

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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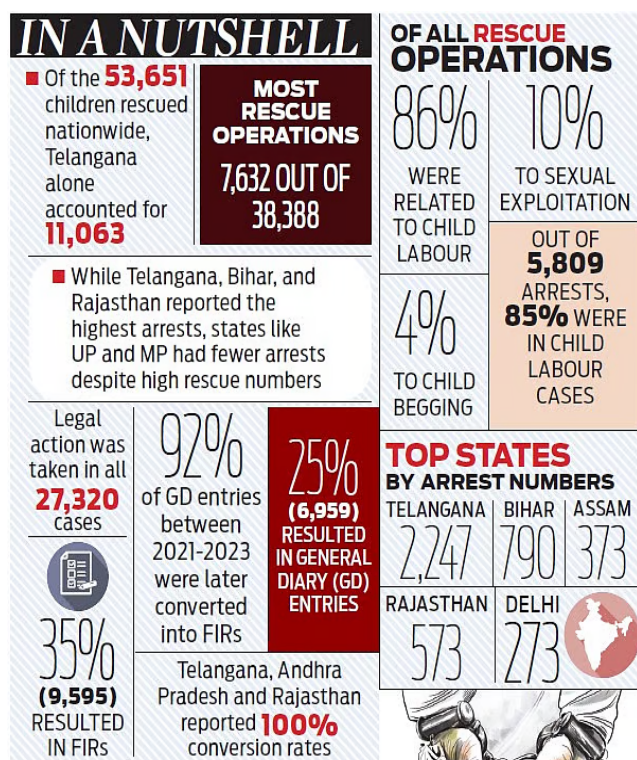
## CHILD LABOUR RESCUES IN 2024–25: C-LAB

### Context

- Recently, the **Centre for Legal Action and Behaviour Change (C-LAB)**, in partnership with the **Just Rights for Children (JRC)** network, released a report related to **child labour rescues in 2024–25**.

### Key Findings of Report

- Over **53,000 children were rescued** across 24 states and union territories (Between April 2024 and March 2025).



- ♦ **Telangana topped the list** with 11,063 rescues, followed by **Bihar** (3,974), **Rajasthan** (3,847), **Uttar Pradesh** (3,804), and **Delhi** (2,588).
- ♦ **Alarming Trends**: The report reveals that nearly **90%** of rescued children aged 10 to 14 were found working in sectors classified as the **worst forms of child labour** — including spas, massage parlours, and orchestras.
- ♦ **Legal Action and Enforcement**: A total of 38,388 FIRs were registered and 5,809 arrests made, with **85% of arrests directly related to child labour**.
  - ♦ **Telangana, Bihar, and Rajasthan** led in enforcement.
  - ♦ States like **Uttar Pradesh** and **Madhya Pradesh** showed high rescue numbers but fewer arrests.

- ♦ **Policy Recommendations**: The report calls for the **launch of a National Mission to End Child Labour**, the formation of **district-level Child Labour Task Forces**, and **better coordination** between NGOs and law enforcement to ensure prosecution and rehabilitation.

### Definition of Child

- ♦ **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNHRC)**: A child as an individual who has **not attained the age of 18 years**.
  - ♦ **India** has been a **signatory** to the UNHRC since 1992.
- ♦ **International Labour Organization (ILO)**: Child is any person under 18.
  - ♦ **Child Labour** (as per the ILO) refers to work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and/or mental development.

### Constitutional Provisions Related To Child

- ♦ **Article 15(3) (Protective Discrimination)**: It empowers the State to make special provisions for children, recognizing their need for additional safeguards and support.
- ♦ **Article 21A (Right to Education)**: It guarantees **free and compulsory education** for all children aged 6 to 14 years.
  - ♦ This provision, **added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment (2002)**, is central to preventing child labour by ensuring access to schooling.
- ♦ **Article 24 (Prohibition of Child Labour)**: It **explicitly prohibits** the employment of children below the age of 14 in factories, mines, or any other hazardous employment. This is a **direct constitutional safeguard** against exploitative labour.
- ♦ **Article 39(e) and 39(f)**:
  - ♦ Children are not forced by economic necessity to enter vocations unsuited to their age or strength.
  - ♦ Childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and moral and material abandonment.
- ♦ **Article 45 (Early Childhood Care and Education)**: It directs the State to provide early childhood care and education for all children below the age of six, laying the foundation for long-term development and protection.

