


Dear Students,

We understand that while reading the magazine, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to decide what to focus on first. To make your preparation smoother and more strategic, we've introduced three support features — designed to work together with your preparation style.

FAQ Document – To Help You Understand Better

- It makes student understand the relevance of the document for the respective examination by making student understand the Weightage, Timeline, Date of Uploading with respect to the document.
- Click here to read the FAQ document.
 - [RBI](#)
 - [NABARD](#)

YouTube Videos – To Help You Reinforce Concepts

- We have covered some of the most important news articles from the document in a simplified format
- We have added a YouTube icon () with embedded link along with the titles of news which are covered in the YouTube lectures.

Colour Coding – To Help You Prioritise

- We have introduced two dedicated colour codes to help you quickly identify high-priority content.
- **Colour Code Classification:**
 - Relevant for Phase I (**Light Blue Color**) Example – **2.1 National TB Elimination Programme**

- Relevant for Phase I and II (**Maroon Color**) – **2.3** **Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine**

After taking a printout the news will look as follows:

Phase I (It will appear light in color) - 

Phase I and II (It will appear dark in color) - 




- **Important Note:**

- The **colour codes** have been applied **only** to those news items that carry **high exam priority**, based on analysis of previous year question trends and expected relevance.
- Students are **strongly advised** to go through the **entire magazine** for **comprehensive coverage**.
- However, if you are short on time and wish to focus only on high-priority topics, you may use these colour codes as a quick reference guide.

Warm regards,

Team EduTap

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1. GA IN NEWS

PIB IN NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	Khelo India Tribal Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's first national multi-sport event for tribal athletes. Hosted in Chhattisgarh across Raipur, Jagdalpur and Surguja. Organized under Khelo India Scheme. Official Mascot: <i>Morveer</i>, Derived from the Chhattisgarhi words 'Mor' (our own) and 'Veer' (bravery). Karnataka emerged as the overall champion with 23 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals. Odisha finished second with 21 gold, 15 silver and 21 bronze medals. Jharkhand secured the third position with 16 gold, 8 silver and 11 bronze medals. Manikanta L. from Karnataka emerged as the most decorated athlete by winning a total of 9 medals in swimming (8 gold and 1 silver).
2.	bob SAMVAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched by Bank of Baroda. An industry-first AI-powered multilingual conversational platform. Enables real-time communication between bank staff and customers at branch counters using speech-to-speech and text-to-speech technology. The platform supports 22 Indian languages.
3.	Production and Dispatch in Captive and Commercial Mines for FY 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production and dispatch from captive/commercial blocks crossed 200 MT for the first time. Coal production from captive and commercial mines reached 210.46 MT, registering a robust year-on-year growth of 10.22% over 190.95 MT in the previous fiscal. Dispatches also witnessed a strong uptick, touching 204.61 MT and marking a 7.35% increase compared to 190.42 MT in FY 2024-25.
4.	First mining company in India to surpass the 50 MT annual production mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milestone achieved by NMDC, India's largest iron ore producer. Achieved a historic landmark with the production of 53 MT of iron ore in FY26.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

S.No	Summit/Conference	Key Outcomes
1.	Outcomes Finance Alliance (OFA) Summit 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Venue: Cape Town, South Africa. A leading global platform that brings together governments, philanthropies, investors, multilaterals, intermediaries, and delivery

		partners to advance the role of outcomes-based approaches in development finance.
2.	Bharat Tribes Fest 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue: New Delhi. • Organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) along with Ministry of Tribal Affairs. • A massive showcase of tribal excellence with stalls representing Van DhanVikasKendras (VDVKs) and master artisans from across India. <p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched “RISA: Timeless Tribal” - A Premium National Brand for tribal textiles, embroidery, and handicrafts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementing Agency: TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India). ○ Mission: To transform traditional tribal crafts into aspirational, global luxury products while ensuring fair profits return directly to the artisans. ○ Brand Name inspired by the Risa, a traditional handwoven stole from Tripura. • Bharat Tribes Business Conclave 2026 was organized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase I: covers 10 clusters including weaves, embroidery, and crafts across states.

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
1.	Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) & Mappls App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: To enable the display of authorised Aadhaar centres on their Mappls App.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Technology in News	Key Facts
1.	SPADEX-2 and SPADEX-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming advanced orbital docking experiments by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). • Follow the success of the initial SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) mission launched in 2024, which made India the fourth nation to master autonomous space docking after USA, Russia, and China. • SPADEX-2: Designed to replicate docking in a highly elliptical orbit, a precursor for the Chandrayaan-4 lunar sample return mission, where a lander must dock with an orbiter to return samples to Earth. • SPADEX-3: Focuses on docking in a circular orbit between two pressurized modules using Bharatiya Docking System (BDS). a precursor for the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS), testing the docking interfaces and procedures needed to assemble and operate India's planned space station.

2.	<p>Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The indigenously designed and built PFBR at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu successfully attained its first criticality, marking the initiation of a sustained nuclear chain reaction. A 500 MWe (MegaWatt electrical) reactor built by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) at the Kalpakkam Nuclear Complex. With this achievement, India has officially entered the second stage of its three-stage nuclear power programme. Once fully operational, India will become only the second country in the world after Russia to operate a commercial fast breeder reactor. <p>About India's three-stage nuclear power programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First conceived by Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, the architect of India's nuclear programme. Stage 1: Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs): Natural uranium is used as fuel in PHWRs to generate power. The spent fuel from these reactors produces plutonium, which becomes the primary input for the next stage. Stage 2: The plutonium obtained from Stage 1 is used as fuel in Fast Breeder Reactors, which generate more fuel than they consume. Stage 3: Thorium-Based Reactors: This stage will harness India's vast thorium reserves at scale, using the Uranium-233 bred in Stage 2 as fuel.
3.	<p>YUva Vigyani KAryakram (YUVIKA)/ Young Scientist Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2019. Annual two-week residential program, designed to "catch them young" by sparking interest in space science and technology among school students. Target Audience: students who have completed Class 9. Objective: To encourage students to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).
4.	<p>India's space economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's space economy is projected to grow to approximately \$44 billion by 2033 (~8% of the global space economy) and \$100 billion by 2040 (~10% of the global space economy). <p>Initiatives by the Government of India for the Growth of Space Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Space Policy 2023: Designed to institutionalise private sector participation in the Indian space domain. Liberalised Foreign Direct Investment policy governing space sector. 1000 Crores Venture Capital Fund. 500 Crores Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) for the development and commercialization of space technology.
5.	<p>India's Space Vision for 2047</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes establishing Bharatiya Antariksh Station and Indian Moon landing by 2040. Other Projects approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaganyaan follow-on mission & 1st module of BAS. Chandrayaan-4 /Lunar Sample Return Mission. Chandrayaan-5 / LuPex Mission Next generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) Venus Orbiter Mission

DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	<u>INS Taragiri</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth ship of the <i>Nilgiri</i>-class (Project 17A) stealth frigates. • Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai. • Formally commissioned into the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
2.	<u>INS Sudarshini</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Navy's sail training ship. • Arrived at the historic port city of Sète in France as part of the ongoing landmark transoceanic expedition Lokayan-26. • Also participated in '<i>Escale à Sète</i>', one of the most celebrated gatherings in Europe of traditional tall ships and seafaring communities. <p>About Lokayan-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 10-month, transoceanic sail training expedition by the Indian Navy. • Led by INS Sudarshini. • Showcases India's prominence in global maritime activities and Indian Navy's commitment to professional training and excellence in ocean sailing expedition.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

S.No	Book Title	Key Facts
1.	<u>'Tides of Time: India's History through Murals in Parliament'</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author: Sudha Murty, noted writer, philanthropist, and Rajya Sabha MP .

DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	<u>8th Foundation Day of National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) (April 1)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. • Serves as the central nodal agency for managing Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).
2.	<u>63rd National Maritime Day (April 5)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: "Maritime India – Empowering Progress". • Commemorates the maiden voyage of the SS Loyalty, the first Indian-owned merchant vessel, which sailed from Mumbai to London in 1919.

