

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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IMPACT OF FLASH FLOODS IN INDIA

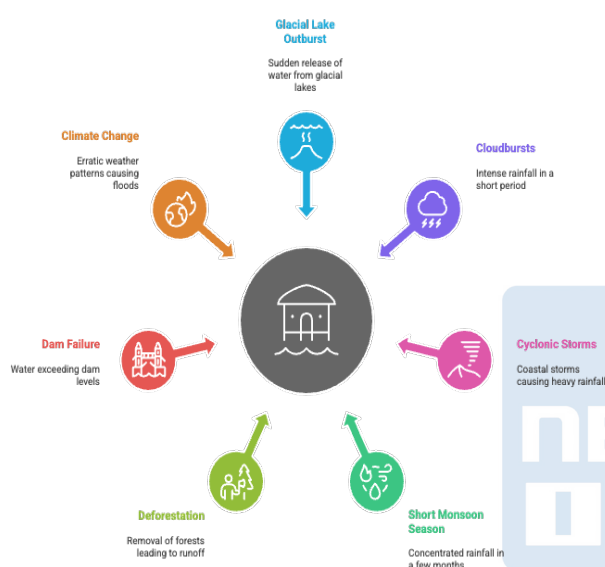
Context

- A new study by researchers at IIT Gandhinagar has warned that flash floods are becoming more frequent and severe across India.

What Are Flash Floods?

- Flash floods are sudden, intense floods that occur **within six hours** of a heavy rainfall event, usually in regions with steep slopes, poor drainage, or saturated/dry soil.
- Unlike riverine floods, they offer little warning, making them particularly deadly.

Factors Contributing to Flash Floods



Impact of Flash Floods in India

- Human and Livelihood Impact:** Flash floods lead to significant casualties due to their sudden onset.
 - The 2023 flash floods in Himachal Pradesh claimed over **400 lives** and displaced thousands.
- Damage to Public Utilities:** Flash floods damage power lines, drinking water systems, and mobile networks, making post-disaster recovery slower and more expensive.
- Land Degradation:** Torrential runoff erodes topsoil, degrades fertility, and increases sedimentation in rivers and reservoirs.
- Urban Challenges:** Cities like Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru experience rapid runoff due to concretised surfaces and encroached stormwater drains.

Initiatives taken by government

- Central Water Commission (CWC)** is the nodal organisation entrusted with the task of flood

forecasting & early flood warnings in the country.

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** in joint collaboration with the US National Weather Service, has developed a **Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS)** for the South Asian region.
- The Central Government has approved the **National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Mitigation Programme (NGRMP)** in four Himalayan States viz. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh with a total budget of **Rs.150.00 crore**.

Recommendations and Adaptation Strategies

- Flash Flood Forecasting:** Integrate terrain, drainage, soil data, and real-time weather.
- Early Warning Systems:** Develop region-specific models that consider soil moisture and topography.
 - Promote community-level alerts in vulnerable districts.
- Land-Use and Urban Planning:** Ban construction in high-risk zones (e.g., floodplains, steep slopes). **Build climate-resilient infrastructure** in elevated roads, permeable pavements, and stormwater drains.
- Disaster Preparedness:** Update flood risk maps regularly and conduct mock drills in urban and rural areas.
- Climate Adaptation in Policy:** Integrate climate models into national and state disaster management frameworks. **Promote nature-based solutions** like wetland conservation, afforestation, and catchment restoration.

Source: IE

SUPREME COURT ON ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

In News

- The Supreme Court urged Parliament to reconsider its reliance on Assembly Speakers and Chairmen to fairly and promptly handle disqualification cases under the **anti-defection law**.
 - The Court criticized delays and bias in such proceedings and directed the Telangana Speaker to decide long-pending disqualification petitions against 10 BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress in 2024.

What is the Anti-defection law?

- Aaya Ram Gaya Ram** was a phrase that became popular in Indian politics after a Haryana MLA Gaya Lal changed his party thrice within the same day in 1967.

- The anti-defection law (Tenth Schedule of the Constitution) was inserted by the 52nd Amendment in 1985 to prevent political defections.

The constitutional disqualifications as per the **Articles 102 (1)** (for becoming and being a member of Parliament) and **191(1)** (for becoming and for being a member of State Legislative assembly) of the Constitution are:

Holding an Office of profit under the Central/State Government.	of unsound mind and stand, so declared by competent court	Undischarged insolvent.
Not a citizen of India or has acquired citizenship of a foreign State or is under acknowledgement of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State.	Any other disqualification prescribed by Parliament.	

