

# Monthly March Current Affairs

## Geological Survey Of India

- **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, one of the oldest scientific organizations in the country, is set to **celebrate its 175th year of geoscientific legacy**. To mark this historic milestone, Union Minister of Coal & Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy will inaugurate the **Foundation Day celebrations on 4th March 2025** at Central Headquarters, Kolkata.



- **Established in 1851 by Sir Thomas Oldham**, GSI has played a pioneering role in geological mapping, mineral exploration, disaster studies, and geoscientific research, significantly contributing to India's industrial and economic growth. **During the 175th Foundation Day celebrations on 4th March 2025**, GSI will showcase its rich legacy and scientific contributions through a series of engaging events, insightful publications and unveiling of Special Postal Cover, My stamp and two geoscientific mobile apps.

## Jahan-e-Khusrau Festival

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the Sufi music festival **Jahan-e-Khusrau on its 25-year journey**, highlighting its role in preserving India's cultural and artistic heritage. Jahan-e-Khusrau, a **three-day festival running from February 28 to March 2**, brings together artists from across the world to celebrate the legacy of Amir Khusrau.



- **Organized by the Rumi Foundation**, the festival was founded by renowned filmmaker and artist Muzaffar Ali in 2001 and has since become a revered annual cultural event.
- During the festival, the **Prime Minister visited the TEH Bazaar**, which features One District-One Product crafts and other various exquisite artefacts from across the country, short films on handicrafts and handlooms, among others.

## Firefly Aerospace

- **US firm Firefly Aerospace** achieved its **first successful moon landing** with the Blue Ghost spacecraft, touching down near Mare Crisium. The uncrewed lander, carrying **10 scientific payloads**, marks Firefly as the second private company to land on the moon, following Intuitive Machines' partial success last year.



- The **spacecraft travelled 2.8 million miles** over three loops around Earth before landing, beginning a 14-day research mission powered by solar panels. This milestone is part of the growing private sector competition in space exploration, with **NASA's over 100 million dollar contract supporting** Firefly's efforts under the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program.
- The **mission precedes the U.S. plans to send** astronauts to the moon by 2027. Five nations have made successful soft landings in the past—the then-Soviet Union, the U.S., China, India, and, last year, Japan.

## Hague Service Convention

- **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) requested** assistance from the Government of India under the Hague Service Convention. This request aims to serve summons on **Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani regarding** allegations of bribery related to the Adani Group's solar projects.
- The SEC's filing follows recent charges from the U.S. Department of Justice concerning a **\$250 million bribery scheme**. The Hague Service Convention was established in 1965. It aims to facilitate the service of judicial documents across international borders.



- The Convention ensures that defendants receive timely notice of legal actions. It is a multilateral **treaty with 84 signatory states**, including India and the U.S. Each member state designates a central authority to handle service requests. The primary method of service is through designated central authorities. However, alternative methods are also available.

- These include postal services and direct communication between judicial officials. **Signatory states can choose which methods to implement.** In India, judicial documents must be served through the Ministry of Law and Justice. India joined **the Hague Service Convention on November 23, 2006.**



- However, it made **reservations against alternative service methods** outlined in Article 10. This means service cannot occur through diplomatic channels unless the recipient is a national of the requesting country. All service requests must be in English or accompanied by an English translation.

## First Ever Riverine Dolphin Estimation

- **During the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife at Sasan Gir in Junagadh district, the Prime Minister released the report of the first-ever riverine dolphin estimation** conducted in the country, which estimated a total of **6,327 dolphins.**



- This pioneering effort involved **surveying 28 rivers across eight states**, with **3,150 man-days dedicated** to covering over **8,500 kilometres**. **Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest numbers**, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of awareness of dolphin conservation through the involvement of the local population and villagers in these areas. He emphasized the **role of eco-tourism in wildlife conservation** and stressed the need for improved travel and connectivity for wildlife tourism.

## Krishna Jayasankar

- **India's Krishna Jayasankar** made history at the **2025 Mountain West Indoor Track and Field Championships** by becoming the **first Indian woman** to cross the 16-metre mark in indoor shot put. Her record-breaking **throw measured 16.03 metres**.
- The 22-year-old broke the **previous Indian indoor record of 15.54 metres**. Poornarao Rane set that record at the 2023 American Athletic Conference Indoor Championships.



- **Krishna was in fourth place until the penultimate** round. However, she clinched the bronze medal with her final throw.
- **Mya Lesnar of the USA bagged the Gold** while compatriot Gabby Morns claimed a silver. Krishna's previous best indoor throw was 15.03 metres, recorded last month at the same venue.

- **India's overall women's shot put record remains 18.41 m.** Abha Khatua set it at the Federation Cup 2024.

## Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the “**Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan at the National Workshop** of Women Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions in New Delhi.
- The Abhiyan is a **comprehensive and targeted capacity-building initiative** aimed at strengthening Women-Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions across the nation. It **focuses on sharpening their leadership acumen**, enhancing their decision-making capabilities, and reinforcing their role in grassroots governance. During his address, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh emphasized the vital role of women leaders in transforming rural governance.



- He added that the **government is fully committed to undertaking capacity** and confidence-building measures to further strengthen women's leadership in the country, particularly in gram panchayats. He stressed the need for the empowerment of women for a Justice Equitable Society. Mr Singh highlighted that **nearly 1.4 million women across the country** are associated with Panchayati Raj Institutions today.
- He made these remarks while addressing the inaugural event **of Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyaan at the National Conference** for Elected Women Representatives in New Delhi. Mr Singh said that the government has taken several initiatives, including **the Lakhpati Didi and Namo Drone Didi schemes, to empower women.** He also stressed the need for skill development in Panchayati Raj institutions to instil confidence among women.

- **More than 1,200 elected Women Representatives** participated in the event, which was organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in commemoration of International Women's Day, to be observed on the 8th of March. During the event, **23 elected Women Representatives** received awards for the extraordinary work they have done in their panchayats.

## NITI Aayog Launches Report

- NITI Aayog released a report called **"From Borrowers to Builders: Women's Role in India's Financial Growth Story."** The report, launched by NITI Aayog CEO **Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam**, shows that more women in India are taking loans and checking their credit scores.
- By December **2024, 27 million women were monitoring** their credit, which is 42% more than the previous year. This increase shows that women are becoming more aware of financial matters.



- The report was prepared by **TransUnion CIBIL, NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), and MicroSave Consulting (MSC)**.
- The percentage of women checking their credit reports increased from 17.89% in 2023 to **19.43% in 2024**. **Women** in non-metro areas are becoming more financially active, with **48% growth, compared to 30% growth in metro cities**.
- Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana accounted for 49% of all women self-monitoring credit, with the southern region leading at 10.2 million women.

- Northern and central states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh have shown the highest growth in active women borrowers.
- Since 2019, **women's share of business loans has increased by 14%, and** their share of gold loans has grown by 6%. By December 2024, women made up 35% of business borrowers.

## IRCTC, IRFC Upgraded To Navratna

- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** have been granted **Navratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** status by the Indian government.
- With this, all **seven listed railway PSUs have now attained** Navratna classification, providing them greater financial and operational autonomy. The move reflects the government's commitment to enhancing the efficiency and profitability of railway-owned enterprises.



- The seven railway PSUs classified as Navratna include,
- Container Corporation of India (Concor) – First to achieve Navratna status in July 2014.
- Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)
- IRCON International Limited
- RITES Limited
- RailTel Corporation of India
- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) – Now a Navratna company.
- Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) – Now a Navratna company.





- The **Indian government classifies PSUs into three categories**,  
 Maharatna – The largest and most financially independent PSUs.  
 Navratna – High-performing mid-tier PSUs with greater investment autonomy.  
 Miniratna (Category I & II) – Smaller PSUs with moderate operational independence.
- **Eligibility for Navratna Status** : A PSU must, Be a Miniratna-I company.
- Have an “Excellent” or “Very Good” MoU rating in at least three out of the last five years. Score 60+ points based on six performance indicators:
- **Net Profit to Net Worth** : Manpower Cost to Total Cost of Production, PBDIT (Profit before Depreciation, Interest & Taxes) to Capital Employed, Profit before Interest & Taxes to Turnover, Earnings Per Share (EPS), Inter-Sectoral Performance

## Cabinet Approves Projects

- Government has approved the **development of the Sonprayag to Kedarnath ropeway with a length of 12.9 kilometres**. Briefing media in New Delhi today, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, the total cost of the project will be over **four thousand crore rupees**.

