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NOVEMBER
2025



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Tashkent
Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhara
Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade
Mall, Burlington
Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha
Marg, Lucknow



12, Main AB
Road, Bhawar
Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh



Crystal Heights,
Circular
Road, Lalpur
Chowk, Ranchi,
Jharkhand



Jindal House,
SP Verma Rd,
Patna

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Lucknow Designated UNESCO 'City of Gastronomy'

Why in News?

Lucknow has been officially recognised by UNESCO as part of its **Creative Cities Network (UCCN)** under the “City of Gastronomy” category, acknowledging its centuries-old culinary legacy rooted in Awadhi cuisine and composite cultural heritage.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The announcement was made during UNESCO's 43rd General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, marking a major global recognition for Lucknow's food heritage and local innovation.
- 💡 **Nomination Process:** The Directorate of Tourism, Uttar Pradesh, prepared the nomination dossier, which was submitted to the Ministry of Culture on 31st January 2025. India officially nominated Lucknow on 3rd March 2025 for the “City of Gastronomy” tag.
- 💡 **Cultural Heritage:** The nomination highlighted traditional Awadhi dishes such as *galouti kebab*, *nihari-kulcha*, *puri-kachori*, *tokri chaat*, and desserts like *malai gilori* and *makhan malai*, which reflect the city's Ganga-Jamuni *tehzeeb*, its unique blend of Hindu and Muslim cultural influences.
- 💡 **Significance:** The “City of Gastronomy” recognition will promote sustainable tourism, preserve traditional recipes, and support local artisans and chefs, aligning with India's efforts to showcase its soft power through culture and cuisine.
- 💡 **Other Indian Cities in UCCN:** As of now, India has eight cities recognised under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
 - ✦ With Lucknow's inclusion in 2025, the total rises to nine Indian cities in the network.

City	Category	Year of Designation
Jaipur	Crafts and Folk Art	2015
Varanasi	Music	2015
Chennai	Music	2017
Mumbai	Film	2019

Hyderabad	Gastronomy	2019
Srinagar	Crafts and Folk Art	2021
Gwalior	Music	2023
Kozhikode	Literature	2023
Lucknow	Gastronomy	2025

UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- 💡 Established in 2004, the UCCN connects cities that base their development on culture, creativity, and innovation.
- 💡 The network spans over 350 cities worldwide, covering fields such as Music, Film, Literature, Design, Gastronomy, Crafts and Folk Art, and Media Arts, promoting collaboration, cultural exchange, and sustainable urban development.

Exhibition of Buddha's Sacred Relics in Sarnath

Why in News?

The sacred relics of Lord Buddha will be exhibited to the public at **Mulagandha Kuti Vihar** in Sarnath from 3rd- 5th November, 2025, to mark the 94th anniversary of the Vihar, the historic site where Buddha delivered his first sermon, the **Dharmachakra Pravartana**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Event:** The three-day ceremony is being organised by the **Maha Bodhi Society of India**, Sarnath Centre, in collaboration with the **Venerable Vietnamese Sangha** and devotees from Hanoi.
- 💡 **About the Relics:** The relics housed beneath the golden Buddha statue inside the Vihar date back over 2,600 years.
 - ✦ One relic was discovered in the ancient Gandhara region and gifted to the Maha Bodhi Society in 1956.
 - ✦ Another relic was unearthed from Nagarjunakonda (Andhra Pradesh), preserved in an inscribed stone box confirming its authenticity.
 - ✦ These relics are displayed only twice a year on Buddha Purnima and Kartik Purnima making this exhibition a spiritually significant occasion.

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- ✍ **Buddha Purnima (Vesak)** commemorates the **birth, enlightenment, and Parinirvana** of the Buddha, symbolising the full cycle of his spiritual journey.
- ✍ **Kartik Purnima**, the full-moon day of the Kartik lunar month, is traditionally associated with the Buddha's **return to the human realm** after higher-realm teaching, marking renewal and compassion.
- 💡 **Global Participation:** Monks, devotees, and pilgrims from **India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Nepal, Japan**, and other countries will attend, reaffirming Sarnath's role as a **symbol of Buddhist unity and heritage**.
- 💡 **Spiritual Significance:** The exhibition offers devotees a rare opportunity to **witness and pay homage to the sacred relics**, deepening their connection to the **origins of Buddhism**, which began at Sarnath over **2,500 years ago**.

Mulagandha Kuti Vihar, Sarnath

- 💡 Built by the **Maha Bodhi Society in 1931**, Mulagandha Kuti Vihar stands near the **Dhamek Stupa**, marking the spot where **Lord Buddha first taught the Dharma**.
- 💡 The Vihar's interior features murals by **Japanese artist Kosetsu Nosu** and enshrines Buddha's relics. It remains one of the most revered sites in the global Buddhist pilgrimage circuit.

National Marine Fisheries Census 2025 Launched

Why in News?

The Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri George Kurian**, launched the **National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025** at **ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi**.

- 💡 This marks India's **first fully digitised fisheries census**, representing a major stride towards **data-driven and technology-enabled marine governance**.

Key Points

About:

- ✦ The **National Marine Fisheries Census 2025** is a **45-day nationwide exercise** designed to collect comprehensive data on India's marine fishing sector.
- ✦ It will cover **1.2 million fisher households** across **4,000 marine fishing villages** in **nine coastal States and four Union Territories**.
- ✦ The enumeration will be conducted from **3rd November to 18th December, 2025**.
- ✦ The initiative is coordinated by the **Department of Fisheries (DoF)** under the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, with **CMFRI** as the nodal agency and the **Fishery Survey of India (FSI)** as the operational partner.

Purpose and Objectives:

- ✦ To create a **comprehensive digital database** of marine fishing communities, infrastructure, and socio-economic indicators.
- ✦ To **modernise fisheries management** and improve welfare delivery through verified digital data.
- ✦ To link all fishers with the **National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP)** for streamlined access to government schemes.
- ✦ To facilitate better implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

- 💡 **Digitised and Real-Time Data Collection:** For the first time, the Census adopts a fully digital mode, using two dedicated mobile applications developed by CMFRI to ensure accuracy, transparency, and efficiency.

Mobile Application	Core Function	Impact on the Census
VyAS Bharat	Data Capture and Geo-referencing	Used by field staff to collect socio-economic data from 1.2 million fisher households and key statistics. Links each data entry to a specific location through geo-referencing.

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VyAS Sutra	Verification and Monitoring	Enables instant validation of field data and provides a centralised platform for live monitoring of the enumeration process across the country.
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LVM3-M5 Launch: ISRO Shoots Off India's Heaviest Communication Satellite 'GSAT-7R'

Why in News?

India's space capabilities received a major upgrade on **November 2, 2025**, when the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully deployed **GSAT-7R**, a next-generation communication satellite for the **Indian Navy**, using its **LVM3-M5** heavy-lift rocket popularly known as '**Bahubali**' from **Sriharikota**.

Key Points

About GSAT-7R

- Designed exclusively for the **Indian Navy** to modernize its maritime communication and command infrastructure.
- Fully indigenous, equipped with **multi-band transponders** to support **voice, video, and data relay** across surface, sub-surface, and aerial naval assets.
- Provides uninterrupted, encrypted connectivity across the **entire Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- Enhances **real-time situational awareness**, enabling joint coordination between **ships, submarines, aircraft, and command centres**.
- Acts as a **force multiplier** in India's maritime domain awareness grid, ensuring secure and resilient communication during operations.

About the Launch Vehicle – LVM3-M5 ('Bahubali')

- India's **heaviest operational rocket**, earlier known as **GSLV Mk-III**.
- Payload Capacity:**
 - Up to **4,000 kg** to **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**.

- Up to **8,000 kg** to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- Configuration:** A **three-stage launch system** comprising:
 - S200** solid strap-on boosters for liftoff thrust.
 - L110** liquid core stage powered by **twin Vikas engines**.
 - C25** cryogenic upper stage — developed entirely in India.
- Serves as the **baseline launcher for the Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission**, where its modified version is called **Human-Rated LVM3 (HRLV)**.
- Nickname 'Bahubali'** reflects its immense lifting strength and consistent reliability across missions.

Development Background

- The M5 mission is the **fifth successful flight** in the LVM3 series, continuing ISRO's flawless streak with this vehicle.
- Follows earlier satellites like **GSAT-7 (Rukmini)** for the Navy and **GSAT-7A** for the Air Force, extending India's defence communication capabilities.

Tri-Services Exercise 'Trishul 2025'

Why in News

The **Tri-Services Exercise 'Trishul 2025'** will commence on **November 3, 2025**, led by the **Indian Navy**, integrating **Army, Air Force, and maritime elements** across the **Sir Creek and desert sectors of Gujarat and Rajasthan**, extending into the **northern Arabian Sea**.

Key Details

- The large-scale exercise is **led by the Indian Navy**, coordinated by the **Western Naval Command**, with active participation from the **Army's Southern Command**, the **Navy's Western Command**, and the **IAF's South Western Command**.
- Aim of the Exercise:**
 - Validate joint operational procedures.
 - Enhance interoperability among the three services.
 - Strengthen networked command integration for multi-domain operations.

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Sir Creek

- 💡 **Location:** Marshy estuarine area between **Kutch (Gujarat, India)** and **Sindh (Pakistan)**, where the **Rann of Kutch** meets the **Arabian Sea**.
- 💡 **Length:** Approximately **96 km** long tidal creek.
- 💡 **Dispute:** India–Pakistan boundary dispute — India considers the **mid-channel** as the border, while Pakistan claims the **eastern bank**.
- 💡 **Strategic Importance:**
 - ✦ Serves as a **sensitive coastal security zone** and **strategic maritime boundary**.
 - ✦ Crucial for **naval and coastal surveillance**, especially under **Western Naval Command**.
 - ✦ Rich in **marine resources**; potential **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** implications.
 - ✦ Environmentally significant — part of the **Indus Delta ecosystem**.

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI) 2025

Why in News?

On **2 November 2025**, the annual **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists** is being observed under the auspices of the **UNESCO** with a special focus on **“AI-facilitated Gender-Based Violence against Women Journalists.”** The campaign this year draws attention to how artificial intelligence enables new forms of harassment and silencing of women in media.

Key Points

- 💡 The Day was established by the **United Nations General Assembly** in **2013** in response to the **killing of French journalists Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon** in Mali.
- 💡 **UNESCO’s Campaign:** The organisation is rolling out its **“CTRL + ALT + MUTE”** awareness initiative to highlight vulnerabilities faced by women journalists and to mobilise action against impunity and digital violence.

- 💡 **2025 Theme:** The focus on **AI-enabled gender violence** realises the fact that online abuse — including deepfakes, doxxing, and orchestrated trolling — has become a significant threat to women journalists’ safety and freedom.
- 💡 **Global Data:** Between 2006 and 2024, more than **1,700 journalists** were killed globally; roughly **nine out of ten** such killings have not resulted in justice.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- 💡 **Founded:** 1945 (Constitution came into force in 1946)
- 💡 **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- 💡 **Mandate:** To promote international cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, and communication in order to foster peace, sustainable development, and human rights worldwide.
- 💡 **Key Functions**
 - ✦ Sets global norms and standards in its fields of expertise.
 - ✦ Develops tools and programmes for international cooperation.
 - ✦ Produces knowledge and supports evidence-based policymaking for member states.
 - ✦ Maintains networks of sites and institutions, such as World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, and Creative Cities.

India Women Win 2025 World Cup

Why in News?

India’s women’s cricket team created history by clinching their **first-ever ICC Women’s ODI World Cup** title after **defeating South Africa** in the final.

Key Details

- 💡 **India’s Journey:**
 - ✦ India had previously reached the **finals in 2005 and 2017**, losing to Australia and England, respectively.

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- ✦ India thus became the **fourth team** to win the Women's World Cup (under the captaincy of **Harmanpreet Kaur**), after **Australia, England, and New Zealand**.

💡 About the Tournament:

- ✦ The 2025 tournament was the **13th edition** of the Women's Cricket World Cup. It is held after a gap of 4 years.
- ✦ India and Sri Lanka hosted a total of 8 teams.
- ✦ **Winners of last 4 editions:**
 - 📎 **2013:** Australia
 - 📎 **2017:** England
 - 📎 **2022:** Australia
 - 📎 **2025:** India

💡 Key Highlights of the 2025 Final:

- ✦ **Coach (India):** Amol Muzumdar
- ✦ **Captain (South Africa):** Laura Wolvaardt
- ✦ **Player of the Match:** Shafali Verma
- ✦ **Player of the Tournament:** Deepti Sharma

💡 Awards:

- ✦ ICC declared a prize-money kitty of **USD 4.48 million** (≈ ₹ 39 crore) for the champions.
- ✦ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a cash reward of **₹ 51 crore** for the Indian women's team after their win.

