Factly Weekly

Compilation

2026

For UPSC CSE Prelims Exam

INDEX

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International Energy Agency (IEA)

News- At the recent annual ministerial meeting in Paris, the IEA welcomed progress on India's request for full membership of the organisation.

About International Energy Agency (IEA)
- IEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation within the OECD framework working on energy security and sustainable energy cooperation.
- **Establishment**: It was **established in November 1974** in response to the global oil crisis.
- **Headquarters**: It is based **in Paris.**

Core Mandate

- It maintains systems to **address oil supply disruptions.**
- It **promotes rational global energy policies and cooperation.**
- It **monitors international oil markets and energy trends.**
- It supports energy technology collaboration and policy integration.

Membership Criteria

- Membership is **limited to OECD countries**.
- Countries **must maintain oil reserves equal to 90 days of net imports.**
- They must **have emergency response measures and reporting systems.**

Governance & Structure

- **Governing Board:** It is the main **decision-making body,** composed of Energy Ministers or their representatives, and its decisions are binding on members.
- **Ministerial Meeting:** It is held **every two years to set strategic priorities** and guide future work programmes.
- **Standing Groups:** The IEA has four Standing Groups — Long-Term Co-operation (SLT), Emergency Questions (SEQ), Oil Market (SOM), and Global Energy Dialogue (SGD).
- **Committee:** The Committee on Energy Research and Technology (CERT) supports technology development and cooperation.

Major Reports & Publications

- World Energy Outlook, World Energy Balances, Energy Technology Perspectives, World Energy Statistics, and Net Zero by 2050.

India and the IEA

- **Status**: India became an Associate member in 2017.
- **Strategic Partnership:** India seeks full membership, which requires changes to the IEA's founding legal framework.

Key Facts about Rwanda

News- India expressed readiness to deepen engagement with Rwanda in emerging technologies and innovation sectors.

About Rwanda

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Source- Britannica

- Rwanda is a **landlocked country in East Africa**, known as the "**Land of a Thousand Hills**" due to its high elevation and rolling terrain.
- **Location:** Rwanda lies **south of the Equator in east-central Africa** and **forms part of the Great Rift Valley region.**
- **Border:** Rwanda shares borders with **Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**
- **Capital:** The capital and largest city is **Kigali**.
- **Geographical Features**
  - **Terrestrial ecoregions:** Rwanda has **three terrestrial ecoregions**, namely the Albertine Rift montane forests, the Victoria Basin forest-savanna mosaic, and the Ruwenzori-Virunga montane moorlands.
  - **Mountain ranges:** The country's major mountain ranges include **the Albertine Rift and the Virunga ranges.**
  - **Major peak:** The highest peak in Rwanda is **Mount Karisimbi**, which rises to 4,507 metres.
  - **Major rivers:** Rwanda is connected to the **Nile and Congo river systems**, including rivers such **as Nyabarongo, Kagera, Ruzizi, Luhwa, and Akanyaru.**
  - **National Resources:** Rwanda possesses limited natural resources, including deposits of gold, tin ore, tungsten ore, and methane.

Merchandise Trade Indices

News- India's Merchandise Trade Indices have been revised with a new base year FY 2022–23 to reflect structural changes in trade patterns.

About Merchandise Trade Indices

- Merchandise Trade Indices measure changes in the unit values and quantities of India's exports and imports over time.

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- **Published by:** It is compiled and published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Purpose**
  - It measures changes in the unit values and quantities of India's exports and imports.
  - It indicates external sector price movements and supports economic analysis and national accounts compilation.
- **Usage**
  - Government institutions use these indices for **economic analysis and policy formulation**.
  - The National Accounts Division uses them as **deflators for estimating real exports and imports**.
  - The Reserve Bank of India uses them for **external sector and balance of payments analysis**.
  - Ministries, research organisations, and analysts use them for **trade policy review and empirical research**.
- **Base Year:** The base year has been **revised from FY 2012–13 to FY 2022–23 (2022–23 = 100)**.
- **Revision Committee:** The revision was recommended by a committee constituted by DGCI&S under the chairmanship of Prof. Nachiketa Chattopadhyay, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.
- **Indices Compiled**
  - The revised series includes **monthly, quarterly and annual export and import unit value indices**.
  - It includes trade indices **classified by Principal Commodity, Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), and Broad Economic Categories (BEC)**.
  - It includes **bilateral and region-wise trade indices** for **India's top 20 export and import partner nations**.
  - **It includes Terms of Trade indices (Net, Gross and Income Terms of Trade).**

Improved Methodology: Methodological refinements have been introduced in the selection of the common commodity basket and in the treatment of missing unit values, as explained in the committee report.

Taftan volcano

News: The Taftan Volcano in southeastern Iran has risen by about 3.5 inches (9 cm) over a period of ten months.

About Taftan volcano

Figure 1. Source: VolcanoDiscovery

- **Location:** Mount Taftan is a **stratovolcano situated in southeast Iran,** close to the border with Pakistan.
- **Volcano Type:** Composite stratovolcano
- **How it is formed:** It was **formed by the subduction of the Arabian ocean crust under the Eurasian continent**.
- **Composition:** It is **built of layers of lava and ash.** It vents through **summit fumaroles (volcanic vents that emit gas)**.
- **History:** It was **believed to have been dormant for roughly 7.1 lakh years.**

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- **Height:** It **rises about 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) above sea level**, making **it the tallest peak in southeastern Iran.**
- **Summits:** Narkuh and Matherkuh
- It **features an active hydrothermal system** with sulfur-emitting fumaroles.

Gentoo penguin

News: Gentoo penguin have become the first bird species confirmed with H5 avian influenza on an Australian territory, after testing positive on Heard Island.

About Gentoo penguin

Figure 2. Source: animalia

- The Gentoo penguin **(Pygoscelis papua)** belongs to the **genus Pygoscelis.**
- They are closely related to the **Adélie penguin** and **Chinstrap penguin**.
- **Distribution**-They are mainly found along the coasts of the Antarctic Peninsula, nearby sub-Antarctic islands, and the Falkland Islands in the southern Atlantic Ocean.
- **Habitat**-These penguins usually live along coastal areas, which helps them easily reach the sea for food while remaining close to their nesting sites.
- **Characteristics of Gentoo Penguins**
  - **Fastest swimmers**: Gentoo penguin are the fastest underwater swimmers among all penguin species.
  - **Geographical range**: They are found exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere, typically between 45° and 65° south latitude.
  - **Behavior**: These birds are diurnal and highly social, breeding in large colonies and staying together throughout the year.
  - **Diet**: Gentoo penguins are carnivorous (piscivorous), primarily feeding on fish, along with krill and other marine organisms.
- **Conservation status:**
  - **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern

Takeshima / Dokdo Islands

News: South Korea recently protested a Japanese government-backed "Takeshima Day" event, calling it an unjust assertion of sovereignty.