**Ropeway Project** from Sonprayag to Kedarnath

- **12.9 KM** Ropeway project from Sonprayag to Kedarnath in Uttarakhand gets Cabinet nod
- Total capital cost of project is ₹ **4,081.28 cr**
- Capacity of **1,800 passengers** per hour per direction
- Will ferry **18,000 passengers** per day

**Benefits**

- › Boon to the pilgrims visiting Kedarnath
- › Environment-friendly, comfortable and fast connectivity
- › Reduce travel time in one direction from about 8 to 9 hours to 36 minutes
- › Generate substantial employment opportunities

05-03-2025  
CABINET DECISION

- He said this ropeway will reduce the **journey time from 8 to 9 hours to 36 minutes for the pilgrims**. He said the project will help the divyang and old people in an immense way.
- Minister also informed that **Hemkund Sahib Ropeway** will also be developed. He said the total cost of the project will be **two thousand 730 crore rupees**. He said the **length of the ropeway will be 12.4 kilometres**. Mr. Vaishnaw said the government has taken decisions for livestock health and disease prevention with the **cost of three thousand 880 crore rupees**.

**Ropeway project from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji**

- **12.4 KM Ropeway project** from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji in Uttarakhand gets Cabinet nod
- Total capital cost of project is **Rs. 2,730.13 crore**
- **Monocable Detachable Gondola** from Govindghat to Ghangaria (10.55 km), integrated with most advanced **Tricable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology** from Ghangaria to Hemkund Sahib Ji
- Capacity of **1,100 passengers per hour** per direction

**Ropeway project from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji**

- Will ferry 11,000 passengers per day

**Benefits**

- Enhancing last mile connectivity for pilgrims
- Fostering rapid economic growth of the region
- Substantial employment opportunities



2/2

Cabinet Decision: 05<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

- He said the vaccination programme will be a major thrust area of this programme. He said, this will help the farmers. He said, good quality and affordable generic veterinary medicine will be provided through Pashu Aushadhi.



**Barbados Award**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with **the prestigious Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados Award** in recognition of his strategic leadership and valuable assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.



- The award was received by Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita on behalf of Prime Minister Modi in a ceremony held in Bridgetown, Barbados. Mr Pabitra Margherita expressed his gratitude for the recognition and called it a profound honour to accept the prestigious award on behalf of Prime Minister Modi.
- The award announcement was made by the Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley during a meeting with Prime Minister Modi on 20th November last year, held on the **sidelines of the 2nd India-CARICOM Leaders' Summit** in Georgetown, Guyana. Prime Minister Mottley acknowledged the vital role played by **Prime Minister Modi in strengthening international cooperation** and support during the unprecedented situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Asia's Largest Literature Festival 'Sahityaotsav'

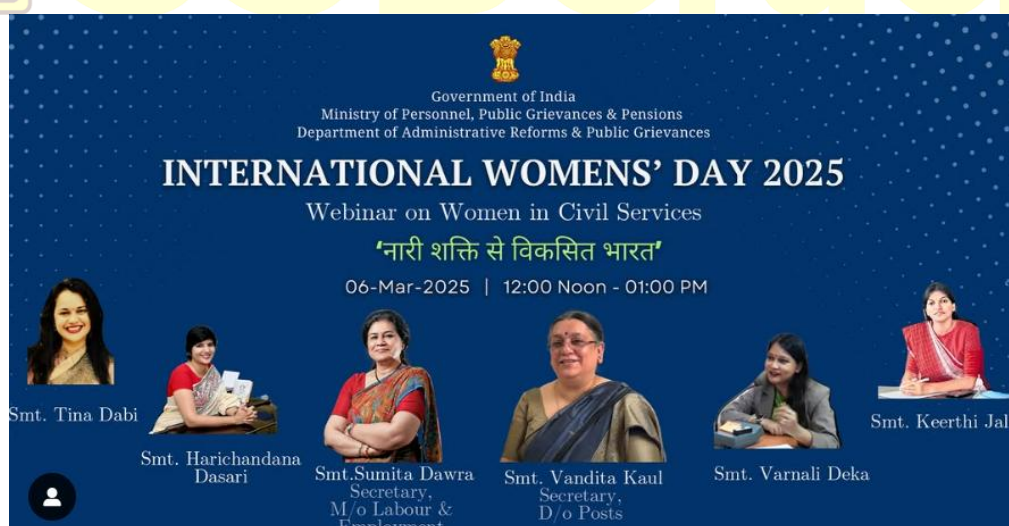
- Sahitya Akademi will organize its annual Festival of Letters, **Sahityaotsav, Asia's Largest Literature Festival**. This six-day event will be inaugurated by the Union Minister for Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi.



- **Over 700 writers from different parts of the country**, representing more than 50 languages, will participate in the festival. In the festival, the prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Awards will be presented in 23 languages**. This event will feature nearly 120 sessions.
- The theme of this festival is **Indian Literary Traditions**. It will feature Young Writers, Women Writers, North East and Tribal writers, LGBTQ writers and poets, alongside renowned writers, translators, publishers, poets, and distinguished personalities from various fields.
- Throughout the festival, there will be presentations, readings and discussions by eminent authors, poets, translators, publishers and critics on a wide range of subjects. The **Festival of Letters is open and free for all literary lovers** and those who wish to experience the flavour of India's longest-running Literature Festival.

## “Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat” Conference

- President Droupadi Murmu will **inaugurate a national conference in New Delhi on International Women's Day** on the 8th of this month. The Conference is being organised on the **theme of “Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat”** by the Women and Child Development Ministry.



- Women from **various fields will participate in the event**, including officers from the armed forces and paramilitary forces, Delhi police, My Bharat volunteers, Anganwadi Workers, ASHA workers and Self Help Group members.
- The event will also mark the presence of **representatives from international organisations** such as the World Bank, UNICEF, United Nations Women, UNDP and UNFPA. A social media campaign with the **hashtag “SheBuildsBharat”** is

also being organised. Minister for Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi said that the **day provides an opportunity to discuss** the multi-faceted development of women and remove the obstacles to achieving this.

## Wallace Line & Biodiversity

- **Wallace Line is concept in biogeography.** It marks the distinct biodiversity found in Asia and Australia. This line was identified by **Alfred Russel Wallace** in the late 19th century. He observed a sharp **contrast in species composition** between these two regions.
- The Wallace Line runs between **Bali and Lombok**, extending north between **Borneo and Sulawesi**, and **curves south of Mindanao**. This geographical barrier has deep implications for the distribution of species. Wallace conducted extensive **research over eight years**.



- He noted a dramatic **shift in animal species as he crossed the Wallace Line**. On either side of the line, different organisms thrived. For instance, **Australia is known for its marsupials**, while **Asia is home to a diverse range of mammals**.
- Wallace's observations laid the groundwork for **modern biogeography**. **Sulawesi is particularly intriguing**. It is home to species not found anywhere else, such as tarsiers and the anoa.
- **Despite being close to Borneo, the island supports distinct flora and fauna**. Wallace struggled to **classify Sulawesi's species**. He recognised their affiliations with various regions, **including Africa and India**. This complexity raises questions about species migration and adaptation.

## 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize

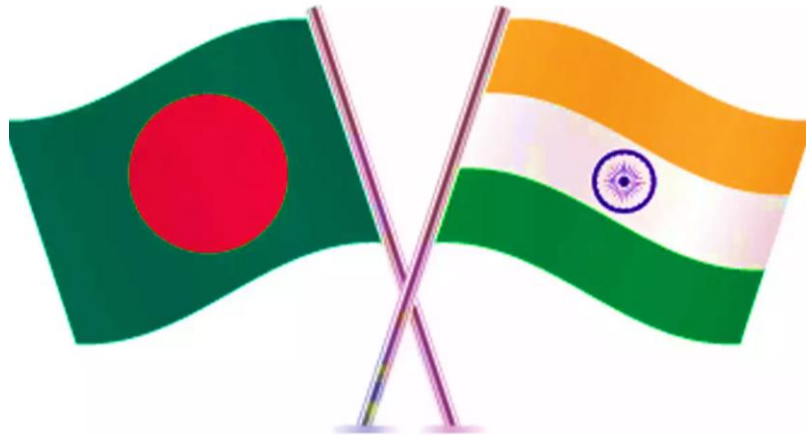
- **Chinese architect and educator Liu Jiakun** has won the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the most important award in architecture. This prize honors him for **combining traditional Chinese styles with modern design** and for his efforts to create fair and inclusive spaces.