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts										
1.	Rare Earth Reserves in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India holds world's third largest rare earth resources (USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, January, 2025). <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Mineral</th> <th>States</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monazite (Beach & Red Sands)</td> <td>Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monazite (Inland Alluvium)</td> <td>Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rare Earth Oxides (Hard Rock)</td> <td>Ambadungar area, Chhota Udepur district, Gujarat and Bhatikhera and Dantala area, Balotra district, Rajasthan.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Xenotime (Riverine Deposits)</td> <td>Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Mineral	States	Monazite (Beach & Red Sands)	Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat	Monazite (Inland Alluvium)	Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu	Rare Earth Oxides (Hard Rock)	Ambadungar area, Chhota Udepur district, Gujarat and Bhatikhera and Dantala area, Balotra district, Rajasthan.	Xenotime (Riverine Deposits)	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
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Xenotime (Riverine Deposits)	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand											
2.	Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officially designates Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh. 										
3.	IndiaSkills National Competition 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and supported by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Odisha topped the medal tally with 57 medals (15 Gold, 12 Silver, 14 Bronze, and 16 Medallions for Excellence). Tamil Nadu and Karnataka came 2nd and 3rd respectively. 										

OTHER NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	OpenAI's first Managing Director for the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Kiran Mani He recently served as the CEO – Digital at JioStar.
2.	First woman Municipal Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Ashwini Bhide. Known widely as the "Metro Woman of Mumbai". Succeeds Bhushan Gagrani. She is credited with driving the execution of the Mumbai's first underground metro corridor, the Aqua Line (Metro Line 3). BMC in Maharashtra is India's richest and one of the oldest civic bodies.

3.	<p>First pace bowler and only the second player overall to reach 200 wickets in the Indian Premier League</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milestone achieved by Bhuvneshwar Kumar (RCB). Achieved the milestone by taking the wicket of Ayush Mhatre (CSK). The first person to reach the milestone of 200 wickets in IPL history was the leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in 2024. As of April 2026, Chahal and Bhuvneshwar Kumar are the only two bowlers in the history of the tournament to have crossed the 200-wicket threshold.
4.	<p>First-ever brand ambassador for Jindal Stainless</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Ranveer Singh.
5.	<p>First Indian woman to reach Mount Everest Base Camp (EBC) on a bicycle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Divya Singh. She is from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. <p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first woman in the world to reach Everest Base Camp (EBC) on a bicycle is Tammat Bil Khoar from Bangladesh.
6.	<p>Indian Army's first comprehensive Technology Roadmap for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Loitering Munitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The roadmap lists 30 distinct types of UAS and loitering munitions, translating into nearly 80 variants tailored for different terrains and roles.
7.	<p>Mission MITRA (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched as a part of Gaganyaan mission. A first- team behavioral study designed by ISRO and the India Air Force's (IAF) Institute of Aerospace Medicine. India's first large-scale analog space mission designed to test the mental and physical endurance of astronauts. Held in Leh, Ladakh. Analyzes how astronauts (Gaganyatris) and ground control teams interact and make decisions under operational stress. <p>About Gaganyaan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's flagship human spaceflight programme. Aimed at sending a crew of three into a 400-km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) for a three-day mission and returning them safely to Earth via a splashdown in Indian waters. Four Indian Air Force pilots have been selected and trained for the mission: Prashant Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap and Shubhanshu Shukla.
8.	<p>World's first dedicated freight-only Shinkansen service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in Japan by East Japan Railway Company The train is a repurposed E3 series passenger bullet train.
9.	<p>India's first hydrogen train</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully completed its oscillation trial runs in Jind, Haryana. Often referred to as the "Namo Green Rail." Part of the "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative, which aims to modernize rail travel with zero-emission technology.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed and manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai. A dedicated green hydrogen production plant has been established at Jind The pilot service will operate on the Jind–Sonipat section of the Northern Railway in Haryana. India will join an elite global league of countries including Germany, Sweden, Japan and China – that operate hydrogen-powered trains.
10.	1st National Indoor Athletics Championships 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held at the Kalinga Athletics Indoor Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Men's 60m: Gurindervir Singh clocked 6.60s to break the 8-year-old record of 6.67s. Men's 800m: Mohammed Afsal set a new national record of 1:47.86, becoming the first Indian to hold the "Double Crown" (both indoor and outdoor national records) in the 800m.
11.	Prahar Light Machine Guns (LMGs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Army received 2,000 'Prahar' LMGs from Adani Defence and Aerospace. Produced by PLR Systems, a joint venture between Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) and the Adani Group. Part of a larger contract for 41,000 units signed in 2024 to replace the Indian Army's ageing 5.56mm INSAS LMGs. Adani Group became the first private company in India to manufacture small arms and ammunition. Prahar LMG is known as Negev NG7 in Israel. Manufactured in India under the 'Make in India' programme.
12.	India's first integrated quantum technology park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Amaravati Quantum Valley. Currently under development in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. Aligns with National Quantum Mission.
13.	First asset management company to be headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Lakshya Asset Management Company (Lakshya AMC). Wealth First Portfolio Managers Limited received final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to launch its mutual fund business. The new business will operate through a subsidiary called Lakshya Asset Management Company (Lakshya AMC).

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
1.	Government of Meghalaya & Starlink India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To pilot satellite-based high-speed internet in its most remote and geographically challenging regions. Meghalaya is the third Indian state to formally partner with Starlink, following similar agreements in Maharashtra and Gujarat
2.	NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) & Dhruva Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: to collaborate on space-grade solar panels.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Technology in News	Key Facts
1.	MAI-Transcribe-1, MAI-Voice-1, and MAI-Image-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three new first-party AI models of Microsoft.
2.	BA.3.2 (Cicada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new COVID-19 variant spreading rapidly in the U.S. • A sub-lineage of the Omicron variant (emerged in 2021). • First identified in 2024 in Africa.

DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	India's defence exports in 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touched an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore in the financial year 2025-26, marking a sharp increase of ₹14,802 crore (62.66%) over the previous fiscal's figure of ₹23,622 crore. • Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) led the growth with a massive 151% increase, contributing ₹21,071 crore (54.84%). • The private sector contributed ₹17,353 crore (45.16%), a 14% rise from the previous year.
2.	INS Aridhaman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's third indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN). • Officially commissioned into the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam. <p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first and second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) in India are INS Arihant and INS Arighaat.

AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Key Facts
1.	2026 Skytrax World Airport Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore's Changi Airport has topped the list of world's best airports for the fourteenth time since 2000. • Indian airports among world's top 100 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi: Retained its title as the Best Airport in India & South Asia for the eighth consecutive year and rose to 28th globally. ○ Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru: took the 41st spot, and was also recognised as the 'Best Regional Airport in India & South Asia' for third consecutive year. ○ Manohar International Airport, Goa: Ranked 64th. ○ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai: 66th spot.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded to Bengali author Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay.

2.	35th Saraswati Samman (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded for his Bengali novel "Hara Parbati Katha." <p>About the Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991. Awarded annually to outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published during the last 10 years. Cash Prize: ₹15 lakh.
3.	Chetak Screen Awards 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dhurandar won a record 14 awards. <p>Key Winners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Film: Homebound (Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan). Best Actor (Male): Ranveer Singh (Dhurandar). Best Actor (Female): Yami Gautam Dhar (Haq).
4.	Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Nanaji Deshmukh Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three institutions from Tripura have been recognized for excellence in grassroots governance. Sepahijala District Panchayat: Ranked 1st in the Best District Panchayat category. Kanchanbari Gram Panchayat (Unakoti District): Ranked 1st in the Healthy Panchayat category. Baikunthapur Gram Panchayat (West Tripura District): Ranked 3rd in the Women-Friendly Panchayat category.
5.	2025 Asian Squash Federation (ASF) Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Girls' Player of the Year (Hassan Musa Award): Anahat Singh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His honors follow a standout season that included winning his maiden Indian Open title and securing India's first-ever World Cup mixed team gold. Men's Player of the Year (Dato Alex Lee Award): Abhay Singh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His honors follow a standout season that included winning his maiden Indian Open title and securing India's first-ever World Cup mixed team gold. India also won the ASF Men's Team Award.
6.	Hockey India Annual Awards 2025- Eight Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year 2025: Navneet Kaur (Women) & Hardik Singh (Men). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardik Singh secured his third consecutive title. Lifetime Achievement Award (Major Dhyan Chand Award): Zafar Iqbal.

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	Ravindra Jadeja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the primary Brand Ambassador of City Union Bank.
2.	Matt Brittin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the new Director- General of BBC; replaces Tim Davie. Matt Brittin is the former President of Google for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA).
3.	Vir Vikram Yadav	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Succeeds Faiz Ahmed Kidwai.
4.	William Walsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo). Predecessor: Pieter Elbers. William Walsh is presently serving as the Director General of International Air Transport Association (IATA).
5.	Min Aung Hlaing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected as the President of Myanmar.
6.	Uchral Nyam-Osor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected as the Prime Minister of Mongolia.
7.	Blanka Vlašić	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the International Event Ambassador for the 18th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026. She is a legendary Croatian high jumper and double Olympic medallist.
8.	To Lam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected as the President of Vietnam.

