

Factly Weekly

Compilation

2026

**For UPSC CSE Prelims
Exam**

2nd Week
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SaaSpocalypse

News- The software industry was shaken suddenly by what analysts are calling a “SaaSpocalypse”- caused by new AI tools launched by the US startup Anthropic.

About SaaSpocalypse:

- The term “SaaSpocalypse” was **coined by the Jefferies Group**, a United States multinational investment bank.
- It refers to a **market sell-off driven by fears that artificial intelligence may replace traditional Software as a Service (SaaS) software models.**

About Claude Cowork

- Anthropic, a United States artificial intelligence company, launched Claude Cowork with eleven plugins to automate legal, compliance, sales, marketing, finance, and data analysis tasks.
- These artificial intelligence tools can independently execute workflows, reducing the need for human users and specialised software products.

Impact: Software and information technology stocks fell sharply in the United States, Europe, and India following the announcement.

Significance

- The sell-off reflects fears that artificial intelligence may weaken seat-based Software as a Service revenue models and labour-intensive IT services.
- It signals deep uncertainty about how artificial intelligence will transform the global technology sector.

Thwaites Glacier

News- Thwaites Glacier is in the news due to scientific concern over its rapid melting and its potential impact on global sea levels.



Source- Britannica

About Thwaites Glacier

- Thwaites Glacier is widely known as the “Doomsday Glacier” due to its potential to significantly raise global sea levels.
- **Location:** It is located in **West Antarctica** and flows into the **Amundsen Sea**.
- **Dimensions:** It is the **widest glacier on Earth**, measuring **about 120 kilometres in width** and **covering nearly 1.9 lakh square kilometres**.
- **Monitored by:** The glacier is **monitored by the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration**, a **multinational scientific research initiative**.
- **Significance:** Thwaites Glacier **holds back ice in the West Antarctic Ice Sheet**, while its ice shelf acts as a brace that slows the flow of ice into the ocean.

New Marine Worm Species

News– Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India discovered two new marine worm species along the polluted coastline of West Bengal.

These worms are “*bio-warriors*” that survive in extreme conditions where most life cannot, highlighting the delicate and often unseen biodiversity along India’s northern coasts.



Source- IE

About New Marine Worm Species

- Researchers discovered two new polychaete marine worm species that reveal hidden and resilient biodiversity along **India's northern Bay of Bengal coast**.
- **Location:** The discovery was made in **the Digha and Bankiput** regions of Purba **Medinipur district** in **West Bengal**.
- **Discovery by:** The discovery was made by researchers from the Zoological Survey of India in collaboration with international experts.

About *Namalycastis solenotognatha*

- **Naming:** Its name is derived from the Greek words *solenotos* (channeled) and *gnatha* (jaw), referring to its unique jaw structure.
- **Habitat:** It survives in extreme, sulfide-rich, foul-smelling mudflats and is found on decomposing mangrove wood and hardened clay.
- **Key features:** It has an unusual channeled jaw with many canals emerging from the pulp cavity.

About *Nereis dhritiae*

- **Naming:** The species is named **after Dhriti Banerjee, the first woman director of the Zoological Survey of India**.
- **Habitat:** It lives inside wooden dock piles on sandy beaches that remain submerged during high tide.
- **Key features:** The species shows strong resilience by surviving in heavily polluted and human-impacted coastal areas.

Key facts about Malaysia

News- PM Modi is on a two-day official visit to Malaysia, focusing on cooperation in artificial intelligence, defence, and the semiconductor sector.

About Malaysia



Source- Britannica

- **Location:** It is a Southeast Asian country located just **north of the Equator**.
- **Two Regions:** The **South China Sea** divides it into **Peninsular Malaysia (West Malaysia)** and **East Malaysia** (on Borneo Island).
- **Capital:** Kuala Lumpur.
- **Land Borders:** Thailand, Brunei, and Indonesia.
- **Maritime Borders:** Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam.
- **Important Water Bodies:** It is bordered by the **Strait of Malacca, South China Sea, Celebes Sea, and Sulu Sea**.
- **Highest Peak:** **Mount Kinabalu (4,095 m)**, located in Sabah (East Malaysia).
- **Major Rivers:** Pahang, Rajang, and Kinabatangan.
- **Form of Government:** Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system

Global Teacher Prize 2026

News– Indian teacher Rouble Nagi won Global Teacher Prize 2026 at the World Governments Summit in Dubai, UAE, for setting up hundreds of learning centres.



Source- NDTV

About Global Teacher Prize

- It is an *annual international honour* conferred on an outstanding teacher who has made a meaningful difference in the lives of students and the wider community.
- It was *instituted in 2014*.
- The objective of the award is to emphasise the vital role of teachers and to acknowledge their exceptional service to society.

Eligibility and Selection

- The prize is *open to teachers across the world*, including those working in *public, private, and alternative educational institutions*.
- Applicants are assessed on parameters such as *innovative pedagogy, classroom accomplishments, community engagement*, and contribution to improving educational standards.
- The evaluation also takes into account the impact on students' learning outcomes and the teacher's ability to work effectively in difficult circumstances.
- Teachers may either self-apply or be nominated by others.

Award and Organisation

- The recipient is *awarded \$1 million*, making it one of the most prestigious recognitions in the education sector.
- The prize is presented by *GEMS Education and organised by the Varkey Foundation* in collaboration with *UNESCO*.

Copernicus Sentinel-2 Mission

News- The Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission captured satellite images of Northern Italy during the February 2026 Winter Olympics.

