

Monthly April Daily Current Affairs

Operation Brahma

- The government of India has launched **Operation Brahma** to help the earthquake-hit victims in Myanmar. **A 7.7 magnitude quake** hit Myanmar on 28 March 2025, killing at least 1000 people. India, under its **Neighbourhood First policy and its policy** of being the first responder in providing **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** has launched Operation Brahma.



- Two Indian Air Force C-130J aircraft carrying** relief material for the quake-hit Myanmar took off from Hindon Air Force Station, Uttar Pradesh. The plane carried the **first tranche of 15 tonnes of urgent humanitarian** aid landed at the Yangon airport of Myanmar.
- A search-and-rescue team and a medical team** have also been sent to Myanmar. The relief package includes essential supplies such as tents, blankets, sleeping bags, crucial medical supplies, including paracetamol, antibiotics, syringes, gloves, and bandages etc.

SpaceX Launches Historic “Fram2” Mission

- **SpaceX launched “Fram2,” the first human spaceflight** to travel directly over Earth’s North and South Poles, on a privately funded mission. The mission includes groundbreaking experiments, such as **taking the first X-ray in space** and studying mushroom growth in microgravity.



- The **crew consists of mission commander Chun Wang** (China/Malta), vehicle commander Jannicke Mikkelsen (Norway), mission pilot Rabea Rogge (Germany), and **mission specialist Eric Philips** (Australia). Named after the 19th-century Norwegian exploration ship “Fram,” the mission aims to gather new data to advance long-term space exploration.

52 Years Of Project Tiger

- **India proudly commemorates 52 years of Project Tiger**, a pioneering initiative that transformed the landscape of wildlife conservation. On this day in 1973, the Government of **India launched Project Tiger to protect** the country’s dwindling tiger population.



- With a legacy of resilience and determination, the project has played a crucial role in **increasing tiger populations and preserving their** natural habitats. Over five decades, the initiative has grown into one of the world's most successful wildlife conservation programs.
- **From just 1,411 tigers in 2006**, India's wild tiger population surged to **3,682 in 2022**, making it home to nearly 75 per cent of the world's wild tigers. The country now has **57 tiger reserves**, covering approximately 83,000 sq km of forest land.



- Tamil Nadu alone houses five **tiger reserves spread across 6,200 sq km**, sheltering **306 tigers**. A major milestone came when India achieved its target of doubling tiger numbers, four years ahead of schedule of '**St. The Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation**' was held in Russia.

- In 2023, the country further cemented its leadership in conservation by launching the **International Big Cats Alliance to protect** big cats worldwide. The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a statutory body of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, which plays a key role in the 'PROJECT TIGER'.
- '**As India celebrates 52 years of Project Tiger**, it stands as a global inspiration in wildlife conservation, proving that dedicated efforts can reverse species decline and create a thriving ecosystem for future generations.

'Lakhpati Baideo ' Programme

- Assam launched the '**Lakhpati Baideo**' programme. This initiative aims to empower **women entrepreneurs** through **financial support and training**. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the scheme, which targets 40 lakh women self-help group (SHG) members. The programme is designed to enhance **women's financial independence and promote rural entrepreneurship**.

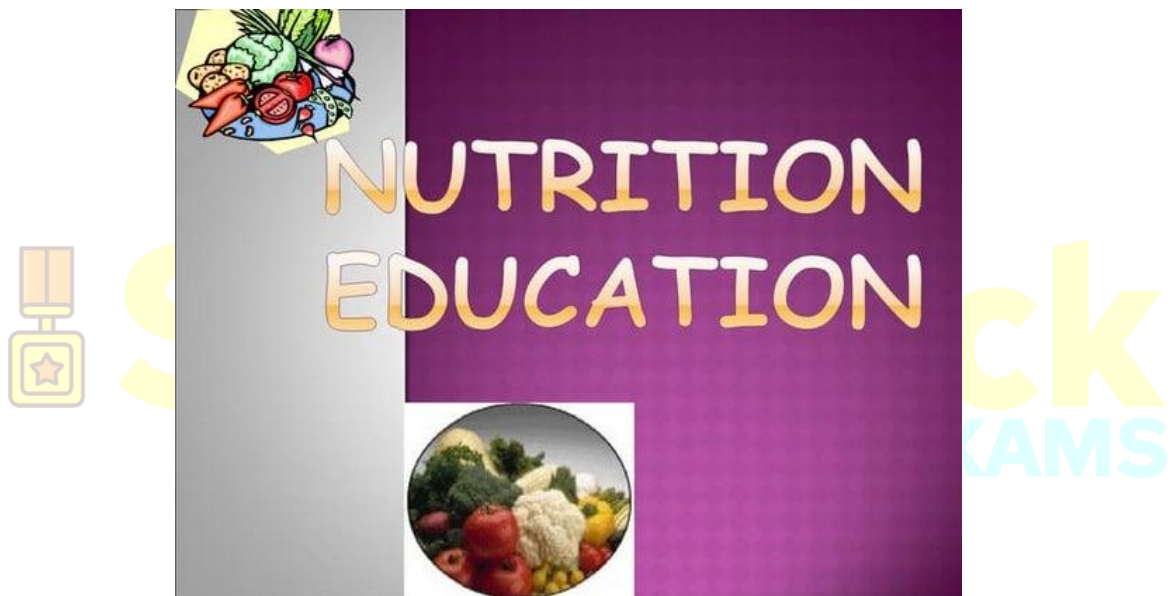


- The Lakhpati Baideo scheme provides financial assistance to women SHG members. It **offers ₹10,000 as seed capital** in the first year. Beneficiaries can receive **₹25,000 in the second year and ₹50,000 in the third year** based on their business success. The total estimated cost of the scheme is ₹4,000 crore. The scheme focuses on women from SHGs across Assam.

- It aims to uplift those in general, **OBC, SC, and ST categories**. Specific eligibility criteria include family size restrictions. General and OBC beneficiaries cannot have more than three children, while SC and ST beneficiaries are limited to four.

UNESCO's "Education And Nutrition – Learn To Eat Well"

- During the 'Nutrition for Growth' event hosted by France on March 27-28, 2025, UNESCO releases a new report highlighting meal quality. **Titled Education and Nutrition: Learn to Eat Well**, the report urged governments to enhance the nutritional quality of school meals worldwide. Despite nearly half of primary school pupils receiving meals, the report marks concern regarding their nutritional value.



- The need for balanced meals and food education is paramount for the health and learning of children. As of 2024, **approximately 47% of primary school** pupils globally benefited from school meals. However, the nutritional quality of these meals is often inadequate.



- UNESCO stresses that improving meal quality is essential for reducing child undernourishment and supporting academic performance. Studies indicate that nutritious meals can boost enrolment and attendance rates . **In 2022, 27% of school meals were** not designed with input from nutritionists. **Only 93 out of 187 evaluated countries** had any legislation regarding school food. Furthermore, **just 65% of these countries** had standards for food sold in cafeterias and vending machines.

Gold Mercury Award For Peace And Sustainability

- **Spiritual leader The Dalai Lama** was honored with the **Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability** at a special ceremony held at his residence in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, on April 1, 2025. The award was presented by Gold Mercury International, a globally recognized think tank dedicated to promoting peace, governance, and sustainable development. Gold Mercury Award is a prestigious international honor originally established in Italy.



- It recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to **world peace, good governance, and sustainable development.**
- Over the years, the award has been presented in major global cities such as Brussels, Moscow, Madrid, and Washington. The award has become a symbol of **ethical leadership and global responsibility.** Dalai Lama's lifelong advocacy for non-violence, human rights, and environmental sustainability made him an ideal recipient.