PERSONS IN NEWS

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	Atanu Chakraborty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resigned as the Part-time Chairman and Independent Director of HDFC Bank. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Keki Mistry to serve as the interim Part-time Chairman.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

S.No	Book Title	Key Facts
1.	A Road Well Travelled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autobiography of Former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director R.K. Raghavan.

PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place in News	Key Facts
1.	Lipulekh Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. India and China are scheduled to resume border trade via the Lipulekh Pass in June 2026, ending a six-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions. The decision follows a high-level diplomatic agreement reached to reopen three Himalayan trade routes: Lipulekh (Uttarakhand), Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh), and Nathu La (Sikkim).

DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	International Day of Zero Waste (March 30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: Food Waste.
2.	World Autism Awareness Day 2026 (April 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value".
3.	World Health Day 2026 (April 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Together for health. Stand with science."

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	Argentina withdraws from World Health Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina has formally withdrawn from the World Health Organization (WHO). United States was the first country to withdrew from the WHO in January 2026.
2.	Jones Act (Merchant Marine Act of 1920)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A landmark United States federal law that regulates domestic maritime commerce. It mandates that all goods transported by water between U.S. ports be carried on ships that are built, owned, and flagged in the U.S. and crewed by U.S. citizens. The President of the United States issued a 60-day waiver of the act in response to the economic shocks caused by the ongoing 2026 Iran-United States War.
3.	Highest-value work of modern Indian art ever sold at auction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: "Yashoda and Krishna". Painted by 19th-century artist Raja Ravi Varma. Fetches a record-breaking ₹167.2 crore (approximately \$17.9 million) at Saffronart's Spring Live Auction in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

2. GA + ESI

PIB IN NEWS

SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

2.1 Computational Thinking and AI Curriculum for Classes 3–8

Why in News

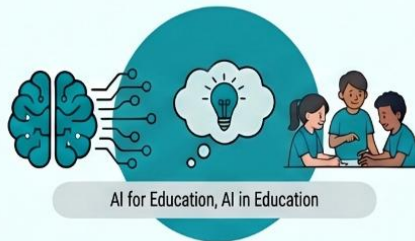
- Recently, the Ministry of Education launched a new curriculum on **Computational Thinking (CT)** and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** for Classes 3 to 8.
- It was developed by a panel constituted in October 2025, chaired by **Dr. Karthik Raman (IIT Madras)** and is aligned with **NEP 2020 Vision** and **National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023**, aimed at making India a global leader in emerging domains like AI by integrating them into school education.

Computational Thinking (CT)

CT is a **structured problem-solving approach** that involves breaking down complex challenges into smaller, logical steps that a human or a machine can follow.

It involves **Decomposition** (breaking problems down), **Pattern Recognition**, **Abstraction** (filtering essential information), and **Algorithmic Thinking** (step-by-step solutions).

CBSE: Building AI-Ready Learners (Classes III-VIII)



AI for Education, AI in Education

THE RELEVANCE OF CT AND AI

- Intellectual Backbone of Innovation**
Computational thinking serves as the cognitive framework required to understand and eventually create AI-driven solutions.
- Beyond Coding: Cognitive Development**
The curriculum fosters essential human capacities such as logical thinking, systematic problem-solving, and pattern recognition.
- Holistic & Interdisciplinary Growth**
By connecting Mathematics, Science, and Humanities, the curriculum helps students see that knowledge is interconnected rather than compartmentalized.
- Future-Ready Digital Citizenship**
Early exposure ensures students can use data effectively and apply technology ethically in the modern world of work.

MAPPING TO NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS (NEP/NCF)

- NEP 2020 Vision Realized**
Integrates AI and Machine Learning into schools to fulfill the goal of making India a global leader in emerging domains.
- NCF-SE 2023 Alignment**
Learning standards—including Goals, Competencies, and Outcomes—are derived directly from the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023.
- Phased Implementation Strategy**
Following NCF recommendations, CT is introduced first as a critical basis for learning AI in higher classes.

PEDAGOGY (How it is Taught)

- Playful and Experiential Learning**
Education is driven by "fun" math games, puzzles, and hands-on exercises using specialized worksheets.
- Problem-Solving Focus**
Students are taught to break large, complex problems into smaller, manageable parts and interpret visual data like charts.
- Collaborative Environment**
Peer discussions and group tasks are prioritized to encourage students to solve problems collectively.

ROLLOUT DETAILS

Target Grades: Classes III to VIII
Implementation Session: 2026-2027
Core Focus Area: Computational Thinking (CT) as a foundation for AI
Key Support Material: Structured modules and comprehensive teacher handbooks

ASSESSMENT METHODS

- Shift from Rote to Competency**
MEMORIZATION : Applying knowledge
Evaluation moves away from memorization toward continuous methods that assess a student's ability to apply knowledge.
- Qualitative Progress Tracking**
Teachers use Observation Journals to track creative thinking and progress over time.
- Interactive Assessment Tools**
Evaluation includes written tests featuring CT puzzles and interactive group activities.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.2 Prakriti 2026

Why in News

- Recently, the **Union Minister for Power & Housing and Urban Affairs** inaugurated the international conference **Prakriti 2026** and launched the **Indian Carbon Market (ICM) Portal** in New Delhi to accelerate India's transition to a low-carbon economy.
- **ICM portal acts as a centralized digital platform** designed to administer and operationalize India's national carbon trading framework.

Prakriti 2026

Organized by: Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Power and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Theme:** "Unlocking Carbon Finance for NDC Implementation through Global Partnerships and Digital Pathways."
- **Aim:** To provide a high-level platform for experts to deliberate on the evolving dynamics of carbon markets.
 - To mobilize finance and leverage digital innovation for India's green growth.
 - To reinforce India's climate commitments and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Features:

- Covers compliance frameworks, Carbon Border policies, and empowering MSMEs and farmers.
- Focus on **Digital MRV** (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification) technologies to ensure emission reductions are verifiable and credible.
- Operates under the broader **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) 2023**.
- Renewable energy expansion, energy efficiency, and high-integrity carbon credits.

2.3 **NPC Appointed as Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA)**

Why in news

- Recently, the **National Productivity Council (NPC)** signed a landmark agreement with the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** to act as the **Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA)**, operationalizing the newly notified **Environment Audit Rules, 2025**.
- NPC is mandated to develop **digital systems** for managing audit processes and maintaining a **publicly accessible online register** of all certified and registered auditors.
- The NPC will now oversee environmental compliance across major Indian legislations such as:

Legislation / Act	Year	Core Focus & Audit Verification Areas
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1. Environment (Protection) Act	1986	Umbrella Framework: Provides the overarching legal basis for the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, and the EADA's authority.
2. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act	1974	Water Compliance: Verifies wastewater discharge standards and regulatory approvals like CTE (Consent to Establish) and CTO (Consent to Operate).
3. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act	1981	Air Compliance: Monitors industrial emissions, adherence to air quality standards, and the functioning of pollution control equipment.
4. Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam	1980	Forest Conservation: Regulates diversion of forest land and audits compliance with clearance conditions (e.g., compensatory afforestation).
5. Wildlife (Protection) Act	1972	Wildlife & Habitat: Ensures activities do not infringe upon protected areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries) or eco-sensitive zones.

ENVIRONMENT AUDIT DESIGNATED AGENCY (EADA)

UNIFIED OVERSIGHT & STANDARDIZED ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING IN INDIA

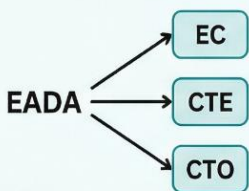
THE FOUNDATION

WHAT IS EADA?



Central regulatory authority (currently National Productivity Council) under Environment Audit Rules, 2025.

Manages third-party framework to verify industrial compliance.



VERIFIED APPROVALS

MANDATORY APPROVALS VERIFIED



Environmental Clearance (EC): Mandatory risk-assessment *before* starting high-impact projects.



Consent to Establish (CTE): Initial regulatory permission *before* setting up an industrial plant.



Consent to Operate (CTO): Final operational clearance granted *after* setup, verifying systems before production begins.

CORE FUNCTIONS (I)

COMPLIANCE & AUDITORS



Compliance Verification: Audits industries to ensure strict adherence to their granted EC, CTE, CTO conditions.



Certify & License Auditors: Conducts National Certification Exam (NCE) to qualify and register Certified (CEA) / Registered (REA) Environmental Auditors.



Registry Management: Maintains official public registry of certified/registered auditors.

CORE FUNCTIONS (II)

PROCESS & OVERSIGHT



Transparent Assignment: Uses EADA Portal to randomly allocate auditors to industrial units, preventing relationship-based auditing biases.



