhand on observed 'Hul' Diwas to commemorate the rebellion's 170th anniversary of Santhal Revolt which was held on June 30, 1855.

About the Santhal Revolt:

- Overview: Celebrated annually as Hul Diwas, the Santhal Hul (Revolt) started on June 30, 1855, in what is now Jharkhand.
- The word "Hul," which means "revolution," refers to one of the first coordinated rebellions against British domination in India, predating the 1857 Revolt.
- Associated Leaders: 32 distinct tribal and non-tribal communities supported it, and its leaders were Sidho, Kanho, Chand, Bhairav Murmu, and the sisters Phulo and Jhano.
- Nature of the Revolt: The Santhal Hul was mostly an agrarian rebellion that was not motivated by

religion or elite politics. It was distinguished by tribal cohesiveness and guerrilla fighting.

- **Causes:**
  o Landlord Exploitation: It attacked moneylenders who took advantage of tribal tribes, the British East India Company, and the Zamindari system.
  o The British established the Damin-i-Koh Policy in the Rajmahal Hills in 1832 with the goal of resettling Santhals from Bengal and Jharkhand so they could clear forests and start farming.
  o Alienation: Santhals faced persecution from the Zamindari-court-police nexus, forced labor (such as kamioti and harwahi), usurious debt traps, and land alienation.

- Suppression measures: Sidho and Kanho were slain in action when the British declared martial law on November 10, 1855, and used war elephants and contemporary weapons to put an end to the rebellion by January 3, 1856.

- Persistent resistance: During the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, tribal rebellions persisted in places like Hazaribagh and Manbhum (present-day Dhanbad and Purulia) even after they were put down.

Key Outcomes of the Revolt:

- The Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act (1876) safeguarded Santhal self-governance, permitted inheritance according to tribal norms, and prohibited property transfers to non-Adivasis.

- Motivated by subsequent tribal protests, the Chhotanagpur Tenancy Act (1908) limited the sale of tribal and Dalit land and necessitated the consent of the collector for property transfers within the caste and locality.

- Tribal Identity Impact: Tribal consciousness, legal land protections, and anti-colonial resistance legacies were all influenced by the uprising.

- The Santhals, who are currently the third-largest tribal community in India and who reside in

Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal, preserve the Santhali language by using the "Ol Chiki" script.

Who were the Girmitiyas?

Why in the News?

PM Narendra Modi, while speaking in Trinidad and Tobago, paid tribute to the Girmitiyas—19th-century indentured Indian labourers who helped shape Indo-Caribbean culture.

About Girmitiyas:

- **Overview:** The word "Girmitiya" is derived from the word "agreement," which Indian laborers who signed contracts to work overseas pronounced as "girmit."
- **Origin of the Workers:** The majority of Girmitiyas were hired from Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh, particularly from regions that were experiencing hunger or poverty.
- **Language and Community:** These laborers were from agricultural castes and communities and spoke Hindi, Awadhi, or Bhojpuri as their primary languages.

- **Recruitment agents' role:** Arkatis, or agents, lured workers with promises of high pay while concealing the hard realities of plantation life.
- **Migration Scale and Scope:** More than 1.2 million Indians were transported to British territories, including Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, South Africa, and Suriname, between 1834 and 1920.
- **Cultural Continuity Abroad:** In the Caribbean, Girmitiyas maintained Indian languages, religious customs, and cultural manifestations like Ramleela despite having few possessions.

Indentured Labour System: A New Form of Slavery:

- **Post-Abolition Labour Need:** To address the need for plantation workers following the abolition of slavery in 1834, the British established the Indian Indentured Labour System.
- **Contract Terms and Reality:** Despite the five-year agreement, workers frequently faced deception, endured subpar working conditions, and were unable to switch companies.
- **Criminalization of Movement:** Workers may be arrested for vagrancy if they are discovered outside the plantation without proper documents.
- **Punitive Wage Deductions:** The system was exploitative due to strategies like the "double-cut" system, which reduced two days' salary for a single day of absence.
- **Wage Withholding:** In order to postpone repatriation and keep workers in a state of financial reliance, employers frequently withheld wages.
- **Gender Exploitation:** According to research by academics like Kamala Kempadoo, women were sexually abused and subjected to salary discrimination. They were also underrepresented and frequently brought in for demographic balance.
- **Historians' Critique:** In his 1974 book, historian Hugh Tinker famously referred to it as "a new

system of slavery," despite colonial officials calling it a "Great Experiment."

Gandhiji's Campaign Against Indenture:

- Early Opposition: While practicing law in South Africa, Mahatma Gandhi saw firsthand how the system was abused and became opposed to it.
- Malaviya's Blocked Attempt: The British colonial authorities rejected Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's 1917 attempt to submit an abolition law.
- Protest Strategy: Gandhi started an all-India movement and rallied support through public gatherings, the media, and moral advocacy.
- Interaction with the British: Gandhi visited with Lord Chelmsford, the viceroy, and rallied national leaders against the practice.
- Lastly, Abolition: On July 31, 1917, indentured labor was officially abolished as a result of growing public outcry.
- Moral Significance: According to Gandhi's later essay in My Experiments with Truth, the triumph symbolized India's spiritual and moral awakening during peaceful protest.

In news: Nagari Pracharini Sabha

Why in the News?

As language debates rise in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the historic Nagari Pracharini Sabha, key to promoting Hindi and Devanagari, quietly resumed its work after decades.

Hindi Under the British: A Language in Waiting

- In many parts of India, Persian continued to be the court language until the late 19th century. English, Persian, and Urdu were still employed in courts in Oudh and the North-Western Provinces by 1861.
- Due to a lack of standardized terminology and administrative recognition, Hindi found it difficult to establish itself.
- In the 1890s, British official Antony MacDonnell started advocating Devanagari over Persian script.
- Inspired by the motto "Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan," Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh of Darbhanga made Hindi the official language of his territory on July 14, 1888.

About Nagari Pracharini Sabha:

- Establishment: On July 16, 1893, Shyamsundar Das, Pandit Ramnarayan Mishra, and Shivkumar Singh established the Nagari Pracharini Sabha at Queen's College in Varanasi.
- Early Patronage: Babu Radhakrishna Das, a cousin of Bharatendu Harishchandra, a prominent figure in contemporary Hindi literature, provided the Sabha with its first backing.
- Organizational Presence: It has branches in Haridwar and New Delhi in addition to its headquarters in Varanasi.
- Primary Mission: During a time when Persian, Urdu, and English predominated, the Sabha sought to advance the Hindi language and

Devanagari script in literature, education, and governance.