**Legal Protection**

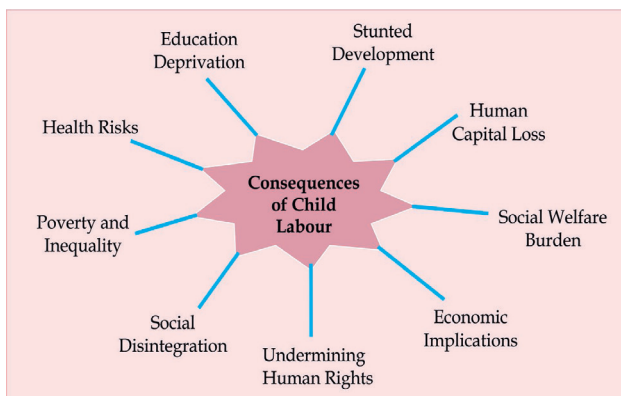
- **Minimum Wages Act, 1948** (amended in 1986): A 'child' is a person who has **not completed his fourteenth year of age**.
- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016**: It prohibits "the engagement of children in all occupations and of adolescents in hazardous occupations and processes" wherein adolescents refers to those under 18 years; children to those under 14. The Act also imposes a fine on anyone who employs or permits adolescents to work.

**Do You Know?**

- **Gurupadswamy Committee (1979)** observed poverty is main factor for the child labour. It recommended that **a multiple policy approach** was required in dealing with the problems of working children.
- **The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986** based on the recommendations of **Gurupadaswamy Committee**.

**Reasons Behind Child Labour in India**

- **Poverty and Economic Compulsion**: According to the **Ministry of Labour & Employment**, poverty remains the primary driver of child labour.
  - ♦ Families struggling to meet basic needs often rely on children to supplement household income, especially in **rural and informal sectors**.
- **Lack of Access to Quality Education**: Many children drop out of school due to poor infrastructure, teacher shortages, or financial constraints.
  - ♦ Once out of school, they are more likely to enter the workforce.
- **Illiteracy and Low Awareness**: Parents with limited education may not fully understand the long-term value of schooling or the legal protections against child labour.



- ♦ It perpetuates a cycle of exploitation.
- **Demand for Cheap Labour**: Industries such as beedi-making, carpet weaving, and fireworks often prefer child workers for their nimble fingers and lower wages.
- **Cultural and Social Norms**: In some communities, child labour is normalized or even seen as a rite of passage.
  - ♦ Girls, in particular, may be pulled into domestic work or caregiving roles at a young age.
- **Migration and Trafficking**: Children from marginalized communities are often trafficked or migrate with families to urban areas, where they end up in exploitative jobs without legal safeguards.

**Model State Action Plans**

- The **Ministry of Labour & Employment** has circulated model plans to guide states in enforcement, rescue, and rehabilitation efforts.
- **Support for Action Against Child Labour (SAFAL)**: It aimed at strengthening enforcement and community-based monitoring.
- **National Policy on Child Labour (1987)**:
  - ♦ Focus on rehabilitating children in hazardous occupations.
  - ♦ Convergence of welfare schemes to support families of child labourers.
  - ♦ Launch of project-based interventions in high-incidence areas.
- **National Child Labour Project (NCLP)**: Implemented in districts with high child labour prevalence. It provides:
  - ♦ Special training centres for rescued children
  - ♦ Bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meals, and stipends
  - ♦ Support for mainstreaming into formal schools
  - ♦ Now integrated into the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

**Success Stories**

- **Velpur Mandal in Telangana** as a model for **eradicating child labour** through *community engagement, school retention, and strict enforcement* — a testament to what's possible with sustained local action.

Source: IE

**CHALLENGES BEFORE IAEA AFTER ATTACKS ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR SITES****In News**

- Iran is considering a bill to suspend cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA), citing the agency's alleged failure to remain impartial and fulfill its obligations.