About Takeshima / Dokdo Islands

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Source: ResearchGate

- It is located in the **south-western part of the Sea of Japan.**
- It is **known as Takeshima in Japan** and **Dokdo in South Korea.**
- It is **215 kms from mainland Korea** and **250 kms from Japan.**
- It has also been known as the Liancourt Rocks, named by French whalers after their ship in 1849.
- It is a group of islands, including the **two main islands, Mejima (Higashijima) Island and Ojima (Nishijima) Island** and **around 30 smaller rocks.**
- **Administration:**
    - It is **currently administered by the Republic of Korea (ROK).**
    - Japan claims sovereignty over islands, and it **remains a source of tension between Japan and South Korea** since long time.
- **Strategic and economic significance:** It is located in rich fishing waters and may also contain vast reserves of natural gas hydrate.

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)

News- India and Brazil exchanged the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) access Agreement during President Lula's State Visit to India in February 2026.

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Source- PIB

About Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)

- It is a **globally unique database of Indian traditional knowledge.**
- **Established by:** It was **established in 2001** by the Government of India.
- **Ministry involved:** The Ministry of AYUSH was involved in its establishment in collaboration with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.
- **Objective:** Its primary objective is to prevent the erroneous grant of patents on Indian traditional knowledge and to safeguard the country's knowledge heritage from misappropriation.

Key Features

- **Comprehensive Database:** It contains information on over 5.2 lakh formulations and practices from **Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Yoga, sourced from authoritative traditional texts.**
- **Structured and Translated Content:** Knowledge from multiple languages and disciplines is translated, structured and linked with modern scientific and technical terminology.
- **Multilingual Access:** The database is available in **English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish.**
- **Controlled Access:**
  - Access to the TKDL database is provided to patent offices through Non-Disclosure Agreements to ensure controlled use.
  - With the inclusion of the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) of Brazil, the total number of patent offices worldwide that have access to the TKDL has increased to eighteen.

National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0)

News- Union Finance Minister launched National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0, targeting Rs. 16.72 lakh crore asset monetisation during FY 2026–2030.

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Source- PIB

About National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0)

- It is the **second phase of the government's asset monetisation programme.**
- It provides a medium-term roadmap for **monetising operational public infrastructure assets to generate resources for new infrastructure development.**
- **Developed by:** It has been **developed by NITI Aayog** in consultation with infrastructure line ministries.
- **Implementing by:** It is implemented under the **guidance of the Ministry of Finance.**
- **Monitored by**: It is monitored by the Core Group of Secretaries on Asset Monetisation under the Cabinet Secretary.
- **Aim**
  - It aims to recycle public assets and mobilise funds for fresh infrastructure development without increasing fiscal burden.
  - It also aims to provide visibility and investment opportunities for private sector participation.
- **Total Target:** The total **monetisation potential under NMP 2.0 is Rs. 16.72 lakh crore** for FY 2026–2030.
- **Private Investment:** It includes private sector investment of Rs. 5.8 lakh crore.
- **Asset Type:** It focuses on **monetising operational brownfield public infrastructure assets.**

Key Features

- **Medium-Term Roadmap:**It provides a structured methodology and roadmap for ministries and investors.
- **Multiple Monetisation Models:** It includes PPP concessions, InvITs, securitisation of cash flows, strategic auctions, and partial divestments.
- **Revenue Allocation Mechanism:** Proceeds are allocated to Consolidated Fund of India, PSUs, State Consolidated Funds, or recorded as direct private investment.
- **Sector-Wide Coverage:** It covers highways, railways, power, ports, coal, mining, telecom, aviation, tourism and urban infrastructure.
- **Process Standardisation:** It focuses on simplification and time-bound execution based on lessons from NMP 1.0.

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About National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP 1.0)
- It was announced in August 2021 by NITI Aayog as a four-year plan covering FY22 to FY25.
- It seeks to unlock Rs. 6 lakh crore by leasing brownfield infrastructure assets to private players while retaining government ownership.
- It aims to generate revenue for new infrastructure, improve asset efficiency, and increase private sector participation

Kole Wetlands

News: A scientific study at the Kole wetlands recorded 12 species of pygmy grasshoppers, including four species newly documented in the State.

About Kole Wetlands
Source: ResearchGate
- It is the **largest brackish, humid tropical wetland ecosystem on the southwest coast of India.**
- **Location:** The Kole wetlands are **located in Kerala** and **spread over Thrissur and Malappuram districts.**
- **Named after:** They are named after "Kole", which **indicates a field that gives a bumper crop** in Malayalam.
- **Recognition**– It was declared as a Ramsar site of international importance in 2002.
- **Rivers associated:** The rivers that feed the wetlands include **Karuvannur, Kecheri and the Puzhakal.**
- **Features:**
  - The Kole areas are **low-lying and have a central, narrow strip covering a long expanse**, with many pockets running into cultivated land on either side.
  - The region **is naturally subject to saltwater intrusion,** and **during the monsoon, the entire region gets submerged** under water, which is cultivated by draining the water and by erecting bunds.
- **Wildlife:** The wetlands have been **recognised as one of India's Important Bird Areas** by BirdLife International.
  - They are **considered the third largest bird area in India** after Chilika Lake and Amipur Tank.

About Pygmy grasshoppers
- Pygmy grasshoppers are **small, ground-dwelling insects.**
- They are **typically associated with moist habitats.**
- They are **highly sensitive to changes in microhabitat conditions and act as a valuable bio-indicators** of wetland health.
- Pygmy grasshoppers are characterised by **an extended pronotum that covers much of their body.**

PRASHAD scheme

News: The Centre is planning to develop tourist sites around major temples in Andhra Pradesh under the PRASHAD scheme.
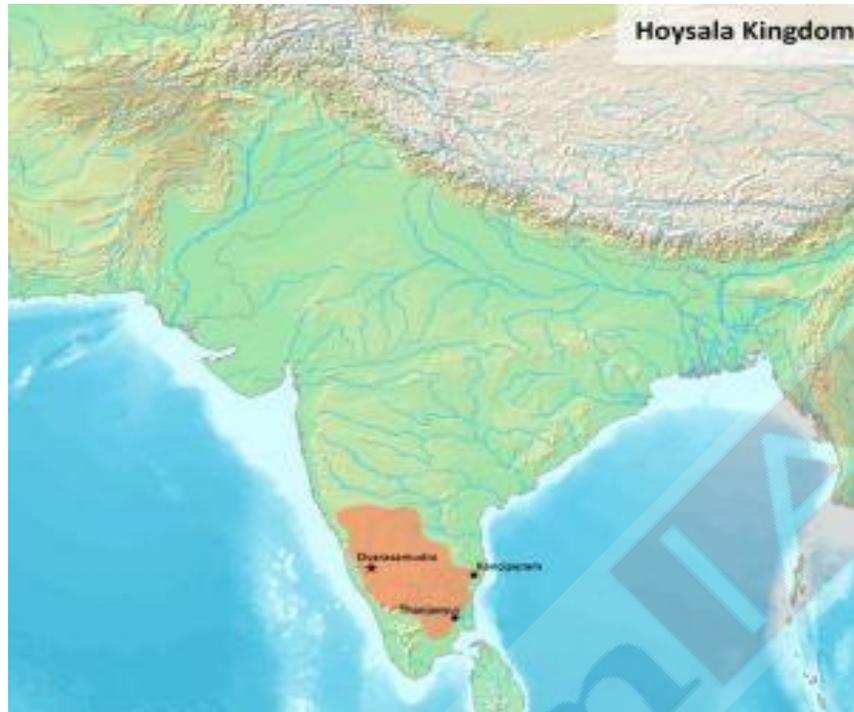
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About PRASHAD scheme

