

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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STRENGTHENING JUSTICE DELIVERY THROUGH SAFE AI ADOPTION

Context

- The Kerala High Court became the first in India to publish a set of guidelines on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the district judiciary.

Opportunities of AI in Judicial Processes

- **Case Management and Efficiency:** AI can help in sorting, tagging, and prioritising cases, reducing administrative burden on court staff.
 - ♦ The Supreme Court's AI tool **SUPACE (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency, 2021)** assists judges in quickly identifying relevant precedents.
- **Translation and Accessibility:** India has **22 scheduled languages** and hundreds of dialects. AI-powered translation can make judicial documents and judgments accessible across linguistic barriers.
 - ♦ The **SUVAAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software) project** has translated thousands of judgments into regional languages.
- **Legal Research and Knowledge Support:** AI-driven search tools can help lawyers and judges locate relevant precedents faster, reducing delays.
 - ♦ Globally, countries like **the U.K. and Singapore** use AI platforms for legal analytics and predictive insights into case outcomes.
- **Transcription and Record-Keeping:** Automated transcription of oral arguments and witness depositions improves accuracy and reduces delays in preparing case records.
- **Improving Access to Justice:** AI chatbots and virtual assistants can help litigants, especially those without legal representation, navigate procedures, track case status, and file petitions.
 - ♦ DoNotPay, an AI-powered legal assistant in the U.S., demonstrates how litigants can be empowered through technology.
- **Support for the eCourts Project:** AI aligns with the Vision Document for Phase III of the eCourts Project, which aims to digitise and modernise the Indian judiciary.

Emerging Concerns of AI in Judiciary

- **Errors and Hallucinations:**
 - ♦ AI mistranslations and transcription errors risk distorting records.
 - ♦ Large Language Models (LLMs) have been shown to fabricate case laws and citations.

- **Bias and Dependence:**

- ♦ AI-enabled legal research may show search bias, excluding relevant precedents.
- ♦ Over-reliance risks reducing adjudication to rule-based outputs, sidelining nuanced human judgment.

- **Data Protection and Privacy:** Absence of clear frameworks on storage and use of judicial data raises concerns.

- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Courts face uneven Internet connectivity, outdated hardware, and limited technical expertise.

Guardrails for Responsible AI Use

- **AI Literacy and Capacity Building:** Judges, lawyers, and court staff must be trained to use AI effectively and to understand its limitations.
 - ♦ Judicial academies and bar associations should collaborate with AI governance experts.
- **Transparency and Consent:** Litigants must be informed if AI tools are used in adjudication.
 - ♦ A mechanism for litigants to opt-out of AI-assisted processes should be considered.
- **Procurement and Evaluation Frameworks:** Standardised procurement guidelines should assess AI tools for reliability, explainability, data security, and risk mitigation.
 - ♦ Pre-procurement studies must ensure that AI is the best solution for a given problem.
- **Institutional Mechanisms:** Establish technology offices within the judiciary, as envisaged under eCourts Phase III, to oversee AI adoption.
 - ♦ Specialists should monitor vendor compliance, infrastructure needs, and system performance.

Global Best Practices

- **European Union:** The **EU AI Act (2024)** classifies judicial AI as "high-risk", requiring rigorous oversight, human accountability, and safeguards against bias. This reflects the EU's broader approach of prioritising rights and ethics over speed of adoption.
- **Singapore:** Its judiciary follows a strict human-in-the-loop model where AI assists in tasks like research and document review but never replaces judicial reasoning. Singapore also runs **judicial innovation labs** to test AI tools before adoption.
- **China:** It has established "**smart courts**", where AI assists in case filing, judgment recommendations, and even drafting opinions.

Source: TH

PARLIAMENT PASSES FIVE KEY MARITIME BILLS TO BOOST BLUE ECONOMY

Context

- The Parliament has passed **five key bills** in the just-concluded Monsoon Session, which overhauled colonial-era maritime laws and will boost the Blue Economy.

