MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

JANUARY-2025

TIRUMAL CLASSES IAS INSTITUTE

GS-I

1. UDISE+ 2023-24 Report:

The Ministry of Education's Unified District Information System for Education Plus, a platform for aggregating data, has published its 2023-24 report.

It is a thorough database for Indian schooling that was established to gather, examine, and monitor data on a national scale.

Through precise, student-by-student data collecting, it seeks to guarantee transparency, track advancement, and pinpoint educational gaps.

Enrolment overall dropped from *25.17 crore in 2022–2023 to 24.8 crore in 2023–2024.*

Problems with Indian education include:

1. High rates of dropout, especially at the secondary level
2. Notable decreases in minority, SC, ST, and OBC enrolment
3. Inequitable use of school facilities
4. Deficits in the availability and training of teachers

NEP 2020 efforts must be strengthened, and minority, SC, ST, and OBC kids must have fair access to education. The research identifies serious flaws in India's educational system, such as unequal access and dwindling enrolment.

2. Groundwater Conservation:

The Central Ground Water Board's recent reports show encouraging patterns in groundwater recharge and decreased extraction, demonstrating the possibility of teamwork and creative policy.

The recharging of groundwater rose by *15 BCM. By 3BCM, extraction reduced.*

Government Programs to Conserve Groundwater:

1. Jal Shakti Abhiyan
2. Atal Bhujal Yojana
3. Mission Amrit Sarovar
4. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana
5. National Aquifer Mapping
6. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge
7. National Water Policy

Challenges facing Groundwater:

1. Over-extraction
2. Pollution
3. Declining Water Tables
4. Climate Change
5. Urbanization

3. National River Interlinking Project:

To address the water shortage in the Bundelkhand area, the Prime Minister laid the cornerstone for the *Ken-Betwa River Link Project in December.*

In order to solve India's irrigation problems, *Sir Arthur Cotton first suggested connecting the rivers in the 19th century*. *M. Visvesvaraya promoted river connecting in the 20th century* as a

solution to flooding and water scarcity problems. ***K.L. Rao proposed a National Water Grid in the 1970s*** to distribute excess water to areas that were vulnerable to drought. With the creation of the ***National Water Development Agency in 1982***, the Ministry of Water Resources formally adopted the ***National Perspective Plan in 1980.***

The ***Himalayan Rivers Component***, which focuses on flood management, hydropower generation, and water transfer to central India, consists of 14 proposed linkages, including the Ganga-Brahmaputra basin rivers.

The 16 proposed links in the ***Peninsular Rivers Component***—which includes the Krishna, Godavari, and Cauvery rivers—are intended to facilitate inter-basin water sharing, irrigation, and drought mitigation. The interlinking of river projects entails using a system of canals, dams, and reservoirs to move water from river basins with enough water to areas with insufficient water. It is overseen by the Ministry of Jal Shakti's National Water Development Agency and seeks to improve agricultural output, disaster irrigation, and water availability.

Advantages of Connecting Rivers:

1. Mitigation of Drought and Floods
2. Enhancement of Agriculture
3. Potential for Hydropower
4. Economic Development
5. Extension of Waterways

Problems with Connecting Rivers:

1. Environmental Issues
2. Expensive prices
3. Displacement of people in society
4. Conflicts between states
5. Disruption of ecosystems

4. Urbanization and Behavioural Change: By ***2030, 40% of India's population is expected to live in cities***, creating problems including demand on the infrastructure and the effects of climate change. To effectively address these concerns, it is essential to promote behavioural change in addition to policy and technology.

Behavioural Change Officers Are Needed:

1. Improving the Provision of Urban Services
2. Promoting Sustainability
3. Enhancing Safety for the Public
4. Effectiveness of Institutions

To help cops adopt new behaviours:

1. Arrange workshops on behavioural science to introduce municipal officers to frameworks such as MINDSPACE.
2. Create Chief Behavioural Officers in urban municipal organizations to include their perspectives into policies and initiatives.
3. Use big data and citizen polls to

pinpoint important behavioural constraints.

4. Start initiatives that encourage citizens to actively participate in the co-creation of solutions.

5. Conduct small-scale behavioural nudges prior to implementing them citywide.

Challenges to Behavioural Change:

1. Resistance to Change

2. Insufficient Training

3. Fragmented Coordination

5. The colonization of Africa by France:

In search of alliances with international powers for economic and security cooperation, West African nations are eschewing their long-standing colonial connections with France.

With the *conquest of Algiers in 1830, France started its colonization process and its influence in North Africa grew*. French rule was extended to territories including *Senegal, Ivory Coast, and the Gambia. Large swaths of North, West, and Central Africa were acquired by France* after it established its territorial claims. Traditional power structures in African colonies were weakened when France imposed a centralized administrative system based on European authority. Because of its widespread use of forced labour and resource extraction, particularly in the areas of gold, cocoa, groundnuts, and timber, the colonies were able to function as French economic centres.

The effects of French colonization include:

1. Resource Extraction

2. Monoculture Economies

3. Taxation

4. Racial Discrimination

5. Erosion of Traditional Systems

6. Cultural Looting
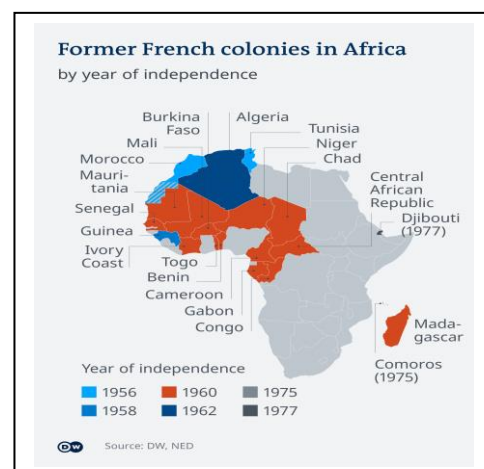
7. Artificial Borders

8. Exploitation of Labor

France's Current Position in Africa:

1. To fight insurgencies, French troops were deployed in Chad, Senegal, and Ivory Coast.

2. France continues to be a major trading partner for several African nations. However, French dominance is being challenged by Russia's military alliances and China's Belt and Road Initiative.

3. African countries are breaking away from colonial ties and forming alliances with superpowers like China and Russia.

Former French colonies in Africa by year of independence

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GS-2:

1. Dissent in the Judiciary:

In constitutional courts as well as other democratic institutions, dissent is essential. Although influential in both the Indian and American Supreme Courts, their fundamental motivations are different. ***When one or more judges disagree with the majority opinion in a court ruling, it's known as dissent***. It influences future legal developments, fosters democratic discourse, and represents an alternative interpretation of the law.

Types include:

1. Intellectual dissent, which is predicated on variations in how laws should be interpreted based on logic or text.

2. Judicial opposition to political influences is the source of *political dissent.*

3. Social dissent: represents divergent opinions on cultural or societal matters.

Recent instances of dissent in India:

1. In dissent against P.V. Narashimha Rao (1998), Sita Soren (2023) overruled the immunity for bribes under parliamentary privilege.

2. Justice Dhulia's dissent in the Hijab Case (2022) prioritized diversity over secularism in state-run schools.

3. Justice Nagarathna's disagreement about the state's incapacity to impose an industrial alcohol tax in Latta Prasad Vaish (2024).

Repercussions of Political Dissension:

1. Strengthening of Democracy

2. A Force for Change

3. Risks to Judicial Integrity

4. Professional Outcomes.

2. Preventive Healthcare:

In order to reduce costs and promote early detection, preventive healthcare is crucial given India's increasing life expectancy and rising burden of non-communicable diseases.

Finding and reducing possible health hazards before they worsen is the main goal of preventive healthcare.

Types:

1. Primary: uses immunizations, lifestyle modifications, and health education to avoid diseases

2. Secondary: emphasizes early detection through diagnostic testing and screenings

3. Tertiary: seeks to control and lessen effects of pre-existing conditions.

India's Needs for Preventive Healthcare:

1. Growing Disease Burden: NCDs cause 65% of fatalities and frequently strike people before the world average.

2. Economic Impact: According to WHO estimates, by 2030, India's NCDs will cost the country more than Rs. 280 lakh crores.

3. Access to healthcare: early identification can lessen the financial strain on patients and the healthcare system.

4. Productivity loss: Workplace productivity is significantly reduced by chronic illnesses.

Government schemes for Preventive Healthcare:

1. Ayushman Bharat: includes health and wellness centers for early screenings of NCDs.

2. National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke

3. National Tobacco Control Programme

4. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

5. Mission Indradhanush

6. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram

3. Indian Diaspora: At the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025 in Odisha, the Prime Minister emphasized the significance of the Indian Diaspora.

The term "Indian Diaspora" describes people of Indian descent who live outside of India. NRIs, Indian citizens living abroad, and people of Indian descent are all included.

The UAE, USA, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and the UK are home to the majority of the Indian diaspora.

Historical migration, political unrest, and the rural-to-urban transition are examples of push causes.

Family networks, higher education, and economic opportunity are examples of pull influences.

Indian Diaspora Significance: Soft power, diplomatic leverage, political influence, cultural influence, and economic contributions.

Government Programs:

1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: a yearly event that celebrates the contributions of the diaspora and strengthens ties with India.

2. OCI Card: strengthens ties with their motherland by granting individuals of Indian heritage a lifetime visa and property rights.

3. The Know India initiative introduces young people from the diaspora to Indian customs, history, and current events.

4. Indian Community Welfare Fund: Provides emergency or distress financial assistance to Indians living overseas 5. Social Security Agreements: Guarantees the well-being of Indian workers in nations having bilateral agreements.

4. Draft Digital Personal Data Protection regulations: The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023's implementation draft regulations have been made public by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

They include the following features:

1. Principles-based framework: reduce consent fatigue by emphasizing notice and consent processes' clarity and simplicity.

2. User rights: gives people the ability to see, edit, update, and remove their data.

3. Children's data protection: requires parental authorization that may be verified before accessing a child's personal information under the age of 18, with several industries, such as healthcare and education, having exceptions.

4. Data Localization and Transfers: more stringent standards for important data fiduciaries and limitations on cross-border data flows

5. Grievance redressal: creates the Data Protection Board to manage disputes and breaches, however it has little autonomy.

5. India-Bangladesh Border Conflict: In Malda, West Bengal, Border Guards Bangladesh recently tried to block the building of a barbed wire barrier on the international border.

West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram are the five Indian states that make up the 4,096-kilometer India-Bangladesh border. The majority of enclave issues were settled by the 2015 Land Boundary Agreement, but some disagreements still exist, especially in places like Comilla-Tripura.

The border promotes strategic connectivity, commercial, and cultural exchanges, especially within frameworks for regional cooperation like BIMSTEC and SAARC.

Concerns pertaining to the border between Bangladesh and India:

1. Conflicts over border fencing: The 1975 border standards, which forbid defence installations within 150 yards of the boundary, are allegedly broken by India's barrier, according to Bangladesh.

2. Illegal migration: Undocumented migration has been made easier by the porous border, which has caused sociopolitical unrest in Indian states.

3. Trans-Border Crimes: weapons, drugs, and cattle smuggling have been ongoing problems that have strained bilateral ties.

4. Unresolved Land and Riverine Disputes: Riverine boundaries make fencing more difficult, and some boundary pieces are still unmarked.

5. Community Impact: Both sides' access to resources and local livelihoods are disrupted by border disputes and fence. Coordination is facilitated via joint operations and flag meetings between the Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh.

ADVERSE POSSESSION & PENDING SEGMENTS ALONG INDO-BANGLA BORDER
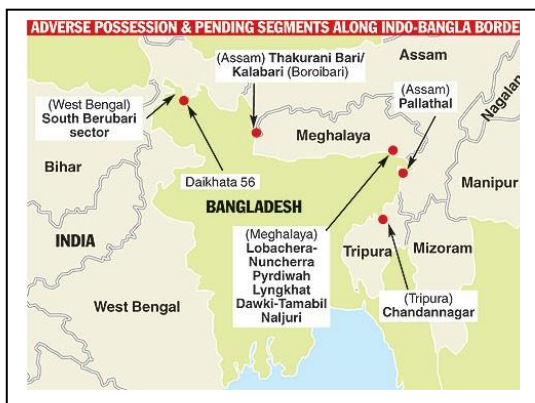
6. 9 Years of Start Up India: India commemorates the groundbreaking journey that started in 2016 with the launch of Starup India on *January 16*. This event, which has been designated as *National Startup Day,* honours the country's achievements in creating a strong and welcoming entrepreneurship environment.

The Government of India launched Startup India, a flagship program, on January 16, 2016, with the goal of encouraging a strong entrepreneurial culture. Its objectives are to *promote companies in growing and creating jobs by streamlining procedures, offering financial assistance, and encouraging innovation.*

Single-window clearances and simplified compliance procedures expedite startup registration and operations. Several labour and environmental regulations permit self-certification.

As of January 2025, DPIIT recognized over 1.59 lakh startups, indicating the ecosystem's tremendous expansion. Startups have greatly increased employment by creating 16.6 lakh jobs across all sectors.

7. India and the Global South: At the World Congress on Disaster Management, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry emphasized India's efforts to support its neighbours and the Global South through programs like *Vaccine Maitri*. Developing and less developed countries, primarily in *Asia, Africa, and Latin America, are together referred to as the "Global South."* In contrast to the wealthy, industrialized countries of the Global North, which are primarily found in North America, Europe, and portions of Oceania, these countries frequently struggle with issues like poverty, income disparity, and scarce resources.

Global South Significance:

1. Economic Growth Potential: As wealth has shifted toward Asia-Pacific, where countries like China and India are propelling economic growth, the Global South

2. Demographic Advantage: These countries have a workforce ready for future contributions to the global economy since their populations are younger than those of the aging societies in the Global North.

3. Geopolitical Influence: Countries in the Global South are influencing international affairs and bringing about a multipolar world.

4. Innovation Hub: These countries are quickly embracing AI, renewable energy, and digital solutions, turning into global centres of innovation.

5. Addressing Global Challenges: These nations are essential in addressing global concerns such as poverty, climate change, and sustainable development.
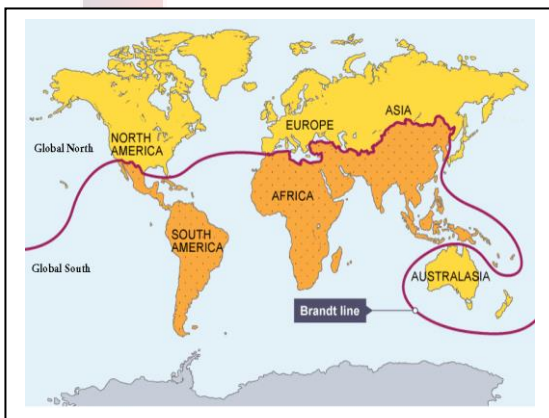
8. Jaishankar's 5-point agenda: External Affairs Minister Jaishankar's 5-point agenda serve as the foundation for India's preparations for a significant diplomatic mission as US President Donald Trump gets ready for his second term.

By tackling the disparities in global governance, the economy, and infrastructure, the agenda seeks to advance a multipolar, equitable, and South-friendly international order.

1. Growing Self-Reliant Platforms: To give developing countries alternatives to regimes controlled by disproportionately powerful powers, strengthen platforms like BRICS.

2. Restructuring International Organizations: Promote changes to the United Nations and multilateral development banks, such as enlarging the UN Security Council, to tackle today's world issues.

3. Democratizing the Global Economy: Encourage the development of robust supply networks and regional production centres to lessen the vulnerabilities revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Restoring Colonial-Era Infrastructure: Create diverse and inclusive connectivity choices that uphold sovereignty and territorial integrity while resolving injustices caused by antiquated systems.

5. Sharing Scalable Solutions: To address shared global concerns, share India's initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance and the Digital Public Infrastructure Unified Payments Interface. Global imbalances, the Global South's marginalization, supply chain vulnerabilities, geopolitical instability, and the Sustainable Development Goals are all necessary topics for the agenda.

9. Draft Regulations for Vice-Chancellor Selection and Appointment:
The University Grants Commission recently published draft regulations for university vice-chancellor selection and appointment, which caused a stir.

Important characteristics:

1. Establishment of the Search-Cum-Selection Committee: The committee will consist of representatives from the University's highest authority, the Chancellor, and the UGC Chairman.

2. Inclusion of non-academics: VC votes are now available to individuals with more than ten years of experience in public policy, public administration, or industry.

3. Standardized Selection Process: Establishes consistent selection standards for public, private, and central universities.

4. Mandating UGC Nominee: This requires state institutions' Search-Cum-Selection Committees to have a UGC nominee.

5. Alignment with NEP 2020: Makes recommendations for improvements that prioritize quality, transparency, and inclusivity in accordance with the goals of NEP 2020.

Advantages of the suggested draft:

1. A standardized structure
2. Greater openness
3. Expanded reservoir of talent
4. Conformity to NEP 2020
5. Pay Attention to Governance Guidelines

Problems with the suggested draft:

1. State Autonomy Violation
2. Constitutional Overreach
3. Federal Principles at Risk
4. Non-academic eligibility ambiguity
5. Possible political meddling

10. USA departure from WHO:
President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order to remove the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO), citing issues such the *organization's lack of reforms and its poor handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

WHO seeks to advance health fairness and guarantee universal health coverage. It improves global disease prevention and control. It improves responsiveness to health emergencies and worldwide readiness.

It leads global efforts to battle pandemics like *COVID-19 and Ebola and offers technical help to nations for capacity building.* It works with private organizations, NGOs, and governments to improve healthcare systems. It was crucial in the 99% decrease in polio cases and the eradication of smallpox.

A withdrawal procedure is not specifically described in the WHO constitution. Nonetheless, in 1948, the US Congress set rules permitting departure with a year's

notice and payment of any unpaid debts. Around *20% of WHO's financing might be lost if the US withdraws*, impacts ongoing health initiatives around the world, especially those related to pandemic preparedness and disease eradication. WHO's efficacy in health surveillance is diminished when it stops working with US organizations like the CDC. Additionally, it will lessen WHO support for *India's HIV, malaria, TB, and maternal health initiatives.*

11. India-Indonesia: On January 26, 2025, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will travel to India for the 76th Republic Day festivities. The purpose of his official visit is to strengthen partnership in the areas of economics, defence, culture, and strategy.

The common religious traditions of *Buddhism and Hinduism*, as well as the seafaring heritage of celebrations like the *Bali Yatra*, are testaments to the centuries-old cultural and commercial ties between Indonesia and India.

The *Non-Aligned Movement* began with the formal establishment of diplomatic relations in 1950, followed by *the Treaty of Friendship in 1951* and cooperative attendance at the *Bandung Conference in 1955.*

In 2005, the partnership was promoted to Strategic Partnership, and in 2018, it was further strengthened to a *Comprehensive Strategic Partnership* with an emphasis on security and economic cooperation. Indonesia's significance in India's regional involvement policy is highlighted by its inclusion in the *Act East Policy (2014).*

In *FY 2023–2024, bilateral trade was $29.4 billion, and by 2025, it is expected to reach $50 billion*. India is a major importer of palm oil and coal from Indonesia.