Dev Deepawali 2025

Why in News?

The holy city of Varanasi (Kashi) is set to celebrate Dev Deepawali on 5th November 2025. The event coincides with Kartik Purnima, when lakhs of diyas illuminate the riverfront, symbolizing divine celebration and devotion.

Key Points

- 💡 Dev Deepawali, meaning "*the Diwali of the Gods*", is celebrated on **Kartik Purnima**, fifteen days after Diwali. According to Hindu belief, it marks the day when **the gods descend to Earth to bathe in the Ganga**, celebrating Lord Shiva's victory over the demon *Tripurasura* — hence also called *Tripura Utsav*.

💡 Difference Between Deepawali and Dev Deepawali:

Aspect	Deepawali	Dev Deepawali
Date	Amavasya of Kartik month	Purnima (Full Moon) of Kartik month
Focus	Celebration of Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya & Goddess Lakshmi worship	Celebration of Lord Shiva's victory over Tripurasura
Celebrants	Humans celebrate Diwali	Devas (gods) celebrate Dev Deepawali

Digital KCC Platform by UP Gramin Bank

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank (UPGB)** has announced that farmers will soon be able to access an **entirely digital procedure** to obtain the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The new facility, which will operate through the **bank's mobile application**, is designed to make the **process faster and more transparent**.
 - ✦ Using an **integrated e-KYC platform**, farmers will be able to complete document verification and receive their KCCs digitally without visiting a branch.
 - ✦ The e-KYC service will soon be launched on the **UPGB M Tarang** mobile app.
- 💡 **Objective:** This initiative aims to expand credit access for farmers while strengthening the bank's digital ecosystem.
- 💡 **About Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank:**
 - ✦ The **Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank** was formed in **May 2025** after the **amalgamation** of three regional rural banks—**Aryavart Bank, Baroda UP Bank, and Prathama UP Gramin Bank**.
 - ✦ The merger created a **centralised entity** aimed at strengthening the lending and financial-service network in rural and semi-urban areas of the state.

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✦ The consolidated institution has been focusing on **enhancing rural credit penetration, modernising operations,** and improving financial sustainability.

✦ Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank currently serves about **eight crore customers** across the state and manages a **total business portfolio of ₹2.18 lakh crore.**

💡 Digital and Financial Inclusion Initiatives:

✦ To promote financial inclusion, the bank will expand **technology-based services** such as **mobile banking, UPI payments, and internet banking** to **farmers, small traders, and women's self-help groups** across rural areas.

✦ Customers will also be able to **upload and submit required documents** digitally through the **UPGB M Tarang app** for different banking products, including KCCs and micro-loans.

Kisan Credit Card

💡 The **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme**, launched in **1998**, aims to provide farmers with **adequate and timely credit** through a **simple and flexible loan mechanism** to meet their **agricultural, ancillary, and contingency expenditure needs.**

💡 In **2004**, this scheme was extended to meet the investment credit requirement of farmers for **allied and non-agricultural activities.**

💡 In **Budget 2018-19**, the Government announced expansion of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility to help **fisheries** and **livestock** farmers meet their working capital needs.

Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML)

Why in News?

Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML), a major type of **adult blood cancer** in Uttar Pradesh, can now be **effectively managed with one targeted pill a day.**

💡 This breakthrough was highlighted at the **pre-conference meeting of Haematocon-2025**, organised by the **Indian Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion (ISHBT)** and **Uttar Pradesh Haematology Group (UPHG).**

Key Points

💡 **About:** CML is a form of **blood cancer** that affects **adults** and accounts for **30%** of all adult leukemia cases in India.

✦ The disease occurs in approximately **5 out of 1 lakh** people.

✦ CML is caused by a **genetic mutation** known as the **Philadelphia chromosome**, which leads to **abnormal growth** of white blood cells.

💡 **Treatment: Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKIs)**, like **Imatinib** and its newer versions, have **transformed CML treatment** over the past two decades.

✦ The introduction of TKIs, taken as a single daily pill, has transformed CML from a fatal disease into a manageable condition, allowing patients to lead normal life spans.

💡 **Cost:** CML treatment with TKIs can cost as low as **₹1,600 per month**, with affordable **generic versions** available through **Jan Aushadhi** pharmacies.

💡 **Significance:** **Targeted therapy** has transformed CML from a fatal disease to a manageable condition, with modern treatments boosting **long-term survival rates to over 90%.**

137 Indian Institutions in QS Rankings Asia 2026

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the record increase in Indian universities in the **QS rankings**, reiterating the government's commitment to quality education, research, and innovation.

💡 **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)** is a London-based global higher education analyst best known for its widely recognised **QS World University Rankings.**

Key Points

💡 **About:** The **QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026** reveals that **no Indian university is in the top 50**, but **India added 137 universities**, marking a **1,125% increase** in representation since 2016.

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✦ India now has 294 universities in the **QS Asia Rankings**, making it the **second highest after China**, which added 261 universities, bringing its total to 395.

✦ Indian institutions continue to perform strongly in **academic reputation**, **research productivity**, and **employer reputation**, but lag behind in **internationalisation** and **research visibility**.

💡 Top Performers in Asia:

- ✦ **University of Hong Kong**: Ranked **1st**.
- ✦ **Peking University**: Ranked **2nd**.
- ✦ **National University of Singapore (NUS)** and **Nanyang Technological University (NTU)**: Ranked **3rd** (tied).

💡 Top Indian Institutions:

- ✦ **IIT Delhi**: **59th** (down from **44th** in 2025).
- ✦ **IIT Bombay**: **71st** (down from **48th** in 2025).
- ✦ **IISc Bengaluru**: **64th** (down from **62nd** in 2025).
- ✦ **IIT Madras**: **70th** (down from **56th** in 2025).
- ✦ **IIT Kanpur**: **77th** (down from **67th** in 2025).
- ✦ **Delhi University**: **95th** (down from **81st** in 2025).

💡 Private Institutions' Growth:

- ✦ **Chandigarh University** improved to **109th** (from **120th** in 2025).
- ✦ **BITS Pilani**, **Shoolini University**, and **O.P. Jindal Global University** also achieved their highest-ever rankings.

Amul Ranked 1st Among World's Top Cooperatives

Why in News?

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, congratulated **Amul** and **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** for securing the **1st and 2nd ranks** among the top ten cooperatives globally, according to the **ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025 report**.

💡 This milestone was recognized during the **ICA CM50 Conference** held in Doha, Qatar.



Key Points

- 💡 The **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)**, in collaboration with the **European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (EURISCE)**, released the **2025 edition of the World Cooperative Monitor (WCM)**, marking the **UN International Year of Cooperatives**.
- 💡 The **13th edition of the WCM** provides a comprehensive overview of the global **cooperative sector**, showcasing cooperatives' contributions to **sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economies** worldwide.
- 💡 The **2025 report** features the **Top 300 cooperatives**, highlighting their **economic impact** across sectors like **agriculture, finance, health, energy, and education**, with a combined turnover of **USD 2.79 trillion** in 2023.
- ✦ By **turnover relative to GDP per capita**, India's **Amul** and **IFFCO** top the global list, highlighting the strength of cooperatives in **emerging economies**.
- ✦ This ranking underscores the **strength and potential** of India's **cooperative sector** in driving economic empowerment and growth.

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About Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd)

- Amul was established in **1946** as the **Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited** in **Anand, Gujarat**, founded by **Tribhuvandas Patel** with support from **Morarji Desai** and **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- In **1950**, the cooperative launched the **Amul brand**, and it has since grown to become India's largest **food product marketing organisation** with an annual turnover of **USD 7.3 billion** (2023-24).

About IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative)

- IFFCO was founded in **1967** and is headquartered in **New Delhi**. It manufactures and markets **fertilisers** to Indian farmers.
- As one of the world's largest cooperatives, **IFFCO** operates with **35,000 member cooperatives**, reaching over **50 million farmers** across India.

Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Why in News?

President Droupadi Murmu extended her greetings on the occasion of **Guru Nanak Jayanti**, urging all citizens to embrace Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of **truth, justice, compassion**, and human equality to build a better society.

Key Points

- About: Guru Nanak (1469-1539)** was born in **1469** in **Talwandi village**, near Lahore in Pakistan.
 - He was the **first of the 10 Sikh gurus**.
 - He worked as a **clerk** in Sultanpur in the **Lodi administration**.
- Spiritual Revelation:** Around the **age of 30**, Guru Nanak had a profound **spiritual experience** and a direct encounter with **God** near a river **Kali Bein**, leading him to declare, **"There is neither Hindu nor Muslim."**

Philosophy: He was a proponent of the **Nirguna School** of the **Bhakti movement** and was influenced by **Kabir Das**. He emphasised spiritual practices like **"Nam Japna"** i.e., the repetition of God's name to experience God's presence.

Teachings and Travels: He travelled extensively across **India and the Middle East**, spreading his message with his Muslim companion, **Mardana**.

✦ The **hymns** composed by him were incorporated in the **Adi Granth** by the **fifth Sikh Guru Arjan** in **1604**.

Community and Legacy: He settled in **Kartarpur** and established the **first Sikh community** where disciples lived and worshipped together.

✦ He appointed **Guru Angad (Bhai Lehna)** as his **successor** to lead the community.

Sikh Gurus and Their Major Contributions

Guru	Period	Key Contributions
Guru Nanak Dev	1469-1539	Founder of Sikhism; started GURU KA LANGAR ; contemporary of Babur ; 550th birth anniversary commemorated with Kartarpur corridor .
Guru Angad	1504-1552	Invented Guru-Mukhi script ; popularised GURU KA LANGAR .
Guru Amar Das	1479-1574	Introduced Anand Karaj Marriage ; abolished Sati and Purdah ; contemporary of Akbar .
Guru Ram Das	1534-1581	Founded Amritsar in 1577 ; initiated construction of Golden Temple .
Guru Arjun Dev	1563-1606	Composed Adi Granth in 1604 ; completed Golden Temple ; executed by Jahangir .
Guru Hargobind	1594-1644	Transformed Sikhs into a military community ; established Akal Takht ; waged wars against Jahangir and Shah Jahan .

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Guru Har Rai	1630-1661	Promoted peace with Aurangzeb ; focused on missionary work.
Guru Har Krishan	1656-1664	Youngest guru; summoned by Aurangzeb for anti-Islamic blasphemy.
Guru Teg Bahadur	1621-1675	Founded Anandpur Sahib , Beheaded on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1675 .
Guru Gobind Singh	1666-1708	Founded Khalsa in 1699 ; introduced Pahul (Baptism ceremony) ; last guru to pass Guruship to Guru Granth Sahib .

Maldives Enforces World's First Generational Smoking Ban

Why in News?

The **Maldives** has officially become the **first country in the world** to enforce a **generational ban on smoking**, prohibiting anyone **born on or after 1st January 2007** from ever purchasing, possessing, or using tobacco products.

Key Points

- 💡 **The generational Ban:**
 - ✦ Applies to **all tobacco forms**, including cigarettes, cigars, and smokeless tobacco.
 - ✦ **Retailers must verify age** before sale to prevent violations.
 - ✦ Aims to **phase out tobacco use within one generation**.
 - ✦ The Maldives already has a **complete ban on vaping and e-cigarettes**, regardless of age.
- 💡 **New Zealand** was the first to enact such law (born after 1st January, 2009), but they **repealed it** in 2023 before it took effect.
- 💡 **Health Perspective:**
 - ✦ Tobacco kills nearly **7 million people annually** (WHO).

- ✦ The move aligns with the **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** to curb youth initiation and protect future generations.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

- 💡 It is the **world's first global public health treaty**. Over **180 parties** (including **India**) have ratified the convention. It was adopted in 2003 and enforced in 2005.
- 💡 **Objective:** To protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental, and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke.
- 💡 **Key Provisions:**
 - ✦ Ban on **tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship**.
 - ✦ **Health warnings** covering at least 30–50% of packaging.
 - ✦ Measures to **reduce tobacco demand and supply**, including taxation and public smoking bans.
 - ✦ **Regulation of illicit trade and protection from industry interference** in policy-making.

First Indian Woman to Race a Ferrari Internationally

Why in News?

Diana Pundole has made history by becoming the **first Indian woman** to race a **Ferrari 296 Challenge** car on **international circuits**.

Key Points

- 💡 Diana Pundole is competing in the **Ferrari 296 Challenge**, a prestigious international one-make racing series featuring the brand's latest high-performance race car.
- 💡 Her participation across **Middle Eastern circuits** — including **Dubai Autodrome** and **Yas Marina, Abu Dhabi** — makes her the **first Indian woman** to **officially race a Ferrari at the global level**.

