



**FEBRUARY- 2026**

**# RAPID**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

## **One-Liners**

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10/2, Chakrapani Rd, Extn, Maduvinkarai, Guindy, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600032  
www.nationaldefenceinstitute.in | Mail Id: info@nationaldefenceinstitute.in | 91509 81461 | 91509 81462

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## Important Days

- **Indian Coast Guard Day (Feb 1):** Celebrates the establishment of the Indian Coast Guard in 1977 and its role in maritime security and rescue operations.
- **World Wetlands Day (Feb 2):** Highlights the importance of wetlands with the theme **“Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future.”**
- **World Cancer Day (Feb 4):** A global awareness initiative themed **“United by Unique”** for cancer prevention, detection, and treatment.
- **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (Feb 6):** A United Nations-led effort to eliminate FGM and protect the rights and health of women and girls.
- **Safer Internet Day (Feb 7):** Promotes safe and responsible use of digital technology under the theme **“Together for a Better Internet.”**
- **National Deworming Day (Feb 10):** A Ministry of Health and Family Welfare initiative to eliminate intestinal worm infections among children and adolescents.
- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science (Feb 11):** Encourages equal participation of women and girls in STEM fields.
- **National Productivity Day (Feb 12):** Promotes productivity culture with the theme **“From Ideas to Impact: Productivity for Sustainable Growth.”**
- **World Radio Day (Feb 13):** A UNESCO-led observance focusing on **“Radio and Climate Change.”**
- **World Day of Social Justice (Feb 20):** Focuses on bridging gaps for social justice under the theme **“Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice.”**



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- **International Mother Language Day (Feb 21):** Promotes linguistic and cultural diversity through multilingual education.
- **Central Excise Day (Feb 24):** Honors the contribution of excise officers in enforcing tax laws and preventing corruption.
- **World NGO Day (Feb 27):** Recognizes the role of non-governmental organizations in social welfare and development.
- **National Science Day (Feb 28):** Commemorates the discovery of the Raman Effect and is themed “**Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for Viksit Bharat.**”

### Awards

- **BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025:** Awarded to **Smriti Mandhana** for outstanding achievement in sports.
- **Emerging Player of the Year:** Won by **Divya Deshmukh** at the BBC Indian Sportswoman Awards.
- **Para-Sportswoman of the Year:** Conferred upon **Preethi Pal** for achievements in para-sports.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Given to **Anjali Bhagwat** for long-term contributions to Indian sports.
- **Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Award:** Presented to **Saina Nehwal** by **Isha Outreach** for contributions to India’s global image and national development.
- **Laureus World Sports Awards:** **Luke Littler** was nominated for **Breakthrough of the Year**, while the **Indian Women’s Cricket Team** was nominated for **Team of the Year**.
- **Gallantry Awards:** Presented by the **President of India** to Armed Forces personnel for exceptional bravery and service.
- **Police Gallantry & Service Medals:** Awarded by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to Police and CAPF officers for bravery, distinguished service, and meritorious service.
- **Appointments and Personalities**



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- **Guru Ravidas:** His **649th birth anniversary in 2026** highlighted his legacy as a Bhakti saint, mystic poet, and advocate of social equality.
- **Ramakrishna Paramahansa:** His **190th birth anniversary in 2026** commemorates his teachings on the unity of religions and direct spiritual experience.
- **C. Rajagopalachari:** A statue of India's last Governor-General will replace the statue of **Edwin Lutyens** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
- **Nidhi Chhibber:** The **1994-batch IAS officer** assumed additional charge as **CEO of NITI Aayog** in February 2026.
- **Ravi Shankar Chhabi:** Appointed as **Deputy Inspector General (DIG)** in the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** on central deputation.
- **Soraya Aghaei Hajiagha:** Elected as the **first female member from Iran** to the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**.

### Military Exercises and News

1. **Agni-III:** An **intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM)** developed by **DRDO**, with a range of about **3,000 km**.
2. **INS Arnala:** A **Fast Attack Craft (FAC)** serving under the **Western Naval Command** for coastal defence and rapid response.
3. **SCALP Missile:** A **long-range air-launched cruise missile** with a strike range of over **250 km**, integrated with **Rafale** aircraft.
4. **HAPS (High Altitude Pseudo Satellite):** A solar-powered unmanned platform operating in the **stratosphere** for persistent surveillance, communication, and monitoring.
5. **Exercise Vajra Prahar:** The **16th edition** of this **India–USA joint Special Forces exercise** commenced at **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh**.
6. **Exercise Dharma Guardian:** The **7th edition** of the **India–Japan bilateral army exercise** began in **Uttarakhand**.
7. **Exercise Khanjar:** An annual **India–Kyrgyzstan joint special forces exercise** focusing on **counter-terrorism** and **mountain warfare**.



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8. **Exercise MILAN 2026:** A major **multilateral naval exercise** hosted at **Visakhapatnam**, with participation from **74 countries**.
9. **Yantra India Limited:** Granted **Miniratna Category-I status** by the **Ministry of Defence**, enhancing its financial autonomy.

### MISCELLANEOUS:

- **Basic Customs Duty** on 17 cancer-related drugs and medicines was fully exempted in the Union Budget 2026–27.
- **SHE Marts** were announced as a new platform to support women entrepreneurs.
- The **Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative (MGSSI)** was announced to strengthen khadi, handloom, and handicrafts sectors.
- **Bharat-VISTAAR** is a multilingual AI tool designed to integrate **AgriStack** and **ICAR farm-practice packages** for better farm decision-making.
- **Biopharma SHAKTI** aims to make India a global hub for biologics and biosimilars manufacturing.
- **Biopharma SHAKTI** includes a biopharma-focused network with **3 new NIPERs** and the upgradation of **7 existing NIPERs**.
- **Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana** was launched to provide skill training and dignified livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- **Divyang Sahara Yojana** supports ALIMCO in expanding assistive-device production and strengthening **PM Divyasha Kendras**.
- **Guru Ravidas** was a Bhakti saint whose 41 devotional compositions are included in the **Guru Granth Sahib**.
- **Sovereign Gold Bonds** are issued by the **Reserve Bank of India**, and secondary-market investors do not get maturity-based capital gains exemption.
- **CCUS** stands for **Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage**, a three-stage process involving capture, transport, and storage or use of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- The Union Budget proposed **₹20,000 crore over five years** for **CCUS technologies**.



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- **Securities Transaction Tax (STT)** was proposed to be raised on futures and options by up to **150%**.
- The **Persian Gulf** gained attention after DGCA advised Indian carriers to avoid the region's airspace amid escalating tensions.
- The **Tomahawk missile** is a long-range cruise missile used by the United States for precision strikes.
- **Aluminium Phosphide:** Aluminium phosphide, commonly called Celphos, is a highly toxic fumigant pesticide that releases lethal phosphine gas on contact with moisture or stomach acid.
- **Use of Aluminium Phosphide:** It is widely used for grain storage fumigation and is also used in semiconductor-related applications.
- **World Wetlands Day:** World Wetlands Day is observed annually on **2 February** to mark the signing of the **Ramsar Convention** in 1971.
- **World Wetlands Day 2026 theme:** The 2026 theme is "**Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage.**"
- **New Ramsar sites in India:** **Patna Bird Sanctuary** in Uttar Pradesh and **Chhari-Dhand** in Gujarat were added as Ramsar Sites, taking India's total to **98**.
- **SAKSHAM 2026:** SAKSHAM is a Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas campaign to promote fuel conservation and sustainable energy awareness.
- **SAKSHAM 2026 duration:** The 2026 edition runs from **2 to 16 February 2026**.
- **SAKSHAM 2026 theme:** The theme is "**Conserve Oil and Gas, Go Green.**"
- **Moltbook:** Moltbook is a social network designed specifically for **AI agents** to interact autonomously with each other.
- **Moltbook launch:** Moltbook was launched in **January 2026** by **Matt Schlicht**.
- **Bhairav Battalions:** Bhairav Battalions are compact, high-tech Indian Army combat units built for rapid tactical response near sensitive border sectors.
- **Strength of Bhairav Battalion:** Each Bhairav Battalion has about **250 soldiers** drawn from multiple combat and support arms.



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- **Role of Bhairav Battalions:** They are meant to bridge the gap between **Special Forces** and **regular infantry** in fast-breaking combat situations.
- **Project Himank:** Project Himank is a **BRO** project launched in **1985** for road communication and infrastructure development in the Ladakh region.
- **PM VIKAS Scheme:** PM VIKAS is a **Ministry of Minority Affairs** scheme focused on skill development, entrepreneurship, education, and livelihood support for minority communities.
- **Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary:** Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Telangana** and is known for dry deciduous forests and the Pakhal Lake ecosystem.
- **Myoglobin:** Myoglobin is an oxygen-storing protein found mainly in **skeletal muscle and cardiac muscle**.
- **Tender Years Doctrine:** The Tender Years Doctrine presumes that very young children, generally below five years, should remain with the mother unless she is unfit.
- **Dholpur–Karauli Tiger Reserve:** Dholpur–Karauli Tiger Reserve is located in **eastern Rajasthan** near the **Chambal River**.
- **SFDR Technology:** Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet is an advanced propulsion technology demonstrated by **DRDO** to enhance the performance of long-range missile systems.
- **Punatsangchhu-II Project:** Punatsangchhu-II is a **1020 MW run-of-the-river hydroelectric project** in Bhutan funded by India with **30% grant and 70% loan**.
- **Armenia:** Armenia is a **landlocked country in the South Caucasus** with **Yerevan** as its capital.
- **Highest peak of Armenia:** **Mount Aragats** is the highest peak in Armenia.
- **PSLV-C62 Mission:** PSLV-C62 is an **ISRO multi-payload mission** carrying the primary satellite **EOS-N1 (Anvesha)** along with 18 secondary payloads.
- **EOS-N1:** EOS-N1 was primarily developed for **DRDO**.
- **Exercise Khanjar-XIII:** The 13th edition of **India–Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR** began at **Misamari, Assam**.



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- **Phalgu River:** Phalgu River in Bihar is formed by the confluence of the **Lilajan** and **Mohana** rivers near **Gaya** and later joins the **Punpun River**.
- **Hidden Ganga:** Phalgu River is called the “**Hidden Ganga**” (**Gupta Ganga**) because it flows beneath a sandy bed and appears dry on the surface for most of the year.
- **Religious significance of Phalgu:** The Phalgu River is a major site for **Pind Daan** and is also associated with **Buddha’s enlightenment** as the ancient **Niranjana River**.
- **El Chichón Volcano:** El Chichón is an **active stratovolcano** located in **north-central Chiapas, Mexico**.
- **1982 eruption of El Chichón:** The **1982 eruption** of El Chichón was one of the biggest volcanic disasters in modern Mexican history and created a **1-km-wide crater lake**.
- **Project Vault:** Project Vault is a **\$12 billion US public-private initiative** to stockpile **rare earths and critical minerals** against supply disruptions.
- **Project Vault model:** Project Vault is designed on the logic of the **US Strategic Petroleum Reserve**, but for **critical minerals instead of crude oil**.
- **BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies:** India joined the **BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies (BCIC)**, a **UNIDO-backed** initiative supporting **MSMEs, industrial modernization, and Industry 4.0 skills**.
- **India’s implementing agency for BCIC:** The **National Productivity Council (NPC)** has been designated as India’s centre for the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies.
- **AI Stack:** An **AI stack** is the complete set of tools, systems, data, compute, and models needed to build and run AI applications in the real world.
- **SPHEREx Mission:** SPHEREx is a **NASA astrophysics mission** launched on **11 March 2025** to conduct an **all-sky spectral survey** in optical and near-infrared wavelengths.
- **Mission duration of SPHEREx:** The planned duration of the SPHEREx mission is **two years**.
- **Michelangelo:** Michelangelo was an **Italian Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect, and poet**, and one of the most influential figures in Western art.
- **Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary:** Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Arunachal Pradesh** and is known as a **biodiversity hotspot**.



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- **Mount Aconcagua:** Mount Aconcagua in **Argentina**, near the **Chile border**, is the **highest peak in South America** and the **highest mountain outside Asia**.
- **Origin of Aconcagua:** Mount Aconcagua was formed due to the **subduction of the Nazca Plate beneath the South American Plate**.
- **Lake Urmia:** Lake Urmia is a **highly saline lake** located in **northwestern Iran**.
- **Gulf Cooperation Council:** The **GCC** is a regional political and economic grouping established in **1981** and includes **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE**.
- **GCC headquarters:** The headquarters of the **Gulf Cooperation Council** is in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.
- **New marine worm species:** Researchers from **ZSI** discovered two new marine worm species from the **Nereididae family** off the coast of **West Bengal**.
- **Habitat of Namalycastis solenotognatha:** This newly discovered polychaete survives in **sulfide-rich mudflats**, decomposing mangrove wood, and hardened clay.
- **Malaysia:** Malaysia is a **Southeast Asian country** split into **Peninsular Malaysia** and **East Malaysia** by the **South China Sea**.
- **Capital of Malaysia:** **Kuala Lumpur** is the capital of Malaysia.
- **Bharat GenAI:** **Bharat GenAI** is described as **India's first sovereign AI initiative** aimed at building AI models tailored to India's languages and culture.
- **Features of Bharat GenAI:** **Bharat GenAI** focuses on **multilingual and multimodal models, Indian datasets, open-source development**, and a **domestic generative AI ecosystem**.
- **Titanidiops kolhapurensis:** **Titanidiops kolhapurensis** is a newly discovered **trapdoor spider** found in the **grasslands of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra**.
- **INS Arnala:** **INS Arnala** is the **first indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** of the Indian Navy.
- **Commissioning of INS Arnala:** **INS Arnala** was commissioned into the Indian Navy on **18 June 2025**.



