

Factly Weekly

Compilation

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**For UPSC CSE Prelims
Exam**

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Right to Walk

News: The Supreme Court in a judgment, declared right to walk on demarcated and well-maintained footpaths a fundamental right which has priority over movement by motorized vehicles.

About Right to Walk

- The Supreme Court ruled that the **right to walk on a demarcated footpath is a fundamental right.**
- **Rights under:** It is a **fundamental right** under **right to movement** guaranteed under [Article 19 \(1\) \(d\)](#) and [Article 21- Right to life and liberty](#).
- **Supreme Court Ruling:**
 - The court held that a citizen's fundamental right to walk on a **demarcated footpath is primary and shall have priority over movement by motorised vehicles.**
 - It held that **this fundamental right has a correlative duty** and **if the road exists, there is a duty to ensure that there are demarcated and well-maintained footpaths** for walkers.
 - **Responsible bodies:** Urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities, and panchayats are responsible for providing safe footpaths.
 - They **must mark, build, maintain, and protect footpaths and other facilities for pedestrians** because walking is an essential part of daily life.
 - The Court suggested **creating an independent regulatory body** to effectuate the **fundamental right to walk on demarcated footpaths.**
 - Such a **regulator will maintain institutional integrity** by taking independent and objective decisions without governmental or industrial control.

Chapekar Brothers

News: On June 22, 1897, the Chapekar brothers attacked Walter Charles Rand during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Pune.

About Chapekar Brothers



Source – Govt. of Maharashtra

- **The Chapekar brothers: Damodar Hari Chapekar (28), Balkrishna Hari Chapekar (24), and Vasudeo Hari Chapekar (18)** – were Indian revolutionaries who **took up armed resistance against British colonial rule.**
 - They hold a unique place in India's freedom struggle as **three brothers who were executed for their role in the fight against British rule.**

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- **Early Life:** The brothers belonged to the **Chapekar community** from the **Konkan region**.
 - Their **father, Haripant Chapekar**, was a **well-known kirtankar** who **later moved the family to Sadashiv Peth in Pune**.
- **Inspired By:** Chapekar brothers were inspired by the **stories of Ram and Krishna**.
- **Patriotic Influence:** The brothers were **strongly influenced by the armed struggle of Vasudev Balwant Phadke** against British interests.
- **Followers of:** The brothers were ardent **followers of Lokmanya Tilak** and regularly **read his newspaper 'Kesari'**.
- **Provocation:**
 - **Plague Crisis in Pune:** On **October 2, 1896**, Pune recorded its **first plague cases**.
 - Within four months, 271 people died and 308 people were infected, leading the **British administration to adopt stringent plague-control measures**.
 - **Insensitive British Measures:** Under **Walter Charles Rand**, British soldiers **entered private homes during plague inspections**, violating the sanctity of kitchens and home temples.
 - They also **made men and women stand in public and bare parts of their bodies for plague examinations**, which many people found humiliating and horrifying.
- **The Assassination:**
 - **Planning and Warning:** The brothers **planned to assassinate Rand during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee** celebrations on June 22, 1897, and **sent him a warning letter before the attack**.
 - **Attack on June 22, 1897:** Due to confusion in the dark, **Balkrishna first** attacked a carriage carrying **Lieutenant Charles Ayerst**, who **died immediately**. **Damodar then attacked Rand**, who later died on July 3, 1897.
 - **Betrayal:** The police were led to the brothers by **Ganesh Shankar Dravid and Ramchandra Shankar Dravid**.
 - **Trial:** After their arrest, the Chapekar brothers were **tried and sentenced to death**.
 - **Executions:** **Damodar** was hanged on **April 18, 1898**, **Vasudeo** on **May 8, 1898**, and **Balkrishna** on **May 12, 1898**.
- **Contribution to the Freedom Movement:** Their sacrifice **inspired later revolutionaries**, and a **young Vinayak Damodar Savarkar** took an oath to continue their unfinished revolutionary work.

Project Nimbus

News: Google CEO Sundar Pichai's Stanford speech was disrupted by students protesting Project Nimbus and its alleged link to Palestinian civilians.

About Project Nimbus



Source – OECD

- **Project Nimbus** is a **high-security cloud computing contract** between the **Israeli government, Google, and Amazon.**
- **Executed By:** It is **jointly** executed by **Google Cloud Platform** and **Amazon Web Services (AWS).**
- **Objective:** The project aims to **digitize and modernize Israel's public sector infrastructure** by shifting government data, processing systems, and applications to commercial cloud platforms.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Duration:** The contract was planned for an **initial seven-year period**, with a possible **extension of up to 23 years.**
 - **Cloud Services for Government:** The agreement **provides cloud services** to Israeli ministries, authorities, and government-owned companies.
 - **Advanced Technology Support:** The project **offers data storage, high-compute machine learning tools, and Artificial Intelligence services.**
 - **Primary Cloud Provider:** **AWS (Amazon Web Services)** was selected as the **primary cloud provider** for government ministries and related entities.
 - **Usage Assurance:** Reports cited leaked documents claiming that **Israel required Google and Amazon not to restrict how government units used cloud services.**
 - **Major Concern – Surveillance Risk:** Opponents of Project Nimbus argue that **cloud service technology could increase the surveillance of Palestinians and support the expansion of Israeli settlements** on Palestinian land.

Ecologically Sensitive Areas

News: The Western Ghats may soon receive stronger legal protection in at least three states through the notification of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs).

About Ecologically Sensitive Areas



Source: TH

- **Ecologically Sensitive Areas** are **protected buffer areas** around protected areas, such as **national parks and wildlife sanctuaries**.
It is also known as **Ecologically Sensitive zones in some contexts**.
It is **identified for special environmental protection** because of its rich biodiversity, fragile ecosystems, or important ecological functions.
- **Origin:** The concept gained **prominence under India's National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)**, which recognised that areas around national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and wildlife corridors are vital for maintaining ecological connectivity.
- **Importance:** ESZs are created as **"shock absorbers" for the protected areas** to minimize the negative impact on **"fragile ecosystems" by certain human activities taking place nearby**.
These areas are also meant to **act as a transition zone from areas requiring higher protection** to those requiring lesser protection.
- **Notified under:** It is **notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **How are ESZs determined:** The size of an ESZ is **decided on a case-by-case basis**.
Around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, **it can extend up to 10 km from their boundaries**.
Ecologically important corridors and landscape linkages beyond this limit may also be included.
- **Supreme Court Ruling (2022):** In June 2022, the Supreme Court directed that **every protected forest, national park, and wildlife sanctuary must have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone of at least 1 km from its boundary**.
The Court stated that **these buffer zones are essential to protect fragile ecosystems from human activities** and to maintain ecological connectivity.
- **Protection ESA Areas get:**
Being declared an **Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) does not stop all development activities**. Instead, it restricts or regulates activities that may harm the environment while promoting sustainable practices.
Activities such as **mining, quarrying, thermal power projects, highly polluting industries, and large construction projects are often prohibited or strictly controlled**. Other activities, including **tree felling, road expansion, hotel construction, and intensive farming, are regulated**. At the same time, **eco-friendly practices like organic farming, rainwater harvesting, and green technologies are encouraged**.
ESA status also ensures that **development projects undergo stricter environmental assessment**, taking into account biodiversity, wildlife, water resources, and ecological connectivity before approval.
- **Designated ESA Areas in India:** The Centre has **notified hundreds of protected areas, including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and wetlands, as eco-sensitive zones** to regulate development and preserve ecological connectivity.
- **Examples:**
 - **Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary** in Rajasthan's Aravalli range
 - **Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape** in Assam
 - Gir National Park in Gujarat
 - Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan
 - Sundarbans in West Bengal etc.

Thewa Art

News: Thewa art received global attention when Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Thewa cufflinks to Slovak President Peter Pellegrini during his visit to Slovakia.

About Thewa Art



Source: India Gov

- Thewa art is an **intricate and elegant form of jewellery-making** that involves fusing gold onto colored glass to create intricate designs and patterns.
- **Origin:** It originated in the **Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan**, under the patronage of Maharawat Samant Singh.
- **Meaning:** Thewa, which means “**setting**” in a literal sense, is a **unique way of fusing gold and colored glass** to create magnificent pieces.
- **History:** The technique **dates back over 400 years** and has been passed down through generations of skilled artisans.
- **Practised by:** This inbred art is exclusively practised only by the **Sonis or goldsmiths of the Nathulal Soni family**. They call themselves “**Raj-Sonis**” now.
- **How it is made:** The basic Thewa jewellery is **made on a mottled sheet of pure gold**, which is then combined with coloured glass, which constitutes a single unit.
 - The glass that is **blended with the gold is treated with a special process**, which renders a dazzling effect and, in turn, **highlights the gold patterns**.
 - It has **evolved with changing times, incorporating techniques such as Meenakari and diamond setting**, along with the use of materials like beads and threads, to create a contemporary appeal.
- **Design:** Thewa jewellery is inspired by **Hindu mythology, folk stories, nature, and the rich culture of Rajasthan**.
 - Its designs often show scenes of **bravery, romance, historical events, rulers, and gods like Lord Krishna**.
 - **Flowers, plants, birds, and animals** are also **common motifs**.
 - The **bright and colourful designs** reflect the traditions of Rajasthan.
- This entire **range of jewellery is handmade**, and **sometimes a single piece of jewellery takes more than a month to design**.
- **Use:** The initial usage of Thewa art was to **adorn chests and boxes gifted to royalty**.

- Today, **artisans apply this craft to a wide range of products**, including **photo frames, mirrors, cufflinks, brooches, trays, plates, and jewellery such as rings and necklaces**, which are worn by both men and women.
- **Significance:** It is **known for its delicate beauty and timeless elegance**, with each piece showcasing a level of craftsmanship that is unmatched in the world of jewellery-making.
- **Recognition:** It earned a **GI Tag in 2014**.
 - Selected master artisans and families of this craft have also been **recognised and awarded by UNESCO**.

