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AUGUST 2026

(Current affairs simplified for TGPSC & APPSC exams)

Preface

This Monthly Current Affairs Magazine is thoughtfully designed for aspirants of **APPSC**, **TGPSC**, and other state-level competitive examinations. It features **exam-focused, tailor-made content**, curated to meet the evolving demands of these exams.

The magazine is divided into **thirteen (13) comprehensive sections**, covering international, national, and regional (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana) developments. Each topic is presented in a clear, concise, and exam-oriented manner, **seamlessly connecting static knowledge with dynamic current affairs** to help readers develop a deeper and more integrated understanding.

Every edition also includes a set of **50 practice MCQs**:

- ✓ 25 questions based on the most important current events of the month &
- ✓ 25 questions derived from static concepts closely linked to those events.

In essence, this magazine serves as a **one-stop source for current affairs**, meticulously curated to strengthen your preparation and guide you on your journey toward excellence in state-level competitive examinations



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Section-I: POLITY AND POLICIES - recent issues related to Indian constitution, new bills & acts passed by Parliament as well as State Legislatures.

1. 'One Nation, One Election' mechanism may be ready for rollout by 2029: JPC.

The Chairman of Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Bills on simultaneous elections announced that committee is working to create a mechanism that could make the **'One Nation, One Election'** reform fully operational by the 2029 general election.



Interconnected concept:

Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024:

- **Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024** introduced to implement "One Nation, One Election" (ONOE) initiative, aiming to align the tenures of the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. Based on the **Kovind Committee report**, this bill introduces significant, structural changes to India's parliamentary framework.

Key Provisions and Articles:

- **Introduction of Article 82A:** This new article empowers the President to notify an **"appointed date"** following a general election. From this date, the terms of all State Assemblies are aligned to match the 5-year term of the Lok Sabha.
- **Amendments to Article 83 & Article 172:** These articles, which deal with the duration of the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures, are amended to enforce synchronicity.

- **Handling Mid-Term Dissolutions:** If a State Assembly or the Lok Sabha is dissolved prematurely, **the newly elected House will not serve a full five-year term**. Instead, it will only serve for the remainder of the original five-year cycle, ensuring the simultaneous election timeline remains unbroken.
- **Amendments to Article 327:** Empowers Parliament to make provisions regarding the maintenance of synchronized election schedules.

2. West Bengal constitutes committee to review draft Uniform Civil Code.

The West Bengal government has constituted a high-level committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai to examine a draft **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** for the State.

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC) & ARTICLE 44	
 UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC)	 ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONSTITUTION
 A common set of laws governing personal matters for all citizens, irrespective of religion.	 The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.

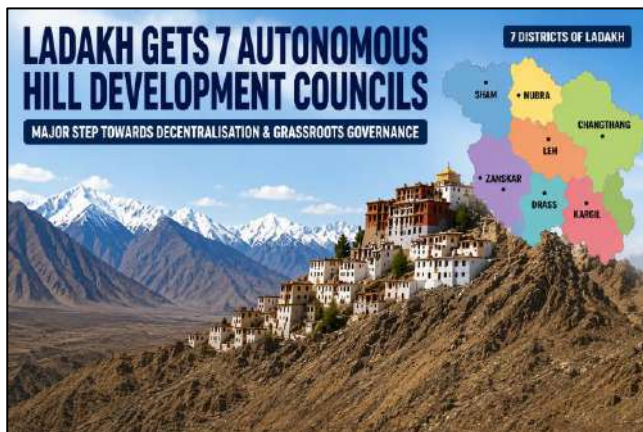
Uniform Civil Code

The **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** is a proposal to formulate and implement a single, unified set of personal laws for all Indian citizens, regardless of their religion.

- It would replace the current fragmented system of personal laws (e.g., Hindu Marriage Act, Shariat laws, Indian Christian Marriage Act) covering marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and succession
- **Article 44:** Enshrined in **Part IV of the Indian Constitution**, it directs the State to endeavour to secure a UCC for citizens throughout the territory of India.
- In cases like **Shah Bano Begum (1985)**, **Sarla Mudgal vs Union of India (1995)** Supreme Court directed the government to take steps to implement Article 44, emphasizing that personal laws should not be used to evade legal obligations.

3. Ladakh to establish autonomous hill councils in all seven districts; UT-level body proposed under Article 371.

With the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ladakh leaders agreeing in principle to extend constitutional safeguards under **Article 371 to the Union Territory**, the Ladakh administration has decided to constitute **Autonomous Hill Development Councils (AHDCs)** in all seven districts.



Autonomous Hill Development Councils (ADCs), or Hill Councils, are elected local self-governing bodies designed to promote decentralized grassroots governance and protect the interests of indigenous and tribal populations in hilly and remote regions

Article 371:

- Article 371 of the Constitution provides special safeguards and autonomy to certain states and regions to protect local interests, including cultural identity, land rights, employment opportunities and administrative arrangements.

State-Specific Provisions (A-J):

- Article 371 (Maharashtra & Gujarat):** Empowers the Governor to establish separate development boards for regions like Vidarbha and Marathwada, and ensures equitable allocation of funds for development and vocational training
- Article 371-A (Nagaland):** Protects Naga religious/social practices, customary law, and land ownership. Acts of Parliament do not apply in these areas unless the State Assembly passes a resolution.
- Article 371-B (Assam):** Provides for the creation of a committee of the Legislative

Assembly consisting of members from the Tribal Areas.

- Article 371-C (Manipur):** Grants special provisions for the hill areas of the state, including a dedicated committee of elected representatives.
- Articles 371-D & 371E (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana):** Ensures equitable opportunities and facilities for the people of different regions in public employment and education.
- Article 371-G (Mizoram):** Protects Mizo religious and social practices, customary law, and land ownership.
- Article 371-H (Arunachal Pradesh):** Gives the Governor special responsibility regarding law and order.
- Article 371-I (Goa):** Ensures the Legislative Assembly has a minimum of 30 members.
- Article 371-J (Karnataka):** Provides special status to the backward Hyderabad-Karnataka region (Kalyana Karnataka) for development and reservations.

ARTICLE 371 – SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 371 of the Constitution provides special safeguards and autonomy to certain states and regions to protect local interests.

STATE-SPECIFIC PROVISIONS (A-J)

ARTICLE	STATE / REGION
Article 371	Maharashtra & Gujarat
Article 371A	Nagaland
Article 371B	Assam
Article 371C	Manipur
Articles 371D & 371E	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana
Article 371G	Mizoram
Article 371H	Arunachal Pradesh
Article 371I	Goa
Article 371J	Karnataka

4. Monsoon Session of Parliament commences.

The Monsoon Session of Parliament begins. The Lok Sabha is set to introduce the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**,

while the Rajya Sabha is scheduled to take up a Bill proposing amendments to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**.

Interconnected concept:

Session of Parliament

A Session of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation or dissolution (in the case of the Lok Sabha).

- **Article 85:** The Constitution of India empowers the **President** to summon each House of Parliament from time to time.
- **Maximum Gap:** The maximum gap between two consecutive sessions of Parliament **cannot exceed six months**. Consequently, the Parliament must meet at least twice a year.
- **No Fixed Calendar:** The Constitution does not specify a fixed parliamentary calendar or mandate a minimum number of working days per year.

While the Constitution only mandates meeting twice a year, by long-standing convention, India's Parliament meets for **three regular sessions** annually. The dates and durations are determined by the **Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (CCPA)** and formalised via summons issued by the President:

- **Budget Session** (February to May)
- **Monsoon Session** (July to August/September)
- **Winter Session** (November to December)

THREE SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT		
The Parliament of India (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) normally meets in three sessions in a year.		
1 BUDGET SESSION  JANUARY TO APRIL / MAY • The longest session. • Starts with the President's address. • Includes the presentation of the Union Budget. • Includes discussion and passing of financial bills.	2 MONSOON SESSION  JULY TO SEPTEMBER • Focuses on important legislative business. • Includes discussion on various policy issues. • Several bills are introduced and passed.	3 WINTER SESSION  NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER • Discusses pending legislative business. • Important bills are taken up. • Shorter in duration compared to others.
 The President summons Parliament for these sessions. The duration of each session may vary.		

Key Procedural Terms (Termination of Sittings/Sessions)

- **Summoning:** The official act of the President calling upon the members of both Houses to assemble for a session.
- **Adjournment:** Terminates a **sitting** of the House for a specified timeframe, which could be

for a few hours, days, or weeks. This power rests with the **Presiding Officer** (Speaker of Lok Sabha or Chairman of Rajya Sabha).

- **Adjournment Sine Die:** Terminates a sitting of Parliament for an **indefinite period** without fixing a specific day for reassembly. This is also executed by the Presiding Officer, typically at the conclusion of a session.
- **Prorogation:** Unlike an adjournment, prorogation terminates the **entire session** of the House. It is done by the President under Article 85, usually shortly after the House is adjourned sine die. Crucially, pending bills do **not** lapse due to prorogation.
- **Recess:** The period of time that elapses between the prorogation of one session and the reassembly of the next session.
- **Dissolution:** Brings the very life of the current Lok Sabha to an irreversible end, necessitating fresh general elections. The Rajya Sabha, being a permanent chamber, is never dissolved. Dissolution causes pending bills originating in or passed by the Lok Sabha to lapse, subject to specific exceptions under Article 108.

5. Kerala Assembly unanimously approves proposal to rename state as 'Keralam'.

The Kerala Assembly took a historic step towards changing the **state's name from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'** by unanimously endorsing the President's reference on the proposal.

'KERALA' TO 'KERALAM'

WHAT HAS CHANGED?



'KERALA'

THE OLD NAME

→

'KERALAM'

THE NEW NAME



The Government of Kerala has decided to officially use 'KERALAM' for the state in all official communications and documents.

Background:

- The state assembly had previously passed unanimous resolutions urging the change. Following this, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal. Under the mandatory requirements of **Article 3 of the Indian Constitution**, President Droupadi Murmu formally referred the draft Bill to the Kerala Assembly for its views.

Interconnected concept:**Article 3:**

- **Article 3** of the Constitution of India empowers Parliament to alter internal state boundaries, create new states, and change names through **simple legislation**.

Presidential Recommendation: A bill for this purpose can only be introduced in Parliament on the recommendation of the President.

- If the bill affects a state's name, area, or boundaries, the President must refer it to that state legislature to express its views within a set timeframe.
- **Parliament is not bound by the views of the state legislature** and can pass the bill even if the state rejects the proposal.

Changes under Article 3 require a **simple majority**, meaning they are **not** considered constitutional amendments under Article 368.

6. Supreme Court urges states to consider raising retirement age of judges.

The Supreme Court asked the states and Union Territories (UTs) to consider raising the age of superannuation of judicial officers from 60 to 61 years.

The court passed the direction while hearing a petition seeking uniform enhancement of the retirement age of district judiciary judges from 60 to 62 years across the country.

Interconnected concepts:**Retirement Age & Constitutional Provisions:**

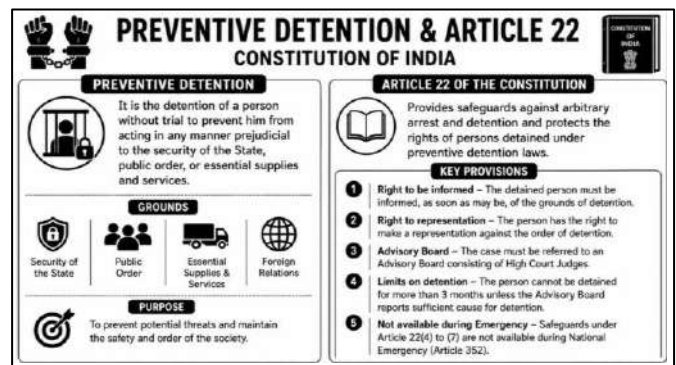
- **Supreme Court:** Judges retire at 65 years under **Article 124(2)**.
- **High Court:** Judges retire at 62 years under **Article 217(1)**.
- **Tenure:** The Constitution does not fix a total number of years for tenure; office is held until reaching the specific retirement age limit.
- **Age Disputes:** Any question about a judge's age is decided by an authority and **manner determined by Parliament**.

7. Allahabad High Court rules preventive detention cannot be used to defeat bail orders.

The Allahabad High Court ruled that **preventive detention** cannot be used by state authorities as a mechanism to bypass or defeat judicial bail orders.

Interconnected concept:**Preventive detention:**

- Preventive detention is detaining a person without trial, not for a past crime, but to prevent future offenses against national security or public order. Governed by **Article 22** of the Indian Constitution, it balances state power with citizen rights through strict, court-mandated safeguards.

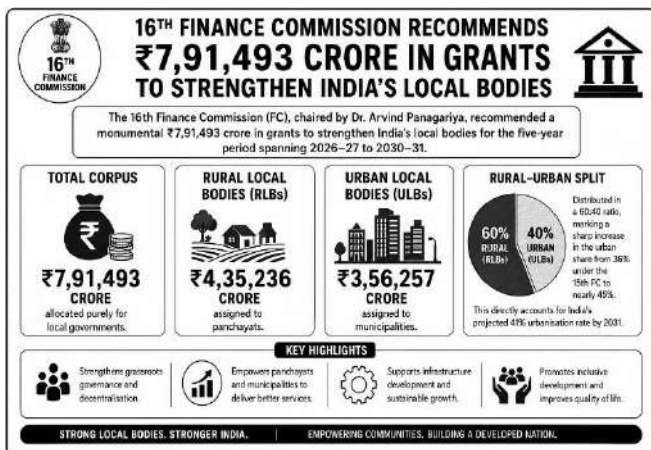


Article 22 clauses (4) to (7) outline specific limitations on preventive detention:

- **Three-Month Limit: Detention cannot exceed three months** unless an Advisory Board (composed of High Court judges or those qualified to be) reports sufficient cause for an extension.
- **Right to Representation:** The detaining authority must communicate the grounds of detention to the detainee as soon as possible, giving them the earliest opportunity to make a representation against the order.
- **Parliamentary Authority: Parliament has the exclusive right** to legislate preventive detention for reasons connected with defense, foreign affairs, and the security of India. Both Parliament and State Legislatures can make laws for maintaining **public order and essential supplies**.

8. Panchayati Raj Ministry holds national workshop on 16th Finance Commission recommendations.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj today organised a National Workshop of State Panchayati Raj Ministers in New Delhi to deliberate on the recommendations of the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**.



The Ministry informed that four lakh 35 thousand 236 crore rupees have been recommended for **Rural Local Bodies** under the 16th Finance Commission, marking an increase of around 84 percent over the comparable five-year allocation under the 15th Finance Commission.

Interconnected concept:

The **16th Finance Commission (FC)**, chaired by **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**, recommended **₹7,91,493 crore in grants** to strengthen India's local bodies for the five-year period spanning **2026-27 to 2030-31**.

- **Total Corpus:** ₹7,91,493 crore allocated purely for local governments.
- **Rural Local Bodies (RLBs):** ₹4,35,236 crore assigned to panchayats.
- **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs):** ₹3,56,257 crore assigned to municipalities.
- **Rural-Urban Split:** Distributed in a **60:40 ratio**, marking a sharp increase in the urban share from 36% under the 15th FC to nearly 45%. This directly accounts for India's projected 41% urbanisation rate by 2031.

9. Harjit Singh Grewal appointed Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities.

The Centre appointed **Harjit Singh Grewal** as the Chairperson of the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**, filling a post that had remained vacant since April 2025 after the tenure of Iqbal Singh Lalpura ended.

- He is the **second Sikh leader** to head the statutory body in succession.



National Commission for Minorities:

National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a **statutory body** established under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992** to protect and promote the rights of notified minority communities in India.

- It is a multi-member body functioning under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- **Members:** One Chairperson, one Vice-Chairperson, and five Members.
- **Appointment:** Nominated by the Central Government from persons of eminence, ability, and integrity.
- **Tenure:** 3 years from the date they assume office.

Interconnected concept:

Notified Minorities

- Notified minorities in India are specific communities recognized by the Central Government under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.
- The key notified religious communities are **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains**.



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Section-II A: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - including achievements of ISRO, new innovations & other related issues of S & T.

1. ISRO successfully conducts three major tests of Gaganyaan crew module systems.

The ISRO successfully carried out three major tests of the **Gaganyaan Crew Module systems**.



- The first test validated the **Crew Module Uprighting System**, which ensures that the crew module returns to an upright position after splashdown in the sea.
- The second test involved the **separation of the umbilical mechanism that connects the crew module**, where the astronauts are housed, with the service module, which provides power and propulsion.
- The third test validated the structural integrity of the crew module during the separation of the apex cover. The apex cover protects the parachutes and associated systems during the mission

Gaganyaan Mission:

Gaganyaan Mission is India's human spaceflight programme led by the ISRO. Its main objectives are:

- **Demonstrate Capability:** To independently launch an indigenous human spaceflight mission to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.

- **Mission Parameters:** Send a crew of 2-3 astronauts (referred to as *Gaganyatris*) to an altitude of ~400 km for a 3-day duration.
- **Safe Return:** Ensure a secure re-entry and a controlled splashdown landing in Indian sea waters

Key components in the mission are:

Launch vehicle: **HLVM3 (Human-Rated LVM3)**: A heavily modified version of India's heaviest rocket (LVM3) featuring a 3-stage propulsion system (**Solid, Liquid, Cryogenic**) with enhanced safety redundancies to cap acceleration for human comfort.

Orbital Module (OM) The spacecraft orbiting Earth, consisting of two sub-modules: the Crew Module and the Service Module.

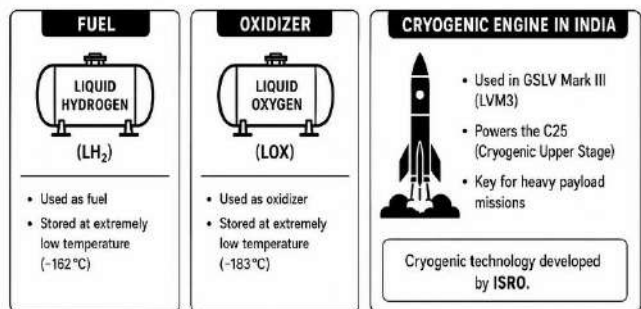
- **Crew Module (CM):** The habitable, earth-like pressurized metallic capsule housing the astronauts, integrated with environmental controls, life support systems, and thermal protection for re-entry.
- **Service Module (SM)** An unpressurized structure with thermal control, power systems, avionics, and a dedicated propulsion mechanism.
- **Environmental Control and Life Support System:** Manages air revitalization (oxygen/CO₂), temperature, humidity, and waste management to preserve life inside the crew module.

Successful execution makes **India only the fourth country to achieve independent human spaceflight capability**, after the USA, Russia, and China.

2. ISRO completes flight-acceptance hot test of indigenous CE20 cryogenic engine for the LVM3-M7 mission.

ISRO successfully completed the flight-acceptance hot test of the indigenous CE20 cryogenic engine earmarked for the **LVM3-M7 mission**. The critical trial took place at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)** in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

CRYOGENIC ENGINE



Cryogenic engine:

A cryogenic engine uses:

- **Liquid Hydrogen (LH₂)** as fuel (stored at -253°C) and
- **Liquid Oxygen (LOX)** as the oxidizer (stored at -183°C).

Because this combustion releases massive energy, it provides a much higher specific impulse (fuel efficiency) than solid or earth-storable liquid engines, enabling rockets to carry heavier payloads.

India's Cryogenic Program

- **CE-20 Engine:** Designed indigenously by ISRO's **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**, it powers the upper stage of India's heavy-lift rocket, the **LVM3** (formerly GSLV Mk-III). It is one of the most powerful upper-stage cryogenic engines globally.
- **Semi-Cryogenic Engine:** ISRO is also developing the **SCE-200**, a semi-cryogenic engine. Instead of liquid hydrogen, it uses a **highly refined, room-temperature kerosene (RP-1)** alongside liquid oxygen, making it easier to handle while delivering massive thrust for future boosters.
- **C-32 Cryogenic stage:** The C32 cryogenic stage is an upgraded upper-stage propulsion system developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** for the **LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark III)** rocket.
 - It replaces the older C25 stage by carrying 4,000 kg more propellant (32 tonnes total) and uprating the thrust of its **CE-20 engine** from 19 to 22 tonnes, which boosts payload capacity by about 25%.
 - The C32 stage allows the LVM3 to carry up to 5 metric tonnes to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

3. Dhruva Space secures ₹60 crore from Antariksh Fund.

Hyderabad-based space tech startup **Dhruva Space** has secured a ₹60 crore (\$6.3 million) investment from the government-backed **Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF)**. With this Dhruva Space becomes first to secure this fund.



Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF):

Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF) is India's dedicated ₹1,600 crore fund designed to boost the private space-tech ecosystem.

- It is India's first dedicated, sector-specific Space-Tech investment fund.
- It is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as a **Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)**

Dhruva Space:

Dhruva Space is space-tech startup creates indigenous, modular satellite platforms and offers end-to-end space engineering solutions. Key achievements are:

- **LEAP Missions:** Dhruva's debut commercial satellite deployment, **LEAP-1** (launched aboard Falcon 9), showcased deep space AI processing and hyperspectral imaging.
- **Project Garud:** Supported by the government's RDIF scheme, this major initiative develops a mass-producible **500 kg-class communications satellite platform** for both sovereign and global defense/telecom applications.

Interconnected concept:

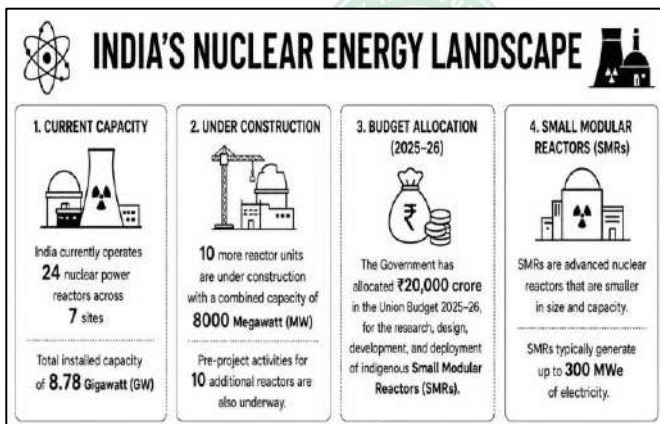
Venture Capital:

Venture Capital (VC) is a form of private equity financing that provides long-term start-up capital to early-stage, high-potential, and high-risk startups in exchange for equity (ownership stake).