IND-INDO CORPAT and Samudra Shakti are two joint military exercises that improve marine security in the Indian Ocean. Cultural diplomacy is fostered by shared Hindu and Buddhist traditions, and occasions such as the Indonesian contingent's participation in India's Republic Day Parade strengthen interpersonal relationships.

India is now Bali's second-largest source of foreign visitors thanks to the introduction of direct flights in 2023. Indian hospitals like *Apollo are investing in Indonesia's healthcare infrastructure*,

and *ISRO helps Indonesia's satellite projects.*

Challenges:

1. Underutilized potential is highlighted by the fact that Indonesia's trade volume with China greatly exceeds that with India.

2. Strategic problems arise from regional conflicts in the Indo-Pacific and Indonesia's alliances with other countries.

3. Increased collaboration is necessary to address risks to the shared maritime realm, such as illicit fishing, piracy, and geopolitical tensions.

4. India's investment in Indonesia is still small in comparison to other regional players, even with growing economic connections.

5. Joint infrastructure and commerce projects are slowed down by regulatory issues in both nations.

12. Combining Homeopathy with Allopathy: In a recent decision, the *Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration* permitted homeopathic practitioners to administer allopathic drugs after completing a certificate program in contemporary pharmacology.

The goal of *allopathy, or contemporary medicine*, is to treat illnesses by addressing their root causes as well as their symptoms. For diagnosis and treatment, it makes use of cutting-edge technology, medications, and operations that have been scientifically proven. Because they work quickly, allopathic remedies are frequently employed in emergency situations.

A type of alternative medicine founded on the idea that "like cures like" is *homeopathy*. It stimulates the body's self-healing processes by using natural ingredients that have been greatly diluted. Homeopathy places a strong emphasis on providing patients with comprehensive therapy that takes into account their mental, emotional, and physical health. Integrating systems can help close gaps in the delivery of care, as there is a scarcity of specialized physicians in rural health centres of over 80%.

Allopathy's symptom-based approach to treatment can be enhanced by homeopathy's emphasis on immunity and general health, providing all-encompassing care. They are a good choice for those with modest incomes because they are accessible and reasonably priced.

Challenges:

1. Many homeopathic treatments lack

evidence-based validation, which makes allopathic practitioners sceptical.

2. It is challenging to guarantee accountability in integrative techniques due to inadequate regulatory frameworks.

3. Teaching homeopathy to contemporary physicians and vice versa takes a lot of effort and could overload medical curricula.

4. A substantial change in perspective is necessary to reconcile the evidence-based methodology of allopathy with the holistic approach of homeopathy.

5. It's still difficult to guarantee the standardization and quality of homeopathic medications.

13. Cleaning Out Gaza Proposal: Former US President Donald Trump has put up a contentious plan to *relocate Palestinians to neighbouring nations like Egypt and Jordan* in order to clean out Gaza.

With 2.3 million Palestinian refugees already living there, Jordan fiercely opposed the plan, arguing that it would threaten the country's demographic equilibrium.

The plan will eliminate the Palestinian cause, according to Egypt's president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who issued a warning against it.

Palestinians fear permanent relocation and further loss of their territory because they see this as a recurrence of the 1948 Nakba.

Good Results:

1. A decrease in conflict

2. Aid for Humanitarians

3. Issues with Israel's Stability

Challenges:

1. Breaking international law

2. Regional Unrest

3. Palestinian Identity Loss

4. Palestinian opposition

5. Previous Historical Patterns
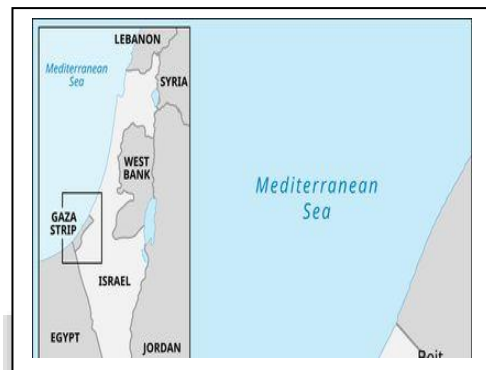
14. The 2024 ASER Report: Following learning losses brought on by COVID-19, there has been a notable rebound in foundational reading and numeracy, according to the *Annual Status of Education Report 2024.*

Students ages 3 to 16 have their reading and math skills evaluated by Pratham NGO.

It specifically addresses schools in rural areas.

In government schools, the percentage of Class 3 children who read a Class 2 text increased from 16.3% in 2022 to 23.4% in 2024.

Of those aged 14 to 16, 89% have access, 57% use it for learning, and 76% use it for social networking.

Advantages of ASER 2024:

1. Enhancement of FLN abilities

2. Stabilization of government school enrolment

3. Improved Training for Teachers

4. Improved Knowledge of Digital

Drawbacks of ASER 2024:

1. Continued high learning gaps

2. Weakness in Arithmetic

3. The Gender Divide in Online Safety

15. The 2024 Waqf (Amendment) Bill:

By a majority vote, the Joint Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 approved its report, paving the door for the government to introduce the Bill in the next Parliamentary Budget Session.

The *Waqf Act of 1954 established the idea of Waqf Boards*, and the Waqf Act of 1955 reinforced it even more. Waqf Board operations are supervised by the Government of India's Ministry of Minority Affairs.

The state government appoints the chairperson. Members include Islamic scholars, state bar council members, Muslim lawmakers, parliamentarians, and Waqf mutawalis who earn at least Rs. 1 lakh a year.

The 2024 bill's proposed amendments include:

1. Non-Muslim Members' Inclusion

2. User Removal of Waqf

3. Tribunal Composition

Requires Amendment in 2024:

1. Openness and Effectiveness

2. Settlement of Disputes

3. Legal Clarity

4. Modernization

Concerns with the New Bill:

1. Diluting Muslim Control

2. Article 26 Violation

3. User Removal of Waqf

4. Knowledge of Muslim Law

5. Potential for Abuse.

GS-3:

1. Environment conferences of 2024:

The failure of major UN climate conferences to produce significant resolutions in 2024 caused a number of setbacks for international environmental initiatives.

1. Biodiversity (Colombia): fell short of the $700 billion yearly target by failing to complete finance structures for sustainable land-use practices.

2. Azerbaijan's climate change: disagreements over the switch to fossil fuels and insufficient financing commitments for underdeveloped countries

3. Land Degradation (Saudi Arabia): No legally binding drought protocol has been agreed upon

4. South Korea's Plastic Pollution: No agreement because of resistance from countries that depend on plastic-based economy and prefer recycling over reduction.

2. Cash Transfer: Discussions concerning the effectiveness of cash transfers, like Delhi's Mahila Samman Yojana, have been triggered. Supporters contend they empower vulnerable communities, particularly women, while detractors see them as populist policies that put a burden on state coffers.

Direct payments given by governments to people or households in order to offer social protection or encourage particular behaviours are known as cash transfers.

Cash Transfer Types:

1. Unconditional Transfers: beneficiaries are free to use the funds anyway they see fit; there are no conditions attached.

2. Conditional transfers that are connected to particular behaviours, such as attending school or getting vaccinated

3. Universal Transfers: offered to all residents irrespective of their financial situation or social standing

4. Targeted transfers that target particular vulnerable groups, such as NSAP pensions for the elderly

Rebuttals to cash transfers:

1. The financial burden

2. A populist action

3. Dependency Risk

4. Limited Effects

5. Competitive Populism

Reasons in support of cash transfers:

1. Women's Empowerment

2. Benefit Delivery Directly

3. Reduced Poverty

4. Stimulus to the economy

5. Social Justice

Cash transfer alternatives include:

1. Increasing Public Service Strength

2. Basic Services for All

3. Programs for Job Creation

4. Development of Skills

5. Programs Based in the Community

3. Green Banks: Despite the CoP29 commitment, the Global South, particularly India, finds it difficult to obtain sufficient climate money. A market-driven approach to promoting decarbonization and sustainable development in India is the establishment of a Green Bank.

Green banks are *purpose-driven financial organizations created to combat climate change and hasten the adoption of clean energy.* They guarantee capital recovery for reinvestment while concentrating on funding tested, eco-friendly projects, in contrast to traditional banks.

India's Need for a Green Bank:

1. Reasonably Priced Green Project Credit

2. Climate Finance at the Local Level

3. Reaching Net-Zero Objectives

4. Assistance for Communities at Risk

How Green Banks Operate:

1. Capital Raising

2. Targeted Credit

3. Development of the Market

4. Circular Investment

Green Banks' Restrictions:

1. Initial Investment Needed

2. Insufficient Public Knowledge

3. Loan Default Risk

4. Gaps in Policy and Regulation

4. The Economic Boom in India: Over the past ten years, India's economy has experienced significant economic development, strong policy initiatives, and growing global integration.

Per capita income rose from *$1,554 to $2,481 during the same period, while nominal GDP went from $2.04 trillion (2014) to $3.57 trillion (2023).* It is anticipated that this amount will rise to *$5 trillion by 2027 and $30 trillion by 2047.* Inflows of foreign direct investment were $709.84 billion from 2014 to 24—a 69% increase over the previous ten years.

The ranking for ease of doing business increased from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019.

Economic growth is being driven by government initiatives:

1. Make in India: increased domestic production, lowering reliance on imports and positioning India as the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones.

2. Startup India: Encouraged entrepreneurship by nurturing more than 100 unicorns and 1.5 lakh startups, with an ecosystem valuation of $349.67 billion.

3.PLI Scheme: Increased sectoral competitiveness through production incentives and a large influx of foreign investment

4. Gati Shakti Master Plan: improved infrastructure linkages, accelerating regional economic and industrial growth

5. Digital India: Encouraged financial inclusion and digital payments, which increased the number of people participating in the formal economy.

Benefits of India's Economic Growth:

1. Creation of Jobs

2. Innovation Hub

3. Financial Stability

4. Global Presence

Constraints of India's Economic Growth:

1. Unequal Distribution

2. High Inflation

3. Unemployment

4. Problems with Governance

5. Minimum Support Price: Following the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture's recommendation of a legally binding MSP, farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's indefinite fast entered its 43rd day.

MSP is the price at which farmers sell their crops to the government in order to prevent losses. The Ministry of Agriculture's Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends it, and the *Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs* gives its final approval. Cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and commercial commodities like cotton and jute are among the 23 crops for which MSP has been announced. Its goals are to guarantee agricultural growth, stabilize income, and shield farmers from price swings.

6. Climate Change and the Water Cycle:
The Earth's water cycle has been exacerbated by climate change, resulting in *severe droughts, excessive precipitation, and disturbances in the availability of water*. The significant effects of these changes on ecosystems, agriculture, and international economy are highlighted in the 2024 Global Water Monitor Report. The constant flow of water in various phases across the Earth and its atmosphere, propelled by gravity and solar energy, is known as the water cycle. It controls weather patterns and guarantees water availability.

Extreme water-related catastrophes resulted in 40 million people being displaced and over 8,700 deaths. In 2024, rainfall records were broken 52% more frequently than in 2000, a sign of increased precipitation intensity.

Because to more precipitation, areas like the Sahara Desert now have flora.

7. Public Distribution System: The PDS was created during the interwar period and gained prominence in the *1960s to combat food shortages*; it first focused on urban areas before expanding to rural poverty zones with initiatives like the Revamped *Public Distribution System in 1992*. The Central Government purchases, stores, and allocates bulk through the Food Corporation of India, while the State Government distributes to beneficiaries via *Fair Price Shops*. Recent reports from states like Jharkhand, Odisha, and Bihar also highlight the difficulties of exclusion, inefficiency, and exploitation in the PDS, which affects marginalized communities like the Musahars.

Current Concerns:

1. Exclusion of Ration Cards: As a result of digitization, more than 5.8 crore ration cards were eliminated.

2. Affected Marginalized Communities: Enrolment is difficult for groups like the Musahars in Bihar because of digital

obstacles and verification requirements.

3. Corruption in Distribution: There have been reports of Fair Price Shops dispensing inferior rice or smaller amounts of food grains.

4. Document Overload: States such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar violate the National Food Security Act of 2013 by requesting needless papers.

Obstacles PDS Faces:

1. Errors of Exclusion

2. Disclosures and Corrupt Practices

3. Limited Attention to Nutrition

4. Problems with infrastructure

5. Mismanagement and Excessive Coverage

Governmental actions taken:

1. Digitization: e-KYC and Aadhaar seeding to minimize duplication and provide targeted delivery

2. Point-of-sale machines: put in place at FPS to monitor sales and stop leaks

3. The National Food Security Act of 2013 ensures subsidized food grains for 50% of urban and 75% of rural populations.

4. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, during the COVID-19 pandemic, offers free food grains to more than 80 crore recipients.

5. Technology Integration: enhanced supply chain efficiency, inventory control, and real-time tracking.

In the 2001 case of People's Union of Civil Liberties v. Union of India, the right to food was acknowledged as a fundamental right. The ruling requires the government to guarantee that all citizens have access to food, which results in the NFSA, 2013.

8. California Wildfires: The 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires destroyed over 10,000 structures and caused extensive destruction. *Wildfires are uncontrolled fires that spread quickly across forests, grasslands, or urban areas, driven by wind and dry vegetation*. Although they are natural occurrences in ecosystems, human activity and climate change have increased their frequency and severity. Geographic factors that contribute to wildfires include *topography, lack of rainfall, vegetation density, Santa Ana winds, and lightning strikes*. Causes of wildfires include agricultural burns, climate change, lightning strikes, and agricultural fires. Consequences of wildfires include economic losses, environmental damage, deteriorated air quality, contaminated water, and insurance issues. Strategies to reduce wildfires include better fire management, vegetation control, climate adaptation, public awareness, and stricter regulations.

9.Indian Biennial Update Report: India just turned in its Biennial Update Report, which includes a thorough analysis of its

greenhouse gas emissions, target progress, and climate change mitigation strategies. As part of their responsibilities under the Paris Agreement, developing nations submit reports to the UNFCCC known as Biennial Update Reports.

1. Total greenhouse gas emissions: 2,959 million CO2 equivalent tons

2. Net greenhouse gas emissions: 2,437 million CO2 equivalent tons

3. The GDP's emission intensity dropped 36% from 2005 levels.

75.66% of emissions come from the energy sector, 13.72% from agriculture, and 10.62% from industry and trash.

It emphasized the necessity for cutting-edge solutions for industrial sectors, such as carbon capture, floating wind turbines, and extremely efficient photovoltaics.

10. Urea Production: As a result of large investments in new facilities to attain self-reliance under the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat policy, India has seen a boom in domestic urea output.

India's urea production capacity increased from *22 MT in 2011–12 to approximately 31.4 MT in 2023–24.*

Six recently commissioned facilities, including Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd., Chambal Fertilizers, and Matrix Fertilizers, are important contributors.

In order to meet local agricultural needs, new facilities are being built throughout eastern and northern India, specifically in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

Importance of India's Urea Production:

1. Agricultural Dependency: promotes greater food security and agricultural production

2. Decreased imports: conserves foreign currency and lessens reliance on erratic global indicators

3. Employment Generation: stimulates economic activity and generates jobs in remote areas

4. Environmental Impact: Carbon footprints are decreased by energy-efficient technologies in new plants.

5. Balanced Development: encourages industrial expansion in eastern India's less developed areas.

11. Global Warming and India: 2024 has been described as the warmest year on record, with temperatures beyond the crucial 1.5-degree Celsius pre-industrial barrier. Although India had its warmest year as well, the degree of warming was not as great as the world average.

In 2024, global temperatures exceeded NASA's baseline by 1.28 degrees Celsius, setting new records.

Ocean temperatures increased by about 0.9 degrees Celsius, while land temperatures increased by more than 1.6 degrees. The temperature spike was further exacerbated by a powerful El Nino event.

The following factors contributed to 2024 being the warmest year:

1. Emissions of Greenhouse Gas
2. The influence of El Nino

3. Effects of Volcanic Eruption
4. A reduction in aerosol pollution
5. Arctic Ice Loss

12. Long Working Hours Debate:

Concerns over workplace culture, employee well-being, and productivity have been raised by proposals like *a 90-hour workweek put forth by L&T Chairman S.N. Subrahmanyam.*

Prominent Indian businessmen Bhavish Aggarwal, S.N. Subrahmanyan, and Narayana Murthy have all advocated for longer workdays. They contend that lengthening workweeks might spur economic expansion and imitate post-war recovery plans used by nations like Germany and Japan. In order to increase productivity and worldwide competitiveness, the recommendations recommend a model of 70–90 hours per week.

Benefits of extended workdays:

1. Increases Production
2. Economic Development
3. Development of skills
4. Job security
5. Resilience at Work

Constraints associated with extended work hours:

1. Health Hazards
2. Reduced Efficiency
3. Inadequate Work-Life Harmony
4. Elevated Rates of Attrition
5. Adverse Social Effects.

13. Rupee Depreciation:
Following a period of comparatively stable values, the Indian rupee recently saw a steep drop in value relative to the US dollar.

Devaluation is the intentional reduction of a nation's currency value relative to other currencies, usually done by the central bank. It is used to lower trade deficits and promote export competitiveness, but it may also raise domestic inflation and import costs.

When the *rupee's value drops in relation to other currencies on the open market, it is said to be depreciating*. Depreciation is impacted by market forces such supply-demand dynamics, capital flows, and international economic conditions, in contrast to devaluation, which is a policy-driven action.

Causes of the rupee's recent drop in value:

1. Increased inflation
2. A growing trade deficit
3. Fiscal shortfall
4. Tensions in Geopolitics
5. Slowdown in the World Economy
6. US Dollar's Strength

Implications:

1. Rising Import Prices

2. Inflationary conditions

3. Competitiveness in Exports

4. The effect of borrowing

14. India Achievements in Renewable Energy:

India established a strong basis for future expansion in 2024 by smashing records in renewable energy installations and legislative changes.

Energy from natural and replenishable sources, such *as solar, wind, hydropower, and biomass,* is referred to as renewable energy. Renewable energy is environmentally friendly, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and is sustainable in contrast to fossil fuels.

India Goal for Renewable Energy:

1. By 2030, reach 50% of energy capacity from renewable sources and 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity.

2. By January 2025, India's non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity had reached 217.62GW.

3. By 2070, achieve net-zero carbon emissions.

Government Programs:

1. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

2. Corridor for Green Energy

3. Quicker Manufacturing and Uptake of Electric Vehicles

4. The International Solar Alliance

5. The National Smart Grid Mission

6. The Mission of Hydrogen Energy

India's renewable energy challenges include:

1. Problems with Land Acquisition

2. Stability of the Grid

3. Storage Restrictions

4. Management of E-Waste

5. Dependency on Resources

6. Regulatory and Policy Obstacles

15. The Underestimation of Poverty Issue:

Despite continuous discussions over data availability, comparability, and establishing a sufficient consumption basket for the poverty line, the 2023–24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey showed a decrease in poverty in both urban and rural areas.

1. According to HCES 2023-24, urban poverty decreased to 4.6% and rural poverty to 7.2%, from 25.7% and 13.7%, respectively, in 2011–12.

2. Multidimensional poverty decreased from 29.17% in 2013–14 to 11.28% in 2022–2023

Tendulkar and Rangarajan's poverty level does not account for growing living expenses.

Income-based poverty still exists even when multidimensional indices show better access to sewage and power.

Inaccurate rural-urban poverty difference is limited by the absence of Census 2021.