Caspian Sea and Volga River

News: A recent study found that the Caspian Sea is shrinking mainly because of human activities, along with the impact of climate change.

About Caspian Sea



Source – Britannica

- The Caspian Sea is the **world's largest inland body of water** and an **enclosed water body** surrounded by land on all sides.
- **Location:** It is located **between Asia and Europe**.
- **Surrounded by:** It is bordered by **Russia and Azerbaijan** in the west, **Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan** in the north and east, and **Iran** in the south.
- **Water Composition:** The water is **almost fresh in the northern part** and becomes **saltier towards the south**.
- **Water Source:** The **Volga, Ural, and Terek rivers** flow into the Caspian Sea from the north.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Basin:** It is an **endorheic basin**, which means it is a **closed drainage basin** where **water flows in through rivers but has no natural outlet to the oceans**.
 - **Energy Resources:** It is known for large offshore and coastal oil and natural gas reserves.
 - **Major Cities:** **Baku is the largest city on the Caspian**, while Nowshahr is another important coastal city.

- **Important Islands:** Major islands include Chechen, Tyuleniy, Morskoy, Kulaly, Zhiloy, and Ogurchin.
- **Threats:** Human activities, including dams, river diversion, irrigation, industrial use, weak pollution control, and rising evaporation, are causing the Caspian Sea to shrink.

About Volga River



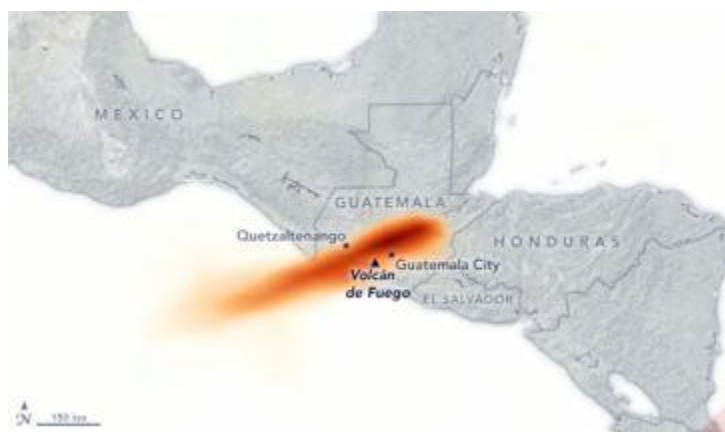
Source – Britannica

- The Volga River is the **longest river in Europe** and the **principal waterway of Russia**.
- **Origin:** The river **originates in the Valdai Hills, northwest of Moscow**.
- **Course:** It **flows southeast** through the Upper, Middle, and Lower Volga before **forming its delta at Astrakhan and entering the Caspian Sea**.
- **Key Tributaries:** Its major tributaries are the **Kama, Oka, Vetluga, and Sura rivers**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Freshwater source:** The Volga River is the **primary freshwater source for the Caspian Sea**, accounting for **approximately 80% of its total surface inflow**.
 - **Navigation:** The river is **navigable for most of its length** and is **linked with the Baltic, Black, and Caspian Seas through canals and river networks**.
 - **Economic Importance:** It supports transportation, irrigation, hydroelectric power, fishing, agriculture, and major industries across Russia.

Volcán de Fuego

News: Tourists on Guatemala's Volcán de Fuego ran for safety after the volcano erupted and burning rocks fell across the trekking route.

About Volcán de Fuego



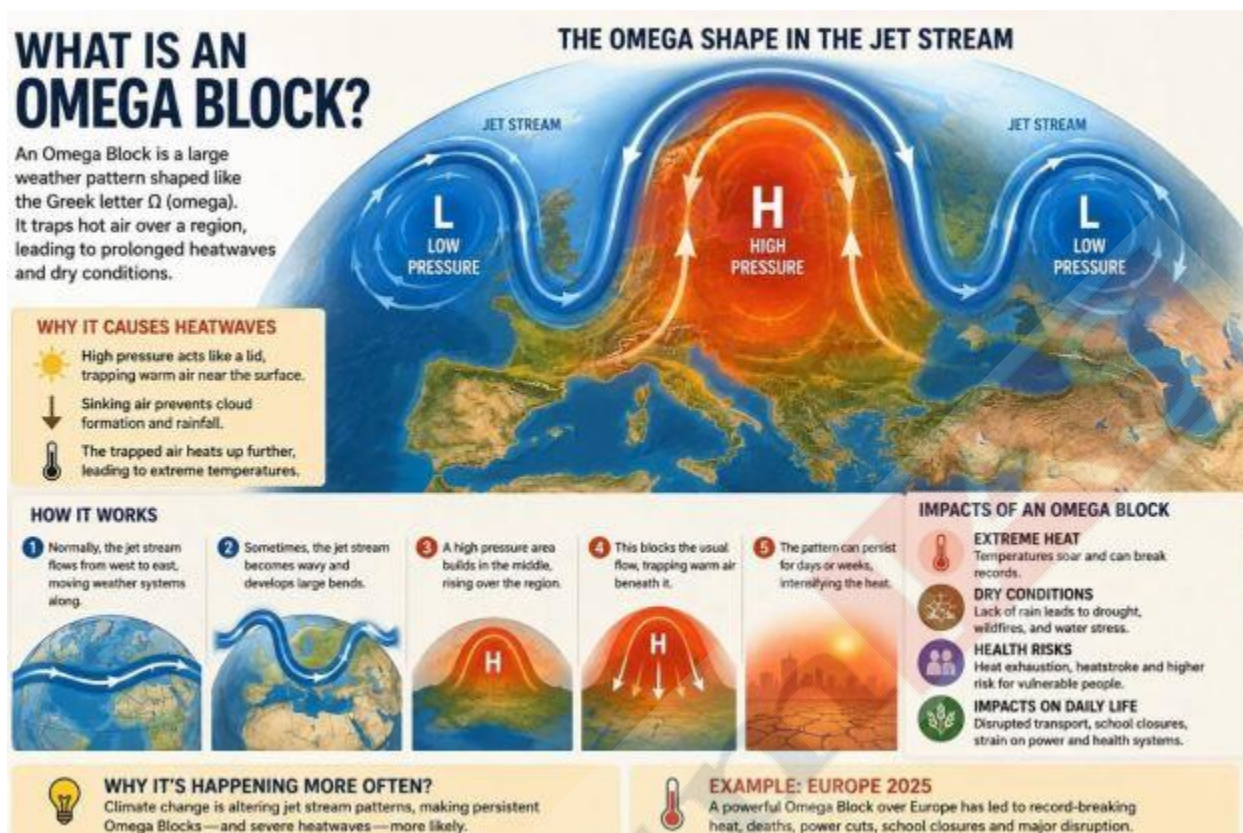
Source – Smithsonian Instt.

- **Location:** Volcán de Fuego is located in **Guatemala** near the historic **city of Antigua**.
- **Meaning:** It means “**Volcano of Fire**” in Spanish.
- **Type of Volcano:** It is a **young basaltic stratovolcano** with an **open-vent system**, which allows gas and magma to escape through regular eruptions.
- **Key Aspects:**
 - **Elevation:** The volcano stands **3,763 m (12,346 feet)** above sea level and is **located between Acatenango and Agua volcanoes**.
 - **Geological Setting:** It is part of the **Central American Volcanic Arc** and lies along the **boundary of the Cocos Plate and the Caribbean Plate**.
 - **Eruption Pattern:** It frequently produces **small eruptions** and is known for **vulcanian activity**, which is sometimes accompanied by **pyroclastic flows**.
 - **Historical Activity:** It has **erupted more than 60 times over the last 500 years**.
 - The **2018 eruption killed 194 people**, left 234 missing, and the volcano has continued to produce small eruptions several times each day.

Omega Block

News: Western Europe is facing a severe heatwave, and the Omega Block or heat dome effect has trapped hot air over the region.

About Omega Block



Source – IE

- **Omega Block** is an **atmospheric weather pattern** in which a **high-pressure area** remains **between two low-pressure zones** and traps warm air.
- **Naming:** It is called the Omega Block because the **wind flow forms a pattern similar to the Greek letter Ω (Omega)**.
- **Distribution:** Omega Blocks occur **mainly in the mid-latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere**, where the **jet stream shows large bends**.
- **Mechanism of Formation:**
 - **Jet Stream Disruption:** **Jet streams** normally blow continuously from **west to east** and carry weather systems across Europe. When these **winds slow down** and their **path bends** into large loops, they form a **pattern resembling the Greek letter Ω (Omega)**.
 - **High-Pressure Block Formation:** This Omega-shaped pattern **creates a high-pressure zone between two low-pressure zones**, forming an **atmospheric block** that remains nearly stationary.
 - **Heat Dome Development:** The high-pressure zone acts like a lid over the land.
 - **Warm air rising from the ground cannot escape into the upper atmosphere** and becomes trapped near the surface.
 - This **trapped high-pressure system** is also called a **Heat Dome**.
 - **Continuous Heating:** As the **trapped air sinks**, it becomes **compressed and warmer**.
 - At the same time, the **high-pressure system suppresses cloud formation**, **allowing prolonged sunshine** and causing temperatures to rise continuously.
- **Impact on Weather Conditions:**

- **High-Pressure Region:** The region under the high-pressure area experiences **prolonged hot, dry, and settled weather** with intense heat.
- **Low-Pressure Regions:** The regions under the two low-pressure areas receive **abundant rainfall** because weather **fronts carrying moisture** are diverted around the high-pressure block.
- **Cause:** **Climate change** has warmed the baseline temperature and may slow the jet stream, **making Omega Blocks more intense and longer-lasting.**
- **Impacts:** The Omega Block has **caused severe heatwaves, widespread disruption, power outages, extreme heat alerts,** and loss of lives across Western Europe.

