

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## CLOUSBURST TRIGGERS FLASH FLOODS IN DHARALI, UTTARAKHAND

### In News

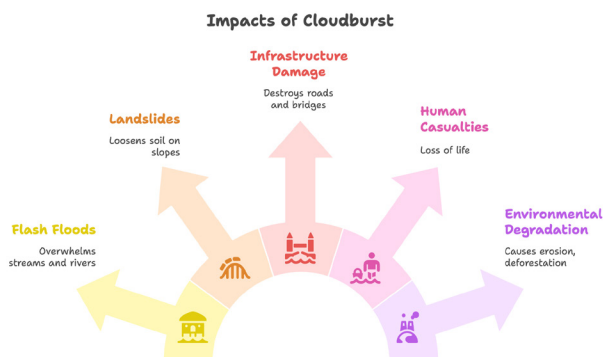
- A cloudburst over the **Kheer Ganga River (a tributary of Alaknanda River)** led to flash floods in the high altitude villages of Dharali in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district.

### What is Cloudburst?

- A cloudburst is a localized, extremely intense rainfall event where more than **100 mm of rain falls within an hour over a small area** (typically about 10 km<sup>2</sup>).
- Cloudbursts are particularly common in mountainous regions, such as the Himalayas, due to topographical and meteorological factors.

### Reasons for Cloudbursts

- Orographic Lifting:** Moist air is forced upwards by mountains, causing it to cool and condense rapidly, resulting in intense rainfall.
- Upward Air Currents:** Strong vertical currents can suspend raindrops at high altitudes; if these currents suddenly weaken, accumulated water falls in a short burst.
- Monsoon Dynamics:** In India, monsoon clouds traveling from the Bay of Bengal or Arabian Sea rise sharply upon hitting the Himalayas, creating optimal conditions for cloudbursts.
- Climate Change:** Rising global temperatures allow the atmosphere to hold more moisture, increasing both the frequency and intensity of cloudbursts in recent years.



### Way Ahead

- Strengthen Forecasting:** Invest in advanced weather radar, satellite, and ground sensor networks for hyperlocal early warning. Real-time data sharing and targeted alerts must reach vulnerable communities directly.

- Ecosystem Restoration:** Promote afforestation, watershed management, and stricter regulation of land use to restore the natural ability of slopes and valleys to absorb intense rainfall. Restrict unplanned construction in high-risk zones.
- Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure:** Upgrade existing infrastructure (roads, bridges, hydropower plants) with climate-resilient standards. Ensure drainage systems can handle sudden runoff, and build robust evacuation and emergency shelters.
- Research and Capacity Building:** Encourage ongoing research on climate change impacts, cloudburst prediction, and local vulnerability mapping.
- Community Awareness and Preparedness:** Expand training in disaster response and evacuation at the community level, including regular drills in schools and public places.

Source: TOI

## PRESIDENT OF PHILIPPINES STATE VISIT TO INDIA

### Context

- The **President of the Philippines** first time visited India since assuming office in 2022.

### About

- India and the Philippines** have decided to **boost their defence and maritime links**, begin direct flights and start negotiating a new trade deal as they upgrade their **ties to the level of a strategic partnership**.
  - Both sides also announced the commencement of talks for a **preferential trade agreement**.
- The Defence agreements** will cover "capacity building, joint maritime activities, exchange of training programmes between officials."
- India also invited the Philippines to participate in its Information **Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region**.

### Brief on India and the Philippines Relations

- Historical Background:** Established diplomatic relations in **1949**.
  - Rooted in shared colonial history, democratic values, and mutual interests across defence, trade, investment, and cultural exchange.
- 75th Anniversary of diplomatic ties celebrated in 2024–25.**