About

- The new bills are** the Bills of Lading 2025, the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill 2025, the Coastal Shipping Bill 2025, the Merchant Shipping Bill 2025, and the Indian Ports Bill 2025.
 - The Bills of Lading, 2025**, focuses on simplifying legal documents to reduce disputes and improve the ease of doing business.
 - The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025**, replaced a 1925 Act, adopting Hague-Visby Rules for reduced litigation and stronger international ties.
 - The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025**, targets reviving India's 6% modal share, saving around Rs 10,000 crore annually in logistics costs, and also reducing pollution and road congestion.
 - The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025**, overhauled an outdated 1958 act, enabling expeditious wreck removal and salvage operations.
 - The Indian Ports Bill, 2025**, replaced an old 1908 law, created a Maritime State Development Council for better national planning, gave more power to state maritime boards to manage smaller ports, and set up a way to resolve disputes at the state level.

India's Maritime Sector

- Strategic Position:** Located along the world's busiest shipping routes, India is a key trading hub and a rising global power.
- India's Maritime Sector Overview:** Handles 95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value, with port infrastructure critical to the economy.
- Cargo Traffic Growth:** Coastal cargo traffic surged by **119% from 2014-2024**, with a **target of 230 million tonnes by 2030**.
- Surge in Merchandise Exports:** India's merchandise exports rose to USD 451 billion in FY23, up from USD 417 billion in FY22.
- Maritime Sector's Importance:** India is the **16th-largest maritime nation**, occupies a key position in global shipping, with major trade routes passing through its waters.

- Achievements:** The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has increased cargo handling capacity by **103% in the last decade**.
- Future Goals:** India has outlined investments of **US\$ 82 billion in port infrastructure projects by 2035** to bolster the maritime sector.
 - India plans to establish a new shipping company to **expand its fleet by at least 1,000 ships within a decade**.

Challenges

- Infrastructure Gaps:** Inadequate port infrastructure and outdated facilities at some ports, limiting capacity and efficiency.
- Congestion:** High traffic volumes at major ports leading to delays, increased turnaround times, and reduced productivity.
- Environmental Concerns:** Pollution and sustainability issues, including emissions from ships and port operations.
- Logistics Bottlenecks:** Inefficient transport connectivity between ports, roads, and railways, impacting smooth cargo movement.
- Global Competition:** Rising competition from other global maritime hubs, necessitates continuous investment and modernization.

Initiatives by the Government

- Sagarmala Programme:** Focuses on leveraging India's coastline and of navigable waterways.
 - Supports port infrastructure, coastal development, and connectivity.
 - Financial aid for projects like coastal berths, rail/road connectivity, fish harbours, and cruise terminals.
- Maritime India Vision 2030 (MIV 2030):** Aiming for India to become a top 10 shipbuilding nation by 2030 and create a world-class, efficient, and sustainable maritime ecosystem.
 - Includes 150+ initiatives across ten key maritime sectors.
- Inland Waterways Development:** 26 new national waterways identified by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
 - Provides alternative, sustainable transport, easing road/rail congestion.
- Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP):** Aims to replace fuel-based harbour tugs with eco-friendly, sustainable fuel-powered tugs.
 - Transition to be completed by 2040 across major ports.
- Sagarmanthan Dialogue:** An annual maritime strategic dialogue to position India as a global center for maritime conversations.

- **Maritime Development Fund:** 25,000 crore fund for long-term financing to modernize ports and shipping infrastructure.
- **Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (SBFAP 2.0):** Modernized to help Indian shipyards compete with global giants.

Conclusion

- India's maritime sector is poised for significant growth, underscored by its strategic initiatives and government schemes.
- In 2024, the first edition of Sagarmanthan further cemented India's commitment to becoming a global maritime leader, bringing together stakeholders to discuss key themes such as sustainability, connectivity, and governance.
- The efforts will take India's maritime sector toward a sustainable, innovative, and future-ready ecosystem, ensuring its place as a central player in the global maritime landscape.

Source: AIR

MIGRATION IS ESSENTIAL TO GLOBALISATION: AMARTYA SEN

Context

- Nobel laureate Amartya Sen recently stressed that migration has been a major source of global progress, enabling exchange of knowledge, culture, and values.

