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— ACADEMY FOR CIVIL SERVICES —

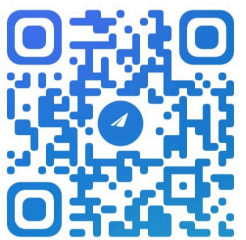
# MONTHLY MAGAZINE

THE ONLY SPECIALIZED CURRENT AFFAIRS  
MAGAZINE FOR APSC CCE

**JUNE  
2025**

## **FEATURES**

- Assam Specific News along with National & International News
- Analysis of The Assam Tribune
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## INDIAN POLITY

### 1. NEW INITIATIVES TO CONSERVE HOOLOCK GIBBONS IN BAREKURI:



- Barekuri in Tinsukia district is known for its community-led conservation of Hoolock Gibbons.
- It gained national attention when the Prime Minister of India shared its story in the August 2024 episode of 'Mann ki Baat'.
- On World Environment Day, Swapneel Paul, District Commissioner of Tinsukia, visited Barekuri to launch key initiatives for Hoolock Gibbon conservation.
- Two years ago, villagers reported frequent gibbon deaths due to electrocution from bare electric transmission lines.
- A project was initiated to convert bare transmission lines into insulated ones, which has now been completed, significantly improving gibbon mobility.
- Two new initiatives were launched by the DC:
  - Creation of a green corridor through tree planting to connect Barekuri with Bherjan-Borajan-Padumoni Wildlife Sanctuary, enabling intermingling of gibbon populations.
  - Distribution of 5,000 fruit-bearing saplings to villagers for planting around homes and streets to provide natural food sources for gibbons, as outside fruits are prohibited.
- A public meeting was held in Barekuri to initiate these projects, with strong participation from the student community.
- The District Commissioner toured the village to observe the gibbons along with conservationists Khireswar Chetia and Diplob Chutia, who have dedicated their lives to the species' protection.

### 2. PM MODI LAUNCHES REFORESTATION DRIVE TO REVIVE ARAVALLI MOUNTAIN RANGE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the World Environment Day celebrations by launching a major reforestation initiative to revive the 700-km-long **Aravalli mountain range**.
- 

- The effort aims to strengthen the region's capacity to **combat climate change**, **reduce air pollution**, and **improve groundwater levels**.
- Modi also announced the expansion of the '**Ek ped Maa ke naam**' campaign, encouraging people to plant saplings in honour of their mothers.
- The **Aravalli Green Wall Project** is central to India's goal of creating an **additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent** and **restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030**.
- The project will establish a **five-km-wide green belt** across **29 districts**, covering **6.45 million hectares** in **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi**.
- Approximately **42% (2.7 million hectares)** of this land is currently degraded.
- The **Aravalli range**, India's oldest mountain range, serves as a natural barrier against **desertification**, protecting cities like **Delhi, Jaipur, and Gurugram** from the spread of the **Thar desert**.
- It is also the source of important rivers such as the **Chambal, Sabarmati, and Luni**, and supports a diverse range of ecosystems including **forests, grasslands, and wetlands** that are home to endangered species.
- The range is currently under stress due to **deforestation, mining, grazing, and encroachment**, which have exacerbated desertification, depleted water sources, and harmed biodiversity.
- Breakdown of degraded land in the Aravalli region:
  - **81% in Rajasthan**
  - **15.8% in Gujarat**
  - **1.7% in Haryana**
  - **1.6% in Delhi**
- The Prime Minister also planted a **sindoor sapling** at his residence, gifted by a group of women who had shown bravery during the **1971 war with Pakistan**.

### 3. GOVT LAUNCHES UMEED PORTAL :



- The government launched the UMEED portal to create a digital inventory after geo-tagging all Waqf properties, marking a historic step towards better utilisation of community-owned Waqf assets for poor Muslims.



- Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju called it a significant move to ensure effective and fair use of these properties, especially benefiting underprivileged Muslims.
- UMEED stands for Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development, and is linked to the Waqf Act, 1995.
- The centralised digital platform enables real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties across the country.
- The initiative is expected to revolutionise Waqf property management and administration in India by introducing transparency and efficiency.
- The portal particularly aims to benefit common Muslims, with a special focus on women and children, through better access and management of Waqf resources.
- Developed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the portal was officially inaugurated in the presence of Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian.
- It reflects the government's commitment to protecting the rights of minority communities and ensuring that Waqf properties serve their original purpose of aiding the poor.
- Key features of the portal include geo-tagging, digital documentation, and an accessible central database to promote transparency, accountability, and public involvement.

#### 4. TRIPURA GOVT INVITES PM MODI TO INAUGURATE REDEVELOPED 524-YR-OLD TEMPLE:



- The Tripura government has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the newly redeveloped Tripura Sundari temple in Gomati district's Udaipur town.
- The temple, one of the 51 Shakti Peethas, has been redeveloped under the Union Tourism Ministry's PRASHAD scheme at a cost of over ₹52 crore, with the Tripura government contributing ₹7 crore.
- The Tripura Sundari temple, built in 1501 by Maharaja Dhanya Manikya, is among eastern India's most revered

shrines, alongside Kalighat in Kolkata and Kamakhya in Guwahati.

- The redevelopment work is nearly complete, and Chief Minister Manik Saha is keen on having the Prime Minister inaugurate it.
- A 51-Shakti Peethas Park, costing ₹97.7 crore, has also been approved for development in Banduar, just 4 km from the Tripura Sundari temple.
- Banduar, a serene village in Gomati district, has been chosen for its tranquil setting and proximity to the temple.
- Mizoram was recognized nationally for leading in voluntary blood donation, with 32,566 out of 34,752 units collected in the last fiscal year given voluntarily.
- At the India Blood Donation NGO Conclave in Jaipur, Mizoram was awarded for having the highest percentage of voluntary donations among Northeastern states.
- Lunglei District Hospital in Mizoram recorded the highest rate of voluntary blood donations.
- Tripura witnessed a rise in tourism, with over 7.5 lakh tourists visiting in 2024–25, up from 6.5 lakh in 2023–24, generating revenue of ₹5.85 crore.
- Under PRASHAD and ADB funding, tourism projects worth ₹350 crore — including eco-tourism initiatives — are being implemented in Tripura.
- Chief Minister Manik Saha has requested financial support from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for a proposed seaplane service at Narikelkunja in Dumboor Lake.
- The tourism department noted that violence in Bangladesh had led to fewer foreign tourists visiting the Northeast in 2023–24.

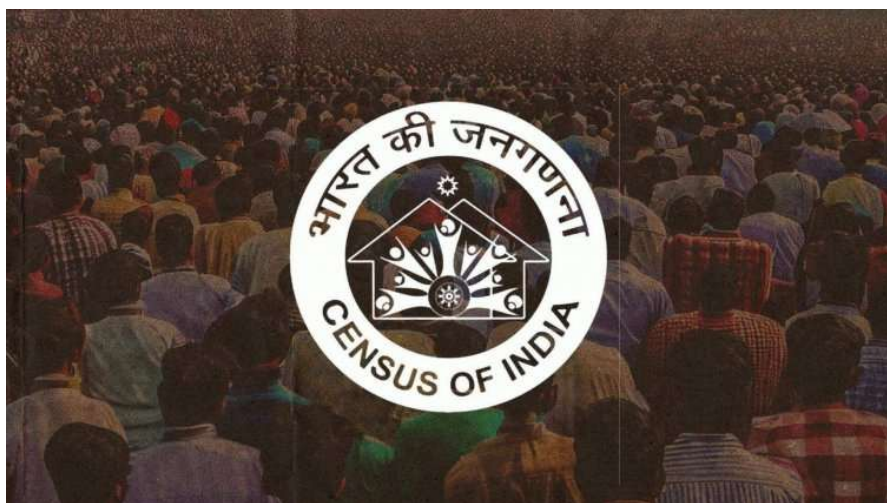
#### 5. CENTRE'S DECISION TO BRING TEA PLANTATION UNDER PURVIEW OF WEATHER INSURANCE SCHEME HAILED:

- Tea growers have welcomed the government's decision to include the tea sector under the **Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)**, viewing it as a major step in mitigating losses caused by erratic weather conditions.
- The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare issued a notification on **June 10**, stating that the scheme will be **implemented from the Kharif 2025 season**.
- States and Union Territories have been asked to **finalize tenders, select insurance companies, and complete other formalities by June 20**, to enable timely access to the scheme for farmers.
- Indian Tea Association (ITA) secretary general Arijit Raha noted that this is **the first time** the tea sector has been brought under a weather-based insurance scheme.
- The tea industry has been facing increasing production challenges due to **erratic rainfall, waterlogging, and rising temperatures exceeding 35°C**, all linked to climate change.



- Raha emphasized that **climate change adaptation and mitigation** have become essential for the sustainability of the tea sector, and called the scheme **a necessity**.
- Bijoy Gopal Chakraborty, president of the Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers (CISTA), stated that the demand for such insurance had been raised **for the past five years**.
- India, the **second-largest tea producer** globally after China, produced **1,382 million kg of tea in 2024**, up from **1,375 million kg in 2023**.
- **Small tea growers** contribute **more than 50%** of the country's total tea production.
- **Assam** is the largest tea-producing state in India, followed by **West Bengal**, and the southern states of **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala**.
- Other tea-growing regions include **Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh**, which produce smaller quantities.

## 6. GOVT ISSUES NOTIFICATION ON CENSUS 2027:



- Sixteen years after the last census in 2011, the government issued a notification for conducting India's 16th census, which will include caste enumeration in 2027.
- The census will be carried out with a reference date of October 1, 2026, in snow-bound areas like Ladakh, and March 1, 2027, in the rest of the country.
- The reference date for the census shall be 00:00 hours of March 1, 2027, except for the Union Territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- In respect of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, the reference date shall be 00:00 hours of October 1, 2026.
- The massive exercise is expected to cost the government over ₹13,000 crore.
- It will be conducted by about 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors, along with around 1.3 lakh census functionaries equipped with digital devices.
- This is the 16th census since the exercise began and the eighth after Independence.
- As per Article 246 of the Constitution, the census is listed at number 69 in the Union List of the Seventh Schedule.
- The census is a decennial activity and the primary source of data collection from all sections of society.

- The upcoming census will include caste enumeration for the first time since Independence.
- The last comprehensive caste-based count was conducted by the British between 1881 and 1931.
- Caste was excluded from all census operations since Independence.
- The decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on April 30.
- In 2010, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured the Lok Sabha that the matter of caste census would be considered in the Cabinet.

## 7. AMIT SHAH LAUNCHES PLATFORMS FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled **three major tech platforms** on Monday to enhance the speed and precision of India's disaster management efforts.
- The platforms launched are:
  - **Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER)**
  - **National Database for Emergency Management Lite 2.0 (NDEM Lite 2.0)**
  - **Flood Hazard Zonation Atlas of Assam**
- The announcement was made during the **two-day annual conference** of relief commissioners, disaster management secretaries, and State Disaster Response Forces.
- The **Flood Hazard Zonation Atlas of Assam** will provide real-time data on floods, their impact, and river water levels to guide flood control efforts and improve flood mitigation strategies.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stated that the **Atlas**, based on satellite analysis of flooding patterns in the state, will:
  - Regulate development in floodplains
  - Promote **flood-resilient agriculture**
  - Support **crop insurance schemes**
  - Aid in the preparation of **disaster management plans**
- The new tech platforms are expected to significantly strengthen India's ability to respond to natural disasters with more coordination, data accuracy, and timely action.



## 8.INDIA NOW HAS 111 NATIONAL WATERWAYS, UP FROM 5 UNDER UPA: SARBANANDA SONOWAL



- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, stated that the number of national waterways in India has increased to **111** under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.
- Out of these 111 national waterways, **29** are currently operational.
- This development has benefited every state, particularly **farmers, youth, and small traders**, by strengthening **local economies**.

## 9.LARGEST AUTO GATI SHAKTI CARGO TERMINAL INAUGURATED:

- Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the country's largest automobile **Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal** at Maruti Suzuki India Ltd's Manesar plant in Haryana.
- The terminal significantly enhances the **logistics efficiency** of automobile transportation, according to the Railway Ministry.
- The Manesar facility is connected to **Patli railway station** via a **10 km dedicated rail link**, part of the **121.7 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor** being developed by the Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (HRIDC).
- The **10-km rail link** involved an investment of **Rs 800 crore**, with **HRIDC contributing Rs 684 crore** and the remaining amount funded by **Maruti Suzuki**.
- The terminal has one of the **highest loading capacities** in India, capable of handling **4.5 lakh automobiles per annum**.
- Vaishnaw announced that in the last two-and-a-half years, over **1,200 general coaches** have been added to enhance passenger capacity.
- Over **100 MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) trains** will be augmented, increasing their composition from 8 to 12 and even 16 to 20 coaches to benefit short-distance commuters.
- A new factory has been established at **Kazipet, Andhra Pradesh**, for manufacturing over **100 MEMU trains**.

- The minister highlighted the successful rollout of **Namo Bharat trains** and announced that **50 new Nammo Bharat trains** will be produced to meet rising passenger demand.
- In the financial year **2023–24**, Indian Railways transported approximately **720 crore passengers** and **1,617 million tonnes of freight**, achieving the **second-highest freight volume globally**.
- From **July 1, 2025**, **Tatkal ticket booking** will be restricted to **Aadhaar-authenticated and KYC-verified users** for the first 30 minutes to ensure availability for genuine passengers.
- An **ongoing pilot project** in the **Bikaner Division** is preparing **passenger reservation charts 24 hours in advance**, replacing the previous 4-hour norm.
- The minister stated that **3 Amrit Bharat trains** are currently operational and have received a positive public response.
- **Six more Amrit Bharat trains** will be launched soon, with production underway for **50 additional trains**.
- The **Railway Coach Factory in Sonipat** is undergoing **modernisation** to support upcoming rail infrastructure development.

## 10.RS 10-CR PRIZE FROM CENTRE FOR NEW DRUG TO TREAT SICKLE CELL DISEASE:



- The government announced an award of **Rs 10 crore** for the development of a **drug to treat sickle cell disease**, which disproportionately affects India's **tribal populations**.
- **Sickle cell disease** is a group of **inherited blood disorders** that affect **hemoglobin**, causing red blood cells to become **sickle-shaped**, leading to **blocked blood flow** and complications such as **stroke, eye problems, and infections**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Eradication Mission** on **July 1, 2023**, aiming to **eradicate the disease by 2047**.
- As part of the mission, the government plans to **screen 7 crore people** up to the age of **40 years**.
- On **World Sickle Cell Day** in New Delhi, the **Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs** announced the **Bhagwan Birsa Munda Prize** for the development of a new drug for the disease.
- The minister stated that **only one drug** is currently available for managing the disease, and **no alternatives** exist based on individual patient needs and disease severity.

- The issue becomes more critical during **pregnancy** or in patients with **other serious medical conditions**, underlining the **urgent need** for a new drug.
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, in collaboration with **AIIMS-Delhi**, will conduct a **competition** for the development of the drug.
- The **selected proposal** will receive **funding up to Rs 10 crore**, as stated by the minister.
- The ministry will also establish a **Centre for Tribal Health and Research Institute** under AIIMS-Delhi.
- This centre will include both **outpatient and inpatient facilities** to offer **high-quality medical care** to tribal populations.
- The government will explore systems for **seamless referrals** from peripheral hospitals in **tribal-dominated areas**.
- The centre will assist in **policy formulation** for tribal health issues.
- A **postgraduate course in tribal medicine** will be developed to help bridge the gap in healthcare access for tribal communities.
- This course aims to create a **cadre of medical professionals** equipped with **contextual knowledge, clinical skills, and public health competencies** specifically suited to **tribal settings**.

## 11. GOVT TO SET UP COOPERATIVE INSURANCE FIRM, 2 LAKHS NEW PACS

- Union Minister of Cooperation stated that the ministry has taken a slew of decisions to transform the cooperative sector across the country.
- He announced that the government will establish a cooperative insurance company to facilitate insurance services within the cooperative sector, which will open up various new opportunities.
- The new entity is expected to provide tailored insurance solutions for cooperative institutions, ensuring better risk coverage and financial security.
- Two lakh Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) will be established, leading to their presence in every panchayat.
- The new PACS will be multidimensional, capable of performing 22 different activities.
- Apart from providing primary agricultural funds, PACS will also undertake activities such as running petrol pumps, gas distribution, maintenance work under the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal Yojana', and railway and air ticket bookings.
- Of the existing 71,000 PACS, nearly 52,000 have become operational through computerisation and related initiatives.
- The foundation laying of Tribhuvan Sahkari University, which will operate at the national level, will take place by August.
- Under the Sahakar Taxi structure, cab drivers will be direct members and co-owners, enabling equitable profit sharing, democratic governance, and direct benefits to those who operate the platform.

- The government has taken several decisions to provide relief to the cooperative sector in the income tax regime.
- The Centre has waived income tax worth ₹15,000 crore payable by cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra and provided a permanent solution for their financial relief.

## 12. 'SUPREME COURT ON DEMOLITIONS UPHELD DIGNITY, SECURITY OF CITIZENS' SAYS CJI B.R. GAVAI



- Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai stated that the Supreme Court's judgment against "bulldozer justice" reaffirmed that constitutional guarantees must protect civil liberties and uphold the dignity, security, and material well-being of every individual.
- Speaking at Milan Courts in Italy on the theme "*Role of Constitution in Delivering Socio-Economic Justice in a Country: Reflections from 75 Years of Indian Constitution*", CJI Gavai emphasized that arbitrary demolitions bypassing legal procedures violate the rule of law and the fundamental right to shelter under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Quoting the Supreme Court judgment, he noted that for many citizens, a house is not merely property but a symbol of hard work, dreams, and future security for families.
- He stressed that the executive cannot act as judge, jury, and executioner, all at once.
- In *Re: Directions in the matter of demolition of structures*, the Supreme Court reviewed state actions where homes and properties of accused individuals were demolished as a form of punishment before legal conviction.
- In November last year, a Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice K.V. Viswanathan issued pan-India guidelines on demolitions of unauthorized structures.
- The Bench warned that any violation of its directives by state authorities would amount to criminal contempt and lead to prosecution.
- Exercising powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, the apex court issued several directions, including:
  - No demolition shall take place without issuing a prior show cause notice.



- A demolition order, once issued, shall not be implemented for 15 days.
- The order must be displayed on a designated digital portal to be maintained by each municipal and local authority.

### 13. STARTUP PROGRAMME TO FAST-TRACK ROOFTOP SOLAR INSTALLATION LAUNCHED

- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced the launch of a Rs 2.3-crore startup innovation challenge aimed at accelerating rooftop solar installation and renewable energy adoption in India.
- The challenge seeks to identify and support breakthrough solutions for India's rooftop solar and distributed renewable energy (DRE) ecosystem.
- It is being implemented under the aegis of MNRE with support from the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) and in coordination with StartUp India, DPIIT.
- The initiative, titled *Startup Challenge on Rooftop Solar (RTS) and Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) Technologies*, was launched during the National Conference on Skill Development for the Renewable Energy Workforce.
- The challenge invites applications from Indian innovators and startups, focusing on four key areas: affordability, resilience, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability.
- It is open to a wide range of startups in sectors such as green tech, IoT, AI, blockchain, construction, energy hardware, fintech, and waste management.
- The total prize pool is Rs 2.3 crore, with Rs 1 crore for the 1st prize, Rs 50 lakh for the 2nd, Rs 30 lakh for the 3rd, and ten consolation prizes of Rs 5 lakh each.
- Winners will also receive incubation support, pilot implementation opportunities, and mentorship from domain experts and investors, facilitated by MNRE and NISE.
- The deadline for submitting entries is August 20, and the winners will be announced on September 10.
- Applications can be submitted through the Startup India website: [startupindia.gov.in](http://startupindia.gov.in).

### OIL IMPORT UNLIKELY TO BE HIT: SONOWAL



- Crude prices have increased following the outbreak of the Iran-Israel war and the bombing of three sites in Iran by the USA.
- To make matters worse, Iran has decided to block the Strait of Hormuz.
- However, the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, stated that the crude flow to India would not be stopped.
- He admitted that the price might increase slightly.
- The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, which further flows out into the Arabian Sea.
- Countries around the Persian Gulf like Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE, which are major oil producers, depend on this route.
- The Eastern Economic Corridor connecting Vladivostok to Chennai is fully operational.
- India imports the bulk of its crude from Russia, and there should not be any shortage of oil in the country.
- The Eastern Economic Corridor takes only around 26 days to bring goods from Russia to India.
- India also imports crude oil from the United States of America, and that route should not be affected.
- Crude from the USA can be brought to India via the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.
- That route is slightly longer and takes around 45 days to reach India from the USA.
- India also imports crude from UAE and Saudi Arabia, and those routes can be arranged by avoiding the Strait of Hormuz.
- The Minister stated that despite the challenges, global trade is unlikely to take a hit.
- India will take all possible diplomatic measures to ensure that its trade is not affected.
- Other countries would also make efforts to ensure that trade continues without serious difficulty.





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## ECONOMY

### 14.GOV'T CUTS CRUDE EDIBLE OIL IMPORT DUTY; MOVE TO COOL PRICES, PROTECT INDUSTRY:



- The Centre has reduced the basic customs duty on crude palm oil, crude soybean oil, and crude sunflower oil from 20 per cent to 10 per cent.
- This move aims to lower the retail prices of cooking oils and protect domestic processors.
- India imports over 50 per cent of its edible oil requirements.
- During the 2023–24 oil marketing year (November to October), India imported 159.6 lakh tonnes of edible oils, valued at ₹1.32 lakh crore.
- The Finance Ministry issued a notification regarding the revised duty structure.
- The import duty on refined edible oils remains unchanged at 32.5 per cent.
- Industry bodies like the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) and the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) welcomed the decision.
- The reduction in duty on crude oils is expected to bring down domestic prices, benefiting consumers.
- Recently, imports of refined palm oil have increased as it is cheaper than crude palm oil.
- India imports palm oil primarily from Malaysia and Indonesia, while soybean oil is imported from Brazil and Argentina.
- The decision is seen as a significant step towards promoting the “Make in India” initiative and protecting the domestic vegetable oil sector from the adverse effects of rising refined oil imports.

### 15.INDIA COMMITS \$20 BILLION FOR MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT: SONOWAL:

- India has committed \$20 billion for infrastructure development aimed at enhancing multimodal logistics, port connectivity, and trade facilitation, according to Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

- The maritime sector is central to this initiative, serving as a key driver of growth, resilience, sustainability, and strategic connectivity.
- The focus includes strengthening maritime connectivity and supply chains through strategic corridors such as:
  - India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)
  - Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC)
  - International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
- India is establishing three Green Hydrogen Hub Ports — Kandla, Tuticorin, and Paradip — to support the manufacturing of green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- These ports aim to pioneer the use of alternative fuels in the maritime sector.
- India's maritime digital ecosystem is undergoing significant transformation with key initiatives such as:
  - ONOP (One Nation One Port Process)
  - National Logistics Portal (Marine)
  - MAITRI Virtual Trade Corridor
- These digital initiatives aim to create a unified national platform for port services and EXIM (export-import) trade.

### 16.EXTREME POVERTY IN INDIA DOWN TO 5.3 PC IN 2022-23: WORLD BANK:



- India's extreme poverty rate declined sharply from 27.1% in 2011–12 to 5.3% in 2022–23, according to a World Bank report.
- The World Bank revised its global extreme poverty line upward from USD 2.15 to USD 3 per day, adjusted for inflation and purchasing power parity (PPP).
- Based on the revised poverty line of USD 3 (2021 PPP), India's poverty rate stood at 5.44% in 2024, with 54,695,832 people living below this threshold.
- Under the previous threshold of USD 2.15 per day, India's extreme poverty dropped from 16.2% in 2011–12 to just 2.3% in 2022–23.
- The poverty rate at the Lower Middle-Income Country (LMIC) line declined by 33.7 percentage points over the same period.



- Free and subsidized food transfers played a critical role in poverty reduction.
- The rural-urban poverty gap also narrowed significantly—from 7.7 percentage points in 2011–12 to 1.7 percentage points in 2022–23.
- Rural extreme poverty decreased from 18.4% to 2.8%, and urban poverty from 10.7% to 1.1%.
- India lifted approximately 171 million people out of extreme poverty between 2011–12 and 2022–23.
- The five most populous Indian states accounted for 54% of the country's extremely poor population.
- In terms of economic outlook, India's real GDP in FY25 is around 5% below the pre-pandemic trend.
- The World Bank expects growth to return to its potential level by 2027–28, assuming a resolution of global uncertainties.
- However, downside risks remain due to potential global policy shifts and elevated trade tensions, which could impact exports and investment recovery.
- India's current account deficit is projected to average around 1.2% of GDP over FY26–28, with capital inflows expected to adequately finance it.
- Foreign exchange reserves are expected to remain stable at about 16% of GDP.

## 17. TOURISM SECTOR POISED TO CROSS RS 22 LAKH CRORE TURNOVER:



- India's **travel and tourism sector** is projected to contribute **₹22 lakh crore** to the Indian economy in **2025**, according to the **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)**.
- **Employment in the sector** is expected to exceed **48 million** in 2025.
- The sector saw a record **46 million jobs** in 2024, accounting for **over 9%** of India's total employment.
- **International visitor spending** is expected to reach **₹3.2 lakh crore** in 2025.
- **Domestic traveller spending** is projected to hit **₹16 lakh crore** in 2025.
- In 2024, **international visitor spending** in India reached **₹3.1 lakh crore** (approximately **\$36.8 billion**), which is **9% higher** than the pre-COVID peak.
- **Domestic travel spending** in 2024 soared to **₹15.5 lakh crore** (about **\$185.6 billion**), which is **22% higher** than pre-COVID levels.

- WTTC President and CEO **Julia Simpson** called 2024 a **"truly incredible year"** for India's tourism industry.
- She emphasized that **domestic travel** was crucial for **post-pandemic recovery** and that the sector's future looks **"very bright"**.
- WTTC projects that tourism-related **employment will rise to 63.9 million by 2035**.
- The sector is now witnessing **unprecedented growth**, with **record-breaking international visitor numbers** following strong domestic recovery.