Oversight & Discipline: Monitors audit quality, maintains registry, and executes disciplinary actions for professional misconduct.



Capacity Building: Standardizes nationwide environmental auditing practices through structured training programs.

Environment Audit Rules, 2025

- **Launch Year:** 2025
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- **Aim:** To institutionalize standardized environmental auditing practices, enhance reporting accuracy, and ensure transparent industrial compliance with environmental laws.
- **Features:**

- **Auditor Hierarchy:** Establishes criteria for two levels of professional **Certified Environmental Auditors (CEA)** and **Registered Environmental Auditors (REA)**.
- **Standardization:** Specifies uniform guidelines, procedures, and standards for conducting environmental audits across the country.
- **Accountability:** Introduces strict reporting requirements and timelines for industries to submit their environmental audits to competent authorities.

About National Productivity Council (NPC)

- **Ministry:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- **Implementing Agency:** Designated as the **Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA)**.
- **Aim:** To act as the nodal body for the overall management of the environmental audit framework and auditor capacity building.

Features:

- Responsible for developing eligibility criteria, conducting certification examinations, and handling the renewal, suspension, or cancellation of auditor registrations.
- Mandated to monitor the performance of Registered Environmental Auditors and issue necessary directions or disciplinary actions.
- Facilitates professional development through training programmes, workshops, seminars, and online courses.
- Leverages a pan-India presence through **13 offices** (including New Delhi HQ) to implement the audit framework at a population scale.

2.4 [India SDG Dashboard](#)

Why in News

- Recently, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** highlighted the role of the **India SDG Dashboard** as a centralized platform for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators.

SDG Dashboard

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**).
- **Partnering Agency:** United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (**UNRCO**).
- **Aim:** To serve as a centralized data platform for monitoring SDG indicators and to act as an evidence-based guide for strategic planning and policymaking.

Features:

- The dashboard is aligned with the **National Indicator Framework (NIF)**, which is the backbone of SDG monitoring in India.
- It provides a variety of social and environmental statistics in a single location.
- It enables tracking of India's progress toward the 17 Global Goals through localized data points.

- Specifically designed for policymakers, stakeholders, analysts, and researchers for conducting sectoral research studies.

2.5 “Bhavasagara” National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna

Why in News

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) officially designated the “Bhavasagara” Referral Centre at CMLRE, Kochi, as a National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna, under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, making it a critical national facility for deep-sea biological heritage.

India’s Biological Diversity Act 2002: A Legal Framework for Conservation

THE LEGISLATIVE JOURNEY (1992–2004)



1992: UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

India signs the CBD, recognizing sovereign rights over biological resources and establishing the foundation for future national legislation.



1999: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

A civil society-led committee recommends a comprehensive strategy, leading to the drafting of the formal Biodiversity Bill.



2000–2002: Drafting and Parliamentary Approval

Following the 2000 draft, the Bill received Lok Sabha approval on December 2, 2002, and Rajya Sabha approval on December 11, 2002.



2003: Formal Enactment

The Act was officially enacted on February 5, 2003, after receiving Presidential assent.



2004: Implementation Rules

Specific legal rules were established to provide a clear framework for the practical application and enforcement of the Act.

CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE BDA 2002



Conservation & Sustainable Use

The Act mandates the active conservation of biological diversity and promotes the sustainable use of natural resources to ensure long-term availability.

Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing

Ensures that benefits arising from biological materials and associated knowledge are shared fairly with local communities.



Protection of Traditional Knowledge

Legal safeguards are established to protect the rights of local communities and their traditional biological expertise.

Access Regulation

The Act regulates how both foreign and national entities can access Indian biological resources to prevent exploitation.



KEY FEATURES AND ENFORCEMENT

NBA Approval for Resource Access

Any person or company, particularly foreign entities, must seek prior approval from the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) before accessing biological resources.



Mandatory Benefit Sharing

The law mandates a fair exchange between resource users and the local communities providing those resources.



People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)

Local bodies are tasked with documenting species and traditional knowledge in PBRs to ensure local ownership of biodiversity data.



Traditional Rights Safeguards

Local people, farmers, and artisans retain their traditional rights to use biological materials for their livelihoods.



PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE



Criminal Offenses and Imprisonment

Violations of the Act are treated as criminal offenses and can result in up to five years of imprisonment.



Financial Penalties

Fines for violations can reach 10 lakhs or more, depending on the extent of the environmental or resource damage.

2.6 90th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife

Why in News

- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change chaired the 90th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife in Dehradun to deliberate on critical policy issues including forest fire management and species recovery.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Forest Survey of India (FSI) and Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) to strengthen the use of geospatial technologies, remote sensing, and AI/ML-based tools in forest fire management and wildlife conservation.

- The committee also recommended a comprehensive conservation action plan for the **Wild Water Buffalo**.

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- **Established Under:** Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It is a Statutory Body.
- **Chaired by the Prime Minister** (Note: The *Standing Committee* is chaired by the Union Environment Minister).
- **Aim:** To advise the Central Government on framing policies and measures for the conservation of wildlife and forests. To review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.

Features:

- **Role of Standing Committee:** It exercises powers delegated to it by the NBWL and considers various sectoral proposals that impact protected areas.
- **Focus Areas (90th Meeting): Grasslands & Rangelands:** Emphasized their role in carbon sequestration, dryland resilience, and Land Degradation Neutrality.
 - **Pastoral Communities:** Discussed the socio-economic dependency of nomadic communities on Protected Areas, seeking a balance between conservation and traditional practices.
 - **Decision Support Systems:** Leveraging advanced technology for real-time monitoring of forest ecosystems.
 - **The NBWL serves as the apex body in India for all wildlife-related clearances.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2.7 **BHASHINI for Seva / Sanchalan" program**

Why in News

- Recently, the Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enable multilingual accessibility in pension services through the "BHASHINI for Seva / Sanchalan" program.
- The integration is designed to **overcome linguistic barriers for first-time savers and individuals currently outside formal retirement planning**, thereby strengthening financial inclusion.
- The initiative aims to provide access across all **22 languages** recognized under the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India**.

BHASHINI

- **Launch Year:** July 2022
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Implementing Agency:** Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) under the Digital India Corporation (DIC).

- **Aim/Objective:** To bridge literacy and language divides by enabling seamless multilingual access to digital services and empowering citizens to access digital initiatives in their own language.

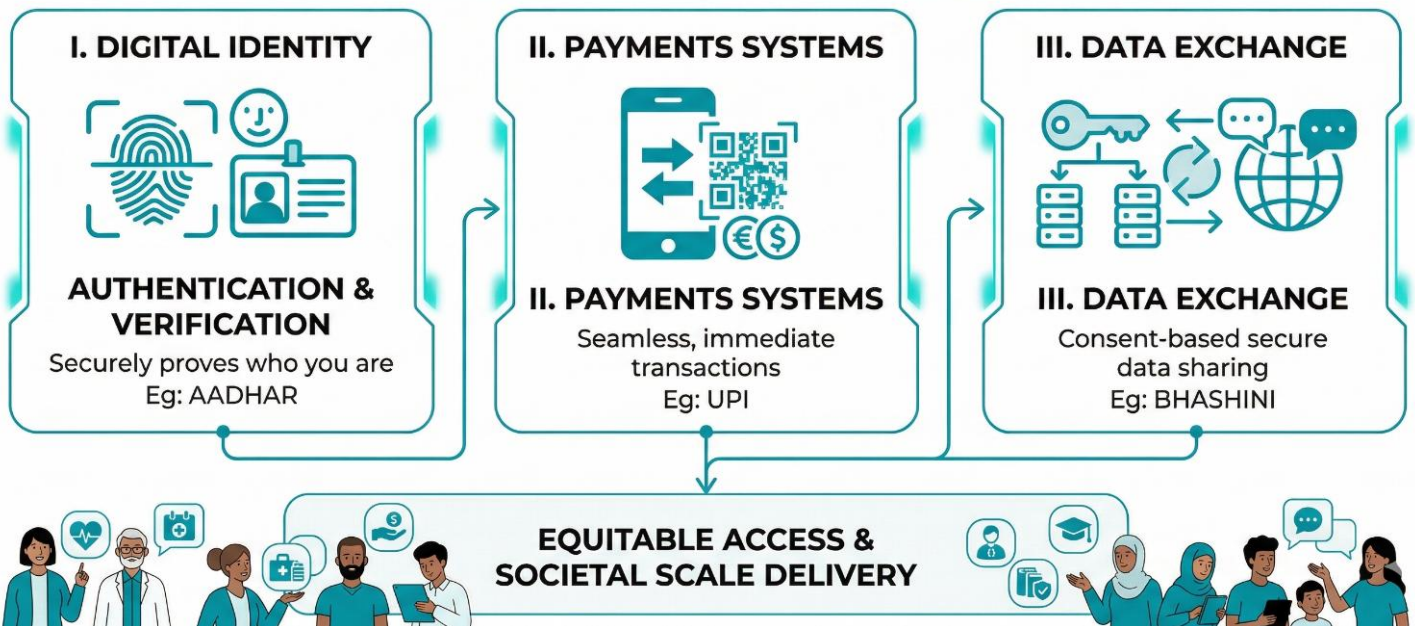
Features:

- **Framework:** Operates as India’s National Language Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- **Associated Program:** Launched under the **National Language Translation Mission**.
- **Crowdsourcing Initiative:** Includes **Bhasha Daan**, a platform for citizens to contribute to building multilingual datasets.
- **Function:** Supports translation and voice-based interactions to help government and public sector initiatives reach a wider audience.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE (DPI): G20 Definition.