- Library Establishment: The Arya Bhasha Pustakalaya, India's largest Hindi library, was founded in 1896.
- Launch of the Research magazine: In 1896, it also started publishing the Nagari Pracharini Patrika, which is currently regarded as the oldest and most reputable Hindi research magazine in India.
- Cultural Contributions: Prior to its eventual transfer to Banaras Hindu University, it oversaw the Bharat Kala Bhavan museum.
- Modern Revival: In 2023, under the direction of Vyomesh Shukla, it was brought back to life after years of inactivity and disagreements, as a result of an Allahabad High Court ruling.

Its Role in Hindi Promotion:

- Linguistic Standardization: It laid the foundation for a standardized Hindi language by conducting surveys in both rural and urban areas to gather regional vocabulary.
- Lexicographic Landmark: Shabd Sagar, an 11-volume Hindi dictionary and significant lexicographical accomplishment, was published in 1929 as a result of this endeavor.
- Literary Influence: In 1900, it launched Saraswati magazine, which was edited by Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi and had a significant impact on the development of contemporary Hindi writing.
- Preservation of Classics: It ensured the preservation of Hindi literary history by producing critical editions of poems by authors such as Surdas, Tulsidas, Kabirdas, Bihari, and Bhushan.
- By the early 20th century, Hindi in Devanagari script was recognized as an official language in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh thanks to the Sabha's efforts.
- Impact on Civil Service Policy: It played a key role in requiring fluency in Hindi and Urdu for government employment in the United Provinces.

- National Literary Conferences: It provided Hindi with a pan-Indian literary platform in 1910 by assisting in the organization of the first Akhil Bharatiya Hindi Sahitya Sammelan.
- National Leaders' Support: The Sabha's mission was supported by Motilal Nehru, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Mahatma Gandhi, demonstrating its pivotal position in the Hindi cause.

In news: Mangal Pandey (1827-1857)

Why in the News?

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the great freedom fighter Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary.

Who was Mangal Pandey?

- Birth: In Nagwa village, Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh, on July 19, 1827.
- Military Service: Enlisted in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry at Barrackpore in 1849 as a sepoy in the British East India Company's army.
- Trigger of Revolt: Disapproved of the usage of Enfield rifle cartridges lubricated with pig and calf fat, which was considered to be against religious doctrine.
- Rebellion: On March 29, 1857, sepoys were incited to mutiny by attacks on British commanders.
- Punishment: Arrested, put on trial, and hanged on April 8, 1857.
- Legacy: Known as a symbol of resistance and the "Hero of the First War of Indian Independence."

1857 War of Independence

- **Overview**: The First War of Indian Independence or the Great Rebellion of 1857.
- **Sepoy Composition**: Indians made up over 87% of the British Indian Army but faced severe discrimination.
- **Root Causes**:
  - Military dissatisfaction includes unfair compensation, limited opportunities for advancement, and denial of benefits.
  - Religious Insensitivity: Using cartridges lubricated with pig fat was offensive to Muslim and Hindu faiths.
  - Economic hardship includes high land taxes, a drop in traditional crafts, and an increase in joblessness.
  - Political grievances include the imposition of restrictive laws and the annexation of Indian states.
- **Outbreak**:
  - **Barrackpore**: Mangal Pandey's defiance on 29 March 1857 marked the beginning.
    - **Meerut**: On 10 May 1857, sepoys rebelled after refusing cartridges and were imprisoned.
    - **Delhi**: Rebels marched to Delhi and declared Bahadur Shah II as Emperor.
- **Spread of Revolt**: Uprising expanded to Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, Bihar, Bareilly, Faizabad, and beyond.
- **Mass Participation**: Involved sepoys, peasants, landlords, and regional rulers.

Suppression and Its Aftermath:

- Cruel Suppression: By 1859, the rebellion had been put down, and in September 1857, Delhi had been retaken.
- Administrative Shift: The British Raj began when the British East India Company was shut down and India came under the direct control of the British Crown.
- Military Reorganization: To stop future uprisings, the army's representation of Indians was decreased and restructured.
- Increased Repression: Following the uprising, racial discrimination and strict laws became more prevalent.

International Relations

WTO Agreement on Safeguards (AoS)

Why in the News?

Invoking the Agreement on Safeguards (AoS), India has notified the WTO of its plan to impose $724 million in retaliatory tariffs on the U.S. for breaching trade commitments through unilateral auto import duties.

What is the Agreement on Safeguards (AoS)?

- Overview: This World Trade Organization (WTO) convention permits nations to impose short-term trade restrictions, known as safeguard measures, in cases where an increase in imports negatively impacts a domestic industry.

- **Goal in Practice:** By providing legal protection instruments and safeguards against misuse, the agreement upholds international trade discipline.
- **System Based on Rules:** In order to prevent abuse for long-term protectionism, the agreement guarantees that safeguard actions are open, time-bound, and non-discriminatory.
- **Key Rules:**
  - Article 12.3: A nation must notify and confer with other WTO members who might be impacted by the safeguard prior to taking any action.
  - Article 8: The impacted nation may retaliate by suspending trade advantages equivalent to the loss it sustained if consultation is unsuccessful.
  - Prohibition of Informal Restrictions: To ensure equity, AoS firmly forbids voluntary export restrictions or informal quotas that circumvent WTO regulations.

India's Use of the AoS – The 2025 U.S. Tariff Case:

- **Trigger:** In March 2025, the United States slapped 25% tariffs on automobiles and parts of Indian origin, which India argues are safeguard measures masquerading as unilateral duties.
- **Rule Violation:** India claims that the United States violated both the AoS and the GATT 1994 regulations by failing to adhere to Article 12.3 (required consultations).
- **Impact on Indian shipments:** India says that the U.S. collected roughly $723.75 million in duties, matching India's intended retaliation, and that the affected shipments totaled $2.89 billion.
- India argues that this action is not protectionist and is lawful under WTO regulations. It also seeks to protect its export interests while maintaining trade negotiations with the United States.

India's Changing Role in WTO Safeguard Policy:

- **Early Strategy (1995–2010):** India was initially cautious at the WTO, accepting tough terms under TRIPS, GATS, and AoA, and rarely used legal tools like retaliation, focusing more on diplomatic solutions.
- **Recent Assertiveness (Post-2010)**: India now actively invokes WTO rules like AoS to protect its interests and has won key disputes—such as:
  - The solar panel case against the U.S.
  - Legal challenges to EU's export restrictions on food.
- **Global Leadership Role:** India has taken the lead among developing countries to protect food security rights and push for fairer global trade terms, especially at Bali (2013) and Nairobi (2015) WTO summits.

Operation Med Max

Why in the News?