4. Australia agrees to export uranium to India.

In Third India-Australia Annual Summit, held in Melbourne, India and Australia finalised Administrative Arrangement under the **India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement**.

- It enables long-term exports of Australian uranium to India for peaceful purposes under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. **Australia possesses the largest uranium resources** globally, accounting for more than one-third of the global total.
- The Arrangement is also significant for India's long-term energy security and nuclear ambitions. It complements the **Nuclear Energy Mission**, which targets **100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047**. It also reinforces the **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act**, enacted in December 2025.



Interconnected concepts:

- Nuclear Energy Mission:** The Nuclear Energy Mission aims to scale India's nuclear capacity to **100 GW by 2047**, up from ~8.78 GW. Backed by a ₹20,000 crore budget allocation, it prioritizes R&D and deployment of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and opens the sector to private and foreign investment.
- The **SHANTI Act, 2025 (Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India)** overhauls India's nuclear sector. It replaces the outdated Atomic Energy Act of 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act of 2010 to unlock large-scale capital, drive private participation.

It allows Indian private companies and joint ventures to build, own, and operate nuclear power plants, as well as manufacture equipment, subject to strict licensing.

5. Mission Drishti, the world's first OptoSAR satellite from an Indian private company, loses communication after solar storm.

Mission Drishti, the **world's first OptoSAR satellite** developed by Bengaluru-based space start-up **GalaxEye**, which was launched in May, encountered an anomaly following a **geomagnetic solar storm** during the final stage of the Launch and Early Orbit Phase (LEOP).



Mission Drishti is the world's first multi-sensor Earth Observation (EO) satellite featuring **OptoSAR technology**, developed by the Indian space-tech startup **GalaxEye**.

- Launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on May 3, 2026, it is India's largest privately built satellite (weighing 190 kg).

6. Gaganyaan mission: ISRO successfully conducts first SOLVE ground test.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully carried out the first ground test of the **Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE)** solid motor at the Static Test Facility, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

- The solid stage of SOLVE is derived from the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** Strap-on Motor with few modifications to meet the Gaganyaan test requirements.

GAGANYAAN MISSION

India's First Human Spaceflight Mission

OVERVIEW
Gaganyaan is India's indigenous human spaceflight mission to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

OBJECTIVE
To demonstrate India's capability to send humans to space and safely return them to Earth.

CREW
3 astronauts for the mission.

RETURN
Safe return and splashdown in the Bay of Bengal.

KEY FEATURES

- Three-stage launch vehicle – LVM3
- Crew Module with life support system
- Orbital Module for mission operations
- Emergency Escape System
- Re-entry and parachute-based recovery

SIGNIFICANCE

- Makes India the 4th country to send humans to space.
- Boosts self-reliance in advanced space technology.
- Paves the way for future missions – space station, lunar missions & beyond.



Interconnected concepts:

i. Gaganyaan:

- Gaganyaan is ISRO's maiden human spaceflight program. It aims to launch a crew of three astronauts into a **400 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** for a **three-day mission** and safely return them via a sea splashdown. Success will make India the fourth nation to achieve independent manned spaceflight.

ii. PSLV:

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is India's third-generation, indigenously built expendable launch vehicle.

- Known as the "**Workhorse of ISRO**," it is the first Indian rocket to feature liquid propulsion stages and is primarily used to place Earth-observation and remote-sensing satellites into Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits (SSO)

7. India approves first dengue vaccine for individuals aged 4 to 60 years.

In a Landmark step towards strengthening India's efforts for the prevention and control of dengue, the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)**, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has granted marketing authorisation for the Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine (Live, Attenuated) - **Qdenga**, manufactured by **Takeda GmbH**, Germany and to be imported by **M/s Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India Pvt. Ltd.**

- This is the first dengue vaccine approved in the country for the prevention of dengue disease.
- The vaccine has been approved for the prevention of dengue in people aged four to 60.

INDIA APPROVES FIRST DENGUE VACCINE

A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS DENGUE PREVENTION!

The Drug Controller General of India has granted market authorisation to Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India's **QDenga (TAK-003)**, making it the **first dengue vaccine** to be approved in the country.



ABOUT QDenga (TAK-003)

- QDenga is a live, attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine.
- Designed to provide protection against all four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, DENV-4).
- Administered in a 2-dose schedule (0 and 3 months).
- Developed by Takeda, a global biopharmaceutical leader.

APPROVED FOR

Prevention of dengue in people aged **4 to 60 years**

This approval marks a significant milestone in India's fight against dengue and strengthens public health preparedness.

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- First dengue vaccine approved in India
- Helps reduce dengue cases and severity
- Supports long-term dengue control
- Protects individuals and communities

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The approval of the country's first dengue vaccine marks an important milestone in India's public health response to dengue and is expected to complement the ongoing vector control, surveillance, early diagnosis and case management measures being implemented under the **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme**.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Dengue:

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the Dengue virus (DENV), an RNA virus of the **Flaviviridae** family.

- Transmitted primarily by the female **Aedes aegypti** mosquito, it thrives in tropical and subtropical regions, escalating during the monsoon season due to stagnant water breeding grounds.

2. National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme:

National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) operates the National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP), an umbrella scheme under the National Health Mission.

- It **prevents and controls six diseases**: malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis, kala-azar, and lymphatic filariasis, utilizing integrated vector management and free medication.

8. Skyroot Aerospace scripts history as Vikram-1 becomes India's first private orbital launch.

Skyroot Aerospace successfully launched **Vikram-1** (Mission Aagaman) on July 18, 2026, marking a monumental achievement as **India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle**. This historic event took place from the First Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.



- **National Significance:** This launch is the first time that a private Indian company has undertaken an orbital launch of a rocket from Indian soil.
- **Global Significance:** This mission made India the third country globally (after the US and China) to independently demonstrate private orbital launch capabilities

Vikram-1:

Vikram-1 is India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle, built by the Hyderabad-based space-tech startup **Skyroot Aerospace**.

- **Payload Capacity:** Capable of delivering up to 350 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and 260 kg to Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- **Propulsion:** Features a four-stage design, with the first three stages utilizing solid-fuel motors, and the upper (kick) stage utilizing **3D-printed Raman liquid engines** for precise orbital insertion

Interconnected concept:

Mission Aagaman

- **Mission Aagaman** refers to the **maiden orbital test flight of Vikram-1**, India's first privately

developed orbital-class rocket. Developed by the Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace, the historic launch successfully deployed multiple technology payloads into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

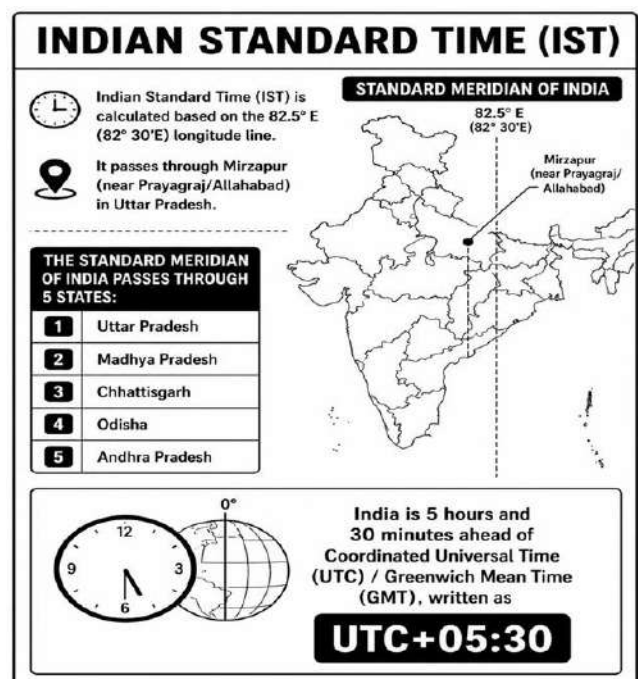
9. Union Minister inaugurates 'White Rabbit Technology'-based Indian Standard Time (IST) Distribution Demonstration Network.

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, inaugurated the **'White Rabbit Technology'-based 'Indian Standard Time (IST) - Distribution Demonstration Network'**.

- Developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL, and ISRO under the 'One Nation, One Time' initiative, it provides highly accurate, secure, and indigenous time synchronization across India.
- This system distributes Indian Standard Time (IST) that is directly traceable to UTC (NPLI) using Precision Time Protocol-based White Rabbit Technology. By operating independently of foreign global navigation systems, it ensures resilient time synchronisation.

'Indian Standard Time:

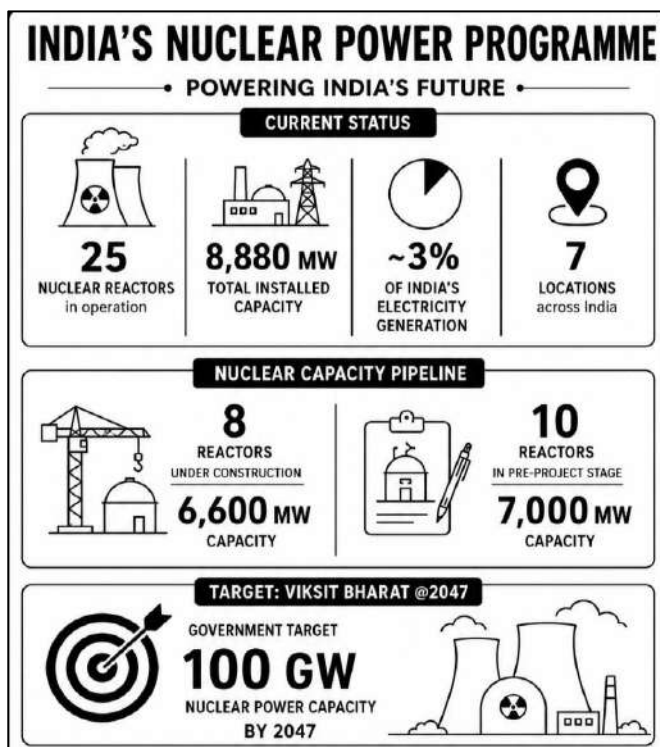
Indian Standard Time (IST) is calculated based on the **82.5° E (82° 30'E)** longitude line. It passes through **Mirzapur** (near Prayagraj/Allahabad) in Uttar Pradesh.



- The Standard Meridian of India passes through **5 states: Uttar Pradesh; Madhya Pradesh; Chhattisgarh; Odisha and Andhra Pradesh**
- India is **5 hours and 30 minutes ahead** of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) / Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), written as **UTC+05:30**
- **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)** in New Delhi is the official custodian of Indian time, maintaining it using ultra-precise caesium atomic clocks

10. Government unveils roadmap to achieve 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047, with focus on indigenous Small Modular Reactors.

The Centre has outlined roadmap to expand **India's nuclear power generation capacity to 100 GW by 2047**, with a strong focus on indigenous **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**, greater private sector participation and enhanced nuclear safety under the Nuclear Energy Mission (NEM).



Interconnected concepts:

i. India's current nuclear capacity:

India currently operates **25 nuclear reactors** across seven locations, with a total installed capacity of **8,880 MW**, contributing about 3% of the country's electricity generation.

- Eight reactors with 6,600 MW capacity are under construction, and another ten reactors with 7,000 MW capacity are in pre-project stages. In line with India's vision of 'Viksit Bharat @2047', the Government has set a target of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047

ii. Small Modular Reactors:

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are advanced, factory-built nuclear fission reactors with a capacity of up to 300 Megawatt electric (MWe) per module, which is roughly one-third of traditional nuclear plant capacity.

- India is developing indigenous models like the **200 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)** and **SMR-55 MWe** units at Tarapur.

iii. The government has initiated the privatization of India's civil nuclear sector through introduction of the SHANTI Act (2025).

- **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act** replaces the restrictive Atomic Energy Act of 1962 and parts of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) of 2010 to allow private Indian and foreign companies to build, own, and operate nuclear plants.

iv. Nuclear Energy Mission:

Nuclear Energy Mission, announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, to scale nuclear power capacity of India from ~8.78 GW to 100 GW by 2047.

- Backed by a ₹20,000 crore allocation, it focuses heavily on deploying indigenous **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** and unlocking private sector participation



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Section II B: DEFENSE - achievements of DRDO and other defense related issues.

1. Navy commissions stealth frigate INS Mahendragiri.

INS Mahendragiri is the **sixth of seven** stealth frigates built under the **Project 17A (Nilgiri-class)** program. It is an advanced follow-on variant of the preceding Shivalik-class frigates.



- Named after a majestic mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha, it marks a critical milestone in India's drive toward defense self-reliance under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative

Interconnected concepts:

- Project 17A** is a ₹45,000-crore defence program initiated by the Indian Navy to construct **seven advanced stealth guided-missile frigates**. These warships belong to the Nilgiri-class.
- Mahendragiri** is a prominent hill range in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha. It is a residual hill range of the Eastern Ghats and acts as a transitional ecological zone between the flora and fauna of the Himalayas and Southern India. It is also the origin point of the **Mahendra Tanaya River**.

2. DRDO successfully conducts flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket.

DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR)** at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. The rocket was tested for a user defined minimum range of 60 kms.



Pinaka is an indigenous, unguided to precision-guided **Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL)** system developed by DRDO.

Variants are:

- Pinaka Mk-I:** Initial variant with a strike range of approximately 40 km.
- Pinaka Mk-II (Extended Range):** Range of 60 to 75 km.
- Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket (LRGR):** Successfully tested to reach up to 120 km. The guided variant uses an Integrated Navigation System (INS) combined with GPS/NavIC for pinpoint accuracy

3. Indonesia becomes the first foreign country to acquire India's Astra missile; India to supply two BrahMos missile batteries worth \$200 million.



India and Indonesia reached a significant milestone in their by signing a deal for the supply of the **Astra Mk 1 'beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles'** (BVRAAM).

- The development is significant as it marks **India's first export of Astra missiles** to another country. These missiles will arm Indonesia's Su-30 fleet.

Astra missile:

Astra missile is India's first fully indigenous **Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)**, designed and developed by the DRDO.

- It allows fighter jets to detect, track, and destroy supersonic, highly manoeuvrable enemy aircraft at long stand-off distances (over 100 km) without requiring visual line-of-sight contact.

Variants:

- **Astra Mk-1:** The first operational version in service with the Indian Air Force (IAF). It has a range of 80-110 km, travels at speeds of Mach 4.5, and can intercept targets at altitudes up to 20 km.
- **Astra Mk-2:** Features a dual-pulse rocket motor and extends the strike range to approximately 160-240 km.
- **Astra Mk-3 (Gandiva):** Currently under development. It will use **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** technology, enabling an intercept range exceeding 350 km.

India is set to supply Indonesia with two batteries of **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles** valued at \$200 million.

- With this, India is now set to export the BrahMos missiles to three countries, including the **Philippines** and **Vietnam**.

BrahMos:

BrahMos is the world's fastest operational **supersonic cruise missile**. It is an Indo-Russian joint venture (DRDO and NPO Mashinostroyeniya) named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers.

- **Speed:** Mach 2.8 to 3.5, roughly three times the speed of sound.
- **Propulsion:** Two-stage design. The first stage uses a solid-propellant booster, and the second stage uses a liquid-fuelled ramjet engine.

Interconnected concept:

Cruise missile

A cruise missile is a guided, self-propelled weapon that remains within the Earth's atmosphere for its entire flight.

Classification Based on Speed

- **Subsonic Cruise Missiles:** Travel slower than Mach 1 (e.g., India's Nirbhay, American Tomahawk).
- **Supersonic Cruise Missiles:** Travel at speeds between Mach 2 and Mach 3 (e.g., India & Russia's joint venture BrahMos).
- **Hypersonic Cruise Missiles:** Travel faster than Mach 5, usually powered by scramjet engines (e.g., Russia's Zircon, India's developmental BrahMos-II)

4. India invites private firms to develop high-altitude surveillance airships.

India has invited private companies to participate in the development of indigenous **High-altitude surveillance airships** under a Rs 15,000-crore programme aimed at strengthening the country's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.



- The **Airship-based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (AS-HAPS)** programme will develop unmanned platforms capable of operating in the stratosphere for extended periods, bridging the gap between drones and satellites.
- The programme is being steered by the Indian Air Force's Directorate of Operations (Remote) under the **Make-I procurement framework**, which allows the Centre to fund up to 70 per cent of prototype development costs for selected industry partners.

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** approved the project earlier this year.

Interconnected concepts:

Defence Acquisition Council:

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is the apex body within the Ministry of Defence that makes policies and approves capital acquisitions for the Indian armed forces.

- Established in 2001, it is chaired by the **Defence Minister** and ensures rapid, budget-conscious procurement to boost national security and domestic manufacturing.

5. DRDO successfully conducts maiden flight test of the 'Kusha' long-range surface-to-air missile.

DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of '**Kusha**' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.



'KUSHA' MISSILE SYSTEM

INDIGENOUS AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM BY INDIA



India has successfully developed the 'Kusha' missile system, an indigenous, quick reaction surface-to-air missile (QRSAM) system.

OVERVIEW

- 'Kusha' is a short-range surface-to-air missile system designed to neutralise aerial threats.
- Developed indigenously by DRDO.

KEY FEATURES

- Quick reaction capability
- High mobility
- All-weather operation
- Day and night capability
- Multi-target engagement

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

↑	Type	Short-range Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM)
↔	Range	25 - 30 km
↕	Altitude	Up to 12 - 15 km
⚡	Speed	Mach 2.5 - 3
📡	Guidance System	Command Guidance with Active Radar Seeker
🚚	Mobility	Highly mobile. Can be deployed quickly.
👤	User	Indian Army (Air Defence Units)

CAPABILITIES

- Intercepts enemy aircraft, helicopters, UAVs and cruise missiles.
- Provides area air defence for vital assets and strategic locations.
- Complements systems like Akash and Barak-8.

SIGNIFICANCE

- Strengthens India's air defence network.
- Reduces dependence on foreign systems.
- Boosts indigenous defence capabilities and self-reliance.

A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS 'SELF-RELIANT INDIA IN DEFENCE'

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Showcases India's growing defence technology prowess

'Kusha' missile system:

Project Kusha is an indigenous long-range **surface-to-air missile system** developed by the DRDO to provide a multi-layered air defence shield.

- It features three interceptor variants (150 km, 250 km, and 350-400 km ranges) and is designed to counter stealth fighters, drones, and cruise missiles.

Interconnected concept:

Surface-to-Air missile:

- A surface-to-air missile (SAM) is a ground- or sea-launched air defense system designed to

destroy enemy aircraft, drones, and incoming missiles

Key Indian SAM Systems:

- **Akash:** Indigenous medium-range multi-target system with a strike range of 25-30 km.
- **MRSAM (Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile):** Co-developed by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries with a range of 70 km.
- **QRSAM (Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile):** Highly mobile short-range system providing air defense on-the-move for moving armored columns.
- **S-400 Triumph:** Long-range strategic system acquired from Russia covering threats up to 400 km.

6. 'Samudra Pradakshina': India's first tri-service all-women circumnavigation concludes successfully.

India's first tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition, named **Samudra Pradakshina**, was successfully completed, when the crew returned to Mumbai aboard the **IASV Triveni** after a 314-day global voyage.

- **Mission Name:** Samudra Pradakshina
- **Vessel:** Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni (an indigenously built 50-foot sailing craft symbolizing *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*)
- **Crew:** Nine women officers representing the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force, led by Lieutenant Colonel **Anuja Varudkar**.
- **Duration & Distance:** 314 days; covered nearly 25,500 nautical miles across four major oceans.



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Section-III: Environment & Ecology: This section covers important current issues with respect to environment and Climate change

1. NTCA approves resumption of the Satkosia tiger reintroduction programme.

Odisha government's proposal to resume tiger re-introduction in **Satkosia Tiger Reserve** has received in-principal approval of the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.

Satkosia Tiger Reserve located in Odisha It is a prime habitat for the endangered Gharial and Mugger Crocodile. It also shelters Tigers, Leopards, Elephants, Gaur (Bison), and the four-horned antelope (Chousingha).



Interconnected concept:

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA): National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It was established in 2006 under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** to provide statutory backing and enforceable compliance to Project Tiger.

- **Composition:** Chaired by the **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change**. It includes Members of Parliament (MPs), wildlife experts, and MoEFCC officials.

2. 'Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana' approved for restoration of 15,000 sacred groves across India.

The **Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana** is a ₹3,000-crore Central scheme approved by the **National CAMPA** for the conservation of nearly 15,000 sacred groves across India.



- Spanning five years (2026-27 to 2030-31), the initiative aims to protect these traditional, culturally revered forest patches-also known as *Aastha Vans*-which serve as crucial local biodiversity hotspots and water reservoirs.
- The scheme has a budget of ₹3,000 crore and is funded entirely through the **National CAMPA Fund** (Compensatory Afforestation Fund).

Interconnected concepts:

1. Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority:

The **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

- It was established by the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016**, to manage funds collected from agencies that divert forest land for non-forest purposes.

- **Fund Distribution:** The Act creates National and State CAFs in the **Public Account of India** and the states. States receive **90%** of the funds, while the Centre retains **10%** for administration and capacity building.

ii. Public Account of India:

Public Account of India, constituted under **Article 266(2)** of the Constitution, holds public money that the government receives as a trustee or banker. It includes funds like **Provident Funds**, **small savings schemes**, and **judicial deposits**.

- The government cannot use these funds for general expenses, and withdrawals do not require parliamentary approval.
- Since the government only acts as a custodian, expenditures from this account do not need legislative appropriation/approval.

iii. Comparison with Other Funds:

- **Consolidated Fund of India (Article 266(1)):** The main account holding all government revenues, taxes, and borrowings. Parliamentary approval is mandatory for any expenditure from this fund.
- **Contingency Fund of India (Article 267):** An emergency corpus placed at the disposal of the President **to meet unforeseen expenditures** pending parliamentary approval.

3. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) finalises India's first national guidelines for mangrove ecosystem restoration.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) finalizes India's first national guidelines for the restoration of mangrove ecosystems, titled **"Restoration of Mangrove Ecosystem - Guidelines"**.



- The draft standard establishes protocols to ensure mangrove restoration is scientifically planned rather than relying on unmanaged tree-planting.