About Copernicus Sentinel-2 Mission

- It is an Earth observation satellite mission that monitors land surface conditions using high-resolution imagery.
- It is part of **Copernicus**, the **European Union's Earth observation programme**.
- **Developed by:** The mission has been developed by the European Space Agency for the European Union.
- **Aim:** The mission aims to monitor variability in land surface conditions and environmental health using optical multispectral data.
- **Satellite Constellation**
 - It comprises a land monitoring constellation of **two polar-orbiting satellites** placed in the same sun-synchronous orbit.
 - The **twin satellites, S-2B and S-2C**, provide a wide swath **width of 290 kilometres and a high revisit time**.
- **Key Features**
 - The mission **delivers high-resolution optical multispectral imagery across 13 spectral bands**.
 - The data supports applications such as **agriculture monitoring, disaster management, ecosystem observation, and water quality assessment**.
 - It enables **real-time observation of environmental changes** across large land areas.

About Copernicus Programme

- Copernicus is the Earth observation component of the European Union's Space Programme.
- It is managed by the European Commission and implemented in partnership with agencies such as the **European Space Agency (ESA)**, the **European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)**, the **European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)**, and others.
- The programme is named after Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543).

- Its objective is to provide accurate and timely data for environmental management, climate change monitoring, civil security, and policy-making

PM CARES, PMNRF, and NDF

News– The PMO informed the Lok Sabha Secretariat that questions related to PM CARES, PMNRF, and NDF are not admissible under Lok Sabha rules.

About the PM CARES Fund

- **Established in:** The fund was set up on March 27, 2020, after the Covid-19 outbreak, as a public charitable trust.
- **Funding source:** The corpus consists entirely of voluntary public contributions and does not receive money from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Administration:** The fund is controlled by the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs, and Finance are **ex-officio trustees**. The PM may also nominate additional trustees.
- **Audit and transparency:** The Supreme Court stated that PM CARES is a public charitable trust and there is **no requirement for audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India**. The Centre stated that it is not a public authority under the RTI Act.
- **Utilisation of funds:** The fund is meant to deal with emergency or distress situations and to provide relief to affected persons.

About the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund

- **Established in:** The fund was created in January 1948 to assist displaced persons from Pakistan.
- **Funding source:** It is funded fully through voluntary public contributions without government budgetary support.
- **Administration:** The Prime Minister serves as ex-officio Chairperson, assisted by staff on an honorary basis.
- **Audit and transparency:** The fund is **audited annually by an independent non-government auditor** and is **not treated as a public authority under the RTI Act**.
- **Utilisation of funds:** The resources are used for immediate relief to families affected by natural calamities, accidents, riots and also to assist with high-cost medical treatments (e.g., cardiac surgery, kidney transplants, cancer care).

About the National Defence Fund

- **Established in:** The fund was created in 1962, after the Indo-China War, to support the welfare of Indian Armed Forces personnel, para-military forces, and their dependents.
- **Funding source:** It relies only on voluntary donations from the public.
- **Administration:** An Executive Committee administers the fund, with the Prime Minister as Chairperson and Defence, Finance, and Home Ministers as Members.
- **Audit and transparency:** It is not subject to the CAG's statutory audit, unlike regular defence expenditures audited.

Key Facts about Eritrea

News- Recently, Ethiopia has accused Eritrea of military aggression, border occupation, and supporting armed groups, amid renewed tensions after the Tigray conflict.

About Eritrea



Figure 1. Source- Wikipedia

- **Location :** It is a country located in the **Horn of Africa region of East Africa.**
- **Capital-** Asmara
- **Land Borders:** It shares land borders with **Sudan to the west, Ethiopia to the south, and Djibouti to the southeast.**
- **Maritime Borders:** Across the Red Sea, Eritrea shares **maritime boundaries with Saudi Arabia and Yemen.**
- **Strategic Chokepoint:** It controls the western coast of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which is a vital global shipping route.
- **Regional Groupings:** Eritrea is a member of the African Union (AU) and COMESA

Key Geographical Features

- **Geographical Divisions:** Eritrea has coastal **lowlands, central highlands, and western lowlands, shaped by the East African Rift system.**
- **Major River:** Important rivers include **the Tekezé, Mereb, Barka, and Anseba.**
- **Highest Point:** **Mount Emba Soira** is the highest point at 3,018 meters..

- **Climate:** Eritrea has **three major climate zones**, namely the **temperate, subtropical, and tropical climate zones**.

Esports Nations Cup (ENC) 2026

News: Chess has been added to the Esports Nations Cup (ENC) 2026, a global nation-based esports tournament to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

About Esports Nations Cup (ENC) 2026



Source: Times of India

- It is an international, country-based esports competition in which players compete by representing their respective nations rather than private clubs or franchises.
- **Organiser-** Esports World Cup Foundation (EWCF)
- **Location-** The tournament will take place from 2 November to 29 November 2026 in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.
- **Games and Titles**
 - ENC 2026 will feature **16 competitive esports titles** across multiple genres such as strategy, shooters, racing, and mobile gaming.
 - **Chess** has been included as one of the competitive titles for the first time.
- **Prize Structure:**
 - Every participant will be assured of prize money.
 - Uniform placement rewards will be offered across all games to maintain fairness.

- **Chess at ENC 2026**

- Players will first compete in a **round-robin group stage** consisting of **16 groups of 8 players** each.
- The **top four players** from each group will qualify for a **64-player knockout stage**.
- Matches will be played in **Rapid time control (10+0)** format.
- **Armageddon games** will be used as tie-breakers.

SWAVALAMBINI Programme

News: Recently, the Minister of State, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), filed a written reply in the Lok Sabha regarding the progress of the Swavalambini programme.