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted a global drug network spanning four continents through secret Operation Med Max.

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

- **Institutional Mandate:** Under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the NCB serves as India's primary narcotics law enforcement and intelligence organization.
- It was founded on November 14, 1985, in accordance with the 1985 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.
- **Function:** The organization collaborates closely with the US DEA, State Police, Intelligence

Bureau, Customs, and foreign organizations like Interpol.

- International Treaty Compliance: The NCB is in charge of keeping an eye on India's adherence to international drug control agreements and promoting collaboration with other law enforcement agencies.
- Operational Network: It employs direct recruits, paramilitary personnel, IRS officers, and IPS officers to man its zonal offices around the country.
- Focus on Digital Intelligence: The organization is now pursuing cyber surveillance, focusing on online drug trafficking, darknet networks, and cryptocurrency-based payments.

About Operation Med Max:

- Launch: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) started it in May 2024 when it intercepted a car

in Delhi and found 3.7 kg of Tramadol tablets inside.

- Discovering an International Syndicate: According to investigations, a worldwide drug gang smuggled controlled medicinal pharmaceuticals over four continents and more than ten countries using drop shipping, encrypted applications, and cryptocurrency payments.
- Worldwide Consequences: The investigation led to international enforcement operations, such as the identification of a drug kingpin located in the United Arab Emirates, the shutdown of an illicit pill factory in Australia, and the arrest of a money launderer in Alabama (USA).

Also in News: Operation MELON

- Overview: The top-rated darknet drug distributor in India, known as "Ketamelon," who had been operating for more than two years, was the target of a concerted raid.
- During the raid, 1,100 LSD blots, 131 grams of ketamine, and ₹70 lakh worth of bitcoin that was kept in a hardware wallet were seized.
- Darknet Threat: Ketamelon's classification as a Level 4 darknet vendor—the highest ranking—highlights the growing threat of cyber-narcotics and the technical ability of NCB to combat it.

Polity

Vice-President of India

Why in the News?

The Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned citing health reasons, creating a rare mid-term vacancy in India's second-highest constitutional office.

What happens if VICE-PRESIDENT resigns?
- In his absence, the Rajya Sabha is presided over by the Deputy Chairman. An "acting" vice president is not provided for.
- The election of the vice president must take place "as soon as possible," in contrast to the

> • president, whose vacancy must be filled within six months.
> • The schedule will be announced by the Election Commission.
> • The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act of 1952 governs the election.
> • Not the rest of Dhankhar's tenure, but the entire five-year term will be served by the elected candidate.

About Vice-President of India

- **Position**: Second-highest constitutional post; deputy to the President.
- **Parliamentary Role**: Serves as ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Succession**: Ranks second in order of precedence and first in line to become President.
- **Membership**: Is a member of Parliament, not directly elected by the people.
- **Qualifications:**
  - **Citizenship**: Must be a citizen of India.
  - **Age**: Minimum **35** years.
  - **Office of Profit**: Should not hold any.
  - **Parliamentary Eligibility**: Must qualify for election to Rajya Sabha (unlike President, who must qualify for Lok Sabha) due to the VICE-PRESIDENT's role in the Upper House.
- **Roles and Responsibilities**:
  - **Rajya Sabha Chairmanship**: Presides over sessions and ensures order.
  - **Bill Classification**: Refers money bills to the Lok Sabha Speaker.
  - **No Independent Powers**: Has no executive or legislative powers unless acting as President.

Election Procedure:

- **Constitutional Basis**: Governed by **Article 66**.
- **Electoral College**: Comprises 543 Lok Sabha MPs, 233 elected Rajya Sabha MPs, and 12 nominated Rajya Sabha members.
- **Voting Method**: *Proportional representation* by single transferable vote and secret ballot.
- **No Whip Allowed**: Parties cannot issue voting whips.
- **Conduct**: Managed by the **Election Commission**; Returning Officer is the **Secretary-General** of either House (on rotation).
- **Winning Quota**: Requires **50% of valid votes + 1**; votes are transferred in rounds if no candidate secures majority in the first round.

Resignation and Removal:

- **Resignation**
  - Article 67(a): The Vice President notifies the President of his or her resignation. The resignation becomes effective immediately upon acceptance and does not require parliamentary confirmation.
  - Not Acting VICE-PRESIDENT: An acting vice president is not provided for under the Constitution.
  - The deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha, who is now Harivansh Narayan Singh, preside in the absence of the vice president.
  - For instance, after V.V. Giri and R. Venkataraman, Dhankhar, who assumed office in 2022, is only the third vice president in Indian history to leave office before serving out his entire term.

- **Removal**
  - Article 67(b): The Rajya Sabha notice period for removal is 14 days.
  - A simple majority in the Lok Sabha and an effective majority in the Rajya Sabha are required for voting.
  - No Grounds Listed: The Constitution makes no mention of any particular grounds for removal.
  - Judicial Immunity: Article 122 prohibits courts from interrogating removal-related parliamentary procedures.

- o Absence of precedent So yet, no vice president has been ousted.

Legal Status of Right to Vote

Why in the News?

The ongoing Supreme Court hearings on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar have reignited discussions on the legal status of the 'right to vote' in India.

About Right to Vote in India:

- **Overview**: It is also known as **suffrage**, allows citizens to elect their representatives in democratic institutions.
- **Constitutional Basis**: Guaranteed under **Article 326** of the Constitution of India, which provides for universal adult franchise.
- **Eligibility**: Every citizen of India **aged 18** and above is entitled to vote, **unless disqualified** by law.
- **Supervision**: Organised and overseen by the Election Commission of India.
- **Supporting Laws**:

- o **Representation of the People Act, 1950**: Defines voter eligibility and grounds for disqualification.
- o **Representation of the People Act, 1951**: Governs the procedures for conducting elections.

Judicial Interpretation:

- **N.P. Ponnuswami v. Returning Officer (1952)**: Declared the Right to Vote as a **statutory right**.
- **Jyoti Basu v. Debi Ghosal (1982)**: Reiterated that the Right to Vote is neither a **fundamental right** nor a common law right.
- **People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India (2003)**: Recognised the Right to Vote as at least a **constitutional right**.
- **Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India (2006)**: Held that the Right to Vote continues to be a **statutory right.**
- **Raj Bala v. State of Haryana (2015)**: Recognised the Right to Vote as a **constitutional right**.
- **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023)**:
  - o **Majority View**: Right to Vote is a **statutory** right.
  - o **Dissenting Opinion by Justice Ajay Rastogi**:
    - o Linked the Right to Vote with the freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a).
    - o Considered it essential to free and fair elections and thus part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

Current Legal Status:

- **Nature**: It is legally a **statutory right.**
- **Constitutional Context**: It is shaped by constitutional provisions but does not hold the status of a fundamental right.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

India's first Genomic Atlas reveals deep Ancestry and Health Risks

Why in the News?