- The full form of the PRASAD scheme is **'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive'.**
- It is **a Central Sector Scheme.**
- It was **launched in the year 2014-2015** with the **objective of integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.**
- **Launched by:** Ministry of Tourism.
- **Aim:** To integrate pilgrimage destinations in a **prioritised, planned and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience.**
- **Focus:** This scheme **focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India** for enriching the religious tourism experience.
- **Funding:** It intends to **utilize voluntary contributions through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** to strengthen the long-term sustainability of its projects.
- **Components of the scheme:**
  - **Infrastructure Development:** Development of tourism infrastructure at pilgrimage sites, including basic amenities, last-mile connectivity, lighting, parking, and other facilities for visitor convenience and safety.
  - **Integrated Tourism Development of Heritage City:** Focuses on improving civic infrastructure in heritage cities.
  - **Capacity and Skill Development & Knowledge Management:** Supports special courses and short-term training programs to address skill gaps, promotes local indigenous art and crafts, and ensures documentation and preservation of tourism knowledge.
  - **Online Presence:** Development of GIS-based portals, mobile applications, dashboards, and project monitoring systems to deliver tourism services, enable bookings, track progress, and support data analytics and reporting.
  - **Information, Education, and Communication activities (IEC):** IEC activities to promote awareness and outreach for the development of identified pilgrimage destinations.

Hoysala Dynasty

News: Several Hoysala-era temples and basadis (Jain shrines) in Hassan, Mandya, and Mysuru districts have drawn attention to Karnataka's rich yet often overlooked medieval architectural heritage.

About Hoysala Dynasty

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Source – Wikipedia

- The Hoysala Dynasty was a **prominent South Indian dynasty** that ruled from the **10th to the 14th centuries** mainly in **present-day Karnataka**.
- **Political history**
  - **Origins:** The Hoysalas were **feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyana**,
  - **Founder**: **Sala** was regarded as the founder of the dynasty.
  - **Capital:** The early capital was **Belur**, which later shifted to **Dwarasamudra (present-day Halebidu).**
- **Important kings**
  - Kings such as **Vinayaditya, Ballala I, and especially Ballala II** strengthened and **expanded** the kingdom.
  - King **Vishnuvardhana (c. 1108–1152 CE)** was one of the most important rulers.
    - He **defeated the Cholas** at **Talakad** and assumed the title *Talakadugonda*.
    - He commissioned the **Chennakesava Temple at Belur**, marking a **new phase in Hoysala temple architecture**.
- **Hoysala administration**
  - The Hoysala state followed a **centralised monarchical system** with **structured administrative divisions**.
  - **Central administration:** The empire was managed by **senior ministers called Pancha Pradhanas**, including officials such as **Sandhivigrahi (foreign affairs) and Mahabhandari (treasury).**
  - **Provincial structure:** The empire was **divided into provinces** like **Nadu, Vishaya, Kampana, and Desha** for effective governance.
  - **Local governance:** Provincial administration included **Mahapradhana, Bhandari, Heggaddes, and Gavundas** who managed agriculture and resources.
  - **Elite guards:** Elite royal bodyguards called **Garudas** protected the king.

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- **Coins:** The **coins like Honnu, Pana, and Haga** were issued with inscriptions.
- **Religious Patronage:** The Hoysalas patronized **Shaivism, Vaishnavism, and Jainism**, which shaped the religious character of their kingdom.
  - **Vishnuvardhana's Conversion:** King Vishnuvardhana **initially followed Jainism,** but later **converted to Srivaishnavism** under the influence of **Sri Ramanujacharya,** and this shift encouraged temple construction.
- **Rise of Bhakti traditions:**
  - During **12th century**, **Virashaivism associated with Basavanna** and **Vaishnavism supported by thinkers like Ramanujacharya** and Madhvacharya gained prominence in the region.
- **Society**
  - **Role of women:** Women like **Queen Umadevi and Queen Shantala Devi** played active **roles in governance and culture.**
  - **Urban centres: Pattana and nagaram** served as important commercial and cultural centres.
  - **Temple role:** Temples played **religious, social, economic, and judicial roles** in society.
- **Literature**
  - **Language: Kannada and Sanskrit** literature developed significantly.
  - **Important Kannada writers: Harihara, Raghavanka (Harishchandracharite), Nemichandra (Leelavati Prabhanda), and Janna** contributed to literature.
- **Art & Architecture**
  - **Architectural style:** The Hoysalas **combined Vesara and Dravida** elements and developed a **distinct Hoysala style**, which later came to be recognised as **Karnata Dravida**.
  - **Platform design:** Their temples were usually constructed on **star-shaped raised platforms,** and the **jagati around the temple** functioned as **an open pradakshinapatha** for circumambulation.
  - **Structural features:** The structures were **carved from soft soapstone** and displayed **polished pillars, rhythmic projections, celestial dancers**, dense friezes of epic scenes, and beautifully carved **madanika** figures.
  - **Notable temples:** Important examples include the **Chennakeshava Temple at Beluru, the Hoysaleshvara Temple at Halebidu, and the Keshava Temple at Somnathpura.**

New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact

News: The number of countries endorsing the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact has increased to 91 signatories.

About New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact

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Source – IANS

- The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact is a **non-binding, multi-nation consensus document** for **governing the development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence.**
- **Signed by:** The declaration has been signed by **91 countries and international organisations.**
- **Guided by:** It is Guided by the principle of **"Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya"** (Welfare for all, Happiness for all).
- **Aim**: The declaration **aims** to **bridge the AI Divide** by democratizing foundational AI resources for global economic growth and social good.
- **Key Features of New Delhi Declaration on AI**
  - **Seven Chakras Framework:** The declaration is structured around seven Chakras and represents a broad multilateral consensus on AI governance.
  - **Democratizing AI Resources:** It emphasises affordable digital infrastructure and connectivity as essential for unlocking AI's full potential and ensuring equitable access to AI resources.
  - **Economic Growth and Social Good:** It promotes open and accessible AI approaches for scalability and adaptability. It notes the Global AI Impact Commons to enable adoption and scaling of successful AI use cases.
  - **Secure and Trusted AI:** It promotes voluntary frameworks, benchmarks, and best practices to build secure, trustworthy, and adaptable AI systems.
  - **Science and Research Collaboration:** It encourages removing barriers and expanding AI research infrastructure to accelerate scientific innovation through global cooperation.
  - **Access for Social Empowerment:** It supports a voluntary platform for exchange of learning and scalable practices to advance AI adoption for social empowerment.
  - **Human Capital:** It stresses skilling, reskilling, AI literacy, and workforce development supported by voluntary guiding principles and playbooks.
  - **Resilience, Innovation, and Efficiency:** It underlines energy-efficient AI systems and recognises voluntary guiding principles and a playbook for resilient AI infrastructure.