### Background

- The announcement came as the IAEA convened an emergency Board of Governors meeting in Vienna following the U.S. attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, and Israel's earlier strike on the Arak Heavy Water Reactor.
- Iran is a signatory to the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** as a non-nuclear weapon state.
  - ♦ In that capacity, it had to mandatorily enter into a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA, which allows the organisation to install its own equipment to monitor activities, including radiation levels.
- Iran accuses the IAEA of becoming a political tool and insists it will not resume cooperation without "objective guarantees."

### International Atomic Energy Agency(IAEA)

- It is the **world's central intergovernmental forum** for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field.
- It was **established in 1957**, inspired by the U.S. President Eisenhower's 1953 "Atoms for Peace" speech to the UN, aiming to address global concerns and hopes surrounding nuclear technology.
- It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals**.

### Emerging Challenges

- The recent attacks by the United States and Israel on Iran's operational nuclear facilities at Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordow mark an unprecedented escalation, **raising serious global concerns**.
- The situation **threatens to undermine the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** and the IAEA's role, with growing tensions, damaged diplomatic channels, and increased risk of nuclear escalation.
  - ♦ IAEA currently lacks access to the attacked sites.
- The disruption of IAEA oversight could make it difficult to verify the location and status of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile, which includes 400 kg enriched to 60%, close to weapons-grade level.
- The situation poses significant risks for **nuclear safety and non-proliferation efforts worldwide**.

### India's Perspective

- India expressed deep concern over the escalating situation in West Asia, particularly the U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities.
- Emphasizing the importance of nuclear safety due to potential risks to public health and the environment, India urged the IAEA to provide updates on damage and radiation levels.
- The Indian envoy called for maximum restraint from all parties and affirmed India's readiness to offer support.

### Way Forward

- In the present scenario, the IAEA must navigate a complex mix of technical, political, and security challenges to preserve its mandate and prevent a wider nuclear crisis.

Source: TH

## 10TH WHO REPORT ON THE GLOBAL TOBACCO EPIDEMIC

### In News

- WHO has released the 10th edition of its Global Tobacco Epidemic Report, assessing progress in tobacco control since the launch of the MPOWER strategy in 2008.
  - ♦ The report notes significant global progress, with over 6.1 billion people now protected by at least one of the six MPOWER measures.

### Key Findings of the Report

- **Widespread Impact:** Since 2007, 155 countries have implemented at least one of the **MPOWER policy prescriptions**, collectively benefiting over 6.1 billion people.
- **Most Progress:** Among all MPOWER measures, large graphic health warnings on cigarette packages have seen the most widespread and consistent implementation.
- **India's Leadership in Digital Content Regulation:** India has notably become the first country globally to apply tobacco control regulations specifically to digital streaming content.
- **India's Strong Stance on TAPS:** India has implemented stringent measures to curb tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship (TAPS) across all forms of media. This aligns with the **"E" (Enforce bans) in MPOWER** and is a critical step in reducing tobacco appeal.
- **Tobacco Tax:** A critical finding is that tobacco tax remains the **least-adopted MPOWER measure globally**. This is a significant concern as increasing tobacco taxes is widely recognized

as one of the most effective ways to reduce consumption, especially among youth and lower-income groups.

### Tobacco Consumption

- Tobacco use claims over seven million lives a year, predominantly in low- and middle-income countries.
- India is the **world's second-largest tobacco** producer after China.
- India is the **4th largest producer** of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in the world after China, Brazil and Zimbabwe.
- Tobacco use is a major risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in India, such as cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illnesses, accounting for over 1.35 million deaths each year.
- Significant progress has been made to reduce tobacco use in countries with the highest burden of tobacco consumption over the last two decades.
  - ♦ Key strategies include the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the six proven World Health Organization (WHO) MPOWER tobacco control measures to reduce tobacco use:
    - Monitoring tobacco use and prevention policies;
    - Protecting people from tobacco smoke with smoke-free air legislation;
    - Offering help to quit tobacco use;
    - Warning about the dangers of tobacco with pack labels and mass media;
    - Enforcing bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship;
    - Raising taxes on tobacco.