About the SWAVALAMBINI Programme



Source: PIB

- It is a **Women Entrepreneurship Programme** for young women in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- **Launched by**– Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- **Implemented by**: National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati and NITI Aayog.
- **Coverage** – It aims to establish over 30 women-led enterprises, particularly targeting regions like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana in its pilot phase.
- **Programme structure**

- **Target group:** 1,200 female students from Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and universities.
- **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP):** All 1,200 students attend an introductory programme to build basic awareness about entrepreneurship.
- **Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP):** Out of these, 600 students receive advanced training covering skills, finance, market linkages, compliance, and networking.
- **Mentorship support:** This is followed by 21 weeks of mentorship and handholding to help them turn their ideas into sustainable businesses.
 - NITI Aayog provides mentoring, helps with seed funding, and recognizes successful entrepreneurs through the Award to Reward (ATR) initiative.

Removal of Lok Sabha speaker

News- The Opposition on February 10 moved a no-confidence motion seeking the removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker, which will be examined and processed as per rules.

About Removal of Lok Sabha speaker

Constitutional Provisions: Article 94 of the Constitution provides for vacation, resignation, and removal of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of the People.

- **Vacation:** Under Article 94(a), the Speaker or Deputy Speaker vacates office **if they cease to be a member of the House.**
- **Resignation:** Under Article 94(b), they may **resign by writing** under their hand.
- **Removal:** Under Article 94(c), they may be **removed by a resolution of the House passed by a majority of all the then members.**

The procedure is **governed by Rules 200 to 203 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.**

Procedure for Removal

- **Notice Requirement:**
 - A written notice must be **submitted to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha.**
 - The notice may be given **jointly by two or more members.**
 - **At least 14 days' notice is mandatory** before the resolution can be moved.

- **Listing of Motion:** After the notice period, the motion for leave to move the resolution is listed for a day fixed by the presiding authority.
- **Support Threshold:** When the motion is taken up, **at least 50 members must rise in their places to support it.**
- **Discussion Timeline**
 - If the required support is met, the motion is **admitted and must be taken up within 10 days.**
 - The discussion is **strictly confined to the specific charges mentioned in the resolution.**
- **Voting Condition:** Removal requires a resolution **passed by a majority of all the then members of the House.**

Rights During Removal Proceedings

- The Speaker has the **right to speak and take part in proceedings.**
- They may vote in the first instance but cannot exercise a casting vote in case of equality.
- Even after dissolution, the Speaker continues in office until the first meeting of the new House.

Historical Context

- No-confidence motions against the Speaker were moved against **Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar (1954), Hukam Singh (1966), and Balram Jakhar (1987).**
- In all three cases, the motions failed and none were removed from office.

Mangrove Clam (*Geloina erosa*)

News- Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute have successfully achieved captive breeding and full life-cycle completion of mangrove clam under controlled hatchery conditions.



Figure 2. Source- TOI

About Mangrove Clam (*Geloina erosa*)

- It is an ecologically and economically important bivalve found in mangrove and estuarine ecosystems.
- **Scientific Name:** The scientific name of mangrove clam is *Geloina erosa*, and it is also placed under the genus *Polymesoda* in some literature.

- The Mangrove Clam, commonly known as the **mud clam** or locally as “**Kandal Kakka**” in northern Kerala.
- **Habitat:** It inhabits organic-rich muddy substrates in intertidal mangrove zones and tolerates a wide salinity range from brackish to nearly freshwater conditions.
- **Distribution:** It is widely distributed across South and Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific region, including parts of northern Kerala.
- **Key Features**
 - **Large Size:** It is one of the largest mud clams in the world and can reach up to 10 cm shell width.
 - **Burrowing Nature:** It is a deep-burrowing bivalve found in muddy mangrove ecosystems.
 - **Filter Feeding:** It feeds by filtering suspended particles and plankton from water.
 - **Ecological Role:** It recycles nutrients and stabilizes sediments, which strengthens mangrove ecosystems.
 - **Life Cycle:** Its life cycle includes larval stage, spat, juvenile and adult phases.
- **Threats:** Wild stocks in India are declining due to indiscriminate harvesting, habitat degradation, pollution, and coastal development, along with absence of scientific stock assessment and fishing restrictions.
- **Significance:** It supports food security, sustainable livelihoods, and mangrove ecosystem conservation.

Form 7 Controversy

News- Bulk Form 7 applications during Special Intensive Revision have raised concerns about misuse and large-scale deletion of voters.

About Form 7 Controversy

- Form 7 controversy relates to bulk objections filed to delete names from electoral rolls during the ongoing special intensive revision.
- **Legal Basis**
 - Form 7 is governed by Section 13(2) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, framed under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.

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- Filing a **false declaration is punishable** under Section 32 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, with imprisonment up to one year or fine or both.
- **Key 2022 Amendment:** In 2022, the Election Commission amended Form 7 to allow any voter in a constituency to file an objection, instead of restricting it to persons from the same booth or polling station, thereby widening its ambit.
- **Aim:** Form 7 aims to allow objections to incorrect inclusion of names in electoral rolls on valid and specific grounds.
- **Permissible Grounds:** Objections can be filed on grounds such as death, duplication, shifting of residence, ineligibility due to age or citizenship, or misrepresentation.
- **Mechanism**
 - **Eligible Applicant:** Only a person whose name is already in the roll can file Form 7. Booth Level Agents can also file objections.
 - **Physical Verification:** Booth Level Officers must conduct physical verification of address and eligibility.
 - **Death Cases:** In case of death, verification requires signatures of three neighbours and a death certificate.
 - **Absence Check:** If the voter is absent, three physical visits are required.
 - **Hearing Notice:** The concerned voter is issued a notice for a hearing before any decision is taken.
 - **Appeal Provision:** Appeals can be filed before the district magistrate within 15 days.

Core of the Controversy

- **Bulk Filing:** Allegations claim systemic and coordinated bulk filing of Form 7 applications.
- **Scale of Deletions:** Names of 6.5 crore electors were removed from draft rolls, reducing voters from 51 crore to 44.4 crore.
- **Affected States:** Highest deletions were reported from Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat.

Network Readiness Index Report 2025

News: India has improved its ranking in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025, moving up four places to secure the 45th position globally.