Improved living conditions beyond

subsistence are shown by diversified rural consumption.

India's poverty reduction and MPI rates are in line with World Bank and UN estimates. Poverty reduction is aided by strong GDP growth and lower inflation.

16. External Commercial Borrowing: A recent report from the State Bank of India emphasizes how private sector investments are becoming more significant and how external commercial borrowing is a key factor in business finance, modernization, and capital expansion.

Loans or funds obtained by Indian organizations from outside sources, such as commercial banks, export credit organizations, and international marketplaces, are referred to as external commercial borrowing. ECBs are subject to Reserve Bank of India regulations and are generally utilized for infrastructure, modernization, and capital expansion projects.

The importance and necessity of the ECB

1. Growth of Capital
2. Economical Financing
3. Capital Goods Imports and Modernization
4. Access to Foreign Currency
5. ECB's Private Sector Growth

Challenges:

1. Risk of Exchange Rates
2. Expensive Hedging
3. Dependency on International Markets
4. Overborrowing Possibility
5. Policy Limitations

17. AI revolution: With its low-cost, high-efficiency AI models, *Deep Seek-V3 and Deep Seek-R1*, a Chinese AI firm called Deep Seek has drawn attention from all around the world by contesting the dominance of the U.S. A.I.

1. Learning and Data Processing
2. Deep Learning and Neural Networks
3. Algorithms for Machine Learning
4. Processing Natural Languages
5. AI Optimization and Edge Computing

AI Model Types:

1. Large language models, such as Deep Seek-V3 and GPT-4o
2. Artificial Intelligence
3. Self-governing systems

AI is utilized in fields such as

1. Agriculture
2. Education and Health Care
3. Protection and Safety
4. Finance and the Economy
5. Public Services and Governance

Issues:

1. Displacement of Jobs
2. Bias and ethical concerns
3. Risks to cybersecurity and data privacy
4. Arms race in geopolitical AI
5. Legal and Regulatory Difficulties

India's position in the development of AI:

1. AI R&D: IITs, IISc, and NITI Aayog-led AI programs are among India's AI hubs.

2. The Startup Environment

3. Government AI Policy: Adoption of AI in governance and data security

4. AI in Defence and Cybersecurity: Cyber defence, UAVs, and AI-driven surveillance

5. Cooperation with World AI Leaders: alliances with NIVDIA, Microsoft, and Google

18. Stampede: On January 29, a terrible stampede at the Mahakumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagaraj left 30 people dead and 60 injured, sparking worries about inadequate crowd control.

A stampede happens when a big crowd moves erratically, which frequently results in deaths, asphyxia, and trampling. Rumours, anxiety, a lack of space, or abrupt movements that cause disorderly crowd behaviour can all contribute to it.

79% of stampedes in India have happened during religious occasions, according to studies.

Causes of stampedes

1. Structural failures.

2. Ineffective crowd management

3. Fear and gossip

4. Electrical and Fire Problems

5. Insufficient Coordination

Obstacles to stopping stampedes:

1. Uncontrolled increases in crowds

2. Insufficient Law Enforcement

3. Inadequate Upkeep of Infrastructure

4. Insufficient Integration of Technology

5. Opposition to Pre-Registration Systems

GS-4:

1. Animal Diplomacy: The proposal by the Prime Minister of Nepal to donate more tigers as a diplomatic gesture has generated discussion around the world. Using animals as tools to improve international relations or as symbols of cultural goodwill is known as animal diplomacy. Many nations have used this strategy to strengthen their ties with one another.

Characteristics of animal diplomacy

1. Cultural Representation

2. Enhanced Bilateral Relations

3. Economic Leverage

4. Conservation Symbolism

5. Promotion of Tourism

Animals' Contribution to Enhanced Diplomacy:

1. Goodwill Symbol

2. Soft Power Instrument

3. Partnership for Conservation

4. Increasing Bilateral Cooperation

5. Fostering Cultural Exchange

The drawbacks of using animal diplomacy

1. Risks to Animal Welfare
2. Making Use of Political Advantages
3. Elimination from Natural Habitat
4. Sensitivities to Culture and Ethics
5. Risk of Illegal Wildlife Trade
6. Diplomatic Stress Risk

2. Gandhi's Inner Ethical Philosophies:

A unique first-hand account of Mahatma Gandhi's final years (1946–48) may be found in the second volume of his diaries, which Tridip Suhrud transcribed.

Gandhi's vows:

1. Ahimsa
2. Satya
3. Aparigraha
4. Brahmacharya
5. Aseya
6. Sharishrama
7. Aswada
8. Bhayavarjana Sarvatra
9. Samantva Sarva Dharma
10. Swadeshi
11. Parshbhavana

Gandhi's personal moral convictions:

1. Satya
2. Brahmacharya
3. Ahimsa
4. Simplicity and Minimalism
5. Compassion and Service

Prelims Facts:

1. Indian overseas voters: Despite an increase in registrations, overseas Indian voter turnout for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections is still low, underscoring issues and igniting demands for voting reforms for non-resident Indians.

2. Private Members Bills: In the 17th Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha barely spent 27.01 and 9.08 hours, respectively, considering Private Members Bills.

Legislative proposals submitted by members of parliament who are not affiliated with the government are known as private member bills. Both MPs from the ruling and opposition parties may introduce it.

Characteristics:

1. Non-Binding
2. Independence of the Legislature
3. Scheduling: allocated for Friday talks.

3. Google Willow Chip: Google just revealed "Willow," their newest quantum processor.

With 105 physical qubits, Willow is Google's newest quantum processor, which is intended to improve scalability and quantum error correction. For optimal stability, it functions at temperatures close to absolute zero.
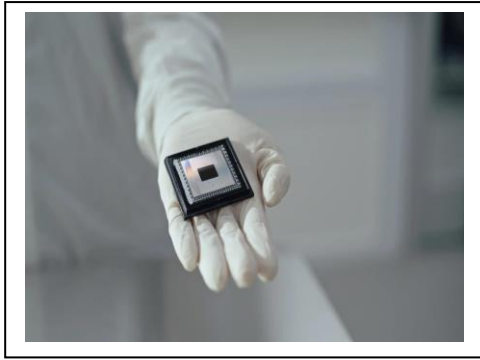
4. Exercise Surya Kiran: This yearly joint military drill between India and Nepal aims to improve the two countries' armed services' ability to cooperate and communicate with one another. Its goal is to improve interoperability in mountainous jungle warfare and counterterrorism operations. It focuses on emergency humanitarian help and disaster management.


5. Belly Landing: The dangers and difficulties of emergency belly landings in aviation are brought to attention by the South Korean tragedy of Jeju Air Flight 7C2216, which claimed 179 lives. An airplane that lands without using its landing gear and skids on its underside is said to have made a belly landing. It is risky by nature, with potential for injuries, building damage, and fire. It happens when the landing gear does not properly extend or deploy.

6. After a spike in violence, including shootings connected to gangs, **Trinidad and Tobago** proclaimed a state of emergency. It is the Caribbean's southernmost island nation. The Atlantic Ocean is where it is situated.
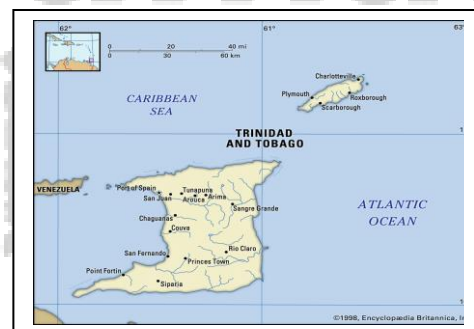
7. Indian Foreign Policy Tools: Using its civilizational ethos and adjusting to contemporary global issues, India's foreign policy has changed throughout the years.

1. Viswamitra Model: Striking a balance between strategic partnerships and autonomous decision-making in order to attain a position of global leadership

2. Tightrope Balance: Preserve strategic independence by striking a balance with big nations such as China, Russia, and the United States.

3. Soft Power Diplomacy: Utilize historical, cultural, and spiritual resources to foster goodwill around the world

4. Humanitarian Diplomacy: Expand India's contribution to international crisis relief and development assistance.

8.Fighter Jet Generations: Social media users have been sharing unverified photos of what are allegedly Chinese sixth-generation fighter aircraft.

Fighter jet generations are categorized according to the age of development and technological developments. The future of aerial warfare is shaped by notable advancements in weaponry, avionics, speed, and stealth that are reflected in each generation.

First Generation: 1943–1965; unguided weaponry, subsonic speeds, and simple avionics. For example, MiG-15

Second Generation: Semi-active guided missiles, radar systems, and supersonic speeds, 1955–1970. For example, MiG-21

Third Generation: 1960–1970: Advanced radars, integrated airframes, and multirole capability. Ex: F-4 Phantom, MiG-23.

Fourth Generation: 1970–2000: Multi-role fighters with early stealth features. Ex: Dassault Rafale, F-16

Fifth Generation: from 2000 on-Advanced avionics, supersonic sustained speeds, and stealth design. F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning, for example

Sixth Generation: Directed-energy weaponry, AI integration, and human-like capabilities are in development. Examples of nations with fifth-generation fighters include Tempest, NGAD, and Baidi.

1. F-22 Raptor and F-25 Lightning II, United States

2. Sukhoi Su-57, Russia

3. J-20 China-Chengdu

4. AMCA in India (developing)

9. Year of Reforms: To make India's Armed Forces a technologically sophisticated, combat-ready force, the Ministry of Defence has designated 2025 as the "Year of Reforms."

Modernizing the armed forces for multi-domain operations, increased cooperation, and better defence readiness are its goals.

1. For operational efficiency, concentrate on creating integrated theatre commands.

2. Give the fields of AI, robots, hypersonic travel, cyberspace, and space exploration a

priority for future capabilities.

3. Makes procurement procedures more efficient for quicker capabilities development

4. Promote R&D and public-private collaborations to establish India as a major exporter of defences worldwide.

5. Utilize veterans' knowledge to optimize welfare programs

6. Facilitate technological transfer between the defence and civil enterprises and improve civil-military collaboration

10. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:

With a budget of ₹69,515 crore, the Union Cabinet has authorized the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) till 2025–2026.

The *Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare introduced it in 2016*.

It *offers insurance protection against crop losses brought on by natural disasters.* It guarantees farming continuity and stabilizes farmers' income. It encourages credit flow to agriculture and supports contemporary farming methods. Benefits will accrue to all farmers cultivating notified crops with insurable interest.

11. Meteorological Department of India:

It was *founded in 1875* and has been essential to India's climatic services and weather forecasting for about *150 years.* It is the national weather service organization of India and is in charge of research, forecasting, and meteorological observations. The headquarters are in New Delhi. It falls under the Earth Sciences Ministry.

Functions include data collecting, climate research, cyclone alerts, weather forecasts, and sectoral services.

12. Incineration: Within three to nine months, 337 tons of chemical waste from the *Bhopal gas tragedy* will be transported by spill-free vehicles to Pithampur, where it will be burned.

In order to reduce volume, neutralize dangerous elements, and recover energy, garbage is burned under regulated conditions in high-temperature furnaces. Benefits include producing heat and energy through the combustion of garbage, reducing reliance on landfills in places with high population density, producing materials like paving bricks and activated carbon, and efficiently neutralizing hazardous pollutants. Modern systems also ensure low environmental impact by absorbing emissions.

13. Nitrate pollution: Over 440 areas in India reported hazardous nitrate levels as of 2023, making excessive nitrate pollution in groundwater a major health risk.

A naturally occurring nitrogen molecule

that is *detrimental in excess but necessary for biological functions*.

Industrial effluents, inadequate waste management, and agriculture are the main causes of nitrate contamination.

14. Saraswati River: Debate over the resurfacing of the Saraswati River was sparked by a dramatic geological occurrence in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, where gas and water erupted during tube well drilling.

It flows south toward Mansarovar from its source at Kapal Tirith in the Himalayas, close to Kailash. It travels across Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana; vestiges can be seen close to Badrinath, Uttarakhand. The Guptagamini River is another name for the Saraswati River. It is described as a perfect mother and greatest goddess in the Rigveda, especially in the Nadistuti Sukta hymn. played a significant part in the development of the Harappan Civilization, which included several settlements.
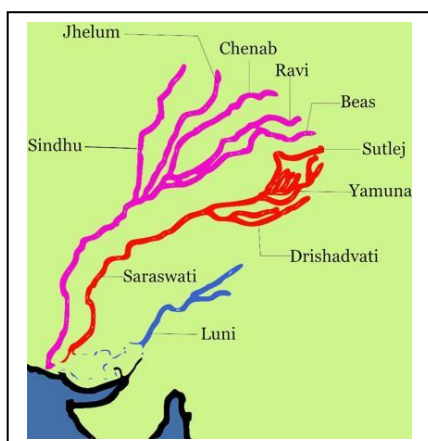
15. In-flight internet: The first Indian airline to provide in-flight internet on domestic flights is Air India, a member of the Tata Group.

During flights, in-flight Wi-Fi gives travellers access to the internet, allowing them to use online services like chatting, streaming, and browsing.

16. Project VISTAAR: The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare and *IIT Madras* have teamed up to introduce Project VISTAAR, which stands for Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources.

It is a digital platform created to *improve agricultural extension services by giving farmers access to vital information and new ideas.*

Goals:

1. Digitalize the system for agricultural extension to increase outreach and efficiency

2. Make start-up-driven ideas and technologies in agriculture and related fields available to farmers.

3. Increase the use of climate-resilient and sustainable farming methods

17. Sree Narayana Guru: Political turmoil in Kerala has been triggered by the Chief Minister's comments regarding Sree Narayana Guru.

He was a member of the *Ezhava caste*, a marginalized community that faces

persecution because of their caste.

In 1888, his groundbreaking installation of a Shivalinga at Aruvippuram represented the dismantling of caste-based limitations on temple rituals.

In 1903, he established the *Shree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam* to address issues such as Ezhavas' access to government services, education, and temple admission.

"One Caste, One Religion, One God for All" is a well-known phrase that he created.

He *promoted equality* without inciting social disturbance or coercing people into becoming converts.

He *advocated for non-violence and condemned animal sacrifice.*

Among his writings that uplifted moral and spiritual principles was the Atmopadesa Satakam.
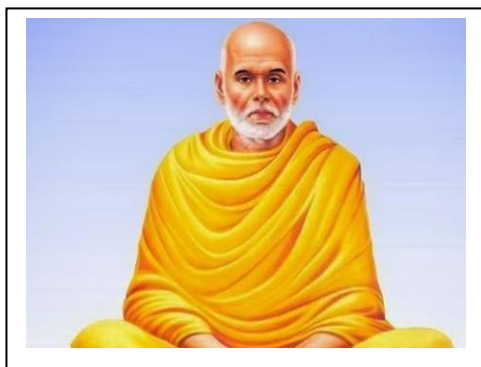
18. Open Data Kit Platform: To guarantee transparency in public spending and assess the efficacy of government programs, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has unveiled a ground-breaking toolset using the Open Data Kit platform.

An Open Data Kit-based *digital platform for planning, gathering, and organizing audit-related data.*

It is introduced by the *Indian CAG.*

19. Injectable Hydrogel: To treat localized cancer, researchers from *Bose Institute Kolkata and IIT Guwahati* have created a sophisticated injectable hydrogel.

It is a network of water-based polymers that releases anti-cancer medications precisely where the tumour is located while protecting healthy cells.

Qualities: Stability, biocompatibility, responsive design, and localized medication delivery

Significance: *improves cancer treatment precision, especially for breast cancer, and lessens the negative side effects of conventional chemotherapy.*

20. Ramesh Chand Committee: To update the Wholesale Price Index and consider switching to a Producer's Price Index, the Indian government established an 18-person expert team headed by Ramesh Chand, a member of NITI Aayog.

WPI tracks changes in wholesale prices for goods that are sold and traded in large quantities. It is a crucial sign of the economy's inflationary tendencies. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's

Office of Economic Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, is responsible for its release.

Its goal is to monitor the dynamics of supply and demand across industries. It gives an indication of the economy's overall level of inflation.

The *Producer Price Index calculates the average change in prices that producers get for goods and services that are either exported or sold domestically.* As products and services leave manufacturing facilities, the output PPI monitors their pricing. Prices of products and services entering manufacturing processes are tracked by the input PPI.

21. Treaties of Torrijos-Carter: After U.S. President-elect Donald Trump called the Torrijos-Carter Treaties stupid, the Panama Canal—a vital international economic route—became a source of conflict.

President Jimmy Carter of the United States and General Omar Torrijos of Panama signed the treaties on September 7, 1977.

By December 31, 1999, it ensured Panamanian sovereignty over the canal by handing over control from the United States to Panama. By settling long-standing disputes over territorial authority, it signalled a significant change in U.S.-Latin America ties.

22. Mubarak Manzil Palace: Despite governmental archaeological protection, the 17th-century Mubarak Manzil, also known as Aurangzeb's Haveli, a Mughal Heritage site in Agra, was partly destroyed, allegedly by a constructor with official collaboration. Following his triumph at the Battle of Samugarh, Aurangzeb, the Mughal Emperor, constructed it. It exhibits a fusion of British and Mughal architectural designs.

23. Tribal Live-in Relationships: In order to avoid the financial strains of traditional weddings, the *Konda Reddi tribe in Andhra Pradesh* has accepted live-in relationships as a cultural transition.

24. Vedanta Philosophy: Highlighting the importance of Vedantic philosophy in tackling global issues, the Vice-President of India opened the 27th International Congress of Vedanta at JNU.

Vedanta, which translates to "the end of the Vedas," is derived from the Upanishads, the latter sections of the Vedas.

Major schools of Vedanta are based on various views of the connection between Brahman, Atman, and Prakriti.

1. Advaita Vedanta: Non-dualism: the world is Maya, Brahman and Atman are one

2. According to *Vishishtadvaita Vedanta,* Atman and Brahman are separate yet inseparable.

3.Dvaita Vedanta: Brahman (God) and Atman (soul) are different entities.

The ultimate aim is liberation by transcending the material and illusory world and realizing the oneness of Atman and Brahman.

25. HMPV: Human Metapneumovirus: In response to worries about the HMPV outbreak in China, Director-General of Health Services Dr. Atul Goel has reassured the public that they shouldn't be alarmed and advised them to take simple safety measures.

This *respiratory virus, which is a member of the Pneumoviridae family*, was discovered for the first time in 2001. It results in *upper and lower respiratory tract infections*, which usually have symptoms similar to the flu or the common cold. Genomic sequencing of respiratory infection patient samples led to its discovery in the Netherlands in 2001.

It is more common in older persons and children under five. The symptoms include fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, and dyspnea. The disease is spread by coughing droplets, contaminated surfaces, and intimate contact like handshakes.

26. BAANKNET Portal: To expedite the *e-auction procedure for assets owned by public sector banks*, the Indian government established the updated BAANKNET portal. The Ministry of Finance's Department of Financial Services is in charge of overseeing it.

27. LEADS 2024 study: To assess the *effectiveness of logistics across Indian states and union territories*, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry released the Logistics Ease Across Different States 2024 study.

Its goal is to evaluate logistics services and infrastructure in various states and UTs. It encourages competitive federalism to improve the effectiveness of logistics.