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- **Role of INS Arnala:** INS Arnala is meant for **underwater surveillance, search and rescue, and low-intensity maritime operations.**
- **Bailey Bridge:** A **Bailey Bridge** is a **modular prefabricated bridge** designed for rapid construction in difficult conditions without heavy equipment.
- **Inventor of Bailey Bridge:** The Bailey Bridge was invented in **1941** by **Donald Coleman Bailey.**
- **Sharda River:** The Sharda is a transboundary river of **India and Nepal**, known as the **Kali River** in its upper course.
- **Origin of Sharda River:** It rises on the eastern slopes of the **Nanda Devi massif** in the Great Himalayas of Uttarakhand.
- **Course of Sharda River:** The river forms part of the **India–Nepal border** and later joins the **Ghaghara River** in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Sharda Barrage:** The **Sharda Barrage** near **Banbasa** is the source of the **Sharda Canal**, one of northern India's longest irrigation canals.
- **Seychelles:** Seychelles is an **archipelagic island country** in the **western Indian Ocean** consisting of **115 islands.**
- **Capital of Seychelles:** **Victoria** is the capital city of Seychelles.
- **Shipki La Pass:** Shipki La is a **high mountain pass** on the **India–China frontier** in **Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh.**
- **Importance of Shipki La:** The **Sutlej River** enters India through Shipki La from Tibet, and the pass serves as a border trade route with China.
- **Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary:** Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand** near **Jamshedpur.**
- **Elephants in Dalma:** Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary is known for its significant population of **Indian elephants.**
- **Copernicus Sentinel-2 Mission:** Sentinel-2 is an **ESA Earth observation mission** under the **Copernicus Programme** for monitoring land surface conditions.



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- **Sentinel-2 constellation:** The mission uses a **two-satellite polar-orbiting constellation** in a **sun-synchronous orbit**.
- **Sentinel-2 imagery:** Sentinel-2 provides **high-resolution optical multispectral imagery** across **13 spectral bands**.
- **Uses of Sentinel-2:** Its data supports **precision agriculture, disaster management, ecosystem monitoring, water quality assessment, and methane emission observation**.
- **Copernicus Programme:** Copernicus is the **Earth observation component of the European Union's Space Programme** and is led by the **European Commission in partnership with ESA**.
- **Giant Phantom Jellyfish:** The **Giant Phantom Jellyfish** is a rare deep-sea jellyfish scientifically known as **Stygiomedusa gigantea**.
- **Feature of Giant Phantom Jellyfish:** Unlike most jellyfish, it lacks tentacles and uses **ribbon-like arms** to capture prey.
- **Lyriothemis keralensis:** **Lyriothemis keralensis**, or **Slender Bombardier**, is a newly discovered species of dragonfly found in the **low-lying coastal regions of Kerala**.
- **Habitat of Slender Bombardier:** It prefers **human-modified landscapes** rather than forest habitats.
- **Kordofan Region:** Kordofan is a region in **central and southern Sudan**, lying between **Darfur** in the west and the **White Nile valley** in the east.
- **Paraleocrates indica:** **Paraleocrates indica** is a newly discovered **marine worm** found in the muddy banks of the **Champa Estuary in the Bay of Bengal**.
- **Importance of Paraleocrates indica:** It is the **first record in Indian waters** of this rare group and only the **third known species** in its genus worldwide.
- **SCALP Missile:** SCALP, also known as **Storm Shadow**, is a **long-range air-launched cruise missile**.
- **Developer of SCALP:** The missile was jointly developed by **France and the United Kingdom**.
- **Range of SCALP:** SCALP has an operational range of about **250 km**.



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- **Warhead of SCALP:** It carries a **tandem warhead** with a shaped charge for penetration and a secondary high-explosive charge.
- **Dragon Hole:** The **Dragon Hole** or **Sansha Yongle Blue Hole** is the **deepest known underwater sinkhole in the world**, located in the **South China Sea**.
- **Blue holes:** Blue holes are steep-sided underwater cavities often formed in **limestone landscapes** and later flooded by rising sea levels.
- **Mons Mouton:** **Mons Mouton** is located on the **Moon** and is considered a potential landing site for future lunar missions.
- **Swavalambini Scheme:** Swavalambini is a **women entrepreneurship programme** aimed at equipping young women with the skills and confidence to start businesses.
- **Aim of Swavalambini:** The scheme promotes an **entrepreneurial mindset among female students** and helps them move from idea to enterprise creation.
- **Ethylene Glycol:** Ethylene glycol is commonly used as **antifreeze in vehicles**.
- **Mangrove Clam:** The **mangrove clam** or **mud clam** is scientifically known as **Geloina erosa** and has been successfully captive-bred by **ICAR-CMFRI**.
- **Habitat of Mangrove Clam:** It is found in **muddy, brackish, and nearly freshwater regions within mangrove swamps** and is widely distributed in the **Indo-Pacific**.
- **Nebular Hypothesis:** The Nebular Hypothesis explains the formation of the Solar System from a rotating cloud of gas and dust called a nebula.
- **Kant's Nebular Hypothesis:** Immanuel Kant proposed in **1755** that the Solar System formed from cold particles set into motion by gravity and collisions.
- **Laplace's Nebular Hypothesis:** Pierre-Simon Laplace, in **1796**, expanded the nebular idea by proposing that planets formed from rings shed by a rotating gaseous nebula.
- **Wet Dress Rehearsal:** A wet dress rehearsal is the final pre-launch practice in which a rocket is loaded with cryogenic fuel and taken through the countdown up to just before ignition.
- **Dry Dress Rehearsal:** A dry dress rehearsal simulates launch operations without loading cryogenic propellants.



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- **Artemis II:** Artemis II will be the **first crewed mission** of NASA's Artemis programme and the first human mission to the Moon's vicinity since **1972**.
- **Wajid Ali Shah:** Wajid Ali Shah was the **tenth and last Nawab of Awadh**, who ascended the throne in **1847**.
- **Awadh annexation:** The British annexed Awadh in **1856**, and this became one of the important causes of the **Revolt of 1857**.
- **Wajid Ali Shah and culture:** Wajid Ali Shah is remembered as a poet, playwright, dancer, and major patron of the arts, and is also linked with the revival of **Kathak**.
- **PM-SURAJ Portal:** PM-SURAJ was launched in **2024** by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** to provide virtual credit support to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged sections.
- **PM-SURAJ loan ceiling:** PM-SURAJ provides business loans of up to **₹15 lakh** at low interest rates.
- **National Large Solar Telescope:** The NLST is a **2-metre aperture solar telescope** being set up in the **Merak region near Pangong Tso Lake**.
- **India's solar observatories:** NLST will become **India's third ground-based solar observatory** after **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory** and **Udaipur Solar Observatory**.
- **National Large Optical-Near Infrared Telescope:** This proposed telescope at **Hanle** will have a **13.7-metre segmented mirror** and will be among the world's largest optical-infrared telescopes.
- **PFMS:** Public Financial Management System is a **web-based online transaction system** for fund management and e-payment to implementing agencies and beneficiaries.
- **PFMS implementing body:** PFMS is developed and implemented by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)** under the **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**.
- **Lymphatic Filariasis:** Lymphatic Filariasis, commonly called **elephantiasis**, is a **neglected tropical disease** transmitted by the **female Culex mosquito**.
- **Main cause of Lymphatic Filariasis:** **Wuchereria bancrofti** is responsible for about **90%** of lymphatic filariasis cases.



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- **Gilbert Hill:** Gilbert Hill is a **200-foot basalt monolith** located in **Andheri, Mumbai** and is among the oldest basalt rock formations in the world
- **Idukki Hydroelectric Project:** The Idukki Hydroelectric Project is built across the **Periyar River** in **Idukki district, Kerala**.
- **Largest hydel project in Kerala:** Idukki is the **largest hydroelectric project in Kerala** with an installed capacity of **780 MW**.
- **Moolamattom powerhouse:** The **Moolamattom** station of the Idukki project is the **longest underground power station in India**.
- **Generators at Idukki:** The Idukki powerhouse has **six generators of 130 MW each**.
- **Three dams of Idukki project:** The project is associated with **Idukki Arch Dam, Cheruthoni Dam, and Kulamavu Dam**.
- **Idukki Arch Dam:** The Idukki Dam is among the **highest arch dams in the world** and is the **first double-curvature arch dam in Asia**.
- **Dedication of Idukki project:** The Idukki Hydroelectric Project was dedicated to the nation on **12 February 1976**.
- **Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary:** Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Dhenkanal district of Odisha**.
- **Area of Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary:** It covers about **125.5 sq km** and lies in the **Chota Nagpur Plateau region**.
- **Vegetation of Kapilash:** The sanctuary falls under the **Eastern Highlands moist deciduous forest ecoregion**.
- **Tangkhul Hui:** Tangkhul Hui, also called **Haofa**, is an indigenous dog breed reared by the **Tangkhul people of Ukhrul district, Manipur**.
- **Type of Tangkhul Hui:** Tangkhul Hui is originally a **sighthound** developed as a hunting companion.
- **Trait of Tangkhul Hui:** Tangkhul Hui is known for strong protective instinct and high disease resistance.



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- **Kombai:** Kombai is an **ancient Indian dog breed** originating in the **Kombai region of Tamil Nadu**.
- **Use of Kombai:** Kombai has traditionally been used for **guarding property** and **hunting wild boar and large game**.
- **Nature of Kombai:** Kombai is known for **bravery, loyalty, muscular build, and disease resistance**.
- **AS-HAPS:** Air-Ships Based High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite is a system for which the **Defence Acquisition Council** granted **Acceptance of Necessity** for the **Indian Air Force**.
- **Arch dam:** An **arch dam** is a curved dam in which water pressure is transferred to the abutments on either side.
- **Chota Nagpur Plateau:** The **Chota Nagpur Plateau** spreads mainly across **Jharkhand** and adjoining parts of **Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Bihar**.
- **Sighthound:** A **sighthound** is a hunting dog that primarily hunts by **sight and speed** rather than scent.
- **Acceptance of Necessity:** In India's defence procurement system, **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** is the formal approval that allows a procurement proposal to move forward.
- **Dornier 228 Aircraft:** Dornier 228 is a **multi-purpose light transport aircraft** used for utility transport, coast guard duties, and maritime surveillance.
- **Indian manufacturer of Dornier 228:** In India, the Dornier 228 is manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** under licence production started in the mid-1980s.
- **Feature of Dornier 228:** Dornier 228 is a **twin-turboprop STOL aircraft** capable of operating from unprepared and short airstrips, including in hot and high conditions.
- **Phoenicia:** Phoenicia was an **ancient region at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea**, corresponding broadly to present-day **Lebanon**.
- **Phoenicians:** The Phoenicians were renowned as **shipbuilders, navigators, and traders** with trade routes extending as far as Spain and the British Isles.



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- **Phoenician alphabet:** The **Phoenician alphabet of 22 letters** became the source of the **Greek and Latin alphabets**.
- **Major Phoenician cities:** The Phoenicians built important cities such as **Sidon, Tyre, and Berot (modern Beirut)**.
- **Chunar Fort:** Chunar Fort is located in **Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh** on a strategic bend of the **Ganga** near the **Kaimur Hills**.
- **Other names of Chunar Fort:** Chunar Fort is also known as **Chandrakanta Chunargarh** and **Charanadri**.
- **Historical control of Chunar Fort:** Over time, Chunar Fort passed through the hands of **Sher Shah Suri, the Mughals, the Nawabs of Awadh, Kashi rulers, and the British**.
- **Recent development at Chunar Fort:** Chunar Fort is being developed as a **₹150 crore PPP-based heritage hotel** to promote tourism and the regional economy.
- **Wheat:** Wheat is the **second most important staple food crop in India after rice** and is mainly grown as a **Rabi crop**.
- **Climate for wheat cultivation:** Wheat grows best in a **cool, dry climate**, with **10°C–15°C during sowing** and **21°C–26°C during ripening**.
- **Rainfall for wheat:** Wheat requires about **50–75 cm of well-distributed rainfall**.
- **Major wheat-producing countries:** Major wheat producers include **China, India, Russia, and the United States**.
- **Major wheat-producing states in India:** Important wheat-producing states include **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar**.
- **Barbados:** Barbados is an **island country in the southeastern Caribbean region** and is regarded as the **easternmost island in the Caribbean**.
- **Capital of Barbados:** The capital of Barbados is **Bridgetown**.
- **Independence of Barbados:** Barbados became independent on **30 November 1966**.
- **Highest point of Barbados:** **Mount Hillaby** is the highest point in Barbados, rising to about **340 metres above sea level**.



