

Factly Weekly

Compilation

2025

**For UPSC CSE Prelims
Exam**

1st Week

October 2025

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Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)a

News: Recently, NASA launched Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) with two co-launched missions on a Falcon 9 to study space weather and its impacts.

About Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)



Figure 1. Source – NASA

- It is a pioneering **heliophysics mission** launched to **investigate the boundaries of the solar system** and the energetic processes shaping our local **space environment**.

- **Launched by :** NASA

- **Goal:** Its goal is to map the heliosphere's boundary, trace energetic particles, and

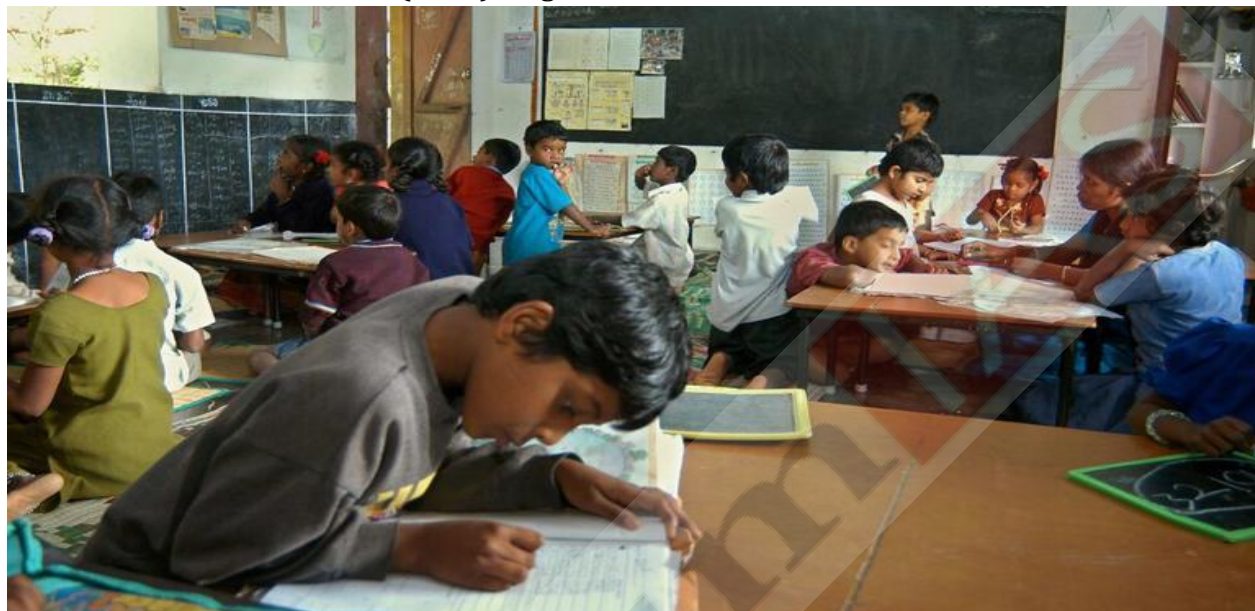
improve space weather forecasting.

- **Positioned at:** IMAP is **stationed at the Sun–Earth Lagrange point L1**, about one million miles from Earth toward the Sun.
- **Key features**
 - **Payload:** Ten instruments chart particles from the Sun, heliosphere boundary, and interstellar space.
 - **Real-time** solar wind and energetic particle observations with ~30-minute radiation warnings near Earth.
 - **IMAP Active Link for Real-Time** frequently broadcasts reliable data for improved forecasting.
 - **Takes 108 days to reach L1** and provides an unobstructed view of solar activity.
 - **Maps the heliosphere in greater detail than before**, across a wider energy range and more frequently than **Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX)**.
 - It will **support Artemis II in 2026** and strengthens **long-term human exploration plans for Mars**.

Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS)

News: For the first time, India is preparing to bring the concept of Gram Sabhas into classrooms through the Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS) initiative.

About Model Youth Gram Sabha (MYGS) Programme



Source: Livemint

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It is a school-based programme to bring the democratic process of Gram Sabhas into classrooms across India.● It is inspired by the concept of the Model United Nations (MUN).● It is the first structured attempt to directly involve children in governance processes at the grassroots level.
Launched by	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It has been launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.● The curriculum and modules for the sessions are being designed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Tribal Affairs.
Aim	To generate awareness about grassroots democracy in school children at an early age

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Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It seeks to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Help students understand the role and significance of Gram Sabhas in local governance.○ Shape a generation that perceives local government as a meaningful space for public service.○ Nurture leadership skills in young children, providing them with a strong ethical foundation that goes beyond classroom learning.○ Revive student and youth interest in Gram Sabhas, which in practice often witness low levels of participation.
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The programme will begin in 1,100-1,200 schools, including Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, Eklavya Model Residential Schools in tribal regions, and government schools in rural areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka.● The launch will be phased:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Phase 1: Around 620 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools.○ Phase 2: More government schools, particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka, will be included.

Features of the programme

- In identified schools, students from **classes 9-12** will take on roles such as **sarpanch, ward members, village secretary, Anganwadi worker, auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM), and junior engineers**.
- They will conduct **mock Gram Sabha sessions**, where they will:
 - Debate and discuss local governance issues.
 - Prepare **budgets and development plans** for villages.
 - Pass mock resolutions on matters affecting local life.
- The exercise **will simulate the functioning of real Gram Sabhas**, which are **local assemblies of all adults in a rural area**.

- Training will be imparted to teachers through **National Level Master Trainers (NLMTs)** to conduct simulations effectively.
- After mock Gram Sabha sessions, there will be **regional and national-level competitions** for JNVs and EMRSs.
- Winning schools will receive **prize money**. All participating schools will receive **certificates**, and each school will get **₹20,000 in support** from the Ministry to organize the sessions.

Sahyog portal

News: The Karnataka High Court has recently dismissed X Corp's petition against the Union government's Sahyog portal.

About Sahyog Portal



Source: sahyog.mha.gov.in

- It is a **centralised platform** which brings together **authorised agencies, such as the police, and intermediaries on a unified platform to facilitate the removal or disabling of access** to any information, data or communication link being used to commit an unlawful act.
- **Launched by:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- **Maintained by:** It is maintained by the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**
- **Developed under:** **Section 79(3)(b)** of the IT Act, 2000
- **Mission:** To create an **effective framework and ecosystem for the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of Cybercrime** in the country.
- **Aim:** It aims to:
 - Facilitate **real-time coordination** between government agencies and intermediaries.
 - Strengthen **law enforcement efforts** against unlawful online content.
 - Bring **greater accountability** in how notices under Section 79(3)(b) are served.
- **Function:** It **issues takedown notices** to internet intermediaries such as telecom operators, internet service providers (ISPs), social media platforms, and web-hosting services.

- **Purpose:** Its primary purpose is to enforce **Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000**, which outlines the conditions under which intermediaries enjoy “safe harbour” protection from liability for user-generated content.
 - However, **this immunity is conditional:** intermediaries must act promptly to **remove or disable access** to unlawful information once they receive “actual knowledge” from a government authority.
- **Operational data:** By April 2025, a total of 65 online intermediaries, along with nodal officers from all states, union territories, and seven central agencies, had been integrated into the Sahyog portal.
 - Between its launch in **October 2024 and April 2025**, the government issued **130 content takedown notices** through the portal to platforms including Google, YouTube, Amazon, Microsoft, and others.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

News: India was re-elected to Part II of the ICAO Council on 27 September 2025 during the 42nd Assembly in Montreal.