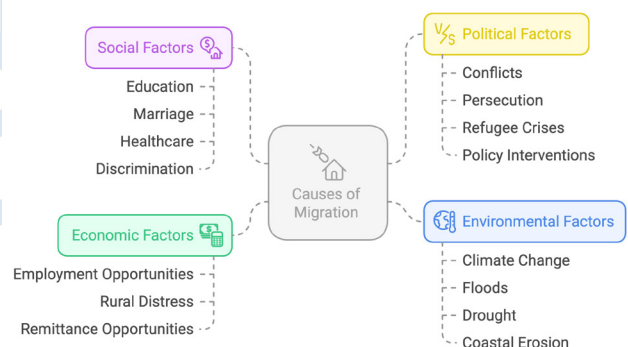
About Migration

- Migration is the movement of people across borders or within countries — is a defining feature of the interconnected world.
- It is driven by opportunity, necessity, or aspiration, and influences economies, cultures, and governance on a global scale.
- **Types:**
 - ♦ **Internal Migration:** Within a country (rural–urban, inter-state, intra-state).
 - ♦ **International Migration:** Movement across countries.
 - ♦ **Voluntary vs Forced:** Choice-based (jobs, education) vs distress-driven (conflict, climate change, persecution).
 - ♦ **Seasonal/Circular Migration:** Short-term, often linked to agriculture, construction, or informal work.
- The migration that is safe, orderly, and humane, aligning with the **UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Target 10.7)**.

Trend in Migration

- **Global Migration:** According to the **World Migration Report 2024**, there were approximately 281 million international migrants in 2020 — about 3.6% of the global population — a steady rise from 2.8% in 2000.
 - ♦ Migration corridors have evolved, with the Mexico–USA, Syria–Türkiye, and India–UAE routes among the largest.
 - ♦ India, Mexico, and China are among the top countries of origin, while the U.S. remains the largest destination and remittance-sending country.
- **Migration in India:** India is the largest country of origin for international migrants, with over 18 million Indians living abroad.
- The **78th Round of NSSO reveals:**
 - ♦ Marriage is the leading reason for migration (68.2%), followed by employment (22%).
 - ♦ Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra is the most significant internal migration corridor.
 - ♦ Suburban Mumbai, Pune, and Thane host the highest number of migrants.

Causes of Migration: A Comprehensive Overview



Importance of Migration & How It Fuels Globalisation?

- **Economic Integration & Labor Mobility:** Migrants fill critical labor gaps in aging economies, especially in sectors like healthcare, construction, and technology.
 - ♦ The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that migrants contribute disproportionately to economic growth. For example, Latin American immigrants in Chile made up just 3.5% of the workforce but contributed 11.5% to GDP growth between 2009–2017.
 - ♦ Migration enables rapid deployment of talent, essential for innovation and competitiveness in global markets.
- **Remittances & Capital Flow:** Remittances from migrants reached \$831 billion globally in 2022, a 650% increase since 2000.

- ♦ India alone received over \$111 billion, making it the top remittance recipient worldwide.
- ♦ These financial flows often exceed foreign direct investment, boosting local economies and reducing poverty in origin countries.
- **Knowledge Transfer & Innovation:** Migrants bring diverse perspectives and expertise, fostering innovation in host countries.
 - ♦ Migration facilitates the exchange of scientific ideas, cultural practices, and entrepreneurial models.
- **Cultural Diversity & Social Enrichment:** Migration enhances cultural pluralism, introducing new languages, cuisines, art forms, and traditions.
 - ♦ Diverse societies tend to be more resilient, creative, and globally connected.

Related Challenges & Misconceptions

- **Irregular & Unsafe Migration Pathways:** Many migrants move without legal documentation, exposing them to exploitation, trafficking, and abuse.
 - ♦ According to the UN, over 43 million people were forcibly displaced in 2024, including refugees and asylum seekers.
 - ♦ International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlights the need for regular migration pathways to reduce vulnerability and ensure access to rights.
- **Precarious Working Conditions:** Migrant workers often face lower wages, poor safety standards, and limited access to healthcare.
 - ♦ Globally, ILO data shows migrants earn 25% less than local workers on average.
- **Policy Gaps & Governance Failures:** India struggles with implementation of migration-related agreements, despite signing multiple MoUs with destination countries.
 - ♦ The absence of a robust Emigration Act and lack of coordination between central and state governments hinder effective migration management.
- **Gender & Child Vulnerabilities:** Women and children migrants face heightened risks of abuse, trafficking, and marginalization.
- **Climate-Induced Displacement:** Droughts, floods, and extreme weather events are driving migration in vulnerable regions.
 - ♦ In **Odisha, India**, distress migration is often a survival strategy in drought-prone areas.
- **Illegal Immigration & National Security:** Countries face challenges balancing humanitarian obligations with border control.

