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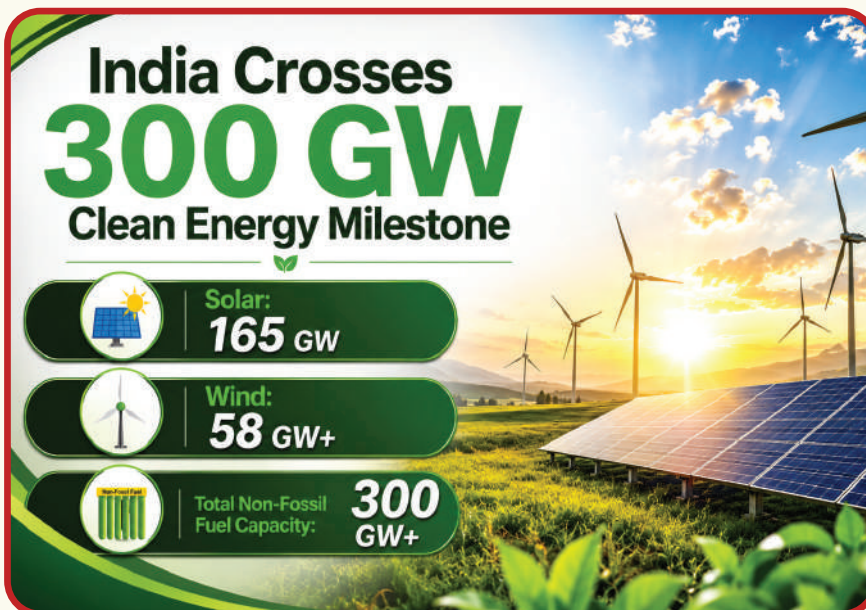
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SEPTEMBER 2026

CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP I & II TGPSC & APPSC

**50
MCQs
Included**

Monthly Magazine



- ★ Highly effective for Group I, II & other state level competitive exams
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SEPTEMBER 2026

(Current affairs simplified for TGPSC & APPSC exams)

Preface

This Monthly Current Affairs Magazine is thoughtfully designed for aspirants of **APPSC**, **TGPSC**, and other state-level competitive examinations. It features **exam-focused, tailor-made content**, curated to meet the evolving demands of these exams.

The magazine is divided into **Twelve (12) comprehensive sections**, covering international, national, and regional (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana) developments. Each topic is presented in a clear, concise, and exam-oriented manner, **seamlessly connecting static knowledge with dynamic current affairs** to help readers develop a deeper and more integrated understanding.

Every edition also includes a set of **50 practice MCQs**:

- ✓ 25 questions based on the most important current events of the month &
- ✓ 25 questions derived from static concepts closely linked to those events.

In essence, this magazine serves as a **one-stop source for current affairs**, meticulously curated to strengthen your preparation and guide you on your journey toward excellence in state-level competitive examinations



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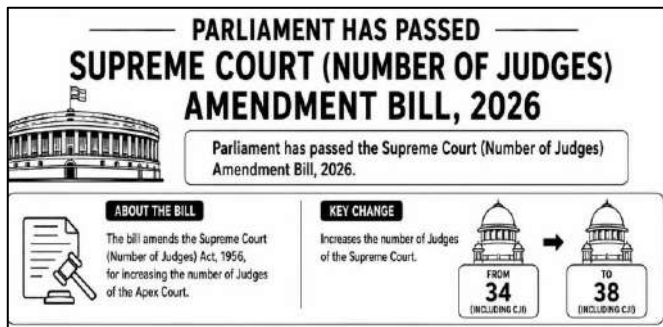
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Section-I: POLITY AND POLICIES - recent issues related to Indian constitution, new bills & acts passed by Parliament as well as State Legislatures.

1. Parliament clears expansion of Supreme Court strength from 34 to 38 judges.

Parliament has passed the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**.



The bill amends the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, for increasing the number of Judges of the Apex Court from the present **34 to 38 (including the Chief Justice of India)**. In May this year, President Droupadi Murmu had promulgated an **ordinance** to increase the number of Supreme Court Judges from 34 to 38.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Authority to increase the strength of the Supreme Court:

- Under **Article 124(1) of the Constitution**, **Parliament** may determine the number of Supreme Court judges by law. It does so by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

A constitutional amendment is not required; the strength can be increased through an **ordinary law passed by Parliament**. The President appoints the judges but does not decide the Court's sanctioned strength.

2. Ordinance:

- An ordinance is a temporary **law made by the executive branch** (the President of India or a State Governor) when the legislature is not in session and urgent action is required.

- Article 123:** Empowers the President of India to issue an ordinance when both or either House of Parliament is not in session.
- Article 213:** Empowers a State Governor to issue an ordinance when the state legislature is not in session.
- Advice-Based:** The President or Governor acts only on the advice of the Council of Ministers. It is not their personal or discretionary power

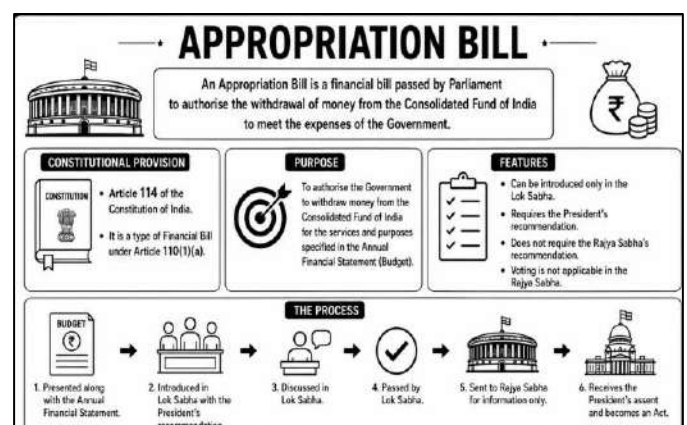
2. Lok Sabha approves appropriation of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India.

The Lok Sabha has passed the **Appropriation (No: 3) Bill, 2026**. It provides for the authorisation of the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India **to meet amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st March 2023 in excess** of the amounts granted for those services for that year.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Appropriation Bill:

- An Appropriation Bill is a mandatory money bill introduced under **Article 114** of the Indian Constitution to authorize fund **withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI)** for government expenditures.



Key features:

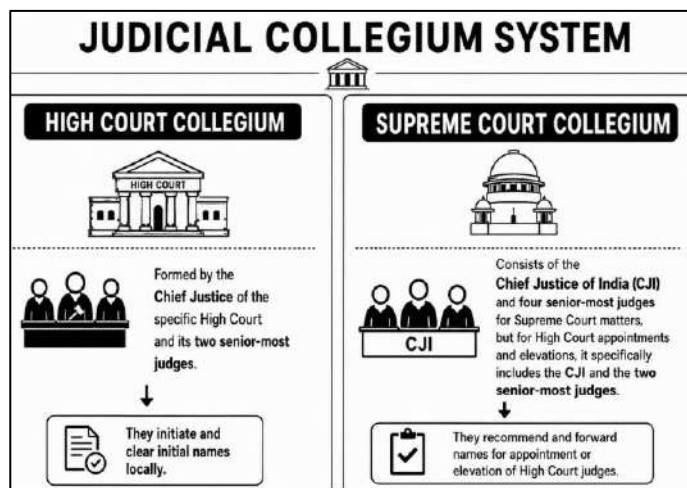
- Constitutional Basis:** Article 114 mandates that withdrawals from the CFI require legislative

approval. Under Article 110, it is classified as a Money Bill.

- **Scope:** Covers both **voted grants** and **'charged' expenditure** (e.g., salaries of President, Judges)
- **Parliamentary Process:** No amendments can be proposed to change the amount or purpose of grants. The Rajya Sabha has limited power, with only 14 days to recommend changes.
- **Enactment:** Becomes an Appropriation Act upon presidential assent, authorizing withdrawals.
- **Difference from Finance Bill:** While the Appropriation Bill authorizes withdrawal, the Finance Bill handles revenue generation/taxation.

3. Supreme Court Collegium recommends new Chief Justices for four High Courts.

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has recommended Chief Justices to four High Courts.



Interconnected concept:

- The appointment of High Court judges in India is managed by the Supreme Court Collegium, which consists of the **Chief Justice of India** and the **two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court**.

Difference:

- **High Court Collegium:** Formed by the Chief Justice of the specific High Court and its two senior-most judges.
- **Supreme Court Collegium:** Consists of the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** and **four senior-most judges** for Supreme Court matters, but for High Court appointments and elevations, it

specifically includes the CJI and the two senior-most judges.

4. Vandemataram Bill receives Presidential assent and becomes law.

President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to a Bill that criminalises intentional disruption or prevention of the singing of the National Song **Vande Mataram**, giving it the same legal protection currently accorded to the National Anthem.



With the President's assent, the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, has become a law. The legislation grants Vande Mataram the same status as the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana.

Interconnected concepts:

1. **Fundamental duty: Article 51A(a)** requires every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.

2. National Anthem and National Song:

Feature	Jana Gana Mana	Vande Mataram
Composer	Rabindranath Tagore	Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
Source	Written in Bengali, 1911	Part of the novel Anandamath, 1882
First sung	Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress, 27 December 1911	Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress, 1896

Adopted	24 January 1950, by the Constituent Assembly	24 January 1950, by the Constituent Assembly
Status	National Anthem	National Song, with equal status
Playing time	52 seconds for the full version	Not prescribed

5. Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 proposes a new commission for national tribunals.

Parliament passed a bill to set up a **National Tribunal Commission** to select chairpersons and members for various tribunals across the country.

ARTICLES RELATED TO TRIBUNALS			
			
 ARTICLE 323A	Empowers Parliament to establish administrative tribunals for public service matters.	 Covers: Recruitment, conditions of service, promotions, transfers, etc.	
 ARTICLE 323B	Empowers Parliament to establish tribunals for adjudication of disputes relating to taxes, tolls, duties and other matters.	 Covers: Tax disputes, levy of taxes, duties, tolls, etc.	

The bill seeks to improve efficiency, ensure independence, transparency, and uniformity in the qualifications, appointment, terms and conditions of service of Chairpersons and Members of various Tribunals.

Interconnected concept:

1. Tribunal:

Tribunals in India are **quasi-judicial bodies** established by law to resolve specialized disputes.

- Key constitutional provisions include **Article 323A** and **Article 323B**, added by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**, aimed at reducing the backlog of traditional courts.

Article 323A: Empowers Parliament to create Administrative Tribunals for public service matters (e.g., Central Administrative Tribunal - CAT).

Article 323B: Empowers Parliament or State Legislatures to create tribunals for other matters like taxation, industrial labour, and land reforms.

6. Kerala to become Keralam as renaming Bill receives Presidential assent.

President Droupadi Murmu has given assent to a Bill **to rename Kerala as Keralam**, with the legislation now becoming a law. The Lok Sabha had passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, on August 11, followed by the Rajya Sabha the next day.



President Droupadi Murmu has given assent to the Bill to rename the State of Kerala as Keralam.

President Droupadi Murmu gives assent to Bill TO RENAME KERALA AS KERALAM

ABOUT THE BILL
The Bill seeks to replace the existing name "Kerala" with "Keralam" in all official and legal references.

Renaming a state in India is governed by **Article 3** of the Indian Constitution, which empowers the **Parliament to alter the name of any state by law**.

Procedure:

- Presidential Recommendation:** A bill for renaming a state can only be introduced in Parliament with the prior recommendation of the President.
- State View Reference:** The President must refer the bill to the concerned state legislature to express its views within a set time.
- Non-Binding Views:** The views of the state legislature are purely advisory and not binding on Parliament.
- Simple Majority:** The bill must be passed in each house of Parliament by a simple majority, not a special majority under Article 368.
- Schedule Amendment:** Once the President gives assent, the name change is officially updated in the **First** and **Fourth Schedules** of the Constitution.

Note that Laws made under Article 3 to change state names are explicitly **excluded from being treated as constitutional amendments under Article 368**.

Interconnected concept:

The First and Fourth Schedules of the Constitution of India define India's territorial organization and how states and union territories share power in Parliament.

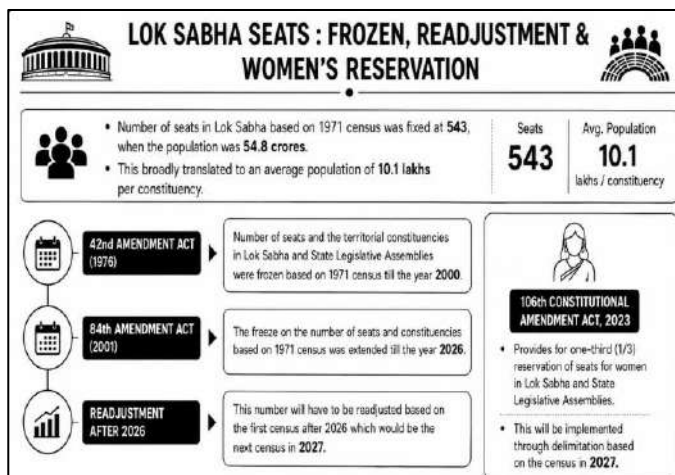
- The First Schedule lists all states and union territories with their boundaries**, while the

Fourth Schedule dictates how many upper house (Rajya Sabha) seats each state gets.

7. Tamil Nadu Assembly seeks to freeze Lok Sabha strength at 543 seats.

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution urging the Centre to **permanently freeze the number of Lok Sabha seats at the existing number of 543** and maintain the present State-wise distribution of those seats.

- It also advocated the preservation of current ratio of **2.2:1** between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seats.
- It sought the implementation of one-third reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha from the 2029 election onwards, without linking it to any future census or delimitation.



Interconnected concepts:

- Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of the territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies.
- This 'Delimitation process' is performed by **'Delimitation Commission' that is set up under an act of Parliament**. The last time when the number of seats were determined was on the basis of 1971 census population.

Constitutional Principle - Article 81(2):

Lok Sabha seats must be allotted to each State so that the population-seat ratio is, as far as practicable, the same across all States. Within a State also, constituencies should have broadly equal populations. This promotes the principle of equal representation or "one person, one vote, one value."

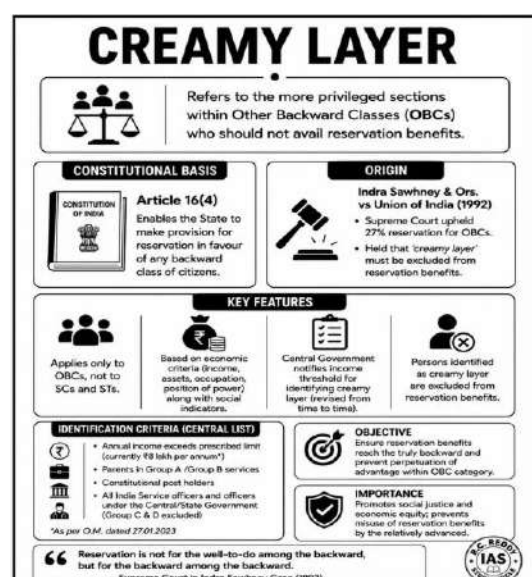
Exception: The inter-State ratio rule does not apply to a State whose population does not exceed 60 lakhs.

India's population in the 1971 Census was approximately 54.8 crore. The present State-wise allocation of the **543 elected Lok Sabha seats remains broadly frozen on the basis of the 1971 Census**. This translated into a rough national average of approximately 10.1 lakh people per constituency at that time.

Amendment	Provision
42nd Amendment Act, 1976	Froze the inter-State allocation of seats based on the 1971 Census until the first Census conducted after 2000.
84th Amendment Act, 2001	Extended the freeze until the relevant figures of the first Census conducted after 2026 are published .
87th Amendment Act, 2003	Allowed constituency boundaries and SC/ST reserved seats to be readjusted using the 2001 Census, without changing the total seats allotted to each State.

8. Centre opposes extending the creamy layer principle to SC/ST reservations.

In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, the Centre has pushed back against the demand to introduce the **"creamy layer"** concept for reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).



It argued that the historical disadvantages faced by these communities cannot be equated with mere economic backwardness and that altering reservation policies falls within the domain of Parliament, not the courts.

Creamy layer:

The "Creamy Layer" refers to the socially, educationally, and economically advanced members of the **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** who are excluded from receiving reservation benefits in government jobs and educational institutions.

- **Indra Sawhney Case (1992):** The Supreme Court upheld the 27% reservation for OBCs but introduced the "creamy layer" concept to exclude affluent individuals.
- **Ram Nandan Committee (1993):** Appointed to identify and specify the criteria for the creamy layer.

9. Seven-judge Supreme Court Bench to examine the scope of legislative privileges.

The Supreme Court has said a seven-judge **Constitution Bench** would commence hearing from October 6 a series of long-pending petitions questioning whether **legislative privileges** can override citizens' fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.

state legislatures, and their members, enabling them to function effectively without interference.

- **Article 105:** Deals with the powers, privileges, and immunities of Parliament, its members, and its committees.
- **Article 194:** Grants equivalent privileges to state legislatures and their members.
- **Article 122 & 212:** Bar courts from inquiring into parliamentary or legislative proceedings on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure.

Interconnected concept:

Constitution bench:

A Constitution Bench is a special ad-hoc panel of the Supreme Court of India **consisting of five or more judges**, set up to decide cases involving a substantial question of law regarding the **interpretation of the Constitution** or to hear **presidential references**.

- **Article 145(3):** Mandates that a minimum of five judges must hear any case involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.
- **Article 143:** Empowers the President of India to refer questions of law or fact of public importance to the Supreme Court, which must then be heard by a Constitution Bench.

10.31-member parliamentary panel to review the proposed FCRA amendment Bill.

The Lok Sabha a motion referring the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026**, to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).

CONSTITUTION BENCH



WHAT IS IT?

A larger bench of Supreme Court judges, constituted to hear cases involving important constitutional questions.

			
CONSTITUTED BY	STRENGTH	WHEN CONSTITUTED?	PURPOSE
Chief Justice of India in consultation with Senior-most Judges	Minimum 5 Judges (Usually 5, 7, 9 or more)	For cases involving substantial questions of constitutional law	To ensure consistency in interpretation of the Constitution

Legislative privileges:

Legislative privileges are special rights and immunities enjoyed by the houses of Parliament,

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (JPC)



WHAT IS JPC?