28. Army Promotion Policy: In order to guarantee merit-based appointments for high-level positions, India's transition to

tri-service theatre commands calls for the Army, Navy, and Air Force to align their promotion rules.

A quantifiable Annual Confidential Report system with qualities rated on a scale of 1 to 9 is introduced. Promotions to high-level positions are now primarily determined by merit.

29. Mission ShakthiSAT: For the all-female mission to the lunar orbit, ISRO has assembled over 12,000 gifted girls from 108 nations.

It will be launched by ISRO's PSLV in September 2026.

30. Tranquilizers: The delicate technique of calming wild creatures is highlighted by the photograph of West Bengal's Zeenat, a runway tigress. Using remote injection devices like dart guns, tranquilizers are chemical agents that cause sleepiness or unconsciousness in animals, rendering them immobile. Modern tranquilizers contain *etorphine, xylazine, ketamine, and telazol.*

31. PanchPran: In his speech at the NCC Republic Day Camp 2025, the Vice President, emphasized PanchPran as the cornerstone of India's progress as a nation. India's success is guided by five fundamental principles known as PanchPran, which guarantee a well-rounded and comprehensive approach to national development.

1. Social Harmony: fosters togetherness by leveraging India's diversity to strengthen the country.

2. Family Enlightenment: promotes moral and patriotic values within families at the grassroots level

3. Environmental Consciousness: supports sustainable development by preserving and safeguarding the environment

4. Swadeshi: promotes independence and gives preference to native goods as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

5. Civic Duties: Encourages citizens to actively participate in the advancement of the country.

32. Vriksh Pathshala Library: IIT-JEE candidates are encouraged by the *Patwa Toli 24/7 Vriksh Pathshala Library in the Gaya region of Bihar.* Previously known as the "Manchester of Bihar" for its weaving sector, it is now known as a "factory of IITians," having produced

more than 300 IITians during the 1990s.

It offers students studying for competitive exams, particularly IIT-JEE, a calm, resource-rich atmosphere. For students from economically disadvantaged groups, it provides free study materials, online and offline tutoring, food, and housing.

33. Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules:
These rules operationalize the Digital Personal Data Protection Act of 2023 and seek to create a strong foundation for protecting personal information in India.

It seeks to *eliminate data misuse, safeguard personal information, empower citizens, and foster confidence in digital systems.*

34. POEM-4 Mission Completion:
PSLV-C60 from ISRO By growing cowpea seeds in orbit and using India's first space robotic arm, the POEM-4 Mission made significant strides in space technology and agricultural research abroad.

Cowpea seeds, also called lobia in Hindi, are nutrient-dense legumes that are frequently employed in agricultural research because of their versatility and durability.

It is carried out under the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center's Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies.
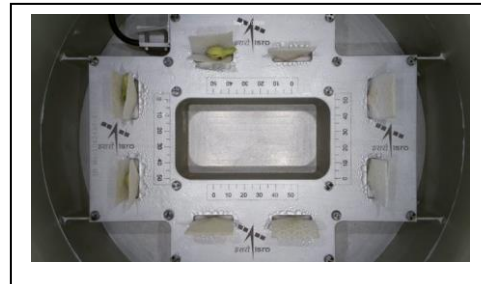
35. Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas:
From January 8 to 10, 2025, *Bhubaneswar, Odisha, will host the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention*, the biggest assembly of the Indian diaspora.

Recognizing NRIs' contributions to India's development and progress is a joyous occasion. Every year on *January 9, it commemorates the homecoming of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa*. The Ministry of External Affairs is in charge of organizing it.

It seeks to commemorate the accomplishments of the Indian diaspora around the world and deepen ties with them.

The theme for 2025 is *"Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat,"* which highlights how the diaspora helped create a developed India.

36. Pig-Butchering Scam: This sophisticated type of cybercrime, in which scammers trick victims into investing in phony internet trading platforms, is becoming more and more common in India, according to the Union Home Ministry.

It is a cybercrime in which organized fraudsters defraud investors by exploiting phony online trading platforms.

37. Homo Juluensis: Using fossils from eastern Asia, a group of researchers from the University of Hawaii has discovered what may be a new species of human. The intricate evolution of ancient human relatives in Asia and their relationships were clarified by this study, which spans the Middle to Late Pleistocene.

38. Jammu Railway Division: In response to a long-standing call for improved rail management in the northernmost part of India, the Prime Minister will officially open the recently formed Jammu Railway Division.

It is an administrative division of Indian Railways that oversees infrastructure, operations, and maintenance within its purview.

Indian Railways is divided into 70 divisions and 19 zones. A Divisional Railway Manager is in charge of each division, while a General Manager oversees each zone.

39. Cancel Coal Case: In the Cancel Coal case, which was spearheaded by civil society groups, the South African High Court upheld sustainable energy and constitutional rights by blocking a 1500 MW coal power proposal.

With an emphasis on environmental and health issues, it is a youth-led movement opposing South Africa's proposal to increase the use of coal-fired power generating. *71% of South Africa's energy supply in 2022 will come from coal*, which the country depends significantly on.

40. Southern Nicobar: Concerns have been raised about the proposed creation of three wildlife sanctuaries in southern Nicobar, which will deprive native communities of their ancestral territories. The proposed wildlife sanctuaries include the *Leather Back Turtle Sanctuary on Little Nicobar Island, the Megapode Sanctuary on Menchal Island, and the Coral Sanctuary on Meroe Island.*
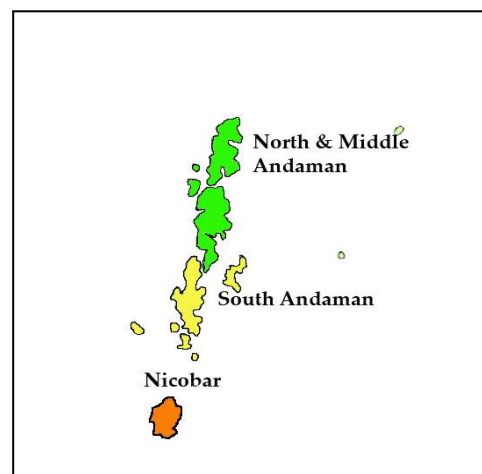
41. Punjab De-Addiction Registry:

Using a central registry to track treatment outcomes and stop medication abuse, Punjab's Drug Control Policy prioritizes prevention, de-addiction, and rehabilitation. It is a *digital register that uses biometric authentication based on Aadhaar to uniquely identify people receiving drug abuse treatment.* It monitors the course of therapy in 590 private and outpatient opioid assisted treatment clinics. It prevents misuse by guaranteeing accountability in the delivery of detox medications.

42. Indus Valley Script:
The Tamil Nadu chief minister's *offer of a $1 million reward for the deciphering of the Indus Valley script* has more uses than only clearing up the unresolved mystery surrounding the 5,000-year-old system. Steatite seals, clay impressions, ceramics, stoneware bangles, bronze implements, ivory, and tiny copper tablets all contain it. They are brief inscriptions that typically contain five symbols; the longest one was 26. Script features animal elements including unicorns, bulls, tigers, elephants, and legendary creatures.
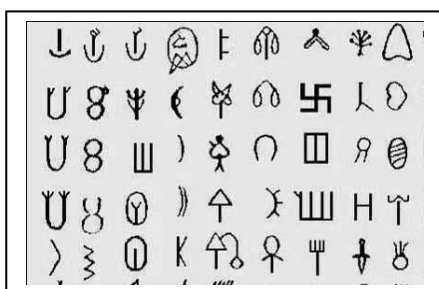
43. Artesian Condition:
Myths about the Saraswati River were debunked in December when the artesian water flow in Taranagar, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, exposed distinctive geological features.

A situation known as an artesian aquifer arises when groundwater is compressed between layers of impervious rocks. When the confining layer is broken, artesian water spontaneously rises to the surface under the force of internal pressure.

44. National Anthem:
When the governor of Tamil Nadu left without giving the traditional speech, citing the lack of the national anthem, uproar broke out in the state legislature.

Rabindranath Tagore wrote it in Bangla. On January 24, 1950, the Constituent Assembly approved the Hindi version as India's national anthem.

45. The BHARATPOL Portal
was launched in New Delhi by the union Home minister. As India's National Central Bureau for INTERPOL, the Ministry of

Home Affairs works with the CBI. By streamlining international police assistance through INTERPOL and facilitating real-time information exchange, it seeks to address the difficulties brought on by transnational crimes. For easy communication between the CBI, INTERPOL Liaison Officers, and Unit Officers, it is available on the CBI's official website.

46. UGC Draft Regulation 2025: In accordance with the National Education Policy 2020, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the UGC Draft Regulations 2025, which bring about important changes in the selection of academic staff and vice-chancellors.
For the purpose of selecting VCs, chancellors or visitors have the authority to establish a three-person search-cum-selection committee.
Prominent experts with demonstrated scholarly achievements from academia, business, public administration, or policymaking are qualified.

47. PLI Scheme 1.1: Under Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries introduced PLI Scheme 1.1 to increase *India's steel production independence*. Its main goal is to increase domestic production of specialty steel in five important areas. Its goal is to lessen reliance on specialty steel imports. It encourages the production of valuable steel.

48. Organic Fisheries Cluster: In Soreng District, *Sikkim, a Union Minister officially opened India's first Organic Fisheries Cluster.* The *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana* is the umbrella organization for this project. It emphasizes sustainable production and low levels of environmental degradation. Through funding for infrastructure, capacity building, and the establishment of Farmer Producer Organizations, NABARD supports it.
The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana seeks to improve productivity, accelerate the expansion of the fishing industry, and support the Blue Economy Vision. In 2020, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy's Department of Fisheries will introduce it.

49. Umred-Pauni-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary: The Bombay High Court revealed shortcomings in wildlife protection and monitoring procedures when it took suo moto cognizance of an occurrence in which tourists cornered a tigress and her cubs in Umred-Pauni-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary.
Maharashtra is where it is located. To the northeast, it is surrounded by the *Gose Khurd Dam and the Wainganga River.*
Teak, bamboo, and other hardwoods

predominate in its lush deciduous forests. There are sloth bears, tigers, leopards, Indian gaurs, spotted deer, sambar deer, and wild dogs here.

50. AI Deepfakes and Women: To damage reputations and discourage women from entering the public sphere, AI-generated deepfake technology is being used more and more against women, especially female politicians. Women are put at risk by non-consensual sexualized content produced by low-cost AI tools and applications. Deepfake porn has damaged the reputations of political women like Giorgia Meloni and Angela Rayner. Pakistan and other nations do not have laws specifically designed to stop deepfakes.

51. Saint Narahari's Tirtha: Interest in Saint Narahari Tirtha's diverse legacy as a philosopher, statesman, poet, and supporter of Vaishnavism has been rekindled by the discovery of an idol of him from the 13th century. It is thought that he was born at *Chikakolu, which is now Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh.* His guru is the Dvaita philosopher *Shri Madhavacharya.*
He guided monarchs to align governance with Sanatana Dharma throughout his twelve years as a minister in the Kalinga Kingdom. Under the pen name *Raghukulatilaka*, he popularized devotion through Kannada songs and is regarded as the founder of the *Haridasa movement.*
He popularized classical *Kuchipudi dance and Yakshagana Bayalata.* He turned the temple of *Simhachalam* into a renowned center for Vaishnavite instruction.
He was crucial to Madhvacharya's acquisition and protection of holy idols like Moolarama and Moola Sita.
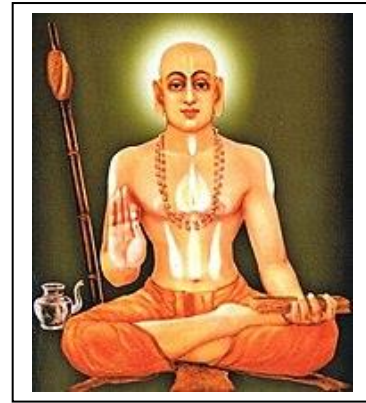
52. Tidal Tail: 1.27 million light-years from the galaxy NGC 3785 in the Leo Constellation, astronomers have found the longest tidal tail yet seen.
A long, thin stream of stars and interstellar gas created by galaxies interacting gravitationally is known as a tidal tail. Two tidal tails—one leading and one trailing—are produced as material is stripped from galaxies' outer regions by gravitational forces during close encounters or mergers.
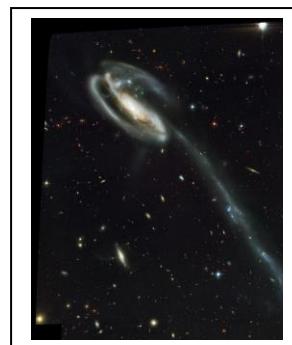
53. Sonobuoys: The United States and India have formed a strategic cooperation to co-produce sonobuoys, which are *specialized underwater equipment that are crucial for improving undersea domain awareness and tracking submarines.*

Sonobuoys are disposable sonar buoys used for underwater acoustics research and anti-submarine warfare. They usually consist of underwater hydrophone sensors and above-surface transmitters.
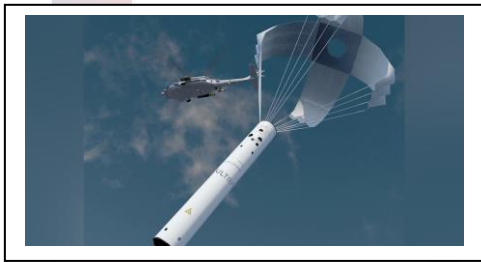
54. Anji Khad Bridge: The construction of *India's first cable-stayed rail bridge*, the Anji Khad Bridge, marks a major milestone for Indian Railways.

Connectivity issues in the Reasi area of Jammu and Kashmir are addressed by this construction, which is a component of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project.

55. Environment Relief Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2024: Through the Environment Relief Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2024, the Central Government has announced changes to the Environment Relief Fund Scheme, 2008, with the goals of enhancing environmental restoration activities, ensuring efficient disbursement, and improving fund management.

Untied Insurance Company Limited was replaced by the Central Pollution Control Board, which was designated as the fund manager for a period of five years.

56. microRNA: the identification of microRNAs in Caenorhabditis elegans has transformed our knowledge of gene control, garnering the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and resulting in important breakthroughs in biological research.

Small, non-coding RNA molecules called miRNAs control post-transcriptional expression of genes. They inhibit the synthesis of proteins by binding to complementary mRNA sequences.

57. Burkina Faso: Historically significant as a former French colony, this landlocked country in West Africa has struggled with political instability, poverty, and growing insecurity in recent years. The borders are Ghana, Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, Niger,

and Mali. The Mouhoun, Nakambe, and Nazinon are important rivers.

57. UK Child Sex Abuse Scandal: The UK Child Sex abuse scandal has resurfaced as a political and social issue, with allegations about systemic exploitation of children by grooming gangs in towns like Rotherham, Bristol and Oxford between the late 1990s and 2012.

Gangs, frequently of British Pakistani descent, routinely groomed, trafficked, and abused young girls from broken homes or care facilities.

Law enforcement came under fire for their tardy reaction, poor victim assistance, and worries about coming out as racist.

58. Anaemia Phone: To support anaemia alleviation initiatives, researchers at Cornell University created the ground-breaking technology known as Anaemia Phone, which was later passed to the ICMR.

It is *affordable, quick, and portable*. All you need is a drop of blood and a finger prick.

A blood condition called anaemia is brought on by a lack of or malfunctioning red blood cells. *Deficiency in iron is the most frequent cause*. The symptoms include fatigue, headache, pallor in the face, dizziness, shortness of breath, and palpitations in the heart.

59. Miyawaki Technique: Prayagraj Municipal Corporation has used the Miyawaki Technique to turn more than 56,000 square meters of waste dumps and bare terrain into verdant forests.

Akira Miyawaki, a Japanese botanist, invented this technique in the 1970s to replicate natural ecosystems and produce thick, quickly developing forests. The "pot plantation method," as it is commonly known, is planting trees and plants close to one another in order to hasten their growth.

60. Microsoft and India AI partnership: India AI, a division of the Digital India Corporation, has teamed up with Microsoft to use AI's potential for economic change and inclusive development.

Through innovation, training, and responsible AI development, this strategic alliance aims to promote India's AI ecosystem. By 2026, it will have trained 50,000 people, including students, teachers, female developers, and entrepreneurs. By creating Centers of Excellence in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, it will empower 100,000 AI developers and innovators and promote AI innovation in rural areas.

It establishes labs in 20 training facilities in 10 states to teach 100,000 pupils and 20,000 teachers the fundamentals of artificial intelligence.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Digital India Corporation oversees the India AI initiative. It seeks to create a public-private cooperation environment for AI innovation. It encourages ethical and domestic AI skills. It improves the accessibility and quality of data for AI solutions.

61. Gaddi Dog: The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources has formally recognized the Gaddi Dog as an indigenous breed. The Gaddi Dog is a devoted and hardy shepherd dog from the Himalayas.

It can be found in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and the Pir Panjal range.

62. Bhashini Initiative: By utilizing the *Bhashini Initiative, the e-Shram portal, which was created to offer social security and welfare benefits to unorganized workers, has been enhanced with multilingual capabilities in all 22 scheduled languages.*

The goal of this government project is to provide AI and natural language processing capabilities for digital services and translation in Indian. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is responsible for its development. By making AI and NLP capabilities freely available, it seeks to remove linguistic barriers that prevent people from using digital services.

63. The Polar Vortex Recently, 60 million people in 30 states were impacted by a major winter storm that caused power outages and hazardous driving conditions. *A polar vortex is a vast stretch of frigid, low-pressure air that swirls in the polar regions of the Earth.* Tropospheric and stratospheric vortexes are the two types of

them.

It is stabilized by a powerful jet stream that divides warmer regions from colder arctic air. It is created by temperature variations and Earth's rotation. Although it can weaken and spread southward, it is often restricted to the poles.
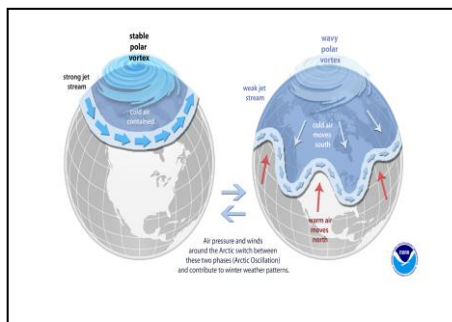
64. Recalculated Coastline:
According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, India's coastline increased by over half in just over 50 years, from *7,516 km in 1970 to 11,098 km in 2023–2024.*

Bays, estuaries, inlets, and other geomorphological features are included in the updated methodology, which replaces the previous straight-line measurement method.
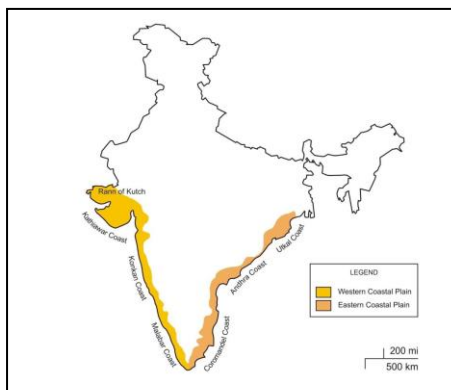
65. Flamingo Festival 2025:
This event, which honours the arrival of migrating birds, especially flamingos, to *Pulicat Lake and Nelpattu Bird Sanctuary,* is scheduled to return to Andhra Pradesh after a four-year break.

