Factly Weekly

Compilation

2026

For UPSC CSE Prelims Exam

INDEX

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T20 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026

News: The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, congratulated the Indian cricket team after it won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 title.

About T20 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026
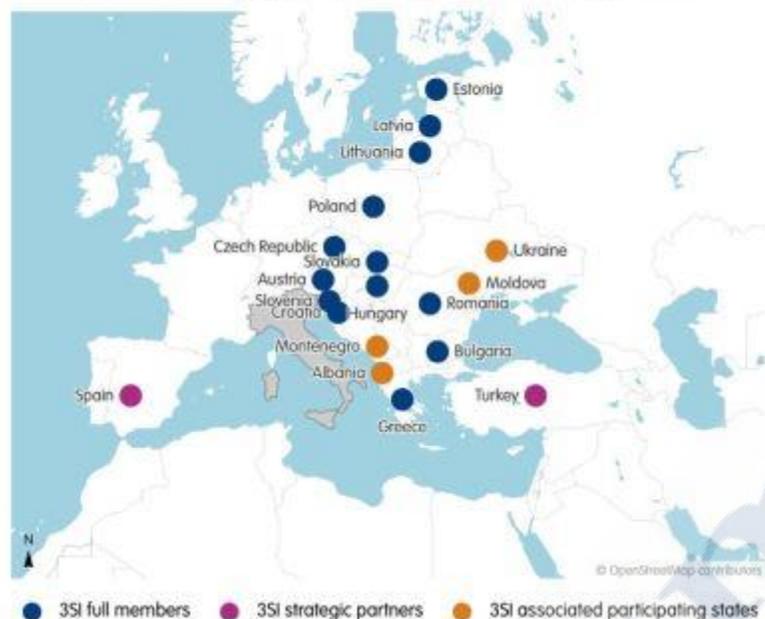
Source – The Hindu

- **The ICC Men's T20 World Cup is an** international cricket tournament played in the Twenty20 **International format.**
- **Organized by: The tournament is** organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- **Frequency: The tournament is** held every two years.
- **First edition: The first edition of the tournament was played in 2007 in South Africa.**
- **Latest edition: The 10th** edition was held from 7 February to 8 March 2026.
- **Co-hosted by: The 2026 tournament was co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.**
- **Venues: Five venues in India and three in Sri Lanka.**
- **Participating teams: A total of** twenty teams (largest T20 World Cup in history) competed in 55 **matches.**
- **Key facts**
  o **Winner (2026): India** national cricket team defeated New Zealand national cricket team by 96 runs in **the** final.
  o **India's titles: India has won the T20 World Cup three times (2007, 2024, and 2026).**
  o **Highest runs: Sahibzada Farhan scored 383 runs in the tournament season.**
  o **Top wicket takers: Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy took 14 wickets each.**
- **Major awards:**
  o **Player of the Match (Final): Jasprit Bumrah.**
  o **Player of the Tournament: Sanju Samson, who scored 321 runs in five matches with an average of 80.25.**
- **India also became the first team to win back-to-back titles in 2024 and 2026.**

Three Seas Initiative (3SI)

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News: India's External Affairs Ministry discussed connectivity and infrastructure cooperation with Croatia's envoy for the Three Seas Initiative during Raisina Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi.

About Three Seas Initiative (3SI)

Three Seas Initiative (3SI) participating members and partners

● 3SI full members   ● 3SI strategic partners   ● 3SI associated participating states

Source – Open Street Maps

- **The Three Seas Initiative (3SI)** is regional political and economic cooperation platform connecting 13 European Union countries located between the Baltic, Adriatic, and Black Seas.
- **Established in:** The initiative was established in 2015 by the former presidents of Poland and Croatia.
- **Aim:** The initiative aims to foster North–South connectivity and overcome the Soviet-era dominance of East–West infrastructure, thereby addressing structural disparities in the post-Cold War European context.
- **Members:** The member states include Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
- **Strategic partners:** Strategic partners include the United States, Germany, the European Commission, and Japan, while regional partners include Ukraine and Moldova.
- **Key features**
  - **Connectivity infrastructure development:** The initiative focuses on developing transport corridors, highways, railways, ports, and logistics links connecting the Baltic, Adriatic, and Black Seas.
  - **Economic integration:** Improved connectivity helps expand trade, investment, and economic cooperation among Central and Eastern European countries.
  - **Energy security enhancement:** The initiative promotes diversified energy sources and infrastructure to reduce reliance on single energy suppliers.
  - **Digital connectivity promotion:** It encourages the development of broadband networks, digital infrastructure, and innovation cooperation across the region.
  - **Investment support mechanism:** The Three Seas Initiative Investment Fund, established in 2019, provides financial support for infrastructure projects.
  - **Business and investment cooperation:** Three Seas Business Forums provide a platform where companies, financial institutions, and organisations collaborate on transport, energy, and digital projects.

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- **Significance: The initiative helps reduce the infrastructure gap between Western Europe and Central and Eastern Europe while strengthening economic cooperation and connectivity.**

Exercise Cold Response

News: NATO began its biennial Arctic military exercise Cold Response on March 9 amid tensions related to U.S. President Trump's push to take over Greenland.

About Exercise Cold Response

Source – DD News

- **Exercise Cold Response is a large-scale biennial NATO military exercise conducted in the European Arctic to test the alliance's defence capability in extreme Arctic conditions.**
- **Organized by: The exercise is organized by Norway under the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).**
- **Exercise Location: The drills are conducted mainly across northern Norway and Finland in the European Arctic region.**
- **Objective: The exercise aims to strengthen NATO's collective defence capability, improve interoperability among allied forces, and demonstrate deterrence near Arctic borders.**
- **Frequency: The exercise is conducted every two years (biennially).**
- **Participants: Around 25,000 troops from about 14 NATO and partner countries, including the United States and Denmark, participate in the exercise.**
- **The exercise has become part of Arctic Sentry – the NATO mission to strengthen its presence in the polar region.**
- **Key features**
  - **Arctic Defence Exercise: The drills focus on defending NATO in the European Arctic, particularly in areas where Norway and Finland share borders with Russia.**
  - **Civilian Support to Military: The exercise places strong emphasis on the role of civilians, businesses, and public institutions in supporting military operations during war or crises.**
  - **Medical Preparedness Scenario: The military will test the capacity of hospitals in northern Norway to treat a large number of casualties arriving from a simulated frontline in Finland.**
- **Significance: The exercise strengthens NATO's defence preparedness and presence in the Arctic region near the Russia–Finland border.**

Exercise "LAMITIYE-2026"

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News: Indian Armed Forces contingent arrived at Seychelles to participate in Exercise "LAMITIYE-2026" with Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF).

About Exercise "LAMITIYE-2026"

Source: PIB

- **Exercise LAMITIYE is a joint military training exercise between the Indian Army and the Seychelles Defence Forces**
- **Meaning: 'LAMITIYE' meaning 'Friendship' in the Creole language.**
- **First Edition: It was first conducted in Seychelles in 2001.**
- **2026 edition: This year edition is the 11th edition of this exercise.**
- **Conducted at: It is being conducted at the Seychelles Defence Academy from 09-20 March 2026.**
- **Participants: The contingent comprises of personnel from the ASSAM Regiment and participation from Indian Navy and Indian Air Force including INS Trikand and a C-130 aircraft.**
- **Features:**
  o **The exercise aims to enhance synergy in Sub-conventional Operations within a Semi-Urban environment and strengthen cooperation and interoperability during Peacekeeping Operations.**
  o **It will include Field Training Exercises, combat discussions, case studies, lectures, and demonstrations, culminating in a two-day Validation Exercise.**
  o **It will also help build and promote bilateral military relations by exchanging skills, experiences, and best practices.**

Key Facts About Malawi

News: India has dispatched a consignment of 1,000 metric tons of rice to Malawi following the drought caused by the El Nino effect.