A landmark study published in the '*Cell*' journal has sequenced the genomes of 2,762 Indians from 23 states and union territories, creating the most comprehensive genomic map of India to date.

About the Genomic Atlas:

- Overview: Caste, tribe, language, geography, and urban-rural differences are all covered in the most thorough genetic mapping of Indian populations, which is the Genomic Atlas.
- Cooperation: It was carried out by both Indian and foreign organizations with the goal of comprehending how Indian genomes were shaped by historical migrations and societal systems.
- Utilization of Molecular Clocks: To track the evolutionary history of various Indian populations and determine human lineage,

researchers employed genetic mutations as molecular clocks.

- Emphasis on Ancestry and Disease: The research looks at interbreeding with Neanderthals and Denisovans, as well as recessive disorders and mutations connected to disease.
- Range: Plans aim for developing technologies to track illness origins within genetically diverse Indian populations and extending coverage to more remote places.
- Impact on Precision Medicine: By integrating Indian genetic variety into international medical research, it seeks to enhance individualized treatment.

Key Highlights of the Study:

- Finding of New Gene Variants: More than 2.6 crore genetic variants that had not been previously identified were found; many of these are not included in international gene databases.
- Indians are largely descended from a single migration out of Africa approximately 50,000 years ago, rather than from earlier human populations.
- **Three major ancestral components**:
  - **Ancient Ancestral South Indians (AASI)** – early hunter-gatherers.
  - **Iranian-related Neolithic farmers** – from Sarazm (~4th millennium BCE).
  - **Eurasian Steppe pastoralists** – arrived around **2000 BCE**, tied to **Indo-European languages**.
- Additional East Asian ancestry: Presumably post-Gupta or connected to rice cultivation (~520 CE), found in East, Northeast, and certain Central Indian groups (e.g., 5% in West Bengal).
- Effects of caste endogamy: High homozygosity brought on by prolonged inbreeding within castes increases the incidence of recessive genetic disorders.

- Archaic DNA: Neanderthal and Denisovan segments are abundant in Indian genomes, particularly in immune-related genes such as TRIM, BTNL2, and MHC.
- Particular health risks: 7% of identified protein-altering variations are associated with severe genetic diseases; a BCHE variant associated with an anesthetic response is abundant in Telangana.
- Extreme interrelatedness and severe founder effects were shown by the fact that every individual had at least one genetic relative in the sample, especially in South India.
- Unrivaled Neanderthal diversity: Of all the populations worldwide, India has the greatest diversity of genetic pieces originating from Neanderthals.

New flowering plant named after Nyishi Tribe

Why in the News?
A new species of flowering plant, Begonia nyishiorum, has been discovered in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

About Begonia nyishiorum:
- Overview: Begonia nyishiorum is an endemic flowering plant that was recently discovered in East Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Scientific Recognition: The Missouri Botanical Garden's peer-reviewed journal Novon released an official description of it in June 2025.

- A characteristic that sets this species apart from other Asian begonias is its crimson, fringed scales (indumentum) on light green petioles.
- Range and Habitat: It grows best on damp, shady mountain slopes between 1,500 and 3,000 meters above sea level.
- Ecological Sensitivity: The plant is possibly fragile and needs conservation care, as it is only known from two forest locales.
- Origin of Name: The Nyishi tribe, who is renowned for their ecological stewardship of nearby woodlands, is honored by the species name nyishiorum.

About the Nyishi Tribe:
- Overview: With a population of over 300,000, the Nyishi are the largest ethnic community in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Name Meaning: In their language, the term "Nyishi" denotes a civilized human being by combining the words "Nyi" (man) and "Shi" (being).
- Linguistic Identity: Although its origins are still up for question, their language is a member of the Sino-Tibetan family.
- Geographic Distribution: They inhabit portions of Assam and eight districts in Arunachal Pradesh, including East Kameng, Papum Pare, and Kurung Kumey.
- Livelihood Practices: They make a living via hunting, fishing, slash-and-burn farming, and handicrafts including weaving and bamboo work.
- Key Festivals: They commemorate Longte (April) for protection from evil, Nyokum (February) for prosperity, and Boori-Boot (February) for unity.
- Social Structure: There is no strict social hierarchy or caste system in Nyishi society, which is patrilineal and clan-based.
- Women's role: Marriages entail reciprocal family trades that strengthen community relationships, and women are viewed as symbols of peace and prosperity.

Indian Scientists created high-performance Supercapacitor Material
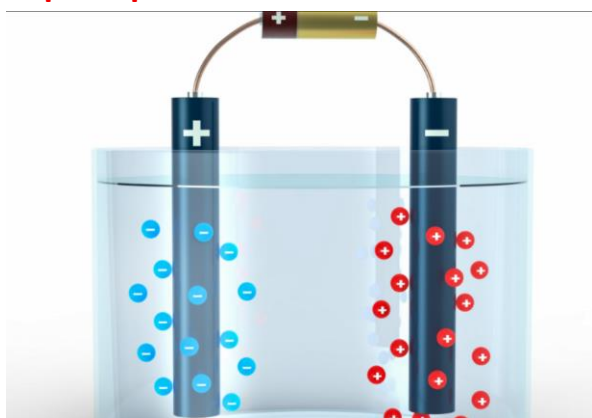
Why in the News?

Scientists from Bengaluru, in collaboration with Aligarh Muslim University, have developed an advanced material that significantly improves supercapacitor performance.

What are Supercapacitors?

- Energy Devices for Fast Charging: Supercapacitors are unique devices that store and release energy far more quickly than conventional batteries.
- Utilized in Contemporary Technology: They are present in solar systems, electric cars, and phones where quick energy supply is required.
- Storage Trade-off: They typically store less energy than conventional batteries, despite charging more quickly.
- Continuous Scientific Work: Scientists are working to boost energy capacity without compromising their rapid charging capabilities.

About Lanthanum-Doped Silver Niobate:

- New Material from Indian Scientists: A research team from Aligarh Muslim University and Bengaluru developed an improved supercapacitor material.
- The foundation substance they employed was silver niobate, which is environmentally benign and non-toxic.
- Improved by Lanthanum Doping: They used a technique known as doping to add the rare metal lanthanum to aid improve electrical performance.
- Bigger Surface, Smaller Particles: As the particles shrank in size, the surface area available for storing energy increased.