- ♦ India's northeastern states grapple with undocumented migration from neighboring countries, sparking debates over identity and citizenship.

Way Ahead

- **Humane & Inclusive Policies:** Recognise migration as a right and opportunity, not a threat.
 - ♦ Safeguard voting rights (Amartya Sen's concern on SIR).
- **Strengthen Social Protection:** Universal portability of PDS, health, education.
 - ♦ Legal protection for informal workers.
- **Balanced Regional Development:** Invest in rural infrastructure, agro-processing, small towns to reduce distress migration.
- **Urban Planning:** Affordable housing, sanitation, transport to absorb migrant influx sustainably.

Source: TH

CHENDAMANGALAM'S FAMED HANDLOOM INDUSTRY BATTLES CRISIS AHEAD OF ONAM

Context

- With Onam round the corner, customers are insistent on authentic ethnic wear called **Chendamangalam handloom**.

Chendamangalam Handloom Industry

- **Cultural Significance:** Chendamangalam (Ernakulam, Kerala) is famed for its traditional handloom products, especially in demand during Onam.
- **Crisis in the Weaving Sector:** Weavers have declined from ~5,000 in the 1980s to ~500 now (spread across 5 cooperative societies).
- **Causes:** Lure of employment guarantee schemes, perception of low wages, and youth disinterest.
 - ♦ Remuneration is viable if adapted to new designs/market needs.



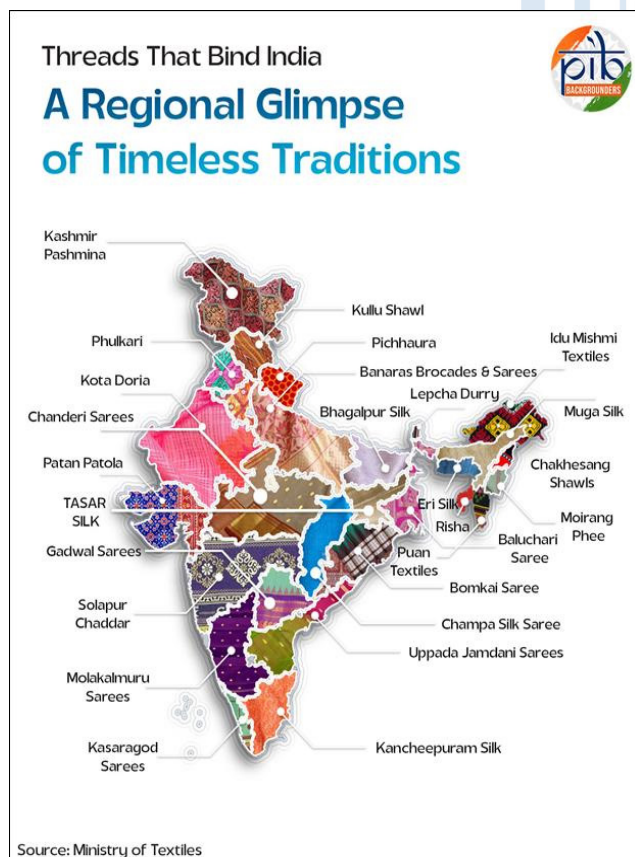
- **Resilience & Innovation:** Chendamangalam-Karimpadam Handloom Cooperative Society gained global attention in the 2018 floods by making 'Chekutty dolls' from soiled cloth.

Handloom Industry

- The Indian handloom industry is one of the oldest and most vibrant cottage industries in the world.
- **The Swadeshi Movement**, launched on **7th August 1905**, championed indigenous industries as a form of economic resistance to colonial rule.
 - ♦ In honour of this legacy, the Government of India declared **7th August as National Handloom Day in 2015**.
- **According to the 4th All India Handloom Census (2019–20)**, about 35.22 lakh households are involved in this work, and around **72% of economic handloom weavers are women**.
- **Top Export Destination:** In FY 2024-25, the **United States** remained the largest destination, followed by the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, France, and the United Kingdom, respectively.
- **Products:** Made-ups such as cushion covers, curtains, table linen, and other household items contributed 42.4% in 2024-25, followed by floor coverings like carpets, rugs, and mats, which made up 40.6%.
 - ♦ Clothing accessories contributed 12.7%, while fabrics accounted for 4.3%.