- He has consistently defended the **rights of the Tibetan people through** non-violent means. Long before climate change became a major global issue, the Dalai Lama warned of the urgent need to protect the environment.
- His **teachings emphasize universal responsibility**, interfaith dialogue, and the interconnectedness of humanity.

GI Tag

- **Saudagari block print, a traditional craft** practiced by artisans in Jamalpur, Ahmedabad, has been officially recognized with a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This **unique handcrafted textile art has been** preserved for generations and continues to be a significant part of Gujarat's cultural heritage. Saudagari block printing is an **ancient textile printing technique** that has been practiced in Ahmedabad for nearly 300 years. The art involves intricate designs hand-printed on fabric, using natural dyes and traditional methods.



- Historically, this craft flourished in the Jamalpur area of Ahmedabad, where the **Khida community was actively engaged** in large-scale block printing. Over time, however, due to industrialization and modern technology, the craft began to decline.
- **Kumbakonam betel leaf of Thanjavur and the Thovalai flower garland** of Kanyakumari have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) Tags by the Government of India. This recognition brings the total number of GI products from Tamil Nadu to 62. The announcement was made after a four-month review period, with the official GI status published in the Government Gazette on November 30, 2024.



BIMSTEC Summit In Thailand

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the 6th BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the Summit is **“BIMSTEC – Prosperous, Resilient and Open.”** The **Bangkok Vision 2030** will be adopted at the Summit, and the Report of the BIMSTEC Eminent Persons’ Group will also be endorsed to chart the future direction of BIMSTEC.



- BIMSTEC brings together seven countries located in the Bay of Bengal – **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.** The Bay of Bengal is the heart of the Indian Ocean Region. BIMSTEC is the only regional

organization, which brings together **five countries from South Asia and two countries from Southeast Asia**.

- **India and Thailand signed six agreements** for cooperation in various fields including IT, maritime, MSME, handicraft and handloom sectors. The agreements were exchanged following bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Thai counterpart Paetongtarn Shinawatra in Bangkok this afternoon.



- Both sides reviewed the progress of the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed ways to add **greater momentum to the India- Thailand bilateral partnership and exchanged** views on regional and multilateral issues. Prime Minister Modi received a ceremonial guard of honour.



- Mr Modi said that during the talks, both sides emphasized cooperation in the fields of **tourism, culture and education between North-East India and Thailand**. Both leaders also discussed increasing mutual trade, investment and exchange between businesses. Prime Minister Modi pointed out that agreements have also been made for cooperation in MSME, handloom and handicrafts.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was presented with the Holy Scriptures: **“World Ti-pitaka: Sajjhaya Phonetic Edition”** by his Thai counterpart Paetongtarn Shinawatra at Bangkok today. It was brought out by the Thai government in 2016 to commemorate the **70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX)** and Queen Sirikit. The Holy Scriptures is a compilation of Lord Buddha’s teachings with accurate pronunciation of the Pali Tipiṭaka’s over nine million syllables. Thai Government has presented it as a “Gift of Peace and Wisdom for All” from the Kingdom of Thailand to more than 30 countries.



Warangal Chapata Chilli

- In a significant development for farmers in Telangana, the **Chapata Chilli, also known as Tomato Chilli**, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This milestone is expected to **benefit around 20,000 farmers** in the Warangal region by increasing their income and boosting market demand for this unique chilli variety.



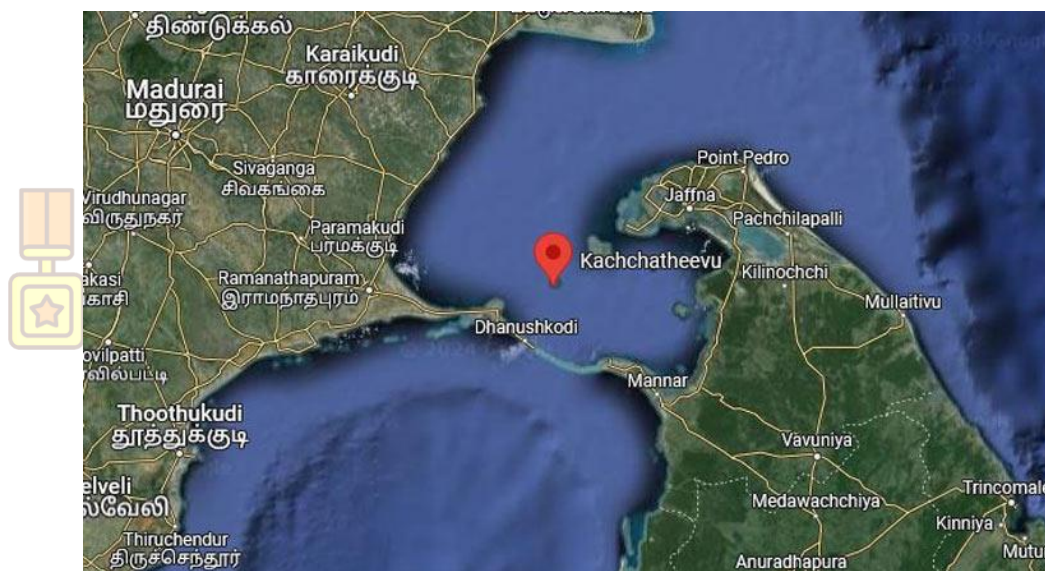
- This chilli variety comes in three distinct variants: **Single Patti, Double Patti, Odalu**. **Thimmampet Chilli Farmer Producer Company Limited** and **Sri Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural University (SKLTGHU)** have received official communication from the GI Registry, Government of India, confirming the recognition of **Warangal Chapata Chilli with a GI tag**. This recognition will help farmers get premium pricing, prevent unauthorized use of the name, and promote global exports.

TN Resolution To Reclaim Katchatheevu Island

- Tamil Nadu Assembly has recently passed a resolution urging the Government of India to **reclaim Katchatheevu island from Sri Lanka**. This decision received unanimous support from all political parties present. **Chief Minister MK Stalin** has brought into light the ongoing issues faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen, who frequently encounter **arrests by the Sri Lankan Navy**.



- The resolution reflects political and social concern for the rights of local fishermen and the historical context surrounding Katchatheevu.
- **Katchatheevu is a small island located** in the Palk Strait, positioned between India and Sri Lanka. The island was ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 under an agreement signed by both nations.
- This transfer has since become a contentious issue, particularly for Tamil Nadu fishermen who often fish in the **waters surrounding the island**. The arrests and confiscations of fishing boats by the Sri Lankan Navy have intensified calls for the island's retrieval.
- **For a long time, fishermen from India and Sri Lanka fished** in each other's waters without any issues. However, when both countries signed agreements in 1974 and 1976, the situation changed.



- **1974 Agreement: It set the maritime boundary in** the Palk Strait. Each country got full control over the waters, islands, and seabed on its side of the boundary. However, both Indian and Sri Lankan vessels were allowed to pass through each other's waters.
- Allowed for Indian Fishermen: They could rest, dry their nets, and visit St. Anthony's festival without a visa.
- Prohibited for Indian Fishermen: They were not allowed to fish in Sri Lanka's waters, including its territorial sea and Exclusive Economic Zone.
- **1976 Agreement: It finalized the maritime boundary between India and Sri Lanka**, without consulting Tamil Nadu's government. It also required both countries to follow international law for navigation in each other's waters.
- What is the Conflict

- **Fish Depletion** – Indian fishermen crossed into Sri Lankan waters because fish populations in India's waters had decreased. They also used modern fishing trolleys that harmed marine life.
- **Arrests and Clashes** – Sri Lanka started protecting its waters strictly, arresting Indian fishermen for trespassing. Sometimes, conflicts turned violent, despite agreements to avoid force.
- **Security Concerns** – In 2009, Sri Lanka increased patrols in the Palk Strait to prevent the return of Tamil insurgents.



