

Factly Weekly

Compilation

2026

**For UPSC CSE Prelims
Exam**

1st Week

September 2026

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Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

News: A rare sharp-tailed sandpiper was spotted in Chandu village near Najafgarh, nearly seven years after the previous Delhi-NCR record.

About Sharp-tailed Sandpiper



Figure 1. Source – eBird

- The **sharp-tailed sandpiper** is a **small wader bird** that is an exceptionally uncommon visitor to India.
- **Scientific Name:** Its scientific name is **Calidris acuminata**.
 - It belongs to the **Scolopacidae** family.
- **Habitat:** It is found in **freshwater marshes, coastal mudflats and sometimes inland areas**.
- **Breeding Ground:** It breeds in **northern Siberia, from the Lena River delta to the Kolyma region**.
- **Migration Route:** It migrates south over **East Asia to Australia and New Zealand** and may **occasionally use India as a passage route**.
 - **Smaller numbers** fly to **Melanesia**, a cluster of

islands in the southwestern Pacific Ocean between New Guinea in the west to Fiji in the east.



Source – ResearchGate

- **Key Features:**
 - **Physical Appearance:** It is a medium-sized sandpiper with a **distinct cap**.

- **Breeding adults** have a **rich chestnut cap**, **white eye-line**, and **chevrons** and **spots on the underparts**.
- **Nonbreeding adults** are **duller greyish-brown** with a **drab brown cap**.
- while **juveniles** are **brighter** with a **buffy breast**, **bright cap** and **contrasting white eye-line**.
- **Identification:** It has **dull greenish legs** and a **variable pale colour at the base of the bill**.
- **Sound:** It gives excited “**peep!**” calls, often doubled, along with other soft twitters.
- **Diet:** It feeds on **seeds, worms, molluscs, crustaceans and insects**, especially after rainfall.
- **Threats:**
 - Habitat loss and degradation
 - Pollution
 - Altered sediment flows
 - Rising sea levels
- **Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**

AstroRad Vest

News: A recent study found that the AstroRad vest can significantly reduce astronauts' radiation exposure during major solar storms.

About AstroRad Vest



Figure 2. Source – Lockheed Martin

- **AstroRad Vest** is a **wearable radiation-protection vest** developed for astronauts travelling beyond Earth's protective magnetic field.
- **Developed by:** It was developed by **StemRad**, an Israeli company, in collaboration with **Lockheed Martin**, a US-based aerospace and defence company.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Hydrogen-Rich Material:** The vest uses **high-density polyethylene (HDPE)** because of its **high proportion of hydrogen**, which is **effective against charged particle space radiation**.
 - The **hydrogen-rich material** helps **slow energetic particles** and **reduce radiation exposure**.
 - **Flexible Design:** The vest contains **thousands of hexagonal HDPE rods** placed **between two layers of elastic fabric**.
 - The **shielding components** can **slide past one another and stretch**, allowing astronauts to **move freely** while wearing the **compact vest** inside the confined space of a spacecraft.
- **Selective Target Shielding:** The vest places **more shielding** around **radiation-sensitive organs and tissues**, including **bone marrow, lungs, stomach, breasts and ovaries**.
- **Tested in Space:** Astronauts tested AstroRad on the **International Space Station** in **2019 and 2020**.
 - The **improved version** was **later tested** using the **Helga and Zohar** human-shaped dummies during **Artemis I** in **2022**.

Distinguished Jurist

News: Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan called the unused provision for appointing a “distinguished jurist” to the Supreme Court an “unused mandate” needing attention.

About Distinguished Jurist

- A “distinguished jurist” is **not specifically defined** in the **Constitution**.
- It is **generally understood** as a **person engaged in serious work in legal practice, teaching, or research, even without courtroom experience**.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Article 124(3):** A **citizen of India** can be **appointed** as a **Supreme Court judge** if they **have been a High Court judge for five years, an advocate for ten years, or are a “distinguished jurist” in the President’s opinion**.
 - **Distinguished jurist route has never been used.**
 - **Article 217:** The **42nd Constitutional Amendment** inserted a provision **allowing a “distinguished jurist” to be considered for appointment as a High Court judge**.
 - This provision **was later omitted by the 44th Constitutional Amendment**.
- **Constituent Assembly Background:**
 - **H. V. Kamath proposed the provision** so that candidates would not be limited to judges and advocates.
 - **M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar supported** bringing legal scholars into the judiciary because **practising lawyers may have limited exposure to constitutional problems**.
 - **B. R. Ambedkar did not oppose the idea** but raised a **concern about the word “distinguished”**.
- **Pros:**
 - **Specialised knowledge:** Distinguished jurists **can bring research-based critical thinking and specialised legal knowledge to the judiciary**.
 - **Diverse perspectives:** Their participation **can diversify the Bench and strengthen judicial discourse and decision-making**.
 - **Public law expertise:** They may be **better placed to address public law issues** without being limited by narrow technicalities.
 - **International Experience:** Countries such as the **US, Poland and Spain** have benefited from appointing **jurists as judges**.
- **Cons:**
 - **Lack of Courtroom Experience:** Distinguished jurists **may lack courtroom experience and procedural knowledge**.
 - **Bar Council Restrictions:** Bar Council rules generally prevent **full-time law teachers from practising law**.
 - **Perceived Lack of Academic Depth:** Justice Ujjal Bhuyan observed that the **Central Government and later the collegium may have felt that there was not enough depth in Indian academia for such appointments**.

Larak Island

News: The US struck Larak Island on August 30 after observing Iranian forces preparing to launch rockets with sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz.

About Larak Island



Source – The National News

- **Larak Island** is a small island near the [Strait of Hormuz](#) with major strategic importance due to its location.
- **Location:** It is approximately 45 km southeast of Bandar Abbas, south of Hormuz Island and about 18 km southeast of the eastern end of Qeshm Island.
- **Area:** The island covers roughly 49 sq. km.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Strategic location:** Larak, Qeshm and Hormuz form a group of three islands near the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz.
 - **Military Foothold:** Iran has a military outpost on Larak Island, which provides a base to monitor ships passing through the waterway.
 - **Control over Shipping:** Iran has directed vessels to use a route passing north of Larak, close to its coastline.
 - **Sea Mine Concern:** The US struck the island after observing Iranian forces preparing to launch rockets carrying sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz.

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

News: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) formed a five-member Bench to decide on Subhash Chandra's repayment plan in a personal insolvency case involving claims of more than ₹22,000 crore after a Division Bench failed to reach a majority verdict.

About National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)



Source – LawStreet Journal

- It is a **quasi-judicial body** established to **handle civil corporate disputes**.
- It was established on **1st June 2016** under the **Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Objective:** The main goal of NCLT is to **offer a specialized forum for resolving disputes** related to **company law and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)**.
- **Genesis:** It was established based on the **Balakrishna Eradi Committee's** recommendations on insolvency and company winding-up laws.
- **Composition:**
 - It shall consist of a **President** and **such number of Judicial and Technical Members as may be required**.
 - The **Central Government** **appoints these members** based on their expertise in fields like law, finance, accountancy, management, and administration.
- **Structure:** The NCLT has a **principal bench in New Delhi** and other benches in cities such as Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Kolkata.
- **Powers:**
 - It is not bound by the **Code of Civil Procedure (CPC)** and **follows principles of natural justice**, and the rules set by the Act and the Central Government.
 - It can enforce orders with the same authority as a court.
 - It can **review its own decisions**.
 - It can **regulate its own procedures**.
 - It handles insolvency resolution for companies and LLPs under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- **Appeal:** Decisions of the NCLT may be **appealed to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)**, the decisions of which may **further be appealed to the Supreme Court of India**.