About International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)



Source – ICAO

- It is an **inter-governmental specialized agency** associated with **United Nation** .

- **Established:** It was established in **1947** by the **Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944)** known as **Chicago Convention**.
- **Headquarters:** It is headquartered in **Montreal, Canada**.
- **Members:** It has **193** members.
- **Function:** It provides expert **technical and diplomatic guidance** to build **safe, secure, sustainable, harmonized, and gender-inclusive international civil aviation**, and supports **standards, policies, and regulation**.
- **Working mechanism**
 - **ICAO Assembly:**
 - It is a **sovereign body of all 193 member States**.
 - It meets **every three years**,
 - It reviews the work of ICAO, sets policy for the coming years, and votes a triennial budget.
 - **ICAO Council:** ICAO Assembly elects a **36-member Council** for a **three-year term**.
 - It gives continuing direction to ICAO's work and adopts Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as Annexes to the Chicago Convention.
 - **Secretariat:** It is headed by a **Secretary General**.
 - **Standards:** ICAO Standards **do not prevent States from adopting more stringent national standards** than those in an Annex.

ICAO and India

- **India** is a **founding member** of ICAO since **1944**.
- It has been **re-elected** to **Part II of the ICAO Council** (States contributing most to international air navigation facilities) for the **2025–2028 term**.

India-Bhutan Railway Link

News: Recently, the Government of India announced two major cross-border railway projects to link Bhutan with India's northeastern and eastern regions.

About the India-Bhutan Railway Link



Source: IndiaToday

- **Kokrajhar–Gelephu Line**
 - The Kokrajhar-Gelephu line will traverse Assam's Kokrajhar and Chirang districts into Bhutan's southern Sarpang region.
 - **Total Length: 69 km** (connecting Assam in India with Gelephu in Bhutan). The Gelephu line will cover 2.39 km on the Bhutanese side and 66.66 km on the Indian side.
 - **Features:** Six stations, two important bridges, 29 major bridges, 65 minor bridges, one flyover, two goodsheds and 39 underpasses.
 - **Timeline:** Estimated completion in **four years**.
- **Banarhat–Samtse Line**
 - The Banarhat-Samtse stretch links West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district to Bhutan's Samtse.
 - **Total Length: 20 km** (connecting West Bengal in India with Samtse in Bhutan). Samtse line will cover 2.13 km of the Bhutanese side and 17.42 km of the Indian side.
 - **Features:** Two stations, one major bridge, 24 minor bridges, one overpass, and 37 underpasses.
 - **Timeline:** Completion targeted in **three years**.
- Both railway lines will be **fully electrified**, equipped with **advanced signalling systems**, and **capable of running modern trains** such as the Vande Bharat Express.

Significance for India of the Cross-Border Rail Projects with Bhutan

- **Strategic and Geopolitical Interests**

- The projects **reinforce India's primacy in Bhutan's development partnership**, ensuring that **no third-country is involved in critical infrastructure** near India's sensitive northeastern borders.
- By anchoring **Bhutan's Gelephu Mindfulness City and Samtse industrial hub into Indian rail networks**, India secures long-term influence over Bhutan's economic orientation.

- **Economic and Trade Benefits**

- India already accounts for **~80% of Bhutan's total trade**; rail connectivity reduces transport costs and boosts bilateral commerce.
- It will also **facilitate cost-effective import of Bhutanese minerals** (dolomite, ferro-silicon, quartzite, stone chips) vital for Indian industries.
- Creates **new opportunities for Indian exports, services, and investment** in Bhutan's growing urban and industrial hubs.

- **Regional Growth and Integration: Assam and North Bengal stand to benefit** from spillover economic activity, better logistics, and expanded employment opportunities.

- **Diplomatic and Developmental Engagement**

- These projects are a **direct outcome of the 2024 India-Bhutan MoU** and form part of India's **₹10,000 crore commitment** under Bhutan's **13th Five-Year Plan (2024-29)**.
- India's **training of Bhutanese personnel in railway operations** fosters **institutional interdependence** and long-term goodwill.

Promotion of Research & Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP) Scheme

News: The Department of Pharmaceuticals has invited applications for research and innovation projects under its Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP) scheme.

About Promotion of Research & Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP) Scheme



Source: PIB

- It is an **initiative to transform the Indian Pharma MedTech sector into a globally competitive, innovation-driven sector** by strengthening the research infrastructure in the country.
- **Launched by:** Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- **Aim:** To promote industry-academia linkage for R & D in priority areas, inculcate a culture of quality research, and nurture pool of scientists.
- **Implementation:** An Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of the CEO, NITI Aayog, with Secretary level representation of Pharmaceuticals, Health, ICMR, DBT, CSIR, AYUSH, and DST will provide guidance for the implementation of this Scheme.
- **Features of the scheme**
 - **Industry-Academia Collaboration:** It encourages **industry and startups to collaborate with reputed Government, academic, and research institutions** ("Academia") for both Early Stage and later-stage projects.
 - **Component of the scheme:** The Scheme is **applicable for research and innovation for both human and animal health** and **has two components:**
 - **Component A:** Strengthening the research infrastructure by establishment of 7 CoEs at NIPERs-These CoEs would be set up in pre identified areas with a financial outlay of Rs 700 Crores.

- **Component B:** Promoting research in pharmaceutical sector by encouraging research in six priority areas wherein financial assistance will be provided for the Industries, MSME, SME, Startups working with government institutes and for both in-house and academic research.
- **Key focus areas of the scheme:** The six focus areas of the scheme are **new chemical entities**, including biological and phytopharmaceuticals; **complex generics and biosimilars**, **precision medicines** such as gene therapy and stem cells; **medical devices using artificial intelligence and machine learning**; **orphan drugs and anti-microbial resistance**.
- **Support for innovation from idea to market:** Early-stage projects with costs up to ₹9 crore can receive assistance of up to ₹5 crore, while later-stage projects with costs up to ₹285 crore are eligible for assistance of up to ₹100 crore.

National Pulses Mission

News: The Union Cabinet has recently approved the National Pulses Mission.

About National Pulses Mission



Figure 2. Source: Ministry of finance

- It promotes sustainable, climate-resilient, and soil health-friendly agricultural practices.