- **Look East and Act East Policy:** When India launched the Look East Policy and intensified partnership with ASEAN in **1992**, this also resulted in stronger relations with countries in the region including the Philippines.
- With the Act East Policy initiated in **2014**, the relationship with the Philippines has diversified further into political-security; trade and industry and people-to-people realms.
- **Defence and Security Cooperation:** Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed in **2006**.
  - ♦ **BrahMos Supersonic Missile Deal:** \$375 million contract signed in 2022, India delivered the first batch of BrahMos missile system in 2024, making **Philippines the first foreign nation** to acquire the missile weapon system.
  - ♦ **Maritime Security:** Joint patrols, capacity building, and hydrographic cooperation.
  - ♦ **Regular dialogues:** Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) and Service-to-Service Staff Talks.
- **Bilateral Trade:** Bilateral trade between the two countries had grown steadily to reach **US\$ 3.5 billion in 2023-24**.
  - ♦ To facilitate bilateral trade, both countries signed an Agreement on **Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Custom Matters ratified in 2023**.
  - ♦ Negotiations on the **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** were revived in 2023.
- **Indian Diaspora:** It is estimated to be more than 70,000 in the Philippines.
  - ♦ There has been a growing number of Indian professionals, estimated around 800, who are working in Indian and multinational corporations in the Philippines.
- **Multilateral and Regional Cooperation** Both countries are members of: ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), India-ASEAN Dialogue Mechanism and BIMSTEC (Observer status by Philippines).

### Significance of Philippines for India

- **Strategic and Security Interests:** The Philippines is a key player in Southeast Asia, a region of strategic importance to India.
  - ♦ The two countries share common interests in maintaining freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and countering regional security threats.



- **Economic Opportunities:** The Philippines is an emerging market with potential for trade and investment.
  - ♦ Both countries are exploring opportunities for cooperation in areas such as renewable energy, education, and tourism.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Both countries are members of regional forums such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the East Asia Summit.
  - ♦ Their collaboration in these forums is important for addressing regional challenges and promoting economic integration.

### Challenges in the Relations

- **Limited Economic Engagement:** Despite growth, bilateral trade remains modest considering the size of both economies.
  - ♦ Progress on the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) is slow, with negotiations still in early stages.
- **Maritime Security Gaps:** Although MoUs exist, real-time maritime collaboration and joint patrols are limited.
  - ♦ South China Sea tensions constrain deeper military cooperation, especially due to Philippines sensitivity to external involvement.
- **Regional Geopolitics and China Factor:** The Philippines' complex ties with China and its dependency on US defence support limit its willingness to openly align with India in strategic domains.

### Conclusion

- The geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly **concerns about maritime security and China's growing influence**, have led both nations to explore **deeper strategic and defense collaborations**.
- India's strength in technology and innovation, coupled with the Philippines' growing tech sector, presents opportunities for collaboration in areas such as IT, digital economy, and start-ups.



- Continued efforts in these areas could lead to a robust and multifaceted partnership.

Source: TH

## US 25% TARIFF LIKELY TO HIT SEAFOOD EXPORTS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

### Context

- U.S. President Donald Trump announced a **25% tariff on Indian products**; the **aquaculture sector in Andhra Pradesh** is likely to be severely affected.

### About

- Indian exporters are presently paying **10% tariffs and additional anti-dumping duty of 4.5% and countervailing duty of 5.8%**.
  - With the **US announcing the tariffs of 25%**, the exporters will face at least 15% additional duty over the existing tariff structure from August 7.
  - Ecuador**, India's closest competitor in sea food exports, **has to pay only 10% tariff to the US while Indonesia pays 19% duty and Vietnam 20%**.
- Approximately 6.5 lakh aquaculture farmers** cultivate shrimp, crab, fish, and other varieties in 5.7 lakh acres in Andhra Pradesh.

### Concerns

- Pressure on Coastal Economies:** Andhra Pradesh, a major seafood exporter, may see local economic distress, affecting production, employment, and logistics.
  - Decline in shrimp demand can disrupt cold chain infrastructure and allied services, further reducing efficiency in exports.
- Decline in Export Revenue:** The U.S. accounts for 34.53% of India's seafood export value.
  - Higher tariffs will make Indian seafood less competitive, leading to decline in volumes and prices.
- Possible Trade Diversion and Rebalancing:** Exporters may attempt to divert shipments to China, Japan, and Southeast Asia, but these markets have lower purchasing capacity or existing domestic suppliers.
  - Rebalancing to new markets will take time, during which export losses are expected.