About Network Readiness Index (NRI)

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- It assesses how prepared countries are to leverage **information and communication technologies (ICTs)** for development and competitiveness.
- It evaluates **127 economies**.
- The index is prepared by the **Portulans Institute** (Washington DC).
- **Methodology:** The NRI evaluates countries based on **53 indicators**, grouped under **four pillars: Technology, People, Governance and Impact**.
- **India's Score:** India increased its overall score from **53.63 in 2024 to 54.43 in 2025**, reflecting steady improvement in digital readiness.
- **Global Leadership:** India secured the **1st rank globally** in indicators such as **annual investment in telecommunication services, AI scientific publications, ICT services exports, and e-commerce legislation**.
 - India achieved **2nd rank in Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH)/building internet subscriptions, mobile broadband internet traffic, and international internet bandwidth**, and **3rd rank** in domestic market scale and income inequality indicators.
- **Income Group Performance:** Among lower-middle-income countries, India stands at **2nd position (after Vietnam)** and has performed better than expected relative to its income level in terms of network readiness.

Breach of Privilege Notice

News: A DMK MP, Tiruchi Siva, has moved a privilege notice against Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. He alleged that the Minister held a press conference on the Indo-US trade deal before briefing Parliament while it was in session.

About Breach of Privilege Notice

- A Breach of Privilege is the violation of respective rights and immunities of either **House of Parliament** and **State Legislative Assembly**.
- It is treated as a **serious offence** and is punishable by the concerned House.
- **Sources of Parliamentary Privileges**
 - Constitutional provisions
 - **Article 105** – Powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament and its members.
 - **Article 194** – Similar provisions for State Legislatures.

- Laws enacted by Parliament, Rules of Procedure of both Houses, Parliamentary conventions and Judicial interpretations.
- **Procedure to move notice**
 - Under certain rule which are mentioned below a member of parliament submits a written notice to the Lok Sabha Speaker and Chairman of Rajya Sabha-
 - **Lok Sabha:** Rule 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rules.
 - **Rajya Sabha:** Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha Rules.
- **Examples of Breach of Privilege**
 - Making **false or defamatory statements** about Parliament or its members.
 - Casting reflections on the **impartiality of the Speaker**.
 - Publishing **false, distorted or premature reports** of parliamentary proceedings.
 - Publishing committee evidence before it is tabled in the House.
 - **Threatening, obstructing or intimidating** an MP.
 - Announcing important **executive decisions outside Parliament** during session, bypassing legislative scrutiny.
- **Committee of Privileges**
 - Each House has a **Committee of Privileges** to examine cases of breach.
 - It performs **semi-judicial functions** and recommends action.
 - **Lok Sabha Committee:** 15 members.
 - **Rajya Sabha Committee:** 10 members.

New Telescopes NLST, NLOT Planned for Ladakh

News: In this year's Union Budget, the government sanctioned two new telescopes and approved the upgradation of an existing telescope in Ladakh.

About New Telescopes NLST, NLOT Planned for Ladakh

- The government approved the **National Large Solar Telescope (NLST)** and the **National Large Optical-Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT)** to study the Sun and the origins of the universe.
- **Nodal Agency:** The **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**, Bengaluru, is the nodal agency for the NLST and NLOT

About National Large Solar Telescope (NLST)

- **Location:** It will be built in the Merak region near Pangong Tso lake in Ladakh.
- **Purpose:** It will help scientists study solar dynamics, magnetism, energetic solar events, and space-weather processes affecting Earth and national space assets.
- **Working Mechanism:** It is a 2-metre aperture solar telescope that will operate in visible and near-infrared wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- **Key Features:**
 - It will become India's third ground-based solar observatory.
 - It is expected to be operational in 5–6 years.
 - It will support data from Aditya-L1.

About National Large Optical–Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT)

- **About:** It is a 13.7-metre segmented-mirror telescope to study exoplanets and the universe's origins.
- **Location:** It will be built in Hanle, Ladakh.
- **Purpose:** It will conduct research on exoplanets, stellar and galactic evolution, supernovae, and the origins of the universe.
- **Working Mechanism:** It will use 90 smaller hexagonal mirror segments that act as one large primary mirror and operate in optical-infrared wavelengths.

Continental Mantle Earthquakes

News- Stanford researchers created the first global map of continental mantle earthquakes, published on February 5, 2026 in Science.

About Continental Mantle Earthquakes

Continental mantle earthquakes are rare earthquakes that occur deep within the Earth's mantle beneath continents.

Global Distribution:

- Although only 459 continental mantle earthquakes have been identified worldwide, they are regionally clustered.
- A high concentration is found beneath the **Himalayas in southern Asia** and the **Bering Strait between Asia and North America**.

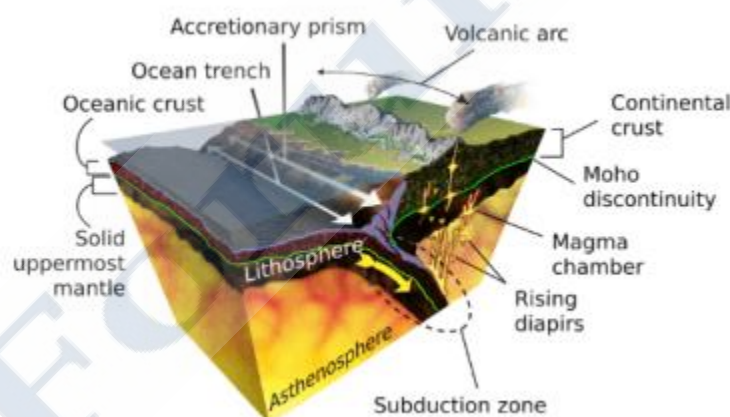
Key Characteristics of Continental Mantle Earthquakes (CMEs)

- **Origin:** These earthquakes occur in the mantle, below the Mohorovičić discontinuity (Moho), which separates the crust from the mantle.
- **Depth:** They can occur more than 80 km below the Mohorovičić discontinuity (Moho), which separates the crust from the mantle.
- **Identification:** Scientists identify them by comparing Sn waves, which travel through the mantle, and Lg waves, which move through the crust.
- **Impact:** They are too deep to cause serious shaking at the surface.