## 18. WORLD BANK SHARPLY DOWNGRADES GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH FORECAST TO 2.3 PC:

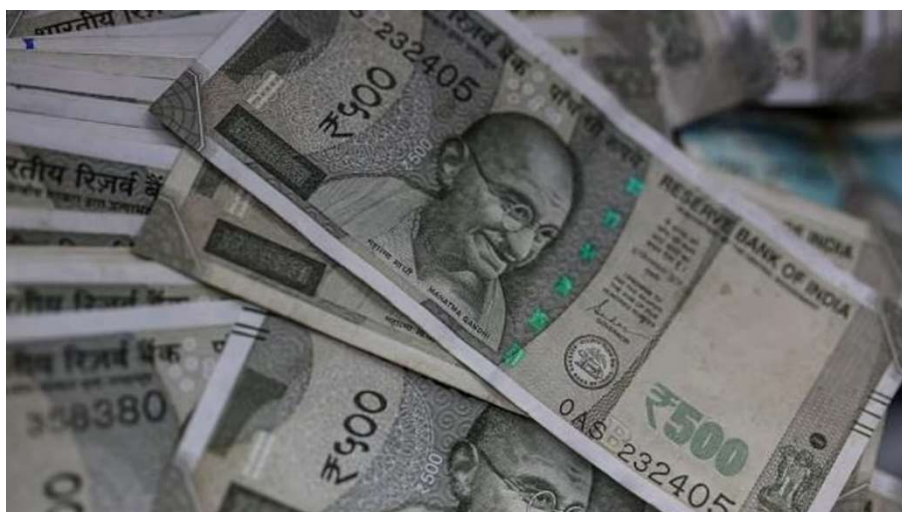


- President Donald Trump's trade wars are expected to significantly reduce economic growth in the U.S. and globally, according to a forecast by the World Bank.
- The World Bank cited a "substantial rise in trade barriers" (without naming Trump directly) and projected U.S. economic growth to slow to 1.4% in 2025, down from 2.8% in 2024.
- This figure represents a downgrade from the 2.3% growth previously forecast for 2025 in January.
- The World Bank also reduced its global growth forecast for 2025 by 0.4 percentage points, expecting the world economy to grow by only 2.3%, down from 2.8% in 2024.
- In the preface to the Global Economic Prospects report, World Bank Chief Economist Indermit Gill wrote that the global economy has missed its chance at a "soft landing" – slowing inflation without severe economic disruption.
- The U.S. economic outlook has been clouded by Trump's unpredictable and aggressive trade policies, such as the imposition of a 10% tariff on imports from nearly all countries.
- These tariffs raise costs within the U.S. and provoke retaliatory measures from other nations.
- China's growth is projected to fall from 5% in 2024 to 4.5% in 2025, and further to 4% the following year, due to U.S. tariffs, a declining real estate market, and an aging population.
- The eurozone's growth is expected to slow to just 0.7% in 2025 from 0.9% in 2024, as Trump's tariffs impact European exports and create uncertainty that hampers business investment.



- India is projected to remain the world's fastest-growing major economy in 2025, with 6.3% growth, though slightly down from 6.5% in 2024 and 6.7% previously projected for 2025.
- Japan's growth is expected to increase from 0.2% in 2024 to 0.7% in 2025, but still falls short of the 1.2% forecast made in January.
- The World Bank, which provides grants and low-rate loans to reduce poverty and improve living standards, noted that growth in India for FY2024-25 moderated due to a slowdown in industrial output.
- However, steady growth in construction and services, along with a recovery in agricultural output from drought conditions, helped support rural demand.
- The forecast for India's growth in FY2025-26 was also downgraded by 0.4 percentage points, due to weaker demand from key trading partners and rising global trade barriers.
- The OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) also downgraded its global and U.S. economic forecasts last week.

## 19.UTILIZATION OF DONER FUNDS JUMPS TO 86.06% IN FY 2024-25:



- Utilization of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) funds improved significantly in 2024–25 after poor performance in 2022–23 and 2023–24.
- In the financial year 2024–25 (ending March 31, 2025), DoNER achieved a fund utilization rate of **86.06%**.
- The revised budget estimate for 2024–25 was **Rs 4006 crore**, out of which **Rs 3447.71 crore** was spent.
- Under the **PM-DeVINE scheme**, revised estimates were **Rs 1394 crore**, with **Rs 1014.88 crore** utilized (72.80% utilization).
- For **NESIDS**, revised estimates were **Rs 1500 crore**, with **Rs 1462.39 crore** utilized (97.49% utilization).
- Under **Special Development Packages**, revised estimates stood at **Rs 202 crore**, with an expenditure of **Rs 132.47 crore** (65.58% utilization).
- For the **North Eastern Council (NEC)**, revised estimates were **Rs 800 crore**, and **Rs 736.80 crore** was spent (92.10% utilization).
- In 2023–24, revised estimates were **Rs 5892 crore**, but only **Rs 1976.76 crore** was spent (33.55% utilization).
- In 2022–23, revised estimates were **Rs 2755.05 crore**, with **Rs 1113.71 crore** spent (40.42% utilization).

- Fund utilization saw a sharp increase from **40.42% in 2022–23** and **33.55% in 2023–24** to **86.06% in 2024–25**.

## 20.INDIA'S INLAND FISHERIES OUTPUT RISES 142 PC:



- **India is the world's second-largest fish producer**, with inland fish production rising by **142% since 2013–14** to reach **147 lakh tonnes**, as stated by the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- The **fisheries sector** has recorded an **average annual growth rate of 9%**, the **highest among all agri-allied sectors**, supporting the **livelihoods of nearly 3 crore people**.
- Key government initiatives like the **Blue Revolution**, **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)**, **PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, **PM-MKSSY**, and **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** have infused **₹38,572 crore** into infrastructure development, modernization, and inclusive growth.
- **States were urged to better utilize the FIDF**, coordinate implementation with ICAR, and **enhance exports** by expanding **coldwater fisheries**, **ornamental fisheries**, and **saline aquaculture**.
- The Minister emphasized the **effective use of inland water resources** to improve nutrition, increase production, and contribute to the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.
- The **commendable progress of inland states** was acknowledged, with a call to further enhance **production and productivity**.
- **Minister of State SP Singh Baghel** noted that fisheries can be **pivotal in doubling farmers' income**, and commended the contributions of all stakeholders.
- **Key priorities** identified included **regular monitoring**, **improved productivity**, and **greater adoption of technology**.
- The **potential of Amrit Sarovar** for farming species like **Rohu and Catla** was highlighted.
- Emphasis was laid on **strengthening cold storage, transport, and market linkages** to ensure a balance between supply and demand.
- Support was encouraged for **over 300 fisheries startups** engaged in **digital tools**, **value addition**, and **post-harvest activities**.
- **Minister of State George Kurian** stressed the **transformative role of inland fisheries** in ensuring **nutritional security**, **rural prosperity**, and **sustainable livelihoods**.



- He called for integrating **traditional knowledge with innovation**, promoting **native fish species**, and **empowering communities** through collective efforts.

## 21.DUSSEHRI MANGO GOES GLOBAL WITH FIRST EXPORT CONSIGNMENT TO DUBAI:



- Uttar Pradesh has achieved a significant milestone in boosting farm exports by airlifting **1,200 kg of Dussehri mangoes** (400 boxes, each weighing 3 kg) to **Dubai**.
- The consignment, valued at **USD 2,992**, was dispatched from **Lucknow's Mango Pack House** to Dubai-based importer **Vergro Trading LLC**, signaling new global opportunities for the state's mango growers.
- The consignment was flagged off by **Dinesh Pratap Singh**, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, and Agricultural Foreign Trade.
- Under the **Indo-German Agricultural Market Development (AMD) Project**, three **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)** from the Lucknow region were trained and empowered for agricultural exports.
- Among them, **Irada Farmers Producer Company Limited** and **Malihabad Farmer Producer Company Limited** secured **direct export orders** for Dussehri mangoes from Dubai.
- This marks the **first time** both FPOs are independently exporting mangoes, making it a **historic milestone** for mango growers in Uttar Pradesh.
- The **government is providing full support** in terms of production, packaging, and compliance with **international export standards** to facilitate and expand such initiatives.

## 22.RBI ISSUES PROJECT FINANCE NORMS FOR BANKS, NBFCS:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on Thursday issued the **Project Finance Directions, 2025**, providing a **harmonised regulatory framework** for project financing across **banks, NBFCS, and other regulated entities (REs)**.
- These directions apply to projects in both **infrastructure and non-infrastructure sectors** and revise rules related to changes in the **Date of Commencement of Commercial Operations (DCCO)**.

- The new framework is based on a **principle-based approach** for **stress resolution** in project finance, **harmonised** across all REs.
- **Key provisions include:**
  - **DCCO Extension Limits:**
    - Up to **3 years** for infrastructure projects
    - Up to **2 years** for non-infrastructure projects
- Projects are classified into three phases:
  - **Design Phase**
  - **Construction Phase**
  - **Operational Phase**
- **Exposure Norms:**
  - For projects with **aggregate exposure up to ₹1,500 crore**, no individual lender can have less than **10% of total exposure**.
  - For projects with **exposure above ₹1,500 crore**, each lender must have at least **5% or ₹150 crore**, whichever is higher.
- **Pre-financial closure conditions:**
  - All necessary **approvals and clearances** must be in place before financial closure.
  - This includes **environmental, legal, and regulatory approvals** relevant to the project.
- **On stress resolution:**
  - Lenders must **monitor project performance** continuously and initiate a **resolution plan** in advance of stress buildup.
  - A **credit event** (such as payment delay or restructuring) with any lender during the **construction phase** will **trigger a collective resolution process**.
- The RBI clarified that for project finance, the term '**default**' in the existing prudential norms shall be interpreted as '**credit event**', unless stated otherwise.
- These directions aim to bring **greater discipline, transparency, and risk management** into project finance, a sector critical to infrastructure development.

## 23.RBI'S BUMPER DIVIDEND EASES GOVT'S FISCAL POSITION, SAYS SBI REPORT:



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a record dividend of Rs 2.69 lakh crore for the financial year 2024-25, a 27.4% increase from the Rs 2.11 lakh crore transferred in FY24.



- This bumper dividend is expected to ease the fiscal position of the government and support economic growth in India, now the world's fourth-largest economy.
- The Finance Minister, in the Union Budget for 2025-26, had projected a total dividend income of Rs 2.56 lakh crore from the RBI and public sector financial institutions.
- With the latest RBI dividend, actual receipts will significantly exceed the budgeted estimates.
- The increase in surplus follows a revision in the contingency risk buffer range to  $6\% \pm 1.5\%$ , compared to the earlier 5.5%-6.5% range (held at 6% in FY23).
- In September 2024, India's foreign exchange reserves peaked at USD 704 billion, during which the RBI intervened heavily in the forex market by selling dollars to stabilise the rupee.
- The RBI's surplus was influenced by its Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) operations and interest income from domestic and foreign securities.
- Between June 3 and December 13, 2024, RBI was in absorption mode under LAF operations.
- After mid-December, the system liquidity shifted to injection mode until March 2025.
- The average liquidity absorption under LAF contributed to RBI's operational expenses.
- By March 31, 2025, system liquidity was in surplus mode, standing at Rs 1.2 lakh crore.
- From December 16, 2024, to March 28, 2025, the average liquidity deficit was Rs 1.7 lakh crore.
- Durable liquidity is expected to remain in surplus in FY26 due to factors such as open market operations (OMO) purchases, the RBI's large dividend transfer, and a projected balance of payments (BOP) surplus of USD 25–30 billion.

## 24.RBI-LED INITIATIVE TO CURB DIGITAL FRAUDS GAINS MOMENTUM:



- To address the **rising cases of digital payment frauds**, major **public and private sector banks** are collaborating to develop a **Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP)**.
- DPIP is being established as a **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** under the **supervision and guidance of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- The platform aims to **enhance fraud risk management** by enabling **real-time intelligence sharing and data gathering**, helping prevent fraudulent digital transactions.

- The **institutional structure** of DPIP is being developed jointly by public and private banks, recognizing that digital fraud is a shared challenge.
- A **high-level meeting** involving senior bank and RBI officials was recently held to **finalize the platform's structure**.
- The initiative is a **priority for both the government and the RBI**, and the platform is expected to become **operational in the next few months**.
- Once active, DPIP will:
  - **Collect and analyze data** from multiple sources.
  - **Detect and prevent potential threats** in real time.
  - Help ensure **secure digital transactions** and **prevent scams**.
- The **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** has been assigned to **develop a prototype** of the platform in consultation with **5–10 banks**.
- Advanced technologies will be leveraged to **curb payment-related frauds**.
- In June 2023, the RBI formed a **committee chaired by A.P. Hota** (former MD & CEO of NPCI) to evaluate various aspects of setting up this infrastructure.
- According to the latest **RBI annual report**:
  - **Bank frauds surged significantly** in FY25 to **Rs 36,014 crore**, nearly **three times** the previous year's amount (**Rs 12,230 crore**).
  - **Public sector banks** accounted for **Rs 25,667 crore** of these frauds, up from **Rs 9,254 crore** the previous year.

## 25.KEY INDICATORS POINT AT ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: RBI

- Key economic indicators suggest **resilient economic activity in India** across both industrial and services sectors, despite global trade policy uncertainties and geopolitical tensions, according to the RBI's June Bulletin.
- The global economy remains in a **state of flux** and elevated uncertainty, yet **high-frequency indicators for May 2025** show strong economic momentum in India.
- The **agriculture sector** displayed a broad-based rise in production across major crops during 2024–25.
- **Headline inflation** stayed below the target for the **fourth consecutive month** in May 2025, indicating a stable price environment.
- **Financial conditions remain supportive**, enabling effective transmission of rate cuts into the credit market.
- **Gross inward FDI** in April 2025 was **USD 8.8 billion**, higher than both March 2025 (USD 5.9 billion) and April 2024 (USD 7.2 billion).
- The **manufacturing and business services sectors** contributed nearly 50% of gross FDI inflows in April 2025.
- **Net outward FDI** also increased, with **moderation in repatriation**, leading to **net FDI inflows doubling** year-on-year to **USD 3.9 billion**.
- High-frequency food price data (up to June 20, 2025) indicates **moderation in pulse prices**, while **cereal prices rose slightly**.



- **Edible oil prices** saw a mixed trend: soybean, sunflower, and mustard oils firmed up, while **palm and groundnut oil prices** declined.
- **Vegetable prices** showed varied movements — **onion prices** declined further, whereas **potato and tomato prices** increased.
- The article warns that **prolonged trade policy uncertainty and rising barriers** could significantly damage the global economy.

- **Geopolitical tensions** could further erode weak global growth momentum.
- Key **trade policy decisions in July**, following the end of a temporary tariff pause, and evolving geopolitical developments will shape **medium-term economic prospects**.



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## INTERNATIONAL

### 26. TRUMP IMPOSES BAN ON ENTRY OF CITIZENS FROM 12 COUNTRIES:



- President Donald Trump is reinstating the travel ban policy from his first term by signing a proclamation preventing entry into the United States from a dozen countries.
- The affected countries include Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.
- The ban will take effect at 12:01 am on Monday.
- Additional heightened restrictions will be imposed on visitors from Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela.
- The updated list stems from a January 20 executive order requiring the Departments of State and Homeland Security, along with the Director of National Intelligence, to assess “hostile attitudes” toward the US and national security risks.
- In his first term, Trump issued a travel ban in January 2017 targeting seven predominantly Muslim countries: Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen.
- The 2017 order led to chaos, with travellers barred from flights or detained at US airports; affected individuals included students, faculty, businesspeople, tourists, and families.
- The initial ban was reworked in response to legal challenges, and a revised version was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018.
- The upheld version impacted travellers and immigrants from Iran, Somalia, Yemen, Syria, and Libya, as well as North Koreans and some Venezuelan government officials and their families.
- Trump and supporters defended the ban on national security grounds, denying anti-Muslim bias, though he had previously called for a Muslim ban during his first presidential campaign.

### 27. BHUTAN DELEGATION IN STATE:

- An official delegation from Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC), Bhutan arrived on a six-day visit to Assam and Meghalaya.

- On the first day, the nine-member delegation visited the historic Hayagriva Madhab Temple at Hajo in Kamrup district, a revered ancient temple known for its spiritual and cultural significance.
- The delegation toured the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati and held a meeting with Prof. Devendra Jaliha, Director, IITG, and his team to explore potential avenues for technological collaboration.
- At the Centre for Nanotechnology, the delegation was briefed on the potential use of local materials like bamboo for structural applications and ongoing research in this area, including technologies like 3D printing of buildings.
- Jigme Thinlye Namgyal, Consul General of Bhutan in Guwahati, and Phurpa Tshering, Consul, Royal Bhutanese Consulate General, Guwahati, accompanied the delegation during the visits.
- The delegation will visit the Assam State Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Umananda (Peacock Island), the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre, and the Royal Bhutan Consul General office in Guwahati.
- Several other locations and institutions are also scheduled for visits as part of the Assam itinerary.
- The nine-member team will proceed to Meghalaya after the Assam leg of the visit.
- On June 10, the delegation will call on Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and also meet the State’s Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, and Chief Commissioner of the Central GST, Central Excise, and Customs, North East Region.
- On June 11, the team will visit Kamakhya Temple, Pandu Port, and Royal Global University before departing for Bhutan the next day.
- In Gelephu, located near the Assam border, Bhutan is launching the ambitious Mindfulness City project to transform its economy, enhance international market participation, and create opportunities for the next generation of Bhutanese.
- The Mindfulness City is envisioned as a sanctuary for global businesses and professionals seeking to combine sustainability, spiritual well-being, and commercial success.
- This project is expected to generate new opportunities for the Northeast region, particularly Assam.

### 28. INDIA AND JAPAN EXPLORE NEW FRONTIERS IN STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP:





- The inaugural edition of **‘Rising India, i.e., Bharat’** was held in **Tokyo**, highlighting the immense potential for deeper **India-Japan bilateral cooperation** driven by shared values and economic opportunities.
- The conclave was organized with the support of the **Indian Embassy in Tokyo** and the **Japan-India Association**, and hosted by **Connect India Japan**, an initiative that combines cultural diplomacy with business and policy dialogue.
- The event brought together **policymakers, diplomats, corporate leaders, and thought leaders** from both countries to explore collaboration in **diplomacy, business, technology, and culture**.
- **High-level panel discussions** focused on the evolving diplomatic relationship, India’s global rise, and the foundation of **mutual trust and collaboration** between the two nations.
- The programme emphasized business opportunities, featuring **corporate leaders** discussing successful India-Japan ventures and future prospects.
- **Indian companies from next-generation sectors** showcased innovations in **AI, digital infrastructure, sustainable technologies, and smart manufacturing**, drawing strong interest from Japanese firms.
- The showcase underscored India’s growing reputation as a **reliable and forward-looking partner**.
- The event opened with a **moment of silence for the victims of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack**, underscoring India’s security challenges and the shared resolve to combat terrorism.

## 29.BITCOIN INTRODUCED INTO AFRICA’S LARGEST SLUM, WITH RISKS, REWARDS:



- In **Soweto West**, a neighbourhood within **Kibera** — widely considered **Africa’s largest urban slum** — around **200 people now use Bitcoin** for everyday transactions, including buying vegetables.
- This initiative is part of a push to **expand financial services to underbanked communities** in Kenya.
- The project was introduced by **AfriBit Africa**, a Kenyan fintech company, via its **nonprofit initiative** aimed at **improving financial inclusion**.
- **Bitcoin** was brought to Soweto West in **early 2022** through **crypto-denominated grants** given primarily to **local garbage collectors**, many of whom are funded by nonprofits and are **youth groups open to new technology**.

- AfriBit Africa estimates it has injected around **USD 10,000** into the community through this initiative.
- Now, **some merchants and motorcycle taxis accept Bitcoin** as payment in the area.
- **M-Pesa**, Kenya’s dominant mobile payment system, has **fee-free transactions** only up to **100 Kenyan shillings (approx. \$0.78)**, after which fees apply.
- By contrast, **Bitcoin Lightning Network transactions are free** when done through platforms introduced by AfriBit Africa.
- While **Bitcoin** is often seen globally as a **volatile store of value**, AfriBit promotes its use in Kibera as a **low-fee, accessible digital payment method**.
- **Kenya’s digital asset sector** faces **regulatory challenges**, including **crackdowns on crypto giveaways**, but this **small, localized project in Soweto West** has **not been restricted** so far.

## 30.NEPAL MINISTER CALLS FOR ‘GREEN ENERGY’ TIES WITH INDIA:



- Green energy cooperation will foster mutual interdependence between New Delhi and Kathmandu, according to Nepal’s Foreign Minister Arzoo Rana Deuba.
- Deuba emphasized promoting clean and sustainable energy sources as a means of enhancing bilateral ties.
- She highlighted India’s commitment to import 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal over the next decade as a sign of growing momentum in Nepal-India energy cooperation.
- Deuba made these remarks at the Nepal-India Strategic Dialogue organized by Ananta Aspen Centre and Centre for Innovative Foreign Policy in Kathmandu.
- Nepal and India signed a long-term agreement in January 2024 to facilitate the export of 10,000 MW of electricity to India over 10 years.
- The foremost priority in Nepal-India relations is to advance the economic partnership by intensifying cooperation in trade, transit, and investment.
- Nepal possesses enormous hydropower potential, offering clean, climate-resilient, and renewable energy for future generations.
- Multiple well-endowed rivers, including Mahakali, Karnali, Sapta Gandaki, and Sapta Kosi, originate in the Himalayas, flow through valleys and plains, and eventually enter India to meet the River Ganga.



### 31.CONFLICT FALLOUT: HIKE IN CRUDE OIL PRICES TO IMPACT INDIA:



- Although India is not directly affected by the Iran-Israel war, the sharp increase in international crude oil prices will severely impact India due to its heavy reliance on oil imports.
- Disruption in production by any oil-producing country leads to a sharp hike in international oil prices.
- India currently imports around 87% of its crude oil requirement as domestic production is insufficient to meet demand.
- Any increase in international crude oil prices results in an increase in oil prices within India.
- As Iran is an oil-producing country, the breakout of war between Iran and Israel led to a rise in international oil prices.
- In recent days, oil prices have increased by approximately 8%.
- India primarily imports crude oil from Iraq, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States.
- Imports from Iran are minimal, yet India is affected by global price fluctuations.
- If the war persists, it could disrupt shipping routes, posing a major challenge for oil transportation to India.
- Most sea routes used for oil transport to India pass through the Middle East, and ongoing conflict may impact these routes.
- Currently, India has sufficient crude oil stocks, and shipping routes remain unaffected.
- However, there is uncertainty about the situation if the conflict continues for an extended period.
- The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial shipping lane used by OPEC members like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait to transport oil to Asia, including India.
- Any disruption in the Strait of Hormuz due to war could severely impact oil supply to India.
- The second important corridor is the Eastern Maritime Corridor, which connects Vladivostok (Russia) to Chennai.
- This corridor significantly reduces transit time and cost for Russian crude oil shipments and is unlikely to be affected by the Iran-Israel conflict.

### 32.WORK BEGINS IN IRELAND TO EXHUME REMAINS OF HUNDREDS OF BABIES:

- Officials in Ireland began work on Monday to excavate the site of a former church-run home for unmarried women and their babies to identify the remains of around 800 infants and young children who died there.
- The excavation is taking place at the former Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, County Galway, western Ireland.
- This long-awaited excavation is part of Ireland's broader reckoning with abuses in church-run institutions in its overwhelmingly Roman Catholic history.
- The Tuam home, run by an order of Catholic nuns, operated until 1961 and was one of many such institutions where unmarried pregnant women were forced to give up their children.
- Historian Catherine Corless, in 2014, discovered death certificates for nearly 800 children who died at the home between the 1920s and 1961 but found a burial record for only one child.
- Investigators later uncovered a mass grave in an underground sewage structure on the home's grounds.
- DNA analysis revealed the remains belonged to babies and young children aged from 35 weeks gestation to 3 years.
- A major inquiry found that approximately 9,000 children died in 18 different mother-and-baby homes across Ireland.
- Common causes of death included respiratory infections and gastroenteritis (stomach flu).
- Daniel MacSweeney, who leads the exhumation, stated that survivors and family members will be allowed to view the excavation works in the coming weeks.
- Forensic experts will analyze and preserve the recovered remains.
- Identified remains will be returned to families based on their wishes.
- Unidentified remains will be reburied with dignity and respect, according to officials.

### 33.PM MODI GIFTS HANDMADE KASHMIRI SILK CARPET TO CYPRUS PRESIDENT:



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a handmade Kashmiri silk carpet and a silver clutch purse crafted in Andhra Pradesh



to Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides during his visit to the country.

- Modi regularly presents gifts that showcase India's rich and diverse cultural heritage to foreign dignitaries.
- The handmade silk carpet is crafted by skilled artisans in the Kashmir Valley using centuries-old hand-knotting techniques.
- Made from pure mulberry silk and dyed with natural colours, the carpet features intricate designs inspired by Kashmir's natural beauty, including lakes, chinar trees, and floral patterns.
- These carpets are known for their high knot density, luminous finish, and are treasured as heirlooms representing prestige, tradition, and craftsmanship.
- The gifted carpet is in deep red with fawn and red borders, featuring traditional vine and geometric motifs.
- It showcases a prized two-tone effect, appearing to change colours based on viewing angle and lighting, creating the illusion of two different carpets in one.
- The silver clutch purse is crafted using the repoussé technique, featuring expansive floral designs inspired by temple and royal art.
- A semi-precious stone in the centre, along with its curved shape, fancy handle, and decorated edges, gives the purse a regal appearance.
- Once used mainly for special occasions, the clutch is now a stylish accessory or collector's item that blends traditional Indian metalwork with modern design.
- Cyprus also honoured Prime Minister Modi with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, the highest honour awarded by the island nation.
- The award presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Cyprus marks the 23rd international recognition bestowed on him by a foreign country.
- Accepting the honour on behalf of 1.4 billion Indians, PM Modi expressed heartfelt gratitude to the President, government, and people of Cyprus.
- He dedicated the award to the longstanding warm ties between India and Cyprus, which are founded on shared values and mutual trust.
- PM Modi highlighted that the award is also a recognition of India's age-old philosophy of '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**', meaning '**the world is one family**'.
- Modi's visit to Cyprus is the third by an Indian Prime Minister and the first since 2002.
- The visit holds geopolitical significance due to Cyprus's long-standing conflict with Turkey.
- During past India-Pakistan clashes, Pakistan employed both Turkish and Chinese drones, which were successfully intercepted by India's air defence systems.

## 34.4 INDIAN SCHOOLS AMONG FINALISTS FOR WORLD'S BEST SCHOOL PRIZES 2025

- Four Indian schools have been named among the **top 10 finalists** across different categories for the **annual World's Best School Prizes**, organized in the UK.

