

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 4-07-2025

### Table of Content

WHO's "3 by 35" Initiative

IOC Asked India To Address the Structural Concerns

Chemical Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains: Report

Concerns over IPS appointments in CAPFs

### NEWS IN SHORT

India's First Clinic for Transgender Persons Reopens in Hyderabad

Government to Initiate Removal Motion Against High Court Judge

India Post Now India's Largest Logistics Network

Assam's Woolah Tea

Organisation For the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

SAKSHAM-3000

New Garcinia Species Found in Assam

Green Climate Fund

Apache AH-64E Helicopters

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

Global Liveability Index 2025

## WHO'S "3 BY 35" INITIATIVE

### In News

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched the **"3 by 35" Initiative**, calling on countries globally to **increase taxes** on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks.
  - The initiative urges a minimum 50% real price increase on the **three targeted products by 2035**, achieved through higher excise or health taxes.

### About

- The world faces an urgent challenge of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes now account for **over 75% of global deaths**.
- Simultaneously, shrinking development aid and rising public debt have strained health systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries.
- Studies suggest a **one-time 50% price hike could prevent up to 50 million premature deaths** over the next 50 years and raise USD 1 trillion in public revenue over the next decade.
- From 2012 to 2022, nearly **140 countries raised tobacco taxes**, with real prices rising over 50% on average, demonstrating that large-scale change is possible.

### What is a Health Tax?

- A health tax is a levy imposed on products that have a negative impact on public health—primarily tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks. The dual purpose is to:
  - Reduce consumption of these harmful products.
  - Generate revenue for public health, education, and social protection programs.

### Objectives and Expected Impacts

- Reduce NCD Burden:** Lower consumption of unhealthy products to prevent millions of premature deaths.
  - In Columbia, cigarette tax hike led to a **34% drop in consumption**.
- Mobilize Revenue:** Generate an additional US\$ 1 trillion globally over the next decade.
- Strengthen Health Systems:** Fund universal health coverage, prevention, and health infrastructure.
- SDG 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages, with targets to reduce NCD mortality by one-third by 2030.

### Challenges and Considerations

- Industry Opposition:** Strong lobbying by tobacco and beverage industries; policy delays and dilution.
- Regressive Tax Concerns:** Risk of disproportionate impact on low-income groups unless paired with subsidies.
- Revenue Volatility:** Declining consumption may affect long-term revenue stability.
- Tax Exemptions:** Long-term industry agreements can restrict tax increases and weaken public health.

### Way Forward

- The "3 by 35" Initiative signals a paradigm shift—placing health taxes at the center of both public health and sustainable development strategies. For countries, the path forward involves:
  - Designing robust, broad-based health taxes.
  - Avoiding industry-driven tax exemptions.
  - Using revenues to fund health, education, and social protection, especially for vulnerable groups.
  - Building cross-sectoral alliances and engaging civil society for sustained impact.

Source: BS

## IOC ASKED INDIA TO ADDRESS THE STRUCTURAL CONCERNS

### Context

- India has made an ambitious pitch to host the **2036 Olympics**, but the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** highlighted the **counter-concerns over governance issues and rising doping violations in India**.
  - With **Brisbane** already awarded the **2032 Games**, the 2036 edition remains open.

### Major Challenges for India

- Governance Crisis in IOA:** Tussle between President of IOA P.T. Usha and the IOA Executive Council.
  - Issues:** Sponsorship deals, financial mismanagement allegations, CEO appointment (Raghuram Iyer).
  - This tussle, which has been going on for close to two years, has **overshadowed the country's preparations for multi-disciplinary Games**.
- Doping Scandal:** According to the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) annual report for the year 2023 – **India had the highest positivity rate** for banned substances among major sporting nations.

- ♦ Last year, a separate WADA study revealed that **India was second only to Russia** as the country with the most number of positive doping cases among minors.
- ♦ **Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU):** Ranked India **2nd** in doping offences in track & field (after Kenya) as of May 2025.
- **Sporting Performance:** The **Paris Olympics** ended with India securing **six medals** — one silver and five bronze — to place **71st in the medals tally**.
- ♦ It was ranked below nations with much smaller populations including **Georgia, Kazakhstan and North Korea**.
- ♦ **The United States**, with less than a quarter of India's population, topped the charts with **126 medals followed by China with 91**.