- It aims **to generate rural employment** through production and processing activities in both farming and post-harvest processing sectors.
- The Mission **will converge with the Soil Health Programme, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization, balanced fertilizer use, and plant protection initiatives**, supported by ICAR, KVKs, and State Departments.
- The Mission will also establish a **mechanism to monitor global pulse prices** to safeguard farmer confidence and prevent distress sales.
- **Features of the Mission**
 - A **cluster-based approach** will be adopted to tailor interventions according to the needs of each cluster to ensure effective resource allocation and geographic diversification.
 - **Assured procurement** of **Tur, Urad, and Masoor** will be carried out under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** of PM-AASHA, with **NAFED and NCCF undertaking 100% procurement** in participating states for the **next four years** from registered farmers.
 - The mission will adopt a **comprehensive strategy**, covering **research, seed systems, area expansion, procurement, and price stability**.
 - Research will focus on developing **high-yielding, pest-resistant, and climate-resilient varieties of pulses**, with multi-location trials across major pulse-growing states to ensure regional suitability.
 - States will prepare **five-year rolling seed production plans** and **ICAR** will supervise **breeder seed production**.
 - **Foundation and certified seed production** will be carried out by **state and central agencies**, and monitored through the **SATHI (Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory) portal**.
 - A total of **126 lakh quintals of certified seeds** will be distributed to farmers, covering **370 lakh hectares by 2030-31**.
 - The Mission will **expand** the area under pulses to **310 lakh hectares** by 2030-31, targeting **rice fallows** and diversifiable lands.
 - **88 lakh seed kits** will be distributed free of cost to farmers to promote intercropping and diversification
 - **Structured training programmes** will be conducted for farmers and seed growers.

- **1,000 post-harvest processing units** will be set up to reduce losses and improve value addition, with a **maximum subsidy of ₹25 lakh** available for establishing processing and packaging units.

Simplified and Automated Research Amplification and Learning (SARAL)

News: Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has developed SARAL (Simplified and Automated Research Amplification and Learning) tool.

About SARAL



Figure 3. Source – BL

- SARAL stands for **Simplified and Automated Research Amplification and Learning**.
- It is a **tool** which helps to **generate lay person summaries of complex scientific research**.
- **Purpose:** To make **complex scientific research accessible** to the general public.
- **Objective:** To **translate** complex research into **understandable formats**, fostering greater public engagement with science.
- **Developed by:** It is being developed by the **IIIT Hyderabad** under guidance of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).
- It uses **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to extract information from research publications and generates **layperson-friendly outputs** such as: Videos, Podcasts, Posters and presentations.
- It is part of ANRF's initiative to create an **AI Science and Engineering Open India Stack** that would accelerate research and innovation.
- **Vision Alignment:** It supports ANRF's broader focus on **harnessing deep science and engineering, building deep-tech products and start-ups, and enabling innovation in critical fields** such as drug and chemical discovery, aerospace, climate, weather, and advanced materials.

About Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has been established by **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) 2023 Act**.
- **Aim:** To seed, grow and promote **research and development (R&D)** and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's **universities**, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.

- It is envisaged as a **single-window clearance mechanism** for funding research and development for universities and academic institutions.
- It acts as an apex body to **provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country** as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP).

Lecanemab Drug

News: Recently, Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration approved lecanemab (Leqembi) for early Alzheimer's disease.

About Lecanemab Drug



Figure 4. Source – STAT News

- It is a **disease-modifying immunotherapy** for early Alzheimer's disease.
- **Aim:** It aims to **address underlying disease processes** rather than only **relieve symptoms**.
- It may **slow progression** in some people with an early diagnosis.
- It is **not a cure** and **does not reverse** existing symptoms.
- It will **not benefit dementia** caused by **other conditions or Alzheimer's** that has progressed beyond early stages.
- **Working Mechanism**
 - Lecanemab is a monoclonal antibody produced in a lab that targets **amyloid-beta**, including its soluble protofibrils—the **protein build-ups that are a key sign of Alzheimer's disease**.
 - When lecanemab attaches to these proteins, it **acts like a marker that tells the body's immune cells to find and clear them**.
 - By helping remove this amyloid build-up, the **drug aims to limit ongoing damage to brain cells** and slow decline in the early stages of Alzheimer's.
- **Issues with Lecanemab Drug**
 - **Accessibility:** It costs about A\$40,000 per year, making access difficult for many.

- **Side-effects:** Reported risks include **brain swelling and small brain bleeds**, with symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, blurred vision, and balance problems in some.
- **Other Alternative Drugs: Donanemab** works in a similar way.

About Dementia

- **Dementia** is a **condition** that leads to **progressive memory or thinking problems** and is now the **most common cause of death** in **Australia**.
- **Causes:** There are **many causes** of dementia, but **Alzheimer's disease** accounts for around **60–80%** of all cases.

United Nations Troop Contributing Countries' (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave 2025

News: The Indian Army will host the United Nations Troop Contributing Countries' (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave in New Delhi from October 14–16, 2025.

About United Nations Troop Contributing Countries' (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave 2025



Figure 5. Source – PIB

- It is a **unique forum** where the collective experience, wisdom, and commitment of militaries and nations will converge to **deliberate the shared responsibility** of the international community towards **maintenance of peace under the UN Charter**.
- **Organised at:** It will take place in **New Delhi**.
- **Aim:** It aims to **reinforce collective commitment to global peace and security**.
- **Representatives:**
 - Chiefs and **representatives from over 30 countries**.
 - **Pakistan and China have not been invited**
- **Focus:**
 - **Strengthening peacekeeping cooperation** through enhanced dialogue, interoperability and exchange of best practices.

- **Leveraging indigenous technology and Atmanirbhar innovations** to make peacekeeping missions more resilient, cost-effective and future-ready.
- **Championing inclusivity and equity** by advocating for a greater voice for troop contributing countries in UN decision-making structures.
- **Demonstrate India as a collaborative and a trusted partner** to build capacities and capabilities towards shared responsibility for maintaining international peace.
- **Key features**
 - **Plenary sessions and discussions** on the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping and building sustainable peace in today's complex operational environments.
 - **Leverage technology** for more responsive and effective peace-keeping.
 - **Special spouse programmes**, to build military resilience through family engagement.

Amazon's 'Flying Rivers'

News: Scientists warn that Amazon's "flying rivers" are weakening with tree loss, raising drought risks for regions that depend on this rainfall-driven moisture transport.

About Amazon's 'Flying Rivers'

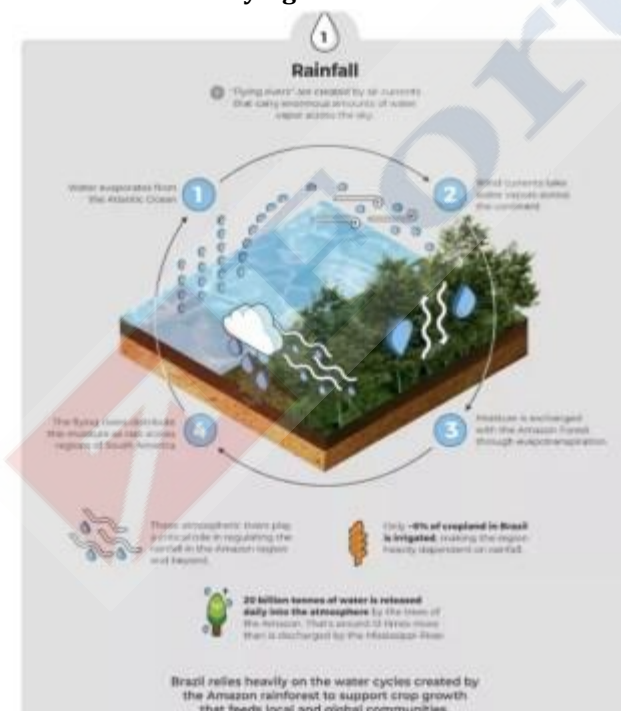


Figure 6. Source – Mongabay

- "Flying rivers" are **vast streams of water vapour** generated by the **rainforest** and **Atlantic evaporation** that **flow across the Amazon basin**.
- This natural phenomenon **spans eight Latin American countries** and largely stems from the **transpiration of the Amazon** and the **evaporation of the Atlantic Ocean**.
- **Mechanism:**
 - Flying rivers are **air currents** that bring **water vapour from Amazonia** in the **equatorial zone** of Northern South America, **down as far south as Northern Argentina**.

