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OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Context

- The **Department of Official Language** recently celebrated its golden jubilee, marking **50 years since its establishment in 1975**.
 - On this occasion, the Union Home Minister underscored the **importance of Indian languages** in preserving the nation's cultural identity, asserting that language is not merely a tool of communication but the '**soul of a nation**'.

About Indian Languages

- India's linguistic diversity is not just a cultural asset — it is a foundational pillar of its national identity, democratic ethos, and inclusive development.
- Cultural and Civilizational Heritage: Census 2011** recognised **121 languages** and **over 1,600 mother tongues** are used throughout India.
 - The **Indus Valley script, Brāhmī, and Kharosthī** are among the earliest writing systems, reflecting India's long-standing literary traditions.
 - India has **eleven recognized classical languages**, i.e. **Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia** and recently added **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali**.
- Constitutional and Legal Recognition:** The **Constitution of India** recognizes **22 scheduled languages** under the **Eighth Schedule**, affirming the equal status and promotion of regional languages.
 - Article 350A** mandates that states provide **primary education in the mother tongue** for children from linguistic minority groups.
 - The Constitution guarantees the right to conserve one's language and culture as a **Fundamental Right**.
 - Article 343** designates **Hindi in Devanagari script** as the official language of the Union, while **allowing the continued use of English**.
 - Article 344** provides for the constitution of a Commission and a Committee on Official Language to review and recommend on the progressive use of the Hindi language for official purposes.
 - Article 345** grants State Legislatures the authority to adopt any one or more languages used in the State or Hindi as the official language(s) of that particular State.

Importance of Language & Policy Support

- Multilingualism as a Way of Life:** Most Indians grow up speaking two or more languages.

KEY CONCERNS



Endangerment of Lesser-Known Languages



Limited Use in Education and Governance



Shortage of Skilled Language Teachers



Digital and Technological Gaps



Policy and Bureaucratic Challenges



Linguistic Hierarchies and Social Perception

- Multilingualism** fosters intercultural understanding, social cohesion, and cognitive development, especially among children.
- Education and Empowerment:** The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** promotes mother tongue-based education **up to Grade 5** and preferably till Grade 8, wherever possible.
 - Competitive exams** like JEE, NEET, and CUET are **now offered in 13 Indian languages**, expanding access to higher education.
 - Digital platforms like DIKSHA and SWAYAM** provide e-learning content in over 130 Indian languages, bridging the digital divide.
 - DIKSHA** hosts textbooks and learning resources in 33 Indian languages and Indian Sign Language.
 - SWAYAM** offers translated engineering content in 11 Indian languages.
- Digital Inclusion and Innovation:** Under the **Digital India initiative**, mobile phones sold in India since 2017 **must support all Indian languages**, enabling broader access to e-governance and e-commerce.
- Projects like Bhashini** aim to develop AI tools for Indian languages, ensuring that technology serves all linguistic communities.
- Safeguarding Endangered Languages:** India has **lost 50 languages in the past five decades**, and many tribal and minority languages remain at risk.
- Dedicated Institutions for Language Promotion:**
 - Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru;

- Central Hindi Directorate, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, and CSTT;
- National Councils for Promotion of Urdu and Sindhi Languages;
- Central Sanskrit Universities;
- Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai
- ♦ Initiatives like the **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag** and the **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign** aim to foster linguistic appreciation and unity among youth.

Source: TH

THE UNITED NATIONS AT 80

Context

- June 26, 2025 marks 80 years of the signing of the UN Charter in 1945, considered the founding treaty of the United Nations.
- ♦ The Charter came into force on **October 24, 1945**, now observed as United Nations Day.