Significance

- **Crust–Mantle Coupling:** They show that the crust and mantle behave as a coupled system in collision zones.
- **Stress and Lithosphere Dynamics:** They help scientists understand the strength and ductility of the continental lithosphere and show how stress extends below the Moho.

About Mohorovičić discontinuity (Moho)



Source- Wikipedia

- Mohorovičić discontinuity is the boundary between Earth's **crust** and the underlying **mantle**
- It was identified in **1909** by the Croatian seismologist **Andrija Mohorovičić**.
- The Moho is defined by a sharp increase in the speed of P-waves (compressional waves), typically jumping from about **6.7–7.2 km/s** in the lower crust to about **7.6–8.6 km/s** in the upper mantle.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2025

News- India climbed five places to 91st rank out of 182 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2025.

About Corruption Perceptions Index 2025

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- The Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 ranks countries by perceived levels of public sector corruption.
- **Released by:** It is released annually by **Transparency International**, a German registered association, since 1995.
- **Total Countries Involved:** The index **ranked 182 countries and territories in 2025**.
- **Scale Used:** The results are given on a scale **from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)**.

Methodology Used

- The methodology was **revised in 2012** for consistent comparison across countries and years.
- It involves selecting data sources, rescaling them to a uniform 0–100 scale, aggregating results, and estimating uncertainty.
- It **uses 13 surveys and assessments from 12 institutions**.

Key Findings

- **Top Performers:** Denmark scored 89, followed by Finland with 88 and Singapore with 84.
- **Bottom Performers:** South Sudan and Somalia scored 9, while Venezuela scored 10.

India's Performance in 2025

- India ranked 91st with a one-point increase in score and improved from 96th position.
- India scored 39 and was listed among countries dangerous for journalists reporting on corruption.
- The report noted slow anti-corruption progress in the Asia Pacific region.

BIOFACH 2026

News: India has been designated as the 'Country of the Year' at BIOFACH 2026.

About BIOFACH 2026



Source: Asianet News Central

- **About:** It is the **world's leading trade fair for organic products** held on **10 February 2026**.
- **Note:** BIOFACH Germany is **the world's largest and most influential exhibition** dedicated exclusively to organic food and agriculture.
- **Held at:** Nuremberg, Germany
- **Organised by:** NürnbergMesse GmbH (Germany).
 - **India's participation Organiser:** India's participation at the event was organised by the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India**.
- **Focus areas:**
 - **Showcasing India Organic Products:** The event **emphasized India's strong organic production base, strengthened regulatory framework such as National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)** and commitment to sustainable agriculture.
 - **Promote Opportunities:** India **promoted export opportunities and partnerships** through curated organic food tastings.
 - **Growing India-EU relations:** It **emphasized the need for an early Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)** on organic products with the European Union.
- **India's Participation:** The India Pavilion covered an area of **1,074 square metres** and hosted **67 co-exhibitors**, including exporters, FPOs, cooperatives, certification bodies, and state agencies.
 - **Products showcased:** The **pavilion showcased a diverse range of Indian organic products**, including cereals, pulses, spices, beverages, and value-added items.
 - Exhibitors from more than **20 Indian States participated in the event**, presenting region-specific organic products.
 - **Five GI-tagged rice varieties were served to visitors** to highlight India's heritage rice varieties.
 - India recorded a **50 percent increase in pavilion area and participation** compared to previous editions of BIOFACH.
 - India emerged as the **largest non-European Union exhibitor** and ranked among the **top five exhibiting countries** at the fair.
 - India's **participation reinforced its position as a reliable global supplier of high-quality, sustainably produced organic products**.

India and UK Sign Social Security Agreement for Temporary Employees

News: India signed an Agreement on Social Security relating to Social Security Contributions with the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland in New Delhi.

About the agreement



Figure 3. Source: DD News

- **Signed between:** India and UK
- **Aim:** To facilitate greater mobility of professionals and workers between India and the United Kingdom.
- The agreement seeks to avoid double social security contributions by employees of both countries who are on temporary assignments in each other's territories for a period of up to 36 months.
- It will support mobility and continued social security coverage of the employees on short term overseas assignments.
- This arrangement forms part of the broader India-UK trade deal framework and will come into effect along with the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).
- The signed agreement will be hosted on the website of the Ministry of External Affairs and the website of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for the information of the stakeholders so that they can secure Certificates of Coverage (CoC) to avoid making double social security contributions.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) with Base 2024=100

News- The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation released the Consumer Price Index with base year 2024=100.

About Consumer Price Index (CPI) with Base 2024=100

- The Consumer Price Index with base 2024=100 measures the changes over time in general level of retail prices of selected goods and services that households purchase for the purpose of consumption.
- **Published by:** Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- **Data collected by:** The Field Operations Division of the National Sample Survey, under MoSPI.

Factly Compilation [Second Week] February 2026

- **Base Year:** The base year of the **new CPI series is 2024=100**, replacing the **earlier base year of 2012=100**.
- **Methods Used**
 - The **Jevons index** is used for compiling elementary indices at the item level.
 - The **Young or Modified Laspeyres' index** is used for compiling higher level indices.
- **Data Collection Period:** Price data are collected **monthly from rural and urban markets**, while **online prices are collected weekly**.