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⚡ About the Ferrari 296 Challenge:

- ✦ The Ferrari 296 Challenge is the **latest model in Ferrari's Challenge racing series**, replacing the 488 Challenge Evo.
- ✦ The series runs under Ferrari's global **one-make championship format**, featuring professional and gentleman racers from around the world.

Indian Navy to Commission 'Ikshak'

Why in News?

The Indian Navy will commission **INS Ikshak**, the third vessel of the **Survey Vessel (Large) [SVL]** class, at **Naval Base Kochi**.

Key Points

⚡ About the Vessel:

- ✦ The name **Ikshak** means **"Guide,"** which perfectly matches the ship's job of **accurately mapping and navigating the seas**.
- ✦ It is the **first SVL-class vessel** to be based at the **Southern Naval Command (Kochi)**.
- ✦ Built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd., Kolkata**, the vessel features over **80% indigenous content**.

⚡ Role and Functions:

- ✦ Designed for **coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys** of ports, harbours, and navigational channels.
- ✦ The vessel's survey data will aid **safe maritime navigation, port management, and marine resource assessment**.
- ✦ It enhances India's capability to produce accurate **nautical charts**, supporting both **civil and military maritime operations**.

Survey Vessel (Large) [SVL] Class

- ⚡ The Survey Vessel (Large) [SVL] class project was launched to **modernise India's hydrographic survey fleet** and replace ageing **Sandhayak-class vessels**.

- ⚡ A total of **four ships** are part of this class — **INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak, INS Ikshak, and INS Sanshodhak** (under construction).
- ⚡ These vessels are being built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata** under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.
- ⚡ They are designed to **conduct hydrographic, oceanographic, and cartographic surveys** to produce navigational charts and support both civil and defence maritime operations.



150 Years of National Song Vande Mataram

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long commemoration of 150 years of the National Song "Vande Mataram" on 7th November 2025.

Key Points

- ⚡ **Historical Background:** Vande Mataram was written by **Bankimchandra Chatterji** on Akshaya Navami, **7th November 1875**.
 - ✦ It first appeared in the literary journal **Bangadarshan** as part of his iconic novel **Anandamath**.
- ⚡ **Adoption:** Declared India's National Song; **the first two stanzas** were adopted by the **Constituent Assembly** on 24th January 1950.
- ⚡ **Language:** Originally written in **Sanskritised Bengali**.
- ⚡ **Music Composition:** Set to tune by **Rabindra Nath Tagore**, first sung at the 1896 **Indian National Congress session**.

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- ✦ The song invokes **Bharat Mata (Mother India)** as the embodiment of strength, prosperity, and divinity, inspiring generations during India's freedom struggle.

Special Campaign 5.0

Why in News?

The **Department of Health Research (DHR)** and the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** have successfully concluded **Special Campaign 5.0**.

Key Points

Special Campaign 5.0:

- ✦ The **Special Campaign 5.0** is a nationwide initiative of the **Government of India** to ensure **cleanliness, efficient records management, and timely resolution of pending matters**, including **PMO and MP references and public grievances**.
- ✦ The DHR and ICMR, along with 27 institutes across India, actively participated in the campaign.
- ✦ **Major Achievements:**
 - 📎 **100% target achievement** in resolving **public grievances, PG appeals, and PMO references** during the campaign period.
 - 📎 Conducted **comprehensive cleanliness drives** in all affiliated offices and field institutes.

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025

Why in News?

India observes **National Cancer Awareness Day** on **7th November 2025**, focusing on prevention, early detection, and awareness of cancer.

Key Points

Date and Background:

- ✦ The day coincides with the **birth anniversary of Marie Curie (7th November 1867)**, whose

groundbreaking research on **radioactivity** revolutionized cancer diagnosis and treatment.

- ✦ It was **first announced in 2014** by the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to promote awareness about cancer prevention and screening.

Purpose and Significance:

- ✦ Aims to educate citizens on the **importance of lifestyle modification, regular health check-ups, and timely medical intervention**.
- ✦ Cancer cases in India are rising, with over **14 lakh new cases reported each year**, many detected at advanced stages.

- 💡 **Theme 2025:** Though India's campaign has a domestic focus, it aligns with the **global World Cancer Day theme (2025–27): "United by Unique"**, highlighting personalized care and inclusivity in cancer treatment.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie (1867–1934)

- 💡 **Nationality:** Polish-born, later became a French citizen
- 💡 **Major Discoveries:**
 - ✦ Discovered the radioactive elements **Radium (Ra) and Polonium (Po)**.
 - ✦ Pioneered the concept and medical use of **radioactivity** in cancer treatment (radiotherapy)
- ✦ **Awards and Honours:**
 - ✦ First woman to win a Nobel Prize
 - ✦ Only person to receive two Nobel Prizes in two different sciences — **Physics (1903)** and **Chemistry (1911)**
- 💡 **Scientific Impact:** Her research laid the foundation for **nuclear medicine** and **radiation therapy** used in cancer diagnosis and treatment today.

Google's Project Suncatcher

Why in News?

Tech giant **Google** has announced **Project Suncatcher**, an ambitious research initiative to develop **AI-powered data centres in space**.

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Key Points

About Project Suncatcher:

- ✦ Project Suncatcher envisions **solar-powered satellites** hosting **AI data centres** in space to reduce Earth's energy and water consumption used for cooling terrestrial facilities.
- ✦ These orbiting data centres will use **free-space optical links** to transfer data at speeds of **tens of terabits per second**, forming a **distributed network** similar to satellite internet constellations like *Starlink*.
- ✦ Google plans to launch **two prototype satellites by early 2027** to test its space-based TPU (Tensor Processing Unit) hardware.

Rationale for Space-Based AI Centres:

- ✦ **AI data centres** consume enormous electricity and water for cooling — a growing environmental concern as AI adoption increases globally.
- ✦ In **space**, **solar panels are up to 8 times more efficient** than on Earth, providing a continuous and clean energy supply.

How It Works:

- ✦ The satellites will rely on **solar energy** and **optical data transmission** to function as a cohesive high-performance computing network.
- ✦ **TPUs (Trillium v6e)** are being tested for radiation resistance and performance in extreme conditions.

- ✦ If all **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** are fully implemented, the projected warming could be reduced to around **2.3–2.5°C** by the end of the century.
- ✦ Only a **marginal improvement** from last year's (2024) estimate of **2.6–2.8°C**, showing limited new ambition.

Influencing Factors:

- ✦ **Methodological adjustments** improved projections by 0.1°C.
- ✦ **US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement** expected to offset the same 0.1°C gain.

Reduction Targets by 2035:

- ✦ To limit global warming to **2°C**, global greenhouse gas emissions must decline by **35% below 2019 levels by 2035**.
- ✦ To achieve the more ambitious **1.5°C target**, emissions need to fall by **55% below 2019 levels** within the same period.
- ✦ However, **UNEP warns that a temporary overshoot of the 1.5°C threshold is very likely within the next decade**, underscoring the urgency for deeper and faster emission cuts.

Positive Indicators:

- ✦ Projected temperature rise has dropped from **3–3.5°C (2015)** to around **2.5°C (2025)**, reflecting progress since the **Paris Agreement**.
- ✦ **Solar and wind** technologies are rapidly scaling, cutting deployment costs globally.

Emissions Gap Report 2025

Why in News?

The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** released its **Emissions Gap Report 2025**, titled “*Off Target*”, warning that current **climate pledges under the Paris Agreement** are insufficient to meet the **1.5°C target**.

Key Points

Projected Warming Levels:

- ✦ Under the current policies, the world is projected to warm by approximately **2.8°C by 2100**.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- ✦ Established in **1972**, following the **UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm)**.
- ✦ **Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya
- ✦ Acts as the **leading global environmental authority**, coordinating international environmental efforts and assisting nations in implementing sustainable policies.
- ✦ **Flagship Reports:**
 - ✦ Emissions Gap Report
 - ✦ Adaptation Gap Report
 - ✦ Global Environment Outlook (GEO)

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PM Modi Flags Off Four New Vande Bharat Trains

Why in News?

On 8th November 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off four new Vande Bharat Express trains from Varanasi, marking another major milestone in India's mission to deliver world-class, high-speed, and comfortable train travel.

Key Points

💡 **Vande Bharat Express:** It was launched in 2019 (first route: New Delhi–Varanasi) under *Make in India* initiative.

✦ It is developed by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.

Features:

✦ Equipped with Kavach safety system, regenerative braking, GPS display, Wi-Fi, and CCTV surveillance.

✦ Designed for 180 km/h; operational up to 160 km/h.

✦ Fully air-conditioned semi-high-speed trainset with reclining seats, automatic doors, and infotainment system.

✦ Operates on 65+ routes across India (as of Nov 2025).

✦ Enhances regional connectivity, boosts tourism, promotes Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and represents India's leap toward sustainable, modern rail transport.

💡 New Routes and Impact Overview:

Route	Impacts
Banaras–Khajuraho	Establishes <i>direct connectivity</i> between sacred and cultural destinations like Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, and <u>Khajuraho (UNESCO World Heritage Site)</u> .

Lucknow–Saharanpur	Improves connectivity for Lucknow, Sitapur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Bijnor, and Saharanpur.
Firozpur–Delhi	Strengthens trade and mobility between Delhi and major Punjab cities like Firozpur, Bathinda, and Patiala.
Ernakulam–Bengaluru	Links key IT and commercial hubs across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2025 Report

Why in News?

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2025 report titled “Addressing Land Degradation Across Landholding Scales”.

Key Points

💡 Key Findings:

✦ **Global Cropland Decline:** Around 20% of global croplands show declining productivity due to soil erosion, nutrient depletion, and loss of organic carbon.

✦ **Regional Impact:** Asia and Africa are the most affected, with severe yield gaps (up to 70% below potential levels) in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

✦ **India's Status:** India recorded one of the highest yield gaps globally, attributed to land misuse and declining soil fertility.

✦ **Key Drivers:** Deforestation (90% of forest loss), monocropping, excessive fertilizer use, unsustainable irrigation, and poor soil management.

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Land Degradation:

- ✦ **Land degradation** is defined as the **long-term decline in land's ability to provide essential ecosystem services**, caused by natural processes and human actions like **deforestation**, overgrazing, and unsustainable irrigation.

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN):

- ✦ It refers to a global goal aimed at ensuring that the **amount and quality of land resources remain stable or improve over time**.
- ✦ The concept was adopted under the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** in **2015** as part of the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15.3**.
- ✦ **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Hierarchy:**
Avoid > Reduce > Reverse land degradation- a core FAO principle to restore ecological balance.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- 💡 The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** was **established in 1945**.
- 💡 It is **headquartered in Rome, Italy**.
- 💡 It functions as a **specialized agency of the United Nations**.
- 💡 It has **194 member countries**, including the **European Union**.
- 💡 It aims to **end hunger, improve nutrition, ensure food security, and promote sustainable agriculture**.
- 💡 **Flagship Reports:**
 - ✦ State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)
 - ✦ State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)

- ✦ State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFA)
- ✦ State of the World's Forests (SOFO)

💡 **India and FAO:** India is a founding member; FAO supports India's National Food Security Mission, Soil Health Card Scheme, and Sustainable Land Management initiatives.

Exercise Malabar 2025

Why in News?

The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri** has reached **Guam, Northern Pacific**, to participate in the **multilateral naval exercise Malabar 2025**.

Key Points

Exercise Malabar:

- ✦ It is a **multilateral naval drill** involving **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia** under the **QUAD** framework.
- ✦ Aims to **enhance joint maritime coordination, interoperability, and operational readiness** in the **Indo-Pacific**.
- ✦ Participation of **INS Sahyadri** reflects India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** push and **naval self-reliance**.
- ✦ **2025 Venue-Guam:** The choice of Guam underlines India's growing engagement in the Pacific and alignment with Quad's strategic goals.
 - 📌 **Guam** is an **unincorporated U.S. territory** in the Western Pacific Ocean, located between the **Philippines and Hawaii**.
 - 📌 It hosts key American military bases such as **Andersen Air Force Base** and **Naval Base Guam**, making it a **strategic hub** for Indo-Pacific security operations.