What makes this material special?

- Better with Use: After several uses, the material maintained 118% of its capacity, indicating that it got better with time.
- 100% Energy Efficiency: It was extremely efficient because no energy was wasted during charging or discharging.
- Fast and Smooth Performance: Compared to earlier materials, it provided energy more quickly and steadily.
- Verified in a Real-World Test: This material has practical applications as it might power an LCD screen in a test instrument.
- Eco-Friendly Option: It is environmentally friendly and devoid of lead.
- Future Prospects: Researchers intend to scale up this process for commercial usage in electronics, electric vehicles, and solar technology, as well as apply it to other materials.

Biomarkers of Healthy Aging, Resilience, Adversity, and Transitions (BHARAT)

Why in the News?

IISc Bengaluru has launched BHARAT (Biomarkers of Healthy Aging, Resilience, Adversity, and Transitions), a pioneering study exploring the biology, lifestyle, and environment behind Aging.

About the BHARAT Project:

- Scientific Launch: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is spearheading this national research project.
- Its main objective is to provide India's first scientific baseline on the biological, environmental, and social aging of Indians.
- Project Leadership: Professor DK Saini of the Department of Development Biology and Genetics at IISc is in charge of the project.
- Addressing Global Gaps: Unlike the majority of global ageing studies that rely on Western populations, it provides data particular to India, so addressing a significant research hole.
- Redefining Normal: It will question global health norms (such as those for vitamin D and cholesterol) that can incorrectly categorize Indian health metrics.
- Focus on Biological Age: To detect illness risk early, the initiative will investigate indicators of biological aging rather than chronological age.

Key Features of the Project:

- India-Centric Baseline: Reference biomarker cut-offs specific to Indian genetics, nutrition, and lifestyle will be provided by the database.
- Broad Range of Biomarkers: It will use environmental, metabolic, and genetic markers to identify organ aging and resilience at an early stage.
- AI-Driven Analysis: To identify aging trends, model medical interventions, and predict hazards, machine learning methods will be employed.

- Holistic Ageing Model: The study will look at how Indians age in relation to social, environmental, and nutritional aspects.
- Equity for Global South: It uses locally validated health data to rectify global biases that incorrectly label Indians as deficient.
- Focus on Healthspan: Rather than merely increasing life years, the focus is on quality of life, or living healthier for longer.

SAKSHAM-3000

Why in the News?

The Ministry of Communications has launched SAKSHAM-3000, a 25.6 Tbps indigenous switch-cum-router, to boost India's data, cloud, and telecom infrastructure, marking a major leap in advanced networking technology.

What is SAKSHAM-3000?

- Overview: The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) created this high-speed switch-cum-router to bolster India's digital infrastructure.
- Native Operating System: CROS (C-DOT Router Operating System), which powers the device, allows for safe, scalable, and modular network operations.
- Next-Gen Capability: With a throughput of up to 25.6 Terabits per second (Tbps), it is built for incredibly quick data transfer.
- Use cases include hyperscale computing clusters, 5G/6G networks, data centers, and AI systems.

- Cloud and Telecom Ready: It concurrently supports old protocols, cloud-native installations, and next network architectures.

Technical Highlights and Capabilities:

- Massive Throughput: It can give a full 25.6 Tbps capacity and supports 32 400G Ethernet connections at speeds ranging from 1G to 400G.
- Wire-Speed Performance: Real-time transmission without bottlenecks is ensured by processing data packets at line rate.
- Time-sensitive Applications: To guarantee precise timing in telecom and industrial networks, it supports Synchronous Ethernet (Sync-E) and Precision Time Protocol (PTP).
- Complete Protocol Support: For wide network configurations, it works with IP routing, Layer-2 switching, and Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS).
- Traffic management: Features that enhance traffic handling and lessen congestion include Weighted Random Early Detection (WRED) and Weighted Round Robin (WRR).
- Energy Efficiency: For sustainable data center operation, it employs a power-optimized architecture that strikes a balance between high performance and low power consumption.

How Heat led to Protocols formation on Earth?
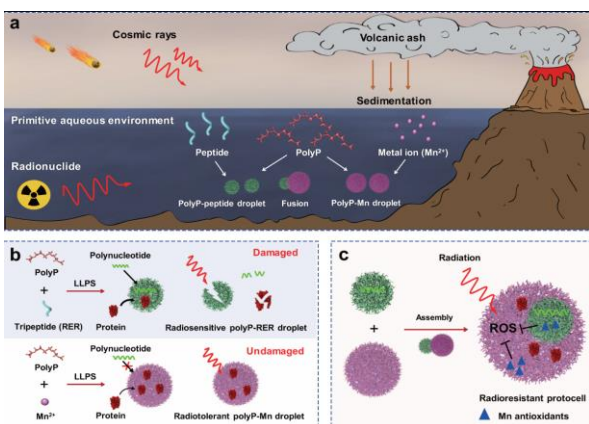
Why in the News?

A new Nature Physics study suggests that warm volcanic rock surfaces may have concentrated organic molecules in watery cracks, triggering life-like chemistry—offering a clue to how protocells formed without membranes before life began.

What are Protocells?

- Overview: Protocells are thought to be the earliest examples of actual biological cells. They are simple bubbles that resemble cells. Despite not being totally living, they provide a setting for the first chemical reactions.
- Lack of Complexity: These structures were able to hold significant molecules like RNA and amino acids together while lacking complicated components like organelles or DNA systems.
- Membrane Role: Protocells frequently created basic membranes or borders that made it easier for molecules to interact and stay enclosed, facilitating the initiation of early processes like protein production.
- Importance: Despite not being living, they provided a framework for the evolution of fundamental chemistry into biology, bridging the gap between systems that are not living and those that are.

History of Formation of Protocells:

- Early Earth Conditions: Warm water pools and volcanic fissures containing organic molecules created by lightning and other natural processes were present on the Earth's surface more than 3.5 billion years ago.
- Compartmentalization: The concept of bubble-like protocells originated from the belief that life began with the concentration of beneficial molecules in one location so they could begin to react.
- Old Theories: Oparin and Haldane postulated in the 1920s that life originated in the early Earth's oceans as a "primordial soup" containing spontaneous chemical reactions.
- Current Understanding: According to more recent studies, protocells were formed without the use of intricate membranes thanks to temperature gradients and water flows

produced by hydrothermal vents or fissures in volcanic rock.

