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Prelims UPSC CSE 2027

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PREFACE

Current Affairs UPSC CSE Prelims 2027

This high-quality monthly compilation of Current Affairs for Civil Services Exam Prelims 2027 is designed to help Civil Services Exam aspirants by:

1. **Saving preparation time:** Consolidates key current affairs from multiple sources for CSE Prelims.
2. **Reinforcing static concepts:** Links static concepts with current affairs
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Details of our Current Affairs Test Series are on the back cover and inside this magazine.

Our team of content developers have worked rigorously to create this high-quality compilation, and we hope that all Civil Services and other competitive exam aspirants will make the best use of it. All the Best!

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POLITY

1. Doctrine of Promissory Estoppel

Context: The Supreme Court recently observed that the doctrine of promissory estoppel cannot be invoked to claim a benefit under a government policy which was never aimed to benefit a specific class of industrial unit.

About Doctrine of Promissory Estoppel

- It is a legal doctrine that states that if someone reasonably relies on a promise and acts (or fails to act) in a way that causes them some harm because of that promise, the promise can be enforced.
- Promissory estoppel prevents the promisor from arguing against the enforcement of a promise.

When is the doctrine applied?

- The doctrine applies when the promisor has made a promise to the promisee.
- The promisee must have relied on the promise and suffered a detriment due to the non-performance of the promise.
- The doctrine prevents the promisor or enterprise from going back on its word or promise.
- The doctrine enables the injured party or the promisee to recover on a promise.
- The doctrine seeks to protect the rights of a promisee or aggrieved party against the promisor.
- Thus, Promissory estoppel requirements include a clear promise (whether oral or in writing), reliance on that promise by the promisee, a detriment suffered, and a need to avoid injustice.

Example:

- the landmark case **Motilal Padampat Sugar Mills Co. Ltd. v. State of Uttar Pradesh (1979)**. The Supreme Court held that the government is bound by its promises when a citizen acts upon

them to their detriment, and it cannot arbitrarily retreat from its representation unless it can show an overriding public interest or a supervening equity.

- Promissory estoppel can be used as an independent cause of action against public or statutory authorities (like a municipal corporation) to prevent injustice, provided there was a clear representation and the petitioner changed their position based on it.

Note: It is a well-settled principle that **there can be no estoppel against a statute** (Estoppel against law). If a promise or assurance is ultra vires (beyond the power of) an existing legislative statute, the court will not enforce it. The executive cannot be compelled by promissory estoppel to act contrary to explicit law.

2. Forest Rights Act

Context: The constitution of a task force in Chhattisgarh to fast-track the implementation of laws such as the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, has led to controversy.

Forest Rights Act

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (Forest Rights Act or FRA) was introduced to **recognize the rights of forest-dwelling communities**, including Scheduled Tribes, over forest resources that they have been traditionally using.

What is the PESA Act, 1996?

- PESA Act, 1996 stands for the Provisions of the **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996**.
- It is a law enacted by the Parliament to extend the provisions of **Part IX** of the Constitution

relating to the **Panchayats to the 5th Scheduled Areas** in a slightly modified form.

- Under the **Fifth Schedule** of the Constitution, regions with predominantly tribal populations are categorized as '**Scheduled Areas**', a territorial designation that recognises the **customary rights of the Scheduled Tribes (ST)**.

Difference between FSA and PESA:

The most definitive geographic and jurisdictional difference lies in their **applicability**.

- **PESA (1996)** applies **strictly to the Scheduled V areas** of India (notified across 10 states). It extends local self-governance to tribal areas but does not extend beyond them.
- **FRA (2006)** is a pan-India legislation. It recognizes the individual forest rights (IFR) and community forest rights (CFR) of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) **anywhere in India where they reside**, completely independent of whether that area falls under the Fifth Schedule or not.

3. National Panchayat Awards

Context: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has announced the winners of the National Panchayat Awards (NPA) 2025, with 42 Panchayats from across India.

National Panchayat Awards

- **About:** The National Panchayat Awards are administered by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to recognize and incentivize high-performing Panchayats.
- **Objective:** The National Panchayat Awards drive **competitive federalism** by incentivizing local self-government institutions to compete in achieving the good governance & Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Implementation Framework:** The awards are conferred under the **Incentivization of Panchayats (IoP) scheme**, a component of the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**.

- **Financial Incentives:** Winning Panchayats receive financial incentives ranging from **₹50 lakh to ₹5 crore**, depending on the category and tier.
- **Karnataka** secured the highest number of awards (6 awards), followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with 5 awards each for 2025.

Categories of Awards

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSV):** Recognizes outstanding Gram Panchayats based on performance across the nine themes of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).
- **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDSPSV):** Conferred on the best-performing Panchayats on an overall basis. Awards are given at;
 - District Panchayat level
 - Block Panchayat level
 - Gram Panchayat level.

4. Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026

Context: The Department of Higher Education has invited applications for the Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026.

About

- It is a flagship national initiative by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- **Aim:** To bring Indian-origin researchers working abroad to leading Indian institutions for high-impact research in priority sectors.
- The initiative is structured around three pillars: Lead Institutions, Host Institutions and PMRC Fellows.
- **Applicants can apply under the following categories:**
 - **Young Research Fellows (YRF):** Less than five years of post-PhD experience.
 - **Senior Fellows (SF):** Five years to less than 10 years of post-PhD experience.

- **Research Chairs (RC):** Ten years or more of post-PhD experience with proven research leadership.
- **An Empowered Committee chaired by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India will oversee the selection of participating institutions and fellows.**
- **Eligible applicants include Indian nationals working abroad, Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders and Persons of Indian Origin with significant achievements in research, innovation and technology.**
- **Eligible host institutions include** government higher educational institutions ranked among the top 100 in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Overall or Engineering categories, or among the top 50 in the NIRF Research category.
 - **National laboratories and research institutions** under agencies such as the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- **PMRC Fellows will receive** fellowship and research grant support, access to laboratories and research infrastructure, and opportunities to work with leading government institutions in the country.

5. Rajya Sabha Elections

Context: The Election Commission of India closed the window for filing nominations, setting the stage for Rajya Sabha elections contested across 27 seats.

Rajya Sabha Elections:

What It Is?

- The Rajya Sabha (the Upper House of India's Parliament) is a permanent legislative body whose members are elected for a six-year term. Unlike the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved.

- To maintain administrative continuity, a rolling system is used where one-third of the total members automatically retire every second year, and their vacancies are filled through biennial elections.
- Members elected through regular biennial cycles serve a full six-year term, whereas members appointed through bye-elections serve only the remaining, unexpired term of the individual whose seat became vacant.
- According to Article 80(4) of the Constitution, Rajya Sabha representatives are elected **only by the elected members** of the State Legislative Assembly (MLAs). **Nominated members** of the Assembly do not have voting rights in this election.
- The election is strictly held using the system of **proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote (STV)**. Candidates must clear a specific mathematical quota of preferential votes to secure a seat.
- Rajya Sabha elections do **not** use a secret ballot. To curb corruption and cross-voting, Parliament amended the Representation of the People Act, 1951 in 2003 to introduce an **Open Ballot System**.

6. Election Symbols in India

Context: The satirical Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has sparked debate over whether a cockroach can be allotted as an election symbol if it registers as a political party.

Election Symbols in India

- Election symbols are governed by the **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**, administered by the Election Commission of India.
- **Types of Symbols:**
 - **Reserved Symbols:** Exclusively allotted to recognised national and state parties (e.g., lotus, hand).

- **Free Symbols:** Allotted to registered unrecognised parties and independent candidates from a notified list.

What Symbols Are Available?

- The EC's latest free-symbol list (May 2025) contains **184 symbols**.
- These include **household items, fruits, vegetables, sports equipment, and tools** such as air-conditioner, dustbin, frying pan, grapes, toothbrush, TV remote, etc.
- Some symbols are **unavailable in certain states** because they are already reserved for recognised state parties.

Can the Cockroach Be Allotted?

- Following concerns raised by animal welfare groups in the **1990s**, the EC stopped allotting new animal-based symbols.
- Under the Symbols Order, a newly proposed symbol:
 - Must **not resemble an existing symbol**.
 - Must **not have religious or communal connotations**.
 - Must **not depict any bird or animal**.
- Since a cockroach is an insect belonging to the animal kingdom, it would ordinarily **fall within this prohibition**.
- A few recognised parties continue to use animal symbols because they **were allotted before the restriction came into effect**. Examples include:
 - **Bahujan Samaj Party:** Elephant
 - **All India Forward Bloc:** Lion

7. Doctrine of Forum Non Conveniens

Context: The Supreme Court recently held that where the question of pursuing a constitutional remedy is involved, and invocation of writ jurisdiction is traceable to clause (1) of Article 226, the doctrine of forum non conveniens may rarely apply.

About Doctrine of Forum Non Conveniens

- It is a common law legal principle that allows a court to dismiss or stay a case when it believes

that another forum is more appropriate for hearing the case, even if the court itself has jurisdiction over the case and the parties.

- The term “forum non conveniens” is Latin for “inconvenient forum,” and the doctrine has been applied in various legal systems, particularly those with roots in English common law.
- This doctrine plays a critical role in private international law (conflict of laws), where courts frequently deal with cross-border disputes that involve multiple jurisdictions.
- The application of the doctrine is typically discretionary, meaning that trial courts have significant latitude in deciding whether to dismiss or stay a case based on this principle.
- Courts are required to balance several factors in determining whether to apply the doctrine, including both private and public interests.
- Courts consider various factors, including the convenience of the parties, the location of evidence and witnesses, the applicable law, and the availability of a fair trial in the alternative forum.
- The overriding consideration is whether the interests of justice would be better served by litigating the matter in another jurisdiction.
- Generally, the doctrine is invoked by defendants who argue that the current forum is inappropriate and that a different jurisdiction would be more suitable for the case.
- The defendant must demonstrate that an alternative forum exists where the case can be adequately heard.
- This forum must have jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the case and must provide the plaintiff with an adequate remedy.

8. AFSPA

Context: Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is likely to be withdrawn from almost the entire Northeast by 2027, except for one or two States.

What is AFSPA?

- The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958** empowers the armed forces to operate in areas declared as “disturbed areas”.
- It grants **special powers to security forces** to maintain public order and combat insurgency.
- **Major Provisions:**
 - **The Governor of a State, the Administrator of a Union Territory, or the Central Government may declare an area as a “disturbed area”.**
 - **Grants special powers to armed forces**, including use of force (even causing death under specified conditions), arrest without warrant, search without warrant, and destruction of arms dumps or militant hideouts.
 - **No prosecution, suit, or legal proceeding can be initiated against armed forces personnel for actions taken under AFSPA without prior approval of the Central Government.**

Major Committees on AFSPA

- **Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy Committee (2005):** Recommended the repeal of AFSPA and incorporation of its essential provisions into the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967**, along with stronger grievance redressal and accountability mechanisms.
- **Santosh Hegde Commission (2013):** Found that the six encounter cases examined in **Manipur** were not genuine, highlighted misuse of AFSPA provisions, and recommended greater accountability and periodic review of the Act.
- **Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2007):** Recommended repeal of AFSPA, arguing that it had become a symbol of discrimination and alienation in affected regions.

9. Kanchan Devi Committee

Context: The Supreme Court-appointed committee led by Kanchan Devi has come under scrutiny after environmental experts and former officials sought its restructuring.

Kanchan Devi Committee:**What is it?**

- The Kanchan Devi Committee is a Supreme Court-appointed expert panel constituted on **25 May 2026** to review the Court’s earlier judgment concerning the protection and classification of the **Aravalli Range**.

Aim: To examine the existing framework governing Aravalli protection and recommend measures for environmental conservation, forest demarcation, and sustainable land-use management.

Concerns Raised:

- **Lack of Independent Experts:** Critics note the absence of specialists in ecology, hydrology, GIS, wildlife conservation, and public health.
- **Potential Conflict of Interest:** The committee functions within the same administrative framework that earlier defined Aravalli boundaries.
- **Over-Reliance on Bureaucrats:** Membership is dominated by serving and retired officials rather than multidisciplinary scientific experts.
- **Limited Ground-Level Representation:** Experts familiar with Haryana and Rajasthan’s mining and ecological challenges are underrepresented.
- **Incomplete Forest Demarcation:** Concerns have been raised that Aravalli protection cannot be reassessed before completing forest identification under the Godavarman framework.

10. Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010

Context: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the **Foreign Contribution (Regulations) Amendments Rules 2026**, issued under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010**.

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010

- FCRA aims to **regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions** to prohibit activities detrimental to the national interest.

- It was **first enacted in 1976** but repealed and later replaced with new legislation in 2010. It was further amended in **2020**.
- FCRA registration is valid for **5 years** and must be renewed before expiry.
- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** monitors the implementation of the FCRA to ensure that such funds do not adversely affect the country's internal security.

Note: The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020 made it legally mandatory for any individual, association, or NGO granted an FCRA registration or prior permission to receive foreign inward remittances **only** in a single designated "FCRA Account" opened at the **State Bank of India (SBI)**,

Main Branch, 11 Sansad Marg, New Delhi. No foreign funds can land or be credited in any other branch or bank account initial



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ECONOMY

1. 'Declining Share of Savings Deposits' - RBI Report

Context: According to the latest report of the Reserve Bank of India, Indian depositors are increasingly shifting their funds from low-interest savings accounts to higher-yield fixed deposits (FDs).

Key Trends Highlighted by RBI

- **Declining Share of Savings Deposits:** Savings deposits accounted for only 28.7% of aggregate bank deposits in March 2026, down significantly from 34.6% in March 2022.
 - Demand deposits (savings and current accounts) stood at ₹31.65 lakh crore as of May 2026.
- **Rising Popularity of Fixed Deposits:** Term deposits increased their share from 55.2% to 61.6% over four years and reached ₹225.23 lakh crore by May 2026.
 - Depositors are increasingly locking funds for longer durations to secure higher returns.
- **Preference for Medium-Term Deposits:** The share of deposits with maturity between 1 and 3 years increased from 50.4% in 2022 to 69.8% in 2026.
 - Deposits with maturity below one year fell from 16.7% to 8.8%.
- **Dominance of Large Depositors:** Deposits of ₹1 crore and above accounted for 46.3% of total term deposits as of March 2026.
- **Household Savings Behaviour:** Household savings continue to provide the foundation of India's banking deposit base, accounting for **59.3%** of total bank deposits at the end of March 2026.
- **Diversification Towards Other Financial Assets:** Many households are increasingly investing in mutual funds, equities, and other market-linked instruments to seek higher returns.

- The growing diversification of savings reflects increasing financial awareness and participation in capital markets.

The shift symbolizes the following macroeconomic developments:

- Savings accounts offer high liquidity but generally lower interest rates.
- Fixed deposits (Time Deposits) lock up money for a specific duration in exchange for higher interest yields.
- When households actively shift funds from savings accounts to FDs, it signifies that **the opportunity cost of keeping money in highly liquid, low-yield forms has risen**.
- This portfolio reallocation usually happens during a high or rising interest rate cycle (e.g., when the RBI raises the Repo Rate), prompting savers to lock in higher returns despite sacrificing instant liquidity.

2. Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

Context: Recently, the Prime Minister of India chaired a meeting of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

About Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

- It is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.
- The Terms of Reference of EAC-PM include:
 - Analysing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon.
 - Addressing issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister.

- These could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else.
- Attending any other task as may be desired by the Prime Minister from time to time.
- The role of EAC-PM is advisory in nature and not binding on the Government.
- In addition to its advisory role, the EAC-PM also plays an important role in fostering greater economic understanding and awareness among the public
- The EAC-PM is **neither a constitutional nor a statutory body**. It is a non-permanent, non-constitutional, independent body constituted by the central government from time to time, specifically at the pleasure of the Prime Minister.
- For administrative, logistical, budgeting, and secretarial purposes, **NITI Aayog serves as the nodal agency** for the EAC-PM.
- The EAC-PM is an advisory body set up specifically to counsel the **Prime Minister** on key economic issues. It submits its reports and advice directly to the Prime Minister, not to the RBI. While it analyzes macroeconomic issues like inflation, it has no mandate or reporting channel to the central bank.

3. FDI Data

Context: The data released by the Reserve Bank of India shows that Net foreign direct investment (FDI) rose to \$6.6 billion in April 2026, its highest level in nearly five years, driven by a 65% surge in gross inflows.

Key Trends in FDI Data

- **Surge in inflows:** Gross FDI in April 2026, or the total amount of **direct investment** that entered the country that month, surged to **\$15.3 billion**.
 - The gross FDI inflows in the single month of April 2026 was more than **16%** of the amount that came in the entire financial year **2025-26**.
 - The largest share of equity inflows was received by **financial services, retail and**

wholesale trade, manufacturing and computer services. Together, these sectors accounted for more than **80% of total FDI inflows**.

- More than **75%** of the FDI flows came from **Japan, Singapore and Mauritius**.
- **Slower Outflow Growth:** Gross outflows rose at a significantly slower pace, to **\$8.7 billion** in April 2026 from \$7.7 billion in April last year — a growth of 13.7%.
 - Within this, outward FDI by Indian companies rose nearly **42% in April 2026 to \$4.8 billion**.
 - Around 80% of the flows were directed to the **U.S. and the Cayman Islands** with **Financial, insurance and business services, and the manufacturing sector** accounted for more than **90% of the outward flows**.

A decline or moderation in the Net FDI figure can happen due to two primary mathematical and structural shifts:

- **Increased Capital Outflow by Residents:** Domestic companies are investing heavily abroad (Outward FDI) to acquire global assets, which offsets the capital coming in.
- **Divestment and Repatriation:** Foreign companies already operating within the host country are selling their stakes, liquidating assets, or repatriating accumulated profits/dividends back to their home countries rather than reinvesting them locally.