Key Features of CPI 2024 Series

- **Revised Item Basket:** The number of weighted items has **increased from 299 to 358 at the all-India level**, with **goods rising from 259 to 308** and **services from 40 to 50**, which improves the representation of present consumption patterns.
- **Updated Weights:** The weights are based on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023–24, and they reflect changes in household spending, including a decline in the share of Food & Beverages while it remains the largest component.
- **COICOP 2018 Adoption:** The series follows the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose 2018, which **replaces 6 broad groups with 12 divisions, 43 groups, 92 classes and 162 sub-classes for better classification and global comparability**.
- **Rural Housing Inclusion:** Rural house rent is included for the first time, and the weight of rural housing is 11.764 percent, which strengthens the coverage of rural housing consumption.
- **New Items Added:** Items such as online media services, value added dairy products, barley and its product, pen-drive and external hard disk, attendant, babysitter and exercise equipment are included in the basket.
- **Outdated Items Removed:** Items like VCR or DVD player, radio, tape recorder, second-hand clothing, CD or DVD cassettes and coir rope are removed from the basket.
- **Digital Data Collection:** The series introduces Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing and includes e-commerce prices, online sources and administrative data to improve data quality, timeliness and coverage.

Right to Recall

News- Raghav Chadha raised the idea of introducing Right to Recall in Parliament and sparked fresh debate on electoral reform.

About Right to Recall

- Right to Recall is a mechanism that **empowers voters to remove an elected representative before the completion of the term.**
- It is a **process initiated by the electorate** through a petition or a specific voting procedure, rather than by a legislative body or a court.
- **Grounds:** Voters can call for recall if representative are found to be non-performing, corrupt, or unresponsive to the needs of the constituency.

Legal Status in India

- **Local Level:** Several states have implemented RTR for local bodies (Panchayats and Municipalities), including **Madhya Pradesh** (the first state to do so), **Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Rajasthan,** and **Uttar Pradesh.**
- **National & State Level:** There is **no provision** for recalling Members of Parliament (MPs) or Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

Historical Evolution

- The concept traces back to the **Vedic idea of Rajdharma.**
- **In 1944, M.N. Roy** proposed a system including right to elect and recall.
- The Constituent Assembly discussed it, but **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** rejected it due to fear of instability.
- **In 1974, Jayaprakash Narayan** supported it during the Total Revolution movement.

Other Tools for Direct Democracy

- **Referendum:** A procedure where a proposed law or significant issue (like a constitutional amendment) is referred to the electorate for a direct “Yes” or “No” vote. In India, historical referendums occurred in **Sikkim** (1975) to join the Indian Union.
- **Initiative:** A process allowing citizens to propose a new law or constitutional amendment by gathering a specific number of signatures on a petition. Countries like **Switzerland** frequently use this tool.
- **Plebiscite:** Typically used to obtain the opinion of the people on an issue of public importance, such as territorial disputes or independence. Unlike a referendum, it is often used for non-legislative matters.

AgriStack

News- In the Budget Speech on February 1, India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced Bharat-VISTAAR to integrate AgriStack portals with AI systems.

About AgriStack

- AgriStack is a Digital Public Infrastructure for the farm sector under the Digital Agriculture Mission.
- **Initiative by:** AgriStack is an initiative under the Digital Agriculture Mission and was approved by the Union Cabinet in September 2024.
- **Objective:** The objective of AgriStack is to enhance farm productivity, enable better decisions for farmers, and reduce risk by providing customised advisory support.
- **Key Features**
 - AgriStack is built on **three foundational registries:** the **Farmer Registry**, the **Crop Sown Registry**, and **Geo-referenced Village Maps**, created by State Governments or Union Territories.
 - **Under the Farmer Registry**, farmers are given a **unique digital identity** linked with land records, livestock ownership, crops sown, and schemes and benefits availed.
 - **The Crop Sown Registry** records details of crops planted by farmers through mobile-based Digital Crop Surveys conducted each season.
 - **The Geo-referenced Village Map Registry** contains geographic information of land records linked with their exact locations.

About Bharat-VISTAAR

- Bharat-VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources) is an AI-driven, multilingual digital platform designed to transform Indian agriculture.
- It is proposed in the Union Budget 2026–27,
- It integrates AgriStack data with ICAR scientific practices to provide real-time, personalized advisories on farming, pests, and markets.
- It focuses on precision farming and enhancing farmer income.

MHA Guidelines on Vande Mataram

News: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has issued new guidelines mandating that all six stanzas of the National Song be performed and that Vande Mataram should be sung or played before the National Anthem when both are played.

About MHA Guidelines on Vande Mataram

- **Order of Playing with National Anthem:** When both Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana are played at an event, Vande Mataram should be sung or played before Jana Gana Mana.
- The audience **shall stand when the official version of the national song is played**, except when it appears in a newsreel or documentary, where standing is not required.
- **Occasions for Playing/Singing**
 - The national song is **to be sung or played on the arrival and departure of the President at formal State functions and other government-organized events.**
 - It is **also to be sung immediately before and after the President addresses the nation** over All India Radio and television.
 - It **should also be played on the arrival and departure of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor** at formal State functions, when the national flag is brought on parade.
 - The official version of the national song **should be played along with mass singing during the unfurling of the national flag and at cultural or ceremonial functions** other than parades.
 - The **Government of India may direct the performance of the National Song on additional occasions as required** by special orders of the Government of India.
 - The Ministry has **stated that on all specified occasions, the full six-stanza official version of Vande Mataram must be used**, and collective singing should be encouraged wherever feasible.
- **Band Performance Protocol:** When the national song is played by a band, **it should be preceded by a roll of drums to alert the audience** that it is about to be played, unless another specific indication is given.
 - A **suitably trained choir of adequate size should coordinate its singing with the band, and an adequate public address system should be arranged.**
- In schools, **the day's work may begin with community singing of the national song.**
 - School authorities **should make adequate arrangements** to popularize the singing of the national song and the national anthem.
- **Constitutional and legal Framework**

- On **24 January 1950**, the Constituent Assembly adopted the **first two stanzas of Vande Mataram** as the National Song of India.
- The **Constitution of India does not mention the term “National Song.”** Its status is **based on the resolution and established governmental practice**, not on a constitutional provision.
- **Article 51A(a)** (Fundamental Duties) requires every citizen to respect the Constitution, the National Flag and the National Anthem. It does **not** mention the National Song.
- There is **no specific constitutional provision** granting protection or defining the status of Vande Mataram, unlike the National Anthem.