Exercise 'Super Garuda Shield'

News: The United States and Indonesia launched Super Garuda Shield 2026, the first exercise since announcing a new defence partnership this year.

About Exercise 'Super Garuda Shield'



Source – Antara News

- **Super Garuda Shield** is an **annual multilateral joint military exercise** between **Indonesia, the United States and partner countries**.
- **Origin:** It began in 2006 as the **bilateral Garuda Shield** between the United States and Indonesia.
 - In 2022, “Super” was added to the exercise title, and the **exercise expanded to include additional partner nations**.
- **Host:** The **Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI)** host the exercise.
 - The exercise is **co-led by the United States Indo-Pacific Command**.
- **Participants:** The **United States, Indonesia and 13 additional partner nations**, including **Japan, South Korea, Australia and Canada**, participate in the exercise.
- **Observer:** **Eight nations** are participating as observers.
 - **India participating as an observer for the first time.**
- **Key Features of Super Garuda Shield 2026**
 - **Location:** The exercise is conducted in **Bandung, Baturaja, Lampung and North Kalimantan in Indonesia**.
 - The exercise includes **airborne operations, missile firing, amphibious exercises, cyber exercises** and naval **manoeuvres** across different military domains.
 - Partner forces will conduct **infiltration drills and jungle training** in Indonesia’s varied terrain.
 - **Maritime Training:** The **United States Navy and Coast Guard** will conduct **coordinated maritime training** with the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) to strengthen interoperability at sea.
 - **Humanitarian Assistance:** The exercise also includes **humanitarian disaster relief efforts** to strengthen response capabilities during natural disasters and wildfires.

13th World Strengthlifting and Incline Bench Press (IBP) Championships 2026

News: Four strengthlifters from Sikkim have been selected to represent India at the 13th World Strengthlifting and Incline Bench Press (IBP) Championships 2026.

About 13th World Strengthlifting and Incline Bench Press (IBP) Championships 2026

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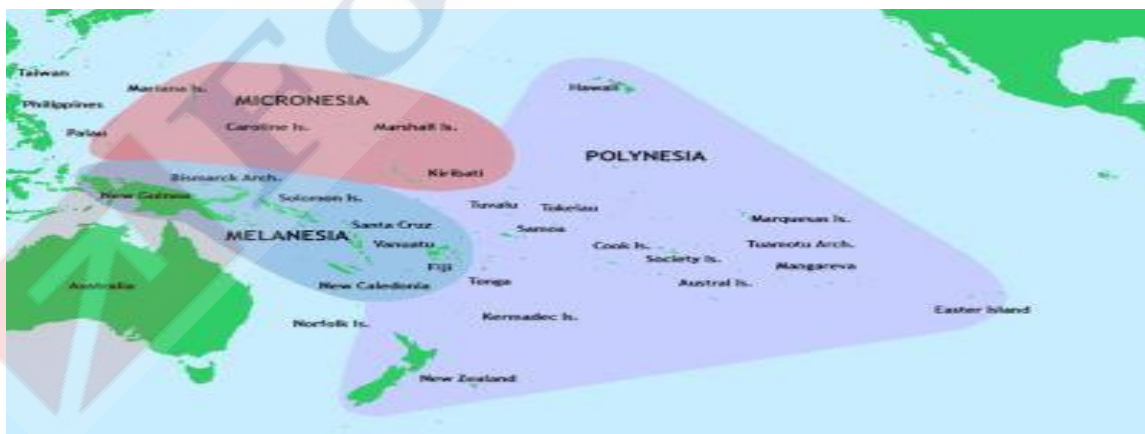
Source – Northeast News

- The **13th World Strengthlifting and Incline Bench Press (IBP) Championships 2026** is to be held in Kyrgyzstan from 8th to 12th September, 2026.
- **Four strength-lifters from Sikkim** have been selected to represent India.
- They are **Pema Dorjee Bhutia, Milan Pradhan, Binu Subba and Sangita Tamang**.

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

News: India reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening its partnership with Pacific Island countries, addressing the Dialogue Partner Session of the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Koror, Palau.

About Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)



Source – The Diplomat

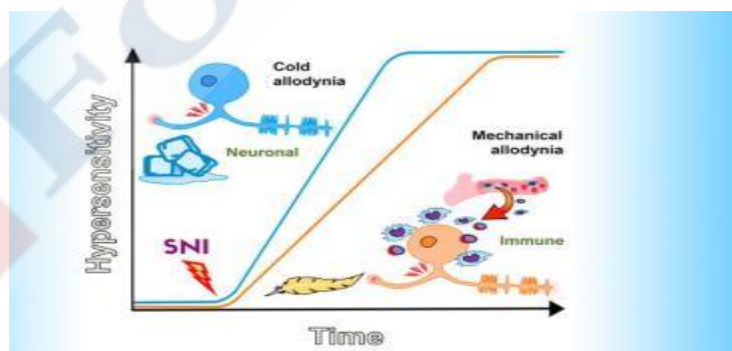
Aspects	Description
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About	- The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is an intergovernmental organization which was established in 1971. Member countries: It comprises 18 member states located in the Pacific region, including – Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Naoero, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Headquarters: Suva, Fiji
Aim	The PIF aims to promote economic growth, enhance political governance and security, and strengthen regional cooperation.
Vision	The vision of PIF is to create a resilient Pacific region characterized by peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, ensuring all Pacific peoples can lead-free, healthy, and productive lives.
Annual meeting	- The PIF holds an annual meeting where member states discuss priority issues and reach decisions by consensus. - Decisions made during the meetings are implemented by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. - The latest 2026 PIF meet (55th edition) is held in Koror, Palau.

Cold Allodynia

News: Researchers from IISc Bengaluru and TCG-CREST identified a brain circuit linked to chemotherapy-induced cold allodynia in mice.

About Cold Allodynia



Source – The Jackson Lab

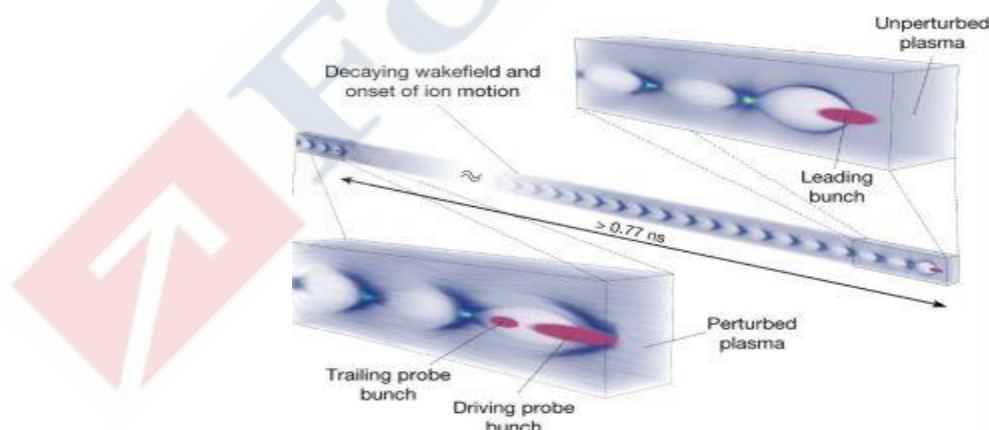
- Cold allodynia** is a **nerve-related condition** in which **even normal or mild cold temperatures can cause pain or distress**.
- Symptoms:** It may cause **sharp, burning or shooting pain, tingling, and pins-and-needles sensations**.