- **What is Centre's Position?**
- The Indian government says Katchatheevu was always disputed and was not "ceded" because it was never fully under India's control.
- The agreement states the island is on Sri Lanka's side of the maritime boundary.
- India has raised concerns with Sri Lanka at the highest political levels.
- The case is still pending in the Supreme Court of India.

BIMSTEC Summit

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced several India-led initiatives towards institution and capacity building in BIMSTEC. Participating in **6th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** Summit in Bangkok, Mr Modi highlighted that BIMSTEC Centres of Excellence will be set up in India on Disaster Management, Sustainable Maritime Transport, Traditional Medicine, and Research and Training in Agriculture.



- He also announced a new programme for **skilling the youth – BODHI [BIMSTEC for Organized Development of Human Resource Infrastructure]** under which training and scholarships would be provided to professionals, students, researchers, diplomats and others.
- He also offered a pilot study by India to **assess regional needs in Digital Public Infrastructure** and a capacity building programme for cancer care in the region. Calling for greater regional economic integration, Prime Minister offered to establish BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce and to organize BIMSTEC Business Summit every year in India.
- Highlighting BIMSTEC as a vital bridge between South Asia and South-East Asia, Prime Minister underlined that the Group had become an impactful platform for regional cooperation, coordination and progress. He called for further strengthening the agenda and capacity of BIMSTEC.



- Prime Minister welcomed signing of the **BIMSTEC Maritime Transport Agreement, adoption of the BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030**, and adoption of the Report of BIMSTEC Eminent Persons Group. The BIMSTEC Member States also adopted the Summit Declaration.
- He said Lord Buddha's teachings also form the basis of an age-old civilisational bond between India and Thailand. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a meeting with **King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua** of Thailand and Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana at Dusit Palace in Bangkok. During the meeting, they exchanged views on shared cultural heritage between India and Thailand.
- They spoke about the **relics of Lord Buddha which travelled** from India to Thailand last year, and the positive impact of the initiative in further strengthening people-to-people ties. They also discussed ways to further strengthen the multifaceted ties between the two countries.



- **Bangladesh assumed the chairmanship of the regional grouping** – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) – for the next two years.
- Upon receiving the Chairmanship from the Prime Minister of Thailand, Chief Adviser of Interim Government of Bangladesh Muhammad Yunus made a statement of **acceptance, underscoring an inclusive and** action-oriented Bimstec. Yunus reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to advancing regional cooperation and development. The Bimstec comprises seven countries of the

Bay of Bengal region – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand

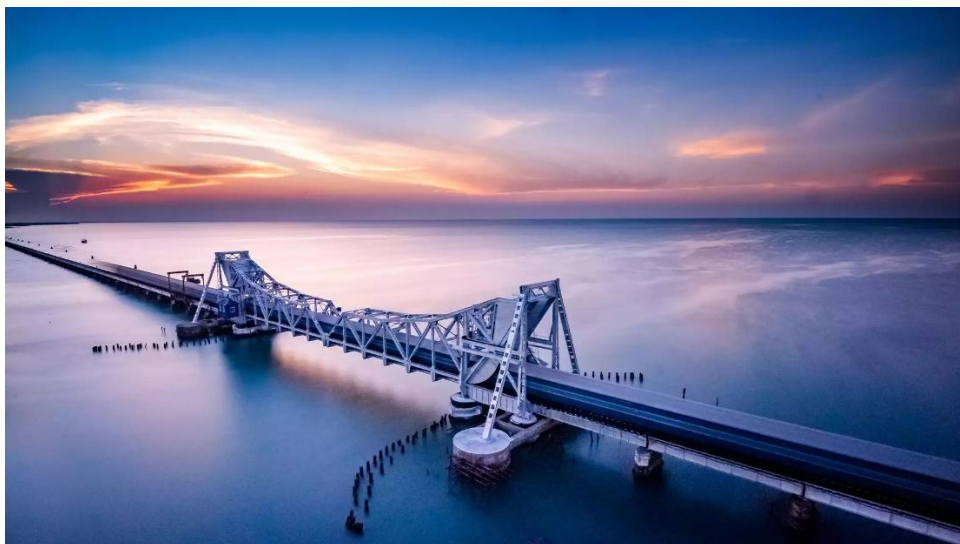


Pamban Sea Bridge

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that in the past ten years, the government has made several efforts to **strengthen infrastructure to connect** all the four corners of the country. The Prime Minister inaugurated the **Pamban vertical lift sea bridge in Rameshwaram** and laid the foundation for **8300 crore rupees worth of rail and road projects** in Tamil Nadu.
- Addressing a public meeting in **Rameshwaram**, he said that the development of Tamil Nadu contributes to the development of the nation.



- Calling the vertical lift sea bridge a **20th-century wonder**, he **congratulated** and thanked the engineers who worked on the first vertical lift sea bridge where ships and trains will make the best use of it. The Prime Minister said that it was a precious moment to **offer prayers at the ancient Rameswaram Temple** and hand over the project on this day.
- Calling the projects a gift on Ram Navami, he recalled the mention of Lord Ram in **Sangam literature**. Underlining that infrastructure development in Tamil Nadu is a priority for his government, Mr Modi highlighted that over the past decade, Tamil Nadu's railway budget has increased more than sevenfold. He added that before **2014, rail projects in Tamil Nadu received only 900 crore rupees annually**, while this year, the railway budget for Tamil Nadu exceeds 6,000 crore rupees.

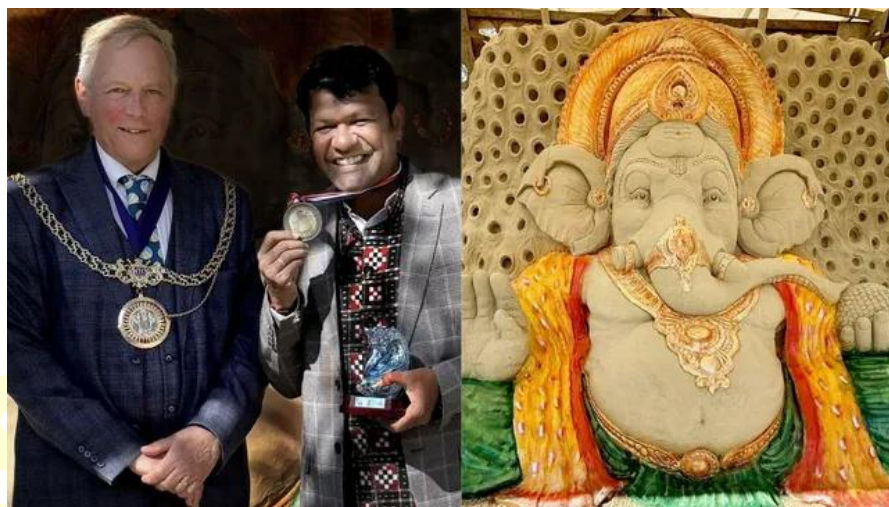


- He further highlighted that the Government of India is modernising 77 railway stations in the state, **including the Rameswaram station**. Mr Modi described the importance of the **ancient Tamil culture and language**.
- Mr Modi appealed to the state **government to allow medical students** to study in their mother tongue. He also criticised the politicians who didn't even put their signatures in Tamil when writing letters to him. Mr Modi, mentioning various achievements in the past ten years, said that the country had seen a **sixfold increase in allocation for the road, airport, port, energy and infrastructure**. He added that the Eastern and Western freight corridors and the Vande **Bharat, Amrit Bharat and Namo Bharat rail services** provide sound freight logistics and infrastructure. Mr Modi said that due to the efforts of the Centre in the past ten years, 3700 fishermen were freed from Sri Lankan prisons,

and more than 600 fishermen were freed from Sri Lankan prisons this year alone.