Key Facts About Malawi

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Source: World Atlas

- **Location: Malawi is a landlocked country in southeastern Africa.**
- **It is located in the Great Rift Valley along the western shore of Lake Malawi, which is the southernmost lake of the Great African Rift Valley.**
- **Borders: Malawi shares international borders with Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique.**
- **Capital City: The capital of Malawi is Lilongwe.**
- **Climate: Predominately sub-tropical**
- **Terrain: The region can be divided into four physiographic regions –**
  - **Great Rift Valley**
  - **The central plateau**
  - **Highland region**
  - **Isolated mountains**
- **Lakes: The Great Rift Valley hosts Lake Malawi, the third-largest lake in Africa.**
- **Major Rivers: The Shire River is the largest river in Malawi and serves as the only outlet of Lake Malawi.**
- **Highest Peak: The highest mountain is Mount Mulanje, with a height of 3,002 m (9,849 ft).**

ICANN85 Community Forum

News: The ICANN85 Community Forum is being organized from 7th to 12th March 2026 at Jio Convention Center in Mumbai.

About ICANN85 Community Forum

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Source: ICANN

- It is a platform that **brings governments, technical experts, and industry stakeholders** together to discuss **how collectively they can keep the internet open, secure, and accessible for everyone.**
- **Organised at: Jio Convention Center in Mumbai**
- **Organized by:** It is organised by Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers **(ICANN)** and hosted in collaboration with the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) under MeitY.**
- **Features:** It comprised **more than 200 sessions** focused on **key issues related to the secure and stable operation of the Internet,** including the evolution of the Domain Name System, cybersecurity practices, and the upcoming expansion of generic top-level domains (gTLDs).

About Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

- It is a **non profit public benefit organization** with participants from around the world.
- **Established in:** 1998
- **Mission:** Its mission is to keep the **global Internet stable, secure, and unified.**
- **How it works:** A user must enter a unique address (a name or number) on a device to connect with another person on the Internet,
  - **These addresses must be unique** so that computers can correctly find and communicate with each other.
  - **ICANN coordinates and manages these unique identifiers worldwide.**

About National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)

- It is a **not-for-profit organization** under **section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** It was set up under the **aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **Role:** It plays a critical role **in strengthening India's Internet infrastructure.**
  - It **facilitates efficient exchange of domestic Internet traffic, managing the .IN and .भारत (.Bharat) country-code top-level domains**, and **promoting the adoption of Internet services across the country.**
  - It supports a **secure, resilient, and inclusive Internet ecosystem** aligned **with India's digital growth ambitions.**

LIGO India

News: Construction of the LIGO India observatory in Hingoli district remains delayed as the ₹1,600-crore construction tender has not yet been awarded.

About LIGO India

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LOOKING INTO DEEP SPACE File Photo

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?
- The proposed LIGO-India detector will increase the sensitivity of the international gravitational-wave network and improve localization of sources
- It will be funded by the departments of atomic energy and science and technology

HOW WILL IT HELP?
- Astronomers can identify the exact location of the cosmic explosion much quicker and study it right from the first moments in every frequency band of the electromagnetic spectrum

PARAMETERS FOR SITE SELECTION
- The nearest railway line and vehicular traffic should be several km away from the central laboratory station
- The laboratory would be 'L' shaped of 4 x 4km
- The site should be seismically quiet
- Total land required was about 300 acres minimum

with strong restriction of anthropological noise
- The site should be able to sustain heavy equipment, mining, blasting activity in 30km periphery
- This site is also required to be away from sea coast by 100-200km

Figure 1. Source – ToI

- The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) India is a planned gravitational wave observatory that will work as part of the global network studying cosmic ripples in space-time.
- **Location:** The observatory will be built in Aundha area of Hingoli district in Maharashtra.
- **Nodes**
  o It will be the third LIGO detector globally after Hanford and Livingston in the United States.
  o It will also become the fifth major node in the global network, which includes Virgo (Italy) and KAGRA (Japan).
- **Nodal Agencies:** The project is jointly piloted by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which also provide funding for the facilities.
- **International partners:** The project is implemented in collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF), USA, and the LIGO Laboratory.
- **Indian Institutions involved:** The project involves Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), and Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT).
- **Budget:** The project received financial approval of ₹2,300 crore from the Government of India.
- **Timeline:** The observatory is expected to be completed by 2030.
- **Key features**
  o **Laser interferometry system:** The observatory will use advanced laser interferometry to measure extremely small distortions in space-time.
  o **Large L-shaped structure:** The facility will have two 4-km-long vacuum arms placed at 90 degrees with mirrors at their ends.
  o **Global scientific network:** The facility will operate in coordination with LIGO detectors in the United States and other international observatories.
  o **Precision infrastructure:** The project includes ultra-high vacuum beam tubes, vibration-isolated platforms, control systems, and monitoring equipment.
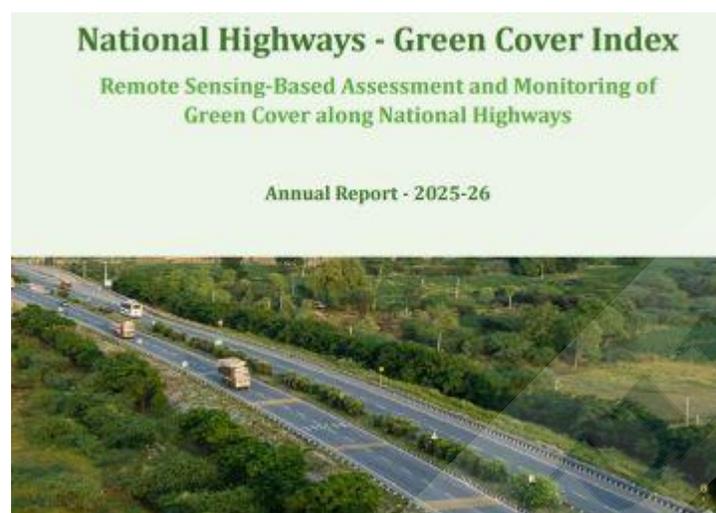
About Gravitational Waves

- **Nature:** Gravitational waves are ripples in the fabric of space-time caused by extremely violent cosmic events.

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- **Prediction and discovery:** They were predicted by Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity and first detected in 2015 by LIGO in the United States.
- **Origin:** They are produced by events such as collisions of black holes or mergers of neutron stars.
- **Properties:** These waves travel at the speed of light and carry information about their cosmic origins and gravity.

National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) 2025–26

News: The National Highways Authority of India released the first Annual Report on the National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) 2025–26.

About National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) 2025–26

Source – NHAI

- It is a scientific and quantitative index that measures the proportion of green cover along the Way of National Highways.
- **Released by:** The report has been released by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- **Prepared by:** It has been prepared in coordination with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **Aim:** The initiative aims to provide a scientific and quantitative assessment of green cover along the National Highways by using advanced space-based technologies.
- **Key features**
- **Technology-based assessment:** The index uses high-resolution satellite sensors to detect chlorophyll content and measure vegetation on the left and right sides of highways.
- **Measurement method:** NH-GCI is expressed as a percentage that shows the share of land covered by green canopy within each one-kilometre segment of the Right of Way.
- **Coverage and monitoring:** In the first cycle, around 30,000 km of National Highways across 24 states were assessed for the period July–December 2024.
- **Data and public access:** The results are published on NRSC's Bhuvan web GIS portal, which provides interactive maps and standardized reports.