Major Challenges Faced by the Industry

- **Declining Number of Weavers:** Younger generations moving away due to low income, lack of social security, and absence of modern skill training.
 - ♦ Traditional weavers are aging, leading to a shrinking workforce.
- **Economic Distress:** Rising cost of raw materials (cotton, silk, dyes) but low selling prices due to middlemen exploitation.
- **Competition from Powerlooms & Mills:** Mass-produced, machine-made fabrics are cheaper, faster to produce, and dominate markets.
 - ♦ Handloom products lose price competitiveness despite better quality and uniqueness.
- **Weak Marketing & Branding:** Limited penetration in domestic and global markets due to the absence of branding, modern retail, and e-commerce adoption.
- **Technological & Skill Gaps:** Traditional looms are labor-intensive and less productive.
 - ♦ Lack of design innovation and modern training to meet changing fashion trends.
- **Globalisation & Import Competition:** Cheap imports (especially from China and Bangladesh) are flooding Indian markets.
 - ♦ Indian handloom struggles to compete internationally due to high production costs and a lack of aggressive export promotion.



Government Initiatives

- **GeM Onboarding:** Allows weavers to sell directly to government departments via the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- **Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS):** It has been approved for implementation for the period 2021–22 to 2025–26.
 - ♦ The scheme aims to support handloom weavers by ensuring the availability of quality yarn at affordable prices.
- **Marketing Assistance:** Expos and district-level events are organised regularly to provide a marketing platform to the handloom weavers.
- **Certification of Handloom Products:** The Handloom Mark was launched in 2006 to provide a distinct identity to handloom products.
 - ♦ In 2015, the India Handloom Brand (IHB) was introduced for branding high-quality handloom products.
- **Small Cluster Development Programme (SCDP):** Need-based financial assistance of up to 2 crore per cluster is provided for interventions.
- **Skill Up-gradation:** Weavers and allied workers

receive training to learn new weaving techniques, adapt to modern technologies, and develop new designs and colours.

- **Design Resource Centers (DRCs):** Established in major cities to enhance design excellence in handlooms.
- **Weavers' Welfare Scheme:** Includes National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS), Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS), and Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata.
- **Weaver MUDRA Scheme:** Offers financial assistance for working capital and new technology investments.

GI Tags to Protect the Handloom Industry

- GI tags are official markers given to products with a **specific geographic origin and distinct qualities**.
 - ♦ They protect these products from unauthorized use or imitation, helping consumers identify authentic goods.
- In India, the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999, enacted in 2003, aims to **safeguard producers' interests, prevent exploitation of GIs, and boost marketability**.
- From 2023 to 2024, the government awarded GI tags to several handloom products, enhancing their recognition and economic value. These products include:
 - ♦ Barabanki Handloom Products from Uttar Pradesh;
 - ♦ Chedibutta Saree from Tamil Nadu;
 - ♦ Jodhpur Bandhej Craft from Rajasthan;
 - ♦ Basohli Pashmina Woolen Products from Jammu & Kashmir;
 - ♦ Rangwali Pichhoda of Kumaon from Uttarakhand;
 - ♦ Tangail Saree from West Bengal;
 - ♦ Garad Saree from West Bengal;
 - ♦ Korial saree from West Bengal.

Source: TH

NATIONAL SPACE DAY 2025

Context

- India is celebrating its second National Space Day on August 23, 2025 with the theme **"Aryabhata**

to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities".

- August 23rd was declared as "National Space Day" to honour the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, which achieved a safe and soft landing of the **Vikram Lander** at the **'Shiv Shakti' point** and deployed the **Pragyaan Rover** on the lunar surface.

Space Sector of India

- India's space sector has benefitted from decades of consistent investment, with **\$13 billion** invested in the last decade, yielding around **US \$60 billion** in GDP contribution.
- **Potential of Space Sector:**
 - ♦ **Export Potential and Investment:** Currently, India's export market share in space-related services stands at 2,400 crore (\$0.3 billion). The goal is to boost this to 88,000 crore (\$11 billion).
 - ♦ **Rise of Space Tourism:** In 2023, the space tourism market was valued at \$848.28 million. It is expected to grow to **\$27,861.99 million by 2032**.
 - ♦ **The Space Sector** has supported **96,000 jobs** in the public and private sector.
 - ♦ For every dollar produced by the space sector, there was a **multiplier effect of \$2.54** to the Indian economy and India's space force was **2.5 times more productive** than the country's broader industrial workforce.

