Factly Weekly

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4th Week

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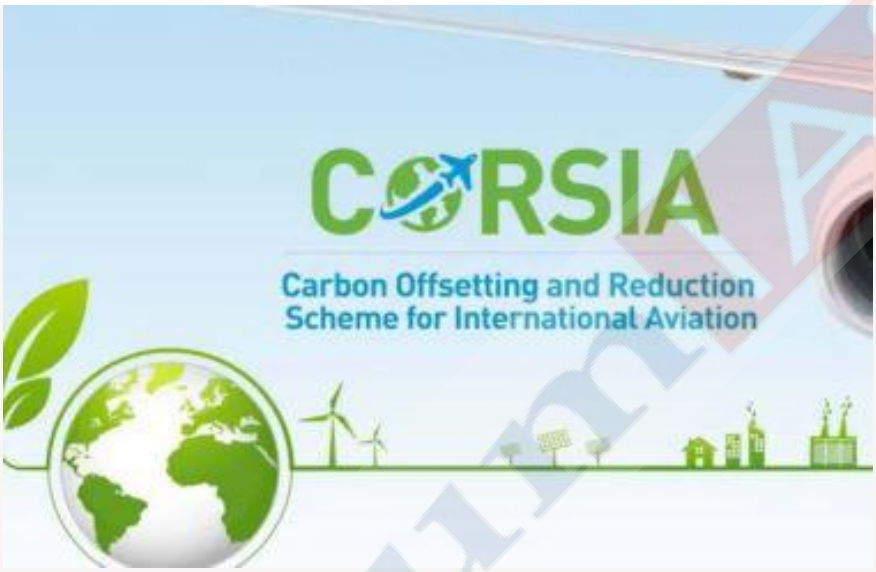
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Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

News: India is expected to mandate 1% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) blending for international flights from 2027 under CORSIA.

About Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)



Source – GreenAir News

- **CORSIA** is a **global market-based mechanism** to **reduce carbon emissions from international flights.**
- It is the **first global market-based measure for any sector** and **represents a cooperative approach.**
- **Adopted in:** The **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** adopted CORSIA in **2016.**
- **Aim:** It aims to **stabilize net carbon emissions from international flights at 2020 levels.**
    - It requires airlines to **offset eligible emission growth through carbon credits or eligible fuels.**
- **Phased Implementation Timeline**
    - **Pilot Phase (2021–2023):** It was **voluntary** for participating states.

- **First Phase (2024–2026):** It continues on a **voluntary** basis.
- **Second Phase (2027–2035):** It becomes **mandatory for ICAO member states**, subject to **exemptions**.
- **India** has decided **not to participate** in the **voluntary phases of CORSIA.**

- **Key Features**
  - **Emission Offsetting:** Airlines purchase eligible carbon credits to compensate for emissions **above the established baseline of 85% of 2019 emission levels.**
  - **Monitoring and Reporting:** Airlines **must monitor, report and verify** their international flight emissions.
  - **Applicability:** CORSIA **applies only to international flights between participating states.**
  - **Environmental Integrity:** The **ICAO Council approves eligible emission unit programmes** to ensure credible carbon offsets.
  - **Financial Responsibility: Individual airlines bear offsetting costs** based on their international operations.

About International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Source – UN

- **ICAO** is a **specialized** agency of the **United Nations (UN).**
- It was established in **1944 under** the **Convention on International Civil Aviation,** known as the **Chicago Convention.**
- **Aim:** It aims to **develop safe and efficient international air transport** for peaceful purposes.
- **Member Countries:** It has **193 Member States.**
- **Headquarters: Montreal, Canada**
- **Functions:** It provides expert **technical and diplomatic guidance** to build **safe, secure, sustainable, harmonized, and gender-inclusive international civil aviation**, and supports **standards, policies, and regulation**.
- **Governance**
    - **ICAO Assembly:**
        - It is a **sovereign body of all 193 member States.**
        - It meets **every three years,**
        - It reviews the work of ICAO, sets policy for the coming years, and votes a triennial budget.
    - **ICAO Council:** ICAO Assembly elects a **36-member Council** for a **three-year term**.
        - It gives continuing direction to ICAO's work and adopts Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as Annexes to the Chicago Convention.
    - **Secretariat:** It is headed by a **Secretary General.**
    - **Standards:** ICAO Standards **do not prevent States from adopting more stringent national standards** than those in an Annex**.**

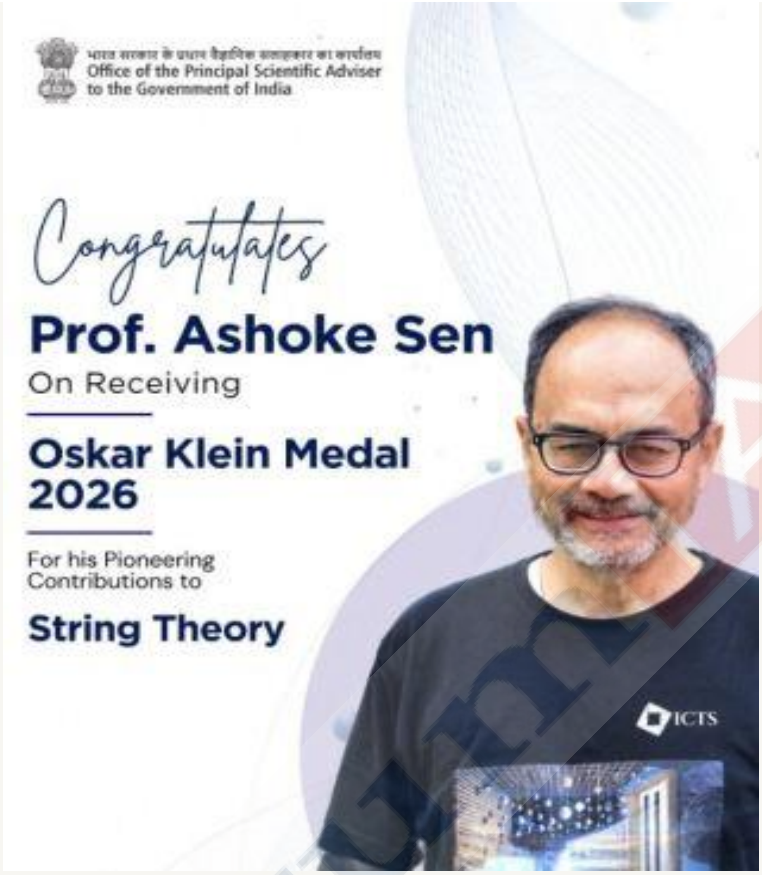
ICAO and India

- **India** is a **founding member** of ICAO since **1944**.
- It has been **re-elected** to **Part II of the ICAO Council** (States contributing most to international air navigation facilities) for the **2025–2028 term.**

Professor Ashoke Sen Becomes First Indian to Receive Oskar Klein Medal

News: Renowned Indian theoretical physicist Ashoke Sen has received the Oskar Klein Medal 2026, becoming the first Indian to win this international honour.

About Oskar Klein Medal



Source – NOA

- The **Oskar Klein Medal** is an **international** award that recognizes **distinguished contributions to physics.**
- **Awarded by:** The medal is **awarded annually** by **Stockholm University** and the **Nobel Committee for Physics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.**
- **Origin:** The award was **established in 1988.**
    - It is **named after Swedish theoretical physicist Oskar Klein.**
- **2026 Winner:**
    - **Winner:** Professor **Ashoke Sen, a renowned Indian theoretical physicist**, received the Oskar Klein Medal 2026.

- **Key Contributions:** He received the medal for his pioneering **contributions to string theory, black hole entropy and string field theory.**
- His research on **S-duality and the precision counting of black hole entropy** has helped shape modern string theory.
- His work has **contributed to understanding the fundamental nature of gravity and black holes.**
- **Recognition:** He is the **first Indian to receive this medal.**
  - He has **also received the** Dirac Medal and the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics**.**

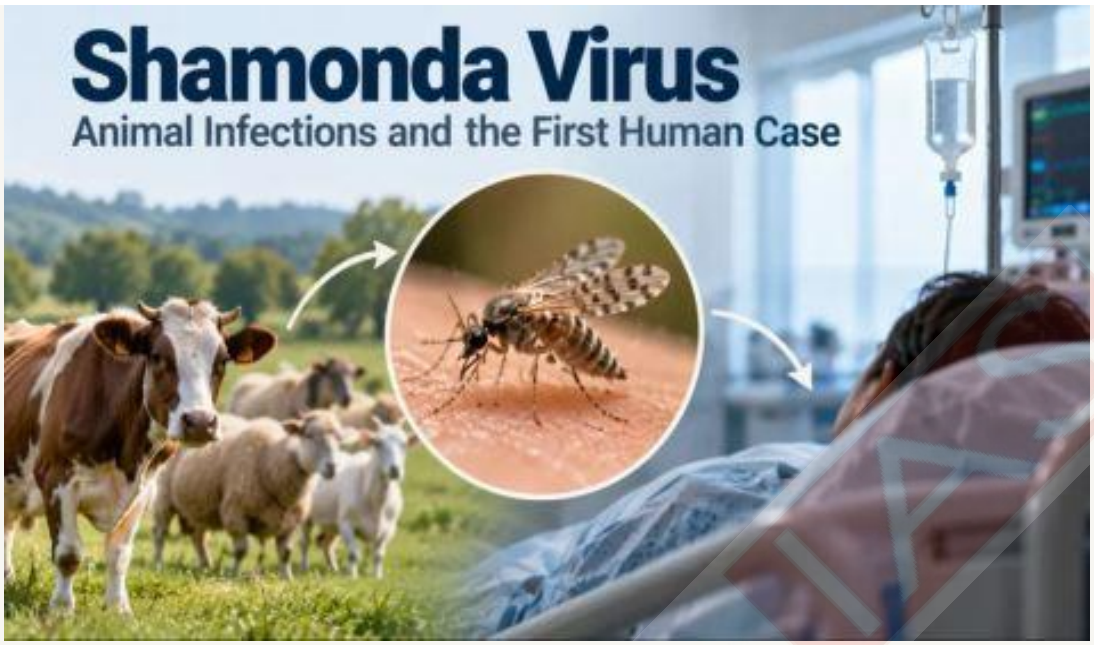
About String Theory

- **String theory** proposes that the **fundamental building blocks of the universe are tiny, one-dimensional vibrating strings rather than point-like particles.**
- **Basic Idea: Different vibration patterns** of these strings **produce particles with different properties, such as mass and charge.**
- **Main Objective:** It attempts to unite **quantum mechanics and Einstein's general theory of relativity,** which explain the behaviour of very **small and very large objects**, respectively.
- **Unified Framework:** It aims to **incorporate all four fundamental forces (gravity, electromagnetism, strong force, and weak force) of nature** and **all types of matter within a single framework.**
- **Scientific Importance:** It offers a possible **approach to explaining particles, gravity and the fundamental nature of the universe.**