Background

- The UN Charter was signed on **June 26, 1945**, at the **United Nations Conference on International Organization** in San Francisco, by 50 nations in the aftermath of World War II.
- It was based on proposals developed by China, the USSR, the UK, and the USA during the **Dumbarton Oaks Conference (1944)**.
- It comprises a **Preamble and 111 Articles**, organized into chapters.
- **Key Functions of the UN Charter:**
 - ♦ Maintaining international peace and security
 - ♦ Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms
 - ♦ Encouraging social progress and better standards of life
 - ♦ Fostering international cooperation
- **Principal Organs of the United Nations:** The General Assembly (GA), The Security Council (SC), The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), The Trusteeship Council, The International Court of Justice (ICJ), and The UN Secretariat.

What is the UN80 Initiative?

- **Launched in March 2025** by UN Secretary-General **António Guterres**, the UN80 Initiative is a system-wide reform effort marking the UN's 80th anniversary, aimed at **modernizing the Organization** to better serve today's global challenges.

Three Core Pillars of Reform:

- ♦ **Efficiency & Effectiveness:** Remove duplication, red tape; optimize operations (e.g., reallocating functions to lower-cost duty stations).
- ♦ **Mandate Review:** Out of ~40,000 accumulated mandates, the UN will employ AI tools to streamline, prioritize, and eliminate obsolete directives.
- ♦ **Structural Realignment:** Reassess UN system architecture, realign programmes, and potentially reshape institutions.

Need for Reform in UN Governance

- **Financial Strains & Budget Cuts:** UN faces a multi-year liquidity crisis due to late or missing dues—only 75 of 193 Members paid full 2025 assessments on time.
- **Mandate Overload:** Thousands of overlapping or outdated mandates hinder UN agility and efficacy.
- **Evolving Global Threats:** The UN needs to adapt to new challenges: tech governance (AI), pandemics, climate crises, and multifaceted conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, etc.
- **Multilateral Trust Deficit:** Growing geopolitical polarization and declining public faith in global institutions heighten the urgency for multilateral reforms.

India's Position & Advocacy

- India strongly supports **UN reform**, especially Security Council expansion, stating the existing structure is obsolete and unrepresentative.
- Member of **G4 nations (India, Brazil, Germany, Japan)**, advocating inclusion of emerging powers and greater regional representation — **Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific**.
- India has served **eight times** as a **non-permanent member** of the **UN Security Council**.

What are the challenges?

- **Political Pushback by the P5:** Permanent members (US, UK, France, Russia, China) hold veto power and have little incentive to dilute their influence.
- **Complex Negotiation Framework:** Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) have been ongoing since 2008, but lack of draft text or agreement stalls progress.
- **Funding Imperatives & Oversight:** UN80 lacks clear financial architecture to support long-term reform initiatives.

- ♦ No independent monitoring or accountability mechanism exists, making progress tracking weak and heavily dependent on political will.
- **Consensus Fatigue & Multipolar Distractions:** There's "consensus fatigue" among smaller nations who feel sidelined in elite-driven negotiations. In a multipolar world, focus is shifting to regional alliances (BRICS, Quad, SCO), making UN-centric reforms less urgent for many states.

Way Ahead

- The UN80 Initiative offers a timely, comprehensive roadmap to modernize the UN.
- India is a consistent proponent of multilateral reform, with particular emphasis on Security Council expansion to reflect today's global realities.
- However, success hinges on overcoming entrenched P5 resistance, regional geopolitical dynamics, and implementing transparent oversight mechanisms to ensure promised reforms translate into action.

Source: UN

ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR BIHAR TO BE PREPARED AFRESH

Context

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has asked for the **electoral rolls for Bihar to be prepared afresh.**

About

- All electors must **submit an enumeration form**, and those registered after 2003 have to **additionally provide documentation establishing their citizenship.**
- This **special intensive revision (SIV)** of rolls will **eventually cover all states and Union Territories.**
- **Reasons for the SIV:** Rapid urbanisation, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths and inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants have necessitated the conduct.
- **The booth level officers (BLOs)** will make house to house verification of voters.
- **The last intensive revision for Bihar** was conducted by the Commission in 2003.

WHAT WILL SERVE AS PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

In addition to the enumeration form, electors added to the rolls after 2003 will have to provide the following to prove their citizenship.