#### Anti Doping Agency in India

- The primary organization responsible for anti-doping efforts in India is the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**.
  - ♦ NADA was established in **2005** under the Societies Registration Act to promote, coordinate, and monitor the doping control program in sports in India.
  - ♦ NADA operates under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, Government of India.
- **Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Medical Commission:** The IOA Medical Commission is an advisory body whose purpose is to provide advice to the IOA Executive and office on matters related to the health and wellbeing of athletes, and the medical services to be provided to the national team participating in the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.
- **National Anti-Doping Act, 2022:** It is the first standalone anti-doping law in India.
  - ♦ It ensures compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code.
  - ♦ Grants powers for search, seizure, and disciplinary action.
  - ♦ Provides an appeal mechanism (National Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel & Appeal Panel).
  - ♦ Enables education and research initiatives on doping.
- India is a signatory to the **UNESCO International Convention Against Doping in Sport**.

#### Initiatives Taken by Government

- **Khelo India:** To promote sports at the grassroots level. It includes talent identification, coaching, sports infrastructure development, and organizing competitions at school and university levels.
- **National Sports Policy:** To enhance the quality of sports training, promote participation, and increase the number of athletes competing internationally.
- **Sports Authority of India (SAI):** A key institution responsible for nurturing young talent and providing training facilities.
- **National Sports Awards:** The awards are given annually to recognize and reward excellence in sports.
- **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund For Sportspersons (PDUNWFS):** It was set up in 1982 with a view to assisting outstanding Sportspersons of yesteryear.
- **National Sports Development Fund:** The Fund helps sportspersons excel by providing them opportunities to train under coaches of international repute.
  - ♦ It also provides financial assistance for development of infrastructure and other activities for promotion of sports.
- **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):** To identify and support athletes with potential to win medals at the Olympic Games.
  - ♦ It provides financial assistance for training, coaching, and participation in international competitions.
- **Mission Olympic Cell (MOC):** A body within the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to monitor and provide support for athletes' training and preparation for the Olympics under the TOPS.
- **National Sports Federations (NSFs):** The government recognizes and funds NSFs, which are responsible for promoting and developing their respective sports.

#### Measures that can be taken

- **Funding:** Increase investment in sports facilities, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- **Introduce anti-doping curriculum** in sports education.
- **Identification of Talent:** Implement sports programs in schools to identify and nurture talent from a young age.
- **Encouragement to other sports:** Promote a wider variety of sports beyond cricket, such as athletics, swimming, and indigenous sports.



- **Leagues and Competitions:** Establish professional leagues and competitions in lesser-known sports to boost participation and viewership.
- **Corporate Sponsorships:** Encourage partnerships between private companies and sports organizations to provide financial backing.
- **Role Models:** Highlight successful athletes to inspire youngsters to pursue sports.

### Conclusion

- While India's ambition to host the 2036 Olympics is being taken seriously, its credibility hinges on urgent internal reforms.
- Success of the bid depends on transparent governance, clean sports, and enhanced athletic performance.

Source: IE

## CHEMICAL INDUSTRY: POWERING INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS: REPORT

### Context

- NITI Aayog has released its report "**Chemical Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains**".

### About

- This report offers an **extensive analysis of India's chemical sector**, highlighting both **opportunities and challenges**, and outlining a **pathway for positioning India as a key player in global chemical markets**.
- **The chemical industry** is a vast and diverse sector that encompasses the **production, transformation, and distribution of chemical substances**.

### India's Chemical Industry

- India is the **sixth-largest chemicals producer globally** and **third in Asia** and holds immense potential for expansion.
- **Share in Global Chain:** India has a **3.5% share in global chemical value chains**.
- **Market Size:** With over \$220 billion market size in 2023, it contributed around **7% to India's GDP** and provided vital raw materials to critical sectors such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, textiles, automotive, and construction.
- **Future Projection:** The industry is poised to expand to **\$400–450 billion by 2030** and **potentially reach \$1 trillion by 2040**.