As defined by the G20, DPI refers to a set of shared digital systems that are secure and interoperable, built on open standards to deliver **equitable access to public and private services at a societal scale**.

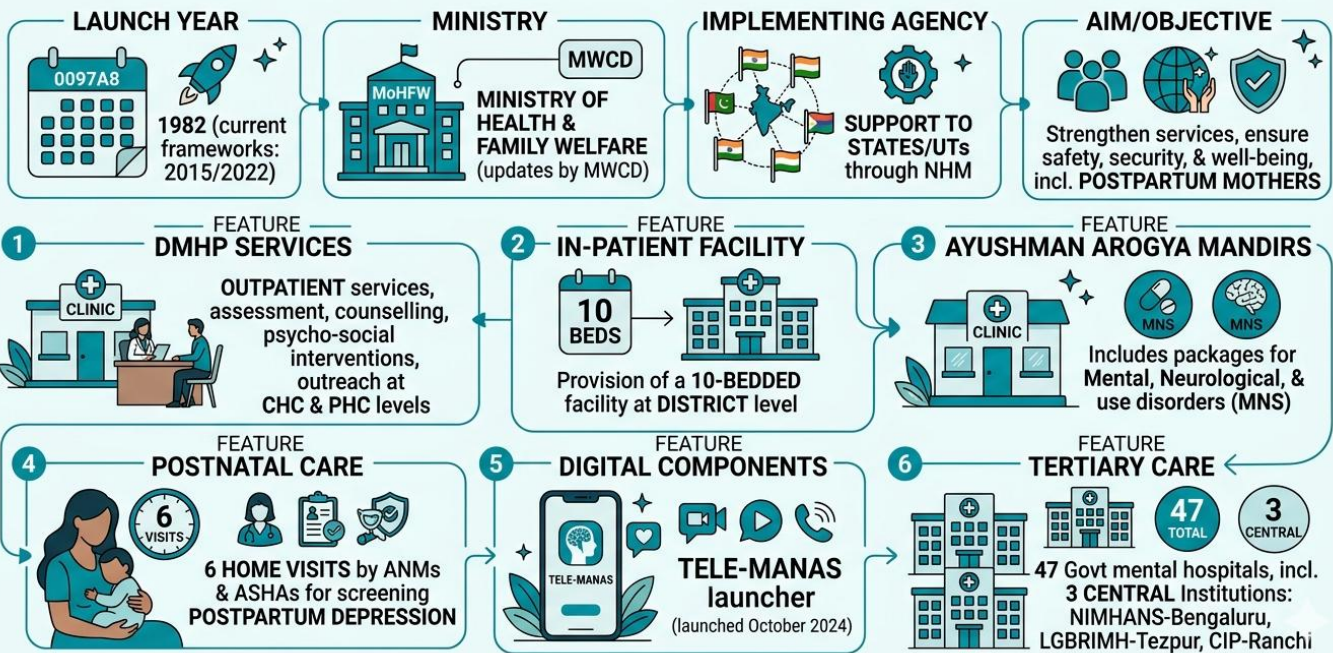


2.8 [National Mental Health Programme](#)

Why in News

- The **Minister of State for Women and Child Development** recently informed the Rajya Sabha about the government's measures to strengthen mental health services, specifically highlighting support for postpartum mothers under the **National Mental Health Programme**.

ABOUT NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME (NMHP)



2.9 [Digital Life Certificate \(DLC\) Campaigns](#)

Why in News

- The Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions provided a written update in the Lok Sabha in April regarding the progress and implementation of the Nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaigns.

Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaigns

- Launch Year:** 2022.
- Aim/Objective:** To resolve difficulties faced by elderly, super senior, and differently-abled pensioners in submitting Life Certificates and to ensure "Ease of Living."
- Features:**
 - Timeline:** Campaigns are held annually from 1st to 30th November.
 - Specific Timeline for Seniors:** Pensioners above 80 years of age are permitted to submit their DLCs in the month of October as well.
 - Technology:** Implementation of the Face Authentication Technique, which allows DLC generation to use only a smartphone.
 - Coverage:** DLC camps are organized at various locations in identified districts, cities, and towns.
 - Special Services:** Provision for doorstep services for aged, sick, incapacitated, and Divyang pensioners; Mega Camps are organized in areas with high pensioner concentration.
 - Awareness:** Outreach meetings and training sessions for stakeholders are conducted during the pre-campaign phase.
 - Beneficiaries:** Elderly, super senior (above 80 years), and differently abled (Divyang) pensioners.

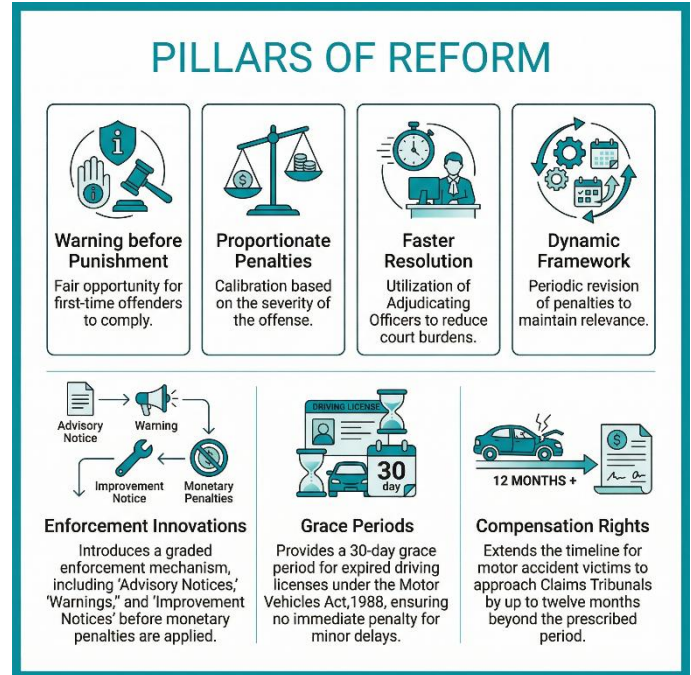
2.10 Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

Why in News

- Recently, the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026**, was passed by Parliament, to further decriminalize minor offences, amend 80 laws administered by 23 Ministries, and replace jail terms with civil penalties to boost ease of doing business, compliance, and governance.

Aim

- To foster a regulatory environment based on trust between the government, citizens, and businesses.
- To reduce the legal and compliance burden on individuals and commercial entities by ensuring proportionate regulation.
- To create a more conducive ecosystem for business operations by removing the fear of imprisonment for minor technical lapses.