■ Those born in India before July 1, 1987 will have to submit any document from the specified list to establish their date of birth and/or place of birth;

■ Those born in India between July 1, 1987 and December 2, 2004, will have to submit an additional document establishing one parent's date and/or

place of birth; and

■ Those born in India after December 2, 2004, will have to submit documents establishing date and/or place of birth of both parents.

These categories are based on the requirements for acquisition of citizenship in the Citizenship Act, 1955

INDIANS BORN ABROAD will have to submit proof of birth registration by an Indian Mission abroad; and

CITIZENS BY NATURALISATION will have to submit their certificate for the registration of citizenship.

Provision in RPA

- **As per the Section 21(3) of The Representation of the People Act, 1950** the Election Commission "may at any time... direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit".
- The revision of rolls can be carried out "**either intensively or summarily or partly intensively and partly summarily**, as the (ECI) may direct".

- ♦ In an intensive revision, the electoral roll is prepared afresh and in a summary revision, the roll is amended.

- **Intensive revisions** have been carried out in 1952-56, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

Eligibility to be a Registered Voter in India

- **Article 326 of the Constitution stipulates that:** every person who is a citizen of India & who is not

less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date & is not otherwise disqualified under any law shall be entitled to be **registered in the electoral roll**.

- **Section 16** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** disqualifies a person from being registered on an electoral roll if:
 - ♦ they are not a citizen of India,
 - ♦ are of unsound mind, as declared by a competent court, or
 - ♦ are disqualified under any law relating to corrupt practices or offences in connection with elections.

Procedure for Voter Registration

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) mandates new voters to apply using **Form 6**.
- Applicants must submit:
 - ♦ **Self-attested proof of age and address** (such as utility bills, passport, etc.)
 - ♦ **A declaration of Indian citizenship**, which they must personally sign.
 - ♦ **Proof of citizenship** (such as passport or birth certificate) is not strictly required unless the ERO suspects the applicant's credentials.
- **Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Booth Level Officers (BLOs)** are responsible for verifying the applications. The process includes:
 - ♦ Verification of documents,
 - ♦ Hearings for claims and objections,
 - ♦ Acceptance or rejection of the application.
- **Section 31 of the RP Act, 1950** penalizes false declarations in voter applications.

About Election Commission of India (ECI)

- The ECI is an **autonomous and permanent constitutional body** responsible for organising **free and fair elections** in the Union and States of India.
- The Constitution grants the ECI with the **power of direction, superintendence, and control of elections to Parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India**.
- The ECI does not deal with the **elections to the urban bodies such as Municipalities and Panchayats** in the states and hence, a separate State Election Commission is in place.

Source: IE

MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES) DAY 2025

Context

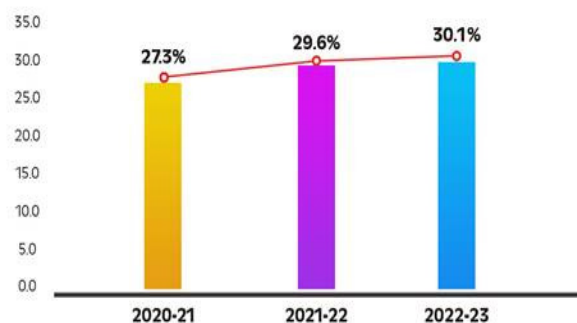
EXISTING MSME CLASSIFICATION			
CRITERIA: INVESTMENT IN PLANT & MACHINERY EQUIPMENT			
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing Enterprises	Investment <₹25 lakh	Investment <₹5 crore	Investment <₹10 crore
Service Enterprise	Investment <₹10 lakh	Investment <₹2 crore	Investment <₹5 crore
REVISED MSME CLASSIFICATION			
COMPOSITE CRITERIA: INVESTMENT & ANNUAL TURNOVER			
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing & Services	Investment <₹1 crore & Turnover <₹5 crore	Investment <₹10 crore & Turnover <₹50 crore	Investment <₹20 crore & Turnover <₹100 crore

- **World Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day** is celebrated annually on June 27th with the theme **"Enhancing the role of MSMEs as drivers of Sustainable Growth and Innovation."**

Significance of MSMEs

- Globally, MSMEs represent the **most dominant segment of the business ecosystem**, accounting for nearly **90% of enterprises and over 50% of total employment**.
- In India, MSMEs are contributing around **30% to the GDP and over 45% to the country's exports**.
 - ♦ MSMEs are the **second-largest employer in India after agriculture**.

