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WORLD'S FIRST AI 'MINISTER' DIELLA

Context

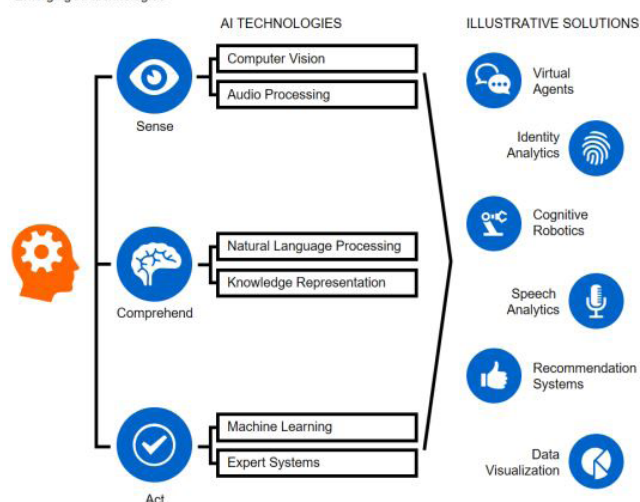
- **Albania** has become the **first nation** to appoint an **AI-generated "minister"** tasked with tackling **corruption**.

About

- **Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama** announced the **digital minister to his cabinet**.
- The digital assistant is named '**Diella**' meaning '**Sun**' and has been given responsibility of **taking all decisions related to the public tenders, making them 100% corruption-free**.
 - ♦ The AI minister will also have the right to assess tenders and hire talents from across the world.
- **Origins as a virtual assistant:** Diella was initially introduced in January as an AI-powered digital assistant, designed to resemble a woman dressed in traditional Albanian attire.
 - ♦ It was meant to help citizens navigate the official e-Albania platform, which offers access to documents and services.
- **Corruption challenges in Albania:** Public tenders in Albania have historically been at the centre of corruption scandals.
 - ♦ The country has become a hub for international criminal networks laundering profits from drug and arms trafficking, with corruption reportedly reaching into senior levels of government.

What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

Emerging AI technologies



- It refers to the **hypothetical intelligence of a machine** that possesses the ability to understand or learn any intellectual task that a human being can.

- ♦ It is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that **aims to mimic the cognitive abilities of the human brain**.

- Artificial intelligence allows machines to model, or even improve upon, the **capabilities of the human mind**.

How AI Can be Used in Public Service?

- **Governance and Administration:** AI chatbots and NLP(Natural Language Processing) tools can be used for quick response to citizen complaints.
 - ♦ AI-based anomaly detection in tax filings, subsidies, and public procurement.
- **Healthcare:** AI models for early disease detection (e.g., TB, cancer screening).
 - ♦ **Telemedicine:** AI-powered virtual assistants for rural healthcare access.
- **Education:** AI-driven adaptive platforms tailoring lessons to student needs.
 - ♦ **Automated Assessments:** Reducing teacher workload and providing quick feedback.
- **Agriculture:**
 - ♦ **Precision Farming:** AI-driven advisories on soil health, weather, and pest control.
 - ♦ **Market Forecasting:** Price prediction models for farmers.
 - ♦ **Supply Chain Optimization:** Minimizing post-harvest losses using AI logistics solutions.
- **Law and Order:** AI-based crime pattern analysis and hotspot mapping.
 - ♦ **Facial Recognition & Surveillance:** Identifying suspects in public safety operations.
 - ♦ **Judiciary:** AI-assisted case management, reducing pendency by automating routine documentation.
- **Urban Governance:** AI for traffic management, waste disposal, and energy efficiency.
 - ♦ **Disaster Management:** Early warning systems using AI in flood, cyclone, or earthquake prediction.
- **Welfare Schemes & Social Sector:** AI to identify genuine beneficiaries, reduce leakages in PDS, MGNREGA, etc.
 - ♦ **Financial Inclusion:** AI in digital banking and micro-credit risk assessments.

Concerns

- **Bias & Discrimination:** AI trained on data may develop biases and can discriminate against certain groups.

- **Data Privacy:** India lacks a comprehensive framework for sensitive citizen data despite the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.
- **Accountability Gap:** If AI makes a wrong decision, it's unclear who is responsible — programmer, operator, or government.
- **Job Displacement:** Automation may replace lower-level administrative and clerical jobs.
- **Overdependence on Technology:** Risk of ignoring human judgment, empathy, and contextual understanding.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:** AI systems vulnerable to hacking, manipulation, or adversarial attacks.
- **Dependence on Foreign Tech Firms:** Risk of "digital colonization" if India relies too much on external AI companies.

Government Initiatives

- **IndiaAI Mission (2024):** It has a budget of 10,300 crore over five years.
 - ♦ A key goal is the creation of a high-end common computing facility with 18,693 GPUs.
- **India's AI Models & Language Technologies:** The government is facilitating the development of India's own foundational models, including Large Language Models (LLMs) and problem-specific AI solutions tailored to Indian needs.
 - ♦ **BharatGen:** The world's first government-funded multimodal LLM initiative, BharatGen was launched in 2024.
 - ♦ **Sarvam-1 AI Model:** A large language model optimised for Indian languages, Sarvam-1 has 2 billion parameters and supports ten major Indian languages.
 - ♦ **Hanooman's Everest 1.0:** A multilingual AI system developed by SML, Everest 1.0 supports 35 Indian languages, with plans to expand to 90.
- **AI Centers of Excellence:** Establishing dedicated AI hubs and innovation centers across the country to support AI startups and research.
- **India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** Combines public funding with private sector innovation to drive digital transformation.
 - ♦ Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker serve as the foundation of India's DPI.
 - ♦ Intelligent solutions are being integrated into financial and governance platforms to enhance DPI.