Decriminalising Governance: Key Features of the Jan Vishwas Bill 2026

<p>CORE LEGISLATIVE SHIFTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decriminalising Minor Offences: Replaces imprisonment with civil penalties for minor violations (e.g., Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940). Removal of Imprisonment Terms: Acts like Indian Succession Act (1925) and Electricity Act (2003) amended to remove jail terms, replacing them strictly with increased fines. Omission of Outdated Laws: Eliminates unnecessary offences like raising false fire alarms (Delhi Police Act, 1978) or failing to report births/deaths under specific municipal acts. 	<p>GRADED ENFORCEMENT & ADJUDICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Warning First" Approach: Mandates an advisory for the first offence and a warning for the second before civil penalties are applied (e.g., Apprentices Act, 1961). Improvement Notices: First-time violators get time to correct issues before facing penalties (e.g., Legal Metrology Act, 2009 regarding non-standard weights). Specialized Adjudication: Appoints Adjudicating Officers for inquiries and Appellate Authorities for appeals, moving minor cases out of overburdened courts. 	<p>FINANCIAL & SPECIFIC REFORMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic Penalty Revision: Fines and penalties automatically increase by 10% of the minimum amount every three years to maintain deterrent value. Delhi Municipal Reforms: Simplifies property tax by separating buildings and vacant land, creates a Hardship and Anomaly Committee, removes advertisement tax. 	<p>STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic & Business Ease: Reduces fear of imprisonment for technical violations, creating a more predictable, investor-friendly environment. Administrative Efficiency: Enables faster resolution of cases and reduces judicial backlog by shifting minor offences to adjudicating officers. Trust-Based Governance: Promotes a shift toward encouraging compliance through guidance rather than immediate strict punishment.
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2.11 National Youth Policy (NYP) 2026

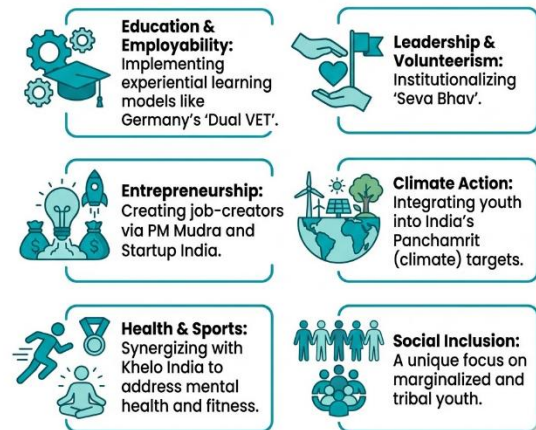
Why in News

- The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports discussed the **National Youth Policy (NYP) 2026** in the Rajya Sabha, marking a shift toward an outcome-driven framework to harness India's peak demographic window.

National Youth Policy (NYP) 2026

- Ministry:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Implementing Agency:** Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) platform (an autonomous phygital body).
- Aim:** To transform youth from passive beneficiaries into active "green agents" and stakeholders in governance and to bridge the 30-40% skill gap identified in the *India Skills Report 2024*.
- Monitoring:** Directly integrated with NITI Aayog's Output-Outcome Framework and the India Youth Development Index (YDI).

CORE PILLARS OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY



GENDER ISSUES

2.12 SHe-Box and Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has provided a comprehensive update on the onboarding progress and digital integration of the **SHe-Box portal under the PoSH Act, 2013**

SHe-Box

- Launch Year:** August 2024 (Portal).
- Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
- Implementing Agency:** State Governments and Union Territory Administrations (for grassroots mechanisms).
- Aim/Objective:** To serve as a digital governance initiative for the effective implementation of the PoSH Act, 2013, and to streamline the redressal mechanism for sexual harassment at workplaces.
- Features:**
 - Inclusion:** Integrated into the **Mission Shakti** mobile application (available on Android and iOS).
 - Multilingual Support:** Accessible in **23 languages** for inclusive reach.
 - Repository:** Hosts a comprehensive collection of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including FAQs, handbooks, and training manuals.

- **Coverage:** Covers public and private sectors, including remote and informal workplaces.

GLOBALIZATION

2.13 India Hosts 1st BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting 2026

Why in News

- India formally commenced youth engagements under its 2026 BRICS Chairship by hosting the inaugural BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting virtually.
- India presented a structured roadmap for the **BRICS Youth Track 2026**, featuring several high-level engagements.

BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting 2026

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Youth Affairs.
- **Aim:**
 - To strengthen youth cooperation and promote collaboration among BRICS nations.
 - To create a platform for young leaders to contribute to inclusive and sustainable development, innovation, and global dialogue.
 - To align member nations on common thematic priorities for India's Chairship.
- **Theme:** "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

BRICS YOUTH COOPERATION

ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS (KEY INITIATIVES)

- Working Group Meetings and Thematic Engagements.**
- Serve BRICS Volunteering Activities** (Social and community service).
- Youth Development Forum** (Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building).
- Youth Council Meeting and Youth Summit** (Policy formulation).
- Youth Ministerial Meeting** (Policy alignment between ministers and youth).

PRIORITY AREAS (PILLARS) FOR COOPERATION

- Education and Skills Development.**
- Youth Entrepreneurship** (Start-ups and innovation).
- Science and Innovation** (Research and technological collaboration).
- Social Participation and Inclusion** (Marginalized groups and cohesion).
- Health and Sports** (Mental health and sports diplomacy).
- Environment and Sustainability** (Green initiatives and climate action).



Interfaith Dialogue and Youth Exchange
(Cultural understanding).



INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

2.14 **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**

Why in News

- Recently, the Union Budget 2026–27 introduced strategic reforms and a **special one-time duty concession for Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**.
- This one-time measure allows eligible SEZ manufacturing units to sell a prescribed proportion of their output in **the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA)** at **concessional duty rates** instead of standard customs duties.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

- **Launch Year:** The SEZ Policy was announced in **2000**, followed by the SEZ Act in **2005** (effective from February 2006).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry (implied via the role of Development Commissioners and trade policy).
- **Aim/Objective:** To generate additional economic activity and create employment opportunities.
 - To boost exports of goods and services and attract domestic/foreign investment.
 - To develop world-class infrastructure and serve as engines of export-led growth.
- **Features:**
 - **Legal Status:** Specifically delineated duty-free enclaves deemed to be foreign territory for trade operations and customs.
 - **Pillars/Incentives:** Duty-free import/domestic procurement of goods for development and operations.
 - Zero-rated supplies under the **IGST Act, 2017**.
 - **Single-window clearance** for Central and State level approvals.
 - **Priority Sectors:** Recent focus on high-tech manufacturing like semiconductors with relaxed land requirements and encumbrance norms.
 - **Governing Body:** Oversighted by **Development Commissioners** who monitor performance and compliance via monthly reports.
 - **Key Hubs:** Includes Mundra Port, Kandla Port, Sri City, and **GIFT City**.
- **Targets:** Achieving economies of scale and reducing export costs while maintaining an export-oriented character.

Did You Know?

Domestic Tariff Area (DTA):

The area within India that falls outside the boundaries of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), where standard customs

2.15 **Udyam Registration Portal**

Why in News

- The Udyam Registration Portal (URP) has recorded a significant growth trend with over 7.83 crore enterprises registered by February.

Udyam Registration Portal (URP)

- **Launch Year:** July 2020.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of MSME.
- **Aim/Objective:** To provide a process for the registration of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under the revised classification criteria.

Features:

- **Registration Basis:** Based on the composite criteria of investment and turnover adopted in 2020.
- **Associated Program:** Udyam Assist Platform (UAP), launched in January 2023, to formalize Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs).
- **Territorial Coverage:** Implemented across all States and Union Territories
- **Awareness Activities:** Awareness programmes are conducted through physical workshops, social media, print, and electronic media in coordination with State/UT Industry Departments.

2.16 Government e Marketplace (GeM)

Why in News

- Recently, **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** reached a historic cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of **₹18.4 lakh crore**, with the single financial year 2025–26 alone contributing over ₹5 lakh crore.

Government e Marketplace (GeM)

- **Launch Year:** 2016
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Managed by:** GeM SPV, a Section 8 non-profit company.
- **Legal Mandate:** Procurement through GeM is authorized and made mandatory for government entities under **Rule 149** of the **General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017**.

Aim:

- To redefine public procurement by making it a contactless, paperless, and cashless process.
- To provide pan-India market access to small sellers, startups, and women entrepreneurs who were traditionally underserved.
- To enable efficient price discovery and economies of scale for government buyers through tools like e-bidding and reverse auctions.

Core Features:

- **Three Pillars:** Built on the foundation of **Inclusion, Usability, and Efficiency**.
- **Technological Edge:** Utilizes **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Machine Learning (ML)** for catalogue validation, anomaly detection (e.g., collusive bidding), and Bid Health Scores.

- **End-to-End Solution:** Provides a unified portal for the procurement of common-use goods and services, ranging from office stationery to specialized human resource services.

INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

2.17 Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti Assumes Charge as Chairperson of NCBC

Why in News

- Recently, **Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti** officially assumed charge as the **Chairperson** of the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** in New Delhi, following her appointment by the President of India.

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

- **Constitutional Status:** Established under **Article 338B** (inserted by the **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018**).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Evolution:** Originally a statutory body (1993) following the **Indra Sawhney (Mandal)** judgment; it was elevated to a constitutional body in 2018.
- **Composition:** Consists of 5 members—**Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and 3 other Members**.
- **Service Conditions:** The tenure (typically **3 years**) and conditions of service are determined by the President.