India's Recent Milestones in Space

- **Human Spaceflight Progress:** Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla** became the first Indian to visit the ISS as part of **Axiom Mission-4**.
 - ♦ It is seen as a **precursor to Gaganyaan**, India's maiden human space mission.
- **The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite** was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
 - ♦ NISAR is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, called the **L-band and the S-band**.
- **Chandrayaan Programme:**
 - ♦ Chandrayaan-1 (2008): Confirmed water molecules on the Moon.
 - ♦ Chandrayaan-2 (2019): Valuable orbiter data despite lander failure.
 - ♦ Chandrayaan-3 (2023): Soft-landing near the south pole, first in the world.
- **Mars Orbiter Mission (2013–2021):**
 - ♦ First Asian mission to reach Martian orbit in the first attempt.

- ♦ Provided atmospheric & terrain data for over 7 years.

Challenges in India's Space Sector

- **Competition and Global Market Share:** To achieve this ambitious goal of 8% of the global market share, Indian space companies must compete effectively on the international stage.
- **Private Sector Participation:** While the private sector has shown interest, there's a need for more substantial investment and commitment.
- **Technology Development and Innovation:** Developing cutting-edge technologies, such as reusable launch vehicles, miniaturized satellites, and advanced propulsion systems, requires substantial investment and research.
- **Regulatory Framework and Licensing:** Navigating licensing processes, export controls, and compliance can be complex.
- **Infrastructure and Facilities:** Developing and maintaining such infrastructure requires significant capital.

Major Reforms In Space Sector of India

- **Establishment of IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre, 2020):** Acts as a single-window regulator and facilitator for private companies, authorising and promoting their participation in space activities.
- **Corporatization via NewSpace India Limited (2019):** It was set up as ISRO's commercial arm to transfer technology, manufacture satellites/launch vehicles through industry, and provide commercial satellite services.
- **Indian Space Policy 2023:** It laid down roles and responsibilities of organizations such as ISRO, New Space India Limited (NSIL) and private sector entities.
 - ♦ It aims to enhance the participation of research, academia, startups and industry.
- **Liberalisation of FDI Norms (2024):** The government eased foreign direct investment rules in the space sector to attract global capital and technology, especially in satellite manufacturing and launch services.

Way Ahead

- India aims to commission the **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS)** by 2035 and land Indian astronauts on the Moon by 2040.
- **Sustainability & Space Governance:** Implement the **Debris-Free Space Missions (DFSM)** initiative rigorously to ensure responsible orbital practices.

- **Advance Indigenous Technology:** Prioritise reusable launch vehicles (RLVs), small satellite launchers, and green propulsion systems.

- ♦ Invest in deep-space communication networks and quantum-encrypted satellite communication.

Source: AIR

NEWS IN SHORT

REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA (RGI)

Context

- The **Registrar General of India (RGI)** asked States to take steps towards achieving universal registration of births and deaths.

About

- Following the directives of the Supreme Court, all government hospitals have been **declared 'registrars' of births and deaths**.
 - ♦ If the event has taken place in a hospital, a medical officer in charge is required to report it under **Section 8 (1) (B) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**.
 - ♦ Hospitals have to report the event within **21 days**.
- **The RBD Act, 1969**, which was amended in 2023, makes **online registration of births and deaths compulsory on the RGI portal**.

The Registrar General of India (RGI)

- **Established in 1961** by the Government of India.
- Works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Major Functions:**
 - ♦ Census of India.
 - ♦ Conducts the decennial Census of India (since 1872; regular since 1881).
 - ♦ Responsible for planning, coordinating, and supervising census operations.
- **Civil Registration System (CRS):** Oversees the registration of births and deaths across India.
 - ♦ Ensures uniformity and accuracy in vital statistics collection.
- **Vital Statistics:** Collects, compiles, and publishes data on births, deaths, causes of death, and population dynamics.
 - ♦ Provides crucial demographic data for policy planning.
- **Sample Registration System (SRS):** Launched in 1969 to provide reliable annual estimates of

birth rate, death rate, and infant mortality rate (IMR).