- It can also cause increased **sensitivity to mild cold, including air conditioning, drafts, cold water, or cold objects.**
- **Common Cause:**
 - **Chemotherapy:** **Oxaliplatin**, a commonly used **platinum-based chemotherapy drug**, is a **major cause** of cold allodynia.
 - **Diabetes:** Diabetes can **damage peripheral nerves** and may lead to cold allodynia.
 - **Viral infections:** Viral infections **can irritate nerves** and cause persistent neuropathic pain.
 - **Injuries:** Physical injuries **can damage or irritate sensory nerves** and may trigger nerve pain.
 - **Nutritional deficiencies:** **Lack of B vitamins**, particularly **Vitamin B12**, can **impair nerve health** and may contribute to cold allodynia.
- **Diagnosis:** Healthcare providers **assess the symptoms** and may **test responses to temperature, light touch, and vibration**, along with laboratory tests or nerve studies when required.
- **Treatment:**
 - **Medicines:** **Pregabalin, gabapentin, and duloxetine** target nerve pain pathways.
 - **Lidocaine and capsaicin creams** may help **desensitize skin receptors**, while **Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)** may help when inflammation is also present.
 - **Lifestyle measures:** Keeping the feet warm, **avoiding cold triggers, gentle exercise, adequate B vitamins, and stress management** may provide relief.
 - **Alternative therapies:** **Acupuncture** may help some people by modulating pain signals, while **Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS)** uses **mild electrical currents to block pain pathways**.

Wakefield Accelerator

News: Wakefield accelerators can achieve very high accelerating fields while potentially reducing large accelerators to metre-scale or tabletop sizes.

About Wakefield Accelerator



Source – Nature

- **Wakefield accelerator** is a **plasma-based accelerator** that uses plasma waves to **accelerate charged particles over a short distance**.

- In contrast, **conventional accelerators**, such as the 27-km Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Europe, **use powerful magnets and electric currents to accelerate particles**.
- **Plasma**: It is an **ionized gas** in which **electrons and positively charged ions can move independently**.
- **Working Mechanism**:
 - **Driver**: A strong **driver is sent through the plasma to create the wakefield**.
 - The **driver can be either a laser pulse or an ultra-relativistic electron beam**, making the acceleration **laser-driven or particle beam-driven**.
 - **Electron Displacement**: As the driver passes through the plasma, it **pushes the lighter plasma electrons away from its path**, while the **heavier ions remain nearly stationary**.
 - **Restoring Force**: After the driver passes, the **ions pull the displaced electrons back towards the axis**.
 - **Wakefield Formation**: The **electrons overshoot and move back and forth, creating an oscillating density wave behind the driver**.
 - The **electric fields of this wave are called wakefields**.
 - **Particle Injection**: Other **electrons are injected into the wakefield at the right point** so that they can interact effectively with the moving electric fields.
 - **Acceleration**: The **injected electrons surf the moving electric fields**, drawing energy from the plasma wave and **gaining high energy over a short distance**.
- **Key Advantage**:
 - **High Acceleration Gradient**: It can **produce an electric field gradient of up to 100 GV/m** (Gigavolts per metre), **allowing particles to gain much more energy over each metre**.
 - This is **about 1,000 times stronger than conventional radio-frequency accelerators**, which achieve around 50–100 MV/m.
 - **Miniaturisation**: Higher energy gain per metre **can reduce accelerator size from kilometres to a few metres or tabletop scale**.
 - **Cost-Efficiency**: Shorter acceleration paths **can reduce infrastructure, manufacturing, and operational costs**.

Myristica Swamps

News: Myristica swamps in the Western Ghats are highlighted for their ecological role and the threats caused by plantations and human activities.

About Myristica Swamps



Source – TH

- **Myristica swamps** are **freshwater swamps** dominated by **evergreen trees** of the **Myristicaceae family**.
 - They are **also known as living fossils** due to the **primitive nature** of **Myristica plants**.
- **Distribution:** In India, they occur **mainly in the Western Ghats**, with **smaller distributions** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Meghalaya**.
- **Habitat Conditions:** These tropical freshwater swamps **grow on fertile alluvial, waterlogged soils in the plains**, which **remain inundated throughout the year**.
- **Key Ecological Characteristics:**
 - **Waterlogged ecosystem:** The swamps have trees with **large protruding roots** that emerge from permanently waterlogged soil.
 - **Flood regulation:** They help in **regulating floods and recharging groundwater**.
 - **Freshwater supply:** They provide a **perennial flow of freshwater**.
 - **Carbon storage:** These forests have a **higher ability to sequester carbon** than **non-swampy forests**.
- **Flora:** The key **plant species** include **Myristica fatua**, which is **Endangered**, **Gymnacranthera canarica**, which is **Vulnerable**, and **Semecarpus kathalekanensis**, which is **Critically Endangered**.
- **Fauna:** The swamps support species such as the **lion-tailed macaque**, **Malabar pit viper** and **hornbills**, highlighting their ecological importance as forest wetlands.
- **Threats:** The swamps are **declining due to the rise of plantations and human-dominated land**.

Sinai Peninsula

News: At least 22 people were killed and 28 injured in a passenger bus crash in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on September 2, 2026.