Key Functions & Powers:

- **Monitoring Safeguards:** Investigates all matters relating to legal and constitutional safeguards for SEBCs.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Inquires into specific complaints regarding the deprivation of rights of backward classes.
- **Advisory Role:** Participates in the socio-economic planning process and evaluates the progress of development for SEBCs.
- **Power of a Civil Court:** Has the legal authority to summon witnesses, require the discovery of documents, and receive evidence on affidavits during investigations.
- **Reporting:** Submits an **Annual Report** to the President, which is then tabled in Parliament.
- **Mandatory Consultation:** The Union and State governments must consult the NCBC on all major policy matters affecting SEBCs.

2.18 National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)

Why in News

- **Dr. Partha Biswas** recently assumed charge as a **Member** of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)

- **Constitutional Status:** It is a **Constitutional Body** established under **Article 338** of the Indian Constitution.
- **Evolution:** Originally, Article 338 provided for a single Special Officer.
 - The **65th Constitutional Amendment Act (1990)** replaced the single-member system with a high-level multi-member Commission.
 - The **89th Constitutional Amendment Act (2003)** bifurcated the combined Commission into two separate bodies: the **NCSC (Article 338)** and the **NCST (Article 338A)**.
- **Composition:** The Commission consists of a **Chairperson**, a **Vice-Chairperson**, and **three other Members**. They are appointed by the **President** by warrant under his hand and seal.
- **Tenure:** The conditions of service and tenure of office are determined by the President (currently **3 years** as per rules).

Functions:

- To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the **Constitutional safeguards** provided for the SCs.
- To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the SCs.
- To participate and advise on the planning process of **socio-economic development** of the SCs.
- To present annual reports to the President upon the working of those safeguards.
- The Commission has the powers of a **Civil Court** while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint. It can summon people, require the discovery of documents, and receive evidence on affidavits.

INDIAN MONEY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS: LINKAGES WITH THE ECONOMY

2.19 Export Obligation Discharge Certificates (EODC)

Why in News

- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade**, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has concluded a time-bound special drive for the accelerated issuance of **Export Obligation Discharge Certificates (EODC)** in March.

Export Obligation Discharge Certificates

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Implementing Agency:** Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- **Aim:** To formalize the completion of export obligations; to enable the issuance of bank guarantees and bonds; to reduce the burden of exporters' grievances; and to ensure effective compliance monitoring under India's trade facilitation framework.

• **Features:**

- **Functions:** Serves as a vital tool for verifying the fulfillment of export requirements under specific trade schemes.
- **Activities:** The drive involved daily review meetings chaired by senior DGFT officials to monitor progress.
- **Vision:** To promote an exporter-friendly ecosystem and enhance the ease of doing business in India.
- **Key Stakeholders:** Exporters across the country and DGFT regional authorities.

Export Obligation Discharge Certificates

A certificate issued to **exporters as proof** that they have fulfilled the export requirements (obligations) tied to specific duty-saving schemes.

OTHER NEWS

SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

2.20 **NCERT Granted Deemed-to-be-University Status**

Why in News

- Recently, the Central Government granted "**deemed-to-be-university**" status to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), empowering it to award degrees and design its own academic programmes.

Deemed-to-be-university status

This status, granted under **Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956**, fundamentally alters NCERT's mandate and operational structure. The key changes include:

- NCERT can now **design and award its own undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees** in education.
- The institution will now function **under the direct regulatory supervision of the University Grants Commission (UGC)**, requiring compliance with UGC norms for courses and quality.
- NCERT must now participate in the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** and get accreditation from bodies like the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**.
- It is now mandatory for NCERT to adopt the **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) system**, allowing students flexible learning pathways.

NCERT

- Established on **September 1, 1961**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education
- **Aim:**
 - To undertake, aid, promote, and coordinate research in areas related to school education.
 - To prepare and publish model textbooks, supplementary material, and journals.

- To organize pre-service and in-service training of teachers.
- To act as a nodal agency for achieving goals of universalization of elementary education.
- **Features:** Operates through the **National Institute of Education (NIE)**, **Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)**, and **Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs)** located in Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysore, and Shillong.
 - **Governance:** The Union Minister of Education serves as the ex-officio President of the General Body.
 - **Core Functions:** Development of the **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**, conducting the **National Achievement Survey (NAS)**, and managing the **National Talent Search Examination (NTSE)**.
 - **Slogan/Motto:** **Vidhyā'mrtamaśnute (Life eternal through learning)**.
- **Targets:** Enhancing the quality of school education and standardizing teacher training across India.
- **Territorial Coverage:** Headquartered in New Delhi, with its framework followed by CBSE and multiple State Boards nationwide.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.21 India's Record Wind Energy Achievement in FY 2025–26

Why in News

- Recently, India achieved its highest-ever annual wind energy capacity addition of 6.05 GW during the 2025–26 financial year and surpassed the previous landmark of 5.5 GW set in FY 2016–17.
- The sector recorded a nearly **46% increase** and India's total installed wind power capacity has officially crossed the **56 GW** mark.
- Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra emerged as the primary contributors to the capacity addition during this year.

2.22 CMS COP15: Expansion of Protected Migratory Species


Why in News

- Recently, the **15th Conference of Parties (COP15)** to the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** concluded in **Campo Grande, Brazil**, with the addition of **40 new species** to its protected lists.

Key Highlights


- **New Protected Species:** 40 species were added, including high-profile animals such as the **Cheetah, Striped Hyena, Snowy Owl, Giant Otter, and Great Hammerhead Shark**.
- **Habitat Gaps:** Analysis revealed that **47%** of the 9,000 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) essential for migratory species fall outside any protected zones.

- **Regional Focus:** Approved multi-species conservation plans specifically for the **Amazon** region.
- **Threat Identification:** Identified emerging threats such as **deep-sea mining**, underwater noise, and infrastructure-led habitat fragmentation.




ABOUT THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)


3 NATURE

The only **global intergovernmental treaty** established under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) dedicated to the **conservation of migratory species** and their habitats. 

1 ALSO KNOWN AS


The Bonn Convention 

2 LAUNCH/EFFECTIVE DATE


SIGNED IN 1979; ENTERED INTO FORCE IN 1983 

4 AIM/OBJECTIVE


To **conserve** terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory species throughout their range.



TERRESTRIAL




AQUATIC



AVIAN


3 NATURE

The **only global intergovernmental treaty** established under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) dedicated to the conservation of migratory species and their habitats. 

5 STRUCTURE (THE APPENDICES)


APPENDIX I

Includes migratory species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Parties strive toward strictly protecting these animals.




APPENDIX II

Includes migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status and require international agreements for their conservation and management.




6 FEATURES

RANGE STATE CONCEPT




Focuses on cooperation between countries through which migratory species pass (Range States).


LEGAL FRAMEWORK



Provides the basis for "Agreements" (legally binding) and 'Memoranda of Understanding' (MoUs) for specific species or groups.

INDIA'S CONNECTION



India has been a party to CMS since 1983 and recently hosted COP13 (Gandhinagar) in 2020. 

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2.23 Uttarakhand Tops National Rankings in New Criminal Law Rollout

Why in News

- **Uttarakhand** has been ranked **first in India** for the effective and timely implementation of the three new criminal laws such as **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**, and **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)**.

New Criminal Laws

- **Effective Date:** July 1, 2024.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **The Three Laws:**
 1. **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS):** Replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860. It prioritizes justice over punishment and introduces "Community Service" as a form of punishment.
 2. **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS):** Replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973. It mandates time-bound investigations and the use of technology in trials.

3. **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA):** Replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. It expands the definition of "document" to include electronic and digital records.

- **Aim:**

1. To remove the "colonial imprint" from India's judicial system.
2. To ensure speedy justice through mandatory time limits for filing charge sheets and delivering judgments.
3. To institutionalize the use of technology in forensics and evidence collection.

- **Features:**

1. **Zero FIR:** Allows a person to file an FIR at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction.
2. **Digitization:** Mandates the videography of search and seizure operations.
3. **Victim Rights:** Ensures that victims are informed of the progress of their case within 90 days.
4. **Defined Timelines:** Judgments must be delivered within 30 days of the completion of arguments.

GENDER ISSUES

2.24 "TrueCyberSakhi" Digital Safety Initiative

Why in News

- Recently, the **National Commission for Women (NCW)** and **Truecaller** launched a nationwide digital safety initiative, featuring the "**TrueCyberSakhi: Digital Safety Toolkit**," to protect women from evolving online risks like **phishing, harassment, and financial fraud**.

Did You Know?

Phishing: A type of digital fraud where attackers trick individuals into revealing sensitive information like passwords or financial details by pretending to be a trustworthy entity.

National Commission for Women (NCW)

An **autonomous statutory body** established under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**.