A committee constituted by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha together to examine specific issues.

				
CONSTITUTED BY	COMPOSITION	TENURE	FUNCTION	REPORT
Lok Sabha Speaker in consultation with Rajya Sabha Chairman.	Members from both Houses. Nominated proportionally.	Not more than one year. Dissolves after submitting report.	Investigates, examines and makes recommendations on the subject.	Submits report to both Houses of Parliament.

The JPC will have **21 members from the Lok Sabha nominated by Speaker** Om Birla and **10 from the Rajya Sabha nominated by Chairman** C.P. Radhakrishnan.

Joint Parliamentary Committee:

A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is a temporary, ad-hoc investigative body drawn from **both houses of the Indian Parliament**-the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha-to scrutinize specific complex bills or financial scams.

- **Nature:** It is an ad hoc (temporary) committee that dissolves automatically after completing its designated task and submitting its report.
- **Composition:** It includes members from both houses, usually maintaining a ratio of 2:1 between the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to reflect the size of each house.
- **Leadership:** The **Chairperson is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha** and is always a member of the lower house.

FCRA:

The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** is an internal security law in India managed by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

- It controls how Indian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), associations, and individuals accept and use donations or funds from foreign sources.
- Its main goal is to make sure foreign money does not harm national security.

11. Justice Varma case: Inquiry panel finds charges against the judge proved.

A **three-member inquiry committee** constituted by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla, has found the charges "proved" against former Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma over the discovery of burnt currency at his official residence.



The committee's report, tabled in both Houses of Parliament, said the judge had failed to provide a satisfactory explanation regarding the presence, source, or ownership of the cash.

Interconnected concept:

The removal/impeachment procedure is mainly governed by **Article 124(4) and 124(5)** of the Constitution and the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

- **Grounds for removal:** A Supreme Court judge can be removed only on two grounds-**Proved misbehaviour** and **Incapacity**.

Procedure:

- **Removal motion is introduced in Parliament:** A notice of motion must be signed by: Lok Sabha: at least 100 members; Rajya Sabha: at least 50 members.
The Speaker of Lok Sabha or Chairman of Rajya Sabha may admit or refuse to admit the motion.
- **Three-member Inquiry Committee is constituted:** If the motion is admitted, a **3-member committee investigates the charges**. It consists of: One Supreme Court judge; One Chief Justice of a High Court; One distinguished jurist
- **Committee investigates:** The committee examines whether the allegations of misbehaviour or incapacity are proved. If the charges are not proved, the removal process does not proceed on that motion. If they are proved, Parliament can take up the motion for consideration
- **Both Houses must pass the motion:** Each House must pass the address in the same session with a **special majority**: Majority of the total membership of that House + at least 2/3 of the members present and voting.

12. Supreme Court invokes Article 142 to quash FIRs against NEET protesters.



Supreme Court of India agreed to invoke its extraordinary plenary powers under **Article 142** of the Constitution to quash First Information Reports (FIRs) filed against students who participated in nationwide protests against the NEET-UG exam paper leaks

Article 142 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing "**complete justice**" in any pending matter.

- **Complete Justice:** Grants wide discretionary plenary power to reach beyond technicalities of strict statutory law when it causes injustice.
- **Enforceability:** Orders are enforceable across India under parliamentary law or presidential order.
- **Constitutional Status:** Serves as an inherent power for the apex court as the guardian of the Constitution.

13. Supreme Court directs Odisha to decide on the pending remission plea.

The Supreme Court today pulled up the Odisha government for not taking a decision on the **remission plea** of Ravindra Pal alias Dara Singh, who is serving life sentence for the murder in 1999.

ARTICLE 72

(CONSTITUTION OF INDIA)

POWER OF THE PRESIDENT TO GRANT

 PARDON	 REMISSION	 COMMUTATION
 SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE	 REPRIEVE	 RESPITE



APPLICABLE IN RESPECT OF

- COURT-MARTIAL CASES
- SENTENCES FOR OFFENCES AGAINST UNION LAW

Interconnected concept:

Remission:

Remission means reducing the length of a prison sentence without changing its type or nature.

Constitutional Powers:

- **Article 72:** Empowers the President of India to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment.
- **Article 161:** Empowers the Governor of a State to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment.
- **Remission vs. Commutation:** Remission reduces the duration of the sentence (e.g., 5 years to 2 years) keeping the nature same. Commutation changes the character of the punishment to a lighter form (e.g., death penalty to life imprisonment).

14. Cabinet approves establishment of a High Court bench in Ladakh.

The Union Cabinet, has approved the establishment of a **bench of the High Court** of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

At present, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has its principal seats at Srinagar and Jammu. The proposed Ladakh bench will provide residents of the Union Territory with a closer judicial forum and reduce the need to undertake long journeys for High Court-related proceedings.

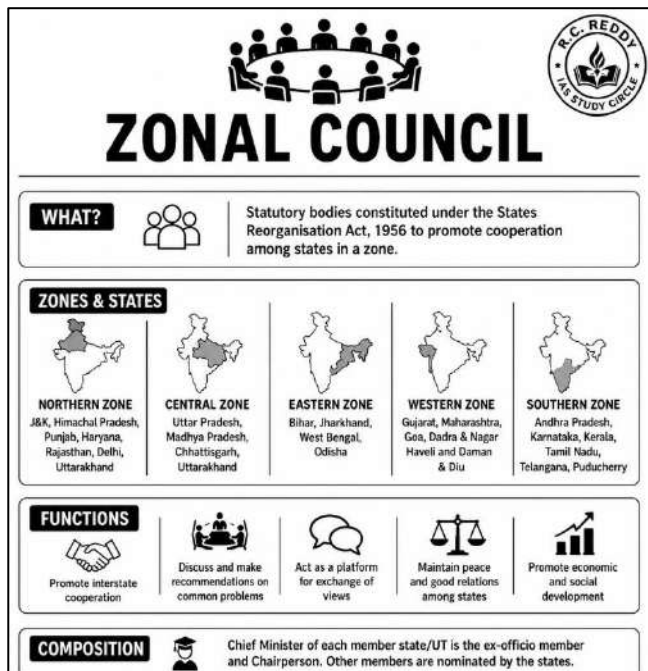
Interconnected concept:

The establishment of a High Court bench in India is governed by **Section 51 of the States' Reorganisation Act, 1956**.

- The President of India issues a notified order to set up a permanent bench away from the principal seat, following consultation with the Governor and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

15. 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting focuses on Centre-State and regional issues.

The **31st South Zone Council meeting** concluded in Mahabalipuram near Chennai under the chairmanship of the Home Minister.



Zonal Councils are **statutory advisory bodies** established under the **States Reorganisation Act of 1956** to promote cooperative federalism, resolve inter-state disputes, and ensure regional coordination between the Centre and states.

India has **five main Zonal Councils** (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, and Southern), plus the North Eastern Council added later.

- **Chairman:** Union Home Minister for all five councils.
- **Vice-Chairman:** Chief Minister of a member state in the zone, holding office by annual rotation.
- **Members:** Chief Ministers and two nominated ministers from each state in the zone, plus administrators of union territories.
- **Advisory Nature:** Recommendations are non-binding and lack legal enforceability.

16. District Collectors empowered to grant citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has transferred the processing of pending citizenship applications under the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019**, from Empowered Committees - comprising Central government officials, including those from the Census, Intelligence Bureau (IB) and postal departments - to District Collectors in eight States and Union Territories (UTs).



The **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019** amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 to provide an accelerated pathway to Indian citizenship for undocumented **non-Muslim migrants- specifically Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians**-from **Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan** who entered India on or before **December 31, 2014**.

17. Centre releases ₹1.09 lakh crore in advance tax devolution to States.

The Union Government released an **additional advance devolution of tax** devolution amounting to ₹1,09,019 crore to all 28 states.



Tax devolution is the constitutional mechanism under **Article 270** where the Centre shares a portion of its tax collections with states.

- Regulated by the **Finance Commission (Article 280)**, it splits into vertical devolution (the total pool shared, **currently fixed at 41%**) and horizontal devolution (how it is split among states).

Interconnected concept:

Article 270:

- Article 270 of the Indian Constitution governs the levying, collection, and sharing of taxes between the Union and States.

- It forms the legal basis for the divisible pool of taxes, which are distributed to states based on Finance Commission recommendations. However, it explicitly **excludes cesses and surcharges from this sharing mechanism.**

18. Opposition questions delay in proroguing Parliament and its constitutional implications.

The Congress party questioned the 10-day delay in formally **proroguing** the Monsoon Session of Parliament following its **sine die adjournment**.

Prorogue: Prorogue means the formal end of a session of a legislative house, ordered by the President under **Article 85 (for Parliament)** or **Article 174 (for State Legislatures)** of the Indian Constitution.

- It terminates both the sitting and the session, but does not dissolve the house.

Adjournment: Terminates only a sitting (not the session) for a short, specified time like hours, days, or weeks.

- The power lies entirely with the **presiding officer** (Speaker of the Lok Sabha or Chairman of the Rajya Sabha).

Adjournment Sine Die: Terminates a sitting for an indefinite period because no next date or day for reassembly is fixed.

- This power also belongs exclusively to the **presiding officer**.



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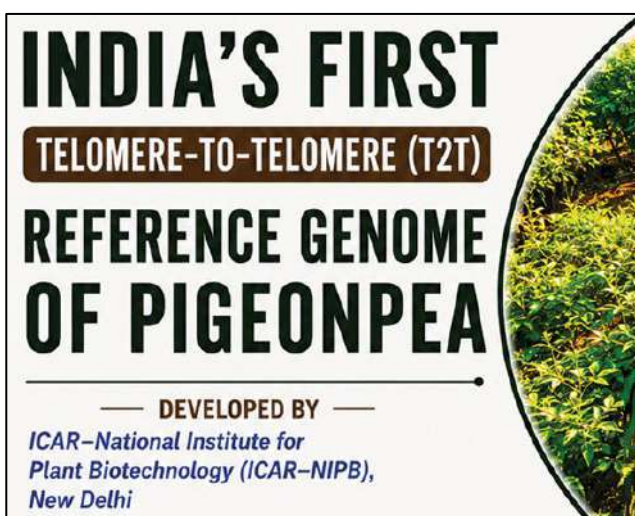
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Section-II A: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - including achievements of ISRO, new innovations & other related issues of S & T.

1. ICAR develops India's first fully annotated T2T genome of pigeon pea variety Asha.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) announced that it has developed India's first fully annotated telomere-to-telomere (T2T) reference genome of **pigeon pea** (*Cajanus cajan* L. Millsp.) variety '**Asha**'.



Significance for Agriculture:

- Provides a complete genetic map to locate genes for climate and stress resistance.
- Accelerates breeding cycles for high-yielding pulse varieties.
- Supports national food security goals under the pulse mission.

2. TakeMe2Space's PowerBank-50 becomes India's first domestically manufactured satellite battery.

TakeMe2Space's **PowerBank-50** has officially become India's first commercially available, indigenously developed **satellite battery pack** to earn the highly coveted "flight heritage" status.

- The milestone was achieved after the Hyderabad-based startup's battery successfully powered an experimental payload aboard Skyroot Aerospace's maiden **Vikram-1 "Aagaman"** rocket mission.



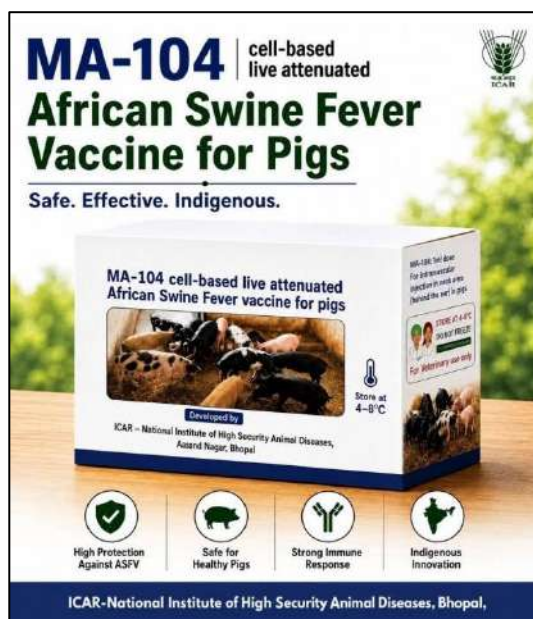
India made history with the successful launch of **Vikram-1** under **Mission Aagaman**, becoming the first privately developed orbital-class rocket from Indian soil to reach space.

- Developed by the Hyderabad-based startup **Skyroot Aerospace**, the multi-stage launch vehicle lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Srihari Kota and successfully deployed its payloads into a **450 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- This milestone achievement makes **India the third country in the world-after the United States and China**-to possess private orbital launch capabilities

3. ICAR develops India's first indigenous vaccine against African swine fever.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed India's first indigenous **African swine fever (ASF) live attenuated vaccine for pigs**.

The ASF, caused by the African swine fever virus, is considered as one of the most devastating trans-boundary animal diseases affecting domestic and wild pigs worldwide.

**African swine fever (ASF):**

African swine fever (ASF) is a severe, highly contagious **viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs** with up to a 100% mortality rate.

- It does not infect humans and is not a public health risk, but it causes catastrophic economic losses for agriculture and livestock.

Interconnected concepts:**Vaccine:**

- A vaccine is a biological preparation that provides active acquired immunity to a specific infectious disease.

Vaccine platforms

Platform	Mechanism	Example
Live attenuated	A weakened pathogen replicates without causing disease, giving strong and long-lasting immunity	BCG, oral polio, measles
Inactivated	The killed pathogen is administered; safer for the immunocompromised but needs booster doses	Covaxin, injectable polio vaccine
Subunit	Only a fragment of the pathogen, such as a surface protein, is used	Hepatitis B vaccine

Viral vector	A harmless virus delivers genetic material coding for the antigen	Covishield
mRNA	Messenger RNA instructs host cells to produce the antigen	Gemcovac-19, India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine

4. Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace signs multi-launch agreement with HEX20.

Skyroot Aerospace signed a Multi-Launch Agreement (MLA) with Thiruvananthapuram-based **space tech startup HEX20 Space** to launch its Earth-observation constellation and in-orbit payload demonstration missions.

Interconnected concept:

Vikram-1 is India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle, built by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace. It successfully achieved orbit on its maiden flight, **Mission Aagamam**.

- It is capable of carrying up to **350 kg to 480 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** depending on the targeted orbital profile.

5. NASA invites ISRO to participate in its Moon Base programme under the Artemis Accords.

NASA has invited the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to join its **Moon Base programme**, building on the two countries' partnership under the **Artemis Accords**.

NASA INVITES ISRO TO JOIN ITS MOON BASE PROGRAMME — UNDER ARTEMIS ACCORDS —



NASA has invited ISRO to join its Moon Base programme under the Artemis Accords.

MOON BASE PROGRAMME



- Aims to establish a sustainable human presence on the Moon.
- International collaboration is key to building the lunar ecosystem.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR ISRO & INDIA

- Strengthens India-USA space partnership.
- Opportunities to contribute to lunar infrastructure and technologies.
- Enhances international collaboration and leadership in space exploration.
- Supports ISRO's long-term goals in deep space missions.

ABOUT ARTEMIS ACCORDS

- A set of principles for peaceful and responsible exploration of the Moon, Mars and beyond.
- Promotes transparency, interoperability, and sustainable space exploration.

Interconnected concepts:

- **Moon Base programme** is a collaborative, multi-phase initiative led by NASA under its broader Artemis Programme. It envisions building humanity's **first permanent outpost near the Lunar South Pole**.
- **Artemis Accords:**
 - The **Artemis Accords** are a non-binding multilateral arrangement established in 2020 by NASA and the U.S. Department of State.

With 70 signatory nations as of July 2026, they provide a practical framework for safe, transparent, and peaceful civil exploration of the Moon, Mars, and other celestial bodies.

6. Department of Atomic Energy releases draft rules under the SHANTI Act.

Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) released the draft rules for the **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025**.



SHANTI Act

Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act



ABOUT

Provides a legal framework for sustainable harnessing, advancement and regulation of nuclear energy in India.

OBJECTIVE

To promote safe, secure and sustainable use of nuclear energy for India's growth and national development.

KEY FEATURES



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



ADVANCEMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY



SAFETY & SECURITY



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK



INVESTMENT & INDUSTRY GROWTH



ENERGY SECURITY FOR INDIA

The rules aim to open India's nuclear sector to private participation while setting strict frameworks for safety, licensing, and civil liability.

SHANTI act:

The **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025** overhauls India's civil nuclear sector by replacing the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act, 2010.

- It permits **private and foreign participation in nuclear power generation**, grants statutory status to the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**, and streamlines liability rules to meet clean energy goals.

7. ISRO strengthens measures to address growing space-debris risks from LEO satellite constellations.

Minister announced in Rajya sabha that Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is taking measures to mitigate the **growing risk of space debris** arising from the proliferation of large Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite and satellite internet constellations.

The measures are:

- **Debris Free Space Mission to support space sustainability:** Debris Free Space Mission will play an important role in protecting space assets and preventing further growth of the debris population.
 - The initiative includes measures such as Active Debris Removal (ADR) and other approaches aimed at reducing the generation and accumulation of debris.
- **India has been part of IADC since 1996:** India has also been actively involved in international efforts to address the space debris problem.
 - Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), established in 1993, is a leading international forum dealing with space debris monitoring and mitigation, and ISRO has been a member since 1996.
 - India is also represented in international forums dealing with space debris and space sustainability, including the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS).
- **Satellite disposal rules strengthened:** Indian Space Policy mandates the adoption of internationally recognised space debris mitigation guidelines, including measures for the disposal of satellites at the end of their operational lives.

8. Astrobase unveils India's first privately developed 800 kN rocket engine.

Astrobase, a Bengaluru-based space company unveiled India's first privately built 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) LOX-Methane rocket.



ASTROBASE

UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE 800kN ROCKET ENGINE

WHAT?
India's first private 800kN rocket engine.

THRUST
800 kiloNewton (800,000 Newton)

SIGNIFICANCE
A major milestone in India's private space sector.