4. FIIs and FPIs

Context: The Government of India has introduced **tax exemptions and investment-related reforms for Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) investing in Government Securities (G-Secs).**

About FIIs and FPIs

- **Foreign Institutional Investment (FII)** is a category of FPI that refers specifically to investments made by **foreign institutional**

investors such as mutual funds, pension funds, insurance companies, and hedge funds. These institutions invest pooled funds in financial markets and typically play a more active role in investment research and decision-making.

- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** refers to investments made by **foreign individuals**, institutional investors, or funds in financial instruments such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and government securities. FPIs do not participate in the management or decision-making of the companies in which they invest and are generally considered passive investors.

Key Prohibited Sectors for FDI in India:

- Lottery business (including Government/private lottery, online lotteries).
- The manufacturing of tobacco or tobacco substitutes
- Gambling and betting including casinos.
- Chit funds and Nidhi companies.
- "Real Estate Business" or the construction of farmhouses.
- Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs).
- Activities/sectors not open to private sector investment (such as **Atomic Energy**). Note that in Railway Infrastructure, FDI is now permitted up to 100% in most segments, though core operations remain state-controlled.

5. Land Port Management System

Context: The Union Home Minister is going to launch the **Land Port Management System (LPMS)** in New Delhi.

About Land Port Management System

- It is a state-of-the-art digital platform designed to integrate operations across Land Ports into a unified system.
- Key Facts about Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)
- It is a statutory body under the Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs.

- It is responsible for developing and managing land ports to facilitate trade, connectivity, and regional cooperation.
- Currently, LPAI operates 15 land ports across India's international borders:
 - India-Pakistan Border (2): Attari (Punjab) and Dera Baba Nanak (Punjab)
 - India-Nepal Border (3): Rupaidiha (Uttar Pradesh), Raxaul (Bihar) and Jogbani (Bihar)
 - India-Bhutan Border (1): Darranga (Assam)
 - India-Bangladesh Border (8): Petrapole (West Bengal), Dawki (Meghalaya), Sutarkandi, Golakganj and Mankachar (Assam), Agartala, Srimantapur and Sabroom (Tripura)
 - India-Myanmar Border (1): Moreh (Manipur)

6. Bilateral Investment Treaty

Context: The Government of India is revising its **2016 Model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)** to make it more investor-friendly while safeguarding India's regulatory sovereignty and legal system.

What is a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)?

- A Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) is an **agreement between two countries that promotes and protects investments** made by investors of one country in the other.
- It provides legal safeguards such as protection against expropriation, fair treatment, and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- BITs aim to **improve investor confidence** and **facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI)**.

India's Progress on BITs

- **Evolution of India's BIT Framework:** India signed its first **Model BIT in 1993**, which was amended in **2003**.
 - Following several international arbitration disputes, India adopted a **new Model BIT in December 2015**, which became operational in **2016**.
- **Recent Developments:** India has signed BITs or investment agreements with countries such as;

Belarus, Kyrgyz Republic, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Brazil (through an Investment Cooperation and Facilitation Treaty).

- **In Budget 2025-26**, the Government announced a review of the BIT framework to make it more investor-friendly while safeguarding national interests.

7. National SC-ST Hub Scheme

Context: The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is promoting inclusive entrepreneurship through the National SC-ST Hub Scheme.

About National SC-ST Hub Scheme

- It was launched in October 2016.
- **It is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.**
- It is aimed at capacity enhancement of Schedule Caste - Schedule Tribe entrepreneurs and promoting "entrepreneurship culture" amongst the SC-ST population.
- **Implementation: It is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC).**
- The NSSH scheme supports purchase of plant & machinery/equipment; capacity building & training, market linkage, facilitation for participation in exhibitions, credit, Udyam registration and GeM onboarding.

Functions of the scheme

- To encourage SC/ST owned units to be part of 4% of total procurement being made by Central/State Governments, CPSEs and other government agencies
- To prepare strategy for intervention through industry associations to sensitize, encourage and enable the SC/ST owned units for participation in Public Procurement Process
- Facilitating SC/ST Entrepreneurs to be part of vendor development programs and mentoring support by specific CPSE matching the products/services of such entrepreneurs

- Capacity building of existing and prospective SC/ST entrepreneurs through skill development programs
- Sharing of SC/ST MSEs data with CPSEs to enhance the procurement from SC/ST
- Undertaking outreach activities for the promotion of the scheme among SC/ST population
- **Significance:** These initiatives are fostering inclusive economic growth, promoting self-reliance and strengthening the MSME ecosystem by creating greater opportunities across India.

8. Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0

Context: Recently, the Government of India has approved extension in validity of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) upto 31.8.2026.

About Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0

- It was launched in 2026.
- **It aims to provide guarantee cover to Banks/ Fis through National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).**
- It provides guarantee against expected losses on the financial assistance extended by them to Non-Banking Financial Company-Microfinance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs) and MFIs for on lending to small borrowers.
- The Government of India has also approved an increase in maximum loan amount capped to Large Sized NBFC-MFIs/MFIs from ₹300 crores to ₹1000 crores under the overall ceiling of 20% of Assets under Management (AUM).

Features of the Scheme

- **Eligible borrowers:** Existing or new small borrowers within the regulatory definition of micro finance as prescribed by RBI from time to time.

- **Guarantee coverage:** 80% of amount in default for small, 75% for medium and 70% for large NBFC-MFIs/ MFIs.
- **Guarantee Fee:** 0.50% p.a., on sanctioned amount (1st year) & outstanding amount (thereafter).

9. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

Context: Recently, the drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) raised ceiling rates for two key platinum-based cancer drugs by 50% after a surge in raw material costs triggered widespread shortages.

About National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- It is an independent regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
- It was constituted in 1997 under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.

Functions of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.
- To collect/ maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc, for bulk drugs and formulations.
- To recruit/ appoint the officers and other staff members of the Authority, as per rules and procedures laid down by the Government.
- To render advice to the Central Government on changes/ revisions in the drug policy.
- To render assistance to the Central Government in the parliamentary matters relating to drug pricing

- To fix and revising drug prices as per the provisions of the Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO),
- NPPA provides ceiling price to all drugs notified under Schedule-I of DPCO and so far.

10. Arbitrage Funds

Context: Arbitrage (arb) funds are positioned to take advantage of the mispricing in futures contracts.

About Arbitrage Funds

- Arbitrage funds are equity-oriented hybrid funds that leverage arbitrage opportunities in the market.
- The basic principle behind arbitrage is to take advantage of temporary price differences to generate profits with minimal risk.
- These can be a pricing mismatch between two exchanges, different pricing in the spot and futures market, etc.
- The fund manager of an arbitrage fund buys and sells the shares at the same time and earns the difference between the selling price and the buying price of the share.
- The underlying principle is to capture the price spread between the buying and selling, often within a short time frame.
- This is fundamentally different from any other form of investing, where you purchase an asset and wait for it to grow in value before selling it.
- In an arbitrage fund, the fund manager invests in equities only when he finds a definite opportunity to earn returns.
- If there are no arbitrage opportunities available, then the fund invests in short-term money market instruments and debt securities to ensure stable returns.
- The important thing to note here is that the price difference is usually very small. Therefore, the fund manager has to make several trades in one day to book a reasonable profit.
- They are classified as hybrid mutual funds where according to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), at least 65% of the fund's assets

must be in equities and equity-related securities.

Arbitrage Funds Benefits

- **Low Risk, Equity-Like Returns:** Since the buying and selling are hedged, the risk is minimal, making it an attractive option for risk-averse investors.
- **Tax Advantages:** Gains from arbitrage funds held for more than one year qualify as long-term capital gains (LTCG).
- **Liquidity:** Arbitrage funds offer high liquidity, allowing investors to redeem their money quickly when needed.
- **Diversified Portfolio:** These funds diversify investments across various sectors and instruments, reducing the risk.

11. Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank

Context: As per the directions of RBI interest rates on NRE/NRO deposits will not be higher than those offered by the bank on comparable domestic rupee term deposits.

About

- It has decided to **temporarily withdraw interest rate ceiling** on fresh **Foreign Currency Non-Resident- Bank [FCNR(B)]** deposits of 3-5-year tenors and restriction on **interest rates on Non-Resident External (NRE) deposits** of three year and above tenors **till September 30, 2026 to boost forex reserves.**
- **Significance:** This move will help Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and People of Indian Origin (PIOs) to avail **higher interest rates from India banks to park their funds.**
 - It will help **India to mobilise dollars to swell its foreign exchange reserves** that may lend support to a depreciating rupee and help meet balance of payment obligations.

Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank

- A **Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank, or FCNR (B) account**, means the deposit is held in a

foreign denomination. This secures it against currency fluctuations.

- **Only NRIs/PIOs/OCIs** can open an FCNR (B) account and the NRI status should be as per Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) rules.
- Deposits are maintained in **foreign currencies such as USD, GBP, EUR, JPY, AUD, CAD, etc.**
- It can only be a **term deposit** with maturities **ranging from 1 year to 5 years.**
- They are **intended to attract foreign currency deposits from NRIs**, helping India strengthen its foreign exchange reserves while providing NRIs protection against currency fluctuations.

12. National Statistical Commission

Context: Recently, the Government of India has appointed a new Chairperson and three Members to the National Statistical Commission.

About National Statistical Commission

- It was set up in 2005 on the recommendations of Rangarajan Commission (2000).
- **Mandate:** It was established to serve as a nodal body for all core statistical activities of the country and also evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical co-ordination.

Composition

- It consists of a **part-time Chairperson, four part-time Members having specialization and experience in areas of statistics,**
 - **CEO of NITI Aayog as an ex-officio Member.**
 - The Chief Statistician of India is the Secretary of the Commission. (He is also the Secretary to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation).

13. Tokenization

Context: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) rolled out Drunix, an open-source blockchain platform, to help companies build

and scale tokenisation platforms, digital asset ecosystems, multi-organisation networks.

About

- Drunix is a high-performance **distributed ledger platform** designed for enterprise-scale and public infrastructure adoption.
- Drunix is built as an enhanced fork of **Hyperledger Fabric**.
 - Hyperledger Fabric is an open-source enterprise blockchain framework, developed under the umbrella of the **Linux Foundation** and widely used for permissioned blockchain applications.

What is Tokenization?

- Tokenization is the process of **converting ownership rights or assets** into digital tokens on a blockchain.
- These assets include **financial securities, real estate, commodities, digital currencies and identity credentials**.

14. National Internet Exchange of India

Context: The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is celebrating its 23rd Foundation Day on June 19.

About National Internet Exchange of India

- It is a not-for-profit organization set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.
- It was established under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.
- Aim of NIXI: To promote internet penetration in the country as well as across the globe.
- Its Primary purpose is to facilitate exchange of domestic Internet traffic between the peering ISP, Content players and any other organizations with their own AS number.

Functions of National Internet Exchange of India

- NIXI plays a critical role in strengthening India's Internet infrastructure by facilitating efficient exchange of domestic Internet traffic, managing the '.IN' and (.Bharat) country-code top-level domains.
- It facilitates Internet Exchange services, and delegating IP addresses (IPv4/IPv6) through the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN).
- Through its initiatives, NIXI supports a secure, resilient, and inclusive Internet ecosystem aligned with India's digital growth ambitions.
- It operates 79 Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) across the country and supports domain names in 22 Indian languages, furthering its vision of a secure, resilient and inclusive internet ecosystem.

15. Energy Transition Index

Context: According to the Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026, the global energy transition has effectively stalled despite total energy investments touching \$3.3 trillion in 2025.

About Energy Transition Index (ETI)

- The Energy Transition Index (ETI) is an **annual index published by the World Economic Forum** that measures **how effectively countries are transitioning toward secure, sustainable, equitable, and affordable energy systems**.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** The index is based on two broad dimensions:
 - **System Performance:** Energy security, sustainability, and equity.
 - **Transition Readiness:** Policies, regulations, investment, infrastructure, innovation, education, and institutional support.
- **Significance:** It helps governments identify strengths and weaknesses in their energy transition efforts and guides policy reforms.

16. Development Policy Financing

Context: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors Friday approved \$1.5 billion financing to India under the Development Policy Financing (DPF) Operation.

About Development Policy Financing

- It provides rapidly disbursing financing to help a borrower address actual or anticipated development financing requirements.
- It supports borrowers in achieving poverty reduction and climate-friendly sustainable and inclusive growth through a program of policy and institutional actions.
- For example: Strengthening public financial management, improving the investment climate, addressing bottlenecks to improve service delivery, and diversifying the economy.
- It can be extended as loans, credits/grants, or guarantees.
- It is an initiative of the World Bank.
- Funds are made available to country based on
- Maintenance of an adequate macroeconomic policy framework, as determined by the Bank with inputs from IMF assessments;
 - Satisfactory implementation of the overall reform program;
 - Completion of a set of critical policy and institutional actions agreed between the Bank and the client
 - Alignment with the Goals of the Paris Agreement.

17. NAFED's Auction Portal – NAFEX.in

Context: Union Home Minister will launch NAFED's digital auction portal 'NAFEX.in' in New Delhi to modernize agricultural auctions and improve transparency in cooperative marketing.

NAFED's Auction Portal – NAFEX.in: What It Is?

- NAFEX.in is a digital agricultural auction platform developed by the National Agricultural

Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

- It provides an online, transparent, and technology-driven mechanism for conducting auctions of agricultural commodities and cooperative produce.

Aim:

- To enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in agricultural auctions.
- To strengthen cooperative marketing and provide a seamless digital trading ecosystem for farmers and stakeholders.

Key Functions of NAFEX.in:

- Conducts online auctions for agricultural commodities, eliminating manual processes and increasing transparency.
- Enables competitive bidding, helping determine fair market prices through transparent price discovery mechanisms.
- Connects farmers, cooperatives, traders, processors, and institutional buyers through a common digital platform.
- Reduces paperwork, speeds up transactions, and facilitates easier monitoring and record management.

18. Index of Services Production

Context: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is going to launch the Index of Services Production (ISP) in July 2026.

About Index of Services Production (ISP)

- The Index of Services Production (ISP) is a monthly high-frequency indicator developed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to measure short-term changes in the real output of India's formal services sector.
- It is designed to complement the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the services sector.

- It is **developed** by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) chaired by **Debjani Ghosh**.

Key Features ISP

- Coverage:** It covers only the **formal services sector** and excludes the informal sector and non-market government services.
- Base Year:** 2024–25.
- Methodology:** Uses a **fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index** with **GVA-based weights**.
- Measures Real Growth:** Converts nominal service output into real output using price deflators such as **CPI** and **WPI**.

Major Data Sources

- GST data:** Trade, transport, telecom, accommodation, real estate, professional services, etc.
- Administrative data:** Railways, air transport, banking, and insurance.
- ASISSE:** Private health and education services.

19. Corporate Mitra Scheme

Context: The Corporate Mitra scheme will commence with **2,000 participants**, including **200 people from the North East region**, according to the Corporate Affairs Ministry.

About Corporate Mitra Scheme

- It was announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.
- It aims to empower India's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through trained and certified paraprofessionals called Corporate Mitras, who will serve the MSMEs.
- Corporate Mitras will provide affordable and accessible support in areas such as regulatory compliance, GST, accounting, financial guidance, cost accounting, and secretarial services.
- This ensures that MSMEs can focus on innovation and growth while meeting the regulatory compliance requirements with ease.

- To ensure reach beyond metropolitan hubs, Corporate Mitras will primarily operate in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.
- The scheme shall be implemented in collaboration with following Professional Institutes (PIs):
 - The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
 - The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).
 - The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI).
- Through this scheme, youth will undergo a 6-month Academic Course and 6 months of On-the-Job training providing exposure to real-life business environments and employment opportunities.
- Academic Course will consist of 144 hours of online structured learning and 6 hours webinar/physical learning).
- Eligibility Criteria for Candidates:
 - Age Limit:** Candidates must be up to 30 years.
 - Education Qualification:**
 - Graduates from any recognized university or
- Students currently in their final year of graduation (will be provided Corporate Mitra Certificate only after completing graduation successfully).



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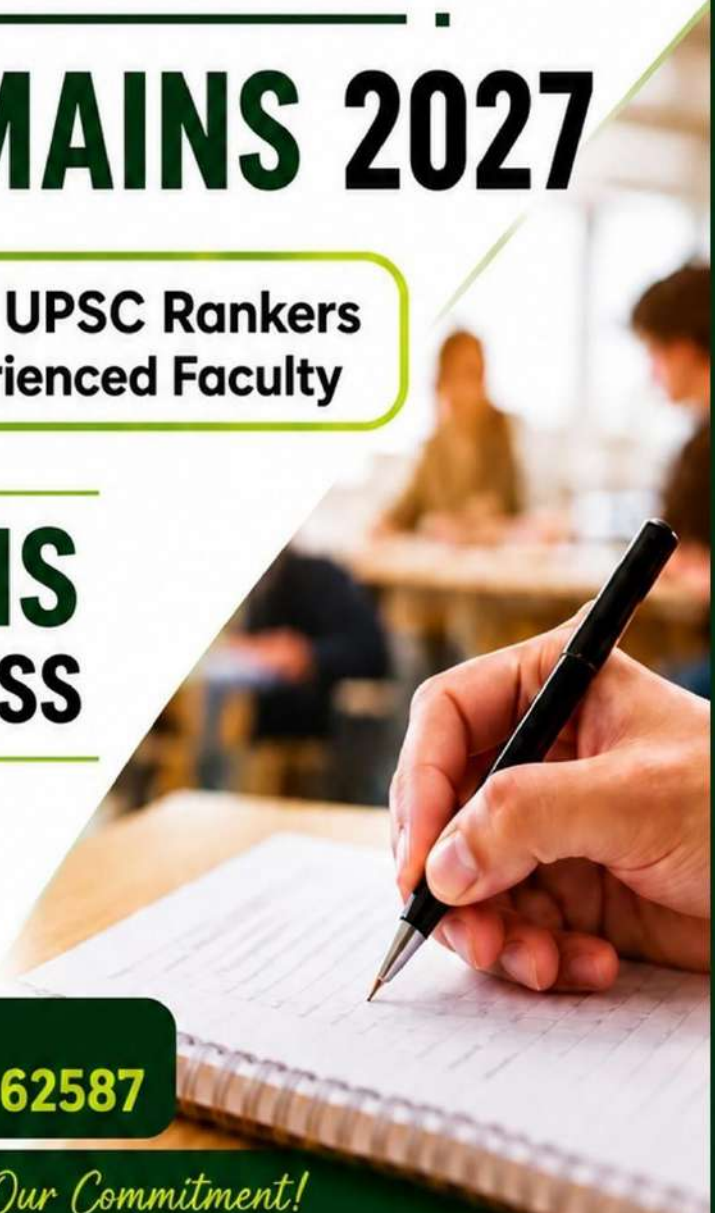


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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. India-Australia Defense Ministers' Dialogue

Context: Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and his Australian counterpart co-chaired the second edition of the India-Australia Defense Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi.