Anavaran Portal

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News: The Forest Survey of India recently stopped issuing deforestation alerts through the Anavaran-Deforestation Alert System, and the portal's data have not been updated since November 2025.

About Anavaran Portal

Source – IE

- **Anavaran Portal is a** deforestation alert system that uses satellite data and machine learning to monitor forest cover loss and send alerts to states.
- **Developed by:** The portal has been developed and operated by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
- **Aim:** The system aims to support near-real-time monitoring of forest cover loss using satellite-based information and digital tools.
- **Objective:** The main objective of the portal is to help the Forest Survey of India monitor deforestation and send alerts to states every 15 days so that targeted field inspections can be carried out.
- **Key features:**
  o **Operational cycle:** Since its inception in January 2024, the portal sent alerts to state forest departments every 15 days to facilitate targeted field inspections.
  o **Technology used:** The alert system is based on the Google Earth Engine (GEE) platform and uses Sentinel-2 satellite images as input data.
  o **High precision:** The Forest Survey of India uses satellite imagery at 10–20 metre spatial resolution, including Sentinel-2B (optical), Sentinel-1 (SAR 5m), Sentinel-2 (visible and NIR 10m), RedEdge and SWIR 20m.

  Other Similar Initiative

- **Peru** started using the Terra-I remote sensing deforestation monitoring system in 2014, which is funded by Global Forest Watch and uses satellite data to generate quarterly alerts later improved to monthly alerts.

Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Declaration of Dividend and Remittance of Profit) Directions, 2026

News: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Declaration of Dividend and Remittance of Profit) Directions 2026 to revise prudential norms for dividend declaration by commercial banks.

About Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Declaration of Dividend and Remittance of Profit) Directions 2026

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Source – DD News

- **Come into effect:** The new directions will **come into effect from FY 2026–27 (FY27).**
- **CET1-linked dividend framework: As per new direction,** dividend payouts are linked to **Common Equity Tier-1 (CET1) capital ratios**.
  - The framework introduces **10 capital-ratio buckets** to determine the maximum permissible dividend payout.
  - **Note:** CET1 ratio **compares a bank's capital against its risk-weighted assets** to determine its ability to withstand financial distress.
- **Dividend limits: As per the new direction:**
  - Banks with **CET1 ratio of 8% or below cannot declare dividends**.
  - Banks with **CET1 above 20% may distribute up to 100% of adjusted Profit After Tax (PAT)**.
  - However, **total dividend payout cannot exceed 75% of PAT** regardless of the CET1 bucket.
  - **Local Area Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) will be allowed to declare dividends up to 80 per cent** of the PAT, subject to compliance with prudential conditions laid down by the RBI.
- **Adjusted Profit After Tax (PAT):** It introduces Adjusted PAT to reduce dividend eligibility for banks with **higher levels of bad loans**.
  - **Note:** Adjusted PAT is calculated as **net profit minus 50% of net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** as on March 31 of the relevant financial year.
- **Rules for systemically important banks:** For **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**, the **D-SIB capital buffer** is **added to each bucket thresholds.**
- **Eligibility conditions for dividend declaration:**
  - Banks must meet **regulatory capital requirements before and after dividend payment**.
  - They must have a **positive adjusted PAT**.
  - They should not face any existing **restrictions from RBI on distribution**.
- **Board oversight:** The board of directors must consider **divergence in asset classification and NPA provisioning,** review the **auditors' report**, and assess the **current and projected capital position and long-term growth plans**.
- **Rules for foreign banks:** Foreign banks operating in India through branches may **remit net profits to their head offices without prior RBI approval** if accounts are audited.
  - However, **exceptional income, overstated profits identified by auditors, and unrealised gains on level-3 financial instruments are excluded** from remittable profits.
- **Reporting and compliance:** Banks **must report dividend payments or profit remittances to RBI's Department of Supervision within a fortnight of the declaration.** Non-compliance may attract supervisory or enforcement action.

Dandi March

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News: Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi and all the brave freedom fighters who took part in the historic march 'Dandi Satyagraha.

About Dandi March

Source – Wikipedia

- Mahatma Gandhi launched the non-violent **Civil Disobedience Movement** with the **Dandi March**.
- The march began on **12 March 1930** and ended on **6 April 1930**.
- Gandhi and **80 followers** walked about **241 miles** from **Sabarmati Ashram** to **Dandi** in **present-day Gujarat**, where they broke the British salt law by making salt.
- The march saw **large participation of women**.
- The **Salt Satyagraha** was based on Gandhi's principle of **non-violence.**
- **Purpose**
  o The British government had a **monopoly on salt production and sale**.
  o Since salt was essential in daily life, the restrictions were seen as **unjust and oppressive**.
  o The Salt Satyagraha aimed to **unite Indians in the struggle for Swaraj (self-rule)**.
- **Circumstances Leading to the March**
  o Under **British Raj**, salt production and distribution were controlled by the government.
  o Indians were **not allowed to produce or sell salt independently** and had to buy **heavily taxed imported salt**.
  o Poor people could not afford expensive salt, making the tax highly controversial.
  o Gandhi used the march to **protest British exploitation and unfair laws** and **to mobilize people through non-violent resistance.**
- **Aftermath**
  o The **movement spread across the country** with **widespread defiance of salt laws**.
  o **C. Rajagopalachari** led a similar movement in **Tamil Nadu**, and protests also occurred in **West Bengal** and **Andhra Pradesh**.
  o **Jawaharlal Nehru** was arrested on **14 April 1930** for breaking salt laws.
  o **Gandhi was arrested** on the night of **4–5 May 1930**. **Leaders like Sarojini Naidu continued the movement** despite police brutality.
  o The Satyagraha continued for about **a year until Gandhi's release from jail.**

Spotted Hyena (Crocuta crocuta)

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News: A new study by the University of Sheffield found that spotted hyenas in Ethiopia's Mekelle city reduce waste, carbon emissions, and sanitation risks.

About Spotted Hyena (Crocuta crocuta)

Source – Born Free

- The spotted hyena is the largest living member of the Hyaenidae family.
- It is a highly adaptable carnivore.
- **Scientific Name:** The scientific name of the spotted hyena is *Crocuta crocuta*.
- **Habitat:** Spotted hyenas live in savannahs, grasslands, woodlands, semi-deserts, and forest edges.
- **Distribution:** The species is native to sub-Saharan Africa and is one of the most common large carnivores in Africa.
- **Characteristics**
  - **Body structure:** The animal has a strong neck and forequarters, a rounded rump, a wide head with a blunt muzzle, and rounded ears.
  - **Coat and build:** It has short fur with irregular black spots and a robust body with longer forelimbs than hind limbs.
  - **Size and weight:** Adults usually weigh about 40–65 kg and have a body length of about 95–165 cm.
  - **Clan system:** Spotted hyenas live in large clans that can contain up to 80 individuals.
  - **Matriarchal society:** Females are larger and dominate males in the social hierarchy.
  - **Cooperative behaviour:** Clan members often hunt, eat, and rest together.
  - **Vocalisation:** The species is commonly known as the "laughing hyena" because of its distinctive vocal sounds.
- **Ecological Role:** It helps regulate herbivore populations in ecosystems.
  - It consumes carrion and organic waste, reducing disease risk and recycling nutrients.
- **IUCN Status:** Least Concern

  Note

- **Presence of Hyena family in India:** The spotted hyena is not found in India.
- Instead the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), a related species, occurs in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka.
- **Protection Status:**

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- o **Near Threatened by the IUCN**
- o **Schedule III of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**

Glass Industry of India

News: Government invoked the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to regulate natural gas supply, which may affect India's glass manufacturing industry dependent on continuous fuel supply.