Shamonda Virus

News: France has reported the first documented human infection with the Shamonda virus in a seriously ill patient who died in October 2026.

About Shamonda Virus



Source – Realmedvision

- **Shamonda virus** is a **vector-borne virus.**
- It belongs to the **genus Orthobunyavirus** and **the family Peribunyaviridae.**
- **Origin:** The virus was **first isolated** from cattle in **Nigeria in 1965**.
    - It has been reported in animals across parts of **Africa, Asia and Europe.**
- **First Human Infection:** It was **not previously recognized as a cause of human disease.**
    - In **October 2026, France reported the first known human infection** in a seriously ill patient in their sixties.
- **Transmission:** The virus is mainly **transmitted between animals through the bites of Culicoides midges, which are small, fly-like insects.**
    - **Direct animal-to-animal** transmission is **not known**, **except during pregnancy,** when an infected animal can transmit it to the foetus.
    - The **exact transmission routes require further study.**
    - It **mainly affects cattle but also infects sheep, goats, horses and alpacas.**
- **Symptoms:** In **animals**, symptoms include **fever, diarrhoea, reduced milk production, abortions and foetal malformations.**

- In the **reported human case**, the patient **experienced blindness, confusion and coma.**
- **The long-term impact of the virus remains unclear.**

- **Treatment: No specific treatment or vaccine is currently available** for the virus.
- **Prevention:** Risk reduction measures include **using fine mesh screens, eliminating vector-breeding sites, and conducting vector surveillance and control.**
  - Other measures include **using insect repellents during animal transport and transporting animals during periods of low vector activity.**

DZIP3 – Viral Alarm Switch

News: CSIR-CCMB researchers discovered how human cells detect viruses and activate immune defences before pathogens multiply.

About DZIP3 – Viral Alarm Switch



Source – DD India

- The **DZIP3 (DAZ Interacting Zinc Finger Protein 3**) is a **protein found in human cells.**
- It detects **viral RNA** and **activates cellular immune defences.**
- **Working Mechanism:**

- **Viral Detection:** When **DZIP3 encounters viral RNA** inside a cell, **it changes shape and becomes active.**
- **Movement:** The **activated protein moves to the mitochondria,** the cell's energy-producing structures.
- **Protein Activation: DZIP3 tags and activates major immune defence proteins** there.
- **Immune Alarm:** This **triggers Type-I interferons,** defensive molecules that help stop viruses from multiplying.

- **Application:**
  - **Drug Development:** Researchers are developing **small-molecule drug candidates to boost DZIP3 activity** and strengthen the **body's natural antiviral immunity.**
  - **Broad-Spectrum Therapies:** Targeting DZIP3 could help **develop broad-spectrum antiviral therapies against emerging viral threats.**
  - **Viral Protection:** The discovered pathway **offers protection against several disease-causing viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, chikungunya and Japanese encephalitis viruses.**

Exercise "Rummy"

News: French and British air forces have staged a joint exercise simulating a nuclear strike codenamed exercise "Rummy" for the first time.

About Exercise "Rummy"

- **Exercise "Rummy"** is a **joint nuclear strike simulation exercise** by **French and British air forces.**
- **Aim**: It is aimed at **enhancing coordination between western Europe's two nuclear powers.**
- **Countries involved:** The two countries involved were **France and the United Kingdom (U.K.).**
  - The exercise involved **RAF Typhoon fighter jets alongside French Rafale aircraft** over the **Mediterranean Sea.**
- The exercise was **conducted in compliance with security procedures, and did not involve any actual nuclear weapons.**
- The exercise demonstrated that **France and United Kingdom (U.K.) can cooperate in nuclear deterrence** while maintaining their separate nuclear capabilities.

Exercise "Keen Sword 27"

News: The United States and Japan are conducting their largest joint military exercise, involving around 56,000 personnel, through October 29.

About Exercise "Keen Sword 27"



Source – PACOM

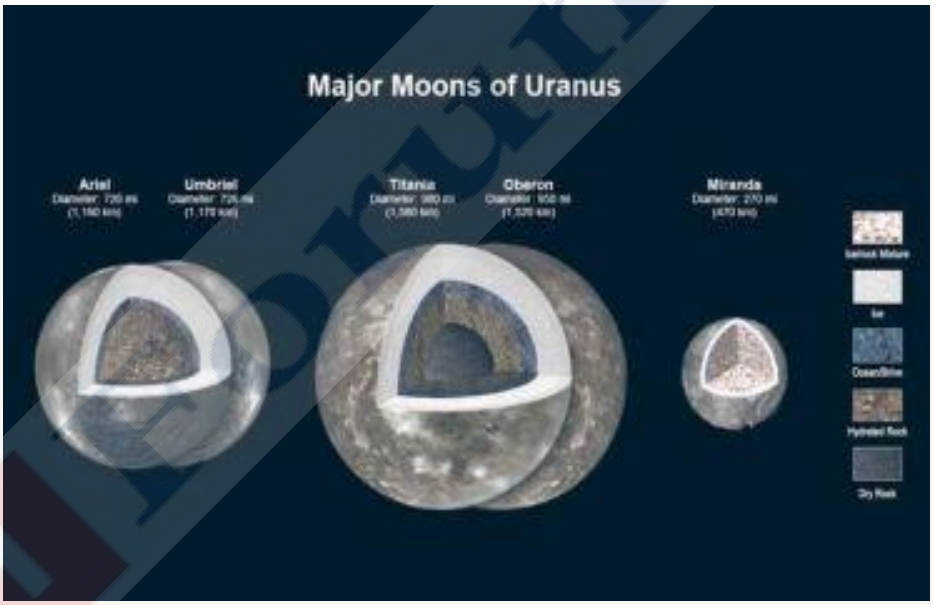
- **Origin:** The **Exercise "Keen Sword 27"** was established in **1986** between the **United States and Japan.**
- **Nature:** It is a major **biennial, multi-domain joint field training exercise (FTX).**
- **Members:** The exercise involves the **Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the US Armed Forces.**
- **Key Features of Exercise "Keen Sword 27"**
  - **Host: Japan is hosting the 27th edition** of the exercise.
  - **Scale:** The exercise involves around 56,000 personnel, 40 vessels and 260 aircraft.
  - **Invited Participants: Australia** is invited alongside **Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, the Netherlands and the Philippines.**
  - **Defence Training:** It focuses on **defending Japan's south-western islands**, responding to regional crises and keeping sea lanes open.

- **Missile Deployment: US and Japanese** forces have positioned advanced **anti-ship missile systems on Yonaguni and nearby Ishigaki islands** for the **first time** in these exercises.
- **Advanced Capabilities:** The exercise includes trilateral experiments on **autonomous systems, underwater acoustic communications and command-and-control approaches.**
- **Interoperability:** It strengthens **coordination among Australia, Japan and the US**, including cooperation in **maritime, air, space and cyber capabilities.**

Ariel and Umbriel

News: October 24 marks the discovery anniversary of Ariel and Umbriel, two major inner moons of Uranus, discovered in 1851.