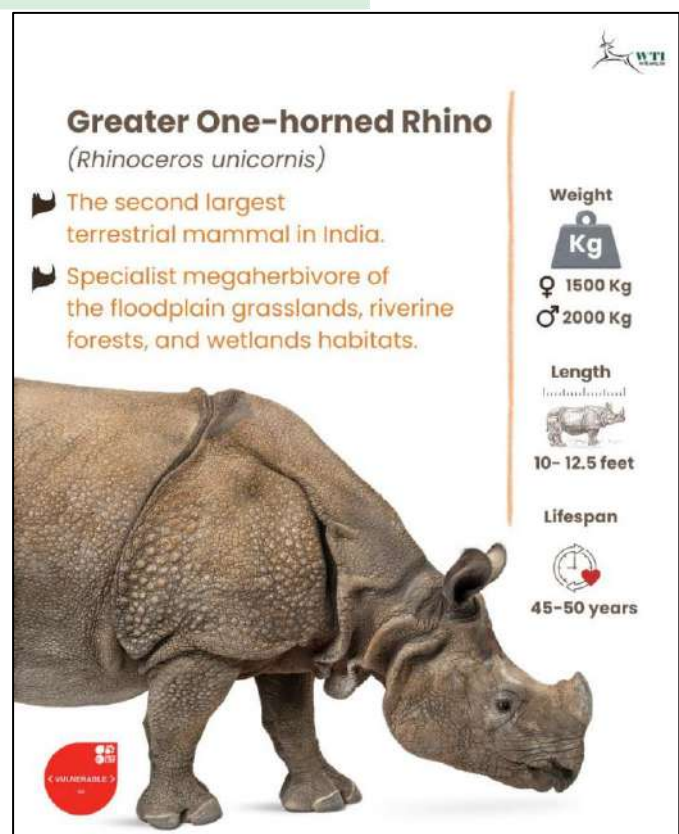
Mangroves:

Mangroves are salt-tolerant trees and shrubs that thrive in the intertidal zones of sheltered tropical and subtropical coastlines. They act as vital **bio-shields**, natural **carbon sinks**, and nurseries for marine biodiversity, playing a critical role in coastal ecology and climate change mitigation.

- India protects its mangroves through a combination of national missions like MISHTI (*Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes*), regulatory protections under the CRZ framework, and community-integrated livelihood projects.

4. National Board for Wildlife approves DNA indexing for rhino profiling.

Standing Committee of the **National Board for Wildlife** (SC-NBWL) chaired by Union Environment Minister approved landmark conservation initiative to create a DNA-based indexing system for the **greater one-horned rhinoceros**.



- It is aimed at strengthening species conservation, improving wildlife management and curbing poaching through scientific monitoring.

The proposed Rhino DNA Indexing System will create a genetic database of India's one-horned rhinos, enabling authorities to identify individual animals, map their geographical distribution, determine age and sex, and monitor genetic diversity across protected habitats. Wildlife experts say the initiative will help detect the movement or mixing of rhino populations between forests, support scientific breeding programmes and provide forensic evidence to investigate wildlife crimes.

Interconnected concepts:

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is India's apex statutory body for wildlife conservation, constituted under Section 5A of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

It consists of 47 members with Prime minister as the chairperson

- Vice-Chairperson:** Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Members:** Includes Union Ministers from allied ministries, Chief Ministers of all states/UTs, Members of Parliament, the Chief of Army Staff, and representatives from NGOs.
- Independent Experts:** 10 eminent ecologists, conservationists, and environmentalists nominated by the Central Government

NBWL vs STANDING COMMITTEE OF NBWL		
	National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)	Standing Committee of the NBWL
Nature	A statutory, apex body constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.	A permanent committee constituted by the NBWL from among its members.
Purpose	Provides general policy direction and takes major decisions on wildlife conservation.	Assists the NBWL by examining proposals in detail and making recommendations.
Function	Decides on important issues like sanctuary/NP/WLS notifications, de-reservation, diversion of forest land, and major policy matters.	Examines proposals related to sanctuaries, national parks, conservation reserves, diversion of forest land, and recommends to NBWL.
Composition	Chairperson + up to 47 members (officials, experts, NGOs, etc.).	Chairperson + not more than 12 members of NBWL.
Chairperson	Prime Minister of India.	Usually the Minister-in-charge of MoEFCC.
Decision Making	Takes final decisions.	Makes recommendations; final decision rests with NBWL.

Standing Committee of the NBWL:

- It is the apex regulatory body in India responsible for reviewing development projects in and around **Protected Areas (PAs)** and **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)**.

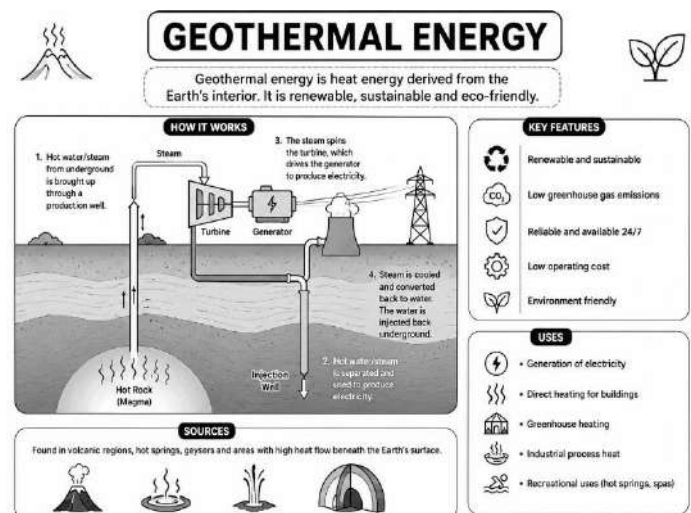
- Composition:** Chaired by the **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** (unlike the full NBWL, which is chaired by the Prime Minister). It has up to 10 members nominated by the Minister from the main board.

5. ONGC drills second geothermal well in Ladakh.

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in **Ladakh's Puga Valley**, marking another step towards developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant.

Geothermal energy:

- Geothermal energy is the **heat energy stored inside the Earth**, which can be used for heating buildings and generating electricity.



Where does Earth's heat come from?

Earth's internal heat mainly comes from:

- Residual heat** left from Earth's formation about 4.5 billion years ago.
- Radioactive decay** of elements such as uranium, thorium, and potassium inside the Earth's crust and mantle.

India has an estimated geothermal potential of about **10 GW**, though commercial utilisation is still at an early stage. Prominent Geothermal sites in India are:

- Puga Valley & Chhumathang (Ladakh)
- Manikaran (Himachal Pradesh)
- Tattapani (Chhattisgarh)
- Cambay Graben (Gujarat)

6. 28th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (PC28) held in Geneva.

28th meeting of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** held in Geneva.

The Plants Committee is one of two permanent scientific bodies under the convention, the other being the Animals Committee. Its job is to give scientific and technical advice on species that are, or could become, subject to trade rules.



CITES:

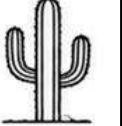
CITES (**Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**) is a **legally binding international treaty** aiming to ensure that international trade in wild specimens does not threaten their survival.

- Administered by **UNEP**, it controls the import, export, and re-export of listed species through a standardized permit system.

CITES lists over 40,000 species and categorizes them into three Appendices based on their conservation status.

- Appendix I:** Species **threatened with extinction**. Commercial trade is strictly **prohibited**. Trade is allowed only in exceptional, non-commercial circumstances (e.g., scientific research) and requires **both an import and an export permit**.
- Appendix II:** Species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but trade must be strictly regulated to prevent over-exploitation. Trade requires an **export permit**; import permits are generally not required.

- Appendix III:** Species protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES parties for help in controlling the trade.

APPENDICES – THREE LEVELS OF PROTECTION		
APPENDIX I	Threatened species. Trade is allowed only in exceptional circumstances. (Commercial trade generally not permitted)	
APPENDIX II	Species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but trade must be controlled to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.	
APPENDIX III	Species protected in at least one country that has asked CITES for assistance in controlling the trade.	

7. Assam's Borjuli wetland notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site for wild rice conservation.

The **Borjuli wetland in Assam**, known for harbouring a disease and pest-resistant variety of wild rice, has been notified as a **Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)**, marking a major milestone in the conservation of India's wild rice genetic resources.

- The wild rice species, **Oryza rufipogon**, is the progenitor of present-day cultivated rice, *Oryza sativa*. It is resistant to pests and diseases and can tolerate flooding and saline conditions, making it a valuable genetic resource for developing climate-resilient crop varieties.

BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITE (BHS)



BHS are ecologically rich natural areas of high conservation value, recognized for their ecological, cultural and scientific importance.

1. WHAT IS A BHS?  A naturally rich area important for conservation of biodiversity.	2. OBJECTIVES  - Conserve biodiversity - Protect habitats - Promote sustainable use - Recognize community conserved areas	3. IDENTIFICATION  Identified based on ecological, species, cultural and evolutionary significance.	4. NOTIFICATION  Notified by State Governments under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with NBA approval.	5. MANAGEMENT  - Managed by local communities - In-situ conservation - Sustainable use - Respect traditional knowledge
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Interconnected concepts:**Biodiversity Heritage Site:**

- Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems that harbour rich biodiversity.
- Under Section 37 of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, State Governments are empowered to notify these areas in consultation with local bodies, and they are typically managed by local communities to preserve ecological and cultural significance.

An area qualifies for BHS status if it features any of the following characteristics:

- High endemism and species richness.
- Presence of rare, threatened, keystone, or evolutionarily significant species.
- Wild ancestors or landraces of domesticated/cultivated crops.

- Significant cultural, ethical, or aesthetic values that maintain cultural diversity.



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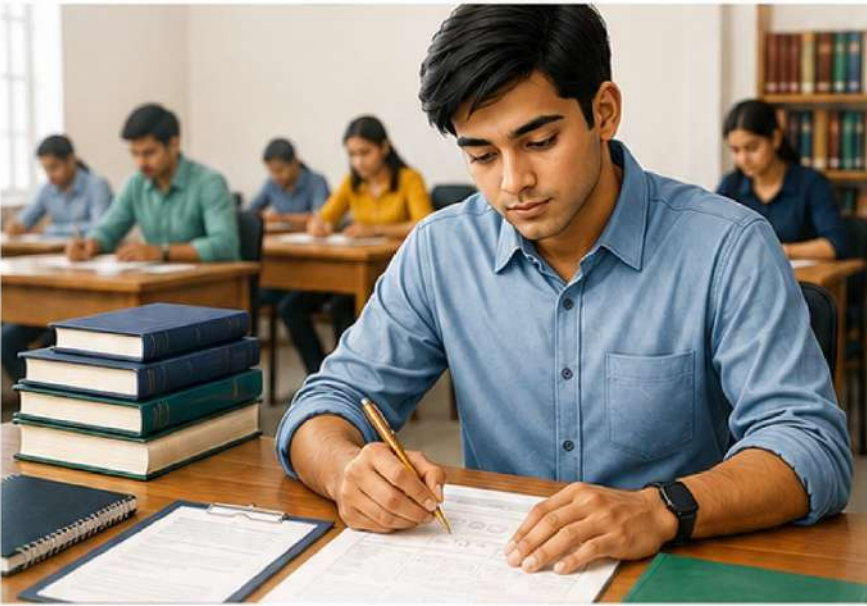


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Section IV: NATIONAL EVENTS - covers current national happenings.

1. VB-G RAM G scheme comes into effect.

The **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)** (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, has come into effect, replacing the two-decade-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.



key features of VB-G RAM G:

- **Increased guaranteed wage employment days:** The VB-G RAM G Act increases the number of working days from 100 to 125.
- **Pause in employment guarantee during agriculture season:** VB-G RAM G provides for a 60-day pause in the scheme during the peak agricultural sowing and harvesting seasons to ensure the availability of farm labour.
- **States to share funding burden:** Departing from MGNREGA, the VB-G RAM G Act proposes a higher share of states in the funding of the rural job programme.

Unlike MGNREGS, where the Centre paid 100% of the wage bill, VB-G RAM G shifts 40% of the funding burden onto states. The exceptions to this are the northeastern and Himalayan states as well as Union Territories (UTs) with a legislature, where the Union government will bear 90% of the funding burden. As for UTs without a legislature, the Centre will bear the complete funding burden.

- **Top-down resource allocation approach:** It also flips the MGNREGS model of Central allocations based on state labour budgets, with the Centre now determining the devolutions.
- **New Wage rates for Unskilled Manual Workers:** Section 10 of the VB-G RAM G Act empowers the **Centre to specify the wage rate**

for unskilled manual work provided under the VB-G RAM G Scheme.

2. NABARD facilitates GI registration for 28 new products.

NABARD announced that it has facilitated the **Geographical Indication registration** of 28 new products such as traditional handicrafts, handloom textiles and bamboo crafts among others across the country. Till date, NABARD has supported 176 products in securing GI registration.



NABARD:

The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** is India's apex development financial institution.

- It was established on **12 July 1982** based on the recommendations of the **B. Sivaraman Committee** (also known as **CRAFICARD-Committee to Review Arrangements for Institutional Credit for Agriculture and Rural Development**)

Interconnected concepts:

GI Tag:

A Geographical Indication (GI) identifies a product originating from a specific location, possessing unique qualities or reputation due to that place of origin.

- **Key Features:** It is a community/collective property right, not for individuals. The quality often stems from local natural factors or traditional human skill.

Legal and Institutional Framework:

- **Global Level:** Governed by WTO's TRIPS Agreement (Articles 22 and 23), administered largely under the WIPO framework.
- **India:** Regulated by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** (enforced Sept 2003).
- **Registry:** Based in Chennai under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Validity:** 10 years, renewable indefinitely.

3. PMFME scheme crosses two lakh credit-linked beneficiaries.

Union Food Processing Industries Minister hailed the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme** after it crossed the landmark of sanctioning loans to more than two lakh micro food processing enterprises, calling it a major step towards strengthening grassroots entrepreneurship and building a self-reliant India.



Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:

The PMFME Scheme is a centrally sponsored initiative under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** aimed at **upgrading and formalizing unorganized micro food enterprises**.

- Launched in 2020 by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore, it has been extended until September 2026.

4. Uttarakhand becomes the country's sixth fully literate state.

Uttarakhand has become the **sixth fully literate State** in the country after achieving the prescribed adult literacy benchmarks under the National Education Policy 2020 and the **ULLAS** -

Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society - New India Literacy Programme.

With this achievement, Uttarakhand joins Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim on the list of fully literate States, marking a significant milestone in the State's educational development.

ULLAS - Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society:

- ULLAS is an Indian government initiative targeting adults aged 15 and above who missed formal education.



- Operating from **2022 to 2027**, it goes beyond basic reading and writing to equip learners with digital, financial, and vocational skills

5. CAC49 adopts seven Codex standards developed under India's leadership.

India achieved significant milestones at the 49th Session of the **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49)** held in Geneva, Switzerland from **6th to 10th July, 2026**.



The Commission adopted seven Codex standards and guidelines developed under India's chairmanship and co-chairmanship, reinforcing India's contribution to the development of science-based international food standards.

Codex Alimentarius Commission:

The **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)** is an intergovernmental body established in May 1963 by the **FAO** and **WHO**.

- Its primary goal is to develop science-based international food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the global food trade

6. Clearance sought for protection and development of Indira Point Lighthouse on Great Nicobar Island.

To protect and develop the **Indira Point Lighthouse on Great Nicobar Island**, the Directorate of Lighthouses and Lightships at **Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair)** has sought coastal regulation zone clearance for strengthening the lighthouse, constructing a museum, and a convention centre, among others.



Indira Point:

Indira Point is the **southernmost point of India's sovereign territory**. (Note: Kanyakumari/Cape Comorin is the southernmost point of the Indian mainland).

- It is located on the southern tip of the **Great Nicobar Island (GNI)** in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Originally known as **Pygmalion Point** and **Parsons Point** during the colonial era. It was officially renamed Indira Point in October 1985 following a visit by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Interconnected concept:

- **Sri Vijaya Puram (formerly Port Blair)** is the capital city of India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Located on South Andaman Island, it serves as the main entry point to the archipelago.

- The city was renamed to shed its colonial legacy and reflect the region's ancient Chola naval history and role in India's freedom movement.

7. Four states reach agreement on the Narmada project.

The States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh reached an agreement on the settlement of pending payment issues among the **Narmada Award** beneficiary States.



Narmada River:

The **Narmada River** (also known as the **Reva** or **Lifeline of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat**) rises from **Narmada Kund** on the **Amarkantak Hill** (Maikal Range) in eastern Madhya Pradesh.

- It is the **5th longest river** in India and the **longest west-flowing river** in the country. It spans a total length of **1,312 km** before emptying into the Arabian Sea.
- It primarily flows through three states in central and western India: **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat**.

The "**Narmada Award**" primarily refers to the final 1979 decision of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT), which allocated Narmada River waters and power among Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. Four states also reached a historic one-time settlement on pending financial dues.

8. Cabinet approves National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 to boost domestic production.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the **National Investment Policy for Urea-2026** to promote fresh investments in the domestic urea sector and strengthen India's self-sufficiency in fertilizer production.



- The policy will encourage new investments in the Urea sector for setting up the gas-based Urea manufacturing units in the country.

Need of new policy:

- At present, there are 33 operational Urea manufacturing units with total Reassessed/installed capacity of 269.42 LMT. There is a need to increase the indigenous production of Urea. There is a gap in the indigenous production and demand of urea in the country which is filled by the import of urea.

Urea:

Urea, also known as **carbamide**, is a white, crystalline nitrogenous organic chemical compound with the chemical formula $\text{CO}(\text{NH}_2)_2$.

- It contains 46% nitrogen, making it the most concentrated and commonly used nitrogenous fertilizer globally.
- It is produced synthetically via the **Haber-Bosch process** by reacting ammonia (NH_3) with carbon dioxide (CO_2) under high pressure.

India relies on foreign sources for ~90% of its urea—either through direct imports or by importing the Natural Gas/LNG needed for domestic production. Major suppliers include Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

9. IndiGo A320 becomes the first passenger aircraft in India to land using the GAGAN system.

IndiGo Airbus A320 landed at Udaipur airport using the **Gagan satellite-based navigation system** instead of the conventional ground-based radio landing aid. This marks the first time a full-sized passenger jet in India completed a landing using the technology.



- The landing highlights a key development in civil aviation as India deployed its indigenous satellite-based navigation system, Gagan, to guide a commercial passenger aircraft during approach and touchdown.

GAGAN:

GAGAN (GPS-Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) is India's regional Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS), jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

- GAGAN doesn't replace standard GPS; it enhances it. It reduces GPS positional errors from roughly 7.6 meters to **3 meters or less**.

Interconnected concept:

NavIC:

GAGAN is an *augmentation* system that relies on GPS, whereas NavIC is India's indigenous, independent regional satellite navigation system

- NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)** is India's indigenous regional satellite navigation system, developed by ISRO.
- It provides precise position, velocity, and timing services across India and up to **1,500 km beyond its borders**.
- Constellation:** It consists of a nominal 7 active satellites. Three are in Geostationary Orbit (GEO) and four in inclined Geosynchronous Orbit (GSO), a configuration that ensures continuous visibility over the region.

Services Offered:

- Standard Positioning Service (SPS):** Available for all civilian users, offering positioning accuracy of better than 20 meters.

- **Restricted Service (RS):** An encrypted, secure service reserved exclusively for authorized users, primarily the armed forces

Global Interoperability: NavIC signals are interoperable with other major global systems like GPS (USA), GLONASS (Russia), Galileo (Europe), and BeiDou (China).

10. India's first hydrogen train begins operations on the Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana.

India's first hydrogen-powered passenger launched on the **Jind-Sonipat route** in Haryana. The eco-friendly train runs from the Jind railway station to Sonipat in Haryana.



This marks a massive transition under Indian Railways' **"Hydrogen for Heritage" project**, aimed at deploying clean-energy rolling stock across ecologically sensitive and non-electrified routes.

Hydrogen Train:

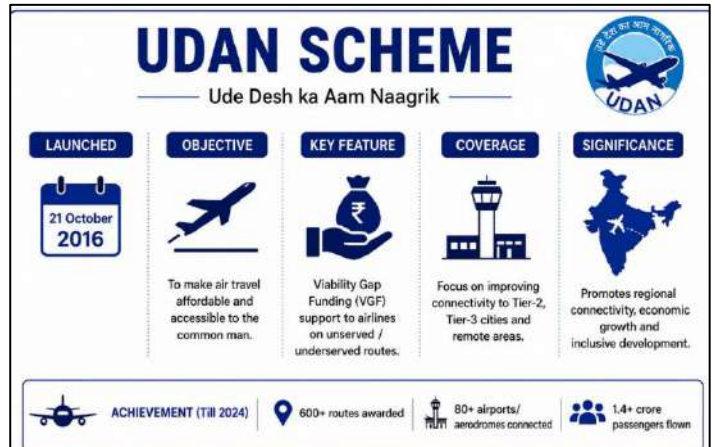
A hydrogen train is a zero-emission locomotive that **uses hydrogen fuel cells** to generate electricity onboard rather than drawing power from overhead electric lines or burning diesel.

- Unlike traditional diesel engines that rely on mechanical combustion, hydrogen trains operate on electrochemical energy conversion.

11. Cabinet approves modified UDAN scheme to develop 100 airports over the next 10 years.

Union Cabinet approved the launch and implementation of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme - Modified UDAN** for a period of ten years from 2026-27 to 2035-36 with a total outlay of 28,840 crore rupees.

- Under this, **100 airports will be developed** from existing unserved airstrips to enhance **regional connectivity**. This will lead to enhanced regional air connectivity to underserved and unserved areas.
- It will also give a boost to economic growth, trade and tourism in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and support affordable air travel for common citizens.