- The humidity carried by these “airborne rivers” is responsible for **much of the rain** that falls in the **Centre-West, Southeast and South of Brazil**.
- When coming into contact with **meteorological conditions** such as a **cold front**, this humidity can be **transformed into rain**.
- **Issue: Weakening flying rivers** threaten **regional water security, agriculture, wildlife, Indigenous livelihoods, and weather stability**.
- **Solutions:** Need to include **zero deforestation, stopping degradation and fires, restoration/reforestation** of deforested areas, **supporting Indigenous land rights, new conservation categories to protect flying rivers** (atmospheric flows), and **basin-wide cooperation**.
- **Importance of Amazon’s ‘flying rivers’**
 - **Sustaining water cycle:** They **move Atlantic moisture across the basin**, sustaining **Latin America’s water cycle and water availability**.
 - **Food Security:** Rain delivered by these aerial rivers **irrigates crops over vast areas**, including **Brazilian regions where most cropland is not irrigated**.
 - **Livelihoods:** **Indigenous ecological calendars** for **planting, fishing, and hunting** depend on **predictable rains** from flying rivers.
 - **Ecosystems Conservation:** Moisture carried to the **Andean highlands** sustains **sensitive ecosystems** and **protected areas** such as **Manu National Park**.
 - **Regional Climate:** Acting as a rainforest “**pump**,” flying rivers **stabilize rainfall patterns** and **help limit prolonged droughts**.

NATO Pipeline System (NPS)

News: Poland has announced that it will join NATO Pipeline System (NPS) amid rising tensions with Russia.

About NATO Pipeline System (NPS)



Figure 7. Source – NATO

- **Purpose:** The NPS is designed to **ensure** that **NATO’s requirements for petroleum products** and their distribution can be met **at all times**.

- **Origin:** It was **set up during** the **Cold War**.
- **Scale:** In total, it is approximately **10,000 kilometres** long.
- **Coverage:** It runs through **12 NATO countries** and It has a **storage capacity** of **4.1 million cubic metres**.
- It links together **storage depots, military air bases, civil airports, pumping stations, truck and rail loading stations, refineries** and **entry/discharge points**.
- **Funding:** This system are funded through the **NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP)**.
- **Control:** The networks are **controlled by national organisations**, with the **exception of the Central Europe Pipeline System (CEPS)**, which is a multinational system managed by the CEPS Programme Office under the aegis of the **NATO Support and Procurement Agency**.
- **Structure**
 - **Oversight:** The **Petroleum Committee** (senior advisory on petroleum/consumer logistics) oversees NPS and **reports to the Logistics Committee** on fuels, lubricants, equipment, the NPS and other petroleum installations.
 - **Components:** **Ten systems** in total — **eight national pipeline systems** and **two multinational systems**.
 - **Use Policy:**
 - **Military primacy:** Facilities are used **primarily for military purposes**.
 - **Commercial use:** **Spare capacity** may be used for **commercial traffic, only if** it does not compromise military primacy.

PM-SETU Scheme

News: On October 4, the Prime Minister launched PM-SETU, a centrally sponsored scheme to upgrade 1,000 Government ITIs.

About PM-SETU Scheme



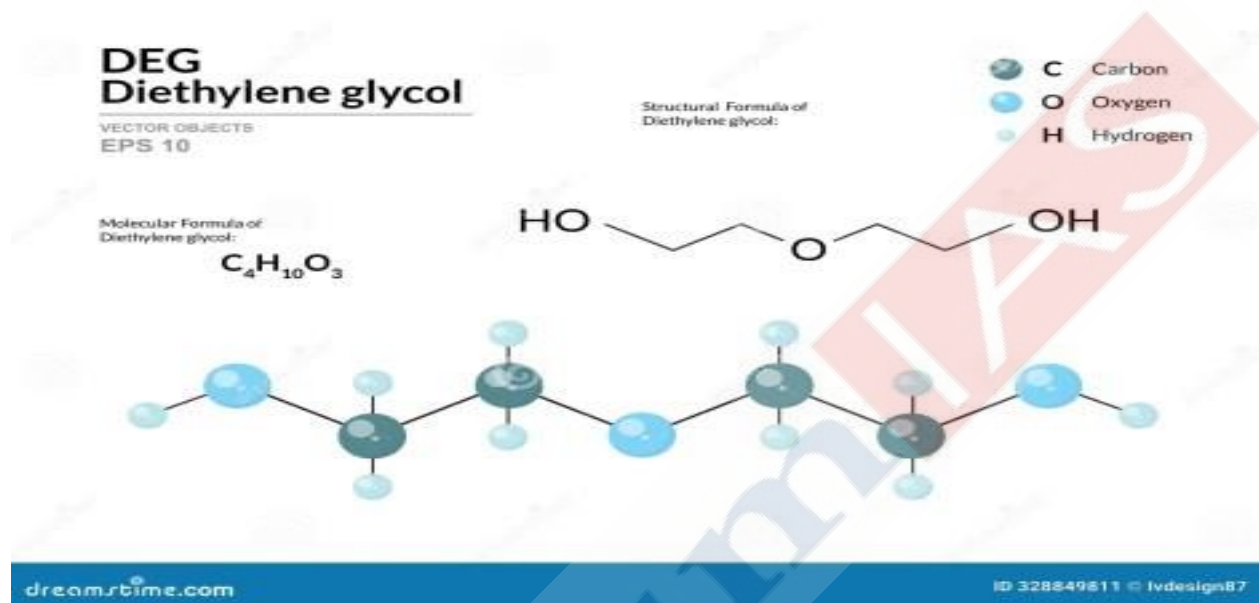
Source – FE

- **Full Form:** Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs.
- It **modernizes government ITIs through a hub-and-spoke model** to align skilling with market demand.
- **Type of Scheme:** Centrally sponsored scheme (government-owned but industry-managed through Anchor Industry Partners)
- **Finance:** Total investment of **Rs. 60,000 crore** with global co-financing support from the **World Bank and Asian Development Bank**.
- **Aim:** To deliver outcome-based skilling, strengthen employability, and connect youth with global skill demands.
- **First phase** focuses on ITIs in Patna and Darbhanga.
- **Key Features**
 - Under PM-SETU, 1,000 Government ITIs will be modernised **using a hub-and-spoke model**.
 - The network will **include 200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke ITIs** to cover a wide geographic area.
 - Hub ITIs will host innovation centres, training for trainers, production units, and dedicated placement services to support students.
 - Spoke ITIs will improve access by bringing quality training to regions that are farther from the hubs.
 - **Anchor Industry Partners** will manage these clusters so that training remains aligned with market demand and leads to better employment outcomes.
- **Significance:** It will redefine the ITI ecosystem, integrate education with the job market, ensure hands-on training, and open new opportunities across sectors as workshops of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Diethylene Glycol (DEG)/Ethylene Glycol (EG) and Leptospirosis

News: The Union Health Ministry recently confirmed that cough syrups linked to the recent deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan did not contain contaminants.