- **Jiakun, who was born** and still works in Chengdu, China, is the second Chinese architect to receive this award after Wang Shu in 2012.
- Previous winners include **Riken Yamamoto (2024), David Chipperfield (2023), and Francis Kéré (2022)**.
- Liu, 68, becomes the **54th laureate of the prize, considered** akin to a Nobel in the field of architecture. The award ceremony will take place this spring at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, designed by Jean Nouvel.

## Ganga Water Treaty

- **Ganga Water Treaty, signed in 1996, will expire in 2026.** This upcoming meeting between India and Bangladesh is crucial for future water-sharing agreements. **Bangladesh seeks a larger share of dry-season water**, denoting severe shortages affecting agriculture.

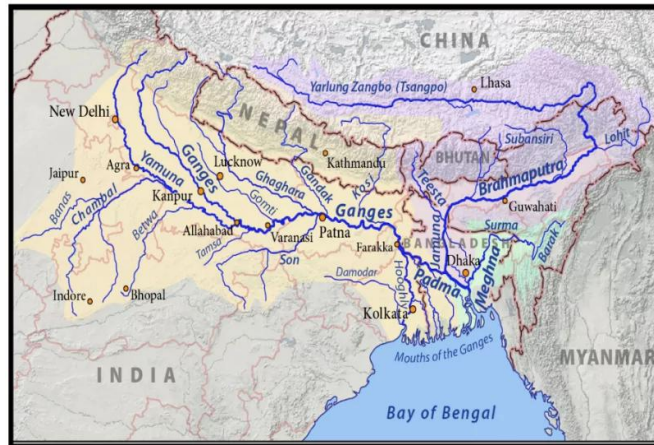


- The backdrop includes rising tensions following political changes in Bangladesh and unresolved disputes over **water-sharing, notably the Teesta River**. The Ganga River has been a source of conflict between India and Bangladesh for decades. The **Farakka Barrage, operational since 1975**, was built to manage water flow but intensified disputes.



- The treaty established a framework for sharing water, recognising Bangladesh as a lower riparian state. It **aims to balance the needs of both countries** while addressing historical grievances. The treaty outlines specific water-sharing formulas based on the Ganga's flow at the Farakka Barrage during the dry season.





- If water availability is 70,000 cusecs or less, both countries receive equal shares. The treaty also guarantees minimum water flow for both nations during critical periods. A Joint Rivers Commission was formed to oversee compliance and resolve disputes.

## World Sustainable Development Summit 2025

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025 in New Delhi.



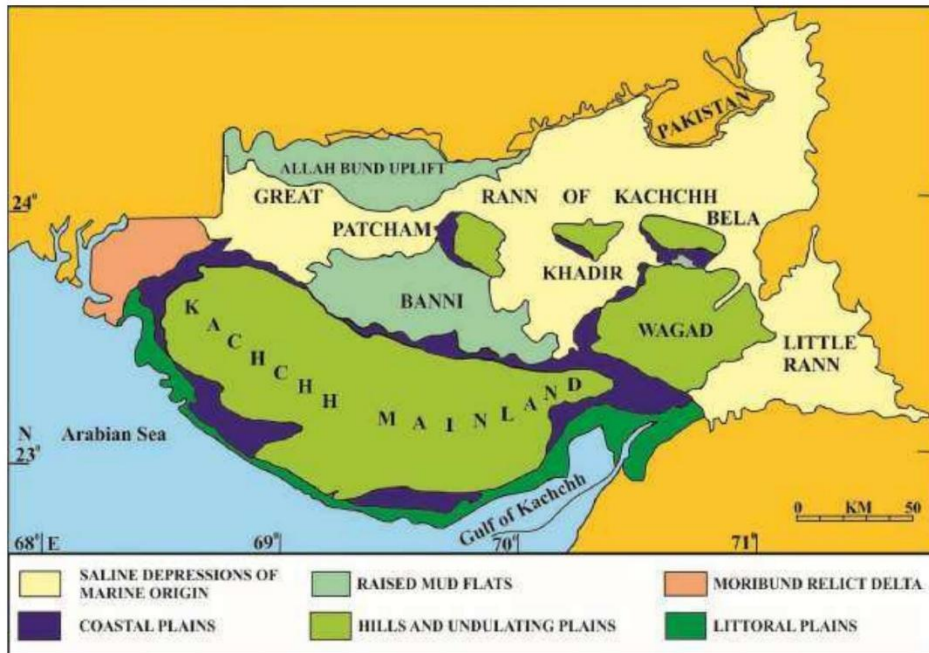
- The summit-themed **Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions** was Organised by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.
- The event was attended by distinguished dignitaries, including **Prime Minister of Guyana**, Brigadier Mark Phillip, and Brazil's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Marina Silva, were present at the event.

## Cheetah Reintroduction Plan

- After Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, cheetah introduction will be expanded to Banni Grasslands in Gujarat and Gandhisagar Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh.
- African cheetahs were reintroduced at Kuno National Park in two batches in September 2022 and February 2023. **Banni Grasslands is a 2,500 sq km protected forest in the Kutch district** of Gujarat that supports numerous animal genetic resources like Banni buffalo, Kankrej cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and horses.

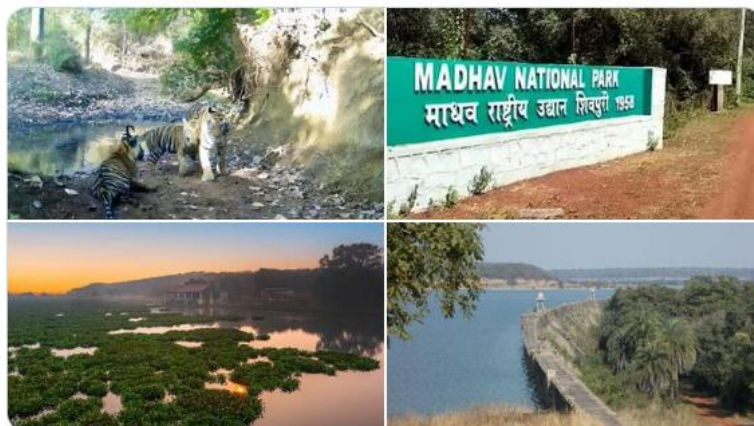


- The grassland is a breeding and nesting ground for more than 250 bird species, including resident and winter migratory birds. **Gandhisagar Sanctuary in eastern Madhya Pradesh** spreads over Mandsaur and Neemuch districts. It is known as **Nimar region, with borders touching Rajasthan** and is more or less dry.
- The sanctuary is spread over the area surrounding Gandhisagar dam backwater, and is known for some rare wildlife species like wild dogs (dholes), chinkaras, leopards, otters and crocodiles.
- Under the **“Action Plan for Reintroduction of Cheetah in India”**, around 50 cheetahs are estimated to be brought from African countries to various national parks over five years.



## Madhav National Park

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav has announced that **Madhav National Park of Madhya Pradesh** has become the country's 58th Tiger Reserve. It is also the 9th Tiger Reserve in the State. In a social media post, Mr Yadav said, with **historic emphasis laid on restoring** the ecological diversity on planet Earth by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India continues to make great strides in environmental protection and wildlife conservation.



- Madhav Tiger Reserve , **A tiger safari spread over an area of 100 hectares** has also been planned, with an **infrastructure investment of Rs 20 crore**, which is expected to boost ecotourism and the local economy.

- At present, **there are 8 major tiger reserves** in the state ( Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura, Sanjay Dubri, Ratapani and Nauradehi Tiger Reserve ).
- Ratapani is the eighth tiger reserve .

## ‘Project Hifazat’

- **Punjab launched ‘Project Hifazat’**, a transformative initiative aimed at boosting support for women and children facing violence. The project was unveiled on the eve of International Women’s Day.
- **This initiative seeks to create a comprehensive response** mechanism to address domestic violence and harassment, ensuring a safer environment for victims to report abuse.
- The **primary goal of Project Hifazat is to eliminate the fear that** prevents victims from seeking help. It aims to provide an integrated support system for women and children in distress. The project focuses on enhancing last-mile connectivity, ensuring that victims have immediate access to assistance. The **project features a 24×7 helpline, number 181**, which categorises calls into emergency, non-emergency, and informational.