- The awards recognize schools for their **significant contributions to societal progress**, especially in the wake of COVID-19.
- Schools from **Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh** have been shortlisted and are now contenders for a **membership to the Best School to Work programme**, designed to help schools attract and retain top teaching talent.
- The five prize categories include:
  - **Community Collaboration**
  - **Environmental Action**
  - **Innovation**
  - **Overcoming Adversity**
  - **Supporting Healthy Lives**
- **Government Girls Senior Secondary School, NIT 5, Faridabad, Haryana:** Recognized for transforming the lives of at-risk girls by integrating nutritional programs, physical wellbeing, and mental health support with education.
- **ZP School Jalindar Nagar, Khed taluka near Pune, Maharashtra:** Honoured for revolutionizing public-school education through a **Subject Friend system**, a peer-learning model where students of different ages teach and learn from each other.
- **Ekya School, J P Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka:** Selected for empowering students to become innovative thinkers and problem solvers through a **Design Thinking curriculum**.
- **Delhi Public School, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh:** Recognized for fostering student growth and leadership with a **learner-centric educational model** that incorporates **environmental stewardship and social responsibility** into learning.

## 35.54 INSTITUTIONS FROM INDIA FEATURE IN QS UNIVERSITY RANKINGS



- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** has emerged as the **top-ranked Indian institution** in the **QS World University Rankings 2026**, climbing over **70 places in two years** to secure the **123rd position** globally.
- **India now has 54 institutions** featured in the rankings, making it the **fourth most represented country**, behind only the **US (192)**, **UK (90)**, and **Mainland China (72)**.
- India saw the **largest increase in institutions** added to the rankings this year (**8 new entries**), more than any other country or territory. **Jordan and Azerbaijan** followed with six new entries each.



- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** praised India's record performance, calling it a **new high** for the country.
- **IIT Delhi:**
  - Ranked **123rd** in 2026, compared to **197 in 2024** and **150 in 2025**.
  - Performed exceptionally in:
    - **Employer Reputation:** Ranked **50th**
    - **Citations:** Ranked **86th**
    - **Sustainability:** Ranked **172nd**
    - **Academic Reputation:** Ranked **142nd**
  - Shares its rank with **Georgia Institute of Technology, US**.
- **IIT Bombay:**
  - Ranked **129th** in 2026, a slight drop from its all-time best of **118 in 2025**.

Still holds strong in **Employer Reputation**, ranking **39th** globally in that category.

## 36.MORE INDIAN EXPORTERS AVAILING BENEFITS OF FREE TRADE PACTS WITH AUSTRALIA, UAE



- Issuance of preferential certificates of origin – a document enabling exporters to claim tariff benefits under free trade pacts – has risen significantly for Australia and the UAE in 2024-25, indicating increased advantage of such agreements for domestic exporters.
- The number of preferential certificates of origin issued by India under free trade agreements (FTAs) with Australia and the UAE rose by 19 per cent and 24.7 per cent respectively in 2024-25, according to commerce ministry data.
- India issued 77,234 such certificates under the FTA with Australia in 2024-25, compared to 64,864 in 2023-24, registering an increase of 19.07 per cent.
- Under the FTA with the UAE, 1,22,036 certificates were issued in 2024-25 as against 98,104 in 2023-24, an increase of about 24.66 per cent.
- In total, 7,20,996 certificates were granted during 2024-25, compared to 6,84,724 in 2023-24.
- These certificates are essential for Indian exporters to claim preferential tariff benefits under respective trade agreements, enhancing the competitiveness of Indian goods in partner

markets and facilitating smoother access to global value chains.

- The India-UAE free trade agreement came into effect in May 2022, while the FTA with Australia has been implemented since December 2022.
- In a free trade agreement, two countries either significantly reduce or eliminate import duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them.
- India has so far implemented over a dozen such agreements with countries including Japan, Singapore, Korea, UAE, and Australia.
- The increasing issuance of these documents also highlights the strengthening trade relationship between FTA partners and rising awareness among Indian exporters about leveraging these agreements.
- The trend is evident in monthly data for April and May 2025:
  - In April, CoOs issued rose from 5,643 in 2024 to 6,395 in 2025 (a 13.3 per cent increase).
  - In May, CoOs rose from 6,125 in 2024 to 6,580 in 2025 (a 7.4 per cent increase).
- With the UAE:
  - In April 2025, 11,825 CoOs were issued compared to 8,735 in April 2024.
  - In May 2025, 11,507 certificates were issued against 8,969 in May 2024, marking a 28.3 per cent increase.
- During April-May of the current fiscal, 1,32,116 certificates were issued, compared to 1,20,598 in the same period of the previous fiscal.
- As awareness and utilisation of these agreements continue to rise, further growth in trade is anticipated through FTAs, thereby strengthening India's position in global trade.

## 37.ASSAM, BHUTAN TOUR OPERATORS EXPLORE TOURISM TIES

- Tour operators from Assam and Bhutan came together to explore ways to promote cross-border tourism between the two neighbours, focusing particularly on the Himalayan kingdom's eastern circuit.
- Discussions took place during the 15th annual general body meeting and convention of the Tour Operators Association of Assam (TOAA), organised at Samdrup Jongkhar on invitation from the Royal Bhutanese Consulate General, Guwahati.
- The meeting witnessed participation of around 100 TOAA members and featured a very successful B2B meet with tour operators, hoteliers and tourism officials of Bhutan.
- It added that the aim of the meeting was to promote cross-border tourism with Bhutan, with special focus on its eastern frontier.
- A special issue of TOAA's newsletter, 'Tea Break', was also released on the occasion, highlighting potential of tourism between Assam and Bhutan.
- The convention was attended by the Commissioner and Secretary of Assam government's Tourism department, the Opposition leader of Bhutan National Assembly, the Royal Bhutanese Consul General and representatives from Samdrup Jongkhar district administration, among others.

- TOAA's efforts to build a conducive relationship with tourism stakeholders and policymakers in Bhutan and to promote cross-border tourism were lauded by the participants.

### 38. COFFEE EXPORTS UP 125 PC TO USD 1.8 BILLION IN LAST 11 YEARS: GOVT DATA:



- **India's coffee exports** have surged by **about 125%** over the past 11 years, reaching **USD 1.8 billion**, as per central government data.
- In **2014–15**, exports stood at **over USD 800 million**, and rose to **USD 1.14 billion in 2022–23** and **USD 1.28 billion in 2023–24**.
- **Europe** remains the top destination for Indian coffee exports.
- Major importing countries include **Italy, Germany, Belgium**, and nations in the **Middle East**, as well as **Korea and Japan**.
- The **Coffee Board of India** has implemented several measures to boost exports:
  - Online issuance (with digital signatures) of:
    - **Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC)**
    - **Export permits**
    - **Certificates of origin**
  - Regular interaction with exporters to resolve bottlenecks.
  - Providing consistent **global market intelligence and updates**.
- **Export promotion incentives** include:
  - **Transit/freight assistance** to increase market share of value-added coffee.
  - **Rs 3 per kg** incentive for export of value-added products.
  - **Rs 2 per kg** for high-value green coffee exports to distant, premium markets like:
    - **USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Finland, Norway, and Denmark.**
- To support value addition, the Coffee Board:
  - Assists **individuals, SHGs, and growers**.

- Provides **40% of the cost (up to Rs 15 lakh)** for installing **roasting, grinding, and packaging machinery**.
- Major **coffee-producing states** in India are:
  - **Karnataka**
  - **Kerala**
  - **Tamil Nadu**
- India is:
  - The **7th largest coffee producer** globally, with a **3.5% share**.
  - The **5th largest coffee exporter**, holding a **5% share** of global exports.
  - Annual coffee production is about **3.6 lakh tonnes**.
- Around **two million people** are directly or indirectly **employed** in India's coffee sector.

### 39. TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH US, EU TO BE CONCLUDED SOON: SITHARAMA:



- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that negotiations for proposed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the US and the European Union are progressing rapidly and may conclude soon.
- India is aiming to boost exports to reach an ambitious target of **USD 2 trillion by 2030**.
- FTAs have already been signed with the UAE, Australia, and the 4-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA).
- Negotiations with the UK have been completed.
- Discussions with the US and EU are ongoing with high intensity.
- The government is focusing on concluding more FTAs to enhance trade partnerships.
- While inaugurating the Trade Conclave by India Exim Bank, the Finance Minister highlighted several budget initiatives.
- The Export Promotion Mission and Bharat Trade Net—a digital platform for trade documentation and financing—were mentioned as key budget announcements.
- The budget also proposed a National Framework for Global Capability Centres (GCCs) to support services-led growth, particularly in tier-2 cities.
- Additional Trade Facilitation Measures are being implemented to ease commerce.



- Total exports of goods and services in FY25 reached a record high of USD 825 billion, a 6% increase over the previous year.
- This is a sharp rise compared to USD 466 billion in 2013–14.
- While global exports grew by 4%, India achieved an export growth rate of 6.3%, despite uncertainties in global trade.
- Sitharaman acknowledged that Indian exporters are "swimming against tides" and pledged full government support.
- Exporters were urged to prioritize innovation and explore newer markets.
- According to the UNCTAD World Investment Report 2025, India's position improved even as global FDI flows dropped by 11%.
- Between 2014–24, India received nearly USD 668 billion in FDI, accounting for 67% of the total USD 991 billion received over the last 24 years.
- India has strengthened its role in global value chains.
- Apple India's iPhone contract manufacturers have surpassed the 20% Domestic Value Addition (DVA) threshold across all variants.

## 40.INDIA OFFERS STRATEGIC DEPTH IN INDO-PACIFIC WITHOUT ALIGNMENT



- The NATO summit held in The Hague on June 24–25 marked a significant strategic shift, with the Indo-Pacific emerging as a central focus amid growing instability in the Indo-Mediterranean.
- Traditional reaffirmations included continued support for Ukraine, calls for increased defence spending, and condemnation of Iranian strikes.
- Historically, NATO's focus was primarily Atlantic-centric, even during interventions in Afghanistan and Libya, based on the belief that threats radiated outward from Europe.
- That assumption has now collapsed, as Asia is increasingly recognized as crucial to Euro-Atlantic security.
- NATO's engagement with the Indo-Pacific predates the Ukraine war, with ties strengthening in the late 2010s and early 2020s with Japan, Australia, South Korea, and New Zealand.
- These ties were institutionalized through the "IP4" format, reflecting growing cooperation with democratic Indo-Pacific partners.
- Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine and China's strategic alignment with Moscow have intensified NATO's strategic recalibrations.
- NATO's 2022 Strategic Concept identified China's coercive policies as a threat to allied interests, security, and values.
- At The Hague summit, this stance hardened, with China labeled a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war machine.
- Despite this pivot, NATO does not aim to become an Indo-Pacific bloc or replicate its Euro-Atlantic structures in Asia.
- Instead, it seeks "strategic elasticity" – emphasizing flexible partnerships, coordination, and technological interoperability to enhance deterrence.
- India plays a key role in this new outlook – not as an ally or NATO member, but as a vital strategic partner.
- India maintains its commitment to strategic autonomy and non-alignment, and is not part of the IP4 grouping.
- While retaining historical ties with Moscow, India is actively diversifying its defence and diplomatic engagements.
- India's growing Indo-Pacific vision is evident in initiatives like the SAGAR doctrine (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the 'Mahasagar' initiative announced in late 2024.



## ENVIRONMENT

### 41. 'INDIA RECORDED OVER 3.2 CRORE DISASTER DISPLACEMENTS IN A DECADE':



- India recorded **32.3 million (3.23 crore)** internal displacements due to disasters (floods, storms, etc.) between **2015 and 2024**.
- India ranks **third globally**, after **China (46.9 million)** and the **Philippines (46.1 million)**, in disaster-related internal displacements.
- The data comes from a report by the **Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)**.
- Disasters triggered a total of **264.8 million** internal displacements across **210 countries and territories** in the last decade.
- **East and South Asia** were the most affected regions globally.
- **Top five countries** with the highest disaster-related displacements: **Bangladesh, China, India, the Philippines, and the US**.
- Nearly **90% of global disaster displacements** were caused by **floods and storms**.
- **Storms** triggered **120.9 million** displacements; **floods** triggered **114.8 million** displacements between 2015 and 2024.
- **Cyclones**, including **Cyclone Amphan (2020)**, accounted for about **92% of all storm displacements globally**.
- The rising trend in disaster-related displacement is due to **more frequent/intense hazards, improved national data, and better global monitoring**.
- In **2024 alone**, there were **45.8 million internal displacements**, the **highest ever recorded**, significantly above the decadal average of **26.5 million**.
- **India recorded 5.4 million (54 lakh)** displacements in 2024 — the **highest in the last 12 years**.
- Many of these were **preemptive evacuations**, showing the **efforts of governments and communities** to save lives and reduce injuries in disaster-prone areas.

### 42. BRAHMAPUTRA BOARD AND SURVEY OF INDIA INK MOU:



- In an effort to tackle **flood and erosion challenges** in the region, the **Brahmaputra Board** and the **Survey of India** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on Thursday to enhance collaboration in **survey activities** and **geospatial capacity building** across the **Brahmaputra and Barak river basins**.
- The **MoU will remain valid for five years** and aims to support:
  - **Integrated flood and erosion management**
  - **Drainage improvement**
  - **Infrastructure planning**
- The collaboration will utilise **advanced survey technologies** and **data-sharing mechanisms** to improve the effectiveness of water resource management.
- Under the MoU, the **Survey of India** will assist the **Brahmaputra Board** in:
  - **Aerial and topographic surveys**
  - **Installation of Great Trigonometrical Survey (GTS) benchmarks**
  - **High-resolution mapping** using modern tools such as:
    - **UAVs (drones)**
    - **Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)**
    - **Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)**
- Both organisations will **share spatial datasets** and **jointly use the Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) network** to ensure **standardised and high-accuracy geospatial data**.
- According to sources, the partnership will significantly boost the **scientific and technological capacity** for managing water resources and addressing flood issues in the **ecologically sensitive Northeastern region**.
- A notable feature of the collaboration is the **parallel data sharing** between the two agencies, which will aid in **optimised work planning** for effective **river basin management**.



- The MoU also includes provisions for **technical training and capacity building** of Brahmaputra Board personnel, in collaboration with the **National Institute for Geo-Informatics Science and Technology (NIGST)**, Hyderabad.

### 43. IIT GUWAHATI TO STUDY BRAHMAPUTRA EROSION, IDENTIFY VULNERABLE RIVER-BANK STRETCHES:



- Brahmaputra Board chairman Dr. Ranbir Singh has said that IIT Guwahati will carry out a study on the erosion caused by the Brahmaputra river from Arunachal Pradesh to the Bangladesh border.
- The study, to be conducted in collaboration with the North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute (NEHARI), will seek to identify the vulnerable stretches more prone to erosion and suggest mitigation strategies.
- Bank erosion by the rivers has been a serious issue for the last six decades, with more than 4.27 lakh hectares of land already eroded by the Brahmaputra and its tributaries since 1950, accounting for 7.40 per cent of the total area of the State.
- The annual average loss of land is nearly 8,000 hectares.
- The Brahmaputra river has a tendency to shift southward due to various geo-tectonic and seismic instabilities of the region.
- In the last 50 years, nearly 100 sq km of area was eroded in the southern part of Goalpara district alone.
- The intensity of shifting is very high mostly in the lower Brahmaputra Valley, including the western margin of the districts of Goalpara, South Salmara Mankachar, and Dhubri.
- The Brahmaputra Board also approved a project to construct a new building of the institute on the premises of its existing office in the city.
- CPWD will execute the project at an estimated cost of Rs 240 crore.
- The Board also decided to conduct a study on the urban flooding problem of Dimapur town.
- The Board has prepared master plans of 52 rivers and another 21 are under preparation.
- The old master plans are also being updated.
- Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for about a dozen multi-purpose projects, including those in the Siang, Subansiri, Dibang, Lohit, and Jia Dhal rivers, are being prepared.

- Some of the projects have already been implemented, while some DPRs are being revised by Central PSUs and state governments.
- Members of nine basin states participated in the discussions on Friday and gave their suggestions.
- The meeting also reviewed the activities of the Board and the current status of the projects.

### 44. ASIA WARMING TWICE AS FAST AS GLOBAL AVERAGE:



- Asia, the largest continent with around 60% of the global population, is now warming nearly twice as fast as the global average, according to the WMO's 'State of the Climate in Asia in 2024' report.
- The sea surface in Asia has also been warming at nearly double the global average over past decades.
- Between 1961–1990 and 1991–2024, Asia warmed faster than the global land and ocean average.
- In 2024, the average temperature in Asia was about 1.04°C above the 1991–2020 average, making it the warmest or second warmest year on record, depending on the dataset.
- Many parts of Asia experienced extreme heat events throughout the year.
- Prolonged heatwaves struck East Asia from April to November, with Japan, South Korea, and China repeatedly breaking monthly average temperature records.
- India reported nearly 48,000 cases of heatstroke and 159 deaths due to extreme heat in 2024.
- Sea levels rose faster than the global average on both the Pacific and Indian Ocean sides of Asia, raising risks for low-lying coastal areas.
- Reduced winter snowfall and extreme summer heat severely impacted glaciers.
- In the central Himalayas and Tian Shan ranges, 23 out of 24 glaciers lost mass.
- This glacier loss has increased the risk of disasters such as glacial lake outburst floods and landslides, posing long-term threats to water security.
- Extreme rainfall led to severe damage and heavy loss of life in several countries.
- Tropical cyclones caused widespread destruction.
- Droughts resulted in major economic and agricultural losses.
- The WMO report highlights changes in climate indicators like surface temperature, glacier mass, and sea level, with major repercussions for societies, economies, and ecosystems in Asia.



- Extreme weather is already taking an unacceptably high toll across the region.



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## SCIENCE & TECH

### 45. TRUMP PROPOSES \$1 BN FOR PRIVATE MARS EXPLORATION:



- In a significant move for space exploration, the Donald Trump-led U.S. government has proposed \$1 billion in new investments for Mars exploration programmes.
- The White House's 2026 budget proposal also allocates over \$7 billion for lunar exploration initiatives.
- The budget aims to ensure that America's human space exploration efforts remain "unparalleled, innovative, and efficient," according to the official document.
- A key new initiative in the proposal is the Commercial Mars Payload Services Program (CMPS), modeled after the earlier Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) programme.
- CMPS seeks to involve private sector companies in developing spacesuits, communications systems, and a human-rated landing vehicle to support Mars exploration.
- Despite these new investments, NASA's overall budget has been reduced by \$6 billion—from \$24.8 billion in 2025 to \$18.8 billion in the 2026 proposal.
- The budget document emphasizes prioritizing human missions, with the Mars Sample Return mission being terminated due to its high cost and delayed timeline, stating that its objectives would be achieved by future crewed missions to Mars.
- The administration also proposes phasing out the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion capsule after three more flights, citing high costs and delays.
- The changes align with the administration's stated goal of returning to the Moon before China and eventually putting a human on Mars.

### 46. SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA SET TO SCRIPT HISTORY AS INDIA'S SECOND ASTRONAUT:

- India's Shubhanshu Shukla is set for his maiden space flight as part of Axiom Space's fourth commercial mission to the International Space Station, which is scheduled for lift-off



onboard SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on June 8.

- The launch of the Dragon spacecraft will take place not earlier than 6:41 pm IST from NASA's spaceport in Florida, making Shukla only the second Indian to travel to space four decades after Rakesh Sharma's iconic spaceflight onboard Russia's Soyuz spacecraft in 1984.
- Besides Shukla, the mission pilot for the Axiom-4 mission, the other crew include Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland and Tibor Kapu from Hungary, marking both European nations' first travel to the International Space Station in history and the second government-sponsored human spaceflight mission in over 40 years.
- Veteran US astronaut Peggy Whitson will be the commander of the Axiom-4 mission.
- Once docked, the astronauts plan to spend up to 14 days aboard the orbiting laboratory, conducting science, outreach, and commercial activities.
- The Ax-4 astronauts will perform around 60 scientific studies and activities representing 31 countries during their 14-day stay at the ISS.
- Shukla is set to conduct exclusive food and nutrition-related experiments developed under a collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), with support from NASA.
- The experiments aim to pioneer space nutrition and self-sustaining life support systems vital for future long-duration space travel.
- ISRO has lined up a set of seven experiments for Shukla, who will also participate in five joint studies planned by NASA for its human research program.
- It has drawn up plans to focus on India-centric food for carrying out experiments on the ISS, including sprouting methi (fenugreek) and moong (green gram) in microgravity conditions.
- Shukla will also expose the seeds to the macrobiotic conditions and bring them back to Earth, where they will be cultivated in plants not just once but over generations.



## 47. 'OPENAI ACADEMY INDIA' LAUNCHED TO HELP EXPAND ACCESS TO AI SKILLS:



- OpenAI, in partnership with the Indian government's IndiaAI mission, launched its first international expansion of an education platform to increase access to AI skills training across India.
- The initiative, named '**OpenAI Academy India**', is designed to broaden access to AI education and tools by leveraging India's growing developer community, digital infrastructure, and innovation ecosystem.
- It supports the **IndiaAI Mission's 'FutureSkills'** pillar by offering AI skills training to a diverse audience including students, developers, educators, civil servants, nonprofit leaders, and small business owners.
- The program combines **digital and in-person learning**, tailored to India's needs, and is initially available in **English and Hindi**, with more regional languages to follow.
- OpenAI will provide educational content to be hosted on the **iGOT Karmayogi platform**, aimed at capacity building for government officials.
- The content will initially be in **English and Hindi**, and will later expand to **four additional regional languages**.
- OpenAI will host **webinars and in-person workshops** in six Indian cities, delivered by its experts and partners.
- The initiative includes **up to \$100,000 in API credits** for 50 IndiaAI Mission-approved fellows or startups.
- OpenAI also plans to support the **training of 1 million teachers** in the use of Generative AI technology.

## 48. NEW METHOD FROM IITG TO DETECT COVID VIRUS:



- A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati has developed a novel method for detecting and measuring the amount of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.
- The approach is based on how quickly a clay-virus-electrolyte mixture settles—a process known as sedimentation—offering a simple and affordable alternative to the complex and expensive methods currently in use.
- The findings have been published in the peer-reviewed journal *Applied Clay Science*, co-authored by Prof. TV Bharat (Department of Civil Engineering), Prof. Sachin Kumar (Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering), and research scholars Dr. Himanshu Yadav and Deepa Mehta.
- Covid-19 exposed critical limitations in existing virus detection methods. PCR tests are highly sensitive but require time and complex equipment; antigen tests are quick but less accurate; antibody tests are post-infection and thus limited in prevention.
- Many of these existing methods are impractical in resource-limited areas or during mass outbreaks, emphasizing the need for a simpler alternative.
- To address these challenges, the researchers used Bentonite clay, known for its pollutant-absorbing properties and unique chemical structure, as the basis for virus detection.
- Prof. Bharat explained that earlier studies had shown the ability of clay particles to bind with viruses and bacteriophages, making it a promising material for diagnostic applications.
- The team studied how Bentonite clay interacts with virus particles in a salt solution at room temperature and a neutral pH (pH 7), focusing on its binding with a coronavirus surrogate and Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV).
- The new detection method observes the rate at which the clay-virus solution settles to determine both presence and quantity of the virus.
- This technique is faster, more cost-effective, and potentially more accurate than conventional methods, enabling improved disease monitoring and response.
- The study is part of ongoing research published in prestigious journals such as *Langmuir*, including work on biomedical waste disposal systems funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- The researchers validated their results using standard virus detection techniques such as plaque assays for the coronavirus surrogate and RT-PCR for IBV, achieving comparable accuracy.
- The method shows potential for adaptation to detect other viruses like Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV), which significantly affects poultry farming.
- This innovation could revolutionize outbreak monitoring, especially in low-resource settings, by enabling simpler, more accessible diagnostic tools.
- With further refinement, the method could be adapted for field kits or basic lab setups, aiding in quicker and broader virus detection during future public health crises.
- The research team now plans to collaborate with industry partners and medical institutions to conduct clinical trials for SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses.



## 49. STARLINK LATEST PLAYER TO GET DOT SATCOM LICENCE IN INDIA:



- Elon Musk-run affordable satellite internet service **Starlink** has received a **satcom licence in India**, paving the way for its commercial launch later this year or early next year.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has granted Starlink the **Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS)** permit.
- Starlink becomes the **third satcom company** to receive the GMPCS licence in India, following **Eutelsat's OneWeb** and **Jio-SES**.
- The **trial spectrum** is expected to be issued soon, as Starlink has fulfilled all **security compliance** conditions outlined in its letter of intent (LoI).
- Starlink now awaits **final clearance from the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** and has already submitted the necessary documentation.
- The DoT approval was granted after Starlink agreed to adhere to India's **new national security guidelines** for satcom operators.
- These guidelines include **29 additional requirements**, such as mandatory **interception and monitoring systems**, **localisation mandates**, **data centre use within India**, and **location tracking of user terminals**.
- In April, Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** met with top Starlink executives to discuss the company's **investment plans for India**.

## 50. IASST INITIATIVE ON MEDICINAL PLANT-BASED PHARMACEUTICALS IN NE:

- The Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has received support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and partial funding from its core grant for a five-year project worth Rs 11.52 crore.
- The project is titled 'Quality Control and Quality Assurance Laboratory and Facilitation Centre for Pharmacopoeial Standardisation of Herbals and Phytopharmaceuticals in Northeast India.'
- The initiative aims to establish a state-of-the-art laboratory and facilitation centre dedicated to the testing, validation, and

standardization of herbal and medicinal plant-based pharmaceuticals in Northeast India.

- The project will significantly impact the region's economy, healthcare, and industry by encouraging collaboration among researchers, regulatory bodies, and various sectors.
- The centre will promote the production of high-quality herbal and phytopharmaceutical products that meet both national and international standards.
- Local farmers will benefit through improved product quality and trust, enabling better prices and wider market access.
- The project aims to uplift farmers' living conditions by increasing income, profitability, and providing adequate support.
- Training and capacity-building programs will be conducted to improve farming techniques, quality control, and handling skills, leading to higher yields and better-quality produce.
- Through rigorous testing and certification, the lab will help farmers meet regulatory standards, increasing buyer confidence and enhancing domestic and international marketability.
- Approximately 3 million farmers in India are part of Farmer Producing Organizations (FPOs), with women comprising around 40% of this group.
- The initiative seeks to create an inclusive and sustainable agricultural framework, especially supporting small, marginalized, and women farmers, including those in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and economically weaker sections.
- The project will boost research and development related to indigenous herbs and medicinal plants with therapeutic properties.
- It aims to harness local biodiversity for therapeutic applications and plans to establish a Centre of Excellence for medicinal herbs.
- This Centre is expected to become a key R&D hub for medicinal plants in the region.
- The initiative also supports the potential establishment of a Registered Medicinal Plants Grower Association in Assam and Northeast India, made feasible through the backing of this facility.