Features of the Anti-Defection Law

- Disqualification on ground of defection:** A legislator belonging to a political party will be disqualified if he: (i) voluntarily gives up his party membership, or (ii) votes/abstains to vote in the House contrary to the direction issued by his political party.
 - A member is not disqualified if he has taken prior permission of his party, or if the voting or abstention is condoned by the party within 15 days.
 - Independent members will be disqualified if they join a political party after getting elected to the House. Nominated members will be disqualified if they join any political party six months after getting nominated.
- The decision to disqualify a member from the House **rests with the Chairman/Speaker of the House.**

Exceptions

- The Tenth Schedule originally provided for **two exceptions** that would not render the members liable for disqualification.
 - One-third members** of the 'legislature party' split to form a separate group.
 - Merger of their 'political party' with another party that is approved by two-third members of its 'legislature party'.
 - However, the **first exception (one-third split)** was **removed in 2003 to strengthen the law.**

Objectives of Anti-Defection Law



Political Stability

Prevents government collapses due to party shifts



Electoral Mandate

Upholds voter choices by discouraging party-switching



Discipline

Ensures adherence to party positions on critical votes



Corruption

Deters defections motivated by personal gain

Supreme Court Judgments

- Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992):** The decisions of the Speaker regarding disqualification under the Tenth Schedule (Anti-defection Law) are subject to judicial review by the High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- Keisham Meghachandra Singh v. Speaker, Manipur (2020):** The Supreme Court set a clear outer limit of three months for the Speaker to decide on a disqualification petition.

Key Issues and Challenges

- The Speaker decides defection cases, often with no fixed timeline, leading to delays and **potential bias.**
- Judicial review exists but courts are reluctant to intervene, citing legislative autonomy.
- It is argued that the law curbs legislators' freedom of expression and debate.
- The whip system enforces rigid party control, leaving little room for intra-party debate or dissent.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- The Anti-Defection Law has helped reduce political instability but suffers from implementation flaws and overreach, weakening its democratic purpose.
- Reforms are needed to balance party discipline with accountability, ensure unbiased adjudication, and promote internal party democracy to strengthen India's parliamentary system.

Do you know?

- The Representation of the People Act, 1951 governs elections in India and sets rules for qualifications, disqualifications, and election-related offences.
- Disqualification of lawmakers is covered under Section 8.
 - Section 8(1)** lists offences like promoting enmity, bribery, and electoral fraud.
 - Section 8(2)** covers offences like hoarding, adulteration, and dowry-related crimes.
 - Section 8(3)** disqualifies anyone convicted and sentenced to at least two years in prison, with disqualification lasting through the sentence and six years after release.
 - Earlier, **Section 8(4)** allowed a three-month window to appeal before disqualification, but the **Supreme Court struck it down in Lily Thomas v Union of India (2013)**, enabling immediate disqualification after conviction.

Source :IE

TAMIL NADU'S TRANSGENDER POLICY & HINDU SUCCESSION ACT, 1956

Context

- Recently, the **State of Tamil Nadu** has unveiled the **State Policy for Transgender Persons, 2025**, which includes a bold proposal of **amending the Hindu Succession Act to ensure transgender and intersex persons** have equal rights to inheritance.

Why the Hindu Succession Act Needs Reform?

- Binary in Nature:** The **Hindu Succession Act, 1956**, governs inheritance among **Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs**.
 - It recognizes heirs as **either male or female**, and **transgender and intersex persons** are **often excluded from succession rights** unless they legally identify as male or female, **excluding non-binary identities**.
 - Consequences:**
 - Transgender individuals are often denied property rights within families.
 - Many face homelessness or economic insecurity due to lack of inheritance.
- Constitutional Contradiction:** The Act's binary framework contradicts the provisions of **Article 15** of the Constitution that **prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex** — which includes gender identity.
- Judicial Silence:** Despite the **Supreme Court's landmark NALSA v. Union of India (2014)** ruling affirming the right to self-identify as a third gender, inheritance laws remain binary and exclusionary.
 - Legal battles, such as the **Mafatlal Case (2005)**, highlight the need for reform.