BHARATI Initiative

News: The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has successfully concluded first cohort of BHARATI Initiative.

About BHARATI Initiative



Source – APEDA

- **BHARATI** stands for – **Bharat's Hub for Agri-tech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.**
- **Launched by:** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**) under **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
- **Aim:** This initiative aims to **empower 100 agri-food and agri-tech startups**, accelerate innovation, and create export opportunities, aligned to APEDA's vision of **\$50 billion** agri-food exports by **2030**.
 - It also aims to build **globally competitive** agri-products, deepen **demand-led backward integration.**
- **Launch and scale:** Its **pilot cohort** begins from **September 2025** with **100 startups** (high-value agri-food producers, technology-driven service providers, innovators).
- It is aligned with **Atmanirbhar Bharat, Vocal for Local, Digital India,** and **Start-Up India** initiatives.

- **Features**

- **Programme design:** It complements government- and industry-led incubators and runs a **three-month acceleration** on product development, export readiness, regulatory compliance, and market access.
- **Focus categories:** Focus areas include **GI-tagged** products, **organic** foods, **superfoods**, **novel processed Indian agri-foods**, **livestock**, and **AYUSH**
- **Tech focus:** It invites advanced technologies such as **AI-based quality control**, **blockchain-enabled traceability**, **IoT-enabled cold chains**, and **agri-fintech**, while addressing **packaging**, **sustainability**, and **sea protocols**.
- **Challenges targeted:** It tackles export bottlenecks of **quality assurance**, **perishability**, **wastage**, and **logistics**.
- **Ecosystem building:** It connects agri-food innovators, tech-driven solution providers, and **SPS-TBT-focused startups** to deliver scalable, cost-effective solutions.

Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*)

News: Human-bear encounters are increasing across Kashmir as shrinking habitats and changing land use have led to more attacks on people.

About Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*)

Asiatic Black Bear
(*Ursus thibetanus*)

30 cm
12 inches



Source – Britannica

- The **Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*)** is a **medium-sized bear species** of the **bear family (*Ursidae*)** **native to Asia**.
- It is also known as the **Moon Bear**.
- **Habitat:** The species prefers **heavily forested broadleaved and coniferous forests** as habitat.
 - It uses **orchards, agricultural fields and human habitation** to move between forest patches.
- **Distribution:**

- **Global:** It lives in a **narrow band** stretching from south-eastern Iran to Myanmar, **across the Himalayan foothills**.
- **In India:** It is found across the Himalayan region, including **Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and other northeastern states**.
- **Characteristics:**
 - **Common Name:** It is commonly known as the **Himalayan Black Bear** and is **locally called Reechh**.
 - **Appearance:** It has smooth **black fur with a white crescent-shaped or V-shaped mark on its chest**.
 - **Diet:** It is an **omnivorous species** that feeds on insects, fruits, nuts, honey, small mammals, birds, and carrion.
 - **Behaviour:** It is an **arboreal species** that climbs trees to feed on fruits or honey or to escape intrusion, although it does not sleep on trees like the Sun Bear.
 - **Hibernation:** It usually **hibernates during winter in the colder northwestern Himalayas**, but it can **remain active** throughout the year in the **warmer eastern Himalayas**.
- **Ecological Role:** Its foraging habits **help in seed dispersal** and maintaining forest health.
- **Threat:**
 - Habitat loss
 - Poaching for body parts
 - Increasing human-wildlife conflict
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**
 - **Appendix I of CITES**
 - **Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**

Airborne Early Warning & Control System 'Netra'

News: DRDO handed over the Final Operational Clearance (FOC) certificate of the indigenous Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control system to the Indian Air Force.

About Airborne Early Warning & Control System 'Netra'



Source – TH

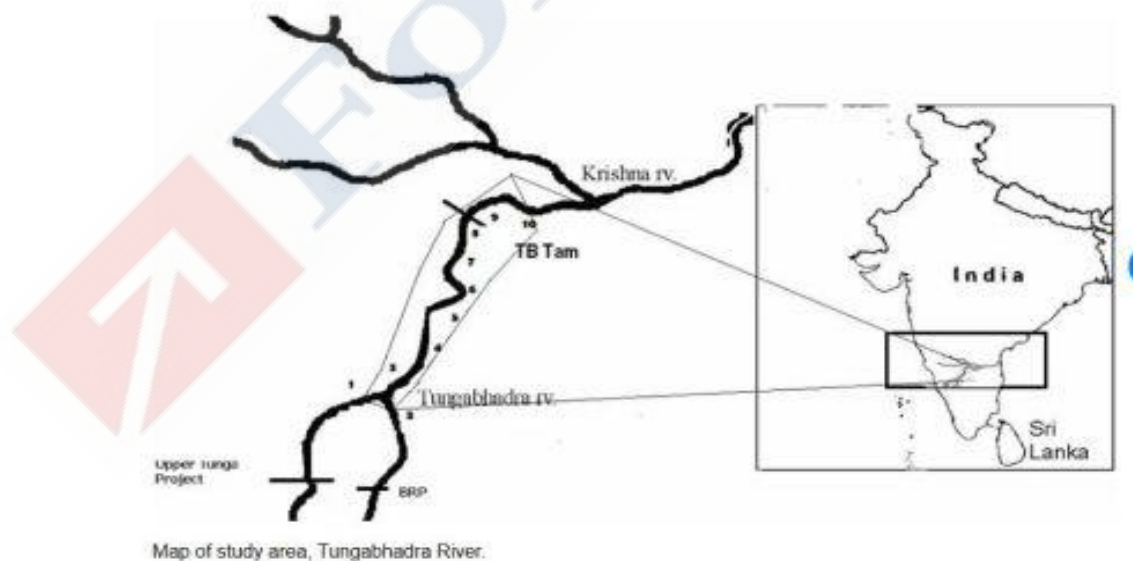
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- **Netra** is an indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system that functions as a flying radar station for detecting, tracking and identifying airborne and maritime threats.
- **Global Achievement:** This capability makes India the fifth country in the world to design and build its own airborne surveillance and battle management platforms.
- **Initial Operational Clearance:** The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) for the Netra AEW&C system was granted in 2017.
- **Developer:** It has been developed by the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) under DRDO in collaboration with the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian defence industry partners.
- **Commonly Known as:** It is commonly known as the Indian Air Force's (IAF) "Eye in the Sky".
- **Key Features:**
 - **Base Aircraft Platform:** It is built around the Brazilian Embraer EMB-145 aircraft, on which an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar is mounted.
 - **Long-range Detection:** It detects incoming projectiles, ships and aircraft at long ranges and directs friendly fighters in real time.
 - **Radar Coverage:** It provides 250–500+ km detection range and 300° to 360° radar coverage for tracking hostile aircraft, drones and missiles.
 - **Advanced Mission Equipment:** It includes an AESA radar, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF), mission computer, secure communication networks, Electronic Support Measures (ESM) and Communication Support Measures.
 - **Real-time Information Sharing:** It shares real-time information with fighter jets, ground stations and other military assets.

Tungabhadra River

News: The newly installed 33 spillway gates at the Tungabhadra reservoir are expected to address a long-standing water crisis affecting lakhs of farmers.

About Tungabhadra River



Source – ResearchGate

- **Origin:** The Tungabhadra River originates at **Koodli near Shivamogga district in Karnataka**, where **the Tunga and Bhadra rivers meet** after rising from the eastern slopes of the **Western Ghats**.
- **Hindu Mythology:** Hindus consider the river **sacred** and the **Ramayana** refers to it as **Pampa**.
- **Course:** It flows through **Karnataka**, **forms the boundary between Karnataka and Telangana**, enters **Andhra Pradesh**, and **joins the Krishna River at Sangamaleshwaram**.
- **Final Drainage:** After the **Tungabhadra joins the Krishna River** at Sangamaleshwaram, the **Krishna River** finally drains into the **Bay of Bengal**.
- **Major Tributaries:** The **Varada, Vedavathi, and Handri rivers** are the major tributaries of the Tungabhadra River.
- **Raichur Doab:** The Raichur Doab is a **highly fertile triangular tract between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers**.
 - **Continuous silt deposition** makes it **suitable for intensive cultivation** of crops such as rice, cotton, and sugarcane
- **Ecological Corridor:** The river basin extends from the **evergreen Western Ghats to the dry Deccan plains** and supports species such as the **smooth-coated otter and Mugger crocodile**.
- **Hampi:** The historic city of **Hampi, the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire**, is located on the river's banks.
 - **Dams & Irrigation:** The river has several dams, including the **Tungabhadra Dam, Tunga Anicut Dam, Bhadra Dam, and Hemavathy Dam**, which support irrigation.

Totapuri Mangoes

News: The Centre approved financial assistance for Karnataka's Totapuri mango growers under the Market Intervention Scheme due to falling prices and adverse weather.

About Totapuri Mangoes



Source – ICAR

- **Totapuri** is an **indigenous South Indian mango variety** that is widely valued for its juice and pulp.
- **Alternative Names:** It is also known as **Ginimoothi, Sandersha and Banglora**.
- **Cultivated in:** Totapuri mangoes are mainly cultivated in **Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**.
- **Characteristics:**

- **Physical Features:** Totapuri is a **prominent juicy mango cultivar** with an **elongated shape, a distinct parrot beak-like tip, greenish-yellow skin** and **edible skin with minimal bitterness**.
- **Nutritional Value:** It is rich in **Vitamins C and A** and contains **calcium, potassium, magnesium and antioxidants** that support **immunity, eye, bone, muscle and skin health**.
- **Uses:** It is widely used for **juice, pulp extraction and mango drinks** and is highly preferred by food processing industries.
- **Growing Conditions:**
 - **Climate:** Totapuri grows best in **tropical climates** with **warm to high temperatures, dry summers and moderate rainfall**.
 - **Soil:** It thrives in **well-drained loamy soil** with a **neutral to slightly acidic pH**.

AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 Portal

News: The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 to strengthen airport public health surveillance during the ongoing Ebola outbreak.

About AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 Portal



Source – MoCA

- **AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 portal** is an **upgraded contactless Passenger Health Self-Declaration Portal** for international passengers arriving in India.
- **Aim:** The portal aims to **strengthen public health surveillance** and **identify at-risk travellers** during the ongoing Ebola outbreak.
- **AIR SUVIDHA Portal 1.0:** The original AIR SUVIDHA Portal 1.0 was **launched in August 2020** for **COVID-19 health monitoring** and contact tracing.
 - It was **permanently shut down in February 2023**.
- **Launched by:** The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** launched the portal in collaboration with **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)**.
- **Developed by:** The portal was developed in collaboration with the **Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

- **Key Features:**

- **Online Health Declaration:** International passengers must submit an **online Health Self-Declaration** before immigration, **including their 21-day travel history, exposure history and related symptoms.**
- **Advance Submission:** Passengers **can complete the Self-Declaration Form up to 24 hours before arriving in India** and should carry the downloaded form for verification.
- **Real-Time Information Sharing:** The portal shares information with **Airport Health Officers, the Bureau of Immigration, the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and State Surveillance Officers.**
- **Quick Risk Identification:** The system **enables authorities to quickly identify and refer at-risk travellers** while eliminating the need for physical forms.

Banganapalle Mangoes

News: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has successfully facilitated the first commercial sea shipment of premium Banganapalle mangoes from India to Singapore.

About Banganapalle Mangoes



Source – DD India

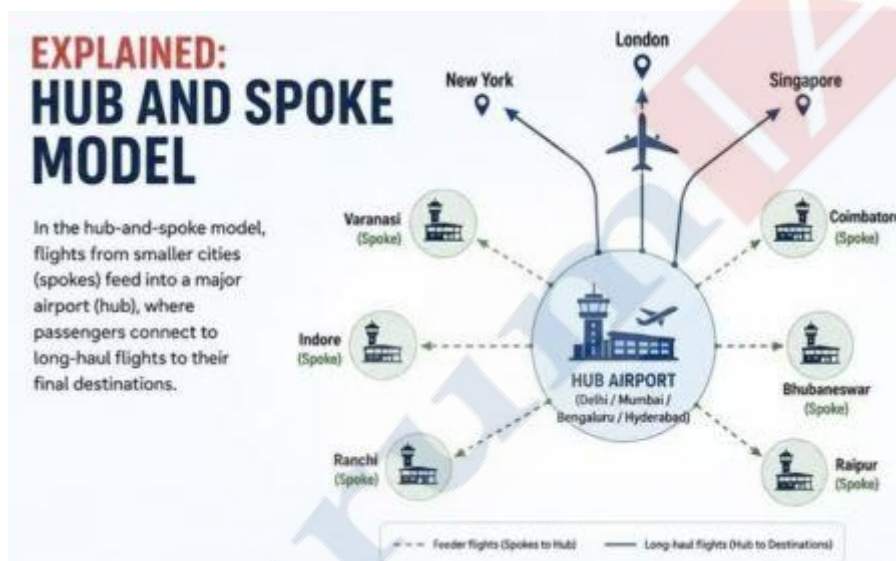
- **Banganapalle Mangoes** are a **famous variety of mango** primarily **cultivated** in the Indian states of **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.**
 - It is also **grown in the other parts** of India.
- **Naming:** The **variety is named** after the town of **Banaganapalle in Andhra Pradesh.**
- It is also known as **Benishan, Safeda, and Baneshan** in different regions.
- **Botanical Name:** **Mangifera indica**
- It is **state fruit of Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Harvest Season:** It is generally harvested from **April to June.**
- **Major Producing States:** **Andhra Pradesh (largest producer), Telangana,** with limited cultivation in parts of **Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.**
- **Recognition:** It was registered as one of the **geographical indication (G.I.) from Andhra Pradesh** on **3 May 2017.**
- **Characteristics**

- The **fruit** is described as obliquely **oval in shape**, around **20 cm in length**, with **yellow flesh** and a **thin, smooth yellow skin**.
- The **flesh** is of a **firm, meaty texture** and is **sweet and lacks fibre**.
- It is a **very late-season variety** that is **good for canning**.
- It is a source of **vitamin A and C** and is also called **king of Mangoes**.
- It is widely exported due to its **long shelf life** and **superior fruit quality**.

Hub-and-Spoke Aviation Model

News: India launched its first 'Easy Connect' flight under the Hub-and-Spoke Aviation Model from Varanasi to New Delhi.

About Hub-and-Spoke Aviation Model



Source – Business Standard

- **Hub-and-Spoke Aviation Model** is an **aviation model** that **connects smaller airports, called spokes, with major airports, called hubs**, to enable **seamless international travel**.
 - **The Spokes:** The spoke airports **serve as the starting point of the international journey**, where passengers complete check-in, immigration and customs formalities before flying to a designated Indian hub airport.
 - **The Hub:** The **hub airport receives passengers from the spoke airports** and allows them to board their onward international flight **without repeating departure formalities**.
- **Introduced by:** Hub-and-Spoke Aviation Model was **introduced by the Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- **Aim:** The model aims to **make India the preferred aviation hub for Indian passengers by 2030** and for the **world by 2047** while **improving connectivity from Tier-II and Tier-III cities**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Decentralized Processing:** Passengers **complete check-in, immigration and customs formalities at the spoke airport**, where they **receive separate 'D' (Domestic) and 'I' (International) boarding passes** before beginning their international journey.

- **Seamless International Transit:** Passengers are checked in to their final international destination, their **baggage is transferred automatically, and they directly board their onward international flight at the hub airport** without repeating departure formalities.

About First 'Easy Connect' Flight

- **Launch:** India launched its **first 'Easy Connect' flight** under the **Hub-and-Spoke Aviation Model** from **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi, to New Delhi.**
- **Operator:** The inaugural 'Easy Connect' flight is operated by **Air India.**

National Awards to Teachers 2026

News: The Department of School Education and Literacy, under the Ministry of Education, is inviting online applications and nominations for the National Teachers Awards 2026.

About National Teachers Awards 2026



Aspects	Details
About	It seeks to recognize the outstanding contribution of teachers towards improving the quality of school education and promoting the holistic development of students.
Nodal Ministry	The awards are conferred by the Department of School Education and Literacy , under the Ministry of Education .
First Instituted	They were first instituted in the year 1958 .
Frequency	They are conferred annually on 5th September (Teacher's Day) to honour teachers who have demonstrated excellence, innovation and commitment in the field of school education .

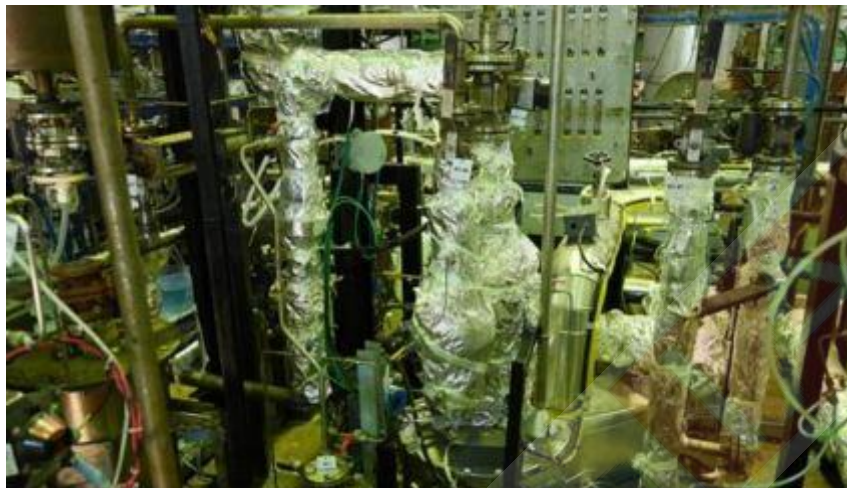
Factly Compilation [Fourth Week] June 2026

Eligibility	- Teachers working in schools managed by the Central Government, State Governments, Union Territory administrations, local bodies, and aided or private schools affiliated with recognized education boards are eligible to apply, subject to the prescribed guidelines. Note: Only regular Teachers and Heads of Schools with a minimum of ten years of service are eligible.
Not eligible	Educational administrators, inspectors of education, and the staff of training Institutes, teacher/Headmaster who are indulged in tuitions, Contractual teachers and shiksha mitras are not eligible.
Categories	- It is conferred on the exemplary teachers/faculty members of higher education institutions and Polytechnics as per the following categories: Category I: It includes teachers of Higher Educational Institutions: Sub-category (i): Engineering & Technology, Architecture. Sub-category (ii): Pure Sciences including Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy Sub-category (iii): Arts and Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages, Legal Studies, Commerce, Management. Category II: It includes teachers of Polytechnic Institutions.
Criteria for the Selection process	- For the selection process, teachers will be evaluated on two types of criteria: Objection Criteria: Under this, the teachers will be awarded marks against each of the objective criteria. Weightage: These criteria are given a weightage of 10 out of 100. - Performance against criteria: Under this, the teachers will be awarded marks on criteria based on performance for exemplary initiatives to improve learning outcomes, innovative experiments undertaken, organisation of extra and co-curricular activities, use of teaching learning material, social mobility, ensuring experiential learning, unique ways to ensure physical education to students, etc. Weightage: These criteria are given the weightage of 90 out of 100. - The National Level Independent Jury will submit its recommendations to the Hon'ble Education Minister for acceptance and final approval.
Prizes	- Each award carries a certificate of merit, a cash award of Rs. 50,000 and a silver medal. - Selected teachers are awarded by the President or Vice President of India.