About Ariel and Umbriel



Source – Sci News

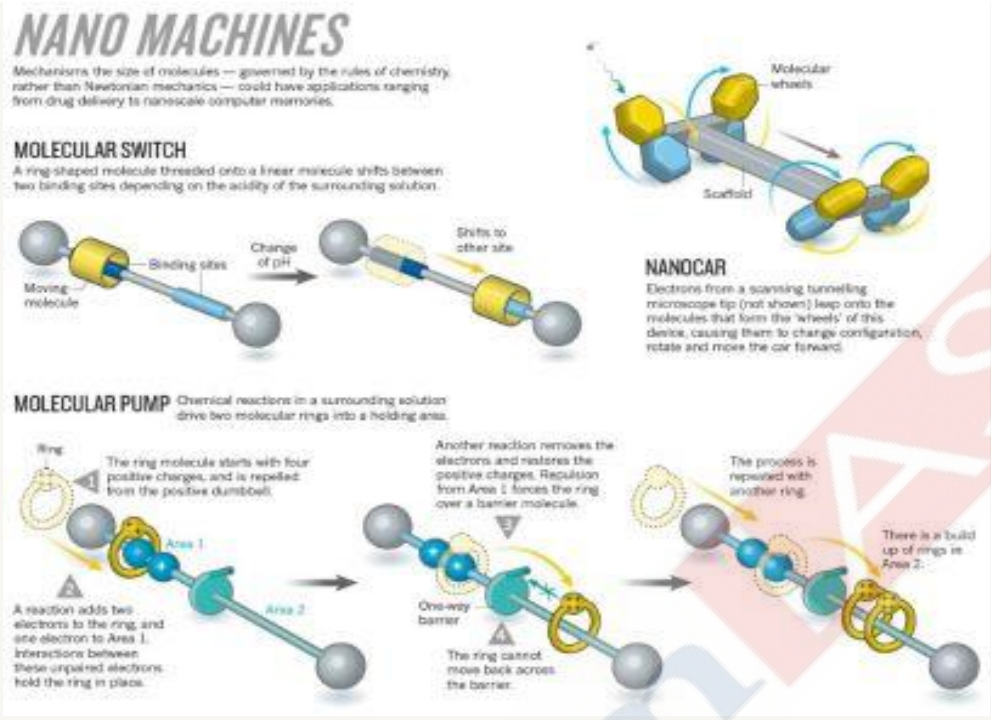
- **Ariel and Umbriel** are two of the **major inner moons of Uranus,** which **had 29 officially recognised moons as of August 2026.**
- **Discovery:** British astronomer **William Lassell** discovered both moons on October 24, 1851.

- **Naming:**
    - **Ariel:** It is the name for a **character in both Shakespeare's "The Tempest"** and **Alexander Pope's poem "The Rape of the Lock."**
    - **Umbriel:** It is named for a malevolent **spirit in English poet Alexander Pope's 18th century poem "Rape of the Lock."**
- **Key Features**
    - **Ariel:**
        - **Size:** Ariel is the **fourth-largest moon of Uranus.**
        - **Composition:** It mainly consists of **roughly equal amounts of water ice and silicate rock.**
            - **Carbon dioxide has also been detected.**
        - **Surface:** It has the **brightest and youngest-looking surface among Uranus' five largest moons.**
        - **Orbit:** Like Earth's Moon, **Ariel keeps the same face towards Uranus as it orbits the planet.**
    - **Umbriel:**
        - **Size:** It is the **third-largest moon of Uranus.**
        - **Surface:** It is the **darkest of Uranus' five major moons** and has many old, large craters.
        - **Reflectivity:** It **reflects only 16% of the light striking** its surface.
        - **Bright Ring:** It has a **mysterious bright ring about 140 km in diameter on its dark surface**.

Molecular Machines

News: Researchers developed a corkscrew-shaped molecular machine that changes its states in response to the direction of electric current.

About Molecular Machines



Source – Nature

- **Molecular machines, or nanomachines**, are **combinations of molecular components** that produce **mechanical movements (output) in response to specific stimuli (input).**
- They **convert energy into motion to perform specific tasks.**
- **Mechanism:**
    - **Stimulus:** Molecular machines **respond to inputs such as light, temperature, electric current or chemical reactions.**
    - **Movement:** They produce mechanical movements, including **rotation and changes between stable states.**
    - **Recent Example:** Researchers developed a **corkscrew-shaped molecule** that **cycles through different states when electric current flows** in one direction and reverses its sequence when the current flows in the opposite direction.
- **Scale:** These machines **operate at the nanoscale** and are **about 1,000 times thinner than a human hair.**
- **Core Architecture**

- **Molecular Components:** They contain **movable parts connected through mechanical bonds.**
- **Energy Input:** They **require energy,** such as **light or electricity, to produce movement.**
- **Coordination:** Random heat and unwanted molecular movements **make controlled movement and coordination difficult.**

- **Applications:**
  - **Cellular Transport:** The **kinesin protein transports minerals inside body cells** along microscopic tracks.
  - **Muscle Contraction:** The **myosin protein helps muscles contract.**
  - **Disease Detection:** They could help **detect diseases before symptoms appear.**
  - **Material Development:** They could **help assemble tiny peptides and produce more-resilient plastics.**
  - **Sensors and Energy:** They could **support microscopic sensors and tiny energy-storage mechanisms.**
- **Nobel Prize:** The **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016** was awarded to **Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L. Feringafor** the design and synthesis of **molecular machines.**

Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL)

News: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences inaugurated the Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL).

About Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL)



Source – PIB

- **Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL)** is an **integrated facility** that combines **advanced atmospheric measurements, chemical analysis, pollution-source identification and decision-support capabilities.**
    - It is the **World's First-of-its-Kind Facility.**
    - It is integrated with **IITM's AIRWISE (Air Quality Warning and Integrated Decision Support System for Emissions),** which combines air-quality forecasts, observations and source-apportionment information.
- The initiative **promotes coordination among scientific institutions, environmental authorities, pollution-control agencies** and disaster-management stakeholders.
- **Location:** The laboratory is **established at IITM's Delhi Branch** to address the serious concern of air pollution in Delhi-NCR.
- **Established Under:** The laboratory has been **established under Mission Mausam.**
- **Functions:**
    - **Identification of Pollution Sources:** It helps identify the **major sources of air pollution,** including **Vehicular emissions, Industrial activities, Biomass and crop-residue burning, Construction and road dust and pollutants transported from surrounding regions,**
    - **Real-Time Source Apportionment:** It estimates the **relative contribution of different pollution sources** to the overall pollution level, helping authorities identify the major causes of poor air quality at a particular time.
    - **Advanced Chemical Analysis:** The laboratory **analyses atmospheric gases and aerosols**, including **PM2.5**, metals, toxic elements and other pollutants.
    - **Health Implications:** It helps scientists understand the **composition and potential toxicity of pollutants,** supporting the assessment of their possible effects on public health.
    - **Support for Government Agencies:** The **facility will provide scientific evidence to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and other implementing agencies** to identify major pollution sources and plan targeted interventions.
    - **Support for GRAP:** Its findings, **combined with AIRWISE forecasts, can strengthen decisions regarding preventive measures and responses under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).**

28th Charles Correa Gold Medal

News: Radhakrishnan M.S., a Kochi-based architecture student, won the 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal for his undergraduate thesis project.

About 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal



Source – Charles Correa Foundation

- **Initiation: Indian architect and urbanist Charles Correa** initiated the **Charles Correa Gold Medal** award **in 1998.**
- **Initial Coverage:** The award was **initially open to architecture colleges in Mumbai and Goa.**
- **Expansion:** Since **2022,** the award has **invited colleges across India.**
- **Organised by:** The **Charles Correa Foundation (CCF) organises the Gold Medal annually.**
- **Purpose:** It promotes **quality and talent among young architecture students.**
- **Eligibility:**
    - **Students: Final-year students pursuing an undergraduate** professional degree **in architecture are eligible.**
    - **Institutions: Colleges must be located in India** and **approved by the Council of Architecture (COA).**
- **Selection Process:**

- **Nomination:** Participating colleges **nominate one student's individual thesis project.**
- **Authorship:** The **student must be the sole author. Group projects are not permitted.**
- **Evaluation:** A jury of eminent practising and academic architects reviews the submissions.
- **Selection:** The jury identifies an outstanding student for the medal.

28th Edition

- **Theme:** The Gold Medal focuses on '**Equitability through Design' for the period 2025–2027.**
- **Venue:** The award ceremony for the 28th edition **was held at Tarq Gallery in Mumbai.**
- **Winner: Radhakrishnan M.S.**, a student of **architecture at SEED APJ Abdul School of Environmental Design, Kochi, won the 28th Charles Correa Gold Medal.**
- **Contribution** of the 28th Edition Winner:
  - **Thesis Project:** Radhakrishnan M.S. **developed Energy Commons: Reimagining Energy Infrastructure as a Place for Civic Engagement.**
  - **Energy Infrastructure:** His project **reimagined essential energy infrastructure as a civic resource.**

Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)

News: The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) has provisionally set aside $21.6 million for Nepal's August 2026 floods.

About Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)



Source: FRLD

- The **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)** is f**inancial mechanism** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) to **help vulnerable developing countries** deal with the **economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change.**
    - It is the **only multilateral fund explicitly mandated to address non-economic loss and damage** alongside economic impacts.
- **Established at:** It has been **established at COP27 (2022), Egypt, and operationalised at COP28 (2023), Dubai.**
    - It functions under the financial mechanism of the **UNFCCC Loss and Damage Fund and Paris Agreement.**
- **Core Objective**: Its objective is **to promote country-led recovery guided by local priorities,** while enhancing climate support for developing nations and climate financing for vulnerable countries.
- **Institutional Structure**
    - **Governing Board:** It comprises 26 members, including 12 representatives from developed countries and 14 from developing countries.

- **Host Country:** The Philippines hosts the Board.
- **World Bank acts as the interim trustee** and provides Secretariat support under mutually agreed arrangements.

- **Significance:**
  - It addresses the growing needs of vulnerable communities in developing countries facing the irreversible impacts of climate change.
  - It empowers communities to rebuild and adapt, by financing recovery initiatives from climate-related losses and damage.
  - It integrates response to loss and damage as a core pillar of climate action, alongside mitigation and adaptation, acknowledging complementarities with existing systems and promoting coordination amongst actors.
  - The Fund mobilizes financial resources through government contributions, private sector partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms, ensuring a robust and sustainable approach to addressing climate-induced loss and damage.
- **First emergency allocation: Nepal's allocation marks the beginning of the implementation** of the fund.
  - **Limited financial assistance: Nepal faces estimated recovery and reconstruction costs of $4.75 billion**, making the $20 million allocation insufficient to meet its actual needs.