- **Aim/Objective:** To protect and promote the rights of women by reviewing legal safeguards, recommending reforms, and advising the government on policy matters.

Features:

- **Redressal Mechanism:** Operates a **24x7 helpline** for women in distress.
- **Functions:** Addresses complaints, promotes awareness, and monitors the implementation of constitutional and legal safeguards for women.
- **Chairperson:** Smt. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar.

INDIAN MONEY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS: LINKAGES WITH THE ECONOMY

2.25 Indian Rupee Hits Historic Low of 93.72 Against US Dollar

Why in News

- In March 2026, the Indian rupee fell to a record low of **93.72** against the US dollar, its sharpest one-day drop in four years.
- It is driven by high oil prices and a strong global demand for dollars.
- **Record Decline:** The rupee dropped **1.15%** in a single day, hitting an intraday low of **93.77** before ending at **93.72**.

Dollar Index (DXY)

A measure of the USD's value against a basket of six major currencies: Euro (Eurozone), Yen (Japan), Pound (UK), Canadian Dollar (Canada), Krona (Sweden), and Franc (Switzerland)..

Effect:

- **Strong US Dollar:** The **Dollar Index (DXY)** rose to **99.58**, showing that the US dollar is strengthening against all major global currencies, which naturally pushes the rupee down.

2.26 Lok Sabha Passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Why in News

- Recently, the Lok Sabha passed the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025** that **introduces 12 key amendments** to the original 2016 Code to accelerate the resolution of stressed assets and align Indian law with global best practices.

Key Highlights of the amendment

- **Admission Timeline:** Applications for initiating insolvency must now be admitted within **14 days** once a default is established.
- **Out-of-Court Settlement:** Replaces the fast-track process with a new **creditor-initiated framework**. This features a compressed **150-day timeline** and an "out-of-court" initiation mechanism.
- **Judicial Timelines:** The Adjudicating Authority must approve or reject resolution plans within **30 days** and appeals before the **NCLAT** must be decided within **three months**.
- **Global Alignment:** Enables a new framework for **cross-border insolvency** and **group insolvency** to boost investor confidence.
- **Deterrents for Delays:** Introduces penalties ranging from **₹1 lakh to ₹2 crore** for filing frivolous or vexatious proceedings intended to delay the process.
- **Management Model:** Adopts a "debtor-in-possession" and "creditor-in-control" model, where the existing Board continues management under specific safeguards.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

- **Launch Year:** 2016 (The 2025 Bill marks the **8th amendment** to the Code).
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- **Aim:** To consolidate and amend laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms, and individuals in a **time-bound manner** for maximization of value of assets.
- **Features:**
 - **Priority of Dues:** Workmen’s dues are given high priority, equivalent to secured creditors and ranked above unsecured financial creditors and government dues.
 - **Adjudicating Authorities:** The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** handles corporate insolvency, while the **Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)** handles individual insolvency.
 - **Appellate Body:** The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** hears appeals against NCLT orders.
 - **IBBI:** The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** acts as the regulator overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professionals (IPs).

Venture Capital Fund

It provides **financial support** to **startups**, and **early-stage**

3. GA + FINANCE

PIB IN NEWS

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

3.1 Antariksh Venture Capital Fund

Why in News ?

- **Recently (April 2026)**, the Union Minister of State for Science & Technology informed in the Lok Sabha that **India’s first dedicated Space Venture Capital Fund (Antariksh VCF)** has been operationalised.

Antariksh VCF

- **About:**
 - India’s **first** dedicated **Space-Tech investment fund**
 - **Type:** **Category II** Alternate Investment Fund
 - **Fund Size:** ₹1,005 crore
 - **Key Investor:** IN-Space
 - **Fund Manager:** SIDBI Venture Capital Limited

Alternate Investment Fund

AIF is a **private fund** that **pools investors’ money to invest in various assets**, not usual bank deposits or regular mutual funds.

- **Objective:** To invest in Indian space startups that have technologies at **Technological Readiness Level 4** or higher, meaning their ideas have already been tested and shown to work in a lab.

3.2 Indian Natural Gas Derivative Contracts

Why in News ?

- The **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** has announced a collaboration with the **Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)** to launch **India's first domestically benchmarked natural gas futures contracts**.
- NSE has also **received SEBI's approval** to launch Indian Natural Gas Derivative Contracts.

About Natural Gas Derivative Contracts

- These contracts will be linked to **GIXI (Gas Index of India)**, a **price index** created by **Indian Gas Exchange** that shows the **actual price of gas in India** based on real trades.
 - In simple terms, this means gas prices used in these contracts will be **based on India's own market**, not foreign benchmarks.
- **Significance of Launching Gas Derivative Contracts**
 - By **entering into gas derivative contracts**, eligible participants such as **producers, distributors, and industrial users** can lock in the price "today" at which they will buy or sell **natural gas** in the "future".
 - Overall, these contracts act as a **risk management tool** by **protecting participants from sudden fluctuations in gas prices** (price volatility).

3.3 Verified App Label Initiative

Why in News ?

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched the "**Verified App Label Initiative**".

Verified App Label Initiative

- **Objective:** To **protect investors** by ensuring that only apps of **SEBI-registered entities** are easily **identifiable through a "Verified" badge on the Google Play Store**, thereby preventing fraudulent impersonation, enabling safe app downloads, and enhancing trust in digital trading platforms.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

3.4 Domestic Systemically Important Insurers

Why in News ?

- Recently (April 2026), IRDAI released the list of **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** for 2025–26.

D -SII identified for 2025 – 26

- Life Insurance Corporation of India
- New India Assurance Company Ltd.
- General Insurance Corporation of India

Domestic Systemically Important Insurers

- D-SIIs refer to insurers which are **too big or too important to fail** because of their huge **size, market importance**, and domestic and global **interconnectedness**.
 - D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are **‘too big or too important to fail’** (TBTF).
- D-SIIs are being subjected to **enhanced regulatory supervision**.
- **Parameters used to identify D-SII**
 - The **size of operations** in terms of total revenue
 - **Global activities** across more than one jurisdiction
 - Lack of **substitutability** of their products
 - **Interconnectedness** through counterparty exposure and macro-economic exposure
- At global level, the framework of SII is implemented by **International Association of Insurance Supervisors**.

3.5 [Kar Saathi](#)

Why in News

- The **Income Tax Department** has recently launched an **AI-powered chatbot “Kar Saathi”** to make **tax filing easier, faster**, and more **accessible** for millions of taxpayers under the new **Income Tax Act, 2025** framework.

Kar Saathi

- **Objectives:**
 - Kar Saathi **helps taxpayers understand** the latest tax rules under the **Income Tax Act, 2025** and provides **step-by-step guidance for filing Income Tax Returns (ITR)**.
 - It **explains various forms, deductions, and deadlines** in a simple manner while also **resolving common queries** instantly.
- Kar Saathi **does not file or compute taxes** on behalf of users; it functions **solely as a guidance tool**.

3.6 [The Jan Vishwas \(Amendment of Provisions\) Bill, 2026](#)

Why in News ?

- The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill, 2026** is in the news as it has been **passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in 2026**, marking a major step in India’s regulatory reform agenda.

Key Provisions of the Act

- **Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- **4 Pillars of the Bill:** The bill aims to remove criminal punishment for minor offences and make laws simpler, more practical, and citizen-friendly.
 - **Warning before punishment:** First-time and minor violations will attract warnings instead of immediate penalties.
 - **Proportionate penalties:** Penalties will be aligned with the severity of the offence.
 - **Faster resolution:** Adjudicating officers and appellate authorities will enable quicker dispute resolution.
 - **Dynamic penalty system:** Penalties will be revised periodically to keep relevant, and up to date.
- **Salient Features of the Act:**
 - **Decriminalisation:** Converts several offences into **civil penalties instead of criminal punishment**.
 - **Removal of imprisonment:** Eliminates **jail terms** in select cases, retaining only fines or penalties.
 - **Omission of offences:** Removes certain **minor offences** altogether.
 - **Revision of fines:** Updates penalty amounts and provides **10% automatic increase every 3 years** on minimum fines.
 - **Warning system:**
 - First Time offence → Advisory
 - Second Time offence → Warning
 - Subsequent offence → Civil Penalty.
 - **Improvement notices:** First-time lapses get a chance to **ensure compliance through improvement notice** before penalties, especially under **Legal Metrology Act**.
 - **Property tax reforms (New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994):**
 - Splits property tax under NDMC Act into **building and vacant land tax**;
 - Creates **valuation and grievance committee** to determine manner of determining and revising property tax and;
 - Removes **advertisement tax**.

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