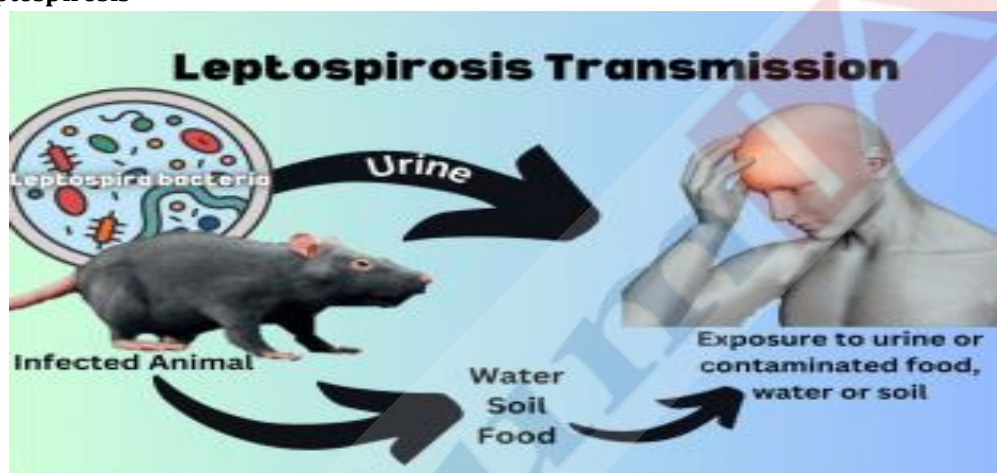
About Diethylene Glycol (DEG)



- It is an **organic chemical** that is mainly used as a **chemical intermediate**.
- **Appearance:** It is a **clear, colourless, odourless and stable oily liquid**.
- **Group:** It belongs to the **ether and alcohol group**.
- **Chemical Formula:** $C_4H_{10}O_3$
- **Production Methods:** Diethylene glycol is **produced commercially** as a **by-product of ethylene glycol production**.
 - It can also be produced directly through a **reaction between ethylene glycol and ethylene oxide**.
- **Characteristics:** It is slightly **viscous, noncorrosive and nonvolatile**.
 - Diethylene glycol is **miscible with water, ethers, lower aliphatic alcohols, aldehydes and ketones**.
 - It is **partially soluble in benzene, carbon tetrachloride, monobenzene, orthodichlorobenzene and toluene**.
 - It **dissolves many dyes, resins, oils, nitrocellulose** and many organic substances.

- **Uses:** It is used in **textile lubricants**, cutting oils, dry cleaning soap, printing inks, steam-set inks, and nongrain wood stains.
 - **Solvent:** In the **textile industry** diethylene glycol is used as a conditioning agent for wool, rayon, and cotton. As a solvent for dyes it makes a valuable assistant in dyeing and printing.
 - **Humectant:** The high hygroscopicity of diethylene glycol makes it an efficient **softening agent** for tobacco, paper, synthetic sponges, glues and casein.
 - Diethylene glycol is **especially useful in the dehydration of natural gas**.

About Leptospirosis



Source: mfsa.govmu.org

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Leptospirosis is an infectious bacterial disease caused by <i>Leptospira</i> species.● It affects both humans and animals (a zoonotic disease).● It is common in tropical and subtropical regions, especially during rainy and flood seasons.
Caused by	Leptospira interrogans , a spiral-shaped bacterium.

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Mode of Transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● It spread through water, soil, or food contaminated with urine of infected animals (rats, cattle, dogs, pigs, etc.).● Infection occurs when the bacteria enter the body through cuts or abrasions on the skin, mucous membranes (eyes, mouth, nose) and drinking or swimming in contaminated water.
Incubation Period	Usually 2 to 30 days , most commonly around 7-14 days .
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● In mild cases: High fever, chills, Headache and severe muscle pain (especially calf muscles), Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea, Red eyes (conjunctival suffusion) and Skin rash.● In severe cases (Weil's disease): Jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), Kidney and liver failure, bleeding (especially from lungs or nose) and Meningitis or encephalitis in some cases.
High-Risk Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Farmers and agricultural workers● Sewer and sanitation workers● Veterinarians and slaughterhouse workers● Children playing in floodwater● People in flood-prone or poorly sanitized areas
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Early antibiotic therapy is essential. Common antibiotics: Doxycycline, Penicillin, or Azithromycin.● Supportive care for complications (hydration, kidney/liver monitoring).

Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Avoid swimming or wading in potentially contaminated water.● Wear protective clothing, boots, and gloves during farming or animal handling.● Control rodent population around homes and workplaces.● Maintain proper sanitation and dispose of waste properly.● Vaccination of animals (where available).
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Aspirational Agriculture Districts

News: Recently, the government has announced 100 Aspirational Agriculture Districts to be developed under the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) across 29 states and UTs.

About Aspirational Agriculture Districts



Figure 8. Source: IE

The Aspirational Agriculture Districts are **100 districts identified** by under the **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)**.

- The initiative is designed to **improve agricultural performance** in districts with **low productivity and limited access to resources**.

- **Goal:** To boost agricultural productivity,

improve infrastructure, enhance irrigation, promote crop diversification, and expand farmers' access to credit and markets.

- **Purpose:**

- To transform underperforming agricultural regions into **high-growth, sustainable, and resilient agricultural hubs**.
- To ensure **balanced regional development** in the agricultural sector across states and union territories.

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- **Criteria for Selection:** Districts have been identified based on **three** main factors:
 - Low crop productivity
 - Moderate crop intensity
 - Below-average access to institutional credit
- **Implementation Framework:**
 - Each district will prepare a **District Agriculture Development Plan (DADP)**.
 - The programme will operate through **convergence of 36 existing schemes** from **11 central departments**.
- **Monitoring: 100 Central Nodal Officers (CNOs)**, mainly Joint Secretaries have been appointed to **oversee and monitor** the progress of these districts.
- **Distribution:** A total of **100 districts** has been chosen across **29 states and union territories**.

States	No. of aspirational districts
Uttar Pradesh	12 Districts
Maharashtra	09 Districts
Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan	08 Districts each
Bihar	07 Districts
Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal	04 Districts each
Assam, Chhattisgarh and Kerala	03 Districts each
UT of J&K, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand	02 Districts each
Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim and Tripura	01 Districts each

Note:

- To read about the **Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana**, please click [here](#).

Dhvani Missile

News: DRDO is preparing to test the Dhvani hypersonic missile, which is expected to significantly enhance India's strategic capabilities.

