

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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SC MANDATES 3-YEAR PRACTICE TO APPEAR IN JUDICIAL SERVICES EXAMINATIONS

Context

- The Supreme Court restored the condition that a minimum of three years practice as an advocate is required for candidates applying to entry-level judicial service examinations.

Background

- The issue dates back to the **14th Law Commission Report, 1958**, which proposed **3–5 years of experience** as a requirement for lower subordinate judges in every State.
- For higher judiciary, an **All India Judicial Services (AIJS)**, a centralised recruitment system for judges, was proposed. The AIJS required no practical experience.
- The Supreme Court's 1992 ruling** in *All India Judges' Association vs Union of India* supported allowing fresh graduates in the AIJS.
 - However, in a **1993 review**, the SC reversed its stance.
- The **Shetty Commission, 1996**, later found that this rule deterred bright talent and in **2002**, the SC scrapped the 3-year rule, admitting that legal practice was not attracting the best minds to the judiciary.

Arguments in Favour of the Rule

- Bridges Theory-Practice Gap:** Most law colleges lack practical training. Court exposure equips candidates with procedural knowledge, evidence handling, and courtroom etiquette.
- Improved Judgment Quality:** Experience fosters better reasoning, empathy, and understanding of litigants' challenges, leading to higher-quality verdicts and fewer procedural errors.
- Safeguard Against External Pressures:** Prior experience builds resilience and ethical grounding, especially crucial in lower courts prone to influence and pressure.
- Global Best Practice:** Countries like Canada, UK, and Australia require prior experience for judicial posts, emphasizing maturity and professional credibility.

Arguments Against

- Impact on Attracting Talent:** Best law students from National Law Universities (NLUs) are increasingly drawn to lucrative corporate jobs, not judiciary.
- Irregular Examinations and Age Limit:** Judicial service exams are not conducted annually in many states.

- Adding three years' experience requirement, on top of a 5-year law degree, could push candidates beyond age limits or deter them from the exam altogether.
- Gender Implications:** As per the India Justice Report, women account for **38%** of the judges in district judiciary.
 - They may find it difficult to meet the requirement due to maternity breaks or social constraints.
- Social implications:** The economically marginalised sections are most disadvantaged, as they need to begin earning early. The added delay deters aspirants from such backgrounds.

Way Ahead

- Extended Training Instead of Practice:** Recruit young law graduates and subject them to a rigorous two-year training programme, combining academic instruction and courtroom exposure.
- Reform in Exam Pattern:** Shift focus from rote memorization to scenario-based questions, evidence appreciation, and judgment writing.
 - This aligns with the original vision of the **14th Law Commission** for practical legal assessment.
- Incentivizing Judicial Careers:** Better stipends and career progression pathways can attract top legal minds to the judiciary.

Source: TH

WHO ADOPTS PANDEMIC AGREEMENT

In News

- WHO Member States approved a historic resolution calling for adoption of the **WHO Pandemic Agreement**, aimed at making the world safer from future pandemics.

WHO Pandemic Agreement

- The agreement is the result of over three years of negotiations initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic to address global inequities and improve pandemic preparedness and response.
 - This includes equitable and timely access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.
- It was adopted under **Article 19 of the WHO Constitution**.
- It seeks to enhance collaboration among countries, WHO, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders to prevent pandemics and improve response systems.

- It will open for signature and ratification after the annex is finalized. It will enter into force once 60 countries ratify it.
 - ♦ It complements the International Health Regulations (IHR) amendments adopted in 2024.

Do you know?

- The **WHO Pandemic Agreement** is the **second international legal agreement** negotiated under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution, the first being the WHO Framework Convention on **Tobacco Control**, which was adopted in 2003 and entered into force in 2005.

Key Provisions

- **Establishment of a Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) system**, to be negotiated and presented at next year's World Health Assembly.
- **Creation of a Coordinating Financial Mechanism** and a Global Supply Chain and Logistics Network (GSCL) to ensure equitable and timely access to pandemic-related health products.
- **Pharmaceutical companies** in the PABS system must provide 20% of their real-time production of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics to WHO for equitable distribution, prioritizing developing countries.