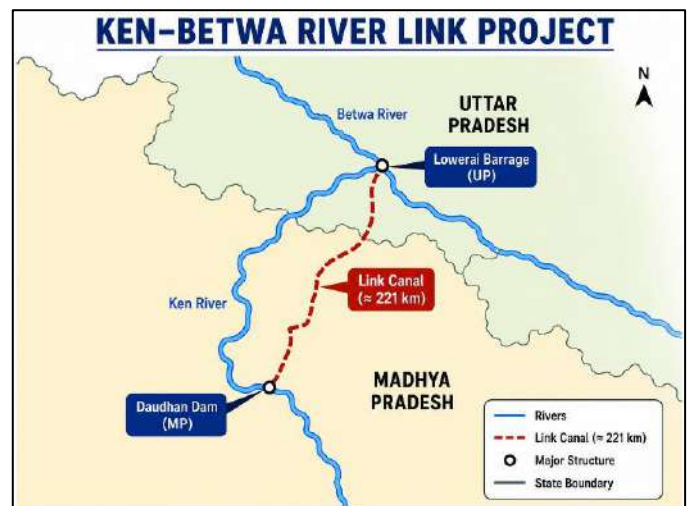
UDAN scheme:

UDAN (**Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik**) scheme initiative launched in 2016 under the National Civil Aviation Policy to enhance regional air connectivity and make flying affordable for the masses.

- It focuses on unserved and underserved Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

12. Protests resume over the Ken-Betwa river link project in Madhya Pradesh.

Tribes in Madhya Pradesh launched agitation against **Ken-Betwa River link project**.



Ken-Betwa River link project:

Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is river interlinking initiative that aims to transfer surplus water from the **Ken River in Madhya Pradesh** to the water-scarce Betwa Basin in Uttar Pradesh to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.

- **States Involved:** Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Rivers:** Both originate in Madhya Pradesh and are tributaries of the Yamuna. Ken passes through the Panna Tiger Reserve, while Betwa flows to the Yamuna in Hamirpur.

13. SMILE scheme rehabilitates over 10,200 persons engaged in begging across 216 cities.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced that it is strengthening efforts to rehabilitate persons engaged in begging through the **Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) Scheme**, with the initiative currently operational in 216 cities across the country.

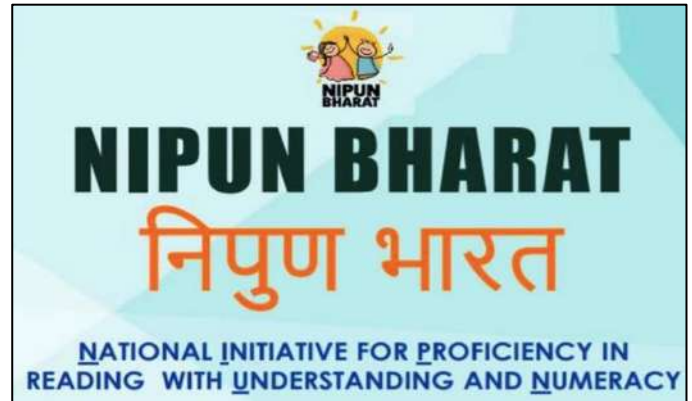
**SMILE scheme:**

SMILE scheme (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) is an umbrella welfare program by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

- It focuses on the holistic **rehabilitation, education, skill development, and social inclusion** of two highly vulnerable groups: the transgender community and individuals engaged in begging.

14. NIPUN Bharat Mission marks its fifth anniversary.

The **NIPUN Bharat Mission**, India's flagship initiative for foundational learning, marked its 5th anniversary.



The **NIPUN Bharat Mission** is a national initiative launched in July 2021 by the **Ministry of Education** to ensure universal **foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN)**.

- Implemented under the centrally sponsored **Samagra Shiksha scheme** by the Department of School Education and Literacy.
- Target Group: Children aged 3 to 9 years (from Balvatika/pre-school up to Grade 3).
- Main Goal: Every child must achieve reading fluency, comprehension, and basic math skills by the end of Grade 3 (target year: 2026-27).

Interconnected concept:**Samagra Shiksha Scheme:**

The **Samagra Shiksha Scheme** is an integrated Ministry of Education program for school education spanning pre-school to Class.

- It was launched by merging-Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE) into a single umbrella.
- It acts as the main vehicle for executing National Education Policy goals, including foundational learning and early childhood care.

15. 72nd National Film Awards announced.

The **72nd National Film Awards** for the year 2024 were officially announced by the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**. The awards honoured exceptional cinematic achievements for

films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between January 1 and December 31, 2024.



- **Best Feature Film & Actress:** *Article 370* (Hindi).
- **Best Actor:** Jointly awarded to Mammooty (*Bramayugam*) & Kartik Aaryan (*Chandu Champion*).
- **Best Popular Film:** *Kalki 2898 AD*.
- **Best Debut Director:** Randeep Hooda (*Swatantrya Veer Savarkar*).

16. Jan Aushadhi Kendras deliver savings of ₹45,000 crore over 12 years.

The government informed Parliament that **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** has helped citizens save an estimated ₹45,000 crore on medicine purchases over the past 12 years by expanding access to affordable quality generic medicines through a rapidly growing network of **Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs)**.



Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a central sector scheme launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality generic medicines at 50% to 90% lower prices.

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals).
- **Implementing Agency:** Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), formerly BPPI.
- **Launch Year:** Originally launched in 2008 as 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme'; revamped and renamed as PMBJP in 2015-2016



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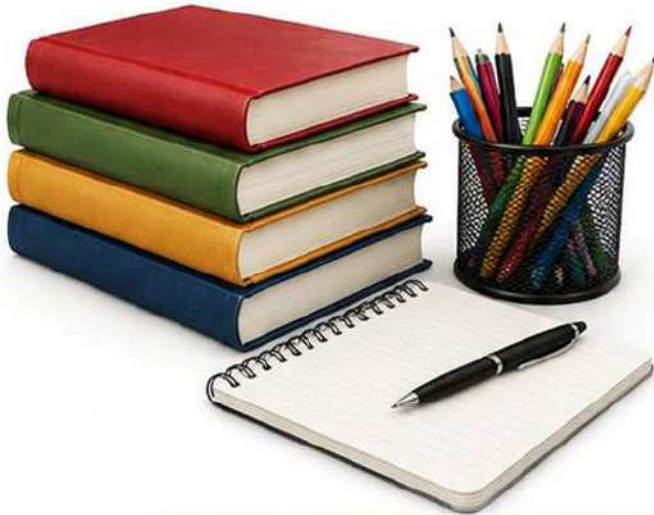
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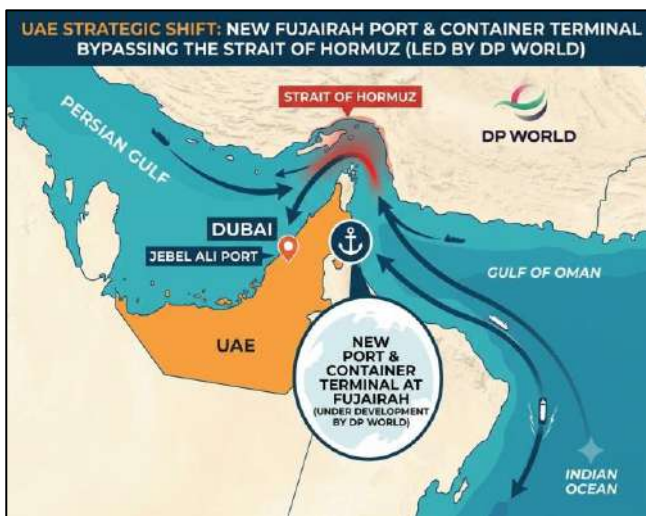
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Section-V: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - Covers issues at global level impacting India & its relations with other countries.

1. UAE builds new port to bypass the Strait of Hormuz.

United Arab Emirates is planning a new deepwater port on its east coast that would allow cargo to bypass the **Strait of Hormuz**, reducing reliance on one of the world's most strategically vulnerable shipping routes after months of conflict between Iran and the United States



Reason:

- The UAE, a key strategic ally of the United States in West Asia, has faced repeated Iranian attacks since the US-Iran conflict erupted in late February. During one such attack, debris from an intercepted missile triggered a fire at **Dubai's Jebel Ali port** which is West Asia's largest container port.
- Activity at the port reduced by as much as 90 per cent after Iran closed the strait, forcing UAE to look for alternative routes and facilities.
- **Interconnected concept:**
 - **Strait of Hormuz:** The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow, highly strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the **Persian Gulf** to the **Gulf of Oman** and the Arabian Sea. It is the only sea passage from the oil-rich Persian Gulf to the open ocean, making it a crucial global energy artery.
 - **Connecting Water Bodies:** Persian Gulf (West) and the Gulf of Oman (East).

- **Bordering Countries:** Iran lies on the northern coast, while the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **Oman's Musandam Peninsula** (an exclave) lie on the southern coast
- **Energy Chokepoint:** It is the world's most critical energy chokepoint, facilitating the transit of approximately **20 million barrels of oil per day**, which accounts for roughly 20% of global petroleum consumption.

- **Strait of Malacca:** Connects the **Indian Ocean** (Andaman Sea) and the **Pacific Ocean** (South China Sea). It separates the Malay Peninsula (Malaysia) from Sumatra (Indonesia). It is one of the busiest shipping lanes, carrying about 25% of global traded goods and a major chunk of China's energy imports.

- **Strait of Gibraltar:** Connects the **Atlantic Ocean** and the **Mediterranean Sea**. It separates Spain (Europe) from Morocco (Africa).

- **Palk Strait:** Connects the **Bay of Bengal** with the **Palk Bay/Gulf of Mannar**. It separates India (Tamil Nadu) from Sri Lanka.

2. Ukraine and nine European nations form coalition for Europe's ballistic missile defence.

Ukraine and nine other countries have announced that they are forming a coalition **to protect Europe from ballistic missiles**. Other countries are Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.



Interconnected concept:**Ballistic missile:**

A ballistic missile is a missile that is launched like a rocket, **travels mostly along a curved path under the influence of gravity**, and then falls towards its target at very high speed.

Types:

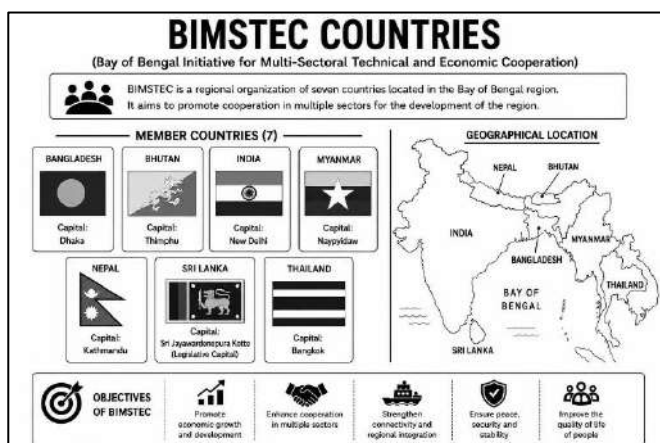
- **Tactical Ballistic Missiles:** Short-range missiles designed for battlefield use, typically traveling less than 300 km.
- **Short-Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBM):** Range between 300 km and 1,000 km.
- **Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles (MRBM):** Range between 1,000 km and 3,000 km.
- **Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBM):** Range between 3,000 km and 5,500 km.
- **Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM):** Long-range strategic missiles capable of traveling more than 5,500 km, often crossing continents.

3. India hosts fifth BIMSTEC National Security Advisers' Meeting.

In a major diplomatic push for regional stability, India hosted the fifth **BIMSTEC** National Security Advisers' meeting in New Delhi. It brought together key representatives from member nations—including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand—to forge a united front against shared security challenges across the Bay of Bengal region.

BIMSTEC:

- BIMSTEC is a regional multilateral organization comprising seven nations in the Bay of Bengal littoral and adjacent areas. It bridges South and Southeast Asia.



- **Full Form:** Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- **Establishment:** Founded on June 6, 1997, through the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- **Headquarters:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

BIMSTEC has 7 members

- **Five from South Asia:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- **Two from Southeast Asia:** Myanmar and Thailand

4. India hosts 13th ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement Joint Committee Meeting.

India hosted the 13th **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee (JC)**.

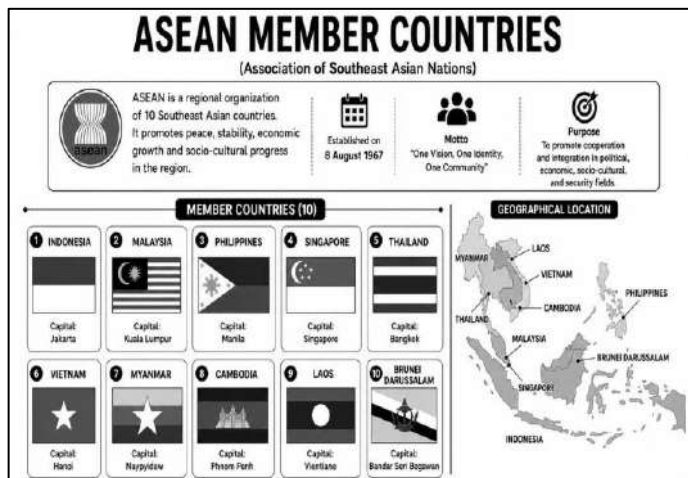
ASEAN remains one of India's key trading partners, accounting for around 11 per cent of India's global trade. Bilateral trade between India and ASEAN reached USD 128 billion during 2025-26, reflecting the strong economic partnership between the two sides and providing further opportunities to expand trade and investment cooperation.

**ASEAN:**

- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** is a prominent regional intergovernmental organization established to promote economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional peace and stability among its member.
- **Establishment:** Founded on **8 August 1967** in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- **Motto:** "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- **Headquarters (Secretariat):** Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **Member States (11 Countries):** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand (the 5 founding members), followed later by Brunei,

Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, and **Timor-Leste** (the newest member).

- **India is NOT a member** of ASEAN.



5. India and Indonesia to celebrate 'Tagore-Dewantara Year of Cultural and Educational Diplomacy'.

During the State Visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jakarta, Indonesia, both nations officially launched a 15-month joint celebration marking the upcoming centenary of **Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's** historic 1927 journey.

This 15-month commemoration, spanning from **July 2026 to September 2027**, has been formally designated as the **"Tagore-Dewantara Year of India-Indonesia Cultural and Educational Diplomacy"**.



Rabindranath Tagore:

- **Nobel Prize:** In **1913**, he became the **first non-European and first Asian** to win the **Nobel Prize in Literature** for his collection of poems, **Gitanjali** (Song Offerings).

- He translated it from Bengali to English himself. (Tagore translated Jana Gana Mana from Bengali to English while staying at Besant Theosophical College in Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh).
- **National Anthems:** He composed the national anthems for two countries-**India** (Jana Gana Mana) and **Bangladesh** (Amar Shonar Bangla). He also inspired the national anthem of **Sri Lanka** through his student Ananda Samarakoon.
- **Knighthood:** He was awarded a Knighthood by King George V in 1915 but **renounced it in 1919** in protest against the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**.

6. India launches campaign for UN Security Council seat for the 2028-29 term.

India has officially launched its campaign for election as a **non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for the 2028-29 term.



Launching India's candidature at the UN Headquarters in New York, External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar unveiled India's **SHANTI vision-Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity**-as the country's guiding approach to promoting global peace, security and equitable development.

UNSC:

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the **six principal organs of the United Nations**, tasked with maintaining international peace and security.

- It is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states, making it the most powerful forum in global governance.

- **Permanent Members (P5):** USA, UK, France, Russia, and China. They possess **veto power**, meaning a single negative vote can block any substantive resolution.
- **Non-Permanent Members:** 10 countries elected by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for overlapping **two-year terms**. They are distributed geographically to ensure fair regional representation

Interconnected concept:

G4 (Group of Four) refers to an informal diplomatic coalition of **India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan**.

- Formed in 2005, these nations are united by a primary shared goal: supporting each other's bids for **permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**.

7. India joins WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

India announced it had joined the WTO's agreement on fisheries subsidies, which prohibits government support to illegal fishing activities and over-exploitation of stocks.



- The agreement focuses on subsidies related to marine wild-capture fishing and fishing-related activities at sea. However, **aquaculture and inland fisheries remain outside the scope of this pact**.
- It was adopted by consensus at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva in June 2022 and is the **first multilateral WTO agreement with an environmental sustainability objective**.

Interconnected concept:

WTO:

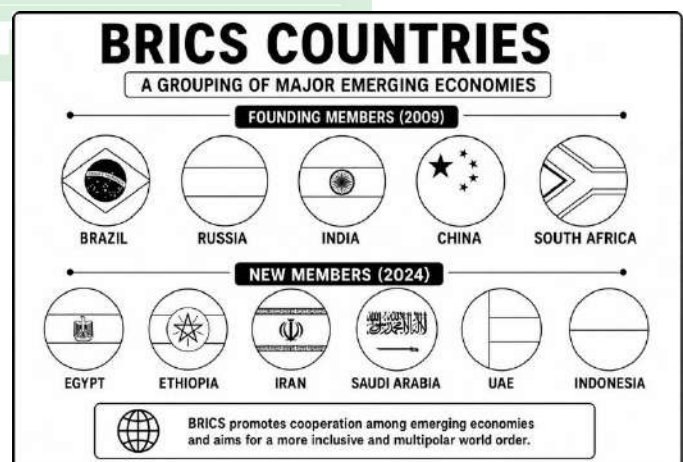
World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

- Established in 1995 via the **Marrakesh Agreement (replacing GATT)**, it aims to ensure that global trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible.
- **Background:** Replacing GATT (1948), the WTO was established via the **Uruguay Round (1986-1994)** to expand trade rules beyond goods to include services and intellectual property.
- **Core Principles:** Based on **Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN)** (equal treatment of partners) and **National Treatment** (equal treatment of domestic/foreign goods).

8. IIT Tirupati hosts fifth BRICS Working Group Meeting on geospatial technologies.

Indian Institute of Technology-Tirupati (IIT-Tirupati) hosted the fifth meeting of the **BRICS Working Group on 'Geospatial Technologies and its Applications'** at its Yerpedu campus.

- It has brought together policymakers, scientists, academicians, industry leaders, startups and research organisations from the BRICS countries and partner nations.



Interconnected concept: BRICS

BRICS is a intergovernmental grouping of major emerging economies acting as a premier institutional vehicle for **South-South cooperation** and the **voice of the Global South**.

- The acronym "BRIC" was coined by Goldman Sachs economist **Jim O'Neill** in 2001.
- **Members:** Founding five (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) plus Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, and Saudi Arabia (joined 2024), and Indonesia (formalized entry in 2025)

Key Institutions:

- **New Development Bank (NDB):** Established by the **Fortaleza Declaration (2014)** with an initial capital of USD 100 Billion. Headquartered in Shanghai, founders retain a minimum 55% voting rights.
- **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA):** Established to provide liquidity support against global balance-of-payments pressures

9. EAM S. Jaishankar visits the Philippines for ASEAN and Quad Foreign Ministers' meetings.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited Manila, Philippines to participate in a series of high-level meetings under the **ASEAN framework**, underscoring India's continued engagement with Southeast Asia under its Act East Policy. On the sidelines of the ASEAN meetings, EAM Jaishankar will also participate in a **Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.

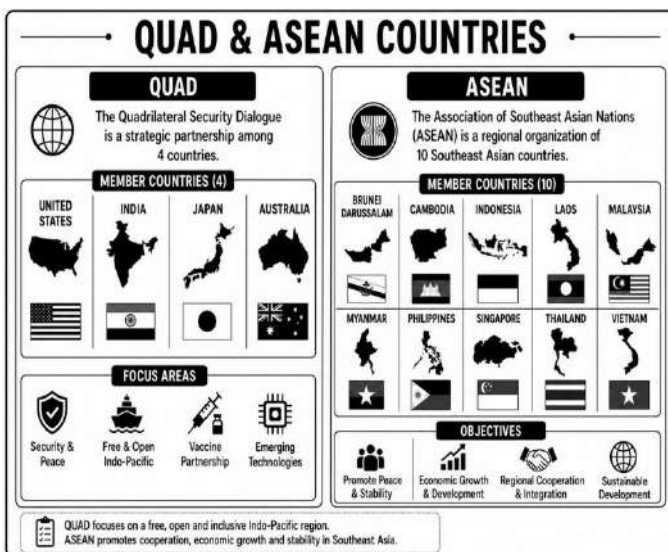
QUAD:

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is a premier, non-military plurilateral strategic coalition of four major maritime democracies.

- **Member Nations:** India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.
- **Nature:** It is an **informal strategic forum**; it is **NOT a military alliance** like NATO. It has no binding mutual defence treaties, no collective military command, and no permanent headquarters or secretariat.
- **Core Objective:** To ensure and support a "**Free, Open, Inclusive, and Prosperous**" **Indo-Pacific region**. It emphasizes a rules-based international order, freedom of navigation, and peaceful resolution of disputes.

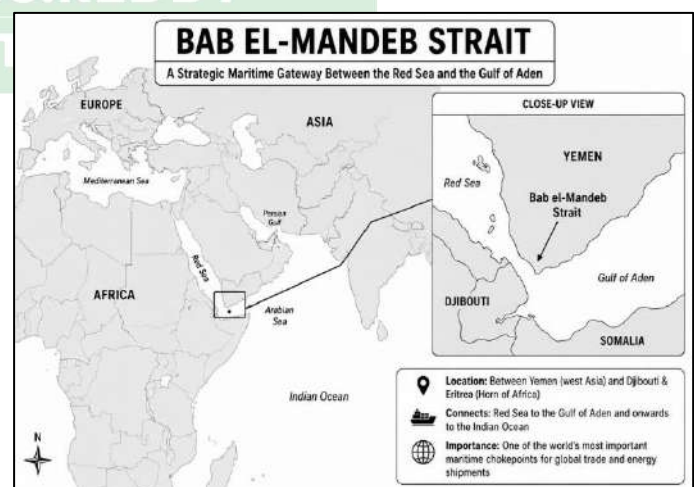
10. Houthis extend naval blockade to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Yemen's **Houthis**, an Iran-aligned armed group that has controlled the capital, Sanaa, and much of northern Yemen since 2014 announced that they were imposing a **naval blockade on Saudi Arabia** by blocking **Bab-el Mandeb strait**.

**ASEAN:**

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an 11-member regional intergovernmental organisation established to promote economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional peace and stability.

- **11 Member States:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand (the 5 founding members), along with Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, and **Timor-Leste** (the newest member approved in principle).

**Bab-el Mandeb strait:**

The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait is a vital global maritime chokepoint connecting the **Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean**.

- **Connecting Bodies:** Links the Red Sea to the northwest with the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean to the southeast. It serves as the southern gateway to the Suez Canal.
- **Bordering Countries:** Separates Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula (Asia) from Djibouti and Eritrea on the Horn of Africa.