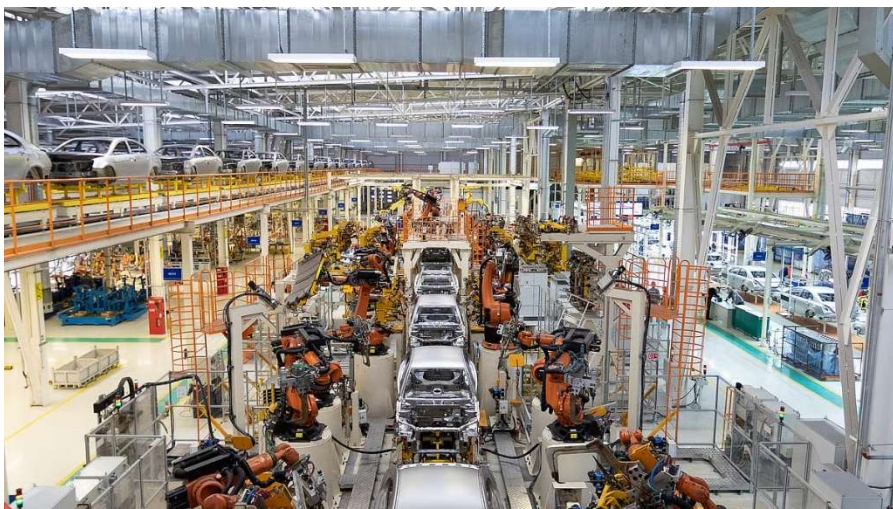
## 51. INDIAN ASTRONAUT SHUKLA, AXIOM-4 MISSION SET FOR JUNE 10 LIFT-OFF:

- Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is set to embark on Axiom Space's fourth human spaceflight (Axiom-4 or Ax-4) from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on June 10.
- The crew is expected to dock at the International Space Station (ISS) on June 11 at approximately 10:00 pm IST, following a 28-hour journey.
- Shukla will serve as the **mission pilot**, accompanied by:
  - **Mission Commander:** Peggy Whitson (USA)
  - **Mission Specialist:** Tibor Kapu (Hungary)
  - **Mission Specialist:** Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski (Poland)
- The mission marks **India's return to space after 41 years**, following Rakesh Sharma's flight aboard Russia's Soyuz mission in 1984.



- The crew will travel aboard a **new SpaceX Dragon spacecraft**, launched on a **Falcon 9 rocket**.
- The scheduled docking time is **12:30 pm EDT (10:00 pm IST)** on June 11.
- Shukla will conduct **food and nutrition-related experiments**, developed collaboratively by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, with NASA's support.
- The experiments aim to advance **space nutrition and self-sustaining life support systems**, essential for long-duration space missions.
- ISRO has prepared **seven experiments** specifically for Shukla, in addition to **five joint studies** with NASA under its human research programme.
- A key focus is on **India-centric food**, including experiments on sprouting **methi (fenugreek)** and **moong (green gram)** in microgravity.
- Shukla will also expose seeds to space conditions and return them to Earth, where they will be cultivated for **multi-generational growth studies**.
- The knowledge gained from Shukla's mission will be significantly utilized in **ISRO's Gaganyaan mission**, slated for **2027**.
- ISRO is investing **Rs 550 crore** in India's participation in the Axiom-4 mission.

## 52.DISRUPTION OF RARE EARTH MAGNET SUPPLIES BEYOND 30 DAYS CAN IMPACT VEHICLE PRODUCTION: REPORT:



- A disruption in rare earth magnet supplies lasting more than a month could impact the production of passenger vehicles, including electric vehicles (EVs), and affect the domestic automobile industry's growth momentum, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.
- Rare earth magnets, although low in cost, are critical components and could pose a significant supply-side risk if China's export restrictions and shipment delays persist.
- Most automakers currently maintain a 4–6 week inventory; however, prolonged delays could affect vehicle production, with EV models likely facing deferrals or rescheduling starting from July 2025.
- Two-wheelers and internal combustion engine (ICE) passenger vehicles (PVs) could also be impacted if supply constraints continue for an extended period.

- Automakers are engaging with alternative suppliers in Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Australia, and the U.S., while optimizing existing inventories.
- Rare earth magnets are essential for Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motors (PMSMs), which are used in EVs for their high torque, energy efficiency, and compact design.
- Hybrid vehicles also rely on these magnets for efficient propulsion. In ICE vehicles, rare earth magnets are used primarily in electric power steering and other motorized systems.
- In April 2025, China imposed export restrictions on seven rare earth elements and finished magnets, requiring export licenses and detailed end-use disclosures, including confirmation that the products will not be used in defense or re-exported to the U.S.
- These new requirements have led to approval delays, with the clearance process taking at least 45 days and a growing backlog worsening the situation.
- India imported over 80% of its 540 tonnes of rare earth magnets from China in the last fiscal year and is already feeling the impact of the restrictions.
- By the end of May 2025, about 30 import requests from Indian companies had been endorsed by the Indian government, but none were approved by Chinese authorities, and no shipments had arrived.
- During the pandemic, rare earth magnet supplies remained stable, unlike semiconductors, which led the industry to maintain a just-in-time inventory model without strategic buffers.
- Unlike semiconductors, which have a diversified global supply base, over 90% of rare earth magnet processing is concentrated in China, limiting short-term alternatives.
- Recognizing the risk, the Indian government and automakers are responding on two fronts, Crisil noted.
- In the short term, they are focusing on building strategic inventories, sourcing from alternative suppliers, and ramping up domestic assembly under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.
- For the long term, reducing import dependency will require fast-tracking rare earth exploration, building local production capabilities, and investing in recycling infrastructure.

## 53.INDIA AMONG PRIME DATA CENTRE PROJECTS DESTINATIONS

- According to a report by **Moody's Analytics** titled "*AI Is Beating the Odds*", **India, Singapore, and Malaysia** are rapidly emerging as **key destinations** for **AI-related investments**, particularly in **data centers** and **semiconductor manufacturing**.
- This trend is unfolding despite a broader global slowdown in **cross-border investment** and growing **geopolitical tensions**.
- Moody's notes that while global trade is fragmenting, **spending on AI is defying the trend**, with demand for AI infrastructure **outpacing supply**.
- To meet this surging demand, global investors are increasingly **pouring capital** into **data centers and semiconductor projects** in East and Southeast Asia.
- The report highlights that the **US has a greater share of outbound AI investment** compared to inbound, indicating



that **US tech companies** are expanding globally, particularly in Asia.

- Factors attracting AI investments to India, Singapore, and Malaysia include:
  - **Cost advantages**
  - **Rising domestic and regional demand**
  - **Supportive government policies** promoting tech infrastructure and innovation.
- These developments position East and Southeast Asia as **crucial players** in the global AI and semiconductor value chain.

## 54.DRDO OFFERS 28 INDIGENOUS WEAPON SYSTEMS TO MILITARY FOR EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT



- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has offered **28 indigenously developed weapon systems** to the three armed services for emergency procurement.

- This initiative follows the successful performance of indigenous weapons during **Operation Sindoor**, India's military retaliation after the **Pahalgam terror attack**.
- The Government of India has granted **emergency procurement powers** to the Defence Forces, allowing purchases of up to **₹300 crore per product**.
- The emergency procurement powers enable the quick acquisition of new weapons and replenishment of existing stocks.
- DRDO has also provided a list of **approved production agencies** for sourcing these weapons.
- For example, **Pinaka rockets** can be procured from **Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited**, and **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** is listed as the source for multiple systems.
- The list of offered weapons includes:
  - **Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (MPATGM)**
  - **Very Short-Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS)**
  - **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAAW)**
  - **Long-Range Glide Bombs**
  - **Advanced Lightweight Torpedoes**
  - **Ammunition for 155 mm artillery guns**
- Out of the 28 systems offered:
  - **14 are intended for the Indian Army**
  - **8 for the Indian Navy**
  - **6 for the Indian Air Force**
- The move is part of a broader effort to boost **self-reliance in defence production** and strengthen combat readiness with **indigenous solutions**.



## DEFENCE

### 55.ARMY CONDUCTS TRIALS OF NEXT-GEN DEF SYSTEMS UNDER NEAR-COMBAT CONDITIONS:



- The Indian Army is conducting field trials of several cutting-edge defence systems under “near-combat conditions,” incorporating electronic warfare simulations to rigorously assess their performance.
- These trials are aimed at strengthening the Army’s technological capabilities and improving its operational readiness.
- Defence systems being evaluated include Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), UAV Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM), Runway Independent (RWI), Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS), and counter-UAS solutions.
- The trials are part of the Army’s broader “Decade of Transformation” roadmap, which seeks to ensure the rapid integration of emerging technologies to meet evolving battlefield needs.
- The Indian Army is also conducting extensive “capacity development demonstrations” at key locations across the country.
- These demonstrations showcase a wide range of advanced technologies developed under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, with the goal of accelerating indigenous capability development.
- Additional next-generation platforms undergoing evaluation include loitering munitions, Specialised Vertical Launch (SVL) drones, Precision Multi Munition Delivery Systems, Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDDIS), Low Level Light Weight Radars, Chords (Next Generation) IR Systems, and Electronic Warfare (EW) platforms.

### 56.NAVY INDUCTS FIRST ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHALLOW WATERCRAFT ARNALA:

- **INS Arnala**, the first warship in the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercraft (ASW-SWC)** series, has been formally **inducted into the Indian Navy**.



- It is designed to carry out **subsurface surveillance, search and rescue missions**, and **low-intensity maritime operations** in coastal and shallow waters.
- The **commissioning ceremony** was held at the **Naval Dockyard** and presided over by **Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan**.
- Gen Chauhan emphasized the Navy’s evolution from a “**buyer’s navy**” to a “**builder’s navy**”, a key part of India’s **Blue Water aspirations**.
- **INS Arnala** is **77 metres long** and has a **gross tonnage of over 1,490 tonnes**, making it the largest Indian naval warship to be powered by a **diesel engine-waterjet combination**.
- The ceremony was hosted by **Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command, and attended by senior naval officials, ex-commanders of the former *Arnala*, and representatives from **GRSE** and **L&T Shipbuilding**.
- The warship incorporates **over 80% indigenous content**, featuring systems from Indian defence firms such as **BEL, L&T, Mahindra Defence**, and **MEIL**.
- This marks the induction of the **first of 16 ASW-SWC class ships** into the Navy.
- The ship is named after the **historic Arnala Fort**, located off **Vasai in Maharashtra**, built in **1737 by the Marathas** under **Chimaji Appa** to guard the **Vaitarna River’s mouth**.
- The name reflects **India’s rich maritime heritage** and strategic foresight from the Maratha era.

### 57.OPERATION SINDHU: 827 INDIAN NATIONALS BROUGHT BACK FROM IRAN SO FAR





- More than 800 Indian nationals have returned home from Iran under **Operation Sindhu**, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.
- The MEA provided updates on the evacuation through a series of posts on X (formerly Twitter).
- More Indian nationals, including students, arrived in Delhi late Friday evening and early Saturday morning after being evacuated from Iran amid escalating military tensions with Israel.
- India officially launched **Operation Sindhu** on Wednesday to evacuate its nationals from Iran.
- One of the evacuation flights from Mashhad landed in New Delhi at 16:30 hrs on 21 June, carrying 310 Indian nationals.
- With this flight, a total of **827 Indians** have been evacuated so far.
- At the request of the Governments of **Nepal** and **Sri Lanka**, the Indian Embassy's evacuation efforts in Iran will also include the evacuation of **Nepali and Sri Lankan citizens**.

## 58.IAF TO GET AT LEAST 6 TEJAS JETS BY MARCH 2026: HAL CHIEF



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is expected to receive at least six Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) by March 2026.
- This update was provided by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) CMD D.K. Sunil.
- The announcement comes after the IAF Chief expressed serious concerns over delays in the delivery of the jets.
- The delay was attributed to GE Aerospace, the US defense major, for not supplying engines on schedule.
- Specifically, GE's delay in delivering the F404 engines for the LCA Mk-1A variant caused the slippage in the timeline.
- GE Aerospace is expected to supply 12 engines during the current fiscal year.
- The delay originated from pandemic-related disruptions and the departure of several senior engineers from GE, leading to cascading supply chain issues.
- Technical problems with GE Aerospace have now been resolved.
- HAL is scheduled to receive all 12 engines by March 2026.
- HAL plans to manufacture 16 jets in the upcoming year, contingent upon a steady flow of engine supplies from GE.
- In February 2021, the Indian Defence Ministry signed a ₹48,000 crore deal with HAL to procure 83 Tejas Mk-1A jets.

- The government is also in the process of acquiring 97 more LCA Mk-1As at an estimated cost of ₹67,000 crore.
- The single-engine Tejas Mk-1A is intended to replace the aging MiG-21 fighter jets in the IAF fleet.
- The IAF's fighter squadron strength has declined to 31, against the officially sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons.
- The timely induction of Tejas jets is critical for enhancing the IAF's combat capability.

## 59.INDIA REFUSES TO SIGN SCO JOINT STATEMENT:



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to sign a joint communique at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' conclave due to the omission of the Pahalgam terror attack and failure to explicitly address India's concerns over Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism.
- The conference was held in Qingdao, China, on June 26, where Singh strongly advocated for the inclusion of the Pahalgam terror attack in the final communique.
- The Pakistani delegation reportedly insisted on including a paragraph on militant activities in Balochistan, attempting to shift the focus and indirectly blame India.
- As the SCO operates on a consensus-based framework, Pakistan's opposition led to the conclave concluding without a joint statement.
- The draft communique neither mentioned the Pahalgam attack nor India's stance on cross-border terrorism, which would have weakened India's position on a vital security issue.
- In his address, Singh condemned Pakistan for supporting terrorist groups and stressed the need to hold "perpetrators, organisers, financiers, and sponsors" of terrorism accountable, particularly in cross-border contexts.
- Singh noted that the nature of the Pahalgam attack resembled previous attacks carried out by the Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba.
- In New Delhi, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confir



## SPORTS & AWARDS

### 60.SACHIN YADAV SHINES WITH SILVER:



- Rising Indian javelin thrower Sachin Yadav clinched the silver medal at the 26th Asian Athletics Championships with a personal best throw of 85.16m.
- Yadav finished behind reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem, who won gold with a throw of 86.40m.
- Yadav's previous personal best was 84.39m.
- Fellow Indian javelin thrower Yashvir Singh also achieved a personal best of 82.57m, finishing fifth.
- Sprinter Animesh Kujur secured a bronze medal in the men's 200m final, setting a new national record of 20.32 seconds.
- Kujur surpassed his previous best of 20.40s, set earlier this year at the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition.
- Japan's Towa Uzawa won the men's 200m gold with a time of 20.12s, while Saudi Arabia's Abdulaziz Atafi took silver in 20.31s.
- Asian Games medallist Vithya Ramraj earned a bronze medal in the women's 400m hurdles with a time of 56.46s.
- China's Mo Jiadie won gold in the 400m hurdles in 55.31s, narrowly beating Bahrain's Oluwakemi Adekoya, who clocked 55.32s for silver.
- Another Indian athlete in the 400m hurdles, Anu Raghavan, finished seventh with a time of 57.46s.

### 61.JYOTHI YARRAJI LEADS INDIA'S 6-GOLD SHOW IN TAIWAN OPEN:



- Asian champion **Jyothi Yarraji** won the **women's 100m hurdles** gold medal at the Taiwan Open international athletics competition held at **Taipei City**.
- Yarraji clocked **12.99 seconds**, finishing ahead of Japan's **Asuka Terada** (13.04 seconds) and **Chisato Kiyoyama** (13.10 seconds).
- The 25-year-old had earlier won gold at the **Asian Championships in South Korea** on May 29 with a time of **12.96 seconds**. Her **national record** is **12.78 seconds**.
- **Tejas Shirse**, another national record holder, won gold in the **men's 110m hurdles**, clocking **13.52 seconds**, the second fastest time of his career.
- Local Taiwanese athletes **Hsieh Yuankai** (13.72) and **Kuei Ru Chen** (13.75) secured silver and bronze respectively.
- Shirse's **national record** in the event is **13.41 seconds**.
- India's men's **4x100m relay team** — **Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblidhar, and Amlan Borgohain** — won gold with a time of **38.75 seconds**, narrowly missing their own national record of **38.69 seconds**.
- Despite the win, the time was not sufficient for qualification to the **Tokyo World Championships**, where **Nigeria** and **Netherlands** are in contention with faster times (**38.20 seconds**).
- India's **women's 4x100m relay team** — **Sudheeksha Vadluri, Sneha Sathyanarayana Shanuvalli, Abinaya Rajarajan, and Nithya Gandhe** — also won gold, clocking **44.06 seconds**.
- The national record in the women's 4x100m relay stands at **43.37 seconds**, set in 2021 by **Archana S, Dhanalakshmi, Hima Das, and Dutee Chand**.
- **Abdulla Aboobacker** won gold in the **men's triple jump**, and **Pooja** won gold in the **women's 1500m** event.
- In total, India secured **six gold medals** at the Taiwan Open.

### 62.PORTUGAL BEAT SPAIN TO LIFT NATIONS LEAGUE TITLE:



- Ruben Neves scored the decisive spot kick after Alvaro Morata missed as Portugal beat Spain 5-3 on penalties following a 2-2 draw in Munich to claim their second Nations League title.



- Portugal's only other win over Spain in a competitive fixture was a 1-0 victory, which booted the Spaniards out of Euro 2004, with a 19-year-old Ronaldo on the left wing.
- Portugal became the first two-time winner of the Nations League, launched in 2018. It was Portugal's third major title, along with Euro 2016.

## 63.DHONI AMONG 7 CRICKETERS IN ICC'S HALL OF FAME:



- Former India captain MS Dhoni was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame for the year 2025 in a ceremony held in London.
- Alongside Dhoni, seven other cricketers were inducted, including Australian legend Matthew Hayden, South African greats Graeme Smith and Hashim Amla, and former New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori.
- Two female cricketers — former England wicketkeeper-batter Sarah Taylor and former Pakistan captain Sana Mir — were also honoured.
- The ICC praised Dhoni not just for his impressive numbers, but also for his “extraordinary consistency, fitness, and longevity.”
- Dhoni amassed 17,266 international runs, effected 829 dismissals, and played 538 matches across formats for India.
- He represented India in 90 Tests, 350 ODIs, and 98 T20Is, and is regarded as one of the greatest captains in the country's history.
- As Test captain, Dhoni led India in 60 matches, with 27 wins, 15 losses, and 18 draws.
- In ODIs, he captained India in a record 200 matches, winning 110, losing 74, with five ties and 11 no results.
- He also led India in a record 72 T20Is, winning 41, losing 28, with two no results and one tie.
- Renowned as a legendary finisher in ODIs, Dhoni scored 10,773 runs in 350 matches at an average of 50.57, including 10 centuries and 73 fifties.
- In Tests, he scored 4,876 runs at an average of over 38, with six centuries and 33 fifties.
- In T20Is, Dhoni scored 1,617 runs at an average of 37.60, including two fifties.

## 64.BCCI TWEAKS RANJI FORMAT AS ONE TEAM TO BE PROMOTED AND RELEGATED:

- The **2025–26 Ranji Trophy** will be held from **October 15 to February 28**, divided into **two phases**, with a **tweaked format** approved by the BCCI Apex Council.
- Under the new format, there will be **promotion and relegation of only one team** from the **Plate Group**, instead of the current two.
- The **expansion of nine teams** in 2018–19, including sides from the **Northeast**, has reportedly affected the **overall quality** of the competition.
- The **Duleep Trophy** will return to its **zonal format** and will open the domestic season, scheduled from **August 28 to September 15**.
- The **Plate division has been reintroduced** across all one-day tournaments, including the **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT)**.
- From this season, the SMAT will be played from **November 26 to December 18**.
- The **knockout structure** in SMAT has been revised — qualified teams will now get **three extra matches in a Super League stage** before the final.
- The **top teams from Group A and B** will face off in the **final**.
- The **bottom six teams** from the last season will compete in the **Plate Group**.

## 65.BCCI TO CONDUCT AN ADDITIONAL BONE TEST:



- In a significant move, the BCCI has decided to conduct an **additional bone test at the junior level** to prevent cricketers from missing an extra season due to the “+1 factor” in age calculation.
- Currently, age determination is done using the **TW3 method**, and a **+1 factor** is added to calculate eligibility for the next season, sometimes ruling players out by narrow margins.
- With the new rule, a cricketer in the **Under-16 boys' category** can undergo a **second bone test** the following season to reassess eligibility if the +1 factor had previously rendered them ineligible.
- The **bone age cut-off** for:
  - U-16 boys is **16.5 years**
  - U-15 girls is **15 years**



- This means a player must have a bone age of **16.4 or below** for U-16 boys and **14.9 or below** for U-15 girls in the following season.
- **Example:**
  - If a male U-16 player's bone age is **15.4 years** in the 2025–26 season, a +1 factor makes it **16.4** for 2026–27, allowing participation without a second test.
  - But if the initial bone age is **15.5 or higher**, the +1 makes it **16.5 or higher**, making the player ineligible under the current rules.
- The **new rule allows a retest** in the second season to account for cases where the +1 factor may not reflect actual bone growth.
- The change addresses concerns that **arithmetical age calculations may not align with real bone development**, potentially causing players to miss out on a full year of eligibility.

## 66.FIRST TIME IN HISTORY OF T20 CRICKET -NETHERLANDS BEAT NEPAL IN THIRD SUPER OVER



- The **Netherlands defeated Nepal** after an **unprecedented three Super Overs** in a T20 International tri-series match held in **Glasgow**, marking a **historic first** in the history of T20 or List A cricket.
- The Netherlands had posted **152/7** in their allotted 20 overs.
- Nepal managed to **tie the match at 152/8**, with tailender **Nandan Yadav** hitting two crucial boundaries, including one off the final delivery.
- In the **first Super Over**, Nepal scored **19 runs**, led by **Kushal Bhurtel** who smashed 18 runs.
- The Dutch matched the total after **Max O'Dowd** hit a six and a four off the last two balls.
- In the **second Super Over**, the Netherlands scored 17, but **Dipendra Singh Airee** hit a last-ball six off **Kyle Klein** to tie the game again.
- In the **third Super Over**, Dutch spinner **Zach Lion-Cachet** dismissed two Nepal batters in four balls **without conceding a run**.

- The Netherlands required just one run to win, but **Michael Levitt** sealed the match emphatically by hitting the **first ball for six** off **Sandeep Lamichhane**.
- **Scotland** is the **third team** participating in this ongoing T20 tri-series.

## 67.NEERAJ BEATS WEBER TO WIN FIRST DIAMOND LEAGUE TITLE IN TWO YEAR:



- Olympic medal-winning Indian javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** clinched his **first Diamond League title in two years**, defeating German rival **Julian Weber** in a strong field in **Paris**.
- Chopra, 27, won the title late on Friday night with a **first-round throw of 88.16m**, which proved enough to secure victory despite not breaching the 90m mark.
- His second throw measured 85.10m, followed by three fouls, and a final attempt of 82.89m.
- **Julian Weber** finished second with an opening throw of **87.88m**, while **Luiz Mauricio Da Silva** of Brazil was third with a throw of **86.62m**.
- Chopra had last won a Diamond League (DL) title in **Lausanne in June 2023** with a throw of **87.66m**. He had placed second in six DL meets since then.
- This win marked his **first victory in the Paris leg** of the Diamond League. His last appearance in Paris was in 2017 as a junior world champion, where he finished fifth with **84.67m**.
- Chopra had crossed the 90m mark earlier in the season at the **Doha DL on May 16**, with a personal best of **90.23m**, finishing second behind Weber's **91.06m**.
- At the **Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet** in Poland on May 23, Weber again edged Chopra with **86.12m** to Chopra's **84.14m**, in cold, overcast weather.
- Chopra started the 2025 season by winning a minor invitational meet in **Potchefstroom, South Africa**, with a throw of **84.52m**.
- The Paris event featured five members of the elite **90m club**: Chopra, Weber, **Julius Yego** (Kenya), **Keshorn Walcott** (Trinidad & Tobago), and **Anderson Peters** (Grenada).
- Final placements:
  - **4th:** Walcott – 81.66m
  - **5th:** Peters – 80.29m



- 6th: Yego – 80.26m

## 68.SAHITYA AKADEMI ANNOUNCES BAL SAHITYA, YUVA PURASKAR FOR 2025:



- Sahitya Akademi has announced the names of **23 writers** who will receive the **Yuva Puraskar 2025** across various Indian languages.
- The winners were selected by language-specific juries, each consisting of **three members**, and approved by the **Executive Board** under the chairmanship of **Madhav Kaushik**, President of the Akademi.
- **No Yuva Puraskar** has been awarded in **Dogri** this year.
- **Highlights of Yuva Puraskar 2025 Winners:**
- **Advait Kottary (English)** – *Siddhartha: The Boy Who Became the Buddha* (novel)
- **Parvati Tirkey (Hindi)** – *Phir Ugna* (poetry)
- **Suprakash Bhuyan (Assamese)**
- **Sudeshna Moitra (Bengali)**
- **Amar Khungur Boro (Bodo)**
- **Mayur Khavdu (Gujarati)**
- **R. Dileepkumar (Kannada)**
- **Saiqa Sehar (Kashmiri)**
- **Glynis Dias (Konkani)**
- **Neha Jha Mani (Maithili)**
- **Akhil P. Dharmajan (Malayalam)**
- **A.K. Jiten (Manipuri)**
- **Pradeep Kokar (Marathi)**
- **Subash Thakuri (Nepali)**
- **Subrat Kumar Senapati (Odia)**
- **Mandeep Aulakh (Punjabi)**
- **Poonam Chand Godara (Rajasthani)**
- **Dheeraj Kumar Pandey (Sanskrit)**
- **Fagu Baskey (Santali)**
- **Manthan Bachani (Sindhi)**

- **Latshmi Har (Tamil)**
- **Prasad Suri (Telugu)**
- **Neha Rubab (Urdu)**
- **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025:**
- **24 authors** have been selected for the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar** for their contributions to children's literature.
- Each award includes a **casket with an engraved copper plaque** and a **cash prize of ₹50,000**, to be presented at a special function later.
- **Notable Winners:**
- **Nitin Kushalappa MP (English)** – *Dakshin: South Indian Myths and Fables Retold*
- **Sushil Shukla (Hindi)** – *Ek Batey Bara*
- **Surendra Mohan Das (Assamese)**
- **Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay (Bengali)**
- **Binay Kumar Brahma (Bodo)**
- **P.L. Parihar (Dogri)**
- **Kirtida Brahmbhatt (Gujarati)**
- **K. Shivalingappa Handihal (Kannada)**
- **Izhar Mubashir (Kashmiri)**
- **Nayana Adarkar (Konkani)**
- **Munni Kamat (Maithili)**
- **Sreejith Moothedath (Malayalam)**
- **Shanto M. (Manipuri)**
- **Suresh Sawant (Marathi)**
- **Sangmu Lepcha (Nepali)**
- **Rajakishore Parhi (Odia)**
- **Pali Khadim (Amrit Pal Singh) (Punjabi)**
- **Bhogilal Patidar (Rajasthani)**
- **Preeti Pujara (Sanskrit)**
- **Haralal Murmu (Santali)**
- **Heena Agnani (Sindhi)**
- **Vishnupuram Sarvanan (Tamil)**
- **Gangiseti Sivakumar (Telugu)**
- **Ghazanfar Iqbal (Urdu)**



## NORTH-EAST & ASSAM

### 69.FIRST PHASE TO BE COMMISSIONED IN MID-JUNE:

- The 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project is likely to be fully commissioned by May 2026.
- When completed, Assam will receive 508 MW of power in addition to 25 MW of free power.
- In the first phase, 750 MW is scheduled to be commissioned in the middle of June this year.
- The process of dam filling for the first phase has already begun.
- Once fully commissioned, Assam will have to purchase its 508 MW share at a rate approved by the Central Electricity Authority, which will be lower than the market rate.
- Arunachal Pradesh will receive 274 MW, other northeastern states will get 193 MW, northern states will receive 500 MW, and western states will also get 500 MW.
- The National Disaster Management Authority has cleared the dam filling process after addressing slope stability issues.
- The Government of India has sanctioned ₹470 crore for schemes benefiting downstream residents.
- ₹140 crore of the sanctioned amount was used for erosion protection across 30 kilometers downstream from the project site, and that work has been completed.
- The Assam Government requested NHPC to extend erosion protection work up to 60 kilometers downstream.
- The Central Government sanctioned an additional ₹180 crore for this extended erosion protection work.
- Erosion protection works from 30 to 60 kilometers will begin in the upcoming working season.
- Erosion protection measures have also been initiated at select locations in Majuli river island, and contracts for the same have been awarded.
- The erosion protection schemes were designed by IIT Roorkee and are being monitored by IIT Guwahati.