Significance of an Agreement

- This landmark global accord reflects a unified international commitment to ensure a stronger, faster, and fairer response to future pandemic threats, grounded in equity, solidarity, and scientific evidence.

Source : TH

DISINFORMATION CONCERNS IN INDIA

Context

- During the recent India-Pakistan crisis, **misinformation was spread in social media platforms.**

About

- Lokniti-CSDS on 'Media in India: Access, Practices, Concerns and Effects' (2022) indicated that **misinformation on social media platforms** significantly affects **public perception, trust, and behaviour.**
 - ♦ It revealed **widespread concern** about the **spread of fake news and inaccurate information online.**

- **The Reuters Institute's 2024 Digital News Report** reveals a significant **shift in how Indians access news.**

- ♦ Over 70% of respondents are preferring online media and nearly half are relying on social media platforms such as YouTube (54%) and WhatsApp (48%).

- **The WEF Global Risks Report 2024** identifies **India as highly vulnerable** to misinformation.

- ♦ **Key drivers:** AI-generated content, unregulated influencer content and algorithm-driven social media platforms.

India's Disinformation Challenge:

- **Growing Internet Penetration:** India is on track to surpass 900 million internet users, making it highly **vulnerable to disinformation** without appropriate regulations.
- **Diverse Landscape, High Risk:** India's political, social, and linguistic diversity creates fertile ground for manipulated narratives, voter influence, and social unrest.
- **Beyond Politics:** Disinformation contributes to consumer boycotts, economic conflicts, international tensions.
- **Decline of Legacy Media Trust:** Public trust in traditional news sources is eroding.
 - ♦ Citizens increasingly rely on social media for news.
 - ♦ Unverified information spreads rapidly, often trusted because it comes from friends or family.
- **Youth at Risk:** India's youth demographic is increasingly exposed to misinformation.
 - ♦ Many lack digital literacy and media consumption skills.
- **Gaps in Content Regulation:** Despite Ministry of Consumer Affairs' guidelines, health and fitness reels often blur the line between paid and organic content.
 - ♦ Influencers frequently use shock tactics, half-truths, and emotional manipulation for virality.

Legal and Regulatory Landscape

- **Constitutional Limits:** Article 19(1)(a) guarantees freedom of speech.
 - ♦ Article 19(2) allows restrictions for defamation, morality, and public order.
 - ♦ The need to **balance free speech** (Article 19(1)(a)) with **reasonable restrictions** (Article 19(2)) is challenging.
- **Existing Legal Tools: Consumer Protection Act, 2019** bans misleading ads, holds influencers accountable.

- ♦ The **IT Act (Sections 66 & 67)** penalizes harmful digital content.
- ♦ **Intermediary Guidelines, 2021** and e-commerce rules reinforce transparency and accountability.
- ♦ **Defamation laws** protect individuals and brands from false or exaggerated content.
- ♦ **Self-Regulation: Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) guidelines** set advertising ethics but lack legal force; non-compliance leads to blacklisting/public reprimand.
- ♦ **SEBI and RBI** regulate influencers and financial content online.

Recommended Measures to Combat Disinformation in India (Global Risks Report 2025)

- **Strengthening Technical Capacity & Oversight:** Upskill algorithm developers to **reduce bias** and manipulation in AI systems.
 - ♦ Establish AI supervisory boards and councils to monitor and regulate generative AI practices.
 - ♦ Mandate regular risk assessments by digital platforms, especially those using AI.
- **Boosting Public Awareness & Digital Literacy:** Expand digital literacy campaigns to help citizens identify and resist disinformation.
 - ♦ Promote critical thinking through educational reforms and public outreach.
- **Regulating Big Tech Platforms:** Leverage India's status as the largest market for platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp to demand accountability.
- **Protecting Press Freedom:** Pass stronger laws to protect journalists and whistleblowers from intimidation and digital harassment.
- **Building Global and Regional Alliances:** Promote cross-border coalitions to respond to the global nature of disinformation.
 - ♦ Share best practices, threat intelligence, and regulatory frameworks with allies and international bodies.