11.EAM S. Jaishankar advocates safe maritime routes and diplomacy at the East Asia Summit.

External Affairs Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to ASEAN centrality, regional stability and a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific while addressing the 21st **East Asia Summit (EAS)** in Manila.

East Asia Summit (EAS) is a premier leader-led forum in the Indo-Pacific for strategic, political, and economic dialogue.

The forum serves as a cornerstone for India's Indo-Pacific vision and its **Act East Policy**, allowing New Delhi to engage major global powers directly.

Interconnected concept:

Act East Policy:

India's **Act East Policy (AEP)** initiative launched in November 2014 at the 12th ASEAN-India Summit in Myanmar to promote economic, strategic, and cultural relations with the vast Indo-Pacific region.

- It serves as a more action-oriented upgrade to the **Look East Policy (LEP)**, which was originally initiated by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1991



Established in 2005 and hosted annually, it comprises 18 member nations: the 10 ASEAN states, along with Australia, China, **India**, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States.



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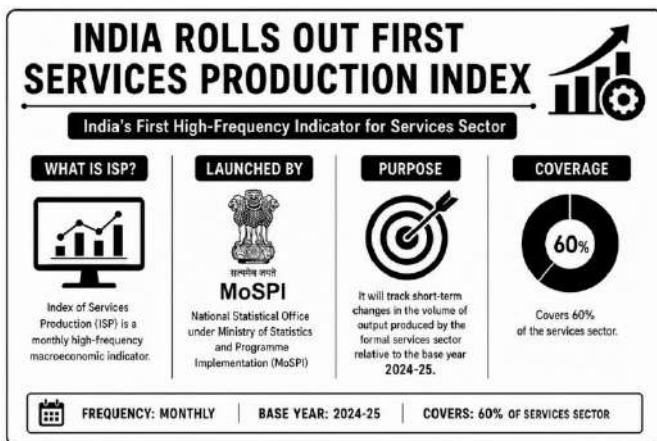
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Section-VI: ECONOMY - Covers issues of Indian Economy & Development.

1. India rolls out first Services Production Index, covering 60% of the services sector.

The Government introduced the **Index of Services Production (ISP)**, India's first high-frequency macroeconomic indicator **designed to measure the performance of the country's services sector**.



- The **Index of Services Production (ISP)** is a **monthly** high-frequency macroeconomic indicator launched by the **National Statistical office** under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- It will track short-term changes in the volume of output produced by the formal services sector relative to the **base year 2024-25**.

Importance of ISP:

India's economy has undergone a **significant structural transformation** over the past few decades. It is driven by economic reforms, technological advancements, and increasing integration with global markets. The services sector has become a key driver of economic growth and employment generation.

- It is the largest contributor to India's GDP, **contributing over 50% of the Gross Value Added (GVA) since 2013-14**. In 2024 - 25, share of services GVA stood close to 52.9%.
- The sector accounts for **~30%** of total **employment** across India and generated **~40 million jobs** over the past six years.

- India's **services exports** maintained strong momentum in FY2026-27. Across April-June 2026-27, services exports are estimated at USD 103.41 billion, registering a 6.16% Y-o-Y growth.
- The Government aims to position India as a world leader in services, targeting a 10% share in global services by 2047.

As the services sector is central to India's growth, a dedicated short-term indicator to track its performance has become essential. The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** measures only industrial activity and does not capture short-term trends in the services sector. To address this gap, the Government has introduced the ISP.

2. India ranks 11th globally as FDI inflows rise 44% to \$39 billion in 2025: UNCTAD.

India attracted \$39 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2025, marking a 44 per cent increase from the previous year and reinforcing its position as one of the world's leading investment destinations, according to the latest **World Investment Report 2026** released by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.



- The report showed that India climbed to become the world's **11th-largest recipient of FDI** last year.
- United States** maintained the top position worldwide (\$277 billion), followed by Singapore (\$151 billion), Hong Kong (\$116 billion), and China (\$105 billion).

World Investment Report:

The World Investment Report is an annual flagship publication by UNCTAD (**United Nations Trade and Development**).

- It provides comprehensive data, trends, and policy analysis on global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

3. India's retail inflation rises to 4.38% in June.

India's **retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, rose to 4.38 per cent in June 2026 from 3.93 per cent in May, driven largely by higher food prices.

- June month retail inflation breached the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term 4% target for the first time in roughly 17 months.



The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is a macroeconomic indicator that measures the average change over time in retail prices paid by consumers for a fixed basket of goods and services.

- Also known as **Retail Inflation**, it reflects changes in the purchasing power of currency and the cost of living from the demand side of the economy.
- NSO (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation):** Compiles **CPI-Rural**, **CPI-Urban**, and **CPI-Combined**, with the latter serving as India's main **Headline Inflation** metric.
- Labour Bureau (Ministry of Labour & Employment):** Computes **CPI-IW** (Industrial Workers) for Dearness Allowance (DA) and **CPI-AL/RL** (Agricultural/Rural Labourers) for wage revisions.
- Base Year:** Revised to **2024 = 100** (replacing the older base year of 2012).

Interconnected concept:

Inflation targeting:

Inflation targeting is a monetary policy framework where a central bank publicly commits to a specific inflation rate or range and adjusts policy tools, like interest rates, to achieve that goal.

India uses a **Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT)** framework, established upon the Urjit Patel Committee's recommendations. Key elements include

Mandate & Target: The RBI aims to maintain headline CPI inflation at 4%, with a $\pm 2\%$ tolerance band (2%-6%), balancing price stability with growth.

- Under this framework, a "failure of inflation targeting" is defined as when average retail inflation (measured by the Consumer Price Index or CPI) stays outside the prescribed tolerance band of 2% to 6% **for three consecutive quarters**. The central bank must formally explain the reasons and remedial measures to the government.

4. Index of Core Industries records 5% growth in June 2026 under the revised base year series.

The **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA)** under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** released the revised Index of Core Industries (ICI) with 2022-23 as the new base year, replacing the existing 2011-12 series.

Updated Index of Core Industries:

India recently upgraded and updated the **Index of Core Industries (ICI)**, shifting the **base year to 2022-23** from the previous 2011-12 standard.

- The updated index expanded from eight to **nine core sectors** by adding **Iron Ore** to better reflect the nation's growing infrastructure and industrial footprint.
- The revision also streamlined sector definitions and recalibrated industry weights. For instance, the coal sector is now restricted to raw coal to prevent double counting, and the heavyweights of the index have been shifted, with **Electricity** accounting for the largest share at roughly 30.93%, followed by **Refinery Products** and **Steel**.



5. Over 31.78 crore unorganised workers registered on the e-Shram portal: Government.

Ministry of Labour and Employment announced that more than 31.78 crore unorganised workers have been registered on the **e-Shram portal** as of July 2026, strengthening the government's efforts to extend social security benefits to workers in the unorganised sector.

e-Shram portal:

e-Shram portal is a flagship **Ministry of Labour and Employment** initiative aimed at creating the first-ever **National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)**.

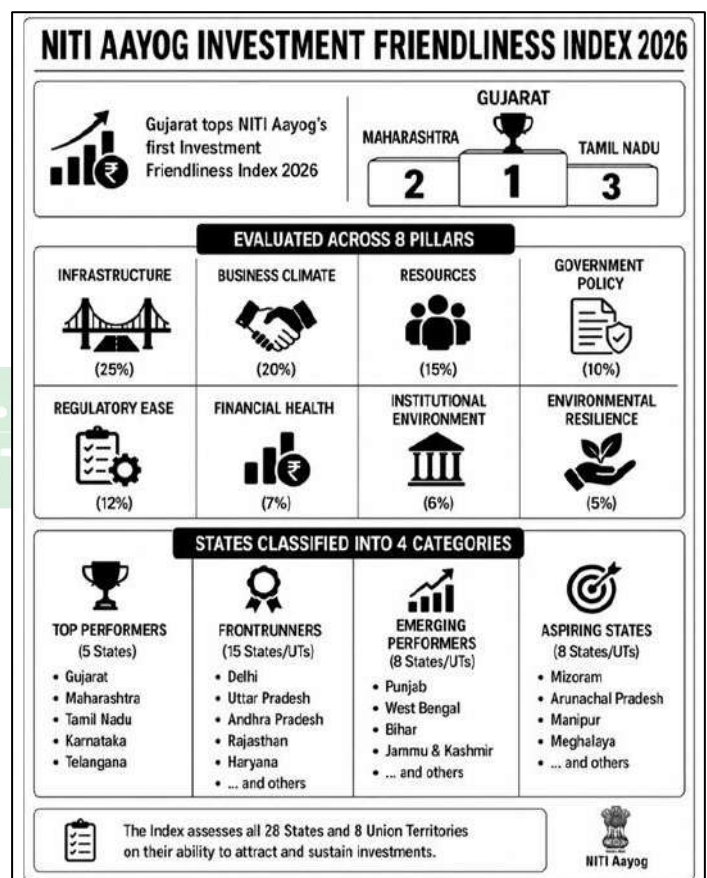
- It assigns a 12-digit unique UAN to unorganized workers (like migrant workers, street vendors, and gig workers) seeded with their Aadhaar
- It serves as a single platform for countrywide unorganized workers to access central and state social security and welfare schemes (such as PMSBY, PMJJBY, and Aayushman Bharat).

6. Gujarat tops NITI Aayog's first Investment Friendliness Index; Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu follow.

Gujarat has emerged as India's most investment-friendly state in Niti Aayog's first-ever **Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026**, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The report, '**Investment Friendliness Index**', assesses all 28 states and eight Union Territories (UTs) on their ability to attract and sustain investments. Rather than being merely a ranking exercise.

It evaluates states across eight pillars with different weightages that determine investment readiness—infrastructure (25 percent), business climate (20 percent), resources (15 percent), government policy (10 percent), regulatory ease (12 percent), financial health (7 percent), institutional environment (6 percent), and environmental resilience (5 percent).



The report classifies states into four categories: **Top performers, frontrunners, emerging performers and aspiring states.**

- Five states have been identified as top performers, while 15 have been placed in the frontrunners category, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Eight states and UTs including Punjab, West Bengal, Bihar, J&K have been categorised as emerging performers, while another eight including Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur have been placed in the aspiring states category.

7. Centre appoints IAS officer Anurag Jain as NITI Aayog CEO.

The Centre has appointed senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer **Anurag Jain** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog. The appointment was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**.

- Earlier this year, economist **Ashok Kumar Lahiri** was appointed Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog.



NITI Aayog:

NITI Aayog (**National Institution for Transforming India**) is the apex public policy think tank of the Indian government, established on January 1, 2015, **to replace the former Planning Commission**.

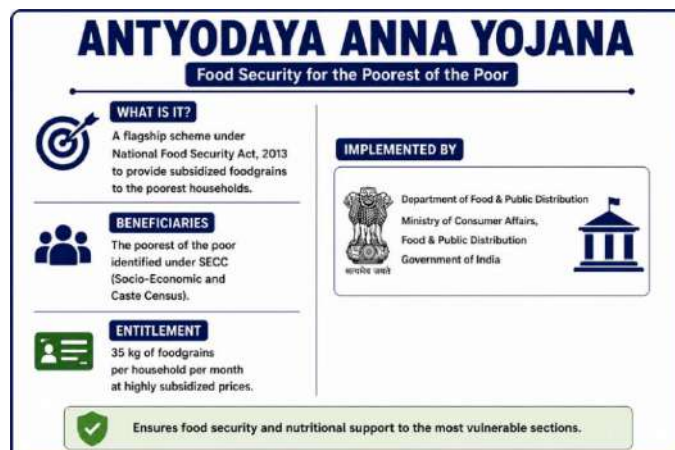
It operates as a non-statutory, extra-constitutional body focusing on a bottom-up planning approach and cooperative federalism.

- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister of India.
- **Governing Council:** Chief Ministers of all states and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Appointed by the Prime Minister.
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO):** Appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure (rank of Secretary to the Government of India).
- **Special Invitees & Members:** Experts and up to four ex-officio members from the Union Council of Ministers.

8. Centre proposes 7 kg ration per person for AAY households, with entitlement capped at 35 kg.

The government is considering shifting the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** foodgrain entitlement from a fixed 35 kg per household per

month to 7 kg per person per month - capped at 35 kg - a move that would benefit larger poor families.



- Under the current law, AAY households -- designated as the poorest of the poor -- receive a **flat 35 kg per family per month**, regardless of household size. Priority Households, by contrast, receive 5 kg per person per month.

Interconnected concepts:

1. National Food Security Act:

The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 marks a paradigm shift from a welfare-based approach to a rights-based approach in ensuring food and nutritional security.

- **Coverage:** 75% rural population and 50% urban population (overall ~67% of India's population).
- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):** Covers the poorest of the poor; entitled to **35 kg** of food grains per family per month.
- **Priority Households (PHH):** Entitled to **5 kg** of food grains per person per month.

The proposed Draft National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026 shifts Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) allocations from a fixed household quota to a person-centric model. It proposes 7 kg of foodgrains per person per month for AAY beneficiaries, replacing the flat 35 kg per household rule.

9. Cabinet approves ₹3,030 crore BHAVYA Rasayan scheme to establish three chemical parks.

Union Cabinet approved the **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) scheme** for the establishment of three dedicated

chemical parks across the country. It aims to strengthen India's chemical manufacturing ecosystem, attract investments and enhance global competitiveness.



CABINET DECISIONS July 24, 2026

Cabinet approves
**Bharat Audyogik
 Vikas Yojana Rasayan
 (BHAVYA Rasayan)**

-  Total financial outlay: **₹3,030 crore**
-  Objective: To establish **3 dedicated chemical parks**
-  Scheme tenure: **5 years** (FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31)

- The scheme will be implemented over five years, from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.

- Under the scheme, the Centre will provide financial assistance of up to ₹1,000 crore for each chemical park, subject to a minimum contribution of ₹500 crore by the respective state government.
- The chemical parks will be developed by state governments through a challenge-based selection process, with each park requiring at least 2,000 acres (8 sq. km.) of contiguous, encumbrance-free land.



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Section-VII: HISTORY & CULTURE - covers events of historical significance, art forms & other relevant aspects.

1. Kotul excavations in Maharashtra reveal a major Satavahana-era trade centre.

Preliminary archaeological excavations at flood-prone **Kotul site in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district**, has uncovered antiquities ranging from early historic to late medieval cultural period. The findings show Kotul was an important settlement during the **Satavahana period**, throwing light on the region's trade networks and cultural history.



Interconnected concepts:

Trade during Satavahana period

The Satavahanas (approx. 1st century BCE to 3rd century CE) were a powerful dynasty that ruled the Deccan and central India **after the Mauryan decline**. They served as a vital bridge between North and South India.

The Satavahanas dominated **Indo-Roman maritime trade**. Roman writers like Pliny complained about the massive drain of Roman gold into India for purchasing luxury goods.

- **Exports:** Muslin, cotton textiles (Andhra was famous for it), spices, pearls, ivory, and semi-precious stones.
- **Imports:** Wine, copper, tin, lead, coral, and topaz.

Major Ports:

- **West Coast:** Barukachcha (Broach), Sopara, and Kalyan.
- **East Coast:** Ghantasala, Guduru, and Arikamedu
- **Trade Guilds (Srenis):** Merchants were highly organized into guilds (e.g., weavers, oil pressers, corn dealers) that also functioned as banks. They

accepted deposits, granted loans, and even issued their own coins.

2. President inaugurates 'Saushrutam 2026' in New Delhi.

The President of India, inaugurated 'Saushrutam 2026' at the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi on **Sushruta Jayanti**.



Sushruta:

Sushruta, an ancient Indian physician from the 6th century BCE practicing in Kashi, is widely celebrated as the **"Father of Surgery"** and "Father of Plastic Surgery".

- His seminal text, the ***Sushruta Samhita***, is a foundational treatise in Ayurveda that details anatomy, embryology, toxicology, and over 300 surgical procedures. Alongside the *Charaka Samhita* (medicine) and *Ashtanga Hridaya*, it forms the *Brihat-Trayi* (the three major foundational texts) of Ayurvedic medicine.

Interconnected concept- Brihat Trayi

The **Brihat Trayi** (or "Great Trio") refers to the three foundational, ancient encyclopedic texts of Ayurveda: the **Charaka Samhita**, the **Sushruta Samhita**, and the **Ashtanga Hridayam**.

- **Charaka Samhita:** Composed by Acharya Charaka, this text is foundational for **Kayachikitsa** (internal medicine) and explains physiology, diagnosis. Charaka is widely regarded as the **Father of Indian Medicine**.

- **Sushruta Samhita:** Written by **Acharya Sushruta**, known as the "Father of Surgery". This text focuses on **Shalya Tantra** (surgery) and contains early documentations of plastic surgery, rhinoplasty, and over 300 surgical procedures.
- **Ashtanga Hridayam:** Compiled by **Acharya Vagbhata**, this text systematically integrates and synthesizes the core teachings of both the Charaka and Sushruta Samhitas

3. 'Gyan Bharatam' portal houses over 88,800 manuscripts, government informs Lok Sabha.

Ministry of Culture's **Gyan Bharatam** portal currently maintains digital records of more than 88,800 manuscripts across different material categories, with paper manuscripts accounting for the largest share, the government informed the Lok Sabha.



Gyan Bharatam portal:

Gyan Bharatam Portal is a dedicated national digital platform launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2025.

- It serves as the digital backbone of the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**, a flagship initiative of the **Ministry of Culture, Government of India** designed to digitally preserve, catalogue, and share India's vast and ancient manuscript heritage with the world.

4. Prime Minister pays tributes to revolutionary Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary.

Prime Minister Narendra ay paid rich tributes to the great revolutionary **Mangal Pandey** on his birth anniversary.



Mangal Pandey joined the East India Company's army in 1849 and served in the **34th Bengal Native Infantry at Barrackpore**.

- He belonged to the Awadh region, whose annexation by Lord Dalhousie under the pretext of "**maladministration**" in 1856 created resentment among sepoys. Discontent further increased with the introduction of the Enfield rifle cartridges, which were rumoured to be greased with cow and pig fat, offending both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.
- On 29 March 1857, Pandey revolted at Barrackpore, encouraged fellow sepoys to rebel and attacked two British officers. He was executed on 8 April 1857 at the age of 29.

Though the incident was localised, it symbolised growing sepoy resentment and became an important precursor to the Revolt of 1857.

5. National Flag Adoption Day: 79 years since the Constituent Assembly adopted the National Flag of India.

Seventy-nine years ago on **July 22, 1947**, the Constituent Assembly adopted the design of India's National Fla. The anniversary is observed as **National Flag Day**.

The Indian National Flag, widely known as the **Tiranga** (Tricolour), is a horizontal rectangular flag made of three equal bands: deep saffron at the top, white in the middle, and deep green at the bottom. In the center of the white stripe is the navy-blue **Ashoka Chakra** (Dharma Chakra) with 24 spokes.

- The flag has an official **length-to-width ratio of 3:2**
- The foundational design of the tricolor (with a spinning wheel or *Charkha* in the center) was

conceptualized by Indian freedom fighter **Pingali Venkayya**.

- The Constituent Assembly of India officially adopted the current version of the flag on **July 22, 1947**

6. Prime Minister pays tributes to Lokmanya Tilak and Chandra Shekhar Azad on their birth anniversaries.

Prime Minister paid tributes to freedom fighters **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak** and **Chandra Shekhar Azad** on their birth anniversaries, praising their contributions to India's freedom struggle and saying their spirit of nationalism continues to inspire generations.



Bal Gangadhar Tilak:

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a foundational extremist leader in the Indian freedom struggle, famous for his slogan "**Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it**".

Alongside Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal, he led the extremist faction within the Indian National Congress (INC)

- **Newspapers:** Founded *Kesari* (Marathi) and *Mahratta* (English) in 1881 to spread nationalist ideas.
- **Institutions:** Co-founded the Deccan Education Society (1884) and Fergusson College (1885) in Pune.
- **Festivals:** Started public celebrations of Ganapati Utsav (1893) and Shivaji Jayanti (1895) to unite people and bypass British bans on political gatherings.

British colonial authorities labelled him the "**Father of Indian Unrest**," while Mahatma Gandhi called him "**The Maker of Modern India**".

Chandra Shekhar Azad:

Chandra Shekhar Azad was one of India's most prominent revolutionary freedom fighters.

- Deeply moved by the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919), Chandra Shekhar actively participated in Mahatma Gandhi's **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-21)**.
- When Mahatma Gandhi abruptly suspended the Non-Cooperation Movement in February 1922 following the **Chauri Chaura violent incident**, Azad-along with contemporary youths like Bhagat Singh-felt deeply disillusioned. This sudden tactical withdrawal caused an ideological shift away from non-violent Satyagraha toward radical, armed revolutionary nationalism.

7. HM Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pay tributes to freedom fighter Batukeshwar Dutt on his death anniversary.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have paid tribute to revolutionary and freedom fighter **Batukeshwar Dutt** on his death anniversary.



- He joined the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**, which later became the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).
- He is known to throw two non-lethal, low-intensity smoke bombs into the Central Legislative Assembly in New Delhi along with Bhagat Singh.

Objective: Protested against repressive colonial bills (the **Public Safety Bill** and the **Trade Disputes Bill**); shouted "Inquilab Zindabad!" and distributed leaflets to make the "deaf hear," then voluntarily courted arrest

Section-VIII: SOCIAL ISSUES - Covers issues relevant to social aspects like unemployment, poverty etc. & schemes thereby.

1. Ravidassias seek a separate religion category in the Census.

The **Ravidassia community** is actively demanding an official "Ravidassia religion" category in the upcoming Census, driven by the need for distinct religious recognition.



Ravidassia religion is a distinct faith officially established in 2010 based on the teachings of the 15th-century Bhakti mystic, **Shri Guru Ravidas**.

Interconnected concept:

Guru Ravidas: **Guru Ravidas** (1377-1527 CE) was a 15th-century mystic poet-saint, social reformer, and key figure of the Bhakti movement in North India.

- He emphasized the **Nirguna** form of the supreme being (worshipping a formless God) and devotion over complex rituals.
- He envisioned an ideal, classless, and sorrow-free society called **Begumpura**-"the city without sorrow"-where there is no suffering, fear, or discrimination.
- His devotional songs and verses made a lasting impact on the Bhakti movement, with **41 of his hymns** included in the Sikh holy scripture, the **Guru Granth Sahib**.