About Sinai Peninsula



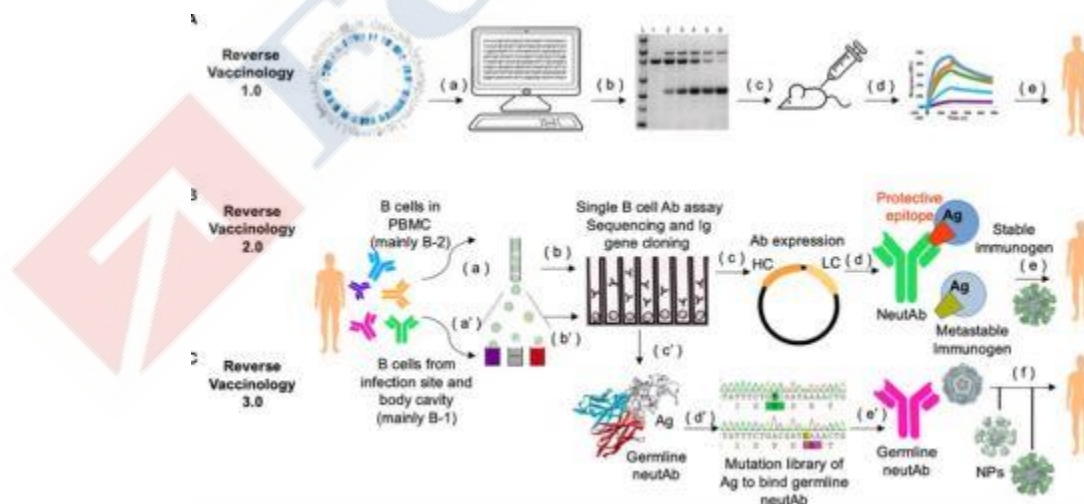
Source – Britannica

- **Location:** Sinai Peninsula is a triangle-shaped peninsula in northeastern Egypt that connects Asia and Africa.
- **Boundaries:** It is bounded by the **Mediterranean Sea in the north**,
 - **Israel and the Gaza Strip in the east**,
 - the **Suez Canal and Gulf of Suez in the west**, and
 - the **Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba in the south and southeast**.
- **Climate:** Sinai has an **arid desert** climate.
- **Vegetation:** Most **vegetation is ephemeral**, while **perennial scrub survives** on southern slopes and northern plateaus.
- **Landscape:** The peninsula has **mountains, deserts, plateaus and coastal regions**.
 - The **south has high mountains**, while the **north has a broad plateau sloping towards the Mediterranean**.
- **Highest Peak:** Mount Catherine is the highest peak, with an elevation of 2,642 metres.
- **Hydrology:** The Sinai has **no major rivers**.
 - **Wadis (seasonal watercourses) and springs drain the mountains and form small oases**.
 - **Wadi el Arish is one of the largest wadis**.
- **Flora:** **Succulents, halophytes, medicinal plants and fodder plants** are found in different parts of the peninsula.
- **Fauna:** Animals include **ibex, gazelles, sand foxes, leopards, jackals, hares, hedgehogs and moles**.
 - **Falcons and eagles are indigenous**, while **quail, partridge and grouse** are seasonal migrants.
- **Historical Significance:** It was **occupied by Israeli forces in 1967** and **returned to Egypt in 1982** under the terms of the 1979 peace treaty.

Reverse Vaccinology

News: British scientists have taken an important first step towards developing a universal pneumococcal vaccine using reverse vaccinology.

About Reverse Vaccinology



Source – ScienceDirect

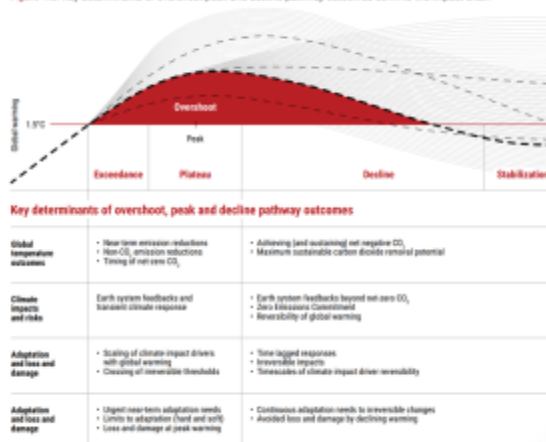
- **Reverse vaccinology** is a process of vaccine discovery that starts in silico (on a computer) using the genetic information of a pathogen, rather than starting in the laboratory with the pathogen itself.
- **Coined by:** The term reverse vaccinology was coined by Rino Rappuoli in 2000.
- **Working Mechanism:** It combines bioinformatics, genomics, proteomics, and immunology to identify and validate potential vaccine targets.
 - Scientists first sequence the pathogen's genome to obtain information about its genes and proteins.
 - Scientists use bioinformatic tools to study the genes in the genome and identify those that can produce proteins located on the pathogen's surface.
 - **Protein Identification:** Scientists select proteins that are easily accessible to the immune system and have little or no similarity to human proteins.
 - They further assess their predicted shape, stability, and ability to produce a strong and lasting immune response.
 - The identified proteins are tested in animals or through laboratory assays to determine whether they can stimulate an immune response and provide protection.
- **Key Features of Reverse Vaccinology:**
 - It reduces the time needed to identify and isolate suitable antigens compared with conventional vaccine design.
 - It can support vaccine development against pathogens that cannot be grown in culture.
 - It helps identify potential vaccine targets when it is difficult to determine which antigens can produce a protective immune response.
 - It can help identify proteins shared across different serotypes, which may support the development of vaccines with wider coverage.
- **Limitations:** It cannot identify carbohydrates and other cellular structures that are not directly encoded by the genome.
- **Applications:**
 - **First use:** It was first used against *Neisseria meningitidis* for vaccine development.
 - **COVID-19:** Genome sequencing helped identify the spike-protein gene for COVID-19 vaccine development.
 - **Pneumococcal vaccine:** Scientists are using the approach to identify proteins for a universal pneumococcal vaccine.

Key Highlights of 'Limiting Overshoot' Report

News: The 'Limiting Overshoot' Report has been released by UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Key Highlights of 'Limiting Overshoot' Report

Figure 1.3: Key determinants of overshoot peak and decline pathway outcomes down to the impact chain



Source: Financial News

- **Released by:** The 'Limiting Overshoot' Report is released by **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- It has for the **first time** set out a detailed “**overshoot, peak, and decline**” pathway for global warming.
- **Key Highlights of 'Limiting Overshoot' Report:**
 - **The 1.5°C Limit Will Be Crossed:** The report finds that the world is likely to cross the **1.5°C warming threshold within the next few years**. It is no longer considered realistic to prevent this from happening.
 - **Limiting Peak Warming Is Now the Priority:** Since crossing 1.5°C is becoming unavoidable, the priority should be to **limit how high temperatures rise** and reduce the amount of time the world remains above 1.5°C.
 - Every delay in reducing emissions increases the peak temperature.
 - **Warming Could Reach 1.8°C or Higher:** Under the most ambitious climate action scenario, global warming could peak at around **1.8°C** in the middle of the century.
 - Under current government policies, warming could reach around **2.6°C by 2100**.
 - **The World Needs an “Overshoot” Pathway:** The report proposes a pathway in which temperatures first **cross 1.5°C, reach a peak, and then gradually decline**.
 - The aim is eventually to return global warming to below 1.5°C.
 - **Rapid Reduction in Fossil Fuel Use Is Essential:** Returning temperatures below 1.5°C would require **ending the use of fossil fuels** and significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The report also highlights the need to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
 - **Carbon Removal Has an Important but Limited Role:** The report identifies **carbon dioxide removal (CDR)** as an important part of the long-term cooling pathway.
 - However, carbon removal cannot substitute for rapid emissions reductions and faces challenges related to cost and reliability.
 - **Climate Impacts Will Continue During the Overshoot Period:** The period of warming above 1.5°C could last for **many decades**.
 - During this time, climate-related disasters are expected to increase, including extreme weather, food and water shortages, health impacts, economic losses and species extinction.