About National Song (Vande Mataram)

- **Composition:** It was originally **composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterjee** and **included in his novel Anand Math (1882).**
- **First Sung:** The song was **first sung at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress** in Calcutta by Rabindranath Tagore.
- **Adoption:** On **24 January 1950**, the Constituent Assembly **officially adopted it** as the National Song of India.
- **Official Version Duration:** The official version of Vande Mataram has **a duration of approximately three minutes and ten seconds.**
- **Total Stanzas:** The complete song **contains six stanzas.**

Tamil Brahmi Script & Valley of the Kings

News: Researchers have discovered nearly 30 inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi, Prakrit, and Sanskrit in tombs at the Valley of the Kings in Egypt.

Key Findings



Figure 4. Source: IE

- Nearly **30 inscriptions in Tamil-Brahmi, Sanskrit, and Prakrit** inside **six tombs** in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. They dated from the **1st to 3rd centuries CE.**

- About 20 inscriptions are in Tamil-Brahmi, including the repeated name “Cikai Korṛan,” and other names such as **Kopāṇ, Cātaṇ and Kiraṇ.**

About Tamil-Brahmi Script

- It was a variant of the Brahmi script in southern India, also known as **Tamili** or **Damili**.
- **Dated between:** 300 BC and 100 AD
- It is **written in three languages:** Tamil, Prakrit and Pali
- **Distant Feature:** Brahmi characters have geometric features such as lines, curves, corners, and dots.
 - Brahmi script is **written from left to right.**
- Tamil Brahmi inscriptions have been **found on cave entrances, stone beds, potsherds, jar burials, coins, seals, and rings.**
- **Greatest work related to Tamil brahmi script:** The Thirukkural, one of the greatest works on ethics and morality was written in Tamil Brahmi.

About Valley of the Kings

- The Valley of the Kings is a **long, narrow valley located just west of the Nile River in Upper Egypt** and **formed part of the ancient city of Thebes.**
- It served as the **burial site for nearly all pharaohs of the 18th, 19th, and 20th dynasties (1539–1075 BCE),** from Thutmose I to Ramses X.
- In **1979, UNESCO designated the Valley of the Kings as part of the World Heritage Site of ancient Thebes,** which also includes **Luxor, the Valley of the Queens, and Karnak.**

Species Turnover

News- A study in Nature Communications reported that short-term species turnover has slowed in many ecosystems over the past century.

About Species Turnover

- Species turnover is the rate at which species exit and are replaced by others within ecological communities.
- It occurs because of species interactions such as competition, predation, and mutualisms.

Key Aspects of Species Turnover:

- **Spatial Turnover (β -Diversity):** Researchers analysed biodiversity surveys across land, freshwater, and marine habitats, showing variation in species composition across different ecosystems.

- **Temporal Turnover:** Short-term turnover over 1–5 years has slowed in many communities over the last century, often declining by about one-third.
- **Drivers:** Changes in species composition are often shaped by internal ecosystem dynamics, environmental degradation, shrinking regional species pools, and anthropogenic impacts like habitat destruction, pollution, and fragmentation.

Motions of Parliament

News- BJP MP Nishikant Dubey gave notice for a substantive motion against Rahul Gandhi, seeking cancellation of his Lok Sabha membership.

About Motions of Parliament Meaning

- A motion in Parliament is a formal proposal made by a member of the House to initiate discussion or influence the legislative process. It requests the House to take a specific action, express an opinion, or implement an order.
- A motion is moved only with the consent of the Speaker or Chairman. Once a motion is moved, debate begins, and the House considers the issue.

Different Types of Motions

Motions in Parliament are classified into three main categories, with further subdivisions. Each category has a specific role in guiding parliamentary discussion and decision-making.

- **Substantive Motions:**
 - A substantive motion is a self-contained and independent proposal submitted for the approval of the House.
 - The conduct of persons in high authority can only be discussed on a substantive motion drawn in proper terms.
 - Motions for the impeachment of President, or a no-confidence motion are examples of substantive motions.
- **Substitute Motions:** Substitute motions are moved in place of the original motion for considering a policy, situation, statement, or any other matter. These motions are drafted so that they can express an opinion by themselves. However, they are not strictly substantive motions because they depend on the original motion and are introduced as an alternative to it.

- **Subsidiary Motions:** Subsidiary motions depend on or relate to other motions, or they follow from some proceedings of the House. They do not have independent meaning and cannot express a decision of the House without reference to the original motion or proceedings.

Other Important Motions in Parliament

- **Closure Motion:** A closure motion is moved to end discussion on a matter that has already been debated. If the House accepts it, further debate stops and the issue is put to a vote. It has different forms, including simple closure, closure by compartments, kangaroo closure, and guillotine closure, which vary in the way debate is limited or concluded.
- **Calling Attention Motion:** This motion is used by a member to draw the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance. The member also seeks an official and authoritative statement from the minister regarding the issue.
- **Privilege Motion:** This motion is raised when a member believes that parliamentary privileges have been violated, especially if a minister has withheld important information or provided false or misleading facts.
- **Adjournment Motion:** This motion is introduced to discuss a definite and urgent public matter. It interrupts the normal business of the House and requires specific support for admission and a minimum duration of debate.
- **No Confidence Motion:** This motion is used in the Lok Sabha to test whether the government still enjoys the support of the majority of members.
- **Confidence Motion:** This motion is moved to prove that the government has majority support in the House, especially in uncertain political situations.
- **Censure Motion:** This motion expresses the House's disapproval or criticism of the policies or actions of ministers.
- **Motion of Thanks:** This motion follows the President's address and is debated in both Houses. Its passage reflects approval of the government's policies.
- **Cut Motion:** This motion allows members to oppose proposed government expenditure by suggesting reductions through disapproval of policy, economic reduction, or token reduction.