Source: TH

## FIRST-EVER HOUSEHOLD INCOME SURVEY IN 2026

### Context

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will conduct the first-ever Household Income Survey in 2026.

### About

- This will be **India's first comprehensive, nationwide survey** focused entirely on household income, including both rural and urban segments.
- **Lead Agency:** Conducted by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

- **Technical Expert Group (TEG):** It was constituted by MoSPI under the Chairmanship of **Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla**.
- **Mandate of TEG:**
  - ♦ Finalize definitions, concepts, survey tools, and sampling methods,
  - ♦ Adopt best practices from countries like the US, Australia, Canada, and South Africa to address prior underreporting,
  - ♦ Guide estimation methods, data quality protocols, result finalization, and publication timelines,
  - ♦ Incorporate digital tools to capture technology-driven impacts on wages and income.

### Significance of the Household Income Survey

- **First Accurate Mapping of Income Distribution:** Despite decades of data on consumption, poverty, and employment, India lacks official statistics on household income levels and distribution.
  - ♦ The survey fills a critical gap, enabling policymakers to **understand income inequality, inter-regional disparities,** and the actual **spread of economic growth.**
- **Targeting of Welfare Schemes:** The government can more effectively design and implement **subsidies, social protection, and direct benefit transfers**, moving toward evidence-based and inclusive policymaking.
- **Analysis of Technology Impact:** The survey will assess how digital platforms, gig work, automation, and informal employment influence household earnings, an area underexplored by existing datasets.
- **Benchmark for Fiscal and Tax Policy:** It can provide a realistic **baseline for taxation policies, income slabs, and fiscal redistribution** strategies by capturing actual income flows across sectors and classes.
- **International Comparability:** Countries like the USA, Australia, and South Africa regularly conduct income surveys.

### Challenges in Conducting the Survey

- **Disclosure Hesitation:** Households often understate or conceal income, especially from informal or cash-based sources, fearing taxation or legal scrutiny.
- **Complex and Diverse Income Sources:** Indian households earn from multiple, fragmented streams—agriculture, daily wages, remittances, informal trades, and pensions.
  - ♦ Capturing and verifying these streams, especially in rural settings, is technically demanding.

- **Mismatch Between Income, Consumption, and Savings:** Previous surveys found reported income lower than total consumption and savings, suggesting gaps in recall accuracy or deliberate misreporting.
- **Seasonality and Volatility of Earnings:** In sectors like agriculture and construction, incomes fluctuate widely across months or seasons. A single-point survey may fail to capture these variations unless longitudinal or repeated visits are used.
- **Training of Field Enumerators:** Gathering reliable income data requires well-trained surveyors who can navigate complex interviews and probe sensitively without causing discomfort or suspicion.

#### Way Ahead

- **Institutionalising the Survey:** Rather than a one-off exercise, the **Household Income Survey** should be institutionalised at regular intervals, allowing tracking of trends over time and enabling better long-term planning.
- **Detailed training of field investigators** is essential, not only in technical methods but also in building trust with respondents, navigating

sensitive income questions, and understanding local income patterns.

Source: PIB

## INDIA-ASEAN TRADE DEAL REVIEW

### Context

- Over the last one year, India has held nine meetings with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** to review the **trade agreement signed with the grouping, but no progress has been made on any item.**