C. Rajagopalachari

News- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled C. Rajagopalachari's statue at Rashtrapati Bhavan, replacing Edwin Lutyens.

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About C. Rajagopalachari

● Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji or CR, was a freedom fighter, social reformer, and statesman.

● **Early Life:** He was born in December 1878 in Thorapalli in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.

● **Education** : He studied in his village school and later moved to Madras in 1896 to study law. He became a Bachelor of Law in 1899 and started legal practice in Salem.

● **Political Reform**

○ **Local Leadership (1911–1917):** He was elected to the Salem Municipal Council in 1911 and became its Chairman in June 1917.

○ **Swatantra Party (August 1959):** He founded the Swatantra Party to provide a constitutional opposition and support free enterprise with regulation.

○ **Opposition to Coercive Planning (mid-1950s):** He opposed coercive Soviet-type planning and supported democratic balance.

Figure 3. Source- The Print

Role in Freedom Struggle

● **Congress Participation:** He attended the 1906 and 1907 sessions of the Indian National Congress.

● **Rowlatt and Non-Cooperation (1919–1920):** He supported the Rowlatt Satyagraha in 1919 and led the Non-Cooperation Movement in Tamil Nadu in 1920.

● **Salt Satyagraha:** In 1930, he led the march from Trichy to Vedaranyam and was arrested.

● **Quit India Differences (1942):** He differed with Gandhi and proposed negotiation.

● **Rajaji Formula (April 1944):** He conveyed Gandhi's acceptance of the proposal to Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Social Reform

● **Temple Entry (July 8, 1939):** He supported Dalit entry into temples and introduced protective legislation..

● **Anti-Discrimination Law:** He backed a Bill making discrimination punishable.

● **Hindi Policy:** He introduced Hindi in schools in 1938 but later opposed its imposition.

● **Social Upliftment:** He worked for the welfare of backward classes and promoted social equity.

Legacy: He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1954.**

Death: He passed **away on 25 December 1972.**

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Programme

News: The Union Health Ministry is set to launch a nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme.

About Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Programme

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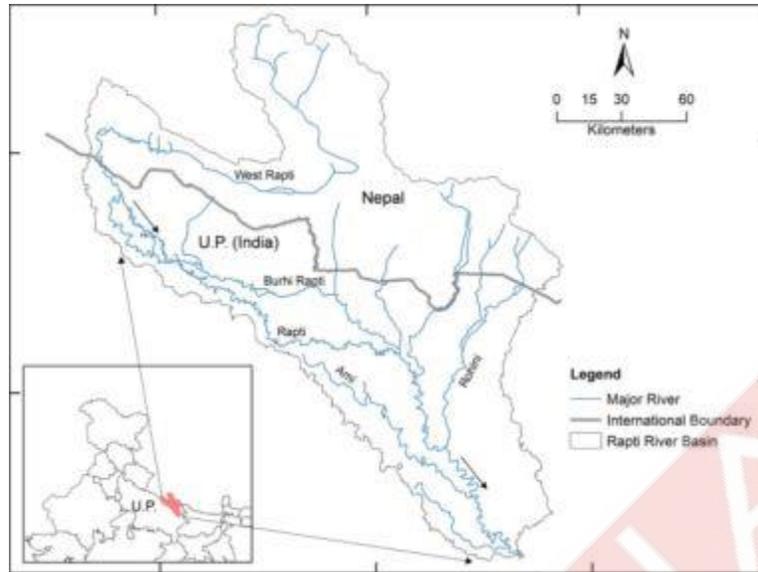**ForumIAS**

Source: TH

- It is a **nationwide free HPV vaccination programme** for adolescent girls in 2026.
- **Aim:** The initiative aims to **prevent cervical cancer**.
- **Target age group:** The programme will target **girls aged 14 years** across the country. Vaccinating at 14 **ensures long-lasting immunity before possible infection.**
- Vaccination will be **voluntary and free of cost**.
- **Vaccine type:** India will **use Gardasil, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine,** for protection from HPV types 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer, as well as types 6 and 11.
- **Where vaccinations will be given:** Vaccines will be administered at government health facilities such as: **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community hospitals, District hospitals and Government medical colleges.**
- **Protection offered by the vaccine:** Gardasil protects against HPV types: **16 and 18** (linked to cervical cancer) and **6 and 11.**
  - The vaccine is **93–100% effective** in **preventing cervical cancer** caused by covered HPV types.
- **Dose recommendations:** A **single-dose schedule provides protection comparable to 2-dose schedules. Two or three doses** are required **for immunocompromised or HIV-infected individuals.**
- **Safety measures:** All vaccination sessions will be supervised by **trained medical officers and vaccination sites will be linked to 24×7 government health facilities.**

Rapti River

News: The NGT has ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to amend official records and restore the Suav's classification from a "drain" to a "river" in revenue records and the gazetteer, warning that non-compliance may lead to legal punishment.

About Rapti River

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Source – ResearchGate

- **Origin:** It rises south of a prominent E-W ridgeline midway **between the western Dhaulagiri Himalaya and the Mahabharat Range** in Nepal at an elevation of about 3048 m.
- **Course of river:** Initially, the river **flows westward for nearly 100 km due to the Dundwa Range,** a subrange of the Shiwalik Hills.
  - After bypassing this natural barrier, **it resumes its southward course towards the Ganga Basin.**
  - After **flowing through Nepal, it enters Eastern Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Basin topography:** The entire **basin's topography** is made **up of lofty mountains, inner and outer Tarai, and undulating plain regions.**
- **Climate:** The Rapti River basin **has two climatic zones-**
  - a **temperate climate** in the **Himalayan highlands**
  - a **subtropical climate** in the **plains**
- **Major Tributaries:** Burhi Rapti, Banganga, **Suav Nala,** Ami, Rohini, Taraina, Tura, Bhakla, Parasi and Sikri, etc.
  - The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has **directed the Uttar Pradesh government to restore the Suav's status from "nullah" (drain) to "river"** in official revenue records and the gazetteer.
- **Tributary of:** Rapti River is an important **left bank tributary of the Ghaghra River.**
- **Wildlife:** The river supports rich biodiversity, including **Indian Skimmer, Sarus Crane, Lesser Adjutant, River Tern, Gangetic dolphin, mugger, gharial, and many species of water-dependent birds.**
- **Religious significance:** The ancient **Buddhist pilgrimage site Shravasti, with the remains of Saheth-Maheth, lies on the banks of the Rapti,** where Gautama Buddha spent much of his monastic life.
  - The Rapti River, also known as "**Airavati"** in ancient texts, is considered one of the sacred rivers associated with Hindu and Buddhist traditions**.