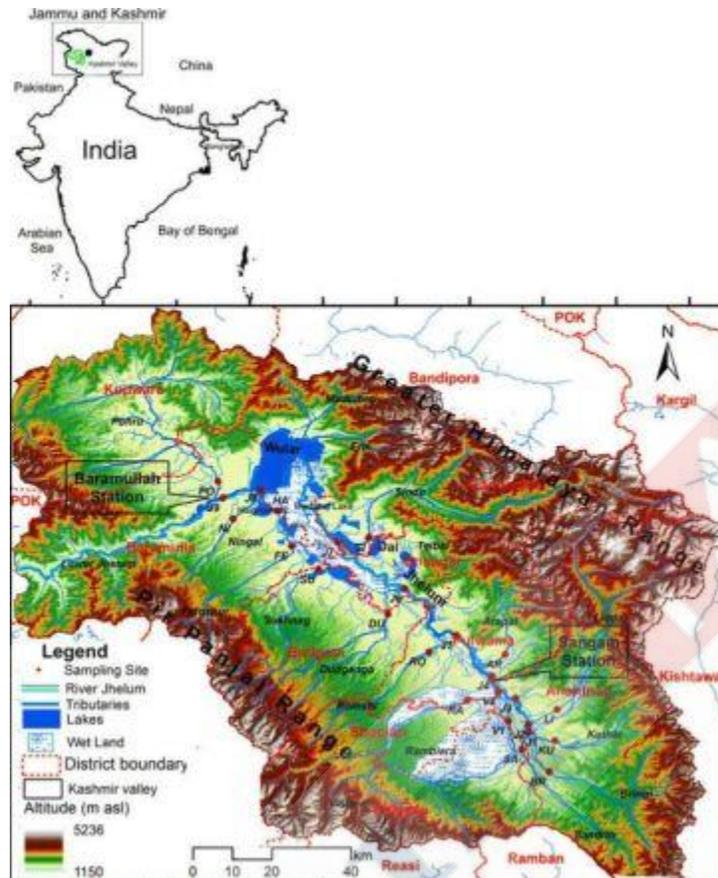**About Glass Industry of India**

Source – IE

- **India's glass manufacturing industry produces glass products used in construction, automotive, packaging, electronics, and pharmaceutical sectors.**
- **The All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation (AIGMF) represents the interests of the glass manufacturing industry and provides sector related data and policy inputs.**
- **Historical evolution**
- o **Ancient references: The Indian epic Mahabharata contains one of the earliest references to glassmaking in India.**
- o **Archaeological evidence: Glass beads from the Painted Grey Ware civilisation in the Ganges Valley around 1000 BC provide early physical evidence.**
- o **Early production centres: Archaeological remains show glass industry activity in Brahmapuri and Kolhapur between 2 BC and 2 AD.**
- o **Medieval development: During the Mughal period, glassware such as hukkas, perfume containers, and decorative glass items became popular.**
- o **Historically, Firozabad is popularly known as the "Glass City of India", where it started back by 17th century.**
- o **Modern period**
- o **Shri Ishwar Das Varshnei is considered the father of the Indian glass industry.**
- o **He established the United Provinces Glass Works in Bahjoi, Uttar Pradesh, in 1916.**
- o **He was a key figure in developing blown, pressed, and sheet glass, and was the first President of the Indian Ceramic Society.**
- o **The first glass plant was set up in august 1908 by Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak at Talegaon, Maharashtra.**
- **Current market scenario**
- o **The float glass segment was estimated at Rs. 24,000 crore in 2022 and is expected to reach Rs. 40,000 crore within four years.**

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- o **Production capacity:** India's glass manufacturing sector produces around 26,000 tonnes of glass per day.
- o **Container glass output:** About 12,500 tonnes of container glass are produced daily.
- o **Pharmaceutical glass:** Around 500 tonnes of ampoules, vials, and cartridges are produced daily for medicine storage.
- o **Domestic consumption:** Nearly 80% of the glass produced is consumed within the country.
- o **Low domestic consumption:** India's per capita float glass consumption is 2.5 kg, which is lower than developed countries.
- • **Potential**
- o **Growing construction demand:** The flourishing construction and housing sector is increasing demand for float glass used in windows, mirrors, doors, and solar panels.
- o **Automotive and industrial demand:** Increasing use of glass in the automotive and construction industries is supporting medium-term growth.
- o **Solar energy expansion:** Solar glass demand is expected to rise 23–25% in FY24 due to the government's focus on renewable energy and replacement of imported solar glass.
- o **Large domestic growth scope:** India's per capita float glass consumption is about 2.5 kg, while developed countries consume 7–10 kg, indicating significant room for expansion.
- • **Challenges in present context**
- o **Fuel supply constraints:** Curtailment of natural gas and LPG supply is affecting continuous furnace operations.
- o **High restart cost:** Restarting a furnace can take six to twelve months and cost Rs 50–200 crore, making shutdowns extremely costly.
- o **Rising gas prices:** Increasing gas prices due to supply shortages may make glass products commercially unviable.
- o **Technology and skills gap:** The sector requires advanced technologies and skilled workforce for modern production.
- • **Geographical distribution & clusters**
- o **Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh):** It is known for glass chandeliers and decorative items.
- o **Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh):** The city produces glass toys called "panchkora".
- o **Hyderabad:** It is famous for producing high-quality glass bangles called "Churi ka jodas".Patna (Bihar): The region produces ornamental glass beads known as "Tikuli".

Jhelum River

News: The Kashmir Valley is experiencing an unusual early spring as the Jhelum River dropped below zero-gauge level amid record high temperatures.
About Jhelum River

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Source – ResearchGate

- **Location:** The Jhelum River is a river of northwestern India and northern and eastern Pakistan and is a major tributary of the Indus River.
- **Ancient names:** Known as Vitasta in Sanskrit (Rigveda), Vyeth in Kashmiri, and Hydaspes in Greek.
- **Origin:** The river originates from the Verinag Spring at Anantnag, located at the foot of the Pir Panjal Range in the Kashmir Valley.
- **Course**
  - The river flows northwestward from the northern slope of the Pir Panjal Range through the Vale of Kashmir.
  - It passes through Wular Lake at Srinagar, which helps regulate its flow.
  - The river then flows through a deep and narrow gorge before entering Pakistan.
  - Finally, it joins the Chenab River near Trimmu in Pakistan.
  - The river has a total length of about 725 km.
- **Major tributary:** The Kishanganga River (known as the Neelum in Pakistan) is its largest tributary, joining it at Muzaffarabad.
  - **Other tributaries:**
  - **Right bank:** Lidder, Sind, Kunhar, and Pohru.
  - **Left bank:** Veshaw, Rambiara, Doodh Ganga, and Sukhnag.
- **Fluvial features:** The Jhelum River in the Kashmir Valley is a classic example of a river that exhibits meandering in its youthful stage.
- **Important projects and treaties:** Indus Waters Treaty (1960): Under this treaty, the waters of the Jhelum (along with the Indus and Chenab) are allocated to Pakistan.