Conclusion

- Disinformation isn't just a tech issue—it's a **threat to democracy, diversity, and truth**.
- Without public awareness and strong policy measures, disinformation will deepen political and societal divisions.
- This trend underscores the pivotal role that social media platforms play, and the **urgent need to promote media literacy, critical thinking, and accountability** to help people identify reliable information.

Source: TH

GEM CELEBRATES 8TH INCORPORATION DAY

Context

- **Government e Marketplace (GeM)**, India's national public procurement portal, marked its **8th Incorporation Day**.

Government e-Marketplace

- GeM is a one stop portal **to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services** required by various **Government Departments / Organizations / PSUs**.
- It was launched in **2016**, and is operated by the **GeM SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle)**, a 100% government-owned company under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Aim:** To enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.
- The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorized and made **mandatory by the Ministry of Finance** in 2017.

Core Principles of GeM



GeM: Transforming Public Procurement in India

- **GeM's user base** has seen a **threefold increase** in recent years, with over 1.64 lakh primary buyers and 4.2 lakh active sellers now onboard.
 - ♦ The platform offers more than **10,000 product categories and over 330 services**.
 - ♦ Over 10 lakh Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), 1.3 lakh artisans and weavers, 1.84 lakh women entrepreneurs, and 31,000 startups are now part of the GeM ecosystem.
- **Expansion of Role:** GeM's role in advancing national priorities was underscored by key transactions, including **₹5,000 crore** worth of equipment for the Akash Missile System and **5,085 crore** in vaccine procurement.
 - ♦ The platform is also enabling complex services such as drone-as-a-service for AIIMS, GIS and insurance for over 1.3 crore lives, and wet leasing of chartered flights and CT scanners.
- **Nationwide Adoption:** GeM has now been adopted across all 36 States and Union Territories, with Uttar Pradesh leading the way.

- ♦ Eight states—including Maharashtra, Manipur, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh—have mandated GeM usage.

Significance

- **Transparent and Efficient Procurement:** GeM aims to reduce human intervention in government purchases, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and speed. It minimizes corruption and delays in procurement.
- **Cost Savings:** Competitive pricing has resulted in lower procurement costs for the government.
- **Boost to MSMEs & Startups:** Significant amount of the orders on GeM are from MSMEs, promoting small businesses.
- **Digital Process:** The entire process, from vendor registration to payment, is done online.
- **Security and Audit Trails:** Built-in mechanisms for data security, digital signatures, and audit trails to ensure accountability.

Challenges

- **Limited Awareness and Adoption:** Many government officials and potential vendors, especially in rural areas and among MSMEs, are unaware or lack training on how to use the platform effectively.
 - ♦ There is a resistance to change from traditional procurement methods.
- **Quality Control and Standardization:** Ensuring consistent quality of products and services is difficult, especially when a large number of vendors are involved.
 - ♦ Lack of standardized specifications for some products and services.
- **Delays in Payments:** Although the platform supports timely payments, in practice, delays by government departments in processing payments discourage sellers.
- **Logistics and Delivery Challenges:** Vendors often face logistical difficulties in delivering goods across vast geographies.
- **Technical Issues and Platform Stability:** Users sometimes face issues such as system crashes, slow interface, or bugs, especially during high-traffic periods.
- **Regulatory and Policy Bottlenecks:** Inconsistent application of procurement rules across departments leads to inefficiency.

Government Initiatives to Improve GeM

- **SWAYATT (Startups, Women & Youth Advantage Through e-Transactions):** The portal committed to enhance ease of doing

business and establish direct market linkages to annual public procurement for startups, women entrepreneurs, Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) and youth.