### 70.GU TEAM DISCOVERS NEW CAVE FISH SPECIES IN MEGHALAYA'S SUBTERRANEAN LABYRINTHS:



- In a major advancement for biodiversity research, a team from Gauhati University led by Dr Kangkan Sarma has identified a new species of cave-dwelling fish in Meghalaya's limestone caves.
- The species, named *Schistura densiclava*, is the ninth such discovery by the team, reinforcing their pioneering role in exploring Northeast India's hidden ecosystems.
- The discovery was made in collaboration with researchers from Lady Keane College, Shillong, and the ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow.
- *Schistura densiclava* was found hundreds of metres underground in the pitch-dark caves of Meghalaya, showcasing the resilience of life in extreme and isolated environments.
- These caves, numbering between 1,500 to 1,700, are composed of limestone and sandstone and are located in remote forested regions, known for their complexity and inaccessibility.
- A BBC report highlighted this unique discovery and the logistical challenges faced by the research team in accessing these unexplored subterranean habitats.
- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma congratulated Dr Sarma and his team, commending them for "shining a light on the hidden biodiversity" of the state.
- *Schistura densiclava* is a small, elusive loach uniquely adapted to a life in complete darkness, with distinct physiological traits shaped by evolution.
- The discovery adds to Meghalaya's already rich biodiversity and enhances scientific understanding of cave ecosystems.
- Dr Sarma's team conducted meticulous taxonomic analysis to establish the distinct identity of the species from its relatives.
- This finding emphasizes the untapped biological wealth of Northeast India and the ecological significance of its cave systems.
- The team's previous discoveries of eight other cave-dwelling fish species in Meghalaya have contributed significantly to global knowledge of subterranean ecosystems.
- Gauhati University has emerged as a leader in cave biology research due to the team's expertise in navigating and studying the state's complex cave networks.

### 71.NO INTERFERENCE REQUIRED, RULES GREEN TRIBUNAL:

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has stated that its interference is not required in a matter concerning the alleged illegal permission granted for construction of the second Assam Commando Battalion unit headquarters inside the inner line of reserved forest in Assam's Hailakandi district.
- The tribunal disposed of the matter after receiving an affidavit from the State government confirming that the project's construction would be confined to less than 20,000 square metres (around 4.94 acres), and hence, environmental clearance (EC) was not required as per rules.
- The NGT had earlier taken suo motu cognisance of a media report alleging that senior forest officials of the Assam government had illegally diverted 44 acres of protected forest



land for the battalion headquarters project, being executed by the Assam Police Housing Corporation.

- In the affidavit dated April 25, 2025, the State government clarified it would restrict construction to 19,668 sqm, which does not require EC under current environmental regulations.
- The NGT bench, led by Chairperson Prakash Shrivastava and including Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A Senthil Vel, acknowledged the State's commitment to limit construction accordingly.
- The State government has assured the tribunal that it will dismantle any construction exceeding 20,000 sqm and will not undertake further construction beyond the stated limit.
- As per the affidavit, the government will apply separately for environmental clearance if an additional 8,233 sqm of construction is later required.
- The tribunal noted that the State has committed to strictly follow all environmental laws and will not proceed with any further construction unless all required clearances under existing laws are obtained.

## 72.PORTAL TO TRACK ASSAM FOREST LOSS IN REAL TIME:



- Chief Minister of Assam stated that information about forest cover loss or deforestation in the state can now be received in real time through a newly launched portal.
- The portal uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) and satellite imagery to provide real-time data on deforestation, enabling immediate action.
- He urged everyone to plant a tree in honour of their mothers, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call.
- The Chief Minister handed over arms and ammunition to the third Forest Protection Battalion, which was formed after he assumed office, for safeguarding forests and wildlife.
- He flagged off 130 vehicles designated for various forest ranges and divisions.
- On the issue of banning plastic bottles to prevent drain clogging and urban waterlogging, he mentioned that local youth who had set up mineral water bottle manufacturing units with bank loans appealed against the ban.
- The State government will soon sign an agreement with Oil India Limited (OIL) to produce biofuel from plastic waste.
- OIL will establish biofuel production plants in Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Tezpur, and Guwahati.

## 73.INITIATIVE TO EXPAND REACH OF ESI SCHEME LAUNCHED:

- In a major step towards strengthening social security for workers in Assam, the State Labour Welfare Department, in collaboration with Piramal Swasthya, launched 'Xurakhya'.
- 'Xurakhya' is a pioneering initiative aimed at expanding the reach and efficiency of the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme.
- The initiative targets over 13 lakh insured persons and their families across Assam.
- It aims to enhance awareness, access, and delivery of ESI services over the next three years.
- The launch event was attended by B Kalyan Chakravarthy, Additional Chief Secretary, Labour Welfare Department, who described it as a timely intervention.
- 'Xurakhya' is designed as a one-stop support system for insured persons, emphasizing digital tools, compassionate service, and efficiency.
- The scheme is built on four strategic pillars:
  - Governance through digital tools
  - Improved access and service delivery
  - Demand generation and utilization
  - Enhancing quality of care and patient experience

## 74.GU BECOMES FIRST USER OF VECC'S SUPERCONDUCTING CYCLOTRON:



- Gauhati University (GU) has achieved a major milestone in Indian nuclear physics by becoming the first user institution to conduct experiments in a new high-energy regime at the newly commissioned Superconducting Cyclotron at the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), Kolkata.
- Existing Indian facilities, such as those at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, and the Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), New Delhi, support experiments up to 250 MeV.
- The Superconducting Cyclotron at VECC offers beam energies in the range of 400–500 MeV, a critical advancement for research in nuclear fission dynamics and previously inaccessible physical phenomena in Indian labs.



- The GU team was led by Prof. Kushal Kalita of the Department of Physics, along with his PhD students.
- A two-month experimental campaign using 400 MeV beams to study fission dynamics concluded on May 30.
- The research was conducted in collaboration with Dr. T.K. Ghosh and Arijit Sen of VECC.
- The successful experiment marks a significant advancement in India's nuclear research capabilities.
- It opens new avenues for future high-energy nuclear physics research and promotes further academic and institutional collaborations across the country.

## 75.LOVLINA'S DREAM ACADEMY INAUGURATED



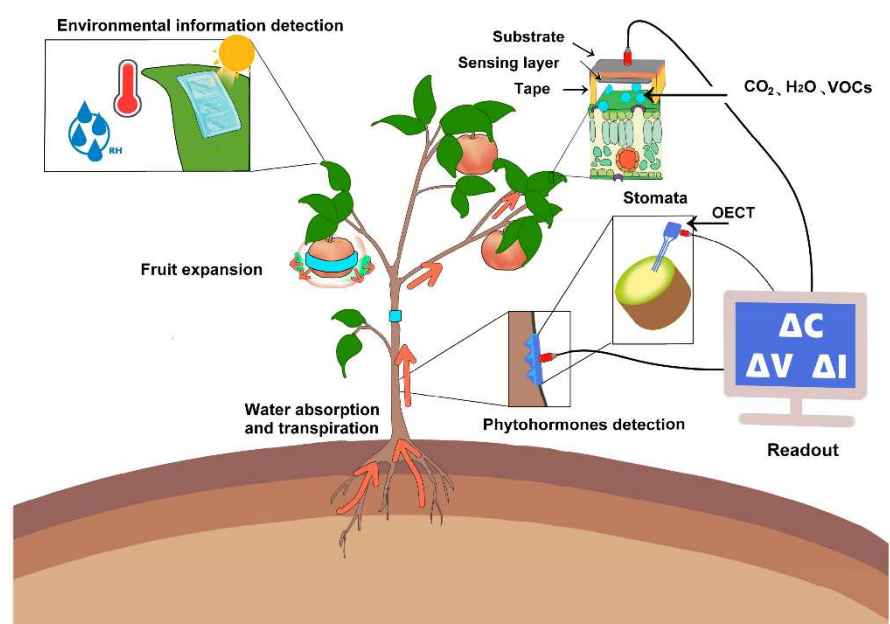
- Olympic medallist **Lovlina Borgohain's** dream of establishing a boxing academy became a reality with the inauguration of the **Lovlina Borgohain Boxing Academy at Barchandra in North Guwahati.**
- The academy was inaugurated by **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.**
- This marks a significant milestone in Lovlina's mission to **empower youth** and nurture **world-class boxing talent**, particularly from the **Northeast** region.
- The academy is the **first-of-its-kind in Guwahati** and aims to provide aspiring boxers with **top-tier infrastructure and professional coaching.**
- Located strategically in Barchandra, the facility includes:
  - A **standard 26×26 boxing ring**
  - A **fully equipped gymnasium**
  - **Essential support facilities** for intensive training
- The initiative is designed to help young athletes **realize their sporting ambitions** from the grassroots level.

## 76.NEOTIA BHAGIRATHI WOMAN AND CHILD CARE CENTRE INAUGURATED:

- Ambuja Neotia Healthcare Venture Limited, a prominent hospital chain specializing in woman and child healthcare in eastern India, has announced the launch of the Neotia Bhagirathi Woman and Child Care Centre in Guwahati.

- This marks a significant milestone in the company's strategic expansion into the north-eastern region of India.
- The facility was ceremonially inaugurated in the presence of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Ambuja Neotia Group Chairman Harshavardhan Neotia, and Executive Director Parthiv Neotia, along with other dignitaries and senior leaders from the organisation.
- The newly launched 100-bed super-speciality hospital focuses on women and children's healthcare and reinforces Ambuja Neotia Healthcare's reputation for clinical excellence and a patient-centric approach.
- Strategically located in Guwahati, the hospital aims to serve not only the city but also the entire state of Assam and surrounding regions with high-quality medical care.
- The centre is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, modern infrastructure, and a team of experienced specialists.
- It offers a comprehensive range of services under one roof, including obstetrics, gynaecology, neonatology, paediatrics, and more.
- The initiative underscores the healthcare group's commitment to expanding quality healthcare access across new geographies.

## 77.GU TEAM DEVELOPS LOW-COST SENSOR FOR PLANT, HUMAN MONITORING:



- Researchers from Gauhati University have developed an innovative, low-cost sensor using graphene oxide and pencil-drawn electrodes on paper.
- This eco-friendly sensor is designed for both plant and human health monitoring, offering a sustainable and accessible sensing solution.
- The study has been featured on the cover of the prestigious journal *ACS Applied Electronic Materials*, reflecting its scientific importance.
- The research was led by Dr. Hemen Kalita and his PhD students Rajnandan Lahkar and Biswajit Dehingia from the Department of Physics at Gauhati University.
- The sensor is a flexible, low-cost humidity sensor fabricated on a paper substrate, with interdigitated electrodes (IDEs) drawn using a simple pencil-drawing technique.



- The use of paper as the substrate and pencil-drawn electrodes presents an environmentally friendly and practical alternative to conventional sensor fabrication methods.
- Graphene oxide (GO) is used as the active sensing material due to its high sensitivity to humidity and moisture levels.
- The sensor demonstrates multi-functional capabilities, including soil moisture monitoring, plant drought stress detection, human breath and skin moisture analysis, non-contact proximity sensing, and smart diaper monitoring.
- Its non-invasive design and adaptability across various fields

## 78.TEZPUR LITCHI FESTIVAL 2025 ORGANISED:



- The Tezpur Litchi Festival was held on Tuesday at the Red Cross Society auditorium, Ganeshghat, Sonitpur.
- Organised by Red Cross Society-Sonitpur, Sonitpur District Administration, NERAMAC, North East Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Tezpur Litchi Rivtra (an agro-farm company), and Asamiya Bebosayee Unnayan Parishad.
- The festival focused on exploring the opportunities and challenges of the GI-tagged Tezpur litchi.
- Featured an exhibition-cum-sale of litchis.
- The event began with a tribute to Padmanath Gohain Baruah, the first chairman of Tezpur Municipal Board, who first planted Tezpur litchi in 1923.
- Agricultural studies highlight that Tezpur's fertile soil and climate are ideal for organic litchi farming.
- Notable litchi-growing areas include Paltan Pukhuri and Paruwa Litchi Garden.
- Lichu Pukhuri garden was established between 1922–1924 by Padmanath Gohain Baruah.
- Paruwa orchard, founded by Late Surjya Prasad Singh in 1954, spans approximately 400 bighas.
- Paruwa litchis are distributed nationwide.
- A few years ago, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma flagged off a 650 kg consignment of Tezpur litchis to London.
- Tezpur litchis—Bombaiya, Bilati, and Shahi varieties—are internationally acclaimed for their unique taste.
- PM Narendra Modi had previously praised the Tezpur litchi in a letter to CM Sarma.
- The 2025 festival is the beginning of an annual celebration aimed at boosting farmer success, tourism, and employment.

## 79.ASSAM CABINET RENAMES DISTRICT SPS AS SENIOR SUPERINTENDENTS TO STREAMLINE POLICE HIERARCHY:

- The Assam Cabinet, chaired by the Chief Minister, has approved a key change in the designation of police officers to streamline the hierarchy within the Assam Police.
- Currently, police officials heading co-districts are designated as Co-District Superintendent of Police (CDSP), a title that appears more senior in nomenclature, although SPs hold a higher rank.
- To address this discrepancy and ensure clarity in the rank structure, district SPs will now be designated as Senior Superintendent of Police.
- The new designation aims to reinforce a clear and consistent police hierarchy across the state.
- As part of the change, the shoulder insignia for Senior Superintendent of Police will include two stars along with the Ashoka Stambha.
- This measure is intended to enhance uniformity and establish a proper sense of hierarchy in police ranks.

## 80.ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION TO RENAME MOHANBARI AIRPORT AFTER DR HAZARIKA:

- The Assam Legislative Assembly on Monday passed a resolution, introduced by Minister Jogen Mohan, to rename



the Mohanbari Airport in Dibrugarh as **Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika Airport**.

- Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** said the renaming is part of the year-long celebration of Dr Hazarika's **birth centenary**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will formally **inaugurate the centenary celebrations** at a grand event in **Khanapara on September 7, 2025**, where **1,000 youths** will perform Dr Hazarika's iconic song "**Asom Amar Rupahi**".
- **Tribute ceremonies** will also be held across **Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Mumbai**, with the **closing ceremony** scheduled in **New Delhi on September 8, 2026**.



- Additional initiatives announced by the Chief Minister include:
  - A proposal to **institute a chair** in Dr Hazarika's name at **Banaras Hindu University**.
  - The release of a **commemorative coin**.
  - A biography written by **Anuradha Sarma Pujari**, to be **translated into 23 Indian languages**.
  - 4 lakh copies** of the book will be distributed to **school and college libraries** nationwide, and **10–12 lakh copies** to **households in Assam**.
- Sarma encouraged **legislators and citizens** to organize **year-long events** honoring Dr Hazarika.
- Regarding another request, residents of **Tezpur** have asked to rename the **Tezpur airport** after Dr Hazarika. However, the government is **considering the name 'Jyoti-Bishnu Airport'** to honour **Jyoti Prasad Agarwala** and **Bishnu Prasad Rabha**.
- Sarma highlighted earlier heritage initiatives like the **400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan** and the nomination of **Charaideo Maidam** as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- He also announced the upcoming **installation of a statue of Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi** at the **Guwahati airport**.
- Opposition and ruling party leaders supported the resolution and proposed further steps:
  - Debabrata Saikia** suggested launching a **free website** to archive Dr Hazarika's works, instituting a **scholarship**, starting a **six-month course** on his life and philosophy, making a **biopic**, and establishing a **regional film institute** and **cultural complex** at **Naoboicha**.
  - Akhil Gogoi**, MLA from Sivasagar and **Raijor Dal president**, recommended setting up a **world-class museum**, initiating a **South East Asia-level music award**, and **digitally preserving** Dr Hazarika's works.
- The Assembly session saw participation from numerous MLAs, including **Atul Bora**, **Padma Hazarika**, **Mrinal Saikia**, **Keshab Mahanta**, **Diganta Barman**, **Bimal Borah**, **Dr Ranoj Pegu**, **Ramkrishna Ghosh**, **Prithiraj Rava**, **Gobinda Basumatary**, **Rafikul Islam**, and **Durga Das Boro**.
- Some members paid **musical tribute** to Dr Hazarika by **singing lines from his iconic songs** during the session.

## 81.KARBI ANGLONG TO GET BIOFUEL REFINERY:



- In **Soweto West**, a neighbourhood within **Kibera** — widely considered **Africa's largest urban slum** — around **200 people now use Bitcoin** for everyday transactions, including buying vegetables.
- This initiative is part of a push to **expand financial services** to **underbanked communities** in Kenya.
- The project was introduced by **AfriBit Africa**, a Kenyan fintech company, via its **nonprofit initiative** aimed at **improving financial inclusion**.
- Bitcoin** was brought to Soweto West in **early 2022** through **crypto-denominated grants** given primarily to **local garbage collectors**, many of whom are funded by nonprofits and are **youth groups open to new technology**.
- AfriBit Africa estimates it has injected around **USD 10,000** into the community through this initiative.
- Now, **some merchants and motorcycle taxis accept Bitcoin** as payment in the area.
- M-Pesa**, Kenya's dominant mobile payment system, has **fee-free transactions** only up to **100 Kenyan shillings (approx. \$0.78)**, after which fees apply.
- By contrast, **Bitcoin Lightning Network transactions are free** when done through platforms introduced by AfriBit Africa.
- While **Bitcoin** is often seen globally as a **volatile store of value**, AfriBit promotes its use in Kibera as a **low-fee, accessible digital payment method**.
- Kenya's digital asset sector** faces **regulatory challenges**, including **crackdowns on crypto giveaways**, but this **small, localized project in Soweto West** has **not been restricted** so far.

## 82.SATRA AAYOG SUBMITS FINAL REPORT TO CM:

- The Satra Aayog, formed for reviewing and assessing the problems of the satra lands in Assam, submitted its final report to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at a programme held at Lok Sewa Bhawan.
- The Aayog was formed in November 2021, with MLA Pradip Hazarika as its chairman and MLAs Mrinal Saikia and Rupak Sarma as its members.
- The Aayog visited around 126 satras, examined the existing problems, and submitted the report with several recommendations.
- Chief Minister Sarma thanked the Satra Aayog for its final report and stated that the government would study the report minutely and exhaustively to implement its recommendations.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced the constitution of a permanent Satra Aayog that would be financially and administratively empowered to work for the welfare of the satras.
- The permanent Aayog will work on forming a 25-year-long vision plan to revamp the institutional framework of the satras.
- The Aayog will also focus on ensuring sustainability of satras across the state.
- Acknowledging the condition of smaller satras, Sarma urged bigger satras to support them.



- He emphasized that bigger satras should undertake transformative work to empower all satras to spread the tenets of Vaishnavism.
- The Chief Minister mentioned that it would be difficult for the government alone to empower all 922 satras.
- He appealed to the people of Assam to work collectively to protect satra lands and support the satras in fulfilling their mission.

### 83. PHOTO GALLERY OF DR BHUPEN HAZARIKA INAUGURATED



- Tourism Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass inaugurated a photo gallery of the legendary cultural icon Dr. Bhupen Hazarika at the visitors' lounge of Assam State Archives.
- The gallery is intended to acquaint visitors, scholars, and guests from across India and abroad with Dr. Hazarika's life and enduring contributions.
- The Minister also inspected various ongoing projects, including the digitization of rare documents in the Archives.
- Binita Pegu, Director of Assam State Archives; Joint Director Mukul Das; and other officials were present at the inauguration ceremony.
- Assam State Archives currently houses around 5 lakh files and records dating back to 1774, approximately 35,000 rare books and reports, 8,000 Gazettes from 1874 onwards, and over 5,000 old maps.
- A significant milestone has been the approval of a financial outlay of Rs 5 crore over five years for digitization of archival records.
- The digitization project is being implemented by AMTRON and began in the financial year 2024-25.
- So far, approximately 5,000 files (comprising 3.80 lakh pages) and 475 rare books (containing 1.20 lakh pages) have been digitized, in adherence to established archival standards.

### 84. ASSAM: SRIMANTA SANKARDEV AWARD TO RENOWNED CLASSICAL DANCE GURU SONAL MANSING:

- Assam Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Borah said that the Governor of Assam will give away the Srimanta Sankardev Award to renowned classical dance guru Sonal Mansingh on June 12 on behalf of the President of India.

### 85. AAU INKS MOU WITH PUNE-BASED INSTITUTE TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH ON SUGARCANE:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Assam Agricultural University (AAU) and Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI), Pune, for collaborative research and development in sugarcane cultivation and production.
- The MoU was signed at the AAU campus in Borbheta, Jorhat, on Wednesday.
- VSI, Pune is a renowned center for sugarcane research, known for pioneering sustainable solutions to boost sugarcane production and rural prosperity.
- The collaboration is expected to benefit Assam's sugarcane farmers by opening new avenues for research and technological advancements.
- Dr. TP Saikia outlined the objectives of the partnership, followed by remarks from Dr. Sanjay Kumar Chetia and Dr. Sambhaji Kadu Patil.
- Dr. Patil emphasized the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in improving sugarcane production through optimized fertilizer use, irrigation management, reduced pesticide application, and precise harvesting based on sucrose levels.
- Dr. Mrinal Saikia spoke about the importance of utilizing sugarcane by-products to boost farmers' income.
- Meanwhile, the 34th Annual Group Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Biological Control of Crop Pests concluded at AAU, Jorhat.
- The two-day event was jointly organized by ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru, and AAU, Jorhat.
- A total of 88 scientists from across India participated in the meeting.

### 86. CHIRANG TO INAUGURATION UPGRADED YOGA PARK WITH DISTRICT-LEVEL ASANA COMPETITION:

- The District Administration of Chirang, in collaboration with the National AYUSH Mission, Assam, will inaugurate the newly-upgraded Yoga Park on **June 16**.
- The event will feature a **district-level Yoga Asana competition** to promote holistic well-being and traditional health practices.





- The competition will follow the **Common Yoga Protocol** developed by the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi**.
- It will be conducted in **four individual age-based categories**:
  - **Category I:** Up to 10 years (venue: Parade Ground, Kajalgaon)
  - **Category II:** Above 10 and up to 18 years (venue: Parade Ground, Kajalgaon)
  - **Category III:** Above 18 and up to 35 years (venue: Yoga Park)
  - **Category IV:** Above 35 years (venue: Yoga Park)
- The public has been invited to participate in and support the celebration of health, discipline, and cultural heritage.
- The upgraded Yoga Park symbolizes **Chirang's dedication to wellness and sustainable living**.

## 87.KAAC SIGNS MOU WITH RELIANCE INDUSTRIES FOR BIOGAS PROJECT:

- A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and Reliance Industries Limited to set up an Integrated Compressed Biogas (CBG) project within the KAAC jurisdiction.
- The signing ceremony took place at the Conference Hall of the Kajir Ronghangpi Memorial Guest House in Taralangso village, on the outskirts of Diphu town.
- The Council will allocate 4,000 acres of land for the project and, in return, will receive an annual revenue of ₹6.60 crore.
- Both KAAC and Reliance Industries Limited will have a 90-day window to withdraw from the agreement if necessary.
- The MoU includes provisions to promote rural economic development and create employment opportunities in the Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong districts.
- Cultivators will be allowed to grow Napier grass on their lands, with Reliance offering a buyback scheme that can earn them approximately ₹30,000 per acre annually.
- Council officials discussed the benefits of Napier grass (also known as elephant grass) as a sustainable feedstock for the Bio-CNG plant, citing its fast growth, high biomass yield, and suitability for anaerobic digestion.
- The collaboration is expected to drive economic growth, support green energy initiatives, and create new livelihood opportunities for the residents of the KAAC districts.