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Kerala as Keralam

News: The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Kerala as Keralam and initiated the constitutional process through the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026.

About Kerala as "Keralam"

Figure 4. Source – NewsOnAir

● **Kerala as Keralam** refers to the **proposal to officially change the constitutional name of the State from Kerala** to its Malayalam name, **Keralam**.

● **Historical context**

○ **Ancient Origin:**

○ The earliest reference to the region appears in **Rock Edict II of Emperor Ashoka in 257 BCE** as "Keralaputra," which is **linked to the Chera dynasty.**

○ The term Keralam **evolved from Cheram or Cheralam,** where **cher** means to join and **alam** means **land or region**, indicating an integrated land.

○ **Era of freedom struggle**

○ During the national independence struggle, there was a strong demand for the **formation of a unified State for Malayalam-speaking people.**

○ This political demand later developed into **the Aikya Kerala movement for unification**.

○ **State Formation:** The State Reorganisation Commission recommended creation of Kerala based on **linguistic identity**.

○ Kerala was **officially formed on 1 November 1956,** which is celebrated as **Kerala Piravi Day.**

● **Constitutional naming:** Despite linguistic origins, the **Constitution recorded the name Kerala instead of Keralam.**

○ The **Kerala Assembly later requested correction** of the constitutional name to reflect linguistic identity and historical continuity.

● **Constitutional basis**

○ **Article 3** of the Constitution **empowers Parliament to alter the name of any existing State by law**.

○ The **First Schedule of the Constitution** contains the names and territorial boundaries of States and Union Territories.

○ The name change **requires amendment of the First Schedule after parliamentary approval** and Presidential assent.

○ The Bill can be **introduced in Parliament only** with the **prior recommendation of the President.**

○ The **State Legislature is consulted, but Parliament is not bound by its views.**

○ The Bill requires a **simple majority in Parliament** and is **not treated as a constitutional amendment under Article 368.**

● **Procedure followed**

○ **State resolution:** The Kerala Legislative Assembly passed a resolution in June 2024 **requesting the Central Government to change the State's name from Kerala to Keralam.**

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- ○ **Cabinet approval:** The Union Cabinet approved the proposal and cleared the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026** for further constitutional process.
- ○ **Presidential reference:** The **President will refer** the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 to the **Kerala Legislative Assembly for its views**.
- ○ **Parliamentary passage:** After receiving the Assembly's views, the Bill will be **introduced in Parliament with the President's recommendation** and passed by **simple majority**.
- ○ **Amendment:** After passage and Presidential assent, the **First Schedule will be amended,** and the new name **Keralam will become legally valid**.

Lal Baradari

News: Lal Baradari on Lucknow University campus became controversial after fencing, with student protests and debate over access, usage, and heritage restoration.

About Lal Baradari

Figure 5. Source – ToI

- Lal Baradari is a **historic 19th-century heritage building** of the **Nawabi era** located within the **Lucknow University campus, Uttar Pradesh.**
- The structure forms part of the **former royal gardens of the Awadh Nawabs** in the historic **Qaisarbagh garden area**.
- **Construction:** It was founded by **Nawab Ghaziuddin Haider** (the first King of Oudh) in **1814** and completed by his successor **Naseeruddin Haider Shah in 1820.**
- **Purpose:** It was built for the **convenience of the ruling nobility and European wives**.
  - ○ Later, it housed a **bank** and other **university establishments** before being abandoned due to deterioration.
- **Architecture:** It is a notable example of **Mughal and Nawabi architectural** fusion, constructed primarily of **lakhauri bricks and carved stone**.
- **Naming**: The building is called **Lal Baradari** because it is a **red-coloured structure** and **baradari** refers to a **pavilion with twelve doorways**.
- **Restoration:** Restoration proposals include grants from the Union Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India restoration work, CSR funding support, and conservation support under **Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA).**

About Nawab Ghaziuddin Haider

- Nawab Ghaziuddin Haider (reigned **1814–1827**) was the last **Nawab Wazir** of **Awadh** and the **first** to officially assume the title of **King of Oudh (Padshah-i-Awadh).**
- He was the **first in Awadh to strike coins in his own name** rather than the Mughal Emperor's.

Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR

News: The US Army contingent arrived in India for the 16th edition of Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, in 2026.

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About Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR

Figure 6. Source – India News

● Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR is a **joint bilateral Special Forces exercise** conducted between the **Indian Army and the United States Army.**

● **Started in:** The exercise was **first conducted in India in 2010** as part of expanding defence collaboration between both countries.

● **Aim:** The exercise aims to **promote military cooperation** by enhancing **interoperability, jointness, and mutual exchange of special operations** tactics and expertise.

● **2026 Edition:** The **current edition is the 16th edition of Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR** conducted in 2026 in **India**.

● **Location:** The 16th edition is being conducted at the **Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, India.**

● **Participants**
  ○ The **Indian Army** is represented by **Special Forces units** comprising 45 personnel.
  ○ The **United States Army** is represented by 12 personnel from the **Green Berets Special Forces.**

● **Key Features**
  ○ **Joint Operational Training**: The exercise focuses on joint mission planning, joint tactical drills, and strengthening joint operational readiness in mountainous terrain.
  ○ **Exchange of Expertise**: Participating troops share best practices, operational experiences, and special operations tactics, techniques, and procedures.

Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN'

News: The 7th edition of Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' commenced at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia in Uttarakhand.

About Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN'

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Source: PIB

- **About:** It is an **annual Joint Military Exercise between** the **Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF).**
- **Location:** It is being **conducted at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia in Uttarakhand.**
- **Edition:** It is the **7th edition of this Joint Military Exercise.**
- **First Edition:** The first edition of Exercise Dharma Guardian in **2018** was conducted in **Misawa, Japan.**
- **Frequency:** It is **held alternately** in India and Japan.
- **Participants:** There are **120-member contingent from each side.**
    - **JGSDF** is represented by troops **from the 32nd Infantry Regiment** and the Indian Army contingent drawn from the **Ladakh Scouts.**
- **Aim:** To **strengthen military collaboration and enhance combined capabilities** to undertake joint operations in a semi-urban environment.
- **Focus:** Participating troops will **focus on achieving high levels of physical fitness, refining joint planning processes and synchronising tactical drills.**
- **Features:**
    - It is **centered on the integration of advanced technologies, strengthening interoperability, and refining modern operational capabilities.**
    - **Key tactical activities** during the exercise include:
        - Establishing a Temporary Operating Base
        - Developing an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) grid
        - Setting up Mobile Vehicle Check Posts
        - Conducting Cordon and Search Operations in hostile environment
        - Executing Heliborne Operations
        - Undertaking House Intervention Drills

SUJVIKA Portal

News: Recently, SUJVIKA Portal was launched during the 40th foundation day of the Department of Biotechnology.