- **Startup Runway 2.0:** It is an opportunity for Startups to showcase their innovative products and services to Government buyers and engage in public procurement.
 - ♦ GeM has created a dedicated marketplace category for all Startups to list their products and services, irrespective of their **DPIIT-certification**.
- **Womaniya initiative:** To showcase products made by women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups [WSHGs].
- GeM is collaborating with various stakeholders from the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises [MSME]** ecosystem with special focus on entrepreneurs from the **Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes [SC/ ST]**.
- **The SARAS Collection:** It is a pristine handcrafted collection of handicrafts, handloom textiles, office décor, furnishings, accessories, event souvenirs, personal hygiene and care products from top of the line SHGs in India.

Conclusion

- The platform's strategic initiatives have significantly contributed to the **ease of doing business** and enhanced participation in government procurement.
- As GeM continues to evolve, it remains committed to its vision of creating a sustainable, open, and competitive marketplace, driving India's progress towards **inclusive and transparent public procurement practices**.

Source: PIB

THE NEW OIL CONFLICT

Context

- A new oil war is unfolding through production and pricing strategies rather than armed conflict, with far-reaching global economic implications.

Background

- Recently **OPEC+** decided to increase crude oil output by **411,000 barrels per day (bpd)** from June 2025.
- This marks the third consecutive month of production increase, reversing part of the **2.2 million bpd** voluntary cuts taken in 2023.
- This move caused Brent crude prices to drop sharply, indicating a highly sensitive oil market.

Steps taken by Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia significantly reduced its crude output in 2024, bringing it **below 9 million bpd**, its lowest since 2011, in an attempt to support falling oil prices.
- Due to non-compliance from members like **Iraq, Kazakhstan, UAE, and Nigeria**, it now seeks to counter overproducers by flooding the market, a strategy used in past oil wars.

Reason for policy reversal

- **Post-COVID Demand Weakness:** After COVID the recovery of the economy was **"K-shaped"** i.e. uneven and fragile and oil demand did not bounce back strongly.
- **Rise of Non-OPEC+ Producers:** Countries like **Brazil and Guyana**, along with **U.S. shale oil producers**, aggressively expanded production to capture market share, adding to the global supply glut.

Reasons for Decrease in Oil Prices

- **Oversupplied Market:** Even as demand stagnates, multiple producers are adding supply, creating downward pressure on prices.
- **Peak Oil Demand Theory:** The International Energy Agency (IEA) projects that global oil demand may plateau or even decline by the end of the decade, weakening long-term price prospects.
- **Energy Transition:** The global shift towards electric vehicles and renewable energy, especially in major markets like China and Europe, reduces reliance on fossil fuels.

Impact on India

- **Short-term Gains:** A **\$1 decrease** in crude oil price translates into an annual saving of approximately **\$1.5 billion** for India.
 - ♦ Lower prices **ease inflationary pressure and reduce the import bill**, helping India's current account balance.
- **Long-term Risks:** Prolonged low oil prices can **harm the economies of Gulf countries**, many of which are India's key trade and investment partners.
 - ♦ Over nine million Indian expatriates reside in the Gulf, and any economic slowdown could lead to job losses and **reduce the \$50 billion in annual remittances** India receives.
 - ♦ India's own **refined petroleum exports**, among the top items in its export basket, may suffer due to falling global oil product prices.
 - ♦ **Investment from oil-rich sovereign wealth funds** might slow down, affecting India's infrastructure and energy projects.

About OPEC

- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1960 at the **Baghdad Conference** by **Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, Kuwait and Iraq**.
- Currently, it has **12 members**, viz. Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
- **Objective:** To coordinate policies with respect to petroleum demand and supply to ensure fair and stable prices and ensure a steady income to oil producing countries.
- It is **headquartered** in **Vienna, Austria**.

OPEC+

- **OPEC+ has 22 members**, made up of **10 major oil producing countries** (Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Bahrain, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan, Sudan and Malaysia), **along with the 12 OPEC members**.
- **It was formed in 2016** after the adoption of the **'Algiers Accord'** by OPEC countries in September 2016 and signing of the **'Vienna Agreement'** in November 2016 between OPEC and other major oil exporting countries.

Source: TH

MR SRINIVASAN: A KEY ARCHITECT OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

Context

- Recently, Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, renowned nuclear scientist and former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) chairman passed away.