- Emergency cases are directly transferred to the **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112) for swift action**. This structured approach ensures that urgent situations are prioritised. **Project Hifazat promotes collaboration** among various departments, including social security, health, and the Punjab police. This coordination facilitates efficient rescue operations, legal assistance, medical aid, and psycho-social support for victims.



- The involvement of multiple agencies enhances the overall support network for those in need. **Victims can access One Stop Centres (OSCs) and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs)** for non-emergency cases. These facilities provide psychological counselling, legal aid, and rehabilitation services. Additionally, information on shelter homes and welfare schemes is made available to empower victims.
- **A state-of-the-art control room in Chandigarh** manages helpline traffic and monitors the effectiveness of the initiative. This facility generates reports to evaluate the project's impact and ensure that no victim remains unheard or unsupported.
- **Project Hifazat aims to strengthen the implementation of key laws**, such as the Domestic Violence Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. By enhancing legal and social support, the initiative encourages a safer society for women and children.

## Glass- Ceiling Index 2025

- **2025 Glass-Ceiling Index reveals** that while significant improvements have been made globally, disparities still persist. This year, Sweden has reclaimed its position as the **best country for working women, surpassing Iceland**, which held the top spot for the past two years. Meanwhile, countries like Japan, Turkey, and South Korea continue to struggle due to entrenched societal norms and wage gaps.
- **The year 2024 was remarkable for women's participation** in politics. According to the OECD, the average women's parliamentary representation rose to 34%, a testament to global efforts toward gender inclusivity.

- Japan saw a substantial increase in representation, jumping from 10% to 16%.
- **Britain experienced notable growth**, with representation rising from 35% to 41%. The United States, however, witnessed a slight decline, with female parliamentary representation falling to 28.7%.
- This data highlights the evolving role of women in governance, though many nations still lag behind in achieving gender parity in politics.
- On the economic front, the **percentage of women on corporate boards reached 33%, reflecting** a growing acceptance of gender diversity in leadership roles. Additionally, the labour-force participation rate for women increased to 66.6%, **up from 65.8% in the previous year**. However, this figure remains significantly lower **compared to the 81% male participation rate**.
- Despite these **advancements, women continue to** face obstacles such as wage disparities, unequal career advancement opportunities, and underrepresentation in top managerial positions.

## LIC Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has been ranked third among the world's strongest insurance brands, achieving a **Brand Strength Index (BSI)** score of 88 out of 100, as per the Brand Finance Insurance 100 2025 report.
- **Poland-based PZU secured the top spot** with a BSI score of 94.4, followed by China Life Insurance, which ranked second with a BSI score of 93.5.
- In terms of overall brand value, LIC holds the 12th position among the most valuable insurance brands globally, **while SBI Life ranks 76th**, making them the only two Indian insurers in the top 100.



- As per the **Brand Finance report, the top 100 insurance brands** have grown 9 per cent in brand value in 2025, driven by improved underwriting results, higher investment income, rising interest rates, and increased profitability.

## Swavalambini, Women Entrepreneurship Programme

- Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in collaboration with NITI Aayog has launched the **Swavalambini initiative to promote women entrepreneurship** in the country.
- The Swavalambini initiative at the Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, was launched by Union Minister (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education Jayant Chaudhary.



- This initiative empowers female students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by providing them with the necessary entrepreneurial mindset, resources, and mentorship **to successfully build and scale their ventures**.
- The Swavalambini initiative is being implemented by the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and in joint partnership with NITI Aayog. **NIESBUD comes under the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- The **Swavalambini initiative was initially launched** in the Higher Educational Institutions of the Eastern region of the country. It was successfully launched at IIT Bhubaneswar and Utkal University in Odisha; North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong; Kiang Nangbah Government College, Jowai; and Ri Bhoi College in Meghalaya, etc. It is being gradually expanded to other parts of the country.

## PM Modi Receives Highest National Award Of Mauritius

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the **first Indian to receive a highest civilian award of Mauritius**, Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.
- Mauritius **Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam** made the announcement during an Indian diaspora event in Port Louis this evening. The honour also adds to Mr Modi's growing list of international accolades, making it the 21st such recognition.



- Prime Minister Modi thanked the people and the government of Mauritius for giving him the country's highest civilian honour. He said, this is not just an honour for him, but an honour for the historic bond between India and Mauritius. **Mr Modi said, the deep-rooted cultural connection between** the two countries is evident in the warmth of the diaspora. In a special gesture, Prime Minister Modi also announced the issuance of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards to his Mauritian counterpart Navin Ramgoolam and his spouse Veena Ramgoolam.
- **Mauritius Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister Modi** and the Government of India for granting OCI cards to the seventh generation of Indian descent. The community event was **attended by more than 3,500 people, including** members of the Mauritius Cabinet, government officials, and National Assembly members. Later tonight, Prime Minister Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with his Mauritian counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam.



## Financial Grant Scheme For Young Artists

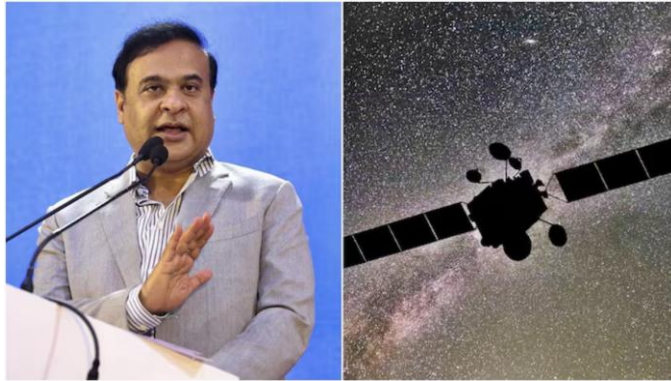
- Ministry of Culture is implementing a **financial grant Scheme by the name of 'Scholarships to Young Artists in Different Cultural Fields (SYA)'** to support young artists specialising in various cultural fields such as classical dance forms, indigenous artwork and other traditional art-forms for undergoing advanced training in their respective fields.



- Under this scheme component, a **Scholarship of Rs. 5,000/- per month** is provided upto a maximum of **400 Scholars for a period of 02 years** in four equal six-monthly instalments. The selected scholars should be in the age group of 18 years to 25 years and have been undergoing training under any Guru or Institution for a minimum of 5 years.
- The **Scholars are selected on the basis of their performance** in a personal interview / interaction before an Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry.

## Assam To Launch Its Satellite

- Assam state government has announced plans to launch its own satellite, **ASSAMSAT soon, aiming to strengthen** data access for key socio-economic initiatives and enhance border surveillance.



- The **ASSAMSAT satellite** can help providing dedicated services for agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure development, and security border management and police operations. **The satellite will be set up in collaboration with IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center)** which promotes private investment and innovation in the space sector and Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro).

## RBIH Launches DesignShaala

- **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** has launched DesignShaala an initiative aimed at promoting **financial innovation through Human-Centered Design (HCD)**. The program was launched by Nandan Nilekani, Chairman and Co-Founder of Infosys, **during the 'Building for Billions' event in Bengaluru.**



- DesignShaala is designed to ensure financial solutions are built around real user needs, behaviors, and **experiences, making finance more intuitive**, inclusive, and impactful. The initiative aims to empower financial innovators to develop solutions that go beyond functionality and deliver truly transformative user experiences.



## Ramsar Award For 'Wetland Wise Use'

- **Jayshree Vencatesan, co-founder of Care Earth Trust**, recently made history as the first Indian to receive the Ramsar Award for 'Wetland Wise Use'. This prestigious global accolade recognises exceptional contributions to sustainable wetland management.
- The announcement coincided with **International Women's Day**, denoting the role of women in environmental conservation. Vencatesan was one of twelve women honoured for their impactful work in wetland preservation.



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XAMS

- **Ramsar Awards celebrate individuals and organisations** dedicated to the sustainable management of wetlands. Established under the Convention on Wetlands, these awards aim to encourage wise use of wetland resources. The award categories include 'wise use of wetlands', 'innovation', and 'influencing policy'. Vencatesan has dedicated decades to the conservation of India's wetlands.
- Her efforts focus particularly on the Pallikaranai Marsh in Chennai. She began her journey with a **modest budget of \$350 and a vision to protect marshlands** often regarded as wastelands. Her work has documented the rich biodiversity of **Pallikaranai Marsh**, which is **home to over 337 species of flora** and fauna.