World's First Nuclear-Powered Hydrogen Plant (Cu-Cl Cycle)

News: The Department of Atomic Energy inaugurated the world's first nuclear-powered hydrogen production facility based on the Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical cycle at Kalpakkam.

About World's First Nuclear-Powered Hydrogen Plant (Cu-Cl Cycle)



Source – PIB

- **Nuclear-Powered Hydrogen Plant (based on Cu-Cl Cycle)** is the world's first hydrogen production facility that uses nuclear process heat through the Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical cycle.
- **Location:** The facility is located at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- **Developed by:**
 - **Core Technology:** The Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical process was developed indigenously by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai.
 - **Facility Development:** The hydrogen production facility was jointly established and commissioned by BARC and IGCAR.
- **Working Mechanism:**
 - **Hydrogen Production:** Copper combines with dry hydrogen chloride gas at 430–475°C to generate hydrogen gas and form copper chloride.
 - **Hydrolysis:** Copper chloride reacts with superheated steam at 400°C, producing copper oxychloride while regenerating hydrogen chloride gas.
 - **Oxygen Production:** Copper oxychloride is heated to about 500°C using FBTR process heat, which releases oxygen gas and forms cuprous chloride.
 - **Closed Cycle:** Cuprous chloride passes through low-voltage electrolysis to regenerate copper and copper chloride, thereby completing the Cu-Cl thermochemical cycle.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Nuclear-Powered System:** The facility uses process heat from the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) for hydrogen production.
 - **Lower Temperature Requirement:** The Cu-Cl cycle requires a maximum temperature of only 530°C, which is lower than the Sulfur-Iodine cycle.

- **Low Electricity Consumption:** The electrolysis stage operates at only 0.5–1.0 volts, which is **lower than conventional water electrolysis**.
- **Continuous Operation:** The system provides **round-the-clock, weather-independent hydrogen production** using nuclear process heat.

Cabinet Secretary

News: Cabinet Secretary urged senior bureaucrats to reassess routine administrative practices and improve the conduct of official meetings.

About Cabinet Secretary



मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय
Cabinet Secretariat

Source: CabSec

- The Cabinet Secretary of India is the **most senior administrative servant** and the **highest-ranking executive official** in the Government of India.
 - **Position:** He is the **administrative head of the Cabinet Secretariat** and also the **principal and chief advisor to the Prime Minister**.
 - He **ranks eleventh in the Indian order of precedence** and is **directly accountable to the Prime Minister**.
 - **Appointment:** He is **appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, chaired by the Prime Minister.
 - **Tenure:** He is appointed for a **fixed two-year term**, but his tenure can be extended up to **four years, with an additional extension of up to three months possible**, as per the amended All India Service (Death-Cum-Retirement-Benefits) Rules, 1958.
 - **Function:** To **facilitate the smooth functioning of the government by providing secretarial assistance to the Cabinet**, coordinating activities among ministries and departments, and resolving inter-ministerial issues through various committees.
 - **Current Cabinet Secretary:** The **current Cabinet Secretary of India** is **T. V. Somanathan**.

About Cabinet Secretariat

- The Cabinet Secretariat is a **department of the Government of India** under the **Prime Minister's portfolio**.
- **Administrative head:** Its **administrative head is the Cabinet Secretary**, who is the **ex officio head of the Civil Services Board** and the **senior-most IAS officer in the country**.
- The Cabinet Secretariat **functions directly under the Prime Minister**.
- **Function:**
 - The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the **administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961** and the **Government of India (Allocation of**

Business) Rules, 1961, facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments of the Government.

- The Cabinet Secretariat **provides secretarial support to the Cabinet and its Committees.**
- It **ensures coordination among ministries, resolves inter-departmental differences, and helps build consensus through Committees of Secretaries.**
- It **manages major crisis situations in the country** and coordinates the activities of various Ministries in such situations.
- It **ensures that the President, the Vice President and Ministers** are kept informed of the major activities of all Ministries/ Departments **by means of a monthly summary of their activities.**

About Chief Secretary

- The Chief Secretary is the **highest-ranking civil servant and administrative head of a state government or Union Territory in India.**
- They are **appointed by the Chief Minister.**
- They **serve as the principal advisor on all administrative matters, head the state civil services,** and act as the secretary to the state cabinet.

RBI's New Fraud Compensation Mechanism

News: The Reserve Bank of India introduced a revised fraud compensation mechanism for small-value digital payment frauds, effective from January 1, 2027.

About RBI's New Fraud Compensation Mechanism

RBI TO BEAR 65% OF LOSS	
➤ For losses below ₹29,412, the victim will receive 85% of the lost amount (₹25,000) ➤ RBI will bear 65% of the total loss, while the customer's bank and the beneficiary bank will each bear 10% ➤ Provision extends coverage even to customers who have shared credentials such as one-time passwords	➤ Customers who lose more than ₹50,000 in a cyber fraud incident will not qualify for this compensation mechanism ➤ The central bank has also imposed strict eligibility conditions to ensure the scheme functions as a limited safety net rather than a recurring insurance cover for customers



Source – ToI

- RBI's New Fraud Compensation Mechanism is a revised framework that **provides compensation to eligible victims of fraudulent electronic banking transactions involving losses up to ₹50,000.**

- The new framework builds on the RBI's Limited Liability Framework (2017, updated), which established that **customers would have zero or limited liability** if they reported unauthorized electronic banking transactions promptly.
- **Common Types of Digital Fraud:** SIM swapping, phishing, vishing (voice call fraud), OTP theft, fake UPI handles, QR code scams, and AI-driven deepfake frauds are common forms of digital payment fraud.
- **Effective from:** The revised framework will apply to electronic banking transactions **undertaken on or after January 1, 2027**.
- **Aim:** The framework **aims to limit customer liability, strengthen customer protection, and improve banks' responsibility** for fraud prevention and grievance redressal.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Compensation:** A bona fide victim **can receive 85% of the net loss or ₹25,000, whichever is lower, once during the lifetime** for eligible fraud cases.
 - **Eligibility:** The customer **must report** the fraud to **both the bank and the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal or Helpline 1930 within five** calendar days.
 - **Zero Liability:** Customers will have **zero liability** if the fraud results from bank negligence or a third-party breach reported within five days.
 - **Burden of Proof:** Banks **must establish customer negligence before rejecting** any compensation claim.
 - **Bank Obligations:** Banks must **provide 24×7 complaint channels**, instant **SMS alerts for transactions above ₹500**, email alerts where available, and **direct complaint links on websites and mobile applications**.
 - **Complaint Resolution:** Banks must resolve complaints **within 45 days for domestic frauds and 60 days for cross-border frauds**.

New GI Tag Crops of Madhya Pradesh

News: Four traditional crops of Madhya Pradesh have received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag, providing legal recognition to their authenticity, quality, and traditional agricultural heritage.

About New GI Tag Crops of Madhya Pradesh

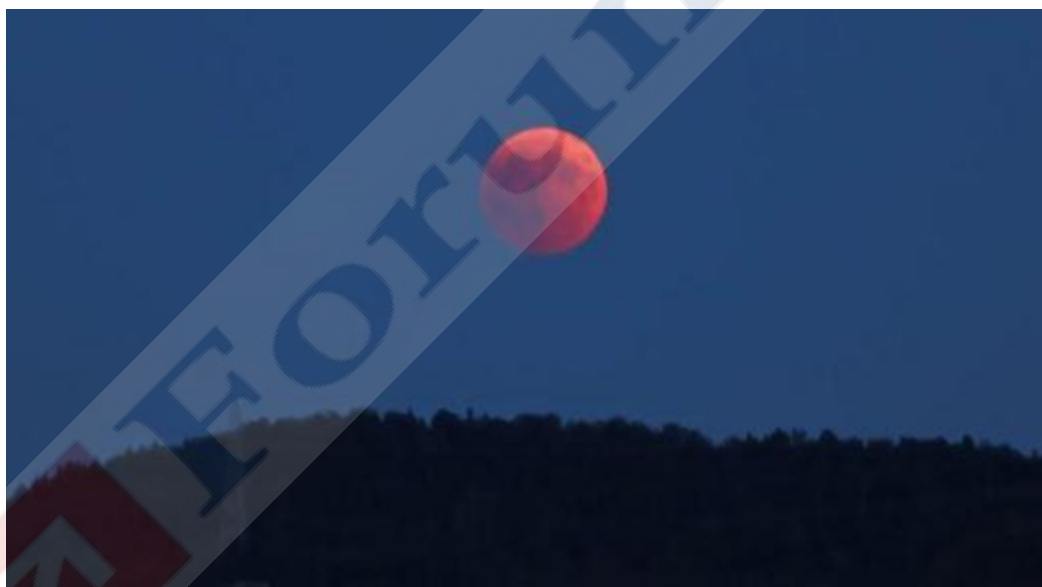
- **Four traditional crops of Madhya Pradesh** have received the **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**.
- They are **Sitahi Kutki (Sitahi Minor Millet)**, **Nagdaman Kutki (Nagdaman Minor Millet)**, **Baigani Arhar (Dindori Pigeon Pea)**, and **Mahakoshal Chhatriya Chawal (Chhatriya Paddy)**.
 - **Sitahi Kutki and Nagdaman Kutki (Minor Millets):**
 - **Location:** These traditional minor millet varieties are **cultivated in the Dindori region of Madhya Pradesh**.
 - **Tribal Association:** The **Baiga and Gond tribes** have **preserved their native seeds for generations** and have mainly cultivated them for **self-consumption**.
 - **Key Features:** These varieties are **naturally organic and climate-resilient**.
 - They are rich in **dietary fibre, complex carbohydrates, antioxidants**, and essential minerals such as **iron, potassium, and magnesium**.
 - They also have a **low Glycemic Index**.
 - **Importance:** Their high nutritional value and climate resilience make them important traditional crops with strong health benefits.
 - **Baigani Arhar (Dindori Pigeon Pea):**
 - **Location:** Baigani Arhar originates from the **Dindori region**.