About Dr. M.R. Srinivasan

- **Born:** 5th January 1930
- **Career and Contributions:**
 - ♦ **1955:** Joined the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, working alongside **Dr. Homi Bhabha** on India's first nuclear research reactor, **Apsara**.
 - ♦ **1959:** Appointed as **Principal Project Engineer** for India's first atomic power station.
 - ♦ **1967:** Chief Project Engineer of the **Madras Atomic Power Station**
 - ♦ **1974:** In-Charge of the Power Projects Engineering Division

- ♦ **1984:** Appointed as **Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board**
- ♦ **1987:** Appointed **Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission** and **Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy**
 - **Founder-Chairman** of the **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)**, under which 18 nuclear power units were developed.
- **Recognition and Legacy:**
 - ♦ Member of the Planning Commission (1996-98);
 - ♦ Padma Shri (1984); Padma Bhushan (1990); Padma Vibhushan (2015)
 - ♦ National Security Advisory Board (2002-04, 2006-08).

India's Nuclear Programme

- It has been a cornerstone of its energy strategy, balancing self-reliance, technological advancement, and global cooperation, with the focus on clean energy and strategic security.

Historical Development

- The **Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)** was established in 1948 **under Dr. Homi Bhabha**. It was structured into a **three-stage plan**:
 - ♦ **Stage I:** Utilization of Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) using natural uranium.
 - ♦ **Stage II:** Development of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) to generate plutonium.
 - ♦ **Stage III:** Deployment of Advanced Thorium Reactors, leveraging India's vast thorium reserves.
 - India holds **21% of the world's thorium reserves**, with **indigenous projects like Bhavani** aiming to harness this resource.

Current Status

- **Installed Capacity:** India operates **23 nuclear reactors across seven power plants**, contributing to **8,180 MW (2024 data)** of electricity (4,780 MW in 2014).
 - ♦ It is projected to reach **22,480 MW by 2031-32**.

Energy Mix and Role of Nuclear Power

- **Renewable Shift:** India is transitioning towards clean energy, with nuclear power playing a crucial role in reducing dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Grid Distribution:** The revised framework allocates 50% of nuclear-generated electricity to home states, 35% to neighboring states, and 15% to the national grid.

Recent Advancements

- **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR):** India has entered **Stage II** of its nuclear programme with the **core-loading of the PFBR at Kalpakkam**.
- **Expansion Plans:** 10 new reactors are approved and exploring private sector participation to accelerate growth, including **Bharat Small Modular Reactors (BSMRs)**.
- **International Collaborations:** India has signed agreements with **Russia, France, and the U.S.** for nuclear technology exchange.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

SHIRUI LILY FESTIVAL

Context

- The Shirui Lily festival returns to Manipur after a two-year pause because of the long-drawn conflict in the state.

About the Festival

- **Organised by Manipur Department of Tourism**, first held in **2017**.
- **Named after the Shirui Lily (state flower of Manipur)**, the festival coincides with the flower's **blooming season** (April to June).
- Held annually in **Ukhrul district**, home to the **Tangkhu Naga community**.
- This will promote eco-tourism, cultural heritage, and awareness about the endangered Shirui Lily.



Source: IE

JAROSITE

In News

- Jarosite has been found to potentially serve as a **natural geological clock on Mars**.

Jarosite

- It is a **potassium-iron hydroxysulfate mineral** commonly found in acidic environments, such as

acid sulfate soils (ASS) and acid mine drainage environments.

- It is a **yellow-brown mineral** that contains potassium, iron, and sulphate.
- It plays an important role as a scavenger of trace and major elements in ASS, as well as in other natural and engineered systems.

Recent Research

- Researchers in India analyzed jarosite veins from Gujarat, whose environment resembles that of Mars.
- By studying the mineral's luminescence—the light it emits due to stored radiation—they discovered that jarosite could survive heating from a rover's drill without losing its ability to luminesce.
- Given Mars' natural radiation rate, jarosite can record events from the past 25,000 years.