Global Perspective

- Countries like **Pakistan and Bangladesh** have introduced inheritance rights for transgender persons.
- India, despite its progressive judicial stance, lags behind in codifying these rights into personal laws.

Broader Significance

- Progressive Social Policy:** Tamil Nadu has historically been progressive on transgender issues (e.g., earlier transgender welfare schemes and legal recognition).
 - It is the first state to set up a **Transgender Welfare Board**; first to offer a third gender option in college applications & recognizes

transgender persons as socially and educationally disadvantaged, eligible for affirmative action.

- Alignment with Central Law:** The policy reinforces the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, strengthening its implementation at the state level.
- Human Rights and Inclusion:** These provisions advance constitutional rights such as equality (Article 14), non-discrimination (Article 15), and right to life with dignity (Article 21).
- Model for Other States:** Tamil Nadu's policy could serve as a benchmark for other states to develop tailored frameworks for the transgender community.

Source: TH

CABINET CLEARS ₹6,520 CRORE FOR PM KISAN SAMPADA YOJANA

Context

- The Union Cabinet **increased the budgetary outlay for the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)** by Rs 1,920 crore to Rs 6,520 crore to boost the food processing sector.

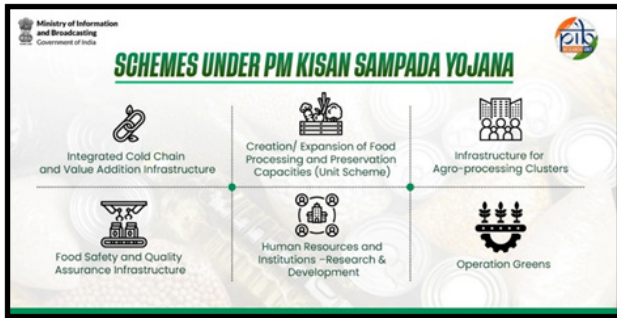
About

- Of the total outlay, 1,000 crore has been earmarked to **set up 50 Multi-Product Food Irradiation Units** under the component scheme **Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (ICCVAI)**.
 - And 100 NABL-accredited Food Testing Laboratories** under the Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure (FSQAI) component.
- These initiatives are in alignment **with announcements made in the Union Budget**.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- SAMPADA- Scheme for Agro-marine processing and Development of Agro-processing Clusters is an **umbrella Central sector scheme** approved in **2017**.
- Ministry:** The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- Key Goals:**
 - A comprehensive package for modern infrastructure and efficient supply; chain management, from farm gate to retail outlet.
 - Aims to boost the food processing sector in India.
 - Helps farmers get better returns and supports doubling of farmers' income.

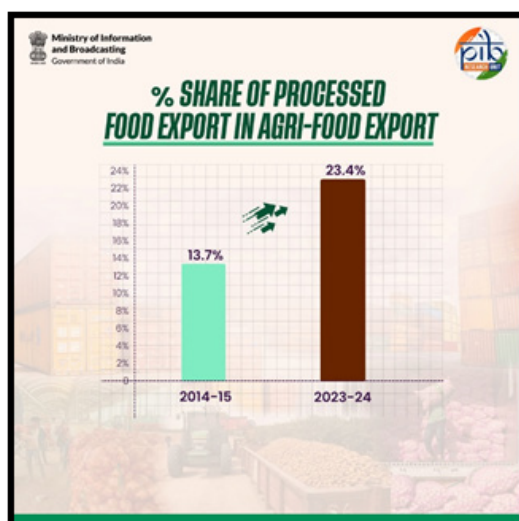
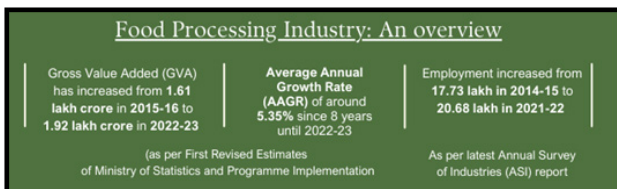
- ♦ Creates huge employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.
- ♦ Reduces wastage of agricultural produce.
- ♦ Increases processing levels of food products.
- ♦ Enhances exports of processed foods.



What is Food Processing?