Key Findings in the 2025 Study:

- Lab Setup: To simulate early Earth rock fissures, scientists constructed a 170-micrometer chamber with a warm top (40°C) and a cool bottom (27°C).
- DNA Test: A protein-making kit (PURExpress) and DNA were introduced. Green fluorescent protein (GFP) was only produced by the DNA in the warm-cool environment, demonstrating actual protein synthesis.
- Molecule Collection: Vital components such as phosphate ions, magnesium, and DNA accumulated more near the bottom, up to 70 times more concentrated than at the top.
- Cell-Like Behavior: The technology mimicked actual cell selectivity by allowing trash to escape while keeping beneficial molecules inside even in the absence of a membrane.
- Big Implication: Long before complete cells emerged, this experiment suggests that life may begin in simple natural settings with only heat, flow, and basic chemicals.

Vera C Rubin Observatory

Why in the News?

The Vera C. Rubin Observatory has recently begun a 10-year project to study dark matter and dark energy using a 3,200-megapixel camera (of the Simonyi Survey Telescope) from its site in the Chilean Andes.

About Vera C. Rubin Observatory:

- Location: The Vera C. Rubin Observatory is located 8,684 feet above sea level atop Cerro Pachón in the Chilean Andes.
- It bears the name of Vera C. Rubin, an astronomer who in the 1970s presented strong observational proof of dark matter's existence.
- study Duration: The observatory will continuously study the entire southern sky for ten years.
- Data Volume: Every night, it is intended to gather about 20 terabytes of astronomical data.
- Observation System: Rather than employing manual scheduling, the telescope uses an automated scripting system to choose observation targets on the fly.
- Understanding how galaxies originate, finding a potential ninth planet, spotting potentially dangerous asteroids, and researching the nature of dark matter and dark energy are some of its main objectives.

Key Features:

- Telescope Design: The Simonyi Survey Telescope, which has a three-mirror optical system for wide-field imaging, is used at the observatory.
- What is its size? Its field of view is 9.6 square degrees (as opposed to Hubble's 0.04 square degrees and James Webb's 0.11 square degrees), and its camera has 3,200 megapixels (as opposed to Hubble's about 1.0 MP).

- Field of View: Unlike conventional space telescopes, it can record a field of view that is equal to 40 full Moons in a single exposure.
- Spectral Filters: Six optical filters built into the camera allow it to record information from the ultraviolet and infrared portions of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- Slewing Speed: With the ability to stabilize and reposition in as little as five seconds, the telescope is the fastest-moving big telescope.
- Imaging Frequency: It can scan the entire sky every three nights, taking up to 1,000 pictures per night.
- Change Detection: Up to 10 million warnings for fleeting astronomical occurrences are sent out every night by its automatic software, which compares recent and historical photos to identify changes.

Breakthrough Discoveries:

- First Light: On June 23, 2025, the observatory published its first test photos.
- Initial Findings: It found 2,104 new asteroids, including 7 near-Earth objects (NEOs), in just 10 hours after gathering engineering data.
- Anticipated Findings: It is anticipated to find more than 5 million asteroids and about 100,000 NEOs during the course of the 10-year mission.
- Impact on Database: The present global inventory of known asteroids would be tripled as a result of these results.
- Universe Mapping: The observatory will create the most comprehensive map of the universe's large-scale structure to date.
- Analysis of Dark Matter: Dark matter, which makes up 27% of the universe's composition, will be supported by the findings.
- Study of Dark Energy: It will also aid researchers in comprehending the forces that propel cosmic expansion and comprise 68% of the cosmos.
- Context of Visible Matter: Since visible matter makes up just 5% of the cosmos, data from the

observatory is crucial for understanding the other 95%.

'Maratha Military Landscapes' included in the UNESCO World Heritage List
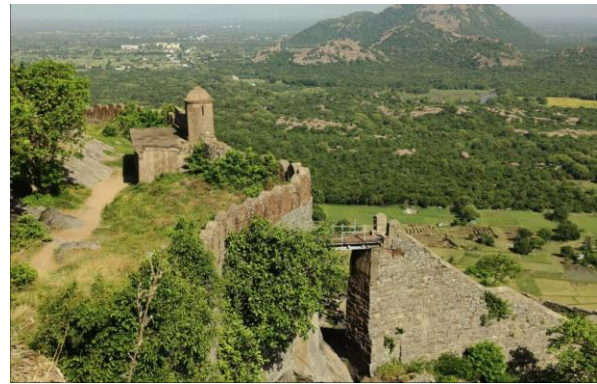
Why in the News?

The 'Maratha Military Landscapes' of India have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List under the cultural category during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Paris.

**About Maratha Military Landscapes:**
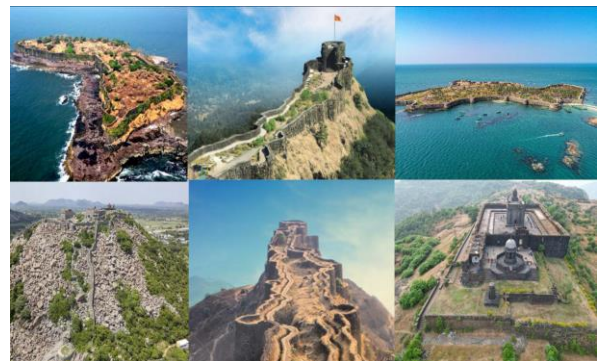
- **Overview**: A network of 12 forts showcasing the Maratha Empire's military architecture and strategic fortification from the 17th to 19th centuries.
- **Time Period**: Developed between 1670 CE (Shivaji's era) and 1818 CE (end of Peshwa rule).
- **Geographical Spread**: 11 forts in Maharashtra and 1 in Tamil Nadu (Gingee Fort), covering hill, coastal, forest, plateau, and island terrains.
- **Key Forts**: Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Khanderi, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg (Maharashtra); Gingee (Tamil Nadu).

- **Types**:
    - Hill forts: Rajgad, Raigad
    - Hill-forest: Shivneri
    - Coastal: Suvarnadurg, Vijaydurg
    - Island: Khanderi, Sindhudurg
- **Protection**:
    - 8 forts by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
    - 4 forts by Maharashtra's Directorate of Archaeology & Museums
- **Ideology**: Reflects Shivaji's military decentralization, terrain-based defense, and self-sustaining fort systems.
- **Tagged under** cultural criteria:
    - Exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition
    - Outstanding example of military architecture
    - Association with historic events and traditions

What are UNESCO World Heritage Sites?
- A WHS is a landmark or area recognized for its **cultural, historical, natural, or scientific value** to humanity.
- It is governed by the **UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)**.
    - **India** formally **signed** the Convention on November 14, **1977**.
- Sites are selected by the **World Heritage Committee**, comprising 21 elected state parties.
- Categories include:
    - **Cultural** (e.g., forts, temples, cities)
    - **Natural** (e.g., forests, parks, biodiversity sites)
    - **Mixed** (having both cultural and natural value)
- Selection is based on **10 criteria** (6 cultural + 4 natural); at least one must be met.
- Once inscribed, sites are eligible for **global recognition, protection, and funding**.