Based on the maritime route from the east coast of India to northern Australia:

- **Strait of Malacca:** After crossing the Bay of Bengal, a ship traveling east/southeast must pass through this vital choke point between Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula to enter Southeast Asian waters.
- **Java Sea:** After exiting the Malacca Strait and navigating past Singapore, the most direct commercial shipping route cuts southeast across the **Java Sea** (situated north of Java and south of Borneo) toward the deep-water straits of Indonesia.
- **Timor Sea:** Upon clearing the Indonesian archipelago (typically via the Lombok, Ombai, or Wetar Straits), the ship enters the **Timor Sea**, which directly bounds the northern coast of Australia. Darwin is located right on the shores of the Timor Sea.



- **Coral Sea:** The Coral Sea is located off the **northeastern coast** of Australia (next to the Great Barrier Reef and Queensland). Because

Darwin is located on the central-northern coast (Northern Territory) facing the Timor Sea, a ship arriving directly from India would reach Darwin long before it ever approached the northeastern waters of the Coral Sea.

2. AUKUS

Context: The AUKUS alliance between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States has completed five years and recently expanded cooperation in maritime defense and advanced technologies.

About AUKUS

- AUKUS was **launched in September 2021** as a trilateral strategic security partnership.
- It was launched amid growing geopolitical competition and security concerns in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Its objective is to strengthen defence capabilities, technological cooperation, and strategic stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Two Pillars of AUKUS

- **Pillar I:**
 - Focuses on helping Australia acquire conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs).
 - The US will supply three Virginia-class submarines to Australia, with an option for two more.
 - It will make Australia the seventh country to operate nuclear-powered submarines.
- **Pillar II:**
 - Focuses on cooperation in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, cyber capabilities, undersea technologies, and advanced weapon systems.
 - The alliance is also developing advanced uncrewed undersea vehicles (UUVs) and

underwater drone systems for maritime security.

- **Pillar 2** focuses on broader advanced military technologies (such as AI, quantum computing, hypersonics, cyber, and undersea drones) and does not involve the highly sensitive transfer of nuclear propulsion tech, its framework is open to expansion. The founding members have actively engaged in exploratory talks to cooperate with external partners like Japan, Canada, and New Zealand on specific Pillar 2 projects.

3. UN Mission in South Sudan

Context: At least 565 Indian peacekeepers, including 53 women, serving under the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were awarded the prestigious United Nations Medal of Honour.

The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS):

What It Is?

- UNMISS is an active international peacekeeping operation deployed by the United Nations. It utilizes military personnel, police officers, and civilian experts—collectively known as **Blue Helmets**—to maintain stability in South Sudan following its independence.
- **Launched In:** The mission was officially established on **July 9, 2011**, under UN Security Council Resolution 1996, coinciding with the historic birth of the Republic of South Sudan.

	List I (UN peacekeeping operations)		List II (Operational Location / Region)
A.	UNMISS	1.	South Sudan
B.	UNISFA	2.	Abeyi Area
C.	UNIFIL	3.	Southern Lebanon
D.	UNDOF	4.	Golan Heights

4. India- Nepal Border Disputes

Context: Nepal Prime Minister has said that Nepal too has encroached upon some Indian territories, in

what is considered to be the first such public statement by a Nepali head of government.

India- Nepal Border Disputes

- India and Nepal share a border of about 1,751 km, but disputes persist in certain sectors.
- **Kalapani–Lipulekh–Limpiyadhura**
Dispute: Nepal has asserted its claim based on the **Sugauli Treaty of 1816**, signed between the **East India Company** and **Guru Gajraj Mishra**.
 - Under the Treaty, the Kali River was marked as Nepal's western boundary with India.
 - Nepal claims the river originates at Limpiyadhura, which would place the Lipulekh and Kalapani regions within its territory. Conversely, India maintains that the river begins at a lower point near Kalapani, keeping the Lipulekh Pass, a strategic tri-junction between India, Nepal, and China, within its state of Uttarakhand.
 - The Kali River has changed direction over the years, causing confusion in defining the border.

	List I (Rivers)		List II (Neighbouring countries)
A.	Mechi	1.	Nepal
B.	Ichhamati	2.	Bangladesh
C.	Sankosh	3.	Bhutan
D.	Ravi	4.	Pakistan

5. Indonesia

Context: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and his Indonesian counterpart Sugiono co-chaired the 8th Indonesia–India Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi on June 7, discussing key priorities under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Indonesia:

- The archipelagic nation of Indonesia is located just to the north of Australia and off the

Southeast Asian mainland, between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

- It is placed across the Equator and hence is geographically positioned both in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres of the Earth as well as the Eastern Hemisphere.
- It cuts directly through the islands of Sumatran (specifically cities like Bonjol), Borneo (Kalimantan), Sulawesi, and Halmahera.
- It is bordered by Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste.
- It is surrounded by the Indian Ocean in the south; by the Pacific Ocean (South China Sea) in the north, and over a dozen regional seas.
- Indonesia shares its maritime borders with India, Australia, Palau, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand.



6. Tajikistan

Context: India and Tajikistan have agreed to deepen their economic partnership during the 12th Session of the India-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

About Tajikistan

- Tajikistan is a landlocked country in the heart of Central Asia.
- **Bordering countries:** It is bordered with Kyrgyzstan (North), Uzbekistan (West), China (East), and Afghanistan (South).

- It is one of the members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.
- **Political Structure:** It is governed by the President, and the legislative function is assigned to the bicameral parliament.
- **Capital City:** Dushanbe.



7. Indian Ocean Rim Association

Context: Canada's application to become an observer in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is being examined at the 28th meeting of the Committee.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association

- It is an intergovernmental organization of **23 Member States and 12 Dialogue Partners**, for regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.
- Established in **1997**.
- **Headquarters:** Ebene, Mauritius.
- **Apex Body:** Council of Ministers (COM)
- **Decision Making:** Consensus based.
- **IORA focuses on six priority areas:**
 - Maritime Safety and Security;
 - Trade and Investment Facilitation;
 - Fisheries Management;
 - Disaster Risk Management;
 - Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation;

- Tourism and Cultural Exchanges.
- **Cross-Cutting Areas:** Blue Economy and Women's Economic Empowerment.
- **Major members include India, Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, France, Iran, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, and other Indian Ocean littoral states.**
- It also has **12 Dialogue Partners** including the **United States, Japan, China, and United Kingdom.**

8. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Context: According to a new report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) developing countries could save nearly \$500 billion annually if they were able to borrow at the same interest rates as developed economies.

About United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

- It is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- It supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively.
- It provides economic and trade analysis, facilitates consensus-building and offers technical assistance to help developing countries use trade, investment, finance and technology for inclusive and sustainable development.
- It is part of the UN Secretariat.
- It reports to the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council but has its own membership, leadership, and budget.
- It is also part of the United Nations Development Group.
- **Members:** 195 nations (including India)
- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland

Reports published by UNCTAD

- Trade and Development Report
- World Investment Report

- The Least Developed Countries Report.

9. Mombasa Declaration

Context: 15 Fifteen countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific recently adopted the Mombasa Declaration to step up efforts to combat illegal fishing.

About Mombasa Declaration

- It was adopted by 15 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to step up efforts to combat illegal fishing.
- It calls on governments to improve access to information on fishing vessels, ownership, and licensing, and to strengthen data sharing to better track fishing activities and enforce regulations.
- It is named after the Kenyan city hosting the 11th Our Ocean Conference (OOC).
- Out of the more than 30 countries represented in the summit, Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, the Dominican Republic, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and South Korea signed the agreement.
- It is intended to curb illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, also known as IUU fishing, which threatens marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on fisheries.
- The declaration builds support for the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency, a set of 10 policy principles aimed at improving governance through low-cost reforms, including modernizing vessel registries and publishing fishing authorizations.

Key Facts about Our Ocean Conference (OOC)

- **Launched in 2014 by the U.S. Department of State and former Secretary of State John Kerry,** the OOC is a major international platform that unites governments, businesses, NGOs, and academic institutions to drive ocean-related action and ambition.

- **The conference focuses on six critical areas:**
 - Marine protected areas.
 - Sustainable blue economy
 - Climate change
 - Maritime security
 - Sustainable fisheries
 - Marine pollution.
- Since its inception, it has generated over 2,600 commitments valued at more than \$160 billion, making it one of the most impactful global gatherings for ocean sustainability.
- **2026 OCC: Mombasa (Kenya)** - Marking the first time the global summit was held on African soil, themed "Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future".

10. International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience

Context: Many submarine cables are concentrated along the same seabed routes, creating dangerous single points of failure.

International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience

- It was established by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** in partnership with the **International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)** in 2024.
 - This initiative aims to **strengthen the resilience of submarine cables**.
- The Advisory Body will also provide **strategic guidance** to address challenges related to **increasing traffic, aging infrastructure, and growing environmental threats** to submarine cables.
- Its objective is not to formulate structural criteria for laying cables.

International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)

- ICPC, **founded in 1958**, is a global forum for governments and commercial entities involved in the submarine cable industry.
- Its **primary mission** is to enhance the security of undersea cables by providing a platform for

exchanging technical, legal, and environmental information.

- **The International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)** is a completely independent, non-commercial, and non-profit international organization formed in 1958. It is not a subsidiary of the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

11. International Maritime Organisation

Context: Recently, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Secretary-General has announced a plan to evacuate all the ships -and the 11,000 seafarers on them - stranded in the Persian Gulf due to the war in West Asia.

About International Maritime Organisation

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations which is responsible for measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent pollution from ships.
- It is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.
- **Mandate:** Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and universally implemented.
- **Background:** It was established as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) in 1948, became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1959 and was renamed International Maritime Organization in 1982.

Governance of the organisation

- **Assembly:** It is the highest Governing Body of the IMO. It consists of all Member States, and it meets once every two years in regular sessions. The Assembly is responsible for approving the work program, voting the budget and electing the Council.
- **Council:** It is the Executive Organ of the IMO and consists of 40 elected members, is

responsible, under the Assembly, for supervising the work of the Organization.

- **Committees:** The five policy-making committees are responsible for the development, review, updating, and approval of the organization's guidelines and regulations.
- **Funding:** Funding for the organization comes from contributions by member states, as well as voluntary donations and commercial activities.
- **Members:** It currently has 176 Member States. (India has been a member since 1959)
- **Headquarters:** London.



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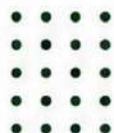
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2	CA May 2026	05.07.2026
3	CA June 2026	26.07.2026
4	CA July 2026	16.08.2026
5	CA August 2026	13.09.2026
6	CA September 2026	11.10.2026
7	CA October 2026	15.11.2026
8	CA November 2026	13.12.2026
9	CA December 2026	10.01.2027
10	CA January 2027	14.02.2027
11	CA February 2027	14.03.2027
12	CA March 2027	11.04.2027
13	CA April 2027	09.05.2027

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ENVIRONMENT

1. Banni Grassland

Context: The proposed solar project by NTPC Renewable Energy Limited in Gujarat's Banni grasslands has raised concerns over its impact on local communities, biodiversity, and wetlands.

About Banni Grassland

- The Banni grasslands in Kachchh are among Asia's largest natural grasslands and support pastoral communities such as the Fakirani Jat.
- The region contains over 70 species of nutritious grasses and supports grazing of camels, buffaloes, sheep, and goats.
- Nearby Chhari Dhand Wetland Conservation Reserve is a Ramsar site important for migratory birds and local biodiversity.

Note: The Kharai camel is a specialized coastal/marine breed that relies heavily on mangroves and saltwater creeks. Its primary habitat is the coastal belt and mangrove islands (bets) of Kutch. The dominant livestock breed associated specifically with the interior Banni Grasslands is the Kutchi camel (along with the famous Banni buffalo and Kankrej cattle).

2. Giant Malabar Squirrel

Context: Arare Giant Malabar Squirrel has been recently spotted in the Devpur forest area of Chhattisgarh's Barnawapara forest.

About Giant Malabar Squirrel

- The Malabar Giant Squirrel, also known as the Indian Giant Squirrel, is a large multicoloured tree squirrel species endemic to India.
- It is one of the largest squirrels in the world.
- Scientific Name: *Ratufa indica*.

Giant Malabar Squirrel Habitat and Distribution

- It is found primarily in the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, and Satpura Range.
- It is found in areas with elevation ranging from 180 to 2,300 metres in tropical deciduous, semi-deciduous, and wet evergreen forests and woodlands.
- It is arboreal and spends most of its time in the upper canopy, leaping from tree to tree with incredible agility, jumping up to 6 metre length.
- It makes its shelter within holes in trees.
- It is Maharashtra's state animal and locally known as Shekru.

Giant Malabar Squirrel Features

- Total body length varies from 254 to 457 mm. The tail is typically longer than the length of its body.
- It exhibits 2-3 types of color patterns with shades of black, brown, and deep red.
- The body varies from deep red to brown with white patches on the belly as well as dirty white or cream-colored under-parts and forelimbs.
- It has pink lips and a nose. The eyes are colored in bright dark or light brown.
- The powerful and long tail is light brown with a creamy white tip.
- They have short, round ears, a broadened hand with an expanded inner paw for gripping, and large, powerful claws used for gripping tree bark and branches.
- They are typically solitary animals, being seen only rarely in pairs during the breeding season.
- Instead of running, it frequently freezes or flattens itself against the tree stem when threatened.

Giant Malabar Squirrel Conservation Status

- It is classified as 'Least Concern' under the IUCN Red List.

3. Mesalina bishnoi

Context: A new species of lizard, *Mesalina Bishnoi*, has been recently discovered in Rajasthan.

About *Mesalina bishnoi*

- It is a new species of lizard.
- It has been discovered near Gajner in Bikaner district, Rajasthan.
- The species was found in an arid landscape consisting of hard, rocky soil with sparse desert vegetation.
- It marks the first confirmed record of the genus *Mesalina* in India.
- The genus *Mesalina* comprises small, fast-moving, diurnal lizards adapted to arid and semi-arid landscapes.
- Although a historical reference by British zoologist Malcolm A Smith in 1935 mentioned the presence of *Mesalina watsonana* in Jaisalmer, no specimen-based evidence existed to confirm the genus's occurrence in India.
- *Mesalina bishnoi* is named in recognition of the Bishnoi community's enduring commitment to wildlife and nature conservation.
- The lizard is a small-bodied species with a snout-vent length of 39.2 mm.
- It displays a greyish to olive-brown colouration, marked by a pair of dorsolateral stripes extending from the neck towards the tail.
- Distinctive black markings occur behind the eyes, while the body bears irregular dark blotches interspersed with white spots, giving it a mottled appearance.
- The underside is pale grey to offwhite.
- At present, *Mesalina bishnoi* is known only from its type locality in the Bikaner district and is considered endemic to the Thar biogeographic province.

4. Biomimicry

Context: Biomimicry is shifting business innovation from mere replication to nature-inspired breakthroughs, offering sustainable frameworks across industries.

About

- Biomimicry involves learning from and replicating nature's billions of years of evolutionary ingenuity to design sustainable, efficient human solutions. Rather than exploiting nature, it positions nature as mentor and model.
- Its applications are transformative like Japan's Shinkansen bullet train, redesigned after the kingfisher's streamlined beak, eliminating disruptive tunnel pressure waves while enhancing speed and energy efficiency.
- As India advances its green transition, integrating biomimicry into manufacturing, urban design, and agriculture can drive innovation that is inherently circular, resource-efficient, and ecologically harmonious.

5. India's 100th Ramsar Site

Context: Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, has been designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site.

About

- Established in 1991, the sanctuary is centred around **Surha Tal**, a natural perennial oxbow lake formed by the shifting course of the **Ganga River**.
- It is located in the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**, near the confluence of the **Ganga and Ghaghara** rivers.
- It hosts several migratory birds from **Siberia and Central Asia**, including the **Grey lag Goose, Pintail, Common Teal, and Bar-headed Goose**.
- Local species include **Sarus crane, Heron, and Cormorant**.

	List I (Ramsar Sites)		List II (States)
A.	Khichan Bird Sanctuary	1.	Rajasthan
B.	Udaipur Jheel	2.	Bihar
C.	Chhari-Dhand Wetland	3.	Gujarat
D.	Surha Tal	4.	Uttar Pradesh

6. Nilgiri Tahr

Context: According to the third synchronised population survey the population of the endangered Nilgiri Tahr, has increased to an estimated 1,364.

About Nilgiri Tahr

- It is a mountain ungulate endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.
- It is also known by the name Nilgiri Ibex or simply Ibex. Locally the animal is called 'Varayaadu'.
- It is the only mountain ungulate in southern India.
- Habitat: It inhabits the open montane grassland habitat of the southwestern ghats montane rain forests Eco region.
- At elevations ranging from 1200 to 2600 m, the jungle opens into grasslands interspersed with pockets of stunted forests, known as 'sholas.'
- Distribution: It is found in a roughly 400 km stretch in the Western Ghats, which falls in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- The Eravikulam National Park (Kerala) has the highest density and largest surviving population of Nilgiri tahr.