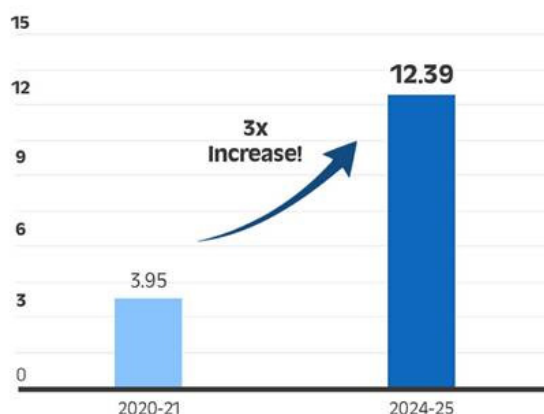
Share of MSME Gross Value Added (GVA) in India's GDP



- **Exports from MSMEs** have seen substantial growth, rising from ₹3.95 lakh crore in 2020-21 to ₹12.39 lakh crore in 2024-25.

Growth of MSME Exports

(In ₹ Lakh Crore)



Challenges Faced by the MSMEs in India

- **Limited Access to Credit:** Most MSMEs struggle to get loans due to lack of collateral and formal credit history.
- **Outdated Technology:** Many MSMEs use obsolete technology due to high costs and limited awareness.
- **Regulatory Burden:** Complex compliance with tax laws, labour regulations, and licenses increases operational difficulty.
- **Delayed Payments:** Payments from large companies and government buyers are often delayed, affecting MSMEs' cash flow.
- **Low Productivity:** Many MSMEs have low productivity due to informal operations and lack of modern practices.
- **Skilled Labour Shortage:** There is a lack of access to skilled and trained manpower in the sector.
- **Limited Market Access:** MSMEs struggle with branding, marketing, and reaching wider domestic and global markets.
- **Informality and Lack of Data:** A large number of MSMEs remain unregistered, making them ineligible for formal support.
- **Vulnerability to External Shocks:** MSMEs are highly susceptible to disruptions like COVID-19, inflation, and global slowdown.

Key Initiatives to Support MSMEs

- **PM Vishwakarma:** Launched in 2023, it is a central sector scheme for 2023-24 to 2027-28.
 - ♦ It aims to uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople by enhancing product quality and connecting them to wider markets.
- **Udyam Registration Portal:** It was launched in 2020, offers a free, paperless, and self-declared

registration process for MSMEs.

- **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):** PMEGP is a credit-linked subsidy scheme that supports self-employment by helping set up micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector.
- **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI):** SFURTI was launched in 2005-06 to organise traditional artisans into clusters for improved competitiveness, product development and sustainable income generation.
- **Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises:** It was notified in 2012 to ensure market access for Micro and Small Enterprises.
 - ♦ It mandates 25% annual procurement from MSEs by Central Ministries, including 4% from MSEs owned by SC/ST and 3% from MSEs owned by Women entrepreneurs.
- **MSME Hackathon 4.0 (2024):** Supports 500 young entrepreneurs with funding up to Rs. 15 lakh each for innovation and incubation.
- **MSME-TEAM Scheme (2024):** A trade enablement initiative with an outlay of Rs. 277.35 crore, supporting 5 lakh MSEs (including 2.5 lakh women-led) in digital onboarding, cataloguing, logistics and packaging.
- **Khadi and Village Industries:** The Government is promoting the Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) sector through the Khadi and Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (KGVY), a Central Sector Scheme with no state component.
- **International Cooperation Scheme:** Supports MSMEs in entering global markets by facilitating participation in international fairs, exhibitions and knowledge-sharing events on a reimbursement basis.