- Food processing can be defined as the **use of methods and techniques** involving equipment, energy, and tools to **transform agricultural products** such as grains, meats, vegetables, fruits, and milk into **food ingredients or processed food products**.
- This can include a wide range of activities, such as: **Preparation, Cooking, Preservation, Packaging and Fortification**.
- Formulations and processing techniques are **scientifically developed** to deliver food that is safe, eliminating the presence of any harmful chemical contaminants and micro-organisms that could cause food-borne illnesses.

Food Processing Industry in India

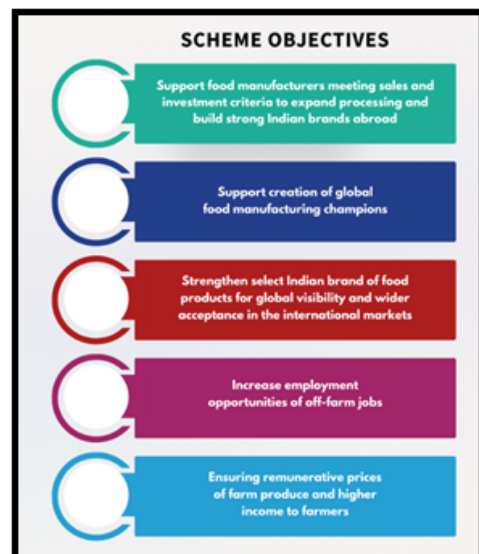


- **Reasons for the Growth of Sector:** India is the largest producer of milk and spices and one of the leading producers of fruits and vegetables, poultry, and meat.
 - ♦ India has access to several natural resources that provides it with a competitive advantage in the food processing sector.
 - ♦ Due to its diverse agro-climatic conditions, it has a wide-ranging and large raw material base suitable for food processing industries.

Challenges

- **Cold Chain Logistics:** Lack of adequate cold storage facilities leads to significant food wastage, especially for perishable items.
- **Transportation:** Poor road and transport infrastructure delay the movement of goods, affecting freshness and quality.
- **Complex Compliance:** Navigating various regulations and standards set by agencies like FSSAI can be challenging, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- **Limited Adoption of Modern Techniques:** Many small processors lack access to advanced processing technologies and machinery, which limit efficiency and scalability.
- **Price Sensitivity:** Consumers are often price-sensitive, which pressures margins for processors.
- **Inconsistent Supply:** Fluctuations in agricultural production due to weather conditions disrupt the supply chain, leading to shortages and price volatility.
- **Health Consciousness:** Increasing demand for healthier and organic options requires processors to adapt their offerings, which can be resource-intensive.
- **Changing Tastes:** Rapid shifts in consumer preferences necessitate constant innovation and product development.

Government Initiatives



- **PLISFPI- Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry:** It was approved by the Union Cabinet in **2021**, the Scheme is being implemented over a six-year period from 2021-22 to 2026-27.
- **PMFME- Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme:** It is providing technical, financial and business support for setting up/upgradation of 2 lakh Micro Food Processing Enterprises.



- **National Food Processing Policy:** This policy aims to enhance food processing capacity and encourage innovation in the sector.
- **Market Access:** Efforts are being made to improve market access for processed food products through various platforms, including e-commerce and direct selling.

Way Ahead

- The food processing sector in India has **immense potential for growth and sustainability**.
- The expansion of cold chain facilities, financial incentives, and skill development initiatives have further positioned India as a global food processing hub.
- With a focus on innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship, the sector is set to **enhance farmer incomes, generate employment, reduce food wastage and boost exports**.

Source: PIB

SURROGACY (REGULATION) ACT, 2021

Context

- **The Supreme Court** reserved its verdict on petitions challenging the **age cap for couples** seeking to have a child through surrogacy.

- **The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 and the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021**, prescribe the legal framework for surrogacy.

Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021

- **Surrogacy:** The Act defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand it over to them after the birth.
 - ♦ It is permitted only for **altruistic purposes** or for couples who suffer proven infertility or disease.
 - ♦ Surrogacy is **prohibited for commercial purposes** including for sale, prostitution or any other forms of exploitation.
- **Abortion:** Abortion of such a fetus is allowed **only with the consent of the surrogate mother** and the authorities and must adhere to the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.
- **Eligibility and Conditions for Couples:** A couple should procure **certificates of eligibility and essentiality** in order to have a child via surrogacy.
 - ♦ The couple is deemed 'eligible' if they have been **married for five years**, the wife is aged between **23-50 years** and the husband is between **26-55 years**, and single women must be between the ages **of 35 and 45 years**.
 - ♦ The couple must not have **any living child** (biological, adopted or surrogate).
 - ♦ A child with **mental or physical disabilities**, or one suffering from a **life-threatening disorder** has been exempted from the above criterion.
 - ♦ The couple can get an 'essential' certificate if suffering from **proven infertility** of either partner certified by a District Medical Board.
 - ♦ They must also have **insurance coverage for 16 months for the surrogate mother**, covering any postpartum complications.
- **Eligibility to be a surrogate:** A surrogate mother has to be a **close relative** of the couple, a married woman with a child of her own, aged between **25-35 years**, who can be a surrogate **only once** in her life.
 - ♦ She must also possess a certificate of **medical and psychological fitness** for surrogacy.
- **Regulation:** It **mandates the constitution of National Surrogacy Board (NSB) and State Surrogacy Boards (SSB)** respectively.
 - ♦ This body is tasked with enforcing standards for surrogacy clinics, investigating breaches and recommending modifications.

- **Offences:** Offences under the Act include commercial surrogacy, selling of embryos, exploiting, abandoning a surrogate child etc.
 - ♦ These may invite up to **10 years of imprisonment** and a fine of up to **Rs. 10 lakh**.

Arguments in Favour of the Age Limit for Intending Parents:

- **Child Welfare and Parenting Capacity:** Ensures that parents are physically and mentally capable of raising a child through their formative years.
- **Regulatory Standardisation:** Provides uniformity and legal clarity for clinics and surrogacy arrangements across India.
- **Balances Reproductive Rights and Health Risks:** Women beyond 50 and men beyond 55 face higher risks of medical complications, genetic abnormalities, and age-related fertility decline.
- **Supports Policy Goals of Responsible Parenthood:** Reinforces the idea that reproduction — natural or assisted — should happen within a responsible age window for the well-being of both child and parents.

Arguments Against Age Limit for Intending Parents

- **Violation of Reproductive Autonomy:** The age restrictions infringe on the fundamental right to reproductive choice under Article 21 of the Constitution (Right to Life and Personal Liberty).
- **Arbitrary and Inflexible Limits:** The fixed age cutoffs do not account for individual health status, biological variations, or advances in medical science.
- **Excludes Late Marriages and Second Marriages:** With changing social trends, many people are marrying or remarrying later in life, the age limits unjustly exclude such couples.
- **No Similar Restrictions in Natural Conception:** The State does not restrict couples from naturally conceiving children at older ages, yet imposes age restrictions only on ART and surrogacy, which raises concerns of unjustified interference.

Way Ahead

- While age limits under the ART and Surrogacy Acts aim to ensure medical safety and child welfare, a **more balanced, rights-based approach is needed**.
- The law could adopt a **flexible, case-by-case evaluation based on medical fitness**, psychological readiness, and social support systems.
- This would **uphold reproductive autonomy**, align with constitutional rights, and reflect evolving social and medical realities.

Source: IE

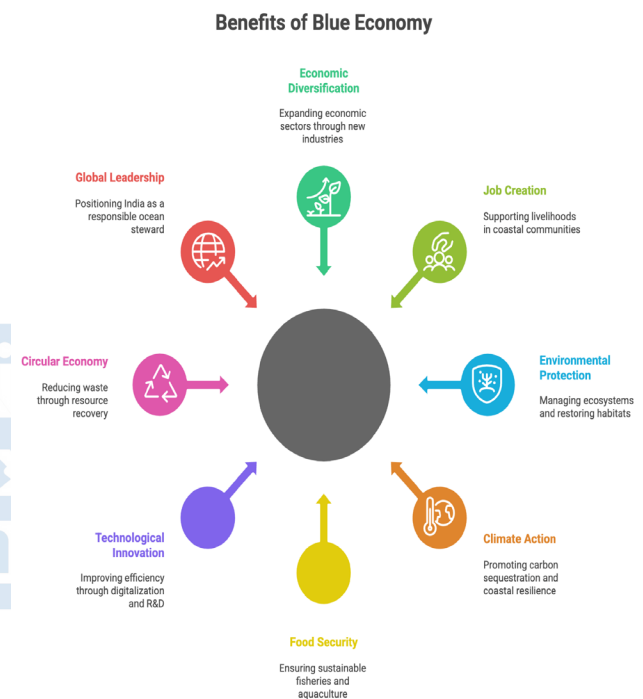
WHITE PAPER ON BLUE ECONOMY

In Context

- The white paper, “Transforming India’s Blue Economy”, lays out a strategic vision for unlocking the potential of India’s vast marine resources as a pivotal contributor to national development by 2035.