7. Tapanuli Orangutan

Context: A recent cyclone in Sumatra killed approximately 58 Tapanuli orangutans, representing about 7% of the critically endangered species.

About Tapanuli Orangutan

- It is a species of orangutan found in the island of Sumatra in Indonesia.
- It is one of three known species of orangutan, alongside the Sumatran orangutan, found farther northwest on the island, and the Bornean orangutan.
- It was described as a distinct species in 2017.
- Appearance: These species resemble Sumatran orangutans more than Bornean orangutans in body build and fur color.

- Distribution: It lives in tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests that are located south of Lake Toba in Sumatra.
- Habitat: These are exclusively arboreal and spend most of their time high up in the trees.
- Conservation Status: IUCN: Critically endangered.

Characteristics of Tapanuli Orangutan

- They lead a solitary life and can be seen in pairs only when a mother is raising her young.
- Communication: Orangutans communicate with various sounds.
- Both sexes will try to intimidate conspecifics with a series of low guttural noises known collectively as the "rolling call".
- Diet: They are omnivores.
- Reproduction: Tapanuli orangutans are one of the most slowly-maturing animals in the world.

8. Great Indian Bustard

Context: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced that Project Great Indian Bustard (GIB) has successfully added three more chicks to its conservation breeding program.

The Great Indian Bustard:

What It Is?

- The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is a large, terrestrial bird native to the Indian subcontinent. It is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world and serves as an flagship indicator species for the health of grassland ecosystems.

Habitat and Distribution:

- **Primary Stronghold:** The vast majority of the surviving wild population is restricted to the state of Rajasthan, particularly within the Desert National Park near Jaisalmer.
- **Fragmented Pockets:** Smaller, highly fragmented populations persist in dry grasslands and scrub forest biomes across

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

- **Preferred Ecosystem:** It favors wide, open, semi-arid grasslands, uncultivated agro-pastoral landscapes, and low scrub plains with minimal human disturbance. It avoids dense forests and intensively irrigated agricultural lands.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Classified as **Critically Endangered**.
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (India):** Listed under **Schedule I**, granting it the highest level of legal protection against hunting and exploitation.
- **CITES:** Listed under **Appendix I**, prohibiting international commercial trade.

Key Characteristics:

- **Impressive Stature:** Stands nearly one meter tall with a horizontal body structure, long bare legs, and an ostrich-like appearance. Adult males can weigh up to 15–18 kg.
- **Distinct Plumage:** Features a prominent black crown on the head, a pale neck, and a brownish body accented by a black breast band that becomes more distinct in males during the breeding season.
- **Opportunistic Omnivore:** Feeds on a varied diet consisting of insects (like beetles and grasshoppers), rodents, small lizards, snakes, grass seeds, and ground-growing agricultural crops.
- **Low Reproductive Rate:** Females typically lay only a single egg per year directly on the open ground. This lack of arboreal nesting makes their eggs highly vulnerable to predators like foxes, feral dogs, and crows.
- **Poor Frontal Vision:** Due to limited forward line-of-sight, the birds are highly susceptible to colliding with high-voltage overhead power lines running through their grassland habitats—currently the leading cause of their mortality.

9. Joint Crediting Mechanism

Context: The governments of India and Japan officially adopted the 'Rules of Implementation' for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). This operational milestone activates a bilateral carbon market framework under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.

The Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM): What It Is?

- The Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) is a formal bilateral carbon crediting system established by Japan with various partner nations.
- It encourages international cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by deploying advanced decarbonizing technologies, infrastructure, and mitigation systems in developing or transitioning economies.

Legal Mandate: The JCM is governed internationally by **Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which regulates cooperative approaches and the transfer of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs).

10. Knob-Billed Duck

Context: A rare knob-billed duck - a species usually associated with the wetlands of Central India, particularly Rajasthan and Gujarat - has been recently recorded for the first time at Pong Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.

About Knob-Billed Duck

- The knob-billed duck, or African comb duck, is a species of duck named for the prominent, leaf-shaped comb on top of the male's bill.
- Scientific Name: *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Knob-Billed Duck Habitat and Distribution

- It is found in tropical wetlands in Sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar, and the Indian

subcontinent from northern India to Laos and extreme southern China.

- It still breeds in freshwater swamps and lakes in the tropics. It is largely resident, apart from dispersion in the wet season.

Knob-Billed Duck Features

- It is one of the largest species of duck. Length can range from 56 to 76 cm, wingspan ranges from 116 to 145 cm and weight from 1.03 to 2.9 kg.
- Adults have a white head freckled with dark spots and a pure white neck and underparts.
- The upperparts are glossy blue-black upperparts, with bluish and greenish iridescence especially prominent on the secondaries (lower arm feathers).
- **The male is much larger than the female.**
- Young birds are dull buff below and, on the face, and neck, with dull brown upperparts, top of the head, and eyestripe.

Knob-Billed Duck Conservation Status

- It is classified as 'Least Concern' under the IUCN Red List.

11. Turquoise Nexus Initiative

Context: Turkey's Presidency of 2026 UNFCCC COP31 and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have introduced the Turquoise Nexus Initiative (TNI).

About Turquoise Nexus Initiative

- It is aimed at integrating food security, water management and climate adaptation into national climate plans.
- It is unveiled by Turkey's upcoming COP31 Presidency and Food and Agriculture Organization.
- It will help developing countries align NDCs and Paris Agreement efforts with farmer-inclusive strategies and improved climate finance.
- It is a proposed programme under FAO's multistakeholder Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership

which was launched by the COP27 Presidency in 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Key Facts about FAST Partnership

- The FAST Partnership is a multi-stakeholder partnership that aims to catalyze and accelerate the transformation of agriculture and food systems by 2030 for people, climate, and nature.
- FAST is the most consistent COP-to-COP mechanism for agrifood systems.
- The three pillars of FAST are
 - Access to finance: enhance country capacities to identify and access climate finance and investment.
 - Knowledge and capacity: develop analyses and voluntary guidelines, support capacity development across stakeholders.
 - Policy support and dialogue: ensure agrifood systems are fully embedded and prioritized in climate change policies.

12. Bharat Climate Observation Network

Context: Recently, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Science Nainital have signed a long-term Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a climate observation station in the Himalayan region under the Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON).

About Bharat Climate Observation Network

- It is a national observational initiative conceptualized and implemented by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India.
- Objective: It is to develop a long-term, high-precision climate monitoring framework across the country.

Functions

- **Monitor Meteorological Parameters:** BCON will monitor meteorological parameters, climate-active trace gases (greenhouse gases and short-

lived climate forcers), atmospheric chemistry and soil moisture observations.

- National Database: BCON will develop a robust national database that supports the detection of long-term trends, advances climate change research, and strengthens India's capacity for climate assessment and evidence-based policy development.

Significance of Bharat Climate Observation Network Data

- The high accuracy datasets produced through BCON will also provide the critical validation and benchmarking required for Earth System Models, including India's first ESM, the IITM ESM.
- It enables more accurate simulations of the Indian climate change and enhances future climate projections.

13. Golden Langur

Context: A Bangladesh national was among nine wildlife traffickers arrested in western Assam's Chirang district around midnight on June 19. The Assam Police's Special Task Force (STF) arrested the nine with assistance from the Chirang police. Eight golden langurs were recovered from their possession, and one of them was found dead.

About Golden Langur

- It is an Old-World monkey which is also known as Gee's golden langur.
- It can be most easily recognized by the color of their fur, after which they are named.
- Distribution
- **It is found only in a narrow geographic corridor comprising western Assam and the foothills of southern Bhutan.**
- The area they inhabit is restricted to the region surrounded by four geographical landmarks: the foothills of Bhutan (north), Manas river (east), Sankosh river (west), and Brahmaputra river (south).

Habitat

- They occupy moist evergreen and tropical deciduous forests as well as some riverine areas and savannas in Assam and Bhutan.
- They are very much dependent on trees, living in the upper canopy of sub-tropical forests in the south and in more temperate forests in the north.
- They may be found at elevations close to sea level in the south and up to 3000 m at the foothills of Bhutan in the north.

Characteristics

- **It has been noted that their fur changes colors according to the seasons.**
- The color of the young also differs from adults in that they are almost pure white.
- These are arboreal and diurnal creatures.

Conservation status

- **IUCN: Endangered.**
- CITES: Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

14. Biochar

Context: Biochar is emerging as a sustainable solution to convert agricultural waste into a valuable resource for improving soil health and mitigating climate change.

What is Biochar?

- **Biochar** is a charcoal-like substance that's made by burning organic material from agricultural and forestry wastes (also called biomass) in a controlled process called **pyrolysis**.
- Unlike ordinary organic matter, biochar decomposes very slowly and can remain in the soil for hundreds of years.
- It is highly porous, enabling it to store water, nutrients, and beneficial microorganisms.

Benefits of Biochar

- **Lowering soil acidity:** Due to its highly alkaline pH and porous physical structure, biochar acts

like agricultural lime when added to soils. It reduces soil acidity (raises pH), which is incredibly beneficial for acidic tropical soils.

- **Reducing methane emissions:** Recent agronomic trials show that incorporating low concentrations (around 1–2%) of high-quality biochar into cattle feed improves animal digestion and gut health. This structural absorption changes fermentation dynamics in the rumen, consistently lowering enteric methane (CH₄) emissions.
- **Carbon less construction:** Beyond farming, biochar is increasingly used as a structural additive in construction materials like asphalt, concrete, and plaster. Since biochar is highly stable, embedding it into permanent infrastructure effectively locks away atmospheric carbon for centuries, turning buildings into carbon sinks.

Note: Biochar naturally carries a strong **negative surface charge**. Because of this, it is highly effective at attracting and binding cations (positively charged ions like ammonium NH₄⁺ or heavy metals).

15. Ecologically Sensitive Areas

Context: The Western Ghats may soon receive stronger legal protection in at least three states through the notification of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs). Once notified, these areas will face stricter curbs on mining, polluting industries, and large construction projects.

What are Ecologically Sensitive Areas?

- ESAs are designated regions identified for **special environmental protection** because of their rich **biodiversity, fragile ecosystems or critical ecological functions**.
- They are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The Supreme Court in 2022, directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary should have a mandatory eco-

sensitive zone of at least **one kilometre** from its demarcated boundary.

- **Restrictions:** Certain activities are prohibited, some are tightly regulated, while others are encouraged to ensure development does not come at the cost of ecological damage.
 - **Getting an ESA status also means that any development project in the area will be subject to stricter environmental scrutiny.**

16. Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Context: India's Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has mobilized more than Rs 266 crore since 2008, with around ₹145 crore disbursed to beneficiaries.

What is Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)?

- ABS refers to the framework through which benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge are **shared fairly and equitably with the communities** that have conserved these resources.
- It is a principle under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- India operationalizes ABS through the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, and its recent amendment the **Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023**.

Significance

- India's ABS framework is advancing the objectives of the **Nagoya Protocol**, supporting the **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024-2030**, and contributing to the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, particularly Target 13 on fair and equitable benefit sharing.

17. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

Context: A captive-bred Indian vulture released in Maharashtra's Melghat in January this year has covered an astonishing 3,334 km, soaring across

states before reaching the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.

About Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

- It is located in the Sawai Madhopur district of southeastern Rajasthan.
- It derives its name from the Ranthambore Fort (a World Heritage Site) situated within its precincts.
- It is located at the junction (great boundary fault) of the Aravalis and Vindhyan ranges.
- The area was once a royal hunting ground for the Maharajas of Jaipur.
- It is one of the largest tiger reserves in northern India. It spans an area of roughly 1,411 sq.km.
- It boasts a spectacular landscape filled with boulder-strewn highland plateaus, lakes, and rivers dotted with old forts and abandoned mosques.
- Rivers: It is bounded to the north by the Banas River and to the south by the Chambal River.
- There are several lakes in the park known as Padam Talab, Raj Bagh Talab, and Malik Talab.
- **Vegetation:** It is dry deciduous forests and open grassy meadow.
- **Flora:** Pure sands of Dhok tree (*Anogeissus pendula*) interspersed with grasslands at the plateaus, and other species like *Acacia*, *Capparis*, *Zizyphus*, *Prosopis*, etc are found here.
- **Fauna:**
 - It consists of leopard, caracal, jungle cat, sambar, chital, chinkara, and wild boar.
 - Peacocks, partridges, green pigeons, parakeets, sparrows, prinias, warblers, etc. are examples of avifauna.

18. Chital

Context: A chital was allegedly hunted inside the core area of Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, and forest officials arrested two villagers, seizing suspected animal meat, bows, arrows, and animal traps recently.

About Chital

- Chital, also known as spotted deer or axis deer, is a medium-sized deer species native to the Indian subcontinent.
- Scientific Name: *Axis axis*

Chital Habitat and Distribution

- **The Chital is found in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.**
- It lives in grasslands and forests in herds.

Chital Features

- It stands at about 35 inches tall and weighs about 187 pounds.
- The body color is reddish with white on the belly, inner legs, and underneath their short tail.
- The males tend to be darker and to have black facial markings.
- Both the genders have small white spots on the body, hence named Spotted or Chital.
- **Spotted deer are sexually dimorphic. Males are significantly larger than females, and only male deers possess antlers.**
- Its curved, three-pronged antlers extend nearly 3 feet and shed each year.
- Lifespan: 20 to 30 years
- They are social animals. They occur in herds of 10 to 50 individuals, with one or two males and a number of females and young.

Chital Conservation Status

- **It is classified as 'Least Concern' under the IUCN Red List.**

19. Bandipur and Nagarhole Tiger Reserves

Context: The Karnataka Government announced the full restoration of the jungle safari (park excursion) at the Bandipur and Nagarhole Tiger Reserves, suspended since November 2025 in the wake of human-tiger conflict in the region.

Bandipur and Nagarhole Tiger Reserves

- **Location:** Both tiger reserves are located in **Karnataka** and form part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**, India's first Biosphere Reserve.



Note: Both **Ramgarh Vishdhari** (notified in 2022 as India's 52nd Tiger Reserve) and **Dholpur-Karauli** (notified in 2023 as India's 54th Tiger Reserve) are located in the state of **Rajasthan**. Along with Ranthambore, Sariska, and Mukundara Hills, they bring Rajasthan's total count to five tiger reserves.



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Blue Micromoon

Context: An unusual astronomical event known as a **Blue Micromoon** became visible in the night sky. According to NASA, this specific full moon was the farthest, smallest, and dimmest of the year, marking a dual phenomenon that will not repeat until the year 2053.

Blue Micromoon:

What It Is?

- A Blue Micromoon is the simultaneous occurrence of two distinct lunar phenomena: a **Blue Moon** (the second full moon within a single calendar month) and a **Micromoon** (a full moon that coincides with apogee, the farthest point in the moon's orbit around Earth).

How It Forms?

The phenomenon is a result of orbital mechanics and calendar alignment:

- The Micromoon Mechanics:** The moon orbits Earth in an elliptical (elongated) path over a 27.3 day cycle. The point farthest from Earth is called **apogee** (approx 403,945 km). When the moon's fully illuminated phase (Full Moon) aligns within a short time window of reaching apogee, it appears physically smaller and dimmer to observers on Earth.
- The Blue Moon Calendar Inversion:** The standard lunar cycle from new moon to new moon takes 29.5 days. Because a standard calendar month lasts 30 or 31 days, a full moon appearing on the 1st or 2nd of a month occasionally allows a second full moon to squeeze into the same month on the 30th or 31st.

2. Fireball meteor

Context: NASA has confirmed that a bright fireball meteor exploded in the sky releasing the equivalent

energy of about 300 tons of TNT and generating a sonic boom heard across the U.S.

About

- A **fireball** is another term for a **very bright meteor**, generally brighter than **magnitude -4**, which is about the same magnitude of the **planet Venus** in the morning or evening sky.
- A **bolide** is a special type of fireball which explodes in a bright terminal flash at its end, often with visible fragmentation.
- Several thousand meteors** of fireball magnitude occur in the Earth's atmosphere each day.
 - The vast majority of these, however, occur over the oceans and uninhabited regions.

Meteors, Meteoroids, Meteorites

- A **meteoroid** is a small rock or particle traveling through space, usually a piece of a comet or asteroid.
- A **meteor** refers to the streak of light in the sky that appears when a meteoroid enters Earth's atmosphere and disintegrates.
- A **meteor shower** occurs when meteoroids that have a common origin (like debris from a comet) and very similar orbits enter the atmosphere.
- A **meteorite** is a piece of space rock that survives the trip through the atmosphere and lands on the ground.

3. India's First Flex-Fuel Passenger Vehicle

Context: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas launched India's first flex-fuel passenger vehicle, developed by Maruti Suzuki, in New Delhi.

India's First Flex-Fuel Passenger Vehicle:

What It Is?

- A Flex-Fuel Vehicle (FFV) is an advanced transport solution equipped with an internal combustion engine configured to run seamlessly on a wide range of fuel combinations.

- Unlike traditional petrol engines that tolerate only low-level updates, these vehicles can adapt dynamically to varying mixtures of petrol and ethanol, ranging from E20 (20% ethanol, 80% petrol) all the way up to E100 (100% pure ethanol).