Every year, Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary celebrate the arrival of migrating birds, with a particular emphasis on flamingos. It features boating activities, eco-friendly biodiversity lessons, bird-watching trips, competitions, and stalls showcasing regional art and culture. After Chilika Lake, *Pulicat Lake is the second-largest brackish water lake in India.* It can be found on the border between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Southeast Asia's largest spot-billed pelican breeding location is Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary. It may be found 20 kilometers north of Pulicat Lake.

66. India Road Infrastructure Growth:
Over the past ten years, India's National

Highways network has expanded by 60%, making it the world's second-largest road network. From *91,287 km in 2014 to 146,195 km in 2024, it has grown.*

67. Z-Morh Tunnel is expected to be the first significant milestone in the construction of a year-round, strategically important tunnel *connecting Kashmir and Ladakh*. It runs along the NH1 Srinagar-Leh Highway, which links Gagangir and Sonamarg. It avoids avalanche-prone areas and offers Sonamarg access in all weather conditions.

68. Animal Welfare Board of India: To help volunteers combat animal abuse, AWBI and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, have teamed up to offer legal education.
Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to *Animals Act of 1960 led to the establishment of the Animal Welfare Board of India in 1962.* It supports animal welfare organizations, encourages animal welfare, and makes sure that regulations pertaining to animal welfare are followed. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy oversees its operations.

69. ICEGATE Systems: The Indian government lowered the previously stated $14.9 billion gold import number for November 2024 to $9.9 billion after making revisions to its commodities import data.
Double counting of imports into Special Economic Zones and then clearance into the Domestic Tariff Area resulted in the overestimation.
The Indian Customs Electronic Gateway is known as ICEGATE. It is a single platform for gathering trade information from airports, ports, and storage facilities.

70. Genome India Project: A major development in India's biotechnology environment, the Prime Minister declared the successful completion of the Genome Indian Project.
It is a nationwide effort to use large-scale genome sequencing to unlock India's genetic diversity. The Ministry of Science and Technology's Department of Biotechnology provides funding for it.
10,074 genomes from 99 different ethnic groups have been sequenced.

71. The 5th edition of the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025, which examines global labour market developments for the years 2025–2030, was issued.

Analysing changing labour market trends is its goal. It comprehends how *sociological, technical, and economic shifts can produce disruptions in the workplace.*

The *World Economic Forum was founded in 1971* with the goal of enhancing global conditions by involving world leaders in the development of regional, industrial, and global agendas. The annual Davos meeting is organized by it. It releases reports such as the Global Risks Report and the Future of Jobs Report.

72. Blue Flag Certification: Kerala's *Kappad and Chal beaches* have obtained the esteemed Blue Flag Certification, which denotes a commitment to strict safety, cleanliness, and environmental regulations.

Initiated in France in 1985, Blue Flag accreditation was extended worldwide in 2001. The Danish Foundation for Environmental Education bestows it. It encourages freshwater and marine ecosystems to adopt sustainable practices.

73. Sudan Humanitarian Crisis: According to a UNICEF assessment, 3.2 million children under the age of five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2025 as a result of the ongoing violence in Sudan.

12 million people have been displaced as a result of the Army and RSF's 20-month conflict, making it the biggest displacement disaster in history. Famine is already occurring in five parts of Sudan. Attacks on facilities led organizations, such as Doctors Without Borders, to cease operations.

74. Community Notes: Meta recently declared that its fact-checking program in the US would be replaced by Community Notes, a crowdsourced content moderation system akin to Twitter's methodology.

75. CSPOC: Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries: Speaker of the Lok Sabha Om Birla said at the CSPOC Standing Committee Meeting in Guernsey that *India would host the 28th CSPOC in 2026.*

It was started in order *to improve collaboration and exchange parliamentary procedures among*

Commonwealth countries. Canada supports its operations with a secretariat. It encourages awareness and comprehension of parliamentary democracy in all of its manifestations.

76. Scorpene Class Submarine: The Indian Navy has received the sixth *Scorpene-class submarine, Vaghsheer,* from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited as part of *Project P-75.*

Diesel-electric attack submarines of the Scorpene class are built for stealth operations, capturing intelligence and destroying enemy ships. They may conduct area surveillance and engage in anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare. *INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, INS Vela, INS Vagir, and INS Vaghsheer are submarines involved in Project 75.*

77. Craft items for Republic Day: The President has instituted a special Republic Day "At Home" reception to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Republic of India. A carefully chosen package of crafts highlighting the rich legacy of Southern India will be given to the invited guests. These items were produced under the *"One District One Product"* initiative by craftspeople from five southern states.

1. Andhra Pradesh's Kalamkari Painted Bamboo Box: a handcrafted item featuring traditional Nimmalakunta Kalamkari paintings

2. Telangana's Ikat-Pochampalli Cover: reusable cover exhibiting the art of Ikat weaving

3. Karnataka Ganjifa Art Magnet: shows the elaborate Ganjifa art, which is well-known for its association with playing cards.

4. Handmade silk pouch from Tamil Nadu that represents the beauty of Kanjeevaram weaving

5. Etikopakka Dolls from Andhra Pradesh: traditional wooden dolls that are environmentally friendly

6. Keralan Screwpine Leaf Bookmark: made from real screwpine leaves, this bookmark represents sustainability.

78. NOTTO: National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization: According to the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization, central government workers who donate organs are entitled to 42 days of leave.

A national organization, NOTTO was founded under the Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare's Directorate General of Health Services. In India, it *plans, controls, and encourages organ and tissue donation as well as transplantation*. It makes it easier to distribute and use organs and tissues in a safe and effective manner.

79. Silver Notice: As part of a revolutionary effort to monitor and reclaim laundered assets across international borders, Interpol has issued its first-ever silver notice.

To obtain *information about assets connected to illegal activity*, member nations may send out a silver notice.

80. Indigenous Surgical Robotic System: Using the SSI Mantra 3 surgical robotic system, India successfully completed robotic heart procedures via telesurgery, marking a revolutionary milestone in healthcare technology.

The *Central Drugs Standard Control Organization* has approved it as the world's first robotic system for telesurgery. It makes use of sophisticated robotic arms that surgeons can remotely control via a secure network. It guarantees accuracy and effectiveness by transmitting data at a high pace with no delay.

81. Cuba: Following Hurricane Rafael, India donated *humanitarian aid to Cuba*, bringing with it necessary medications

such as muscle relaxants, antibiotics, pain relievers, and ORS.

Cuba is situated where the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea converge.

82. Terrace Tourism: As the Uttarayan festival draws near, *Old Ahmedabad* has developed into a popular destination for terrace tourists, who rent out their terraces for fun activities like kite flying.
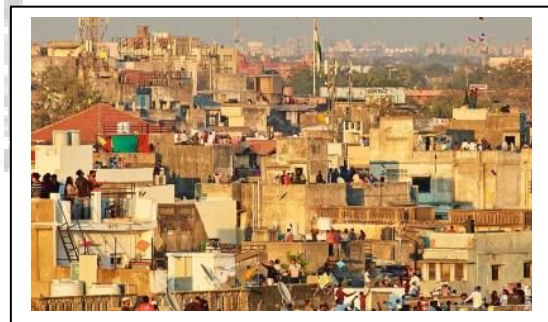
83. Pink Fire Retardant: To stop the spread of flames as wildfires rage across Southern California, authorities are using pink fire retardant, *a solution based on ammonium phosphate*. It covers plants to keep them from burning. It remains on vegetation for a longer period of time and

does not evaporate as quickly as water does.

84. Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform:
At the Bharat Climate Forum 2025 in New Delhi, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry introduced the Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform. It is a nationwide *platform created to support cooperation in the field of renewable energy and strengthen India's cleantech value chains*. India's manufacturing capabilities in solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage technologies are to be strengthened. It encourages the attainment of the 2030 renewable energy targets of 500 GW.

85. UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics
Joining the esteemed UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics is a major milestone for India. It is a specialized UN agency created to investigate how big data and data science methods might be used to improve official statistical systems around the world. Under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission, it was founded in 2014.

86. Dhruv Helicopter:
Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has requested that civilian operators ground the Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter Mark-III till the reason of the crash is determined. The 5.5-ton Dhruv Helicopter is a domestically produced multi-role utility helicopter intended for both military and commercial use.

87. De-notified Tribes:
The Idate Commission's recommendations have been delayed, which has caused serious problems for India's de-notified tribes, semi-nomadic tribes, and nomadic tribes. De-notified tribes are groups that were designated as criminal tribes under the *Criminal Tribes Act of 1871* during British rule and were "denotified" upon the Act's repeal in 1952. Of the 1,526 communities included, 269 have not yet been classified as SC, ST, or OBC.

A permanent commission and caste census for De-notified tribes were recommended in the 2017 report of the Idate Commission (2015), which was chaired by *Bhiku Ramji Idate.*

88. Degradation of Plasticizers: IIT Roorkee researchers have created a novel technique that uses bacterial enzymes to break down plasticizers, particularly diethyl hexyl phthalate.

Sulfobacillus acidophilus's esterase enzyme is one type of bacterial enzyme.

89. Maha Kumbh Mela: Every twelve years, *Prayagraj* hosts the Maha Kumbh, also known as the Poorna Kumbh. Tens of thousands are anticipated to camp along the Ganga's banks and congregate in the city.

During the Kumbh Mela, a significant Hindu event and pilgrimage, followers congregate to take a dip in holy rivers in hopes of receiving divine blessings and spiritual purification. The "largest gathering of humanity on Earth" is how they refer to it.

Prayagraj and Haridwar host the Ardh Kumbh Mela every six years, while Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik-Trimbakeshwar, and Ujjain host the Maha Kumbh Mela every twelve years. It is predicated on the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter's relative positions.

90. Groundwater Contamination: Along with other contaminants like *fluoride, arsenic, and uranium, nitrate* is a major worry in India's serious groundwater contamination problem. Water quality and usability are impacted by dissolved contaminants from both natural and man-made activities.

Fertilizers such as ammonium nitrate and urea can cause nitrate contamination by altering the blood's ability to carry oxygen and causing algae blooms in water bodies. This leads to chronic diseases, kidney and *liver damage, and conditions like Blue Baby Syndrome.*

91. Small Language Models: The move away from the large-scale Large Language Models that dominated the AI landscape and toward Small Language Models is a critical turning point in AI development. Compared to LLMs, Small Language Models are smaller AI systems that are intended for domain-specific tasks and require fewer parameters and processing power. They are effective at tasks like language translation, simple text summarization, and domain-specific

problem-solving because they are trained on smaller datasets and concentrate on certain applications.

92. Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary at Hollongapar: Exploratory oil drilling has been authorized by the Center's National Board for Wildlife in the environmentally sensitive Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.
The sanctuary is surrounded by the *Bhogdoi River*, which results in regions that are flooded and primarily home to semi-hydrophytic flora.

The *Hoolock Gibbons, the only gibbons in India, call it home*. This region is home to the *Bengal Slow Loris, the only nocturnal primate in northeastern India*. Indian elephants, tigers, leopards, jungle cats, wild boars, civets, stump-tailed macaques, squirrels, and more are examples of other species.

93. e-Oath against Drugs: By enlisting the youth, a de-addiction campaign in *Rajasthan* produced fruitful outcomes. During the campaign, around 1.25 lakh people signed an electronic oath to abstain from drug use.
A cutting-edge internet program called e-Oath enables people to make an online commitment to abstain from drug use. Participation is made simple with a dedicated website and QR codes posted in public areas.

94. Mission Mausam: The Prime Minister introduced "Mission Mausam," a revolutionary project designed to *improve India's capacity for weather forecasting and climate resilience, on the 150th Foundation Day of the Indian Meteorological Department.*
With an emphasis on cutting-edge technologies for atmospheric observations and data processing, it is a comprehensive effort to update India's weather and climate monitoring infrastructure.

It seeks to transform India into a climate-smart and weather-ready country. It supports attempts to mitigate climate change and improves the accuracy of weather forecasts.

95. Nag Mk-2, a *third-generation* fire and forget *anti-tank guided missile* that was developed domestically, was announced by the DRDO

96. Rat hole Mining: The sad deaths at a flooded rat-hole coal mine in the Dima Hasao area of Assam recently rekindled discussion about the continued existence of illicit mining and its effects.
Rat-hole mining is the process of *extracting coal seams by excavating small tunnels that are just big enough for workers to crawl through*. In 2014, the

National Green Tribunal banned it in order to save lives and stop environmental damage.
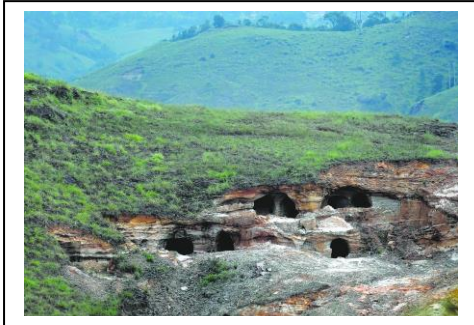
97. Truce Deal in Gaza: There has been a notable development in the ceasefire talks between *Israel and Hamas in Gaza.*

With clauses for a gradual truce, hostage release, and more talks for a permanent peace, it is a proposed ceasefire deal to end the protracted fighting in Gaza.

Leading the mediation efforts, *Qatar hosted talks between Israel and Hamas representatives in Doha.*

98. PKC River Link Project: The *Ranthambore Tiger Reserve* is expected to submerge 37 square kilometers as part of the centerpiece river-link irrigation project, which will provide Rajasthan a lifeline.

It is an interstate river connection project that combines the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project with the *Parbati-Kalisindhi-Chambal link.*

In order to assist the population of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, it seeks to maximize water resources for industrial, drinking, and irrigation purposes.

The Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is located in Eastern Rajasthan, where the Aravalis and Vindhyas converge. It is bordered to the north by the Banas River and to the south by the Chambal River. The famous Ranthambore Fort is part of it. Tropical dry deciduous and thorn woods predominate there.

99. Sada: The Konkan region of Maharashtra is home to the ***distinctive flat-top landscapes*** known as Sada, which are rich in biodiversity and cultural value.

It is the result of centuries of erosion and geological weathering of lateritic soil.

100. Purulia Observatory: In the Purulia region of West Bengal, the S N Bose Centre for Basic Sciences, an independent organization under the Department of Science and Technology, opened a new observatory atop Panchet Hill. It is a state-of-the-art astronomical observatory with a ***14-inch telescope*** for training and scientific studies.

101. Diego Garcia Island: For allegedly crossing maritime borders, 15 fishermen

from Kanniyakumari, Tamil Nadu, were arrested close to Diego Garcia Island, which is a part of the British Indian Ocean Territory.

It is a coral atoll with an open lagoon at its northern end and a V-shaped cay.

102. The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry established **the National Turmeric Board** to promote turmeric production, research, and international trade.
It is a specialized organization created to advance the production, study, and export of turmeric. The *Ministry of Commerce and Industry* oversees its operations. The *headquarters are located in Telangana's Nizamabad*. It seeks to increase global exports, assist farmers, and improve turmeric production.

With 67% of worldwide exports in 2023, India is in the lead, followed by Myanmar, Fiji, Indonesia, and Vietnam as the world's biggest exporters.
The world's biggest importer is the United States.

India's top producing states are Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Meghalaya.

103. India Meteorological Department:
On January 11, 2025, the IMD celebrated its *150th Foundation Day*. It falls under the Earth Sciences Ministry. For India's safety, economic stability, and general prosperity, it seeks to offer precise weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and disaster management services.
It sends out warnings for severe weather conditions like droughts, floods, and cyclones. It keeps an eye on how climate change affects water and agricultural resources.

104. Armed Forces Veterans Day: Held
on *January 14* every year throughout India, Armed Forces Veterans Day honours the nation's veterans' noble service and sacrifices.
It honours veterans of the armed forces for their bravery, commitment, and sacrifices.
It improves the relationship between current and former service members.
Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa retired on this date in 1953.

105. 1st Private Satellite Constellation:
Google-backed Pixxel, a space-tech startup located in Bengaluru, launched India's first private satellite constellation, marking a significant milestone for the

country's space economy.

It seeks to offer high-resolution hyperspectral imaging to enhance understanding in resource management, mining, agriculture, defence, and environmental monitoring.

Enhancing crop yields, monitoring oil spills, tracking natural resources, and mapping geographic borders are some of its uses.

106. Atomic Energy Commission:

The Indian government has reorganized the AEC, adding prominent individuals from a variety of professions, including Pankajkumar Mishra, Manoj Govil, and T.V. Somanathan.

In India, AEC is *the highest policy-making authority for nuclear research, atomic energy, and associated fields*. It was first organized in August 1948 under the Department of Scientific Research, and on March 1, 1958, it was formally created in the Department of Atomic Energy in its current configuration.

It operates under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister's Department of Atomic Energy.

107. The Kumani Bank Mud Volcano,

which is situated off the eastern coast of *Azerbaijan*, erupted in 2023, forming the short-lived island known as "Ghost Island." This transient island was mostly reclaimed by the water by the end of 2024.

108. Governance the Digital Way:

India has started a bold path toward digital governance, a change intended to enhance citizen services and strengthen government workers' capacities.

Using technology to increase government procedures' effectiveness, accountability, and transparency is known as digital governance.

Important projects include the Government *e-Marketplace, the e-Office initiative, and the iGOT Karmayogi platform*, among others.

109. Entity List:

Three Indian nuclear organizations—*Indian Rare Earths, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center, and Bhabha Atomic Research Center*—were recently taken off the US government's restrictive list.

Foreign entities—businesses, institutions, or organizations subject to strict licensing requirements for the export, re-export, or transfer of specified items—are included in the U.S. Bureau of Industry's Entity List. If an entity is accused of acting against the foreign policy or national security interests of the United States, it is mentioned.

110. Nautor Land: The Union Home Ministry is considering a plan to regularize *Nautor land in Ladakh*, which would give residents the right to claim wastelands owned by the government that they have been cultivating or caring for for many years.

111. US AI Export Rule: To control the export of cutting-edge AI technologies like GPUs, a new regulatory framework called the "Framework for Artificial Intelligence Diffusion" was introduced in the last days of the Biden Administration.

It seeks to guarantee that the US and its closest allies continue to have exclusive access to breakthrough AI capabilities.

The 18 closest US allies, including Australia, Japan, South Korea, and the UK, are included in Tier 1.-Export limitations are minimal.

Most nations, including India, are in Tier 2.

Importing US AI technology is virtually prohibited for Tier 3 countries, which

include China, North Korea, and Russia. Authorized companies in India are permitted to employ exported technology for both military and civilian use.

112. Germination of Lobia Seeds in Space: ISRO recently accomplished a noteworthy milestone by successfully germination of lobia seeds in microgravity on board its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies.

An important milestone in India's space exploration was reached when the seeds successfully sprouted on the fourth day and produced visible leaves by the fifth day.

Its goal is to *provide sustainable food supplies for extended space travel*.

113. Three Commissioned Ships: The commissioning of three frontline naval platforms into the Indian Navy—*the frigate INS Nilgiri, the destroyer INS Surat, and the submarine INS Vaghsheer*—was a significant milestone for India. All three platforms were constructed domestically, demonstrating India's skill in shipbuilding and dedication to Atmanirbhar Bharat.