- **Adaptation and Resilience Are Necessary:** Governments must strengthen **climate adaptation and resilience**, because some impacts of higher temperatures cannot be avoided.
 - Poor and vulnerable communities are expected to be affected the most.
- **Risk of Irreversible Climate Tipping Points:** Higher warming increases the risk of **irreversible tipping points**, including the loss of parts of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, damage to the Amazon rainforest and disruption of Atlantic Ocean circulation.
 - Some areas could eventually become difficult to insure or even uninhabitable.
- **Immediate Action Can Still Reduce Damage:** Although crossing 1.5°C is increasingly unavoidable, the report stresses that **climate action is still valuable**.
 - Acting now can **reduce peak warming and make the future safer** than allowing temperatures to remain above 1.5°C for the long term.

Raja Mircha

News: Nagaland Tourism and Higher Education Minister Temjen Imna Along shared a video of chillies and had a hilarious warning for anyone brave enough to try Raja Mircha.

About Raja Mircha



Figure 3. Source – Wikipedia

- **Raja Mircha** is a **chilli** from Nagaland.
- It is also referred to as **king chilli** or **Bhoot Jolokia** and **Ghost pepper**.
- **Genus:** This chilli belongs to the **genus Capsicum** of the **family Solanaceae**.
- **GI Tag:** It got the Geographical Indication(GI) certification in **2008**.
 - It became the **first chilli variety from Nagaland** and the **first type of goods from Nagaland** to earn the **GI tag**.
- **Significance:** It has been considered as the **world's hottest chilli** and is constantly on the **top five in the list of the world's hottest chilies** based on the **Scoville Heat Units (SHUs)**.
 - It is a **staple culinary item**, intrinsically **linked to the local community**, and historically **used not just for food**, but also as a **pest repellent** and even in **ancient warfare**.

About Scoville Heat Units (SHU)

- **Scoville Heat Units (SHU)** measure how much sugar-water needs to be diluted into a **chili pepper mash** to get to the **point** where **you no longer feel the heat at all**.
- The **higher the Scoville rating**, the **hotter the pepper**.

Acting Chief Justice of a High Court

News: Rajasthan High Court Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma rejected allegations against him and asked all concerned to await the CJI's decision.

About Acting Chief Justice of a High Court

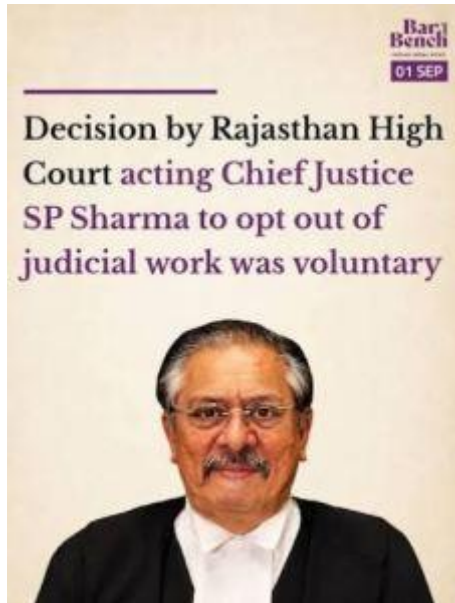


Figure 4. Source – Bar and Bench

- An **Acting Chief Justice** temporarily performs the **duties of the Chief Justice** when the **regular Chief Justice is unavailable**.
- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 223 provides for an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court.
- **Appointment:** The **President appoints** the Acting Chief Justice.
- **Eligibility:** The appointee **must be a judge of the same High Court** and **need not be its senior-most judge**.
- **Power:** The Acting Chief Justice **performs the duties and functions of the Chief Justice** during the temporary arrangement.
- **Functions:** The Acting Chief Justice ensures the **continued judicial and administrative functioning of the High Court**.
- **Convention:** Acting Chief Justices **conventionally do not recommend judicial appointments** because their **tenures are generally short**.
 - However, in **exceptional cases** where they have recommended names, the **Collegium** has followed different

approaches.

- **Relevancy:** It prevents an administrative and constitutional vacuum and ensures institutional continuity in the judiciary.

Negative GVA Deflator for Manufacturing Sector

News: MoSPI clarified the -1.5% manufacturing GVA deflator in Q1 2026-27 and explained how double deflation produced it.

About Negative GVA Deflator for Manufacturing Sector

- **Gross Value Added (GVA):** It measures the **value added by an industry to the economy**.
 - It is broadly **calculated by subtracting the value of goods and services used as inputs from the value of production**.
- **Nominal GVA:** It measures the **value added at current prices**, meaning it **includes the effect of changes in prices**.
- **Real GVA:** It shows the **change in the value added by a sector after removing the effect of price changes**.
 - It is **calculated as real output minus real intermediate consumption**.
- **Deflation:** It means **removing the effect of price changes from a current-price value to find its real value at constant prices**.
- **Double deflation:** It is an accounting technique **used to calculate real GVA by deflating gross output and intermediate consumption separately using individual price indices**.
- **Negative GVA deflator:** It means that **nominal GVA grows slower than real GVA**.
 - It **does not mean that the prices of goods have fallen**.

- It can occur when input prices rise faster than output prices.

Recent Finding in India

- In Q1 2026-27, manufacturing nominal GVA grew by 7.7%, while real GVA grew by 9.2%, as input prices rose faster than output prices.
- This resulted in a -1.5% implicit GVA deflator for the manufacturing sector.
- Thus, the -1.5% figure reflects the relative movement of output and input prices, rather than a fall in manufacturing output prices.

Agentic AI Skilling Program

News: Agentic AI Skilling Program has been launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with Intel India during National Leadership Dialogue.

About Agentic AI Skilling Program

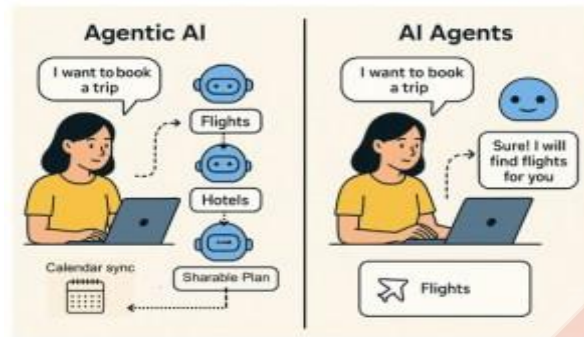


Source: PIB

- **Launched by:** It has been launched by National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with Intel India.
- **Aim:** It aimed at expanding access to industry-aligned Agentic AI learning opportunities and contributing to the development of a future-ready AI talent ecosystem in the country.
- **Components:** The initiative includes two programs – Agentic AI for Everyone and Engineering Agentic AI Systems.
 - **Agentic AI for Everyone:** This course focuses on AI agents, workflow automation, and multi-agent systems.
 - It also helps learners understand how to improve productivity, business efficiency, and decision-making using AI and more.
 - The program will offer “hands-on exposure to designing and governing AI-powered workflows and agentic systems using no-code platforms.”
 - **Engineering Agentic AI Systems:** This program provides in-depth knowledge for people who want to design, build, and deploy.
 - Learners will get hands-on training in no-code/low-code tools and code-based frameworks, which will help them develop more advanced and customised AI agents using programming.

- It also covers the **full lifecycle of an AI agent**, including agent architecture, tool integration, orchestration, memory, and deployment.