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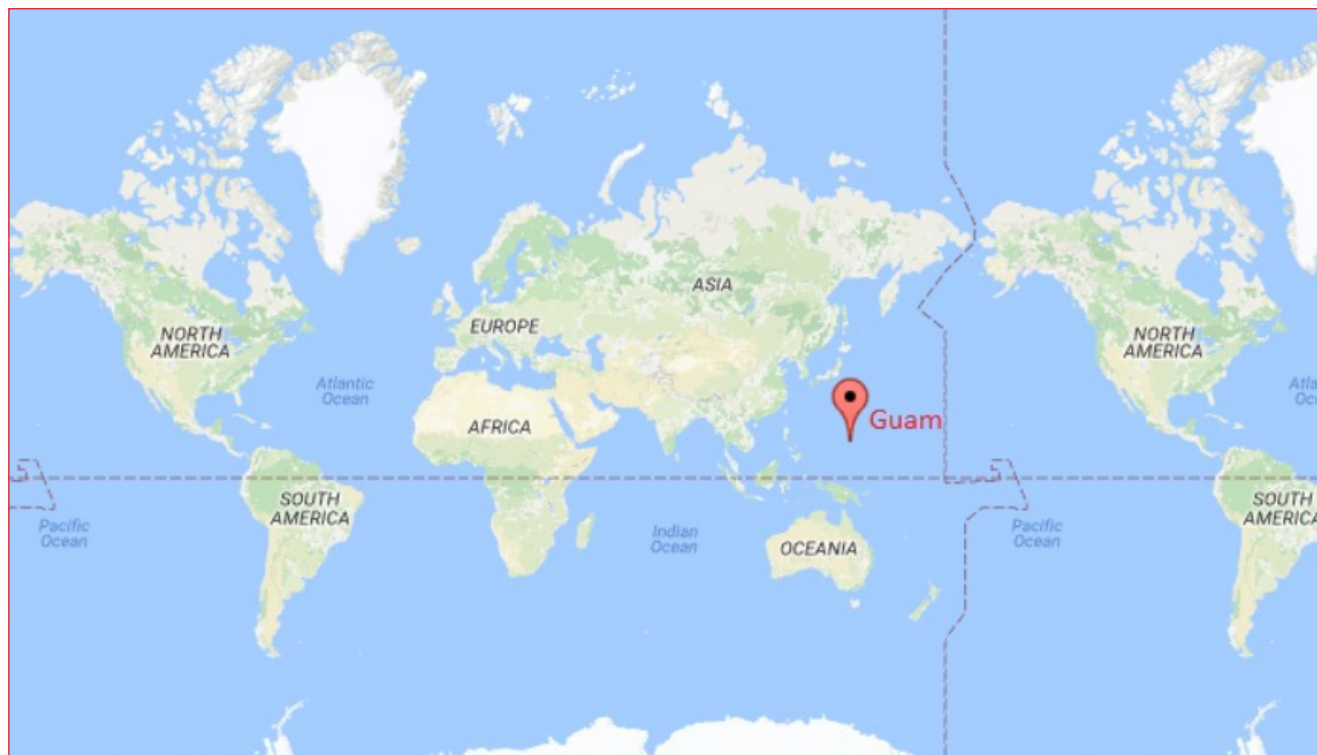


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💡 INS Sahyadri:

- ✦ It is a **Shivalik-class (Project 17) guided missile stealth frigate**, commissioned in **2012** as part of **India's first stealth frigate series**.
- ✦ Built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**, Mumbai, it was designed for **multi-role operations** including **anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare**.

National Legal Services Day 2025

Why in News?

9th November is observed as **National Legal Services Day**, marking the enforcement of the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, which came into effect in **1995** to ensure free and fair access to justice for all citizens, especially the underprivileged.

Key Points

💡 National Legal Services Day:

- ✦ It is celebrated **annually** on 9 November, established by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) **under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**.
- ✦ It is celebrated to **promote awareness of citizens' legal rights**, ensure access to justice for all, and uphold the principle of justice for the weaker sections of society.

💡 Legal Services Framework:

- ✦ Established under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, the structure includes:

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- ✍ **NALSA** (National Legal Services Authority) – headed by the **Chief Justice of India**.
- ✍ **SLSAs** (State Legal Services Authorities) – headed by **Chief Justices of High Courts**.
- ✍ **DLSAs** (District Legal Services Authorities) – headed by **District Judges**.
- ✦ Provides free legal representation, counselling, and aid to the **economically and socially weaker sections**.
- ✦ Funding is shared through the **National, State, and District Legal Aid Funds**.
- 💡 To strengthen dispute resolution and access mechanisms, several complementary institutions and schemes such as **Lok Adalats**, **Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS)**, **Fast Track and Special Courts**, and **Grassroots Justice Initiatives** like **Gram Nyayalayas** and **Nari Adalats** operate under this framework.

National Urban Conclave 2025

Why in News?

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal inaugurated the **National Urban Conclave 2025 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi** to accelerate India's urban transformation.

- 💡 The two-day conclave, themed "**Sustainable Urban Development and Governance**", aims to **deliberate on urban innovation, investment, and governance**.

Key Initiatives Launched

- 💡 **Mission-Mode Dumpsite Remediation (DRAP):**
 - ✦ DRAP is a **year-long national initiative** to **fast-track the clearance of legacy waste dumpsites** and reclaim valuable urban land by September 2026.
 - ✦ It focus on **214 high-impact landfill sites across 202 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** containing **8.8 crore tonnes (80%) of India's legacy waste**.

- ✦ Its Implementation follows the **5P framework**- Political leadership, Public finance, Public advocacy, Project management, and Partnerships.
- ✦ DRAP also includes **real-time monitoring** through a **dedicated national portal** for progress tracking and transparency.

💡 Urban Invest Window (UiWIN):

- ✦ UiWIN, anchored by **HUDCO**, is a **one-stop investment facilitation platform** for urban infrastructure.
- ✦ It aims to **attract private and multilateral funding** (e.g., World Bank, ADB) for long-term, concessional financing of projects in waste management, mobility, water, sewerage, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

💡 **Swachh Bharat Mission – Knowledge Management Unit (KMU):** A dedicated knowledge and capacity-building platform hosted by NIUA to strengthen institutional learning under SBM-Urban.

💡 **AMRUT Anthem "Jal Hi Janani":** Promotes water conservation awareness under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

India Joins Tropical Forests Fund as Observer

Why in News?

India has joined the **Brazil-led Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF)** as an **observer**, reaffirming its commitment to multilateral climate action under the **Paris Agreement**, which marks its **10th anniversary** this year.

Key Points

💡 About Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF):

- ✦ It was **launched by Brazil in November 2025** at **COP30** in Belém, Brazil to **reward countries** for conserving and restoring **tropical forests** through **financial incentives**.

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✦ It seeks to **mobilise USD 125 billion** via **public and private investment**, distributing returns to nations based on measurable success in forest protection and expansion.

✦ The initiative aims to build a **results-based global finance model** for **forest conservation and climate resilience**, strengthening the role of tropical nations in the global climate agenda.

💡 COP30 Climate Change Conference:

✦ COP30, the 30th session of the **UNFCCC** Conference of the Parties, is being held in **Belém, Brazil, from 10th to 21st November, 2025.**

✦ It marks the **10th anniversary** of the Paris Agreement (2015–2025) and focuses on implementing commitments made under it.

✦ The agenda is to **review progress** on Paris goals, push for updated and ambitious NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions), and ensure greater financing and technology transfer for climate adaptation and mitigation.

✦ Six Pillars of Action:

✍ **Mitigation:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

✍ **Adaptation:** Building resilience to climate impacts.

✍ **Finance:** Mobilising public and private climate funds.

✍ **Technology:** Innovation and clean tech transfer.

✍ **Capacity-Building:** Empowering local actors and systems.

✍ **Means of Implementation:** Integrating all efforts into practical, on-ground change.

India's Climate Progress

💡 India achieved a **36% reduction in emission intensity** between **2005 and 2020**, surpassing its initial **NDC goals**.

💡 It has installed over **200 GW of renewable energy capacity**, ranking **third globally**, with **non-fossil fuel sources exceeding 50%** of total power capacity.

💡 India's **forest and tree cover** now spans **25.17%** of its area, creating an **additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent** between **2005 and 2021.**

💡 Globally, India leads key green initiatives such as the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** with France (2015), and domestic efforts like the **National Hydrogen Mission** and **Biofuel Programme**, advancing its clean energy transition.

18th Urban Mobility India (UMI)

Why in News?

The 18th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2025 concluded in Gurugram, Haryana, highlighting innovations in sustainable urban transport.

Key Points

💡 Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference:

✦ It has been organised annually since **2008** under the National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**

✦ It aims to **promote sustainable urban mobility** through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy dialogue.

💡 About the 18th Edition:

✦ It was organised in **Gurugram, Haryana** with the theme of **“Urban Development and Mobility Nexus”** focusing on cleaner transport, innovative financing, and inclusivity in public transit.

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★ Award Winners:

Category	Winner	Organisation
Best Public Transport System	Chennai	Metropolitan Transport Corporation (Chennai) Ltd.
Best Non-Motorized Transport System	Udaipur	Udaipur Smart City Ltd.
Most Innovative Financing Mechanism	Pimpri Chinchwad	Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
Best Green Transport Initiative	Hyderabad	Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation Ltd.
Best Multimodal Integration (Metro Rail)	Chennai	Chennai Metro Rail Ltd.
Best Passenger Services (Metro Rail)	Delhi	Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
Special Award – Traffic Management System	Aizawl	Town & Country Planning Dept., Mizoram

Uttar Pradesh to Create its 76th District

Why in News?

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has announced the process to form the state's **76th district**, to be named **Kalyan Singh Nagar**, as a tribute to the late former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh.

💡 The proposed district will be carved out of parts of **Aligarh and Bulandshahr**.

Key Points

💡 **Kalyan Singh (1932–2021):**

- ★ He was born on **5th January, 1932** in Atrauli, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh).
- ★ He served **twice as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**, first from 1991 to 1992 and again from 1997 to 1999.
- ★ He also held the posts of **Governor of Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh**.
- ★ On March 28, 2022, President Ram Nath Kovind honoured Kalyan Singh with **Padma Vibhushan (posthumously)**. In the same year, the Government of India also released a postal stamp in his honour.

National Education Day 2025

Why in News?

India celebrates **National Education Day** on **11th November**, to mark the **137th birth anniversary** of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, the first Education Minister of independent India and a key architect of the nation's modern education system.

Key Points

💡 **National Education Day:**

- ★ It is observed every year on **11th November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (1888–1958)**
- ★ The observance was first announced in **2008** by the then **Ministry of Human Resource Development** (now the **Ministry of Education**).

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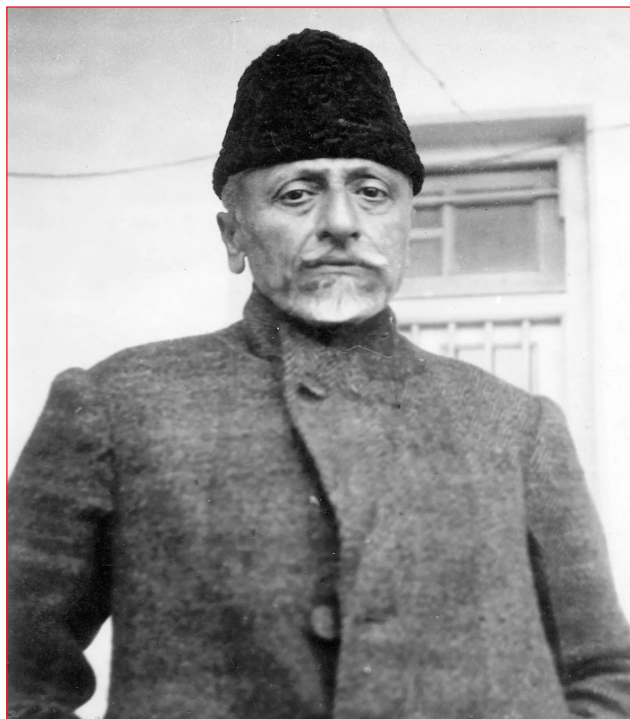


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💡 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

- ✦ He was born on 11th November 1888, in Mecca and later settled in Calcutta (Kolkata), where he emerged as a leading scholar and nationalist.



- ✦ He served as India's first Minister of Education (1947–1958) and introduced major reforms to strengthen scientific, technical, and cultural education.
- ✦ He was instrumental in establishing the University Grants Commission (UGC), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), as well as cultural bodies like the Sahitya Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi, and Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- ✦ In recognition of his immense contributions, he was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992.

Devha River

Why in News?

A petition has been filed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to take urgent action to protect the Devha

River in Pilibhit district, Uttar Pradesh, from severe pollution.

Key Points

💡 Devha River:

- ✦ The Devha River, also called Devbhooti Ganga, is believed to be older than the Ganga River.
- ✦ It originates in the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand and flows toward Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ Its tributary Khakra River joins Devha at Bramhachari Ghat, on the outskirts of Pilibhit. The river has its confluence with the Ganga near Farrukhabad.