Key Features of the Ecosystem and Vehicle:

- Comprehensive Blend Compatibility:** Engineered to operate reliably on any petrol-ethanol blend from E20 up to E100, providing flexible fueling options based on local availability.
- Mono-Fuel Standardization:** NITI Aayog and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) have officially identified **E85 as the mono-fuel standard specification** for certified Flex-Fuel Vehicles.
- Zero-Emission Classification:** NITI Aayog officially classifies ethanol-based FFVs, including those running on high-blend E85, as **Zero-Emission Vehicles** due to their minimal environmental footprint.
- Phased Infrastructure Rollout:** The government's roadmap plans an initial launch of 50–100 FFV-ready retail stations in the Delhi-NCR and Mumbai–Pune–Nagpur corridors. This network is set to expand to nearly 500 outlets by December 2026 and roughly 5,000 across major cities by the end of 2027.
- Comprehensive Fiscal and Policy Incentives:** Backed by supportive state frameworks, including pricing support, road tax concessions, the availability of E85 testing fuels, and special visual identifiers for compliant vehicles and pumps.
- Diversified Indigenous Feedstock Sources:** Utilizes ethanol produced entirely within India from a variety of raw materials, including broken grains, agricultural waste, bamboo, and seaweed.

4. Isobutanol

Context: As India expands its biofuel strategy beyond ethanol, the government is evaluating the

use of diesel blended with up to 15% isobutanol to reduce dependence on crude oil imports.

About

- Isobutanol** is an alcohol-based biofuel that can be blended with diesel as an alternative fuel.
- It has a **higher energy content** and combustion characteristics closer to conventional hydrocarbon fuels, resulting in better fuel efficiency and a smaller impact on vehicle mileage than ethanol.
- It absorbs less moisture from the atmosphere, reducing storage and fuel-system challenges.
- It is less corrosive to fuel-system components, pipelines, and storage infrastructure.
- It can be used with relatively fewer modifications to existing engines and fuel distribution networks.

5. Sun's supergranulation

Context: Researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have used over 100 years of observations from the Kodaikanal solar observatory to investigate how large cellular structures known as **supergranulations** behave during different phases of the solar cycle.

What is the Sun's supergranulation?

- The Sun's supergranulation refers to a physical pattern covering the surface of the quiet Sun with a typical horizontal scale of approximately 30,000 km and a lifetime of around 1.8 d.
- Supergranulation was discovered by Hart (1954) using Doppler images of the Sun.

The Mechanism:

- While normal granulation is driven by regular thermal convection at the very top of the convective zone, supergranulation is widely understood to be triggered at deeper levels. It is primarily driven by the **recombination of ionized hydrogen and helium** just below the photosphere.
- As these elements move outward and cool, they recombine, absorbing or releasing vast amounts

of energy, which significantly alters local opacity and drives these massive, deeper-seated convective structures.

6. Stroop task

Context: Researchers used the Stroop task, asking AI models to name the ink colour of words while ignoring the text, like 'BLUE' written in red. While the models did well on short word lists, the models' executive controls nosedived as the lists got longer, unlike humans. The results suggest current AI models will need additional controls to achieve general intelligence.

About Stroop task:

- The core utility of the Stroop Task in clinical and research settings is to measure **executive functions**—specifically **selective attention** (focusing on the ink color while ignoring the word text) and **cognitive inhibition** (suppressing the automatic impulse to read the text).
- Neuroimaging shows that resolving this conflict heavily activates the **Anterior Cingulate Cortex (ACC)** and the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex.
- It is routinely used to detect executive dysfunction in conditions like ADHD, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), schizophrenia, and early-stage dementia.

7. Pyroprocessing

Context: Pyroprocessing has been the subject of study in Japan, South Korea, and the United States and is being explored as part of advanced fast reactor programmes.

What is pyroprocessing?

- Pyroprocessing is a high-temperature process used to bring about physical or chemical changes in materials.
- It is a dry and energy-intensive process widely used in industries such as cement manufacturing, metallurgy, and nuclear energy.

- In nuclear engineering, **pyroprocessing (pyrochemical processing)** is a cutting-edge, proliferation-resistant method used to recycle spent nuclear fuel. It uses high-temperature molten salts and electrorefining to separate actinides and fissile elements, which can then be reused in Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs).
- In the construction and manufacturing sector, the massive rotary kilns used in cement plants run on pyroprocessing. It involves preheating, calcination (driving off CO₂ from limestone), and sintering materials to create cement clinker.
- Thermal breakdown of organic waste to create hydrogen or syngas is classified under gasification or pyrolysis. Pyroprocessing specifically refers to the thermal treatment of inorganic materials (like minerals, ores, or nuclear salts) where melting, calcination, or roasting occurs, rather than organic gasification.
- In metallurgy, pyroprocessing is the standard method for roasting, smelting, and converting sulfide or oxide ores (such as iron, copper, or nickel) to extract pure metals from raw geological material.

8. Chemical Similarity

Context: Data from Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover has revealed that the soil at Shiv Shakti Point near the Moon's South Pole is chemically very similar to a lunar meteorite (ALHA 81005) discovered in Antarctica. The findings are based on observations made by the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) onboard the rover.

Significance of the Chemical Similarity

- The composition differs from conventional lunar highland rocks dominated by **ferroan anorthosite**.
- The soil shows a mixture of:
 - **Ferroan anorthosite materials.**
 - **Magnesium-rich (Mg-suite) rocks.**
- This suggests that **materials from deeper layers of the Moon** have mixed with the surface regolith.

Validation of the Lunar Magma Ocean Theory

- The findings provide fresh evidence for the **Lunar Magma Ocean Theory**, which states that:
 - The early Moon was covered by a **global ocean of molten rock**.
 - As it cooled, lighter minerals floated upward to form the crust, while **denser iron- and magnesium-rich minerals sank deeper**.
 - Detection of deep-seated iron and magnesium-bearing materials at the surface supports this model of lunar evolution.

9. Shigellosis

Context: Kerala has reported 85 confirmed cases and over 70 probable cases of shigellosis (bacillary dysentery) till June 2026.

What is Shigellosis?

- Shigellosis is a **highly contagious bacterial infection** caused by bacteria of the genus *Shigella*.
 - It primarily **affects the intestines** and causes bacillary dysentery, characterized by severe diarrhoea.
- **Symptoms:** Fever, diarrhoea (often with blood or mucus), vomiting and nausea, abdominal cramps etc.
- **Transmission:** Consumption of contaminated food and water, person-to-person contact through the fecal-oral route.

10. Project Kusha

Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has described the indigenous Project Kusha air defence system as a potential game changer for India's security architecture.

What is Project Kusha?

- **Project Kusha** is a long-range indigenous **surface-to-air missile (SAM)** system being developed by **DRDO** to provide layered air defence against a range of aerial threats.

- The system is designed to rival advanced platforms such as **Russia's S-400 Triumf** and will feature three interceptor variants:
 - **M1 interceptor with a range of around 150 km**
 - **M2 interceptor with a range of around 250 km**
 - **M3 interceptor with a range of 350-400 km.**
- The system is intended to counter fighter aircraft, including stealth platforms, drones, cruise missiles, precision-guided munitions and certain ballistic missile threats.
- The project is also linked to the broader "**Mission Sudarshan Chakra**", an initiative aimed at building a multi-layered air and missile defence shield for India by **2035**.
- **Development Status**
 - The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** granted **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** in 2023 for the procurement of five squadrons for the Indian Air Force.
 - Operational deployment is expected between **2028 and 2030**.

11. Varya

Context: The IndiaAI Mission has supported the launch of Varya, an indigenous AI-powered video generation model developed by Avataar.

What is Varya?

- Varya is a **distilled video generation model** that converts text prompts and images into videos.
 - Model Distillation is a machine-learning technique in which a **smaller AI model** is trained using the outputs of a **larger AI model** so that it can achieve similar performance with lower computational cost, faster processing, and reduced energy consumption.
- It is designed to generate culturally relevant visual content reflecting India's regions, festivals, traditions, clothing, food, and everyday life.

- The platform follows the workflow, **from Idea to Video to Story**, allowing users to create and extend visual narratives through simple prompts.
- Key Features:**
 - Reduces video generation steps from **50 to 4**, significantly improving efficiency.
 - Generates videos at an estimated cost of ₹0.48 per second, and claims to be up to **10 times more cost-efficient** than several leading global video-generation models.

12. Paraquat

Context: Telangana recently banned paraquat, one of the world's most widely used and highly toxic weedicides, becoming only the third State in India to do so.

About Paraquat

- Paraquat, or paraquat dichloride, is a toxic chemical that is used worldwide as an herbicide (plant killer), usually for weed and grass control.
- Paraquat's origins date back to the 1880s, when it was first developed as a chemical dye. Its herbicidal properties were discovered in the 1950s.
- It is a synthetic (human-made) herbicide.
- It is also used as a desiccant, which dries out the crop before harvest. Paraquat is sometimes used as a plant growth regulator.
- It may induce or delay flowering. It has no residual activity in soil.

13. Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory

Context: The Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) collaboration in China recently published its first results, including measurements on how often particles called neutrinos from nuclear reactors change their flavour, or type, as they travel.

	Name of observatories	Locations
1.	Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO)	Japan
2.	Baksan Neutrino Observatory (BNO)	Russia
3.	Fermilab Neutrino Facilities	USA
4.	Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory (SUPL)	Australia

14. Drop Shipping

Context: The rise of AI-driven storefront creation and social media video trends has rapidly expanded the global footprint of drop shipping.

Drop Shipping:

What It Is?

- Drop shipping is an e-commerce retail fulfillment business practice where an online individual, creator, or marketing agent sells products to consumers without keeping any physical inventory in stock. Instead, the drop shipper inserts themselves directly into the commercial transaction as an entrepreneurial middleman, offloading the physical storage, packaging, and logistics management to a third-party manufacturer, wholesaler, or fulfillment hub.

How It Works?

- Storefront Setup & Hype Building:** A drop shipper sets up a user-friendly, sleek digital storefront using platforms like Shopify, Instagram Professional accounts, or specialized web domains—frequently using generative AI to produce realistic product imagery and descriptions.
- Customer Order Placement:** A shopper pauses on an ad or social media post and purchases a trending item, paying the full listed retail price directly to the middleman.
- Order Forwarding:** The drop shipper takes the customer's order and shipping details and forwards them to a third-party domestic or international wholesaler or manufacturer.

- **Direct Fulfillment:** The drop shipper pays the wholesale cost of the item to the supplier using the customer's funds. The supplier then packages and ships the product directly to the end consumer, bypassing the middleman completely.
- **Profit Retention:** The drop shipper pockets the net financial margin between the retail price charged to the consumer and the wholesale cost paid to the supplier, minus any digital advertising expenses.

Key Features of Drop Shipping:

- **Zero Physical Inventory Overhead:** Sellers do not purchase or store products beforehand, eliminating warehouse costs and reducing startup capital requirements.
- **Geographical and Regulatory Shielding:** Sellers can access global markets while suppliers handle logistics, customs procedures, and bulk procurement complexities.
- **AI-Native Automation:** AI tools automate trend analysis, customer support, inventory monitoring, and marketing operations, improving efficiency.
- **Loss of Supply Chain Transparency:** Customers often cannot identify the actual manufacturer, making product origin and authenticity difficult to verify.
- **Fragmented Customer Support:** Some sellers provide support services, but unreliable stores may disappear, leaving customers without refund options.

15. BGP Hijacking

Context: Following the Indian government's temporary block on Telegram, the platform's founder and CEO Pavel Durov claimed that the app's global access was being compromised via BGP hijacking.

BGP Hijacking:

What It Is?

- Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) hijacking is an advanced cyber-tactical event in which internet

traffic is maliciously or accidentally misdirected. This happens when a network operator falsely advertises IP address space that it does not own, confusing the internet's global routing directory.

How It Works?

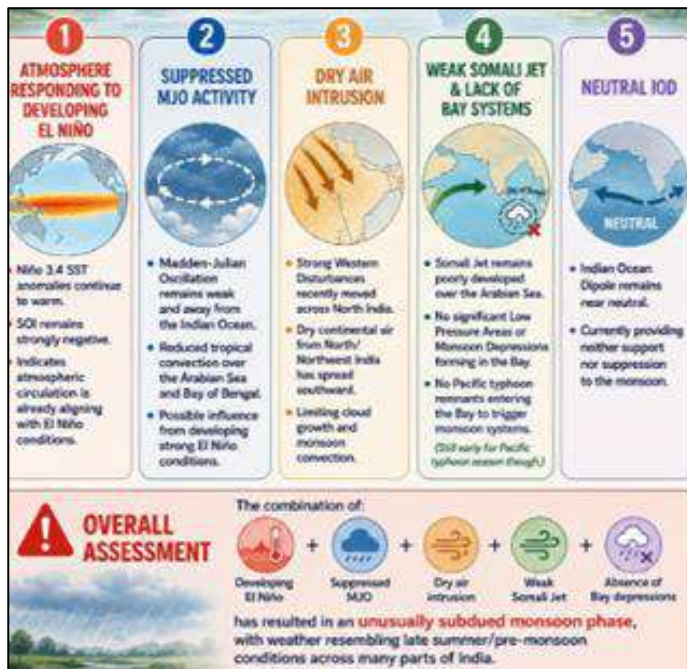
- **The Internet's Post Office:** The global internet is partitioned into thousands of massive, independent network blocks called **Autonomous Systems (AS)** run by telecom operators, ISPs, and cloud providers. Each AS uses BGP to announce which IP addresses it can reach.
- **The Trust Variable:** The core infrastructure of the internet relies on implicit trust; networks generally accept these BGP routing paths as accurate reflections of the best map routes.
- **The False Advertisement:** During a hijack, a rogue or misconfigured Autonomous System broadcasts a fraudulent routing announcement claiming it has the shortest, most efficient path to a target service's IP addresses.
- **Traffic Diversion:** Upstream transit networks accept this false map entry, updating the global routing table. Consequently, traffic meant for the legitimate service is pulled away and channelled into the rogue network instead.

16. Monsoon suppressing factors

Context: India's southwest monsoon may remain weak or stalled for a week, with five rain-suppressing factors active at the same time.

About

- India recorded a **38% countrywide rainfall deficit** between June 1 and June 17, with **central India facing the highest deficit at 62%.**
- **Five rain-suppressing factors are:** Developing El Niño conditions, weak Madden-Julian Oscillation activity, dry westerly winds, a weak Somali Jet and neutral Indian Ocean Dipole conditions.



Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)

- The MJO is a moving system of **winds, clouds, and pressure** that brings rain as it circles around the equator. It was discovered in **1971** by **Roland Madden and Paul Julian**.
- The system travels eastward at **4–8 m/s** and circles the globe typically every 30–60 days, though it can take up to **90 days**.
- As it moves, strong MJO activity often **splits the planet into two parts** — one in which the MJO is in **active phase** and brings rainfall, and the other in which it suppresses rainfall.
 - During an active MJO phase, regions within its influence experience above-average rainfall, often due to increased **cloud formation, convection, and cyclonic activity**.
 - A **weak monsoon** is associated with the MJO remaining away from the Indian Ocean.

17. Exercise KHAAN QUEST

Context: The Exercise KHAAN QUEST is going to be conducted from 20 June to 3 July at the Five Hills Training Area in Ulaanbaatar.

About Exercise Khaan Quest

- It is an annual, multinational joint military exercise.

- It is hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces and co-sponsored by the U.S. Pacific Command.
- It aims to enhance interoperability and cooperation among participating militaries in peace support operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- It will enable the participating countries to share their best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for the conduct of joint operations.

Background:

- The exercise first started as a bilateral event between the USA and Mongolian Armed Forces in the year 2003.
- Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards, the exercise graduated to a multinational peacekeeping exercise.
- The last edition of Exercise KHAAN QUEST was conducted in Mongolia in 2025.

2026 Edition:

- It is the 23rd iteration of the exercise.
- It is scheduled to be held from 20 June to 3 July at the Five Hills Training Area in Ulaanbaatar (capital of Mongolia).
- The Indian Army contingent comprises 40 personnel, including troops from a battalion of the JAT Regiment and personnel from other Arms and Services.
- The exercise will focus on the conduct of joint planning and tactical drills such as establishment of static and mobile checkpoints, cordon and search operations, patrolling, evacuation of civilians from hostile areas, counter improvised explosive device drills, combat first aid, and casualty evacuation.

18. Project Nimbus

Context: During Google CEO Sundar Pichai's keynote at Stanford University, over 100 students staged a walkout protesting Google's Project Nimbus contract, carrying Palestinian flags and wearing keffiyehs.

Project Nimbus:**What It Is?**

- Project Nimbus is a massive, high-security cloud computing contract signed between the Israeli government and premier U.S. technology corporations. The partnership has sparked intense global protests, employee sit-ins, and student-led boycotts over ethical concerns that Big Tech is enabling state-sponsored surveillance and military operations.

Developed By: Jointly executed by **Google** (Google Cloud Platform) and **Amazon** (Amazon Web Services - AWS).

Aim:

- The objective of Project Nimbus is to digitize and modernize Israel's public sector infrastructure by shifting state data, processing systems, and local applications to commercial cloud ecosystems.
- It aims to provide advanced data storage, high-compute machine learning tools, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) services across all tiers of governmental operation.

Key Features of the Contract:

- **Financial and Temporal Scale:** The overarching tech agreement is valued at **over \$1 billion**. It features an initial operational baseline of **seven years**, with legal clauses allowing the Israeli government to extend it for **up to 23 years**.
- **The Sovereign Non-Restriction Clause:** Leaked contract documents reveal that Israel mandated a strict clause preventing Google and Amazon from shutting down or restricting cloud services to governmental units—even if those units violate the tech companies' standard corporate terms of service.
- **AI and Machine Learning Integration:** Since October 2023, army units have significantly scaled up their technical service demands from Google Cloud, AWS, and Azure to acquire advanced data storage and AI capabilities.

- **Independent Sovereign Operations:** The setup establishes localized cloud infrastructure nodes within Israel, ensuring that data processing, storage, and server administration remain independent of direct foreign corporate interference.

19. LineShine- world's fastest supercomputer

Context: China has overtaken the United States to win the top spot on a list of the world's fastest supercomputers.