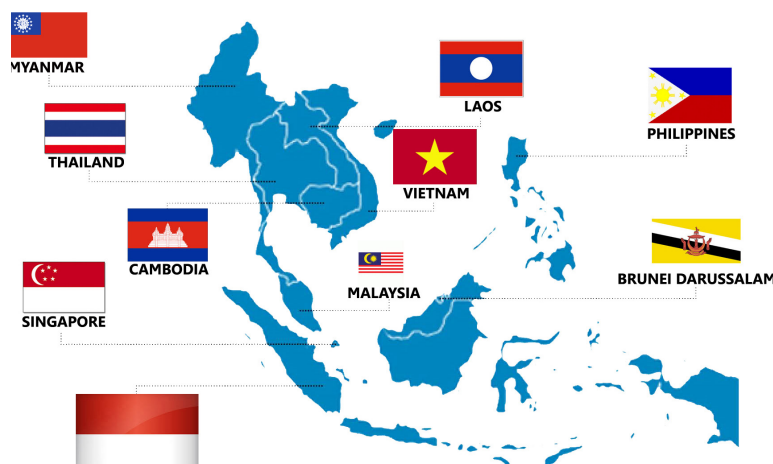
### About

- The original agreement was signed in **2009**.
- India opened **71% of its tariff lines** to the ASEAN countries whereas **countries like Indonesia opened 41%, Vietnam 66.5%, and Thailand 67%.**
- In the last 15 years, **India's exports to ASEAN have doubled, but the imports have tripled.**
  - ♦ These factors necessitated a review of the deal.
  - ♦ The review by a joint committee began in 2024.

### Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- It was established in **1967 in Bangkok, Thailand.**
- **It was founded by five countries like** Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
- **Aim:** To promote regional cooperation and stability amid Cold War tensions.
- **Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **Current Member States:** ASEAN currently consists of 10 member countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

## ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATION



- **ASEAN maintains dialogue partnerships** with multiple countries and organizations, including India, China, the USA, Japan, Australia, the EU, and others.

### Brief on India-ASEAN Relations

- **Foundation:** Cooperation began in the 1990s.
  - ♦ Driven by shared economic and strategic interests.
  - ♦ Also a response to China's growing influence in the region.
- **Policy Framework:** "Look East Policy" initiated in the 1990s, it was transformed into the "Act East Policy" in 2014, marking a more action-oriented approach to deepen ties with ASEAN.
- **Milestones in the Partnership:**
  - ♦ 1992: India became a Sectoral Dialogue Partner.
  - ♦ 1996: Elevated to Full Dialogue Partner.
  - ♦ 2012: Upgraded to a Strategic Partnership.
  - ♦ 2022: Elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- **Trade and investment:** India and ASEAN have signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), significantly boosting trade and investment.
  - ♦ ASEAN is India's 4th largest trading partner, with total trade reaching US\$110.4 billion in 2021-22.
- **Regional connectivity:** India is working to improve connectivity with ASEAN through projects like the India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) trilateral highway and the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project.
- **Defense and security:** Defense ties between India and ASEAN have deepened through joint military exercises such as the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise and participation in the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+).
  - ♦ India also places ASEAN at the heart of its Indo-Pacific vision for regional security and growth (SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- **Socio-cultural cooperation:** To strengthen people-to-people connections, India and ASEAN have promoted various cultural exchanges, such as the ASEAN Students Exchange Programme, training courses for ASEAN diplomats, and the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks.

### India-ASEAN FTA

- **The Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India was signed in 2003**, establishing the legal foundation for subsequent agreements.
  - ♦ These agreements include the trade in goods agreement, trade in services agreement, and investment agreement, which together form the **ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA)**.

- **The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement** was signed and came into effect in 2010.
  - ♦ Under this agreement, ASEAN member states and India committed to gradually open their markets by reducing and eliminating tariffs on 76.4% of goods.
- **The ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement**, signed in 2014, includes provisions on transparency, domestic regulations, market access, national treatment, recognition, and dispute settlement.
- **The ASEAN-India Investment Agreement**, also signed in 2014, ensures protection of investments, including fair and equitable treatment for investors, non-discriminatory practices in cases of expropriation or nationalization, and guarantees of fair compensation.

### Challenges With AIFTA

- **Widening Trade Deficit:** India's trade deficit with ASEAN has consistently widened since the FTA.
  - ♦ Indian imports from ASEAN grew faster than exports, leading to asymmetrical gains.
  - ♦ India's trade deficit with ASEAN has risen to \$44 billion in FY23, compared to \$8 billion in FY13.
- **Limited Market Access for Indian Services:** Despite India's strength in services, ASEAN countries offered limited liberalisation in sectors like IT, professional services, and healthcare.
- **Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs):** ASEAN members often impose complex standards, licensing requirements, and other regulatory barriers.
  - ♦ These nullify tariff concessions and restrict Indian exports, especially in agriculture and pharmaceuticals.
- **Rules of Origin Issues:** Lax rules of origin enable third countries (like China) to route goods via ASEAN to India, exploiting tariff benefits.
  - ♦ This undermines domestic manufacturing under Make in India.
- **Limited Gains for Indian Agriculture:** Indian agricultural products face high sanitary and phytosanitary standards and quota restrictions.
  - ♦ Meanwhile, ASEAN countries export cheap palm oil, rubber, and spices, hurting Indian farmers.
- **Negotiation Imbalance:** India often faces difficulty in securing reciprocal concessions.
  - ♦ ASEAN acts as a bloc, whereas India negotiates alone, leading to less negotiating leverage.