Badr Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

News: Turkey, Pakistan, Qatar and Indonesia signed the Badr MoU on October 21 to deepen defence cooperation and strengthen military capabilities.

About Badr Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)



Source – Jakrata Times

- The **Badr Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** is a **multilateral defence-industrial cooperation** agreement among **Pakistan, Turkey, Qatar and Indonesia**.
- **Naming: Badr means "full moon"**, symbolizing the **complementary capabilities** of the four participating nations.
    - **Origin of Name:** The name refers to the **Battle of Badr (624),** an early battle in Islamic history.
- **Governance Structure**
    - **Executive Board:** It will **develop plans for joint production.**
    - **Strategic Board:** It will **make final decisions on budgets and production locations.**
- **Aim:** The agreement aims to **strengthen defence capabilities and promote modern defence industries.**

- **Key Features**
    - **Complementary Capabilities: Turkey contributes** advanced defence manufacturing capabilities, while **Pakistan offers** industrial capacity, a skilled workforce and defence manufacturing experience.
    - **Investment and Market: Qatar offers** financial resources and potential investment, while **Indonesia provides** technological expertise and a sizeable domestic market.
    - **Joint Cooperation:** The agreement promotes **integrated supply chains, joint production facilities, technical defence training, research and development, and technology cooperation.**
    - **Joint Facilities: Turkey** is the **expected location for joint production facilities.**

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

News: Tigress T-2403 was spotted with three cubs in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur, though forest officials said the number of cubs was yet to be officially confirmed.

About Ranthambore Tiger Reserve



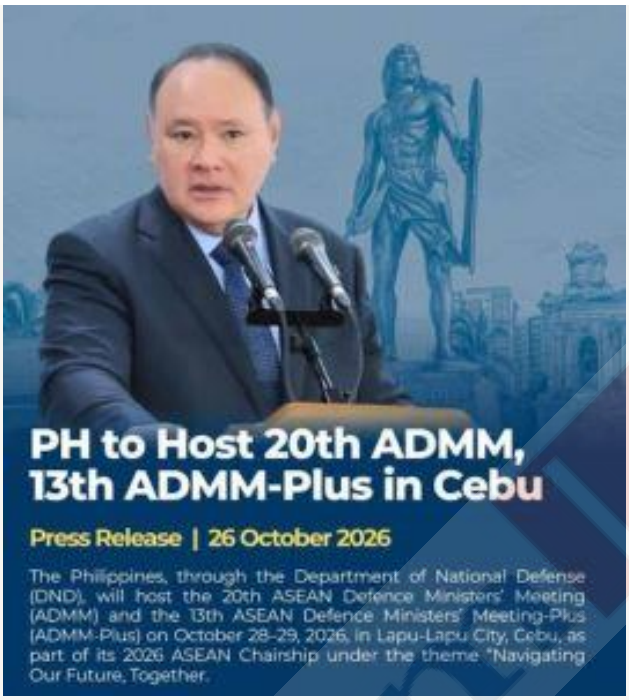
Source – ResearchGate

- **Location:** The Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is located in the **Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan.**
- **Establishment:** It was established as the **Sawai Madhopur Game Sanctuary in 1955** by the Government of India.
    - It was **declared** one of the **Project Tiger reserves in 1973** and became a **national park in 1980**.
    - It is now a **part of the larger Ranthambore Tiger Reserve**, which includes the nearby **Kailadevi Sanctuary and Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary**.
- **Area:** It spans an area of around **1,334 sq. km.** with the core zone comprising about **392 sq. km**.
- The park is situated at the **junction** of the **Aravalli and Vindhya hill ranges**.
- **Landscape:** The park landscape is combination of **rugged hills and plateaus**, with open **grasslands, dense forests, lakes, and rivers.**
- Its rich topography, including the famous **Ranthambore Fort (a UNESCO World Heritage Site)** enhances its appeal to visitors.
- **Rivers:** The Reserve is bounded by the **Banas River** to the north and the **Chambal River** to the south, with **smaller interior water bodies** like the **Chakal River**.
- **Lakes: Padam Talab, Raj Bagh Talab, and Malik Talab**
- **Flora:** The park is known for its **diverse ecosystem**, which includes dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and scrublands.
    - Some of the dominant tree species in Ranthambore include the **dhok (Anogeissus pendula), banyan, pipal,** and various species of **acacia**.
- **Fauna:** Bengal **tiger** is the primary attractio. Ranthambore is home to a variety of other wildlife including Mammals such as **Leopards, sloth bears, striped hyenas, sambar deer, chital, nilgai, wild boar, and Indian foxes**.

13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus 2026

News: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will lead the Indian delegation to the 13th ADMM-Plus in the Philippines on October 28–29, 2026.

About 13th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus 2026



Source – ASEAN

- **Host: Philippines** is hosting the **13th ADMM-Plus 2026.**
    - The meeting will be **held in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Philippines.**
- **Theme:** The 2026 edition's theme **is "Navigating Our Future, Together."**
- **Participants:** The meeting brings together **11 ASEAN member states** and **eight dialogue partners**, including **India, the US, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.**
- **Key Features:**
    - **Indian Delegation: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will lead the Indian delegation** and address regional and international security issues.
    - **Bilateral Meetings:** India will **review ongoing defence ties with participating countries** and **explore ways to strengthen strategic partnerships.**
    - **India's Role: India is co-chairing the Experts Working Group on Counter-Terrorism** with Malaysia for **the 2024–2027 cycle.**
    - **Regional Engagement:** India's participation reflects its growing defence **engagement with Southeast Asia under the Act East policy.**

About ADMM-Plus

- The **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus)** serves as a **key platform to promote peace, stability, and sustainable development across the region.**
- **Origin:** The inaugural **ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 12 October 2010.**
- **Members:** It comprises **11 ASEAN member states** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam) and **8 dialogue partners** (India, US, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand), **making 19 participating countries.**
- **Chairmanship:** The chairmanship **rotates annually** and is **held by the host of the ASEAN Summit.**
- **Meeting Frequency:** Defence ministers have **met annually since 2017 to strengthen defence cooperation.**
- **Objectives:** The ADMM-Plus **seeks to:**
    - Build **ASEAN's capacity to address shared security challenges.**
    - Promote **mutual trust and transparency** among defence establishments.
    - **Enhance regional peace and stability** through defence cooperation.
    - **Support the ASEAN Security Community's vision** of peace, stability, and prosperity.
    - **Advance the Vientiane Action Programme** for a secure and outward-looking ASEAN.
- **Focus areas:** It currently focuses on **seven areas of practical cooperation** – Counter-Terrorism, Maritime Security, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management, Peacekeeping Operations, Military Medicine, Humanitarian Mine Action and Cyber Security.

Key Facts about Liechtenstein

News: Prince Alois of Liechtenstein visited India to strengthen bilateral ties and economic cooperation following the India–EFTA TEPA's operationalization.

Key Facts about Liechtenstein



Source – Britannica

- **Location:** Liechtenstein is a **small principality in Western Europe.**
    - It is a **doubly landlocked** country located **between Switzerland and Austria.**
- **Polity:** Liechtenstein is a **constitutional monarchy** headed by a **hereditary prince.**
    - It's **capital is Vaduz.**
- **Climate:** The **climate is mild** and influenced by the **warm southerly foehn wind.**
- **Terrain:** The country has **rugged mountains in the east** and **lowlands in the west.**
- **Mountain:** The **Rhätikon Mountains, part of the Alps, cover much of the eastern region.**
    - The **Grauspitz,** at 2,599 m, is the **highest peak.**
- **River:** The **Samina River** drains the mountain region, while the **Rhine river** occupies the western section.
- **Vegetation:** It has **mixed woodlands in its forests**, along with **alpine vegetation.**
- **Flora:** It mainly **contain copper beech, Norway maple, sycamore, linden, elm and ash trees.**
- **Fauna:** Wildlife includes **red deer, chamois, marmots, foxes, badgers and pheasants.**
- **Economy:** Liechtenstein has **one of the world's highest GDP per capita levels.**
    - It traditionally benefited from its **tax-haven status** but has taken steps to become a legitimate financial centre.

National Startup Awards 6.0

News: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched the 6th Edition of the National Startup Awards on 27 October 2026.

About National Startup Awards 6.0



Source – ZEE Business

- It is a flagship initiative under **Startup India Initiative**.
- It recognizes **startups for innovation, scalability, sustainability and socio-economic impact.**
- **Launched by:** It is launched by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT),** Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Origin:**
    - **Startup India:** It was **launched in January 2016** to **build a strong, inclusive and innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem**.
    - **National Startup Awards:** The **awards began in 2019** to recognize **entrepreneurial excellence and showcase innovative solutions.**
- **Evaluation Process:** Applications undergo multi-stage evaluation, including eligibility and compliance screening, sectoral evaluation, shortlisting, a pitching event and **final evaluation by a National Jury Panel.**
- **Institutional Participation:** The process involves **Ministries, incubators, Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), banks and financial institutions.**
    - The National Jury Panel includes government, industry and domain experts.
- **National Startup Awards 6.0 Categories:**

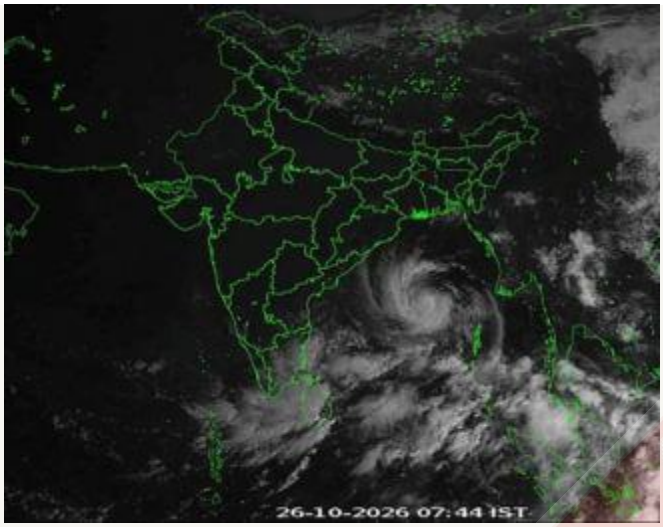
- **Sectoral categories:** The awards **cover 20 sectoral categories.**
- **Special categories:** The awards include **3 special categories:**
  - Women-Led Startup of the Year
  - North-East Startup Excellence
  - Student Innovator / Aspiring Entrepreneur Award

- **Key Features:**
  - **New categories:** This edition **introduces 12 new sectoral categories**, including Biomanufacturing, Defence & Security and Space-Tech.
  - **Student award:** It promotes **entrepreneurship among school and college students across all 36 States and Union Territories.**
  - **Prize Money:** Winners in the **20 sectoral categories and two startup-focused special categories are eligible for ₹25 lakh per category,** subject to applicable guidelines.
    - The **student award carries a total prize pool of ₹25 lakh** across four sub-categories.
  - **Inclusive outreach:** DPIIT encourages **participation from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities** and engages governments, incubators, academic institutions and financial institutions.