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- **Tetrataenium paikadae:** *Tetrataenium paikadae* is a **new plant species** discovered in the **high-altitude grasslands of Idukki district in the Western Ghats.**
- **PM RAHAT Scheme:** PM RAHAT stands for **Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment Scheme** launched by the Government of India.
- **Cashless treatment under PM RAHAT:** Every eligible road accident victim is entitled to **cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh** under PM RAHAT.
- **112 integration in PM RAHAT:** The scheme is integrated with **ERSS 112** to help victims and Good Samaritans locate the nearest designated hospital and request an ambulance.
- **PM RAHAT platform integration:** The scheme is implemented by integrating **eDAR** of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways with **TMS 2.0** of the National Health Authority.
- **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund:** Hospital reimbursement under PM RAHAT is made through the **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVAFF).**
- **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0:** Startup India FoF 2.0 is a new fund launched under the **Startup India initiative** to deepen India's venture capital ecosystem.
- **Corpus of Startup India FoF 2.0:** Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 has a total corpus of **₹10,000 crore.**
- **Focus of Startup India FoF 2.0:** The scheme prioritises **deep tech, tech-driven innovative manufacturing, early-growth startups, and wider national reach beyond metros.**
- **Mode of investment in FoF 2.0:** Startup India FoF 2.0 invests through **SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)** rather than directly into startups.
- **Urban Challenge Fund:** The Urban Challenge Fund is a **centrally sponsored scheme** of the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**
- **Aim of Urban Challenge Fund:** It aims to build **resilient, productive, inclusive, and climate-responsive cities.**
- **Financial outlay of Urban Challenge Fund:** The Urban Challenge Fund provides **₹1 lakh crore** as total central assistance.
- **Tenure of Urban Challenge Fund:** The scheme will operate from **FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31**, with extendable implementation up to **FY 2033–34.**



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- **Project finance rule in UCF:** At least **50% of project financing** under the Urban Challenge Fund must come from market sources such as **municipal bonds, bank loans, and PPPs**.
- **Eligible cities under UCF:** The fund covers **cities with population above 10 lakh, all state/UT capitals not already covered, and major industrial cities with population above 1 lakh**.
- **Cheer Pheasant:** Cheer Pheasant, also called **Wallich's pheasant or chir pheasant**, belongs to the family **Phasianidae**.
- **Habitat of Cheer Pheasant:** It occurs in **steep, rocky hillsides with scrub, stunted trees, and grassy slopes** between **1,200 and 3,350 metres**.
- **Distribution of Cheer Pheasant:** It is distributed across the **Western Himalaya from northern Pakistan through Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand to central Nepal**.
- **Conservation status of Cheer Pheasant:** Cheer Pheasant is listed as **Vulnerable** by the IUCN, in **CITES Appendix I**, and under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- **Army ants:** Army ants are **nomadic ants without permanent nests** and belong to the subfamily **Dorylinae**.
- **New army ant species:** Two new army ant species—**Aenictus chittoorensis** and **Aenictus lankamallensis**—were discovered in the **Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Bivouac:** Army ants form temporary living nests called **bivouacs**, made entirely from the bodies of worker ants.
- **Communication in army ants:** Army ants are practically blind and depend heavily on **pheromones** for navigation and communication.
- **Ecological role of army ants:** Army ants act as **keystone predators** by regulating arthropod populations and shaping forest biodiversity.
- **PM-DAKSH Scheme:** PM-DAKSH stands for **Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalata Sampanna Hitgrahi Yojana**.
- **Launch of PM-DAKSH:** PM-DAKSH is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in **2020–21**.



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- **Aim of PM-DAKSH:** The scheme aims to provide **skill development through quality institutions** so that candidates from target groups can secure employment.
- **Target groups under PM-DAKSH:** The scheme covers **SCs, OBCs, EWS, Denotified Tribes, and Safai Karamcharis/waste pickers.**
- **Age eligibility in PM-DAKSH:** Eligible beneficiaries under PM-DAKSH must be in the **18–45 years** age group.
- **PM-DAKSH merger:** PM-DAKSH has been merged with the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**
- **Piton de la Fournaise:** Piton de la Fournaise is a **basaltic shield volcano** located on **La Réunion Island** in the **western Indian Ocean.**
- **Status of Piton de la Fournaise:** It is considered **one of the most active volcanoes in the world** and is known for **frequent short-lived eruptions** with lava fountains and large lava flows.
- **UNESCO status of Piton de la Fournaise:** Since **2010**, it has been part of the natural heritage area of La Réunion recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- **Shield volcanoes:** Shield volcanoes are **broad, gently sloping volcanoes** built mainly by repeated eruptions of **low-viscosity basaltic lava.**
- **Exposome:** The exposome is the **total measure of all exposures an individual experiences over a lifetime from conception onward** and their relation to health.
- **IHEN definition:** The **International Human Exposome Network (IHEN)** defines the exposome as the integrated compilation of **physical, chemical, biological, and psychosocial factors and their interactions.**
- **Exposomics:** Exposomics is the **study of the exposome** using both **internal and external exposure assessment methods.**
- **Leiogalatea samudragiri:** Leiogalatea samudragiri is a **new species of squat lobster** discovered near **Minicoy in the Lakshadweep archipelago.**
- **Depth of discovery:** This new squat lobster species was found about **360 metres below the sea surface.**



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- **Deep Ocean Mission link:** The discovery of **Leiogalatea samudragiri** was made during a research cruise under India's **Deep Ocean Mission (Samudrayaan programme)**.
- **Feature of Leiogalatea samudragiri:** The species is distinguished by **smooth uninterrupted shell ridges, six transverse ridges on the back half of its body, and bright orange colouration.**
- **Squat lobsters:** Squat lobsters are **marine crustaceans** that resemble small lobsters but are actually more closely related to **hermit crabs and porcelain crabs.**
- **Bio-based chemicals:** Bio-based chemicals are industrial chemicals produced from **biological feedstocks** such as **sugarcane, corn, starch, or biomass residues.**
- **Production of bio-based chemicals:** These chemicals are commonly produced through **fermentation or enzymatic processes.**
- **BioE3 policy:** India identified **bio-based chemicals and enzymes** as a priority area under the **Department of Biotechnology's BioE3 policy.**
- **Benefit of bio-based chemicals:** Bio-based chemicals help reduce **dependence on fossil fuels, lower hazardous waste generation, and support the circular economy.**
- **Challenge of bio-based chemicals:** Major barriers include **higher production costs, feedstock and infrastructure constraints, and uncertain market adoption.**
- **Osteoporosis:** Osteoporosis is a disease in which **bones become weak and more likely to fracture.**
- **Cause of osteoporosis:** Osteoporosis develops when **bone breakdown exceeds bone replacement** over time.
- **Nature of osteoporosis:** Osteoporosis is often called a **silent disease** because it usually shows no symptoms until a fracture occurs.
- **Common fracture sites in osteoporosis:** Fractures due to osteoporosis most commonly affect the **hip, vertebrae, and wrist.**
- **Treatment approach in osteoporosis:** Management may include **lifestyle changes, calcium and vitamin D supplementation, and medicines to strengthen bones.**



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- **SAHI:** SAHI stands for **Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for India** and serves as a national guidance framework for safe, ethical, evidence-based, and inclusive AI adoption in healthcare.
- **Aim of SAHI:** SAHI provides strategic direction on governance, data stewardship, validation, deployment, and monitoring of AI solutions in India's healthcare system.
- **BODH:** BODH stands for **Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI** and is a privacy-preserving platform for evaluating AI models on diverse real-world health data without sharing underlying datasets.
- **BODH linkage:** BODH was developed by **IIT Kanpur** in collaboration with the **National Health Authority** and functions as a digital public good under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**.
- **INS Tarangini:** INS Tarangini is the **Indian Navy's first Sail Training Ship (STS)**.
- **Commissioning of INS Tarangini:** INS Tarangini was built by **Goa Shipyard Limited** and commissioned on **11 November 1997**.
- **Historic feat of INS Tarangini:** INS Tarangini became the **first Indian naval ship to circumnavigate the globe** in **2003–04**.
- **Type of INS Tarangini:** INS Tarangini is a **three-masted barque**, square-rigged on the fore and main masts and fore-and-aft-rigged on the mizzen mast.
- **Nitric Oxide:** Nitric oxide is a **colorless, toxic, noncombustible gas** composed of one nitrogen atom and one oxygen atom.
- **Formation of Nitric Oxide:** Nitric oxide is formed through **nitrogen oxidation** and can be generated naturally by lightning or commercially by burning ammonia.
- **Role of Nitric Oxide in humans:** Nitric oxide acts as a **chemical signalling molecule**, helps **dilate blood vessels**, and functions as a **neurotransmitter**.
- **Environmental impact of Nitric Oxide:** Nitric oxide is produced by **automotive engines and thermal power plants**, making it a serious air pollutant.
- **Lepidocampa sikkimensis:** Lepidocampa sikkimensis is a **new species of Diplura** discovered in **Ravangla, Sikkim**.



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- **Diplura:** Diplura are **small, wingless, soil-dwelling arthropods** important for soil health and nutrient cycling.
- **Significance of the discovery:** *Lepidocampa sikkimensis* is the **first species in this primitive hexapod group described by an Indian research team.**
- **Tulbul Navigation Barrage Project:** The Tulbul Navigation Barrage Project, also called the **Wullar Barrage**, is a navigation lock-cum-control structure at the outlet of **Wular Lake** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Purpose of Tulbul Project:** It was designed to facilitate navigation on the **Jhelum River** during lean winter months.
- **Start of Tulbul Project:** Work on the Tulbul Navigation Barrage Project began in **1984** but was halted after objections by Pakistan under the **Indus Waters Treaty.**
- **Wular Lake:** Wular Lake is the **largest freshwater lake in India** and lies in **Bandipore district of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- **Ramsar status of Wular Lake:** Wular Lake was designated a **Wetland of International Importance** under the **Ramsar Convention** in **1990.**
- **Khorramshahr-4 Missile:** Khorramshahr-4, also known as the **Kheibar missile**, is an **Iranian medium-range ballistic missile.**
- **Range of Khorramshahr-4:** The missile is **liquid-fuelled** and has an operational range of about **2,000 km.**
- **Payload of Khorramshahr-4:** It can carry **multiple warheads up to 1,800 kg.**
- **Lake Michigan:** Lake Michigan is the **third largest** of North America's five Great Lakes and the **only Great Lake located wholly within the United States.**
- **Lake Michigan connection:** Lake Michigan is directly connected to **Lake Huron** through the **Straits of Mackinac.**
- **South Korea:** South Korea occupies the **southern half of the Korean Peninsula** and has **Seoul** as its capital.
- **Highest peak of South Korea:** **Mount Halla** on **Jeju Island** is the highest peak in South Korea.



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- **FSSAI:** The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** was established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- **Role of FSSAI:** FSSAI sets food standards and regulates the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import of food in India.
- **Loggerhead Turtle:** Loggerhead turtle is an **oceanic turtle** belonging to the family **Cheloniidae**.
- **Distribution of Loggerhead Turtle:** It is found in the **Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans** and the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- **Conservation status of Loggerhead Turtle:** The loggerhead turtle is listed as **Vulnerable** by the **IUCN**.
- **Charax Spasinou:** Charax Spasinou was an ancient port city near the confluence of the **Tigris** and **Choaspes** rivers, close to the modern **Iraq-Iran border**.
- **Founder of Charax Spasinou:** It was reportedly founded in **324 BCE** during the **Hellenistic period** and is initially associated with **Alexander the Great**.
- **Hyspaosines:** Charax Spasinou was later rebuilt by **Hyspaosines**, who became its first king and founder of the kingdom of **Characene**.
- **Importance of Charax Spasinou:** Owing to its location, it emerged as a major harbour in the **Persian Gulf region** and an important trade link between **Mesopotamia and India**.
- **Alpheus madhusoodanai:** **Alpheus madhusoodanai** is a newly discovered species of **pistol shrimp** found in the **Kochi backwaters of Kerala**.
- **Family of Alpheus madhusoodanai:** It belongs to the shrimp family **Alpheidae** and is the first alpeid shrimp recorded from an estuary in that region.
- **Ecological role of the new shrimp:** This shrimp has a **burrowing habit** and helps mangrove ecosystems by releasing toxic gases trapped in swampy soil.
- **Pistol shrimp weapon:** Pistol shrimps use an oversized claw that generates bubble shock waves through **sonoluminescence-like cavitation**, producing one of the loudest sounds in the ocean.