About Dhvani Missile



Figure 9. Source – Mint

- It is a **Hypersonic Glide Vehicle** that is **launched to extreme altitude** and then **glides at hypersonic speed** toward its target with high maneuverability.
- This glide profile makes the **missile very difficult to detect** and even harder to intercept for current defence systems.
- **Developed by:** The missile is being developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**).
- **Speed:** The missile is designed to fly **faster than Mach 5**, which is over **7,400 km/h**.
- **Range:** The estimated range of the missile is between **6,000 and 10,000 km**.
 - This range potentially doubles the reach of India's current Agni-V.
- **Deployment timeline:** If the planned test succeeds, operational deployment is expected **by 2029-30**.
- **Technology used**
 - **Scramjet and thermal shielding:** The program builds on scramjet propulsion and thermal shielding proven in the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle.
 - **Heat protection system:** The missile uses ultra-high-temperature ceramic composites that withstand 2,000–3,000°C during reentry.
 - **Stealth shaping and glide stability:** Stealth-optimised geometry and a blended wing-body reduce radar cross-section and support stable hypersonic glide.
- **Significance**
 - **Strategic deterrent:** The missile provides a major **strategic deterrent** for India and can shift the security balance in South Asia and beyond.

- **Hypersonic club:** The capability places India alongside the **United States, Russia, and China** in hypersonic weapons.
- **Indigenous self-reliance:** The program highlights indigenous technology and self-reliance in critical defence sectors.

Exercise KONKAN-25

News: Exercise KONKAN-25 began on 05 Oct 2025 off India's western coast and will run in two phases from 05–12 Oct 2025.

About Exercise KONKAN-25



- It is an **annual bilateral naval** between **India and the United Kingdom**.
- **Origin:** First exercise was held in year **2004**.
- **2025 Venue:** The exercise is being conducted **off the western coast of India**.
- **Aim:** The exercise aims to ensure secure, open, and free seas, enhance interoperability, and advance the 'India-UK Vision 2035'.
- The exercise is **conducted alternately in Indian and UK waters**, making it a rotational venue exercise.
- Over the **past two decades**, it has grown to improve interoperability and mutual understanding.
- The 2025 exercise will be **conducted in two phases**
 - **Harbour phase:** This phase will feature **professional interactions** between naval personnel, cross-deck visits, sports fixtures, and cultural exchanges.
 - **Sea phase:** This will involve complex **maritime operational drills** focusing on anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare, flying operations, and other seamanship evolutions.
- **Significance**
 - The exercise consolidates strategic ties and contributes to regional maritime stability.

- The Indian side is led by the **indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant** along with other surface, sub-surface, and air combatants.
- The UK Carrier Strike Group 25 is led by **HMS Prince of Wales**.

Baratang Island

News: India's only mud volcano at Baratang in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands erupted on October 2 after over two decades of dormancy.

About Baratang Island

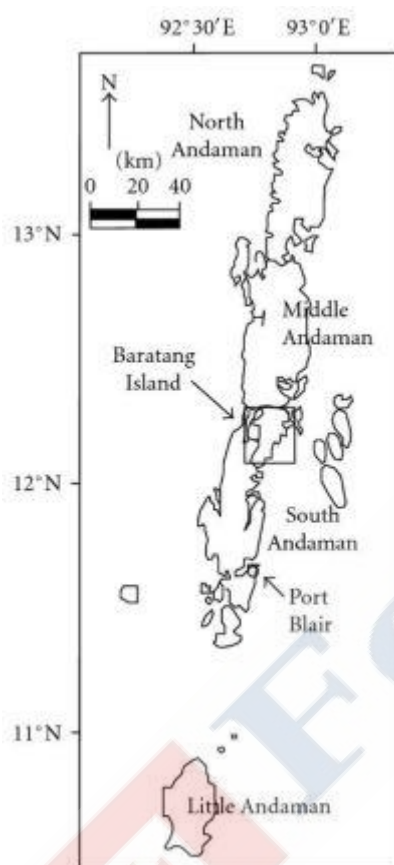


Figure 10. Source – Research Gate

- **Location:** It lies in the **North and Middle Andaman district**, nearly 150 km from Port Blair.
- **Ranchiwalas Island** is another name for Baratang Island.
- This island is **inhabited** mainly by the **migrated Chota Nagpuri tribes**.
- **Size:** The island covers about **242.6 sq. km**.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Baratang Island is also **home to the Jarawa tribe**, one of the indigenous tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Distinctive Features of Baratang Island:** It include the **limestone caves, the Mud Volcano, Parrot Island, and Baludera Beach**.
- **Baratang Mud Volcano**
 - Baratang's mud volcano, **locally called "jalki,"** is India's only mud volcano.
 - It releases a **mix of mud, decomposed organic matter, and gases** that forms a bubbling pool with small craters and striking surface features.

- **Previous eruption:** A violent eruption was last reported in **2005**.
- **Process of formation:** **Gases** generated deep inside the earth from **decaying organic matter** build **pressure** below the surface.

- This pressure **pushes mud and gas upward**, and as they **escape**, they create bubbles and craters that shape the **Baratang mud volcano**.

Net-Zero Banking Alliance

News: Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) announced that it will cease operation, bringing an end to the UN-supported banking coalition that worked to promote global net-zero goals through its financing activities.

About Net-Zero Banking Alliance



Source: unepfi

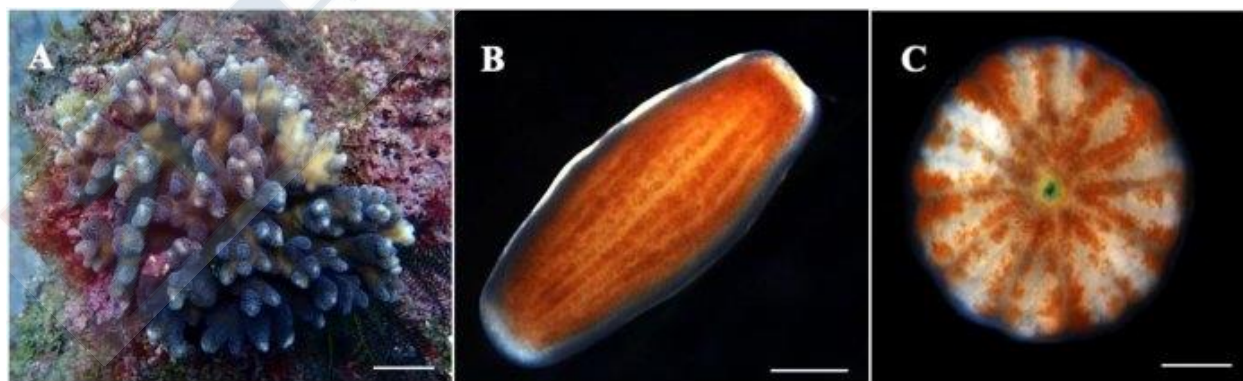
- It is **bank-led and UN convened alliance** of leading global banks committed to **aligning** their lending, investment, and capital markets activities with **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**.
- It is a **flagship climate initiative** under the **Principles for Responsible Banking** to **accelerate science-based climate target setting and develop common practice**.
- **Formed in:** 2021
- It is a global alliance within the **Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)** and **is open to all banks globally**.
 - **No Indian Bank is part of the alliance.**
- It works **to provide a framework, guidance, and peer learning opportunities** to support members to design, set, and achieve credible science-based net zero targets for 2030 or sooner.
- **Governing body:** It involves a **Steering Group and a Chair**.
 - The Steering Group, composed of **representatives from member banks**.