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- **Historical significance: Battle of the Hydaspes (326 BCE): A landmark battle where Alexander the Great defeated King Porus on the banks of this river.**

Kordofan Region

News: UN spokesperson said that clashes between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia and the Sudanese Armed Forces in South Kordofan have intensified in recent days.

About Kordofan Region

Source: ResearchGate

- **It constitutes the central and southern area of Sudan.**
- **It is located between Darfur on the west and the valley of the White Nile River on the east.**
- **Area: It covers an area of about 390,000 square km.**
- **Kordofan is divided into three federal states: North, South, and West Kordofan.**
- o **North Kordofan is mostly desert with sandy soils and little relief.**
- o **South Kordofan has clay plains with the Nuba Mountains rising to about 900 m.**
- o **West Kordofan has a semi-desert climate in the north and a dry savannah climate in the south with increasing rainfall.**
- **Economy: The Nuba Mountains contain reserves with significant mineral resources such as chromium, copper, gold, iron, manganese, and nickel; industrial minerals like graphite, marble, phosphate rock, and talc; and uranium as an energy resource.**
- o **The Copper Pit mineral district in southwestern Sudan is also prospective for copper, gold, gemstones, and uranium.**
- **Most of the people in Kordofan are Arabs.**
- **Conflict: The region has experienced frequent conflict, particularly during Sudan's civil wars.**
- **Strategic Importance: It is strategically important because it is near South Sudan and contains major oil resources including the Heglig oil field, the largest and most strategic hub for both Sudan and South Sudan.**

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Digital Twin Initiative for Port Management

News: V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority became the first Indian port to launch the Digital Twin initiative for port management.

About Digital Twin initiative for port management

Source- desapex.com

- Digital Twin for port management creates a real-time virtual replica of the port's infrastructure, operational assets, and maritime ecosystem.
- **First major Indian port to launch: V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority,** located in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**, became the first Indian port to launch this Digital Twin initiative.
- **Platform inaugurated by:** The platform was **inaugurated on 23 February 2026** by **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- **Aim:** The initiative aims to enable enhanced operational visibility, predictive analytics, and data-driven decision-making across the port by creating a real-time digital replica of the port ecosystem.
- **Key Features**
  o **Real-Time Operational Monitoring:** The platform provides live visualisation of berth occupancy, vessel movements, crane utilisation, and yard capacity across the port.
  o **Predictive Maintenance System:** AI-based monitoring supports predictive maintenance of cargo handling equipment and helps reduce downtime while improving reliability.
  o **Integrated Smart Technologies:** The system integrates IoT sensors, GPS tracking, LiDAR mapping, drone imaging, and CCTV networks to mirror real-time port conditions.
- **Significance:** The initiative supports smart, efficient, and technology-driven maritime management while strengthening data-driven port operations.

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Fiscal Health Index 2026

News: The **second annual edition** of the Fiscal Health Index 2026 was released in New Delhi by NITI Aayog officials.

Source- PIB

About Fiscal Health Index 2026

- It is a data-driven framework that provides a systematic and comparable assessment of the fiscal performance of Indian states.
- R**eleased By:** The Index was released by NITI Aayog.
- **Categories:** The Index classifies states into four tiers based on their fiscal performance.
- o **Achievers:** These states show strong fiscal discipline, high own-tax revenues, low deficits, and manageable debt levels.
- o **Front Runners:** These states maintain sound finances but fall short of the top tier on some indicators.
- o **Performers:** These states show mixed results across different fiscal indicators.
- o **Aspirational:** These states face significant fiscal stress with persistent deficits, high debt, and limited revenue capacity.
- **Evaluation Pillars:** The Index evaluates state finances on **five key pillars.**
- o **Quality of Expenditure**
- o **Revenue Mobilisation**
- o **Fiscal Prudence**
- o **Debt Index**
- o **Debt Sustainability**

  Key Findings:

- **Top Performers:** Odisha remains the top performer under the Achiever category, followed by Goa and Jharkhand.
- **Fiscal Stress:** Punjab, West Bengal, and Kerala show higher non-developmental expenditure and less sustainable fiscal patterns.
- **The latest edition separately evaluates and ranks 10 North-Eastern and Himalayan states, apart from the major states.**
- o **Top Performers: Arunachal Pradesh (ranked first) and Uttarakhand emerged as leading achievers.**
- o **Lowest Performers: Himachal Pradesh and Manipur, mainly due to weak revenue generation and continuing fiscal stress.**

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PM-RAHAT Scheme

News: The Union Government launched the **PM-RAHAT scheme** to provide cashless hospital treatment up to Rs.1.5 lakh for road accident victims.

Source- ET

About the PM RAHAT Scheme

- PM-RAHAT is a national cashless emergency treatment scheme that provides hospitalisation **coverage up to Rs. 1.5 lakh for road accident victims**.
- **Launched by:** The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on **February 13, 2026.**
- **Notified under:** The scheme is notified under **Section 162 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.
- **Initiative By:** The scheme is an initiative of the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).**
- **Aim:** The scheme aims to ensure that no life is lost due to lack of immediate medical assistance after road accidents.

  Implementation and Governance

- **Execution:** Implemented nationally by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** in coordination with **State Health Agencies (SHAs).**
- **Oversight:** Implementation is monitored by **District Road Safety Committees, State Road Safety Councils,** and **an inter-ministerial steering committee** at the national level.

  Key Features

- **Coverage:** Road accident victims receive **cashless treatment up to Rs. 1.5 lakh per victim**.
- **Duration:** Coverage is provided for **up to seven days from the date of accident**.
- **Applicability:** The scheme applies to **accidents involving motor vehicles on any category of road**.
o **Focused on golden hour:** It focuses on **timely treatment during the "golden hour,"** when early medical care can prevent many road accident deaths.
- **Emergency Care:** Stabilisation treatment is available for **24 hours in non-life-threatening cases and 48 hours in life-threatening cases**.

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- **Digital Integration:** The system integrates **eDAR (Electronic Detailed Accident Report) accident reporting with TMS 2.0 (Transaction Management System) hospital treatment and claims records**, creating an end-to-end digital trail.
- **Funding:** Payments to hospitals are made through the **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**, financed by **general insurance contributions and government budgetary support for uninsured or hit-and-run cases**.
- **Grievance Redressal:** A **multi-tier grievance mechanism** operates through district committees, escalation to the District Collector and State Road Safety Council, and national-level oversight.

National Shipping Board

News: The government held an interaction with the National Shipping Board to discuss challenges in the shipping sector and ways to strengthen maritime capacity.
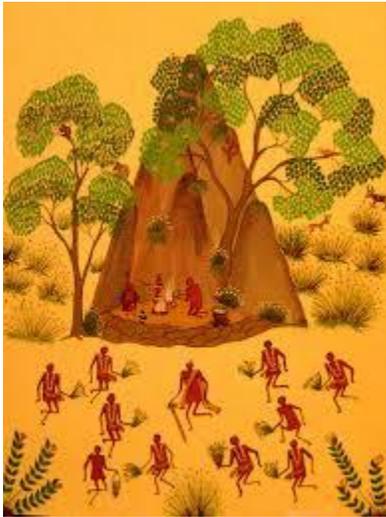**About National Shipping Board**

Source: X

- It is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India.**
- **Established in:** It was **established in 1959** under **Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958**.
- **It is the highest advisory body on matters related to Indian shipping**
- **Function:** Its main function is to **advise the Government of India on shipping matters and maritime development**.
- **Chairman and Tenure:** The **Chairman and other members serve for a period of two years**.
- **Composition of the Board: Six members are elected by Parliament**: **Four from the Lok Sabha** and **two from the Rajya Sabha**
- o The **Central Government can appoint up to sixteen additional members** to represent: **Central Government, Shipowners and Seamen and other related interests** considered important by the government
- o **One member is nominated by the Central Government as the Chairman**.
- o The Board must include **an equal number of representatives from shipowners and seamen**.