DEVELOPED BY
Astrobase (Indian Space startup)

USE
Designed for launch vehicles in the medium-lift category.

WHAT?
India's first private 800kN rocket engine.

THRUST
800 kiloNewton (800,000 Newton)

SIGNIFICANCE
A major milestone in India's private space sector.

DEVELOPED BY
Astrobase (Indian Space startup)

USE
Designed for launch vehicles in the medium-lift category.

The engine, named **EVEREST**, has been developed by Astrobase making it the fourth commercial company to successfully develop a high thrust flow FFSC engine globally.

- **Engine Name:** EVEREST
- **Thrust:** 800 kilonewtons (80-tonne class)
- **Propellant:** Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Methane (Methalox).

9. India becomes the first country to develop genome-edited rice varieties.

India launched its first two genome-edited rice varieties, **DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)** and **Pusa DST Rice 1**.

- Developed by ICAR using **CRISPR-Cas9 technology** without foreign DNA, these climate-smart varieties offer higher yields and water efficiency.



INDIA LAUNCHED ITS FIRST TWO GENOME-EDITED RICE VARIETIES

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**DRR DHAN 100
(KAMALA)**



**PUSA DST
RICE 1**



DEVELOPED BY ICAR
USING CRISPR-Cas9
TECHNOLOGY
WITHOUT FOREIGN DNA



HIGHER
YIELDS



WATER
EFFICIENCY

- **DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala):** Developed by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) in Hyderabad from the popular Samba Mahsuri strain.
- **Pusa DST Rice 1:** Developed by the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in New Delhi from the high-yielding MTU1010 variety. It directly targets the Drought and Salt Tolerance (DST) gene.

10. India celebrates the third National Space Day on August 23.

India celebrated its third **National Space Day** on **August 23, 2026**, marking the anniversary of the historic **Chandrayaan-3** soft landing near the **lunar south pole**.



INDIA CELEBRATES 3RD NATIONAL SPACE DAY

India celebrated its third National Space Day on August 23, 2026, marking the anniversary of the historic Chandrayaan-3 soft landing near the lunar south pole.

NATIONAL SPACE DAY:
National Space Day is celebrated in India on August 23 every year. It marks the historic soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover near the Moon's south pole in 2023, making India the first nation to reach that lunar region.

DATE: August 23 Every Year

HISTORIC MISSION: Chandrayaan-3 (2023)

ACHIEVEMENT: India became the first nation to reach the lunar south pole.

SHIV SHAKTI POINT
is the official designation for the landing site of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission on the Moon.

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National Space Day:

National Space Day is celebrated in India on August 23 every year. It marks the historic **soft landing of the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover** near the Moon's south pole in 2023, making India the first nation to reach that lunar region.

- **Shiv Shakti Point** is the official designation for the landing site of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission on the Moon.

11. India advances plans for a space station by 2035 with approval of the first Bharatiya Antariksha Station module.

ISRO chairman informed that India is working to establish its **own space station by 2035**, with the first module of the proposed **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS)** already approved.



The **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS)** is India's planned **indigenous modular space station** being developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- Envisioned as a cornerstone of India's Space Vision 2047, the orbital laboratory will support **long-duration human space missions, microgravity research, and advanced scientific studies** in fields like medicine, materials science, and life sciences.
- The complete space station will weigh approximately 52 tonnes and feature a modular architecture made up of **five interconnected modules**.

12. ISRO tests an improved first-stage version of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle.

ISRO has successfully conducted the ground static test of an improved version of the **solid booster stage (SS1)** of **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)**.



The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is a **three-stage**, all-solid propulsion launcher with a **liquid-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM)** developed by ISRO.

- It carries payloads Up to **500 kg to 500 km LEO** or 300 kg to Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO)
- **Rapid Turnaround:** Requires only 72 hours for integration by a lean team of about 6 people, compared to weeks or months for the PSLV.

13. ISRO confirms atmospheric re-entry of the LVM3-M5 upper stage.

The **C25 upper stage of ISRO's LVM3-M5** rocket safely re-entered Earth's atmosphere on July 30, 2026, roughly nine months after its November 2, 2025 launch from Sriharikota.

HEAVYLIFTERS



LVM3
INDIA'S HEAVIEST, WILL ALSO BE USED FOR GAGANYAAN
Liftoff Mass: 640
Payload Capacity:
LEO: 8
GTO: 4



PSLV
INDIA'S MOST PROLIFIC
Liftoff Mass: 320*
Payload Capacity:
LEO: 1.75
GTO: 1.4



GSLV MK-II
MEANT FOR HEAVIER COMMUNICATION SATELLITES
Liftoff Mass: 415
Payload Capacity:
LEO: 6
GTO: 2.25

The rocket had launched the CMS-03 communication satellite from Sriharikota on November 2, 2025, successfully placing it in its intended **geostationary transfer orbit (GTO)**.

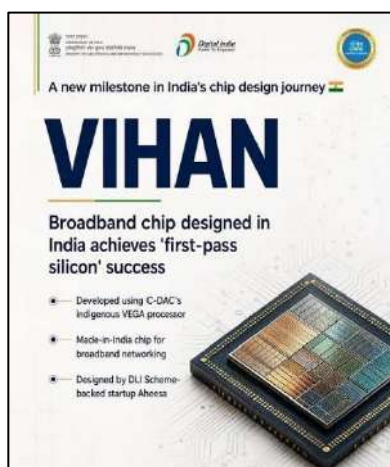
Interconnected concepts:

1. LVM3 launch vehicle:

- The **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)**, formerly known as the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III), is India's heaviest and most powerful **three-stage medium-to-heavy-lift operational launch vehicle** developed entirely indigenously by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
 - It can lift up to **4,000 kg into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)** and **8,000 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- **Stage 1 (Solid)**: Two large S200 solid rocket boosters strapped to the sides, using hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB) propellant to provide massive initial thrust at lift-off.
- **Stage 2 (Liquid)**: The L110 liquid core stage powered by twin Vikas engines burning liquid propellants.
- **Stage 3 (Cryogenic)**: The C25 cryogenic upper stage powered by the indigenous CE-20 cryogenic engine using **liquid oxygen (LOX)** and **liquid hydrogen (LH2)**.

14. DLI-backed Aheesa Digital Innovations achieves first-pass silicon success with indigenous VIHAAN broadband chip.

Aheesa Digital Innovations, an Indian fabless semiconductor startup backed by the government's Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme, has achieved a landmark milestone by securing first-pass silicon success for '**VIHAAN**'.



- This is India's first domestically designed broadband networking System-on-Chip (SoC), built using the indigenous **VEGA microprocessor core developed by C-DAC**.

Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:

The **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme** is a key program by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the India Semiconductor Mission.

- It offers financial support and infrastructure access to domestic companies, startups, and MSMEs **to design and deploy semiconductor chips**.

15. MeitY notifies the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme to strengthen domestic electronics production.

With a budgetary outlay of Rs 62,500 crore, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has notified the **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme**.



The five-year scheme, which will run from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, has been split into two distinct tracks.

- The first is designed as a successor to the earlier PLI programme, **offering incentives to large manufacturers and electronics manufacturing services (EMS) companies** for expanding production, while increasingly linking benefits to the domestic sourcing of components.
- The second sets aside a separate **incentive structure for Indian smartphone brands**, offering higher support for companies that not only manufacture in the country but also keep their intellectual property, management control, design and research and development capabilities in India.

16. Indian scientists develop RK-251, a targeted cancer drug designed to attack tumour cells while sparing healthy tissue.

Scientists in India have developed a **new “smart” cancer drug** designed to activate primarily inside cancer cells, potentially offering a more targeted alternative to conventional chemotherapy that can also damage healthy cells.



- The drug, named **RK-251**, has been developed through collaborative research led by Dr. Asis Bala of the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, and Dr. K.P. Bhabak of the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati.
- Unlike conventional chemotherapy, which can affect both cancerous and healthy cells, RK-251 is designed to remain relatively inactive in normal tissues and become activated in the presence of conditions commonly found inside cancer cells.



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Section-II B: DEFENSE - achievements of DRDO and other defense related issues.

1. Hindustan Shipyard Limited delivers diving support vessel Nipun to the Indian Navy.

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) delivered **Nipun**, a state-of-the-art **Diving Support Vessel (DSV)**, to the Indian Navy.



The delivery of this highly specialized vessel marks a major milestone in India's drive towards self-reliance under the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiative. It follows the handover of its sister ship, **INS Nistar**, which was delivered last year.

2. Indian Navy launches next-generation patrol vessel Shruti.

Indian Navy launched Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) - '**Shruti**'.

Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) – 'Shruti' – was launched.



The construction of NGOPVs is concurrently being undertaken at two shipyards –



1. Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)



2. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata

- The construction of NGOPVs is concurrently being undertaken at two shipyards - **Goa**

Shipyard Limited (GSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata. Yard 3037 ('Shruti') was launched at GRSE, Kolkata.

- It will undertake missions including maritime surveillance, search and rescue, offshore asset protection, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and anti-piracy operations.

3. India successfully test-fires the Agni-4 intermediate-range ballistic missile.

India successfully test-fired **medium range ballistic missile Agni-4** from the integrated test range in Odisha's Chandipur. The test-firing of the missile was carried out by the **Strategic Forces Command**.



Agni-IV:

Agni-IV is an indigenously developed, nuclear-capable **Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)** with a strike range of approximately 4,000 km.

- **Type:** Surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- **Propulsion:** Two-stage solid propellant system.
- **Range:** 3,500 km to 4,000 km.

- **Payload Capacity:** 1,000 kg (nuclear or conventional warheads).
- **High Precision:** Features a Ring Laser Gyro-based Inertial Navigation System (RINS) supported by a Micro Inertial Navigation System (MINS).

Interconnected concepts:

Ballistic missile:

A ballistic missile is a missile that is **powered by a rocket engine** only during the initial part of its flight. After that, it travels mainly under the **influence of gravity**, following a curved or ballistic trajectory, before descending toward its target.

Classification by range:

- **SRBM** – Short-Range Ballistic Missile: below about 1,000 km
- **MRBM** – Medium-Range: about 1,000–3,000 km
- **IRBM** – Intermediate-Range: about 3,000–5,500 km
- **ICBM** – Intercontinental Ballistic Missile: above about 5,500 km.

Prithvi and the **Agni** series are major examples of Indian ballistic missiles.

4. India successfully test-fires its first fully indigenised AK-203 assault rifle, Sher.

India has successfully manufactured and test-fired its first **100% indigenised AK-203 assault rifle**, named **Sher**, at the Korwa Ordnance Facility in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.



Produced by **Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)**, every component and raw material used in the prototype is sourced directly from Indian industries, shifting the project from licensed assembly to end-to-end domestic manufacturing.



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Section-III: Environment & Ecology: This section covers important current issues with respect to environment and Climate change

1. Government releases disaster-response funds to seven States.

The Central government approved the advance release of **₹2,117.85 crore** from its share of the **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** to support seven flood-affected states during the ongoing southwest monsoon.

Interconnected concept:

State Disaster Response Fund -

State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is the primary financial mechanism available to State Governments to provide immediate relief during notified disasters.

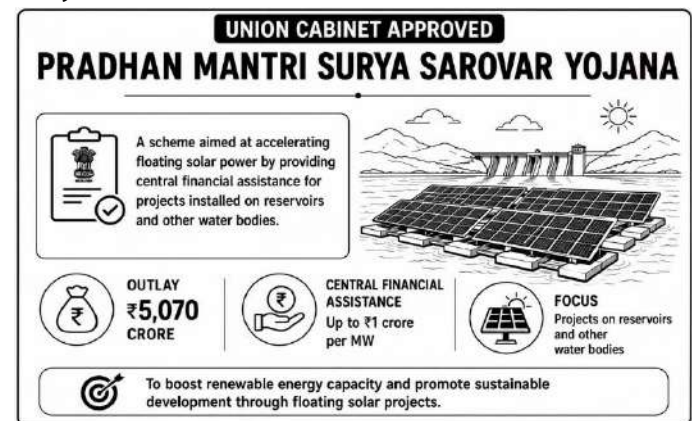
- **Legislative Basis:** Formed under **Section 48(1)(a)** of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Monitored by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Accounting Head:** Placed under the **Public Account of India** as a "Reserve Fund bearing Interest".
- **Funding pattern:** The fund operates as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (75% central share and 25 % state share for general category states).

2. Cabinet approves a scheme to promote floating solar power plants.

The Union Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana**, a ₹5,070-crore scheme aimed at accelerating floating solar power by providing central financial assistance of up to ₹1 crore per MW for projects installed on reservoirs and other water bodies.

- The programme targets **5,000 MW of floating solar capacity** by 2030-31.
- The scheme, to be implemented by the **Solar Energy Corporation of India**, comes at a time when India has about 0.7 GW of installed floating solar capacity despite an estimated potential of **102 GW**.

Projects



- receiving support under the scheme will have to include battery energy storage equivalent to at least two hours, amounting to 10,000 MWh across the programme, to help States meet peak demand and reduce the curtailment of renewable power during periods of excess generation.

Note:

- India's flagship project, the **Omkareshwar floating solar park, located on the Narmada in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district** is the country's largest at 278 MW, with plans to scale to 600 MW output. However, it doesn't have onsite battery storage.

3. Supreme Court extends the 10-km mining buffer to all wetland reserves.

The Supreme Court clarified that a direction banning mining activities within a 10 km radius of the **Asan wetland conservation reserve**, a Ramsar site in Uttarakhand, would apply to other wetland conservation reserves across the country.



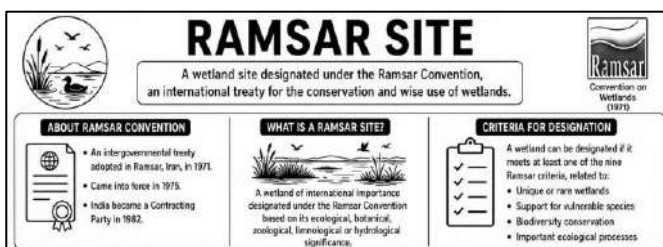
Interconnected concepts:

- **Wetland:** A wetland is an ecosystem where water covers the soil-either permanently or seasonally-controlling the environment and its associated plant and animal life.
- **Ramsar convention:** Ramsar convention Signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran; entered into force in 1975. It is an intergovernmental treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. India ratified it on 1 February 1982.
 - **State with most sites:** Tamil Nadu leads with 20 sites, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 13 sites.
 - **First Ramsar Sites:** Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), designated together in 1981.
- **Montreux Record**
Montreux Record is a register of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur due to pollution or human interference.
 - Two sites from India are present in India are: **Loktak lake** (Manipur) and **Keoladeo National Park** (Rajasthan).

4. Glaw Lake becomes Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar Site, taking India's total to 101.

India has added **Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh** to the list of wetlands of international importance under the **Ramsar Convention**, taking the country's total number of Ramsar Sites to 101.

- The designation also marks **Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar Site**, a significant milestone in the state's biodiversity conservation efforts.



A Ramsar Site is a **wetland designated to be of international importance** under the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental environmental treaty.

- Ramsar convention Signed on Feb 2nd 1971 in Ramsar, Iran; entered into force in 1975. Due to this **World Wetland Day** is celebrated every year on **Feb 2nd**.

5. Unusually high ozone concentrations detected over the Bay of Bengal.

Scientists have detected an unusually **thick layer of ozone** high above the North Bay of Bengal. The layer formed about 21 to 23 km above the Earth's surface and remained there for more than a day.

**Interconnected concept:****Ozone -**

Ozone (O₃) is a gas made of three oxygen atoms. It is found in the **stratosphere**, about 10 to 50 km above Earth's surface. It holds 90% of the planet's ozone.

- **Good Ozone:** Stratospheric ozone. It acts as a natural shield, absorbing 97–99% of dangerous solar Ultraviolet (UV-B and UV-C) rays.
- **Bad Ozone:** Tropospheric or ground-level ozone. It is a toxic air pollutant and a major component of urban smog.
- It is measured in **Dobson Units (DU)**. A normal global average is 300 DU. An "ozone hole" is defined when levels drop below 220 DU

Ozone depletion:

Ozone is naturally formed and broken down by UV light in a balanced cycle (the **Chapman Mechanism**). Anthropogenic (human-made) chemicals disrupt this balance mainly through Ozone-Depleting Substances.

- **Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS):** These include Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), Halons (used in fire extinguishers), Carbon tetrachloride, and Methyl chloroform.

Global interventions:

- **Vienna Convention (1985):** The first global framework; set up research, international cooperation, and monitoring of the ozone layer, though it contains no binding reduction targets.
- **Montreal Protocol (1987):** A legally binding treaty targeting the phase-out of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODSs) like CFCs and

halons; universally ratified by 197 UN parties, making it a historic success.

- **Kigali Amendment (2016):** Added to the Montreal Protocol to phase down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)-which do not deplete ozone but are powerful greenhouse gases-aiming to prevent up to 0.5°C of global warming by 2100.

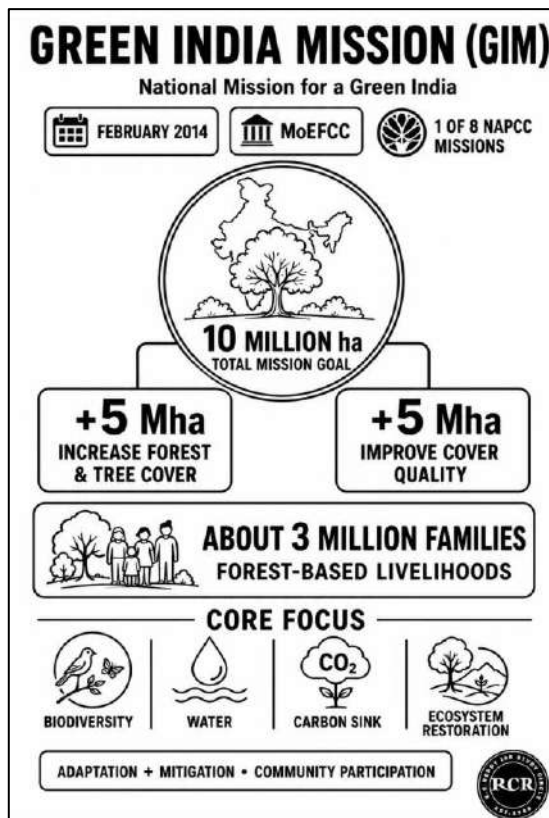
6. CAG audit highlights major implementation gaps in the Green India Mission.