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- **Tidal flooding:** Tidal flooding, also called **sunny day flooding, king tide flooding, or nuisance flooding**, is the temporary flooding of low-lying coastal areas during high tides.
- **Cause of tidal flooding:** It usually results from the combination of **winds, offshore storms, and full moon or new moon high-tide cycles**.
- **Kerala and tidal flooding:** Kerala declared **tidal flooding a state-specific disaster**, the first such declaration by any Indian state.
- **Malabar Pied Hornbill:** The **Malabar Pied Hornbill** (*Anthracoceros coronatus*) is a medium-sized hornbill known for its **black-and-white plumage** and prominent casque.
- **Distribution of Malabar Pied Hornbill:** It is found in the **Western Ghats, north-eastern Himalayan foothills, Satpuda Hills, and Sri Lanka**.
- **Diet of Malabar Pied Hornbill:** It is mainly **frugivorous**, though it may shift toward an omnivorous diet during the breeding season.
- **Conservation status of Malabar Pied Hornbill:** The species is listed as **Near Threatened** on the **IUCN Red List**.
- **Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve:** Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve is located in **Chhattisgarh** and was created by combining the **Udanti** and **Sitanadi** wildlife sanctuaries.
- **Rivers of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve:** Its drainage system includes the **Mahanadi** as the main river, with **Udanti, Sitanadi, Indravan, and Pairi** as tributaries.
- **H-125 Helicopter:** The **H-125** is a **single-engine light utility helicopter** from Airbus's **Ecureuil family**.
- **Unique record of H-125:** It is the only helicopter recorded to have landed on the **summit of Mount Everest**.
- **Uses of H-125:** The helicopter is used for **emergency services, tourism, firefighting, law enforcement, aerial filming, and civil transport**.
- **Performance of H-125:** It is designed for **hot-and-high operations**, with a speed of about **252 km/h** and a range of around **662 km**.
- **Indian assembly line of H-125:** The final assembly line for the **Airbus H-125 Light Utility Helicopter** was inaugurated at **Vemagal, Karnataka**.



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- **Defence Acquisition Council:** The **DAC** is the **highest decision-making body** in the Ministry of Defence for procurement matters.
- **Formation of DAC:** It was created in **2001** following the **Group of Ministers' recommendations** after the **Kargil War**.
- **Chairman of DAC:** The **Defence Minister** serves as the chairman of the Defence Acquisition Council.
- **Members of DAC:** Its members include the **Chief of Defence Staff** and the chiefs of the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**.
- **Function of DAC:** The DAC grants **Acceptance of Necessity** to defence acquisition proposals and guides long-term capability planning.
- **Mesopotamia:** **Mesopotamia** is the historical region between the **Tigris** and **Euphrates** rivers and is often called one of the cradles of civilization. The page directly links Charax Spasinou to Mesopotamia.
- **Persian Gulf:** The **Persian Gulf** is a marginal sea connected to the **Arabian Sea** through the **Strait of Hormuz**. This is standard geography background, relevant because Charax Spasinou rose as a Gulf harbour.
- **Alpheidae:** **Alpheidae** is the shrimp family commonly known for **snapping or pistol shrimps**.
- **Sonoluminescence:** **Sonoluminescence** refers to light emission from collapsing bubbles in a liquid under intense energy conditions. The page invokes this concept for pistol shrimp bubble shocks.
- **SDRF:** **State Disaster Response Fund** is the state-level fund used for providing relief to victims of notified disasters. Kerala linked tidal-flood victims to assistance on SDRF-like lines.
- **Hornbill casque:** A **casque** is the helmet-like structure on the upper beak of hornbills. The Malabar Pied Hornbill is identified by its prominent casque.
- **Frugivorous:** A **frugivorous** animal primarily feeds on **fruits**.



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- **Ecureuil family:** The **Ecureuil** line is a family of light helicopters developed for versatile civilian and utility roles; the H-125 belongs to this line.
- **Acceptance of Necessity: Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** is the formal approval that allows a defence procurement proposal to move into the acquisition pipeline. The DAC specifically performs this function.
- **Galathea balasubramaniani:** *Galathea balasubramaniani* is a **new species of tiny crab (squat lobster)** discovered from the **coral reefs of Agatti in Lakshadweep**.
- **Genus of Galathea balasubramaniani:** It belongs to the genus **Galathea**, a group of small reef-dwelling **anomuran crabs** commonly called squat lobsters.
- **Size of the new crab:** *Galathea balasubramaniani* measures only about **3 mm in length**, making it one of the tiniest reef crabs recorded in the region.
- **Ecological role of squat lobsters:** These reef-dwelling crabs help **recycle organic matter** and serve as food for fish and other marine organisms.
- **Finland:** Finland is a country in **Northern Europe** bordered by **Norway, Sweden, and Russia**.
- **Water bodies around Finland:** Finland is bounded by the **Gulf of Finland, Gulf of Bothnia**, and the **Baltic Sea**.
- **Capital of Finland:** The capital of Finland is **Helsinki**.
- **Largest lake of Finland:** **Lake Saimaa** is the largest lake in Finland.
- **Highest point of Finland:** **Mount Halti** is the highest point in Finland, with a height of **1,328 m**.
- **Finland's memberships:** Finland is a member of both the **European Union** and **NATO**.
- **VoicERA:** VoicERA is an **open-source end-to-end Voice AI stack** unveiled by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**.
- **Platform used by VoicERA:** VoicERA is deployed on the **BHASHINI National Language Infrastructure**.



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- **Purpose of VoicERA:** It creates a **national execution layer for multilingual Voice and Language AI** and supports scalable voice systems across government and research ecosystems.
- **BHASHINI:** BHASHINI is an **AI-powered language translation platform** developed by **MeitY** under the **National Language Translation Mission**.
- **Language support in BHASHINI:** BHASHINI currently supports **more than 22 languages**.
- **Lymphedema:** Lymphedema is **swelling caused by dysfunction of the lymphatic system**, usually affecting the arms or legs.
- **Cause of lymphedema:** It can occur after **surgeries**, due to **medical or genetic conditions**, or after **cancer treatment that damages lymph nodes**.
- **Nature of lymphedema:** Lymphedema is a **chronic condition** that cannot be cured once developed, but it can be managed.
- **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve:** Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve is located in **Umria district of Madhya Pradesh** in the **Vindhya hills**.
- **Meaning of Bandhavgarh:** The name **Bandhavgarh** means **"Brother's Fort"**, linked to the belief that Lord Rama gave the hill to Lakshmana to watch Lanka.
- **Topography of Bandhavgarh:** The reserve has **steep ridges, undulating forests, and open meadows**.
- **Flora of Bandhavgarh:** The valleys are dominated by **Sal forests**, with **bamboo** on lower slopes.
- **Faunal significance of Bandhavgarh:** Bandhavgarh is known for having **one of the highest tiger densities in the world**.
- **Dibang Multipurpose Project:** The Dibang Multipurpose Project is a **flood-control-cum-hydroelectric project** on the **Dibang River**, a tributary of the **Brahmaputra**, in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Capacity of Dibang Project:** With an installed capacity of **2,880 MW**, it is set to become **India's biggest hydropower facility**.
- **Developer of Dibang Project:** The project is being developed by **NHPC**.



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- **Dam feature of Dibang Project:** It envisages a **278 m high concrete gravity dam**, which will be the **highest concrete gravity dam in India**.
- **RCC significance of Dibang Project:** The project's dam is planned with **roller compacted concrete (RCC)** and is intended to be the **highest RCC dam in the world**.
- **World Food Programme:** The **World Food Programme (WFP)** is the UN's **largest humanitarian agency** working on hunger eradication and food security.
- **Establishment of WFP:** WFP was established in **1961**.
- **Headquarters of WFP:** The headquarters of WFP is in **Rome, Italy**.
- **Funding of WFP:** WFP is funded through **voluntary donations** from governments, corporates, and private donors.
- **Nobel Prize for WFP:** WFP received the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2020**.
- **CHEOPS:** CHEOPS is a **European Space Agency spacecraft** dedicated to studying **bright nearby stars already known to host exoplanets**.
- **Launch of CHEOPS:** CHEOPS was launched on **18 December 2019**.
- **Orbit of CHEOPS:** CHEOPS operates in a **sun-synchronous dusk-dawn orbit** about **700 km above Earth**.
- **Instrument on CHEOPS:** The spacecraft carries a single science instrument, a **specialized photometer**.
- **Use of CHEOPS data:** CHEOPS measures exoplanet diameters and, with mass data, helps determine **planet density and composition**.
- **Lakhpati Didi Initiative:** A **Lakhpati Didi** is a **Self-Help Group member** with an annual household income of **₹1 lakh or more**.
- **Focus of Lakhpati Didi Initiative:** The initiative focuses on the **individual SHG woman**, not merely the SHG as a group.
- **Nodal ministry:** The **Ministry of Rural Development** is the nodal ministry for the Lakhpati Didi Initiative.
- **Revised target of Lakhpati Didi Initiative:** The revised target is **6 crore Lakhpati Didis by March 2029**.



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- **Indian Grey Hornbill:** The Indian Grey Hornbill is a **common hornbill of the Indian subcontinent** and is usually seen in **pairs**.
- **Habit of Indian Grey Hornbill:** It is largely **arboreal**, spending most of its time on tall trees.
- **Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary:** Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Uttarakhand** and forms part of the **Terai Arc Landscape** as well as the **Shivalik Elephant Reserve**.
- **Landscape connectivity of Nandhaur:** Nandhaur links the **Corbett–Rajaji landscape** in the west with the **Pilibhit–Dudwa landscape** and the **Terai area of Nepal** in the east.
- **Rivers of Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary:** The sanctuary is flanked by the **Gola River** in the west and the **Sharda River** in the east and is intersected by the **Nandhaur River**.
- **Smooth-coated otter record:** Smooth-coated otters were officially documented in **Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary** for the first time by the Uttarakhand Forest Department.
- **Vibrant Villages Programme–II:** VVP-II is a **Central Sector Scheme** with **100% central funding** aimed at comprehensive and sustainable development of border villages.
- **Objective of VVP-II:** The programme seeks to create **better living conditions and livelihood opportunities** in border villages while helping ensure **prosperous and safe borders** and reducing trans-border crime.
- **Coverage of VVP-II:** It covers border villages in **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, J&K, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal**, excluding the northern border already covered under VVP-I.
- **Outlay of VVP-II:** Vibrant Villages Programme–II has a total outlay of **₹6,839 crore** up to **FY 2028–29**.
- **Indian Sandalwood:** **Santalum album** is commonly known as **Indian Sandalwood**, one of the oldest and most valuable natural fragrance sources.
- **Other names of sandalwood:** Indian sandalwood is widely known in India as **Chandan** and **Srigandha**.



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- **Climate for sandalwood:** Indian sandalwood thrives in **hot and humid climates**, prefers **well-drained slightly alkaline soils**, and grows best at temperatures of about **12°C to 35°C**.
- **Maturation of sandalwood:** Indian sandalwood is a **long-duration crop** and takes nearly **20 years** to develop quality heartwood, the main source of sandalwood oil.
- **Uses of sandalwood:** Sandalwood and its essential oils are used in **aromatherapy, soaps, perfumery, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals**.
- **Major sandalwood-growing states:** Major producing states include **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu**.
- **Reasons for decline in sandalwood:** The decline in sandalwood production is linked to **illegal logging, smuggling, habitat loss, slow growth, and pests and diseases**.
- **Spinosaurus mirabilis:** *Spinosaurus mirabilis* is a newly identified **meat-eating dinosaur** discovered in the **Jengueb fossil area of Niger** in the central Sahara.
- **Age of Spinosaurus mirabilis:** This dinosaur lived around **95 million years ago**.
- **Habitat of Spinosaurus mirabilis:** It likely lived in a **forested inland habitat dissected by rivers** and is considered a **formidable semiaquatic hunter**.
- **Distinctive feature of Spinosaurus mirabilis:** Its most striking feature is a massive **scimitar-shaped cranial crest**, likely covered in keratin and possibly brightly coloured.
- **CJ-1000 Missile:** The **CJ-1000** is a **road-mobile hypersonic cruise missile** developed by **China**.
- **Propulsion of CJ-1000:** It is described as the world's first operational **land-based scramjet-powered hypersonic missile**.
- **Range of CJ-1000:** The missile is estimated to have a range of at least **2,500 km**.
- **Why CJ-1000 is harder to intercept:** Its **lower cruise altitude** and powered flight during cruise and terminal phases make it harder for enemy radar to detect and track than hypersonic glide vehicles.
- **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes:** The **NCST** is a **constitutional body** created through the **89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**, by inserting **Article 338A**.



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- **Separation of NCST and NCSC:** The former combined commission for SCs and STs was split into **NCSC** and **NCST** on **19 February 2004**.
- **Headquarters of NCST:** The headquarters of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes is in **New Delhi**.
- **Composition of NCST:** The Commission consists of a **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Members**, with the Chairperson enjoying the rank of a **Union Cabinet Minister**.
- **Functions of NCST:** NCST monitors safeguards for Scheduled Tribes, inquires into complaints, advises on planning for socio-economic development, and reports to the President.
- **NAFED:** NAFED is the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India**, an apex organization of agricultural marketing cooperatives in India.
- **Establishment of NAFED:** NAFED was founded on **2 October 1958** to promote trade in agricultural produce and forest resources across India.
- **Legal status of NAFED:** NAFED is registered under the **Multi State Co-operative Societies Act**.
- **Nodal ministry of NAFED:** NAFED functions under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- **Td Vaccine:** The **Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine** provides protection against both **tetanus and diphtheria**.
- **Composition of Td vaccine:** Td vaccine is prepared by combining **purified diphtheria toxoid and purified tetanus toxoid**.
- **Manufacturer of Td vaccine:** The vaccine has been developed and manufactured by the **Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli**, under the **Directorate General of Health Services**.
- **Tetanus:** Tetanus is an acute infectious disease caused by **toxigenic strains of Clostridium tetani**.
- **Diphtheria:** Diphtheria is caused by **Corynebacterium diphtheriae** and spreads mainly through **respiratory droplets**.