💡 About the Petition:

- ✦ The petition alleges that nine drains in Pilibhit city are discharging untreated wastewater directly into the Devha River, leading to ecological degradation.
- ✦ A bioremediation proposal to clean the sewage was submitted a year ago but remains pending approval.

India's First MWh-Scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB)

Why in News?

Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs inaugurated India's first megawatt-hour (MWh) scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) in Greater Noida.

Key Points

💡 About:

- ✦ The 3 MWh Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) is developed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)'s NETRA (National Energy Technology Research Alliance)
- ✦ It aims to demonstrate Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) technology for large-scale renewable energy integration and grid stability.

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Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB):

- ✦ It uses **vanadium ions in different oxidation states** to store and discharge electricity efficiently.
- ✦ The system offers **long operational life**, and **excellent scalability** compared to lithium-ion batteries.
- ✦ **Non-flammable electrolytes** make it safer for large-scale energy storage applications.
- ✦ It is well-suited for **grid-scale renewable energy storage**, microgrids, and **peak-load management**.
- ✦ VRFBs are increasingly viewed as a **sustainable alternative** for integrating intermittent renewable sources like solar and wind into the grid.

NCRTC Launches India's First 'Solar on Track' System

Why in News?

In a significant step towards sustainable transport infrastructure, the **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** has implemented a pioneering 'Solar on Track' system at the **Namo Bharat Depot** in Duhai, Ghaziabad.

- 💡 This initiative marks the first-ever installation of such a system in any **RTS (Regional Rapid Transit System)** or **Metro network** in India.



Key Features

- 💡 **About:** The 'Solar on Track' project is part of NCRTC's broader **solar policy**, which aims to meet **70% of its energy requirements** through renewable sources.
 - ✦ Currently, NCRTC has operationalized **5.5 MW of rooftop solar capacity** across various stations, depots, and buildings.
 - ✦ The organization has set an ambitious target to achieve a **15 MW peak in-house solar generation**.
- 💡 **Solar Panel Installation:** The project involves the installation of solar panels on a **70-meter stretch of the Pit Wheel Track**.
 - ✦ A total of **28 solar panels**, each with a capacity of **550 Wp (Watt peak)**, have been installed, creating a total system capacity of **15.4 kWp**.
- 💡 **Energy Generation and Environmental Impact:** The **Solar on Track** system is expected to generate around **17,500 kWh of electricity annually**.
 - ✦ This energy generation will contribute to reducing **carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 16 tonnes per year**.
- 💡 **Future Plans:** NCRTC is also working towards **integrating renewable energy** into the **traction systems** for its rapid transit services, further reducing reliance on conventional energy sources.
- 💡 **Rainwater Harvesting & Sewage Treatment:** As part of its broader sustainability efforts, NCRTC has implemented **rainwater harvesting systems** and **sewage treatment plants** at its facilities, promoting water conservation and efficient waste management.
- 💡 **Regenerative Braking Technology:** NCRTC has incorporated **regenerative braking technology** in its **Namo Bharat trains**.
 - ✦ This technology converts **kinetic energy into electrical energy** during braking, contributing to energy savings and enhancing the overall efficiency of operations.

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Booker Prize 2025

Why in News?

Author **David Szalay** has won the **2025 Booker Prize** for his fictional novel **Flesh**.

Key Points

About the Winner:

- ✦ **David Szalay** is a **Hungarian-British** novelist known for his **precise, economical prose** and deep exploration of masculinity, identity, and contemporary European life.
- ✦ With **Flesh**, he reinforces his reputation as a writer who **captures the inner lives of ordinary men with unusual clarity**, situating their personal struggles against broader social and economic landscapes.

About Booker Prize:

- ✦ The **Booker Prize** (formerly the Man Booker Prize) is one of the world's most prestigious literary awards. It was **established in 1969** and is run by the **Booker Prize Foundation**.
- ✦ It honours the **best original full-length novel written in English** and published in the **UK or Ireland**. Writers of any nationality **have been eligible to compete since 2014**.
- ✦ The award aims to promote **excellence in English-language fiction** and encourage wider readership.
- ✦ Indian winners include **Arundhati Roy (1997)**, **Kiran Desai (2006)**, and **Aravind Adiga (2008)**.

Difference Between Booker Prize & International Booker Prize

- 💡 The **Booker Prize** was first awarded in **1969** and is for the best **single work of fiction originally written in English**.
- 💡 The **International Booker Prize** was established later in **2005** and is for the best single work of **fiction translated into English** from any other language.
 - ✦ It recognizes the achievement of both the author and the translator.

Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar

Why in News?

The Reserve Bank of India has launched a campaign titled "**Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar**" (Your Capital, Your Right) in Prayagraj to help citizens reclaim funds held in dormant bank accounts.

Key Points

About the Campaign:

- ✦ "**Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar**" (Your Capital, Your Right) is a nationwide initiative launched by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India, in coordination with major regulators, including the **RBI**, **SEBI**, **IRDAI**, and **PFRDA**.
- ✦ The initiative aims to **quickly return unclaimed financial assets** to rightful owners, **raise awareness** about the large pool of unclaimed funds, **improve access** through tools like the **UDGAM portal**, ensure **transparent, time-bound settlements**, and promote **good financial habits** such as updated **KYC**, active accounts, and proper nominations.

Unclaimed Bank Deposits:

- ✦ A bank account becomes **inoperative** if no financial or non-financial transaction (withdrawal, deposit, fund transfer, KYC update) occurs for **2 years** or more.
- ✦ Inoperative account balances may be transferred to the **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund**, though the original account-holder or heir can claim them later.
- ✦ Unclaimed deposits in the Indian banking system were estimated at over **₹67,000+ crore** by mid-2025.
- ✦ The **UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation) portal** allows individuals to search for unclaimed deposits across multiple banks using basic details (name, date of birth, PAN).
- ✦ RBI's "**Scheme for Facilitating Accelerated Payout of Inoperative Accounts & Unclaimed Deposits**" offers incentives to banks for clearing dormant funds.

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Ammonium Nitrate

Why in News?

A blast near **Delhi's Red Fort** has put "**Ammonium Nitrate**" in the spotlight, as investigators suspect the chemical may have been used in the explosion.

Key Points

About:

- ✦ Pure ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3) is a **white, crystalline, water-soluble, nitrogen-rich compound** made by reacting ammonia with nitric acid, and it melts at **about 170°C**.
- ✦ The substance is classified as an oxidising agent. It is one of the **base ingredients** used in the manufacture of commercial explosives.
- ✦ It is classified as a **dual-use substance**, meaning it has legitimate industrial uses but can also be weaponised.

Uses:

- ✦ In **agriculture**, it is widely used as a **nitrogen fertilizer** due to its high nutrient content.
- ✦ It is used for controlled blasting in **quarries and excavation projects**, and also forms a key component of various emulsions and gels used in **mining-grade explosives**.

Weaponization of Ammonium Nitrate:

- ✦ Pure ammonium nitrate is **not explosive by itself** and is classified as an **oxidiser** under **United Nations** classification of dangerous goods.
- ✦ It becomes **volatile** when combined with **fuel oil, potassium chlorate, sulphur or other accelerants**. This mixture creates **ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil)**, a commonly used explosive.
 - ✍ However, ANFO cannot detonate on its own; it requires a **trigger** such as a **detonator**, often initiated with primary explosives like **RDX** or **TNT**.

Garuda Exercise 2025

Why in News?

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is taking part in the **8th edition of Exercise Garuda-25**, a bilateral air combat drill conducted with the **French Air and Space Force (FASF)**.

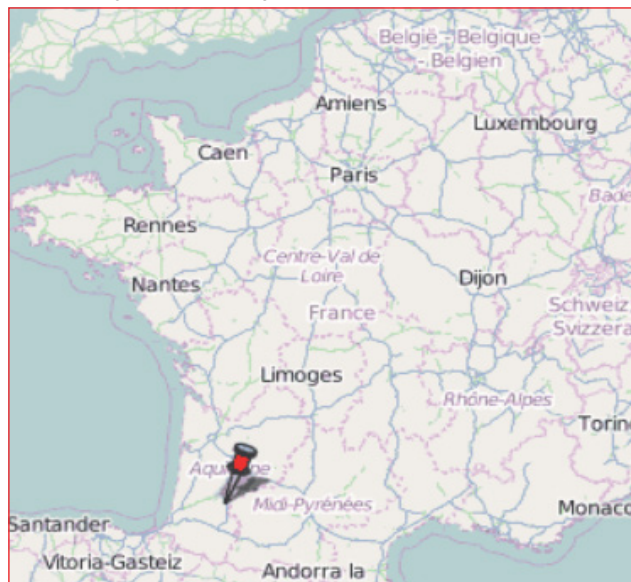
Key Points

About Garuda Exercise:

- ✦ "Garuda" is a bilateral **air exercise** between the Indian and **French air forces**, conducted periodically since 2003.
- ✦ It is among the **highest-level air force exercises** India conducts with a foreign air force and is held alternately in India and France.
- ✦ Its key objectives include **enhancing mutual operational capabilities**, sharing tactics, building log-operational familiarity and forging strategic ties.

About 2025 Edition:

- ✦ The **8th edition of Garuda (Garuda-25)** is being held from **16th to 27th November, 2025** at **Mont-de-Marsan Air Base in France**.
- ✦ The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent, featuring **Su-30MKI fighter aircraft** supported by **IL-78 refuellers** and **C-17 Globemaster III** air-lift assets, will operate alongside **French multirole fighters** in complex simulated missions involving **air-to-air combat, air defence, and joint strike operations**.



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AI-Based Smart Surveillance Systems in Temples

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department** has announced that **AI-based smart surveillance systems** will be installed at **three** religious destinations to **strengthen security** and **improve visitor experience**.

Key Points

About the Initiative:

- ✦ The project is part of Uttar Pradesh's broader **Smart Tourism and Digital Governance** drive aimed at **enhancing safety**, **crowd management** and **pilgrim convenience** at major temples 3 of the state's most visited temples:

- ✦ **Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Varanasi)**
- ✦ **Ram Temple (Ayodhya)**
- ✦ **Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur)**

Key Features of the AI Surveillance System:

- ✦ **AI-powered cameras** will monitor real-time visitor footfall, analyse crowd density and issue alerts during peak hours or emergencies.
- ✦ The system will employ **facial recognition**, **behavioural analytics** and **emergency-response protocols** to track visitor movement and detect unusual or suspicious activities.

- ✦ It will also assist temple authorities in **maintaining cleanliness**, improving **basic amenities** and ensuring smoother visitor flow.



Exercise Ajeya Warrior-25

Why in News?

India and the **United Kingdom** have begun the **8th edition of Exercise Ajeya Warrior-25**, a bilateral military training exercise between the **Indian Army** and the British Army.

Key Points

About Ajeya Warrior Exercise:

- ✦ **Ajeya Warrior** is a bilateral military exercise between the **Indian Army** and the British Army, held **biennially since 2011**.

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- ✦ It focuses on enhancing **interoperability**, improving **tactical coordination**, and sharing **best practices** in counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations.
- ✦ It is conducted **under a United Nations mandate**, specifically **aligned with Chapter VII of the UN Charter**, which deals with **peacekeeping** duties related to threats to peace, breaches of peace, and **counter-terrorism** scenarios.

💡 About the 2025 Edition:

- ✦ The 8th edition is being held from **17th to 30th November, 2025**, at the **Foreign Training Node, Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan**.
- ✦ A total of **240 personnel** are participating, with **equal representation** from both armies. The Indian Army is represented by the **Sikh Regiment**.
- ✦ Training includes **simulation-based scenarios**, **Brigade-level mission planning**, and **field exercises** resembling real-life counter-terror contingencies.

Mission Shakti

Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh gifted scooters to **25 women police personnel** in **Sonbhadra district** under the state's **Mission Shakti** initiative to strengthen women's safety and empowerment.

Key Points

- 💡 Mission Shakti was launched on **17th October, 2020**, aligning closely with the **broader national Mission Shakti scheme**.
- 💡 It is steered by the **Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD)**, which serves as the **Nodal Department**. It is implemented through **inter-departmental convergence**, involving key agencies such as the **Home Department** and the **Uttar Pradesh Police**, particularly the **Mahila Samman Prakoshth**.
- 💡 The mission focuses on a **three-pronged approach**:
 - ✦ **Safety and Security** (e.g., controlling crime against women).

- ✦ **Respect and Dignity** (e.g., behavior change communication and awareness).
- ✦ **Self-Reliance/Empowerment** (e.g., linking women to government welfare schemes and economic opportunities).