About SUJVIKA Portal

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Source: Newsonair

- It is a **AI-driven biotech trade intelligence portal.**
- **Developed by:** Department of Biotechnology (**DBT**) in collaboration with Industry partners **ABLE**.
- It is a **Trade Statistics Digital Intelligence Platform** that presents **authenticated biotechnology product import data** in a structured and accessible format.
- **Features:**
    - It **provides sector-wise insights into biochemical products,** industrial enzymes, and other biotechnology imports.
    - It **enables researchers, startups, and industry** to identify high-value and high-volume imports, assess import dependency and **prioritize indigenization and R&D efforts.**
    - It **also supports evidence-based planning and promotes public–private partnerships** for strengthening domestic biomanufacturing.

Epstein-Barr Viral Infection

News: Researchers may be closer to developing a vaccine that protects against Epstein-Barr Viral Infection.
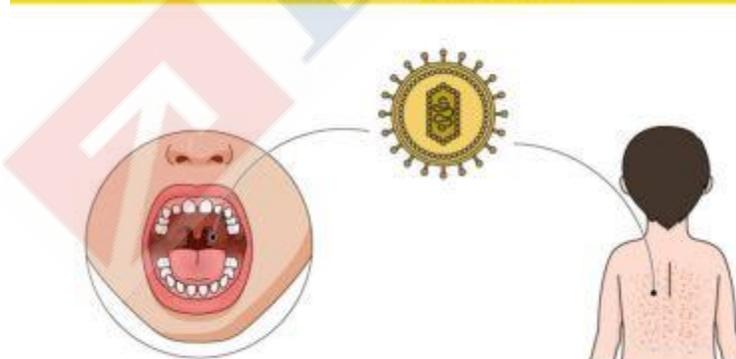
About Epstein-Barr Viral (EBV) Infection

Figure 7. Source – Mind The Graph

- It is a **widely spread double-stranded DNA virus** and is a **member of the herpes virus family.**
- It is also known as **human herpesvirus 4.**
- It most commonly **affects children, teenagers, and young adults,** although people of any age can become infected.
- It is the **virus responsible for causing infectious mononucleosis** and **other autoimmune diseases.**

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- **Symptoms:** It may includes **fatigue, fever, sore or inflamed throat, swollen lymph nodes in the neck, enlarged spleen, swollen liver and skin rash.**
  - Many infections cause **no symptoms** or **only mild illness**
- **Who Is at Risk:** After infection, stays **inactive (latent)** in the body.
  - It can reactivate later. People with **weak immune systems** are **more likely to have symptoms during reactivation.**
- **Transmission:** It is **highly contagious virus and spreads through body fluids** such as saliva.
  - It can also **spread through blood transfusions or organ transplants.**
  - It can survive on objects **as long as they remain moist**
- **Prevention:** It can be prevented by minimizing close contact with infected individuals and not sharing personal belongings.
- **Treatment:** There is **no vaccine** for EBV.
  - It can **be managed with adequate hydration and plenty of rest along with medications.**

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

News: The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO released the Integrated Ocean Carbon Research Report highlighting uncertainties and knowledge gaps in ocean carbon sink.

About Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

Figure 8. Source – UNESCO

- The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is **a UNESCO body** that promotes **international cooperation in marine science and ocean management.**
- **Established in:** The IOC was **established in 1960** as a body with functional autonomy **within UNESCO.**
- **Members:** The IOC **consists of 152 Member States.**
  - **India:** India was among the **founding member states.**

- **Governing bodies**
  - **Assembly:** The Assembly **meets once every two years** to review work and formulate a common work plan.
  - **Executive council:** The Executive Council, **consisting of up to 40 Member States**, **meets every year** to review ongoing work and prepare Assembly meetings.
- **Key Functions**
  - **Marine Science Coordination:** The IOC coordinates research, services, and programmes to improve knowledge of ocean and coastal areas.
  - **Capacity Development:** It promotes capacity-building and supports sustainable development and marine environment protection.

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- o **Ocean Observation and Warning:** It coordinates ocean observations, tsunami warning systems, and ocean science programmes.
- o **Ocean Decade Coordination:** It coordinates the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030.

About Integrated Ocean Carbon Research (IOC-R) Report

- **Released by:** Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (**IOC**)
- **Key Findings:** The ocean absorbs **25–30% of CO_2 emissions**, but models differ by **10–20% globally** due to limited observations and incomplete understanding.
- **Recommendations:** The report recommends improving global observations, refining models, strengthening scientific capacity, and promoting cross-disciplinary research.

India's First State Innovation Mission (SIM)

News: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog launched India's first State Innovation Mission in Tripura to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems.

About India's First State Innovation Mission (SIM)

Figure 9. Source – PIB

- The State Innovation Mission is **part of the approved AIM 2.0 programme,** under the aegis of **NITI Aayog's State Support Mission (SSM).**
- It is designed as a **long-term institutional mechanism** to **support States and Union Territories** in building robust, inclusive, and context-specific innovation ecosystems aligned with national priorities and local strengths.
- **Launched by:** It was launched by the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog**.
- **Launch at:** It was launched at the **Hapania International Exhibition Centre** in **Agartala, Tripura**.
- **Aim:** The mission **aims** to support States and Union Territories in **designing innovation strategies and strengthening innovation ecosystems** aligned with development priorities.
- **Key Features**
  - o **Institutional and incubation framework:** SIM was institutionalised under **Tripura Institution for Transformation (TIFT),** and **T-NEST (Tripura – Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Startups)** was launched as a dedicated incubation and innovation facility.
  - o **District innovation and ecosystem support:** Innovation Centres were created in eight districts, and the mission supports innovation strategy, policy support, partnerships, and provides infrastructure, mentorship, and funding support to startups and innovators.
- **Significance:** The mission promotes inclusive innovation-led development and enables States to unlock local potential and strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems.

About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

- **Initiative by:** It is a flagship initiative of the Government of India under NITI Aayog.

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- **Launched in:** It was set up in 2016.
- **Objective:** It aims to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship by creating innovative mindset in schools and supporting entrepreneurship across institutions and industries.

Xerocoma

News: A recent study identified Xerocoma as a new plant adaptation in Northern Western Ghats that protects dormant buds during harsh seasonal cycles.

About Xerocoma

Figure 10. Source – Mongabay

- Xerocoma is a **plant adaptation strategy** in which dry, cottony plant fibres form at the rootstock and envelop dormant buds to protect them during harsh seasonal conditions.
- **Structure formation:** Xerocoma forms as **dry, cottony balls** at the **root-shoot junction** and fully encloses **developing buds**.
- **Fibre composition:** It consists of tough **lignocellulose plant fibres** that create a **protective covering** around sensitive growth points.
- **Growth coordination:** This structure develops along with growing buds and later loosens when leaves begin to emerge.
- **Stress protection:** It protects buds from desiccation **stress, harsh heat, drying winds, and surface fires** during the dry season.
- **Regrowth support:** It ensures that buds remain safe and capable of regrowth when favourable conditions return after stress.
- **Species exhibit this phenomenon**
    - Xerocoma occurs in **six plant species** belonging to the **Asteraceae and Acanthaceae families.**
    - Observed species include **Senetio edgeworthii, Neuracanthus sphaerostachyus, and a Dicliptera species**.
- **Significance:** Xerocoma provides a model for studying how plants structurally adapt to environmental stress and survive harsh seasonal conditions.