Breakthrough in Quantum Noise Research
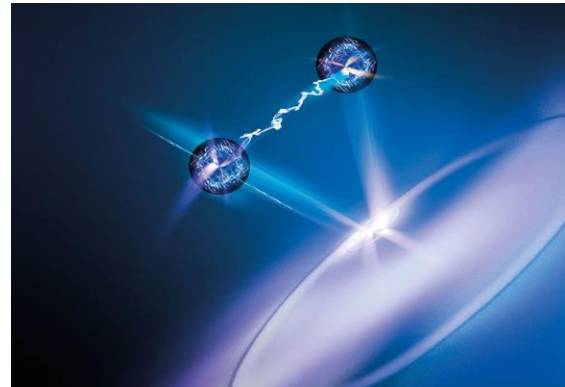
Why in the News?
Researchers at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) found that quantum noise—usually seen as a problem—can sometimes help connect particles in a special way called entanglement, which is important for future quantum technologies.

What is Quantum Noise?

- Overview: Random disturbances that impact quantum systems and frequently result in loss of coherence or decoherence are referred to as quantum noise.
- Conventional View: It is generally seen as detrimental, particularly with regard to quantum entanglement, which is essential for quantum communication and computing.
- The concept of entanglement describes a situation in which particles are so closely coupled to one another that, even when they are far apart, their states are immediately impacted.
- Decoherence's Effect: This entanglement is broken by noise-induced decoherence, which lowers the effectiveness of quantum technology.

Key Findings:

- Observation: Despite its usual reputation as destructive, it was discovered that quantum noise can create or restore entanglement.
- Area of Focus: investigated intraparticle entanglement, which deals with a single particle's internal characteristics (such as spin and route).
- Contrast with Interparticle Entanglement: Intraparticle entanglement demonstrated stability under noise, in contrast to interparticle entanglement (between distinct particles).
- **Types of Noise Studied**:
    - **Amplitude Damping**: Energy loss
    - **Phase Damping**: Loss of phase information
    - **Depolarizing Noise**: Random changes in quantum state
- Important Finding: Intraparticle entanglement exhibited delayed decay, revival, and even formation from unentangled states under amplitude damping.
- Interparticle Comparison: On the other hand, there was no revival or generation and interparticle entanglement showed a gradual decrease.

Scientific Implications:

- New Perspective: Shows that quantum noise can be useful in some situations, challenging the notion that it is always bad.
- Technological Potential: Intraparticle entanglement is useful for stable quantum devices since it is more noise-resistant.
- Application Areas: The results have implications for quantum sensing, quantum computation, quantum communication, and QKD (quantum key distribution).
- Predictive Advantage: By accurately predicting entanglement behavior, the new formula facilitates the design of resilient systems.

- Platform Independence: The findings apply to photons, neutrons, trapped ions, and other particles regardless of the platform.

Gujarat's Tribal Genome Sequencing Project

Why in the News?

Gujarat has launched India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project to map tribal genetic data, contributing to the national Genome India Project (GIP).

About the Gujarat Tribal Genome Project:

- Launch and Duration: Five years under the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC); announced in Gujarat's 2025–2026 budget.
- Target Population: Concentrates on the sequencing of the genomes of tribal people, which make up around 15% of Gujarat's population (about 1 crore).
- Goal: Resolves underrepresentation in the Genome India Project (GIP), which included only about 100 Gujarati tribal samples.
- Sample Size: 2,000-sample reference genome panel comprising 4,158 individuals, including 378 triple families.

- Information about blood, feces, genealogy, physiology, and lifestyle is collected.

Key Features:
- **Precision Medicine Applications**
  - **Early Detection**: Enables screening for **sickle cell anaemia**, G6PD deficiency, BRCA-linked cancers.
  - **Gene-Trait Mapping**: Explores genetic links to traits like agility and archery.
- **Genomic Sampling Protocol**
  - **Filtering**: Uses SNP genotyping to remove closely related samples.
  - **Sequencing**: Conducts **Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) on 2,000 diverse samples** via Illumina NovaSeq 6000.
  - **Data Security**: Employs double encryption for privacy and anonymity.

About the Genome India Project (GIP):
- **Launch**: Initiated in **January 2020** by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**.
- **Structure**: Multi-institutional consortium involving top Indian research bodies.
- **Objectives**

- **Diversity Mapping**: Decode genetic variation across Indian population.
- **Reference Panel**: Build **Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP)** -based haplotype database for Indian genomes.
- **Biobank Creation**: Establish DNA reserves for research and therapy development.
- **Key Achievements**
  - **Sequencing Scale**: **10,074 genomes** sequenced from **99 ethnic groups**.
  - **Data Storage**: Securely stored at **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC), Faridabad**.
  - **Insights**: Revealed rare traits aiding affordable diagnostics and predictive tools.
- **Significance**
  - **Global Impact**: Offers India-specific insights to global genomics research.
  - **Healthcare Value**: Enables evidence-based, genetically informed policy and diagnosis.

Security Issues

Induction of INS Udaygiri

Why in the News?
India has advanced its indigenous naval capabilities with the induction of INS Udaygiri, the second stealth frigate built under Project 17A.

About INS Udaygiri:
- Overview: It represents a significant turning point in India's domestic naval capability as the second stealth frigate produced under Project 17A.

- Legacy Name: In honor of the decommissioned Leander-class frigate INS Udaygiri (F35), which was in service from 1976 until 2007.
- Construction: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) made one of the project's quickest deliveries on July 1, 2025, just 37 months after it was launched.
- Indigenous Technology: Displays domestic defense production with its in-house sensors and combat systems.
- MSME Contribution: In keeping with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat goal, more than 200 Indian MSMEs took part in the construction process.
- **Combat Features**:
    - o Blue-Water Capable: Built for long-range operations, it can project Indian strength into far-off waters and confront both conventional and asymmetric threats.
    - o Features that make it difficult to detect include a low-infrared signature and materials that absorb radar.
    - o Arsenal: Outfitted with a 76 mm main gun, medium-range SAMs, supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, and CIWS (30 mm and 12.7 mm).
    - o Efficient Propulsion: For speed and efficiency, a combined diesel and gas (CODAG) propulsion system is used.