Cyclone Arnab

News: Severe Cyclone Arnab made landfall on the Andhra Pradesh coast between Kakinada and Yanam, bringing destructive winds and heavy rain.

About Cyclones



Source – TNIE

- **Cyclones** are a **fast inward air movement around a low-pressure area**.
- In the **Northern Hemisphere, the air circulates anticlockwise**, while in the **Southern Hemisphere, it moves clockwise.**
- Cyclones are typically **associated with intense storms and severe weather.**
- There are **two types of cyclones:**
    - **Tropical cyclones-**These **form over warm ocean waters in tropical and subtropical regions**.
        - They are characterized by **low pressure, high winds, and heavy rain.**
    - **Extra Tropical cyclones-** They are also **known as wave cyclones**, **mid-latitude cyclones, or temperate cyclones**.
        - They **develop in the mid and high latitudes, outside the tropics.**
        - They are less intense than tropical cyclones.

About Cyclone Arnab

- **Cyclone Arnab:**It was a **tropical cyclone** that **formed over the North Indian Ocean.**
    - It was classified as a **severe cyclonic storm.**
    - It made **landfall between Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) and Yanam (Puducherry)** before weakening.
- **Origin of the Name "Arnab"**

- **Proposed by: Bangladesh** proposed the **name Arnab for tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean.**
- **Meaning:** Arnab is associated with the **Bengali word for "ocean" or "sea"** and is **pronounced "Ornob".**

Cyclone Naming Process

- **Coordinating Bodies:** The **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** and the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)** coordinate the naming system.
- **Participating Countries: 13 countries** (Bangladesh, India, Iran, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen) contributed **names to the list adopted in 2020.**
- **Total Names: Each country contributed 13 names**, making a **total of 169 names.**
- **Naming Sequence:** Names are **used in a pre-decided sequence** for tropical cyclones **forming over the North Indian Ocean, including the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.**
- **Naming Guidelines:**
  - **Neutrality:** Names must remain **neutral towards politics, political figures, religious beliefs, cultures and gender.**
    - They **must not hurt the sentiments of any group.**
  - **Language and Length:** Names **must be short, easy to pronounce, non-offensive and not rude or cruel.**
    - They must contain a **maximum of eight letters.**
  - **Non-Repetition:** A cyclone name **cannot be reused once it has been used.**

Cyclones in the Arabian Sea vs. Bay of Bengal

- Cyclones occur **less frequently in the Arabian Sea than in the Bay of Bengal**, mainly due to **variations in sea surface temperature, wind patterns, and geographical conditions.**
- The **Bay of Bengal has more favorable conditions for cyclone formation**, such as warm waters and low vertical wind shear.

Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) Srishti

News: The Indian Navy's Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) Srishti was launched at Goa Shipyard Limited on 27 October 2026.

About Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) Srishti



Source – DD India

- The **NGOPV Srishti** is an **indigenously designed and built vessel for the Indian Navy.**
- It is the **5th** vessel launched out of the **11 planned ships** under the **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) programme.**
- **Builder:** The vessel is built by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL),** a Defence Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence.
- **Naming:** The ship is named Srishti, which **means 'Creation' or 'Act of Creating' in Sanskrit.**
- **Objectives:** These ships aim to **strengthen maritime capabilities through maritime surveillance, protection of offshore assets, Search and Rescue, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and anti-piracy missions.**
- **Key Features:**
    - **Indigenous Construction:** These ships are **indigenously designed and built** to strengthen domestic defence manufacturing.
    - **Multi-domain Operations:** They will **support multi-domain operations** and maritime security missions.
    - **Self-reliance:** The programme **aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives** and supports the domestic industrial ecosystem.

About NGOPV Programme

- **Total Fleet:** The **Indian Navy plans to build 11 vessels** under the **NGOPV project.**
- **Builders: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa, is building 7 vessels**, while **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, is building 4** vessels.

- **Key Roles:** The vessels will support maritime surveillance, Search and Rescue, protection of offshore assets, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and anti-piracy missions.
- **Recent Launches: 5 out of 11 planned vessels** have been launched under the NGOPV programme, namely **INS Shachi, NGOPV Sanghmitra, NGOPV Shruti, NGOPV Shreyas and INS Srishti.**

Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI 2026

News: The 11th edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI has commenced in Indonesia.

About Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI 2026



Source – BW Defence

- The **Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI 2026** is a **bilateral military exercise** between the Special Forces of **India and Indonesia.**
- **Host:** The **11th edition** of Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI 2026 is hosted by **Indonesia at Banyuwangi.**
- **Contingents:** The **Indian** contingent comprises troops from the **Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**, while the **Indonesian** contingent comprises personnel from the **Indonesian Special Forces.**
- **Origin:** The **first** edition was conducted in **2012 in India.**
- **Frequency:** The exercise is **conducted on a reciprocal basis, alternately in India and Indonesia.**
- **Objective:** The exercise **aims** to strengthen mutual **understanding, cooperation and interoperability** between the Special Forces of both nations.
- **Key Features**
    - **Jungle Warfare Training:** The training focuses on special operations in jungle environments.

- **Training Activities:** It includes **obstacle crossing, combat marksmanship, mountaineering, air assault training and combat-hardening sessions.**
- **Knowledge Exchange:** The exercise promotes the **exchange of expertise and information on weapons, equipment and operational practices.**

- **Other Exercises:** India and Indonesia also conduct **Samudra Shakti (bilateral naval exercise)** and **IND-INDO CORPAT(coordinated naval patrol).**

1st Civilisational Dialogue Forum

News: India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) 1st Civilisational Dialogue Forum at Purana Qila in New Delhi.

About 1st Civilisational Dialogue Forum



Source – DD India

- 1st SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum is **an inaugural cultural and diplomatic initiative.**
- **Duration:** It is scheduled to be held **from 20 November to 22 November 2026 at Purana Qila in New Delhi.**
- **Aim:** The initiative aims **to strengthen cultural ties, promote mutual understanding and deepen engagement among SCO member states.**
- It also aims **to showcase the shared art, literature and traditions of the region's ancient civilisations.**
- **Organised by: The Ministry of Culture is partnering with the Ministry of External Affairs** to organise the event.

- **Proposed by:** This initiative **was proposed by Prime Minister Modi** at the SCO leaders' summit in Tianjin in 2025 and was subsequently adopted by the grouping.
- **Hosted by:** It is being hosted by **India** under the **framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**.
- **Participants:** Culture ministers from **all 10 SCO member states** have been invited, along with **representatives from observer countries and dialogue partners.**
- The **full members** are **China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.**
- **Themes of discussions:** Discussions are expected to cover **civilisational links, cultural diplomacy and cooperation** in areas including heritage, education and traditional knowledge systems.

Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme

News: The Union Cabinet has approved the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme to strengthen India's sports goods manufacturing sector.

About Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme



Source – PIB

- The **Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme** is a scheme **to strengthen India's sports goods manufacturing base** through support for **investment, technology, research, skills and market development.**
- It **seeks to promote manufacturing, innovation and exports** and strengthen **India's position in the global sports goods sector.**
- **Duration:** The scheme will run from **2026 to 2033-34.**
- **Scheme Components:** The scheme has **two parts –**
    - **Incentives that support manufacturing**
    - **Interventions that build the wider ecosystem**
- **Key Features**
    - **Developing Manufacturing Zones:** It will develop **integrated Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones** with manufacturers, suppliers, testing facilities, design and prototyping centres, and ancillary enterprises through convergence with the **BHAVYA Scheme** and **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) Industrial Parks.**
    - **Attracting Investment:** It allocates **₹1,130 crore** for **Anchor Investment Support** and **Turnover Linked Support** to promote investment, production and capacity expansion.
    - **Supporting MSMEs: Existing clusters will receive support for upgrading common facilities** and shared infrastructure through cost-sharing with States.
    - **International Certification:** An allocation of **₹105 crore will help manufacturers obtain and renew certifications** from International Sports Federations.
    - **Research and Innovation: Centres of Excellence will promote research**, while **DPIIT-registered sports start-ups can receive grants up to ₹20 lakh.**
    - **Skill Development:** Training will be **undertaken with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and industry stakeholders.**
    - **Global Market Access:** The **Export Promotion Mission will support branding, outreach and market development** to expand international reach.