### Key Segments by Market Consumption

- **Petrochemicals :** These chemicals are **derived from petroleum and natural gas** through a refinement process and are also known as petroleum distillates.
  - ♦ Petrochemicals form the **biggest chemicals segment**, with consumption of **\$65 to \$75 billion**. The production - consumption gap in these has remained negative over the years.
- **Specialty Chemicals:** Chemicals with **high value but low production volume** are considered specialty chemicals, such as paints and coating, dyes, agrochemicals, textile chemicals etc.
  - ♦ This category constitutes around \$40 to \$45 billion of market consumption and **over 50% of India's chemical exports**.
- **Inorganic Chemicals:** Fundamental to India's industrial base, these chemicals provide essential materials for applications in construction, water treatment and electronics, among other sectors.
  - ♦ They encompass a variety of substances such as metals, salts and minerals.
  - ♦ They make up **\$15 to 20 billion** of the total market consumption.
- **Other Non-Core Segments:** Other "non-core" chemicals categories include **fertilizers, pharmaceutical products and medical devices and personal care consumer products**.
  - ♦ Together, they contribute around **\$90 billion** in market consumption.

### Major Constraints

- **High Import Dependence:** In 2023, India imported chemicals worth \$75 billion compared to exports worth \$44 billion, accounting for a trade deficit of around **\$31 billion**; major imports were from China (30–35%).
- **Low Investment in R&D:** India's low investment in R&D, with only 0.7% of investment against the global average of 2.3%, hampers indigenous innovation in high-value chemicals.
- **Infrastructure Deficits:** Infrastructure gaps, outdated industrial clusters, and high logistics costs have created a cost disadvantage compared to global peers.
- **Regulatory Complexity:** Delayed environmental clearances, multiple approvals hampers the growth of the sector.
- **Skilled Talent Gap:** The sector is hampered by a **30% shortfall in skilled professionals**, particularly in emerging areas such as green chemistry, nanotechnology, and process safety.
- **Low Diversification:** Focus on bulk chemicals over high-value products.

**Strategic Vision: Doubling India's Global Value Chain Share by 2030**

- **Growth Drivers:**

- ♦ Rapid urbanization and consumer demand.
- ♦ Supply chain shifts post-COVID and geopolitical tensions.
- ♦ India's potential to serve as a reliable global partner.

- **Seven Strategic Interventions**

- **Intervention 1 Establish World-Class Chemicals Hubs:**

- ♦ Establishment of **empowered committee at the Central level** along with creation of a **Chemical Fund** under the committee with a budgetary outlay for shared infrastructure development, VGF, etc
- ♦ Revitalize existing hubs (Dahej, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Cuddalore–Nagapattinam).

- **Intervention 2 Strengthen Port Infrastructure:**

- ♦ Establish chemical Committee at major ports.
- ♦ Develop 8 high-potential coastal clusters.

- **Intervention 3 Introduce a Opex subsidy scheme for chemicals:**

- ♦ Incentivize incremental production of chemicals based on import bill, export potential, single source country dependence, end-market criticality etc.
- ♦ The scheme proposes for incentives on incremental sales to selected participants for a fixed number of years.

- **Intervention 4 : Develop and access technologies to enhance self-sufficiency and foster innovation:**

- ♦ Disbursement of R&D funds to drive innovation with enhanced collaboration between industry

and academia through creation of an interface agency in collaboration with DCPC and DST.

- ♦ Encourage MNC partnerships for access to global tech.

- **Intervention 5 Streamline Environmental Clearances:**

- ♦ Fast-track approval system with autonomy for EAC.
- ♦ "Deemed EC" if the delay exceeds 270 days.
- ♦ Clubbing EAC and EIAA for quicker processing.

- **Intervention 6 Securing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to support Industry growth:**

- ♦ Targeted negotiations for tariff quotas and critical feedstock exemptions.
- ♦ Simplify FTA compliance to widen industry access.