The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** has flagged major shortcomings in the implementation of the **Green India Mission (GIM)**, including inadequate funding, weak coordination between government schemes, poor monitoring, and failure to meet key targets for improving forest cover and its quality.

Green India Mission:

Green India Mission is a part of the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**, is a key initiative by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) aimed at protecting and restoring ecosystems.

- It focuses on increasing forest cover and enhancing carbon sinks to meet climate goals.



Key targets:

- **Afforestation & Expansion:** Increase Forest and tree cover by 5 million hectares (mha).
- **Quality Improvement:** Improve the quality of existing forest and tree cover across another 5 million hectares.

The mission is particularly important to India's climate commitments because enhancing forest and tree cover is a central component of India's **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** under the Paris Agreement. India has committed to creating an additional **carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030** through additional forest and tree cover.

Interconnected concept:

CAG - Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is the supreme audit institution of the country, established under **Article 148 of the Constitution** of India.

- It acts as the **guardian of the public purse** and ensures financial accountability of both the Union and State governments to the Parliament.

7. India launches its first national guide to grasslands and other open natural ecosystems at UNCCD COP17.

India launched its first-ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONES) of India at the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia).



United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is established as one of the three **"Rio Conventions"** alongside UNFCCC and CBD following the **1992 Earth Summit**.

- It is aimed at combating desertification, preventing land degradation and reducing the impacts of drought through sustainable land management.
- It is the only legally binding international agreement that links environment and development to sustainable land management.

Interconnected concept:

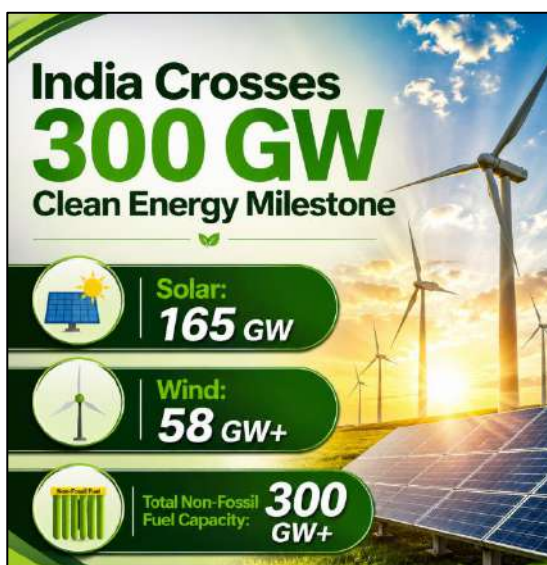
Earth Summit:

- The **Rio Earth Summit**, officially the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), was a major global meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. It brought together leaders from 172 nations to find ways to balance worldwide economic growth with long-term environmental protection.

Major Outcomes and Agreements:

- **Agenda 21:** A massive, voluntary action plan for sustainable development into the 21st century.
- **Rio Declaration:** A set of 27 principles defining the rights and responsibilities of nations regarding the environment.
- **The Rio Conventions:** Led directly to landmark international treaties on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Biological Diversity (CBD), and later Desertification (UNCCD).

8. India crosses 300 GW of installed non-fossil fuel-based power capacity.



India has crossed **300 gigawatts of non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity** generation capacity. The share of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity in the country's total electricity generation capacity (which is around 552 GW at present), has reached over **54%**.

Breakdown of Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity (as on 31.07.2026):

Solar Power	164.59 MW
Wind Power	58.14 MW
Hydro Power (Large & Small)	57.24 MW
Nuclear Power	8.78 GW
Total Non-Fossil Capacity	300.50 GW

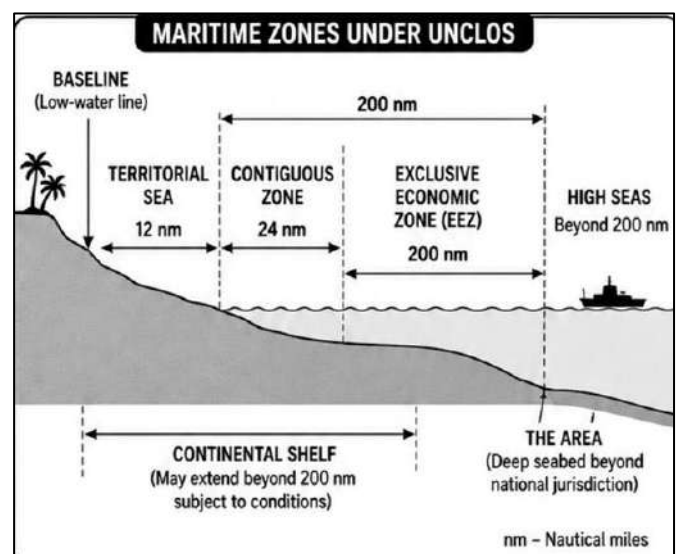
Interconnected concept:

Intended National Determined Contributions:

- India's updated **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** for the period 2031–2035 sets three primary climate goals:
 - Reducing the **emissions intensity of its GDP** by 47% below 2005 levels,
 - Achieving **60% non-fossil electric power installed capacity**, and
 - Creating a **carbon sink** of 3.5–4 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, all by 2035.

9. CMLRE releases assessment of deep-sea and distant-water fishery resources in India's EEZ.

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has released the comprehensive **"National Report on Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources of the Indian EEZ"**.



- It compiles nearly four decades of pioneering oceanographic research and three decades of systematic surveys across India's 2.37 million square kilometre **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.

Exclusive Economic Zone:

An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a sea zone extending **up to 200 nautical miles from a country's coastal baseline**.

- Defined by the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, the coastal state has sovereign rights to explore, exploit, conserve, and manage living and non-living natural resources.

Interconnected concept:

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

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), signed in 1982 and effective in 1994, is the foundational international treaty defining maritime zones, navigation rights, and resource management.

Known as the **"Constitution of the Oceans,"** it divides marine areas into five main zones and establishes key judicial bodies for global ocean governance.

- **Territorial Sea:** Extends up to 12 nautical miles from the baseline; coastal states have full sovereignty, subject to the right of innocent passage for foreign ships.
- **Contiguous Zone:** Extends up to 24 nautical miles from the baseline; states can enforce customs, fiscal, immigration, or sanitary laws.
- **Continental Shelf:** Seabed and subsoil of submarine areas extending beyond the territorial sea up to 200 nautical miles or more under specific geographic limits.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** Extends up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline; coastal states hold sovereign rights to explore, exploit, and manage living and non-living resources.
- **High Seas:** Open ocean areas beyond the EEZ, reserved for peaceful purposes and shared as the common heritage of mankind.

10. Vantara submits voluntary CITES commitments to strengthen wildlife conservation and trade compliance.

Vantara, the wildlife conservation, rescue and rehabilitation centre in Gujarat's Jamnagar, submitted a set of voluntary commitments to the **CITES Management Authority of India** aimed at ensuring better governance, transparency and compliance.



Interconnected concept:

- **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)** is a global agreement signed in 1973 to ensure international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
 - It is **legally binding** but relies on national laws for enforcement.

Three Appendices:

- **Appendix I:** Species threatened with extinction. Commercial trade is prohibited except in rare, non-commercial circumstances.
- **Appendix II:** Species not necessarily threatened now, but trade must be controlled to avoid over-exploitation.
- **Appendix III:** Species protected in at least one country that asked other members for help to control trade



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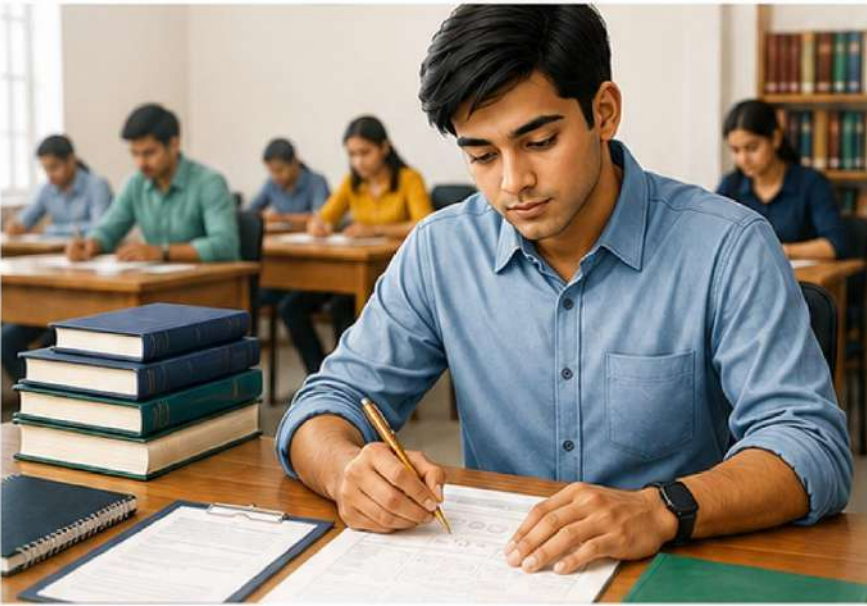


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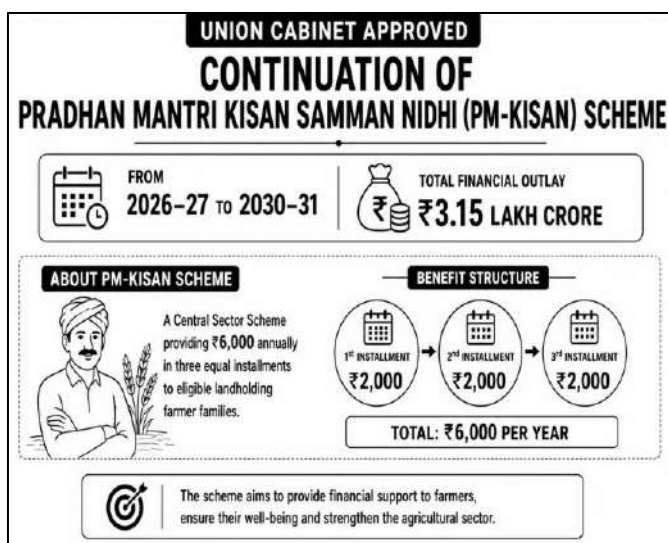
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Section-IV: NATIONAL EVENTS - covers current national happenings.

1. PM-KISAN extended for four more years with an allocation of ₹3.15 lakh crore.

Union Cabinet approved continuation of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme** from 2026-27 to 2030-31, with a total financial outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore.

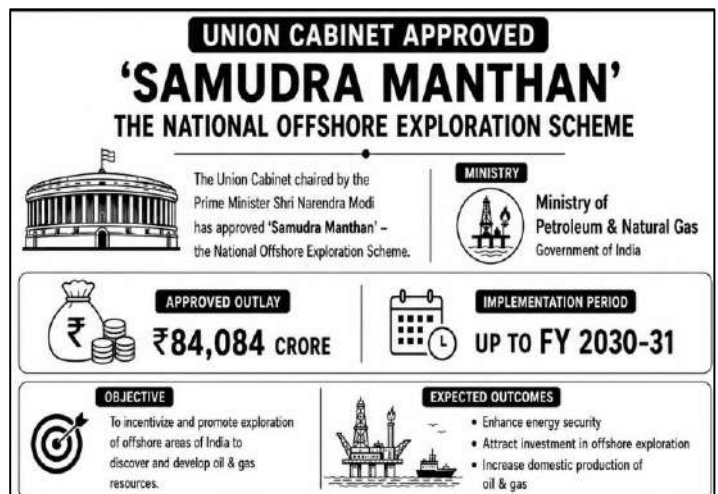


The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** is a Central Sector Scheme providing ₹6,000 annually in three equal instalments to eligible landholding farmer families.

- **Financial Assistance:** ₹6,000 per year given in three instalments of ₹2,000 every four months.
- **Funding:** 100% funded by the central government via the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Scope:** Covers all landholding farmers across India regardless of their land size.

2. Cabinet approves ₹84,084-crore Samudra Manthan scheme to boost offshore exploration.

The Union Cabinet has approved '**Samudra Manthan**' – the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas with an approved outlay of Rs.84,084 crore for implementation up to FY 2030-31.



The overall outlay is categorised into four key components:

- The most important of which relate to drilling 60 deepwater exploration wells for which the Cabinet has allocated ₹43,200 crore.
- The other component relates to **offshore data acquisition** which carries an outlay of ₹28,534 crore.
- **Development of common offshore infrastructure hubs** to facilitate commercialisation of discoveries, which would be accounting for an outlay of ₹10,000 crore.
- Finally, the establishment of **oil and gas manufacturing and services zones** – seeking to promote domestic manufacturing and localisation of critical equipment and services – tabulate an outlay of ₹2,000 crore.

Overall, the Union government's flagship scheme for offshore exploration aims at catalysing reserves of more than **600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE)**.

3. Parliament passes the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026.

Parliament has passed the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026**, also known as Anti paper leak bill, introducing stricter penalties, fast-track courts, and a minimum jail term of five years for exam malpractices



Key provisions:

- **Individual Offenses:** Jail time from 5 to 10 years and a fine of up to ₹50 lakh.
- **Organized Crimes:** Minimum jail sentence of 7 years, extendable up to 10 years, and a fine of up to ₹10 crore.
- **Fast-Track Courts:** State and UT governments can designate a court of session as a special fast-track court for day-to-day trials.
- **Time Limits:** Trials must be finished within 3 months of filing the charge sheet, and investigations wrapped up within 2 months.
- **Special Task Force:** Empowers the central government to set up a special task force to investigate offenses if required.

4. Ladakh to undertake India's first caste enumeration as part of Census 2027.

Population enumeration for **Census 2027** began in Ladakh and other snow-bound regions, ahead of the rest of the country, making it the **first area in independent India to record caste data as part of a national census.**



Interconnected concept:

The Census of India and caste enumeration -

- **Legal basis:** The Census is conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**, by the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner**, Ministry of Home Affairs, and is carried out in two phases - house listing and population enumeration.

- **History:** Caste was last recorded in a decennial census in 1931. Post-independence censuses have recorded data only for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 collected caste data separately for welfare targeting, but outside the census framework, and its caste findings were never officially released.
- **Significance:** Census 2027 is the first decennial census since 1931 to include caste enumeration within the main schedule.

5. Panel constituted in Jammu to examine demographic changes in border areas.

Four members of the **High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes** (HLCDC) arrived in Jammu as part of their first-ever field visit to study demography changes in border areas, as mandated by the Union Home Ministry.

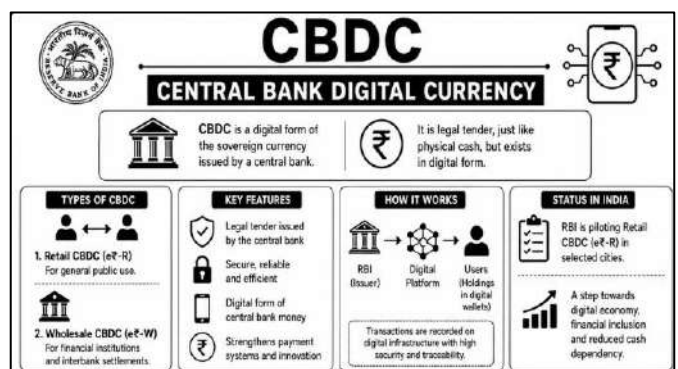
The committee is led by former Supreme Court judge **Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar**.

The **High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes** is an official panel formed by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to scientifically study population shifts caused by illegal immigration, abnormal settlement patterns, and orchestrated migration.

- The panel is led by retired Supreme Court judge **Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar**.

6. Centre to introduce CBDC-based food subsidy transfers in two Union Territories.

The Centre launched Digital Rupee-based food subsidy transfers under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** in Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar, making these the first Union Territories to fully adopt the **central bank digital currency** for welfare payments.



Under the new system, eligible PMGKAY beneficiaries will receive their food subsidies directly as programmable digital tokens, a form of digital currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India that can be restricted to specific uses, into their CBDC wallets.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Central Bank Digital Currency:

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is the digital form of a country's sovereign fiat currency, issued, regulated, and backed directly by its central bank.

- In India, it is known as the Digital Rupee (₹) and is managed by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

The RBI operates CBDC under a two-tier architecture divided into two operational types- Wholesale and Retail.

- Wholesale CBDC** restricted to financial institutions like commercial banks, clearing houses, and select market participants.
- Retail CBDC** available to the general public, households, and businesses for everyday economic transactions.

2. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana:

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) is a food security welfare scheme launched in April 2020 by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

- Initially introduced as a pandemic relief measure to support poor, migrant, and vulnerable households, the scheme has been integrated into the central food safety net and extended for five years until December 2028.
- It stands as the world's largest food security initiative, covering approximately 81.35 crore beneficiaries.

Beneficiary Categories:

- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):** Poorest households receive **35 kg food grains per family per month**.
- Priority Households (PHH):** Eligible vulnerable households receive **5 kg food grains per person per month**.

7. PM unveils SAPTHADHARA, a seven-point roadmap towards Viksit Bharat.

During his 80th Independence Day address from the Red Fort on 15 August 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced "**Shakti ki Sapta Dhara**".