## 88.DISPUR CANCELS 9TH ADDITION TO KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK:

- In a significant development, the Assam government has officially cancelled the preliminary notification concerning the 9th addition to the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- The cancelled area measures 2,570 hectares and falls under the Tezpur Revenue Circle in Sonitpur District.
- This area had previously been notified as an addition on September 2, 2020.
- The cancellation was issued by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department under the powers granted by Section 35 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- The fresh notification nullifies the earlier preliminary notification with immediate effect.
- Kaziranga National Park (KNP), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceros and is a vital habitat for tigers, elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer.
- The additions to Kaziranga National Park have taken place over the years as follows:
  - 1st addition: 43.79 sq. km on May 28, 1977
  - 2nd addition: 6.47 sq. km on July 10, 1985
  - 3rd addition: 0.69 sq. km on May 31, 1985
  - 4th addition: 0.89 sq. km on August 3, 1988
  - 5th addition: 1.15 sq. km on June 13, 1985
  - 6th addition: 376.50 sq. km on August 7, 1999
  - 7th, 8th, and 9th additions were notified together on September 2, 2020
- The Assam Cabinet has recently approved a significant expansion of Kaziranga National Park, adding 47,306.33 hectares as an extension to the 6th addition.
- The decision was made public on June 4, 2025, following a cabinet meeting held on May 21, 2025, in Guwahati.
- According to the Chief Minister's Office, this expansion is aimed at strengthening biodiversity conservation and promoting sustainable tourism.
- Before the proposed expansion, the park covered an area of 1,302 sq. km.
- The park is known for having the highest population of the endangered one-horned rhinoceros, currently estimated at 2,613.
- Kaziranga also has a tiger density of 32.64 per 100 sq. km, making it one of India's major tiger conservation zones.

## 89.STATE TO WORK TOWARDS RAISING GER IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

- An analysis by the Assam Education Department in April revealed that the **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is significantly low** in the state.
- The department expressed concern and instructed district education officials to **analyze the situation** and take steps to improve GER to meet the **national average**.



- The GER in the **Higher Secondary category** was also found to be notably poor in Assam.
- GER in higher education is calculated by dividing the **number of students enrolled** by the **population aged 18–23**, and then multiplying by 100.
- According to the **All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) 2021–22**, Assam's GER stands at **17.5%**, significantly lower than the **national average of 27.3%**.
- The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** has set a target of **50% GER in higher education by 2030**.
- While Assam's GER at the **elementary level** is higher than the national average, GER at the **secondary, senior secondary, and higher education levels** continues to lag behind.
- Education Minister Ranoj Pegu attributed the low GER to **incomplete data submission** to AISHE, rather than actual enrolment figures.
- To improve data accuracy, **workshops were organized** for both government and private higher education institutions to ensure **timely submission to AISHE**.
- Despite government initiatives such as launching **postgraduate programmes and new universities**, the GER has remained **stagnant between 17% and 18%**.
- Assam currently trails the national average by approximately **9.8 percentage points**.
- In alignment with NEP 2020, Assam is aiming for a **GER of 50% by 2035**, with an **intermediate target of 35–40% by 2030**, which presents a **formidable challenge**.

## 90.SHAHEED KUSHAL KONWAR REMEMBERED ON HIS DEATH ANNIVERSARY:



- Kushal Konwar was a committed *Satyagrahi* and Gandhian, known for his deep adherence to non-violence and truth.
- He was a descendant of the Ahom dynasty and lived a life guided by spiritual and moral principles.
- Konwar pledged to remain a vegetarian and kept the *Shrimad Bhagavad Gita* as his sole companion throughout his life.
- Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's Salt Satyagraha in 1931, he gave up consuming salt as a form of personal protest and discipline.
- On 10th October 1942, in the early morning fog, unknown individuals removed railway sleepers near Sarupathar in

Golaghat district, causing a military train to derail and resulting in the death of several British and American soldiers.

- Despite the lack of concrete evidence, the British authorities accused Kushal Konwar of being the chief conspirator behind the train sabotage.
- He was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death by the British colonial government.
- On 15th June 1943, at 4:30 am, Kushal Konwar was executed by hanging at Jorhat Jail, becoming a martyr for India's freedom struggle.

## 91.RUPNATH BRAHMA'S STATUE, MEMORIAL UNVEILED IN KOKRAJHAR:



- The 124th birth anniversary of Rupnath Brahma was celebrated in Kokrajhar with great reverence and enthusiasm.
- BTR Chief Pramod Boro unveiled the restored statue and memorial of Rupnath Brahma in a grand ceremony held in Kokrajhar town.
- The restored statue was inaugurated at Pragati Bhavan, while his mausoleum—his final resting place—was formally unveiled at Owabari village, his native place.
- The restoration was facilitated by the Rupnath Brahma Memorial Day Observation Committee with support from the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) government.
- The event was attended by Bodo Sahitya Sabha president Dr. Surath Narzary, KMB chairperson Prathiba Brahma, senior government officials, scholars, cultural activists, and local residents.
- As part of the observance, a seminar titled '*Biography and Contribution of Mahari Sibisula Rupnath Brahma*' was held



at Pragati Bhavan, highlighting his legacy and service to the Bodo community and Assam.

- Rupnath Brahma was a multifaceted personality — a visionary leader, literary figure, and cultural reformer.
- He achieved several firsts in Bodo history: the first law graduate, first MLA, first minister, and the longest-serving tribal minister in the Assam Cabinet.
- He is also credited with shaping modern Kokrajhar town, leaving behind a lasting impact on the region's development and identity.

## 92.ASSAM CM LAUNCHES 'DHARTI AABA JANBHAGIDARI ABHIYAN' IN DIBRUGARH:

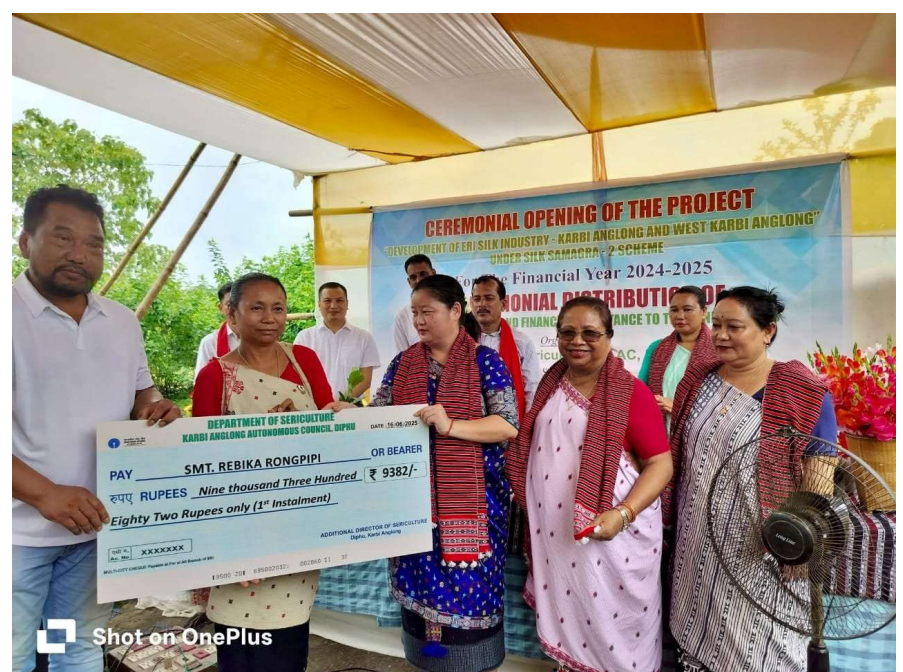
- Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** attended a **district-level awareness programme** under the “**Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan**” campaign at the **Sri Sri Auniati Sakha Satra Auditorium in Dibrugarh** on **June 16**.
- The **nationwide initiative** aims to promote awareness and ensure **inclusive implementation of welfare schemes** for **tribal communities**.
- The programme was **jointly organised** by the **District Administration of Dibrugarh** and the **Department of Tribal Affairs (Plain)**.
- Its goal is to achieve **benefit saturation** among tribal populations by:
  - Strengthening the **delivery of government schemes**
  - Enhancing **public participation**
- Services provided under the campaign include:
  - Issuance of **Aadhaar cards, ration cards, and Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY) cards**
  - Distribution of **caste and residence certificates**
  - Access to **Kisan Credit Cards (KCC)** and **PM-Kisan benefits**
  - Opening of **Jan Dhan accounts**
  - Provision of **insurance coverage** under **PMJJBY** (life insurance) and **PMSBY** (accident insurance)
  - Delivery of **social security benefits**, including **old age, widow, and disability pensions**

## 93.ASSAM: ECI'S NEW GUIDELINES MANDATE WEBCASTING FROM POLLING STATIONS:

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has issued **revised guidelines** making **webcasting mandatory** at all polling stations with **internet connectivity** during any general elections.
- In **shadow areas** without internet access, **alternative arrangements** such as **videography or photography** must be made.

- These guidelines will be applicable in **Assam**, which is scheduled to hold **Assembly elections** in about **10 months**.
- Assam currently has **29,656 polling centres**, and the revised guidelines have been shared with **all Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs)** across states and Union Territories, including Assam.
- The ECI has emphasized the use of **multiple civil (non-force) surveillance methods** to ensure transparency and prevent any vitiation of the election process.
- The revised guidelines include the establishment of a **webcasting monitoring control room** at:
  - **State level**
  - **District level**
  - **Assembly Constituency (AC) level**
- Each control room will be supervised by a **Nodal Officer** responsible for:
  - Ensuring **webcasting arrangements** are made and a **dry run** is conducted at least **2 days before polling day**.
  - Monitoring **poll day activities** at all polling stations in coordination with field officers.
  - Ensuring all polling stations are observed **live multiple times during the day** for an adequate period.
  - Forming and training **monitoring teams**.
  - Reporting any **violations, suspicious or wrongful activity** to relevant officials (Presiding Officer, Sector Officer, Returning Officer, District Election Officer, Observer) immediately.
  - Making sure **contact details of key election officials** are available in the control room.
- The **webcasting control room** must operate from the **start of the mock poll** till the **close of polling** on election day.
- For smooth functioning, adequate **IT infrastructure, internet, TV displays, phones, technical staff, and stationery** must be ensured.

## 94.ASSAM: KAAC LAUNCHES ₹4.24 CRORE SILK SAMAGRA-2 PROJECT IN KARBI ANGLONG



- The Silk Samagra-2 project for 2024–2025 was ceremonially launched by Kache Rongpipi, Executive Member in-charge of the Sericulture Department of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC).



- The project aims to expand the eri silk industry in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong.
- It is implemented by the Department of Sericulture, KAAC, and sponsored by the Central Silk Board, Bengaluru.
- The total cost of the project is Rs 4,24,74,674, with 90% funding from the central government and 10% from the beneficiaries.
- A total of 340 beneficiaries will benefit under the project across nine development blocks: Lumbajong, Bokajan, Nilip, Langsomepi, Howraghat, Rongkhang, Chinthong, Rongmongve, and Samelangso.
- During the launch event, EM Rongpipi distributed cheques of Rs 9,382 as the first instalment to each beneficiary.
- Nursery seedlings of kesseru plants, which serve as food for eri silkworms, were also distributed.
- EM Rongpipi highlighted in her speech that the objective of Silk Samagra-2 is to promote the eri silk industry by encouraging rearers to take up eri silkworm rearing and engage in the production and sale of eri silk cocoons and yarns.

## 95.GUWAHATI: UTPAL BARUAH TAKES OATH AS INFORMATION COMMISSIONER:

- Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office to Utpal Baruah as the State Information Commissioner.
- The oath-taking ceremony was held at a solemn function at Raj Bhavan.
- The oath was administered under Section 15(3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, enacted by the Government of India.

## 96.ASSAMESE SHORT FILM 'ANSUNI CHINKHE' WINS BIG ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAGE

- The Assamese short film *Ansuni Chinkhe*, written and directed by Dr. Parthasarathi Mahanta and produced by Mina Mahanta and Indrani Baruah, has been gaining national and international acclaim.
- At the Indian Independent Film Festival (May–June 2025) in Kolkata, *Ansuni Chinkhe* won the **Best Short Film** award, highlighting its powerful storytelling and artistic execution.
- The film features Seema Biswas as the **sole actor**, whose compelling performance brought depth and emotional resonance to the narrative.
- Earlier in January 2025, the film was selected for the **Worldwood International Panorama** (International Competition Category) at the Jaipur International Film Festival.
- At the Jaipur International Film Festival, the film won two major awards:
  - **Best Actress Award** for Seema Biswas
  - **Best Director Award** for Dr. Parthasarathi Mahanta in the Short Film category



- Continuing its success, *Ansuni Chinkhe* also won **Best Short Film** at the **Delhi Short Film Festival 2025**.
- In a major international milestone, the film was featured in the **online segment of the Marché du Film at Cannes**, where it received overwhelming appreciation from a global audience.
- The film has resonated worldwide for its **poignant themes** and **minimalist storytelling**, establishing it as a standout in contemporary Indian cinema.

## 97.GAUHATI UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES PODCAST SERIES TO SHOWCASE ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL LEGACY:

- Gauhati University has launched a new podcast series titled *Chai, Chatters & Chapters* to expand its digital footprint and highlight its academic and cultural achievements.
- The initiative aims to celebrate the University's scholarly contributions, vibrant campus life, and research milestones.
- The premiere episode, featuring Vice Chancellor Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta, is scheduled to go live on June 18 at 7 pm on the University's official Facebook and YouTube channels.
- The podcast is envisioned as a dynamic platform to take the University's ethos beyond the classroom.
- It will highlight groundbreaking research across disciplines such as nuclear physics and sociology, while also showcasing the lived experiences of students, scholars, and alumni.
- *Chai, Chatters & Chapters* will spotlight student-led initiatives in sports, cultural clubs, NCC, and NSS, emphasizing the University's focus on holistic development and societal engagement.
- The series will feature voices from alumni, faculty, researchers, policymakers, and students to foster a dialogue connecting academia with real-world challenges.
- Aimed at enhancing Gauhati University's visibility across Northeast India, the rest of the country, and Southeast Asia, the podcast also seeks to promote international collaborations.
- These collaborations may include joint research, dual-degree programs, and faculty exchange initiatives.
- Future episodes will explore themes such as sustainability, global challenges, and the preservation of cultural heritage, supporting the University's mission to contribute to regional and global academic discourse.



## 98.AQUACULTURE BUSINESS INCUBATOR LAUNCHED AT GAUHATI UNIVERSITY:

- The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has mentored the launch of the “*Aquaculture Biodiversity Centre Fish Seed and Aquafeed Production Enterprises & Training*” Livelihood Business Incubator (LBI) at Gauhati University.
- The incubator was inaugurated by Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta, Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University, and operates under the ASPIRE scheme of the Ministry of MSME.
- IIE, as the national mentoring institute for LBIs, has developed and scaled sustainable micro-enterprise models across key sectors.
- Shri Ishwar C. Poojar, Director of IIE, stated that the LBI will empower beneficiaries through skill training, entrepreneurship development, and incubation support.
- He emphasized the importance of embedding entrepreneurship curricula into every training programme.
- Prof. Mahanta highlighted Assam’s deep cultural and economic connection to fisheries and advocated an interdisciplinary approach to making aquaculture a viable career option.
- Prof. Bechan Lal, OSD to the Governor of Assam, emphasized the untapped potential of the Northeast’s fisheries sector and the need for collaborative institutional efforts to support regional growth and global market integration.
- The centre is equipped with modern hatchery and feed-processing facilities.
- It will offer practical training in fish seed production, aquafeed formulation, ornamental fish farming, and post-harvest techniques.
- Supported by ICAR-CIBA, Lucknow, the incubator is aligned with IIE’s mission to foster grassroots entrepreneurship across the country.

## 99.FOUR FROM ASSAM BAG BAL, YOUTH SAHITYA PURASKAR



Surendra Mohan Das   Binay Kr Brahma   Suprakash Bhuyan   Amar Khungur Boro

- Surendra Mohan Das has won the **Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025** for his Assamese poetry collection *Mainaahantar Padya*.
- His collection was selected from seven books, including four novels and a scientific conversation, recommended for the award.

- The **Bal Sahitya Puraskar in Bodo language** was awarded to **Binay Kumar Brahma** for his story collection *Khanthi Bwswn Arw Akhu Danai*.
- The **executive board of the Sahitya Akademi**, chaired by president Madhav Kaushik, approved the selection of **24 writers** for the 2025 Bal Sahitya Puraskar.
- Books were selected based on recommendations from a jury consisting of three members for each language.
- The award includes a **casket with an engraved copper plaque** and **Rs 50,000** in prize money, to be presented at a special function at a later date.
- The **Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025** in Assamese was awarded to **Suprakash Bhuyan** for his short story collection *Kuchiyanama*.
- In Bodo language, the Yuva Puraskar went to **Amar Khungur Boro** for his poetry collection *Ang Asur*.
- Twenty-three writers** were selected for the 2025 Yuva Puraskar based on jury recommendations.

## 100.STATE MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE: CM

- Chief Minister of Assam** announced that the state has made **tremendous progress** in reducing the **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)**, recording the **sharpest decline** among all Indian states.
- Citing **Sample Registration System (SRS)** data, the CM stated that Assam’s **MMR has dropped to 125 (2020–22)**, compared to **167 (2019–21)** and **480 (2004–06)** — a **36% decline** in the latest period, the **highest in India**.
- Previously, Assam had the **worst MMR** in the country, comparable to **sub-Saharan African nations** like The Gambia and Burundi. The national average at that time (2004–06) was **254**, while **Kerala’s was 95**.
- As per the latest SRS bulletin:
  - India’s MMR** stands at **88**
  - Kerala’s MMR** is **18**
  - Assam’s MMR is now **better than Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha**
- The CM said this achievement was made **even before** the state’s **crackdown on child marriage**, which is expected to contribute to a further decline in MMR in the future.
- He expressed confidence that by **2025**, Assam may achieve **MMR in double digits**, possibly aligning with the **national average**.
- The improvement was **mainly driven by rural areas**, including **char areas and tea gardens**.
- At least **90% of this progress** is attributed to the **public healthcare system**.
- The state also saw remarkable progress in:
  - Institutional deliveries**, rising from **22.4% (2004–06)** to **97.36% (2020–22)**
  - Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** dropping from **2.9 to 2.1**
  - Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** falling from **68 to 32**



- The CM credited the **National Health Mission (NHM)** and healthcare workers — **doctors, nurses, and stakeholders** — for transforming Assam’s health sector.
- The government has set a target to build **one 100-bed hospital in every Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC)** within the next **five years**

## 101.FIVE TINSUKIA ARTISTS FELICITATED WITH SILPI AWARD 2025 AND PENSION



- In a **formal ceremony** held at the **Deputy Commissioner’s Office in Tinsukia**, **five distinguished artists** from the district were felicitated with the **Silpi Award 2025** and enrolled in the **Silpi Pension scheme**.
- The honoured artists are:
  - **Pradeep Dohutia**
  - **Debeswar Moran**
  - **Bolin Chetia**
  - **Tileswar Tamuli**
  - **Pranati Barua**
- This recognition is part of the **state government’s initiative to honour artistic excellence** and support veteran artists.
- The **Silpi Award and Pension** are traditionally presented on **Silpi Diwas**, observed annually on **January 17**, in memory of **Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwala**, a revered pioneer of Assamese culture.
- Although the artists were selected earlier this year, they were **unable to attend the official ceremony in January**, leading to a separate felicitation event.

## 102.ROOFTOP SOLAR POTENTIAL IN ASSAM 10 TIMES HIGHER THAN CURRENT TARGET: STUDY

- An environment think tank has released a study ‘Rooftop Solar Potential in Assam’, estimating a technical potential of **13,428 MW** – over **10 times** higher than the current target of **1,900 MW** under the Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2025.
- The study by International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) highlights the first

district, ward, and city-level analysis of the State’s rooftop solar capacity.

- An independent non-profit research and innovation organization, iFOREST is working on pressing environment and development challenges in India.
- The report was released on Friday at an event organized in coordination with the Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL), the nodal agency for solar rooftop implementation in Assam.
- This first-of-its-kind study provides a granular assessment of Rooftop Solar (RTS) feasibility in Assam, combining satellite imagery, ward-level mapping, stakeholder consultations, and policy analysis.
- With a total built-up area of **737.1 square km** – **86 per cent** of which lies in rural regions – the study finds that **95 per cent** of Assam’s rooftop solar potential is concentrated in residential and mixed-use buildings.
- Guwahati emerges as a key hotspot, with an estimated RTS potential ranging from **625 MW** to **984 MW**, and high-potential zones including Lokhra, Garbhanga, Sarusajai, Barsajai, and Sawkuchi.
- Given that each megawatt of RTS capacity can generate approximately **14 jobs** across manufacturing, installation, and maintenance, harnessing Assam’s full **13,000 MW** potential could create up to **1.8 lakh jobs**, offering significant employment opportunities for local youth.
- iFOREST programme director termed rooftop solar as particularly important for Assam because it is a land-neutral technology.
- “Our recent project experience has shown that land scarcity and acquisition challenges are significant barriers to large-scale renewable energy deployment in the State. In contrast, the vast untapped rooftop area

## 103.IASST IDENTIFIES 70 POISONOUS PLANT SPECIES WITH MEDICINAL PROMISE



- A research team from the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati has identified **70 poisonous plant species** traditionally used to treat a wide range



of illnesses – from fevers and colds to skin diseases and oedema, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

- Researchers at IASST, Guwahati, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), led by Prof Ashis K Mukherjee, Director, have comprehensively investigated various poisonous plant species and their phytochemical constituents.
- These poisonous plants are already utilized in homeopathy and traditional Indian medicine.
- The researchers emphasized that plants produce phytochemicals – natural compounds used for their own survival – which can also affect human biology.
- While some phytochemicals are toxic, others, when isolated and modified, hold immense medicinal promise.
- Modern pharmacology is beginning to recognize the potential of these phytochemicals. These toxic compounds can be transformed into potent therapeutic agents with careful scientific processing.
- The study, published in *Toxicon: X* (Elsevier), explores how these natural toxins can be studied, validated, and potentially turned into life-saving drugs.
- The findings draw upon ethnopharmacology – the study of how indigenous cultures use plants for healing – such as treating snake bites or managing jaundice.
- These traditional remedies are being re-evaluated through the lens of modern science, with vast implications for discovering novel drugs for diseases still lacking effective treatment.
- The researchers have stressed the importance of rigorous scientific validation before any clinical use.
- Toxicity must be carefully studied to ensure safety.
- The journey from folk remedy to FDA-approved medicine is long, but with studies like this, the first steps are being taken, the Ministry added.

## 104. ARUNACHAL HONoured AS BEST PERFORMING SMALL STATE:

- Arunachal Pradesh has been awarded the title of Best Performing State under the Smaller States category for the 'Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign (TFYC) 2.0' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India.
- The Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 2.0 was conducted from September 23 to November 24 last year, focusing on protecting youth from tobacco use, raising public awareness, and empowering communities to reject tobacco industry tactics.
- The campaign aimed to create a tobacco-free society by establishing tobacco-free educational institutions, empowering rural communities, and strengthening enforcement of tobacco control laws.
- TFYC 2.0 spanned across all 26 NTCP-implemented districts of Arunachal Pradesh, including Itanagar Capital Region, Yupia (Papumpare), Pasighat (East Siang), Bomdila (West Kameng), Ziro (Lower Subansiri), Tawang, and others.
- Key achievements under TFYC 2.0 in Arunachal Pradesh included:

- 2,250 IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities/campaigns
- 851 village-level awareness campaigns
- 279 Gram Panchayat resolutions for tobacco-free jurisdictions
- 404 tobacco-free village declarations
- 2,120 declared tobacco-free educational institutions
- 3,356 institutions covered through awareness drives by District Tobacco Control Cells (DTCCs)
- 201 enforcement drives conducted across districts
- 972 persons challaned under COTPA 2003
- ₹2,33,600 collected as penalty for COTPA violations

## 105. THE IRONY OF INK: RABHA DIVAS BEGINS WITH PROTEST BY A CARTOONIST:



- The pen of Nituparna Rajbongshi, one of Assam's most well-known editorial and political cartoonists, has powerfully pierced the ceremonial silence as the state silently observes Rabha Divas on June 20, a day of remembrance for revolutionary artist and thinker Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha.
- In a series of scathing, satirical cartoons published early in the morning, Rajbongshi has created a visual protest that both honors Rabha's legacy and challenges its erasure through amnesia, tokenism, and appropriation.
- Rajbongshi brilliantly reworked Rabha's well-known lyric "two goats," originally inscribed on a college wall during the liberation movement. The verse warned that while the poor continue to be sacrificed on the altar of elite politics, independence may merely change the color of the ruling class.
- Born on January 31, 1909, Bishnu Prasad Rabha was far more than a performer. He was an actor, musician, poet, dramatist, dancer, filmmaker, and above all, a revolutionary Marxist who stood with the oppressed.
- Disillusioned by the Congress party post-independence, Rabha sided with farmers, laborers, and tribal communities, earning the title "Sainik Silpi" (Soldier-Artist).
- He famously declared, "The people must be awakened by true art," emphasizing his belief that art must serve as a vehicle for political and social awakening.
- Though Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan honored him with the title "Kalaguru" for his electrifying Tandava performance in Varanasi, Rabha's deeper political message, embodied in works like "two goats," continues to offer a chilling critique of betrayal and power.



- Rabha Divas, first observed on June 20, 1969, is now often reduced to symbolic gestures—photo ops and floral tributes—while the revolutionary fire that fueled Rabha’s soul is increasingly forgotten.

## 106. CHIEF MINISTER SARMA RELEASES BOOK ON ASSAM’S POWER SECTOR:



- In Assam, electricity demand has increased by an average of 11 per cent annually over the past four years, driven by infrastructural expansion, industrialisation, and rising living standards.
- If this trend continues, the State’s daily electricity requirement is projected to reach 5,500 megawatts by 2035, according to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- He made these remarks while releasing “*THIRD AMPERE*”, a volume chronicling the evolution and transformation of the power sector in Assam and the Northeast.
- The event, held at the Assam Administrative Staff College, also marked the silver jubilee of the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC), where five newly introduced and revised regulatory frameworks were released.
- To achieve self-reliance in electricity production, the State government has initiated preparatory measures.
- Assam currently generates about 500 megawatts independently and draws around 1,800 megawatts daily from the central grid.
- In recent weeks, peak summer demand surged to 2,700 megawatts and may reach 2,900 megawatts by September if current trends continue.
- During the Advantage Assam 2.0 summit, investment proposals worth Rs 5 lakh crores were signed — Rs 3 lakh crores in the industrial sector and Rs 2 lakh crores in infrastructure.
- Based on these agreements, projects worth Rs 60,000 crores are already underway, with many expected to become operational by the end of the year, further increasing electricity demand.
- Sarma emphasized that alongside climate change, Assam’s rapid development is contributing to an exponential rise in electricity demand.
- The State government has devised a long-term, self-reliant energy strategy to meet power needs by 2035.