Sudarsan Pattnaik

- Renowned **Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik** has become the first Indian to receive the prestigious **Fred Darrington Sand Master Award** for his outstanding contributions to sand art. The award was presented during the Sandworld 2025 International Sand Art Festival in Dorset, England.



- To mark the occasion, Pattnaik created a **10-foot-high sculpture of Lord Ganesha carrying the message of “World Peace”**. The award holds special significance this year as it commemorates **the 100th birth anniversary of legendary British sculptor Fred Darrington**.
- Sudarshan Pattnaik, a Padma Shri awardee from Odisha, has participated in over 65 international sand art festivals and championships. His work, often blending spiritual themes with social messages, has earned him widespread recognition – but the Weymouth award marks a new high.
- **Sandworld exhibition at Lodmoor Park, known for its massive**, detailed sand sculptures created using just sand and water, features works from artists across the world. But this year, it’s a message from India – carved in sand and rooted in peace – that’s leaving the deepest impression.

Bangladesh Inks 'Artemis Accords' With NASA

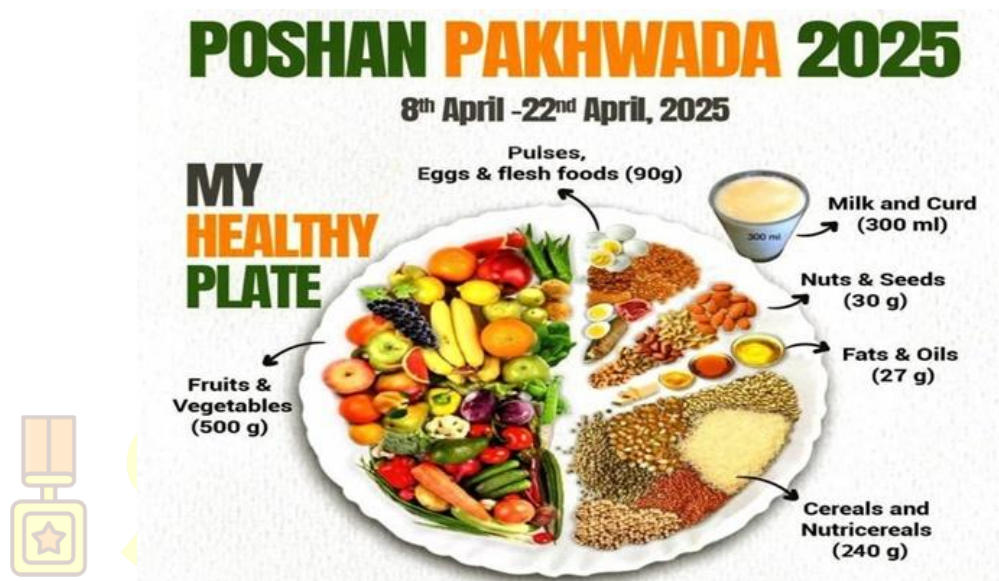
- **Bangladesh has inked the 'Artemis Accords' as the 54th country** with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), focused on non-military space exploration. The **Artemis Accords, established in October 2020**, are a set of non-binding agreements designed to promote peaceful and cooperative civil exploration of outer space.



- In the presence of **Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)** Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun and **US Embassy in Dhaka** Chargé d'Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson, **Bangladesh Defence Secretary Md Ashraf Uddin** inked the accords.
- **As of January 21, 2025, 53 countries have signed the accords**, including the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, India, United Arab Emirates, Australia and several European and Latin American countries.
- **By signing the Accords, Bangladesh will be a part of prestigious** international space alliances, Chowdhury Ashik mentioned. He said Bangladesh will be greatly benefited in terms of technology transfer, economic cooperation, and scientific collaboration through the accords.
- It will open the window to cooperation and collaboration between the **Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARRSO)** and NASA and will enhance the current capacity of SPARRSO to accelerate the space mission, he added.

Poshan Pakhwada 2025

- **Women and Child Development Ministry** is celebrating Poshan Pakhwada 2025 to promote nutrition awareness, improve health outcomes, and empower communities.
- This initiative is part of **Mission Poshan 2.0**, which focuses on reinforcing community engagement processes and fostering the empowerment of both individuals and communities as a whole.



- The ministry said the focus on the **first one thousand days of life** is one of the key themes of ongoing Poshan Pakhwada 2025, emphasising the importance of nutrition from conception to two years of age. This critical period lays the foundation for lifelong health and development. Adequate nutrition during **pregnancy and early childhood is linked to** improved health outcomes, increased productivity, and higher earnings in adulthood.
- The Ministry is celebrating the 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada from 8th April to 22nd April as part of the government's ongoing commitment to addressing malnutrition.

Global Technology Summit 2025

- **9th edition of the Global Technology Summit (GTS) 2025** will be held in New Delhi. The theme for this year's **Summit is Sambhavna – meaning possibilities-** and will explore how emerging technologies can drive inclusive growth, **strengthen digital governance**, and deepen cross-border partnerships. The

three-day summit will feature over **40 public sessions**, including keynote addresses, ministerial conversations, expert panels, and strategic conversations.



- **More than 150 speakers from over 40 countries** will join discussions on the most pressing tech challenges and opportunities facing the world today. This year, the summit will also amplify the voices of the next generation.
- Through the **GTS Young Ambassadors program**, students and young professionals from across the country will contribute directly to policy conversations on digital futures, responsible AI, and global tech norms.

Niveshak Didi Initiative

- **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** and **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** launched Phase 2 of the “Niveshak Didi” initiative. This collaboration focuses on increasing **financial literacy among women** in rural and underserved areas.
- The initiative aims to empower women through education and community involvement. **Niveshak Didi was introduced to address** financial literacy gaps in India. It trains women postal workers and community leaders to become financial educators. The first phase saw over 55,000 participants, primarily women. **Approximately 60% of attendees were from** rural areas, denoting the initiative’s grassroots impact.



- Phase 2 aims to expand the initiative. It plans to conduct over 4,000 financial literacy camps across India. **Nearly 40,000 trained women postal workers** will lead these camps.
- Topics include responsible investing, **fraud awareness, savings habits, and digital banking tools.**
- **IPPB plays important role in the initiative. It aims to provide accessible banking to all citizens. The bank leverages a vast postal network to reach underserved populations.** This partnership enhances trust and promotes financial discipline in local communities.



- **Financial literacy is vital for economic empowerment.** It helps individuals manage their finances effectively. The initiative addresses the needs of those with limited access to financial education. By educating women, the programme encourages a financially aware society.
- The **Niveshak Didi initiative is transforming rural communities.** Educated women become community influencers. They share knowledge and inspire others to adopt sound financial practices. This ripple effect can lead to broader economic improvements.

National Critical Mineral Mission

- India's green energy ambitions hinge significantly on the **availability of critical minerals, indispensable** to technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles (EVs), and battery storage.