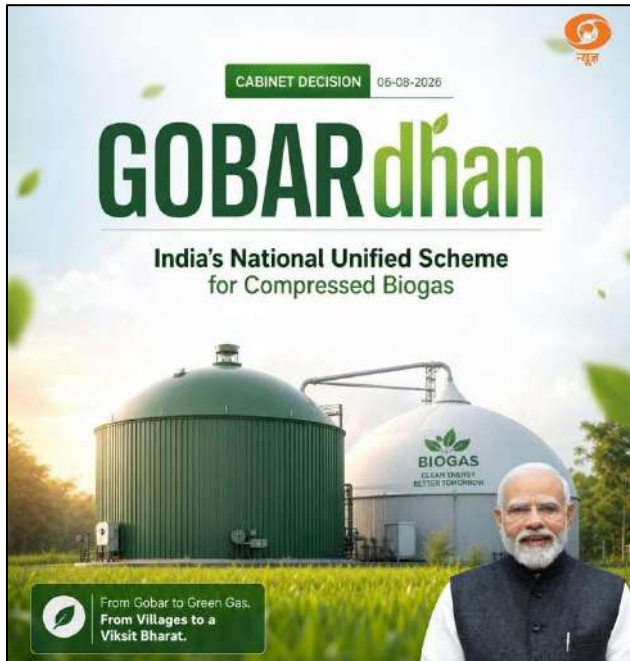


This framework outlines **seven streams of national strength** designed to build domestic capability, accelerate self-reliance, and transform India into a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.

- Manufacturing power:** Building complete value chains from design to finished goods with a focus on cost, quality, and scale.
- Agriculture and food processing:** Modernizing farming practices and boosting food production value chains.
- Technology and innovation:** Expanding high-tech sectors like semiconductors, robotics, and targeting AI-skilling for 1 crore youth.
- Gati Shakti:** Accelerating multi-modal infrastructure connectivity and integrated logistics.
- Defence self-reliance (Raksha Shakti):** Enhancing domestic defence production and reducing import dependency.
- Green and blue economy:** Scaling up renewable energy, green hydrogen, energy storage, and ocean/coastal resource exploration.
- India's soft power:** Leveraging cultural global strengths like yoga, digital gaming, animation, and the creative economy.

8. Cabinet approves GOBARDhan as a national unified scheme for compressed biogas with ₹23,731-crore outlay.

The Union Cabinet has approved **GOBARDhan**, the National Circular Bioenergy Scheme, with a total outlay of Rs.23,731 crore.



This unified national program will run from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36. It aims to achieve a **ten-fold growth in domestic Compressed Biogas (CBG)** production by transforming organic waste into clean energy.

The scheme relies on an integrated framework of six key components to make projects viable:

- **Assured Offtake:** Mandates clear blending targets (3% in FY27, scaling up to 5% from FY29 onwards) for City Gas Distribution networks.
- **Stable Pricing Framework:** Implements a long-term administered CBG price of ₹2,110 per MMBTU.
- **Capital Assistance:** Grants up to ₹2 crore per tonne per day (TPD) of installed capacity for greenfield CBG setups.
- **Pipeline Infrastructure:** Finances pipeline connectivity to link processing plants directly with city networks.
- **Credit Guarantee Support:** Facilitates institutional credit access for MSMEs, cooperatives, and first-time developers.
- **Ecosystem Challenge Fund:** Supports district-level feedstock mapping, aggregation setup, and local value-chain planning.

Interconnected concept:

CBG - Compressed Biogas (CBG) is a purified and compressed form of biogas that is chemically and functionally identical to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

- It serves as a renewable, green automotive and industrial fuel produced domestically from organic waste.

9. Centre constitutes panel to work towards a permanent political solution to the Gorkha issue.

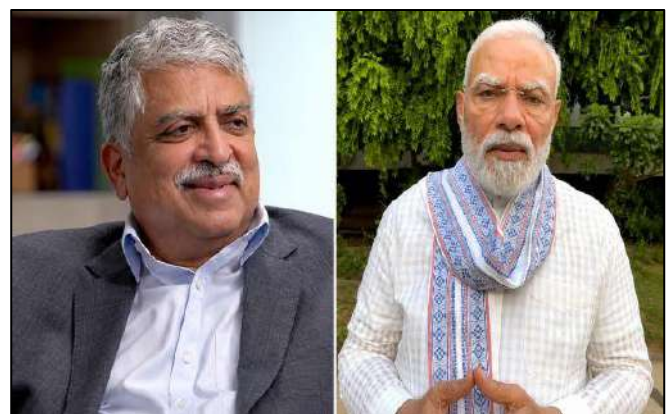
The Centre constituted a committee to draft an agreement and finalise modalities for a "permanent political solution" to the **Gorkha** identity issue in the Darjeeling hills and its adjacent areas.



The **Gorkhaland movement** is a demand by Nepali-speaking people in the Darjeeling hills, Kalimpong, Terai, and Dooars regions of **West Bengal** to create a separate state within India.

10. PM announces a high-powered task force led by technology expert Nandan Nilekani.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the constitution of a **high-powered task force on examination reforms** which will be led by renowned technology expert **Nandan Nilekani**.



- The task force will also consist of Former IB Director Tapan Deka, former ISRO Chairman S Somnath, IIT Chennai Director V Kamakoti. Besides, former Education Secretary Anita Karwal, and logistics expert Amrit Lal Meena are also part of the task force.
- This major initiative is aimed at overhauling the National Testing Agency (NTA) and making **India's national competitive examination system leak-proof, transparent, and technology-driven** following the controversial [NEET-UG paper leaks]



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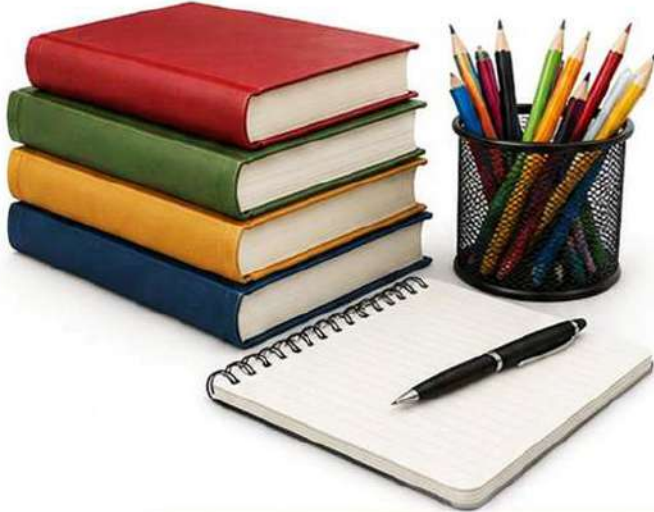
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Section-V: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - Covers issues at global level impacting India & its relations with other countries.

1. India signs a trade talks framework with the Southern African Customs Union.

India signed Terms of Reference (ToR) with the five-member **Southern African Customs Union (SACU)** to launch negotiations for a **preferential trade agreement (PTA)**.

INDIA SIGNS TRADE TALKS FRAMEWORK WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION



India has signed a framework to start trade negotiations with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).



SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION

WHAT IS SACU? A customs union and free trade area in Southern Africa.  MEMBER COUNTRIES (5) • Botswana • Eswatini • Lesotho • Namibia • South Africa	ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK - Provides a roadmap to negotiate a comprehensive trade agreement. - Aim is to boost trade, investment, and economic cooperation. - Covers goods, services, investment, and other areas of mutual interest.	SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA - Enhances market access to the SACU region. - Strengthens India's trade and economic ties with Africa. - Supports India's vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and Global South cooperation.
WHY AFRICA MATTERS FOR INDIA? - Africa is a key partner in India's quest for energy security, critical minerals, and new markets. - Deepens South-South cooperation and supports sustainable growth.		NEXT STEPS Negotiations will begin soon to finalise a mutually beneficial trade agreement.

SACU stands for the **Southern African Customs Union**, the oldest functioning customs union in the world.

- It unites **Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa** to share a common external tariff and allow free movement of goods among member nations.
- Its headquarters are in **Windhoek, Namibia**.

2. Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan sign the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement.

Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan sign the trilateral security pact known as **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement**.

The agreement foundational principle establishes that an armed attack against any one-member country will be regarded as an attack against all three.



The MJDA brings together three highly complementary pillars of regional power:

- **Saudi Arabia:** Financial resources, global energy hegemony, and religious soft power.
- **Türkiye:** Advanced conventional military hardware, domestic defense-industrial capability (drones), and NATO membership.
- **Pakistan:** Extensive military manpower, strategic geographic location, and latent nuclear deterrence.

For India, Pakistan may leverage this collective security umbrella to gain a geopolitical advantage over India, potentially dragging regional powers into its bilateral disputes.

3. Parliamentary panel calls for a Polar Ambassador and stronger Indian engagement with the Arctic Council.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs recommended that the Centre appoint a dedicated "Polar Ambassador" and actively pursue full membership in the **Arctic Council**.



The **Arctic Council** is the main international group for cooperation in the Arctic region.

- Founded in 1996, it focuses on protecting the environment and helping people who live in the far north, but it does not deal with military security.
- The Arctic Council has **eight member states**: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation (Russia), Sweden, and the United States.



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Section-VI: ECONOMY - Covers issues of Indian Economy & Development.

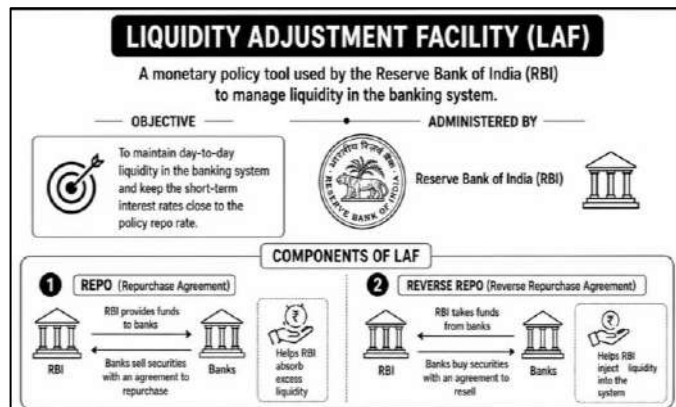
1. Rajya Sabha passes the MSME Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to strengthen the framework for small businesses.

The **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026** passed by the Rajya Sabha amends the 2006 Act to update MSME classification, make registration voluntary on digital platforms, and mandate invoice settlements via **TReDS** for public enterprises.

- **MSME classification:** 2006 Act classifies enterprises as MSMEs based on investment in: (i) plant and machinery in case of manufacturing, and (ii) equipment in case of services. It also specifies thresholds of investment for classification between micro, small, and medium enterprises.
 - The **Bill removes the thresholds and modifies the criteria.** It empowers the central government to classify enterprises as MSMEs based on: (i) investment in plant and machinery or equipment and (ii) turnover. The thresholds will be specified by notification.
- **Payment and Liquidity Support:** Mandates Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to settle all goods and service invoices from MSMEs through the RBI-regulated Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).
- **Dispute Resolution and Mediation:** Sets a strict 90-day completion timeline for payment dispute mediation.

2. MPC keeps the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% amid evolving inflation and growth conditions.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) voted unanimously keep the **policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF)** unchanged at 5.25%, after a detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic and financial developments.



Consequently, the **standing deposit facility (SDF) rate** remains at 5%, and the **marginal standing facility (MSF) rate** and the bank rate remain at 5.5%.

The MPC also decided to continue with the **neutral stance**.

Interconnected concepts:

- 1. Liquidity Adjustment Facility: The Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)** is a core quantitative monetary policy tool used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to inject or absorb short-term liquidity from the banking system.
 - Recommended by the **Narasimham Committee** in 1998, it operates primarily through **repo and reverse repo auctions** against government securities collateral.
 - Key components of LAF are: Repo rate, Reverse repo rate and LAF corridor.
- 2. Repo rate:** The policy repo rate is the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **lends short-term money to commercial banks** against government securities.
 - It is the principal quantitative tool under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) used to control inflation.
- 3. Marginal Standing Facility** is an emergency overnight borrowing facility through which eligible banks can obtain funds from the Reserve Bank of India by providing approved government securities as collateral.

- It was introduced by the RBI in May 2011 to help banks meet unexpected short-term liquidity shortages.

3. Centre approves procurement of ₹1,000 crore worth of ₹10 and ₹20 polymer banknotes.

The government has approved the introduction of one billion polymer banknotes of ₹10 and ₹20 for field trials.



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with the recommendation of its central board, had sent a proposal to the government in terms of **Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934**, for the introduction of one billion pieces each of ₹10 and ₹20 polymer banknotes for field trials and for regular issuance of polymer banknotes in these two denominations after successful completion of field trials. The proposal has been approved by the government.

Section 25 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 states that the design, form, and material of bank notes must be approved by the Central Government. This approval happens only after the government considers the recommendations made by the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India.

Interconnected concepts:

The Reserve Bank of India issues currency under the Minimum Reserve System, governed by the RBI Act of 1934.

- Section 22 of RBI Act, 1934:** Gives the RBI the sole right to issue banknotes in India.
- One Rupee Exception:** The ₹1 note and all coins are issued/minted by the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India, though the RBI handles their distribution.

- Section 25:** Design, form, and material of banknotes require Central Government approval on the RBI Central Board's recommendation.

4. PM-AASHA strengthens price support and market intervention to protect farmers from distress sales.

The government has taken several initiatives to ensure that the benefits of the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** reach all farmers, including small and marginal farmers. One major initiative is the **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM AASHA)**.

- The Government launched the scheme in September 2018. It was designed to ensure remunerative prices for farmers while maintaining price stability for consumers.



PM AASHA broadly consists of four key components: **Price Support Scheme (PSS)**, **Price Stabilization Funds (PSF)**, **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)**, and **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)**.

- Price Support Scheme (PSS):** This scheme ensures procurement of crop at MSP when market prices fall below MSP during harvest. It mainly covers **pulses, oilseeds, and copra**. Procurement is carried out through agencies such as the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) at the request of state governments.
- Price Stabilization Fund (PSF):** The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) protects consumers

from price volatility by maintaining buffer stocks of essential commodities like pulses, onions, and potatoes. It was set up to stabilize the prices of key agri-horticultural products.

- **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS):** Under PDPS, farmers' produce is not physically procured. Instead, they are paid the price difference between the MSP and the actual market price in the notified market, up to 15% of the MSP value, directly into their bank accounts. This scheme is mainly used for oilseeds and reduces the need for large procurement infrastructure.
- The **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)** is designed to procure a range of perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities.
 - It targets products such as tomatoes, onions, and potatoes for which a Minimum Support Price does not apply. The scheme activates when market prices drop by at least 10% over the previous normal season's rates.

5. PPP Appraisal Committee approves the third round of airport privatisation covering 11 airports.

The government's **Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC)** has given in-principal approval to the Ministry of Civil Aviation's proposal for the third round of airport privatisation, covering 11 airports across five bundles.

- The 11 airports being considered for privatisation in five bundles include Amritsar and Kangra; Varanasi, Gaya and Kushinagar; Bhubaneswar and Hubballi; Raipur and Aurangabad; and Tiruchirappalli and **Tirupati**.

Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee:

The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) is the apex nodal body in India responsible **for the appraisal and approval of Central Sector Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects**.

- It was established in 2006 by the Government of India under the Ministry of Finance.
- The committee is chaired by the **Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**, Ministry of Finance.

6. Supreme Court revisits the definition of 'industry' under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

A nine-member Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India recently held that the nearly half-century-old interpretation of the term '**industry**' will not automatically apply to the **Industrial Relations Code (IRC), 2020**, which came into force in November 2025 and replaced the legacy Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.



The case revisited the landmark **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa (1978) judgment**, which had given the term a broad interpretation.

In Bangalore Water Supply case (1978), a seven-judge Bench laid down a broad **"Triple Test"** to **determine whether an activity qualifies as an industry**.

An activity would generally constitute an industry when there is:

- Systematic and organised activity;
- Cooperation between employer and employees; and
- Production or distribution of goods or services to satisfy human wants and wishes.

Profit motive or capital investment is not essential for an activity to qualify as an industry.

This expansive interpretation potentially brought several hospitals, educational institutions, charitable organisations and government undertakings within the ambit of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Now, the judgment clarified that the **Industrial Relations Code, 2020** is an independent legislation, and its definition of “industry” under Section 2(p) must be interpreted according to its own text, scheme and objectives rather than automatically applying the Bangalore Water Supply interpretation.

Interconnected concept:

Industrial Relations Code, 2020

Based on recommendations from the Second National Commission on Labour (2002), India consolidated 29 central labour laws into four codes- **Code on wages, Industrial Relations Code, 2020, Code on Social Security, 2020, Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.**

- Industrial Relations Code, 2020 merges Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Trade Unions Act, 1926, and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

7. SEBI introduces an IT Resilience Index to strengthen the technological preparedness of market infrastructure institutions.

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has officially introduced a system-driven **Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI)** framework.



- It is designed to monitor and improve the availability, performance, and cybersecurity of Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), including stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories.
- The index measures the overall health and operational robustness of critical market systems on a 100-point scale across nine distinct parameters.

Securities and Exchange Board of India:

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the **statutory apex regulator for the securities and capital markets in India**, established under the SEBI Act, 1992.



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Section-VII: HISTORY & CULTURE - covers events of historical significance, art forms & other relevant aspects.

1. Varsha Ashok Aglawe becomes the first woman Director General of the Geological Survey of India in its 176-year history.

Varsha Ashok Aglawe has made history by assuming charge as the 54th Director General (D-G) of the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, becoming the **first woman** to lead the premier geoscientific organization in its **176-year history**.

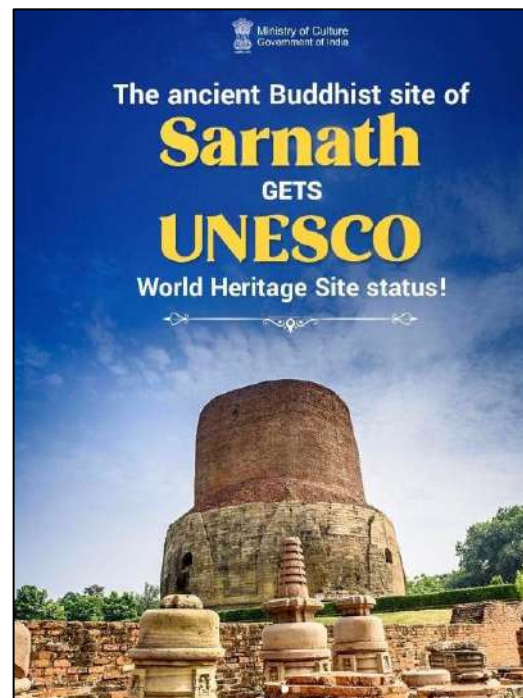


Geological Survey of India (GSI) is a premier governmental organization under the Ministry of Mines founded.