About

- A supercomputer called **LineShine**, housed at the **National Supercomputing Center in Shenzhen**, has been crowned the **world's fastest supercomputer**.
 - The system **clocked 2.198 exaflops**—more than 2 quintillion calculations every second.
 - LineShine runs **entirely on CPUs**, the ordinary processors most supercomputers ditched years ago in favor of GPUs.
- **El Capitan**, a supercomputer that the US government uses to develop and maintain its nuclear weapons stockpile has been **ranked second**.
- **India's Ranking:** India's most powerful supercomputer, **Shakti Cloud**, is currently **ranked 32nd** on the TOP500 list, with a performance of **84.31 petaflops**.
 - China's LineShine is roughly **26 times faster** than India's most powerful listed system.
- India's supercomputing ambitions are being driven by the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**, launched in 2015.
 - Under the mission, India has deployed **38 supercomputers** across research and academic institutions, creating a **combined computing capacity of 47 petaflops**.
 - India has also developed indigenous systems such as the **PARAM Rudra series** while expanding its broader digital and computing infrastructure.



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GEOGRAPHY AND MAPPING

1. Mongolia

Context: In a significant milestone in India-Mongolia cultural and spiritual relations, the Holy Relics of Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana were ceremonially enshrined at the Gandantegchenling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

About Mongolia

- It is a landlocked country in north-central Asia.
- Bordering Countries:** Mongolia is bordered by two nations: China in the south and Russia in the north.
- Capital City:** Ulaanbaatar.



2. Majuli Island

Context: A recent study by scientists from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences has reconstructed nearly 4,000 years of climate, vegetation, and river dynamics of Majuli Island.

About Majuli Island

- Majuli is located in the Brahmaputra River system in Assam and is recognized as the world's largest inhabited river island.

- Majuli is a **unique fluvial island** formed by the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, covering about **875 sq. km**.
- It is **bounded** by the Subansiri River in the north, Kherkatia Suti in the northeast, and the Brahmaputra River in the south.
- Its landscape consists of alluvial plains, braided channels, **wetlands (Beels)**, and riverine sandbars known as **Chaporis**.
- The island is an important centre of **Neo-Vaishnavite culture** established by Srimanta Sankardeva.
 - It hosts around **30 Sattras (Vaishnavite monasteries)**, which serve as centres of religion, culture, education, and community governance.
 - Major Sattras include **Auniati Satra, Kamalabari Satra, Garamur Satra, and Dakshinpat Satra**.
- It is home to several indigenous tribal communities, including the **Mising, Deori, and Sonowal Kachari tribes**.
- The island faces recurrent **floods, riverbank erosion, deforestation, and land loss**.

Note: Majuli Island is neither a designated Ramsar Site nor a inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Site. While it has been on India's Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage status since 2004 due to its unique Neo-Vaishnavite cultural landscape (Satras), it has not yet received final inscription.

3. Kshipra River

Context: The Kshipra riverine system in Madhya Pradesh is facing a major crisis marked by the drying up of its tributaries that fail to maintain a perennial flow.

About Kshipra River

- The Kshipra, also known as the Shipra, is a river that flows in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

- It is a tributary of the Chambal River.
- It is a perennial river and is considered as sacred as the Ganga River by the Hindus.

Course:

- Origin: It originates from the Vindhya Range near Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- It flows across the Malwa Plateau to join the Chambal River.
- The river is 195 kilometers long, with a significant portion passing through Ujjain.
- Major Tributaries: Khan and Gambhir.

Religious Significance:

- The Puranas, or ancient Hindu texts, put forward that the Shipra originated from the heart of Varaha, Lord Vishnu's incarnation as a boar.
- Also on the banks of the Shipra is Sage Sandipani's ashram or hermitage, where Krishna, Lord Vishnu's eighth incarnation, had studied.
- It finds mention not only in ancient Hindu texts but also in Buddhist and Jain scriptures.
- The holy city of Ujjain is located on the right bank of the Shipra River.
- The famous Kumbha Mela takes place in the ghats of this city, once every 12 years.
- There are hundreds of Hindu shrines along the banks of the Shipra River.

4. Benin

Context: Benin's new leader was in Niger on June 2, state TV showed, the first such presidential visit to Niamey since a 2023 coup, in a sign of easing tensions between the neighbours.

Benin:

- Benin is a country in West Africa located in the Northern and Eastern Hemispheres of the Earth. Four countries border Benin. **These are Niger to the northeast, Nigeria to the east, Togo to the west, and Burkina Faso to the northeast.** To the south, Benin has a small stretch of coastline on

the Bight of Benin which is part of the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean.

**5. Cambodia**

Context: The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has officially partnered with ACLEDA Bank to launch Unified Payments Interface (UPI) acceptance in Cambodia.

What is Cambodia?

- Cambodia is a culturally rich, largely rural nation located in mainland Southeast Asia. For over 2,000 years, its civilization has absorbed and adapted cultural, religious, and architectural influences from both India and China, reaching its historical apex during the classical Angkor Empire (9th–15th century)—celebrated for constructing the massive temple complexes of Angkor Wat.

Capital: Phnom Penh

Bordering Nations:

- Bordered to the west and northwest by **Thailand**, to the northeast by **Laos**, and to the east and southeast by **Vietnam**.

- Its southwestern coastline meets the **Gulf of Thailand**.

Nations using UPI: UPI is now live in over nine countries, including the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius and Qatar.

6. Romania

Context: Romania's Foreign Minister said on June 3 her country needed to bolster its air defenses with the help of its allies, days after two people were wounded in a drone strike on an apartment block close to the Ukraine border that was blamed on Russia.

Romania:

- Romania is a country located in Central-South Eastern Europe. Romania is positioned both in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth. **Romania is bordered by 5 European Nations: Ukraine in the north; Moldova in the northeast; Bulgaria in the south, Serbia in the southwest and Hungary in the west.** It is bounded by the Black Sea in the southeast.



7. Zimbabwe

Context: India and Zimbabwe agreed to enhance bilateral defence ties by expanding existing cooperation.

About

- **Zimbabwe is a landlocked country** situated in south-central Africa between the **Limpopo** and **Zambezi** rivers, covering an area of over 390,000 sq km.
- It is bounded by **Zambia** to the north and northwest, **South Africa** to the south, **Mozambique** to the east and northeast, and **Botswana** to the southwest.
- Zimbabwe lies entirely north of the **Tropic of Capricorn** and forms part of the southern African plateau.
- The Victoria Falls, located on the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, is the world's largest sheet of falling water.



8. Sea of Azov

Context: Five Azerbaijanis were killed and three wounded in a drone attack on June 5 on two foreign cargo ships in the Sea of Azov, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said.

About:

- The Sea of Azov is a northern extension of the **Black Sea**, to which it is connected by the narrow **Strait of Kerch**. It is bounded by Ukraine to the north and west, and Russia to the east.



- It is bounded by the Barents Sea in the north, the Norwegian Sea and the North Sea in the west and the Skagerrak (Skager Strait) in the south.

**9. Norway**

Context: Norway's Crown Princess Mette-Marit, who suffers from an incurable lung disease and whose health has recently deteriorated, has been placed on a waiting list for a lung transplant, the Royal Palace announced on June 5.

Norway:

- Norway is a Northern European country located on the western half of the Scandinavian Peninsula.
- It is geographically positioned both in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth.
- Norway shares land borders with Sweden, Finland and Russia in the east and an extensive coastline facing the North Atlantic Ocean on the west.

10. Burkina Faso

Context: As part of their clampdown on dissent, Burkina Faso's military rulers' latest targets have included an influential imam, several worshippers and students who criticised the junta.

Burkina Faso:

- Burkina Faso is a West African country located in the Northern Hemisphere region of the Earth. As it straddles the Prime Meridian, it has territories on both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. **It borders six countries. These are Benin and Togo to the southeast, Niger to the east, Mali to the north and west, Ivory Coast to the southwest, and Ghana to the south.** Being a landlocked country, Burkina Faso does not have a coastline.



11. Slovenia

Context: Recently, India's External Affairs Minister congratulated the newly appointed Foreign Minister of Slovenia, Tone Kajzer, and expressed his desire to work together.

About Slovenia

- **Location:** It is located in Central and South Eastern Europe.
- **Bordering Countries:** It is bordered by 4 countries: Austria in the north; Hungary in the northeast; Italy in the west; and Croatia in the southeast.
- **Maritime Border:** It shares a small coastline along the Adriatic Sea in the South west.
- **Capital City:** Ljubljana.



12. Bolivia

Context: Bolivia's legislature gave the green light on June 7 for President Rodrigo Paz to use the military to clear roadblocks that have crippled key cities for weeks.

Bolivia:

- The landlocked nation of Bolivia is located in west-central South America. It is positioned in the Western and Southern hemispheres of the Earth. **Bolivia is bordered by 5 countries: by Brazil to the north and east; by Paraguay to the southeast; by Argentina to the south; by Chile to the southwest and by Peru to the northwest.**



13. Zojila Tunnel

Context: The Zojila Tunnel achieved its final breakthrough in June 2026, marking a significant milestone in India's efforts to establish all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh.

About Zojila Tunnel

- The Zojila Tunnel is a **13.14-km-long single-tube, bi-directional road tunnel** being constructed beneath the Zojila Pass in the Himalayas.

- It is located at an altitude of approximately **11,578 feet** and connects **Batal in Kashmir** with **Meenamarg in Ladakh**.
- The tunnel is designed as a **two-lane horseshoe-shaped structure** and is among the world's longest road tunnels at such a high altitude.
- The project is being executed by **Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd.**
 - The tunnel has been constructed using the **New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM)**.
 - **NATM** relies on sequential excavation, immediate support measures such as shotcrete and rock bolting, and continuous geotechnical monitoring, allowing engineers to respond flexibly to changing ground conditions during tunnelling.

	List I (Mountain passes)		List II (connecting points)
A.	Zoji La Pass	1.	Srinagar and Kargil
B.	Banihal Pass	2.	Jammu and Srinagar
C.	Rohtang Pass	3.	Kullu Valley and the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys
D.	Bara-Lacha La	4.	Lahaul and Leh

14. Shiveluch Volcano

Context: The Shiveluch Volcano in Russia's Far East erupted recently, sending ash plumes 10 km into the air and triggering red-level aviation alerts for the area.

About Shiveluch Volcano

- It is one of the largest and most active volcanoes located on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, one of the most intense volcanic regions in the world.
- It's estimated to be between 60,000-70,000 years old.
- It is a stratovolcano—a steep-sloped volcano composed of alternating layers of solidified ash, hardened lava, and volcanic rocks.

- It sports a summit reaching 3,283 meters (10,771 feet).
- The summit is truncated by a broad 9-km-wide caldera. The lava dome complex was constructed within the large open caldera.
- Many lava domes occur on the outer flanks.
- Frequent collapses of the dome complex have produced debris avalanches; the resulting deposits cover much of the caldera floor.
- It has had more major eruptions than any other volcano in our current period of geologic time, with an estimated 60 substantial eruptions in the past 10,000 years.

	List I (volcanoes)		List II (locations)
A.	Dukono	1.	Indonesia
B.	Sheveluch	2.	Russia
C.	Sangay	3.	Ecuador
D.	Kanlaon	4.	Philippines

15. Armenia

Context: Armenians will vote June 7 in parliamentary elections as the incumbent government, under mounting Russian pressure, seeks to loosen ties with Moscow and deepen cooperation with the West.



Armenia:

- Armenia is a landlocked country, located in the south of Caucasus mountain range (south eastern region of Europe or Western Asia) and facing the north western part of Asia. **Armenia is situated in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth. It is bounded by Georgia in the north, Azerbaijan in the east, Iran in the southeast and Turkey in the west.**

16. Democratic Republic of Congo

Context: Out of the 550 cases of Ebola confirmed as of June 7 after the outbreak of the disease in Congo, there have been 101 deaths and 19 recoveries, the latest situation report said on June 8.

**Democratic Republic of Congo:**

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is located in Central Africa.
- As it straddles the Equator, it has territories in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.**
- It is located to the east of the Prime Meridian in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- Nine countries border the DRC.

- These are the Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, and South Sudan to the northwest, north, and northeast respectively. Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda bound it to the east. Tanzania is located to the east across Lake Tanganyika. Zambia lies to the southeast and Angola to the southwest respectively.
- DRC also has a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Angola's Cabinda exclave also borders DRC in this direction.**

17. Germany

Context: Far-right and other politically motivated crime in Germany has doubled over the past decade to hit an all-time high last year, the government said on June 9.

Germany:

- Germany is located in central Europe. It is positioned both in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth. Germany is bordered by 9 countries: **by Denmark in the north; by Poland and Czech Republic in the east; by Austria in the southeast; by Switzerland in the southwest; by France, Luxembourg and Belgium in the west; and by Netherlands in the northwest.** Germany is bounded by the North Sea in the northwest and by the Baltic Sea in the northeast.



18. Sweden

Context: Sweden's right-wing government withdrew June 10 a heavily contested proposal to lower the age at which children can be sentenced to prison from 15 to 13, citing a lack of support in parliament.

Sweden:

- Sweden is a Northern European country located on the Scandinavian Peninsula.
- The Scandinavian Mountains (also known as the Scandes) do not flank the Baltic coast. Instead, they run along Sweden's western border with Norway.
- It is situated both in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth.
- Sweden is bordered by 3 countries: by Finland in the east; by Norway in the north and west; by Denmark in the southwest (via a bridge-tunnel through Oresund Strait).
- It is bounded by the Gulf of Bothnia and the Baltic Sea in the east and south; and by the Skagerrak and Kattegat straits in the southwest.
- Sweden shares its maritime borders with Germany, Denmark, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.



19. Jordan

Context: Recently, Iran has reportedly launched missile strikes targeting a US airbase in Jordan.

About Jordan

- Location:** It is a landlocked country located in the rocky desert of the northern Arabian Peninsula.
- Bordering Countries:** It is bordered by 5 Nations: Syria in the north, Iraq in the east, Saudi Arabia in the south and southeast and Israel and West Bank in the west.
- Water bodies:** Dead Sea, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Sea of Galilee.
- The Dead Sea is located along the western borders of the country.
- Capital City:** Amman.



20. Estonia

Context: Estonian government and business executives are expressing greater interest in cooperation with India in defence and trade.

About

- Estonia is a country in northeastern Europe, the northernmost of the three Baltic states.
 - Estonia's area includes some 1,500 islands and islets; the two largest of these

islands, **Saaremaa** and **Hiiumaa**, are off mainland Estonia's west coast.

- To the east Estonia is bounded by **Russia** and to the south it is bounded by **Latvia**.

- **Official language:** Estonian.
- **Estonia remained a Soviet republic until 1991**, when, along with the other Baltic states, it declared its independence.
- **It sought integration with greater Europe and in 2004 joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU).**
- Estonia is often **recognized as one of the world's most digitally advanced countries**, widespread online public services and electronic voting.

Note: The only Baltic country that shares a land border with both mainland Russia and Kaliningrad is Lithuania.



21. France

Context: The Prime Minister of India landed in France's Nice, where he is set to hold talks with the French President.

About France

- **Location:** It is a country located in North Western Europe.
- **Bordering countries:** It is bordered by 7 countries: Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Andorra.

- **Water bodies:** It is bounded by the Bay of Biscay (North Atlantic Ocean) in the west; by the English Channel in the northwest and by the Mediterranean Sea in the south.
- It has 5 overseas regions namely: Guadeloupe, Guyane (French Guiana), La Réunion (Réunion), Martinique and Mayotte.
- **Capital City:** Paris.
- **Geographical Features of France**
- **Climate:** The climate in mainland France is temperate, with quite significant regional differences.
- **Major Rivers:** Loire (drains into Atlantic Ocean), Seine (drains into English Channel).
- **Major Mountains:** Alps (southern France), Jura Mountains (north of Alps), Pyrenees (forms border with Spain).
- **Natural Resources:** It consists of Coal, iron ore, bauxite, zinc, uranium, antimony, arsenic, potash, feldspar, fluorspar, gypsum.



22. Euphrates River

Context: According to a study published in Nature Geoscience, scientists using seismic imaging and geological data have deciphered how the Euphrates River first formed.

The Euphrates River:

What It Is?

- The Euphrates is the longest and one of the most historically significant rivers in Southwest Asia. Together with its companion waterway, the Tigris, it defines the geographic region of ancient Mesopotamia, celebrated globally as one of the primary cradles of human civilization.

Origin and Flow Path:

- Source Region:** The river originates in the rugged Taurus Mountains of southern Turkey (Eastern Anatolia), formed by the confluence of its major headwaters, the Karasu and Murat rivers.
- Course:** It flows southward and eastward, cutting a ~1,700-mile (2,800 km) path across three modern sovereign nations:
 - Turkey:** Where its high-altitude headwaters gather.
 - Syria:** Flowing through northern and eastern desert stretches.
 - Iraq:** Meandering through low-lying alluvial floodplains.
- Termination:** Near the city of Basra in Iraq, the Euphrates joins the Tigris River to form the Shatt al-Arab delta before finally emptying into the Persian Gulf.



23. Mango Species and States

Context: Every summer, more than 125 quintals of Bhagalpur's famed Zardalu mangoes are carefully selected, packed and dispatched to the President, the Prime Minister, and other top dignitaries, turning a regional fruit into a symbol of Bihar's agricultural heritage,

	Mango Species	States/UTs
1.	Rataul	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Fazli	West Bengal
3.	Kari Ishad	Karnataka
4.	Zardalu	Bihar

24. Giant's Causeway

Context: Geochronologists investigating how the Giant's Causeway was created recently discovered it was formed over 5.5m years, 8m years less than previously estimated.

About Giant's Causeway

- It is located on the coastal edge of the Antrim Plateau in Northern Ireland.
- The region consists of 6 kilometers (4 miles) of stepping-stone-like black basalt columns.
- Some 40,000 stone pillars can be found here.
- Each stone is a curiously distinct polygon or hexagon, with seemingly unnatural straight edges.
- The pillars range in height, and shoot up out of the sea, increasing in height until they reach the cliff top.
- This stepping stone or stair-like appearance of the area is where the Giant's Causeway name is thought to have originated, as the columns look much like steps for a giant.
- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.
- The **Antrim Plateau** is an extensive volcanic tableland located in the northeast of **Northern Ireland** (County Antrim).