114. Blood Money: The idea of "blood money," also known as diya, has drawn attention after the murder case of Nimisha Priya, an Indian nurse who was given a death sentence in Yemen.

According to Islamic Sharia law, if the

victim's family decides not to seek punishment, the offender may recompense the victim or their family in circumstances of accidental murder, culpable homicide, or even purposeful murder. The goal is to lessen the family's grief and suffering, not to assign a value to life.

115. Two Missions with One Rocket: The private sector's expanding role in space exploration was demonstrated when American and Japanese corporations' Lunar Landers launched their rideshare to the moon.

Two lunar spacecraft, *Blue Ghost and Resilience, were recently launched by a Space X Falcon 9 rocket* as part of NASA's CLPS program and Japan's private sector programs, respectively. Delivering scientific payloads and showcasing cutting-edge technologies for upcoming lunar operations are the goals of these missions.

116. Growth and Social Equity Dilemma: India is at a turning point in its history and is facing the difficulty of striking a balance between social sector expenditures on welfare, healthcare, and education and investments in major infrastructure projects.

In order to boost GDP growth, initiatives such PM Gati Shakti and NIP place a high priority on upgrading energy, connectivity, and transportation. Poor learning outcomes and health indices are the result of inadequate spending on healthcare and education.

Election support is gained by infrastructure projects' obvious benefits, but social spending's long-term effects are ignored. The workforce's capacity to capitalize on infrastructure advancements is weakened by high levels of poverty and wealth disparity.

117. Third Launch Pad: The construction of the third launch pad at the *Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota*, Andhra Pradesh, was authorized by the Union Cabinet of India, which was presided over by the prime minister.

This cutting-edge launch infrastructure serves as a backup for the Second Launch Pad and supports Next Generation Launch Vehicles.

118. Pay Commission: The establishment of the 8th Pay Commission, which will review the pay of around 50 lakh central government employees and the benefits of 65 lakh pensioners, has been approved by the Union Cabinet, which is chaired by the Prime Minister.

The Central Government created this council to examine and suggest modifications to the pay, benefits, and pension plans for central government workers and retirees. It was founded by the Indian government's Department of

Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

It guarantees government workers receive just compensation. In order to counteract the effects of inflation, it suggests formulas for updating Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief.

119. QS World Future Skills Index 2025:

India scored excellently in the "Future of Work" category, placing second globally, just behind the United States, and finished 25th overall in the QS World Future Skills Index 2025.

This international rating system assesses a nation's capacity to adapt to changing labour market demands through economic transformation, education, and skill development. It is published by *Quacquarelli Symonds, a London-based company* well-known for its rankings pertaining to education and abilities.

It seeks to evaluate how successfully nations are training their labour forces for skills of the future, including sustainability, AI, digital competences, and green technology.

120. The Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme, or FTI-TTP, was launched at the airports of Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Cochin, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, and Mumbai by the Union Home Minister.

It is a cutting-edge immigration clearance system that uses automated e-gates to cut down on wait times for foreign visitors. The IGI airport in Delhi hosted its initial launch in June 2024, and by January 16, 2025, it had spread to seven additional airports. Through the Bureau of Immigration, the Ministry of Home Affairs carries it out.

121. Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan: The defence minister introduced Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan, *a website specifically designed to promote border and battlefield tourism*, on the 77th Army Day.

It is a thorough website that offers travel advice, historical tales, virtual tours, and information about important Indian border regions and battlefields. It encourages border and battlefield tourism. It raises awareness of India's bravery and military heritage.

122. Space Docking Experiment: On January 16, 2025, India successfully completed ISRO's Space Docking Experiment, marking an important advancement in space technology.

The goal of SpaDeX is to showcase *satellite docking technology*, which is essential for advanced space missions such as interplanetary travel, space station operations, and satellite maintenance. Launched under the PSLV C60 mission, the experiment was a component of

ISRO's larger plan to develop Next-Generation Space Technologies.

123. DDT-Contaminated Soils: By incorporating biochar, researchers at Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden have developed a novel approach to treating DDT-contaminated soils. Introduced in 1939, DDT is a synthetic insecticide that is frequently used to fight diseases including malaria and agricultural pests. It takes decades for it to break down in the environment. Both forestry and agriculture make substantial use of it. It significantly reduced mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects. Later, it was discovered that extended use harmed ecosystems and degraded soil quality. *A technique for binding the toxin and lowering its absorption by soil organisms involves adding Biochar, a material that resembles charcoal, to DDT-contaminated soil*. It makes DDT-contaminated fields cultivable by restoring their fertility. By minimizing organisms' exposure to DDT, it lowers ecological dangers. Compared to traditional

techniques like dirt removal, it is both economically and environmentally feasible. It improves long-term carbon storage and soil health.

124. Bharathapuzha River: Four family members perished in a terrible tragedy at Cheruthuruthy, Kerala, after drowning in the Bharathapuzha River. The river rises in Tamil Nadu's Anaimalai Hills and travels west through the Western Ghats' Palakkad Gap before draining into the Arabian Sea. The Tamil Nadu and Kerala states are traversed by the river. The largest reservoir in Kerala, the *Malampuzha Dam,* was constructed across the river and is used for hydroelectric and irrigation.
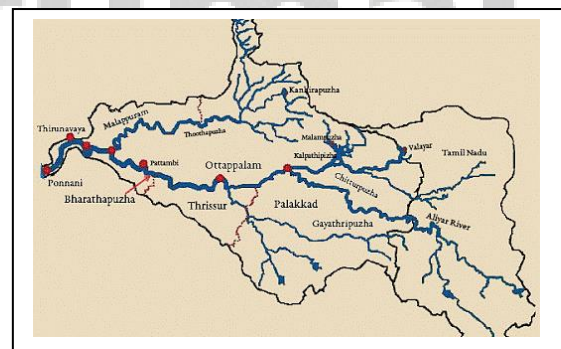
125. PRABHAAV Factbook: The Bharat Startup Challenge and the PRABHAAV factbook were introduced by the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry in honour of the 9th Foundation Day of Startup India. It is a thorough manual that describes the development and successes of India's startup scene from 2016 to 2024.

126. Planet Parade: A rare celestial phenomenon known as a "Planet Parade" was created in January 2025 when *Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars aligned gloriously in the night sky.*

It happens when many solar system planets are visible in the night sky at the same time. Although it depicts how the planets align along the solar system's plane, it is not an established astronomy term. You can see these alignments in the early sky or the evening sky.

127. World Economic Forum papers: The World Economic Forum just published two papers titled *"Global Risks Report 2025" and "Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025."*

Examining how cybersecurity developments affect enterprises, society, and economies is the goal of the Global Cybersecurity Outlook.

In order to make well-informed decisions, the Global Risks Report will evaluate and rank global risks over short-, medium-, and long-term timeframes.

128. SVAMITVA plan: The Prime Minister will use a video conference to distribute more than 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA plan.

Launched in 2020 as a Central Sector Scheme, SVAMITVA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.

By giving properties a Record of Rights, it *aims to empower rural property owners*. Through the monetization of real estate and the provision of financial resources, it promotes the economic development of rural India.

129. Kuka Rebellion: On January 17, the Punjab Chief Minister honoured the Kuka Martyrs' Day celebration at the Namdhari Shaheed Smarak in Malerkotla.

The Namdhari sect, also called Kukas, was in charge of the *anti-British rebellion in Punjab*. The movement fused opposition to colonial rule with religious reform. *Satguru Ram Singh, the founder of the Namdhari sect*, led the uprising together with Kuka Hira Singh and Lehna Singh. Extreme cruelty was displayed by the British, under the leadership of John Lambert Cowan. To act as a deterrence, thousands of people were made to see these executions.
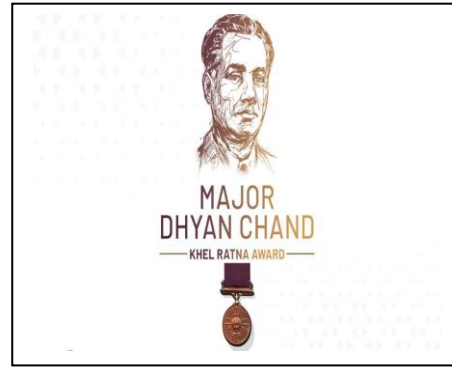
130. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna: It is the highest athletic honour in India and was given to outstanding athletes who brought honour to the country at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

It seeks to honour exceptional athletic accomplishments on a global scale, encourage athletes, and uplift upcoming generations.

The athletes are nominated by the Indian Olympic Association, State Governments, National Sports Federations, and the Sports Authority of India.

In the event that no nominations are received, the government may designate up to two athletes.

2024 Champions:

1. Manu Bhaker, the shooter

2. D Gukesh-Chess

3. Hockey player Harmanpreet Singh

4. Paralympic High Jumper Praveen Kumar

131. PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission: PM-ABHIM The Delhi High Court's order for the Delhi government to execute the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Center was halted by the Supreme Court.

It is a centrally financed program designed to *improve and fortify India's healthcare system,* with some elements from the central sector. It aims to improve health research skills at all levels—primary, secondary, and tertiary care—strengthen surveillance systems, and close important gaps in the healthcare infrastructure.

132. Human-Elephant Conflict: A new study conducted in Namibia shows that improved infrastructure and distinct water sources might help reduce conflicts between people and elephants.

Techniques for reducing human-animal conflict include buffer zones, obstacles, community involvement, infrastructural

improvements, and the designation of distinct resource zones.

133. Konark Sun Temple: President Tharman Shanmugaratnam of Singapore recently paid a visit to the Sun Temple, showcasing both its international renown and the exquisite workmanship of Odisha. *King Narasimha Deva I of the Ganga dynasty* ordered its construction in the thirteenth century.

With 24 intricately carved wheels, each three meters in diameter, the temple is shaped like a magnificent chariot of Surya, the Sun-God, signifying time and heavenly motion. Seven sculptured horses pull the chariot, which symbolizes the Sun's journey across the sky, at the temple. The intricate carvings of dancers, singers, animals, and mythological stories that adorn the plinth and walls demonstrate the artistic skill of the time.

It is recognized for its creative inventiveness and cultural significance, drawing tourists from all over the world,

and is included on the *UNESCO World Heritage List.*

134. Kalaripayattu: The *traditional martial art style of Kerala*, Kalaripayattu, was demoted to the demonstration area of the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand, which has caused controversy.

It combines fighting skills, physical training, and healing methods, making it one of the world's oldest martial arts. Kerala is where it began.

The martial art has a strong emphasis on bare-handed techniques (Verumkai), timber weapons (Kolthari), metallic weapons (Angathari), and physical conditioning (Maippayattu). Strength, flexibility, reflexes, and discipline are all improved. In 2009, it was included in *India's National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.*

135. Olive Ridley Turtles: near Tamil Nadu, especially near Chennai, many dead olive ridley turtles have washed up on the coast in the last two weeks.

Olive Ridley, known for their coordinated mass nesting, or arribadas, turtles are among the tiniest and most prevalent sea turtles. *Tropical areas of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans are home to it*. They visit breeding beaches in nations including India, Mexico, and Costa Rica. They are both pelagic and coastal. It is omnivorous, consuming algae, crabs, and jellyfish. Each region has a different nesting season. It occurs in India from November to March, and large-scale nesting is seen at beaches like *Rushikulya and Gahirmatha in Odisha.*

136. BRICS Bloc: Nigeria has been formally accepted as a member of the BRICS Bloc, which now consists of nine partner countries in addition to its permanent members.

BRICS, originally known *as BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China),* was formally founded in 2009. In 2010, South Africa became a member of BRICS. It functions under a rotating presidency and without a permanent headquarters.

Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia make up the bloc. At the 2014 Fortaleza Summit, it created the New Development Bank.

137. La Perouse Exercise: France is hosting the global naval exercise La Perouse 2025 in vital channels that *connect the Pacific and Indian Oceans.* It is carried out to improve interoperability, build situational awareness among participating navies, and fortify maritime security. The exercise is *led by France. India, France, the United States, Canada, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and the United Kingdom* are all represented in the 2025 version.

138. The Internet Governance Internship and Capacity Building Scheme was introduced by the National Internet Exchange of India with the goal of *increasing Indian people' knowledge and proficiency in internet governance*. It is a biannual internship program that offers mentorship and real-world experience while enhancing knowledge and abilities in internet governance. It seeks to develop young minds, gain knowledge of digital policy, and get the future generation of leaders in tech policy and Internet governance ready.

Under the Companies Act of 2013, the National Internet Exchange of India operates as a non-profit corporation under the auspices of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. By constructing vital infrastructure and enhancing internet connectivity, it seeks to raise internet penetration and ease digital adoption in India.

139. Kho Kho World Cup 2025: *India* became the *first winners of the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 in both the men's and women's divisions.* The Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, India, hosted the competition. In partnership with the International Kho Kho Federation, the Kho Kho Federation of India organizes it.

140. Mount Ibu: One of the *most active stratovolcanoes in Indonesia*, it erupted over a thousand times in January 2025. It is located in Indonesia's North Maluku province on Halmahera Island's northwest coast.

141. Lake Naivasha: Fishermen's livelihoods on *Kenyan Lake*, Lake Naivasha, are in danger due to water hyacinth. Kenya is home to this freshwater lake. The Malewa and Gilgil Rivers provide the lake with its main source of freshwater intake.

142. Contract Farming: Thanks to contract farming, India has gone from being a big importer to a large exporter of

frozen French fries, with exports surpassing domestic consumption.

In contract farming, producers and purchasers enter into agreements whereby the farmer promises to produce particular crops in return for guaranteed procurement, fixed prices, and occasionally input assistance.

143. White Goods: According to the government, 24 businesses have been chosen to participate in the Production Linked Incentive, or PLI, Scheme for White Goods, which includes LED lights and air conditioners.

White goods are *big household appliances used for everyday tasks* including cooking, cleaning, and climate management. These goods are made to be long-lasting and robust.

144. Entity Locker: To make document management easier for Indian enterprises and organizations, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology introduced Entity Locker, a digital platform.

The National e-Government Division under the MeitY created this safe, cloud-based platform to make it easier for businesses, MSMEs, startups, trusts, and societies to store, share, and verify business documents. It seeks to lower administrative burden, facilitate corporate transactions, and develop a simplified and effective method for managing company documents. Large corporations, MSMEs, startups, trusts, societies, and other organizations are covered.

145. Coffee: With exports of $1.2 billion in FY 2023–24, nearly twice as much as the $719.42 million in 2020–21, India is currently the *world's seventh largest exporter of coffee.*

In the 1600s, a Sufi mystic named Baba Buda brought coffee to India when he planted seven Yemeni Mocha coffee beans in the Baba Budan Giri district of Karnataka. This was the first time coffee was grown in India.

Arabica is valued more on the market due to its mellow, fragrant flavour.

Robusta, which is used to make instant coffee, is renowned for being stronger and more resilient.

More than 70% of coffee is exported, with Russia, Belgium, and Italy being the top consumers.

146. Obesity: Leaving behind the antiquated use of Body Mass Index, the Lancet Commission has put out a new definition and diagnostic paradigm for obesity. A BMI of 30 or higher was considered obese. It is now described as a chronic sickness that, even in the absence of other disorders, can cause major health difficulties and changes the way organs operate.

147. Ratnagiri Excavation: Recently, the Archaeological Survey of India began working on the important Buddhist site in Odisha, Ratnagiri.

Together with *Udayagiri and Lalitgiri, it is part of Odisha's Diamond Triangle.*

The Vajrayana and Mahayana schools of Buddhism were centred in Ratnagiri.
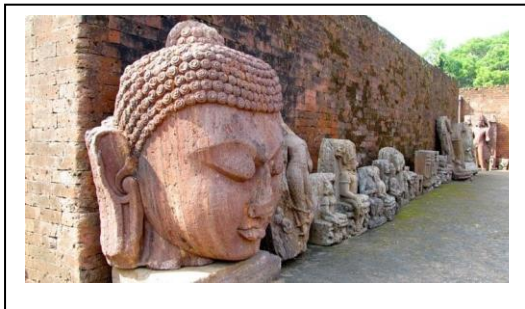
148. Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers 2022 study: The International Labour Organization's 2022 report, Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers, emphasizes the important role that foreign workers play in the global workforce. The International Labor Organization publishes it.

149. World Economic Forum: World Economic Forum: Global leaders from industry, politics, and civil society gather in Davos, Switzerland, for the WEF Annual Meeting 2025 to debate important global issues.

Originally called the European Management Forum, WEF was established in 1971 and changed its name to the World Economic Forum in 1987. Switzerland is home to the headquarters.

It seeks to promote public-private cooperation in order to improve the state of the globe. to work together with stakeholders to overcome global economic, social, and environmental concerns. *Collaboration for the Intelligent Age is the theme for 2025.*

It frequently publishes reports such as the Energy Transition Index, Future of Jobs Report, Global Competitiveness Report, and Global Gender Gap Report.

150. Wetland Asan: The Asian Waterbird Census, which was held there lately, produced data on 5,225 birds of 117 species.

It is located near the meeting point of the Eastern Yamuna Canal and the Asan River in the Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. is located close to the Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand borders.

Wetlands International oversees the Asian Waterbird Census, which is a component of the worldwide International Waterbird Census.

151. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana scheme was misused. In Maharashtra, 4.14 lakh insurance claims were discovered to be fraudulent in 2024, exposing abuse of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana program.

False claims were filed by farmers for crops that did not exist or on unapproved property, including government plots, temples, and gas stations. Without the farmers' permission, Common Service Centers submitted fraudulent applications using falsified paperwork.

152. Engine using Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (Scramjet): With the successful completion of a 120-second ground test of the Supersonic Combustion Ramjet engine by the Defence Research & Development Laboratory, India has reached a major milestone in hypersonic technology.

It is an *air-breathing engine that can run effectively at hypersonic speeds and maintain combustion at supersonic ones (Mach 5+).*

DRDL is working with industry partners to create it.

It does not require an oxidizer because it uses the vehicle's forward momentum to compress atmospheric oxygen for burning. Its cutting-edge flame stabilization methods guarantee ignition under extremely low temperatures. Engine performance is improved by its great temperature tolerance.

153. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme: A flagship program to empower girls and advance gender equality, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is celebrating its tenth anniversary with the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

It is a government program designed to combat gender bias and advance the rights, survival, and education of girls. January 22, 2015 was the launch date. *It raises the child-to-sex ratio.* It guarantees *women's empowerment and gender equality.* It *stops sex-selective, gender-biased elimination.* It encourages girls' engagement and education.

The Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme, a financial incentive-linked program, was introduced to encourage parents to establish a fund for their daughters.

154. The 1960 Indus Water Treaty:

According to the World Bank-appointed Neutral Expert, he is qualified to settle disputes between India and Pakistan over the layout of hydroelectric dams under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

The dams under question are the Ratle Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River and the Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project on the Jhelum River.

In 1960, Indian Prime Minister Nehru and Pakistani President Ayub Khan signed the

Indus Water Treaty. The World Bank, which is also a signatory, mediates it.

India was given water from the Sutlej, Ravi, and Beas rivers in the east. Water from the western rivers—the Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum—was allotted to Pakistan

155. Takers, Not Makers Report: The wealth taken from India during British colonial control is highlighted in the Oxfam International report Takers, Not Makers, which also emphasizes the long-lasting economic and social disparities influenced by colonial exploitation.