- To secure these vital resources, the Government of India launched the National **Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** in 2025. Spearheaded by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and coordinated by the Ministry of Mines, the mission aims to **reduce import dependency**, strengthen domestic capabilities, and enhance global competitiveness through focused exploration, processing, and recycling of critical minerals.
- In 2022, a committee **identified 30 critical minerals. 24 minerals were included** under Part D of Schedule I of the MMDR Act, 1957, giving exclusive auction rights to the central government. **These include lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements (REEs), nickel, tungsten, tellurium, silicon, and more.**

Nilgiri Tahr Census 2025

- **Nilgiri Tahr, an endangered mountain ungulate**, is native to the Western Ghats in southern India. This species, also known as the **Nilgiri Ibex**, holds cultural significance as the state animal of Tamil Nadu. Its presence is documented in **ancient Tamil literature**.
- The animal is distinguished by a light grey patch on its back, earning adult males the **nickname "Saddlebacks."** A collaborative census of the Nilgiri Tahr is scheduled from April 24 to 27, involving both Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The upcoming census will cover 89 blocks in Kerala and 176 blocks in Tamil Nadu. The initiative commemorates the **50th anniversary of Eravikulam National Park**.



- Forest officials and trained volunteers will conduct the survey, employing camera traps and pellet sampling for genetic studies. The data will be analysed using the 'bounded count' method to estimate population density.
- **The Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to the southern Western Ghats**, primarily found in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. It inhabits tropical montane grasslands, Shola forests, and rocky high-altitude areas. The largest population resides in Eravikulam National Park, Kerala.



- This region provides the ideal cold and wet environment for the species. The Nilgiri Tahr is diurnal, displaying high stress tolerance and adaptability to its mountainous habitat. The Nilgiri Tahr is classified as Endangered by the IUCN. It is listed under **Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972**, ensuring it receives the highest level of protection. The population has declined due to habitat loss and hunting.
- A 2015 WWF report estimated the wild population at approximately 3,122 individuals, a stark contrast to its historical range across the Western Ghats. Initiated by the Tamil Nadu Government in December 2022, **Project Nilgiri Tahr aims to conserve** this species over five years, with a **budget of ₹25.14 crore**. The project's objectives include conducting population surveys, radio telemetry studies, and reintroducing the Tahr to its historical habitats. Immediate threats to the species will also be addressed.

World's First 3D- Printed Train Station In Japan

- Japan's West Japan Railway Company revealed the **world's first 3D-printed train station in Arida town**. This innovative project replaced a weathered wooden complex that had been **in operation since 1948**.
- The new station, **Hatsushima**, **was constructed** swiftly in under six hours, showcasing the potential of **3D printing technology** in addressing the challenges faced by Japan's ageing infrastructure and workforce.
- The construction of Hatsushima station involved a unique process. A **construction firm named Serendix was** hired to create the station's

components. The printing of parts took only seven days at a factory in Kumamoto Prefecture.



- These parts were made from a special mortar designed for durability. Once printed, the components **were transported 500 miles to the** station site. On the night of construction, workers assembled the pre-printed parts after the last train departed. The assembly process utilised cranes to place each component accurately. Remarkably, this was completed before the first train of the next day.
- The station, measuring just **over 100 square feet**, still requires interior work and installation of ticketing machines. This initiative is crucial for Japan, where the population is ageing and the workforce is shrinking.



- Traditional construction methods for railway stations are time-consuming and costly, often taking over two months. **The 3D-printed station presents** a solution to maintain infrastructure with fewer workers. This technology could set a precedent for future projects in remote areas.
- **3D printing in construction is gaining** traction globally. For instance, India has also begun using this technology for building structures. Godrej Properties revealed **the first 3D-printed villa in Pune**, utilising recycled materials to reduce environmental impact. This trend indicates a shift towards sustainable building practices.

STREE Summit 2025

- **Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC)** is preparing to host the second edition of the **STREE Summit, a key event dedicated to** enhancing women's safety, security, and empowerment.
- The summit, **scheduled for April 15, 2025**, will bring together a wide range of stakeholders including professionals, advocates, and experts to address the challenges women face in society. The summit is designed to provide a platform for **shared learning, fostering collaboration and actionable solutions** to improve women's safety while promoting gender equality.



- The event, supported by **HCSC Chairperson and Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand**, aims to offer a space where practical strategies and experiences can be exchanged.

- The summit will address crucial issues like gender equality, safety challenges faced by women, and the need for a culture of respect and empowerment. The summit **emphasizes the importance of collaboration between** diverse stakeholders, including lawyers, journalists, health professionals, and other experts, to drive tangible change in women's safety.

Panchteerth

- Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar said that the Panchteerth, associated with the life of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, is a source of inspiration for the young generation. The **Panchteerth refers to five important places related to Dr. Ambedkar's life, including his birthplace and the place of his education.**



- The Minister said this while addressing an event organized by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes on the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in New Delhi.
- Mr. Kumar emphasized that the young generation must visit these places to learn about the ideals and life of Dr. Ambedkar. Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said that Dr. Ambedkar has given three pillars to the country in the form of **equality, liberty, and fraternity** in the Constitution. He said this is the time to take these three pillars to society to mark the journey of the Constitution.



SC Categorisation Act

- Telangana state government has officially implemented the **Scheduled Caste (SC) Categorisation of Reservations Act 2025**, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar today. A government order (GO) has been issued, marking a significant policy decision aimed at addressing long-standing demands from marginalized communities.



- As per the government order, **the 56 Scheduled Caste communities** in Telangana have now been divided into three groups to ensure equitable distribution of **benefits among the SC sub-groups**. The GO has been issued today following consent from the State governor for the Bill, which was passed by the State Legislature last month.
- This classification is expected to guide future policies on reservations in **education, employment, and political representation**.

- The implementation of SC categorisation is seen as a major milestone in Telangana State's efforts to achieve social justice, especially for communities that have historically been left behind despite belonging to the larger SC category.

Rajiv Yuva Vikasam Scheme 2025'

- Telangana government launched the '**Rajiv Yuva Vikasam Scheme 2025'** to promote economic self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship among youth from SC, ST, BC, Minority, and EBC/EWS communities.



- The scheme is implemented through respective **community welfare corporations, aiming to boost financial independence** through targeted support. Eligible beneficiaries can avail concessional subsidized loans of up to ₹4 lakh to start their own businesses and pursue entrepreneurial ventures.

Critical Mineral Mission

- Ministry of Mines has issued guidelines for the setting up of Centres of Excellence (CoE) under the **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)**. This is in pursuance to a key pillar of the Mission, which is research and technology development in critical minerals.
- Critical raw materials form the **crucial supply chain for emerging sectors** of clean energy and mobility transition, in addition to advanced technology and strategic sectors like electronics, defence and space.



- Ministry, in a statement, said that in order to **develop, demonstrate and deploy technologies in an end-to-end systems approach**, it is essential to conduct research and development so as to reach higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRL).
- **Centres of Excellence will identify, develop and implement** extraction process and beneficiation technologies for a host of critical minerals from multiple sources and conduct directed research and development. Under this new initiative, **reputed academic and R&D institutions**, as per eligibility prescribed, will be evaluated and recognized as CoEs for R&D in critical minerals.
- CoEs will undertake innovative and transformational research to strengthen and advance the **nation's science and technology capability** in the area of critical minerals. CoEs will aim at undertaking cutting edge research and promoting inter and multi-disciplinary approaches to problem-solving in critical minerals domain.

Justice BR Gavai

- Chief Justice of India **Sanjiv Khanna has recommended the name of Justice B R Gavai as the next Chief Justice**. Justice Gavai is the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, and his name has been recommended to the Union Law Ministry. The tenure of the **current CJI, Justice Khanna is going to end on the 13th of next month**.