### Way Forward

- India and ASEAN agreed in 2022 to review the FTA to address asymmetries.
  - Stronger safeguard measures and stricter rules of origin are needed.
- With India's rising diplomatic influence and its leadership in the Global South, a deeper partnership with ASEAN offers mutual benefits and fosters regional stability.
- Since 2024, India has significantly increased its engagement with Southeast Asia.

Source: TH

## YEAST SHOWS PHYSICS CAN GIVE RISE TO MULTICELLULAR LIFE SANS MUTATIONS

### Context

- A new study on **Snowflake yeast** by National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) scientists offers an '**unconventional view**' of how major changes first arise in the course of evolution.

### What is Yeast?

- Yeast is a **unicellular fungus**.
- Commonly used in:**
  - Baking (makes bread rise).
  - Alcohol production (fermentation).
  - Scientific research (model organism).
- Reproduction by budding:**
  - A small bud forms on the parent cell.
  - The nucleus divides, one part goes into the bud.
  - The bud grows and detaches, becoming a new yeast cell.

### What is Snowflake Yeast?

- Regular yeast grows as single cells; new cells (buds) separate after formation.
  - Snowflake yeast has a **genetic mutation that prevents buds from separating**.
- As a result, **yeast cells stick together**, forming a **cluster like a snowflake**.
  - These clusters grow rapidly and become visible to the naked eye within 12 hours.
- Significance in Science:** Snowflake yeast is **used to study how unicellular life evolved into multicellular organisms**.
  - Normally, multicellular life needs **special transport systems** (like blood vessels) to move nutrients.
  - But snowflake yeast **lacks such biological systems**, yet still grows exponentially.

### The Scientific Puzzle

- According to current understanding, growth should stop once inner cells can't get nutrients.
- However, snowflake yeast in the lab continued to grow beyond expected limits.
- Scientists wanted to **understand how nutrients were still reaching all cells**.

### New Discovery – Physical Process Behind Growth

- The study found that a simple physical process helps the yeast grow: **fluid flow**.
- Growth was seen **only in liquid (solution)**, not in jelly-like mediums.
- There are two types of movement in fluids:**
  - Diffusion:** nutrients spread from high to low concentration.
  - Advection:** whole fluid moves, carrying nutrients with it.
- Diffusion alone couldn't explain large growth (only up to 50 micrometers).
- Scientists observed advection — fluid moved into the cluster from sides and exited from the top.
- Snowflake yeast consumes sugar (glucose) and produces alcohol and carbon dioxide.
- This makes surrounding fluid less dense.
  - Less dense fluids rise, creating natural upward flow (like hot air rising).
  - This flow brings **fresh nutrients into the cluster, keeping all cells alive**.

### Evolutionary Significance

- Traditionally, multicellularity is thought to arise from gradual genetic mutations.
- This study shows that physics and chemistry alone could allow early multicellularity — before genetic changes.
- Later, genetic evolution could make multicellularity a permanent feature in life.

Source: TH

## NEWS IN SHORT

### AMBUBACHI MELA

#### Context

- Thousands of devotees have arrived in Assam for the Kamakhya Temple's annual Ambubachi Mela.

#### About the Ambubachi Mela

- The festival is held during the **monsoon season**, typically in June, at the Kamakhya Temple — a revered shrine dedicated to **Goddess Kamakhya**, an incarnation of **Goddess Parvati**.

- The festival is associated with **fertility**, the onset of the monsoon, and the widespread historical belief across cultures that portrays the Earth as a fertile woman. The name 'Ambubachi' itself translates to **water flowing**.