- Founded in 1851 by **Sir Thomas Oldham**; it is the **second-oldest survey institution in India after the Survey of India (1767)**

2. Sarnath's archaeological heritage gains UNESCO recognition, strengthening India's Buddhist heritage footprint.

India's ancient Buddhist site of **Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh** inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**. The decision was taken during the ongoing meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's 48th session in Busan, South Korea.



- Sarnath** is the site where **Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon to his first five disciples**, marking the turning of the wheel of law and the birth of the Buddhist Sangha.
- It is One of the four core Buddhist pilgrimage destinations alongside **Lumbini, Bodh Gaya, and Kushinagar**.

3. National Handloom Day highlights India's rich weaving traditions and the livelihoods of handloom artisans.

National Handloom Day is celebrated annually on **7 August**. It commemorates the launch of the **Swadeshi Movement** in 1905, which promoted indigenous goods and encouraged self-reliance.



Interconnected concept:**Swadeshi Movement -**

The **Swadeshi and Boycott Movement (1905–1911)** was India's first major pre-Gandhian mass political movement. It marked a foundational shift from early moderate "petition-and-pray" strategies to active passive resistance and mass economic boycott.

- Launched officially on **August 7, 1905**, at the Calcutta Town Hall, the movement directly challenged British imperialism.
- The immediate cause of the movement was the **Partition of Bengal announced by Viceroy Lord Curzon in July 1905**.

4. India marks the 84th anniversary of the Quit India Movement and its historic call for an end to British rule.

India marked the 84th anniversary of the **Quit India Movement** in **August 2026**, honouring the historic 1942 mass uprising that accelerated the country's path to independence.



The **Quit India Movement**, also known as the **August Kranti Movement**, was launched by Mahatma Gandhi on **August 8, 1942**, at the All-India Congress Committee session in Bombay.

- It called for an immediate end to British rule in India and featured the historic "Do or Die" (Kareng ya Mareng) call. It marks the final major mass struggle in India's freedom movement.

Major causes:

- **Failure of Cripps Mission (1942):** Sir Stafford Cripps offered only Dominion Status after the war, which fell short of complete independence (Purna Swaraj).
- **World War II Hardships:** Wartime inflation, essential goods shortages, and fear of a Japanese invasion created severe public unrest.



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Section-VIII: REGIONAL ISSUES OF ANDHRA PRADESH - Covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. Inquiry ordered into recent tiger deaths in the Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve.

The **Andhra Pradesh Government** has officially launched a high-level inquiry following the suspicious deaths of multiple tigers within the Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR).



Interconnected concept:

Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve -

Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) is the largest tiger reserve in India, located in the Nallamala hill ranges of the Eastern Ghats, spanning across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

- **Location:** Situated in the **Nallamala Hill ranges**, which form an offshoot of the **Eastern Ghats**.
- **State Boundaries:** Located primarily within **Andhra Pradesh**. Following the bifurcation of the state, its northern portion contiguous with the landscape spans into **Telangana** (often referred to as Amrabad Tiger Reserve).
- **Districts Covered:** Spans across districts like **Nandyal, Prakasam, and Palnadu** in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Constituent Sanctuaries:** It is composed of two main wildlife sanctuaries: **Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary (GBM)**.

2. Andhra Pradesh launches the 'Great Green Wall' project to protect the North Andhra coastline from climate threats.

The Andhra Pradesh government launched the **Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh** project to create a 5-kilometer-wide, multi-layered natural bio-shield along its **1,053-kilometer coastline** to defend against cyclones, storm surges, and coastal erosion.

- **Living shield:** A 5-km wide green corridor spanning the state's entire coastline by 2030.
- **Target Population:** Designed to safeguard over 3.3 million residents living in high-risk coastal zones.

Conceived as a large-scale ecological bio-shield, the project is designed to strengthen natural coastal defences while safeguarding communities, livelihoods, infrastructure and fragile ecosystems. Rather than being a single plantation drive, it is structured as an integrated green barrier system combining shelter-belt plantations, mangrove restoration, sand dune stabilisation and community forestry into a continuous coastal protection framework.

Interconnected concept:

The **coastline of Andhra Pradesh is the third-longest in India**, measuring approximately **1,053 kilometres (654 miles)** along the Bay of Bengal.

- It stretches from Ichchapuram in the northern Srikakulam district down to Tada/Sullurpeta in the southern part of the state.

3. Prime Minister inaugurates the new Bhogapuram International Airport.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the **Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram** in Andhra Pradesh to the nation, and inaugurated development projects worth over ₹17,900 crore from Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district.

- The airport, built at a cost of over ₹5,640 crore by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited under a public-private partnership, is designed to **handle six million passengers a year**.
- It is the first greenfield airport in the State since the 2014 bifurcation.

Interconnected concept:

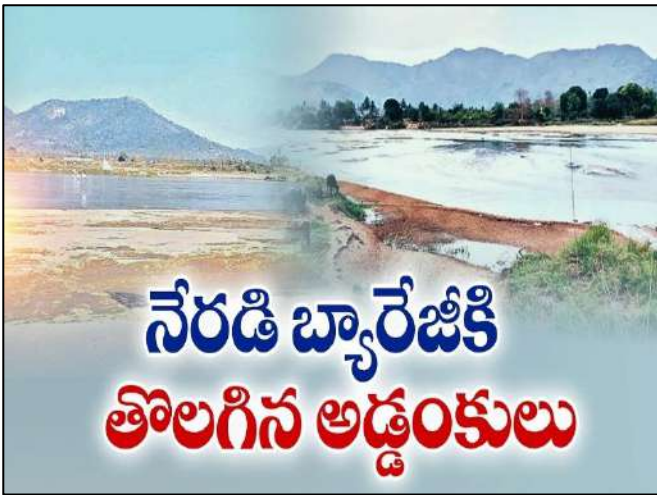
Alluri Sitarama Raju -

- Led the Rampa Rebellion of 1922-24 against British rule in the Godavari agency tracts of present-day Andhra Pradesh.

- **Cause:** Opposition to the **Madras Forest Act, 1882**, which restricted the **podu** (Shifting cultivation) and forest access of the hill tribes.
- Sitarama Raju was killed by the British in 1924.

4. Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approves ₹641 crore for the Neradi Barrage project.

The Andhra Pradesh cabinet approved ₹641.10 crore on July 23, 2026, for the construction of the long-pending **Neradi barrage**, which will provide irrigation water to nearly 45,000 acres.



Neradi barrage:

- **Location:** Built across the **Vamsadhara River** at Neradi, on the border between **Andhra Pradesh** (Srikakulam district) and **Odisha**.
- **River Origin:** The Vamsadhara River originates in the **Kalahandi district of Odisha**, flows through Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, and empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Tribunal Ruling:** The Vamsadhara Water Disputes Tribunal (VWDT) ruled in favour of Andhra Pradesh constructing the barrage, requiring Odisha to facilitate land acquisition (approx. 106 acres).

5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured with the traditional Bobbili Ekanda Veena.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was presented with the prestigious, **GI-tagged Bobbili Ekanda Veena** by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister during the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district.



Interconnected concept:

Bobbili Ekanda Veena

Bobbili Ekanda Veena is a traditional **Carnatic string instrument** known for being carved from a **single piece of jackwood**, originating in Andhra Pradesh, and holding a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

- **Origin:** Town of Bobbili, Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh.
- **History:** Started in the 17th Century during the reign of King Pedda Rayudu, crafted by the **Sarvasidhi community** (Gollapalli tradition).
- **Material:** Carved from one single block of **jackwood** (*ekanda* means single piece), unlike jointed veenas.
- **Design Features:** Tapering end carved with a **lion's head** and frets made of **bell metal**.
- **GI Tag:** Awarded in 2012 for unique design and elite craftsmanship

6. Andhra Pradesh ranks second nationally in mangrove restoration.

Andhra Pradesh secured second place in India under the **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)** programme.



- Andhra Pradesh successfully developed **2,047.70 hectares** of mangrove plantations during the 2025-26 cycle (with over 1,400 hectares cultivated between 2024 and 2026 across the Rajamahendravaram and Guntur forest circles).

- The department also adopted the **Fish Bone Technique**, an innovative restoration method designed to improve tidal water circulation, increase mangrove survival rates and enhance long-term ecological resilience.

For 2026-27, the state has set a target of restoring **1,618 hectares** of mangrove ecosystems across Andhra Pradesh.

Interconnected concept:

MISHTI scheme -

MISHTI scheme (**Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes**) is a central government program launched to restore mangrove forests, improve coastal resilience, and support local livelihoods.

- The scheme is planned for a 5-year duration from 2023-24 to 2027-28, aiming to cover roughly 540 square kilometres of mangrove areas and salt pan lands.

7. Andhra Pradesh launches an AI platform to forecast and manage urban floods.

AP State government has launched **City Flood Alert**, an AI-powered technology platform developed by the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) with the **Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA)** and **IIT-Gandhinagar**.



The platform is designed to predict urban flooding before it occurs, enabling authorities to take preventive measures well in advance.

8. Andhra Pradesh plans a ₹9.3 lakh crore investment push through the Visakhapatnam Economic Region.

The Andhra Pradesh government has envisaged investments of up to Rs 9.3 lakh crore across sectors under the proposed VER.



Under the **Visakhapatnam Economic Region** project, the state government plans to invest up to Rs 4 lakh crore and attract Rs 5.3 lakh crore in private investment, taking the total proposed investment to Rs 9.3 lakh crore.

Interconnected concept:

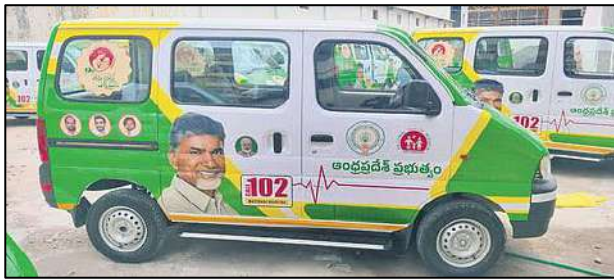
Visakhapatnam Economic Region

Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER) is a strategic regional growth initiative by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, developed in collaboration with NITI Aayog.

- Officially designated as a National Growth Hub, the VER aims to scale its economy to **\$120-135 billion by 2032/2035** and generate over 2 million new jobs.
- The region spans across nine districts** namely Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Parvathipuram Manyam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Kakinada, East Godavari and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema.

9. Andhra Pradesh launches new Thalli Bidda Express vehicles to strengthen maternal healthcare access.

AP govt launched 500 New **Thalli Bidda Express vehicles**. The modernised vehicles have been designed to ensure safer and more convenient transportation for pregnant women and mothers.



The Thalli Bidda Express is a free government healthcare transportation service in Andhra Pradesh designed for **pregnant women, new mothers, and newborn babies**.

- Operating under the toll-free **102 helpline**, the initiative aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates by ensuring safe and comfortable medical travel.

10. Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with NGRI to explore lithium resources.

Andhra Pradesh government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) for extensive exploration of **lithium** and **gallium deposits** in **Vempalle area** of **Kadapa Basin**.

Preliminary studies conducted by NGRI in and around **Thummalapalle** had indicated the presence of **lithium** and **gallium minerals** in Kadapa Basin.

- Lithium concentration is estimated to be as high as 1,000 parts per million (ppm), while gallium levels are estimated at up to 250 ppm.
- The agreement was signed to undertake detailed studies and assess the mineral potential of the region.

In another major development, the State government also signed an MoU with **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad-TEXMiN** to promote research, technology and skill development in Andhra Pradesh's mining sector.

- Under the agreement, **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad** will establish a Centre of Excellence for Mining in the State.

11. AP State Climate Change Cell recommends measures to reduce climate risks to the energy sector.

AP State Climate Change Cell (APSCCC) of the Department of Environment, Forests and Science & Technology has prescribed eight adaptation measures in the energy sector as part of the **A.P. State Action Plan on Climate Change for 2025-30 (SAPCC)**.

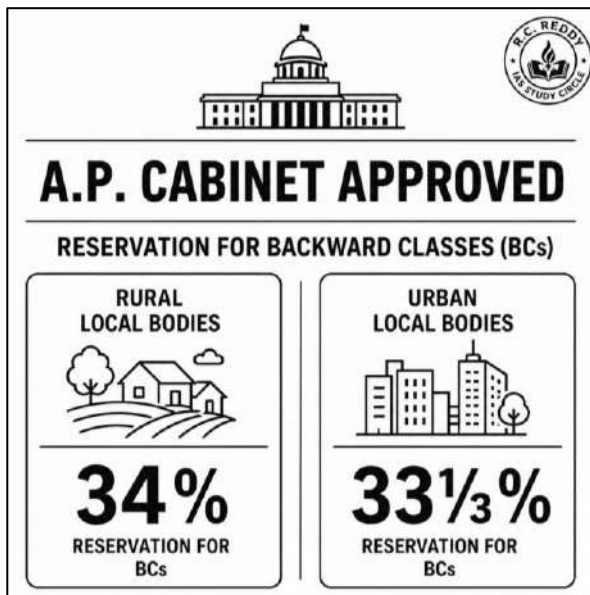
The policy aims to minimize the state's climate vulnerabilities, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and build structural resilience across key sectors.

- **Renewable generation:** Increasing renewable energy generation to 40% of the total energy mix, driven primarily by solar and wind power.
- **Power projects:** Establishing 120 Gigawatts of renewable power capacity.
- **Hydrogen hubs:** Developing two environment-friendly hydrogen hubs with a combined capacity of 60 MW. EV charging: Installing one lakh fast and slow electric vehicle charging stations.
- **Building retrofits:** Implementing energy efficiency measures in existing buildings through retrofits.
- **Efficient cooling and lighting:** Creating a market environment for efficient cooling systems and energy-efficient street lighting.
- **Conservation cells:** Achieving 100% coverage of Energy Conservation Cells across commercial, industrial, agricultural, and domestic sectors.
- **Water and irrigation efficiency:** Increasing energy efficiency in drinking water pumping and lift irrigation systems.

12. Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approves 34% reservation for Backward Classes in the State.

The A.P. Cabinet approved **34% reservation** for the Backward Classes (BCs) in the **rural local bodies** and **33⅓% in urban local bodies**.

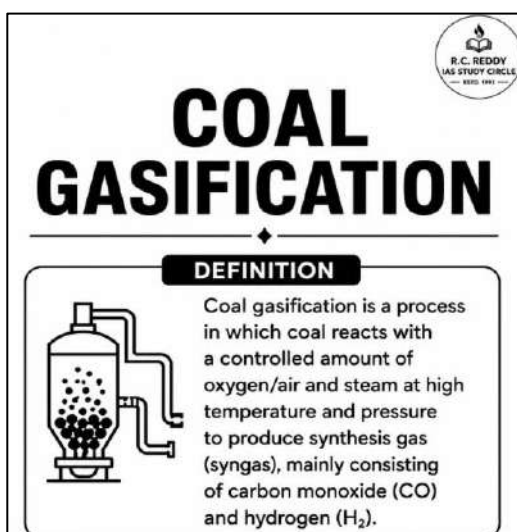
- The Cabinet also decided to expedite the conduct of local body elections to enable the State to access funds due from the Central government as local bodies stand to lose ₹12,150 crore if the process is not completed by October.



- **Direct Elections:** Approved direct elections for Mayors and Chairpersons across municipal corporations, municipalities, and nagar panchayats.
- **Zilla Parishads:** Decided to increase the number of Zilla Parishads from 13 to 28 to align with the state's district reorganization.
- **SC/ST Quotas:** Clarified that existing reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will remain unchanged.

13. Reliance proposes India's first underground coal-gasification complex in Andhra Pradesh.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has submitted a ₹2.73 lakh crore proposal to the Andhra Pradesh government to build **India's first integrated Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) complex**.



The 30-year megaproject will be located in the **Eluru district** of coastal Andhra Pradesh. It aims to extract energy from deep-seated coal reserves without using conventional surface mining. Instead, it will convert the coal directly into synthesis gas (syngas) while it is still underground.

Coal gasification:

Coal gasification is a thermo-chemical process that converts **solid coal into syngas** (a mixture of carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and methane) using controlled oxygen and steam.

- Unlike direct combustion which burns coal completely in excess air, gasification reacts crushed coal with limited oxygen and steam at high temperatures (700°C–1,500°C).
- The primary product is **synthesis gas (syngas)**, mainly comprising carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen (H₂).

14. Six industrial parks proposed in Andhra Pradesh under the Centre's BHAVYA scheme.

Andhra Pradesh has proposed six sector-specific industrial parks under the Centre's **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA)** in its first phase.

They are:

- AP Space City in Tirupati district,
- AP Drone City in Kurnool district,
- Tekulodu Aerospace & Defence Park in Sri Sathya Sai district,
- Makavaripalem Organic Food Park in Anakapalli district,
- Renewable Energy Manufacturing Zone in Prakasam district &
- Veldurthi Mega Textile Park in Palnadu district.

The **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)** is a ₹33,660 crore Central Sector Scheme to develop **100 investment-ready plug-and-play industrial parks across India** over a period of **six years**.

- **Scale and Eligibility:** Industrial parks range from 100 to 1,000 acres (reduced to 25 acres for Northeast and hilly regions).

BHAVYA SCHEME

BHARAT AUDYOGIK
VIKAS YOJNA

Expected Outcomes

- ~33,600 acres of investment-ready, plug-and-play industrial land at **competitive rates**
- Enhanced attractiveness** for domestic & global manufacturers through ready infrastructure & faster commissioning
- Boost** to globally competitive **manufacturing & employment generation**

Historic Decision by Modi Govt




15. BRICS delegates visit the historic Thotlakonda Buddhist site ahead of the Youth Ministers' Meeting.

Ministers and senior delegates from the BRICS countries, visited the historic **Thotlakonda Buddhist heritage site near Visakhapatnam** in Andhra Pradesh. The delegates visited the ancient Buddhist remains, including the Mahastupa, meditation centres, wells and kitchen areas.



The **Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex** is a 2,000-year-old hilltop monastic ruin located near **Visakhapatnam**, overlooking the Bay of Bengal. Discovered during an Indian Navy aerial survey, it reflects **Hinayana Buddhism** and active ancient maritime trade.