Importance

- As jarosite is common on Mars, durable, and easily analyzed with small heaters and LEDs, it could be used by future rovers to date dust storms, flood deposits, and volcanic ash.

Source :TH

K. VEERASWAMI VS UNION OF INDIA JUDGMENT

Context

- The Vice-President of India, has stated that it is time to revisit the K Veeraswamy judgement of 1991.

Background

- The case arose when K. Veeraswami, a former Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, was charged under the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947**.
- **Issue:** Whether judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court can be investigated and prosecuted under anti-corruption laws, and if so, what safeguards must be observed to maintain judicial independence.

Supreme court ruling

- The Supreme Court held that judges of the higher judiciary are indeed '**public servants**' under the Prevention of Corruption Act.
- **Mandatory Prior Sanction:** No FIR or investigation can be initiated against a sitting judge of the High Court or Supreme Court without the prior sanction of the CJI.

- ♦ If allegations are made against the Chief Justice of India, the mandatory consultation must be conducted with other senior judges of the Supreme Court.

Source: PIB

INDIA AWARDED WITH CERTIFICATE OF ELIMINATION OF TRACHOMA

Context

- India has been awarded the **Certificate of Elimination of Trachoma** as a Public Health Problem by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** at the **78th World Health Assembly** in Geneva.

About

- **Last year**, the WHO declared that the Government of India had **eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem**.
- India also became the **third country in the Southeast Asia region** to reach this public health milestone.
- The government has taken various steps under the **National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI)** to eliminate Trachoma.

Trachoma

- **Trachoma** is a disease of the eye caused by **infection with the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis**.
- It is a public health problem in **38 countries** and is responsible for the blindness or **visual impairment of about 1.9 million people**.
 - ♦ **Blindness from trachoma is irreversible.**
- **Infection spreads** through personal contact (via hands, clothes, bedding or hard surfaces) and by flies that have been in contact with discharge from the eyes or nose of an infected person.
- There isn't a commercially available trachoma vaccine, research is ongoing to develop one.

Source: AIR

KALESHWARAM LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT

Context

- The Justice P C Ghose commission is investigating alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project in Telangana.

About

- **The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)** is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the **Godavari River** in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, **Telangana**.
- The project starts at the confluence point of **Pranahita River and Godavari River**.
- The objective of the project includes providing irrigation water to a large area of agricultural land, and meeting the drinking water requirements.

Lift Irrigation Projects

- **In lift irrigation projects**, water is not transported by gravity.
- Instead, it is lifted using pumps or surge pools to a main delivery chamber at the highest point of the project, from where it is distributed to the fields for irrigation.

Godavari River

- **Origin:** The River rises at **Trimbakeshwar**, Nashik, Maharashtra in the **Western Ghats**.
- **Length:** The Godavari River is India's **second longest river** (Dakshina Ganga) after the Ganga river, with a length **1,465 km**.
- **Basin:** The main river flows through the States of **Maharashtra, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh** and drains into the **Bay of Bengal**.
- **The river basin** is considered to be divided into 3 sections:
 - ♦ **Upper:** Source to the confluence with Manjira,
 - ♦ **Middle:** Between confluence of Manjira and Pranahita and
 - ♦ **Lower:** Pranahita confluence to mouth.
- **Tributaries:** Banganga, Purna, Pranahita, Indravati, Pravara, Sindphana, Manjira, Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga, Maner and Sabri.
- **Dams:** Jayakwadi Dam, Devadula Irrigation Scheme, Polavaram Project etc.

Pranahita River

- Pranahita river is the **largest tributary of the Godavari river** covering about 34% of its drainage basin.
- It is a confluence of various other smaller tributaries like Wardha, Penganga and Wainganga Rivers.

Source: AIR

JAYANT NARLIKAR**In News**

- Dr. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, renowned Indian astrophysicist who proposed an alternative to Big Bang theory passed away.