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- **INS Krishna:** INS Krishna is the **first of three indigenously built cadet training ships** of the Indian Navy.
- **Role of INS Krishna:** INS Krishna serves as a **floating classroom and living lab** for hands-on training in navigation, seamanship, and watch-keeping.
- **Builder of INS Krishna:** INS Krishna was constructed at the **L&T shipyard in Kattupalli near Chennai**.
- **Capacity of INS Krishna:** INS Krishna can accommodate **20 officers, 150 sailors, and 200 cadets** simultaneously.
- **Endurance of INS Krishna:** INS Krishna has an endurance of **60 days** and can achieve speeds of up to **20 knots**.
- **Arisaema siahaense:** *Arisaema siahaense* is a **new species of Cobra Lily** discovered in **Siaha district of Mizoram**.
- **Distinctive feature of Arisaema siahaense:** It is notable for its **exceptionally long spadix appendix** reaching up to **21 cm**, covered with brownish-green bristles.
- **Conservation status of Arisaema siahaense:** The species is currently classified as **Data Deficient**.
- **Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary:** Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Andhra Pradesh**, in the **West Godavari and Krishna districts**.
- **Core wetland of Kolleru sanctuary:** The sanctuary protects part of **Kolleru Lake**, a wetland of international importance under the **Ramsar Convention** since **2002**.
- **Rivers feeding Kolleru Lake:** Kolleru Lake is fed directly by the **Budameru and Tammileru** rivers.
- **Bird significance of Kolleru:** Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary is a major stopover for migratory birds and supports **more than 150 species of resident and migratory birds**.
- **Panama Disease:** Panama disease, also called **Fusarium wilt**, is a destructive banana disease caused by **Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense**.
- **Target of Panama disease:** The disease affects the **Cavendish variety (G9 banana cultivar)**, the most widely grown banana variety in the world.



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- **Spread of Panama disease:** The fungus infects banana plants through the **roots** and blocks the transport of water and nutrients.
- **Symptom of Panama disease:** Early symptoms include **yellowing of older leaf margins**, followed by browning, drying, wilting, and plant death
- **International Energy Agency:** The **IEA** is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation working within the **OECD framework** for secure and sustainable energy governance.
- **Establishment of IEA:** The IEA was established in **1974** in the wake of the **1973–74 oil crisis**.
- **Focus areas of IEA:** The IEA works on **energy security, economic development, environmental awareness, and global engagement**.
- **India and IEA:** India joined the IEA in **2017** as an **Associate member**.
- **Headquarters of IEA:** The headquarters of the International Energy Agency is in **Paris, France**.
- **Merchandise Trade Indices:** Merchandise Trade Indices are compiled by the **Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Purpose of Merchandise Trade Indices:** These indices measure changes in the **unit values or prices of India's exports and imports over time**.
- **Base year revision:** The base year of Merchandise Trade Indices was revised from **FY 2012–13 to FY 2022–23**.
- **Terms of Trade coverage:** The revised series includes **gross terms of trade, net terms of trade, and income terms of trade**.
- **Floreana Island:** Floreana Island, officially **Santa Maria**, lies at the southern end of the **Galápagos Archipelago** off Ecuador's west coast.
- **Nature of Floreana:** Floreana is a **volcanic island** of about **173 sq km** in the Pacific Ocean.
- **Settlement history of Floreana:** It was the **first island colonized by Ecuadorians in 1832**.
- **Population of Floreana:** Only about **150 people** live on Floreana Island today.



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- **Ecological concern in Floreana:** Floreana has the **highest concentration of species threatened by invasive mammals** among the Galápagos Islands, with **54 IUCN Red-Listed species**.
- **Baglihar Hydropower Project:** Baglihar is a **900 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project** on the **Chenab River** in **Ramban district, Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Structure of Baglihar Project:** The project includes a **144.5 m high concrete gravity dam** and is built in **two stages of 450 MW each**.
- **Commercial operation of Baglihar:** Construction began in **1999**, and the project entered commercial operation in **2008**.
- **Chenab River:** The Chenab is the **largest of the five tributaries of the Indus River**.
- **Origin of Chenab:** The Chenab is formed by the confluence of the **Chandra and Bhaga streams** in **Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Upper name of Chenab:** In its upper course, the Chenab is also known as the **Chandrabhaga**.
- **Indian Star Tortoise:** The Indian Star Tortoise is a **medium-sized terrestrial tortoise** with the scientific name **Geochelone elegans**.
- **Range of Indian Star Tortoise:** It is native to **India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka** and inhabits **dry areas and scrub forests**.
- **Camouflage feature:** Its shell has a **star-like pattern** that acts as camouflage.
- **Lifespan of Indian Star Tortoise:** It can live for about **35 to 80 years in the wild**.
- **Conservation status of Indian Star Tortoise:** The Indian Star Tortoise is listed as **Vulnerable** on the **IUCN Red List**.
- **Amrabad Tiger Reserve:** Amrabad Tiger Reserve is located in the **Nallamala Hills of the Eastern Ghats** in **Telangana**.
- **Size of Amrabad Tiger Reserve:** Spread over **2611.4 sq km**, it is one of the **largest tiger reserves in India**.
- **Historical linkage of Amrabad:** It was earlier part of the larger **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve** before the 2014 bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



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- **River linkage of Amrabad:** The **Krishna River** and streams from the reserve feed reservoirs such as **Srisailem Dam** and **Nagarjunasagar Dam**.
- **Tribal community in Amrabad:** The **Chenchu tribe** is one of the major tribal communities living in the reserve.
- **Rapti River:** Rapti is the most important **left-bank tributary of the Ghaghra River** and was historically known as **Iravati**. It originates near **Rukumkot in Nepal's Mahabharat range** at about **3,050 m** and later enters **eastern Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Rapti tributaries:** **Burhi Rapti** and **Rohini** are major left-bank tributaries of the Rapti River.
- **National Green Tribunal:** The **NGT** was established under the **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010** as a specialised body for environmental disputes, guided by **natural justice**, with a mandate to dispose of cases ideally within **6 months**.
- **NGT benches:** **New Delhi** is the principal seat of NGT, while **Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai** are the other places of sitting.
- **Takeshima/Dokdo:** Takeshima is a group of small islets in the **Sea of Japan**, located roughly midway between **Japan and the Korean Peninsula**. It is called **Dokdo** in South Korea and **Takeshima** in Japan, and is also known as the **Liancourt Rocks**.
- **Control over Takeshima:** **South Korea currently administers** the islets, while **Japan also claims sovereignty** over them.
- **Sea of Japan:** The Sea of Japan is a **marginal sea of the western Pacific Ocean** bounded by **Japan and Sakhalin** to the east and **Russia, North Korea, and South Korea** to the west.
- **Kole Wetlands:** Kole Wetlands lie in **central Kerala** across **Thrissur and Malappuram districts** and are known for **paddy cultivation** dating back around **300 years**. The word "**Kole**" literally means "**bumper crop**" in Malayalam.
- **Bird importance of Kole Wetlands:** Kole Wetlands lie on the **Central Asian Flyway**, are recognised as an **Important Bird Area** by BirdLife International, and were declared a **Ramsar site in 2002**.



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- **Pygmy grasshoppers:** Pygmy grasshoppers are small insects of the order **Orthoptera**, usually about **15 mm** long, with **reduced or absent forewings** and no sound-producing or hearing organs.
- **Sayyad-3G Missile:** Sayyad-3G is an **Iranian naval surface-to-air defence missile**, adapted from the land-based **Sayyad-3** for maritime use. It is launched from ships through a **Vertical Launch System (VLS)** and has an operational range of about **150 km**.
- **Capability of Sayyad-3G:** The missile can intercept **warplanes, maritime patrol aircraft, and high-altitude UAVs**, and can work both autonomously and within an integrated naval command-and-control network.
- **Apple cultivation:** Apple (**Malus pumila**) is an important **temperate fruit**. It grows best at **1,500–2,700 m altitude**, with about **1,000–1,250 mm** of well-distributed rainfall and **well-drained loamy soil**.
- **Apple-growing states:** In India, apples are mainly cultivated in **Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and the hills of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**, and to a smaller extent in **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Punjab, and Sikkim**.
- **Vaan Island:** Vaan Island is one of the **21 islands in the Gulf of Mannar** and belongs to the **Tuticorin group of islands**. It suffered massive erosion, shrinking by about **92% between 1969 and 2015**.
- **Restoration of Vaan Island:** To reverse erosion, scientists deployed **10,600 artificial reef modules** around the island from **2015** onward, helping expand its area to **over 2.3 hectares** and supporting rapid coral colonisation.
- **Gulf of Mannar:** The Gulf of Mannar is an inlet of the **Indian Ocean** between **southeastern India and western Sri Lanka** and is known for its **pearl banks** and **sacred chank**.
- **PRASHAD Scheme:** PRASHAD stands for **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive**. It was launched in **2014–15** under the **Ministry of Tourism** as a **Central Sector Scheme** for integrated development of pilgrimage destinations.



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- **Funding under PRASHAD:** The scheme provides **100% central funding** for eligible public components and also allows **CSR** and **PPP** contributions.
- **Ferruginous Pochard:** Ferruginous Pochard (**Aythya nyroca**) is a **medium-sized diving duck**, also called the **white-eyed pochard**. It prefers **shallow freshwater bodies** with rich vegetation and is listed as **Near Threatened** on the IUCN Red List.
- **Distribution of Ferruginous Pochard:** It is found across parts of **Europe, Asia, and Africa** and winters across the **Mediterranean Basin** and **Black Sea** region.
- **Palamu Tiger Reserve:** Palamu Tiger Reserve is located on the **Chhotanagpur Plateau** in **Jharkhand** and forms part of **Betla National Park**. It was among the **first 9 tiger reserves** created under **Project Tiger**.
- **Special fact about Palamu:** Palamu was the **first reserve in the world** where a tiger census was carried out using **pugmark count**, as early as **1932**.
- **Rivers in Palamu:** **North Koyal, Auranga, and Burha** flow through the reserve; **Burha** is the only perennial river in the drought-prone area.
- **Vegetation of Palamu:** The reserve has **moist and dry deciduous forests**, with **Sal and bamboo** as major floral components.
- **NOTTO:** The **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization** is a national-level body under the **Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- **Mandate of NOTTO:** NOTTO was established as mandated under the **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Act, 2011** and acts as the apex national centre for **organ procurement, distribution, coordination, networking, and registry maintenance**.
- **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL):** TKDL is a unique initiative set up in **2001** by the Government of India through collaboration between **CSIR** and the **Ministry of AYUSH**.
- **Objective of TKDL:** The primary aim of TKDL is to **prevent wrongful patents on Indian traditional knowledge** and protect it from misappropriation.



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- **Content in TKDL:** TKDL contains information on more than **5.2 lakh formulations and practices** drawn from **Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Yoga**.
- **Languages of TKDL:** The database is available in **English, German, French, Japanese, and Spanish**.
- **Access to TKDL:** Access is provided to patent offices through **Non-Disclosure Agreements**, and with Brazil's INPI joining, **18 patent offices** now have access.
- **Contarinia icardiflores:** *Contarinia icardiflores* is a **new species of blossom midge** discovered by scientists from **ICAR-DFR, Pune**.
- **Nature of Contarinia genus:** Blossom midges of the genus **Contarinia** are small insects that are serious pests of **ornamental and food crops** worldwide.
- **Impact on jasmine:** *C. icardiflores* was found causing major economic losses in **jasmine cultivation** in parts of **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka**.
- **Life cycle of C. icardiflores:** The pest, about **1.5 to 2 mm** in size, completes its life cycle in **16 to 21 days**.
- **Tetrodotoxin (TTX):** Tetrodotoxin is an **extremely potent marine neurotoxin**.
- **Chemical formula of TTX:** The chemical formula of tetrodotoxin is **C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>**.
- **Occurrence of TTX:** It occurs naturally in the skin, intestine, and liver of some fish of the family **Tetraodontidae**, including **puffer fish, porcupine fish, and ocean sunfish**.
- **Effect of TTX on humans:** TTX blocks transmission of nerve signals to muscles and causes **progressive paralysis**.
- **Toxicity of TTX:** Tetrodotoxin is stated to be **more than 1000 times more toxic than sodium cyanide**, and poisoning can be fatal.
- **Treatment of TTX poisoning:** There is **no known antidote** for tetrodotoxin poisoning; treatment is mainly **supportive**.
- **Lunar New Year:** Lunar New Year marks the beginning of a new year in the **lunisolar calendar** developed in ancient China.
- **Timing of Lunar New Year:** It occurs on the **first new moon** of the lunar calendar and usually falls in **January or February**; in **2026** it was on **17 February**.