- The renowned medieval poet and devotee of Lord Krishna, **Meera Bai**, considered Guru Ravidas as her spiritual guru.

2. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission emerges as one of the world's largest digital health ecosystems with over 93.95 crore ABHA IDs.

Union Health Minister announced that **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** has emerged as one of the world's largest digital health ecosystems, while stressing that the next phase of the mission should focus on maximizing its adoption and utilization across the country.



Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is a flagship Central Sector Scheme aimed at developing the backbone necessary to support an integrated digital health infrastructure across India.

- Launched in September 2021 and implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, it connects patients, healthcare providers, and insurers through a unified digital highway.
- **ABHA Number:** A 14-digit digital ID allowing patients to link, store, and share health records securely.

3. Ministry of Women and Child Development develops integrated Mission Vatsalya portal.

Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed integrated unified **Mission Vatsalya** Portal.

Mission Vatsalya is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in India.

- It acts as a roadmap for child protection, development, and rehabilitation, aligning with

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the core motto to "leave no child behind"



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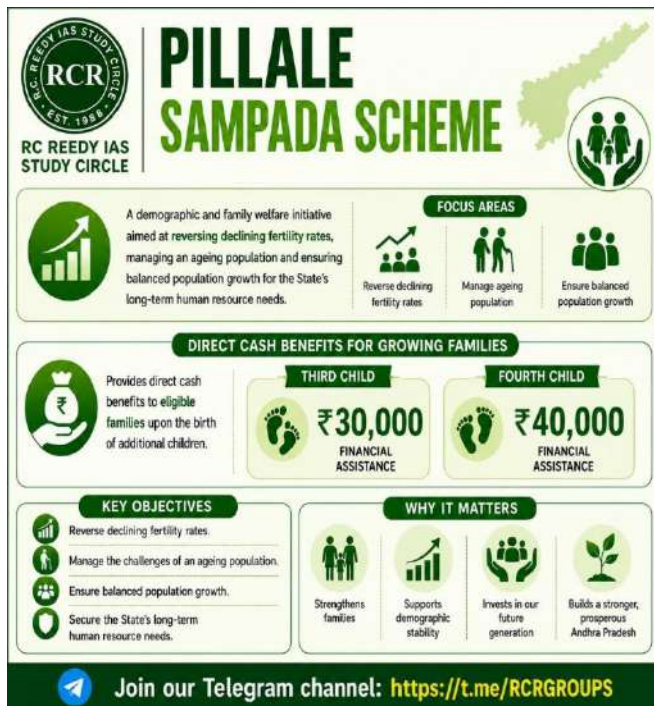


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Section-IX: REGIONAL ISSUES OF ANDHRA PRADESH - Covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. Andhra Pradesh CM launches 'Pillale Sampada' initiative.

Addressing the **World Population Day** programme in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh CM launched "Pillale Sampada" (Children are Wealth) initiative.



PILLALE SAMPADA SCHEME

A demographic and family welfare initiative aimed at reversing declining fertility rates, managing an ageing population and ensuring balanced population growth for the State's long-term human resource needs.

FOCUS AREAS

- Reverse declining fertility rates
- Manage ageing population
- Ensure balanced population growth

DIRECT CASH BENEFITS FOR GROWING FAMILIES

Provides direct cash benefits to eligible families upon the birth of additional children.

Child	Financial Assistance
THIRD CHILD	₹30,000
FOURTH CHILD	₹40,000

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Reverse declining fertility rates.
- Manage the challenges of an ageing population.
- Ensure balanced population growth.
- Secure the State's long-term human resource needs.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Strengthens families
- Supports demographic stability
- Invests in our future generation
- Builds a stronger, prosperous Andhra Pradesh

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- Under the scheme, a financial assistance of **₹30,000 will be given for the birth of a third child and ₹40,000 for the birth of a fourth one**. This is to encourage balanced population growth in view of the importance of achieving demographic stability.
- The initiative aims to combat declining fertility rates and an ageing population.
- The initiative promotes the slogan "**Pillale Sampada - Pedda Kutumbame Srirama Raksha**" (Children are Wealth - A Large Family is a Blessing).

Interconnected concept:

World Population Day

World Population Day is observed annually on **July 11**. It was established in 1989 by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** to address the urgency of population issues highlighted when the global population reached five

billion on July 11, 1987-an event known as the "**Day of Five Billion**".

2. Srikakulam to get airport under the UDAN scheme.

Srikakulam district will have a full-fledged airport in the near future, the Union government having included the district in the **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik)** scheme, under which 100 new airports would be developed between 2026 and 2036.



UDAN scheme:

The **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)** scheme is a flagship regional air connectivity initiative launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in October 2016.

- It aims to democratize air travel by making it affordable and extending infrastructure to unserved or underserved Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities

3. Andhra Pradesh approves ₹1,638.52 crore for expansion of three ports.

The A.P. government has approved administrative sanctions for ₹1,638.52 crore to acquire land for the second phase of expansion of **Ramayapatnam, Mulapeta and Machilipatnam** ports.



- **Ramayapatnam Port** is an under-construction, deep-sea greenfield port located at Ramayapatnam in the **Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, India**. It is being developed by the **Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMB)** to operate as a major all-weather commercial gateway along the Bay of Bengal.
- **Mulapeta Port** (formerly Bhavanapadu Port) is a major greenfield deep-sea port under construction in the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.
 - Built at an estimated cost of ₹4,362 crore, it aims to feature 4 berths and an annual cargo capacity of 23.5 million tonnes upon its scheduled completion.
- The **Machilipatnam Port** is a major greenfield deep-sea port under construction in the Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, India.

Located on the Bay of Bengal, it spans 2,000 acres and is being developed to handle 35 million tonnes of cargo annually through four berths.

4. Centre sanctions ₹206.77 crore for tourism in Andhra Pradesh.

Projects worth ₹206.77 crore have been sanctioned under the 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0' and 'PRASHAD' (National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) schemes for the development of the tourism sector in Andhra Pradesh.



'Swadesh Darshan:

Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a 100% centrally funded **Central Sector Scheme** launched by the **Ministry of Tourism** in 2014-15. It aims to develop sustainable, world-class tourism infrastructure across India to boost economic growth, create local employment, and promote the country's rich cultural and natural heritage.

Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD 2.0): This revamped approach shifts away from theme-based circuits to a **destination-centric approach**. It focuses on the

sustainable development of specific destinations, aligning with the *Vocal for Local* and *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiatives. It not only builds "hard" infrastructure but also focuses on "soft" aspects like destination management, skill development, private sector investment, and local capacity building.

PRASHAD scheme:

PRASHAD scheme (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive) is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in 2014-15 by the **Ministry of Tourism**.

- It focuses on the holistic, integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations to boost spiritual tourism and enhance basic civic amenities.

5. Supreme Court panel directs Andhra Pradesh government to act against illegal fish ponds in Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) have issued directions to the Andhra Pradesh government over illegal fish ponds and environmental degradation in the **Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary**.



Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary:

- Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary spans Krishna and Eluru (formerly West Godavari) districts. It acts as a natural **flood-balancing reservoir** for the Krishna and Godavari rivers.
- Declared a sanctuary in 1999 under the **Wildlife Protection Act of 1972**, it protects Kolleru Lake, a natural freshwater lake designated as a **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance** in 2002.
- Fed by seasonal rivers like Budameru, Tammileru, and Ramileru. It drains into the Bay of Bengal through the natural channel known as **Upputeru**.

- It falls directly under the **Central Asian Flyway**, supporting over 20 million migratory birds, including the vulnerable **Grey Pelican** (the sanctuary's indicator species), Painted Storks, and Glossy Ibis.

6. Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board Signs MoU with the UAE Food Cluster.

Andhra Pradesh government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** to establish a **UAE Food Cluster in the State**, taking forward an investment commitment made during the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos earlier this year.



- The partnership aims to promote investments, trade and exports by creating an integrated food processing value chain.

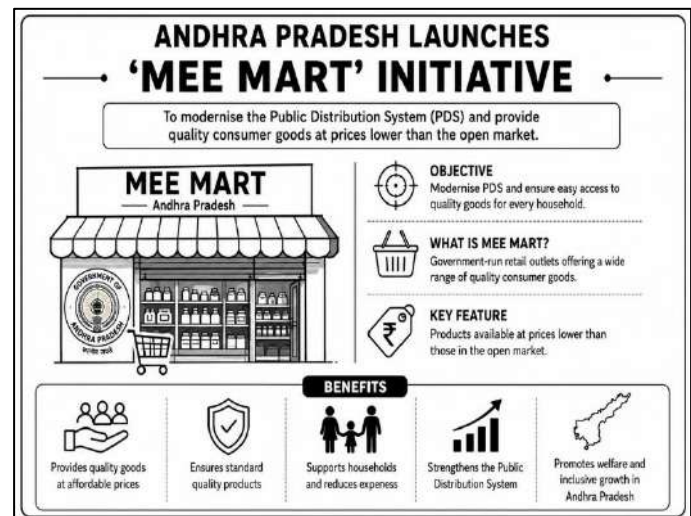
Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board: Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) is a government agency established in 2016 by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to accelerate inclusive economic growth, enhance the investment climate, and facilitate the ease of doing business in the state.

- Chaired by **Chief Minister**, the board serves as a single point of contact (SPOC) for all global and domestic businesses looking to invest, trade, or expand within the region.

7. Andhra Pradesh launches 'Mee Mart' initiative for affordable consumer goods.

Andhra Pradesh has launched '**Mee Mart**' initiative to modernise the public distribution system and provide quality consumer goods at prices lower than those in the open market.

The first of the proposed **1,000 Mee Marts** across the State was inaugurated by Food and Civil Supplies Minister at Lalupuram, Guntur city.



- The initiative was designed to benefit both consumers and nearly 30,000 fair price shop dealers by creating an additional source of income while ensuring affordable access to quality household essentials.
- Unlike conventional ration shops, Mee Marts will stock more than 250 daily-use products, to be sold at ₹3 to ₹5 below prevailing market prices without compromising on quality.
- The project is being implemented by the State Civil Supplies Department in partnership with the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd.

8. Andhra Pradesh sets up first overseas investment facilitation centre in Busan.

Andhra Pradesh intensified its global investment outreach, with Minister for HRD, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh inaugurating **APEX Korea (Andhra Pradesh External Engagement-Korea)**, the **State's first overseas investment facilitation and outreach centre, in Busan.**



Established by the **Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB)**, the centre will serve as a permanent interface between the State government and Korean companies by facilitating new investments, coordinating with government departments and providing aftercare services to existing investors.

9. Andhra Pradesh launches digital platform to monitor 800 urban water projects in real time.

Andhra Pradesh has introduced an **Online Works Monitoring System (OWMS)** to digitally track more than 800 urban water supply and sewerage projects across all **123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**, marking a policy shift towards real-time infrastructure governance and accountable public service delivery.

- The unified platform will monitor every stage of project implementation-from water sources and treatment plants to pipelines, reservoirs, household connections and sewage treatment facilities-through a single digital dashboard.
- Field engineers will upload geo-tagged photographs and progress updates from work sites using a mobile application, while supervisory officers will verify every entry before it becomes part of the official record.

Interconnected concept:

Andhra Pradesh has **123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** managed under the Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration.

- These consist of 17 municipal corporations, 79 municipalities, and 27 Nagar panchayats.

10. Jonnagiri Gold Mine renamed as Swarnagiri Gold Mine.



GOLD MINE AT JONNAGIRI RENAMED AS SWARNAGIRI GOLD MINE

Andhra Pradesh government renamed the Jonnagiri Gold Mine in Kurnool district as **Swarnagiri Gold Mine**.

FIRST OF ITS KIND
It is the country's first private sector gold mine.

LOCATION & EXTENT
Spread over **597.820** hectares across Pagidirai, Jonnagiri and Yerragudi villages of Tuggali mandal, the mine primarily produces gold, along with silver, copper, lead and zinc.

OPERATOR & TECHNOLOGY
GeoMysore Services India Pvt. Ltd., which holds a **30-year mining lease**, operates the project using advanced open-pit mining and integrated mineral processing technologies.

SWARNAGIRI GOLD MINE (KURNOOL DISTRICT)

Benefits:

- Boosts mineral production and economy
- Creates employment opportunities and supports local communities
- Strengthens Andhra Pradesh's position in the mining and mineral sector
- Promotes sustainable mining with modern technology and best practices

Andhra Pradesh government renamed the **Jonnagiri Gold Mine in Kurnool district as Swarnagiri Gold Mine.**

- It is the **country's first private sector gold mine.**
- Spread over **597.820** hectares across Pagidirai, Jonnagiri and Yerragudi villages of Tuggali mandal, the mine primarily produces gold, along with silver, copper, lead and zinc.
- **GeoMysore Services India Pvt. Ltd.**, which holds a 30-year mining lease, operates the project using advanced open-pit mining and integrated mineral processing technologies.

11. Andhra Pradesh to get its first private Women's University.

Andhra Pradesh is set to get its **first private Women's University**, with the State Cabinet approving the upgradation of **Sri Vishnu Engineering College for Women, Bhimavaram, into Vishnu Women's University.**

- The Cabinet also cleared the conversion of Chalapathi Institute of Technology in Guntur district into Chalapathi University by amending the AP Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2016.
- Two universities would promote multidisciplinary education, research, innovation and skill development.
- As mandated under the Act, 35% of seats will be filled under the government quota.
- The Cabinet also approved the establishment of a Government Degree College exclusively for hearing-impaired at Vedullapalli in Bapatla district from the 2026-27 academic year.

12. Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approves new aviation policy.



ANDHRA PRADESH CABINET APPROVES STATE AVIATION POLICY 2026-31

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the State Aviation Policy 2026-31, setting a roadmap to transform the State into a major aviation and aerospace hub over the next decade.

KEY TARGETS BY 2035

INCREASE PASSENGER HANDLING CAPACITY	BOOST AIR CARGO VOLUMES	EXPAND AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE	INCREASE AP'S SHARE OF INDIA'S PASSENGER AIR TRAFFIC
From 6.2 MILLION to 30.38 MILLION by 2035	From 6,240 METRIC TONNES to 4.27 LAKH METRIC TONNES	• Development of 9 new airports and 10 water aerodromes • Ensuring airport access within 150-km radius across the State.	From 1.5% (CURRENT) to 4% by 2035 7% by 2047

VISION

- Transform Andhra Pradesh into a leading aviation and aerospace hub in India.
- Generate employment and promote investment.
- Strengthen connectivity, trade, tourism and economic growth.
- Position AP as a key player in India's vision for **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

CONNECTING ANDHRA PRADESH TO NEW HEIGHTS! MORE CONNECTIVITY. MORE GROWTH. MORE OPPORTUNITIES.

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved **the State Aviation Policy 2026-31**, setting an roadmap to **transform the State into a major aviation and aerospace hub** over the next decade.

The policy aims to:

- Increase passenger handling capacity from **6.2 million to 30.38 million by 2035**.
- Boost air cargo volumes from 6,240 metric tonnes to **4.27 lakh metric tonnes**.
- Development of nine new airports and **10 waterdomes**, ensuring airport access within a 150-km radius across the State.
- Lift the state's share of India's passenger air traffic from its current 1.5% to 4% by 2035, and reach 7% by 2047.

13. India approves first satellite-based landing procedure for helicopter operations.

India has achieved a major milestone with the approval of the **country's first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) instrument** approach procedure for helicopter operations at **Undavalli Heliport**.

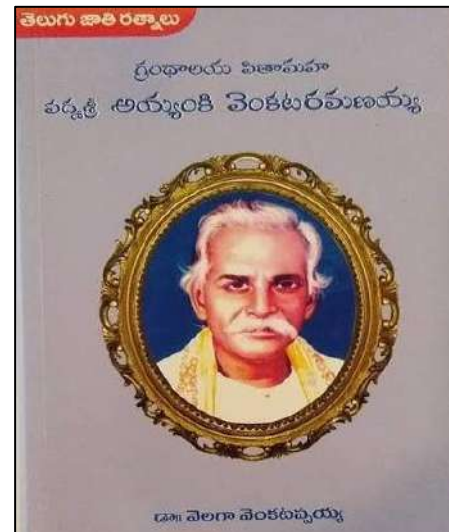


- PinS procedures use advanced satellite-based navigation technology to enable helicopters to conduct safe and precise instrument approaches to heliports that do not have conventional instrument landing infrastructure.
- PinS is particularly beneficial during adverse weather conditions and in areas where ground-based navigation aids are not available.

14. Tributes paid to library movement pioneer Ayyanki Venkata Ramanaiah.

Ayyanki Murali Krishna, grandson of Padma Shri awardee and pioneer of the library movement **Ayyanki Venkata Ramanaiah**, paid tributes to his grandfather on the latter's 136th birth anniversary,

saying he was a visionary who spearheaded a mass library movement under the slogan, **"Public libraries are temples of knowledge."**



Library movement in Andhra Pradesh:

- The library movement in Andhra Pradesh was a powerful grassroots socio-cultural awakening spearheaded by visionaries like **Ayyanki Venkata Ramanayya**, **Gadicherla Hari Sarvottama Rao**, and **Paturi Nagabhushanam** to fight illiteracy, foster nationalism, and promote social reform.

Origins and Growth:

- **First Association:** The Andhra Pradesh Library Association-founded as the *Andhra Desa Granthalaya Sangham* in 1914 at Vijayawada-was the very first library association in India.
- **People's Movement:** Libraries were built as public hubs ("temples of knowledge") through local donations, subscriptions, and volunteer grit rather than immediate state support.
- **Innovative Outreach:** Activists used mobile/boat libraries, literary conferences, and village festivals to carry books directly to rural populations.



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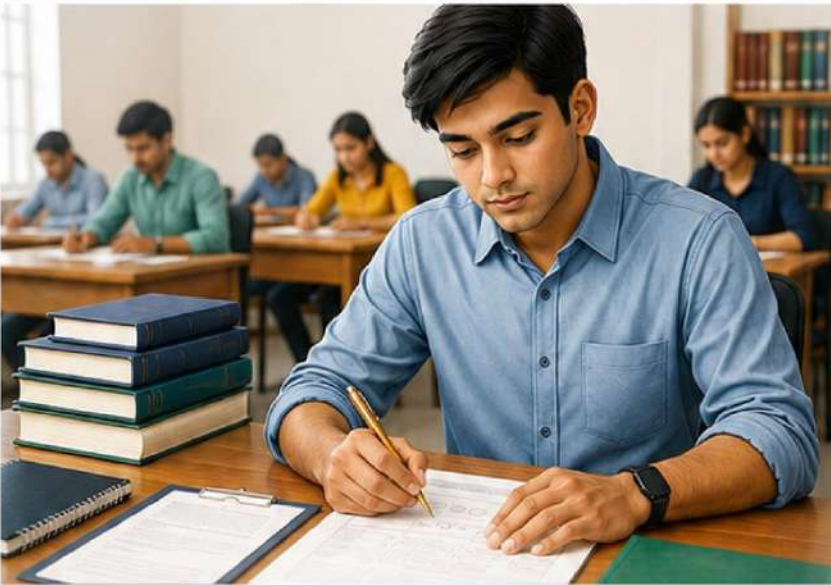


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Section-X: REGIONAL ISSUES OF TELANGANA - Covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. India's rare giant butterfly, the Southern Birdwing, sighted at Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

The **Southern Birdwing** (*Troides minos*), India's second-largest butterfly, has been officially recorded for the first time in Telangana at the **Amrabad Tiger Reserve**.

Discovered in the reserve's **Kollapur Range**, this historic sighting marks a significant expansion of the butterfly's known ecological footprint outside its traditional habitats



About the Southern Birdwing:

- **Sizing:** Features a massive wingspan ranging between **140-190 mm**
- **Primary Habitat:** Endemic to South India, it predominantly populates the **Western Ghats**. It is only selectively or occasionally seen in the Eastern Ghats.

Amrabad Tiger Reserve:

- **Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR)** is located in the rugged Nallamala Hills of **Telangana, India**, spanning across the Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts. Covering an expansive area of **2,611.4 square kilometres**, it ranks as India's **second-largest tiger reserve in terms of core area**

2. Telangana government launches Indiramma Housing scheme in CURE area.

Telangana government launched the scheme for construction of Indiramma Houses in **Hyderabad Core Urban Region (CURE)**.



- The first phase features 7,680 flats across 16 constituencies, with the government aiming to build one lakh affordable homes.
- **Cost & Subsidy:** The flats are priced at ₹11 lakh. The government provides a ₹5 lakh subsidy, meaning the beneficiary contribution is only ₹6 lakh.

Indiramma Housing scheme:

Indiramma Housing Scheme (**Indiramma Indlu**) is a major affordable housing initiative by the **Telangana government** for landless and low-income families. It provides financial assistance and, in some cases, land to build pucca houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

- **Financial Assistance:** In rural areas, the government offers a subsidy of ₹5 lakh, fully subsidizing the house construction.
- **Urban Expansion (CURE Area):** The scheme expanded to Hyderabad's Core Urban Region (CURE) targeting Lower Income Groups (LIG). Beneficiaries are granted 528 sq. ft. flats costing ₹11 lakh, with a ₹5 lakh government subsidy and a beneficiary share of ₹6 lakh (payable in four instalments).

Interconnected concept:

CURE area

CURE is part of a three-zone economic strategy: **CURE** (Services/Core), **PURE** (Peri-Urban Region Economy for Manufacturing), and **RARE** (Rural Agri Region Economy)

- The area within the 160-kilometer Outer Ring Road falls under CURE area.

3. Warangal Airport receives in-principle approval from AAI.

The Centre has informed Parliament that the proposed airport at **Mamnoor in Warangal** has received in-principle approval from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and will be developed at an estimated cost of ₹496.86 crore.



The Centre also said the State government has submitted proposals for developing airports at **Adilabad, Peddapalli** and **Bhadradri Kothagudem**.

- For **Adilabad**, AAI has conducted a techno-economic feasibility study for developing the airport as a joint-user airfield.
- Regarding the proposed **Greenfield airport at Peddapalli**, AAI submitted its pre-feasibility study to the State in February 2026.
- In the case of **Bhadradri Kothagudem**, the study found the site unsuitable due to surrounding hills and a railway line.