- Leading an all-women research team, Vencatesan has not only protected wetlands but also inspired the next generation of female conservationists. She emphasises **the importance of equipping women with technical skills** and decision-making roles in wetland management. This approach encourages inclusivity and enhances conservation efforts.



- **Vencatesan faces numerous challenges in her conservation efforts.** She notes that complex legal and bureaucratic issues can hinder restoration projects. For example, outdated land titles and user rights can obstruct progress. These challenges highlight the need for streamlined processes in wetland management.
- The **concept of 'wise use' is central to the Ramsar Convention.** It refers to maintaining the ecological character of wetlands while promoting sustainable development. Contracting Parties to the Convention commit to implementing

national policies and public education to achieve wise use. This ensures the conservation of wetland ecosystems and the services they provide.

## What Is Geet Gawai

- The recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Mauritius brought into light the **enduring cultural ties between India and the island nation**. The Prime Minister was welcomed with a traditional Bhojpuri performance known as Geet Gawai. This event puts stress on the rich heritage that the Indian diaspora has maintained in Mauritius.



- **Geet Gawai is not just a performance** but a vital expression of identity for many Mauritians of Indian descent. Geet Gawai is a **traditional Bhojpuri musical ensemble**. It is performed mainly by women and is integral to various life events, particularly weddings. The performance begins with invocations to deities and involves singing uplifting songs.



- This tradition has been recognised by **UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since December 2016**. The roots of Geet Gawai in Mauritius trace back to the arrival of Indian indentured labourers.
- From **1834 to the early 1900s, around five lakh Indians** were brought to Mauritius. Many were from the Bhojpuri-speaking regions of India. Their cultural practices, including Geet Gawai, have been preserved and celebrated over generations.

## ISRO Earns \$143 Million From Foreign Satellite Launch

- ISRO has generated nearly **143 million US dollars** in foreign exchange revenue through satellite launches. The **Department of Space said that ISRO** launched a total of **393 foreign satellites and 3 Indian customer satellites** on a commercial basis over the past decade.



- **Between January 2015 and December 2024**, these satellites were successfully launched aboard **ISRO's PSLV, LVM3, and SSLV launch vehicles**. ISRO's impressive track record includes launching satellites for **34 countries**, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Singapore, and several other developed nations.

## 1 Billion Dollar Fund For Creators' Economy

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced a **1 billion-dollar fund for the creator's economy** as part of the World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025.
- The event to be held in **Mumbai from May 1 to 4**, will give creators community a platform to create high value content. Mr. Vaishnaw was speaking at a high-level session on WAVES 2025 organised in New Delhi.



- The session, organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, sought to engage the **international community ahead of the WAVES 2025**. Mr. Vaishnaw also informed that the **first Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)** will be established near Film City in **Goregaon, Mumbai**.
- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar said WAVES** will serve as a pivotal platform for fostering discussions, collaboration, and innovation in the media and entertainment industry. He noted that the **event will unite industry leaders**, stakeholders, and innovators to explore opportunities, address challenges, and shape the future of the sector.

## SpaceX & NASA

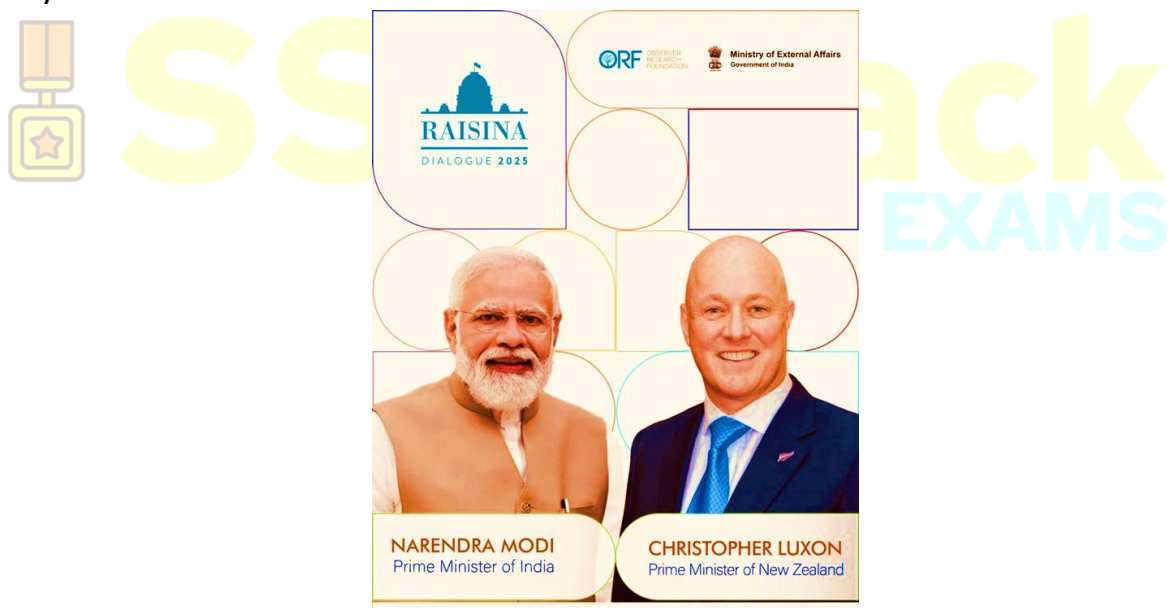
- **SpaceX and NASA have launched a mission** to bring back US astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore from the International Space Station (ISS), where they have been stranded for nine months.
- The lift-off took place last night with a **Falcon 9 rocket** carrying a Dragon spacecraft on the **Crew-10 mission**. The mission also launched **four crew members to the ISS**: NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos wcosmonaut Kirill Peskov to the International Space Station.



- **Crew-10 is the 10th crew rotation mission** under SpaceX's human space transportation system and the 11th flight with a crew aboard to the ISS station through NASA's Commercial Crew Program, including the Demo-2 test flight. Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore have been stranded on the ISS for nine months after reaching there in June last year.
- They were supposed to stay there for about a week. **As test pilots for 'Boeings new Starliner capsule.** Wilmore and Williams expected to be gone just a week or so when they launched from Cape Canaveral on June 5. A series of helium leaks and thruster failures marred their trip to the space station, setting off months of investigation by NASA and Boeing on how best to proceed.

## 10th Edition Of Raisina Dialogue In New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **10th edition of Raisina Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi**. Prime Minister of New Zealand, Christopher Luxon, will join the **inaugural session as the Chief Guest**, and deliver the keynote address.



- The three-day Raisina Dialogue will be held from today till 19th March. The theme this year is **“Kālachakra – People, Peace and Planet”**. During the event, decision makers and thought leaders of the world will engage each other across conversations in various formats, over six thematic pillars.
- **These include Politics Interrupted:** Shifting Sands and Rising Tides; Resolving the Green Trilemma: Who, Where, and How, and Digital Planet: Agents, Agencies and Absences.





- **10th Raisina Dialogue will witness participation of representatives** from about 125 countries. The participants include Ministers, former Heads of State and Heads of Government, Military Commanders, Captains of Industry, Technology Leaders, Academics, Journalists, Scholars on Strategic Affairs, Experts from leading Think Tanks, and Youth. Over 3500 participants will be joining the Dialogue in-person, and the proceedings will be viewed by millions across the world on various digital platforms.
- The **Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics** and geoeconomics committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community. Every year, leaders in politics, business, media, and civil society converge in New Delhi to discuss the state of the world and explore opportunities for cooperation on a wide range of contemporary matters.

## Fit India Carnival In New Delhi

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** along with Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Khadse will inaugurate the first-ever **Fit India Carnival at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium** in New Delhi this evening. **Several Bollywood stars, Wrestler**, Fitness enthusiast and Wellness guru will also grace the inauguration ceremony.



- The Fit India Carnival, a three-day fitness and wellness festival, to take place from today, aims to promote a healthy and active lifestyle, aligning with the **Fit India Movement's vision** of a fitter, healthier, and obesity-free nation. A host of sports activities including rope skipping, stationary cycling, arm wrestling, cricket bowling, squat and push-up challenges, etc will be the highlights over the three days at the Fit India carnival.
- During the carnival, Sports Authority of India **National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR)** will provide assessments related to nutritionists and psychologists, free of cost to people visiting the carnival.