About Jayant Narlikar

- **Early Life & Career:** Born in Banaras (now Varanasi) and studied at Banaras Hindu University and later at Cambridge University, where he earned accolades like Wrangler and Tyson Medallist.
 - ♦ He worked at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (1972–1989).
 - ♦ He founded the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in 1988 and served as its Director until 2003.
- **Scientific Contributions:** Remembered for his collaborative work with British astrophysicist Fred Hoyle on the **Hoyle-Narlikar theory**, which supported the **steady-state model of the universe**—an **alternative to the Big Bang theory**.
 - ♦ **Steady-State Theory proposed** that the universe is eternal and unchanging in density, despite its expansion, due to the continuous creation of new matter.
 - ♦ It contrasts with the Big Bang theory, which posits a **singular creation event 13.8 billion years ago**.
 - ♦ He contributed to adapting Einstein's general relativity to accommodate continuous matter creation.
- **Awards:** Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan & Kalinga Award by UNESCO.

Source: TH

METRE CONVENTION**In News**

- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** marked **World Metrology Day 2025** commemorating 150 years since the signing of the **Metre Convention (1875)**.

About Metre Convention

Aspect	Details
Origin	Signed on May 20, 1875, amended in 1921
Purpose	To establish a globally unified and continually evolving metric system

Institution Created	International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM)
Role of BIPM	Oversees scientific accuracy, standardization, and global traceability in measurements
Significance	Ensures global uniformity in measurements—vital for science, trade, tech, and safety
Membership	64 Member States + 37 Associate States (India is a Member State)

Source: IE

IB CHIEF GETS ONE-YEAR EXTENSION IN SERVICE

Context

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has given a **one-year extension** to Tapan Kumar Deka, the chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB) till June 2026.

About

- This is the **second time his tenure** has been **extended by a year**.
- The extension comes in the **wake of the evolving security situation** following **Operation Sindoor**.
- His extension is “**in relaxation of the provisions of FR 56 (d) and Rule 16 (1A) of All India Services (Death cum Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958**”.
 - The rules allow the central government to **extend in “public interest”** the services of the chiefs of **IB and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)**, Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary and others, **beyond 60 years age of superannuation**.

Intelligence Bureau (IB)

- IB is India's **oldest intelligence agency** formed in **1887** during the British colonial era.
- It is India's **internal security agency** responsible for managing **domestic threats**.
- IB is under the governance of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It is responsible for counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and intelligence collection in border areas, infrastructure protection, and anti-secession activities.

Source: TH

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

In News

- A new study found that biodiversity conservation funds especially from the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** are not reaching the indigenous people and local communities (IPLC).

About Global Environment Facility (GEF)

- Genesis:** The GEF was established in **1992 during the Rio Earth Summit**, reflecting a global commitment to addressing pressing environmental challenges.
- Governance:** The GEF Council serves as the main governing body, responsible for developing, adopting, and evaluating operational policies and programs for GEF-financed activities.
- Functions:** The GEF plays a crucial role as the financial mechanism for five major environmental conventions:
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
 - UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
 - Minamata Convention on Mercury
- GEF Trustee:** The World Bank acts as the GEF Trustee, responsible for administering the GEF Trust Fund, mobilizing resources, disbursing funds, and preparing financial reports.
- Member Countries:** The GEF has a wide global reach with 186 member countries, including India, demonstrating broad international participation in its environmental efforts.
- Secretariat:** Washington, D.C., USA.

Source: DTE

EUTHALIA MALACCANA

Context

- Euthalia malaccana**, the newest member of India's butterfly family, has been recorded from **Arunachal Pradesh**.

About

- E. malaccana** was previously thought to be a **subspecies of Euthalia adonia**, but is now recognized as a **distinct species primarily found in Southeast Asia**.

- This marks the **first definitive record of the species** in India, supported by photographic and morphological analysis.
- The butterfly is identifiable by:
 - ♦ A blue apical spot on male forewings (larger in females).
 - ♦ Reduced red spots on the hindwings.
 - ♦ These traits help differentiate it from similar species like *Euthalia lubentina*.
- This discovery extends *E. malaccana*'s **known range into the Indo-Australian region** and contributes to the growing knowledge of butterfly diversity in northeastern India.

Source: TH

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