Rail Tech Policy, Portal and e-Railway Claims Tribunal

News: The Union Minister for Railways announced the RailTech Policy and the complete digitisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) under Indian Railways' flagship "52 Reforms in 52 Weeks" initiative.

About Rail Tech Policy, Portal and e-Railway Claims Tribunal

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Figure 11. Source – ET

About Rail Tech Policy

● It is d**esigned to enable massive and systematic induction of technology into the Railways.**

● **Aim:** To e**ngage innovators, startups, industry and institutions** to promote innovation in Indian Railways.

● It provides a **user-friendly interface, increases the scale-up grant more than three times and doubles the maximum gran**t for prototype development and trials.

About Rail Tech Portal

● It is a **dedicated portal for innovation** and will function **through a completely digital, end-to-end process**.

● **Objective:** To **simplify the system of vendor selection** and **create a simplified, innovation-driven framework** focused on trial and adoption of new technologies.

● **Features:**
  ○ **Innovation challenges can be initiated by any innovator or department** via a **single detailed proposal.**
  ○ **Key innovation areas include:** AI-based Elephant Intrusion Detection System and fire detection, drone rail monitoring, sensor-based VPU load devices, solar coaches, AI cleaning and fog detection, and AI-driven pension/dispute systems.

About e-Railway Claims Tribunal

● The **e-Railway Claims Tribunal** enables **end-to-end computerisation** and digitisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal.

● **Beneficiaries: It will particularly benefit claimants, advocates, Railways and the Tribunal** by enabling easy tracking, improved scheduling and data-driven decision-making.

● **Features:**
  ○ **Anywhere Access:** It will transform the filing, processing and adjudication of claims by making the process **faster, more transparent and accessible from anywhere** in the country.
  ○ **Single Platform:** It will **connect all 23 Benches on one platform**, enabling **paperless courts, digitised case management, online filings and notices, online orders and judgments, and hybrid hearings.**
  ○ **Key Modules of e-RCT:** E-Filing, Case Information System (CIS), Documents Management System (DMS)

About "52 Reforms in 52 Weeks" Initiative

● The '52 reforms in 52 weeks' initiative **focuses on strengthening safety, enhancing operational efficiency**, and **improving passenger services.**

● A key priority is **to reduce consequential train accidents** and bring down train accident figures to a single digit.

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- It also **includes accelerating the adoption of AI and advanced technologies** for safety, maintenance, and operations.
- The initiative also focuses on **better talent management, employee skill development, and improved onboard catering services.**

Hexagon Alliance

News: On the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has unveiled a proposal for Hexagon Alliance.

About Hexagon Alliance

Source: Live mint

- **About:** It is a **proposed six-nation strategic framework** to **strengthen economic, diplomatic, and security cooperation across West Asia and the Mediterranean.**
- **Proposed by:** Hexagon alliances is a **new strategic coalition proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** which could reshape alignments in West Asia.
- **Aim:** It aims at **countering Iran's influence and other regional threats.**
  - It is also being **seen as counter of "Shia axis" also known as the "axis of resistance".**
  - **Note: Axis of resistance** is an **informal, Iran-centred network of allied groups** that oppose Israeli and Western influence in the Middle East.
- **Member nations:** The bloc includes **Israel, India, Greece, Cyprus, and undisclosed Arab/African and Asian countries.**
  - As of now, **no country has endorsed this plan** – or its sectarian framing.
- **Significance:** It is a **structured grouping of countries** that **share similar security concerns and strategic interests.**

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Indravati River

News: Two Maoists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Bijapur district during an anti-Naxal operation along the Indravati river belt.
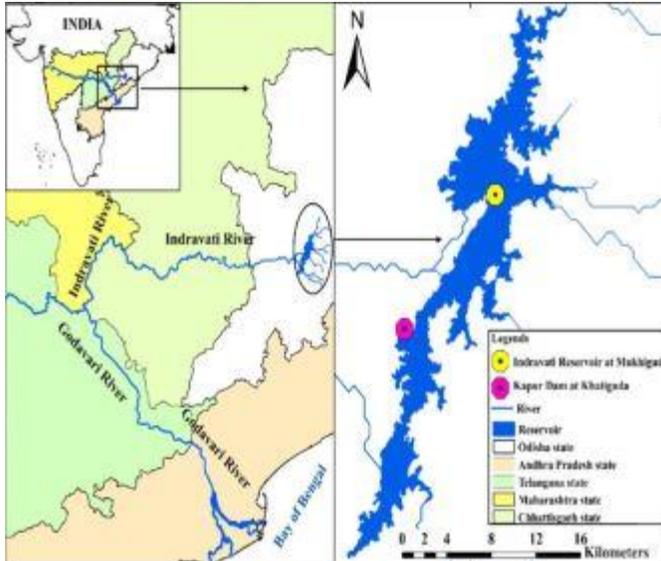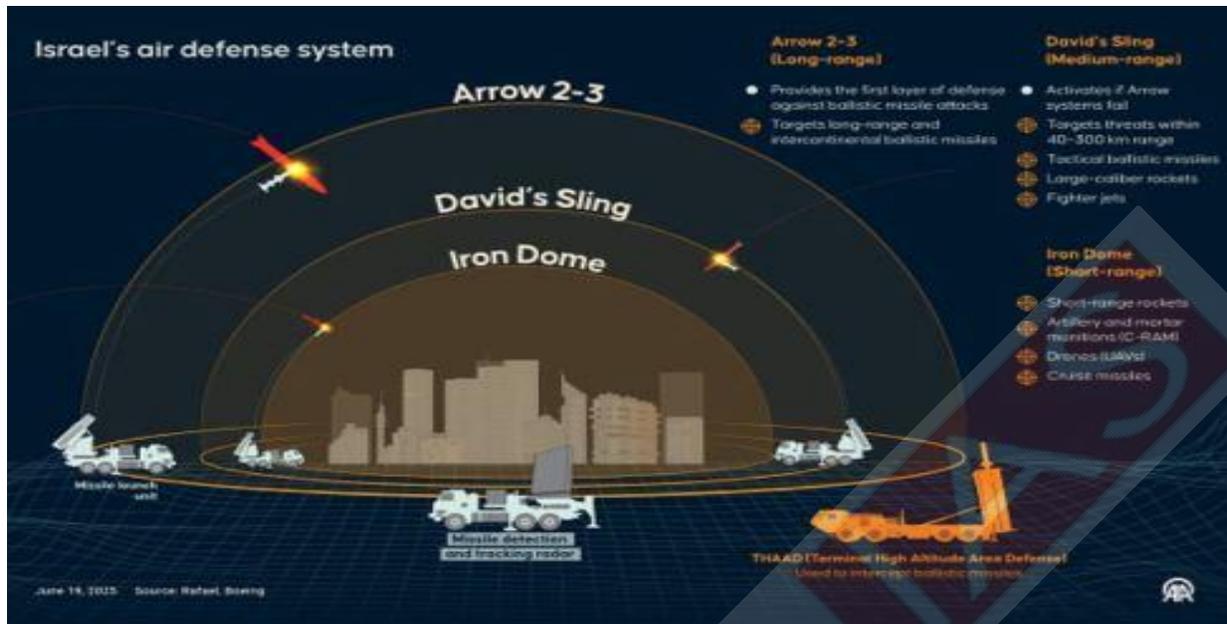
About Indravati River