#### Kamakhya Temple

- Located atop the **Nilachal Hills** in Guwahati, Assam, it is one of the **oldest and most revered among the 51 Shakti Peethas** in India.
- The main shrine is surrounded by individual temples dedicated to the **Ten Mahavidyas**: Kali, Tara, Sodashi, Bhuvaneshwari, Bhairavi, Chhinnamasta, Dhumavati, Bagalamukhi, Matangi and Kamalatmika.
- The present structure of the temple was **rebuilt in 1565 CE** by utilizing the ruins of an earlier **11th–12th century stone temple**.
- Architecturally, the temple had been modelled out of a combination of two different styles, namely, **the traditional nagara or North Indian and saracenic or Mughal**.
  - Thus, being an unusual combination which came into its existence on this famous sakti shrine of India, it has been named as the **Nilachala Style of Architecture**.

Source: IE

## SUBARNAREKHA RIVER

### Context

- Over 50,000 people were affected after a flash flood in the Subarnarekha River, which led to water entering several villages in Balasore district of Odisha.

### About Subarnarekha River

- Origin:** Near Nagri village, Ranchi district, Jharkhand, on the **Chotanagpur Plateau**.
- Course:** It is an **east flowing river** that flows through **Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha** before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.
  - It drains into the Bay of Bengal** near Talsari in Odisha.
- Major tributaries:** Kharkai, Roro, Kanchi, Harmu Nadi, Damra, Karu, Chinguru, Karakari, Gurma, Garra, Singaduba, Kodia, Dulunga and Khajjori.
- Important Towns on the River:** Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Ghatshila (Jharkhand), and Baleswar (Odisha).
- Hundru Falls:** A major waterfall where the river drops from a height of 98 metres near Ranchi.

Source: TH

## QATAR

### In News

- Iran launched missile attacks on the **al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar** and the **Ain al-Assad base in Iraq** in retaliation for U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.
  - Qatar condemned Iran's attack as a violation of its sovereignty and warned it may respond.

### Qatar (Doha (Al-Daw ah))

- It is an independent emirate on the west coast of the **Persian Gulf**.
- It shares a border with eastern **Saudi Arabia** where the peninsula connects to the mainland and is north and west of the **United Arab Emirates**.
  - The island country of Bahrain lies some 25 miles (40 km) northwest of Qatar.



- The **economy of Qatar** is based largely on the production and export of petroleum and natural gas.
- Qatar's official religion is Islam and Sharia** forms the foundation of all State legislation.
  - However, Qatar is home to a diverse population practicing various faiths.
- Arabic is the official language** but English is widely used as a second language across the country.

Source: TH

## 'NAVYA' INITIATIVE

### In News

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched the **NAVYA initiative**.

### NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls)

- It is a pilot initiative aimed at skilling girls aged 16–18 years (with at least a Class 10 education) in non-traditional job roles.

- It aims to empower adolescent girls with skills, confidence, and opportunities, contributing to India's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 and a self-reliant, inclusive future.
- It is being Implemented in 27 districts across 19 States, including Aspirational districts and North-Eastern States, reflecting an inclusive, targeted approach.
- It will leverage existing schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and PM Vishwakarma.

Source : PIB

## E-RAKT KOSH

### Context

- The Health Ministry is integrating the **Rare Donor Registry with the national online platform** for blood bank management **e-Rakt Kosh**.
  - ♦ The integration will allow those with **rare blood groups to access a centralized system** developed under the **National Health Mission (NHS)**, providing details on blood banks, blood availability, and blood donation camps across the country.

### e-RaktKosh

- It is a **national platform** for information about Blood Banks and Blood availability across India and has been developed by C-DAC under the initiative of Blood Cell, National Health Mission.
- It is the official portal for all blood-related services in India.



### Rare Blood Group

- A rare blood group is defined as **one that occurs in fewer than 1 in 1,000 people in a given population**.
- **Rarity depends on ethnicity, region, and the presence** or absence of specific antigens on red blood cells.
- **Blood group rarity increases** when a person lacks common antigens or has unusual antigen combinations.
- **Examples of rare blood types** that are negative for antigens of high prevalence include Rhnull, Bombay (Oh), Jr(a-) among others.