- **Intervention 7 Talent and skill upgradation in the chemical industry:**

- ♦ Expansion of ITIs and specialized training institutes.
- ♦ Design industry-aligned curricula in polymer science, petrochemicals, safety.
- ♦ Faculty training and PPP-based apprenticeship programs.

**Global Lessons: Case Study of China**

- China grew its global chemicals share from **6% in 2000 to 33–35% in 2023**.
- Invested in **state-led infrastructure, R&D, and attracted FDI**.
- **Achieved net export status** through scale, self-sufficiency goals, and policy consistency.

- This transformation over two decades began with a **phase of massive overinvestment and oversupply**, led by state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and a **thrust on establishing small to medium-scale production**.
- India can adapt similar lessons while **tailoring solutions to its federal structure and domestic capabilities**.

### Way Ahead: Toward a \$1 Trillion Industry

- India's chemical industry sits at a pivotal juncture. The combination of domestic market strength, favorable policy momentum, and global supply chain realignments present an unprecedented opportunity.
- If the government successfully implements the **seven-pronged intervention strategy**, India can:
  - ♦ Transform into a global manufacturing hub.
  - ♦ Secure strategic autonomy in key chemical segments.
  - ♦ Lead in green and innovation-driven chemical production.
- Achieving this would not only bolster India's share in GVCs but significantly **contribute to the \$5 trillion economy vision**.

Source: PIB

## CONCERNS OVER IPS APPOINTMENTS IN CAPFs

### Context

- Despite a recent Supreme Court directive to reduce IPS deputations in CAPFs, the Ministry of Home Affairs continues such appointments, reigniting concerns about the autonomy of Group A CAPF officers.

### Background

- In the case of **Sanjay Prakash & Others vs Union of India, 2025**, the Supreme Court ruled that:
  - ♦ **Group A officers of CAPFs** are to be treated as **"Organised Services"** for all purposes.
  - ♦ The deputation of IPS officers to Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) posts i.e., up to the rank of Inspector General (IG), in CAPFs should be progressively reduced within an outer limit of two years.
- **Purpose of the Ruling:** The decision aimed to ensure fair career progression for CAPF cadre officers and to curb the longstanding dominance of deputed IPS officers within CAPFs.

### Role of the Ministry of Home Affairs

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) serves as the **administrative authority** for both the Indian Police Service (IPS) and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).
- The MHA has traditionally justified the deputation of IPS officers on grounds such as;
  - ♦ Bringing in policing experience from state cadres to strengthen central forces.
  - ♦ Maintaining a uniform standard of leadership across all forces.
- Despite the Supreme Court's directive, at least **eight IPS officers have been appointed** to senior positions in the CAPFs since the May 2025 ruling.
  - ♦ These include appointments to posts such as Commandant and Inspector General.

### Concerns of IPS appointments in CAPFs

- **Stagnation in Career Progression:** Due to high reservation of senior ranks (e.g., 50% IG posts) for IPS officers, **CAPF cadre officers face limited promotional opportunities**.
  - ♦ On average, a CAPF officer takes 25 years to reach the rank of Commandant, a position they should ideally achieve in 13 years.
- **Violation of Organisational Integrity:** The continued deputation of IPS officers hampers institutional autonomy and the long-term professionalization of CAPFs as elite forces.
- **Legal and Administrative Implications:** The Supreme Court's recognition of CAPF Group A services as Organised Services implies the government must carry out cadre reviews, amend recruitment rules, and grant Non-Functional Financial Upgradation (NFFU).
  - ♦ Continuing IPS appointments without structural changes is both administratively inconsistent and legally questionable.
- **Violation of Natural Justice and Equality: Articles 14** (Right to Equality) and **Articles 16** (Equality of Opportunity in Public Employment) come into play, as CAPF cadre officers are denied equal promotional avenues compared to their IPS counterparts.