Mission Shakti (Central Government)

- 💡 **Mission Shakti** is a scheme of **Ministry of Women and Child Development** aimed at **strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment**.
- 💡 It promotes the vision of **women-led development** through convergence of services across a woman's life cycle and operates through **two sub-schemes**:
 - ✦ **Sambal (Safety & Security)**: Includes **One Stop Centre (OSC)**, **Women Helpline (WHL)**, **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** and **Nari Adalats** for community-based dispute resolution.
 - ✦ **Samarthya (Empowerment)**: Includes modified **Ujjwala**, **Swadhar Greh** and **Working Women Hostel** schemes, along with the **National Creche Scheme** and **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana** under the **ICDS** umbrella.

Birth Anniversary of Rani Lakshmibai

Why in News?

The nation paid tribute to **Rani Lakshmibai** on her birth anniversary, honouring her role as **one of the most iconic leaders of the 1857 revolt** and a **symbol of resistance** against British rule.

Key Points

💡 Early Life:

- ✦ **Rani Lakshmibai** was born on **19th November 1828** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, and was originally named **Manikarnika**.
- ✦ During her childhood, she received formal training in **horse riding, fencing, and shooting**, reflecting her early inclination toward physical strength and martial skills.

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- ✦ She grew up alongside notable companions such as **Nana Sahib** and **Tatya Tope**, who later became prominent figures in the 1857 uprising.

💡 Manikarnika Becomes Rani of Jhansi:

- ✦ At the age of fourteen, Manikarnika married **Maharaja Gangadhar Rao Newalkar** of Jhansi and was thereafter known as **Rani Lakshmibai**.
- ✦ She gave birth to a son who died in infancy, after which the royal couple adopted a son, **Damodar Rao**, from the Maharaja's extended family to succeed the throne.

💡 Role in the Struggle for Independence:

- ✦ After the death of Gangadhar Rao in 1853, the British Governor-General **Lord Dalhousie** refused to recognise the adopted heir and attempted to annex Jhansi under the **Doctrine of Lapse**.
- ✦ Rani Lakshmibai opposed this move and led a **remarkable resistance against British forces**, defending Jhansi with exceptional courage.
- ✦ She continued fighting even after leaving Jhansi and ultimately died on the battlefield on **17th June, 1858**.
- ✦ Her legacy continued to inspire freedom movements, including the **Rani of Jhansi Regiment**, the **first women's unit** of the **Indian National Army** formed in 1943.



Doctrine of Lapse

- 💡 The Doctrine of Lapse was an annexation policy implemented during the tenure of **Lord Dalhousie** (1848–1856).
- 💡 It stipulated that any princely state under British influence would be annexed if its ruler died **without a natural male heir**, and adopted sons would not be recognised as successors.
- 💡 Using this doctrine, Dalhousie annexed several states including **Satara** (1848), **Jaitpur** and **Sambalpur** (1849), **Baghat** (1850), **Udaipur** (1852), **Jhansi** (1853), and **Nagpur** (1854).

Sounds of Kumbha

Why in News?

The music album **Sounds of Kumbha**, which was **commissioned by the Uttar Pradesh government** and inspired by the **Maha Kumbh** held in Prayagraj, has been nominated for the **68th Grammy Awards**.

Key Points

- 💡 The album "**Sounds of Kumbha**" is a **12-track production** by **Siddhant Bhatia**, featuring over **50 global artists** including Grammy winners.
- 💡 The album is deeply rooted in the **Maha Kumbh experience**, capturing ambient **sounds of the pilgrimage, river confluence, chants and rituals**, thereby reflecting India's cultural heritage on a global platform.
- 💡 It has been nominated in the **Best Global Music Album category** alongside renowned acts such as **Anoushka Shankar** and the band **Shakti**.
- 💡 The **68th Grammy** ceremony is scheduled for **1st February, 2026** in **Los Angeles**.

Grammy Awards

- 💡 The Grammy Awards are **presented annually** by the **Recording Academy** in the **United States** to honour outstanding achievements in the music industry.
- 💡 They are considered one of the **"Big Three"** major American music awards, alongside the **Billboard Music Awards** and the **American Music Awards**.

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- 💡 The awards are known for recognising both artistic excellence and technical proficiency, covering performers, composers, producers, sound engineers, and arrangers.

BIRSA 101

Why in News?

The Minister of Science & Technology has launched “BIRSA 101”, India’s first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for Sickle Cell Disease.

- 💡 Named after **Birsa Munda** on his **150th birth anniversary** (15th November 2025), the therapy strengthens India’s push for a “Sickle-Cell-Free Nation,” with significant benefits for affected tribal communities in central and eastern India.

Key Points

- 💡 **About BIRSA 101:**
 - ✦ The gene therapy was developed by the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research - Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB)** and transferred to the **Serum Institute of India** through a structured **technology-transfer** agreement, ensuring rapid pathway from lab to market.
 - ✦ The **public-private model** is designed to deliver **high-quality, affordable** genomic therapies to underserved communities.
- 💡 **About CRISPR Gene Editing:**
 - ✦ **CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats)** is a naturally occurring defence mechanism found in bacteria, used to cut viral DNA.
 - ✦ Modern gene-editing uses **CRISPR–Cas9**, where **Cas9** functions like molecular scissors to cut DNA at specific target sites.
 - ✦ It enables **precise, efficient, and low-cost genome editing**, making it a major breakthrough in biotechnology and medical research.
 - ✦ First demonstrated as a gene-editing tool in **2012**, pioneered by **Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier**, who received the **2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry**.

💡 About Sickle Cell Disease (SCD):

- ✦ **Sickle Cell Disease** is an **autosomal recessive genetic blood disorder** caused by an **HBB gene mutation**, producing abnormal **Hemoglobin-S** that makes red blood cells sickle-shaped and rigid. This leads to **anemia, pain crises, infections, and organ complications**.
- ✦ It is **highly prevalent in tribal communities** of central and eastern India and is a focus area under the **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (2023–2047)**.
- ✦ Conventional treatment includes **hydroxyurea, blood transfusions, and stem-cell transplant**.

Buddhist Tourism in Kaushambi

Why in News?

Kaushambi has come into focus as different **tourism development projects** are underway to boost **Buddhist tourism** and integrate the district into **Uttar Pradesh’s Buddhist Circuit**, especially with the launch of the **new Vande Bharat services**.

Key Points

- 💡 **Tourism Projects:** The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department is transforming **Kosam Inam village** in **Kaushambi district** into a prominent Buddhist tourism hub, with the construction of an 11-hectare **Buddha Theme Park** underway.
- ✦ Other developments in the village include a **Common Facility Centre** and a **theme gate**.
- 💡 **Buddhist monasteries:** Kaushambi contains **three historically significant Buddhist monasteries**:
 - ✦ **Ghositarama Monastery:** This is the **most important** Buddhist site in Kaushambi. It was built by the wealthy merchant Ghosita and is where the Buddha spent his **sixth and ninth rainy season retreats (varshavasas)** and delivered many important sermons.
 - ✦ **Kukuta Monastery:** This monastery is explicitly mentioned in ancient Buddhist texts (*Tripitakas*) as one of the four main establishments of the Order in Kaushambi during the Buddha’s time.

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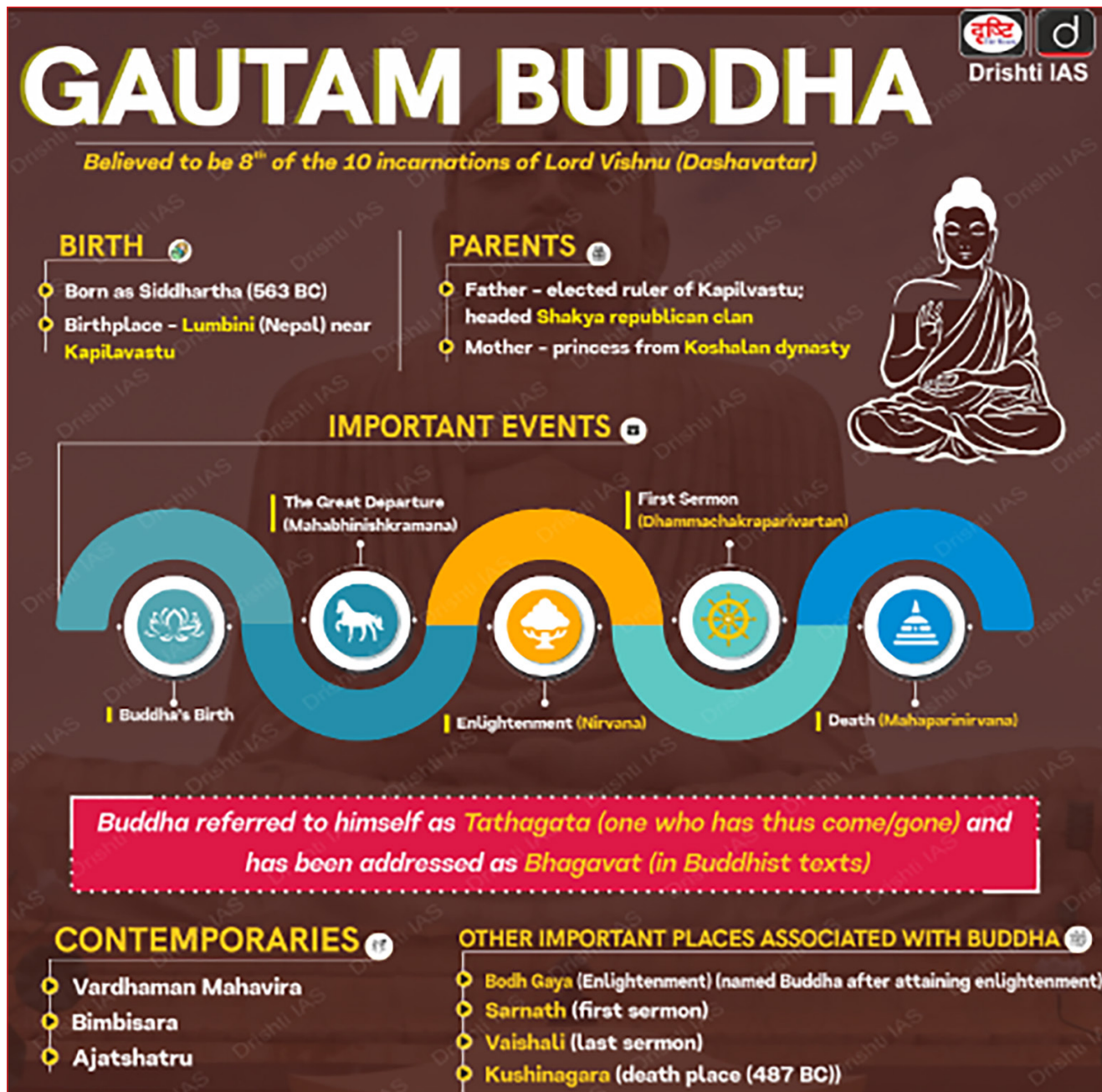
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- ✦ **Pavarikambavana Monastery:** Also listed in Buddhist scriptures, this was Pavarika's Mango Grove and was another place where the Buddha stayed and taught in Kaushambi.



UP's First State Institute of Hotel Management

Why in News?

Gorakhpur has been selected to host Uttar Pradesh's first State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM), aimed at boosting **tourism-linked skill development** and **hospitality education** in the eastern region of the state.

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Key Points

About Institute in Gorakhpur:

- ✦ The SIHM will function under the **State Tourism and Culture Department**, with academic standards aligned to the **National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT)**.
- ✦ The institute will offer **diploma, degree, and certificate courses** in key hospitality sectors such as **hotel operations, culinary arts, bakery, food production, and tourism management**.
- ✦ It is expected to create a skilled workforce to support the region's rapidly growing tourism ecosystem—including **Gorakhpur, Kushinagar (Buddhist circuit), Lumbini (Nepal), Shravasti, and Varanasi**.

About State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM):

- ✦ **State Institutes of Hotel Management (SIHMs)** are state-run hospitality education institutions established in collaboration with the **Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India**.
- ✦ They function under the **National Council for Hotel Management & Catering Technology (NCHMCT)** for curriculum, exams, and standards.
- ✦ SIHMs aim to enhance **tourism-based skill development, hospitality entrepreneurship, and professional training** to support India's tourism and service-sector growth.

World Fisheries Day 2025

Why in News?

India marked **World Fisheries Day 2025** on **21st November**, celebrating sustainability, blue-economy growth, and improved livelihoods for fishers.