## Digital Transformation Award 2025

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commended the **Reserve Bank of India for being selected for the Digital Transformation Award 2025** by **Central Banking, London, UK**. In a social media post, Mr. Modi said this accomplishment reflects an emphasis towards innovation and efficiency in governance. He added that Digital innovation continues to strengthen India's financial ecosystem and empower countless lives.



## Prime Minister's Internship Scheme

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to launch a dedicated app for the **Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS)**. The launch, aims to enhance participation by **facilitating easier registration** for the second round of the scheme, which accepts applications until March 31.
- The app seeks to address the **challenge of limited computer** access by leveraging the widespread use of mobile phones, which offer a user-friendly alternative for many applicants. In tandem with the app launch, a facilitation centre **dedicated to PMIS will be established in Kolkata**.
- This centre is a collaborative effort between the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** and the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**. The CII, which operates 47 model career centres, will integrate PMIS cells to mobilise candidates and provide necessary guidance.

A poster for the PM Internship Scheme 2024. It features a portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the right side. The text on the poster includes:

**PM Internship Scheme 2024**

Providing internship opportunities to 1 crore youth in top 500 companies over 5 years

**Launch Date:** October 3, 2024

**Internship Opportunities:** 1 crore youth across 500 top companies

**Monthly Stipend:** ₹5,000 / month for selected interns for one year

**Portal Opening for Candidates:** October 12, 2024

Online Portal: [pminternship.mca.gov.in](http://pminternship.mca.gov.in)

## Chandrayaan- 5 Mission Approved

- India's space ambitions have reached new heights with the approval of the **Chandrayaan-5 mission**, announced by **ISRO Chairman V Narayanan** on March 16, 2025. This mission will be executed in collaboration with Japan and aims to conduct an advanced study of the Moon's surface. Unlike Chandrayaan-3, which carried the **25 kg rover 'Pragyan'**, Chandrayaan-5 will deploy a **heavier 250 kg rover**, enhancing India's lunar exploration capabilities.

Mission	Year	Key Achievement	Status
Chandrayaan-1	2008	Discovered water molecules on the Moon	Successful
Chandrayaan-2	2019	Orbiter successful, lander crashed	Partial Success
Chandrayaan-3	2023	First successful soft landing on Moon's south pole	Successful
Chandrayaan-4	2027 (expected)	Lunar soil sample collection and return to Earth	Upcoming
Chandrayaan-5	2028 (expected)	Advanced surface study with a 250 kg rover	Upcoming

## Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- Government has approved the **revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission** to boost growth in the livestock sector. The implementation of the revised mission is being carried out with an **additional outlay of one thousand crore rupees**.
- Briefing the media in New Delhi on the Union Cabinet's decisions, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that the scheme is set to **significantly enhance milk production and productivity**, thereby increasing farmers' incomes.



- The Cabinet also approved the revised **National Program for Dairy Development**. Mr Vaishnaw said this initiative focuses on modernizing and expanding dairy infrastructure, **ensuring the sector’s sustained growth and productivity**.
- The Union cabinet has also approved an incentive scheme for the promotion of low-value **BHIM-UPI transactions**. Minister Vaishnaw said, the scheme will enable small merchants to avail of UPI services at no additional cost. He said an incentive at the **rate of 0.15 per cent per transaction value** will be provided for transactions up to two thousand rupees to small merchants.

CABINET DECISION 19-03-2025

### Incentive scheme for promotion of low-value BHIM-UPI transactions Person to Merchant (P2M)

- The scheme will be implemented at an estimated outlay of **1,500 crore** for the FY 2024-25
- The scheme covers only the **UPI (P2M) transactions upto 2,000/-** for Small Merchants
- Incentive at the rate of **0.15% per transaction** value will be provided for transactions upto **₹ 2,000** for Small Merchants

1/2

CABINET DECISION 19-03-2025

### Incentive scheme for promotion of low-value BHIM-UPI transactions Person to Merchant (P2M)

Category	Small Merchant	Large Merchant
Up to ₹ 2k	Zero MDR / Incentive (@0.15%)	Zero MDR / No Incentive
Over ₹ 2k	Zero MDR / No Incentive	Zero MDR / No Incentive



**Objective:**

- Promotion of indigenous BHIM-UPI platform
- Achieving the target of 20,000 crore total transaction volume in FY 2024-25
- Building a robust and secure digital payments infrastructure
- Penetration of UPI in tier 3 to 6 cities, especially in rural & remote

2/2

- Mr Vaishnaw also informed us that the government has decided to set up a new **Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex Fertilizer Plant** within the existing premises of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited at Namrup in Assam. He said the project will increase the domestic Urea production capacity in the country, especially in the North-Eastern region and meet the growing demand for Urea fertilizers of North East, Bihar, West Bengal, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

**CABINET APPROVES  
NEW BROWNFIELD AMMONIA-UREA  
COMPLEX NAMRUP IV FERTILIZER PLANT**

-  New plant to be **set up** within **existing premises** of **BVFCL\***, **Namrup** in Assam
-  Estimated total project cost: **₹10,600 crore+**
-  **Annual capacity of urea production:**  
**12.7 Lakh Metric Tonnes**



SSB Crack  
EXAMS

## India AI Mission & Bill Gates Foundation

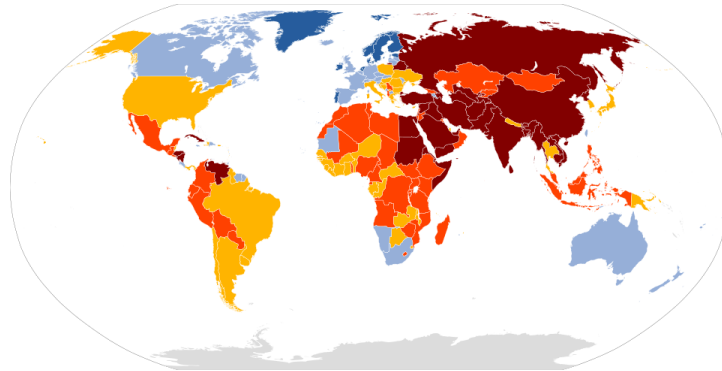
- **Minister of Electronics and Information Technology** Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed soon between **India AI mission and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**. Mr Vaishnaw made this remark after meeting the founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates in New Delhi.



- Mr Vaishnav emphasised the AI solutions for better crops, stronger healthcare, smarter education and climate resilience. Minister of Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda also held a meeting with Mr Gates. During the meeting, Mr Nadda acknowledged the **Foundation’s valuable support in strengthening health systems** and driving impactful initiatives. In a social media post, Mr Nadda said that they discussed the remarkable progress India has achieved in healthcare, particularly in maternal health, immunization, and sanitation, through collaboration with the Foundation.
- The two sides also look forward to **renewing their Memorandum of Cooperation, furthering the shared commitment** to ensuring affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare for all citizens.

## India’s Free Speech Ranking In Global Index

- A recent global survey by the **U.S.-based think tank The Future of Free Speech** ranked **India 24th out of 33 countries** in its Free Speech Index. The survey, conducted in October 2024, found that although free speech support in India has declined since 2021, a majority of Indians believe it has improved. The report, titled **“Who in the World Supports Free Speech?”**, highlights the gap between public perception and actual protections for free speech in India, alongside broader global trends showing democratic backsliding in various nations.



- Ranking & Score: India ranked 24th out of 33 countries, scoring 62.6, placing it between South Africa (66.9) and Lebanon (61.8).
- Public Perception vs. Reality: Indians believe free speech has improved, but global rankings and observations suggest a decline.

## 'Shishtachar' Squad

- To enhance women's safety in public spaces, the Delhi Police has launched 'Shishtachar' squads across all districts. These **anti-eve-teasing squads** aim to curb harassment through active patrolling, surprise checks, and public outreach. Supervised by senior officials, the initiative focuses on prevention, intervention, and victim assistance to create a secure environment for women in the capital. Each district will have at least two squads.



- Supervised by the ACP of the Crime Against Women (CAW) cell in the respective district. Squad Composition
- 1 Inspector & 1 Sub-Inspector.
- 4 Female officers & 5 Male officers.



- 1 Technical personnel from the anti-auto theft squad for surveillance support.