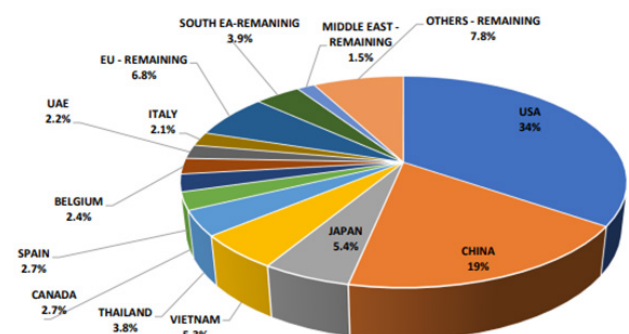
### India's Seafood Industry

- India is the **second largest fish producing country** with around **8% share in global fish production**.
- India mainly has **eight major fish-producing states**: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.
- India's **total seafood exports in 2024–25** reached \$7.38 billion, amounting to 1.78 million metric tonnes.
  - Frozen shrimp remained the top export, accounting for **66% of earnings with \$4.88 billion**.



- India exported marine products to **132 countries**, demonstrating its extensive reach in the global seafood market. **Top five destinations are:** USA, China, Japan, Vietnam and Thailand.

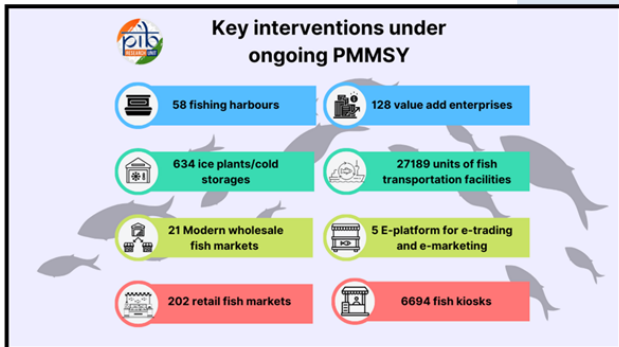
Major Market wise Exports 2023-24 (Value USD)



### Government Initiatives to Boost Seafood Exports:

- Infrastructure Development:** The **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)** offers assistance to upgrade processing facilities, establish quality testing laboratories, and participate in international trade fairs.
  - This helps enhance the quality and competitiveness of Indian seafood products in global markets.

- **Aquaculture Support:** This support includes the transfer of advanced technologies and best practices to increase production and productivity.
- **Duty Reduction:** The government in Budget 2024-25 has reduced import duties on essential ingredients used in seafood feed.
  - ♦ Key reductions include the complete removal of duties on fish lipid oil, algal prime, crude fish oil, and pre-dust breaded powder.
  - ♦ Additionally, import duties on krill meal, mineral and vitamin premixes, and prawn/shrimp and fish feed have been significantly lowered.
- **Export Incentives:** The government has enhanced the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme.
  - ♦ The refund rate for various seafood products has been increased from 2.5% to 3.1% of the export value.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** This flagship scheme aims to modernize the fisheries sector, including developing cold chain infrastructure, reducing post-harvest losses, and improving overall productivity.



### Conclusion

- The new U.S. tariff regime may negatively impact India's trade balance, especially in the short term.
- Unless mitigated by bilateral trade dialogue, export diversification, or tariff relief measures, India's seafood sector may suffer both economic and trade competitiveness losses.

Source: TH

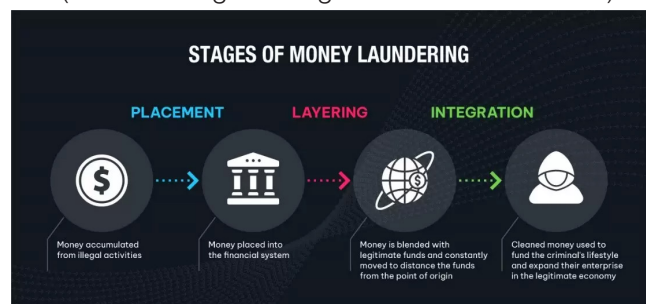
## MONEY LAUNDERING

### In News

- As per a report submitted in the Rajya Sabha, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken up 5,892 cases under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** since 2015 but **only 15 have resulted in convictions**.