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY)

News: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana on 28 October 2026.

About Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY)



Source – PIB

- **Type:** It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).**
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Panchayati Raj**
- **Aim:** The scheme aims to **transform Panchayats into empowered, self-reliant, accountable and high-performing institutions of local self-government.**
- **Duration:** It will operate from **2026–27 to 2030–31,** co-terminus with the **Sixteenth Finance Commission period.**
- **Financial outlay:** The scheme outlay is **Rs.7,395.55 crore**, comprising a **Central Share of Rs.4,869.48 crore** and a **State Share of Rs.2,526.07 crore**.
- **States/districts covered:** The scheme will extend to **all States/UTs**, **including** institutions of rural local government (traditional local bodies) in **non-Part IX areas where Panchayats do not exist.**

- **Implementation Process**
    - **Annual Action Plans: State Governments and UT Administrations will submit plans** specifying activities, priorities and requirements.
    - **Approval Mechanism:** The designated **Central Empowered Committee will appraise and approve** these plans under applicable procedures and norms.
- **Targets**
    - **Holistic Planning:** The scheme will support **preparation of 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) annually on eGramSwaraj.**
    - **Citizen Awareness:** Each awareness-generation episode will **reach at least 1 crore citizens.**
    - **Capacity Building:** Around **32 lakh governance stakeholders will receive annual support.**
    - **Financial Accountability:** The scheme will **support at least 2.55 lakh online audit plans annually**, with timely completion of corresponding **audits through AuditOnline.**
- **Six Holistic Pillars**
    - **Local Governance:** Gram Panchayats will **act as hubs of local governance** by coordinating village priorities, government interventions and available resources.
    - **Holistic Planning:** The scheme will **integrate Central and State departmental planning** on a common digital platform to prepare **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs)** and **identify development gaps.**
    - **Digital Governance:** Building **on eGramSwaraj and existing e-Panchayat systems**, a common platform will provide **information on schemes, beneficiaries, benefits, community assets and available resources.**
    - **Connecting National Priorities with Local Needs:** PANCHAM **(Panchayat Assistance and Messaging Chatbot), an AI-enabled platform in 17 Indian languages**, will support accessible communication and informed discussions through Gram Sabhas and Panchayat forums.
    - **Capacity Building:** Training will **strengthen representatives' and functionaries'** skills in digital platforms, planning, resource management and citizen communication.

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- **Resource Utilisation:** Improved **accounting, auditing, public disclosure and Own Source Revenue (OSR)** mobilisation will promote transparency and financial self-reliance.

International Convention against Doping in Sport

News: India chaired third formal meeting of the COP10 Bureau and the fourth formal meeting of the Fund's Approval Committee for 2026–27 under the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport in New Delhi.

About International Convention against Doping in Sport



Source: PIB

- The **International Convention against Doping in Sport** is a **multilateral treaty** through which **States agree to adopt national and international measures** designed to prevent and eliminate doping in sport.
- It serves as the **only international legal instrument** that commits governments **to align their policies with the principles of the World Anti-Doping Code.**
- **Objective:** To **harmonize anti-doping legislation, guidelines, regulations, and rules at the global level** in order to ensure a fair and safe competitive environment for all athletes.
- **Adoption:** UNESCO's General Conference **adopted the Convention on 19 October 2005 during its 33rd session,** and it entered into **force on 1 February 2007.**
- **Parties to convention:** There are presently **192 States Parties to the Convention,** making it the second most widely ratified treaty under UNESCO.
- It **offers a global platform for collaboration among public and private stakeholders** within the sport integrity ecosystem.

- **Mission of the Convention:**
    - The Convention provides **States Parties with a legal framework** intended **to encourage international cooperation** to safeguard athletes and uphold sporting ethics.
    - It **aims to limit the availability of prohibited substances and methods** while combating trafficking activities.
    - It **assists in facilitating doping controls and supports national testing programmes.**
    - It **encourages producers and distributors of nutritional supplements** to adopt best practices in labelling, marketing, and distribution of products that might contain prohibited substances.
    - It **supports the implementation of anti-doping education programmes.**
    - It **promotes research related to anti-doping measures.**
- **Implementation Approach:** The Convention functions **through a positive implementation approach** that **involves providing guidance, financial support, skill development, and capacity-building** to strengthen compliance efforts by States Parties.
- **Governance Structure:** The Conference of Parties (COP) acts as the **sovereign body of the Convention and convenes in ordinary session every two years.**
- **Function:** COP functions include **promoting the Convention's purpose**, addressing its relationship with the World Anti-Doping Agency, adopting plans concerning the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, **evaluating States Parties' compliance efforts,** and examining or adopting necessary amendments to the Convention.
- **Monitoring Mechanism:** The Convention supports governments in **enhancing national frameworks that protect sport values, ethics, and integrity.**
    - Its monitoring mechanism **assists States Parties in identifying implementation gaps and developing targeted remedial actions.**
    - Monitoring is facilitated through key tools and frameworks, including the **Operational Guidelines and Framework for the Strengthening of the Implementation of the Convention (OG/FSIC), the Model Strategic Framework (MSF),** and specialized capacity-building programmes provided by the Secretariat.

Kartarpur Corridor

News: Rajya Sabha member Vikramjit Singh Sahney said that he has urged the Union government to reopen the Kartarpur corridor ahead of Guru Nanak Jayanti next month.

About Kartarpur Corridor



Source – IE

- The **Kartarpur Corridor** is a **4 km long corridor** comprising **border gates, road and a bridge** to **link Dera Baba Nanak gurdwara in Gurdaspur district in India** to **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan**.
- The gurdwara in Kartarpur stands on the **bank of River Ravi**, about **120 km northeast of Lahore**.
- The corridor is **aimed** at allowing the **easy movement of Sikh pilgrims** to the Kartarpur gurdwara.
- It is **revered** as **Guru Nanak's final resting place**.

Significance of the Gurdwara

- The **Gurdwara Darbar Sahib** was **built** to **commemorate** the **place** where the **Sikh founder Guru Nanak settled** after **completing his missionary works**.
- He **lived** at the site for **around 18 years till his death in 1539**.
- The shrine is **built** where **Guru Nanak is said to have died**.

Rani Abbakka Chowta

News: Rani Abbakka Chowta is remembered for her resistance against the Portuguese and efforts to honour her contributions.

About Rani Abbakka Chowta



Source – Hindu Jagruti

- **Rani Abbakka Chowta** was a courageous **queen of Ullal in the 16th century.**
- **Dynasty:** She belonged to the **Chowta dynasty,** which followed the **Tuluvu community's traditions**.
- **Region:** She ruled Ullal, a prosperous **port in Tulunadu, near Mangaluru, Karnataka.**
- **Matrilineal System:** The Chowtas followed a **matrilineal tradition,** in which **inheritance and authority usually passed through the female line.**
- **Religion:** She followed **Jainism,** but **her administration included Hindus and Muslims.**
- **Title:** She is popularly known as **Abbakka Mahadevi or Rani Abbakka.**
- **Key Contributions:**
    - **Early Resistance to Colonial Expansion:** She was **one of India's earliest freedom fighters** who **resisted Portuguese expansion** and defended her kingdom.
    - **Military Courage and Skill:** She demonstrated **exceptional military skills in archery and sword fighting** and **repeatedly repulsed Portuguese** attacks on Ullal.
    - **Guerrilla Counterattack:** In 1567, she **escaped during the Portuguese attack on Ullal** and **took shelter in a mosque**. That night, **she launched a counterattack with 200 soldiers**, **killing General Joao Peixoto and 70 Portuguese soldiers.**

- **Religious and Social Unity:** Her administration and army included **Hindus, Muslims and people from different castes**, including the **Moggaveeras, a fisherfolk community.**
- **Strategic Alliances:** In 1570, **she allied with Bijapur, Ahmednagar and the Zamorin of Calicut to resist the Portuguese.**
- **Resistance and Sacrifice:** She continued fighting despite repeated attacks and **betrayal by her estranged husband**, who shared her military strategies with the Portuguese.
  - After her arrest, **she revolted in prison and died fighting.**

- **Modern Recognition:**
  - **Museum:** The **Tulu Baduku Museum in Bantwal Taluk, Karnataka,** is named after her.
  - **Indian Navy:** The Indian Navy named an **Inshore Patrol Vessel (ICGS Rani Abbakka) after her to honour her contributions.**
  - **Award: The Veera Rani Abbakka Prashasti is awarded to distinguished women.**

National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers and Gig & Platform Workers

News: The Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified the official constitution of the National Social Security Board for unorganised, gig and platform workers.