- As part of this strategy, an initiative to generate 5,000 megawatts of solar power has been launched, and suitable sites have been identified for 8,000 megawatts of pumped storage systems for storing solar energy for nighttime use.
- The Union Ministry of Power has approved the establishment of a 3,000-megawatt thermal power project in Assam.
- Over the past four and a half years, the power sector has seen substantial investment and reforms, reducing transmission and distribution losses from nearly 29–30 per cent to 15.5 per cent.
- The smart meter initiative has delivered positive outcomes, and all three agencies in the sector have become profitable.
- As a result, the State has been able to reduce electricity tariffs by Rs 1 per unit.
- Sarma acknowledged the vital role of the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC) in shaping the State’s power sector over the past 25 years.
- The book “*THIRD AMPERE*” offers a comprehensive account of Assam’s power sector, including its historical milestones, current achievements, and future prospects.
- It details the electrification of Shillong in 1923 (the first in undivided Assam and the Northeast), Jorhat in 1924, Guwahati in 1927, and Tezpur in 1933.
- It also highlights the contributions of Kashinath Saikia, a pioneer in Assam’s electricity generation, and the establishment of the Assam State Electricity Board in 1958.
- The event was attended by AERC Chairperson Kumar Sanjay Krishna, Commission member Alokeshwar Bhattacharyya, former Chairpersons Subhash Chandra Das and Jayanta Borkakati, and Chancellor of Nagaland University Dr. Samudra Gupta Kashyap, among other dignitaries.

## 107. ASSAM CAN GENERATE 13,000 MW POWER, CREATE 1.8 LAKH GREEN JOBS: IFOREST STUDY:

- Assam has the potential to generate **13,428 megawatts (MW)** of electricity and create up to **1.8 lakh green jobs** by harnessing **rooftop solar energy**, according to a new study by environmental think tank iFOREST.
- The study, titled ‘**Rooftop Solar Potential in Assam**’, was launched at the **Sunrise Assam** workshop in Guwahati, in collaboration with the **Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL)**.
- This is Assam’s first **district, city, and ward-level analysis** of rooftop solar capacity, revealing technical potential **over ten times higher** than the current 1,900 MW target under the **Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2025**.
- Around **95%** of the identified solar potential lies in **residential and mixed-use buildings**, positioning rooftop solar as a transformative energy and employment solution for the state.
- **Guwahati** emerged as a key hotspot, with rooftop solar potential estimated between **625 MW and 984 MW**.
- High-potential solar zones include **Lokhra, Garbhanga, Sarusajai, Bor Sojai, and Sawkuchi**, while wards such as **Gorchuk, Betkuchi, Jalukbari, Kahilipara, and Machkhowa** also show significant capacity.



- iFOREST estimates that each MW of rooftop solar can generate **14 direct jobs**, meaning full utilization of Assam's 13,000 MW potential could create **nearly 1.8 lakh jobs** across **manufacturing, installation, and maintenance**.
- According to **Baishali Talukdar**, Deputy Manager of APDCL's New and Renewable Energy Division, under the **PM Surya Ghar Yojana**, Assam has completed **20,000 solar rooftop installations**, contributing about **60 MW** of capacity.
- She highlighted key challenges such as **limited consumer awareness, high upfront costs, shortage of skilled technicians, and delays in loan disbursement**.
- The study identifies further challenges: limited financial access for commercial and industrial consumers, **regulatory gaps** in metering and subsidies, concerns about **grid integration** and installation quality.
- iFOREST recommends **policy, financial, and institutional reforms** to overcome these barriers.
- Key suggestions include:
  - Targeting high-potential zones like Guwahati's mixed-use wards and the **Barak Valley**.
  - Launching **PM-SGY in mission mode** with community participation.
  - Establishing **local manufacturing hubs** to support Assam's **3 GW solar target**.
  - **Mandating rooftop solar** for new buildings.
  - Enabling **virtual net metering**.
  - Promoting inclusive business models like APDCL's **Utility-Based CAPEX Model**.
  - Providing **concessional loans** and **one-time capital subsidies**.

## 108.NEP: 18 INSTITUTIONS OF ASSAM GET APPROVAL FOR TEACHER EDUCATION:

- Assam has positioned itself as a leading state in the implementation of the New National Education Policy (NEP).
- Eighteen educational institutions across the state have received approval to launch a four-year **Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP)**.
- The approval was granted by the **National Council for Technical Education (NCTE)**.
- A total of **1,500 seats** have been sanctioned for Assam under this new programme, representing about **21%** of the **7,100 seats** approved nationwide across 77 institutions.
- Students appearing in this year's **National Common Entrance Test** will be eligible for admission through a **centralised counselling and enrolment process**.
- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** will provide entrance exam results to these institutions to facilitate admission.
- Notable colleges approved for the programme include:
  - Tyagbir Hem Baruah College, Sonitpur
  - North Lakhimpur College
  - Chaiduar College, Gohpur
  - Assam ERC Bahona College, Jorhat

- Kokrajhar Government College
  - Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko, Kamrup
  - Dhakuakhana College
  - Golaghat Commerce College
  - Anandaram Dhekial Phookan College, Nagaon
  - B.N. College, Gauripur
  - Dhemaji College
  - LTK College, Lakhimpur
  - Lakhimpur Girls' College
  - Goalpara College
  - Sivasagar Commerce College
  - Sivasagar Girls' College
  - Rangapara College, Sonitpur
- This development strengthens Assam's commitment to **quality teacher education** and reinforces its role as a leader in shaping the future of educational reforms in India.

## 109.CABINET NOD TO PROPOSED RF STATUS FOR URPAD, HASILA BEELS:



- The State Cabinet approved the 'Shraddhanjali' scheme to enable lawful and coordinated transportation of bodies of persons who die outside Assam while working or studying.
- The scheme mainly targets youth in low-paying jobs and deaths under special circumstances like murder or accidents.
- It excludes deaths during medical treatment outside the state.
- Assam Police Special Branch will be the nodal agency; a DIG-level officer will be the nodal officer.
- Family members can notify the authorities through local administration, police, or by dialing 112.
- The State Cabinet approved notifying the **Urpada Beel** area (1,256 Ha) in Goalpara district as a Proposed Reserve Forest (PRF) under Section 5 of the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891.
- The **Hasila Beel** area (245 Ha) was also approved as a Proposed Reserve Forest (PRF), with a one-month window for public claims and objections.
- Approval was given for the creation of the **Rabha Development Council** for Rabha people residing outside the **Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC)** area.
- The Cabinet approved filling up to 50% of **Supervisor posts** from serving eligible Anganwadi Workers with at least 10



years of experience and a graduation degree in Arts, Science, Commerce, or allied disciplines.

- The remaining posts will be filled via **direct recruitment** through the State Level Recruitment Commission for Class III posts.
- The Cabinet declared the **transgender community** as “Socially and Educationally Backward Classes” in Assam, in line with Supreme Court directions.
- District Commissioners will issue Transgender Identity Cards upon proof of original inhabitant status in Assam.
- The Cabinet approved increasing the **additional honorarium** for **Cook-cum-Helpers** under the **PM POSHAN** scheme from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per month, effective October 2025 (for 10 months annually).
- The “**Apon Ghar**” and “**Apon Bahan**” schemes were extended to regular and contractual employees (up to age 60) of **National Health Mission, Samagra Shiksha Axom**, and three **power utilities**.
- The Cabinet approved the allotment of a self-identified site to **Hinduja Renewables Energy Private Limited** for a **900 MW off-stream Pumped Storage Project (PSP)** in West Karbi Anglong district.
- The group plans to invest around **Rs. 5,400 crore**.
- Approval was given for establishing the **Assam Industrial and Green Growth Fund**, a **SEBI-registered Alternate Investment Fund**, with a **Rs. 3,000 crore** target and **Rs. 500 crore** anchor investment.
- The fund aims to mobilize long-term capital for **renewable energy, green infrastructure, priority startups, agrotech, tourism, MSMEs**, and other priority sectors.

## 110.ASSAM FAIRS POORLY IN SCHOOL EDUCATION: MINISTRY REPORT:

- Assam has been placed in the **second lowest grade** (out of ten) in the latest **Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0** assessment of school education.
- It shares this grade with **nine other states**, including **five from the Northeast**.
- **Meghalaya** is the **only state** in the **lowest grade**, with a PGI score in the range of **401–460**.
- **Chandigarh** leads the rankings with a PGI score in the range of **701–760**.
- **Assam’s PGI score** is in the range **461–520**, placing it **tenth from the bottom** among the **36 states and UTs** assessed.
- In the ‘**Access**’ domain (covering enrolment, retention, grade transition, and mainstreaming of out-of-school children), Assam’s score **dropped from 50.2 in 2022–23 to 46.0 in 2023–24**.
- It is now **third from the bottom**, ahead of only **Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya**.
- In the **Infrastructure domain**, Assam **gained seven points** compared to the previous year, performing slightly better than other northeastern states as well as **Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh**, and **Telangana**.

- In ‘**Teacher Education and Training**’, Assam scored **52.1**, placing it just above **Meghalaya (46.8)**, the worst performer in this domain.
- The **Performance Grading Index (PGI)** was developed as an **evidence-based assessment system** to evaluate school education in line with the **National Education Policy** and **Sustainable Development Goals**.
- The PGI is a **holistic assessment system** comprising a total of **1,000 points across 73 indicators**, categorized under:
  - **Outcome**
  - **Governance & Management**
- These categories are further divided into **six domains**:
  - **Learning Outcomes**
  - **Access**
  - **Infrastructure & Facilities**
  - **Equity**
  - **Governance Processes**
  - **Teacher Education & Training**

## 111.IIT G DEVELOPS COST-EFFECTIVE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM:



- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed a community-scale water treatment system to remove fluoride and iron from groundwater.
- The system can treat 1,000 litres of contaminated water for just Rs 20, making it highly affordable and cost-effective.
- It is capable of treating up to 20,000 litres of water per day, offering a scalable solution for areas lacking access to safe drinking water.
- The research findings were published in the *ACS ES&T Water* journal.
- The paper was co-authored by Prof. Mihir Kumar Purkait (Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati), post-doctoral research associates Dr. Anweshan and Dr. Piyal Mondal, and research scholar Mukesh Bharti.
- Fluoride, used in dental products, pesticides, fertilizers, and various industrial processes, can contaminate groundwater through natural or human sources.
- Consuming water with excess fluoride can cause skeletal fluorosis, a severe health condition that hardens bones and stiffens joints, making movement painful and difficult.



- Several Indian states including Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, and Gujarat report high levels of fluoride in groundwater.
- The IIT Guwahati team developed a four-step treatment process:
  - **Aeration**
  - **Electrocoagulation**
  - **Flocculation and settling**
  - **Filtration**
- This process ensures cost-effective and energy-efficient purification of contaminated water for community use.

## 112.CM HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ANNOUNCES SCHEMES TO BOOST WELFARE, GROWTH AND INCLUSION:

- The Assam Cabinet, led by **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**, has approved several key policy measures spanning **social welfare, environmental protection, administrative reform, and economic development**.
- One of the most significant decisions was the launch of the “**Shradhanjali**” initiative, effective from **October 1, 2025**, aimed at ensuring **dignified repatriation of bodies** of Assamese individuals who die outside the state, especially **low-income workers** and victims of **accidents or crimes**.
  - **Special Branch of Assam Police** will be the nodal agency.
  - A **DIG-level officer** will supervise implementation.
  - **Dedicated social media account** and **helpline 112** will enable prompt communication with families.
- The Cabinet approved the creation of the **Rabha Development Council** for Rabha people residing **outside the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council (RHAC)** area.
  - The council will implement **socioeconomic and cultural welfare schemes** for the community.
- In a **historic social inclusion move**, the **transgender population** was designated as a **Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC)**.
  - **District Commissioners** will issue **Transgender Identity Cards** to eligible individuals who are **original residents of Assam**.
- Two major wetlands in Goalpara district were declared as **Proposed Reserve Forests (PRFs)**:
  - **Urupad Beel** – 1,256 hectares
  - **Hasila Beel** – 245 hectares
  - Public feedback on **Hasila Beel** will be invited for **one month**.
- Under **PM POSHAN**, the **honorarium for Cook-cum-Helpers** was increased from **Rs 500 to Rs 1,000**, taking their total monthly pay to **Rs 2,000**, effective **October 2025**.
- The **first annual increment** for teachers recruited under the **Special Recruitment Drive** will now be given in **July 2025**, advancing the timeline by a year.
- In a major **employment reform**, experienced **Anganwadi Workers** will get **50% reservation** in **Supervisor posts** in the Women and Child Development Department; the remaining will be filled through direct recruitment.
- The Cabinet expanded its flagship schemes:
  - “**Apon Ghar**” (home loan) and
  - “**Apon Bahan**” (vehicle assistance)
- to **regular and qualified contractual workers** in key PSUs and societies including **NHM** and **Samagra Shiksha Axom**.
- The **Assam State Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2025** were adopted to regulate and promote **sustainable minor mineral exploration**.
- Land in **West Karbi Anglong** was allotted to **Hinduja Renewables** for a **900 MW pumped storage project** with an investment of **Rs 5,400 crore**, supporting Assam’s **renewable energy goals**.
- **40 bighas of government land** in **Chandrapur, Kamrup (Metro)** were allotted for building a **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya**, improving access to **quality education**.
- The Cabinet approved creation of a **Rs 3,000 crore Assam Industrial and Green Growth Fund**, anchored with **Rs 500 crore**, to boost:
  - **Agro-tech**
  - **Tourism**
  - **Renewable energy**
  - **Start-ups**
- This fund is a step toward positioning Assam as a **hub for green and sustainable economic development**.





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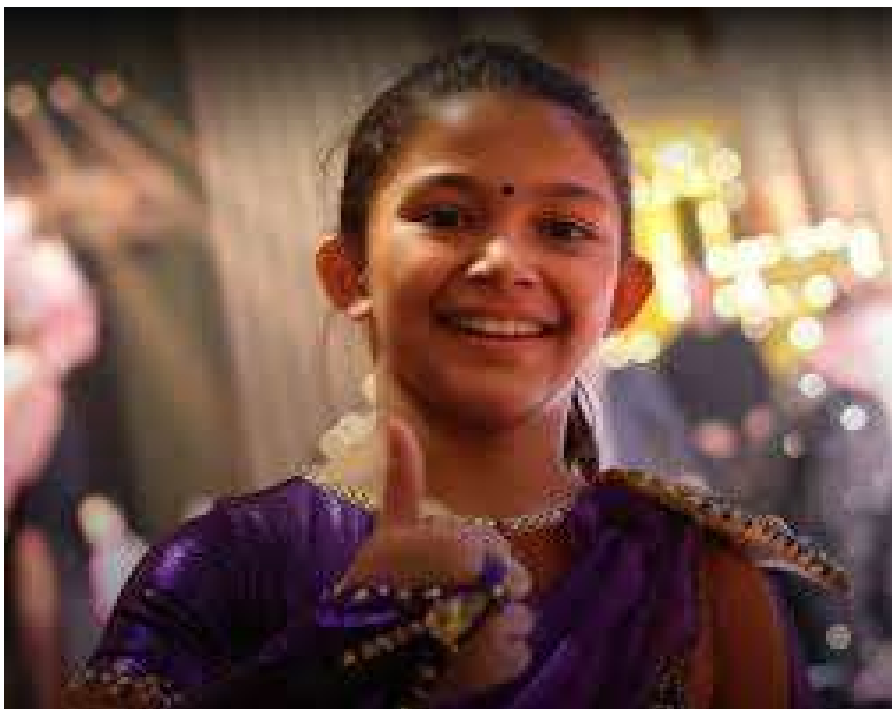
## PERSON IN NEWS

### 113.ASSAM: RANJAN SHARMA APPOINTED AS NEW STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER:



- The Government of Assam has officially appointed Ranjan Sharma, ACS (Retd.), as the new Commissioner of the Assam State Election Commission (SEC).
- The appointment will come into effect from June 1, 2025, as per a notification issued by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department and approved by the Governor of Assam.

### 114.ASSAM GIRL SECOND RUNNER-UP AT 'BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT' :



- Nine-year-old Binita Chetry from Assam has secured the second runner-up position in the reality show 'Britain's Got Talent', capping a journey from a small village in the hill district of Karbi Anglong to one of the world's biggest and prestigious platforms.
- Binita, who impressed the judges and audiences alike with an extraordinary fusion of martial arts and dance, emerged the second runner-up in the reality show finale held on Saturday night, with her family claiming that she has been the first contestant from India to reach the last stage of the show.
- The competition was won by British magician Harry Moulding, while the second place went to LED dance group 'The Blackouts'.

- Known as a mini gymnastics star, Binita, in a video posted on BGT's official social media sites, thanked her supporters and social media followers, especially viewers from the United Kingdom, for voting and blessing her journey.
- She hails from Talbalijan village near Bokajan.

### 115.CANADA'S FIRST ASTRONAUT, FORMER FM MARC GARNEAU DIES AT 76:



- Marc Garneau, the first Canadian in space and a former Foreign Minister, has died at the age of 76 after a short illness.
- He was an electrical engineer and former Royal Canadian Navy officer.
- Garneau became the first Canadian in space in 1984 when he flew aboard a US space shuttle.
- He completed two additional space missions after his first flight.
- Garneau served in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government as Minister of Foreign Affairs and as Transport Minister.
- He was a Liberal Member of Parliament for a Montreal-area riding from 2008 to 2023.

### 116.COCO GAUFF: NEW QUEEN OF PARIS:



- **Coco Gauff** won her **first French Open title** by defeating world No. 1 **Aryna Sabalenka** in the final.



- The final score was **6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4** in Gauff's favor.
- This was the **first No. 1 vs. No. 2 final** at the French Open since **2013**, when **Serena Williams** beat **Maria Sharapova**.
- It is also just the **second No. 1 vs. No. 2 women's final in Paris in the last 30 years**.
- The win marks a major milestone in Gauff's career, establishing her as a Grand Slam champion on clay.

## 117.ELAVENIL VALARIVAN WINS BRONZE:



- Indian shooting ace Elavenil Valarivan won the bronze medal in the women's 10m air rifle event on the opening day of the ISSF World Cup in Munich.
- The 25-year-old led for a significant portion of the final but eventually finished third with a score of 231.2.
- Gold was claimed by 18-year-old Chinese shooter Wang Zifei, who scored 252.7.
- Korea's Kwon Eunji secured the silver medal with a close score of 252.6.

## 118.NEW ADG OF BRO'S EASTERN COMMAND

- Jitendra Prasad, a highly regarded officer known for his extensive experience in executing infrastructure projects in extremely challenging terrains, has taken over as the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Eastern Command of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under the Ministry of Defence.
- He assumed office on Tuesday at the Eastern Command's headquarters located in Lankeshwar.

## 119.BAISHYA, KANAD ELECTED TO RAJYA SABHA UNOPPOSED:

- BJP's Kanad Purkayastha and AGP member Birendra Prasad Baishya were declared elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Assam.
- They were the only candidates who filed nominations for the biennial elections to the two Rajya Sabha vacancies from the state.

- Kanad Purkayastha will replace his party colleague Mission Ranjan Das in the Rajya Sabha.
- Birendra Prasad Baishya has been elected for a second consecutive term.
- The current tenure of Mission Ranjan Das and Birendra Prasad Baishya will end on June 14.

## 120.SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA AWARD-2023 PRESENTED TO SONAL MANSINGH:



- In a grand celebration of art, culture, and spiritual heritage, Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya presented the Srimanta Sankaradeva Award-2023 to Padma Vibhushan Dr Sonal Mansingh.
- The award ceremony was held at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra.
- Dr Sonal Mansingh, a renowned classical dancer of Bharatanatyam and Odissi, has spent decades promoting Indian traditions through performance, education, and policymaking.
- The Governor acknowledged her lifelong dedication to Indian classical dance, cultural advocacy, and social reform.
- In her acceptance speech, Dr Mansingh expressed gratitude for receiving the prestigious award.
- She reflected on her deep connection with Assam and the teachings of Srimanta Sankaradeva.
- Dr Mansingh spoke about the spiritual music tradition of Borgeet and expressed interest in integrating its elements into her classical dance performances.

## 121.DR ABHIGYAN DATTA EARNS PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP AT HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL:

- Dr. Abhigyan Datta from Tezpur, Assam, has achieved a significant milestone by being awarded a prestigious fellowship in Neuromuscular Medicine at Harvard Medical School, USA.
- This accomplishment brings immense pride to both Tezpur and the state of Assam, placing the region on the global medical map.



- Dr. Datta began his medical education at JIPMER, Puducherry, and later transferred to Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC), New Delhi, to complete his MBBS.
- With strong dedication to his goals, he cleared the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).
- He is currently pursuing his neurology residency at the University of Minnesota, USA.

## 122.KASHYAPI SONOWAL RETURNS TO DIBRUGARH AFTER CLINCHING SILVER AT WUSHU CHAMPIONSHIP 2025:



- Dibrugarh's talented Wushu athlete Kashyapi Sonowal received a warm and emotional welcome at the Dr Bhupen Hazarika International Airport.
- She returned from the Wushu Star International Championship 2025, held recently in Moscow.
- Kashyapi secured a silver medal in the Jianshu event at the championship.
- She is a six-time national medallist in Wushu.
- She is also a three-time Khelo India medallist.
- Kashyapi has represented India at several global Wushu competitions.
- Her previous accolades include a silver medal at the 2023 Wushu International Championship.
- She also achieved a top-four finish at the 2022 international competition.

## 123.SHAHID KUSHAL KONWAR AWARD

- Dr Jogendra Nath Phukan receiving the Shahid Kushal Konwar Award in a function organized by the Tai Ahom Yuba Parishad Asom, at Golaghat.

## 124.ARUNACHAL KIWI WINE BRAND FOUNDER GETS GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

- **Tage Rita Takhe**, founder of *Naara Aaba*, India's first kiwi wine label, has been selected for the **Vital Voices Global Fellowship 2025**.

- She is one of **51 changemakers** chosen from **39 countries** for the prestigious leadership programme that empowers women driving global change.
- Based in the **lush highlands of Ziro** and originally from **Hong village**, Rita has pioneered a sustainable agri-enterprise by transforming surplus kiwi fruit into **organic wine**.
- *Naara Aaba* has earned **international recognition** as a model of innovation in **agri-entrepreneurship**.
- Deeply rooted in her **Apatani heritage**, Rita blends **cultural pride with innovation**, promoting local produce while creating **sustainable livelihoods**, especially for **women farmers**.
- Her selection places her in a global network of women leaders supported by **Vital Voices**, an organization co-founded by **Hillary Clinton** to invest in women leading positive social change.
- With this honour, Rita represents **Arunachal Pradesh** on a global platform that uplifts women leaders shaping a better world.

## 125.KOSTURI SHARMAH SHINES AT ARM WRESTLING EVENT:

- **Kosturi Sharma**, an arm wrestler from Guwahati, has been selected for the **Indian team** for the **World Arm Wrestling Championship 2025** in **Baku, Azerbaijan**.
- She secured her place by winning **two gold medals** in the **Grand Master category (both hands)** at the **5th National Arm Wrestling Championship** held recently in **Bengaluru**.
- Sharma previously represented India at the **World Championship in Athens, Greece** and is now preparing to compete internationally once again.

## 126.OLYMPIC MEDALLIST LALIT UPADHYAY CALLS TIME ON INTERNATIONAL CAREER



- Veteran Indian hockey forward **Lalit Upadhyay** has announced his retirement from international hockey.
- His career spanned over a decade and included participation in some of **India's most significant hockey milestones** in recent times.
- Lalit made his **international debut** at the **2014 World Cup**.



- He played a **key role in India's historic bronze medal win at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics**, ending a 41-year medal drought in men's hockey.
- He was also a crucial part of the team that **won another bronze medal at the Paris Olympics in 2024**, showcasing his consistency in high-pressure tournaments.
- Known as a **big-match player**, Lalit's contributions were instrumental in reinforcing India's status as a top contender in world hockey.

## 127.DR. DEBAJIT DUTTA APPOINTED IMA ASSAM'S SECRETARY FOR SPORTS AND CULTURE



- **Dr. Debajit Dutta** has been appointed as the **Honorary State Secretary for Sports and Culture** of the **Indian Medical Association (IMA), Assam State Branch**, for the term **2025–27**.
- The announcement was made during the **169th State Working Committee Meeting** of IMA Assam, held at **ESI Hospital/Medical College, Guwahati**.
- Dr. Dutta's appointment was widely welcomed, acknowledging his **dedication, leadership, and contributions** to both the **medical and cultural** spheres in the state.
- He has been actively promoting **holistic wellness, sportsmanship, and community engagement** among medical professionals.
- The IMA State Working Committee praised his role in **bridging the gap between medicine and extracurricular engagement**, particularly in **sports and culture**, which are vital but often overlooked aspects of wellness in the medical field.
- In a related development, **Dr. Sangrang Brahma** was appointed as the **Secretary of the Youth Wing** of the **United**

**People's Party Liberal (UPPL)** in **February**, during a meeting at the party's headquarters in **Kokrajhar**.

## 128.DILIP DOSHI, A FEISTY COMPETITOR OF INDIAN CRICKET

- Former India spinner Dilip Doshi passed away at the age of 77 on Monday, June 23.
- Doshi represented India in **33 Test matches** and **15 One Day Internationals (ODIs)** between 1979 and 1983.
- He made his international debut at the age of **32**, making him a late entrant to international cricket.
- In his 33 Tests, he took **114 wickets**, including **six five-wicket hauls**.
- In ODIs, he claimed **22 wickets** from 15 appearances.
- Doshi began his domestic cricket career in the **1968–69 season**.
- He played a total of **238 first-class matches** before retiring in **1986**.
- Across his first-class career, he took a remarkable **898 wickets**.
- He represented **Bengal** and **Saurashtra** in India's domestic circuit.

## 129.17-YEAR OLD LAUNCHES DEBUT POETRY COLLECTION AT PRESTIGIOUS FELICITATION CEREMONY

- At a distinguished felicitation ceremony hosted by the Assam Tea Tribe Students' Central Association, 17-year-old Bibhav Kurmi from Dibrugarh unveiled his debut poetry collection, marking a memorable milestone for the Assamese literary and student community.
- The official publication of Bibhav Kurmi's first poetry book was the highlight of the event, representing a significant turning point for the aspiring young writer.
- Assam Education Minister Dr. Ranoj Pegu and Assam State School Education Council Chairman Mr. Ramesh Chandra Jain graced the occasion.
- Both dignitaries praised the young poet's accomplishment and highlighted the importance of nurturing creativity alongside academic excellence.