About Agentic AI



Source: MDPI

- Agentic AI is an **advanced form of artificial intelligence** focused on **autonomous decision-making and action**.
- Unlike traditional AI, which primarily responds to **commands or analyzes data**, **agentic AI can set goals, plan, and execute tasks** with minimal human intervention.
- Agentic AI systems are **designed to operate with a higher degree of autonomy**.
- It works by **using AI agents**, which are essentially autonomous entities designed to perform specific tasks.
- **At its core, this technology is built on several key components:**
 - **Perception:** Agentic AI starts by **gathering information from its surroundings and different sources**, such as sensors, databases, and user interfaces.
 - This could **involve analyzing text, images, or other forms of data** to understand the situation.
 - **Reasoning:** Using a **large language model (LLM)**, agentic AI **analyzes the gathered data to understand** the context, identify relevant information, and formulate potential solutions.
 - **For example**, if the goal is to schedule a appointment, the LLM can parse the text of emails to identify attendees, available times, and the appointment's purpose.
 - **Planning:** The AI then **uses the information it gathered to develop a plan**.
 - This involves **setting goals, breaking them down into smaller steps**, and figuring out the best way to achieve them.
 - **Action:** Based on its plan, the AI takes action. This could **involve performing tasks, making decisions, or interacting with other systems**.
 - **Reflection:** After taking action, the **AI learns from the results**. It evaluates whether **its actions were successful and uses this feedback** to adjust its plans and actions in the future.
 - This **continuous cycle of perception, planning, action, and reflection** allows **agentic AI to learn and improve over time**.
- Read more about [AI Agent](#).

Svalbard and Barentsburg

News: Norwegian authorities seized the Russian cruise ship Professor Molchanov in Barentsburg to enforce Naftogaz's \$4.22 billion compensation award.

About Svalbard



Source – Geographical Magazine

- **Svalbard** is a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean, between the North Pole and northern Norway.
- **Boundaries:** It is bounded by Arctic Ocean, Greenland Sea and Norwegian Sea.
- **Discovery:** The Dutch explorer Willem Barentsz discovered the archipelago in 1596.
- **Svalbard Treaty 1920:** The treaty established Norwegian sovereignty over Svalbard.
- **Geographical features**
 - **Climate:** It has an Arctic climate, with higher temperatures than other areas at the same latitude.
 - It experiences midnight sun and polar night.
 - **Terrain:** About 60% is covered with glaciers, with many mountains and fjords (deep, narrow sea inlets between steep mountains).
 - **Island composition:** It includes Spitsbergen, Nordaustlandet, Edgeøya, Barentsøya, Kvitøya, Bjørnøya and Hopen.
 - **Largest island:** Spitsbergen is the largest and most populous island.
 - **Vegetation:** Vegetation mainly consists of lichens and mosses.
- **Svalbard Global Seed Vault:** It is located on Spitsbergen.
 - It serves as the world's largest backup facility for crop diversity.

About Barentsburg

- **Location:** Barentsburg is a Russian mining town on the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard.
- **Settlement:** It is the second-largest settlement on Svalbard.
- **Economy:** It is a coal-mining town, now almost entirely made up of Russian nationals.
- **Legal status:** Russia maintains mining operations under the Svalbard Treaty, while Svalbard remains under Norwegian sovereignty.

Police Modernisation Mission

News: The Union government told the Supreme Court that it had begun implementing the Police Modernisation Mission.

About Police Modernisation Mission



Source: Law Live

- The **Police Modernisation Mission** is an umbrella scheme to modernize police forces over the next five years.
- **Nodal ministry:** It is being overseen by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Aim and intended agencies covered:** It aimed at funding, modernizing, integrating and future-proofing the internal security capabilities of police forces, Central Armed Police Forces and Central Government security and intelligence agencies through targeted investments, reforms and technology-led transformation.
- **Focus:** The focus of the scheme is to strengthen police infrastructure at cutting edge level by equipping with latest technology, weaponry, communication equipment etc. along with construction of police infrastructure such as police stations.
- **Fund:** It has an outlay of ₹24,000 crore.
- **Note:** "Police" is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

OpenAI's New Astra Model

News: OpenAI has released GPT-6 Astra, claiming major gains in computer use, coding, long-running tasks and cybersecurity.

About OpenAI's New Astra Model



Source – NDTV

- **OpenAI's new Astra model** is also known as **GPT-6 (Generative Pre-trained Transformer 6) Astra**.
 - It is a **new frontier artificial intelligence (AI)** model released by OpenAI.
- **Key Features:**
 - **End-to-end work:** Astra is built to **perform complete tasks**, rather than only answering prompts.
 - **Autonomous computer use:** It can operate computers and browsers, fill online forms, update customer records and organise calendars.
 - **Research and content creation:** It can **conduct web research**, draft material in documents and emails, analyse scientific data and generate plots.
 - **Software tasks:** It can build **websites**, **install and test software**, and **troubleshoot problems** visible on a screen.
 - **Large context window:** It has a **1.05-million-token context window** and supports a maximum output of **128,000 tokens**.
 - **Task continuity:** Astra can better **retain the original objective of a task** even when the user changes instructions midway.
 - **Cybersecurity:** It is the **first OpenAI model classified at the critical level for cybersecurity** under its Preparedness Framework.

Bundelkhand Region

News: Recurring drought and fodder shortages are forcing livestock farmers to travel farther, increasing risks to both people and cattle.

About Bundelkhand Region



Source – ResearchGate

- **Bundelkhand** is a **semi-arid plateau region** spread across **southern Uttar Pradesh** and **northern Madhya Pradesh**.
 - The region is **historically** associated with the **Bundela Rajput dynasty**.
- **Location:** The region lies between the **Yamuna and Narmada river systems** and forms part of the **Central Highlands**.
- **Districts Covered:** It comprises **13 districts** – **seven in Uttar Pradesh** and **six in Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Key Features of Bundelkhand Region**
 - **Geology:** The region lies on the **Bundelkhand Granite Massif**, with **ancient granite, gneiss and quartzite formations**.
 - Its **hard-rock geology** prevents **rainwater infiltration**, causing very low groundwater storage.
 - **Climate:** Bundelkhand has a **semi-arid climate**, with **hot summers, moderate to low rainfall, high rainfall variability and frequent droughts**.
 - **Terrain:** It has a **rugged, rocky and undulating plateau**, with an **average elevation of 300–400 m, highly eroded uplands and inselbergs**.
 - **Major Rivers:** Important rivers include **Betwa, Ken, Dhasan and Sonar**, along with other **seasonal streams**.
 - **Vegetation:** The region has **thorn and dry deciduous vegetation**, along with **scattered forests and scrub**.
 - **Flora:** Important plant species include **babool, Anjan and Dhaman grass**, while **berseem and chari** are **important fodder crops**.
 - **Fauna:** Wildlife includes **Nilgai, Wild Boar and Indian Wolf**.

Mercator Map and Equal Earth Projection

News: The United Nations General Assembly voted to phase out the traditional Mercator map in favour of the Equal Earth projection to accurately reflect the true proportions of global landmasses.