## India Innovation Summit

- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **Anupriya Patel has inaugurated the India Innovation Summit – Pioneering Solutions to End TB**, at Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre. The Summit was organized jointly by the **Department of Health Research-Indian Council of Medical Research (DHR-ICMR) and the Central TB Division (CTD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.**



- The summit aims to accelerate India's progress towards **TB elimination by 2025**. The Program is steadily progressing towards the goal of eliminating TB by 2025. The number of missing cases has been **reduced from 15 lakh in 2015 to 2.5 lakhs in 2023**. The programme was able to notify 25.5 lakh TB and 26.07 lakh cases in 2023 and 2024-the highest ever.
- A shorter and safer oral Bedaquiline-containing drug resistant TB treatment regimen has been rolled out across all State/ UTs that has improved treatment success rates of drug-resistant **TB patients from 68% in 2020 to 75% in 2022**.

## Criteria For Classifying MSMEs

- The government has notified significant revisions to **turnover and investment criteria for classifying MSMEs** that will take effect from April 1. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with **investments up to 2.5 crore rupees** will now be classified as micro-enterprises, from the previous threshold of 1 crore rupees.

- The turnover limit has been **revised from 5 crore rupees to 10 crore rupees**. Units with investments up to 25 crore rupees will be classified as small enterprises, from the earlier 10 crore rupees. The turnover limit for such enterprises has been doubled from **50 crore rupees to 100 crore rupees**.
- **MSMEs with investments up to 125 crore rupees** will now be classified as medium enterprises, from the earlier limit of 50 crore rupees. For medium enterprises, the turnover limit has been doubled to 500 crore rupees.

### New MSME Classification Criteria as per Union Budget 2025

ENTERPRISE CATEGORY	CURRENT INVESTMENT LIMIT	REVISED INVESTMENT LIMIT	CURRENT TURNOVER LIMIT	REVISED TURNOVER LIMIT
MICRO ENTERPRISE	₹1 crore	₹2.5 crore	₹5 crore	₹10 crore
SMALL ENTERPRISE	₹10 crore	₹25 crore	₹50 crore	₹100 crore
MEDIUM ENTERPRISE	₹50 crore	₹125 crore	₹250 crore	₹500 crore



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## India's Goli Soda Goes Global

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has announced the global resurgence of the traditional Indian Goli Soda, **rebranded as Goli Pop Soda**. The Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement that this iconic **beverage is making a remarkable comeback** on the global stage, driven by its innovative reinvention and strategic international expansion.



- The product has already made strong inroads in global markets, with successful trial shipments to the US, UK, Europe, and Gulf countries. A strategic partnership with **Fair Exports India** has ensured steady deliveries to **Lulu Hypermarket**, one of the largest retail chains in the Gulf region. Thousands of bottles have been stocked across Lulu outlets, receiving an overwhelmingly positive response.
- In the UK, **Goli Pop Soda** has swiftly evolved into a cultural phenomenon, appealing to consumers who embrace the fusion of traditional Indian flavours with a modern twist. This development represents a significant step in showcasing India's rich beverage heritage on the global stage.

## GI- Tagged Jaggery

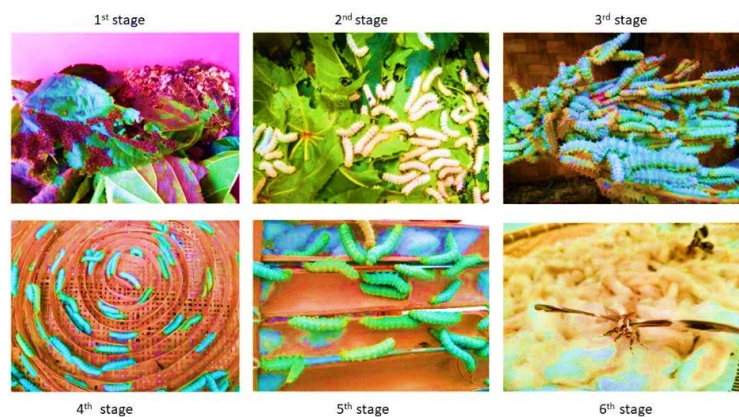
- **GI-tagged jaggery from Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh**, a region renowned for its high-quality sugarcane, was flagged off for export to A consignment of **30 metric tons (MT)** has been exported to Bangladesh.
- This initiative marks the beginning of direct exports of jaggery from western Uttar Pradesh to Bangladesh through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs).



- The superior quality of jaggery produced in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli, which is in high demand in international markets. The **Brijnandan Agro Farmer Producer Company** (FPC), formed in 2023, has 545 members, including two women directors. The **FPO is engaged in exporting jaggery**, sugarcane products, Basmati rice, and pulses. With training and technical support from BEDF, its members are well-equipped to meet international production and export standards.

## Eri Silk

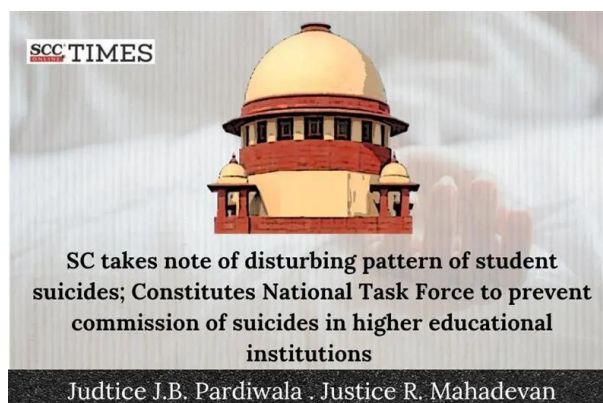
- **North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC)** secured the **prestigious Oeko-Tex certification from Germany** for Eri silk.
- The certification ensures international buyers that **eri silk meets international safety and quality standards**, boosting consumer confidence and facilitating its acceptance in high-end markets.



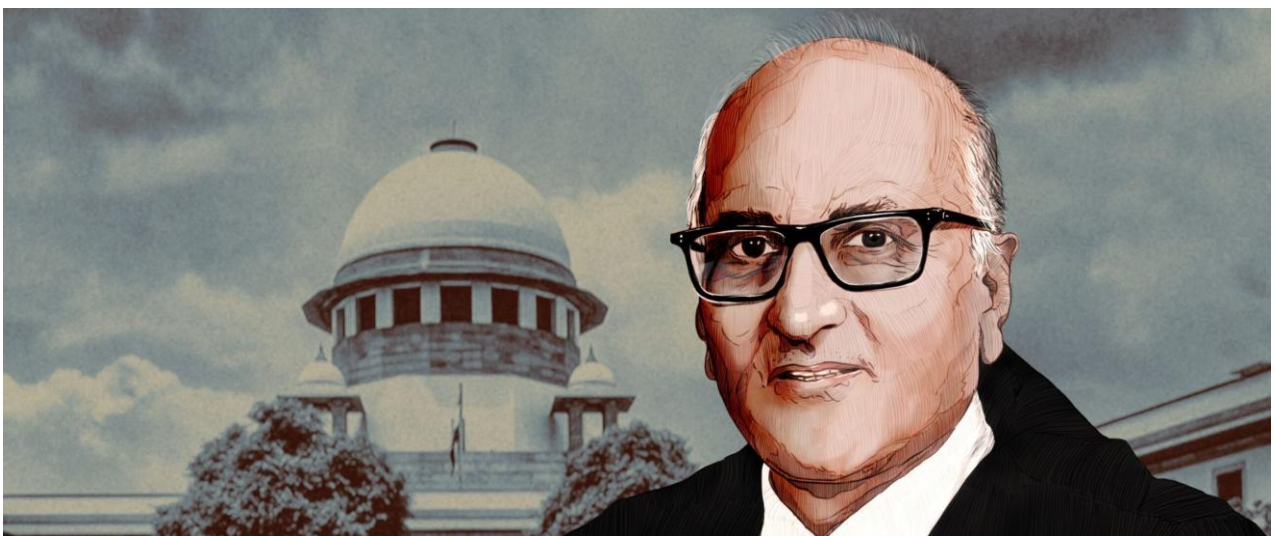
- Known as the **world's only vegan silk**, Eri silk from Northeast India, particularly Assam, is produced ethically without harming silkworms, aligning with global demands for chemical-free, environmentally responsible fabrics.

## National Task Force On Student Mental Health

- **Supreme Court of India established a National Task Force (NTF)** to address the alarming rise in student suicides in higher educational institutions. This decision followed the **tragic deaths of two students** at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, which brought into light the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to mental health in academia.