- Uses a dual record system (continuous enumeration & independent survey).

Source: TH

SUPREME COURT'S MODIFIED ORDER ON STRAY DOGS

Context

- The Supreme Court modified its earlier directive requiring all stray dogs in Delhi–NCR to be confined in shelters.

Background

- The Supreme Court earlier ordered civic bodies in Delhi–NCR to round up stray dogs and **confine them in shelters within 6–8 weeks**, citing public safety concerns over dog bites and rabies.
- The order was challenged by animal welfare groups, who argued it violated **Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023** that mandate relocation of strays to their original areas after sterilisation.

Guidelines in recent ruling

- **Release of Strays:** Stray dogs will be sterilised, dewormed, vaccinated, and then released back into the locality from which they were picked up.
 - Rabid or aggressive dogs will be sterilised and vaccinated but housed in separate shelters/pounds.
- **Feeding Regulation:** Feeding strays on streets is prohibited.
 - Municipal bodies must set up dedicated feeding zones in every ward, with signboards indicating their location.
- **Adoption Option:** Animal lovers may adopt stray dogs via municipal authorities, provided the adopted dogs do not return to the streets.
- **Monitoring & Enforcement:** Civic bodies must create helplines for reporting violations. NGOs and individuals obstructing implementation will face punitive action.

Source: IE

DRAFT LEARNING OUTCOMES-BASED CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS (LOCF)

In News

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has released a **draft Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Frameworks (LOCF)**.

Draft Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Frameworks (LOCF).

- It seeks to redefine undergraduate education by embedding traditional Indian knowledge systems into modern academic frameworks, but its approach has raised concerns about academic balance and political influence.
- **Covered subjects** are Anthropology, Chemistry, Commerce, Economics, Geography, Home Science, Mathematics, Physical Education, and Political Science.

How is it different from the National Education Policy?

- National Education Policy encourages multidisciplinary and holistic education but the draft LOCF focuses on single-major specialisation, with most credits dedicated to discipline-specific courses.
 - A similar structure is proposed for commerce, leaving limited scope for multidisciplinary learning.

Key Highlights

- A key focus of the LOCF is the **integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) across disciplines**. Each subject includes elements of ancient Indian thought and practices. For instance:
 - **Chemistry** begins with a salutation to **Saraswati** and includes traditional fermented beverages and ancient Indian atomic theory.
 - Chemistry will have a brief idea of ancient Indian Knowledge of Parmanu. In a unit on atomic structure, recapitulation of the concept of atom in ancient India will be taught along with Bohr's theory and its limitations.
 - **Mathematics** will cover mandala geometry, yantras, rangoli, kolam, and the contributions of Indian mathematicians to algebra, calculus, etc.
 - **Commerce incorporates** Kautilya's Arthashastra, Ram Rajya, and Bhartiya philosophy in teaching ethics, governance, and sustainability.
 - Concepts like **'Ram Rajya' (equitable governance)** can be explored in the context of **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** and contemporary environmental, social, and governance (ESG) frameworks.
 - **Economics** includes teachings on dharmic views of wealth, guild codes, ecological values, and indigenous trade systems.

- ♦ **Anthropology** highlights contributions of Charaka, Sushruta, Buddha, and Mahavira to contextualize knowledge in Indian traditions.
- ♦ **V.D. Savarkar's Indian War of Independence** has found a place in the reading list for the course on 'Bharatiya Struggle for Independence'.

Source :IE

ARTICLE 311

In News

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor sacked two government employees for allegedly engaging in anti-national activities by invoking **Article 311 of the Constitution of India**.

About Article 311

- **Article 311 of the Constitution of India** provides procedural safeguards to civil servants (i.e., persons employed in civil capacities under the Union or a State) against arbitrary dismissal, removal, or reduction in rank by the government.
 - ♦ **Article 311** applies only to civil servants, not to members of the defense services or those whose employment is otherwise governed.
- **Article 311(1)**: No civil servant can be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to the one who appointed them. This means that only the appointing authority or an authority of equivalent or higher rank can order dismissal or removal.

Source: IE

DRUZHBA PIPELINE

In News

- Ukrainian forces struck the Unecha pumping station, a critical hub on the Druzhba oil pipeline located in Russia's Bryansk region.