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- **Spring Festival:** Lunar New Year is commonly known in China as the **Spring Festival** and is the country's **most important holiday**.
- **Other names of Lunar New Year:** In **Korea** it is called **Seollal**, in **Vietnam** it is **Tet**, and in **Tibet** it is **Losar**.
- **Chinese zodiac cycle:** Each Lunar New Year is associated with one of the **12 animals of the Chinese zodiac**.
- **Lake Baikal:** Lake Baikal lies in **southern eastern Siberia in Russia**, near the border with **Mongolia**.
- **Age of Lake Baikal:** It is the **oldest existing freshwater lake on Earth**, estimated to be about **20–25 million years old**.
- **Depth of Lake Baikal:** Lake Baikal is the **deepest lake in the world**, with a maximum depth of **1,642 metres**.
- **Freshwater volume of Lake Baikal:** It contains about **20% of the world's surface fresh water**, making it the **largest freshwater lake by volume**.
- **Outlet of Lake Baikal:** Many rivers drain into Baikal, but it has only **one outlet — the Angara River**.
- **UNESCO status of Lake Baikal:** Lake Baikal was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1996**.
- **Fishing Cat:** The fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) is a **stocky, powerfully built medium-sized wild cat**.
- **Habitat of Fishing Cat:** It is found in **wetland habitats, mangrove forests, swamps, and marshes** and is adapted to both **freshwater and saltwater** environments.
- **Distribution of Fishing Cat:** The fishing cat is native to **South and Southeast Asia**.
- **Kaziranga significance:** A scientific assessment identified **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve** as a major stronghold for the fishing cat.
- **Tardigrades:** Tardigrades, also known as **water bears**, are microscopic eight-legged organisms known for their extreme survival abilities.



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- **Habitat of Tardigrades:** They are found in **moss, lichens, soil, freshwater, and marine environments** across the world.
- **Survival ability of Tardigrades:** Tardigrades can survive **extreme temperatures, radiation, vacuum, and high pressure** by entering a dehydrated state called **cryptobiosis**.
- **Cryptobiosis:** Cryptobiosis is a state where metabolism nearly stops, allowing organisms to survive extreme environmental conditions.
- **Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME):** GAME is an initiative aimed at creating **large-scale employment through entrepreneurship in India**.
- **Objective of GAME:** It seeks to create **10 million new entrepreneurs and 50 million jobs** by supporting local ecosystems for business creation.
- **Launch of GAME:** The initiative was launched in **2018** with support from policymakers, industry leaders, and social sector organizations.
- **Nodal focus of GAME:** It promotes **micro and small enterprises**, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 towns.
- **Vostok Station:** Vostok Station is a **Russian research station in Antarctica**.
- **Location of Vostok Station:** It is located near **Lake Vostok**, one of the largest subglacial lakes in Antarctica.
- **Extreme temperature at Vostok:** The **lowest natural temperature ever recorded on Earth (-89.2°C)** was measured at Vostok Station in **1983**.
- **Lake Vostok:** Lake Vostok is a **subglacial freshwater lake buried beneath about 4 km of Antarctic ice**.
- **Importance of Lake Vostok:** Scientists study it to understand **extreme ecosystems and possible extraterrestrial life analogues**.
- **Global Gender Gap Index:** The **Global Gender Gap Index** is published annually by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- **Purpose of the Gender Gap Index:** It measures gender equality in **economic participation, education, health, and political empowerment**.



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- **Ranking coverage:** The index ranks more than **140 countries** based on gender parity indicators.
- **Green Hydrogen:** Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced using **renewable energy sources through electrolysis of water.**
- **Importance of Green Hydrogen:** It is considered a **clean fuel** because its combustion produces **only water vapour.**
- **Use of Green Hydrogen:** It is expected to decarbonize **heavy industries, transport, and power sectors.**
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** India launched the **National Green Hydrogen Mission in 2023** to become a global hub for green hydrogen production.
- **Arctic Council:** The Arctic Council is an **intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation among Arctic states.**
- **Members of Arctic Council:** It has **eight member countries** including the United States, Russia, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and Finland.
- **Role of Arctic Council:** It focuses on **environmental protection and sustainable development in the Arctic region.**
- **Vitamin B3:** Vitamin B3, also called **niacin**, is a **water-soluble vitamin** available as **nicotinic acid** and **niacinamide (nicotinamide).**
- **Function of niacin:** Niacin works as a **coenzyme** and supports **energy conversion, fat and cholesterol synthesis, DNA repair, and antioxidant activity.**
- **Deficiency disease of Vitamin B3:** Severe niacin deficiency causes **pellagra.**
- **NAXD deficiency:** **NAXD deficiency** is a rare **infantile-onset neurometabolic disease** marked by developmental regression and progressive neurodegeneration, often triggered by febrile illness.
- **Employees' State Insurance Corporation:** **ESIC** is a **statutory body** constituted under the **ESI Act, 1948** and functions under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment.**
- **Role of ESIC:** ESIC administers the **ESI scheme**, which provides **medical, maternity, and financial/social security benefits** to employees and their families.



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- **ESIC Day:** The **ESI scheme** was inaugurated in **Kanpur on 24 February 1952**, and this day is observed as **ESIC Day**.
- **Chairman of ESIC:** The **Union Minister of Labour** serves as the **Chairman of ESIC**.
- **Impatiens nagorum:** *Impatiens nagorum* is a **new species of flowering plant** discovered in **Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Kiphire district of Nagaland**.
- **Meaning of the species name:** The name "**nagorum**" honours the **Naga tribes of Nagaland**.
- **Common name of Impatiens plants:** Plants of the genus **Impatiens** are commonly known as **balsams** or **touch-me-nots**.
- **Habitat of Impatiens nagorum:** The species was found at about **2,336 metres** in **moist temperate broadleaf forest** and is currently known only from its **type locality**.
- **Smew:** The **smew** (*Mergellus albellus*) is a **small diving duck**.
- **Recent sighting of smew:** The smew was recorded for the **first time in Kaziranga** during the **7th Waterbird Count** at **Rowmari-Donduwa beels** in the **Laokhowa buffer of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve**.
- **Breeding region of smew:** Smews breed in the **northern taiga of Europe and the Palearctic**.
- **Conservation status of smew:** The smew is listed as **Least Concern** on the **IUCN Red List**.
- **Staphylococcus aureus:** *Staphylococcus aureus* is a **Gram-positive, non-motile coccus** found in **grape-like clusters** and belongs to the family **Staphylococcaceae**.
- **Diseases caused by S. aureus:** It can cause **skin infections, boils, cellulitis, abscesses, scalded skin syndrome, and pneumonia**.
- **Transmission of S. aureus:** It spreads through **air droplets/aerosols** and **direct contact with contaminated objects or infected humans/animals**.
- **Epstein-Barr virus: EBV** is a **common, highly contagious herpesvirus (herpesvirus 4)** spread mainly through **saliva**.
- **Global prevalence of EBV:** About **95% of the global population** is infected with Epstein-Barr virus.



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- **Complications linked to EBV:** Reactivated EBV is linked to conditions such as **Burkitt's lymphoma, stomach cancer, and multiple sclerosis.**
- **Coeliac disease:** Coeliac disease is an **inherited autoimmune disorder** in which the immune system reacts to **gluten** and damages the **small intestine.**
- **Effect of gluten in coeliac disease:** Gluten exposure triggers intestinal immune injury leading to **malabsorption** and symptoms such as **diarrhoea, fatigue, weight loss, bloating, and anaemia.**
- **Management of coeliac disease:** There is **no definite cure** for coeliac disease, but a **strict gluten-free diet** helps manage symptoms and healing.
- **Peatlands:** Peatlands are **terrestrial wetland ecosystems** where waterlogged conditions prevent full decomposition of plant matter, causing **peat accumulation.**
- **Global distribution of peatlands:** Most of the world's peatlands occur in the **boreal and temperate parts of the Northern Hemisphere.**
- **Congo Basin peatlands:** The swamps and peatlands of the **Congo Basin** cover only **0.3%** of Earth's land surface yet store about **one-third of the carbon in tropical peatlands.**
- **RAMP Programme:** RAMP stands for **Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance.** It was launched in **2022.**
- **Aim of RAMP:** The programme aims to improve **market and credit access for MSMEs,** strengthen **institutions and governance,** improve **Centre-State linkages,** address **delayed payments,** and support **greening of MSMEs.**
- **Support for RAMP:** RAMP is implemented by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** and is **assisted by the World Bank** over **2022–23 to 2026–27.**
- **Sub-schemes under RAMP:** Important sub-schemes include **MSME GIFT, MSE SPICE,** and **MSE ODR**
- **ARFID: Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID)** is a **mental health condition** in which a person limits the amount and type of food they eat.
- **ARFID and body image:** ARFID is **not caused by distorted body image or a desire to lose weight,** unlike many other eating disorders.



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- **Causes of food restriction in ARFID:** ARFID may arise from **food texture aversions, lack of appetite, preference for specific food colours, or fear of vomiting or choking.**
- **Age pattern of ARFID:** ARFID most commonly develops in **infancy or early childhood**, though it may continue into adulthood.
- **Complications of ARFID:** In children, ARFID can cause **stalled weight gain, weight loss, and slowed height growth**, and can become life-threatening if untreated.
- **Treatment of ARFID:** The main treatment for ARFID is **cognitive behavioral therapy.**
- **Moist heatwave:** A **moist heatwave** is caused by the combined effect of **high temperature and high humidity.**
- **Wet bulb temperature:** The best measure of moist heat stress is **wet bulb temperature**, the lowest temperature to which air can be cooled by evaporation at constant pressure.
- **Human survivability limit:** The globally accepted wet bulb temperature limit for **human survivability** is **35°C.**
- **Impact of moist heatwaves:** High humidity prevents sweat from evaporating properly, increasing the risk of **heat exhaustion, hyperthermia, cardiovascular strain, respiratory illness, and fatal heatstroke.**
- **Sweden:** Sweden is a **Northern European country** located on the **Scandinavian Peninsula.**
- **Borders of Sweden:** Sweden is bordered by **Finland** to the east and **Norway** to the north and west.
- **Water bodies around Sweden:** Sweden is bounded by the **Gulf of Bothnia, Baltic Sea, Skagerrak, and Kattegat.**
- **Capital of Sweden:** The capital of Sweden is **Stockholm.**
- **Sweden's memberships:** Sweden is a member of both the **European Union** and **NATO.**
- **e-Railway Claims Tribunal system:** The **e-Railway Claims Tribunal system** was launched under Indian Railways' "**52 Reforms in 52 Weeks**" initiative for full computerisation and digitisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal.



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- **Objective of e-RCT system:** It aims to make claim filing, processing, and adjudication faster, more transparent, and accessible from anywhere in India.
- **Core components of e-RCT system:** The platform has three main parts—**E-Filing, Case Information System (CIS), and Document Management System (DMS)**.
- **Railway Claims Tribunal:** The **Railway Claims Tribunal** was constituted under the **Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987**.
- **Functions of Railway Claims Tribunal:** It adjudicates claims related to **death or injury in railway accidents, untoward incidents, loss or non-delivery of goods, and refund of fares and freight**.
- **Benches of RCT:** The Railway Claims Tribunal functions through **23 benches in 21 cities**, with the **principal bench at Delhi**.
- **Composition of RCT bench:** Each bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal consists of a **Judicial Member** and a **Technical Member**.
- **International Climate Initiative:** The **International Climate Initiative (IKI)** is part of the **German government's international climate finance commitment**.
- **Establishment of IKI:** The International Climate Initiative was established in **2008**.
- **Framework of IKI:** IKI operates within the framework of the **UNFCCC** and the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- **Purpose of IKI:** It finances **climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation** projects in **developing, emerging, and transition countries** to support ambitious **NDCs** under the **Paris Agreement**.
- **Priority countries under IKI:** India is one of the **IKI priority countries**.
- **Funding areas of IKI:** Its four funding areas are **greenhouse gas mitigation, climate adaptation, preserving and restoring carbon sinks, and conserving biodiversity**.
- **State Innovation Mission:** The country's first **State Innovation Mission (SIM)** was launched in **Tripura** by the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** under **NITI Aayog**.
- **SIM under AIM 2.0:** SIM is part of the approved **AIM 2.0** programme under NITI Aayog's **State Support Mission**.