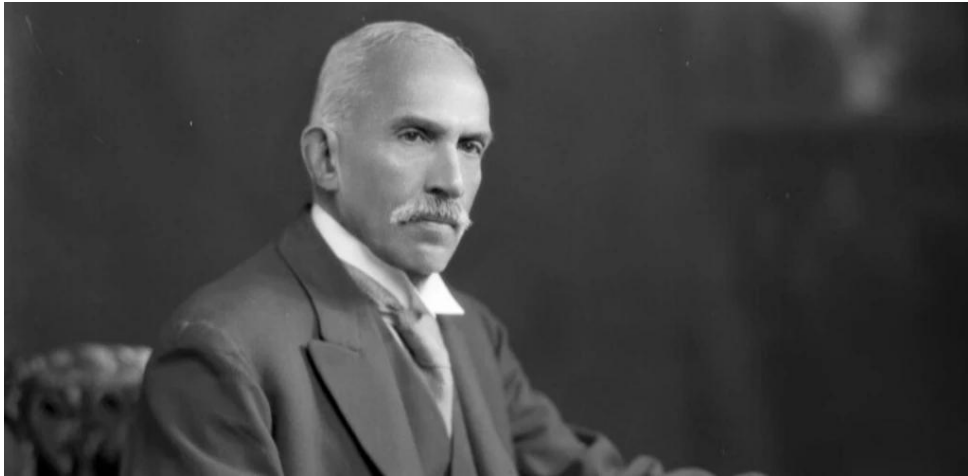
Banaras Shehnai

- The recent conferment of **the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the Banaras Shehnai** is a landmark recognition of India's rich intangible cultural heritage. Known worldwide through **Ustad Bismillah Khan**, the shehnai is not just an instrument but a symbol of spiritual and ceremonial music. For the traditional **artisans of Varanasi (Kashi)**, the GI tag is not merely an official certificate—it is a deeply **emotional and cultural validation of their legacy**, commitment, and craftsmanship spanning generations.



Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commemorated **Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair**, a prominent nationalist and jurist. This recognition coincided with **the 106th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre**.
- Nair's fearless stance against British colonial rule and his courtroom battles have left mark on India's history. His commitment to justice and social reform continues to inspire generations.



- **Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair was born in 1857 in Mankara village, Kerala.** He graduated with a law degree from Presidency College, Madras. Nair began his legal career **under Sir Horatio Shepherd**, who later became the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- His early experiences shaped his dedication to justice. Nair's legal career flourished as he became a **public prosecutor in 1899** and later a judge of the Madras High Court in 1908.
- **In 1912, he was knighted by the British Crown.** Nair served on the Viceroy's Executive Council, focusing on education reforms. However, he resigned in 1919 in protest **against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre**. Nair was a vocal advocate for constitutional reforms and self-governance. He presided over the Indian **National Congress session in Amraoti in 1897.**



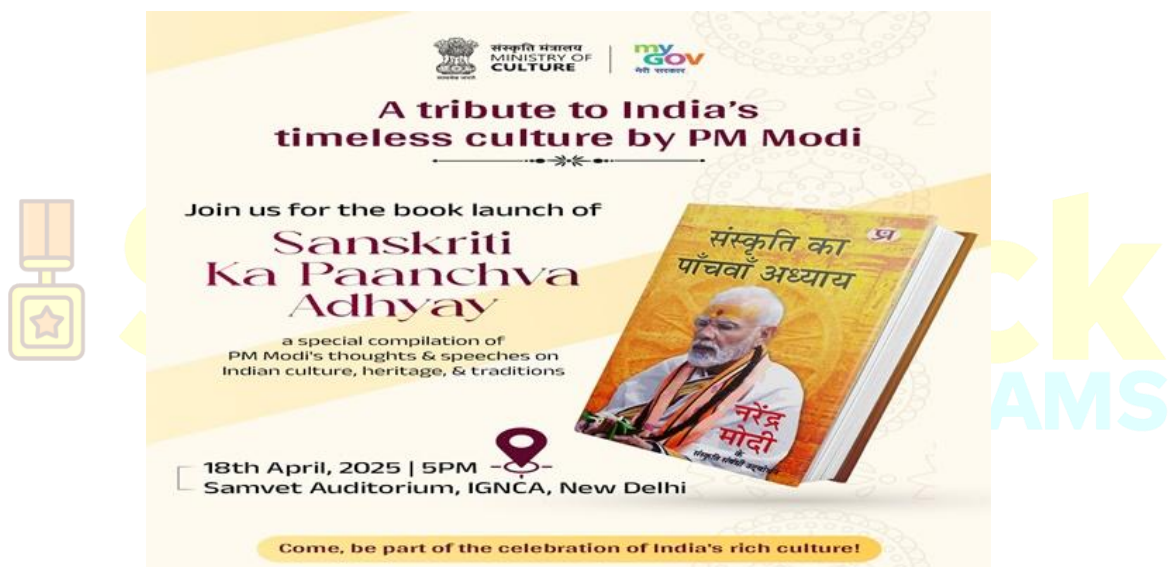
- He was involved with the All-India Committee during the Simon Commission discussions. Nair's stance often conflicted with other nationalists, including **Mohandas K. Gandhi.**
- **From 1922 to 1924, Nair authored "Gandhi and Anarchy,"** critiquing both British rule and Gandhi's non-cooperation movement. He held Lieutenant

Governor Michael O'Dwyer accountable for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Nair faced a defamation suit in a British court for his accusations. Despite losing, he refused to apologise, showcasing his moral courage.

- Nair supported inter-caste **and inter-faith marriages**. His ruling in Budasna v Fatima (1914) upheld conversion to Hinduism without losing caste status. He **founded and edited the Madras Law Journal and Madras Review**, contributing to legal literature and reform.

‘Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay’

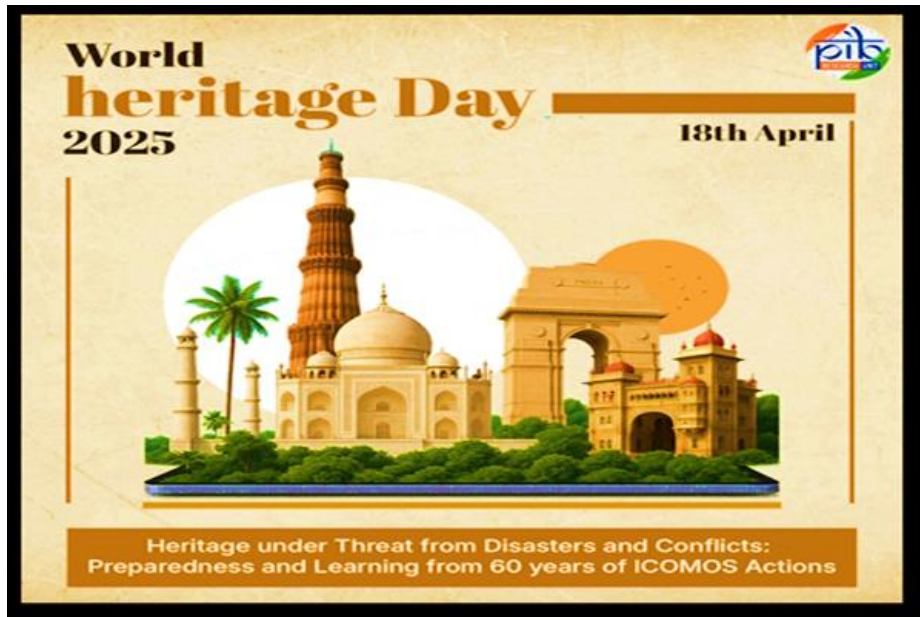
- A book titled **Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay**, which is a compilation of speeches delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on various occasions, was launched in New Delhi.