Geological Formation

- **Type:** It is a classic **flood basalt plateau** (or lava field).
- **Origin:** Formed roughly 50 to 60 million years ago during the Paleogene period. Intense volcanic activity cracked the earth, sending massive sheets of fluid, fluid-like basaltic lava out over a pre-existing landscape of Mesozoic white chalk and limestone.
- **The Giant's Causeway:** On its northern coastal rim, the slow, uniform cooling of a deep lava pool caused the rock to contract and crack vertically, forming over 40,000 tightly packed, interlocking **hexagonal basalt columns**. This famous formation is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Physical Geography & Landscape

- **Structure:** The plateau is asymmetrical. It rises sharply from the sea in the north and east, forming spectacular coastal cliffs and deep glens (the Glens of Antrim).
- **The Central Depression:** From its high coastal rims, the plateau gently tilts inward towards its center. This structural depression acts as a massive basin that holds **Lough Neagh**, which is the largest freshwater lake by surface area in the British Isles.
- **Drainage:** The plateau's interior is drained primarily by the River Bann, which flows out of Lough Neagh northward into the Atlantic Ocean.

25. Switzerland

Context: Voters in Switzerland have cast their final ballots on June 14 on an initiative championed by the top right-wing party to cap the rich Alpine country's population at 10 million. Early results showed voters were leaning against it.

Switzerland:

- Switzerland is a landlocked mountainous country in Western and Central Europe. It is located both in the Northern and Eastern Hemispheres of the Earth. **Switzerland is**

bordered by 5 European Nations: by Germany in the north; Italy in the south; Austria and Liechtenstein in the east and France in the west.



26. San Andreas Fault

Context: According to new research, stress along the San Andreas fault in Southern California has reached the highest levels in 1,000 years.

About San Andreas Fault

- **Location:** It is a major continental transform boundary that is situated in the extreme western part of the continent of North America.
- It is believed that the San Andreas Fault started to form about 30 million years ago in the mid-Cenozoic Era.
- It forms the border between two principal tectonic plates: the North American Plate on the eastern side and the Pacific Plate on the western side.
- Geologists classify the San Andreas Fault as a "strike-slip fault", as the Pacific Plate slides laterally over the North American Plate in a northward direction.

- It is one of the world's largest and most extensively studied faults.
- It extends in the northwestward direction for over 1,300km from the northern edge of the Gulf of California through the western part of the US State of California and passes out to the Pacific Ocean close to the city of San Francisco.
- The northward movement along the San Andreas Fault had led to the creation of the Baja Peninsula.

Creation of Gulf of California:

- Around **6 million years ago**, tectonic adjustments caused the spreading center of the East Pacific Rise to propagate northward into the continental margin.
- This led to **rifting of the Baja California Peninsula** away from mainland Mexico.
- The resulting extension and seafloor spreading **created the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez)**.

27. Slovakia

Context: India and Slovakia elevated their ties to a comprehensive partnership and inked 11 agreements to expand bilateral cooperation.

Slovakia

- Slovakia is a **landlocked country in Central Europe**. It became an independent state on **January 1, 1993**, after the peaceful dissolution of **Czechoslovakia**.
- Slovakia is bordered by **Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east, Hungary to the south, Austria to the southwest and the Czech Republic, lies to the west**.
- **Bratislava**, the capital of Slovakia, is the only national capital in the world that directly borders two separate countries i.e. Austria and Hungary.
- **Official Language:** Slovak.
- **Currency:** Euro (€).
- It is a member of both the **European Union and NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization)**.



28. South Africa

Context: Women fold bedding on the street where they stay amid anti-immigrant protests in Durban, South Africa.

South Africa:

- Africa's southernmost country, South Africa, is located in the Southern and Eastern Hemispheres of the world.
- It is also the Eastern Hemisphere's southernmost mainland country.
- South Africa shares a border with six countries.
- **It surrounds the enclaved country of Lesotho.**
- Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana border it to the north.
- Mozambique and Eswatini border it to the east and northeast, respectively.
- South Africa has coastlines on both the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean to the south.
- **Cape Agulhas is the southernmost point of both South Africa and the African continent (approximately 34°50'S).** It is often confused with Cape of Good Hope, which is the southwesternmost point of Africa, not the southernmost.



29. Australia

Context: KPMG's audit-leak scandal is set to further dampen the prospects in Australia of the Big Four accounting firms, with data showing their new business revenue from the federal government already fell by almost half after a similar leak at PwC three years ago.

Australia:

- Australia is the smallest continent and the largest country in Oceania located between the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean in the Southern hemisphere.
- Australia is geographically positioned both in the Southern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth.
- It is completely surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Oceans and a series of bays, gulfs, seas and straits and is situated to the south of Maritime Southeast Asia and to the north of the Antarctic.
- Australia is separated from Papua New Guinea by the Coral Sea and Torres Strait to the northeast; from Indonesia by the Timor and Arafura seas to the northwest; from Coral Sea

Islands Territory by the Great Barrier Reef; from New Zealand by Tasman Sea to the southeast; and from Antarctica by Indian Ocean to the south.

- Tropic of Capricorn passes through the middle of Australia.
- Bass Strait separates: Mainland Australia from the island state of Tasmania. It does not separate Australia from New Zealand. Australia and New Zealand are separated by the Tasman Sea.



30. Thailand

Context: Recently, India & Thailand agreed to deepen collaboration in manufacturing, research, innovation & capability development during 10th Defence Dialogue in Bangkok.

About Thailand

- **Location:** It is located in the center of mainland Southeast Asia.
- **Bordering Countries:** It shares boundaries with Myanmar (North West), Laos (North East), Cambodia (East), and Malaysia (South).
- **Maritime boundary:** It is bordered by Andaman Sea (SW) and Gulf of Thailand (S)
- **Capital City:** Bangkok.



31. Strait of Messina

Context: Japan's Prime Minister emphasized bilateral cooperation in the ambitious plan to build a bridge across Italy's Strait of Messina recently.

About Strait of Messina

- It is a narrow water body in the Mediterranean Sea in southern Italy.
- It is an example of a strait that runs through a country. It separates mainland Italy and the island of Sicily.
- It is named after the city of Messina, located on the northeastern tip of Sicily.
- It is a 32 km-long strait that connects the Tyrrhenian Sea in the north with the Ionian Sea in the south. Both are parts of the larger Mediterranean Sea.
- At its narrowest point, the strait is about 3.1 kilometers wide.
- The strait is generally narrow and shallow, with an average depth of 90 m, and is 250 m deep at the deepest point.
- The waters of the strait are known for strong currents, whirlpools, and tidal flows.
- The strait was greatly feared by sailors in antiquity, mainly because of the rocks and whirlpools known as Scylla and Charybdis, which

were personified as female monsters in Greek mythology.

- It has a unique marine ecosystem due to its strong water currents.
- The alternating and intense current, abundant phosphorus and nitrogen, and low water temperature support abundant and diverse species.
- It is a migratory route used by fish and other species to access the Mediterranean Sea.
- Every year, several bird species pass through the strait to their breeding grounds in Europe.



32. Poland

Context: Poland's nationalist President Karol Nawrocki announced on June 19 he was stripping Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy of the country's top award, escalating a row between the neighbours and allies over Second World War massacres.

Poland:

- Poland is a Central European country. It is positioned both in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth. Poland is bordered by

7 nations: **by Germany in the west; the Czech Republic in the southwest; Slovakia in the south; Ukraine in the southeast; Belarus in the east; Lithuania and Russia in the northeast.** Poland is bordered in the north by the **Baltic Sea**. The country shares its maritime borders with Denmark and Sweden.



33. Malaysia

Context: Bangladesh's Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is set to visit Malaysia and China on his first trip abroad since assuming office, the Foreign Ministry said on May 20, bypassing neighbouring India as his inaugural destination. Mr. Rahman will visit Malaysia on Sunday before travelling to China the following day.

Malaysia:

- Malaysia is a Southeast Asian country located in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth.
- The South China Sea separates Malaysia into two regions: Peninsular Malaysia (West Malaysia) and East Malaysia.

- Peninsular Malaysia is a part of mainland Southeast Asia and lies in the southern part of the Malay Peninsula, bordered by Thailand.
- The states of Sabah and Sarawak located on the northern edges of the Borneo Islands forms the East Malaysian region, and are bordered by Brunei and Indonesia.
- West Malaysia shares its maritime borders with Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam, while East Malaysia shares it with Philippines and Vietnam.
- Malaysia lies entirely within the Northern Hemisphere, situated just north of the Equator. Its southernmost point on the tip of Peninsular Malaysia (Tanjung Piai) sits at approximately 1°16' N latitude, while its territory on Borneo also remains completely north of the line.



34. Italy

Context: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni fired back at U.S. President Donald Trump on June 20, saying his "constant, unprovoked attacks are senseless" after he escalated a diplomatic row by accusing her of repeatedly seeking a photograph with him.

Italy:

- Italy is located in South-central Europe on the Apennine Peninsula. It is positioned both in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth. Italy shares its borders with **Switzerland and Austria in the north, with Slovenia in the northeast and with France in the northwest.** Vatican City and San Marino are the two enclaved sovereign states within Italy. With

its southern boundary extending into the Mediterranean Sea, the boot shaped Italian Peninsula is bordered by the Adriatic Sea in the east, the Sea of Sicily in the south, the Ionian Sea in the southeast, the Ligurian Sea, and the Tyrrhenian Sea in the southwest. The two largest Mediterranean Islands -Sardinia is located in the west and Sicily is to the south of Italy.



35. Uzbekistan

Context: Recently, Uzbekistan officially joined the New Development Bank (NDB) as its 10th member, becoming the first country from Central Asia to become part of this BRICS-led multilateral development institution.

Uzbekistan:

- Uzbekistan is a landlocked Central Asian country located in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth. It is bordered by 5 Asian nations; Kazakhstan borders it to the north; Kyrgyzstan to the north-east and Tajikistan to the south-east. Uzbekistan is also bounded by Afghanistan and Turkmenistan to the south and south-west respectively.

- The depression of the Aral Sea straddles the boundary between **southern Kazakhstan** (specifically the Aktobe and Kyzylorda regions) and **northern Uzbekistan** (specifically the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan).



36. Colombia

Context: An U.S.-backed lawyer won Colombia's presidential run-off on June 21, swinging the country hard right and sparking protests. Abelardo de la Espiella held 49.66% vote against leftist Senator Ivan Cepeda's 48.70%.

Colombia:

- Colombia (officially, Republic of Colombia) is a country located in the northwestern part of South America. It is geographically positioned in the Northern and Western hemispheres of the Earth.
- The Equator passes through the southern edge of the country; therefore, Colombia also partially lies in the Southern hemisphere.**
- Colombia is bordered by Panama to the northwest; by Ecuador and Peru to the south; by

Venezuela to the east, and by Brazil to the southeast.

- It is also bounded by the Caribbean Sea in the north and by the Pacific Ocean in the west.
- Colombia shares its maritime borders with Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.



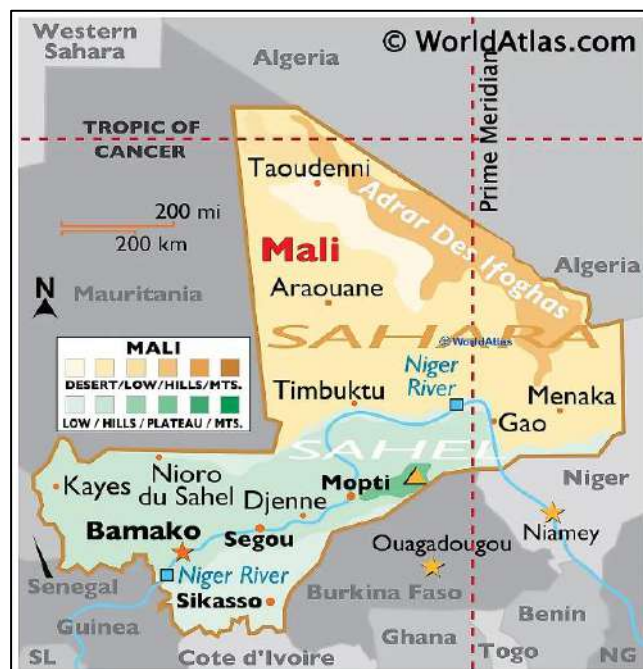
37. Mali

Context: Along Mali's National Route 6, a major thoroughfare connecting the capital to the country's centre, the Army has reshaped the landscape: the vegetation from the surrounding forest has been cleared in anticipation of jihadist ambushes.

Mali:

- Located in West Africa, the landlocked country of Mali shares its borders with seven countries. It is located in the Northern Hemisphere. As it straddles the Prime Meridian longitude line, it has territories on both the Eastern and Western hemispheres. To the north-northeast, **Mali is bordered by Algeria. Niger, Burkina Faso, and Ivory Coast border the country to the east, southeast, and south respectively. Guinea**

bounds Mali to the southwest, Senegal to the west, and Mauritania to the northwest.



38. Ethiopia

Context: Prime Minister of India extended his congratulations to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali and the ruling Prosperity Party following their decisive victory in the country's general election.

Ethiopia:

What It Is?

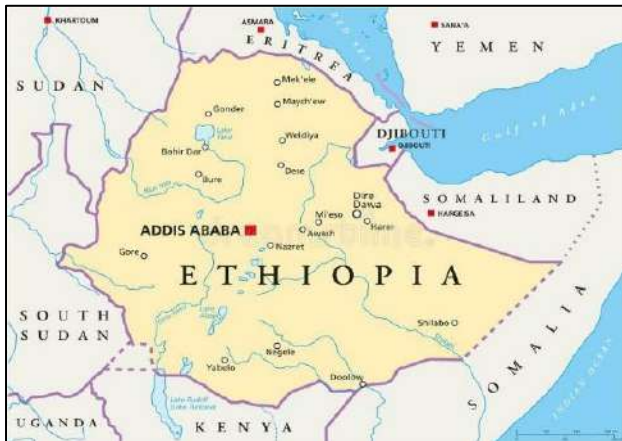
- Ethiopia is a sovereign, constitutionally governed republic in East Africa and one of the world's oldest independent nations. It serves as a major diplomatic and economic hub for the African continent, historically maintaining deep-rooted, multifaceted bilateral and trade ties with India.

Geographical Region: Situated entirely within the **Horn of Africa** region in East Africa.

Capital City: Addis Ababa.

Border Nations: Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world. It shares its land

borders with six neighboring countries: Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Sudan.



39. Caspian Sea

Context: Since the mid-1990s, the Caspian Sea has lost nearly 24,000 sq km of its surface area, roughly equivalent to the size of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea.

About the Caspian Sea

- The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water, located between Europe and Asia.
- It is bordered by Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan.
- Despite its name, it is technically a saltwater lake with no natural outlet.
- Major rivers draining into it include the Volga (largest), Ural, Kura, and Terek rivers.
- The region is rich in oil and natural gas reserves, making it strategically important.



40. Turkmenistan

Context: From a gas crater dubbed the “Gateway to Hell” to the shimmering marble buildings of its capital, Turkmenistan is tentatively opening up to tourists after decades of isolation.

Turkmenistan:

- Turkmenistan is a sovereign landlocked country. It is located in Central Asia in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth. It is bordered by four Asian countries: Kazakhstan bounds it to the northwest; Uzbekistan to the north and east; Afghanistan is located to the southeast; and Iran to the south and southwest. The Caspian Sea lies to the west of the country.



41. Peru

Context: Conservative Keiko Fujimori appeared to win Peru's presidential election on June 23.

Peru:

- Peru is a nation located on the western coast of South America. It is situated just to the south of the Equator and is geographically positioned

both in the western and southern hemispheres of the Earth. **Peru is bordered by Colombia and Ecuador to the north; by Brazil to the east; by Bolivia to the southeast and by Chile to the south. It is also bounded by the South Pacific Ocean to the west.**



42. Belarus

Context: Russia on June 25 denied exerting pressure on Belarus to support an expansion of the war in Ukraine, while Belarus said it was the West that was trying to drag it into the conflict.

Belarus:

- Belarus is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe. It is geographically positioned both in the Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the earth. **Belarus is bordered by 5 countries: by Russia in the north and east; by Ukraine in the south; by Poland in the west; by Lithuania and Latvia in the northwest.**



43. Iraq

Context: Iraq has considered leaving OPEC if the oil producer group does not allow Baghdad to significantly increase oil production, sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Iraq:

- Iraq is a sovereign Western Asian country.
- It is located in Northern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth. It is bordered by six nations: Iran to the East; Kuwait to the southeast; Turkey to the north; Syria to the west; Jordan to the southwest and Saudi Arabia to the south.
- The country has a short 36 miles (58 km) coastline along the northern end of the Persian Gulf.**
- The Zagros Mountains form a massive, rugged mountain range that acts as a prominent natural and political boundary separating the northeastern border of Iraq (Iraqi Kurdistan) from western Iran.**



44. Uganda

Context: Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the head of Uganda's military and President Yoweri Museveni's son, has asserted growing control in recent months, ordering the arrests of politicians, activists and now a media shutdown

Uganda:

- Uganda is a landlocked country located in East-Central Africa in the African Great Lakes region. It is located in the Eastern Hemisphere of the Earth. As observed on the location map above, the Equator passes through Uganda. Thus, the country has territory in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Being a landlocked nation, it is bordered by neighboring countries on all sides. It shares its borders with five African countries. **South Sudan bounds it to the north, Kenya to the east, Tanzania to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west, and Rwanda to the south-west.**



45. Baltic Sea

Context: From Scandinavia to the Alps, Europeans endured sweltering conditions on Saturday (June 27, 2026) as a heatwave linked to dozens of deaths spread eastwards, with record-breaking temperatures breaching 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in some spots.