About National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers and Gig & Platform Workers



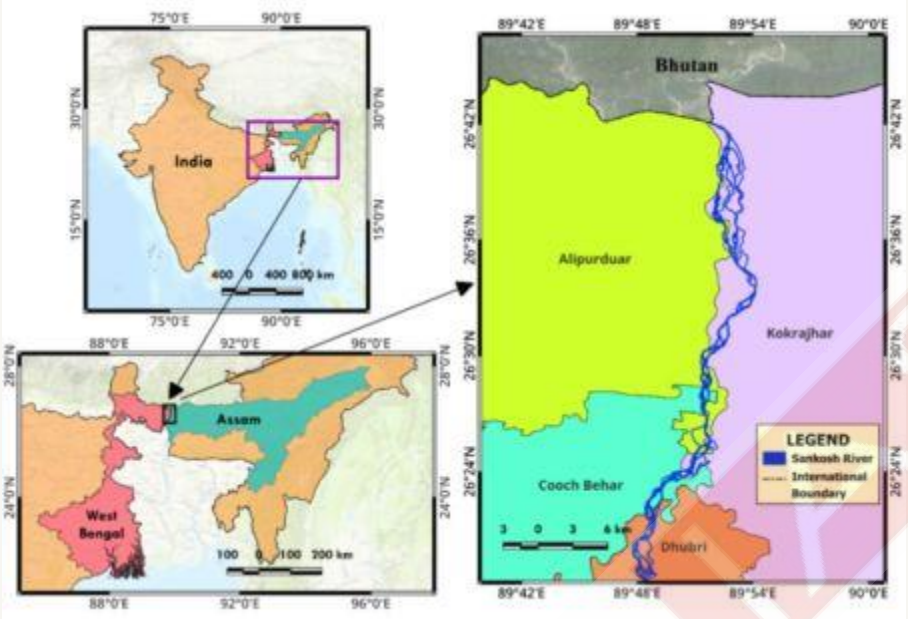
Source – PTI

- The **National Social Security Board** aims **to support social security for unorganized workers, gig workers and platform workers** through **welfare schemes.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** The **Ministry of Labour and Employment** is the nodal ministry.
- **Legality:** The Board is established under the **Code on Social Security.**
- **Governance Structure:**
    - **Chairperson:** The **Union Minister for Labour and Employment** presides over the Board.
    - **Representation:** The Board includes **representatives from Central and State Governments, aggregator companies, employers, civil society organisations, workers' unions and gig and platform associations.**
    - **Meetings:** The Board **shall meet at least three times a year**.
- **Key Features:**
    - **Welfare Schemes:** The Board **recommends suitable schemes** for different sections of unorganized, gig and platform workers.
    - **Policy Advice:** It **advises the Central Government** on matters related to the **administration of the Code.**
    - **Monitoring:** It **monitors Central Government social welfare schemes** for these workers.
    - **Review:** It **reviews State-level record-keeping functions and expenditure from the fund and account.**
    - **Additional Functions:** It performs **other functions assigned by the Central Government.**

Sankosh River

News: A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in Bhutan raised flood concerns along the Sankosh River, leading to evacuations in parts of northern West Bengal.

About Sankosh River



Source – ResearchGate

- The **Sankosh River** is a major **north-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra River** that **flows through Bhutan and India.**
- **Origin:** The river originates in the **snow-clad Greater Himalayan ranges of Tibet.**
- **Formation:** It is formed by the **confluence of two major tributaries –** the **Pochu from the east** and **Panakh or Mo-chu from the west**.
- **Course:** The Sankosh River **flows through Bhutan.**
    - **Near Wangdue Phodrang,** it is **joined by the Tang Chuu** and then **flows through a steep gorge.**
    - It then **flows towards the Indo-Bhutan border and enters India.**
    - It forms the **boundary between Assam and West Bengal.**
    - It finally **joins the Brahmaputra River in Assam**, which **drains into the Bay of Bengal.**
- **Length:** The river covers a total length of **321 km,** including **214 km in Bhutan** and **107 km in India**.
- **Major Tributaries:** The **Mo Chhu and Pho Chhu are its two largest tributaries**.
    - The **Tang Chuu, Hara Chhu and Daga Chhu** are other tributaries.
- **Flood Vulnerability:** The **upper reaches of the Pho Chhu are prone to ice blockages and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs).**

- **Cultural Significance:** The **Punakha Dzong**, a historic fortress, stands **just above the confluence of the Mo Chhu and Pho Chhu rivers in Bhutan.**
    - **Punakha Dzong**, officially known as **Pungthang Dechen Phodrang Dzong,** means the **Palace of Great Happiness or Bliss.**
    - It is the **second-oldest and second-largest fortress-monastery in Bhutan.**

Snow Trout (Schizothorax richardsonii)

News: Scientists from Kumaun University launched a captive-breeding programme to revive the snow trout (Schizothorax richardsonii) in Naini Lake, Uttarakhand, in April 2026. However, the death of more than half of the released fingerlings has raised concerns about water pollution, rising temperatures and habitat degradation.

About Snow Trout (Schizothorax richardsonii)



Source: Wikimedia Common

- The **Snow Trout** is a **native cold-water Himalayan fish**
    - It is native to the **Himalayan and sub-Himalayan regions.** It is also **known as "Asala", or "Asela" by the locals.**
- It is a species **belong to the class of ray-finned fishes.**
- **Scientific name:** Its scieintific name is **Schizothorax richardsonii.**

Habitat and Distribution

- **Habitat:** It can thrive in a **wide range of temperatures (8-22°C)** and is distributed well in the **shallow pools, deep pools, rapids, and riffles of rivers** and **stagnant waters of lakes and reservoirs.**
    - It needs **cold, pristine, well-oxygenated water to survive**.

- **Distribution:** It is widely distributed in the Himalayan waters of **Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Bhutan**.
    - It is found across the **Himalayan belt, from Jammu and Kashmir to Assam and Sikkim.**

Characteristics

- **Appearance:**
    - It has **streamlined body with smooth and soft skin** covered in small scales to assist cutaneous respiration.
    - It has **short blunt head** with **broad and flat interorbital space**.
    - The **upper jaw is longer than the lower part** (inferior mouth) with a **strip of hard papillated structure at chin called the adhesive organ; two pairs of barbels** which are smaller than eye diameter.
    - The **keratinized lips help this species scraping off algae from the substrate** as well as providing sturdy grip on the rocks in fast-flowing waters of Himalaya.
    - The **dorsal fin originates near the snout tip.**
    - The **dorsal spine is bony, strong and serrated at the hind part**; originate at the anterior part of pelvic fins.
    - The pectoral fins are **shorter than head;** and **pelvic fins do not reach vent.**
    - There is **tiled row of scales forming a sheath on either side of vent and anal fin,** with lateral line complete and is arched.
    - **Length and weight**: It can grow up to **60.0 cm in length** and **4.0 kg in weight in the Himalayan rivers.**
- **Behaviour:** It prefers to live in **Himalayan streams and rivers especially rivers with moderate flow speed.**
    - It has **territoriality behavior** and also **chase intruders to defend the limited food resource and available shelter.**
    - It **takes more than three years t**o reach full maturity and reproduce.
    - **Diet:** It is **herbivorous and feeds on algae and detritus** from the rocky substrate.

Threats

- Habitat fragmentation
- Slow growth

- Poor disease resistance
- Low survival rates

Conservation status

- **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**

Orange Oakleaf (Kallima inachus)

News: Chhattisgarh is set to get its first official state butterfly, with the Orange Oakleaf (Kallima inachus) emerging as the winner of a public online poll.

About Orange Oakleaf (Kallima inachus)



Source: New Indian Express

- The **Kallima inachus** is a **nymphalid butterfly**.
    - It is also known **as the orange oakleaf, Indian oakleaf or dead leaf.**
- **Scientific name:** Its scientific name is **Kallima inachus.**
- **Habitat:** They **usually flies in dense forests with good rainfall,** amongst **undergrowth and along stream beds.**
- **Distribution:** They are found in **India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar, down to Tenasserim Hills.** In Southeast Asia it occurs in s**outhern China, Thailand, Laos, Taiwan, and Vietnam.**

- In **India**, the butterfly is widely distributed across the **Himalayas, central India, and the Western and Eastern Ghats.**

- **Characteristics:**
  - **Appearance:** The butterfly wings are **shaped like a leaf when in the closed position.**
    - When the **wings are closed, only the cryptic underside markings are visible,** which consists of **irregular patterns and striations in many shades of biscuit, buff, browns, yellow, and black.**
    - The **veins are darkened and resemble the veins of a leaf.**
    - The **resemblance to a dried leaf**, a **masquerade,** is extremely realistic and gives the genus its common names, the **oakleaf or dead leaf.**
    - When it spreads its wings, **it reveals bright orange, jet-black and deep velvety blue colours.**
    - There are **two white oculi, one along the margin of the apical black band,** and the other bordering the orange and deep blue areas.
    - Th**e hindwing is more uniformly blue** but diffused with brown patches along the termen.
    - **Wingsize:** The wingspan of the butterfly ranges **from 85 to 110 mm (3.3 to 4.3 in).**
  - **Behaviour:**
    - **They are powerful flier.**
    - The are **attracted to tree sap and over-ripe fruit,** and is also known **to mud-puddle.**
  - **Diet:** The larvae are **polyphagous**, meaning **they feed on a variety of plants** belonging to different families.
- **Conservation:** They are generally classified as **"not rare"** in India (though considered "rare" in parts of China).

Worth a Journey's' 2026 World's 100 Best Museums list and Bihar Museum

News: Bihar Museum in Patna has secured the ninth position globally and the first position in Asia in Worth a Journey's 2026 ranking.

About Worth a Journey's 2026 World's 100 Best Museums List



Source – IE 2

- **Published by:** It is published by **Worth a Journey, a Germany-based travel guide and digital magazine**.
- **Coverage:** It publishes rankings **covering 3,800 venues across 142 countries.**
    - These rankings **include museums, libraries, parks, palaces and hotels.**
- **Selection Process:** It uses an **algorithm to analyse** millions of data points, **followed by in-person visits** and **adjustments based on on-ground assessments.**
- **Key Highlights:**
    - **World Ranking: Mexico's Museo Nacional de Antropología secured the first position**, followed by **Spain's Museo del Prado.**
    - **India Ranking: Bihar Museum secured the 9th position** globally and **ranked first in Asia.**
        - It was the **only Indian museum featured among the 100** museums **on the 2026 list.**
    - **International Recognition:** It **ranked ahead of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (10th) and Paris's Louvre (31st).**

About Bihar Museum

- **Location:** It is **located in Patna.**
    - It is spread across **more than 13 acres.**

- **Architecture: Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki**, in collaboration with **Mumbai-based Opolis Architec**ts, designed the museum.
- **Inauguration:** It was **inaugurated in 2015.**
- **Collections:** It **displays sculptures, coins, manuscripts, archaeological materials, and traditional, folk and contemporary art.**
- **Galleries:** Its galleries **trace Bihar's history** across different periods.
    - It also **houses a Children's Gallery and a Diaspora Gallery.**

Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak

News: The 'Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak' has been awarded to 490 personnel of various States/Union Territories (UTs)/Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)/Central Police Organisations (CPOs) for the year 2026.

About Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak



Source: IPS Gov

- The **Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak** are medals given **to recognize excellent work, promote high professional standards and boost the morale of the concerned official/officer.**
- **Instituted by:** It has been instituted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs in 2024.**
- **Creation:** They are created by **merging the 4 previously existing MHA awards** –
    - The Special Operation Medal,
    - The Medal for Excellence in Investigation,

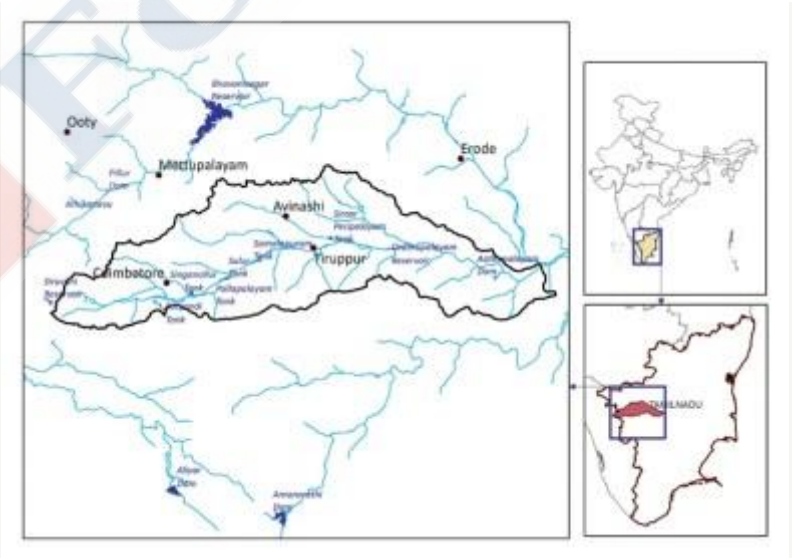
- The Exceptional Intelligence Efficiency Medal, and
- The Union Home Minister's Award for Meritorious Service.

- **Eligible Personnel:** It is awarded to **members of Police Forces, Security Organisations, Intelligence Wings, CPOs, CAPFs, NSG, Assam Rifles, and Central/State/UT Forensic Science departments across India.**
- **Basis for Conferment:** It recognises **excellence in operations, outstanding investigation, exceptional performance, daring intelligence service, and meritorious contributions** by serving government scientists in forensic science.
- **Frequency and date of announcement:** The medal is **announced on 31st of October every year,** on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak **2026** has been **awarded to 490 personnel of various States/Union Territories (UTs)/Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)/Central Police Organisations (CPOs) for the year 2026.**

Noyyal River

News: Tamil Nadu Environment Minister V.K. Rajeev's remark that soap and shampoo used by the public may contribute to excessive foaming in the Noyyal River in Tiruppur district has drawn criticism.

About Noyyal River



Source: Research Gate

- **Noyyal River** is a **seasonal river in Tamil Nadu.**
- **Origin:** It originates from **Vellingiri hills in the Western Ghats of Coimbatore district.**
- It is a **sacred river in Hindu-Tamil history,** originally known as the **"Kanchi Nadi."**
    - It was later **renamed on the place where it meets the Cauvery river.**
- **Course of river:** It flows through **Coimbatore, Erode and Karur districts** and finally **joins the Cauvery River near Noyyal village.**
- **Total distance:** It flows over a distance of **175 km.**
- **Catchment area:** The catchment area of the river is **3.49 lakh hectares**
- **Tributary of:** It is tributary of the **Cauvery River.**
- **Tributaries:** It has two main tributaries – **Cheyyar River (Chadiaar River) and Kanchimanadhi river.**
- The Noyyal watershed is **connected with a series of 32 tanks, 14 major canals, 23 Anicuts and 55 check dams.**
    - Most of these **check dams and Anicuts were constructed by the Chola Kings** who ruled the region, in the **9th to 12th centuries**, to augment irrigation and control floods downstream.
- **Dams: Aathupalayam Dam and Orathuppalayam Dam** are situated on the river.
- **Concern:** The **River and its interconnected tanks are major sources of drinking water and irrigation** but now, it is **polluted** due to **industrial waste, sewage, and effluents from dyeing and bleaching units.**

NVS-03 Satellite

News: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its next-generation navigation satellite, NVS-03, marking a significant step towards strengthening the country's indigenous satellite navigation capabilities.

About NVS-03 Satellite



Source – ISRO

- **NVS-03** is the **3rd satellite in ISRO's second-generation navigation satellite series.**
    - Its predecessors, **NVS-01 and NVS-02, carried the other two indigenous atomic clocks.**
- **Developed and launched by:**Indian Space Research Organisation **(ISRO)**
- **Launch Vehicle: GSLV-F18** (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle)
- It has been **launched as part of India's Regional Navigation Satellite System,** which **aims** to **provide navigation services** across the country and up to **1,500 km** beyond its borders.
- **Purpose:** It is designed **to ensure continuity and improve the availability of navigation services** under the **Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC),** India's indigenous regional navigation system.
- **Features:**
    - NVS-03 mission **carries multiple atomic clocks,** featuring **one indigenously developed Rubidium atomic clock** alongside a set of procured atomic clocks.
    - It also **introduces the L1 frequency band, in addition to the existing L5 and S bands,** enhancing the capabilities of the navigation system.
    - **Weight:** The satellite weighs **approximately 2,232 kilograms.**
    - **Placement:** It had been precisely injected into its intended transfer orbit.
- **Significance:** It is expected to **strengthen India's independent positioning, navigation and timing capabilities for civilian, strategic and security applications.**

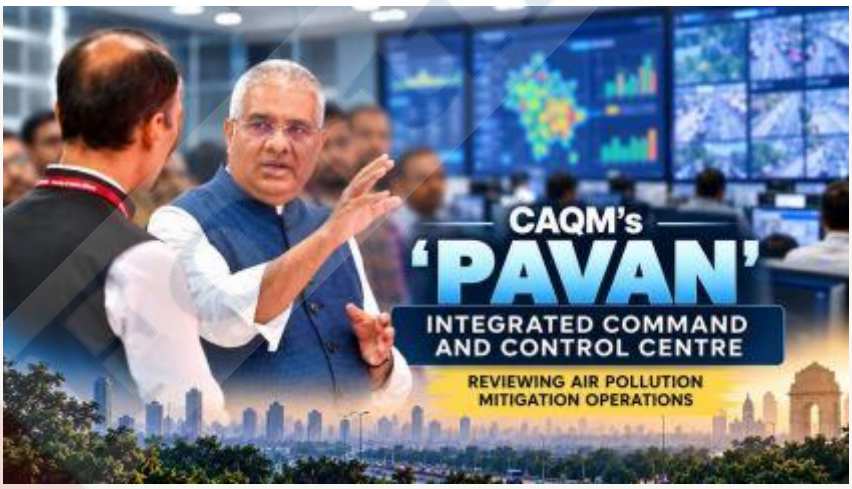
About Atomic Clock

- **Atomic Clock:** An atomic clock is a **highly accurate timekeeping device** that measures time using the natural vibration frequency of atoms, commonly **Caesium-133.**
- **Working:** Satellites **calculate a user's position** by **measuring the time taken by radio signals to travel from multiple satellites to a receiver**.
    - Even a **nanosecond error** can cause a **positional error of about 300 m.**
- **Importance:** It provides precise and stable timing, essential for satellite navigation systems such as **NavIC**.

PAVAN-I3C

News: Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav reviewed CAQM's newly developed PAVAN-I3C in New Delhi.

About PAVAN-I3C



Source – MoEFCC

- **PAVAN** stands for '**Platform for Air Quality Vigilance and Analytics for NCR'**, while **I3C** stands for **'Integrated Command and Control Centre'.**
- It is a **single-window digital centre developed in New Delhi** .
- **Aim:** It aims to **improve pollution monitoring, inter-agency coordination, compliance tracking and timely action against pollution sources.**
- **Established by:** It is developed by the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).**

- **Operating Principle:** It follows the principle of **'Detect, Analyse, Act'** to identify pollution sources and **support timely intervention.**
- **Key Features:**
    - **API and Data Integration:** It integrates **30+ Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)** and **data streams from multiple agencies**, including air quality, emissions, weather, satellite, camera, mobility, complaints and compliance data.
    - **Air Quality Monitoring:** It uses **data from 111 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS)**installed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), India Meteorological Department (IMD) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) for real-time monitoring and comparison with historical data.
    - **Industrial Emission Monitoring:** It uses **Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) to identify emission deviations** and generate alerts for necessary action.
    - **Camera and Sensor-Based Monitoring:** It provides **live camera feeds and Particulate Matter (PM) sensor data** from construction and demolition sites and landfill sites to identify possible violations.
    - **Multi-Sector Monitoring:** It **monitors 12 areas**, including **crop residue burning, weather, vehicular pollution, citizen grievances, Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs), brick kilns and industrial emissions.**

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