- **Tribal Association:** It is deeply linked with the **heritage of the Baiga tribe** and is cultivated **using traditional organic practices**.
- **Key Features:** It has **high natural protein content**, a distinct sweet flavour.
 - It has a **shorter maturation cycle** (5–6 months), and requires **less cooking time**.
 - **Importance:** It is valued for its high nutritional content, including **dietary fibre, iron, calcium, and B-complex vitamins**.
- **Mahakoshal Chhatriya Chawal (Chhatriya Paddy):**
 - **Location:** This **traditional rice variety** originates from **Jabalpur and Katni districts**.
 - **Key Features:** It is known for its distinct aroma, taste, local adaptability, and retains its **bran layer with vitamin B1(thiamine), minerals, and healthy fats**.
 - **Importance:** The crop is recognised for its culinary excellence and balanced nutritional profile.

Strawberry Moon, Blue Moon & Micromoon

News: June's full moon, known as the Strawberry Moon, has drawn attention to the Strawberry Moon, Blue Moon, and Micromoon.

About Strawberry Moon



Source – IE

- **Meaning:** The **Strawberry Moon** is the **traditional name** given to the **full moon** that occurs in **June**.
- **Naming:** Its name comes from **Native American Algonquian tribes**, who used it to **track the ripening and harvesting season of wild strawberries**.

- **Alternative Names:** It is also referred to as the **Hot Moon, Mead Moon, or Rose Moon** in other cultures.
- **Position:** It rises in the **southeastern sky** and follows the **lowest path across the southern sky**.
- **Atmospheric Physics:** As the Strawberry Moon **stays low above the horizon**, its light passes **through more of Earth's atmosphere**, where **shorter blue wavelengths are scattered**, giving the Moon a warm golden or orange glow.
- **Moon Illusion:** It often appears **abnormally large when close to the horizon** due to the Moon Illusion (an **optical illusion that makes the Moon appear larger against nearby objects**).

About Blue Moon

- **Meaning:** A Blue Moon is **identified by the timing of full moons rather than its colour**.
- **Types:** Blue Moons are of **two types**.
 - A **monthly Blue Moon** is the **second full moon in a calendar month**.
 - A **seasonal Blue Moon** is the **third full moon in an astronomical season that has four full moons instead of the usual three**.
- **Visual Effect:** The Moon **does not turn blue**, although **smoke or volcanic ash can sometimes make it appear bluish**.
- **Frequency:** Because the **lunar cycle lasts about 29.5 days and does not align perfectly with calendar months**, both **monthly and seasonal Blue Moons occur every two to three years**.

About Micromoon

- **Meaning:** A Micromoon **occurs when a full moon coincides with apogee, the Moon's farthest point from Earth**.
 - By contrast, a **full moon at perigee, the moon's closest point to Earth in its orbit**, is what's **known as a "supermoon."**
- **Cause:** It occurs because the **Moon follows an elliptical orbit around Earth**.
- **Visual Effect:** It appears **roughly 14% smaller and 30% dimmer than a Supermoon**.

Operation Amistad

News: India was among the first countries to respond to the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, launching Operation Amistad to deliver critical medical and humanitarian assistance to the affected areas.

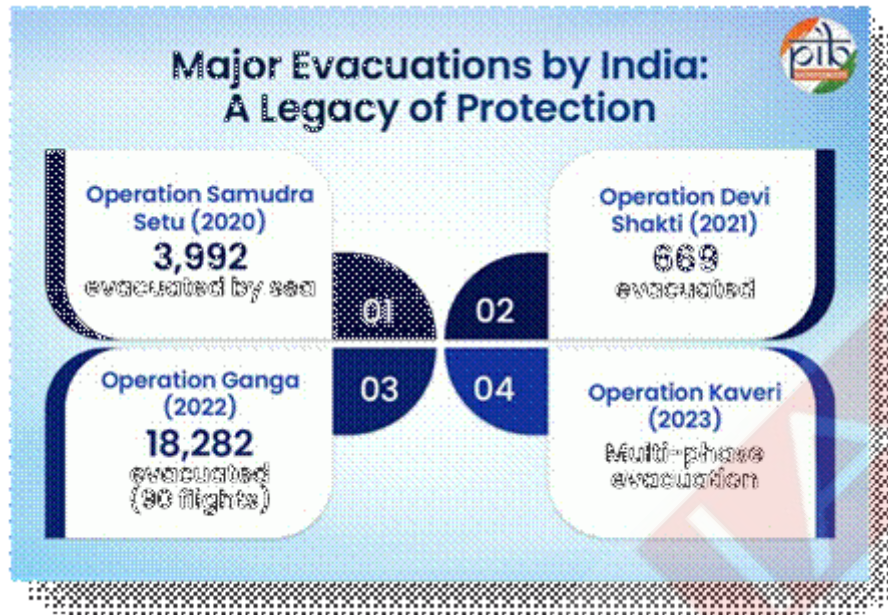
About Operation Amistad



Source: TH

- **About:** It is a **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** mission in response to the **devastating earthquake in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** that has caused extensive loss of life, injuries and widespread destruction.
- **Response:**
 - As part of the operation, **two Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft departed for Venezuela, carrying humanitarian relief supplies and a 41-member rescue team** to assist the ongoing relief and rescue efforts.
 - **Humanitarian relief supplies:** The relief consignment included a **self-reliant Indian medical task force, an Indian Army Field Hospital unit** with HADR pallets and medicines, **30 tons of relief supplies, 6 tons of medicines and medical equipment and 2 BHISHM cube portable hospitals.**
 - **Team Involved:** The 41-member team, **comprising experienced rescue personnel and medical professionals**, will work closely with the Venezuelan authorities on **search-and-rescue operations, emergency medical care, and humanitarian relief efforts** in the affected areas.

About India's Other Humanitarian Operations



Source: PIB

Operation Name	Details
Operation Sagar Bandhu (2025)	Operation Sagar Bandhu is India's humanitarian relief initiative providing vital Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) support to Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah.
Operation Brahma (2025)	India launched this humanitarian mission after a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar on March 28, 2025.
Operation Kaveri (2023)	Operation Kaveri was launched by India to evacuate its nationals from violence-hit Sudan.
Operation Dost (2023)	Operation Dost was launched by India to help Syria and Turkey after they witnessed a massive earthquake that left thousands dead, injured and trapped under the rubble.
Operation Ganga (2022)	Operation Ganga was launched to help stranded Indian nationals come back to India from Ukraine through special flights amidst the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Green Ammonia and Green Urea

News: The Centre has taken a significant step towards promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing carbon emissions by unveiling a roadmap to establish Green Urea production in India, backed by a large-scale procurement of Green Ammonia under the [National Green Hydrogen Mission \(NGHM\)](#).

About Green Ammonia

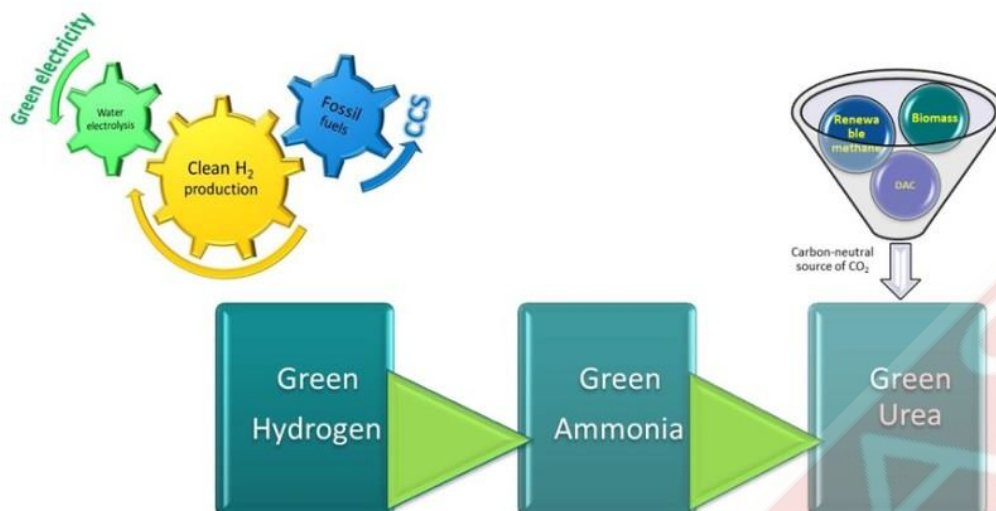


Source: World Economic Forum

- Green ammonia is **ammonia (NH₃)** produced using **renewable electricity, green hydrogen, and nitrogen** extracted from the atmosphere. It is **manufactured through a process that results in little to no carbon emissions**.
- **Production of conventional ammonia:** Conventional ammonia production **relies on the Haber-Bosch process**, where hydrogen, typically obtained from natural gas, **is combined with nitrogen under high pressure and temperature**. Because **this method depends on fossil fuels**, it **generates substantial CO₂ emissions**. It is known as **Grey Ammonia**.
- **Production of green ammonia:** Green ammonia production is **a process where the production of ammonia is 100% renewable and carbon-free**.
 - Its production follows the **same fundamental synthesis process but replaces fossil-fuel-based hydrogen with green hydrogen**.
 - Green hydrogen is **produced through electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources** such as solar, wind, or hydropower.
 - **Nitrogen is supplied through air separation**, and both gases are then combined in a Haber-Bosch process operated using clean energy.
 - **The chemical reaction remains unchanged: $N_2 + 3H_2 \rightarrow 2NH_3$**
 - When **both the hydrogen and the electricity used in the process come from renewable sources**, the result is carbon-free ammonia.
- **Application:** Green ammonia has significant potential in supporting the transition to net-zero emissions through:
 - **Energy Storage:** It can be stored and transported easily in liquid form, making it an **efficient medium for storing renewable energy**.
 - **Zero-Carbon Fuel:** It can be **used in engines or fuel cells to generate power**, producing only water and nitrogen as by-products.
 - **Hydrogen Carrier:** As ammonia is easier and cheaper to store and transport than hydrogen, it **can serve as an effective carrier and be converted back into hydrogen when needed**.
 - It is a versatile feedstock used in various applications, **including water purification and pharmaceutical manufacturing**.