What is the Blue Economy?

- The Blue Economy refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems.



- It encompasses a range of ocean-linked activities—fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, ports, marine biotechnology etc.

Models of Blue Economy

- **Community-led Seaweed Cultivation (Odisha):** Seaweed farming diversifies coastal livelihoods, provides supplementary income, absorbs dissolved CO₂ (mitigating climate change), and improves water quality for over 10,000 households.
- **Smart Port Transformation (Kochi):** Introduction of digital twin technology increases operational efficiency, reduces vessel wait times, optimizes resources, and enhances sustainability through precise environmental monitoring.
- **Green Ship Recycling (Alang, Gujarat):** Upgrades to international standards (Hong Kong Convention) for shipbreaking recover steel and metals efficiently and ensure safe, environmentally sound hazardous waste management.

Key Initiatives of India's Blue Economy

- **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM):** Explore polymetallic nodules, deep sea bioresources, and develop human submersibles for mapping and sustainable extraction within India's exclusive economic zone.
- **Sagarmala Programme:** Modernize ports, improve logistics, and develop new coastal economic zones.
- **Blue Economy 2.0:** Restoring coastal ecosystems (mangroves, coral reefs), climate-proofing coastlines, and promoting sustainable aquaculture and mariculture, notably seaweed farming.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** Modernizes fisheries, encourages sustainable practices, and supports millions of fishers.

Source: PIB

NEWS IN SHORT

SHAHEED UDHAM SINGH

In News

- The Prime Minister paid tribute to Shaheed Udham Singh on his martyrdom day.

Shaheed Udham Singh

- He was born in 1899 in Sangrur, Punjab and he lost his parents at an early age.
- He was hanged on July 31, 1940, for assassinating **Michael O'Dwyer, the former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab**, in London — an act of revenge for the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Legacy

- Udham Singh dedicated his life to self-respect and freedom. He launched an armed rebellion against British atrocities.
- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre deeply disturbed him, prompting him to travel to England to avenge the killings.
- Through the **Ghadar Party**, he inspired patriotism among Indians living abroad. His courage, bravery, and sacrifice gave greater strength to India's freedom movement.

Do you know?

- The **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** took place on April 13, 1919, when British Indian Army troops under **Colonel Reginald Dyer** opened fire on a peaceful gathering of unarmed protesters and pilgrims in Amritsar, Punjab, on the occasion of Baisakhi.

- The crowd had assembled to protest the arrest of nationalist leaders **Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew**. The indiscriminate firing led to massive casualties.
- According to official British records, 379 people were killed and around 1,200 injured.
 - ♦ However, other estimates put the death toll at over 1,000.

Source :PIB

SWACHHATA PAKHWADA 2025

Context

- Recently, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) observed **Swachhata Pakhwada 2025**.

About

- **Swachhta Pakhwada** is an initiative under **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)**.
- The **programme was launched in 2016** with the objective of bringing about an intense **focus on sanitation issues and practices** by involving all Ministries and Departments of Government of India.
- **It's an annual observance** aimed at spreading awareness and encouraging activities related to cleanliness and hygiene across various sectors of society.
- **The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** acts as the nodal department, laying down suggestive activities for observing the Pakhwada each year.

Source: PIB

NYAYA BANDHU LEGAL AID PROGRAMME

Context

- Till June, 2025, approximately, **14888 women beneficiaries have registered under the Nyaya Bandhu App**.

About

- **The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Service)** is one of the programmes under the scheme of **"Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice"** (DISHA).
- It was launched in **2017** and is **implemented** by the Department of Justice under the **Ministry of Law and Justice**.
- **It registers interested Pro Bono Advocates** and connects them with the **beneficiaries**.

- **Beneficiaries are** entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 through the Nyaya Bandhu Application.
- In order to avail the services of a Pro Bono lawyer, **both the applicants and lawyers** are required to register on the **Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application**.
- To enhance the reach and effectiveness of the Nyaya Bandhu program in remote areas, **Pro Bono Clubs (PBCs) in the Law schools** are engaged in providing community care, legal assistance and legal awareness to the **beneficiaries in the villages**.