### Money Laundering

- Money laundering is the process of making **illegally obtained money appear legitimate** by channeling it through complex financial transactions.
- Under **Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**, it involves concealing, possessing, acquiring, or using proceeds of crime and projecting them as untainted property.
- It occurs in **three stages: placement** (introducing illicit money into the system), **layering** (moving it through transactions), and **integration** (reintroducing it through assets or businesses).



### Consequences Money Laundering

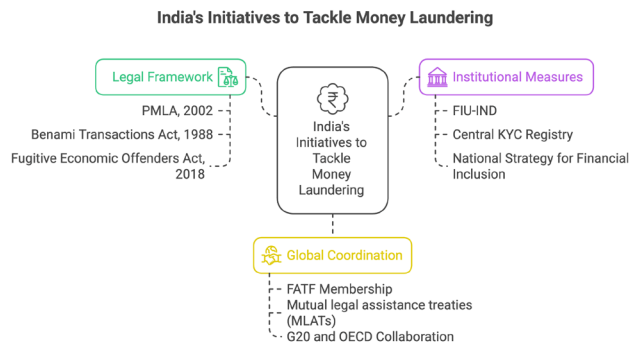
- Money laundering distorts asset prices, undermines fair competition, and **destabilizes financial systems**.
  - ♦ **For example:** Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank) crisis in 2019 had linkages to fund misreporting and money laundering.
- Illicit funds can influence elections, policy decisions, and **threaten democratic institutions**.
- Money laundering is closely linked to **terror financing and cross-border criminal networks**.

### Issues in Tackling Money Laundering in India

- **Regulatory Loopholes:** Shell companies, informal money channels (like hawala), and real estate still remain underregulated.
  - ♦ **Crypto transactions** are a rising blind spot and India lacks a clear legal framework as of 2025.
- **Enforcement Challenges:** Agencies like Enforcement Directorate (ED) and FIU-IND are often under-staffed and accused of selective action or political targeting (example: frequent ED raids before state elections).
- **Judicial Delays:** Convictions under PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) are dismal and highlight concerns about the effectiveness

of enforcement and the government's inability to control such financial crimes.

- **Cross-border Complexity:** Laundering networks are transnational and Indian agencies struggle with extradition, mutual legal assistance, and information-sharing.
- ♦ **Panama Papers (2016) and Pandora Papers (2021)** exposed several Indians with offshore assets.



### Role of Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 (PMLA)

- The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) is a criminal law aimed at preventing money laundering and confiscating related property.
- ♦ It is aligned with the UN Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action adopted by the UN General Assembly in February 1990.
- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is tasked with investigating, attaching properties, prosecuting offenders, and ensuring confiscation through Special Courts.
- A key aspect of the statute is that the **burden of proof lies with the accused**.

### Supreme Court's Observations

- The **Supreme Court in Vir Bhadra Singh versus ED (2017)** reaffirmed that the issuance of an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) is sufficient to initiate proceedings, **meaning that an FIR is not required to start action under the Act**.
- In **Vijay Madanlal Chaudhury vs Union of India (2022)**, the Supreme Court ruled that while a scheduled offence is required for prosecution under **Section 3 of the PMLA**, property can be attached under Section 5 without a pre-registered case.

### Conclusion and Way Forward

- Money laundering is a socio-political and security threat, not just a financial crime. Despite India's

progress in laws and enforcement, its evolving nature—especially through digital and global channels—requires ongoing vigilance, reforms, and international cooperation.

- Although India has signed DTAA with around 85 countries to aid information sharing and curb financial crimes, more effective action is still needed.
- To prevent abuse and improve conviction rates, authorities must follow FATF guidelines and handle cases with integrity.
- Use AI/ML algorithms in banking to flag suspicious transaction patterns.
- Ensure independence of ED and FIU while strengthening parliamentary oversight to prevent misuse.

### Do you know?

- The term “laundromat” originated from its use by **U.S. crime syndicates to conceal illegal activities**.
- It refers to a financial setup, often by banks or financial firms, that can be misused to launder criminal proceeds, hide asset ownership, embezzle funds, evade taxes, or move money offshore.

Source :TH

## RBI HOLDS REPO RATE AND LOWERS INFLATION FORECAST

### Context

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) in its **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting decided to keep the **repo rate unchanged at 5.50%**.