About Green Urea

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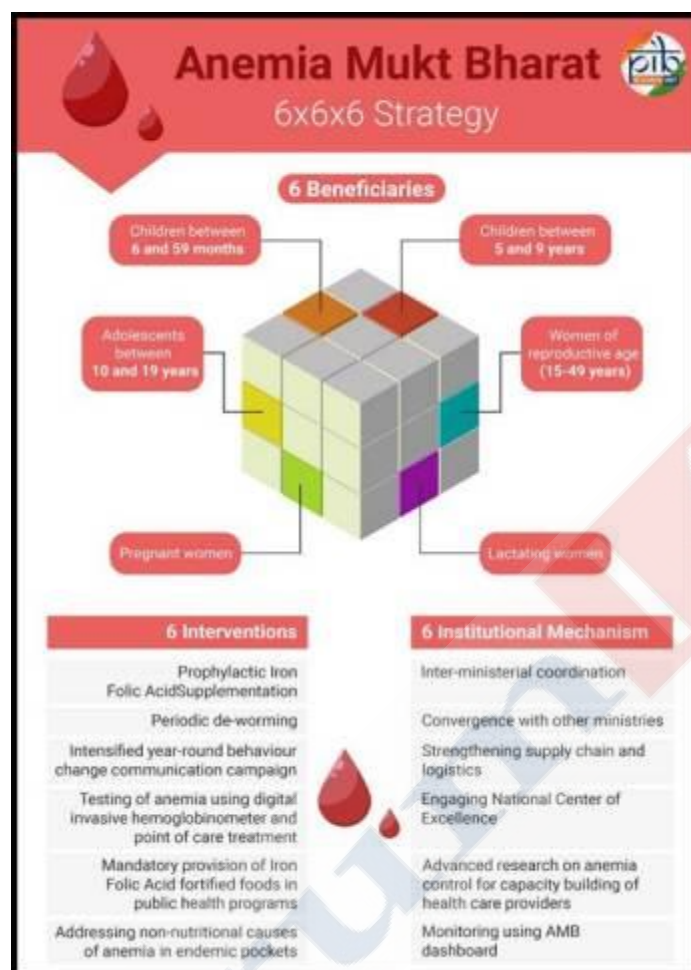
Source: csiro

- Green urea refers to **urea produced using renewable energy sources** such as municipal solid waste (MSW) to create a more sustainable and eco-friendly approach to waste management and urea production.
- **Production of Green urea:** It is produced by generating **green hydrogen** through the electrolysis of water using renewable electricity from sources.
 - **Nitrogen required for the process is obtained from the atmosphere** through an air separation unit.
 - The **green hydrogen and nitrogen are then combined** in the **Haber-Bosch process** to produce **green ammonia**.
 - **Carbon dioxide is captured from industrial sources** using **carbon capture and utilisation (CCU)** technologies instead of being released into the atmosphere.
 - The **green ammonia reacts with the captured carbon dioxide** to produce **urea** (NH_2CONH_2).
- **Benefits:**
 - Green urea **reduces greenhouse gas emissions** by replacing fossil fuels with **renewable energy** and using captured carbon dioxide in production.
 - It supports **sustainable agriculture** by providing **nitrogen for crops** and **lowers the carbon footprint of fertiliser use**.
 - It **promotes renewable energy development**, improves environmental sustainability and helps build a climate-resilient food system.

Anemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan

News: In a landmark step towards accelerating India's efforts to combat anemia, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare released Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Abhiyaan – Operational Guidelines.

About Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Abhiyaan



Source: PIB

Aspects	Details
About	It is a flagship health initiative of the Government aimed at eliminating anemia from the country .
Launched by	It was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare .
Objective	To reduce the prevalence of anemia among children, adolescents and women in the reproductive age group (15-49 years) .
Implementation	- It is implemented across all villages, blocks, and districts in every State and Union Territory of India through existing service delivery platforms. - It is carried out under the National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI) and the Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS)

	programme to prevent and reduce iron deficiency anemia, especially among adolescents aged 10–19 years.
Key feature	It includes a 6x6x6 strategy under which there are six interventions to reduce the prevalence of anemia (nutritional and non-nutritional) in six age groups – pre-school children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescent girls and boys (10-19 years), pregnant women, lactating women, and women of reproductive age (15-49 years) following a life cycle approach .
Six interventions	● Prophylactic Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation ● Deworming ● Intensified year-round BCC campaign promoting four key behaviors: ○ Improved compliance with Iron Folic Acid supplementation and deworming ○ Appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices ○ Increased consumption of iron-rich and fortified foods through diverse, frequent diets using locally available resources ○ Delayed cord clamping (3 minutes after birth) in health facilities ● Testing and treatment of anemia, using digital methods and point-of-care treatment, with special focus on pregnant women and school-going adolescents ● Mandatory provision of Iron and Folic Acid fortified foods in government-funded public health programs ● Intensifying awareness, screening, and treatment of non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets, with special focus on malaria, haemoglobinopathies, and fluorosis
Institutional Mechanisms	1. Intra-Ministerial Coordination 2. National Anemia Mukh Bharat Unit 3. National Centre of Excellences 4. Convergence with other Ministries 5. Strengthening Supply Chain and Logistics 6. Anemia Mukh Bharat Dashboard and Digital Portal – One-Stop Shop on Anemia

About Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Abhiyaan

- The Anemia Mukh Bharat is being transformed into Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Abhiyaan.
- **Features:**
 - **6x6x6 strategy into a 7x7x7 framework:** The Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Abhiyaan will expand the existing 6x6x6 strategy into a 7x7x7 framework by introducing a seventh beneficiary group, a seventh intervention and a seventh institutional mechanism.
 - **Seventh Beneficiary Group: Low Birth Weight (LBW) babies (0–6 months)** will be included as the **seventh beneficiary group**.

- **Seventh Intervention: “Eating Right” approach**, which will promote **regular consumption of iron-rich and diversified diets** as a daily habit, will be introduced as the **seventh intervention**.
- **Seventh Institutional Mechanism: A strengthened monitoring and Evaluation framework** supported by digital tracking will serve as the **seventh institutional mechanism**.
- **Transition from T3 to T4 Approach:** It will include the **transition from the T3 approach (Test, Treat, Talk) to the T4 approach (Test, Treat, Talk and Track)**.
 - The revised strategy will **emphasise intensified haemoglobin testing, treatment of iron deficiency anemia in accordance with national anemia management protocols**, systematic tracking of beneficiaries for referral and follow-up, and targeted counselling to encourage healthy dietary practices.
- For the management of severe Anemia and non-responders among pregnant and lactating women, **Intravenous Iron Therapy using Ferric Carboxymaltose (FCM) and Iron Sucrose will be included as an important clinical intervention**.
- A **robust digital ecosystem for monitoring anemia services** across beneficiary groups will also be established.
- **Haemoglobin testing records for pregnant women will be mapped through the JANANI Portal, and records for children will be captured through the RBSK and U-WIN portals**.
 - These platforms will **converge into a unified AMB Abhiyaan Portal, enabling comprehensive monitoring, analysis and evidence-based planning**.

White-rumped Vulture

News: A captive-bred, radio-tagged White-rumped Vulture released in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve died due to electrocution after its release in April 2026.