Source: PIB

MALARIA ELIMINATION

In News

- India reduced its malaria burden by over 80% since 2015, but tribal areas still face high rates.

Malaria

- It is a life-threatening disease which spreads to people through the bites of some infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
 - ♦ Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria.
- It is mostly found in tropical countries. It is preventable and curable.
- It is caused by a parasite and does not spread from person to person.

Symptoms

- It can be mild or life-threatening. Mild symptoms are fever, chills and headache. Severe symptoms include fatigue, confusion, seizures, and difficulty breathing.

Risk

- Infants, children under 5 years, pregnant women and girls, travellers and people with HIV or AIDS are at higher risk of severe infection.
 - ♦ In 2023, malaria infected 294 million people globally, killing nearly 600,000.

Prevention

- Malaria can be prevented by avoiding mosquito bites and with medicines. Treatments can stop mild cases from getting worse.

Vaccines

- The **R21/Matrix-M vaccine**, developed by Oxford and the Serum Institute, showed up to 77% efficacy in Phase 3 trials winning World Health Organization (WHO) approval in 2023.

- ♦ Fewer doses, low cost, and Indian production make it especially promising.
- Whole-parasite vaccines like PfSPZ and dual-stage Indian candidate AdFalcivax show promising results.
 - ♦ Transmission-blocking vaccines, mRNA platforms, and engineered antibodies are also under development.

India's Targets

- India aims to eliminate malaria by 2030 but challenges include drug resistance, asymptomatic carriers, and relapse-prone P. vivax.
- Therefore, achieving the goal will require sustained scientific, political, and public health coordination — combining vaccines, vector control, and health system support.

Source :TH

INDIA, MOROCCO SIGN AGREEMENT TO BOOST JUDICIAL COOPERATION

Context

- India and Morocco have signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote **cooperation in judicial and legal spheres**.

About

- The MLAT focuses on **civil and commercial matters**, enabling both countries to:
 - ♦ cooperate in the service of judicial documents, the taking of evidence through Letters of Request, and the execution of judicial judgments, decrees, settlements, and arbitral awards.
- It also focuses on the exchange of legal expertise, training, and research.
- To ensure effective implementation, **a joint coordination committee** will be established to plan annual cooperation programmes.

Morocco

- Morocco is a mountainous country of **western North Africa** that lies directly across the **Strait of Gibraltar from Spain**.
- **Morocco borders** Algeria to the east and southeast, Western Sahara to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north.
- It is the **only African country** with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.



Source: PIB

GRANT IN AID TO NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NCDC)

Context

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Central Sector Scheme “**Grant in aid to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**” for four years from 2025-26 to 2028- 29.

About

- NCDC** will be the **implementing agency**.
 - It will provide loans to cooperatives **either through state government or directly, as per NCDC guidelines**.
- Loans will be provided for** setting up/ modernization/ technology upgradation/ expansion of project facilities for various sectors and working capital to run their businesses efficiently and profitably.

Cooperatives

- A cooperative (or co-op) is an **organization or business** that is **owned and operated by a group of individuals** who share a common interest, goal, or need.
- These **individuals, known as members**, participate in the cooperative’s activities and **decision-making process**, typically on a one-member, one-vote basis, regardless of the amount of capital or resources each member contributes.

- The main purpose of a cooperative is **to meet the economic, social, or cultural needs of its members**, rather than to maximize profits for external shareholders.
- India has more than **8.25 lakh cooperatives** with more than **29 crore members** and **94% farmers** are associated with cooperatives.

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

- It was established by **an Act of Parliament in 1963** as a statutory Corporation under the **Ministry of Cooperation**.
- Functions:**
 - Planning, promoting and financing programmes** through cooperatives, besides income generating streams of activities such as poultry, dairy, fishery, sericulture, handloom etc.
 - It also finances projects** in the rural industrial cooperative sectors and for certain notified services in rural areas.
 - Loans and grants are advanced to State Governments** for financing primary and secondary level cooperative societies.