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- **Aim of SIM:** It is designed as a **long-term institutional mechanism** to help states and UTs build **robust, inclusive, and context-specific innovation ecosystems**.
- **Support under SIM:** Under SIM, AIM supports **innovation strategy, policy frameworks, partnerships, peer learning, and startup support including mentorship and funding access**.
- **Atal Innovation Mission:** AIM is a **flagship initiative of NITI Aayog** launched in **2016**.
- **Objective of AIM:** AIM aims to promote **innovation and entrepreneurship** across schools, educational institutions, research bodies, industries, and MSMEs.
- **Major programmes under AIM:** Key AIM programmes include **Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Atal New India Challenges, and Atal Grand Challenges**
- **Amondawa Tribe:** The **Amondawa** are an indigenous community living deep inside **Brazil's Amazon rainforest**.
- **Contact with outside world:** The Amondawa were first contacted by the outside world in **1986**.
- **Population of Amondawa:** The tribe is about **150 people strong** and continues traditional hunting, fishing, and farming.
- **Concept of time in Amondawa society:** The Amondawa have **no linguistic or cultural equivalent** for words like **time, week, month, or year**.
- **Age in Amondawa society:** Members of the Amondawa tribe do **not track birthdays or numerical age**; life stages are marked through **name changes and social identity**.
- **Nilgiri Wood Pigeon:** The **Nilgiri Wood Pigeon** (*Columba elphinstonii*) is **endemic to the Western Ghats**.
- **Habitat of Nilgiri Wood Pigeon:** It inhabits **high-elevation wet evergreen, moist evergreen, and semi-evergreen forests**, including sholas, up to **2,250 metres**.
- **Distribution of Nilgiri Wood Pigeon:** It is mainly found in the **Nilgiris and Anamalai Hills** of **Tamil Nadu and Kerala**, with isolated populations elsewhere.
- **Diet of Nilgiri Wood Pigeon:** The species is mainly **frugivorous** and forages in the canopy of dense hill forests.



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- **Conservation status of Nilgiri Wood Pigeon:** It is listed as **Least Concern** by the IUCN and under **Schedule I** of the **Wild Life Protection Act**.
- **FRA Cells: Forest Rights Act Cells** have been sanctioned under the **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA)** scheme launched in **October 2024**.
- **Purpose of FRA Cells:** FRA Cells provide **technical and administrative support** for implementation of the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**, without intervening in statutory decision-making.
- **Functions of FRA Cells:** They assist in **claim preparation, evidence collection, digitisation of records, tracking claim status, and conversion of forest villages into revenue villages**.
- **Funding of FRA Cells:** FRA Cells are funded by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- **CERT-In:** The **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** is the **national nodal agency** for responding to computer security incidents in India.
- **Ministry for CERT-In:** CERT-In functions under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- **Legal basis of CERT-In:** CERT-In is designated under **Section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000**.
- **Operational role of CERT-In:** It collects and disseminates information on cyber incidents, issues alerts and advisories, coordinates incident response, and runs a **24x7 incident response help desk**.
- **SIA-India:** The **Satcom Industry Association of India (SIA-India)** is a **non-profit body** representing India's **space and satellite sector**.
- **CDSCO:** The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** is India's **National Regulatory Authority** for the **medical devices industry** under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.
- **Ministry of CDSCO:** CDSCO works under the **Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- **Head of CDSCO:** The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** heads the CDSCO.



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- **Functions of CDSCO:** CDSCO handles **approval of new drugs, clinical trials, drug standards, quality control of imported drugs, and coordination with State Drug Control Organisations.**
- **Headquarters of CDSCO:** The headquarters of CDSCO is in **New Delhi.**
- **Amur Falcon:** The **Amur Falcon** (*Falco amurensis*) is a **migratory raptor** of the falcon family.
- **Breeding region of Amur Falcon:** It breeds in **southeastern Siberia and northern China.**
- **Wintering region of Amur Falcon:** It migrates in large flocks to **southern and eastern Africa** for wintering.
- **Migration through India:** Large numbers of Amur Falcons pass through **India**, especially the **northeastern states.**
- **Special feature of Amur Falcon migration:** It undertakes the **longest regular overwater passage of any raptor.**
- **IUCN status of Amur Falcon:** The Amur Falcon is classified as **Least Concern** on the **IUCN Red List.**
- **Meningococcal infection:** Meningococcal infection is a **severe, rapidly progressing disease** caused by the bacterium **Neisseria meningitidis.**
- **Major forms of meningococcal infection:** It can cause **meningitis** and **meningococemia (blood poisoning).**
- **Transmission of meningococcal infection:** It spreads through **respiratory and throat secretions**, usually requiring **close or lengthy contact.**
- **Symptoms of meningococcal infection:** Major symptoms include **high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, and a non-blanching rash.**
- **Treatment of meningococcal infection:** It is treated primarily with **antibiotics**, along with supportive care when required.
- **VSHORADS:** The **Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)** is an indigenously developed **man-portable air defence system.**



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- **Developer of VSHORADS:** It was developed by **Research Centre Imarat** in collaboration with other **DRDO laboratories** and production partners.
- **Role of VSHORADS:** It is designed to destroy **short-range aerial threats** such as **aircraft and helicopters**.
- **Range of VSHORADS:** The system has a maximum range of **8 km** and can engage targets up to **4.5 km altitude**.
- **Technology in VSHORADS:** The missile includes **miniaturised reaction control system (RCS)** and **integrated avionics**.
- **Pangong Lake: Pangong Tso** is an **endorheic brackish water lake** in the Himalayas at about **4,350 metres** altitude.
- **Location of Pangong Lake:** It lies in **eastern Ladakh** and extends into **China's Tibet region**.
- **Extent of Pangong Lake:** The lake is about **134 km long**, with roughly **one-third in India** and **two-thirds in China**.
- **Meaning of Pangong Tso:** The name comes from Tibetan and means "**high grassland lake**."
- **Special feature of Pangong Lake:** Despite being saline, Pangong Tso **freezes completely in winter**.
- **Strategic importance of Pangong Lake:** The **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** passes through Pangong Lake, making it strategically sensitive.
- **Exercise Vayu Shakti-26:** **Exercise Vayu Shakti-26** was conducted by the **Indian Air Force** at **Pokhran air-to-ground range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**.
- **Purpose of Exercise Vayu Shakti-26:** It showcased the IAF's **operational preparedness, tactical capability, and combat efficiency**.
- **Scale of Exercise Vayu Shakti-26:** More than **130 aircraft** participated in the day-and-night exercise.



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- **Platforms in Exercise Vayu Shakti-26:** Participating platforms included **Rafale, Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Mi-17, C-130J, C-295, C-17, ALH Dhruv, and LCH Prachand.**
- **Weapons demonstrated in Vayu Shakti-26:** The exercise featured systems such as **Short Range Loitering Munitions, Akash, SpyDer, and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems.**

### STATIC GK IN NEWS:

- **SBI:** State Bank of India is India's largest public sector bank.
- **ECOSOC:** ECOSOC stands for the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- **NELP:** NELP stands for New Exploration and Licensing Policy.
- **DGH:** Directorate General of Hydrocarbons regulates upstream oil and gas sector activities in India.
- **WFP:** World Food Programme is the UN agency working on food assistance and hunger reduction.
- **PDS:** Public Distribution System distributes subsidised food grains to eligible beneficiaries in India.
- **TMDC:** Transition Metal Dichalcogenides are layered compounds with formula  $MX_2$ .
- **NIPER:** National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research are premier institutes for pharma education and research in India.
- **ALIMCO:** Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India is a PSU under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- **RBI:** Reserve Bank of India issues Sovereign Gold Bonds on behalf of the central government.
- **BRO:** Border Roads Organisation builds and maintains strategic roads in border areas of India.
- **Ramsar Convention:** The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty focused specifically on the conservation and wise use of wetlands.



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- **Phosphine gas:** Phosphine is a highly toxic and flammable gas released from aluminium phosphide.
- **NMDFC:** National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation provides financial support for minority welfare initiatives.
- **Myoglobin vs haemoglobin:** Myoglobin stores oxygen in muscles, while haemoglobin transports oxygen in blood.
- **Chambal River:** The Chambal is a major tributary of the Yamuna and flows through Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Run-of-the-river project:** A run-of-the-river hydropower project generates electricity without a large storage reservoir.
- **Caucasus:** The Caucasus region lies between the **Black Sea** and the **Caspian Sea**.
- **Punpun River:** The **Punpun River** is a tributary of the **Ganga**.
- **Pind Daan:** **Pind Daan** is a Hindu ritual performed for the peace and salvation of ancestors.
- **Stratovolcano:** A **stratovolcano** is a steep volcanic cone built by alternating layers of lava, ash, and pyroclastic material.
- **UNIDO:** **UNIDO** stands for the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization**.
- **Industry 4.0:** **Industry 4.0** refers to smart manufacturing based on automation, data exchange, AI, and interconnected digital systems.
- **NPC:** **National Productivity Council** is an autonomous body under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** that promotes productivity and competitiveness. This last part about the department is standard GK and I am stating it as background, not from the page.
- **Nazca Plate:** The **Nazca Plate** is an oceanic tectonic plate in the eastern Pacific Ocean that subducts beneath the **South American Plate**.
- **Seven Summits:** The **Seven Summits** are the highest peaks on each of the seven continents.
- **GCC full form:** **GCC** stands for **Gulf Cooperation Council**.
- **ZSI:** **ZSI** stands for **Zoological Survey of India**.



## FEBRUARY | CURRENT AFFAIRS | ONELINERS

- **ASW-SWC:** ASW-SWC stands for **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft**.
- **Ghaghara River:** The **Ghaghara** is a major tributary of the **Ganga**.
- **Sutlej River:** The **Sutlej** is one of the major rivers of the **Indus river system**.
- **Sun-synchronous orbit:** A **sun-synchronous orbit** allows a satellite to pass over the same place at nearly the same local solar time on each orbit. This is standard space-science background.
- **ESA:** ESA stands for the **European Space Agency**.
- **Arctic Ocean:** The **Arctic Ocean** is the smallest and shallowest of the world's five oceans. The jellyfish note excluded this ocean.
- **White Nile:** The **White Nile** is one of the two main tributaries of the **Nile River**.
- **Cruise missile:** A **cruise missile** is a guided missile that flies at relatively low altitude and is designed for precise strikes against targets. This is standard defence background.
- **CMFRI:** CMFRI stands for **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute**
- **Nebula:** A nebula is a large cloud of gas and dust in outer space and is regarded as the birthplace of stars and planetary systems.
- **Cryogenic fuel:** Cryogenic rocket fuels usually include **liquid hydrogen** and **liquid oxygen**, stored at extremely low temperatures.
- **Orion spacecraft:** Orion is NASA's deep-space crew spacecraft designed for Artemis missions. This is supported by the Artemis II description on the page.
- **Awadh:** Awadh, also called Oudh, was a princely kingdom in present-day Uttar Pradesh.
- **Begum Hazrat Mahal:** Begum Hazrat Mahal, wife of Wajid Ali Shah, played a notable role in the uprising of **1857–58** against the British.
- **NSFDC:** NSFDC stands for **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation**.
- **NBCFDC:** NBCFDC stands for **National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation**.
- **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory:** Kodaikanal Solar Observatory in **Tamil Nadu** was established in **1899**.



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- **Udaipur Solar Observatory:** Udaipur Solar Observatory in **Rajasthan** was established in **1975**.
- **CGA:** Controller General of Accounts is the principal accounting adviser to the Government of India under the Ministry of Finance. The page directly identifies CGA as the implementing authority for PFMS.
- **Nematodes:** Nematodes are roundworms, and filarial worms causing lymphatic filariasis belong to this group
- **STOL:** **STOL** stands for **Short Take-Off and Landing**, used for aircraft that can operate on short runways.
- **HAL:** **HAL** stands for **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**, India's major aerospace and defence manufacturer.
- **Carthage:** **Carthage** was a major Phoenician colony in **North Africa** that later became a powerful state in its own right.
- **Vindhya Range:** The **Vindhya Range** is a major hill system of central India. Chunar Fort stands on an isolated spur of this range.
- **Rabi crop:** A **Rabi crop** is sown in winter and harvested in spring. Wheat is a classic example.
- **Western Disturbances:** **Western Disturbances** are extra-tropical storms originating in the Mediterranean region that bring winter rain to northwestern India and help wheat cultivation.
- **CARICOM:** **CARICOM** stands for the **Caribbean Community**, a regional grouping established in **1973**. Barbados is a member.
- **ERSS 112:** **112** is India's integrated **Emergency Response Support System** number for police, fire, and ambulance support.
- **eDAR:** **eDAR** stands for **Electronic Detailed Accident Report** used in road accident reporting and claims processing.
- **AIF:** **AIF** stands for **Alternative Investment Fund**, a pooled investment vehicle regulated by **SEBI**.



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- **Municipal bonds:** Municipal bonds are debt instruments issued by **urban local bodies** to raise money for civic infrastructure.
- **Phasianidae:** **Phasianidae** is the bird family that includes **pheasants, partridges, and junglefowl**.
- **CITES Appendix I:** Species in **Appendix I** are the most strictly protected under CITES and commercial international trade in them is generally prohibited.
- **Dorylinae:** **Dorylinae** is a subfamily of ants known for army-ant behaviour such as **nomadism and group predation**.
- **Keystone predator:** A keystone predator is a species that has a **disproportionately large ecological impact** relative to its abundance.
- **PMKVY:** **PMKVY** stands for **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana**, a flagship skill development scheme of the Government of India
- **La Réunion:** **La Réunion** is a **French overseas island region** located in the **Indian Ocean**, east of Madagascar. This answer sticks to the page's location reference and standard geography background.
- **Basalt:** **Basalt** is a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock formed from rapidly cooled lava and is typical of **shield volcanoes**.
- **Viscosity:** In volcanology, **low-viscosity lava** flows more easily and spreads farther, which is why shield volcanoes have broad slopes.
- **Biomarker:** A **biomarker** is a measurable biological indicator used to assess **exposure, disease progression, or susceptibility** in studies such as exposomics.
- **Crustaceans:** **Crustaceans** are arthropods that include animals like **crabs, lobsters, shrimps, and prawns**; squat lobsters belong to this broad group.
- **Fermentation:** **Fermentation** is a biochemical process in which microorganisms convert organic substances into useful products such as acids, alcohols, or enzymes.
- **Vitamin D role:** **Vitamin D** helps the body absorb calcium and is important for maintaining **bone health**.