### Policy Recommendations

- **Implementation of the SC Order:** MHA must create a transition plan to phase out IPS deputations in SAG and higher posts over the next two years as directed.
- **Conduct cadre reviews across all CAPFs** and amend Recruitment Rules (RRs) to ensure promotions are based on merit and experience within the CAPFs.

- **Grant Non-Functional Financial Upgradation (NFFU):** Ensure parity in pay and career progression for CAPF officers to maintain morale.
- **Parliamentary Oversight:** Establish a Parliamentary Standing Committee review to examine deputation practices and career stagnation in CAPFs.
- **Transparent Deputation Policy:** Develop a uniform and transparent policy on inter-cadre deputations, clearly laying down eligibility, tenure, and objective criteria.

#### Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)

- The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) is the collective name of **central police organizations** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** of India.
- These forces are responsible for internal security and guarding the borders. CAPF is classified as;
  - ♦ **Assam Rifles (AR):** It is a central police and paramilitary organization responsible for border security, counter-insurgency, and law and order in Northeast India.
  - ♦ **Border Security Force (BSF):** It is primarily deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, since 2009 it is also posted in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.
  - ♦ **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):** It is deployed for guarding duties on the Indo-China border
  - ♦ **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB):** It guards the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.
  - ♦ **National Security Guard (NSG):** It is a counter-terrorism unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs. All personnel are deputed from other CAPFs and the Indian Army.
  - ♦ **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):** It is deployed for internal security duties and has a large presence in North East, LWE theater and Jammu and Kashmir.
  - ♦ **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):** It provides security to various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other critical infrastructure installations, major airports across the country and provides security during elections and other internal security duties and VVIP protection.

Source: TH

## NEWS IN SHORT

### INDIA'S FIRST CLINIC FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS REOPENS IN HYDERABAD

#### Context

- India's first transgender clinic has been reopened in **Hyderabad with aid from Tata Trusts.**

#### About

- Launched in 2021, Mitr Clinic is also the **first in India** to be **entirely staffed and managed by members of the trans community.**
- **Services offered:**
  - ♦ General health services;
  - ♦ Counselling and clinical consultation on Hormone Replacement Therapy, Breast Augmentation, Gender Affirmation Procedures and Mental Health;
  - ♦ Treatment for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI);
  - ♦ Psychological support.
- As India's first transgender-led clinic it **ensures healthcare that is dignified, accessible, and community-driven.**

Source: TH

### GOVERNMENT TO INITIATE REMOVAL MOTION AGAINST HIGH COURT JUDGE

#### Context

- The Union Government is preparing to initiate the constitutional process for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court.

#### Mechanism for Removal of Judges

- The Constitution of India provides for the removal of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts under **Article 124(4)** and **Article 217** on grounds of **"proved misbehavior or incapacity."**
- **Initiation of Motion:** A motion for the removal of a judge must be introduced in either House of Parliament. To admit the motion;
  - ♦ A minimum of 100 Members of Parliament (MPs) is required in the Lok Sabha.
  - ♦ A minimum of 50 MPs is required in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Admission of Motion:** Once the required number of MPs support the motion, it is submitted to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha for admission.



- **Constitution of Inquiry Committee:** Upon admission, a three-member inquiry committee is formed under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**, comprising:
  - ♦ The Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge,
  - ♦ The Chief Justice of a High Court, and
  - ♦ A distinguished jurist.
- **Investigation and Report:** The committee investigates the charges and submits its report within three months (extension possible).
  - ♦ If the charges are not proved, the matter ends here.
- **Parliamentary Voting:** If the charges are proved, the motion is taken up in both Houses. It must be passed by a special majority:
  - ♦ A majority of the total membership, and
  - ♦ A majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- **Presidential Order:** Once both Houses pass the motion, it is sent to the President of India, who then issues an order for the judge's removal.

## IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

▶ A **removal motion** signed by 100 members (in case of Lok Sabha) or 50 members (in case of Rajya Sabha) is to be given to the Speaker/Chairman.

▶ If the motion is admitted, then a **three-member committee to investigate** into the charges is constituted.