- It represents the **alliance's 144 banks through 14 banks** each selected by member banks.
- It is **coordinated and supported by the UNEP FI Secretariat**, with the **United Nations also holding a seat** on the Steering Group.
- **All banks that have signed the commitment will:**
 - **Transition the operational and attributable GHG emissions from their lending and investment portfolios** to align with pathways to net-zero by 2050 or sooner.
 - **Within 18 months of joining, set 2030 targets (or sooner) and a 2050 target**, with intermediate targets to be set every 5 years from 2030 onwards.
 - **Bank's first 2030 targets will focus on priority sectors** where the bank can have the most significant impact
 - **Within 36 months of joining, banks will set a further round of sector-level targets** for all or a significant majority of specified carbon-intensive sectors.
 - **Annually publish emissions data and, within a year of target setting, disclose progress** on a board-approved transition strategy and sectoral climate policies.
 - Take a **robust approach to the role of offsets in transition plans**.

Coral Larvae Cryobank Project and Coral Triangle

News: Scientists at the University of the Philippines are establishing the nation's first cryobank to conserve coral genetic material and aid in reef restoration.

About the Coral Larvae Cryobank Project



Source: Frontiers

- **Coral Larvae Cryobank** is set up by the **University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute**.

- The project is **part of a wider regional initiative** that links research institutions in the Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to **create a network of cryobanks** across the Coral Triangle.
- **Aim:** To strengthen **resilience** and **secure the Coral Triangle's reefs for future**.
 - The project focusses on **freezing and preserving coral larvae**, which can **later be used to revive damaged reefs or for research**. This will protect genetic diversity that might otherwise be lost.
- The initial focus is on **pocilloporid corals** which is **known for their rapid growth and important role in reef recovery**, but vulnerable to climate stress.
- **Process of cryopreservation:**
 - **Vitrification:** Coral larvae are preserved safely using a method called vitrification, which **protects their delicate cells**.
 - The larvae are **first treated with special protective solutions** and then **rapidly frozen in liquid nitrogen at -196°C**, turning them **into a glass-like state** that prevents ice crystals from forming.
 - To bring them back to life, scientists **thaw the larvae very quickly using lasers**, avoiding damage from ice formation.
 - After thawing, **the larvae are gradually placed in seawater, checked for signs of life** like swimming and settling, and **then moved to tanks to grow**.
 - This technique **allows coral genetic material to be stored for years** and later used to help restore damaged reefs.
- **Challenges to Cryopreserving:** Cryopreserving many coral species is challenging as their larvae and reproductive cells are large, lipid-rich, sensitive to cold, and often contain algae that block cryoprotectants.

About Coral Triangle



Source: Asian Development Bank

- **Location:** The Coral Triangle spans 5.7 million sq. km covering six countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste.
 - It is located between the Pacific and Indian oceans.
- **Biodiversity:** It is often referred to as the “Amazon of the seas.”
 - It holds the highest marine biodiversity in the world including around 76% of all known coral species and over 2,000 species of reef fish.
- **Marine Ecosystems:** It encompasses critical ecosystems like coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds, supporting a vast array of marine life, including turtles, sharks, and various fish species.
- **Ecological Importance:** The Coral Triangle is crucial for maintaining global marine biodiversity and resilience, playing a vital role in marine and coastal ecosystems.
- **Human Dependency:** Over 120 million people live in the Coral Triangle area, depending on its resources for food, livelihood, and economic activities, particularly through fishing and tourism.
- **Threats:** Faces significant threats from overfishing, climate change, pollution, and habitat destruction, particularly coral bleaching due to rising sea temperatures.

Note: According to the **Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2020** report, the planet lost 14% of its corals between 2009 and 2018.

Tiruppur Kumaran and Subramania Siva

News: PM paid tribute to Tiruppur Kumaran and Subramaniya Siva, praising their sacrifices, cultural pride, and patriotic inspiration for youth from Tamil Nadu.

About Tiruppur Kumaran

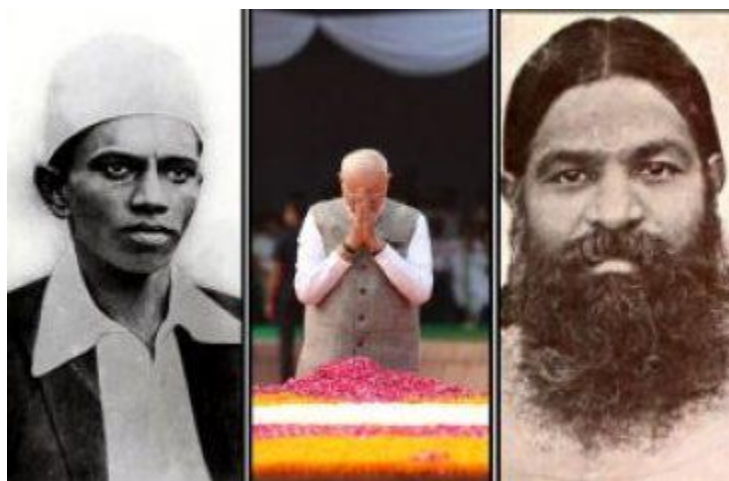


Figure 11. Source – Bharat Express

● **Birth:** He was born on **4 October 1904**, in **weaver family near Erode, Tamil Nadu**

● He is also known as **Kodi Kaatha Kumaran**.

● **Death:** He died from **injuries** sustained during a police assault on the **banks of the Noyyal River in Tiruppur** on 11 January 1932, during a protest march.

● **Inspired by:** He was inspired by

Mahatma Gandhi.

- **Contributions:**

- He founded the **Desa Bandhu Youth Association**.
- At the **time of his death**, he was **holding the flag of the Indian nationalists**, which had been **banned** by the British, leading to the epithet **Kodi Kaatha Kumaran** ("Kumaran who protected the flag").
- A **commemorative stamp** was issued by India Post in **October 2004** on his **100th birth anniversary**.

About Subramania Siva

- **Birth:** He was born on **4 October 1884** in **Wattalakundi, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu**.
- He is also known as **Sivam and Siva**.
- He was **honoured as 'Veeramurasu'**.
- He fought for freedom by **combining politics and spirituality**.
- **Inspired by:** He was close to freedom fighter **V. U. Chidambaranar and Mahakavi Bharathiyar**.
- **Contributions:**

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- He formed the *Dharma Paripalana Samajam* in Thiruvananthapuram in 1906-07.
- He started a **monthly** magazine called *Gnanapanu*.
- In 1916 he started a **weekly** magazine called *Prabhanja Mithran*.
- He wrote articles under the **pen name** *Naradhar*.
- **Books written:** He wrote **Ramanuja Vijayam, Madhva Vijayam**.
- **Death:** He died on **23 July 1925**.

My Bharat-National Service Scheme Award (NSS)

News: Recently, the President of India presented the MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2022-23 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

About My Bharat-National Service Scheme Award (NSS)



Source: PIB

- My Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) award is **to recognise and reward outstanding contributions** towards **voluntary community** service made by the **Programme Officers/NSS Units and NSS Volunteers**.
- **Introduced in:** 1969
- **Instituted by:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 1993-94
- NSS Awards are conferred **every year**.