- The head of the **Juna Akhara, Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri**, launched the book. Presiding over the event, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, lauded Prime Minister Modi's efforts in preserving the country's culture, traditions, spiritual values, and cultural heritage.
- Recalling key excerpts from the Prime Minister's speeches, he noted that the **book serves as a curated collection that reflects Mr. Modi's commitment** to cultural preservation and his vision for upholding India's timeless traditions.

World Heritage Day

- World Heritage Day, also known as **the International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS)**, is observed every **year on 18 April to promote awareness** about the diversity of cultural heritage, the vulnerability of monuments and sites, and the efforts required to preserve them.



- Theme 2025 – Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 Years of ICOMOS Actions**
- It was proposed by the **International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)** in 1982, and later **approved by UNESCO in 1983**. The day encourages local communities and governments to recognize the importance of preserving **historical sites and celebrating the rich heritage of civilizations** around the world.

AIIMS Delhi Ranks 97th

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** in New Delhi has been ranked the **97th best hospital in the world by Newsweek and Statista** in their **‘World’s Best Hospitals 2025’** report.



- This is a major improvement for the institute that was **ranked 122nd in the same report in 2023**, moving up **nine spots to 113th rank in 2024**, and now another 16 spots to the 97th rank.
- The annual ranking, now in its sixth year, evaluated over **2,400 hospitals across 30 countries**, measuring performance through patient satisfaction, clinical outcomes, hygiene standards, and peer recommendations from thousands of medical professionals.
- Aside from AIIMS, two other Indian hospitals made the top 250 list. Two other institutions — **Medanta – The Medicity in Gurgaon and Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh** — also featured prominently, ranked 146th (ranked 166th in 2024) and 228th (ranked 246th in 2024), respectively.



- Topping the 2024 list are the **Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic in the United States, followed by Toronto General in Canada** and Johns Hopkins Hospital, while Sweden's Karolinska University Hospital rounded out the top five.

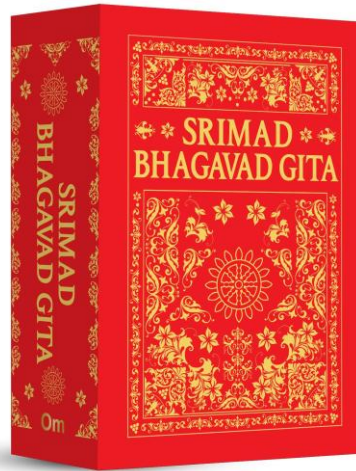


Gita And Natyashastra

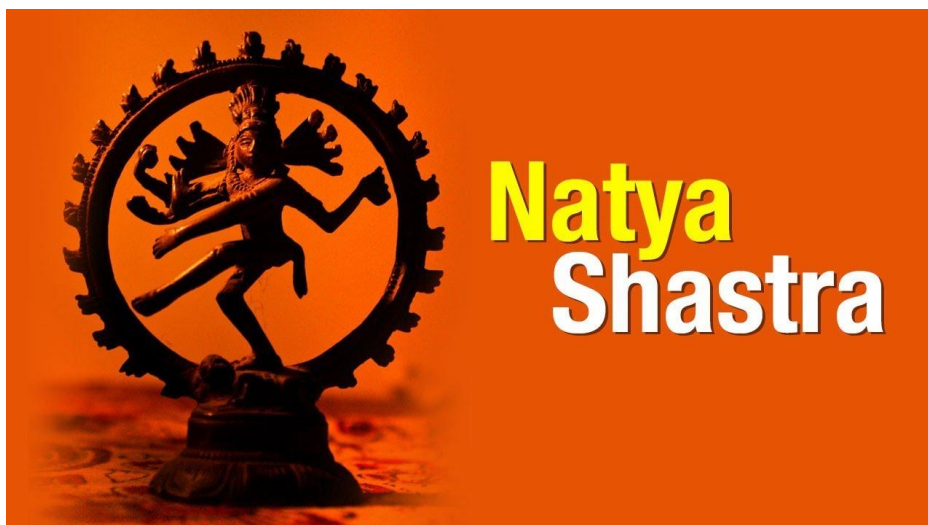
- The manuscripts of the **Bhagavad Gita** and **Bharat Muni's Natyashastra** were **added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**. An international initiative by UNESCO to preserve humanity's valuable documentary heritage and safeguard it against neglect, decay, and destruction.



- UNESCO's Memory of the World Register** Established In: 1992.
- Objective:** To protect archival holdings, manuscripts, rare collections, and promote broader accessibility and awareness.
- Criteria for Inclusion:** Outstanding universal value, Historical, cultural, or social significance, Authenticity, integrity, and rarity of the document.



- With the inclusion of Gita and Natyashastra, **India now has 14 entries in the Memory of the World Register**. Other recent entries include Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayāloka-Locana in the 2024 MOWCAP Regional register.
- **Name: Bhagavad Gita (The Song of the Lord).**
- Attributed to: Sage Vyasa.
- Features: A 700-verse dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna, expounding profound spiritual, ethical, and philosophical principles central to Hindu thought.
- **Name: Natyashastra (Treatise on Performing Arts).**
- Author: Bharat Muni.
- Features: A foundational text detailing Indian classical dance, drama, music, and stagecraft; establishes concepts like Rasa (aesthetic flavor) that continue to influence Indian arts.



IBCA Signed The Headquarters Agreement

- **India and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** signed the **Headquarters Agreement in New Delhi**. The Agreement was signed by External Affairs Secretary (East) **P Kumaran** and **Director General, IBCA, Dr S.P. Yadav**.
- The Agreement provides for India to be the host for the **IBCA Headquarters and Secretariat**. Under the agreement, the government will provide budgetary support of **150 crore rupees to IBCA for creating** a corpus, building infrastructure, and meeting recurring expenditure for five years.



- The agreement also entails necessary provisions to enable **IBCA to meet its intended objectives**, including efficient discharge of its official functions. The text pertains to visas, privileges, and immunities to be extended to the IBCA Secretariat and personnel, premises, entry into force, supplementary agreements, and some general provisions.
- The **International Big Cat Alliance was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023**, during an event "Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger" at Mysuru. The IBCA primarily aims for the conservation of seven big cats, namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma.



Indigenous Stellite Nozzle Divergent

- In line with its **self-reliance mission**, ISRO has **developed** an alternative for the imported **Columbium** material used for the **nozzle divergent** in the fourth stage of the PSLV launch vehicle.
- It has **indigenously developed the nozzle divergent made of Stellite**. This alternate material is a cobalt-based alloy with additions of Chromium, Nickel, **Tungsten and Iron**.
- The tests **conducted on the Stellite made nozzle divergent** has proved that it can retain strength at high temperatures up to 1150 degree Celsius.