Key Points

- ✦ **About:** **World Fisheries Day**, observed annually on **21st November**, traces its origin to the formation of the **World Fisheries Forum** in **1997**, when delegates from **18 countries** met in **New Delhi** to promote

sustainable fishing and safeguard fisher communities, making India the birthplace of this global observance.

- ✦ **Theme:** The theme for 2025 is **"India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports."**

- ✦ **Ranking:** India is the **second-largest fish-producing country** and among the **world's top shrimp producers**.

- ✦ Total fish production more than **doubled** from **96 lakh tonnes (2013–14)** to **195 lakh tonnes (2024–25)**.
- ✦ **Marine product exports** rose by **11.08%**, from **US\$ 0.81 billion (October 2024)** to **US\$ 0.90 billion (October 2025)**.

Major Initiatives:

- ✦ The government launched the **National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries & Aquaculture** to ensure **safe, transparent, and globally compliant seafood supply chains**.
- ✦ The **Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the EEZ Rules** promote **environmentally responsible deep-sea fishing**, giving **priority access to Fishermen Cooperatives and FFPOs**, enhancing **income opportunities** for small-scale fishers.
- ✦ **ReALCRaft** is a **digital platform** enabling **online registration, licensing, e-payments**, and **vessel data updates**, with integrated **inspections for paperless fisheries governance**.
- ✦ **NABHMITRA**, a **two-way satellite communication system** for small vessels (<20 m), provides **real-time tracking, SOS alerts, and weather updates**, improving **fisher safety and coordination with coastal authorities**.

Vistadome Jungle Safari at Dudhwa National Park

Why in News?

The **Vistadome jungle safari train** on the **Mailani–Bichia route** has seen a sharp rise in tourist footfall, boosting eco-tourism in **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**.

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Key Points

About Vistadome Railways:

- ✦ The **Vistadome safari** started in **May 2024**, operating on the **107-km Mailani–Bichia** narrow-gauge route.
- ✦ Coaches have **large glass windows, transparent roofs, and 360° viewing**, offering immersive views of forests, wetlands, and wildlife.
- ✦ The UP Eco-Tourism Board is using the train for **weekly educational nature tours** for students.

About Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR):

- ✦ It is situated in **Lakhimpur Kheri district** of Uttar Pradesh and comprises **Dudhwa National Park**, **Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary**, and **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- ✦ It represents the classic **Terai-Bhabar ecosystem**, marked by rich **sal forests**, **tall elephant grasses**, **wetlands**, and **marshes**, making it one of India's most productive wildlife habitats.
- ✦ It hosts a high density of **tigers**, along with **Asian elephants**, one of the last surviving populations of **swamp deer (barasingha)**, **sarus cranes**, **gharials**, and **Gangetic dolphins**.
- ✦ It also forms part of the **India–Nepal transboundary conservation landscape**, serving as a crucial corridor for **tiger and elephant movement** between the two countries.



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Yamuna Belt Drinking Water Project

Why in News?

The **Agra Municipal Corporation** has begun the implementation of the **Yamuna Belt Drinking Water Project**, which will supply **clean, treated drinking water** across several water-scarce localities in Agra.

Key Points

About the Project:

- ✦ The project aims to provide **continuous access to potable water** to households in areas chronically affected by shortage, including **Kheria Mod, Sadar Bhatti, Nunhai**, and parts of **Trans-Yamuna Agra**.
- ✦ Water will be sourced from the **Keetham Lake (Sur Sarovar) canal system**, treated at a **new water treatment facility**, and then supplied through an upgraded distribution network.
- ✦ The scheme involves **laying new pipelines**, repairing old ones, setting up overhead tanks, and ensuring last-mile connectivity for households lacking individual water connections.

About Keetham Lake:

- ✦ **Keetham Lake**, also known as **Sur Sarovar**, is a **man-made lake** on the **Agra-Delhi NH-2 corridor**, created as a reservoir for the Agra Canal.
- ✦ It is part of the **Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary**, notified under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, and is a **Ramsar Site**.

Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom Day

Why in News?

The President of India paid tribute to **Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji** on the occasion of his **350th Martyrdom Day** on **24th November 2025**.

- 💡 He was executed by Aurangzeb on **24th November 1675**, for defending **Kashmiri Pandits** against

forced religious conversion, and the **Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib in Delhi's Chandni Chowk** marks the site of his execution.

Key Points

- 💡 **Early Life:** Born in the year **1621 in Amritsar**, Guru Tegh Bahadur was initially known as **Tyagmal** due to his **ascetic nature**. Trained in religious philosophy and martial skills, he was awarded the title "**Tegh Bahadur**" for his **bravery** in battle.
- 💡 **Contribution:** He became the **9th Sikh Guru** in **1664** after **Guru Harkishan**. In **1665**, he founded **Anandpur Sahib** and contributed more than **700 hymns** to the **Guru Granth Sahib**, focusing on **equality, justice, and devotion**.
- 💡 **Legacy:** He **opposed forced religious conversions** during **Aurangzeb's reign** and encouraged **fearlessness (Nirbhau)** and **compassion (Nirvair)** among his followers.
 - ✦ He is revered for defending freedom of religion and conscience earning him the title "**Hind-di Chadar**" (**Shield of India**).



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Ten Gurus of Sikhism

Guru Nanak Dev (1469–1539)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Sikh Guru and founder of Sikhism Initiated 'Guru ka Langar' Contemporary of Babur Kartarpur Corridor was inaugurated on his 550th birth anniversary
Guru Angad (1504–1552)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invented the Gurmukhi script Popularized the practice of 'Guru ka Langar'
Guru Amar Das (1479–1574)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the Anand Karaj marriage ceremony Abolished sati and purdah practices among Sikhs Contemporary of Akbar
Guru Ram Das (1534–1581)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded Amritsar in 1577 Began the extraction and construction of the Holy Tank (Sarovar) at the site of the Golden Temple.
Guru Arjan Dev (1563–1606)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compiled the Adi Granth in 1604 Completed the Golden Temple's construction Known as 'Shaheeden-de-Sartaj' Executed by Jahangir for helping Prince Khusrau
Guru Hargobind (1594–1644)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transformed Sikhs into a martial community Known as the "Soldier Saint" Established the Akal Takht in Amritsar
Guru Har Rai (1630–1661)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace-loving Guru Dedicated his life to missionary work and maintaining the Sikh army. <p>Met with Dara Shikoh (Aurangzeb's brother).</p>

Guru Harkishan (1656–1664)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youngest Sikh Guru, became Guru at age 5 Summoned by Aurangzeb
Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621–1675)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded Anandpur Sahib Opposed forced conversions under Aurangzeb Martyred in 1675 for defending Kashmiri Pandits
Guru Gobind Singh (1666–1708)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founded the Khalsa in 1699 Introduced the initiation ceremony "Pahul" Last human Sikh Guru and the Five Ks Declared Guru Granth Sahib as the eternal Guru

Hayli Gubbi Volcano

Why in News?

The Hayli Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia has erupted explosively, sending high-altitude ash plumes thousands of metres up, some of which have drifted into Indian airspace, triggering aviation advisories.

Key Points

- Hayli Gubbi volcano is located in Afar, northeastern Ethiopia, within the **Danakil Depression** - one of the hottest and lowest places on Earth.
- The current eruption is significant because the volcano is believed to have erupted after nearly **12,000 years**, based on geological evidence from the Afar Rift.
- The Hayli Gubbi eruption highlights the **geological volatility** of the **East African Rift System (EARS)** where active volcanism, fissure eruptions, and spreading ridges are common.
 - It is one of the world's most tectonically active rift systems where the **Arabian, Nubian, and Somali plates** are diverging.
- The region is characterised by **basaltic lava**, fissure systems, and frequent **seismic activity** linked to the continental rifting process.

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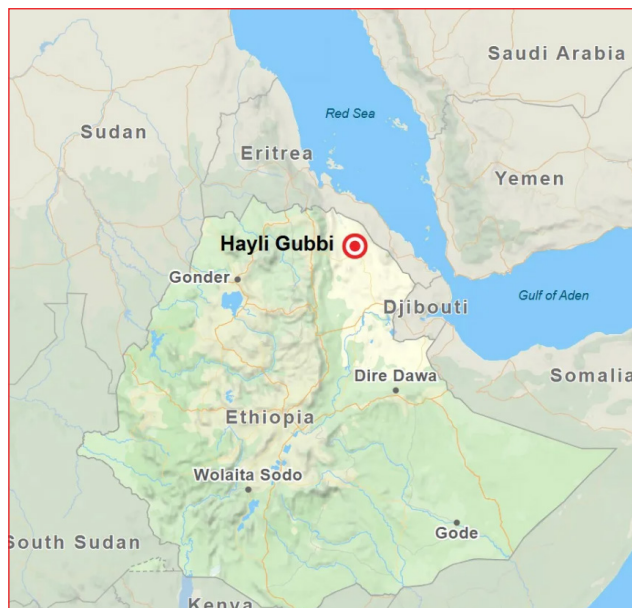


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Volcanic Ash & Aviation Risks

- Volcanic ash is made of tiny, abrasive particles of rock and glass that can melt inside jet engines and cause serious damage.
- Jet engines can **stall** when ash **melts and re-solidifies** on turbine blades.

Exercise SURYAKIRAN (2025)

Why in News?

The 19th edition of India–Nepal Joint Military Exercise SURYAKIRAN-XIX began on 25th November 2025 at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- About Exercise SURYAKIRAN:**
 - Exercise SURYAKIRAN is a bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and the Nepal Army, held **annually**, with hosting duties alternating between the two countries.
 - It aims to **enhance interoperability**, strengthen **military diplomacy**, and deepen India–Nepal defence cooperation.
 - The exercise primarily focuses on **counter-insurgency**, counter-terrorism, and **jungle/mountain warfare** terrain common to both armies.

- It is conducted under **Chapter VII** of the UN Charter, which deals with peacekeeping duties related to threats to **peace**, **breaches of peace**, and **counter-terrorism** scenarios.

About the 2025 Edition:

- The 2025 edition of the exercise is being hosted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, from 25th November to 08th December, 2025.
- The **Indian contingent** comprises **334 personnel**, mainly from the **Assam Regiment** while the **Nepalese contingent** also includes **334 personnel**, primarily from the **Devi Datta Regiment**.
- The 2025 edition highlights incorporation of **niche and emerging military technologies**, such as:
 - Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)
 - Drone-based **ISR** (Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance)
 - AI-enabled decision-support tools
 - Unmanned logistics vehicles
 - Armoured protection platforms

Nayi Chetna 4.0 Campaign

Why in News?

The Union Minister for Rural Development, alongside the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, launched 'Nayi Chetna 4.0', a national campaign under the DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission).

Key Points

- The fourth edition of Nayi Chetna – Initiative for Change focuses on strengthening women's safety, **mobility**, dignity, and socio-economic participation, especially in rural India.
- The campaign will run **nationwide from 25th November to 23rd December 2025**, led by the extensive network of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM.
- Emphasis given on elimination of **substance abuse**, which was termed a major cause of domestic violence, and village-level campaigns for **violence-free communities**.

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- ⚡ The initiative stresses **women's voices in governance**, safe public spaces, **shared domestic responsibilities**, and recognition of women's economic roles.

DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission)

- ⚡ The DAY-NRLM was launched in **2011** and later **restructured in 2015** to strengthen its implementation framework and outreach. The mission is implemented by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- ⚡ The scheme aims to **reduce rural poverty** by promoting **self-employment**, **skill development**, and **sustainable livelihoods** through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- ⚡ It primarily focuses on mobilizing **rural women** into SHGs, providing them with **credit linkages**, **capacity-building support**, and **enhanced access to markets**.
- ⚡ It includes key components such as **financial inclusion**, **digital literacy**, and the **diversification of livelihood activities** to improve and stabilize **household incomes** in rural areas.

Narora Atomic Power Station

Why in News?

The **Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS)** in Uttar Pradesh has adopted **7,970 tuberculosis (TB) patients** under the **Nikshay Mitra** initiative, strengthening community support for TB-free India efforts.

Key Points

- ⚡ Narora Atomic Power Station is located in **Narora town, Bulandshahr district**, Uttar Pradesh, situated on the **banks of the Ganga River**.
- ⚡ It is operated by the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)**, which functions under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**.
- ⚡ NAPS consists of **two Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)**, each of **220 MW capacity**, making its total installed capacity **440 MW**.
- ⚡ It is India's **first nuclear power station built using the standardized and indigenously developed**

PHWR technology, marking a milestone in India's self-reliance in nuclear engineering.

- ⚡ The station plays a key role in supplying power to **Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana**, and to the **Northern Regional Grid**, supporting grid stability.
- ⚡ NAPS is known for its strong **safety culture**, receiving multiple awards including the **Golden Peacock Environment Management Award**.

Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)

- ⚡ Launched in 2022 as part of the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**, it focuses on **providing nutritional, diagnostic, and vocational support** to improve treatment outcomes and accelerate **India's TB elimination goal**.
- ⚡ **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)** is the world's largest crowd-sourcing initiative for TB patient nutrition.
- ⚡ The **Ni-Kshay Mitra** initiative, part of the **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)**, encourages individuals, NGOs, and corporations to support TB patients with nutritional, social, or economic aid.
 - ✦ The **Ni-Kshay Portal** helps health workers manage TB cases, track treatment, and report real-time data for India's TB surveillance.

Pedestrian Bridge on Gomti Riverfront

Why in News?

The **Lucknow Development Authority (LDA)** has approved the construction of a **new pedestrian bridge on the Gomti Riverfront**, aimed at tourism appeal.

Key Points

- ⚡ **About The Bridge:**
 - ✦ The bridge will be constructed **between Gomti barrage and Kudiya Ghat**, a stretch that is frequently visited by **walkers, tourists**, and recreational users of the riverfront.

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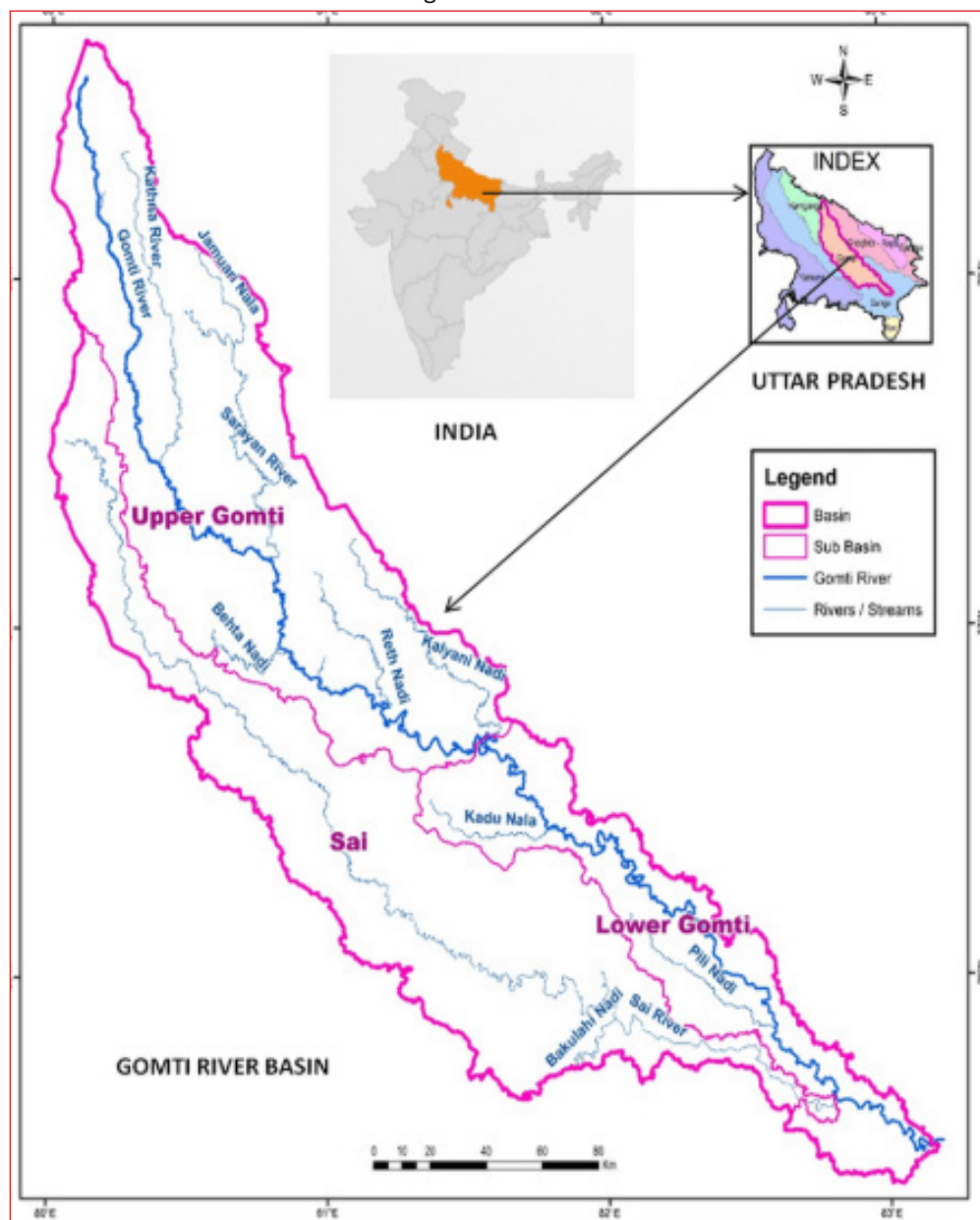
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- ✦ This will support **non-motorised transport**, providing a **safe crossing** for pedestrians and cyclists and **reducing dependence on vehicular bridges** in the zone.

📍 About Gomti River:

- ✦ The **Gomti River** is a **monsoon-fed, perennial left-bank tributary of the Ganga**, flowing entirely within Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ It originates from **Gomat Taal (also called Fulhaar Jheel)** in **Pilibhit district** at an elevation of ~200 metres. Important tributaries include **Sai, Kukrail, Sarayan, Choha, Reth, and Behta**.
- ✦ The river flows for ~940 km through major districts including **Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Lucknow, Sultanpur, and Jaunpur**, before joining the **Ganga near Ghazipur**.
- ✦ Conservation challenges include **sand mining, eutrophication, solid-waste inflow**, and reduced base flow due to loss of wetlands and catchment degradation.



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India to Host Commonwealth Games 2030

Why in News?

Prime Minister congratulated the nation as India has officially won the bid to host the **Centenary Commonwealth Games 2030**, a historic sporting milestone marking 100 years of the Games.

Key Points

About the Commonwealth Bid:

- ✦ India will host the **Centenary Commonwealth Games 2030** in **Ahmedabad**.
- ✦ This achievement represents a major **diplomatic and sporting milestone**, significantly enhancing **India's visibility and credibility** in **global sports governance**.
- ✦ Hosting the 2030 Games aligns with **India's long-term sporting vision**, particularly its efforts to upgrade **sports infrastructure**, strengthen **global event hosting capacity**, and enhance athlete support through programmes such as **Khelo India** and the **Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme**.
- ✦ India last hosted the **Commonwealth Games** in **2010**, when the event was held in **New Delhi**.

About Commonwealth Games:

- ✦ The **Commonwealth Games (CWG)** is an international multi-sport event held every four years, bringing together athletes from all 56 Commonwealth nations.
- ✦ It was first conducted in **1930 at Hamilton, Canada** as the **British Empire Games**. India first participated in the **1934 London Games**.
- ✦ The event is governed by the **Commonwealth Sport** (earlier known as **Commonwealth Games Federation**), headquartered in **London (England)**, which ensures that the Games uphold the core values of **humanity, equality, and destiny**.
- ✦ The **2026 Commonwealth Games** are scheduled to take place in **Glasgow, Scotland**.

Pratibimb Platform

Why in News?

The **Prayagraj Police** have intensified their crackdown on **cybercrime** using '**Pratibimb**', an advanced digital policing platform to detect fraud patterns with high accuracy.

Key Points

- 💡 **Pratibimb** is a **data-driven crime-mapping and analytics platform** that integrates FIRs, mobile tower data, IP addresses, financial transaction data and behavioural patterns to locate **cyberfraud clusters**.
- 💡 The system allows police to generate **real-time heat maps** of cybercrime-prone areas, enabling targeted field operations.
- 💡 It helps identify **repeat cyber fraudsters**, SIM cards used across scams, and high-risk digital routes used for money transfers.
- 💡 The platform works alongside national tools such as '**Citizen Financial Cyber Frauds Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS)**' under **Ministry of Home Affairs** for blocking suspicious transactions within the golden hour.

Citizen Financial Cyber Frauds Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS)

- 💡 **CFCFRMS** is a **national online system** for reporting financial **cyber frauds**, operated through the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** (1930 helpline + online platform).
- 💡 It enables victims to quickly report fraudulent transactions, allowing banks and payment intermediaries to freeze or recover funds in the "golden hour."
- 💡 The system is coordinated by the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 💡 It connects banks, law-enforcement agencies, **fintech companies**, and payment service providers on a single real-time response mechanism.

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Upper Yamuna Review Committee Meeting

Why in News?

The 9th meeting of the Upper **Yamuna Review Committee (UYRC)** was held in **Noida** under the chairmanship of **Union Jal Shakti Minister**, bringing together ministers and officials from six basin states.

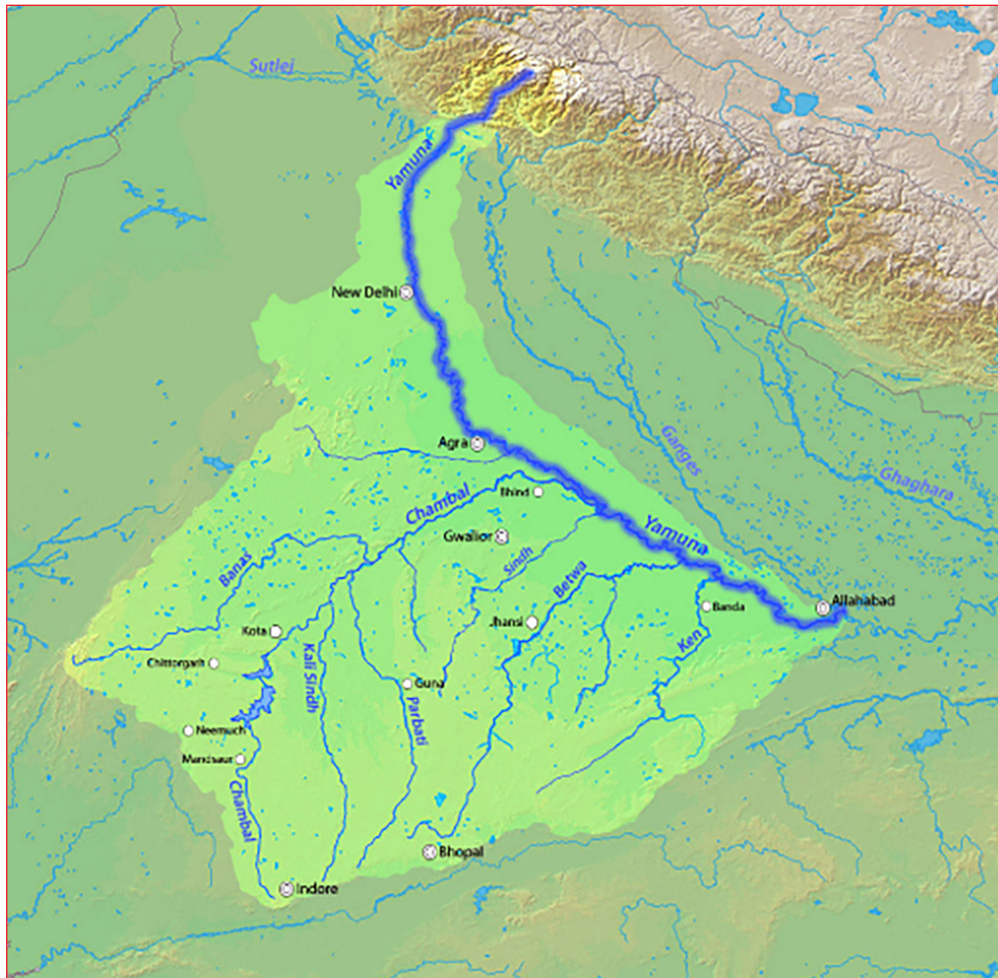
Key Points

About Upper Yamuna Review Committee:

- ✦ It was created to **supervise the functioning of the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)**. The UYRC, chaired by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti and comprising the **Chief Ministers/Ministers of the basin states**, is the supervisory and high-level policy-making body for the UYRB.
- ✦ This body reviews **river flows, reservoir operations, water allocation**, and interstate coordination.

About Yamuna River:

- ✦ Yamuna is the **largest tributary of the Ganga**, originating from **Yamunotri Glacier** in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand.
- ✦ Major states in the upper basin: **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan**.
- ✦ Key tributaries: **Tons (largest), Hindon, Chambal, Betwa, Ken**.
- ✦ The **Hathnikund Barrage** plays a crucial role in regulating Yamuna's flows into **Haryana, UP, and Delhi**.



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Key Points

Details

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Summary

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Summary