Source: PIB

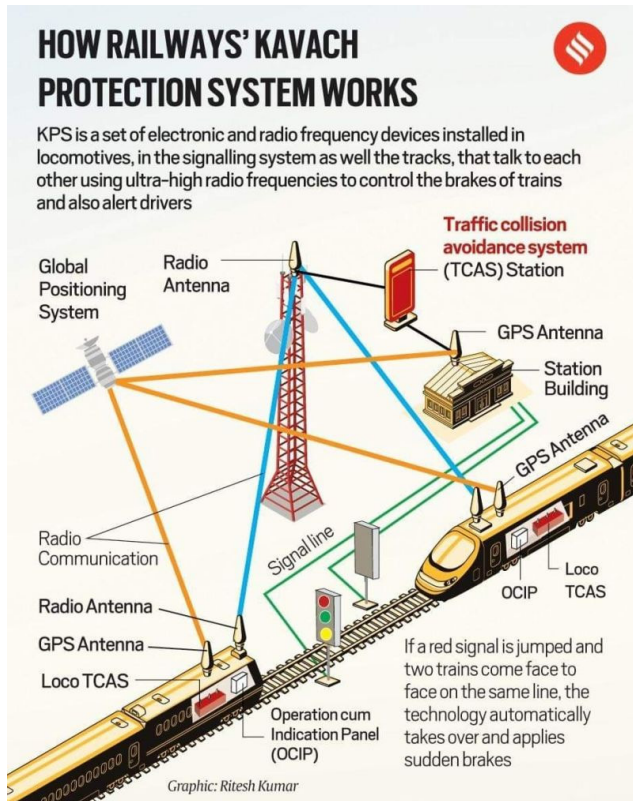
KAVACH 4.0

Context

- Indian Railways has commissioned indigenous railway safety system **Kavach 4.0** on the Mathura-Kota section of high-density Delhi-Mumbai route.

What is Kavach?

- It is an indigenously developed **Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system by the **Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** in collaboration with Indian industry.
- Kavach aids the Loco Pilot in running of trains within **specified speed limits** by automatic application of brakes in case Loco Pilot fails to do so and also helps the trains to run safely during inclement weather.
- It is designed to the highest safety standard — **Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL-4)** — where the probability of failure is just **1 in 10,000 years**.
- The advanced version ‘**Kavach 4.0**’ approved in May 2025 for speeds up to 160 kmph.



Source: PIB

INDIA'S FIRST 1 MW GREEN HYDROGEN PLANT COMMISSIONED AT KANDLA PORT

Context

- India's first indigenously developed **1 MW Green Hydrogen Power Plant** is inaugurated at the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in **Kandla, Gujarat**.

About

- The plant is capable of producing approximately **140 metric tonnes of green hydrogen** annually.
- The Deendayal Port Authority has previously introduced India's first **Made-in-India all-electric green tug**, further reinforcing its leadership in eco-friendly port operations.

What is Green Hydrogen?

- Green Hydrogen:** The hydrogen produced via electrolysis, the splitting of water into hydrogen and oxygen with electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as solar or wind, is known as Green hydrogen.

- MNRE defines Green Hydrogen** as having a well-to-gate emission (i.e., including water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, drying and compression of hydrogen) of not more than **2 kg CO₂ equivalent / kg H₂**.

About Kandla Port

- Kandla Port, officially known as **Deendayal Port Authority**, is a major seaport located in the **Kutch district** of Gujarat, India.
- It's situated on the **Kandla Creek**, about 90 km from the mouth of the Gulf of Kutch.
- Kandla Port was **constructed in the 1950s** to serve as the primary seaport for western India after the partition of India and Pakistan.

Source: TOI

HIMGIRI

In News

- The Indian Navy received the advanced guided-missile frigate Himgiri built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.

Himgiri (Yard 3022)

- It is the **third Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) frigate** and the first built by GRSE.
- The **Project 17A frigates** are versatile multi-mission platforms, designed to address current and future challenges in the maritime domain.
- It is a reincarnation of the erstwhile **INS Himgiri**, a Leander-class frigate, that was decommissioned on May 6, 2025
- It is a modern, multi-mission warship designed by the Warship Design Bureau and launched in December 2020.

Features

- It features **BrahMos** and **Barak 8** missiles, advanced AESA radar, and state-of-the-art combat systems.
- It is capable of anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare.

Importance

- The ship symbolizes **India's defence self-reliance** with high indigenous content.
- It offers modular design, enhanced survivability, and full aviation facilities for helicopters, accommodating up to 225 personnel.

Source :TH