- The **Supreme Court** noted a **“disturbing pattern”** of suicides among students, particularly in prestigious institutions. In recent years, over 13,000 students have reportedly taken their own lives, with many cases linked to academic pressure, discrimination, and harassment.
- The **NTF will be chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice S. Ravindra Bhat**. It includes members from various sectors such as higher education, social justice, and mental health. The task force aims to identify causes of student suicides and recommend regulatory improvements.



- **The NTF is tasked with preparing a comprehensive report that includes:**
- Identification of predominant causes leading to student suicides.
- Analysis of existing mental health regulations.
- Recommendations for strengthening protections for students
- The NTF is empowered to conduct surprise inspections of educational institutions.
- The court’s ruling also brought into **light issues of caste discrimination** faced by students from marginalised communities. The families of the deceased students alleged that caste-based discrimination contributed to the tragic incidents. The NTF will address these systemic issues as part of its mandate.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. When Will The Geological Survey Of India Celebrate Its 175th Foundation Day**

- A. 1st March 2025
- B. 2nd March 2025
- C. 3rd March 2025
- D. 4th March 2025

**ANSWER: D**

**2. Name Of Sufi Music Festival Praised By PM Modi For Its 25-year Journey**

- A. Ruhaniyat
- B. Jahan-e-Khusrau
- C. Sufi Sutra
- D. Basant Utsav

**ANSWER: B**

**3. World Wildlife Day 2025 Celebrated On**

- A. 01 March
- B. 02 March
- C. 03 March
- D. 04 March

**ANSWER: C**

**4. What Is The Theme For World NGO Day 2025**

- A. Strengthening Global Partnerships
- B. NGOs for a Better Future
- C. Empowering Grassroots Movements for a Sustainable Future
- D. Innovation in Social Work

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Theme Of World Wildlife Day 2025**

- A. "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet"
- B. "Connecting People and Planet"
- C. Investing in People and Planet"
- D. Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation

**ANSWER: A**

**6. In First Ever Riverine Dolphin Estimation Total Dolphins Found**

- A. 6325
- B. 6327
- C. 6500
- D. 6827

**ANSWER: B**

**7. 12th Regional 3R & Circular Economy Forum Will Be Held In**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Jaipur
- D. Kolkata

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Trump Declared \_\_\_\_ As The Official Language**

- A. French
- B. Latin
- C. English
- D. German

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Which Former US President Introduced Policy Requiring Federal Agencies To Offer Language Assistance To Non-english Speakers**

- A. Ronald Reagan
- B. Bill Clinton
- C. George H.W. Bush
- D. Barak Obama

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Who Holds The Record For Playing The Most Odis In Cricket History**

- A. MS Dhoni
- B. Ricky Ponting
- C. Virat Kohli
- D. Sachin Tendulkar

**ANSWER: D**

**11. Which Team Won The 90th Edition Of The Ranji Trophy**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Vidarbha
- C. Saurashtra
- D. Delhi

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Who Has Been Re-elected As The Chairman Of The Bar Council Of India (BCI) For The Seventh Consecutive Term**

- A. Kapil Sibal
- B. Harish Salve
- C. Manan Kumar Mishra
- D. Ranjan Gogoi

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Who Was Conferred With The Icon Of Excellence Award At The Forbes India Leadership Awards**

- A. Sourav Ganguly
- B. N. Srinivasan
- C. Jay Shah
- D. Rahul Dravid

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Goa

**ANSWER: D**

**15. Taurus KEPD-350 missile is jointly developed by Germany and which country**

- A. Sweden
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. Australia

**ANSWER: A**



**16. Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan Is An Initiative Of Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of AYUSH
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Education

**ANSWER: B**

**17. Jan Aushadhi Diwas Celebrated On**

- A. 6 March
- B. 7 March
- C. 8 March
- D. 9 March

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Ganga Water Treaty Signed In**

- A. 1992
- B. 1995
- C. 1996
- D. 1997

**ANSWER: C**

**19. Where Was The Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025 Organized**

- A. Jakarta, Indonesia
- B. Paris, France
- C. Barcelona, Spain
- D. New Delhi, India

**ANSWER: C**

**20. Which Company Was Responsible For The Blue Ghost Mission 1 Landing On The Moon**

- A. Firefly Aerospace
- B. SpaceX
- C. Blue Origin
- D. NASA

**ANSWER: A**

**21. What Is The Primary Purpose Of The Vantara Initiative**

- A. To promote agriculture
- B. To provide a safe haven for animals
- C. To build a zoo
- D. To construct wildlife tourism parks

**ANSWER: B**

**22. Which Country Has Emerged As A Leading Global Wealth Hub With The Largest Population Of High Net-worth Individuals**

- A. United Kingdom
- B. USA
- C. Australia
- D. India

**ANSWER: B**

**23. Which Ministry Is Responsible For Launching Model Women- Friendly Gram Panchayats**

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

**ANSWER: C**

**24. Which Two New Locations Have Been Selected For The Expansion Of The Cheetah Introduction Program**

- A. Jim Corbett National Park and Ranthambore National Park
- B. Sundarbans National Park and Gir National Park
- C. Banni Grasslands and Gandhisagar Sanctuary
- D. Kaziranga National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve

**ANSWER: C**

**25. Total Capital Cost Of Kedarnath Major Ropeway Projects In Uttarakhand**

- A. Rs. 3,500 crore
- B. Rs. 4,081 crore
- C. Rs. 5,081 crore
- D. Rs. 2,820 crore

**ANSWER: B**

**26. Which Ministry Launched IndiaAI Compute Portal & Dataset Platform Aikosha**

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C. Ministry of Communications
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

**ANSWER: B**

**27. Who Has Been Announced To Return To The Indian Football Team For FIFA Window Matches**

- A. Sunil Chhetri
- B. Bhaichung Bhutia
- C. Sandesh Jhingan
- D. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

**ANSWER: A**

**28. Who Has Been Announced To Return To The Indian Football Team For FIFA Window Matches**

- A. Sunil Chhetri
- B. Bhaichung Bhutia
- C. Sandesh Jhingan
- D. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

**ANSWER: A**

**29. When Is Justice Joymalya Bagchi Expected To Become Chief Justice Of India**

- A. May 2029
- B. May 2030
- C. May 2031
- D. May 2032

**ANSWER: C**

**30. Name Of Financial Grant Scheme Implemented By Ministry Of Culture To Support Young Artists**

- A. National Talent Scholarship
- B. Young Artists Grant Program
- C. Scholarships to Young Artists in Different Cultural Fields
- D. Traditional Art Development Fund

**ANSWER: C**

**31. What Is Name Of The Satellite That Assam State Government Plans To Launch**

- A. ASSAMNET
- B. ASSAMSAT
- C. ASSAMSPACE
- D. ASSAMVIEW

**ANSWER: B**

**32. Which Of The Following Union Territories Has Achieved 100% Rooftop Solar Installation On Government Buildings**

- A. Puducherry and Daman & Diu
- B. Lakshadweep and Chandigarh
- C. Delhi and Chandigarh
- D. Chandigarh and Daman & Diu

**ANSWER: D**

**33. DesignShala Initiative Launched By**

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry Of Finance
- C. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub
- D. ISRO

**ANSWER: C**

**34. Who Has Been Appointed As Chief Executive Of Indian Banks' Association**

- A. Sunil Mehta
- B. Shaktikanta Das
- C. Atul Kumar Goel
- D. Rajnish Kumar

**ANSWER: C**

**35. Fit India Carnival Will Be Inaugurated In**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bhubaneshwar
- C. Chandigarh
- D. Chennai

**ANSWER: A**

**36. Which Ministry Has Launched The Third Edition Of The PM-YUVA Scheme**

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs

**ANSWER: C**

**37. PM's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors. Which Organization Is Responsible For Implementing PM-YUVA 3.0**

- A. National Book Trust, India
- B. Ministry of Culture
- C. Indian Council of Historical Research
- D. Sahitya Akademi

**ANSWER: A**

**38. Which Banknote Denominations Will Be Issued In The Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series With The New Governor's Signature**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**39. With Which Country Has India Signed An Mou For Cooperation In The Field Of Medical Products Regulation**

- A. Armenia
- B. Russia
- C. France
- D. Japan

**ANSWER: A**

**40. What Is The Wallace Line**

- A. A Political Boundary Between Indonesia And Australia
- B. An Invisible Boundary Separating The Ecozones Of Asia And Australia
- C. A Fault Line Causing Frequent Earthquakes In Southeast Asia
- D. A Trade Route Used In The 19th Century

**ANSWER: B**