### What is the Repo Rate?

- The repo rate is the **rate at which the RBI lends short-term money** to commercial banks. **It is the key policy tool** used by the RBI to control liquidity, inflation, and economic growth.
- **A lower repo rate** means banks can borrow from the RBI at cheaper rates. This encourages banks to lower lending rates, leading to:
  - ♦ Easier access to credit for consumers and businesses
  - ♦ Boost in investment, consumption, and economic activity
  - ♦ Increased liquidity and money supply
  - ♦ This can stimulate growth, especially during economic slowdowns

### What is the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

- The MPC is a **statutory body** established under the **RBI Act, 1934** (amended in 2016).
- It is responsible for **fixing the benchmark interest rate** (repo rate) to maintain price stability while keeping growth in mind.
- **It consists of 6 members:**
  - ♦ 3 from the RBI (including the Governor as Chairperson),
  - ♦ 3 external members appointed by the Government.
- Decisions are made by majority, and each member has one vote. In case of a tie, the **RBI Governor has the casting vote.**

### Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework (FITF)

- India adopted a Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework (FITF) in **2016**. Under this, the government, in consultation with the RBI, **sets an inflation target every five years.**
- Under this framework, the Government sets the inflation **target every five years** in consultation with the RBI. The current mandate, effective until **March 31, 2026**, specifies a CPI inflation target of **4%**, with a tolerance band of **±2%**, i.e. between 2% and 6%

### Reasons Behind the Policy Decisions

- **Sharp Decline in Inflation:** CPI inflation fell to **2.1%** in June 2025, a six-year low.
  - ♦ Food prices, especially vegetables and cereals, have shown deflationary trends. This led to the downward revision of FY26 inflation forecast to 3.1%.
- **Global Uncertainties:** Rising trade tensions like US tariffs and volatile oil prices create external risks.
- **RBI had already cut the repo rate by 100 basis points** earlier in 2025. The committee wants to observe the full impact of these cuts on the economy.

### Impact on the Indian Economy

- **Impact on Inflation and Prices:** The RBI's revised inflation forecast shows that price levels in the economy are expected to remain stable. This is good for consumers, as the **purchasing power of money increases** when inflation is low.
  - ♦ It also helps the government and RBI **maintain macroeconomic stability**, which is essential for long-term growth.

- **Impact on Borrowers and Loans:** Since the repo rate remains unchanged, banks are unlikely to change interest rates.
  - ♦ This means that loan EMIs will stay stable, which is a relief for existing and new borrowers.
- **Impact on Economic Growth:** By keeping the repo rate steady and supporting low inflation, the RBI is encouraging **balanced and sustainable growth.**
  - ♦ Combined with the government's capital expenditure and infrastructure push, this policy setup will **strengthen demand, support job creation, and boost investment.**
- **Preparedness for External Risks:** While the economic outlook is positive, the RBI is being careful due to global uncertainties like **oil price volatility, trade tensions, and US tariffs.**
  - ♦ The **neutral stance** gives RBI flexibility – it **can cut rates further if growth slows or raise them if inflation rises unexpectedly.**

### Way Ahead

- **Monitoring Inflation Trends:** The RBI must remain vigilant of food and fuel price movements, which are often volatile and can quickly reverse the current softening trend. Unseasonal rains, geopolitical tensions, or supply disruptions can reignite inflationary pressures.
- **Structural Reforms and Financial Stability:** Alongside monetary tools, India needs to continue structural reforms in agriculture, labour markets, logistics, and financial sectors to ensure long-term inflation control and inclusive growth.

Source: [BS](#)

## ROLE OF SMALL RUMINANTS IN ECONOMY AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

### Context

- India has made significant strides in the dairy sector, but the potential of small ruminants (goats, sheep) and poultry remains underutilised.