Conclusion

- MSMEs are revolutionising India's growth story by **driving innovation, generating employment, and empowering local communities.**
- **With strong policy support, digital tools, and access to new markets,** these enterprises are becoming engines of sustainable and inclusive development.

Source: DD

INDIA'S POVERTY ESTIMATION UNDER NEW GLOBAL POVERTY LINE

Context

- The recent revision of the International Poverty Line by the World Bank has reignited the global debate on how poverty should be defined and tracked.

Background

- The World Bank has announced a major revision to global poverty estimates, raising the **International Poverty Line (IPL)** from \$2.15/day (2017 PPP) to **\$3.00/day (2021 PPP)**.
- While the change led to a global increase in the count of extreme poverty by **125 million**, India witnessed a massive reduction in poverty.

What is a Poverty Line?

- A poverty line is a **threshold level of income or consumption** used to determine whether an individual or household is poor.
- Anyone living below this threshold is considered unable to afford basic necessities such as **food, shelter, clothing, education, and healthcare**.
- It helps the government;
 - to gauge the extent of poverty and **shape welfare policies** for the poor.
 - to **understand whether a set of policies has actually worked** over time to reduce poverty and improve wellbeing.

India's Revised Poverty Profile

- India's latest **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)** adopted the **Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP)** method, replacing the outdated Uniform Reference Period (URP). This shift:
 - Used shorter recall periods for frequently purchased items.
 - Captured more realistic estimates of actual consumption.
- In **2011–12**, applying MMRP reduced India's poverty rate from **22.9% to 16.22%**, even under the older **\$2.15 poverty line**.
- In **2022–23**, poverty under the new \$3.00 line stood at **5.25%**, while under the older \$2.15 line it dropped further to 2.35%.

Why Does India Use the World Bank's Poverty Line?

- India last officially updated its poverty line in **2011–12 (Tendulkar method)**.
- A committee led by **C. Rangarajan in 2014** proposed higher thresholds (47 urban and **₹33 rural/day**), but the recommendation was never adopted. Since then:
 - India has lacked a nationally accepted poverty line.
 - In its place, **NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** and **World Bank** estimates have filled the vacuum.

Committees for Poverty Estimation

Lakdawala Committee (1993)

- It was constituted in 1993, made the following suggestions:
 - consumption expenditure should be calculated based on calorie consumption as earlier;
 - state specific poverty lines should be constructed and these should be updated using the **Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)** in urban areas and **Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL)** in rural areas; and
 - discontinuation of 'scaling' of poverty estimates based on National Accounts Statistics.
- This assumes that the basket of goods and services used to calculate CPI-IW and CPI-AL reflect the consumption patterns of the poor.

Tendulkar Committee (2009)

- It was constituted in **2005** and submitted its report in **2009**.
- The Committee recommended a shift away from calorie consumption based poverty estimation and incorporation of private expenditure on health and education while estimating poverty.
- Instead of monthly household consumption, consumption expenditure was broken up into per person per day consumption, resulting in the figure of **Rs 32** and **Rs 26** a day for urban and rural areas.
- The national poverty line for 2011-12** was estimated at **Rs. 816** per capita per month for rural areas and **Rs. 1,000** per capita per month for urban areas.

Rangarajan Committee (2014)

- It was constituted in 2012 and submitted its report in 2014.
- The Committee recommended separate consumption baskets for rural and urban areas.
- This committee raised the daily per capita expenditure to **Rs 47** for urban and **Rs 32** for rural.
- The government did not take a call on the report of the Rangarajan Committee, therefore, poverty is measured using the Tendulkar poverty line.

Government steps for Poverty elevation

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):** Guarantees 100 days of unskilled work/year. Builds durable assets in rural areas.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:** It gives legal entitlement to 67% of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas) to receive highly subsidized foodgrains.
- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) (2016):** This initiative was introduced to provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to women belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM):** It aims to reduce poverty by enabling the poor household to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities resulting in sustainable and diversified livelihood options for the poor.
- **Ayushman Bharat scheme:** It offers health insurance coverage of up to 5 lakh per family per year to shield beneficiaries from the financial burden of expensive medical treatments, thereby preventing them from falling deeper into poverty due to healthcare costs.