Tangkhul Hui and Kombai Breeds

News : Indigenous dog breeds from Tamil Nadu and Nagaland are being inducted into Assam Rifles dog squads to gradually replace foreign breeds.

About Tangkhul Hui and Kombai Breeds

Background:

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs issued a directive in 2025** to increase the induction of Indian canine breeds in dog squads of all armed forces.
- The **Assam Rifles** is the nodal force implementing this process by identifying suitable indigenous breeds to work with existing trained dogs.
- The **Assam Rifles Dog Training Centre (ARDTC), Jorhat** is the training facility where both breeds will be trained and prepared for operational deployment.

About Tangkhul Hui breed



Figure 5. Source-theangaexpress

- **Origin:** The Tangkhul Hui (also called Haofa) is an indigenous working dog raised by the Tangkhul people in Ukhrul district of Manipur and traditionally used for hunting.
- **Key Features**
 - **Disease Resistance:** It is highly disease-resistant and known for strong stamina rather than speed.
 - **Intelligence and Alertness:** It is an intelligent and alert watchdog, typically black with white markings.
 - **Physical Characteristics:** It has a strong body, powerful jaws, and erect ears.
- **Rarity:** It exists in two size varieties and has a limited population, making it rare.

About Kombai breed



Source- Copyright infringement not intended

- **Origin:** The Kumbai is an indigenous working dog from Tamil Nadu, especially the Kumbai region of Theni district.
- **Key Features**
 - **Strong Physical Build:** It has a broad, muscular and athletic body suited for guard roles.
 - **Distinct Appearance:** It has a short reddish-brown coat with a black mask-like muzzle.
 - **Loyal and Protective Nature:** It is deeply attached to owners and highly defensive.
 - **Traditional Working Role:** It has been used for guarding property and hunting large game.

About Assam Rifles

- It is India's oldest paramilitary force, **established in 1835**.
- The Assam Rifles is often nicknamed "**Sentinels of the North East**" and "**Friends of the Hill People**".
- It functions **under dual control of the Home Ministry administratively and the Defence Ministry operationally**.
- It's primarily responsible for border security, counter-insurgency, and maintaining law and order in the Northeast region.
- Its trained dogs help in seizing arms and narcotics across northeastern states and Jammu and Kashmir.

Bacillus subtilis

News: Kerala became India's first State to declare *Bacillus subtilis* as its State microbe.

About *Bacillus subtilis*

Source: Animalia life

- It is the **type species for the genus *Bacillus*** which are **gram-positive, spore-forming bacilli**.
- **Found in:** It is **commonly found in diverse environments** ranging from soil to the gastrointestinal tract of cattle and humans.

- **Properties:** It can produce endospores by forming a thick protective layer around its DNA and other cellular components.
 - This **protective structure allows it to withstand harsh chemicals**, extreme temperatures, environmental stresses, and radiation.
 - It is widely used in laboratory research, especially genetic studies, **because its durability and sensitivity to genetic mutations make it easy to study**.
 - It **also produces useful enzymes** that are applied in many industries for various purposes.
- **Application:**
 - As a **probiotic**, it **supports human and animal gut health** and helps digestion.
 - In industry, it is **used to produce important enzymes for food processing**, detergents, and pharmaceuticals.
 - It plays a **role in wastewater treatment and environmental clean-up** by breaking down harmful substances.

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)

News: The Indian Navy has assumed command of Combined Task Force 154 under the Combined Maritime Forces, reinforcing India's commitment to maritime security and capacity building.

About Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)



Figure 6. Source: PIB

● **About:** Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is a **multinational maritime partnership** that supports the **International Rules-Based Order** to **promote security, stability and prosperity** across approximately 3.2 million square miles of international waters.

● **Headquarters:** Bahrain

● **Focus Areas:**

- Counter-narcotics and counter-smuggling operations.

- Suppresses piracy and enhances maritime security.
- Promotes regional cooperation
- When requested, respond to environmental and humanitarian crises.
- **Combined Task Forces (CTFs): It comprises five Combined Task Forces:**
 - **CTF 150** conducts **Maritime Security Operations outside the Arabian Gulf.**
 - **CTF 151** focuses on **counter-piracy operations.**
 - **CTF 152** conducts **Maritime Security Operations inside the Arabian Gulf.**
 - **CTF 153** supports **maritime security in the Red Sea.**
 - **CTF 154** focuses on **maritime security training.**
- **Membership:** CMF comprises 47 nations.
 - **India** is part of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).
 - **Other members include** Albania, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, UAE, United Kingdom, United States, and Yemen.
- **Mandate:** The member nations operate collaboratively **without being bound by a fixed political or military mandate.**
 - **Participation is purely voluntary.** No nation is asked to carry out any duty that it is unwilling to conduct.
 - The **contribution from each country varies depending on its ability to contribute assets** and the availability of those assets at any given time.
- **Leadership structure:** CMF is **commanded by a U.S. Navy Vice Admiral** who also serves as Commander, U.S. Navy Central Command (NAVCENT) and United States Fifth Fleet.
 - **All three commands are co-located at U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain.**
 - The **Deputy Commander** is a **UK Royal Navy Commodore.**
 - **Senior headquarters staff positions** are filled by **personnel from member nations.**