Interconnected concept:

- **Hinayana Buddhism** - Hinayana Buddhism means the "Lesser Vehicle". It **treats Gautama Buddha as a human teacher**, rejects idol worship, and focuses on individual salvation through strict self-discipline and meditation.



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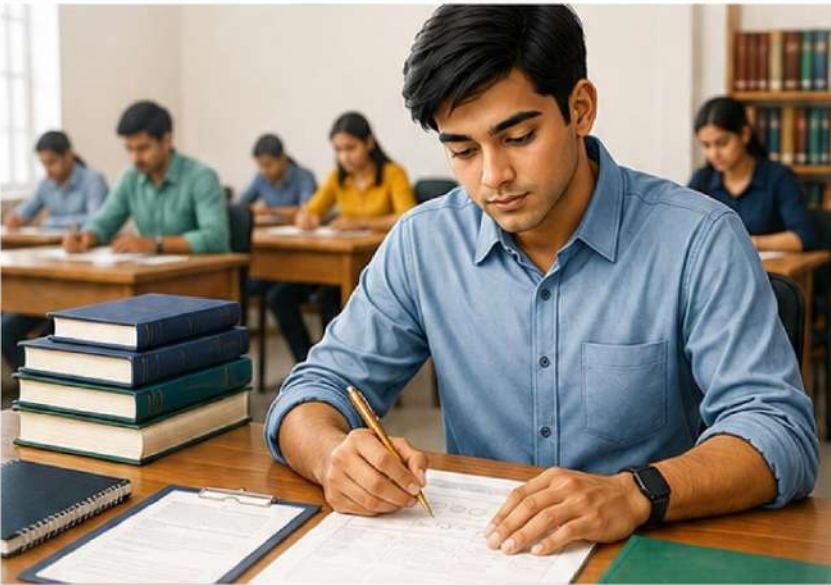


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Section-IX: REGIONAL ISSUES OF TELANGANA - Covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. Telangana to establish 326 Bio-Input Resource Centres to promote natural farming practices.

Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, will soon establish **326 Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs)** across Telangana under the **National Mission on Natural Farming** to strengthen the adoption of natural farming practices in the State.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

National Mission on Natural Farming

Salient Features

- Promoting natural farming in mission mode nationwide
- Targeting to reach 1 crore farmers
- Initiating Natural Farming in 7.5 lakh ha of area
- Need-based 10,000 Bio-input Resource Centres will be set up
- Providing easy availability & accessibility to ready-to-use natural farming inputs to farmers

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Interconnected concept:

National Mission on Natural Farming:

- **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** is a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to promote chemical-free, climate-resilient agriculture, restructure traditional farming knowledge, and lower cultivation costs.

2. Telangana to establish four industrial parks under the Centre's BHAVYA scheme.

The Telangana government submitted comprehensive project report pertaining to four industrial parks it is proposing to establish, at different locations near Hyderabad, under the Centre's **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana** scheme.



CABINET APPROVES BHAVYA

Total outlay: **Rs. 33,660 crore**

100 plug-and-play industrial parks to be developed

Industrial parks ranging from **100 to 1000 acres**

Support of up to **Rs. 1 crore** per acre

Aims to build world-class industrial infrastructure and boost manufacturing

BHAVYA: BHARAT UDYOGIK VIKAS YOJANA | Source: GOI

- Each park would span more than 500 acres and land acquisition as well as other necessary arrangements for establishing them have been completed.
- The parks will come up in Thimmapur of Kandukur Mandal, Eliminedu in Ibrahimpatnam, Madaram in Ghatkesar Mandal and Dandu Mailaram in Choutuppall Mandal.

Interconnected concept:

BHAVYA scheme: BHAVYA Scheme (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna) is a Central Sector Scheme approved by the Union Cabinet to accelerate manufacturing-led economic growth.

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DPIIT)
- **Implementing Agency:** National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC).
- **Primary Objective:** To develop 100 investment-ready, plug-and-play industrial parks.

3. Telangana seeks Centre's approval to raise the height of Tummidihatti Barrage.

Telangana Chief Minister has made a strong urge to the Central Government to convince the Maharashtra Government to allow an increase in the height of **Tummidihatti barrage on the Pranahita**. This will not have any submergence issues with the neighbouring State.



Tummidihatti barrage:

The Tummidihatti Barrage (also spelled Tummidihetti) is a proposed irrigation project across the **Pranahita River (a major tributary of the Godavari River)** located at Tummidihatti village in the Kouthala mandal of **Kumram Bheem Asifabad district**.

- The primary conflict revolves around the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) or height of the barrage. The original unified Andhra Pradesh plan proposed a height of 152 metres. However, due to concerns regarding land submergence in Maharashtra, a 2016 inter-state agreement capped the agreed height at 148 metres.
- Engineering experts and the Telangana government concluded that a 148-metre FRL is insufficient to meet the state's water requirements. Telangana is actively pushing to construct the barrage at a height of 150 metres.

4. Centre approves ₹47 crore wholesale fish market for Hyderabad.

The Centre has approved fisheries development projects worth ₹353.01 crore in Telangana under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, including a state-of-the-art wholesale fish market in Hyderabad with comprehensive cold chain facilities at a cost of ₹47.03 crore.

- A **Murrel cluster in Mancherial district** along with the establishment of a Murrel Centre of Excellence was also announced.



Interconnected concept:

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) -

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) aimed at driving the **"Blue Revolution"** through the sustainable, responsible, and holistic development of the fisheries sector.

- The scheme is implemented by the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.

5. Telangana High Court seeks response on non-tribal voters in Scheduled Areas.

Telangana High Court heard a writ petition seeking deletion of allegedly illegal non-tribal voters from the electoral rolls in the **Fifth Scheduled Areas of Telangana** during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026.

Interconnected concept:

Fifth Schedule - Article 244(1)

The Fifth Schedule provides for the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in States other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

- **Declaration:** The President declares an area to be a Scheduled Area.
- **Executive power of the Union:** The Union may give directions to a State on the administration of its Scheduled Areas.

- **Governor's report:** The Governor must report to the President on the administration of the Scheduled Areas annually, or whenever the President requires.
- **Tribes Advisory Council:** A State having Scheduled Areas must constitute a Tribes Advisory Council of **not more than twenty members**, of whom about three-fourths are to be representatives of the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly.
- **Governor's legislative power:** The Governor may direct that an Act of Parliament or of the State Legislature shall not apply to a Scheduled Area, or shall apply with modifications, and may make regulations for the peace and good government of the area, including the regulation of transfer of land by or among members of Scheduled Tribes.
- **States with Scheduled Areas:** Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- **PESA Act, 1996:** The **Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996** extends Part IX of the Constitution to the Fifth Schedule areas, and came into force on 24 December 1996. It followed the recommendations of the **Bhuria Committee of 1995**.

6. DEA approves the Telangana Urban Transformation and Jobs Programme.

The **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** approved the Rs 4,000 crore (\$430 million) **Telangana Urban Transformation and Jobs Programme** for further appraisal.



- The **World Bank-assisted project** will provide Rs 2,800 crore (\$301 million) in funding to upgrade infrastructure and create jobs in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities across Telangana.
- The multi-year program will focus primarily on Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to transition them into sustainable, climate-resilient economic hub.

7. Phase I of the Musi project receives environmental clearance.

Phase-1 of Musi Riverfront Development project has been granted prior Environmental Clearance on August 5 by the Telangana State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), under the category of Area Development Project.



Phase-1 comprises two components - Phase-1A, covering a 9.2-kilometre stretch from **Himayatsagar to Bapu Ghat** and Phase-1B, covering an 11.3-kilometre stretch from **Osmansagar to Bapu Ghat**.

Musi Riverfront Development Project:

The Musi Riverfront Development Project is an urban transformation initiative by the Telangana government to **rejuvenate the historic Musi River in Hyderabad**.

- Overseen by the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd (MRDCL), the project aims to **clean, restore, and transform a 55-kilometre river corridor** into a vibrant, sustainable, and economically thriving urban hub.

Interconnected concept:

Musi river -

The Musi River is a major **left-bank tributary of the Krishna River** in the Deccan Plateau, flowing entirely through Telangana.

- It originates in the **Anantagiri Hills** (Vikarabad district), cuts through Hyderabad, and merges with the Krishna near Wazirabad/Wadapally in Nalgonda district, spanning roughly 240 km.
- **Osman Sagar** and **Himayat Sagar** were built across the river system for flood control and drinking water after the historic 1908 Hyderabad floods.

8. First coal rake from Naini reaches Singareni Thermal Power Plant.

In a major milestone for the **Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)**, the first railway rake carrying coal from its **Naini Coal Mine in Odisha** reached the Singareni Thermal Power Plant (STPP) at Jaipur in Mancherial district.

- The consignment marked the first transportation of coal from an SCCL-owned mine outside Telangana.



The **Naini Coal Block**, located in the Angul district of **Odisha**, is SCCL's first-ever operational coal mine outside its home state of Telangana. This project expands the presence of the 136-year-old southern Indian mining company into eastern India.

9. Telangana High Court seeks correction of affidavit citing Article 162 in welfare schemes case.

Telangana High Court took a serious note of the State government's affidavit, in which **Article 162** of the Constitution was wrongly quoted, filed in the HC seeking vacation of the order staying Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes' operation.

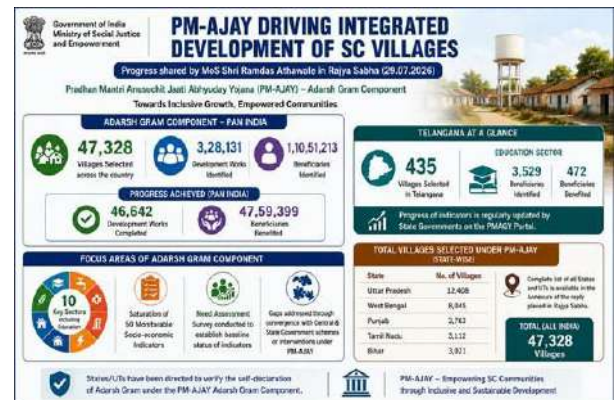
Article 162:

- Article 162 of the Indian Constitution **defines the extent and scope of the executive power of a state**. It states that a state's executive power covers all matters **where the state legislature has the power to make laws**, but remains subject to constitutional provisions and central parliamentary laws.

10. 47,328 villages selected under PM-AJAY's Adarsh Gram component, including 435 villages in Telangana.

Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment informed that 47,328 villages have

been selected across the country under the **Adarsh Gram Component of PM-AJAY**, including 435 villages in Telangana.



Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY):

- The **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)** is a 100% centrally sponsored umbrella scheme launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2021-22.
- The scheme aims to promote the socio-economic development of Scheduled Caste communities through the integrated development of villages under its Adarsh Gram Component.
- It merges three erstwhile schemes into one to promote the socio-economic upliftment and inclusion of Scheduled Caste (SC) communities. The merged schemes are:
 - Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)**
 - Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)**
 - Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)**



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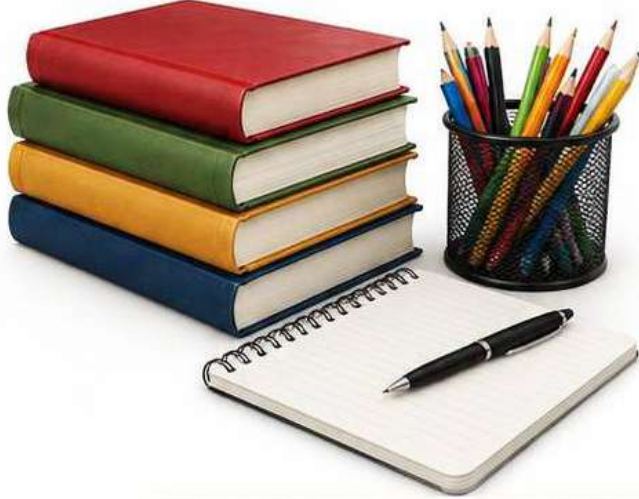
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Section-X: ONE LINERS - Covers important events that does not require subject specialization.

- Justice **M.S. Liberhan**, who headed the commission that investigated the circumstances surrounding the **Babri Masjid demolition at Ayodhya**, passed away. The **Liberhan Commission** submitted its report in 2009 after a prolonged inquiry.
- Prime Minister announced a **high-powered task force headed by former UIDAI Chairman Nandan Nilekani** to recommend measures for making India's examination system **leak-proof, technology-driven and secure**.
- **Telangana Police launched TG-ERSS (Telangana Emergency Response Support System)**, a unified emergency response network accessible through the single emergency number **112**, integrating emergency services across the State.
- **Dhimsa**, a traditional tribal dance of the **Eastern Ghats**, is closely associated with the tribal communities of the **Araku Valley and Alluri Sitharama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh**, as well as neighbouring Odisha.
- The Pacific Island nation of **Nauru has adopted 'Republic of Naoero' as its official name**, reflecting its indigenous identity. Nauru is a small coral-limestone island country located in the central Pacific Ocean.
- The **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026**, which assesses countries on environmental sustainability, ranked **Estonia first** with a score of 74.79, while **India ranked 176th out of 177 countries** with a score of 22.46; Laos ranked last.
- The **Indian Air Force and Royal Malaysian Air Force** commenced **Exercise Udara Shakti 2026**, aimed at enhancing operational cooperation, interoperability and professional exchanges between the two air forces.
- **World Elephant Day**, observed annually on **12 August**, highlights the need for sustained global efforts towards elephant conservation, habitat protection and addressing threats such as poaching and human–elephant conflict.
- **Lebanon has formally abolished the death penalty**, becoming the first country in the **Arab world and the Middle East** to take this step, marking a significant development in the region's human-rights framework.
- India's **Asiatic lion population increased from 523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025**, according to the latest population estimation. The species continues to be concentrated primarily in the **Gir landscape of Gujarat**.
- **IRCTC launched India's first private branded train service between Lucknow and Delhi**, with the Tejas Express carrying the '**Sprite**' branding under the initiative.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched **E-Samudra**, a single-window digital platform that integrates maritime services for **seafarers, shipping companies and ports**, providing end-to-end digital workflows.
- **Nauru**, with an area of about **21 sq km**, is the **world's smallest island country by land area** and the third-smallest country overall after Vatican City and Monaco.
- **ESA astronaut Sophie Adenot became the first French woman to conduct a spacewalk**, marking a significant milestone in European human spaceflight.

- The **International Mathematical Union** awarded the **2026 Fields Medals** to **Yu Deng, John Pardon, Jacob Tsimerman and Hong Wang**. Awarded every four years, the Fields Medal is among the highest international honours in mathematics.
- A **NITI Aayog report** titled *Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub* identifies **chemicals, textiles, telecom and networking equipment, and solar PV** as four high-potential sectors for strengthening India's manufacturing capabilities and participation in global value chains.
- The **15th edition of Exercise MAITREE**, a joint military exercise between the **Indian and Thai armies**, was held in Thailand to strengthen interoperability, operational cooperation and the exchange of military experience.
- **Mangrol**, the third anti-submarine warfare shallow-water craft built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, was delivered to the Indian Navy. With **over 80% indigenous content**, it is designed for coastal surveillance, anti-submarine warfare and mine-warfare operations.



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Section-XI: Practice Questions-(MCQs) based on Current affairs.

1. Practice Questions-I

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of August 2026)

1. The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 increased the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice of India, to:

- a) 36
- b) 38
- c) 40
- d) 42

2. The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2026 authorised withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of India mainly to meet:

- a) Fresh expenditure proposed for 2026-27
- b) Excess expenditure on certain services during the year ended March 31, 2023
- c) Only charged expenditure of the Union government
- d) Grants made exclusively to State governments

3. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026 extended legal protection against intentional disruption or prevention of singing to:

- a) Sare Jahan Se Achha
- b) Vande Mataram
- c) Jana Gana Mana only
- d) The Preamble to the Constitution

4. The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 proposed the creation of which body to select chairpersons and members of national tribunals?

- a) National Judicial Appointments Commission
- b) National Tribunal Commission
- c) Central Administrative Council
- d) Tribunal Appointments Board of India

5. The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, which received presidential assent, changes the name of Kerala to:

- a) Kerala Nadu
- b) Keralam
- c) Cheralam
- d) Malayala Nadu

6. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly resolution on delimitation urged the Centre to retain which of the following?

- a) 545 Lok Sabha seats and a 3:1 Lok Sabha-Rajya Sabha ratio
- b) 543 Lok Sabha seats and the existing State-wise distribution
- c) 552 Lok Sabha seats with equal seats for every State
- d) 543 Lok Sabha seats but a fresh State-wise allocation based on Census 2027

7. In its affidavit before the Supreme Court, the Union government opposed extending the 'creamy layer' exclusion to:

- a) Economically Weaker Sections
- b) Other Backward Classes
- c) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
- d) Minority educational institutions

8. A seven-judge Constitution Bench was scheduled to examine whether legislative privileges can override which fundamental right?

- a) Right against exploitation
- b) Freedom of speech and expression
- c) Freedom of religion
- d) Right to constitutional remedies

9. The Joint Parliamentary Committee constituted to examine the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 consists of:

- e) 15 Lok Sabha and 15 Rajya Sabha members
- f) 21 Lok Sabha and 10 Rajya Sabha members
- g) 20 Lok Sabha and 11 Rajya Sabha members
- h) 25 Lok Sabha and 6 Rajya Sabha members

10. The Supreme Court agreed to use which constitutional provision to quash FIRs against students involved in protests over the NEET-UG paper leaks?