4. Telangana Cabinet approves ₹7,345 crore Phase-I of the Musi River Rejuvenation Project.

The Telangana government has accorded administrative sanction of Rs 7,345.12 crore, excluding land acquisition costs, for the first phase of the **Musi Riverfront Development Project (MRDP)**.

The project will be financed through a Rs 4,500 crore (USD 500 million) loan from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, while the remaining Rs 2,845.12 crore will be met by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) and the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC).

TELANGANA GOVERNMENT APPROVES MUSI RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (MRDP)
A TRANSFORMATIVE STEP TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE & WORLD-CLASS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has accorded administrative sanction of **₹7,345.12 CRORE** for the first phase of the **MUSI RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (MRDP)** (Excluding land acquisition costs)

PROJECT FINANCING

LOAN FROM ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) ₹4,500 CRORE (USD 500 MILLION)	TO BE MET BY HMDA & TGIIC ₹2,845.12 CRORE
--	--

ABOUT THE PROJECT

- Comprehensive development of the Musi riverfront to improve ecology, infrastructure, mobility and public spaces.
- Will enhance urban livability, promote tourism, and create economic opportunities.
- A major step towards a cleaner, greener and future-ready Hyderabad.

VISION: Rejuvenating the Musi, Transforming Hyderabad.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **BETTER LIVABILITY** **INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

Musi Riverfront Development Project (MRDP):

The **Musi Riverfront Development Project** is a major urban rejuvenation and cleanup initiative by the Telangana government to transform the polluted Musi River in Hyderabad into an ecological and economic asset.

- Managed by MRDCL, it focuses on flood control, constructing six-lane roads, and creating green spaces, with Phase-I works actively progressing.

Interconnected concept:

Musi river:

- **River** originates in the Anantagiri Hills (Vikarabad district) and is a major **left-bank tributary of the Krishna River**, eventually joining it at Wazirabad in Nalgonda district.
- **Tributaries:** Formed by the confluence of the Musa and Esi rivulets at Bapughat.
- **Historical Context:** Twin reservoirs-Osman Sagar (1920) and Himayat Sagar (1927)-were constructed on the river by the Nizam (Mir Osman Ali Khan) following the catastrophic Great Musi Flood of 1908.

5. Telangana Assembly to pass resolution seeking to lower the minimum age for contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections to 21.

Telangana Chief Minister has demanded that the Centre reduce the age limit for contesting elections to 21 years. He announced that a resolution to this effect will be passed in the Telangana Assembly and sent to the Centre.

MINIMUM AGE TO CONTEST ELECTIONS IN INDIA

HOUSE	CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION	MINIMUM AGE TO CONTEST	COMPARISON (UPPER HOUSE)
 LOK SABHA (HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE)	 Article 84(b) of the Constitution of India specifies that a candidate must not be less than 25 years of age.	 25 YEARS	 RAJYA SABHA (COUNCIL OF STATES) 30 YEARS
 STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (VIDHAN SABHA)	 Article 173(b) of the Constitution of India specifies that a person must be at least 25 years of age to be elected to the Legislative Assembly.	 25 YEARS	 STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (VIDHAN PARISHAD) 30 YEARS

Interconnected concept:

The minimum age required to contest both Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) elections in India is **25 years**.

Lok Sabha (House of the People)

- **Constitutional Provision: Article 84(b)** of the Constitution of India specifies that a candidate must not be less than 25 years of age.
- **Upper House Comparison:** For the Rajya Sabha (Council of States), the minimum age requirement is **30 years**.

State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha)

- **Constitutional Provision: Article 173(b)** of the Constitution of India specifies that a person must be at least 25 years of age to be elected to the Legislative Assembly.
- **Upper House Comparison:** For states that have a bicameral legislature, the minimum age required to contest the State Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) is **30 years**.

6. Telangana sets target of 12 crore workdays under the VB-GRAM scheme.



Telangana government set target of the generation of 12 crore workdays across Telangana under the **VBG Ram-G scheme** during the current financial year. Further State government had approved ₹6,311 crore for the VBG Ram-G scheme for the current financial year.

Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.

- **Enhanced Legal Guarantee:** It raises the statutory guarantee of wage employment from 100 days to **125 days per financial year** per rural household for unskilled manual work.
- **Shift in Financial Architecture:** The scheme transitions from a completely Central-sector wage funding model to a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**. The fund-sharing pattern is fixed at **60:40** between the Centre and States, and **90:10** for Himalayan/Northeastern States and Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Agricultural "Blackout" Pause:** State governments can pre-notify a combined **60-day no-work period** during peak sowing and harvesting seasons. This prevents local farm labour shortages while ensuring workers get 125 days of work during the remaining 305 days.

Core Infrastructure Verticals: To avoid temporary asset creation, all public works are strictly aligned with four categories:

- Water and livelihood infrastructure
- Agricultural support infrastructure
- Climate resilience and environmental management
- Rural connectivity

7. Telangana releases draft Telangana Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill, 2026.

Telangana released the draft **Telangana Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill, 2026**. If enacted, it will replace the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Act, 1955, which has governed Hyderabad's civic administration for more than seven decades.

The proposed legislation seeks to create an integrated governance framework for Hyderabad's expanding metropolitan or core urban region.



Need for new bill:

- Hyderabad has grown from a city of around 15 lakh people in the 1950s to an urban agglomeration of nearly 1.3 crore people, with multiple civic agencies sharing responsibilities over planning, roads, water supply, transport, disaster management and public services. The CURE Bill seeks to bring these functions under an integrated governance framework.

8. Telangana government begins disbursing Rythu Bharosa funds.

Telangana government disbursing the **Rythu Bharosa** amounts to farmers for the ongoing Kharif 2026-27 crop season. Government announced that Bharosa amounts will be credited into the bank accounts of **73.32 lakh farmers** in a phased manner.



The **Rythu Bharosa Scheme** is a flagship welfare program by the Government of Telangana designed to provide financial assistance and investment support to farmers across the state

- Annual Support:** Eligible small and marginal farmers receive **₹12,000 per acre each year**.

- Tenant Support:** The scheme extends annual financial aid of **₹12,000 to landless agricultural labourers** under the **Indiramma Aathmeeya Bharosa** initiative.
- Fund Distribution:** Payments are split across the primary agricultural seasons-**Kharif (Vanakalam)** and **Rabi (Yasangi)**-with **₹6,000 per acre** distributed for each cycle to cover immediate costs like seeds and fertilizers.

9. Telangana government to revive Tummidihetti Barrage project.

Telangana irrigation minister announced that Telangana government is actively pursuing the revival of the **Tummidihetti Barrage project**.



The **Tummidihetti Barrage** is a proposed multi-purpose structure across the **Pranhita River** (near the confluence of the Wardha and Wainganga rivers) in **Kumuram Bheem Asifabad** (formerly Adilabad) district.

- Being revived under the **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project**, it aims to irrigate nearly 2,00,000 acres in drought-prone regions of erstwhile Adilabad



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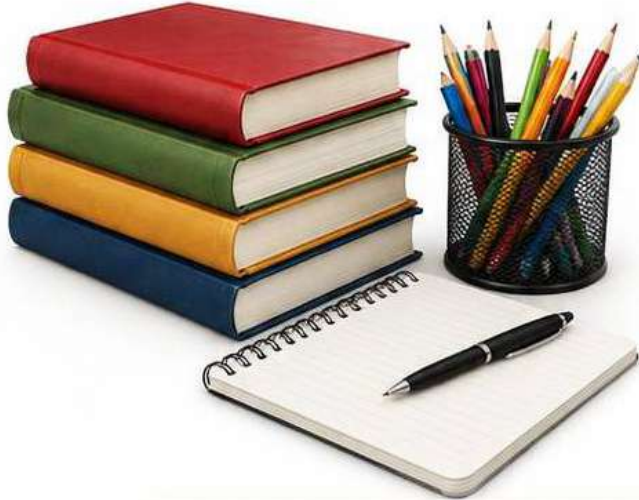
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Section-XI: ONE LINERS - Covers important events that does not require subject specialization.

- **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** reached a critical spaceflight milestone by conducting the first successful lift-off and landing test flight of its experimental reusable rocket prototype, the **RV-X (Reusable Vehicle eXperiment)**.
- In a landmark moment for Andhra cricket, left-arm spinner **N. Shree Charani** became the first woman cricketer from Andhra Pradesh to represent India in a Test match.
- NASA astronaut **Anil Menon** and two Russian cosmonauts reached the International Space Station. The mission marks the first spaceflight for Indian-origin Menon and the second for both Russian cosmonauts.
- **World Youth Skills Day** is observed annually on **July 15** to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with technical, vocational, and entrepreneurial skills.
- **Durand Cup** is Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament.
- Former Manchester Mayor, **Andrew Burnham**, was appointed Prime Minister of the U.K.
- Supreme Court of India granted final approval for the **Kukrail Night Safari and Day Zoo project** in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham appointed Labour MP **Kanishka Narayan** as the country's dedicated Minister for Artificial Intelligence, elevating the position to attend Cabinet meetings for the first time.
- Spain won the FIFA World Cup 2026, defeating Argentina 1-0. Golden Ball (Best Player): **Rodri** (Spain). Golden Boot (Top Scorer): **Kylian Mbappé** (France) – 10 goals. Golden Glove (Best Goalkeeper): **Unai Simón** (Spain).
- **National Broadcasting Day** observed **July 23**, marking the anniversary of India's first radio broadcast in 1927 by the Indian Broadcasting Company, Bombay.
- The Indian Air Force participated in **Exercise Pitch Black 2026** at Darwin, Australia. It is a multinational air-combat exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force**.



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Section-XII: Practice Questions-(MCQs) based on Current affairs.

1. Practice Questions-I

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of July 2026)

1. The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 seeks to introduce which new Article empowering the President to notify an "appointed date" after a general election?

- a) Article 83A
- b) Article 82A
- c) Article 172A
- d) Article 327A

2. The Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously endorsed the President's reference on renaming the State from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'. Under which Article of the Constitution was the President required to refer the draft Bill to the State Assembly for its views?

- a) Article 2
- b) Article 3
- c) Article 4
- d) Article 368

3. The Supreme Court recently asked States and Union Territories to consider raising the age of superannuation of judicial officers of the district judiciary. The Court's direction proposed raising it from 60 years to which age?

- a) 62 years
- b) 61 years
- c) 63 years
- d) 65 years

4. The West Bengal government constituted a high-level committee to examine a draft Uniform Civil Code for the State. The committee is headed by which former Supreme Court judge?

- a) Justice B. N. Srikrishna
- b) Justice Indu Malhotra
- c) Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai
- d) Justice A. K. Sikri

5. Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 lifted off on 'Mission Aagaman' on July 18, 2026 from

Sriharikota. What is the historic significance of this launch?

- a) It was India's first launch of a satellite into a Sun-Synchronous Orbit
- b) It was India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle, making India the third country to demonstrate private orbital launch capability
- c) It was the first Indian rocket to use a fully cryogenic upper stage
- d) It was the first Indian launch conducted entirely from a sea-based platform

6. India granted marketing authorisation for its first-ever dengue vaccine. Which vaccine was approved, and for which age group?

- a) Dengvaxia, for ages 9 to 45
- b) TAK-003D, for ages 2 to 50
- c) Qdenga, for ages 4 to 60
- d) DengiAll, for ages 6 to 65

7. Consider the following statements about the 'Indian Standard Time (IST) - Distribution Demonstration Network' inaugurated recently:

- 1. It is based on 'White Rabbit Technology', which uses the Precision Time Protocol.
- 2. It was developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL and ISRO under the 'One Nation, One Time' initiative.
- 3. It depends on foreign global navigation satellite systems for time traceability.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

8. Consider the following statements about the Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF), from which Dhruva Space recently received ₹60 crore:

- 1. It is India's first dedicated, sector-specific space-tech investment fund, with a corpus of ₹1,600 crore.
- 2. It is registered with SEBI as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. 'Mission Drishti', which lost communication after a geomagnetic solar storm, is associated with which of the following?

- a) The world's first OptoSAR multi-sensor Earth Observation satellite, built by the start-up GalaxEye
- b) An ISRO deep-space solar observatory placed at the L1 Lagrange point
- c) A DRDO high-altitude pseudo-satellite airship for battlefield surveillance
- d) India's first indigenous quantum communication satellite built by CSIR-NPL

10. INS Mahendragiri, recently commissioned into the Indian Navy, is a stealth frigate built under which programme, and after what is it named?

- a) Project 15B; a river in Odisha
- b) Project 17A; a mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha
- c) Project 28; a hill station in the Western Ghats
- d) Project 75I; a mountain range in Arunachal Pradesh

11. Indonesia became the first foreign country to acquire which Indian missile, signed for arming its Su-30 fleet?

- a) Akash surface-to-air missile
- b) RudraM-II anti-radiation missile
- c) Astra Mk-1 beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile
- d) Nirbhay subsonic cruise missile

12. Consider the following statements about the Airship-based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (AS-HAPS) programme for which India invited private participation:

1. It is a ₹15,000-crore programme to develop unmanned stratospheric platforms bridging the gap between drones and satellites.
2. It is being pursued under the Make-I procurement framework, under which the Centre can fund up to 70% of prototype development cost.
3. It is steered by the DRDO's Directorate of Aeronautics.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only

- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

13. The 'Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana', approved recently, is aimed at the conservation of which of the following, and is funded from which source?

- a) Nearly 15,000 sacred groves; the National CAMPA Fund
- b) Nearly 5,000 urban forests; the National Clean Air Programme corpus
- c) All Ramsar sites in India; the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change
- d) Nearly 15,000 village ponds; the National Mission for Clean Ganga

14. The Borjuli wetland was recently notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site. It is located in which State, and is significant for harbouring which species?

- a) Odisha; the wild rice *Oryza nivara*
- b) Assam; the wild rice *Oryza rufipogon*
- c) Assam; the wild rice *Oryza sativa*
- d) Manipur; the wild rice *Oryza rufipogon*

15. Consider the following statements about the recently approved DNA-based indexing initiative for the greater one-horned rhinoceros:

1. It was approved by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife, which is chaired by the Union Environment Minister.
2. The National Board for Wildlife is a statutory body constituted under Section 5A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

16. Consider the following statements about the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) - VB-G RAM G - Act, which has come into effect:

1. It raises the guaranteed days of wage employment from 100 to 125.
2. It provides for a 60-day pause in the scheme during peak agricultural sowing and harvesting seasons.
3. It continues the MGNREGA practice of the Centre bearing 100% of the wage bill.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

17. Uttarakhand recently became the country's sixth fully literate State. Which of the following programmes is associated with this achievement?

- a) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- b) NIPUN Bharat Mission
- c) ULLAS – New India Literacy Programme
- d) Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

18. An IndiGo Airbus A320 made history by becoming the first full-sized passenger jet in India to land using the GAGAN system. GAGAN is best described as:

- a) India's regional Satellite-Based Augmentation System developed jointly by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India
- b) An indigenous independent regional satellite navigation system with seven satellites
- c) A ground-based radio landing aid developed by the Airports Authority of India
- d) A satellite constellation developed by ISRO exclusively for military aviation

19. The Union Cabinet approved the modified UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme). Which of the following correctly describes the approved scheme?

- a) Development of 50 airports over five years with an outlay of about ₹10,000 crore
- b) Development of 100 airports over ten years (2026-27 to 2035-36) with an outlay of about ₹28,840 crore
- c) Development of 100 heliports over ten years with an outlay of about ₹28,840 crore
- d) Development of 200 airstrips over fifteen years with an outlay of about ₹50,000 crore

20. The Government introduced the Index of Services Production (ISP), India's first high-frequency indicator for the services sector. Which organisation launched it, and what is its base year?

- a) RBI; base year 2022-23
- b) Office of the Economic Adviser under DPIIT; base year 2024-25
- c) National Statistical Office under MoSPI; base year 2024-25

d) NITI Aayog; base year 2011-12

21. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2026, India's FDI inflows in 2025 rose 44% to \$39 billion. India's global rank as an FDI recipient was:

- a) 11th
- b) 8th
- c) 9th
- d) 15th

22. Consider the following statements about NITI Aayog's first Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026:

- 1. Gujarat topped the index, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- 2. Among its eight pillars, 'infrastructure' carries the highest weightage at 25%.
- 3. States are classified into four categories, of which five States were identified as top performers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

23. The UAE is planning a new deepwater port on its east coast primarily to bypass which strategic chokepoint?

- a) Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- b) Strait of Hormuz
- c) Strait of Malacca
- d) Suez Canal

24. Consider the following statements about the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which India recently joined:

- 1. It prohibits government support to illegal fishing and over-exploitation of stocks.
- 2. It covers marine wild-capture fishing, but excludes aquaculture and inland fisheries.
- 3. It was the first multilateral WTO agreement with an environmental sustainability objective.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

25. Preliminary excavations at the Kotul site in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district indicate

that it was an important settlement and trade hub during the rule of which dynasty?

- a) The Vakatakas
- b) The Rashtrakutas
- c) The Satavahanas
- d) The Chalukyas of Badami

Answers & Explanations for Questions (1-25)

1. Ans: (b) Article 82A

The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 is the central legal mechanism designed to implement Phase 1 of the 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) initiative. It inserts a new Article 82A, which empowers the President to notify an "appointed date" following a general election; from that date, the terms of all State Legislative Assemblies are aligned to match the five-year term of the Lok Sabha. The Bill is based on the recommendations of the Kovind Committee report.

Key facts:

- **Articles 83 and 172** (duration of the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures) are amended to enforce synchronicity.
- **Mid-term dissolution:** a newly elected House will serve only the remainder of the original five-year cycle, not a fresh full term, so the simultaneous election timeline remains unbroken.
- **Article 327** is amended to empower Parliament to make provisions regarding the maintenance of synchronised election schedules.

2. Ans: (b) Article 3

Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to alter internal State boundaries, create new States and change names through ordinary legislation. A Bill for this purpose can be introduced in Parliament only on the **recommendation of the President**, and where the Bill affects a State's name, area or boundaries, the President must refer it to that State legislature to express its views within a set timeframe.

- **Parliament is not bound by the views of the State legislature** and can pass the Bill even if the State rejects the proposal.
- Changes under Article 3 require only a **simple majority** and are therefore not treated as constitutional amendments under Article 368.

3. Ans: (b) 61 years

The Supreme Court asked the States and Union Territories to consider raising the age of superannuation of judicial officers from 60 to 61 years. The direction was passed while hearing a petition that sought a uniform enhancement of the retirement age of district judiciary judges from 60 to 62 years across the country - so the Court's suggestion (61) was lower than the relief sought in the petition (62).

- Supreme Court judges retire at 65 years under Article 124(2); High Court judges retire at 62 years under Article 217(1).
- The Constitution does not fix a total number of years of tenure for judges - office is held until the specified retirement age limit is reached.
- Any question about a judge's age is decided by an authority and in a manner determined by Parliament.

4. Ans: (c) Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

The West Bengal government constituted a high-level committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai to examine a draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for the State.

- **Article 44, in Part IV (Directive Principles)** of the Constitution, directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens throughout the territory of India.

5. Ans: (b) It was India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle, making India the third country to demonstrate private orbital launch capability

- Skyroot Aerospace successfully launched Vikram-1 (Mission Agaman) on July 18, 2026 from the First Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota. It was the first time a private Indian company undertook an orbital launch of a rocket from Indian soil, and it made India the third country globally - after the United States and China - to independently demonstrate private orbital launch capability.

6. Ans: (c) Qdenga, for ages 4 to 60

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, granted marketing authorisation for the Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine (Live, Attenuated) - Qdenga, manufactured by Takeda GmbH, Germany, and

imported by M/s Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India Pvt. Ltd. It is the first dengue vaccine approved in India, cleared for the prevention of dengue in people aged four to 60 years.

7. Ans: (a) 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The network is based on 'White Rabbit Technology', which distributes IST traceable to UTC (NPLI) using the Precision Time Protocol, and it was developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL and ISRO under the 'One Nation, One Time' initiative.

Statement 3 is incorrect - the system's key advantage is precisely that it operates independently of foreign global navigation systems, ensuring resilient and indigenous time synchronisation.

- Indian Standard Time is calculated on the **82°30'E (82.5° E) longitude**, which passes through Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, near Prayagraj.
- IST is UTC+05:30, i.e. **5 hours 30 minutes** ahead of Coordinated Universal Time / Greenwich Mean Time.
- CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, is the official custodian of Indian time, maintaining it with ultra-precise caesium atomic clocks.

8. Ans: (c) Both 1 and 2

- **Both statements are correct.** The **Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF)** is India's dedicated ₹1,600 crore fund created to boost the private space-tech ecosystem, and it is India's first dedicated, sector-specific space-tech investment fund. It is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as a **Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)**. Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space became the first company to secure investment from this fund, receiving ₹60 crore (about \$6.3 million).

9. Ans: (a) The world's first OptoSAR multi-sensor Earth Observation satellite, built by the start-up GalaxEye

- **Mission Drishti** is the world's first multi-sensor Earth Observation (EO) satellite featuring OptoSAR technology - combining optical and Synthetic Aperture Radar sensing - developed by the Bengaluru-based Indian space-tech start-up **GalaxEye**. It encountered an anomaly following a geomagnetic solar storm during the final stage of its Launch and Early Orbit Phase (LEOP).

10. Ans: (b) Project 17A; a mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha

INS Mahendragiri is the sixth of seven stealth frigates built under the **Project 17A (Nilgiri-class) programme**, and is an advanced follow-on variant of the preceding Shivalik-class frigates.

- It is named after Mahendragiri, a majestic mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha, and marks a milestone in India's drive towards defence self-reliance under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

11. Ans: (c) Astra Mk-1 beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile

- **India and Indonesia** signed a deal for the supply of the **Astra Mk 1 Beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM)**. This marks India's first export of Astra missiles to any country, and the missiles will arm Indonesia's Su-30 fighter fleet. Astra is India's first fully indigenous BVRAAM, designed and developed by the DRDO.

12. Ans: (a) 1 and 2 only

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct.** India invited private companies to develop indigenous high-altitude surveillance airships under a ₹15,000-crore programme to strengthen intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities; the AS-HAPS platforms are unmanned and can operate in the stratosphere for extended periods, bridging the gap between drones and satellites. It follows the Make-I framework, under which the Centre funds up to 70% of prototype development costs for selected industry partners.
- Statement 3 is incorrect - the programme is steered by the Indian Air Force's Directorate of Operations (Remote), not the DRDO.