### Dairy Sector of India

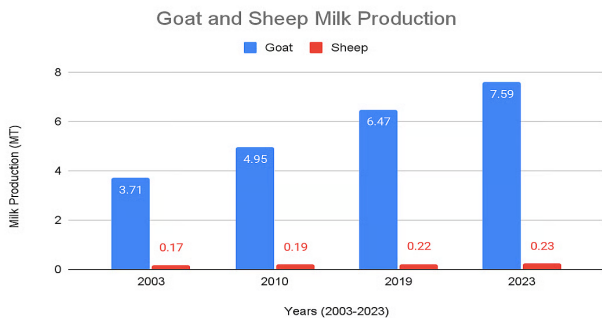
- **Global Leadership:** India is the **world's largest milk producer**, contributing **24.76%** of global milk output.
- **Production Growth:** Milk production rose from 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 to **239.30 million tonnes** in 2023-24.



- **Economic Contribution:** Dairy is India's single largest agricultural commodity, contributing **5% to GDP** and employing over 8 crore farmers.
- **Growth Performance:** Livestock sector grew at a CAGR of 7.9% (2014-15 to 2020-21), outpacing the agriculture sector.

#### Growth Trends of Small Ruminants and Poultry

- **Goat Population:** India has 148 million goats, accounting for 16% of the global goat population – the highest globally.
- **Sheep Population:** India **ranks third** in the world with 74.26 million sheep, comprising 4.03% of global population.
- **Poultry:** The population stands at 851.81 million, marking a 16.8% increase from the last census.



#### Role of Small Ruminants and Poultry

- **Livelihood Support for Marginal Farmers:** Goats, often termed the “**poor man’s cow**”, are vital for landless and marginal farmers, especially women, owing to their low input costs and easy maintenance.

#### CONTRASTS: LIVESTOCK VS. SMALL RUMINANTS

Aspect	Livestock (Eschewed toward Dairy)	Small Ruminants - Goats and Sheep
Organization	Highly organized, strong cooperatives, robust FPOs	Mostly unorganized, fragmented value chains (barring a few in poultry)
Production Growth	World's largest, 5.6 per cent CAGR, 239.3 MT (2023-24)	Goats/sheep: 10–14 per cent pop. growth, lower output
Economic Impact	5.7 per cent of GDP, ₹ 18,975 billion (2024)	lower GDP share - 57 per cent, but crucial for marginal farmers
Infrastructure	Advanced processing, cold chains, quality assurance	Limited processing, cold storage, market access
Employment	8 crore+ farmers, women's empowerment	Key for landless, women, but less formal support
Nutrition	459g/day per capita, above global average	Important for protein, but lower per capita availability
Government Support	Strong, sustained, large-scale schemes	Recent focus, but lower investment, slower scaling

- **Economic Buffer During Distress:** These animals act as financial safety nets during droughts and crop failures, ensuring income continuity for vulnerable rural households.

- **Suitability to Harsh Climates:** Small ruminants and poultry are well-adapted to **arid, semi-arid, and rain-fed regions**, making them ideal for areas where crop cultivation and dairy farming are not viable.
- **Economic Contribution:** Small ruminants contribute **₹31,449 crore** annually to the Indian economy through milk, meat, and export, highlighting their growing economic relevance.

#### Key Interventions Needed for Scale

- **Scientific feeding and nutrition:** Balanced diets, silage and hay bailing units and mineral supplementation increase weight gain, reproductive performance, and milk yield.
- **Breed selection and housing:** Indigenous breeds adapted to local conditions and better housing reduce disease and mortality.
- **Health and disease management:** Regular vaccination, deworming, ectoparasite control, and ethno-veterinary practices lower mortality and improve herd health.
- **Value chain integration:** Supporting direct market access and value-added products boosts profitability.
- **Community-based models:** Cooperatives and women-centric models foster knowledge sharing, collective bargaining, and access to finance and technology.
- **Sustainable practices:** Silvopastoral systems, agroforestry systems, alternate eco-friendly feed (crop residues, shrubs, legumes) and climate-resilient models enhance productivity and sustainability.

#### Way Ahead

- To unlock the full potential of small ruminants, India needs robust policy and extension support, simplified subsidy access, investment in infrastructure, and climate-resilient, sustainable practices.
- Forming a specialised agency—modelled on the NDDB—for goat and sheep could help replicate dairy's cooperative success, transforming these sectors into organised, high-impact value chains.