Concluding remarks

- India's poverty decline is a story of technical refinement meeting policy results. In the face of a raised poverty benchmark, India showed that more honest data, not diluted standards, can reveal real progress.
- As the global community recalibrates poverty goals, India's example sets a precedent: evidence-based governance, sustained reforms, and methodological integrity can together deliver transformational outcomes.

Source: IE

HIMACHAL FLASH FLOODS

In News

- Heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh over the past 24 hours triggered cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides, resulting in five deaths and one injury.

What is a flash flood?

- It is a sudden surge of water in a stream or low-lying urban area, typically developing within six hours of heavy rainfall.
- It is most often triggered by intense storms that release a large volume of rain over a short period.

Drivers of flash flood

- Flash floods are usually caused by **intense**

rainfall from thunderstorms but can also result from **dam or levee breaks and mudslides**.

- Factors like rainfall intensity, terrain, vegetation, soil type, and land use influence how quickly and where flash floods occur.
- Urban areas are especially vulnerable due to impervious surfaces that prevent water absorption, leading to rapid runoff.

Scenario In India

- In India, flash floods are **often triggered by cloudbursts** and are common in Himalayan regions, where glacial lake overflows are increasing due to glacier melt.
- These floods are frequently accompanied by landslides, especially in mountainous areas with steep slopes and unstable soil.
 - ♦ Flash floods have also been witnessed in cities like Chennai and Mumbai.
 - ♦ Depression and cyclonic storms in the coastal areas of Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and others also cause flash floods.

Impacts of flash flood

- Flash floods develop suddenly, often catching people off-guard and posing serious risks to life and property.
- They have wide-ranging health impacts, from immediate deaths and injuries to long-term physical and mental health issues.
- Most flood-related deaths result from drowning, followed by trauma, electrocution, and other causes.
- Health problems include infections, chemical exposure, respiratory issues, hypothermia, and disrupted healthcare services due to power outages.
- Floods increase the risk of water-borne diseases and vector-borne diseases.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

GI TAGGED KOLHAPURI CHAPPALS

Context

- Italian luxury fashion brand Prada has come under fire in India after featuring leather flat sandals, priced at approximately Rs 1.2 lakh, that closely resemble **traditional Kolhapuri chappals**.

About

- **Kolhapuri chappals**, known for their **handcrafted leather design**, are traditionally made by artisan communities in **Maharashtra** and have been in **use since at least the 12th century**.
- Kolhapuri chappals received **Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2019**, recognising their cultural and regional significance.



- **Kala mitti application**: A traditional black mud sticky paste (kala mitti) is applied temporarily to hold the layers in place.
- **Chaprega (decorating the surface)**: Artisans create front and back designs using punches and hammers.
 - ♦ Small metal tools are used to **stamp traditional patterns like elephants, birds, and geometric borders**.
- The chappals are **polished in natural or dyed colours** such as brown, tan, mustard, etc.

Source: TH

BONALU FESTIVAL**Context**

- The Bonalu festival's first main puja for the Ashada month began at the Goddess Jagadambika Ammavaru temple inside the Golconda Fort.

About Bonalu

- Bonalu is an **annual Hindu Festival** where **Goddess Mahakali** is worshipped.
- It is **celebrated** in the **twin Cities Hyderabad and Secunderabad** and other parts of Telangana state, India.
- **History**: Bonalu began in the 19th century after a plague outbreak in Hyderabad.

- ♦ As a mark of gratitude for divine protection, people started **offering Bonam** (from Telugu Bhojanalu, meaning meals) to Goddess Mahakali annually.
- **The festival is observed** during the **Ashada month** (June–July), marking the onset of the monsoon season.
- In **2014**, Bonalu was declared the **state festival of Telangana** after its formation as a separate state.