About Mercator Map

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Source: Guardian

- **Mercator map is a cylindrical map projection which is derived mathematically.**
- **Features:**
 - It has a **grid pattern with longitudes (or meridians) and latitudes (or parallels) at 90-degree angles.**
 - The **lines of longitude are evenly spaced.**
 - The **lines of latitude become farther apart away from the Equator.**
 - **Equator** is located at the **centre of the map.**
- **Creator:** This map was designed in 1569 by the **Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator** to help European explorers navigate across the world.
- **Problem with Mercator Map:** The Mercator map **makes countries and regions near the equator look smaller, while areas near the poles appear much larger.**
 - **For example,** on the Mercator map, **Africa appears similar in size to Greenland,** even though Africa is about 14 times larger.

About Equal Earth Projection

- **Definition:** The Equal Earth map projection is an **equal-area pseudocylindrical projection** for world maps.
- **Feature:** In this map, the **meridians of Equal Earth are equally spaced and do not excessively curve outwards.**
 - There are loosely **approximate elliptical arcs** that **mimic the overall appearance of a globe.**
- **Developed by:** The **Equal Earth projection was developed in 2018 by an international team of cartographers.**
 - It was promoted by Togo's **#CorrectTheMap** campaign.
- **Advantage:** It gives a more **accurate representation of the actual size of continents.**
- **Adoption of new map:** The **United Nations General Assembly voted to phase out the traditional Mercator map in favour of the Equal Earth projection to accurately reflect the true proportions of global landmasses.**

- **Not legally binding:** The UN resolution does not force countries to stop using the Mercator map, but it could influence **school textbooks, technology and other mapping systems.**

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

News: UNCLOS has been in the news because of maritime disputes, including those involving the Strait of Hormuz.

About United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)



Source – UNCLOS

- **UNCLOS** is an **international treaty** that **provides a comprehensive legal framework** for the **world's oceans and seas.**
- **Adoption:** It was adopted in **1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica.**
 - It entered into **force in 1994.**
- **Predecessor:** It **replaced the four 1958 Geneva Conventions** dealing with **maritime zones, continental shelf, high seas, and marine resources.**
- **Members:** It has **168 parties**, including the **European Union.**
 - While the **United States has neither signed nor ratified it.**
 - **India's Position:** India **signed and ratified UNCLOS in 1995.**
- **Secretariat:** The **Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)** of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations serves as the secretariat of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- **Key Maritime Zones:** UNCLOS **divides ocean spaces into five main zones** measured **from a coastal baseline:**
 - **Internal Waters:** These waters **lie landward of the baseline**, where the **coastal state has full sovereignty.**
 - **Territorial Sea:** It **extends up to 12 nautical miles**, with **foreign ships** enjoying the **right of innocent passage.**
 - **Contiguous Zone:** It **extends up to 24 nautical miles** and **allows action against violations of customs, fiscal, immigration, and sanitation laws.**
 - **Exclusive Economic Zone:** It **extends up to 200 nautical miles**, giving **coastal states rights over living and non-living resources.**
 - **High Seas:** These areas are **outside national jurisdiction** and are **open to all nations under international rules.**
- **Specialized Bodies:** The Convention has created **three new institutions on the international scene** :
 - **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea:** It settles **disputes related to the interpretation and application of UNCLOS.**

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- **International Seabed Authority:** It regulates **mineral-related activities** in the international seabed area.
- **Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf:** It examines **submissions by coastal states on the outer limits of their continental shelf.**
- **Key Features:**
 - **Peaceful Use:** It promotes the **peaceful use of the oceans.**
 - **Resource Management:** It regulates the **use and management of marine resources.**
 - **Marine Conservation:** It promotes **conservation of living resources and preservation of the marine environment.**
 - **Legal Framework:** It **establishes** rules governing States' **rights and jurisdiction** in maritime spaces.

Key Facts about Belgium

News: India and Belgium recently reaffirmed their commitment to deepening trade, investment and economic cooperation.

Key Facts about Belgium



Figure 5. Source: Britannica

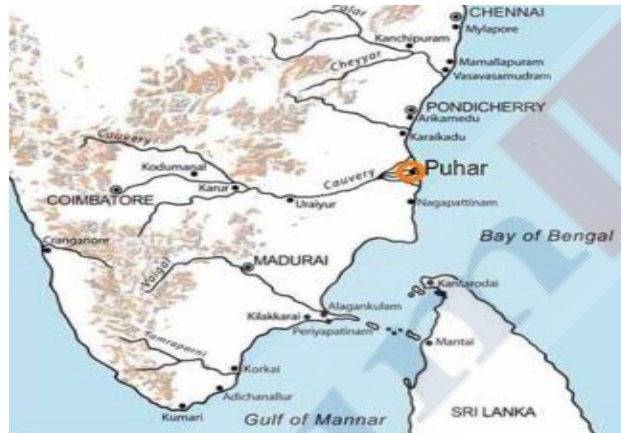
- **Location:** Belgium is a country located in northwestern Europe.
- **Boundaries:** It is bounded by the Netherlands to the north, Germany to the east, Luxembourg to the southeast, and France to the south.
 - It is bounded by the North Sea in the northwest.
- **Climate:** It has a temperate, maritime climate.
- **Geography:** The main physical regions of Belgium are the Ardennes, Ardennes foothills, Côtes Lorraines, Central Plateaus, Plain of Flanders, and Kempenland.
 - **Ardennes:** The Ardennes is a high plateau in southeastern Belgium and forms part of the ancient Hercynian mountain system.
 - The Famenne and Fagne depressions separate the Ardennes from its foothills to the north.
- **Côtes Lorraines:** The Côtes Lorraines is a region of hills located south of the Ardennes and is separated from the rest of the country.
 - About half of the Côtes Lorraines region is covered by forests, while its southern part contains iron ore deposits.
- The Plain of Flanders is a low-lying region that stretches along the North Sea from France to the Schelde River.
- **Sambre-Meuse valley:** The Sambre-Meuse valley is an important geographical feature that crosses Belgium from the southwest toward the northeast.

- **Rivers:** The **Schelde, Meuse, and Yser** are the three major rivers of the country.
- **Lakes:** It has several lakes like **Lake Genval, Lake Gileppe, Lake Eupen, Lake Robertville**, etc.
- **Highest point:** The highest point in Belgium is **Botrange**.
- **Natural Resource:** It has plenty of natural resources such as **fertile land, coal, carbonates, limestone, black marble, fir trees, diamonds, zinc, lead, iron, and silica**.

Ancient Port of Poompuhar

News: The third phase of underwater archaeological exploration has commenced off Poompuhar to trace the maritime trade links of ancient Tamils.