Source: TH

## BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES AWARDS FOR GLOBAL TOBACCO CONTROL

### In News

- WHO Global Ambassador for Noncommunicable Diseases announced the winners of the **2025 Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards for Global Tobacco Control** during the **World Conference on Tobacco Control** in Dublin.

### More About the News

- The awards honor governments and NGOs from **India, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, the Philippines, and Ukraine** for significant achievements in implementing **proven tobacco control measures**.
- Bloomberg also announced a new **\$20 million Accelerator Fund to boost tobacco control** efforts in low- and middle-income countries where progress has stalled.

### Bloomberg Philanthropies

- It invests globally in 700 cities and 150 countries to improve lives by focusing on **five key areas**: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health.
- The **Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards for Global Tobacco Control** were first held in 2009 at the World Health Conference on Tobacco or Health in **Mumbai**, with the most recent event before 2025 taking place in 2018 in Cape Town.

Source: TH

## GWADA NEGATIVE

### Context

- France's national blood agency, the **Établissement Français du Sang or French Blood Establishment (EFS)**, has identified a **completely new blood group system**, now officially recognised by the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT).

### About

- It is named **EMM-negative** and colloquially dubbed "**Gwada negative**" in reference to the **Guadeloupean origin of the woman who carries it**.
  - ♦ As of June 2025, **only one person** in the world is known to possess this blood type, making it the rarest ever recorded.
- **Gwada negative** is the informal name given to the **newly classified EMM-negative blood group system**, officially registered by ISBT as ISBT042.

- ♦ It is defined by the **absence of the EMM antigen**, which is normally found on red blood cells and is considered a high-incidence antigen.
- ♦ High-incidence antigens are present in nearly all humans, so the lack of one, as in this case, is extremely rare and medically significant.

#### New System

- For a blood group to be considered a new system, **it must fulfill several criteria:**
  - ♦ it should be genetically determined, inherited, identifiable via serological or molecular techniques, and have an associated antibody -- criteria that EMM-negative meets.
- The identification of the EMM-negative blood type adds to the **previously known 47 blood group systems**, making it the **48th globally recognised system in transfusion science**.

#### International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT)

- ISBT was founded in **1935**, making it one of the oldest organisations in transfusion medicine.
- **Headquarters of ISBT:** Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- **Functions:** It is a global scientific society that works to promote the sharing of knowledge and best practices in the field of blood transfusion medicine.
  - ♦ ISBT is internationally recognized for developing and maintaining the standardised blood group terminology system.

Source: TH

## INDIA SLAMS ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)

#### Context

- India has categorically rejected references to the country at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting and termed them as unwarranted and factually incorrect.
  - ♦ India condemned the OIC's silence on terrorism emanating from Pakistan, calling it a disregard for global anti-terror consensus.

#### Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- **Objective:** The organisation claims to be "the collective voice of the Muslim world" and works to "safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony."
- **Members: 57 member states** (primarily Muslim-majority countries)
  - ♦ **India is not a member** despite having the third-largest Muslim population globally.
- **Official Languages:** Arabic, English, and French
- **Headquarters:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- OIC is an **intergovernmental organisation** founded in **1969**.

Source: AIR

## IFFCO TO SET UP FIRST OVERSEAS NANO FERTILISER PLANT IN BRAZIL

#### Context

- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) is setting up its **first overseas nano fertiliser Plant in Brazil**.
  - ♦ It will be producing **4.5 million litres of nano-fertilisers annually**.

#### Nano Fertilizer

- A nano fertilizer is a type of fertilizer that contains **nutrient particles in nanometer size (typically less than 100 nanometers)**.
- These fertilizers are designed to deliver **nutrients to plants more efficiently, due to their small size, high surface area, and better absorption**.
- Nano fertilizers are part of **precision agriculture**, aiming to reduce nutrient loss and improve productivity.
- **India became the first country to approve and commercialize Nano Urea**, developed by IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited) in 2021.
  - ♦ Nano urea is being promoted to reduce the use of conventional urea, which is heavily subsidized and overused.

Source: TH