It focuses on how wealth was extracted during colonial control, especially by Britain, and how this affected inequality around the world. It draws attention to contemporary parallels in corporate exploitation.

$64.82 trillion, converted to today's currency, was taken out of India by Britain (1765–1900).

During World War II, Oxfam was founded in 1942 as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. Through lobbying, development initiatives, and humanitarian assistance, it seeks to fight inequality and reduce world poverty. It has operations in 79 nations in Europe, America, Africa, and Asia. It emphasizes public services, health, education, and reducing inequality. It fights against problems including gender inequality, tax evasion, and climate change.

156. Kashmir Chinar Trees: Through *geotagging and QR codes*, the famous Chinar trees of Kashmir, which are renowned for their majestic appearance and cultural value, are being digitally conserved. The J&K Forest Research Institute is leading this creative effort, which attempts to guarantee Chinar tree management, conservation, and monitoring.

It is indigenous to Turkey, the Caucasus, Iran, and the Himalayas, as well as Italy. It is widely distributed throughout the Kashmir Valley, particularly in the districts of Ganderbal and Budgam. It grows best in well-drained soils in moderate temperatures. For best growth, it needs regular moisture levels and lots of sunlight.

157. Netaji Subash Chandra Bose: To commemorate the birth anniversary of this visionary leader and pivotal player in the Indian freedom fight, India observes

Parakram Diwas on January 23rd every year.

The Indian government introduced it in 2021 as a way to honour Netaji Subash Chandra Bose's legacy. It seeks to instil courage and patriotism in residents, especially young people, and motivate them to face obstacles head-on.

It pays tribute to Netaji's crucial contribution to the Indian liberation fight. It emphasizes his belief in being brave and making sacrifices for the country. It inspires people to adopt his idea of an independent and unified India.

In *1938 (Haripura) and 1939 (Tripura), he served as president of the Indian National Congress*. With Japanese assistance, he established the Indian National Army and issued the rallying cry, *"Give me blood, and I will give you freedom."* In order to bring Indians together against British rule, he founded the Azad Hind Government in 1943.

He promoted Swaraj as editor of the Forward newspaper. He wrote "The Indian Struggle," which describes the 1920–1934 Indian independence movement.

158. The 85th All India Presiding Officer's Conference, which addressed important concerns in parliamentary processes such disruptions, decorum, and strengthening the role of legislative bodies, came to an end in Patna, Bihar.

The One Nation, One Legislative Platform, which aims to combine all legislative bodies on a single digital platform, was also featured at the conference.

Shimla hosted the inaugural meeting of the All India Presiding Officer's Conference, which was founded in 1921. It unites the state legislatures and the presiding officers of Parliament to form the highest body of Indian legislatures.

Resolutions centred on reducing disturbances, enhancing the calibre of debates, and commemorating the Constitution's 75th anniversary through public outreach programs.

It seeks to promote accountability, openness, and sound legislative procedures in order to fortify democratic institutions.

The goal of the One Nation, One Legislative Platform initiative is to unify India's state legislatures, local governments, and the Parliament on a single online platform. It seeks to make it possible to share legislative data and procedures in real time. It encourages

accountability, openness, and public involvement in legislative procedures.

159. Vaigai River: Local authorities in Tamil Nadu have been instructed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court to create a workable plan for revitalizing the Vaigai River.

It comes from the Western Ghats' Varusanadu Hills on the Periyar Plateau.

It empties into the Palk Strait in the district of Ramanathapuram, close to the Pamban Bridge.

Tamil Nadu is the main state through which it flows.

On the river is a famous waterfall called Vattaparai Falls.

Vaigai River

160. Gandhi's views on India: Historical and Contemporary: Mahatma Gandhi's beliefs have influenced India's sociopolitical and moral landscape for many years.

Gandhi saw India as a multicultural nation founded on nonviolence and the truth. He promoted swaraj, highlighting individual

and collective self-sufficiency. He concentrated on incorporating civic engagement, health, ethical education, and practical knowledge into the fabric of the country.

He highlighted the importance of introspection, moral leadership, and inclusivity in addressing contemporary issues like as inequality, environmental degradation, and intercommunal strife.

161. Party Whips: The vice president of India recently questioned the role of party whips in parliamentary procedures, claiming that they limit the independence and freedom of legislators to make their own decisions.

A whip is a formal order sent by a political party to its lawmakers that requires them to vote a certain way or to be present during a crucial vote. The British parliamentary practice of whipping members to guarantee conformity to the party line is the source of this practice.

Each political party appoints a Chief Whip, who is typically a senior lawmaker, to issue whips.

Whips are not specifically mentioned in the Indian Constitution.

162. LID-568: New insights into the genesis and growth of black holes have been made possible by the discovery of LID-568, a low-mass supermassive black

hole that is feeding at an unparalleled rate. It was found using X-ray and infrared scans, and it is located in a galaxy with little star formation, which is probably caused by the black hole's outflows.

163. Advanced Driver Support Systems:

The extensive integration of ADAS technologies in four-wheeler vehicles has recently occurred in the Indian automobile market, greatly improving vehicle safety. It is a collection of technologies intended to reduce the chance of accidents, increase convenience, and improve driver safety. It combines sensors, cameras, and processors to evaluate data in real time and give the driver automated help or alerts.

164. Antivenom:
Despite being the world's greatest producer and consumer of antivenoms, *India, dubbed the "snakebite capital of the world,"* reports more than 58,000 fatalities from poisonous snakebites each year.

Antivenoms are life-saving medications that counteract the poisons found in snake venom. Animals' immune systems produce particular antibodies when venoms are injected into them; these antibodies are subsequently collected, processed, and combined to create antivenoms.

The *Indian Cobra, Common Krait, Russell's Viper, and Saw-scaled Viper are the main venomous snakes in India* that cause the majority of snakebite fatalities.

165. The Tableau of the Ministry of Culture:
In keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of "Virasat Bhi Vikas Bhi," the Ministry of Culture's Tableau, which was unveiled on Republic Day 2025, showcases India's cultural diversity and inventiveness.

1. Yaadh on the Potter's Wheel: the age-old Tamil musical instrument represents the richness and longevity of India's artistic and musical heritage. It is a reflection of India's centuries-long development in the performing arts.

2. Kinetic Kalpavriksha: The revered tree that grants wishes and changes into the "Golden Bird." It represents India's rich cultural legacy as well as its goals for innovation and economic advancement.

3. Digital Screens: Ten digital panels that showcase the variety of India's artistic disciplines, such as literature, performing arts, architecture, design, and tourism. It demonstrates how India's cultural variety underpins its development and creativity.

4. Golden Bird Transformation: The history of India as "Sone ki Chidiya" and its journey to regain it via inclusive and sustainable development. It reaffirms the message of national advancement and cultural pride.

166. Diamond Imprest Authorization Scheme: To increase exports, protect jobs in the industry, and improve competitiveness, the Union Government launched the Diamond Imprest Authorization Scheme.

With a 10% value addition export requirement, it permits duty-free imports of natural cut and polished diamonds weighing less than ¼ carat.

It seeks to boost the competitiveness of Indian diamond exporters, especially MSMEs, and encourage value addition export growth

167. Digantara, a trailblazing Indian space firm, was praised by the Indian Prime Minister for the successful launch of Mission SCOT (Space Camera for Object Tracking).

It is among the first commercial space situational awareness satellites in the world, and its purpose is to *improve the tracking and observation of resident space objects.*

Digantara, an Indian space firm backed by Aditya Birla Ventures and SIDBI, is making its first mission.

To close significant gaps in the current space monitoring systems by providing greater surveillance and keeping an eye on smaller RSOs in orbit.

168. Dhanauri Wetland: The Uttar Pradesh government has been ordered by the National Green Tribunal to provide a thorough status report on the registration of the Dhanauri Wetland, which is close to the Jewar airport, as a wetland within four weeks.

There are 217 bird species found there, including 150 Sarus Cranes, Uttar Pradesh's state bird. Birdlife International has designated it as an Important Bird Area.

The *Ramsar Convention*, a worldwide agreement for wetland protection and sustainable use, established the Ramsar site in 1971, designating a wetland for international significance.

169. NHM Achievements 2021–24: The Cabinet examined the National Health Mission 2021–24 accomplishments, emphasizing noteworthy advancements in enhancing India's public health results.

1. Nationwide, more than 220 crore doses of the COVID-19 vaccination were distributed.

2. Since 1990, the MMR has decreased by 83%, from 130 (2014–16) to 97 per lakh live births.

3. Since 1990, the under-5 mortality rate has decreased by 75%, from 45 (2014) to 32 per 1,000 live births.

4. Elimination of tuberculosis: incidence decreased from 237 out of 1,000,000 in 2015 to 195 in 2023.

5. 2.61 crore people were screened for sickle cell anaemia under the National The mission

6. The U-WIN platform for real-time immunization was launched.

170. Deep Ocean Mission: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology says India is preparing to launch its first human-operated underwater submersible as part of the Deep Ocean Mission.

The *Ministry of Earth Sciences* launched this ambitious program with the goals of developing advanced marine technology, exploring the deep sea, and using ocean resources for both environmental and commercial gain. One of the nine main missions under the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council framework, it was established in 2021.

It seeks to create cutting-edge deep-sea exploration technology, research marine ecosystems and biodiversity for conservation and sustainable fishing, and use innovation and knowledge-building to support India's blue economy.

Targeting polymetallic nodules and rare resources, India's first crewed submersible, *Samudrayaan and Matsya 6000, intends to descend 6,000 meters below the ocean's surface.*

It involves the creation of undersea mining systems such as Varaha, which has effectively worked at 5,270-meter depths.
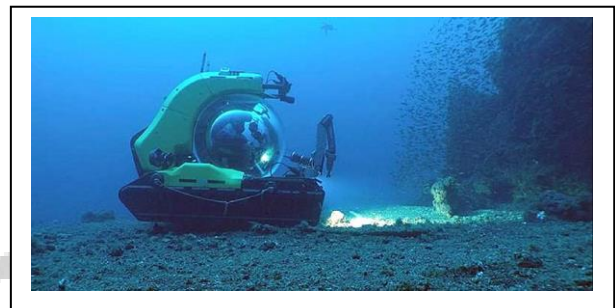
171. Differential Pricing: Ola and Uber have received notices from the Central Consumer Protection Authority about alleged differential pricing based on the kind of smartphone that customers use.

Differential pricing is a tactic used by companies to set different rates for the same good or service depending on variables such as demand, location, clientele, or past purchases. This flexible strategy enables companies to maximize profits while serving various market niches.

172. Rhodamine B: Due to worldwide prohibitions, including those imposed by the Food and Drug Administration and several Indian states, Rhodamine B and its detrimental consequences are being closely examined.

It is a synthetic dye that dissolves in water; when it is in powder form, it appears green, but when it is in water, it turns a vivid neon pink. Its primary application is as a coloring agent in paints, leather, paper, and textiles. Because of its fluorescence, it is also used in scientific study.

In addition to its toxic effects, oxidative stress, and environmental risks, it possesses carcinogenic qualities.

173. The M23 armed organization has stepped up its operations in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, seizing important regions like Minova and posing a danger to Goma, the province capital.

It was created in 2012 by a group within the Congolese army who were upset about a peace deal that had been reached in 2009.

This armed rebel group, which is motivated by regional ethnic conflicts and foreign intervention, seizes territory.

174. Ad hoc judges: In order to alleviate the mounting backlog of criminal cases, the Supreme Court has suggested using *Article 224 A* of the Constitution to temporarily appoint retired High Court justices on an as-needed basis.

Ad Hoc judges are retired judges who are briefly called back to assist in resolving High Court case backlogs. Although they are not considered regular judges, they have the same rights and benefits as sitting judges.

Potential candidates are identified by the Chief Justice of a High Court, who then requests their assent. The Union Law Ministry forwards the recommendation to the President of India. The recommendation must also be approved by the Supreme Court Collegium. The *President* makes the ultimate choice after consulting with the Prime Minister. During their tenure, these justices are entitled to all the benefits of High Court judges, including allowances set by the President.

175. Age of Iron: The Iron Age may have started at Sivagalai, in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district, at least 1,000 years earlier than previously thought, according to recent dating of burial urn samples from the area.

The Iron Age is the historical era when iron supplanted older materials like stone

and bronze as the primary material for tools and weaponry. It is characterized by notable developments in technology and metallurgy that have changed society and the economy.

Around 1200 BCE, the iron age began on a global scale. Recent discoveries in Tamil Nadu, however, place *India's Iron Age at 3,345 BCE*, before the usage of iron by the internationally known Hittite Empire.

175. An increase in cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a rare autoimmune nerve condition, has been reported by the Pune health department.

It is an uncommon autoimmune disease in which the immune system unintentionally targets peripheral nerves, resulting in muscle weakening, numbness, and in extreme situations, paralysis. Although people of all ages can get it, it mostly affects adults and is not communicable.

The symptoms include weakness or tingling that begins in the legs and frequently spreads to the arms and face, walking difficulties, limb paralysis, problems with muscle coordination, and respiratory muscle paralysis.

It is brought on by viral infections, such as those caused by the Epstein-Barr virus and cytomegalovirus.

177. Cabo Verde: According to a recent World Bank analysis, the small archipelago off the coast of West Africa

will require $842 million in investments between 2024 and 2030 to address its development and climate issues.

It is an island republic off the northwest coast of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean, about 570 kilometers west of Senegal. Senegal is the closest nation on the African continent.

178. Campaign for Fit India Sundays on Cycle: The "Fit India Sundays on Cycle" campaign was supported by well-known actor Gul Panag and boxer Saweety Boora, who received an Arjuna award.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in partnership with the Cycling Federation of India and MY Bharat, organizes this weekly cycling event as part of the Fit India Movement.

It develops a culture of fitness among the populace, supports bicycle safety on the roads, and supports eco-friendly behaviours to reduce air pollution.

179. Sanjay Battlefield Surveillance System: The Indian Army will receive the

Sanjay battlefield surveillance system by October of this year, according to the defence minister.

In order to generate a Common Surveillance Picture, Sanjay, an automated battlefield surveillance system, combines real-time data from both ground and aircraft sensors. In both conventional and unconventional military circumstances, this technology enables commanders to make well-informed judgments quickly. *The Indian Army and Bharat Electronics Limited are responsible for its development.*

It improves intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities and increases battlefield transparency.

180. Fiscal Health Index 2025: It was introduced by NITI Aayog and offers a thorough examination of the financial situation of 18 significant Indian states.

In order to improve fiscal performance and governance, it seeks to assess fiscal health, draw attention to interstate inequities, and promote focused reforms.
The top three states for 2022–2023 are Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Goa.

181. National Voters Day: In honour of the founding of the Election Commission of India on *January 25, 1950, the 15th National Voter's Day* is observed nationwide on January 25, 2025.
On January 25, 1950, the day before India became a republic, the Election Commission of India was established, and this day honours that fact.
It seeks to raise awareness of how crucial voting is in democracies.
Nothing Like Voting I Vote for Sure is the theme for 2025.

182. Black Panther: A recent video posted by an Indian Forest Services officer showed a rare black panther ambling around the verdant landscape of north Bengal.
It is a slang name for huge, melanistic cats in the Panthera genus that are renowned for their enigmatic charm and eye-catching back fur.
Asia, Africa, and the Americas are the three continents where it can be found. It frequently lives in mountainous areas, grasslands, and dense tropical rainforests.
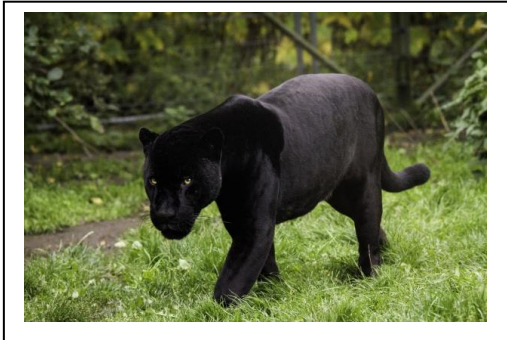
183. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity

Disorder: According to a UK study that was published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, persons with this disorder have a glaringly different life expectancy.

This neurodevelopmental disorder affects hyperactivity, impulsivity, and focus. Although it is frequently identified in children, it frequently continues into maturity. 3-4% of adults globally are affected.

184. Sachetization Plan: To facilitate

small-ticket systematic investment plans with monthly beginning prices of Rs. 250, the Securities and Exchange Board of India is launching a sachetization plan.

It is a tactic used to break into price-sensitive markets that is modelled after FMCG items and offers small, reasonably priced units. In terms of financial services, it enables low-income investors to participate in mutual funds by making smaller, more manageable investments.

185. Cauvery-South Vellar Link Project:

The Supreme Court recently pointed out that, in spite of the state's plea in January 2021, the Center has not given Tamil Nadu's Cauvery-South Vellar Link Project in-principal approval.

A project in Tamil Nadu aims to redirect excess floodwater from the Mettur Dam to dry tanks located in the Salem district's Sarabanga Basin. It seeks to restore water bodies in regions vulnerable to drought and guarantee effective water utilization for crops.

Talakaveri, in the Brahmagiri Hills in the Western Ghats of Karnataka, is where the Cauvery River begins. It passes through Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, and Karnataka.

186. Rules Regarding Spam: In India's

telecom sector, spam—officially known as unsolicited commercial communication—has become a recurring problem that raises security concerns and public annoyance.

In 2007, TRAI launched the Do-Not-Disturb Registry, which enables users to ban commercial calls and messages. Telemarketers who break it risk blacklisting and warnings. Tighter regulations are in place to monitor message sources and deter manipulation.

DoT launched the Sanchar Saathi Portal to report fraudulent calls and texts, working with telcos, banks, and law enforcement to

block illegitimate numbers.

187. Aspergillosis of the Chronic Pulmonary:
TB survivors in Assam's tea estates are at risk of dying from this serious fungal illness. It is brought on by the fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus*, which primarily affects those with immunodeficiency or pre-existing lung diseases, especially those who have had tuberculosis in the past.

Common symptoms include persistent respiratory distress, fatigue and weight loss, and a persistent cough.

188. Tidal Flooding:
In the Ernakulam district, it has recently increased in frequency. More regions are being impacted as the encroaching water remains in place longer.

The temporary flooding of low-lying coastal areas during high tide occurrences, such full and new moons, is known as tidal flooding. When it is linked to extremely high tides, it is frequently referred to as "king tide" or "sunny day" flooding.
It happens when local sea levels momentarily rise as a result of high tide, offshore storms, winds, and full moon cycles. Localized flooding frequently occurs as a result of coastal drainage systems' inability to handle this abrupt rise.

189. Poisoning by Paraquat:
Following a high-profile murder case in Kerala when the chemical was utilized to commit a crime, it has attracted notice.
Due to its deadly nature, this herbicide is widely used, extremely poisonous, and prohibited in more than 70 nations.

Even in trace doses, it is exceedingly deadly, and the WHO has categorized it as a Category 2 chemical.

190. Unified Pension Scheme:
With effect from April 1, 2025, the finance ministry has announced that central government employees will have the option to participate in the United Pension Scheme as part of the National Pension System. Government workers are guaranteed retirement benefits under this contributory pension plan, which also provides a monthly pension equal to 50% of their most recent basic pay. The Ministry of Finance introduced it, and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority would oversee its regulation. Through guaranteed benefits and post-retirement financial security, it seeks to allay employee complaints about the market-linked returns of the NPS.