Source: [DTE](#)



## NEWS IN SHORT

### PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA (PMJDY)

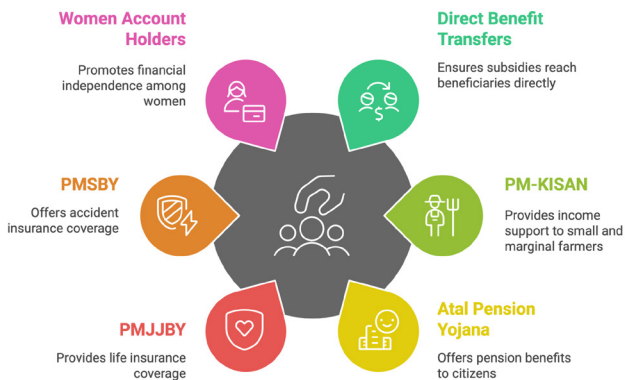
#### Context

- The PM highlighted the effectiveness of **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** in transforming financial services for India's poorest over the past 11 years.

#### About PMJDY

- Launched on **August 28, 2014**, the PMJDY has become one of the world's largest **financial inclusion initiatives**.
- The scheme was aimed at **providing every household with a bank account** and bringing marginalized and rural communities into the formal banking system.
- As of March 2024**, more than **52.6 crore accounts** have been opened under the scheme, with a total balance of **₹2.63 lakh crore**.
- The scheme offers several benefits including **zero-balance accounts, RuPay debit cards, accidental and life insurance, and overdraft facilities**.

#### PMJDY's Role in Financial Inclusion



Source: [DD News](#)

### NATIONAL MEANS-CUM-MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

#### Context

- An awareness session on the **National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)** was recently conducted in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

#### About the Scheme

- Launched in 2008 by the **Ministry of Education**, the NMMSS is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** aimed at encouraging meritorious students from

economically weaker sections to continue their education from **Class IX to Class XII**.

#### Eligibility & Benefits:

- The scheme awards fresh scholarships in Class IX, with renewals in Classes X, XI, and XII based on promotion and securing **at least 60% marks**.
- It is exclusively for students of **government and government-aided schools**, excluding Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, and other residential institutions.
- The **annual scholarship amount is ₹12,000**, disbursed via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** to Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts of students or their parents.
- The **parental income** must not exceed **₹3.5 lakh per annum** from all sources.

Source: [DD News](#)

### AYUSH MINISTRY AND FSSAI RELEASES LIST OF 'AYURVEDA AAHARA' FOOD PREPARATIONS

#### In News

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Ayush, has introduced a comprehensive list of Ayurvedic food preparations called "**Ayurveda Aahara**".

#### Do you know?

- Ayurveda is India's ancient medical science dating back over 5,000 years.
- It is considered an upveda of the Atharva Veda and is mentioned in the Rigveda.
- The term combines "Ayu" (life) and "Veda" (science), meaning it is the science of life, focusing on promoting health and curing diseases.
- Ayurveda emphasizes the connection between mind, body, and nature, aiming to preserve wellness and treat illness.

#### "Ayurveda Aahara"

- It was launched under the **Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022**.
- It integrates traditional Ayurvedic dietary wisdom into modern regulations, ensuring authenticity based on classical texts and providing clarity for food businesses and consumers.

- The list promotes natural, seasonal, and therapeutic ingredients to support health and wellness.



### Importance

- Ayurveda Aahara reflects India's rich food culture, rooted in one of the world's oldest holistic health systems. These products emphasize natural ingredients, seasonal suitability, and therapeutic herbs to foster balance and wellness.

Source : PIB

## INDIA- JAPAN TEXTILE TRADE AND INVESTMENT COLLABORATION

### Context

- India is inviting Japanese textile giants to invest in its flagship PM-MITRA Parks, offering incentives through PLI and leveraging the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

### India-Japan Textile Trade

- India's total textile and apparel **export to Japan in 2024 is \$354 Million** and Japan's total textile and apparel **import from world is \$ 30,873 Million**.
- India has signed India-Japan **CEPA in 2011** to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, simplify procedures and address structural issues to make Indian Exporters more competitive in partner markets.