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Kurumba Painting

News: Kurumba painting need conservation and revival as it is on the verge of extinction, with fewer than 10 practising artists remaining.

About Kurumba Painting

Source: KURUMBA

- Kurumba art is a **prehistoric art form** originated from the Kurumba tribe in **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka.**
- **Note:** The Kurumba tribe primarily **resides in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**
- It is believed to be **3000 years old.**
- **Themes:** The theme of painting centers around **spiritual beliefs, rituals, festivals, and daily activities.**
- **Design:** The art features **simple, linear motifs with dots, lines, and geometric shapes**, depicting huts, animals, and community life.
- **Raw Materials used: It** uses **natural pigments sourced from the forest.**
- **Yellow-brown and black pigments come from Vengai tree resin** and **green pigments are derived from crushed leaves.**
- Artists use **fine twigs, bamboo sticks, and natural fiber brushes** for application.
- The paintings are **traditionally done on walls, fabric, and handmade paper, p**reserving their deep connection to nature and tribal traditions.
- **Process: It begins with a ritualistic worship of their guardian deity** before gathering natural pigments from the forest.
- Colours are **applied directly without water to create intricate cultural and spiritual motifs.**
- **The male priests or caretakers of the temple used to practice this art form in the villages and the women of the family** used to decorate the doors and windows of the houses.
- **Significance:** It is an art form that **captures the socio-religious ethos of the Kurumba tribe** and these paintings **only appear on their house walls and floors during festive occasions.**

Karun River

News: Iran is widely discussed in news, and the Karun River gained attention because bull shark attacks have occurred in its waters near Ahvaz.

About Karun River

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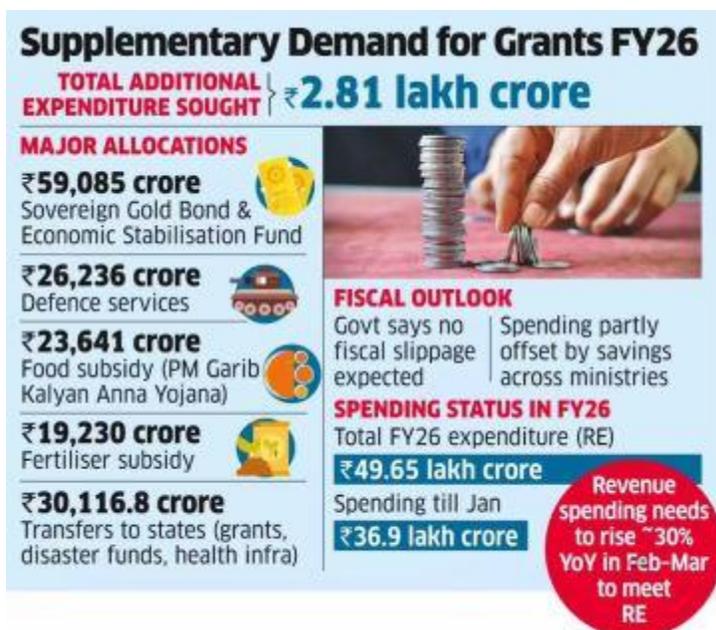🡕 Forum IAS

Source – Britannica

- The Karun River is the river with the highest water flow in Iran and it is the country's only navigable river.
- Origin: The river originates in the Zard Kuh Mountains of the Zagros Range in western Iran.
- The Karun River is about 950 km long.
- Major Tributaries: Important tributaries of the river include Dez, Kuhrang, Vanak, Bazoft, and Khersan.
- Outlet: The Karun flows into the Arvand Rud, where its water joins the Tigris and Euphrates, and finally reaches the Persian Gulf.
- Bifurcation: The river divides into two branches, Bahmanshir and Haffar, near its delta.
  o The Island of Abadan lies between these two branches of the river.
  o The port city of Khorramshahr is separated from Abadan Island by the Haffar branch.
- Major Dams: Major dams on the river include Masjed Soleyman Dam, Shahid Abbaspour Dam (Karun-1), Karun-3, Karun-4, and Gotvand Dam.

Supplementary Demands for Grants and Economic Stabilisation Fund

News: Lok Sabha approved the Second Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2025–26, including allocation for an Economic Stabilisation Fund to address global economic shocks.
About Economic Stabilisation Fund (ESF)

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Supplementary Demand for Grants FY26
TOTAL ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE SOUGHT ₹2.81 lakh crore

MAJOR ALLOCATIONS
₹59,085 crore — Sovereign Gold Bond & Economic Stabilisation Fund
₹26,236 crore — Defence services
₹23,641 crore — Food subsidy (PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana)
₹19,230 crore — Fertiliser subsidy
₹30,116.8 crore — Transfers to states (grants, disaster funds, health infra)

FISCAL OUTLOOK
Govt says no fiscal slippage expected | Spending partly offset by savings across ministries

SPENDING STATUS IN FY26
Total FY26 expenditure (RE)
₹49.65 lakh crore
Spending till Jan
₹36.9 lakh crore
Revenue spending needs to rise ~30% YoY in Feb-Mar to meet RE

Source – ET

- **The Economic Stabilisation Fund (ESF) is a proposed fiscal mechanism to provide financial space for responding to global economic disruptions.**
- **Proposed by: Finance Ministry.**
- **Corpus Size: The total proposed outlay for the fund is ₹1 lakh crore, with ₹57,381 crore proposed in the supplementary demands and the rest added through savings of ministries and departments.**
- **Purpose: The fund aims to provide fiscal headroom for India to respond to global headwinds, recent crises, unanticipated supply chain disruptions, and unexpected shocks to sub-sectors of the economy.**
- **Managed by: The fund is placed under the reserve funds managed by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).**
- **Impact: The fund will enable India to absorb economic shocks and respond to global crises while maintaining the fiscal consolidation roadmap.**
  About Supplementary Demands for Grants

- **Supplementary Demands for Grants are additional financial approvals sought by the government during a financial year to meet expenditure not provided in the original budget.**
- **Constitutional back up: Supplementary grants derive authority from Article 115 of the Constitution of India, which deals with additional and excess demands for grants.**
- **Process**
  o **Initiation: The concerned ministry identifies additional financial requirements and submits the proposal to the Ministry of Finance.**
  o **Examination by Ministry of Finance: The Department of Expenditure reviews the proposal and evaluates its financial justification.**
  o **Preparation of Supplementary Demands: Approved proposals are consolidated and presented to Parliament as Supplementary Demands for Grants.**
  o **Parliamentary Approval: Lok Sabha discusses and votes on the demands, after which an Appropriation Bill authorises withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of India.**
- **Types of Supplementary Grants**
  o **Supplementary Grant: It is granted when the funds authorised in the original budget are insufficient or when new services need financing during the year.**