10% of their base pay is contributed by employees. Five percent of basic pay is contributed by the government, and this amount may be adjusted in accordance with actuarial evaluations to guarantee sustainability.

191. Citizenship by Birthright: In the United States, where attempts to change the 14th Amendment's interpretation have led to judicial challenges, talks have recently heated up.

All individuals born or naturalized in the United States and falling under its authority are citizens of the United States, according to the 14th amendment of the US Constitution, which was enacted in 1868. It was put in place to guarantee emancipated slaves' citizenship rights following the Civil War.

192. Surajpur Wetland: To protect the Surajpur Wetland, which is endangered by the uncontrolled release of contaminated wastewater into its waterways, the Greater Noida Authority has started a project.

There are *Phoenix trees* all around the lake, and the vegetation is tropically moist and dry deciduous. Rare and migratory birds including the Bar-headed Goose, Red-crested Pochard, Spot-billed Duck, and Lesser Whistling Duck call it home.

193. India's Apple Man: The Padma Shri has been given to *Shri Hariman Sharma, affectionately referred to as the "Apple Man of India,"* in recognition of this revolutionary agricultural breakthrough. His creation of the *HRMN-99 apple variety* has revolutionized apple growing in India by making it possible to grow apples in unconventional areas and promoting environmentally friendly farming methods.

The self-pollinating, low-chilling HRMN-99 apple variety thrives in tropical and sub-tropical climates with temperatures between 40 and 45 degrees Celsius. In 29 states and union territories, including non-traditional apple-growing areas like Bihar, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, it has been successfully grown.
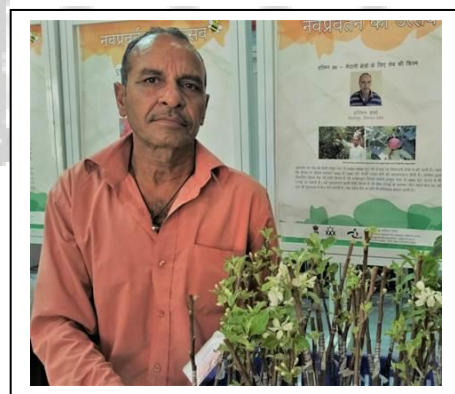
194. The improved system of the Certificate of Origin 2.0: The Enhanced Certificate of Origin 2.0 system, a digital platform designed to streamline export certification CAROTAR-2020 regulations

and increase trade efficiency, was unveiled by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

It is a modern digital platform for certifying the origin of exported goods through the issuance of Certificates of Origin. It ensures international trade conformity by providing exporters with easy access to both preferential and non-preferential CoOs.

It speeds up processing and increases the accuracy of trade documentation. It makes re-export and intermediate trading more transparent.

195. Lala Lajpat Rai: The country marks the 160th anniversary of the birth of Lala Lajpat Rai, a pivotal figure in the Indian liberation movement who is renowned for his unwavering resistance to British colonial control.

Known as the *"Lion of Punjab"* or Punjab Kesari, he was a significant contributor, a social reformer, and an inspirational leader. He is a well-known INC member who took part in a number of political protests in Punjab. He backed the Gandhi-led Non-Cooperation Movement and opposed the division of Bengal. As the representative of the radical section of Congress, he was a crucial member of the Lal-Bal-Pal triangle. In 1917, he established the Home Rule League of America to rally support for India's independence from other countries. He denounced the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and demonstrated against repressive measures such as the Rowlatt act.

In an effort to encourage financial independence, he co-founded the Punjab National Bank. To help hunger victims and shield them from religious conversion, he established the Hindu Relief Movement. He founded the *Servants of People Society* to promote social justice and reform. He contributed to Arya Samaj's social and educational projects and was actively connected with the organization.
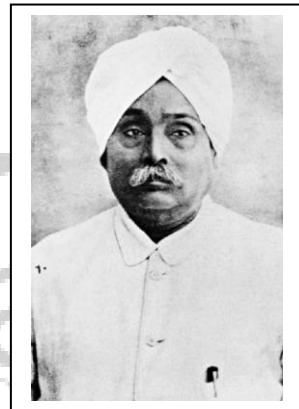
196. India honours Libia Lobo Sardesai, a 100-year-old freedom fighter who received the Padma Shri for her outstanding contribution to the liberation movement in Goa.

The liberation movement accelerated from 1954 to 1961. For more than 450 years, Goa was ruled by the Portuguese.

Nationalist sentiments were fuelled by economic exploitation and the repressive

administration. When India established an economic blockade in 1954 following the Portuguese persecution of satyagrahis, it marked a turning point.

Launched on December 17, 1961, *Operation Vijay* was India's last military operation. It resulted in the Portuguese army' capitulation and the liberation of Goa on December 19.

Together with her husband and coworker Vaman Sardesai, Libia operated the *"Voice of Freedom of Goa" from 1955 to 1961*, disseminating news that refuted Portuguese propaganda.

197. Eowyn Storm: This bomb cyclone has wreaked havoc over the British Isles, especially in *Scotland and Ireland.*

It is distinguished by an abrupt decrease in air pressure that is more than twice as high as the threshold for "explosive cyclogenesis"

198. Lezim Dance: A scene in the upcoming Bollywood movie Chhava, which is based on the life of *Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj*, shows the Maratha King doing the Lezim dance. This has caused controversy.

This ancient folk dance, which has its roots in Maharashtra, is distinguished by its energetic motions and steady beats. During the dance, a distinctive sound is produced by the Lezim, a portable wooden instrument with metallic jingles.

It is widely performed in Maharashtra, particularly during cultural celebrations, marriage processions, and holidays like Ganesh Chaturthi.

In line with the community's cultural identity, it evolved to represent Maratha pride and solidarity.

199. Wetland City Accreditation: In accordance with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, *Indore and Udaipur* are the

first Indian cities to obtain the esteemed Wetland City Accreditation.

Under the Ramsar convention, cities are recognized for their voluntary efforts to conserve wetlands.

If cities continue to achieve the established international standards, the accreditation, which has a six-year validity period, may be extended.

The goal is to secure socioeconomic benefits for local inhabitants while preserving natural balance by encouraging conservation and prudent use of wetlands in urban and peri-urban regions.

200. Lake Victoria: According to a recent study, cyanobacteria-induced algal blooms in Lake Victoria pose serious risks to human health, ecosystems, and water quality.

Located in *East Africa*, it is the *second biggest freshwater lake in the world*. It includes Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The White Nile River is fed by it.

201. Andhra Pradesh Volunteer System: Since June 2024, the new administration has stopped paying more than 2.6 lakh volunteers, casting doubt on the once-prominent grassroots governance model. Since its founding in 2019, 2.6 lakh village and ward volunteers have been assigned, each of whom is in charge of 40–50 families. As last-mile intermediaries, volunteers made sure that welfare programs were delivered directly to recipients. paid an honorarium of Rs. 5,000 each month, promising to raise it to Rs. 10,000 after the election.

Effect on Governance: Decentralization was strengthened, the COVID-19 pandemic response was handled, bureaucratic gaps were closed, political dispute was resolved, and young people in rural areas were given jobs.

202. When-Listed Platform: In order to control pre-listing share trading and safeguard investor interests, *SEBI intends to implement a "when-listed" platform.*

It seeks to guarantee transparency, minimize grey market trading, and offer a

controlled channel for share transactions prior to listing.

It improves investor protection and market transparency. In the grey market, it reduces speculative activity and volatility.

The unofficial trading of securities, especially shares, prior to their formal listing on stock exchanges is referred to as the "grey market." It depends on supply and demand dynamics and functions outside of the regulatory framework.

203. Bhashini: By providing access to digital services in regional languages, Tripura has become the first state in the northeast to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Bhashini, a Digital India program that aims to advance multilingual administration and close the digital divide.

Bhashini is an AI-powered language translation tool in India that supports 22 Indian languages and is intended to promote easy communication and internet accessibility. It promotes digital inclusivity and breaks down linguistic barriers through voice-based technology.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of India's Digital India Bhashini Division is responsible for its development.

By encouraging multilingual internet usage, it seeks to reduce the digital and literacy divide and make it simple to access digital services in Indian languages.

204. WASP-127b: On the exoplanet WASP-127b, astronomers have seen jet-stream winds that can reach 33,000 km/h, which is the fastest planetary wind ever detected.

Despite having only sixteen percent of Jupiter's mass, it is thirty percent larger than Jupiter, making it one of the puffiest planets ever seen.

It is a useful topic for atmospheric research because, in addition to being mostly composed of hydrogen and helium, its atmosphere also contains water and carbon monoxide.

204. WHO Guidelines on Table Salt: In order to lessen cardiovascular risks and enhance public health, the WHO has published new guidelines suggesting that ordinary table salt be replaced with potassium-containing, lower-sodium salt replacements.

Adults are the goal of the recommendation, however pregnant women, children, and anyone with kidney impairments or illnesses that influence potassium excretion are not. Instead of packaged or restaurant goods, it concentrates on table salt for the home.

Consuming a lot of sodium raises blood pressure, which is a significant risk factor

for heart attacks, strokes, and chronic renal disease.

206. ISRO's Launch Vehicle: The NVS-02 satellite was successfully sent into GTO by ISRO using the GSLV-F15 rocket. India's space capabilities are enhanced by this milestone, which marks *ISRO's 100th launch.*

It improves positioning accuracy as a component of India's regional navigation satellite system, NavIC.

207. Reinforcement Learning Model:

The Chinese AI start-up Deep Seek has drawn international notice for its ground-breaking R1 reinforcement learning mode, which exhibits sophisticated reasoning abilities for a fraction of the price of comparable models from American firms like Open AI.

In this kind of machine learning, an AI model gains decision-making skills through interaction with the environment and feedback in the form of incentives or sanctions. Maximizing cumulative benefits over time is the aim.

208. Darfur region: In response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sudan's Darfur region, the prosecutor for the International Criminal Court has demanded immediate UN Security Council action.

The neighbouring nations are *South*

Sudan, Chad, Libya, and the Central African Republic.

209. Nano-Urea and Yield Reduction:

According to a recent study by Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana that was published in the journal Plant Soil, nano-urea caused 35% and 24% lower protein content in rice and wheat, respectively, as well as lower yields in paddy and wheat.

As an alternative to conventional soil application, Nano-Urea is a liquid nitrogen-based fertilizer that is sprayed on leaves.

210. P.M. Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:

According to the Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, 8.5 lakh households have installed rooftop solar connections about a year after the 75, 000 crore PM-Surya Ghar plan was introduced. Through the installation of rooftop solar panels, homes will receive free electricity thanks to this centrally supported program. One crore families are to receive up to 300

units of free power every month. The program offers a 40% cost discount for the installation of solar panels.


211. Paris AI conference, 2025:

Alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, the Indian Prime Minister will co-chair the Paris AI conference from February 10–11, 2025.

It is a high-level international conference with an emphasis on ethical governance, innovation, and regulation of AI. It expands on earlier summits on AI safety that were conducted in Seoul in 2024 and Bletchley Park in 2023 with the goal of establishing an international agreement on AI regulations.

212. Diseases of the Retina: It is especially inherited. Due to developments in RNA-based therapies, which provide promise for treating genetic origins of blindness, retinal diseases are receiving more attention.

Disorders affecting the retina, the light-sensitive tissue in the rear of the eye, are known as retinal diseases. Progressive vision loss and, in extreme situations, blindness can result from these conditions. They may result from aging, genetic mutations, or other underlying medical disorders.

Light is transformed by the retina into neural signals, which go through the optic nerve to the brain. It has specialized cells called photoreceptors that allow us to see by detecting colour and light.
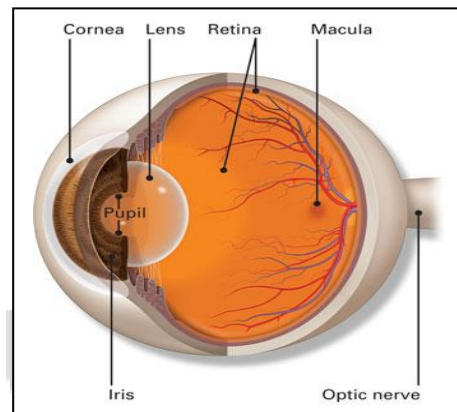

213. The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM): With an investment of Rs. 18,000 crores from PSUs and an expenditure of Rs. 16,300 crores, the NCCM has been approved by the Union Cabinet.

A strategic project, NCCM aims to guarantee India's independence in vital mineral resources. These minerals are essential for electronics, defence production, and renewable energy, which lessens reliance on imports and promotes industrial development.

214. Nuclear Fusion: By maintaining a plasma state for more than 1,000 seconds, China's experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak reactor achieved a new record.

The Sun and other stars are powered by nuclear fusion, a process in which two light atomic nuclei join to form a heavier nucleus while releasing a tremendous amount of energy.
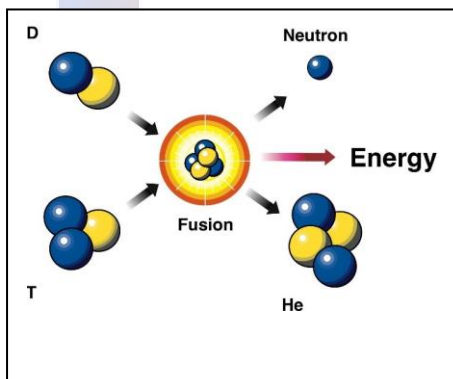
215. Team Initiative: To increase digital commerce for MSMEs, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises created the *Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM)* initiative.
This government program uses the Open Network for Digital Commerce to assist MSMEs in embracing digital commerce.
Under the *"Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity" initiative*, it was introduced.
Its goal is to encourage inclusivity by guaranteeing that 50% of enterprises are run by women.

216. Democratic Republic of Congo: The world has taken notice of the M23 rebel group's recent attack in the DRC, which has seen them grab important territories in Goma, in the country's east.

In the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Goma serves as the capital of North Kivu Province. It is located close to the Rwandan and Ugandan borders on the northern bank of Lake Kivu.

217. Water-Guzzling Crops in Uttar Pradesh: The over-cultivation of water-intensive crops including wheat, sugarcane, and paddy is causing a serious groundwater issue in Uttar Pradesh, India's major groundwater extractor.
In 2023, 46 billion cubic meters of groundwater were extracted by Uttar Pradesh, mostly for agricultural purposes.
Irrigation uses over 90% of extracted water, which is much higher than the rates of natural replenishment.

218. Devi Ahilyabai Holkar: To commemorate Devi Ahilyabai Holkar's 300th birthday, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, in partnership with Lokmata Ahilyabai Trishatabdi Samaroh Samiti, held a special lecture titled "Devi Ahilya-Empress Renunciate."

From *1767 until 1795, she was the ruler of the Holkar dynasty in Indore*, which was part of the Maratha Confederacy. She held public meetings every day to address people's complaints. In Maheshwar, she founded a textile company that is now well-known for *Maheshwari Sarees*. While preserving financial stability, she encouraged trade and industrialization. In 1780, she repaired and rebuilt the temple of Kashi Vishwanath. In order to protect Indore from outside assaults, she personally oversaw troops

219.Mission-4 for Axiom: Since *Shubhanshu Shukla*, an Indian Air Force officer and ISRO astronaut, is scheduled to become the first Indian astronaut to visit the International Space Station on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, it has attracted a lot of attention. Axiom Space, a US-based space infrastructure corporation, is operating the private spaceflight to the International Space Station, known as Axiom Mission-4. After Axiom Missions 1, 2, and 3, this is the fourth mission in partnership with NASA.

It seeks to promote space tourism and the construction of commercial space stations, among other business endeavours in low Earth orbit. With a multinational crew, the mission highlights international collaboration in space exploration. Scientific research, technical demonstrations, and educational outreach on board the ISS will be the main objectives of the 14-day mission.

220. Yamuna River Ammonia Contamination: The Delhi government and the Haryana government are at odds over the Yamuna River's elevated ammonia levels.

According to the Delhi Jal Board, ammonia levels frequently surpass the 1 ppm allowable limit.

Ammonia-containing untreated wastewater is discharged into the *Yamuna by factories in the Haryana districts of Panipat and Sonipat.* Fertilizers based on ammonia are one source of the contamination. The river's ammonia levels are additionally raised by untreated sewage from cities.

Ammonia is naturally released as organic matter, such algae, breaks down. Because of its corrosive qualities, high ammonia levels can harm internal organs. It damages aquatic life and degrades the river ecology by lowering the dissolved oxygen levels in the water.

The *Yamuna River rises from the Himalayan Yamunotri Glacier*. It passes through *Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Uttarakhand.*
The Rishi Ganga, Hindon, Chambal, Sind, Betwa, and Ken are some of its principal tributaries.
At Prayagraj, the Yamuna River merges with the Ganges River.
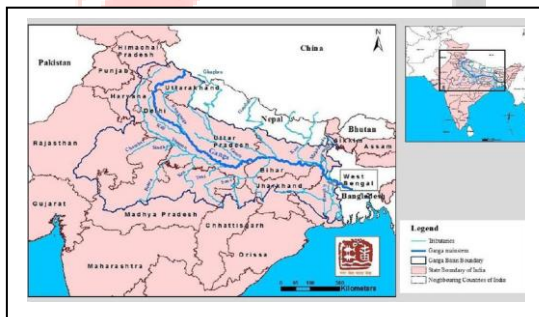
221. Payment and Settlement Systems act, 2007: The RBI has strengthened guidelines for compounding offenses and levying monetary penalties under this statute.

It is a law that oversees and controls India's payment systems.

It seeks to establish a legislative framework for the oversight and control of India's payment networks. It guarantees payment systems' efficiency, customer protection, and financial stability.

222. Salmonella Outbreaks: A University of Surrey study emphasizes the connection between weather and a rise in Salmonella outbreaks, highlighting how climate change contributes to the spread of infectious diseases. Salmonellosis is the popular term for the foodborne illness caused by this species of bacterium. Contaminated food, particularly raw or undercooked meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products, are the sources. Common symptoms include headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, and cramping in the stomach.

223. Potomac River: All 67 personnel on board a US Army Black Hawk helicopter and an American Airlines passenger jet perished in a catastrophic mid-air collision over the Potomac River.
It flows through Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States.
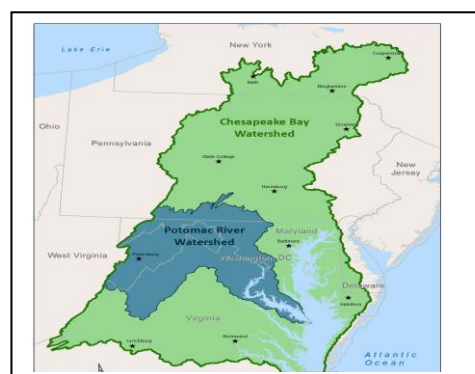
224. Kurdistan Region: In an effort to strengthen its humanitarian efforts and relations with Iraq, *India supplied medical supplies, such as ventilators and bronchodilators, to Kurdistan*.

The scenery is dominated by the Zagros Mountains, which serve as natural boundaries with Turkey and Iran.