## NEWS IN SHORTS

### 130.INDIA PAVILION AT JAPAN EXPO DRAWS CROWD:



- The India Pavilion at the ongoing World Expo in Osaka is a celebration of India's rich heritage, designed with sustainability at its core.
- The pavilion's design draws inspiration from the image of Bodhisattva Padmapani in the ancient Ajanta Caves, symbolizing compassion, enlightenment, and knowledge.
- The pavilion features an iconic facade adorned with a blue lotus motif.
- It is currently among the "top five most visited pavilions" at the World Expo 2025 in Japan, according to a top official of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
- The other four countries with pavilions in the top five most visited list are the United States, Italy, Japan, and France.
- The India Pavilion is strategically located in the 'Connecting Lives' zone of the expo.
- It serves as a testament to India's ancient wisdom, modern aspirations, and global partnerships.
- The pavilion highlights India's civilisational depth, technological advancement, and commitment to sustainable development.

### 131.CHINESE EMBASSY HAILS NAVY, COAST GUARD FOR PROMPT RESPONSE:

- The Chinese Embassy in India has expressed gratitude to the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard for the "prompt and professional rescue" operation following a blaze on board a cargo vessel off the Kerala coast.
- Of the 22 crew members of the Singapore-flagged MV *Wan Hai 503* that caught fire following a container explosion, 18 were rescued by the Navy, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), and other agencies.
- The crew members include eight Chinese, six Taiwanese, five Myanmar, and three Indonesian nationals, the ICG stated on June 9.
- The incident occurred at approximately 9:20 am IST, around 44 nautical miles off Azhikkal in Kannur district of Kerala and 130 nautical miles northwest of Kochi.

- The vessel was en route from Colombo, Sri Lanka, to Nhava Sheva, Mumbai, with an expected time of arrival (ETA) on June 10, 2025.
- The ship is currently stable but has a slight tilt of around 10 to 15 degrees to the port side.

### 132.BEEL BANDH DISMANTLED IN BISWANATH:

- In compliance with the Gauhati High Court's order in the case, *M/s Naduar Koibatra Mach Mara SS Limited versus the State of Assam and others*, the bandh constructed at **Nalani Beel (Soru Dolapani Beel)** under Naduar revenue circle was dismantled.

### 133.NAAMGHAR, GURU AXON INSTALLED AT BADRINATH MAHAMANDALESHWAR ASHRAM:



- The Asom Sattrra Mahasabha (ASM) established a naamghar and installed the Guru Axon (mentor's seat) on the premises of the Badrinath Mahamandaleshwar Ashram at an approximate altitude of 10,279 ft, or 3,100 metres above sea level on the foothills of the Himalayas.
- According to the ASM, it is the only naamghar at such a height.
- The Akhand Bhagwat Path (non-stop recitation of the Bhagwat) that had begun on June 4 has concluded.
- Keshav Das Maharaj of the Badrinath Mahamandaleshwar Ashram extended support to the ASM in making this feat a success.
- A person named Krisha Das will look after the naamghar at the Badrinath Mahamandaleshwar Ashram.

### 134.ASSAM GOVERNMENT RENAMES ALL SP POSTS TO SENIOR SP:

- A Home Department notification states that the state government has decided to rename/re-designate the posts in



the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP) as Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP).

- All SPs of different districts and state law enforcement agencies will now be designated as SSPs.
- It is further stated that all officers holding the rank of SP shall wear the accoutrements of SSP, as is customary in other states and forces.
- The Commandants of the Assam Police Battalions in the rank of SP shall also use the same accoutrements of the SSP.
- However, the nomenclature of Commandant shall remain the same for these officers.

### 135.NO MDR WILL BE CHARGED ON UPI TRANSACTIONS: FINMIN:



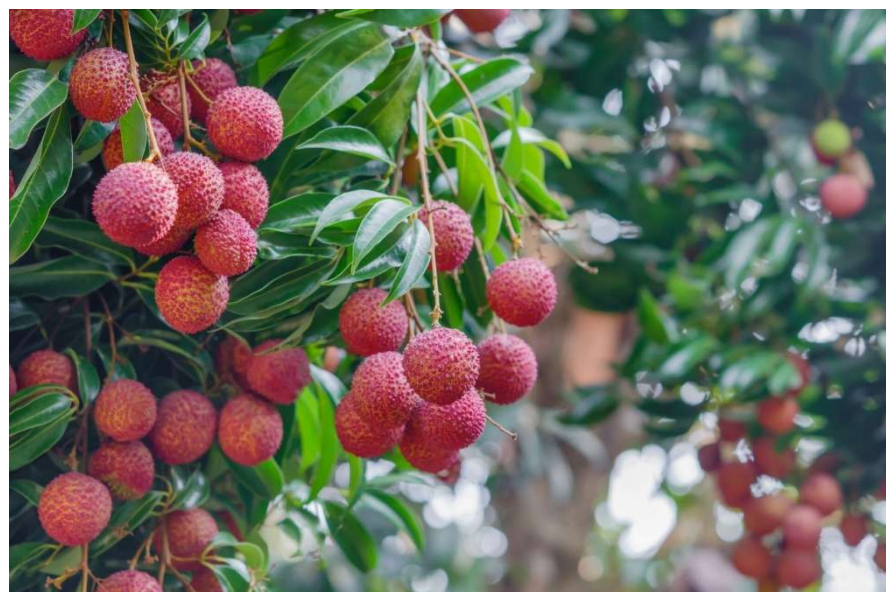
- The Finance Ministry clarified that no Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be levied on transactions made through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platforms.
- This clarification came in response to reports suggesting a possible MDR on large-ticket UPI transactions.
- UPI transactions hit a record high of ₹25.14 lakh crore in May, marking a 5% growth over April's ₹23.94 lakh crore.
- In terms of volume, 1,867.7 crore transactions were conducted in May, up from 1,789.3 crore in April.
- According to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the transaction value in May 2025 was 23% higher compared to ₹20.44 lakh crore in May 2024.

### 136.MIZORAM LEADS INDIA IN VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION:

- Mizoram continues to lead India in voluntary blood donation, with 93.71% of all blood collected in 2024–2025 coming from voluntary donors.
- The state has consistently ranked among the top ten in the nation for voluntary blood donations since 2007, as per data from the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).
- Of the total 34,752 units of blood collected in the last fiscal year, 32,566 units were donated voluntarily—without being tied to any specific patient or emergency.
- Lunglei District Hospital recorded the highest voluntary donation rate at 99.87%, followed by Christian Hospital, Serkawn (98.04%), and Presbyterian Hospital, Durtlang, Aizawl (97.71%).

- Mizoram's most prolific blood donor, C Lalremruata, has donated blood 96 times between 1998 and June 10, 2025.
- Lalremruata credits his ability to donate regularly to a healthy lifestyle, adequate sleep, and early rising.
- Mizoram serves as a national model in voluntary blood donation, showcasing the impact of community engagement and awareness on public health outcomes.

### 137.ASSAM: NERFMTTI MOVE FOR LITCHI CULTIVATION IN BISWANATH:



- In response to the growing international demand for Assam-produced litchis, the North Eastern Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (NERFMTTI), located in Biswanath Chariali, has initiated a litchi production drive.
- Approximately 100 high-quality litchi seedlings were planted on 2.5 acres of land in collaboration with Tezpur Litchi Gardens.
- The initiative aims to boost both litchi cultivation and environmental sustainability, aligning with the goals of World Environment Day.
- The Director noted that greening the area will also contribute to increased government revenue.
- Local litchi varieties are already under cultivation on four acres of land within the institute's premises.

### 138.TOURISTS FLOCK TO KAKOCHANG WATERFALL TO ESCAPE INTENSE HEAT:



- *With the state reeling under an intense heatwave, a large number of people from across the region gathered on Friday at the Kakochang Waterfall in the Karbi Hills to find some relief.*



- From **Kaziranga**, travelers can reach the commercial town of **Bokakhat** and head about **15 km east** from the **Nahorjan tri-junction** on **National Highway 37** to arrive at the **welcome gate of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council**.
- The gate is adorned with **traditional Karbi attire** and bears the inscription '**Kar-Dom (Namaskar)**', along with photos of a man and woman in ethnic dress, symbolically welcoming visitors to **Kaiflangso**.
- The journey continues along **winding roads lined with scenic tea gardens**, ultimately leading to the **Kakochang Waterfall**, also known as **Kaiflangso Waterfall**.
- Recently added to the **tourism map**, Kakochang's natural beauty and rising popularity hold promise for boosting **Assam's tourism industry**.
- The waterfall is one of the **main revenue sources** for the **Karbi Anglong district**.
- A growing number of **young tourists from outside Assam** are visiting to enjoy the **refreshing waters cascading from the Karbi Hills**.

### 139.IIE AND ASRLM JOIN HANDS TO BOOST RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP:



- In a major step to promote **rural entrepreneurship** in Assam, the **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE)**, Guwahati, and the **Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.
- The collaboration is focused on providing **mentorship and capacity-building support** under the **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)** across **13 blocks** of the state.
- Under this initiative, IIE will offer **structured mentorship, skill development, and handholding support** to selected rural entrepreneurs.
- The programme aims to enhance **sustainable livelihoods** and promote **enterprise development** in rural areas through **skill-based interventions**.
- The partnership reflects a **shared vision for inclusive growth and economic self-reliance** in Assam's rural communities.
- Through this effort, IIE and ASRLM intend to build a **robust entrepreneurial ecosystem** that strengthens rural enterprises and supports the state's **overall economic progress**.

### 140.FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT CARLO ACUTIS WILL BE CANONISED SEPTEMBER 7:



- Pope Leo XIV set September 7 as the rescheduled date to canonise the Catholic Church's first millennial-era saint, Carlo Acutis.
- Acutis was 15 when he died in northern Italy in 2006, after a short bout with leukemia.
- He has become enormously popular, especially among young Catholics who have been flocking to his tomb in Assisi.
- While he enjoyed regular pastimes for his age – hiking, video games, and joking around with friends – he also taught catechism in a local parish and did outreach to the homeless.
- He used his computer skills to create an online exhibit about more than 100 eucharistic miracles recognised by the Church over many centuries.
- His tomb in Assisi has become a pilgrimage site, especially during the 2025 Holy Year under way.
- It features a glass coffin in which Acutis can be seen dressed in sneakers, jeans, and a sweatshirt.
- In setting the September 7 date, Leo announced that Acutis would be canonised along with another Italian Catholic, Pier Giorgio Frassati, who also died young at age 24 after contracting polio.

### 141.ISRAEL LAUNCHES 'OPERATION RISING LION' AGAINST IRAN TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR THREATS:



- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the launch of **Operation Rising Lion** against Iran.



- The operation is described as a **targeted military initiative** aimed at countering the **Iranian threat of nuclear weapons**.
- Netanyahu stated that the mission is crucial for ensuring **Israel's very survival** in the face of what he called an existential threat.
- He emphasized that **Operation Rising Lion will continue for as many days as necessary** to eliminate the perceived nuclear danger from Iran.
- The announcement marks a significant escalation in tensions between Israel and Iran, with potential regional and global implications.

## 142.ABIRBHAV TITHI OF MADHABDEV OBSERVED AT RAMRAI KUTI SATRA:

- The **536th birth anniversary of Mahapurush Sri Sri Madhabdev** was observed with devotion and reverence.
- The celebration took place at **Ramrai Kuti Satra**, located along the **Indo-Bangladesh border at Satrasal**.
- A **day-long programme** was organized to mark the occasion, featuring various religious and cultural events.
- Devotees and followers gathered at the historic site to pay tribute to the great saint and spiritual leader.
- Sri Sri Madhabdev is a revered figure in Assam's Vaishnavite tradition and played a pivotal role in propagating the **Ek Saran Naam Dharma**.

## 143.END OF A HISTORY OF HEARTBREAKS:



- **South Africa clinched the ICC World Test Championship title for the first time**, defeating defending champions **Australia by five wickets** on the **fourth morning** of the final held at **Lord's**.
- This historic victory marks the **end of a 27-year title drought** for the **Proteas**, whose last major ICC triumph was the **1998 Champions Trophy** (then known as the **ICC KnockOut Trophy**).
- The win is a **significant milestone** in South African cricket history, reaffirming their place among the top Test-playing nations.

## 144.CM LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR COMMUNITY KITCHEN IN DIBRUGARH:

- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma performed the *bhumi puja* and laid the foundation stone for a centralized

community kitchen at Dihing Khamtighat playground, approximately 20 km from Dibrugarh.

- The centralized community kitchen is designed to prepare and serve food at a large scale across multiple locations, primarily to provide free, nutritious midday meals to government school children.
- This initiative falls under the *Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)* scheme, aligning with the objectives of the *Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan*.
- The project is centrally funded and will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 25 crore.
- Key segments of the facility include the main kitchen complex (ground + first floor), administrator and senior manager's quarters, a staff training centre, a multipurpose hall, and utility and security blocks.
- The target date for project completion is September 2026.
- Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister highlighted that the centralized kitchen system is being implemented in Assam in collaboration with the *Akshaya Patra Foundation*.
- He stated that the goal is to provide quality, nutritious, and hygienic lunches to students, which will help improve the academic environment and boost student attendance.
- The Chief Minister praised the Akshaya Patra Foundation for its humanitarian efforts and continued contribution to improving child nutrition in the state.

## 145.THEKERAGURI EXEMPLIFIES SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH THRIVING TENDER COCONUT BUSINESS:



- Located on the border of Nagaon and Morigaon districts, Thekeraguri is a small village that has become a popular attraction, especially during the current heat wave sweeping through the state.
- Thekeraguri's small business establishments along National Highway-37 have been successfully running a tender coconut business since 1963.
- Situated around 13 kilometres west of Raha, the village has become a favored stopover for both tourists and local commuters.
- The tender coconut business in Thekeraguri is a strong example of self-reliance and local entrepreneurship.



- In recent years, vendors in the village have diversified their offerings to include bamboo and cane goods like baskets, mats, and other handicrafts.
- This diversification has boosted vendors' incomes while also helping to promote local culture and traditional craftsmanship.

## 146.ASSAM POLICE SISHU MITRA INITIATIVE, COMBAT CHILD LABOUR:



- The Assam Police Sishu Mitra urged the general public to **report any instances of child labour or children employed as domestic help**.
- People are advised to **call 1098 Childline** or contact their **local police station** if they come across such cases.
- The Sishu Mitra emphasized that **“children deserve to be nurtured and not exploited,”** underlining that **any form of child labour is a crime**.

## 147.PATAUDI MEDAL FOR WINNING CAPTAIN



- The **Pataudi name** will continue to be associated with the **India-England cricket rivalry**, as the winning captain of the upcoming **five-Test series** will be presented with a **medal named after the Pataudi royal family**, which has deep cricketing ties with both nations.
- The **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)** had initially decided to **rename the Pataudi Trophy to the Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy**.
- A formal announcement was scheduled during the **WTC final at Lord's**, but it was **postponed** due to the **tragic Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad**.

- The proposed renaming received **criticism**, including from former India captain **Sunil Gavaskar**.
- It has now emerged that **Sachin Tendulkar himself** contacted the **ECB**, expressing that the **Pataudi name should remain** associated with the India-England series.
- **ICC Chairman Jay Shah** also played a role in ensuring the **Pataudi legacy** continues in the India-England cricket context.

## 148.NID ASSAM, GAF SIGN MOU FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

- The National Institute of Design (NID), Assam, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Green Action Foundation (GAF), Guwahati, on Tuesday.
- The signing ceremony was held at the NID Assam campus.
- The MoU aims to strengthen collaboration between the two institutions by jointly utilizing resources.
- The focus will be on the design and development of projects, research, training, and activities centered on sustainable industrial practices.
- The partnership envisions the development of socially impactful products through collaboration between students and faculty of the institute.
- This collaboration is expected to open new avenues for applied research and capacity building in sustainable design and development.

## 149.NEW LIVELIHOOD BUSINESS INCUBATORS AT GU:

- The **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE)** has mentored the establishment of a new **Livelihood Business Incubator** focused on **aquaculture and allied livelihoods**.
- The incubator is titled **“Aquaculture Biodiversity Centre Fish Seed and Aquafeed Production Enterprises & Training”** and is located at **Gauhati University**.
- The initiative is implemented at the university's **Aquaculture & Biodiversity Centre**.
- It was **inaugurated on Monday** by **Prof Nani Gopal Mahanta**, Vice Chancellor of Gauhati University, in the presence of academic, government, and technical dignitaries.
- **Poojar**, Director of IIE, emphasized IIE's role as the **mentoring institute** for livelihood business incubators across India.
- The aim is to make each incubator a **dynamic platform** for transforming **local skills into scalable enterprises**.
- This new incubator will provide **skill training, entrepreneurship development, and incubation support** to empower beneficiaries in the aquaculture sector.

## 150.INDIA TO ORGANIZE YOGA DAY EVENTS IN 191 COUNTRIES

- On the 10th anniversary of International Day of Yoga, India will organize thematic events and programmes in 1,300 cities



across the globe on Saturday, showcasing the nation's ancient tradition and soft power.

- The Indian High Commission in Pakistan is also organizing a yoga event in Islamabad on the occasion, according to a statement issued on Friday by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the cultural arm of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The ICCR will organize various yoga events and programmes in 191 countries on June 21 to mark the IDY, with more than 2,000 events to be hosted at 1,300 locations, covering multiple cities in various nations.
- Additionally, the ICCR is also hosting 'Yoga Bandhan', a signature event of IDY 2025, where 17 yoga gurus and practitioners from 15 countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Russia, China, South Africa, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore, and South Korea, will lead the Yoga Day events across India.

### 151. ASSAM CM FORMS COMMITTEE OF EMINENT ARTISTS TO GUIDE BEAUTIFICATION OF KHANAPARA AUDITORIUM



- In a significant move, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met with high-ranking officials of the state government's cultural department to discuss incorporating art into the five-thousand-seat auditorium under construction in Khanapara, Guwahati, during a meeting held at Lok Seva Bhawan, Dispur.
- A committee of 10 eminent artists from Assam's cultural world has been formed to advise on the project.
- The Chief Minister instructed the concerned authorities to complete the construction and beautification of the auditorium within the stipulated timeframe.
- Additionally, CM Sarma met citizens from all walks of life at Lok Seva Bhawan, Dispur, where he patiently listened to their concerns and assured timely, people-centric solutions, reaffirming the government's commitment to inclusive development.
- Last year in August, CM Sarma visited the Nabagraha Crematorium and dedicated a portion of the redevelopment and beautification project, including five *chitas*, to the public.
- He also reviewed the ongoing redevelopment and beautification work at the crematorium.
- The entire project is being carried out in three phases, which include the development of a state funeral arena.

- CM Sarma directed the Public Works Department (PWD), the executing agency, to ensure timely completion of the project within the stipulated timeframe.

### 152. A CELEBRATION OF FAITH AND SHAKTI, AMBUBACHI 2025 HAS BEEN PREPARED AT SHAKTI PEETH KAMAKHYA.

- Maa Kamakhya temple, one of the most revered spiritual sites located in the Nilachal hills of Guwahati, is currently preparing for its annual Ambubachi Mela.
- The temple will commence its special yearly observance of the menstrual cycle of Goddess Kamakhya, the divine embodiment of feminine power and fertility, on June 22.
- The Ambubachi Mela, often referred to as the "Mahakumbh of the East," holds deep significance in Tantric traditions and the worship of Shakti (divine feminine energy).
- Kamakhya is among the rare temples in India where menstruation is not considered a taboo but is celebrated as sacred, symbolizing fertility, womanhood, and the natural rhythms of life.

### 153. INDIA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA WITH ENTHUSIASM:



- Millions across India rolled out their yoga mats and stretched and meditated to mark the 11th International Day of Yoga.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the celebrations from the coastal city of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- The theme of this year's International Day of Yoga is 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'.

### 154.3F OIL PALM'S PLANTATION DRIVE IN DIMA HASAO DIST

- Hyderabad-based 3F Oil Palm has partnered with the State government to launch a mega oil palm plantation drive under the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm.
- The initiative was launched at Digandu village 5 in Dima Hasao district, according to a company statement.
- A 20-hectare site has been established for the plantation, aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices to boost edible oil production.



- The mission seeks to empower farmers through sustainable agriculture, ensuring long-term income stability and access to markets.
- The company stated that this plantation marks the beginning of a broader initiative focused on building a comprehensive support ecosystem benefiting both farmers and the environment.

## 155. PRESIDENT LEE PICKS S KOREA'S FIRST CIVILIAN DEFENCE CHIEF IN 64 YEARS:



- South Korean President Lee Jae Myung nominated a five-term liberal lawmaker as defence minister on Monday, breaking the long-standing tradition of appointing retired military generals to the post.
- The move comes amid ongoing criminal trials involving several prominent former defence officials, including ex-Defence Minister Kim Yong Hyun.
- These officials are facing charges related to the implementation of martial law last year under then-President Yoon Suk Yeol.
- Yoon was indicted on rebellion charges and removed from office.
- Ahn Gyu-back, the nominated defence minister, is a lawmaker from Lee's Democratic Party.
- Ahn has served on the National Assembly's defence committee and chaired a legislative panel investigating the circumstances of Yoon's martial law decree.
- Yoon's martial law involved deploying heavily armed troops to the National Assembly and election commission offices in what prosecutors described as an illegal attempt to suppress the legislature and arrest political opponents and officials.
- The incident led to widespread calls for stronger civilian control over the military.
- Lee had pledged during his election campaign to appoint a defence minister with a civilian background.
- Since the 1961 military coup by Park Chung-hee, South Korea has traditionally appointed defence ministers from the military, a pattern that persisted even after democratization in the late 1980s.
- Ahn Gyu-back will face a legislative hearing, but it is expected to be a formality, as the Democratic Party holds a comfortable majority in the National Assembly.

## 156. MOU SIGNED TO ASSESS GROUNDWATER QUALITY:

- An MoU was signed today between the Abhijit Mukherjee Research Group (AMRG), IIT Kharagpur, and Jal Jeevan Mission, Assam.
- The agreement focuses on a comprehensive study of groundwater quality and sustainability in Assam.
- Both parties will collaborate on hydrological and geochemical assessments of aquifers to ensure safe groundwater and sustainable extraction.
- The MoU includes aquifer mapping using existing lithologs from JJM Assam.
- It also involves policy recommendations for long-term groundwater management.
- Water quality analysis to ensure compliance with safe drinking water standards is another key component of the collaboration.

## 157. ARUNACHAL'S SILLUK VILLAGE FEATURED IN CBSE TEXTBOOK FOR ZERO-WASTE TRANSFORMATION:

- In a proud moment for Arunachal Pradesh, Silluk village in East Siang district has been featured in the NCERT CBSE Class 3 Environmental Studies (EVS) textbook, Chapter 12 titled "*Taking Charge of Waste.*"
- The chapter showcases Silluk's inspiring transformation from



a waste-ridden settlement to India's first government-recognised "*Zero Waste Village.*"

- Previously nicknamed "*Gobar Basti*" due to widespread cattle waste and littered roads, the village began its turnaround in 2019.
- The transformation was led by Kepang Nong Borang, a youth from the Adi tribe, who launched the *Swachh Silluk Abhiyan (SSA)*.
- This grassroots movement restored hygiene, dignity, and environmental consciousness in the community, becoming a model for community-led cleanliness.
- SSA chairman Kepang Nong Borang stated that since 2019, Silluk has received three State awards and the 11th Balipara Foundation Award.



- He noted that Silluk is evolving beyond cleanliness into a vibrant tourism destination.
- Borang appealed to the government for dedicated funds and support to develop Silluk as a model eco-tourism village.
- Chief Minister Pema Khandu congratu

## 158. POETRY BOOK 'SHILOT GAJI UTHA JONAK' LAUNCHED IN CITY

- **Poet Diganta Kalita's** latest poetry collection, titled '**Shilot Gaji Utha Jonak**', was officially launched on **Sunday**.
- The book release took place at **Lakhiram Barua Sadan**, within the **Axam Xahitya Xabha (AXX)** premises.
- The event was part of the **5th Assam Kobita Mahotsav**, a major literary festival celebrating Assamese poetry and culture.
- The occasion saw participation from **eminent personalities** of Assam's **cultural and literary circles**, marking a vibrant celebration of poetic expression.

## 159. ASSAM: DONER SETS DEADLINE FOR SANCTIONING PM-DEVINE PROJECTS

- Barely nine months remain in the 15th Finance Commission period, yet **projects worth Rs 1,528 crore under PM-DevINE** are still pending sanction.
- The **PM-DevINE (Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region)** has a total outlay of **Rs 6,600 crore** for 2022–23 to 2025–26.
- If new projects are not sanctioned by **March 31, 2026**, the unutilized funds will lapse.
- As of now, the **Ministry of DoNER has approved 38 projects** under PM-DevINE, with a total sanctioned cost of **Rs 5,072 crore**.
- A DoNER memorandum dated June 18, 2025, stresses that **all new project proposals must be sanctioned by the March 31, 2026 deadline**.
- Only **two out of the 38 sanctioned projects** have been completed so far, **both located in Sikkim**.
- **All five sanctioned projects in Assam**, amounting to **Rs 1,437.62 crore** (the highest among NE states), remain **incomplete**.
- DoNER sanctions PM-DevINE projects based on proposals from northeastern states, following consultations with **NITI Aayog and relevant Union ministries**.
- The PM-DevINE scheme is **100% centrally funded**, aimed at accelerating the development of the **North Eastern Region of India**.

## 160. FIRST APCU CO-DISTRICT COMMITTEE FORMED AT DHEKIAJULI; NEW OFFICE BEARERS TAKE OATH

- In accordance with the directive of the central committee of the Assam Press Correspondence Union (APCU), the first co-district committee was officially formed at Shaheed Nagari Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur district.

## 161. NEPAL COMMITTED TO PROMOTION OF SANSKRIT: PRESIDENT PAUDEL:



- Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel highlighted that the historical restriction of Sanskrit education to certain privileged groups, including the exclusion of women, contributed to its decline.
- He reaffirmed the government's commitment to promoting and preserving Sanskrit.
- Speaking at the inaugural session of the 19th World Sanskrit Conference in Nepal, he emphasized Nepal's rich Sanskrit heritage.
- Paudel stated that the word "Nepal" is found in the Vedas and that over 200 Sanskrit inscriptions from the Licchavi and Malla periods confirm the country's historical association with the language.
- The five-day World Sanskrit Conference, organized by Nepal Sanskrit University, will conclude on June 30.
- The conference has drawn scholars, researchers, and Sanskrit practitioners from India, Europe, and the US.
- President Paudel acknowledged that Sanskrit use declined due to its restriction to upper castes and men, but said the government is actively working to reverse this trend.
- Indian spiritual leader Chinna Jeeyar Swami also addressed the event, describing Sanskrit as a "mythical language" that unites the world through the Vedas and divine mantras.





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