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- o **Additional Grant:** It is granted for a new service or project that was not included in the original budget but is introduced during the financial year.
- o **Excess Grant:** It is granted when expenditure exceeds the amount authorised for a service in the Appropriation Act of the previous year.
- o **Vote on Account:** It is a temporary provision that allows government expenditure in the early part of the financial year until the full budget is passed.
- o **Vote of Credit:** It is granted for unexpected and exceptional expenditure such as war when the details cannot be precisely stated in advance.
- o **Exceptional Grant:** It is granted for a special purpose that does not form part of the current year's normal services.
- **Key Allocations in FY26**
- o **₹41,430 crore for Defence Services.**
- o **₹6,140 crore for the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme.**
- o **₹37,886 crore for local bodies of states.**
- o **₹19,230 crore for fertilizer subsidies.**
- o **₹30,000 crore for Viksit Bharat – G RAM-G act.**

Joha Rice

News: APEDA facilitated the first export consignment of 25 metric tonnes of GI-tagged Joha rice from Assam to the United Kingdom and Italy on 12 March 2026.
About Joha Rice

Source – IBEF

- **Joha rice is a short-grain aromatic rice variety known for its distinctive fragrance, soft texture, and traditional cultivation practices.**
- **Origin: It originates from Assam in Northeast India, where it has been cultivated for centuries as part of traditional agricultural systems and local food culture.**
- **Cultivation: The crop is generally cultivated as a short-grain winter paddy during the Sali rice season.**
- **Key features**

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- o **Aromatic rice variety:** Joha rice emits a strong natural fragrance and is valued for its fine grain texture and rich taste.
- o **Short-grain winter paddy:** It is mainly cultivated during the Sali or winter rice season in Assam.
- o **Nutraceutical properties:** The rice contains essential fatty acids such as omega-3 and omega-6 along with antioxidants, flavonoids, and phenolic compounds.
- o **Health-related properties:** Research indicates that Joha rice may help lower blood glucose and prevent diabetes due to bioactive compounds like oryzanol, ferulic acid, and tocotrienol.
- o **GI recognition:** The rice received Geographical Indication status in 2017 for its unique origin and traditional cultivation.
- **Significance:** The promotion and export of GI-tagged Joha rice help expand international markets and improve the economic value of traditional agricultural products for farmers.

Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006

News: The war in West Asia is throwing light on the risks faced by commercial sailors, especially Indians, in spite of being covered under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006.

About Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006

Source – ILO

- **The Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) is an International Labour Organization convention.**
- **It was established in 2006.**
- **It came into force on 20 August 2013.**
- **It is a binding international law.**
- **It sets out in one place minimum requirements for how a seafarer should be treated.**
- o **Many states that ratify the Convention may have higher standards.**
- **Need: It** was introduced in recognition that the global nature of the shipping industry means that seafarers need special protection, especially since you can be exempted from national labour laws.
- **The MLC incorporates and builds on 68 existing maritime labour conventions and recommendations, as well as other fundamental principles, to ensure decent working and living conditions for all seafarers.**
- **Importance**
- **It is considered as the 'bill of rights' for the seafarers.**
- o **It gives the seafarers the right to a safe and secure workplace – where safety standards are complied with; and where they have fair terms of employment, decent living and working conditions, including social protection such as access to medical care, health protection and welfare.**
- **Applies to: It applies to all commercial seagoing ships operating in international waters or between ports of different countries except fishing, naval and traditionally built vessels.**

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- o It covers any seafarer who is employed, engaged or working in any capacity on board one of these vessels.
- The MLC sits alongside International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations which deal with the vessel and its operation.
- India's status: The convention has been ratified by India on 9th October, 2015.

Litani River

News: Israel expanded its strikes in Lebanon, targeting multiple areas including a bridge over Litani river that had been used by Hezbollah.
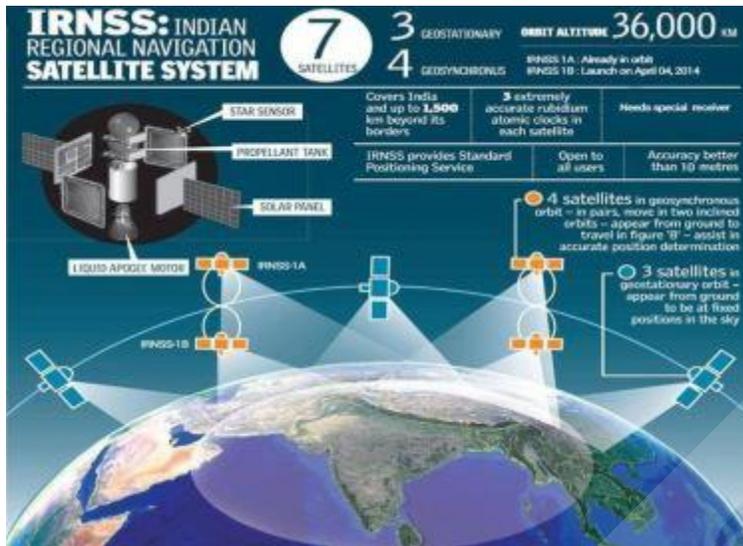
About Litani River

Source – Britannica

- **Location:** It is the longest river that flows entirely in Lebanon.
- It was known as Līta in medieval times.
- **Course:** It rises in a low divide west of Baalbek and flowing southwestward through the Bekaa valley between the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon mountains.
- o Near Marjayoun, it bends sharply west and cuts a spectacular gorge up to 900 feet (275 meters) deep through the Lebanon Mountains to the Mediterranean Sea, south of Sidon.
- **Falls into:** It falls into the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Length:** It is about 140 km in length.
- **Wetlands:** The Aammiq wetlands, designated a World Nature Reserve, serves as an important point in global bird migration routes, hosting nearly 250 bird species.
- **Dam:** El Wauroun Dam, Qaraoun Dam, or Albert Naqash Dam
- o The Lake Qaraoun is the largest artificial lake in Lebanon.

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Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS / NavIC)

News: ISRO informed that the atomic clock of the satellite IRNSS-1F stopped working on March 13, 2026, causing the loss of positioning data from that satellite.

About Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS / NavIC)

Source – Frontier India

- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is an independent regional navigation satellite system for positioning services.
- It is also called as Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).
- **Developed by:** It is developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **Aim:** The system was conceived to remove dependence on the satellite systems of other countries for navigation, especially for strategic sectors.
- **Covered Area:** It provides accurate position information over India and the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, which is its primary service area.
- **Consisting of:** The system is designed as a constellation of seven satellites supported by a network of ground stations.
  - The system uses three satellites placed in geostationary orbit (GSO) and four satellites placed in inclined geosynchronous orbit (GEO).
  - The ground segment includes a control centre, timing facility, monitoring stations and two-way ranging stations operating continuously.
- **Key features**
  - **Independent navigation system:** It is a stand-alone indigenous satellite navigation system under the complete control of India.
  - **High accuracy positioning:** It provides position accuracy of better than 20 m in the primary service area.
  - **Two types of services:** It offers Standard Positioning Service (SPS) for all users and Restricted Service (RS) for authorised users.
  - **Multi-frequency signals:** NavIC satellites transmit positioning signals in L5 and S frequency bands.
- **Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS):** Major global navigation systems include GPS (United States), GLONASS (Russia), Galileo (European Union), and BeiDou (China).