Baltic Sea:

- The Baltic Sea is part of the North Atlantic Ocean, situated in Northern Europe. It has a coastline of approximately 8,000 km, shared by several countries, including **Sweden, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Estonia, Germany, Denmark, and Russia**. The Baltic countries share the southeast coastline while the North European Plains are on the southwest. Denmark and Sweden border the sea to the west, while Finland is on the northeast. It drains into the Kattegat via the Danish Strait and covers a catchment of approximately 1.64 million km².



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ART AND CULTURE

1. Angkor Thom

Context: Archaeologists recently uncovered significant remains of a 12th-century hydraulic system and architectural features within the ancient royal palace complex of Angkor Thom.

About Angkor Thom

- Angkor Thom, located in present-day Cambodia, was the last and longest-lasting capital of the ancient Khmer Empire.
- Angkor Thom translates into English as the "Great City".
- The complex is located in the north of Angkor Wat, between West Baray and East Baray.

	List I (Hindu/Buddhist temples)		List II (Locations)
A.	Angkor Wat	1.	Cambodia
B.	Candi Sukuh	2.	Indonesia
C.	Vat Phou	3.	Laos
D.	Mỹ Sơn Sanctuary	4.	Vietnam

2. Gabon

Context: Gabonese artist Naila Opiangah, whose paintings of black female nudes have been showcased at the Met Gala, believes artists have a key role to play in forging Africa's future.

Gabon:

- The Equator (0° latitude) passes directly through Gabon, cutting right through the middle of the country just south of its capital city, Libreville.
- Gabon shares land borders with three countries. While it does border Equatorial Guinea (to the northwest) and Cameroon (to the north), its longest land border is actually

with the Republic of the Congo (to the east and south).



3. Kashmir's Sufiyana Music

Context: Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister forwarded a proposal to the Union Ministry of Culture to nominate Kashmir's Sufiyana Music for UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) list.

Kashmir's Sufiyana Music:

What It Is?

- Kashmir's Sufiyana Music (also known as Sufiyana Mausiki or Sufiyana Kalam) is a distinctive form of classical choral ensemble music. It is a highly structured, mystical art form that blends devotional poetry, classical melody, and philosophy, serving as a unique bridge between Persian, Central Asian, and Indian classical musical systems.

Region Associated:

- The art form is entirely indigenous and exclusive to the **Kashmir Valley** in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Historically, it is preserved and carried forward by a select few surviving gharanas (traditional musical lineages or schools) located across **Budgam, Srinagar, and Anantnag**.

History and Cultural Fusion:

- **Origins:** The art form emerged between the 14th and 15th centuries as a continuum of pre-Islamic musical practices in Kashmir.
- **Civilizational Synthesis:** Rather than replacing existing local systems, the incoming traditions merged with indigenous practices. It represents a rare cultural synthesis of Persian, Islamic, and Shaivite philosophical thought.
- **Central Asian Influx:** As Kashmir opened up to the wider Islamic world, Sufi saints, scholars, artisans, and musicians arriving from regions like Iran, Bukhara, and Samarkand introduced new structural ideas that shaped Kashmir's unique classical music.

Key Features of Sufiyana Music:

- **Choral and Multi-Instrumental Ensemble:** It is performed by a group of five to seven musicians who simultaneously act as both vocalists and instrumentalists.
- **The Structural Sequence:** Most compositions open with an instrumental prelude, followed by a short poem sung free-hand without rhythm. The main lyrics, known as **Bathe**, are presented in the form of a couplet that adheres strictly to a designated maqam and tala (rhythmic cycle).
- **The Maqam System:** Similar to Indian ragas, the music is bound by maqams rooted in Persian classical traditions. While historically boasting around 50 distinct maqams, only 20 to 25 are actively practiced today.

- **Rhythmic Progression:** Performance arrangements follow a mathematical sequence where the longest talas (time cycles) are gradually followed by progressively shorter ones.
- **Specialized Acoustic Instruments:** The ensemble utilizes a highly specific array of traditional instruments, each possessing a distinct tonal quality determined by its unique dimensions and string counts. These include the ney (a type of flute), harmonium, rabab, tabla, and sitar.
- **The 100-String Santoor:** Central to the performance is the Sufiana santoor, a unique Kashmiri hammer-stringed instrument featuring **100 strings** spread over a triangular-shaped, three-legged stand.
- **Oral Transmission:** The complex system of maqams, talas, and accompanying poetry is not codified in text; instead, it is **passed down entirely orally** from one generation to the next within specialized families.



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MISCELLANEOUS

1. Mission Senehjori

Context: Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) has launched Mission Senehjori, a flagship initiative to transform Assam's Muga silk sector into a globally competitive luxury textile ecosystem.

About

- The mission aims to strengthen host-plant cultivation, modernise reeling infrastructure, promoting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) & expanding global market access under the unified "Senehjori" brand.
- The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with the Government of Assam, the Central Silk Board, the Ministry of Textiles, and other central agencies.

2. Food Planet Prize 2026

Context: The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) program was awarded the prestigious 2026 Food Planet Prize in Båstad, Sweden.

The Food Planet Prize 2026:

What It Is?

- The Food Planet Prize is the world's largest environmental award dedicated entirely to transforming global food systems.
- Established by Sweden's Curt Bergfors Foundation, it intentionally funds early-stage, high-potential projects capable of radically reshaping sustainable food value chains, rather than merely honoring past legacy achievements.

Organization & Governance:

- Founding Body:** The Curt Bergfors Foundation, Sweden.
- Jury Architecture:** Features a strict 50-50 institutional split between cutting-edge

scientific researchers and grassroots field practitioners, giving equal democratic weight to academic theory and practical execution.

Winner of 2026:

- The global grand prize was secured by India's Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) program, outperforming over 1,000 international nominations across six continents.
- Launched in 2016 by the Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (under the state's agriculture department), the movement now scales across 1.8 million farming families and 340,000 women's self-help groups (SHGs).

3. China's Hukou System

Context: China has issued new guidelines to provide education, housing, social security, and healthcare benefits at the place of residence, irrespective of hukou registration status.

China's Hukou System:

What is it?

- The Hukou (Household Registration System) is China's internal residence registration mechanism that classifies citizens as rural or urban residents and links access to public services, welfare benefits, education, healthcare, and housing to their registered place of residence.
- Often described as an internal passport system, it regulates population mobility and state resource allocation.

4. Global Peace Index

Context: India ranked 127th place in the recently released Global Peace Index 2026.

About Global Peace Index

- It is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank
- The GPI is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness.
- It ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness, covering 99.7 percent of the world's population.
- Parameters used: It uses 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure the state of peace across three domains: the level of Societal Safety and Security; the extent of Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict; and the degree of Militarisation.
- This year it is the 20th edition of the GPI.
- Top Performing Countries: Iceland ranked first for the 19th consecutive year, followed by New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia, and Ireland.
- Bottom Countries: Russia is the least peaceful country, with Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and Israel completing the bottom five.

5. GI-Tagged Products of Jharkhand

Context: Eleven traditional products of Jharkhand have recently been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

GI-Tagged Products of Jharkhand

- **Bhagaiya Silk:** Bhagaiya Silk is produced in the Bhagaiya region of **Godda district**. It is known for its traditional handloom weaving techniques and high-quality silk fabric.
- **Kuchai Silk:** It is cultivated naturally on **Asan and Arjun trees** in the village of Seraikela-Kharsawan (historically known as Kuchai).
- **Kesaria Kalakand:** It is a **traditional sweet** that forms an important part of the region's culinary heritage.
- **Dokra Craft:** It is one of the oldest surviving metal-casting traditions in India. It employs the traditional **lost-wax casting technique** to produce decorative and utility items.

- **Tumka Chadar:** It is a uniquely crafted shawl or bedspread sheet (chadar) woven by local tribal and artisan communities in Jharkhand.
- **Baroni Paintings:** It is traditional folk paintings of Jharkhand depicting local customs, nature, and tribal cultural traditions.
- **Pancho Saree and Fabric:** The traditional handwoven textiles of Jharkhand known for their distinctive patterns and cultural significance among local communities.
- **Jadopatia Painting:** It is a traditional scroll-painting art practiced by the **Santhal community**, depicting folklore, mythology, social customs, and cultural narratives.
- **Bhoya Saree and Fabric:** It is a traditional handwoven textiles of Jharkhand.
- **Munda Jewellery:** It is a traditional ornament crafted by the Munda tribal community. It reflects the artistic traditions and social customs of Jharkhand's tribal population.
- **Jharkhand Bamboo Craft:** Bamboo Craft utilizes locally available bamboo to create utility and decorative products.

6. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

Context: India's candidate, Professor Bimal N. Patel has been elected as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the 2026-2035 term.

About International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

- It is an independent judicial body established by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- **Headquarter:** Hamburg, Germany.

Composition

- The Tribunal is composed of 21 independent members.
- **Members elected by secret ballot by the States Parties to the Convention.**
- Each State Party may nominate up to two candidates.

- Members are elected for nine years and may be re-elected; the terms of one third of the members expire every three years.
- Eligibility of members: Candidates from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.

Jurisdiction of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

- It has jurisdiction over any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, and over all matters specifically provided for in any other agreement which confers jurisdiction on the Tribunal.
- Disputes relating to the Convention may concern the delimitation of maritime zones, navigation, conservation and management of the living resources of the sea, protection and preservation of the marine environment and marine scientific research.
- The Tribunal is open to States Parties to the Convention (i.e. States and international organisations which are parties to the Convention).
- It is also open to entities other than States Parties, i.e., States or intergovernmental organisations which are not parties to the Convention, and to state enterprises and private entities.

7. Flamingo Revolution

Context: A coastal development project in Albania linked to Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner is facing growing opposition from environmental advocates and has triggered daily protests in the capital, Tirana.

Flamingo Revolution:

The **Flamingo Revolution** refers to a major wave of public protests and civil unrest that erupted in Albania.

- **The Trigger:** The movement began following public outrage over a proposed \$4 billion mega-

tourism and luxury resort development on **Sazan Island** and the **Zvërnec Peninsula**. This area is a critical component of the ecologically fragile **Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape**, which serves as a vital sanctuary for hundreds of migratory bird species, most notably **flamingos**.

- **The Evolution:** While it initially started as a localized environmental protest against bulldozing pristine deltas and relaxing protected-area legislation, it rapidly evolved into the largest anti-government mobilization in the country since 1991. Protesters under the decentralized, youth-led movement used the pink flamingo as an enduring symbol of civic defiance.
- **Core Demands:** The movement expanded its focus to broader systemic issues, with citizens demanding the resignation of the Prime Minister, independent anti-corruption investigations into coastal land transfers, and the complete reversal of fast-tracked strategic investment laws that bypass environmental safeguards.

8. Ship Recycling

Context: India has become the World's Top Ship Recycling Nation in the year 2025.

What is Ship Recycling?

- Ship Recycling is the process of **dismantling a vessel's structure** for scrapping or disposal whether conducted at a beach, pier, dry dock or dismantling slip.
- It includes a wide range of activities, from removing all gear and equipment to cutting down and recycling the ship's infrastructure.

Hong Kong International Convention (HKC)

- The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships is the principal international instrument governing ship recycling. It establishes **legally binding requirements** for ships and recycling facilities.

- The Convention **entered into force on 26 June 2025**, making compliance mandatory for Parties.

9. Ras Laffan Gas Facility

Context: An explosion and major fire ripped through the Barzan gas supply facility inside Qatar's Ras Laffan industrial area, injuring at least 54 people and leaving 18 workers missing.

The Ras Laffan Gas Facility:

What It Is?

- The Ras Laffan gas facility- primarily centering around operations like the Barzan Gas Project and QatarEnergy LNG- is the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) export hub and home to the world's largest artificial harbor. It serves as a high-security, ultra-scale industrial infrastructure node designed to process, refine, and export natural gas.

Location:

- **Geographical Axis:** Situated in the Al Khor municipality of Qatar, approximately 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of the capital city, Doha.

10. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Context: The Ministry of Women and Child Development has invited nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2026.

About Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

- It is the nation's highest civilian honour for children.
- It is presented annually by the President of India on Veer Bal Diwas.
- Veer Bal Diwas is observed annually on December 26 in memory of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh.
- It recognises exceptional achievements in six distinct categories namely: Bravery, Social

Service, Environment, Sports, Art and Culture, Science and Technology.

- **Selection Committee:** The awardees are selected by a committee constituted by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development and headed by the Secretary of the Ministry.

Eligibility for Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

- Citizenship: A child should be an Indian Citizen.
- Age: A child above the age of 5 years and not exceeding 18 years (as of 31st July of respective year).
- The act/incident/achievement should have been within 2 years of the last date of receipt of application/nomination for the year of consideration.
- The number of awards will be 25, however, any relaxation to this maximum number may be permitted at the discretion of the National Selection Committee.
- A child may be nominated in more than one category, although the committee reserves the right to consider only one application.
- Any individual or institution can nominate a child. Children may also apply through self-nomination.
- Recommendations are also invited from certain government entities and offices.
- Each awardee is given a medal, a cash prize of Rs. 1 Lakh and certificate.

11. Operation Amistad

Context: In response to the devastating back-to-back earthquakes that recently hit Venezuela, India has officially launched 'Operation Amistad' as an emergency humanitarian mission.

Operation Amistad:

What It Is?

- Operation Amistad is a fast-tracked, high-capacity Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission launched by the Government of India. It represents a major

strategic and diplomatic deployment of emergency relief assets dispatched to aid a foreign nation dealing with a catastrophic natural disaster.

Nations Involved:

- **Donor Nation:** The Republic of India (dispatched via the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Armed Forces).
- **Recipient Nation:** The Republic of Venezuela.

	HADR operations	Nations
1.	Operation Brahma	Myanmar
2.	Operation Maitri	Nepal
3.	Operation Vanila	Madagascar
4.	Operation Amistad	Venezuela

12. Narco-Coordination Centre

Context: The Union Home Minister is scheduled to chair the 10th Apex-Level Meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) in New Delhi.

About Narco-Coordination Centre

- The Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism was established in 2016 for better coordination between states and the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It has been further strengthened through a four-tier system in 2019.
- Purpose: To enhance coordination between the States, the Ministry of Home Affairs and concerned stakeholders in addressing the challenge of the drug menace in a holistic manner.
- It is designed to facilitate better communication, cooperation, and intelligence sharing among law enforcement and drug control agencies.

Structure of Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD)

- **Apex Level NCORD Committee:** It is headed by Union Home Secretary;
- **Executive Level NCORD Committee:** It is headed by Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs;

- **State Level NCORD Committees:** It is headed by Chief Secretaries; and
- **District Level NCORD Committees:** It is headed by District Magistrates.

Initiatives of Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD)

- Mission SPANDAN – Partnership with spiritual institutions for awareness have emerged out of the NCORD mechanism.
- MANAS Helpline: A toll-free helpline called MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asuchna Kendra) with the number 1933 has been launched.

13. PM-RAHAT Scheme

Context: The requirement for facial identification of an accident victim to claim relief under the PM RAHAT Scheme has been removed, informed Dakshina Kannada District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO) recently.

About PM-RAHAT Scheme

- PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- Under the Scheme, every eligible road accident victim on any category of road will be entitled to cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh per victim for a period of seven days from the date of accident.
- This statutory scheme will take precedence over any other Central or State-level schemes.

Salient Features of the Scheme

- Every road accident victim shall be provided with stabilization treatment for up to 24 hours in non-life-threatening cases and up to 48 hours in life-threatening cases at designated hospitals, subject to police response.
- It has been successfully implemented through the amalgamation of two existing platforms.
- eDAR (Electronic Detailed Accident Report) used by police officials for reporting accidents

- TMS 2.0 (Transaction Management System) of the National Health Authority (NHA), used by hospitals for treatment, claim submissions, and processing of payments.
- While initiating the treatment, police authentication of the victim will have to be initiated on the TMS platform.
- The hospital would generate the treatment ID(s) on TMS and push them to the district police through eDAR.
- The time available with police for responding on eDAR shall be up to 24 hours, or 48 hours in life-threatening situations, as decided by the hospital administrator.
- It will be integrated with the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 112, enabling victims, Good Samaritans to dial 112 to locate the nearest designated hospital and request ambulance assistance.
- Reimbursements to hospitals will be made through the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAf).

14. Sushrut@Clinic

Context: Aimed at helping small outpatient clinics that face challenges with manual processes and lack of affordable digital solutions, the Union Health Ministry is all set to launch the e-Sushrut@Clinic.

About e-Sushrut@Clinic

- It provides a lightweight, cloud-based Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) for outpatient clinics.
- This government-backed HMIS is designed specifically for small and medium healthcare providers, including general practitioners,

specialists, clinic administrators, pharmacists, and lab technicians.

- It can also be used by allied health workers and staff for administrative tasks.
- The platform includes modules for outpatient management, pharmacy, and nursing, and is designed to digitise patient records, prescriptions, and billing.
- It marks a pivotal step in expanding the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) ecosystem.
- The application developed by C-DAC is a lighter version of their flagship e-Sushrut HMIS software.
- The eSushrut HMIS software is currently in use at 17 AIIMS and more than 4000 health facilities all over the country.



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S.NO	TEST NAME	DATE OF TEST
1	CA April 2026	14.06.2026
2	CA May 2026	05.07.2026
3	CA June 2026	26.07.2026
4	CA July 2026	16.08.2026
5	CA August 2026	13.09.2026
6	CA September 2026	11.10.2026
7	CA October 2026	15.11.2026
8	CA November 2026	13.12.2026
9	CA December 2026	10.01.2027
10	CA January 2027	14.02.2027
11	CA February 2027	14.03.2027
12	CA March 2027	11.04.2027
13	CA April 2027	09.05.2027

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