### Government Initiatives to Promote Textile Sector

- PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme:** Its objective is to develop 7 mega integrated textile parks across India in **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh**.
  - It aims to create a **modern, integrated, world class plug and play** textile infrastructure.
  - Foreign direct investment (FDI):** Japanese investment aligns well with India's goals under the "Make in India for the World" and "China-plus-one" manufacturing strategies.

- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:** The Scheme for Textiles was approved to promote production of **Man-Made Fibre (MMF) Apparel, MMF Fabrics** and **products of Technical Textiles** in the country to enable the textile sector to achieve size and scale and to become competitive.

Source: [PIB](#)

## DISTRICT FLOOD SEVERITY INDEX

### Context

- Researchers from IIT Delhi and IIT Gandhinagar have developed a **District Flood Severity Index (DFSI)** to comprehensively assess the severity of floods across Indian districts.

### District Flood Severity Index (DFSI)

- DFSI is a data-driven tool designed to assess and categorize flood severity at the district level, India's primary administrative unit for planning and disaster management.
- The index is used to identify districts most at risk and guide resource allocation for mitigation and response.
- Key Parameters Considered:**
  - Mean duration (in days)** of all flooding events in a district.
  - Percentage of district area** historically affected by floods.
  - Total deaths** and number of people injured due to floods.
  - Population size** of the district.
- Data Used:** Sourced mainly from the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, which has been collecting flood-related data since **1967**.
  - Custom 40-year spatial datasets developed at IIT Delhi.

### Key Insights from the DFSI

- Thiruvananthapuram District:** Recorded highest number of flood events.
  - However, it is absent from the **top 30** most severely affected districts, indicating lower severity per DFSI criteria.
- Top Districts in Flood Severity: Patna** ranks **one** on DFSI.
  - Districts in Assam** (Dhemaji, Kamrup, Nagaon) and along the Indo-Gangetic Plain dominate the top rankings.

Source: [TH](#)

## NECROPOLITICS

### In News

- Necropolitics is highlighting how states expose marginalised groups to violence and neglect, normalising their suffering.

### Concept of necropolitics

- It explores how political power determines whose lives are protected and whose deaths are normalized or even orchestrated.
- It was coined by **Cameroonian scholar Achille Mbembe**.
- It was built on **Michel Foucault's idea of biopolitics** — which manages life through institutions and public health.
- It focuses on the governance of death, exposing how certain populations, such as refugees, the poor, racialized groups, and queer communities, are systematically abandoned or targeted.

### Features

- Necropolitics functions through key mechanisms that devalue certain lives:
  - State terror suppresses dissent via surveillance, violence, or imprisonment.
  - Collaboration with militias or criminal groups blurs lines between state and non-state violence.
  - Enmity becomes central to governance, legitimizing killing.
  - War and terror turn into self-sustaining economies.
  - Targeted exploitation displaces vulnerable communities.
  - Death is inflicted through torture, starvation, drone strikes, and more.
    - These actions are justified through ideologies like nationalism, religion, or utilitarianism.

### Instances

- Achille Mbembe** highlights how colonial legacies, state terror, and neoliberal regimes create “death worlds,” where people live in conditions so degraded they become the “living dead.”
  - Examples range from Kashmir's normalized violence and COVID-19 migrant crisis to Gaza's devastation and sterilisation drives against marginalised women.
- Necropolitics thrives not only in war zones but in everyday bureaucratic violence, revealing

a system where death is not accidental but administratively managed.

Source :TH

## AMAZON RAINFOREST

### Context

- Over 25% of the Amazon rainforest has already been degraded due to deforestation, fires, and mining, putting immense pressure on its biodiversity and ecological stability.

### About

- The Amazon rainforest, often called the **lungs of the Earth**, is home to about **10%** of all known plant and animal species — and countless others that haven't even been discovered yet.
- The Amazon spans **8 countries and one overseas territory: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, and French Guiana** (a French overseas territory).
- It stores around **250–300 billion tonnes of carbon**, equivalent to **15–20 years of global greenhouse gas emissions**, and generates rainfall that supports some of the world's largest cities and most vital agricultural regions.
- It is home to over **47 million people**, including **2.2 million Indigenous and traditional communities**, whose cultures and livelihoods are deeply tied to the forest.



Source: DTE