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Samriddh Gram Phygital Services Initiative

News: Union Minister inaugurated the Samriddhi Kendra at Umri village under the Samriddh Gram Phygital Services Pilot Initiative.
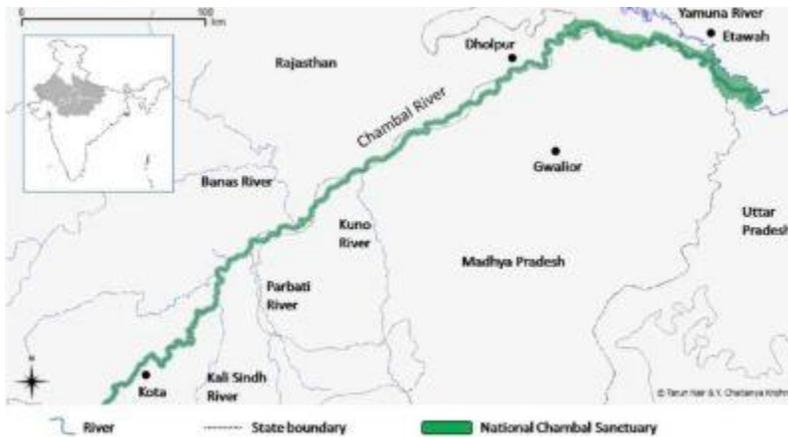
About Samriddh Gram Phygital Services Initiative

Source – PIB

- **Samriddh Gram Phygital Services Initiative is a pilot project that integrates physical and digital services to deliver multiple citizen services in rural areas.**
- **Implemented by: The initiative is implemented by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) with support from the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) for field operations and community mobilisation.**
- **Aim: The initiative aims to demonstrate how BharatNet connectivity can deliver integrated public services at the village level and develop a replicable model for rural digital transformation.**
- **Key features**
  - **Phygital Service Delivery Model: The initiative combines physical service centres with digital platforms to improve access to services in rural areas.**
  - **Samriddhi Kendra: Each village hosts a Samriddhi Kendra located in the Panchayat Bhawan that works as a one-stop integrated digital service centre.**
  - **Multi-Sector Service Integration: The centres provide services related to education and skill development, agriculture advisory, healthcare and telemedicine, e-governance, financial inclusion and e-commerce.**
  - **BharatNet Connectivity Backbone: The initiative uses high-speed BharatNet rural broadband connectivity to ensure efficient digital service delivery.**

National Chambal Sanctuary

News: The Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of illegal sand mining threatening the fragile ecosystem of the National Chambal Sanctuary and its gharial habitat.

About National Chambal Sanctuary

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Source – ReserachGate

- **Location: The sanctuary lies at the tri-junction of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.**
- **National Chambal Sanctuary is India's first and only tri-state protected riverine sanctuary.**
- **The sanctuary is also known as the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- **Establishment: The Chambal sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was officially notified on December 20, 1978 as a protected area for wildlife conservation.**
- **Topography: The sanctuary has a rugged landscape that includes ravines, hills, and sandy beaches along the river channel.**
- **Major rivers: The sanctuary extends along a 425 km stretch of the Chambal River, which forms the core riverine habitat of the protected area.**
- **Flora: The vegetation of the sanctuary belongs to the Kathiar–Gir dry deciduous forest ecoregion, which supports the riverine ecosystem.**
- **Fauna: The sanctuary supports rich aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. It protects the largest population of critically endangered gharial in the wild.**
- o **It is listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA).**
- o **Other species include mugger crocodile, smooth-coated otters, striped hyena, Indian wolves, Gangetic river dolphins, and several freshwater turtles.**
- **Threats: Illegal sand mining has emerged as the biggest threat to the sanctuary's ecology and aquatic life.**

Sujal Gaon ID

News: Union Minister of Jal Shakti released the Sujal Gaon ID that enables complete digital mapping of rural piped water supply assets.
About Sujal Gaon ID

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States to get Jal Jeevan
Mission funds only after they
add all schemes on Sujal
Gaon ID module: Centre

Source – IE

- **Sujal Gaon ID is a unique digital identification system for rural piped water supply schemes.**
- **Launched by: It was launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Jal Jeevan Mission.**
- **It brings rural drinking water infrastructure onto a single digital platform for the first time.**
- **Aim: It aims to improve accountability in water delivery.**
- **Each Sujal Gaon ID is a scheme-based unique code that enables authorities to track, monitor and map water supply assets serving villages across the country.**
- **How it works:**
- **The digital identifier system creates a comprehensive record of each water supply scheme.**
- **Every Sujal Gaon ID links to a corresponding Sujalam Bharat ID, which combines two elements:**
- **Infrastructure ID: Identifies physical assets such as pipes, pumps, and other water supply infrastructure**
- **Service Area ID: Identifies the villages and households covered by the scheme.**
- **Note: Sujalam Bharat Application integrates water sources, asset inventories, scheme designs, operational records, water quality reports, supply metrics and community feedback into a single digital platform.**
- **The system enables real-time monitoring of whether schemes are operational and which areas face supply disruptions.**
- **So far, 1.64 lakh Sujal Gaon IDs across 31 States/ UTs have been created, linked to 67,000 Sujalam Bharat IDs.**

Gajapati Empire

News: Recently, a Telugu medieval inscription associated with the Gajapathi rulers of Odisha has been discovered on a stone pillar of Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Ramachandrapura Agraharam in Guntur.

About Gajapati Empire

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Source – Pragyata

- **The Gajapati Empire was a medieval Hindu monarchy in the Indian subcontinent.**
- **Reign Period: It reigned from c.1434 to 1541.**
- **Founded by: It was founded by Kapilendra Deva of the Suryavamsa lineage in the 13th century after the death of the last ruler of the Eastern Ganga, king Bhanu Deva IV.**
- **Rulers: Under the rule of Kapilendra Deva, the Gajapati empire stretched from the lower Ganga in the north to the Kaveri in the south.**
- Prataparudra Deva propelled the Gajapati Empire to its zenith during1497 to 1540.
- He undertook military expeditions, extending the empire into present-day Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Bengal.
- **Capital: Its capital was initially established in Cuttack, but during the reign of Prataparudra Deva, the capital was shifted to Kataka (Present day Konark).**
- **Religious patronage: The Gajapati kings were devout followers of Hinduism and were particularly dedicated to Lord Jagannath.**
- They also patronised both Shaiva and Vaishnava traditions across temple establishments in their territories.
- **Literature: They patronage of the Odia language, literature, and performing arts.**
- Epics, such as the Sarala Mahabharata were composed during this period.
- **Architecture: The architectural style combined the indigenous Odishan (Kalinga) style with influences from other regional traditions.**
- The most famous monument of the empire is the Konark Sun Temple,a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It was built during the reign of Narasimha Deva I.
- The Jagannath Temple is another major temple associated with the Gajapati rulers.
- Skilled sculptors decorated temple walls, pillars, and doorways with detailed stone carvings during this period.
- A notable example is the Aruna Stambha.
- **Decline: By the early 16th century, the Gajapatis lost great portions of their southern dominion to Vijayanagar and Golconda.**

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o **The Gajapati Empire gradually declined due to internal conflicts and invasions by regional powers and later came under Mughal Empire rule in the early 17th century.**

> **About the Guntur Inscription**
>
> The inscription was found on a **stone pillar of Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple.**
> It is engraved on both sides of a stone pillar in the **temple mandapa**.
> It refers to **Kumaraguru Mahapatra**, a steward officer serving under the **Gajapathi King Purushottama Deva of 15th Century CE**.
> It reflects the **Hari-Hara mode of worship** practiced under the Gajapati rulers.

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