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- **2022-23 Award:** MY Bharat-NSS Award for the year 2022-23 is given in **two different categories** as under:

Categories	No. of Awards	Value of Award
NSS Units and their Programme Officers	10 + 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rs.2,00,000/- to each NSS Unit (For NSS Programme Development), along with Trophy● Rs. 1,50,000/- to each Programme Officer with a Certificate and a Silver Medal.
NSS Volunteers	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rs. 1,00,000/- to each Volunteer, with a Certificate and a Silver Medal.

About National Service Scheme (NSS)

- NSS is a **Central Sector Scheme** which was **launched in 1969**.
- **Objective:** To develop the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service.
- The ideological orientation of the NSS is **inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi**.
- **Motto of NSS:** "NOT ME, BUT YOU" ('स्वयं से पहले आप').
- At present, NSS has about **40 lakh volunteers on its rolls** across India.
- The NSS volunteers work on issues of social relevance, which keep evolving in response to the needs of the community, through regular and special camping activities. Such issues include
 - literacy and education
 - health, family welfare and nutrition,
 - environment conservation,
 - social service programmes,
 - programmes for empowerment of women,
 - programmes connected with economic development activities,
 - rescue and relief during calamities,
 - Swachhata activities, etc.

Danube River

News: Rescuers are searching for several missing individuals after a boat carrying ten Chinese nationals capsized on the Danube River along the Serbia–Croatia border.

About Danube River



Figure 12. Source – World of Maps

- The **Danube River** is the **second-longest river in Europe** after the **Volga**.
- The Danube is the **only major European river to flow from the west to the east**.
- **Origin:** It rises in the **Black Forest mountains of western Germany** (from the Breg and Brigach streams).
- It flows into the **Black Sea** via the **Danube Delta** in **Romania and Ukraine**. **Danube Delta** is a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.
- **Length:** Approximately **2,850 km**
- **Tributaries:** Its major tributaries are **Inn, Drava, Tisza, Sava, Morava and Olt river**.
- **Countries it flows through (10):** Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine.
- **Major Cities Along the Danube:** Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Regensburg, Passau, and Linz.
- **Major ports:** Regensburg, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Belgrade, Ruse, Brăila, Galați, Izmayil.

Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC) “Shivalik”

News: Union Minister of Ports received India’s third VLGC “Shivalik” under the Indian flag at Visakhapatnam Port, marking a national maritime milestone.

About Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC) “Shivalik”



Figure 13. Source – BL

- **'Shivalik'** is a **Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC)**, which is a **sub-class of gas carriers** designed to **transport a much higher volume of gas**.
- It joined **SCI's existing VLGCs, Sahyadri and Anandamayi**.
- **Owned by:** It was inducted into the

Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) fleet.

- **Built in:** It was built in **South Korea**.
- **Named after:** It is named after the **Himalayan Shivalik Range**.
- **Size:** It has a length of **225 meters**.
- **Capacity:** It has a capacity of **82,000 CBM**.
- **Recent voyage:** It completed its maiden voyage by loading more than **46,000 metric tonnes of LPG** (propane and butane) **at Ruwais, UAE, and arrived at Visakhapatnam Port** for discharge operations for **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)**.
- **Key features**
 - The vessel is **equipped with segregated tanks**, which enable safe carriage and efficient handling of liquefied petroleum gas.
 - It has **advanced temperature management systems**, which preserve cargo integrity during loading, transit, and discharge.
 - It **complies with global safety and efficiency standards**, which represents cutting-edge maritime engineering and operational reliability.
- **Significance**
 - **Self-Reliant India:** The inclusion of VLGCs reduces dependence on foreign carriers and strengthens national maritime capabilities. This supports Atmanirbharata in shipping under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and the Maritime India Vision 2030.
 - **Energy Security:** The vessel **ensures secure, efficient, and reliable LPG transportation**, while **strengthening India's energy connectivity with the Arabian Gulf**.

- **Strategic Significance:** The arrival under the national flag signals India's maritime resurgence and supports the goal of becoming a top five maritime nation by 2047 with greater participation in global energy trade.

Tort of Alienation of Affection (AoA)

News: The Delhi High Court, in *Shelly Mahajan v. MS Bhanushree Bahl & Anr* (2024), delivered a first-of-its-kind order allowing a spouse to seek civil damages from a third party accused of intentionally interfering in a marriage.

About Tort of Alienation of Affection (AoA)



Figure 14. Source – LiveLaw

- **AoA is a common law tort** (a “heart-balm” action) that allows a spouse to sue a **third person** for **willfully and maliciously interfering** in a marriage and causing **loss of affection, companionship, or consortium**.
- **Idea behind:** It is **based on the idea** that **marriage** carries **legal interests** such as consortium, intimacy, support and a shared life that can be **legally protected from wrongful interference**.
- It is **not codified** or expressly recognized in Indian law.
- It is **not prohibited either** but has been acknowledged in several judicial decisions.
- To establish a valid **AoA claim**, the plaintiff must prove:
 - **Intentional and wrongful conduct** by the third party directed at alienating the marriage.
 - **Causation** is that the conduct **directly caused a legal injury** or the **loss of marital affection**.
 - The **loss suffered** is **measurable and legally cognisable** (capable of rational assessment).
- **Jurisdiction:** **Civil courts** have the authority to hear AoA cases.

Judgement under Shelly Mahajan v. MS Bhanushree Bahl & Anr case (2025)

- In *Shelly Mahajan v. MS Bhanushree Bahl & Anr*, the **Delhi High Court (HC)**, in a **first-of-its-kind decision**, allowed a **civil damages suit** against a **third-party** accused of interfering in a marriage.
- The **wife (plaintiff)** sought compensation from her **husband's alleged affair partner**, claiming that the **third party's wrongful interference** caused the **breakdown of her marriage**.

- The HC clarified that while **Joseph Shine** case removed the **criminal aspect** of adultery, it **did not confer immunity** on third parties from **civil liability** for **malicious interference in a marriage**.
- **Matrimonial laws** (like the **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**) provide **remedies between spouses**, such as **divorce or judicial separation**, but **not against third parties**.
- Therefore, in the **absence of a statutory bar**, a **civil tort claim** for **alienation of affection** is **legally maintainable**.
- The HC **overruled objections** about the **maintainability of the suit** and **issued summons**, allowing the case to proceed.
- **Legal Principle Affirmed:**
 - A spouse's right to marital consortium and affection is a protectable legal interest.
 - Correspondingly, third parties owe a duty not to intentionally and wrongfully interfere with that relationship.
 - Where such interference causes demonstrable harm, damages may be claimed under civil law.

Other Judicial References

- ***Pinakin Mahipatray Rawal v. State of Gujarat (2013)***: The Supreme Court observed that **alienation of affection by a stranger**, if proved, constitutes an **intentional tort**.
- ***Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma (2013)***: The Court noted that **children** may also have a potential cause of action if a **third party alienates their parents' affection**.
- In ***Joseph Shine v. Union of India (2018)***, **Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code** was struck down and thereby **decriminalised adultery**. The Court ruled that **consensual extramarital relationships** cannot attract criminal punishment, affirming that **adultery is a matter of personal privacy**.
 - The Court clarified that while adultery is **no longer a criminal offence**, it remains a **civil wrong** and a **valid ground for divorce**.