About

- The Druzhba pipeline historically served as a vital route for Russian and Kazakh oil into Central and Western Europe.
- It is 5500 km long and passes through Belarus and Ukraine, splits into northern branch (towards Poland & Germany) and southern branch (towards Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic).

Source: TH

DIRECT ACTION DAY

In News

- Vivek Agnihotri's upcoming film **The Bengal Files** based on the **Great Calcutta Killings of**

1946 (Direct Action Day) is facing significant challenges in West Bengal.

Direct Action Day

- **Background:** In March 1946, British PM Clement Attlee announced the plan to transfer power to Indians, but without a fixed date.
 - ♦ The Cabinet Mission proposed an interim government in May, which was rejected by both the Congress and the Muslim League.
 - ♦ The League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, insisted on Partition and the creation of Pakistan, warning of either a divided India or a destroyed India.
- **August 16, 1946** was designated by the Muslim League as "Direct Action Day" to mobilise Muslims through strikes and protests and to create Pakistan.
- The protests soon spiraled into widespread communal riots between Hindus and Muslims, especially in **Calcutta (now Kolkata, West Bengal), and resulted in thousands of deaths**.

Impacts

- The day is considered a pivotal moment leading up to the partition of India into two separate countries.
- Between 5,000 and 10,000 people are believed to have been murdered and some 15,000 wounded in the "Great Calcutta Killing", which witnessed perhaps the worst single episode of Hindu-Muslim violence that accompanied the partition of the subcontinent.

Source :IE

PONZI SCHEME

In News

- IIT graduate was arrested in Bengaluru for running a 65-crore **Ponzi scheme** through a fake firm.

Ponzi scheme

- It is a type of investment fraud where returns to earlier investors are paid using funds from new investors, rather than from legitimate profits.
- It is named after **Charles Ponzi**.
 - ♦ In the 1920s, Charles Ponzi promised 50% returns in a few months through investments in international mail coupons, but he actually used money from new investors to pay earlier ones.
- It promises high returns with little risk but uses new investors' money to pay earlier ones.
 - ♦ Lacking real profits, they collapse when new investments slow or many investors withdraw funds.

Source :IE

ROYAL BENGAL TIGER

Context

- Recently, the National Zoological Park, Delhi, witnessed the death of four out of six cubs born to tigress Aditi, a **wild-origin Royal Bengal tigress**.

Royal Bengal Tiger

- The Royal Bengal Tiger (***Panthera tigris tigris***), also known as the Indian Tiger, is a subspecies of tiger found in the Indian subcontinent.
 - It is the **national animal of India** and also the national animal of **Bangladesh**.
- Physical Characteristics:** They have a striking yellow to light orange coat with dark brown to black stripes. Each tiger has a **unique stripe pattern**, similar to human fingerprints.
 - They are **strong swimmers** and are known to cross rivers and lakes while hunting.
- Distribution:** They are primarily found in **India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar**. India is home to the largest population of Royal Bengal tigers.
- Reproduction:** The gestation period for Bengal tigers is around 3 months, and females typically give birth to a litter of 4-5 cubs.
- IUCN Status:** Endangered
- Conservation efforts:** India's **Project Tiger**, launched in **1973**, is a major conservation effort focused on protecting tiger habitats and increasing their population.



Source: IE

INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE

Context

- The government has extended privileges and immunities to the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** and its officials under the **United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947**.
 - The United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947**, enables specific privileges and immunities to be enjoyed by international organisations and their representatives in India.

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- The IBCA was established through the nodal organisation, viz. **National Tiger Conservation Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2023**.
- The IBCA became a legal entity after **five countries**—Nicaragua, Eswatini, India, Somalia, and Liberia—had signed the Framework Agreement to formally become members of the IBCA.
 - It is a coalition of **95 range countries**.
- The IBCA primarily **aims for the conservation of seven big cats**, namely **the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**.
- Objectives:**
 - Facilitation of collaboration and synergy amongst the concerned stakeholders,
 - consolidation of successful conservation practices;
 - and expertise to achieve conservation of big cats around the globe.
- The initiative seeks to **foster international collaboration** for the sustainable future of big cats, as well as underscores India's leadership and commitment to global wildlife conservation.

Source: DD