13. Ans: (a) Nearly 15,000 sacred groves; the National CAMPA Fund

- The Aastha Van Sanrakshan Yojana is a ₹3,000-crore Central scheme approved by the National CAMPA for the conservation of nearly 15,000 sacred groves (also called Aastha Vans) across India. Spanning five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31, it seeks to protect these traditional, culturally revered forest patches, which act as crucial local biodiversity hotspots and water reservoirs.
- The scheme is funded entirely through the National CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation) Fund.

14. Ans: (b) Assam; the wild rice *Oryza rufipogon*

- The Borjuli wetland in Assam has been notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) for harbouring a disease- and pest-resistant variety of wild rice, marking a major milestone in conserving India's wild rice genetic resources. The species, *Oryza rufipogon*, is the progenitor of present-day cultivated rice (*Oryza sativa*); it resists pests and diseases and tolerates flooding and saline conditions, making it a valuable genetic resource for climate-resilient crop varieties.

15. Ans: (c) Both 1 and 2

- **Both statements are correct.** The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL), chaired by the Union Environment Minister, approved the landmark initiative to create a DNA-based indexing system for the greater one-horned rhinoceros. The NBWL itself is India's apex statutory body for wildlife conservation, constituted under Section 5A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and is chaired by the Prime Minister - which is why the Standing Committee (chaired by the Environment Minister) is a distinct body.

16. Ans: (a) 1 and 2 only

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, which replaces the two-decade-old MGNREGA, 2005, increases guaranteed working days from 100 to 125 and provides for a 60-day pause during the peak agricultural sowing and harvesting seasons to ensure availability of farm labour.
- Statement 3 is **incorrect** - unlike MGNREGS, where the Centre paid 100% of the wage bill, VB-G RAM G shifts 40% of the funding burden onto the States.

17. Ans: (c) ULLAS - New India Literacy Programme

- Uttarakhand became the sixth fully literate State after achieving the prescribed adult literacy benchmarks under the National Education Policy 2020 and the **ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society)** - New India Literacy Programme.
- With this, Uttarakhand joins Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim on the list of fully literate States.

18. Ans: (a) India's regional Satellite-Based Augmentation System developed jointly by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India

- **GAGAN (GPS-Aided GEO Augmented Navigation)** is India's regional Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS), jointly developed by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- The IndiGo A320 landed at Udaipur airport using GAGAN instead of a conventional ground-based radio landing aid - the first time a full-sized passenger jet in India completed a landing using this technology. GAGAN does not replace GPS; it augments it, reducing GPS positional errors from roughly 7.6 metres to 3 metres or less.

19. Ans: (b) Development of 100 airports over ten years (2026-27 to 2035-36) with an outlay of about ₹28,840 crore

- The Union Cabinet approved the launch and implementation of the Regional Connectivity Scheme - **Modified UDAN** for ten years, from 2026-27 to 2035-36, with a total outlay of ₹28,840 crore.
- Under it, 100 airports will be developed from existing unserved airstrips to enhance regional air connectivity to underserved and unserved areas, boosting economic growth, trade and tourism in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and supporting affordable air travel.

20. Ans: (c) National Statistical Office under MoSPI; base year 2024-25

- The Index of Services Production (ISP) is a monthly high-frequency macroeconomic indicator launched by the **National Statistical Office** under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- It tracks short-term changes in the volume of output produced by the formal services sector relative to the base year 2024-25. It fills a gap because the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures only industrial activity and does not capture short-term services trends.

21. Ans: (a) 11th

- As per UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2026, India attracted \$39 billion in foreign direct investment in 2025 - a 44% increase over the previous year - and climbed to become the world's 11th-largest recipient of FDI. The United States maintained the top position with \$277 billion, followed by Singapore (\$151 billion),

Hong Kong (\$116 billion) and China (\$105 billion).

22. Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

- All three statements are correct. Gujarat emerged as India's most investment-friendly State in NITI Aayog's first-ever Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- The index assesses all 28 States and 8 Union Territories across eight pillars, with infrastructure carrying the highest weightage at 25%. States are classified into four categories - top performers, frontrunners, emerging performers and aspiring States - with five States identified as top performers.

23. Ans: (b) Strait of Hormuz

- The UAE is planning a new deepwater port on its east coast that would allow cargo to bypass the Strait of Hormuz, reducing reliance on one of the world's most strategically vulnerable shipping routes after months of conflict between Iran and the United States. Activity at Dubai's Jebel Ali port - West Asia's largest container port - fell by as much as 90% after Iran closed the strait, and debris from an intercepted missile had earlier triggered a fire there.

24. Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

- All three statements are correct. India announced that it had joined the WTO's Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which prohibits government support to illegal fishing activities and to the over-exploitation of stocks.
- The agreement focuses on subsidies related to marine wild-capture fishing and fishing-related

activities at sea, while aquaculture and inland fisheries remain outside its scope. It was adopted by consensus at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva in June 2022 and is the first multilateral WTO agreement with an environmental sustainability objective.

25. Ans: (c) The Satavahanas

- Preliminary archaeological excavations at the flood-prone Kotul site in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district uncovered antiquities ranging from the early historic to the late medieval cultural period. The findings show that Kotul was an important settlement during the Satavahana period, shedding light on the region's trade networks and cultural history.
- The Satavahanas (approx. 1st Century BCE to 3rd century CE) ruled the Deccan and central India after the Mauryan decline and served as a vital bridge between North and South India.



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Section-XIII: Practice Questions-(MCQs) based on static concepts linked to this months' current affairs.

2. Practice Questions-II

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of July 2026)

26. Consider the following statements regarding Article 3 of the Indian Constitution:

1. A Bill for altering the name or boundary of a State can be introduced in Parliament only on the recommendation of the President.
2. Parliament is bound by the views expressed by the concerned State legislature on such a Bill.
3. Such a change requires a special majority as it amounts to a constitutional amendment under Article 368.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

27. Under which Articles of the Constitution do judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively attain the age of superannuation?

- a) Article 124(2) - 65 years; Article 217(1) - 62 years
- b) Article 124(2) - 62 years; Article 217(1) - 65 years
- c) Article 125(1) - 65 years; Article 216 - 60 years
- d) Article 121 - 65 years; Article 214 - 62 years

28. Which Article of the Constitution provides safeguards in respect of preventive detention, including the requirement of an Advisory Board for detention beyond three months?

- a) Article 20
- b) Article 22
- c) Article 21
- d) Article 23

29. Consider the following statements about sessions of Parliament:

1. The maximum gap between two consecutive sessions of Parliament cannot exceed six months.
2. The Constitution prescribes a minimum number of working days per year for Parliament.
3. Pending Bills do not lapse on prorogation of a House.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

30. Article 371 and its sub-clauses provide special provisions for certain States. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- a) Article 371A - Manipur
- b) Article 371D - Mizoram
- c) Article 371J - Karnataka
- d) Article 371H - Goa

31. Consider the following statements about cryogenic engine technology:

1. A cryogenic engine uses liquid hydrogen as fuel, stored at about -253°C, and liquid oxygen as oxidiser, stored at about -183°C.
2. Cryogenic engines provide a higher specific impulse than solid or earth-storable liquid engines.
3. India's CE-20 engine was designed indigenously by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre and powers the upper stage of the LVM3.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

32. Which of the following statements about the World Trade Organization (WTO) is correct?

- a) It was established in 1948 through the Bretton Woods Agreement, replacing the ITO
- b) It was established in 1986 at the launch of the Uruguay Round, replacing UNCTAD
- c) It was established in 1995 through the Doha Declaration, replacing the OECD trade wing

- d) It was established in 1995 through the Marrakesh Agreement, replacing GATT

33. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), often called the 'Workhorse of ISRO', is best described by which of the following?

- India's third-generation expendable launch vehicle, the first Indian rocket to feature liquid propulsion stages, used mainly for Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits
- India's first launch vehicle to use a cryogenic upper stage, used mainly for communication satellites
- India's heaviest launch vehicle, human-rated for the Gaganyaan mission
- India's first fully reusable launch vehicle for small satellites

34. Which of the following correctly describes the mission parameters of India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme?

- A crew of 4 astronauts to an altitude of about 800 km for a 7-day mission, with a land landing in Rajasthan
- A crew of 2-3 astronauts to an altitude of about 400 km for a 3-day mission, with splashdown in Indian sea waters
- A crew of 2 astronauts to lunar orbit for a 10-day mission, with splashdown in the Pacific Ocean
- A crew of 3 astronauts to the International Space Station for a 15-day mission

35. Dengue is caused by the Dengue virus (DENV). To which virus family does DENV belong, and which vector primarily transmits it?

- Togaviridae; female Anopheles mosquito
- Bunyaviridae; Culex mosquito
- Flaviviridae; female Aedes aegypti mosquito
- Filoviridae; sandfly

36. The National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) covers six diseases. Which of the following is NOT one of them?

- Malaria
- Kala-azar
- Japanese encephalitis
- Tuberculosis

37. The Standard Meridian of India (82°30'E), on which Indian Standard Time is based, passes through which of the following sets of States?

- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha
- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu

38. Consider the following statements about Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in the context of India's Nuclear Energy Mission:

- SMRs are factory-built nuclear fission reactors with a capacity of up to 300 MWe per module.
- India is developing the indigenous 200 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200).
- The Nuclear Energy Mission targets 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047 and was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

39. BrahMos, the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missile, derives its name from which two rivers?

- Brahmani and Volga
- Brahmaputra and Moskva
- Brahmaputra and Volga
- Brahmani and Moskva

40. Cruise missiles are classified on the basis of speed. Which of the following pairings is correct?

- Subsonic - BrahMos; Supersonic - Nirbhay; Hypersonic - Tomahawk
- Subsonic - Zircon; Supersonic - Tomahawk; Hypersonic - Nirbhay
- Subsonic - Nirbhay; Supersonic - BrahMos; Hypersonic - Zircon
- Subsonic - Tomahawk; Supersonic - Zircon; Hypersonic - BrahMos

41. Consider the following statements about the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA):

- It is a statutory body established under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016.

2. Under the Act, States receive 90% of the funds while the Centre retains 10%.
3. National and State Compensatory Afforestation Funds are held in the Consolidated Fund of India and of the States respectively.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

42. The Contingency Fund of India, placed at the disposal of the President to meet unforeseen expenditure, is constituted under which Article of the Constitution?

- a) Article 265
- b) Article 266(1)
- c) Article 266(2)
- d) Article 267

43. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established in which year and under which legislation?

- a) 2006; the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- b) 2005; the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- c) 2010; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- d) 2016; the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016

44. With reference to the Appendices of CITES, consider the following statements:

1. Appendix I lists species threatened with extinction; commercial trade in them is strictly prohibited.
2. Trade in Appendix II species requires an export permit, while import permits are generally not required.
3. Appendix III lists species protected in at least one country which has sought the help of other CITES parties in controlling trade.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

45. Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) in India are notified under which provision, and by which authority?

- a) Section 5A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; by the National Board for Wildlife

- b) Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; by State Governments
- c) Section 38 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; by the Central Government
- d) Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; by the MoEFCC

46. Which of the following is a correctly matched pair of a prominent geothermal site in India and its location?

- a) Puga Valley - Himachal Pradesh
- b) Manikaran - Ladakh
- c) Tattapani - Chhattisgarh
- d) Cambay Graben - Odisha

47. Consider the following statements about the National Food Security Act, 2013:

1. It covers 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population.
2. Antyodaya Anna Yojana households are currently entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month.
3. Priority Households are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

48. Consider the following statements about India's Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework:

1. The RBI aims to maintain headline CPI inflation at 4% with a tolerance band of $\pm 2\%$.
2. A 'failure of inflation targeting' occurs when average retail inflation stays outside the 2-6% band for three consecutive quarters.
3. The framework was established on the recommendations of the Urjit Patel Committee.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

49. Which of the following straits is correctly matched with the water bodies it connects?

- a) Strait of Malacca - Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- b) Strait of Gibraltar - Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea

- c) Palk Strait - Arabian Sea and Laccadive Sea
- d) Bab-el-Mandeb - Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

50. With reference to trade during the Satavahana period, consider the following statements:

1. Barukachcha (Broach), Sopara and Kalyan were major ports on the west coast.
2. Wine, copper, tin, lead, coral and topaz figured among the imports.
3. Merchant guilds (Srenis) accepted deposits, granted loans and even issued their own coins.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answers & Explanations for Questions (Q 26-50)

26. Ans: (a) 1 only

- **Only statement 1 is correct.** Under Article 3, a Bill to alter State areas, boundaries or names can be introduced in Parliament only on the recommendation of the President.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** - the President must refer such a Bill to the State legislature for its views, but Parliament is not bound by those views and may pass the Bill even if the State rejects the proposal. Statement 3 is incorrect - changes under Article 3 require only a simple majority and are not treated as constitutional amendments under Article 368.

27. Ans: (a) Article 124(2) - 65 years; Article 217(1) - 62 years

- Judges of the Supreme Court retire at 65 years under Article 124(2), while judges of the High Courts retire at 62 years under Article 217(1). The Constitution does not fix a total number of years of tenure - office is held until the specified retirement age limit is reached.

28. Ans: (b) Article 22

- **Preventive detention** - detaining a person without trial, not for a past crime but to prevent future offences against national security or public order - is governed by Article 22 of the Constitution.
- Clauses (4) to (7) of Article 22 lay down the limitations: detention cannot exceed three months unless an Advisory Board (composed of

High Court judges or persons qualified to be High Court judges) reports sufficient cause for an extension.

29. Ans: (b) 1 and 3 only

- **Statements 1 and 3 are correct.** Under Article 85, the President summons each House from time to time, and the maximum gap between two consecutive sessions cannot exceed six months - so Parliament must meet at least twice a year. Prorogation terminates the entire session but pending Bills do not lapse on prorogation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** - the Constitution neither specifies a fixed parliamentary calendar nor mandates a minimum number of working days per year.

30. Ans: (c) Article 371J - Karnataka

- Article 371J provides special status to the backward Hyderabad-Karnataka region (now Kalyana Karnataka) for development and reservations - so 'Article 371J - Karnataka' is correctly matched. Article 371A relates to Nagaland (not Manipur), Article 371D relates to Andhra Pradesh (and 371E to University of Hyderabad, not Mizoram), and Article 371H relates to Arunachal Pradesh (not Goa).

31. Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

- **All three statements are correct.** A cryogenic engine uses propellants stored as super-cooled liquefied gases - liquid hydrogen (LH2) as fuel at about -253°C and liquid oxygen (LOX) as oxidiser at about -183°C. Because the combustion releases massive energy, it delivers much higher specific impulse (fuel efficiency) than solid or earth-storable liquid engines, enabling heavier payloads.
- The CE-20 was designed indigenously by ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) and powers the upper stage of the LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk-III); it is among the most powerful upper-stage cryogenic engines globally.

32. Ans: (d) It was established in 1995 through the Marrakesh Agreement, replacing GATT

- The WTO is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations. It was established in 1995 via the Marrakesh Agreement, replacing GATT (1948), and aims to ensure that global trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. It emerged from the Uruguay Round of negotiations (1986-1994), which expanded

trade rules beyond goods to include services and intellectual property.

33. Ans: (a) India's third-generation expendable launch vehicle, the first Indian rocket to feature liquid propulsion stages, used mainly for Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits

- The PSLV is India's third-generation, indigenously built expendable launch vehicle. Known as the 'Workhorse of ISRO', it was the first Indian rocket to feature liquid propulsion stages and is primarily used to place Earth-observation and remote-sensing satellites into Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits (SSO).

34. Ans: (b) A crew of 2-3 astronauts to an altitude of about 400 km for a 3-day mission, with splashdown in Indian sea waters

- **Gaganyaan** is India's flagship human spaceflight programme led by ISRO. Its mission parameters are to send a crew of 2-3 astronauts (Gaganyatris) to an altitude of about 400 km in Low Earth Orbit for a three-day duration, and to ensure secure re-entry with a controlled splashdown in Indian sea waters. Success will make India only the fourth country to achieve independent human spaceflight capability, after the USA, Russia and China.

35. Ans: (c) Flaviviridae; female Aedes aegypti mosquito

- Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the **Dengue virus (DENV)**, an RNA virus of the Flaviviridae family. It is transmitted primarily by the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and thrives in tropical and subtropical regions, escalating during the monsoon season because stagnant water provides ideal breeding sites for *Aedes* mosquitoes.

36. 36. Ans: (d) Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis is **not a vector-borne disease** and is not covered by the NVBDCP; it is addressed under the National TB Elimination Programme. The National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) operates the NVBDCP, an umbrella scheme under the National Health Mission, which prevents and controls six diseases: malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis, kala-azar and lymphatic filariasis.

37. Ans: (a) Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh

- Indian Standard Time is calculated on the **82°30'E (82.5°E) longitude**, which passes through Mirzapur (near Prayagraj) in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Standard Meridian of India passes through five States: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. India is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of UTC/GMT, written as UTC+05:30.

38. Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

- All three statements are correct. SMRs are advanced, factory-built nuclear fission reactors with a capacity of up to 300 Megawatt electric (MWe) per module - roughly one-third of a traditional nuclear plant. India is developing indigenous models including the 200 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200) and SMR-55 MWe units at Tarapur.
- The Nuclear Energy Mission, announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 with a ₹20,000 crore allocation, aims to scale India's nuclear capacity from about 8.78 GW to 100 GW by 2047.

39. Ans: (b) Brahmaputra and Moskva

- BrahMos is an Indo-Russian joint venture between the DRDO and NPO Mashinostroyeniya, named after the Brahmaputra River of India and the Moskva River of Russia. It is the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missile, flying at Mach 2.8 to 3.5 - roughly three times the speed of sound. It has a two-stage design: a solid-propellant booster for the first stage and a liquid-fuelled ramjet engine for the second.

40. Ans: (c) Subsonic - Nirbhay; Supersonic - BrahMos; Hypersonic - Zircon

- A cruise missile is a guided, self-propelled weapon that remains within the Earth's atmosphere for its entire flight.
- Subsonic cruise missiles travel slower than Mach 1 - examples include India's Nirbhay and the American Tomahawk.
- Supersonic cruise missiles travel between Mach 2 and Mach 3 - the Indo-Russian BrahMos is the classic example.
- Hypersonic cruise missiles travel faster than Mach 5 and are usually powered by scramjet engines - examples include Russia's Zircon and India's developmental BrahMos-II.

41. Ans: (a) 1 and 2 only

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct.** CAMPA is a statutory body under the MoEFCC, established

by the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016, to manage funds collected from agencies that divert forest land for non-forest purposes; States receive 90% of the funds while the Centre retains 10% for administration and capacity building.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect** - the Act creates National and State Compensatory Afforestation Funds in the Public Account of India and of the States, not the Consolidated Fund.

42. Ans: (d) Article 267

- The **Contingency Fund of India** is constituted under Article 267. It is an emergency corpus placed at the disposal of the President to meet unforeseen expenditure, pending parliamentary approval. This is distinct from the Consolidated Fund of India under Article 266(1) and the Public Account of India under Article 266(2).

43. Ans: (a) 2006; the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

- The NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), established in 2006 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide statutory backing to Project Tiger and ensure its effective implementation. It is chaired by the **Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change** and includes Members of Parliament, wildlife experts and MoEFCC officials.

44. Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct.

- Appendix I covers species threatened with extinction - commercial trade is strictly prohibited and trade is allowed only in exceptional, non-commercial circumstances such as scientific research, requiring both import and export permits.
- Appendix II covers species not necessarily threatened with extinction but whose trade must be strictly regulated to prevent over-exploitation, requiring an export permit with import permits generally not needed.
- Appendix III covers species protected in at least one country which has asked other CITES parties for help in controlling trade.

45. Ans: (b) Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; by State Governments

- Biodiversity Heritage Sites are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems that harbour rich

biodiversity. Under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, State Governments are empowered to notify these areas in consultation with local bodies, and they are typically managed by local communities to preserve ecological and cultural significance.

46. Ans: (c) Tattapani - Chhattisgarh

- Tattapani is located in Chhattisgarh, making it the correctly matched pair. Puga Valley and Chhumathang are in Ladakh (not Himachal Pradesh), Manikaran is in Himachal Pradesh (not Ladakh), and the Cambay Graben is in Gujarat (not Odisha).
- India's estimated geothermal potential is about 10 GW, though commercial utilisation is still at an early stage.

47. Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

- **All three statements are correct.** The NFSA, 2013 marked a shift from a welfare-based to a rights-based approach to food and nutritional security. It covers 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population - about 67% of India's population overall. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, designated the poorest of the poor, receive a flat 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month regardless of household size, while Priority Households (PHH) receive 5 kg per person per month.

48. Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

- **All three statements are correct.** India uses a Flexible Inflation Targeting framework established upon the recommendations of the Urjit Patel Committee.
- The RBI's mandate is to maintain headline CPI inflation at 4% with a $\pm 2\%$ tolerance band (2-6%), balancing price stability with growth. A 'failure of inflation targeting' is defined as average retail inflation staying outside the 2-6% band for three consecutive quarters, after which the central bank must formally explain the reasons and remedial measures to the government.

49. Ans: (d) Bab-el-Mandeb - Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

- The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait links the Red Sea to the north-west with the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean to the south-east, serving as the southern gateway to the Suez Canal - so this pair is correct.

- The Strait of Malacca connects the Indian Ocean (Andaman Sea) with the Pacific Ocean (South China Sea); the Strait of Gibraltar connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea; and the Palk Strait connects the Bay of Bengal with the Palk Bay/Gulf of Mannar.

50. Ans: (d) 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct.

- The Satavahanas (approx. 1st century BCE to 3rd century CE) dominated Indo-Roman maritime trade. Barukachcha (Broach), Sopara and Kalyan were their major west coast ports, while Ghantasala, Guduru and Arikamedu served the east coast.
- Imports included wine, copper, tin, lead, coral and topaz, whereas exports comprised muslin, cotton textiles, spices, pearls, ivory and semi-precious stones.
- Merchants were organised into highly structured **guilds (Srenis)** - of weavers, oil

pressers, corn dealers and others - that also functioned as banks, accepting deposits, granting loans and issuing their own coins.



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