▶ If the committee finds the judge to be guilty of the charges (**misbehaviour or incapacity**), the House in which the motion was introduced, can take up the consideration of the motion.

**Special majority:** Majority of total membership of the House & majority of not less than two thirds members present and voting.

▶ Once, the House in which removal motion was introduced passes it with **special majority**, it goes to the second House which also has to pass it with a special majority.

▶ After the motion is passed, an **address** is presented to the President for removal of the judge. The President then passes an order removing the judge.

Source: TH

## INDIA POST NOW INDIA'S LARGEST LOGISTICS NETWORK

### In News

- The Union Minister for Communications announced that India Post is undergoing a significant technological transformation, marked by the appointment of its **first-ever Chief Technology Officer (CTO)**.

### Department of Posts (India Post)

- It works under the Ministry of Communications, and is managed by the Postal Service Board, which includes a Chairman and six Members overseeing Personnel, Operations, Technology, Postal Life Insurance, Banking & DBT, and Planning.
- An Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor serves as a permanent invitee, with support from senior staff officers and various Directors.
- With over 1,55,000 post offices, it operates the world's most extensive postal network.

### Importance

- It has been a key part of India's communication system and socio-economic development.
- It offers a wide range of services, including mail delivery, small savings schemes, life insurance (PLI and RPLI), and retail services like bill collection.
- It also supports government programs by disbursing MGNREGS wages and old age pensions.

Source: TH

## ASSAM'S WOOLAH TEA

### Context

- Assam's Woolah Tea has secured a **20-year patent** for India's first **bagless tea innovation**.

### About

- Woolah Tea has been granted **Patent No. 567895** for its invention: 'Compressed true whole leaf tea dips and method thereof' (patent name).
- Uses a **compressed bundle** of 'eti koli duti paat' (one bud and two leaves), tied with a **natural string**, removing the need for conventional tea bags.
- The innovative **bagless concept** adds value and sustainability to India's tea exports and **avoids microplastics** that often leach from typical tea bags.
- Woolah Tea plans to **export** to the **US, UK, UAE, Australia, and New Zealand**, expanding India's tea market globally.

Source: TH

## ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)

### In News

- The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), in collaboration with India's



National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC), convened the 23rd Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia .

#### Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons(OPCW)

- It implements the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) which has been in force since 1997.
- It has 193 member states and won the **2013 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to eliminate chemical weapons**.
- India is an original signatory to the CWC Convention.
- The National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) is the national authority responsible for implementing the Convention in India.
  - ♦ In 2024, NACWC successfully mentored the Kenya National Authority under the OPCW Mentorship/ Partnership Programme to strengthen its implementation capacity.
- The Indian Chemical Council (ICC) is India's **oldest Chemical Industry Association** works closely with the NACWC for reaching out to industry.
  - ♦ ICC was awarded the 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award
  - ♦ This is the first time globally that a chemical industry body was honoured with this award.

Source: AIR

### SAKSHAM-3000

#### In News

- The Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, launched the high capacity SAKSHAM-3000.

#### About SAKSHAM-3000

- It is a state-of-the-art data centre switch-cum-router designed for next-generation digital infrastructure.
- It is developed by Development of Telematics (C-DOT).
- It is a high-capacity, compact 25.6 Tbps switch-router designed for modern data centers, supporting 32 ports of 400G and Ethernet speeds from 1G to 400G.

#### Features

- It is Ideal for large computing clusters, cloud infrastructure, 5G/6G networks, and AI workloads.
- It features ultra-low latency, wire-speed processing, and the modular CROS(C-DOT Router Operating System) operating system.

- It supports Layer-2, IP, and MPLS protocols, is energy-efficient, and is suited for time-sensitive applications with PTP and Sync-E.

Source : PIB

### NEW GARCINIA SPECIES FOUND IN ASSAM

#### Context

- A new plant species named **Garcinia kusumae**, belonging to the **genus Garcinia** has been discovered in Baksa district of Assam.

#### About Garcinia kusumae

- The species honours Kusum Devi, the late mother of environmentalist Jatindra Sarma, who led the discovery.
- The species is locally known as **thoikora** and is a **dioecious evergreen tree**, capable of growing up to **18 metres tall**.