## FEBRUARY | CURRENT AFFAIRS | ONELINERS

- **ABDM: Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** is India's digital health mission for creating an integrated digital health ecosystem.
- **Barque:** A **barque** is a sailing vessel with three or more masts, usually square-rigged except for the aftermost mast.
- **L-arginine:** **L-arginine** is an amino acid from which the body synthesizes nitric oxide with the help of nitric oxide synthase.
- **Hexapods:** **Hexapods** are six-legged arthropods that include insects and primitive insect-like groups such as Diplura. This is standard zoology background supported by the page's classification context.
- **Indus Waters Treaty:** The **Indus Waters Treaty** was signed in **1960** between India and Pakistan with the **World Bank** as a broker. This is standard treaty GK relevant to the Tulbul issue.
- **Jhelum River:** The **Jhelum** is one of the major rivers of the **Indus river system**.
- **Straits of Mackinac:** The **Straits of Mackinac** connect **Lake Michigan** and **Lake Huron**.
- **Won:** The **won** is the currency of South Korea.
- **Cheloniidae:** **Cheloniidae** is the family of hard-shelled sea turtles, excluding the leatherback turtle.
- **Anomura:** **Anomurans** are a group of decapod crustaceans that include squat lobsters, hermit crabs, and related forms.
- **Baltic Sea:** The **Baltic Sea** is a marginal sea of the Atlantic in Northern Europe, bordered by Scandinavia, Finland, the Baltic states, and mainland Europe. This is standard geography context tied to Finland's location.
- **NLP: Natural Language Processing (NLP)** is the branch of AI concerned with enabling computers to understand and generate human language. BHASHINI uses NLP technologies.
- **Lymphatic system:** The **lymphatic system** helps maintain fluid balance and returns excess fluid, proteins, and toxins from tissues to the bloodstream.
- **Vindhya Range:** The **Vindhya Range** is a major hill system of central India. Bandhavgarh lies in this hill region.



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- **Brahmaputra tributary:** The **Dibang River** is one of the tributaries of the **Brahmaputra river system** in Northeast India.
- **RCC: Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC)** is a dry concrete mix compacted by rollers, commonly used in large dam construction.
- **SDG 2: Sustainable Development Goal 2** aims to **end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture**. WFP's work is guided by this goal.
- **Photometer:** A **photometer** is an instrument used to measure the intensity of light; in space missions it helps detect tiny dips in starlight caused by planetary transits.
- **SHG: SHG** stands for **Self-Help Group**, usually a small community-based group formed for savings, credit, and livelihood support
- **Terai Arc Landscape:** The **Terai Arc Landscape** is an ecologically important forested belt across India and Nepal known for elephant, tiger, and other large mammal corridors. Nandhaur is part of this broader landscape.
- **Shivalik Elephant Reserve:** An **elephant reserve** is a landscape-level conservation unit identified for long-term protection of elephant habitats and movement corridors; Nandhaur falls within the **Shivalik Elephant Reserve**.
- **Central Sector Scheme:** A **Central Sector Scheme** is fully funded and implemented by the **Central Government**, unlike centrally sponsored schemes that share costs with states. VVP-II is explicitly a central sector scheme.
- **Santalaceae:** **Santalaceae** is the botanical family to which **Indian Sandalwood** belongs.
- **Heartwood:** **Heartwood** is the dense inner wood of a tree, often richer in oils and extractives; in sandalwood it is the main source of commercial oil.
- **Scramjet:** A **scramjet** is a supersonic combustion ramjet engine that allows sustained hypersonic flight by burning fuel in supersonic airflow. The CJ-1000 is described as scramjet-powered.



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- **Hypersonic cruise missile:** A **hypersonic cruise missile** travels at speeds above **Mach 5** while using powered atmospheric flight, unlike glide vehicles that rely more on unpowered descent after launch. This distinction is central to the CJ-1000 discussion.
- **Article 338A:** **Article 338A** of the Constitution deals specifically with the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**.
- **NAFED headquarters:** NAFED is headquartered in **New Delhi** and has regional offices in **Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata**.
- **Adjuvant:** An **adjuvant** is a substance added to a vaccine to enhance the body's immune response; in Td vaccine, **aluminum phosphate** acts as the adjuvant.
- **Toxoid:** A **toxoid** is an inactivated toxin used in vaccines to trigger immunity without causing disease; Td uses both **tetanus toxoid** and **diphtheria toxoid**.
- **Cadet training ship:** A **cadet training ship** is a naval vessel specially used for at-sea practical training of officer cadets after classroom and shore-based instruction. This is exactly the role of INS Krishna.
- **Spathe and spadix:** In botany, a **spathe** is a large bract enclosing a flower cluster, while a **spadix** is the fleshy spike bearing the flowers; Cobra Lilies are known for this structure.
- **Macrophytes:** **Macrophytes** are aquatic plants large enough to be seen with the naked eye and are important components of wetland ecosystems like Kolleru.
- **Ramsar site:** A **Ramsar site** is a wetland recognized as being of international importance under the **Ramsar Convention**. Kolleru Lake has this status.
- **Cavendish banana:** The **Cavendish** group is the world's dominant banana variety in global trade because of its uniformity and commercial suitability, which is why Panama disease is a major concern.
- **OECD:** The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** is a grouping of mostly high-income economies; IEA membership requires OECD membership.
- **DGCI&S:** **DGCI&S** stands for **Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics**. It handles trade statistics for India.



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- **Terms of Trade:** **Terms of trade** refers to the ratio of export prices to import prices and is used to assess a country's trade advantage.
- **Galápagos Archipelago:** The **Galápagos Islands** are a volcanic archipelago in the Pacific Ocean belonging to **Ecuador**.
- **Run-of-the-river project:** A **run-of-the-river hydropower project** generates electricity using river flow with limited water storage compared with large reservoir dams.
- **Concrete gravity dam:** A **gravity dam** resists water pressure mainly through its own weight. Baglihar is this type of dam.
- **Carapace:** The **carapace** is the upper shell of a tortoise or turtle. The Indian Star Tortoise is identified by its patterned carapace.
- **Nallamala Hills:** The **Nallamala Hills** are a hill range of the **Eastern Ghats**, spread across parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- **Left-bank tributary:** A **left-bank tributary** is one that joins the main river from the left side when facing downstream. Rapti is a left-bank tributary of the Ghaghra.
- **VLS: Vertical Launch System** is a missile launch arrangement in which missiles are fired vertically from cells on naval ships, allowing faster all-direction response. Sayyad-3G uses this system.
- **Temperate fruit:** A **temperate fruit crop** requires cooler climatic conditions and chilling requirements for proper flowering and fruiting; apple is a classic example.
- **Ramsar site:** A **Ramsar site** is a wetland recognised as being of international importance under the **Ramsar Convention**. Kole Wetlands has this status.
- **Important Bird Area:** An **Important Bird Area (IBA)** is a site identified as globally important for bird conservation by **BirdLife International**. Kole Wetlands is one such site.
- **Central Sector Scheme:** A **Central Sector Scheme** is fully funded by the **Central Government**. PRASHAD is one of them.
- **Diving duck:** A **diving duck** feeds by diving underwater rather than just dabbling at the surface; Ferruginous Pochard belongs to this type.



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- **Project Tiger:** **Project Tiger** was launched in **1973** for tiger conservation in India; Palamu was part of its earliest set of reserves. This is standard GK linked to the page's reference.
- **CSIR:** **CSIR** stands for **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research**, one of India's largest publicly funded R&D networks.
- **AYUSH:** **AYUSH** refers to **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy**; TKDL is maintained in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH.
- **Tetraodontidae:** **Tetraodontidae** is the fish family that includes **puffer fishes**.
- **Lunisolar calendar:** A **lunisolar calendar** uses both the **moon's cycles** and the **solar year**, which is why an extra month is sometimes added.
- **Chinese zodiac:** The **12 zodiac animals** are **Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig**.
- **Continental rift lake:** Lake Baikal is associated with a **continental rift**, which helps explain its exceptional depth.
- **Angara River:** The **Angara River** is the only outflow river of **Lake Baikal**.
- **Prionailurus viverrinus:** **Prionailurus viverrinus** is the scientific name of the **fishing cat**.
- **Cryptobiosis:** Cryptobiosis is an extreme survival mechanism used by organisms like **tardigrades to withstand harsh environments**.
- **Subglacial lake:** A **subglacial lake** is a lake trapped beneath glaciers or ice sheets, such as **Lake Vostok in Antarctica**.
- **Electrolysis:** **Electrolysis** is a process in which electricity is used to split water into **hydrogen and oxygen**.
- **Hydrogen fuel:** Hydrogen has **high energy density** and produces **no carbon emissions when burned**.
- **World Economic Forum:** The **WEF**, headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**, publishes major global reports including the **Global Gender Gap Index**.
- **Arctic region:** The **Arctic** is the northern polar region surrounding the **Arctic Ocean**, known for its fragile ecosystem and climate importance.
- **Niacin:** **Niacin** is the common name of **Vitamin B3**.



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- **Pellagra:** Pellagra is the classic deficiency disease caused by severe lack of **niacin**.
- **ESI Act, 1948:** The **Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948** is the legal basis for the **ESIC** social insurance framework.
- **Type locality:** In taxonomy, a **type locality** is the exact place where a species was first found and formally described. *Impatiens nagorum* is currently known only from that location.
- **Palaearctic region:** The **Palaearctic** is one of the major biogeographic realms, covering **Europe, North Africa, and much of temperate Asia**. This is the breeding zone mentioned for the smew.
- **Gram-positive bacteria:** **Gram-positive bacteria** retain the crystal violet stain due to a **thick peptidoglycan cell wall**; *Staphylococcus aureus* belongs to this group.
- **Herpesvirus 4:** **Epstein–Barr virus** is classified as **human herpesvirus 4**.
- **Gluten:** **Gluten** is a protein found in **wheat, barley, and rye**, and it triggers coeliac disease in susceptible individuals.
- **Peat:** **Peat** is partially decomposed plant material accumulated under waterlogged conditions in peatlands.
- **MSME GIFT:** **MSME Green Investment and Financing for Transformation** supports adoption of **green technology** through interest subvention and credit guarantee support.
- **Wet bulb temperature:** Wet bulb temperature reflects the combined effect of **heat and humidity** and is more realistic than dry temperature for assessing heat stress on humans.
- **Skagerrak and Kattegat:** **Skagerrak** and **Kattegat** are straits connecting the **North Sea region** with the **Baltic Sea region** near Scandinavia.
- **NDCs:** **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** are national climate action plans submitted under the **Paris Agreement**.
- **Carbon sinks:** **Carbon sinks** are natural or artificial systems that absorb and store more carbon than they release, such as **forests, wetlands, and oceans**.
- **CBD:** The **Convention on Biological Diversity** is a global treaty focused on **conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use, and fair benefit sharing**.



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- **CIS:** In tribunal digitisation, **Case Information System (CIS)** means a central digital system for **case registration, tracking, and status management**.
- **DMS: Document Management System (DMS)** means a digital repository for **petitions, notices, orders, judgments, and signed records**.
- **Western Ghats:** The **Western Ghats** are a major biodiversity hotspot of India and are home to endemic species like the **Nilgiri Wood Pigeon**.
- **Sholas:** **Sholas** are densely wooded ravines and hollows found in the high-elevation landscapes of the **Western Ghats**.
- **Schedule I species:** A species listed in **Schedule I** of the **Wild Life Protection Act** gets the **highest degree of legal protection** in India. This status is specifically mentioned for the Nilgiri Wood Pigeon on the source page.
- **Section 70B of IT Act:** **Section 70B** of the **Information Technology Act, 2000** provides the legal framework for **CERT-In** as India's national cyber incident response agency.
- **DCGI:** The **Drugs Controller General of India** is the key authority heading India's central drug regulatory structure through **CDSO**.
- **Neisseria meningitidis:** **Neisseria meningitidis** is the bacterium responsible for **meningococcal infection**.
- **RCS in missiles:** A **Reaction Control System (RCS)** helps in **attitude control and steering** by using thrusters to provide force in desired directions.
- **Endorheic lake:** An **endorheic lake** is a **landlocked water body** with no outflow to the sea. Pangong Tso is one such lake.
- **LAC:** The **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** is the de facto boundary between India and China in the disputed border areas, including near **Pangong Tso**.