- **ISRO had conducted three tests earlier** and a final test on April 8th where it was proven successful after a **hot test lasting for a duration of 665 seconds**. The test was conducted at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu**.
- The use of **Stellite nozzle divergent in PSLV will save ISRO 90 percent** of the cost incurred on imported Columbium.
- The ISRO facility in Mahendragiri had also successfully carried out hot tests of the human-rated Vikas Engine to be used for the Gaganyaan programme. **Vikas engine is designed and developed** within the country and is named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian Space programme.
- The **human-rated launch vehicle LVM 3 G** will use two Vikas engines in a clustered configuration to carry the astronauts to outer space.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Wildlife Sanctuary In Punjab Is Being Developed As A Leopard Safari Destination

- A. Harike Wildlife Sanctuary
- B. Jhajjar- Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Bir Bhadson Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary

ANSWER: B

2. Which Organization Has Recently Published The Second Edition Of “Trade Watch Quarterly” For Q2 FY 2024-25

- A. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B. Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)

ANSWER: C

3. Which Organization Has Organized National Conference On Environment 2025

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. National Green Tribunal
- C. Supreme Court of India
- D. Indian Environmental Society

ANSWER: B

4. Name Of The SpaceX Mission That Launched The First Human Spaceflight Directly Over Earth’s Polar Regions

- A. Fram2
- B. Polaris Dawn
- C. Inspiration4
- D. Crew-10

ANSWER: A

5. Who Has Inaugurated Techkriti 2025, Asia's Largest Intercollegiate Technical And Entrepreneurial Festival

- A. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
- B. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- C. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan
- D. IIT Kanpur Director Prof. Manindra Agrawal

ANSWER: C

6. In Which City Is Saudagari Block Print Craft Practised And Awarded A GI Tag

- A. Jaipur
- B. Ahmedabad
- C. Mumbai
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: B

7. Which Company Successfully Launched Fram2 Mission, Marking The First Human Spaceflight To Orbit The Earth Over Its Poles

- A. NASA
- B. Blue Origin
- C. SpaceX
- D. Roscosmos

ANSWER: C

8. Who Is Poonam Gupta Replacing As Deputy Governor Of RBI

- A. Swaminathan Janakiraman
- B. Michael Patra
- C. M Rajeshwar Rao
- D. Sanjay Malhotra

ANSWER: B

9. Who Has Become First African Woman To Assume The Office Of The Secretary-general Of The Commonwealth Of Nations

- A. Patricia Scotland
- B. Kofi Annan
- C. Shirley Botchwey
- D. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

ANSWER: C

10. Who Has Been Appointed As A Member Of The IMF Managing Director's Advisory Council On Entrepreneurship And Growth

- A. Mukesh Ambani
- B. Ratan Tata
- C. N Chandrasekaran
- D. Gautam Adani

ANSWER: C

11. Pamban Sea Bridge Is Inaugurated In

- A. Kerala
- B. Gujarat
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Telangana

ANSWER: C

12. First Indian To Receive Prestigious Fred Darrington Sand Master Award

- A. Sudarshan Pattnaik
- B. Rahul Arya
- C. Nitish Bharti
- D. Charlene Lancel

ANSWER: A

13. Esha Singh Seen In News Related To Which Sport

- A. Tennis
- B. Shooting
- C. Badminton
- D. Cricket

ANSWER: B

14. Heard and McDonald Islands, Is Located In Which Ocean

- A. Pacific Ocean
- B. Atlantic Ocean
- C. Arctic Ocean
- D. Indian Ocean

ANSWER: D

15. International Criminal Court Established By Which International Agreement

- A. Geneva Convention
- B. Rome Statute
- C. Hague Protocol
- D. Vienna Treaty

ANSWER: B

16. Kannadippaya, A Traditional Tribal Handicraft, From Which Indian State Was Recently Awarded The Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: C

17. Which Country Has A Prime Minister Who Recently Dismissed U.S. Suggestions Regarding The Annexation Of Greenland

- A. Iceland
- B. Denmark
- C. Sweden
- D. Finland

ANSWER: B

18. Which Indian State Recently Secured GI Tags For Nolen Gurer Sandesh And Baruipur Guavas

- A. Odisha
- B. Bihar
- C. West Bengal
- D. Assam

ANSWER: C

19. What Denominations Will Be Issued With The New RBI Governor's Signature

- A. ₹100 and ₹2000
- B. ₹20 and ₹50
- C. ₹200 and ₹1000
- D. ₹10 and ₹500

ANSWER: D

20. Which State Has Reported Highest Forest Encroachment As Of March 2024

- A. Assam
- B. Karnataka
- C. Odisha
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: D

21. What Is Name Of Assam's Biggest Women Entrepreneurship Support Scheme

- A. Mahila Shakti Yojana
- B. Assam Udyog Mission
- C. Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan
- D. Nari Samarth Yojana

ANSWER: C

22. Niveshak Didi Initiative Is Launched For

- A. Education
- B. Healthcare
- C. Financial Literacy
- D. Self Help Groups

ANSWER: C

23. First-ever 'Himalayan High-altitude Atmospheric & Climate Centre' Launched

- A. Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- C. Mussoorie, Himachal Pradesh
- D. Gangtok, Sikkim

ANSWER: A

24. Name Of Scheme Launched By MeitY To Promote Manufacturing Of Electronic Components

- A. Smart Components Initiative
- B. Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme
- C. Passive Electronics Growth Scheme
- D. Atmanirbhar Tech Mission

ANSWER: B

25. The Registrar General Of India Functions Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Law and Justice
- B. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- C. Ministry of Defence
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

ANSWER: D

26. World Homeopathy Day Is Observed On Which Day Annually

- A.

ANSWER: C

27. Bastar Pandum Festival Is Celebrated In Which State

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Odisha
- D. Jharkhand

ANSWER: B

28. What Is India's Global Rank In Electricity Production From Wind And Solar Energy As Of 2024

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

ANSWER: C

29. Where Was The 4th Joint Working Group Meeting On Tourism Cooperation Between India And Japan Held

- A. Tokyo
- B. Kyoto
- C. Mumbai
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: D

30. Who Is The Leading Run- Scorer In T20 Cricket

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Chris Gayle
- C. Alex Hales
- D. Shoaib Malik

ANSWER: B

31. What Is Estimated Cost Of Tirupati-pakala-katpadi Railway Line Doubling Project

- A. ₹1,200 crore
- B. ₹1,332 crore
- C. ₹1,500 crore
- D. ₹1,000 crore

ANSWER: B

32. National Safe Motherhood Day Observed Honor Of Whose Birth Anniversary

- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Chennai
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: B

33. Name Of Google's Newly Launched Seventh-generation AI Chip

- A. Redwood
- B. Firestone
- C. Ironwood
- D. ThunderCore

ANSWER: C

34. Who Has Been Re-appointed As The Chairperson Of The ICC Men's Cricket Committee

- A. Anil Kumble
- B. Rahul Dravid
- C. Sourav Ganguly
- D. Virender Sehwag

ANSWER: C

35. Traditional Harvest Festival Celebrated As The Tamil New Year Is Known As Which Of The Following

- A. Vaisakhi
- B. Pongal
- C. Vishu
- D. Puthandu

ANSWER: D

36. Padma Shri Awardee D. Ramaiah, Recently Passed Away, Popularly Known By What Name Contribution To Environmental Protection

- A. Green Warrior of Telangana, 2015
- B. Forest Guardian of South India, 2016
- C. Tree Man of Telangana, 2017
- D. Eco Saint of Telangana, 2018

ANSWER: C

37. Which Organization STELLAR Model, For Planning Power Generation

- A. Power Grid Corporation of India
- B. Central Electricity Authority
- C. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- D. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

ANSWER: B

38. Yimkhiung Tribe Is Primarily Found In Which State

- A. Assam
- B. Sikkim
- C. Nagaland
- D. Tripura

ANSWER: C

39. Which Organization Releases The Global Financial Stability Report

- A. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- B. World Bank
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. United Nations Development Programme

ANSWER: C

40. Which City Is Host Of STREE Summit 2025 On Women's Safety And Empowerment

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Bhopal
- C. Chennai
- D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: A