What is Project 17A?
- Overview: Project 17 (Shivalik-class) will be replaced in 2019 by the Indian Navy's effort to construct seven stealth guided-missile frigates.
- Shipbuilders Taking Part: Under the Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB), MDL (Mumbai) and GRSE (Kolkata) share construction.
- Ships with modern designs have modular weapon systems, stealth hulls, and lower infrared signatures.
- Launches and Timeline: All ships are expected to be delivered by 2026, with the first frigate, INS Nilgiri, being launched in 2019.

- Upgrades in technology include electronic warfare systems, sophisticated radar, more automation, and increased survivability.
- Indigenous Content: Project 17A supports the Make in India defense policy by emphasizing domestic components.
- Multi-Role Capabilities: Ideal for high-threat situations, these weapons are made for anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare.

Successful trial of Akash Prime Air Defence System

Why in the News?
India successfully tested the Akash Prime Missile System in Ladakh, neutralizing two high-speed aerial targets at high altitude.

About Akash Prime:
- **What It Is**: Akash Prime is an upgraded version of the **Akash Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) system**.
- **High-Altitude Capability**: Designed to operate effectively **above 4,500 metres**.
- **Development**: Developed by **DRDO** with **BDL**, **BEL**, and **Army Air Defence**.
- **Operational Use**: Proven in **Operation Sindoor** against aerial threats.
- **Production Trials**: Validated through First of Production Model (FoPM) firing trials.
- **Deployment**: Already in use at IAF bases and forward posts along the LAC in Ladakh.

Key Features:

- **Seeker Upgrade**: Equipped with an **indigenous active Radio Frequency (RF) seeker** for better accuracy.
- **Altitude Adaptability**: Engineered for **high-altitude**, **cold-climate** operations.
- **Multi-Target Engagement**: Capable of engaging multiple aerial threats at once.
- **Speed & Accuracy**: Travels at **Mach 2.5** with up to **90% kill probability**.
- **Electronic Warfare**: Equipped with ECCM **features to resist electronic jamming**.
- **Radar Integration**: Uses **Rajendra radar** for detection, targeting, and tracking.
- **Operational Range**: Effective engagement **range of 25–30 km**.

Other Variants of Akash:

- **Akash Mark-I (1990–2005)**: First version under IGMDP; achieved successful dual-target intercepts by 2005.
- **Akash-1S (2019)**: Enhanced version with 30 km range and 60 kg warhead; effective against aircraft and drones; tested successfully in May 2019.
- **Akash Prime (2021 onwards)**: Added active RF seeker and altitude/weather resistance; tested on September 27, 2021.
- **Akash-NG (Next Generation)**: Approved in 2016 with ₹470 crore funding; offers faster response and improved aerial threat protection.

INS Nistar Diving Support Vessel

Why in the News?

Indian Navy commissioned INS Nistar, the country's first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV).

About INS Nistar:

- **Project Origin**: First of two Diving Support Vessels (DSVs) ordered by the Navy in **2018**.
- **Developer**: Built by **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd** with input from 120 Indian MSMEs.
- **Commissioning**: Inducted at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
- **Legacy Name**: Named after the **Soviet-origin INS Nistar** (1971–1989).
- **Indigenization**: Over **80% indigenous content**, in line with Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Sister Ship**: INS **Nipun**, launched in **2022**, will join soon.

Key Features:

- **Rescue Depth**: Supports diving and submarine rescue operations up to **300 metres**.
- **Rescue Equipment**: Equipped with **ROVs, Hyperbaric Lifeboats**, and Diving Chambers.
- **DSRV Role**: Functions as **mothership** for Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles.
- **Size**: 120 metres long with a **displacement of ~10,500 tonnes**.
- **Endurance**: Can stay at sea for over **60 days**.
- **Utility Gear**: Fitted with a **15-tonne subsea crane** and helipad facilities.
- **Medical Support**: Includes OT, ICU, hospital beds, and hyperbaric treatment units.

Significance for India:

- **Submarine Rescue**: Provides independent submarine rescue capability.
- **Operational Autonomy**: Ends reliance on leased rescue platforms.

- **Strategic Status**: Places India among **12 countries with full submarine rescue** capability.
- **Regional Role**: Strengthens India's position as Net Security Provider in the Indian Ocean.

Trivia

What are Autonomous District Councils (ADC)?

Why in the News?

Mizoram Governor has imposed Governor's Rule in the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) due to prolonged political instability and repeated leadership changes.

About Autonomous District Councils (ADCs):

- Basis: Founded in accordance with the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, these are local self-governing organizations.
- Coverage: In the northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram (ATM2), ADCs are established in tribal areas.
- The goal of these councils is to give tribal communities the independence they need to manage their own issues and maintain their culture and traditions.
- Notification: Every tribal region designated as an independent district under the Sixth Schedule is overseen by its own ADC.
- Goal: Protecting tribal identity and rights, ensuring local development, and advancing

tribal self-governance are the main goals of ADCs.

Key Features of ADCs

- Legal Status: ADCs are not subject to state law because they are established by constitutional provisions included in the Sixth Schedule.
- Each ADC has a maximum of 30 members, of whom 4 are nominated by the governor and 26 are chosen by adult suffrage.
- Tenure: An ADC has a five-year term from the date of its formation.
- Authority Scope: To meet the requirements of indigenous communities, ADCs have limited judicial, executive, and legislative authority.
- Law Applicability: Unless specifically extended by the governor, state and federal laws do not always apply in ADC regions.

Powers and Functions of ADCs:

- Lawmaking Authority: ADCs have the authority to pass legislation pertaining to agriculture, land management, and forest usage (reserved forests excepted).
- Customary Regulations: They have the authority to designate traditional chiefs and headmen and to control social traditions, marriage, divorce, and inheritance.
- Local Administration: It is in charge of roads, markets, fisheries, dispensaries, and elementary education.
- Village courts may be established by councils to consider civil and criminal matters involving tribal members and to impose sentences of up to five years.

- Trade Regulation: With the governor's consent, they have the authority to control non-tribals' money lending and trading.
- Taxes on occupations, trades, ferries, automobiles, marketplaces, and public infrastructure such as roads and schools are among its sources of income.

Autonomy and Limitations:

- Degree of Autonomy: Within their territorial jurisdiction, ADCs have a great deal of legislative and administrative autonomy.
- Non-Applicability of General legislation: To ensure self-rule, state and parliamentary legislation only take effect when instructed by the governor.
- Governor's Oversight: In spite of autonomy, the governor has the authority to adopt, amend, or revoke council decisions.
- Financial Restraints: ADCs frequently generate little income, which limits how effectively they can develop.
- Administrative Challenges: Instability in leadership, a lack of skilled staff, and state meddling in council operations are examples of operational problems.