- a) Article 136
- b) Article 139A
- c) Article 142
- d) Article 145

11. ICAR's first fully annotated telomere-to-telomere reference genome of pigeon pea was developed for which variety?

- a) Pusa Arhar 16

- b) Asha
- c) UPAS 120
- d) Maruti

12. TakeMe2Space's PowerBank-50 obtained 'flight heritage' after powering a payload aboard:

- a) PSLV-C60 SpaDeX mission
- b) Vikram-1 Mission Agaman
- c) SSLV-D4 mission
- d) LVM3-M5 mission

13. India's first indigenous vaccine against African swine fever developed by ICAR is best described as a:

- a) mRNA vaccine
- b) Live attenuated vaccine
- c) Toxoid vaccine
- d) DNA plasmid vaccine

14. Astrobase's EVEREST rocket engine uses which propellant combination?

- a) Liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen
- b) Kerosene and liquid oxygen
- c) Liquid methane and liquid oxygen
- d) Solid HTPB and ammonium perchlorate

15. Which pair represents India's first two genome-edited rice varieties launched using CRISPR-Cas9 without foreign DNA?

- a) Samba Mahsuri and MTU1010
- b) DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa DST Rice 1
- c) Pusa Basmati 1121 and Swarna
- d) IR64 and Pusa 44

16. India celebrated its third National Space Day on August 23, 2026 to commemorate:

- a) The launch of Aryabhata
- b) The first test flight of Gaganyaan
- c) The Chandrayaan-3 soft landing near the lunar south pole
- d) The Mars Orbiter Mission entering Mars orbit

17. VIHAAN, which achieved first-pass silicon success, is:

- a) A quantum encryption processor
- b) India's first domestically designed broadband networking system-on-chip based on the VEGA core
- c) A navigation chip for Gaganyaan
- d) A graphics processor developed for supercomputers

18. Agni-IV, successfully test-fired from Chandipur, is classified as a:

- a) Short-range cruise missile
- b) Intermediate-range ballistic missile
- c) Beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile
- d) Anti-tank guided missile

19. 'Sher', successfully test-fired at the Korwa Ordnance Facility, refers to:

- a) An indigenous light tank
- b) The first fully indigenised AK-203 assault rifle
- c) A loitering munition
- d) A next-generation offshore patrol vessel

20. Glaw Lake, added to the Ramsar list in August 2026, is the first Ramsar Site of:

- a) Nagaland
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Mizoram
- d) Sikkim

21. The unusually thick ozone layer detected over the North Bay of Bengal was located approximately at:

- a) 2-3 km above Earth
- b) 8-10 km above Earth
- c) 21-23 km above Earth
- d) 50-60 km above Earth

22. The CAG highlighted which combination of shortcomings in implementation of the Green India Mission?

- a) Excess funding and duplication of forest rights
- b) Inadequate funding, weak convergence, poor monitoring and missed targets
- c) Overachievement of targets but weak carbon accounting
- d) Exclusive focus on urban forestry

23. India crossed which milestone in non-fossil-fuel-based installed electricity capacity?

- a) 200 GW
- b) 250 GW
- c) 300 GW
- d) 500 GW

24. The Union Cabinet extended PM-KISAN from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a total outlay of:

- a) Rs 1.50 lakh crore
- b) Rs 2.25 lakh crore
- c) Rs 3.15 lakh crore
- d) Rs 5.00 lakh crore

25. The National Circular Bioenergy Scheme approved under GOBARdhan aims primarily to:

- a) Subsidise imported natural gas
- b) Achieve ten-fold growth in domestic compressed biogas production from organic waste
- c) Replace all coal plants by 2030
- d) Promote only household biogas plants

Answers & Explanations for Questions (1-25)

1. Ans: (b) 38

- The Bill amends the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 and raises the sanctioned strength from **34 to 38**, including the Chief Justice of India.

2. Ans: (b) Excess expenditure on certain services during the year ended March 31, 2023

- The Lok Sabha passed the Bill to authorise appropriation from the Consolidated Fund of India for amounts spent on certain services in **excess of the grants** for the financial year ended March 31, 2023.

3. Ans: (b) Vande Mataram

- The amendment grants the **National Song, Vande Mataram**, legal protection similar to that already accorded to the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana.

4. Ans: (b) National Tribunal Commission

- The Bill proposes a National Tribunal Commission to promote independence, transparency and uniformity in tribunal appointments and service conditions.

5. Ans: (b) Keralam

- After passage by both Houses of Parliament, the President assented to the legislation renaming **Kerala as Keralam**.

6. Ans: (b) 543 Lok Sabha seats and the existing State-wise distribution

- The resolution sought a permanent freeze at 543 elected Lok Sabha seats and retention of the present State-wise distribution; it also supported preserving the existing Lok Sabha-Rajya Sabha ratio.

7. Ans: (c) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

- The Centre opposed applying the **creamy-layer principle to SCs and STs**, arguing that their historical disadvantages cannot be equated merely with economic backwardness.

8. Ans: (b) Freedom of speech and expression

- The petitions concern the relationship between legislative privileges and citizens' freedom of speech and expression under **Article 19(1)(a)**.

9. Ans: (b) 21 Lok Sabha and 10 Rajya Sabha members

- The **31-member JPC** has 21 members nominated from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

10. Ans: (c) Article 142

- **Article 142** empowers the Supreme Court to pass orders necessary to do complete justice in any matter pending before it.

11. Ans: (b) Asha

- ICAR developed a complete T2T reference genome for the pigeonpea variety Asha, helping locate genes linked to yield and resistance to climate and other stresses.

12. Ans: (b) Vikram-1 Mission Aagaman

- The indigenous satellite battery pack earned flight heritage after successfully powering an experimental payload on Skyroot Aerospace's **Vikram-1 Mission Aagaman**.

13. Ans: (b) Live attenuated vaccine

- ICAR developed a live attenuated vaccine for **African swine fever**, a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs.

14. Ans: (c) Liquid methane and liquid oxygen

- **EVEREST** is an 800 kN full-flow staged-combustion engine using liquid oxygen and liquid methane, commonly called methalox.

15. Ans: (b) DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa DST Rice 1

- The two varieties are DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala), developed from Samba Mahsuri, and Pusa DST Rice 1, developed from MTU1010.

16. Ans: (c) The Chandrayaan-3 soft landing near the lunar south pole

- **National Space Day** marks the August 23, 2023 soft landing of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander and deployment of the Pragyan rover near the lunar south pole.

17. Ans: (b) India's first domestically designed broadband networking system-on-chip based on the VEGA core

- **VIHAAN** is a broadband networking SoC designed by Aheesa Digital Innovations using the indigenous VEGA microprocessor core developed by C-DAC.

18. Ans: (b) Intermediate-range ballistic missile

- Agni-IV is a nuclear-capable, two-stage solid-propellant intermediate-range ballistic missile with a range of about 3,500-4,000 km.

19. Ans: (b) The first fully indigenised AK-203 assault rifle

- **Sher** is the first 100% indigenised AK-203 assault rifle prototype, manufactured at Korwa in Amethi by Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited.

20. Ans: (b) Arunachal Pradesh

- **Glaw Lake** became Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar Site and raised India's total number of Ramsar Sites to 101.

21. Ans: (c) 21-23 km above Earth

- Scientists detected the ozone layer roughly 21-23 km above Earth's surface, within the stratospheric region, where it persisted for more than a day.

22. Ans: (b) Inadequate funding, weak convergence, poor monitoring and missed targets

- The audit flagged inadequate funding, weak coordination among schemes, deficient monitoring and failure to achieve targets for increasing and improving forest and tree cover.

23. Ans: (c) 300 GW

- India crossed 300 GW of non-fossil-fuel-based installed electricity capacity, taking its share to more than 54% of total installed capacity.

24. Ans: (c) Rs 3.15 lakh crore

- **PM-KISAN** was continued for four more years, through 2030-31, with an approved outlay of Rs 3.15 lakh crore.

25. Ans: (b) Achieve ten-fold growth in domestic compressed biogas production from organic waste

- The unified GOBARdhan scheme runs from 2026-27 to 2035-36 and seeks ten-fold growth in domestic CBG production by converting organic waste into clean fuel.



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Section-XII: Practice Questions-(MCQs) based on static concepts linked to this months' current affairs.

2. Practice Questions-II

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of August 2026)

26. Under Article 124(1) of the Constitution, the number of judges of the Supreme Court is determined by:

- a) The President by executive order
- b) Parliament by law
- c) The Chief Justice of India
- d) The Supreme Court Collegium

27. Consider the following statements about an Appropriation Bill:

- 1. It is introduced under Article 114.
- 2. It authorises withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- 3. The Rajya Sabha may amend it like an ordinary Bill.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

28. Which provision expressly includes respect for the National Flag and the National Anthem among the Fundamental Duties?

- a) Article 19(1)(a)
- b) Article 21A
- c) Article 51A(a)
- d) Article 51A(j)

29. Which of the following is correctly matched?

- a) Article 323A - Tribunals for taxation and land reforms
- b) Article 323B - Administrative tribunals only for public services
- c) Article 323A - Administrative tribunals for public-service matters
- d) Article 324 - National Tribunal Commission

30. With reference to alteration of a State's name under Article 3, consider the following statements:

- 1. A Bill can be introduced only on the President's recommendation.

2. The views of the concerned State Legislature are binding on Parliament.

3. The Bill is passed by a simple majority.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

31. The constitutional principle that the population-seat ratio should, as far as practicable, be the same for all States is contained in:

- a) Article 80(1)
- b) Article 81(2)
- c) Article 82A
- d) Article 170(3) only

32. The creamy-layer principle for excluding socially advanced persons from OBC reservation was laid down by the Supreme Court in:

- a) M. Nagaraj v. Union of India
- b) Indra Sawhney v. Union of India
- c) S.R. Bommai v. Union of India
- d) Minerva Mills v. Union of India

33. The privileges of Parliament and State Legislatures are dealt with respectively under:

- a) Articles 105 and 194
- b) Articles 122 and 212
- c) Articles 123 and 213
- d) Articles 148 and 149

34. A Joint Parliamentary Committee is best described as:

- a) A permanent constitutional body
- b) An ad hoc committee comprising members of both Houses
- c) A judicial commission appointed by the President
- d) A committee consisting only of Lok Sabha members

35. Article 142 of the Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to:

- a) Transfer judges between High Courts

- b) Issue ordinances when Parliament is not in session
- c) Pass orders necessary for doing complete justice in a pending matter
- d) Review the annual budget

36. A telomere-to-telomere genome assembly is significant because it aims to:

- a) Sequence only protein-coding genes
- b) Provide a gapless sequence from one end of each chromosome to the other
- c) Remove all repetitive DNA
- d) Insert foreign genes into a crop

37. A satellite in Low Earth Orbit generally operates:

- a) Below about 2,000 km altitude
- b) Only at 35,786 km altitude
- c) Beyond the Moon
- d) At the Sun-Earth L1 point

38. A live attenuated vaccine produces immunity by using:

- a) A weakened form of the pathogen capable of limited replication
- b) Only a purified bacterial toxin
- c) Ready-made antibodies
- d) A full-strength pathogen without modification

39. In a full-flow staged-combustion rocket engine:

- a) All propellants bypass the preburners
- b) Both fuel-rich and oxidiser-rich preburners feed gaseous propellants to the main chamber
- c) Only solid propellant is used
- d) Thrust is produced without combustion

40. Genome editing with CRISPR-Cas9 differs from conventional transgenic modification because it can:

- a) Make targeted changes without necessarily inserting foreign DNA
- b) Operate only in animals
- c) Alter traits without changing DNA
- d) Never produce heritable changes

41. The Chandrayaan-3 landing site near the lunar south pole is officially named:

- a) Jawahar Point
- b) Tiranga Point
- c) Shiv Shakti Point

- d) Sagar Point

42. The Design Linked Incentive Scheme is implemented under:

- a) India Semiconductor Mission
- b) National Quantum Mission
- c) Digital India Land Records Programme
- d) National Supercomputing Mission only

43. Which statement correctly distinguishes a ballistic missile from a cruise missile?

- a) A ballistic missile follows a gravity-dominated trajectory after powered ascent; a cruise missile is powered through most of its flight
- b) A cruise missile always travels faster than a ballistic missile
- c) A ballistic missile cannot carry a conventional warhead
- d) A cruise missile travels only outside the atmosphere

44. World Wetlands Day is observed on February 2 because the Ramsar Convention was:

- a) Signed at Ramsar, Iran, on February 2, 1971
- b) Adopted by the UN General Assembly on February 2, 1992
- c) Enforced by India on February 2, 1982
- d) Renamed on February 2, 2000

45. Which of the following correctly matches an ozone-related agreement with its purpose?

- a) Vienna Convention - binding phase-out schedule for HFCs
- b) Montreal Protocol - phase-out of ozone-depleting substances
- c) Kigali Amendment - protection of wetlands
- d) Paris Agreement - prohibition of all CFC production from 1987

46. The Green India Mission is one of the missions under:

- a) National Action Plan on Climate Change
- b) National Biodiversity Action Plan only
- c) National Clean Air Programme
- d) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture only

47. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is established under:

- a) Article 112
- b) Article 148
- c) Article 280
- d) Article 324

48. India's non-fossil electricity capacity includes:

- a) Only solar and wind energy
- b) Renewables and nuclear power
- c) Only hydropower above 25 MW
- d) Only sources that emit absolutely no greenhouse gases during their life cycle

49. Consider the following statements about PM-KISAN:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. Eligible farmer families receive Rs 6,000 a year in three instalments.
3. The expenditure is shared equally by the Centre and States.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

50. Compressed biogas is best described as:

- a) Raw biogas used without purification
- b) Purified and compressed biogas chemically and functionally similar to CNG
- c) Liquefied petroleum gas produced from crude oil
- d) Hydrogen obtained only through electrolysis

Answers & Explanations for Questions (Q 26-50)**26. Ans: (b) Parliament by law**

- Article 124(1) permits Parliament to determine the strength of the Supreme Court by law. Parliament has done so through amendments to the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

27. Ans: (a) 1 and 2 only

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. An Appropriation Bill authorises withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund and is a Money Bill. The Rajya Sabha cannot amend a Money Bill; it may only recommend changes within 14 days.

28. Ans: (c) Article 51A(a)

- Article 51A(a) requires every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.

29. Ans: (c) Article 323A - Administrative tribunals for public-service matters

- Article 323A enables Parliament to provide for administrative tribunals dealing with public-service matters. Article 323B covers specified fields such as taxation, labour and land reforms and may be used by Parliament or State Legislatures.

30. Ans: (b) 1 and 3 only

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The President refers the proposal to the State Legislature for its views, but those views are advisory. A law under Article 3 is passed by a simple majority and is not treated as an amendment under Article 368.

31. Ans: (b) Article 81(2)

- Article 81(2) contains the population-seat ratio principle for allocation of Lok Sabha seats among States and broadly equal population among constituencies within a State.

32. Ans: (b) Indra Sawhney v. Union of India

- In Indra Sawhney (1992), the Supreme Court upheld 27% reservation for OBCs while requiring exclusion of the creamy layer.

33. Ans: (a) Articles 105 and 194

- Article 105 deals with the powers and privileges of Parliament and its members; Article 194 provides corresponding privileges for State Legislatures.

34. Ans: (b) An ad hoc committee comprising members of both Houses

- A JPC is a temporary, ad hoc parliamentary committee drawn from both Houses to examine a specified Bill, issue or alleged irregularity; it ceases after completing its assigned work.

35. Ans: (c) Pass orders necessary for doing complete justice in a pending matter

- Article 142 gives the Supreme Court wide power to pass any decree or order needed to do complete justice in a cause or matter pending before it.

36. Ans: (b) Provide a gapless sequence from one end of each chromosome to the other

- A T2T assembly seeks a complete, gapless chromosomal sequence from one telomere to the other, improving discovery of genes and structural variations hidden in incomplete reference genomes.

37. Ans: (a) Below about 2,000 km altitude

- Low Earth Orbit extends from the upper atmosphere to roughly 2,000 km altitude. It is widely used for Earth observation, communication constellations and crewed missions.

38. Ans: (a) A weakened form of the pathogen capable of limited replication

- Live attenuated vaccines use a living but weakened form of a pathogen that can replicate to a limited extent and stimulate a strong immune response. Such vaccines may not be suitable for some immunocompromised persons.

39. Ans: (b) Both fuel-rich and oxidiser-rich preburners feed gaseous propellants to the main chamber

- A full-flow staged-combustion cycle uses separate fuel-rich and oxidiser-rich preburners so that all propellant flows through turbines before entering the main chamber, enabling high efficiency and chamber pressure.

40. Ans: (a) Make targeted changes without necessarily inserting foreign DNA

- CRISPR-Cas9 can make precise changes at selected genomic locations. When no foreign DNA remains in the final plant, the resulting variety need not be transgenic in the conventional sense.

41. Ans: (c) Shiv Shakti Point

- Shiv Shakti Point is the official name of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram landing site. National Space Day is observed on August 23, the date of the 2023 soft landing.

42. Ans: (a) India Semiconductor Mission

- The DLI Scheme is a MeitY programme under the India Semiconductor Mission. It provides financial incentives and design infrastructure support to domestic semiconductor companies, startups and MSMEs.

43. Ans: (a) A ballistic missile follows a gravity-dominated trajectory after powered ascent; a cruise missile is powered through most of its flight

- A ballistic missile is powered mainly during the initial phase and then follows a ballistic trajectory, while a cruise missile sustains powered, aerodynamic flight for most of its route.

44. Ans: (a) Signed at Ramsar, Iran, on February 2, 1971

- The Convention on Wetlands was adopted at Ramsar, Iran, on February 2, 1971. The date is observed annually as World Wetlands Day.

45. Ans: (b) Montreal Protocol - phase-out of ozone-depleting substances

- The Montreal Protocol is the legally binding regime for phasing out ozone-depleting substances. The Vienna Convention created the cooperation framework, while the Kigali Amendment phases down climate-warming HFCs.

46. Ans: (a) National Action Plan on Climate Change

- The Green India Mission is one of the missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It seeks both expansion and qualitative improvement of forest and tree cover.

47. Ans: (b) Article 148

- Article 148 provides for the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the constitutional authority that audits Union and State finances and supports legislative financial accountability.

48. Ans: (b) Renewables and nuclear power

- Non-fossil installed capacity includes renewable sources such as solar, wind and hydropower, along with nuclear power; it is broader than renewables alone.

49. Ans: (a) 1 and 2 only

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. PM-KISAN is fully funded by the Union government and provides Rs 6,000 annually in three instalments of Rs 2,000; it is not a 50:50 cost-sharing scheme.

50. Ans: (b) Purified and compressed biogas chemically and functionally similar to CNG

- CBG is produced by purifying biogas to raise its methane content and compressing it. It is functionally comparable to CNG and can be used as a renewable transport or industrial fuel.



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