Rituals and Celebrations

- **Bonam Offering**: Women carry pots of rice, milk, and jaggery, adorned with neem, turmeric, vermillion, and a lamp, as offerings to the Goddess.
- **Metlu Puja**: A ritual where **devotees apply turmeric and vermillion to the steps** of temples.
- **Jagadambika Temple Celebrations**: Bonalu begins with a main puja at **Golconda Fort's Jagadambika Temple**, later extending to temples like **Ujjaini Mahankali in Secunderabad** and **Akkanna Madanna in Old Hyderabad**.

Source: TH

DIGHA'S JAGANNATH TEMPLE**Context**

- Digha's Jagannath Temple will host its first-ever Rathayatra, including around 50 international visitors from countries like Russia, China, and Ukraine.

About

- The Jagannath Temple in Digha, located in **Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal**, is a newly constructed Hindu temple dedicated to **Lord Jagannath**, a manifestation of Lord Vishnu.
 - ♦ It also houses idols of **Balabhadra (Balarama)** and **Subhadra**, Lord Jagannath's divine siblings.
- The temple was inaugurated on 30 April 2025 and was built as a **replica of the iconic Jagannath Temple in Puri**.

Architecture of the temple

- The temple follows the **Kalingan (Kalinga) architectural style**, marked by its towering vimana (shikhara).
- **Material Used**: **Sandstone** from Rajasthan's Bansi Paharpur hills, **Marble** flooring, imported from Vietnam.
- **The height** of the temple is 65 metres (213 ft).

Source: TH

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT

Context

- A two-day national conference of Estimates Committees of Parliament and state/UT legislative bodies is being held in Mumbai to mark the 75th anniversary of the Committee on Estimates.

About

- The Committee on Estimates**, is a Parliamentary Committee constituted in **1950** on the recommendation of **John Mathai**, the then finance minister.
- It consists of **30 members**, elected every year by the **Lok Sabha from amongst** its Members.
 - The **Rajya Sabha has no representation** in this committee.
- The Chairperson** of the Committee is appointed by the **Speaker** from amongst its members.
 - A Minister cannot be elected** as a member of the Committee and if a member becomes a Minister, they cease to be on the Committee.
- The term** of office of the Committee is **one year**.
- The functions** of the Estimates Committee are:
 - To report what economies, improvements in organisation, efficiency or administrative reform, consistent with the policy underlying the estimates may be effected;
 - To suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration;
 - To examine whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates; and
 - To suggest the form in which the estimates shall be presented to Parliament.

Source: AIR

MOST COMMONLY USED CANCER DRUGS

Context

- A major investigation revealed that commonly used **chemotherapy drugs failed quality tests after being shipped to over 100 countries**.

About

- Cisplatin, oxaliplatin, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, methotrexate and leucovorin** — are the most commonly used drugs in the chemotherapy treatments.

- These drugs work by **targeting cancer cells** while **minimising harm to normal cells**, but also cause **severe side effects** like kidney damage, immune suppression, and heart risk.

Chemotherapy

- Chemotherapy is a drug treatment that uses **powerful chemicals to kill fast-growing cells in the body**.
- Chemotherapy drugs can be **used alone or in combination to treat a wide variety of cancers**.
- Though chemotherapy is an effective way to treat many types of cancer, **chemotherapy treatment also carries a risk of side effects**.

Source: TH

JIYO PARSI SCHEME

Context

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs conducted a one-day biometric authentication drive for beneficiaries of the Jiyo Parsi scheme in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

About Jiyo Parsi scheme

- Launched:** 2013–14
- Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- Ministry:** Ministry of Minority Affairs
- Objective:** To address the sharp demographic decline of the **Parsi (Zoroastrian)** community and ensure its long-term survival and cultural continuity.
- Key Components:**
 - Medical Assistance** – Provides financial aid for infertility treatments such as IVF, ICSI, surrogacy, and post-conception care.
 - Health of the Community** – Offers monthly financial support to Parsi couples with children as well as to dependent elderly members.
 - Advocacy** – Promotes timely marriage, fertility awareness, and family support within the community.