About White-rumped Vulture



Source – Animalia

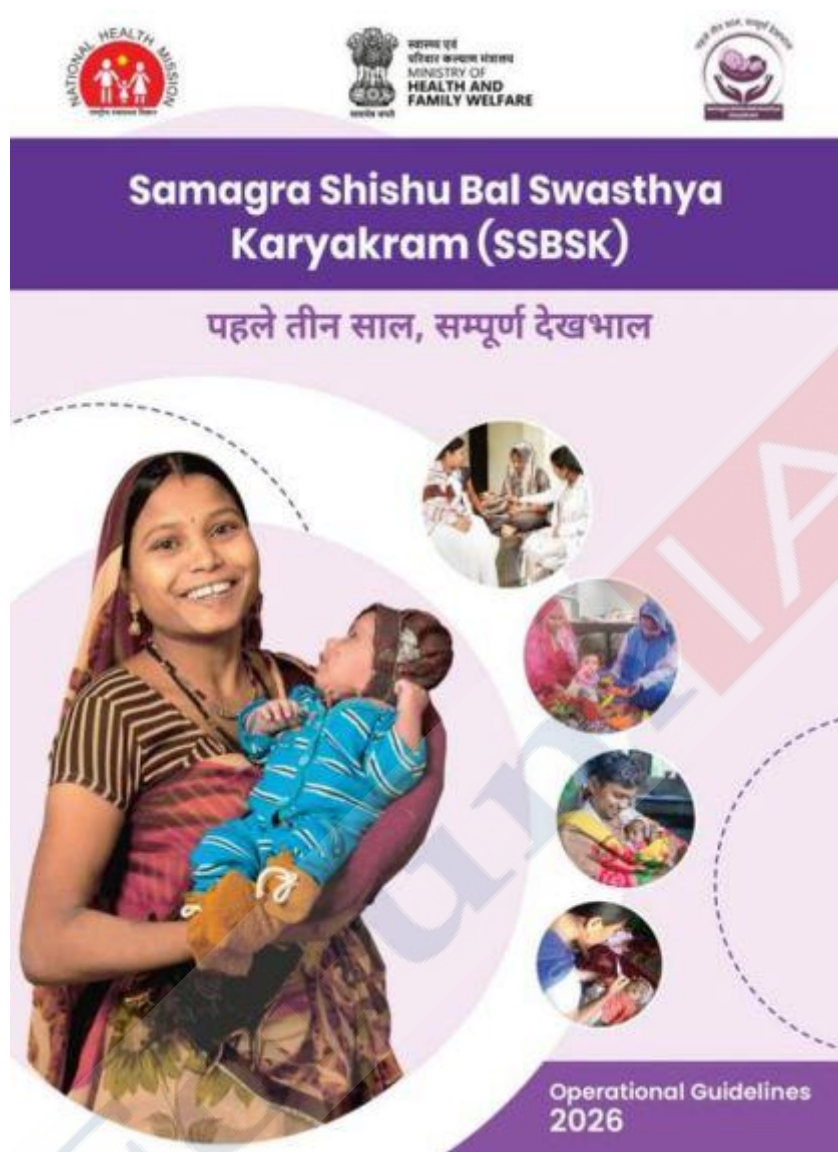
- The **White-rumped Vulture** is a small ‘Old World’ vulture native to South and Southeast Asia.
- **Scientific name:** *Gyps bengalensis*
- **Alternative Names:** It is also known as the **Indian White-backed Vulture** or the **Oriental White-backed Vulture**.

- **Habitat:** It is found mostly in plains with **open areas, light woodland**, villages, and cities, and it is **occasionally seen in hilly regions**.
- **Distribution:** It is native to **India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Myanmar, Cambodia and southern Vietnam**.
 - **Extinction:** It is extinct in **China and Malaysia**.
- **Characteristics:**
 - **Appearance:** Adults have **blackish body feathers**, a **white neck-ruff**, and a **white patch on the lower back**, while **juveniles have brown feathers with white streaks**.
 - **Size:** It is a medium-sized vulture measuring **about 75–85 cm** in length, and **both sexes are approximately equal in size**.
 - **Behaviour:** It is highly **social, forms large flocks and communal roosts**, and **regularly gathers at carcasses**.
 - **Breeding:** It breeds in colonies on tall trees, often near human habitation.
 - **Diet:** It is an obligate scavenger that feeds on **fresh and decaying animal carcasses**.
- **Threats**
 - **Rapid population decline** is caused by **Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)** such as **diclofenac, aceclofenac, and ketoprofen** used in livestock, which **cause kidney failure and visceral gout** in vultures.
 - **Other major threats** include **habitat loss, deforestation, poisoning, electrocution, collisions, and reduced food availability** due to changes in livestock management.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered**
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I**

Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)

News: Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK), a unified national child healthcare programme.

About Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)



Source – MoHFW

- **Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK)** is a **unified national programme** that provides **integrated home and community-based healthcare** for every child from birth to 36 months of age.
- **Launched by:** The programme was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- **Vision:** The programme carries forward the vision of “**पहले तीन साल सम्पूर्ण देखभाल**” (**Comprehensive Care During the First Three Years**).
- **Integrated with:** The programme **integrates** the existing **Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC)** and **Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC)** programmes into a single framework.
- **Aim:** The programme aims to **strengthen child survival, nutrition, healthy growth and early childhood development** through an integrated approach for children from birth to 36 months.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Risk-based Follow-up:** The programme introduces a **risk-stratified approach**, and **identified ‘At-risk’ children** receive additional home visits according to their level of risk.

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- **Coordinated Home Care:** The programme ensures coordinated home visits by **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Community Health Officers (CHOs) and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)** to provide timely assessment, counselling and referral whenever required.
- **Early Screening:** The programme introduces **Well-Baby Sessions** at every **Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)** and monthly **Shishu Shivirs at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** to support regular screening, developmental assessment and comprehensive management of newborns and young children.
- **Maternal and Child Care:** The programme **includes post-partum maternal mental health screening** and promotes **nurturing care, early learning, age-appropriate play, child safety** and family participation.
- **Digital Monitoring:** The programme uses **digital tracking, Decision-Support Systems, referral mechanisms** and **integration with national digital health platforms** to improve follow-up and continuity of care.

Delegation of Financial Powers to DRDO (DFP-2026)

News: Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh released the Delegation of Financial Powers to DRDO (DFP-2026) on June 29, 2026, as a major administrative reform.

About Delegation of Financial Powers to DRDO (DFP-2026)



Source – PIB

- **Delegation of Financial Powers to DRDO (DFP-2026)** is a major **administrative reform** that **decentralizes financial decision-making** to **accelerate strategic defence R&D projects**.
- **Launched by:** It was launched by the **Ministry of Defence**.
- **Aim:** The framework aims to **enhance functional empowerment within the Department of Defence R&D**, **improve efficiency**, **ensure timely execution of strategic projects**, and **strengthen self-reliance in defence technologies**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Enhanced Financial Powers:** The framework **increases financial powers at different levels within DRDO**, including the Secretary, Director General, and Laboratory Directors, to **reduce administrative delays** and **improve project execution**.
 - **Dedicated Trial and Testing Provisions:** It provides **dedicated financial provisions** for **trial campaigns, testing, and evaluation activities** to support timely completion of strategic R&D projects.

- **Support for Pre-Project R&D:** The framework authorizes the sanctioning of pre-project research and development initiatives to encourage early-stage innovation before formal project approval.
- **Clear Grants-in-Aid Structure:** It clearly segregates financial powers for Extra-Mural Research Projects, Defence Innovation Accelerator–Centres of Excellence, and Technology Development Fund (TDF) projects.
- **Stronger Self-Reliance:** The framework promotes collaboration with industry and academia, reinforces the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and strengthens self-reliance in defence technologies and national defence preparedness.

Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026

News: Team India delivered an impressive performance at the Global Skills Challenge (GSC) Australia 2026, securing three gold, one silver and one bronze medal.

About Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026



Source: DD India

- **About:** Global Skills Challenge Australia 2026 is an **international competition** held from **23–29 June 2026**.
 - It has **been designed as a full-scale simulation of the [WorldSkills Competition](#)**, enabling participants to compete under international assessment standards using the globally **recognised Competition Information System (CIS)**.

- The event also familiarized competitors with international equipment, evaluation processes and high-pressure competitive environments.
- **Organized by:** It has been organized by **WorldSkills Australia**.
- **Participating nation:** It brought together nearly **600 competitors, experts, translators, and officials representing 16 WorldSkills member nations**, including India, alongside Australia, Austria, China, the USA, Japan, France, Korea, and more.
- **India's Participation:** India sent a **30-member team to compete in 15 skill categories**, including 3D Digital Game Art, Automobile Technology, Beauty Therapy, Cloud Computing, Graphic Design, Hairdressing, Health and Social Care, Restaurant Service, Web Technologies, and more.
 - The team consisted of **15 competitors and 15 experts**.
- **Winners from India:**
 - **Gold medal winners:** India's gold medal winners were **Pavan Bhadravati Suresha** from Karnataka in **Additive Manufacturing**, **Mausam Kumar Giri** from Bihar in **Cloud Computing**, and **Vishnupriya Sunil** from Delhi in **Health and Social Care**.
 - **Silver Medal winner:** **Harsh Ramesh Pawar** of **Maharashtra** won the silver medal in **3D Digital Game Art**.
 - **Bronze Medal:** **Muskan** from **Haryana** secured the bronze medal in **Painting and Decorating**.
- **Other winning nations:** Japan got a silver medal in Additive Manufacturing.
 - Japan also got a silver medal and Singapore got a bronze medal in Cloud computing.
 - A silver medal was won by Australia in Health and Social Care.

1994 Upper Yamuna Water Agreement

News: Haryana and Rajasthan signed an agreement to implement the long-pending Yamuna Water Project under the 1994 Upper Yamuna Water Agreement.

About 1994 Upper Yamuna Water Agreement



Source – Mint

- The **1994 Upper Yamuna Water Agreement** is an **inter-state pact for sharing the utilisable surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin**.

- **Signatory States:** The original Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by **Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi**.
 - **Later Addition:** **Uttarakhand** became part of the agreement in 2000 after its creation.
- **Governing Body:** The **Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)** was established in **1995** to implement the MoU and regulate water allocation.
- **Objective:** The agreement **lays down rules for sharing the surface flow of the Upper Yamuna Basin** to meet drinking and irrigation needs among the basin states.
- **Dams and Infrastructure:** The agreement also recognised the need for future construction of upstream storage dams such as **Renuka, Kishau, and Lakhwar-Vyasi** to augment water supply.
- **Recent Breakthrough (June 2026):**
 - **Implementation Agreement:** **Haryana and Rajasthan signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** to operationalise the 1994 Upper Yamuna Water Agreement after nearly three decades of delay.
 - **Water Conveyance:** **Rajasthan's allocated 577 million cubic metres (MCM) of Yamuna water** will be transported from the **Hathnikund Barrage in Haryana to the Hansiyawas Reservoir in Churu** district through an underground **pipeline network of about 295.5 kilometres**.
 - **Project Infrastructure:** The project includes three underground pipelines, each 3.6 metres in diameter, along with inspection roads, artificial reservoirs, and a modern water management system.
 - **Implementation Mechanism:** A **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) named the Rajasthan-Haryana Yamuna Water Project SPV (RHYW-SPV)** will oversee the implementation, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.