#### About the Genus Garcinia

- Garcinia is a large, **pan-tropical genus** under the **Clusiaceae family**, comprising **414** known species of shrubs and trees.
- This genus is distributed mainly in **Africa, Australasia, and Southeast Asia**, and is commonly found in **lowland tropical rainforests**.
- **Garcinia species** are known for their pharmacological properties, as well as culinary and cultural significance, especially in indigenous communities.
- **Garcinia in India:** India is home to **33 species and 7 varieties** of Garcinia. The state of Assam alone hosts **12 species and 3 varieties**.
- These species are predominantly located in **northeastern rainforests, the Western Ghats, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, making them a vital part of India's biodiversity hotspots.



Source: TH

## GREEN CLIMATE FUND

### Context

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF), the world's largest climate fund, has approved **\$200 million for a new Asian Development Bank (ADB)-led programme**.
  - This will support **ADB's India Green Finance Facility (IGFF)**, a **blended finance program** that aims to **crowd-in investment in emerging clean energy technologies** from India's leading development finance institutions (DFIs) and from the private sector.

### Green Climate Fund

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the **world's largest dedicated climate fund**.
- It was **established in 2010** under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.
- Aims to support developing countries in:**
  - Limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation).
  - Adapting to the impacts of climate change (adaptation).
- GCF is mandated to invest 50%** of its resources to mitigation and **50% to adaptation in grant equivalent**.
- Headquarters:** Songdo, Incheon, South Korea.
- A core GCF principle** is to follow a **country-driven approach**, which means that developing countries lead GCF programming and implementation.

Source: BL

## APACHE AH-64E HELICOPTERS

### Context

- India is set to receive its first **Apache AH-64E helicopters** from the US, marking a significant enhancement to its military capabilities.

### About

- The **Apache AH-64E** is among the world's most advanced **multi-role attack helicopters**.
- Developed by **Boeing**, it combines firepower, agility, and modern avionics.
- Equipped with **Hellfire missiles**, 70mm rockets, and a 30mm chain gun. Can engage ground targets, armoured vehicles, and even low-flying aircraft.

- They have advanced sensors, targeting radar, and night vision systems that make it effective for operations in all weather conditions, including **high-altitude** and **low-visibility** combat zones.
- Besides India, other users include Egypt, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the UK, and more.

Source: LM

## DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL (DAC)

### In News

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** headed by **Defence Minister** made clearance of capital acquisition proposals worth nearly 1.05 lakh crore strengthening India's defence capabilities

### About DAC

- Established:** 2001, following recommendations by the Group of Ministers on National Security after the Kargil War (1999).
- Purpose:** To streamline and expedite the procurement process for the armed forces, ensuring timely and efficient acquisition of equipment and systems
- Key Functions:** Grants Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals for the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
  - Gives in-principle approval for the 15-Year Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) for the armed forces.
  - Decides on technology transfer under the 'Buy & Make' category.

Source: TH

## GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX 2025

### Context

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the **Global Liveability Index 2025**, assessing the quality of life across major cities worldwide.

### About the Index

- Methodology:** Assesses **173 cities** globally using **30 indicators** grouped under **five broad categories**: Stability, Healthcare, Culture and environment, Education, and Infrastructure.
  - The index scores each city on a scale of **1 to 100**, where 100 indicates ideal liveability, and 1 means it is intolerable.

- **Most liveable cities:** Copenhagen (Denmark) has claimed the **top spot** (98/100), Zurich (Switzerland) ranks 2nd (97.1/100), tied with Vienna (Austria).
- **Copenhagen** has ended Vienna's three-year dominance by achieving perfect scores in stability, education, and infrastructure.
- **Least liveable cities: Damascus (Syria)** remains the least liveable city (30.7/100), followed by Tripoli (Libya) (40.1/100) and Dhaka (Bangladesh) (41.7/100).
- **India's Performance:** Delhi & Mumbai both scored 60.2, sharing 141st rank.

**Source:** IE