Do you know?

- The population of the **Parsi community**, one of India's smallest yet most prosperous communities, **declined by 22%**—from 69,601 in the 2001 Census to 57,264 in the 2011 Census.
- Maharashtra** has a Parsi population of 44,854, the **highest among all States**, followed by Gujarat with 9,727.

Source: PIB

10 YEARS OF AMRUT

In Context

- India marks a significant milestone as the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) completes 10 years.
 - AMRUT 2.0 was launched on 1 October 2021.

About AMRUT

- Launch:** In 2015, the mission aimed to enhance the quality of life in 500 cities and towns by focusing on fundamental infrastructure and services.
- Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Shared between Centre and States/UTs based on urban population and number of statutory towns).
- Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- Coverage:** Initially 500 cities and now includes all ULBs under AMRUT 2.0
- Objectives:** Universal coverage of tap water and sewerage
 - Improve urban mobility and reduce pollution
 - Enhance green spaces and urban amenity value
 - Empower Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) through reforms and capacity-building

Key Initiatives Under AMRUT & AMRUT 2.0

- Jal Hi AMRUT (under AMRUT 1.0):** Safe reuse of treated water
- 'Drink from Tap' Mission:** Ensure directly consumable tap water supply
- SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition):** Real-time monitoring of water supply & treatment systems

Source: DD News

OPERATION DEEP MANIFEST

In News

- Under the Operation Deep Manifest, India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) made a major breakthrough by seizing 1,115 metric tonnes of Pakistani-origin goods, illicitly routed via Dubai.

About

- After the Pahalgam Terror Attack, India imposed a total ban on direct or indirect import/transit of Pakistani-origin goods even if routed through third countries like UAE, Singapore, etc.
- Total bans serve as economic deterrents and signal India's zero-tolerance stance.

- The case highlights risks of "grey routing"—where goods of hostile origin are rerouted through benign intermediaries.

Source: DD News

'ADAMYA'

In News

- Recently, 'Adamyia' was inducted into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Goa.

'Adamyia'

- It is the first Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) under the eight-FPV project at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- It is the first vessel of its class in the ICG fleet to feature Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPPs) and indigenously developed gearboxes, providing superior maneuverability, enhanced operational flexibility, and improved performance at sea.

Features

- It is equipped with **cutting-edge technology** and includes a **30mm CRN-91 gun, two 12.7mm stabilized remote-controlled guns** with fire control systems, an Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), and Automated Power Management System (APMS).
- These advanced features significantly boost the ICG's ability to carry out missions with greater precision, speed, and efficiency across India's vast maritime boundaries.

Importance

- 'Adamyia' showcases India's advancing shipbuilding prowess and aligns with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- These FPVs will strengthen the ICG's fleet as force multipliers, ensuring rapid response capabilities for maritime law enforcement, coastal patrol, search and rescue missions, and safeguarding the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Source: PIB

FIRST INDIAN ASTRONAUT ON TITANS SPACE MISSION IN 2029

In News

- Jahnavi Dangeti, has been selected as an Astronaut Candidate (ASCAN) for the space mission of the Titan Space Industries (TSI), a U.S.-based private agency engaged in space research.

Do you know?

- Jahnavi Dangeti is a native of Palakollu in Andhra Pradesh's West Godavari district.
- In 2022, Ms. Jahnavi became the youngest Analog Astronaut programme from the Analog Astronaut Training Centre (AATC) at Krakow in South Poland.

Titans Space mission in 2029

- It is a U.S.-based mission that will last approximately five hours, during which the crew will orbit the **Earth twice, witnessing two sunrises and two sunsets.**

- It will offer nearly three hours of uninterrupted zero gravity, creating a groundbreaking setting for scientific research and advancements in human spaceflight.
- The mission will be commanded by veteran **NASA astronaut and retired U.S. Army Colonel William McArthur Jr.**, who currently serves as the Chief Astronaut at Titans Space.

Source :TH