Figure 12. Source – ResearchGate

● **Origin:** It **originates in Kalahandi district of Odisha on the western slopes of the Eastern Ghats** and then **flows westward.**

○ During its course, it **forms the boundary between Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh** at several places.

● It is one of the most important rivers of Chhattisgarh.

● It **is often called the "lifeline" of Bastar,** which is considered one of the greenest regions in India.

● **Tributary of:** It is a **tributary of the Godavari River.**

● **Length:** It is about **530 km long** and has a **catchment area** of **approximately 41,700 sq. km.**

● **Tributaries:** Its major tributaries include the **Bhaskel River, Narangi River, Nimbra River, Kotri River, Bandia River, and Nandiraj River.**

● **Chitrakoot Falls,** also known as the **"Niagara of Chhattisgarh," is formed on Indravati River.**

● **Indravati National Park** is **located on the banks** of Indravati River.

● **Indravati Dam and Bodhghat Hydel Project** is also situated on **Indravati River.**

Israel's Multi-layered Defence Against Iranian Missiles

News: Israel has multi-layered air defences against Iranian ballistic missiles, an umbrella it may need to lean on as the United States and Iran teeter toward potential military conflict that could draw Iranian attacks on Israeli territory.

About Israel's Multi-layered Defence Against Iranian Missiles

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Source – DD News

About ARROW

- The **long-range Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 interceptors**, developed by **Israel**, are designed to **engage incoming targets both in and outside the atmosphere respectively.**
- They operate at **an altitude** that allows for **safe dispersal of any non-conventional warheads.**
- **State-owned Israel Aerospace Industries** is the project's **main contractor** while **Boeing BA.N** is involved in **producing the interceptors.**

DAVID'S SLING

- The **mid-range** David's Sling system is designed to **shoot down ballistic missiles** fired from **100 km to 200 km away.**
- **Developed by:** Developed and manufactured **jointly** by **Israel's state-owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and RTX Corp RTX.N,** a U.S. company previously known as **Raytheon.**
- It is also designed to **intercept aircraft, drones and cruise missiles.**

IRON DOME

- The **short-range** Iron Dome air defence system was **built to intercept the kind of rockets fired by Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas in Gaza.**
- **Developed with U.S. backing**, it became **operational in 2011.**
- Each **truck-towed** unit fires **radar-guided missiles** to blow up **short-range threats such as rockets, mortars and drones** in mid-air.
- **Naval version:** A naval version of the Iron Dome, to protect ships and sea-based assets, was **deployed in 2017.**
- The system **determines** whether a rocket is on course to **hit a populated area**. **If not**, the rocket is **ignored** and allowed to **land harmlessly.**
- Iron Dome was **originally** billed as **providing city coverage** against rockets with ranges of **between 4 km and 70 km** but experts say this has since been expanded.

IRON BEAM

- **Developed by Israel** for more than a decade and declared **fully operational in late 2025.**
- It is a **ground-based, high-power laser system** designed to **intercept smaller aerial threats, such as UAVs and mortars.**

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- Using lasers to **super-heat and disable aerial threats**, Iron Beam's operation is expected to be substantially **cheaper** than some of the other aerial defence systems that use intercepting missiles to shoot down incoming threats.

U.S. THAAD SYSTEM

- The **U.S. military** had sent the **advanced anti-missile system THAAD – Terminal High Altitude Area Defense – to Israel.**
- THAAD is a **critical part of the U.S. military's air defences** and is designed to **intercept and destroy short, medium and intermediate-range ballistic missile threats** in their **terminal phase of flight.**

AIR-TO-AIR DEFENCE

- Israeli **combat helicopters and fighter jets** have fired air-to-air missiles to **destroy drones** that head to Israel.

AI4Agri Summit 2026

News: The AI4Agri 2026 Global Conference & Investor Summit was recently held on February 22–23, 2026, in Mumbai.

About AI4Agri Summit 2026

Source: DD News

- It is a **global knowledge-exchange platform** that brings **together policymakers, state governments, international experts, and practitioners.**
- It **promotes evidence-based use of AI and digital public infrastructure** to improve agricultural productivity, resilience, and farmer incomes.
- **Organized by:** Government of Maharashtra
- **Theme: Inclusive and Responsible AI for Agriculture, Empowering Women Farmers, Driving Innovation**, and **Building Climate Resilience**
- **Partners:** It has strategic **partnership with leading multilateral and development institutions** such as **World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), etc.**
- **Objectives:**
  - **Enable global knowledge exchange, research networks, and innovation transfer** in AI-driven agriculture.

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- ○ **Mobilize investment, showcase startups, and scale ready AI & AgriTech solutions**
- ○ Build **multi-stakeholder collaboration and strengthen global cooperation.**
- ○ **Shape future policies,** governance models, and standards for responsible, ethical and inclusive AI adoption **in agriculture**
- ○ **Promote inclusive growth by empowering women farmers** and supporting **sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural transformation**.

Blue Nile River

News: A new report has warned that the GERD reservoir on Blue Nile River is showing signs of 'instability'; a breach could flood Sudan and Egypt downstream.

About Blue Nile River

Figure 13. Source – Initiative for Great Rivers

- ● **Origin:** The Blue Nile River originates at **Lake Tana in Ethiopia.**
- ● It is **Ethiopia's largest river.**
- ● **Tributaries:** Its waters come from tributaries such as the **Atbara, Dinder and Rahad rivers**, which **rise** in the **Ethiopian highlands**.
- ● **Course:** It travels for approximately **1,450 km** through **Ethiopia and Sudan.**
- ● **Tributary of:** It **meets the White Nile River** near **Khartoum in Sudan**.
- ○ The **combined stream** flows **north into Egypt**, before **emptying** into the **Mediterranean Sea near Alexandria** as the **Nile River**.
- ● It supplies about **85% of the water to the Nile** during the rainy season.
- ● **Famous dams**
- ○ Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (**GERD) in Ethiopia**.
- ○ The **Al-Ruṣayriṣ and Sannar dams in Sudan.**

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