About Ancient Port of Poompuhar



Source – Live History India

- **Poompuhar** was a flourishing ancient port city known as **Kaveripoompattinam**.
- **Location:** It is located in **Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu**, near where the **Cauveri River** flows into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Naming:** 'Puhar' in Tamil means the estuary of a river in the sea.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - **Chola capital:** Poompuhar served as the **capital of the Early Chola kings in Tamilakam** for a period.
 - **Maritime trade:** The city had **maritime trade links with Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia and the West, including Egypt**.
 - **Literary references:** **Sangam works** such as **Pattinappaalai, Silappadikaram and Manimekalai** describe the city, its settlements and maritime trade.
- **Key Findings**
 - **Ancient pottery:** Pottery **dating to the 4th century BCE** has been discovered offshore east of Poompuhar.
 - **Submerged structures:** Surveys found an **elliptical structure** near a previously identified **U-shaped structure**, along with **other structures buried in the seabed**.
 - **Possible ancient harbour:** Earlier research identified features that could have been a **harbour, dockyards, human settlements and a lighthouse**.
 - **Lighthouse:** Remains of an **ancient lighthouse** were found at a depth of 50 metres, including a **spiral staircase and causeway pillars**.

APNIC 62

News: More than 600 Internet experts, policymakers and technology leaders have gathered in Mumbai for APNIC 62, being held from 4 to 10 September 2026.

About APNIC 62



Source – DD India

- **APNIC 62** is a **conference** bringing together **Internet and networking experts, government representatives and industry leaders** to share **ideas, experience and develop policies** related to **Internet operations**.
- **Organised by:** It is organised by the **Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)**.
 - APNIC is the **region's not-for-profit Internet number registry**.
- **Hosted by:** It is hosted by the [**National Internet Exchange of India \(NIXI\)**](#) and the **Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI)**.
- **Supported by:** It is supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) and the **Maharashtra government**.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Technical discussions:** The conference covers **AI-powered services, network automation, cybersecurity, routing security and Internet governance**.
 - **Regional cooperation:** It provides a **platform for technical experts, network operators and policymakers** to exchange knowledge and strengthen cooperation.
 - **IPv6 adoption:** APNIC highlighted **India's progress in IPv6 (Internet Protocol Version 6) adoption** as an example of **technical capability, investment and collaboration**.
 - **MoU on Internet infrastructure:** NIXI and APNIC will sign an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to **enhance IPv6 and routing security**.
 - **Internet resilience:** The conference **focuses on developing a secure, resilient and scalable Internet infrastructure**.

About Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI)

- It was **established in 1998**.
- **Mission:** It's mission was to **"Promote Internet for the benefit of all."**
- **Collective voice:** It represents the **Internet Service Provider (ISP) fraternity** and, by extension, the **wider Internet community**.
- **Role:** It **supports the interests of ISPs** and contributes to the **development of the Internet ecosystem in India**.

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Mount Anak Krakatau

News: Eight Indonesian airports, including two serving Jakarta, remained closed because of volcanic ash from eruptions at Mount Anak Krakatau.

About Mount Anak Krakatau



Source: Britannica

- **Location:** Mount Anak Krakatau is situated in the **Sunda Strait** between the islands of Java and Sumatra in Indonesia.
 - **Anak Krakatau** is literally translated as the “**Son of Krakatoa**”.
- It lies along the **convergence of the Indian-Australian and Eurasian tectonic plates**.
- **Formation:** It was formed after the **destructive eruption of Mount Krakatoa in 1883**.
 - Over millions of years, the volcano gradually **developed into a cone-shaped mountain** made up of layers of volcanic rock, cinder, and ash.
 - The destruction of the volcano resulted in **the formation of a caldera**.
 - Parts of the caldera remained above the water, forming **four small islands: Sertung (Verlaten), Lang, Polish Hat, and Rakata**.
 - Over the years, **three new volcanic cones developed** and **eventually merged to form a single island**.
 - A new eruption began in **1928** and by **1930**, it had developed into a small island known as **Anak Krakatau**.
- **Features:**
 - It was originally formed mainly from **basaltic andesite**.
 - It has diverse landforms, including **steep slopes, volcanic cones, lava flows, and pyroclastic deposits**.
 - It **remained dormant until December 1927**.
 - Since then, **the volcano has erupted intermittently, and the cone has continued to grow**.
- It is part of the **Ujung Kulon National Park, listed in UNESCO's World Heritage site**.

About Sunda Strait



Source: Britannica

- Sunda strait is between **Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra**.
- It links the **Java Sea of the western Pacific Ocean** with the **eastern Indian Ocean**.
- The strait contains **several volcanic islands**, the most well-known of which is **Krakatoa caldera**.

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

News: The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, has made the appointment of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK).

About National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)



Figure 6. Source: Business Standards

- The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) is a **non- statutory body** established under the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act 1993**.
- It acts as the **primary national monitoring body** that **tracks data and reviews compensation regarding sewer and septic tank deaths** in India.
- **Formation:** The Commission functioned as a **statutory body until 2004**, when the law lapsed.
 - **Nodal ministry:** Since 2004, it has been operated as a **non-statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice**, with its tenure extended periodically.
- **Present Tenure:** The tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was **extended for three years beyond 31.03.2025 (i.e. upto 31.03.2028)**.

- **Composition:** It consists of **1 Chairperson, 1 Vice-Chairperson, and 5 members**, including a **lady member**, with prescribed ranks/statuses equivalent to senior Central Government officials. It also has a **Secretary (Joint Secretary rank)** and supporting staff to assist in its functioning.
- **Functions of the Commission**
 - It monitors the implementation of the [Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013](#).
 - It also **monitors their working conditions**, including health, safety, and wages.
 - It **recommends programmes to the Central Government** to eliminate inequalities faced by Safai Karmacharis.
 - It **reviews the implementation of schemes** for their social and economic rehabilitation.
 - It **investigates grievances and take suo-motu action** on non-implementation of welfare schemes, guidelines, and upliftment measures.
 - It **submits reports and recommendations to the Central and State Governments** on issues affecting Safai Karmacharis

Key Facts about Luxembourg

News: Luxembourg's Deputy PM Xavier Bettel will visit India from September 7–9 to meet S. Jaishankar and attend events in Chennai.

Key Facts About Luxembourg



Figure 7. Source – Britannica

- **Luxembourg is a landlocked country** located in **northwestern Europe**.
 - It is **one of the smallest countries** in the world.
- **Bordering nation:** It is bordered by **Belgium on the west and north, France on the south, and Germany on the northeast and east**.
- **Capital:** **Luxembourg** is the capital city.
- **Geography:** The country is divided into **two regions, Oesling and Gotland**.
 - **Oesling:** The northern region, (Oesling) is a **ridged plateau**.
 - It comprises of the **Ardennes Mountains**, which **borders with southern Belgium**.
 - It has a plateau which is **composed of schists and sandstones**.
 - **Gutland:** It is a **southern region of the country**. It has **fertile soil and rich rivers**.
 - This part is also known as **Bon Pays**.
 - It includes **Luxembourg, the capital city**, and other industrial towns such as Esch-sur-Alzette.
 - The **Alzette River** flows north through the centre of the Bon Pays and is an important part of the country's economic activity.
- **Rivers:** Important rivers of the country include the **Alzette, Eisch, Moselle, Our and Sure**.
- **Lake:** **Haute Sure** is the **largest lake** of the country.

Factly Compilation [First Week] September 2026

- **Climate:** It has a **mild climate** with considerable precipitation.
- **Highest point:** Burgplatz is the **highest point** of the country.
- **Lowest point:** The lowest point is located at the **confluence of Sauer and Moselle Rivers, in Wasserbillig.**