- **e-Courts Project:** Initiated by the Supreme Court of India to modernize judicial functions through digital innovation.

- ♦ **Phase III:** Integrates advanced AI solutions to improve case management and administrative efficiency in courts.

Conclusion

- India's rapid AI advancements are driven by strong government initiatives, positioning it as a global AI powerhouse.
- A dedicated task force can be appointed to study and recommend the use of AI in public service and justice administration.
- A balanced approach must be taken to ensure AI tools respect privacy, civil liberties, and ethical standards, while preventing misuse.

Source: AIR

INDIA VOTES IN FAVOUR OF PALESTINE'S STATEHOOD AT UN

Context

- India has voted in **favour of a resolution** in the **UN General Assembly** that endorses the '**New York Declaration**' on the **peaceful settlement of the Palestine issue** and implementation of the **two-state solution**.

About

- The resolution was introduced by **France** and was adopted with an overwhelming **142 nations voting in favour**, 10 against and 12 abstentions.
 - ♦ Those voting against included **Argentina, Hungary, Israel and the United States**.
- In the declaration, the leaders agreed to take **collective action to end the war in Gaza**, to achieve a just, peaceful and **lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict**.
 - ♦ The resolution is based on the effective implementation of the **two-state solution**, and to build a better future for Palestinians, Israelis and all peoples of the region.
 - ♦ It called on the Israeli leadership to issue a **clear public commitment** to the two-state solution, including a sovereign, and viable Palestinian State.

India's Stand on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

- India was the first non-Arab country to recognize the **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1974**.

- **In 1988**, India was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Palestine.
 - ♦ India consistently voted in favour of Palestinian resolutions at the UN.
- **Support for Palestinian Statehood:**
 - ♦ India supports a **two-state solution** – peaceful coexistence of Israel and Palestine within secure and recognized borders.
 - ♦ Advocates East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine (based on UN resolutions).
 - ♦ Strongly supports Palestine's membership in international organizations (e.g., UNESCO, UNGA observer state status in 2012).
- **High Level Visits:** Prime Minister Modi paid a historic visit to Palestine in 2018, the first for an Indian Prime Minister.
 - ♦ Prior to that, former President Pranab Mukherjee visited Palestine in 2015, marking the first visit by an Indian President to Palestine.
- **Development Assistance:** India has provided various forms of developmental cooperation assistance to Palestine over the years amounting to approximately US\$ 141 million.
 - ♦ India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Fund has also funded four projects in Palestine worth US\$ 5 mn.
- **At the UN, India stresses:**
 - ♦ Rejection of violence and terrorism from both sides.
 - ♦ Need for humanitarian aid to Gaza.
 - ♦ Support for diplomatic and peaceful settlement.
- **India's position reflects a delicate balance:** Even when India's relationship with Israel flourished in the past three decades, it has maintained a **careful balance between its new partnership and historical commitment towards Palestine.**
 - ♦ India has a strategic partnership with Israel in **defence, agriculture, and innovation.**
 - ♦ India frames its stance as "**principled support for Palestine, pragmatic partnership with Israel.**"

Conclusion

- India supports Palestine's right to statehood and a two-state solution, while simultaneously strengthening strategic relations with Israel.

- Its position is shaped by realism, balancing West Asian interests, and commitment to international law.

Source: AIR

REVISITING RTI IN THE AGE OF DATA PROTECTION

Context

- The amendment to the RTI Act through the Digital Personal Data Protection law has sparked concerns over **dilution of transparency and citizens' fundamental right to information.**

About Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005

- **Aim:** It was designed to promote transparency in the functioning of the government by giving citizens the right to access information from public authorities.
- **Scope:** The Act applies to public authorities, which include government departments, ministries, and organizations that are substantially funded by the government.
- **Information Accessible to the Public:** Citizens have the right to request information from public authorities. This includes the right to access records, documents, and other information.
- **Exclusions:** Information that may compromise national security, breach confidentiality, or harm the integrity of ongoing investigations.
- **Timeframe for Response:** Public authorities are required to respond to information requests within 30 days. In certain cases, this period can be extended to 45 days.
- **Penalties:** The Act provides for penalties against officials who withhold information without reasonable cause or provide false information.

Amendment Details

- **Original Provision:** Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act excluded disclosure of personal information except where the disclosure served a larger public interest. This safeguard allowed access to personal data when it was essential for social accountability and transparency, e.g., verifying government schemes or curbing corruption.
- **Amendment by DPDP Act, 2023:** The amendment removes the public interest override, imposing a blanket prohibition on disclosure of personal information under RTI. Now, personal information cannot be disclosed merely on the basis of larger public interest if it risks privacy.

Government's Position

- The Union government justifies this amendment on grounds of balancing fundamental rights: the **right to privacy (Article 21)** affirmed by the Supreme Court (**Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India, 2017**) and the right to **information (Article 19(1)(a))**.
- They argue that the RTI Act's Section 8(2) allows disclosure if public interest outweighs harm to protected interests, maintaining a balance and avoiding conflicts between laws.
- The government claims the amendment removes a redundant, ambiguous provision while preserving transparency and privacy harmoniously.

Criticism and Concerns

- **Transparency & Accountability Impact:** Critics argue the amendment severely restricts access to vital information necessary for social audits, anti-corruption efforts, and verifying public welfare schemes.
- **Discretion to Authorities:** The broad definition of personal data under DPDP Act leads to discretionary refusals of RTI requests, potentially undermining democratic oversight.
- **Conflict with RTI's Purpose:** The original RTI framework balanced privacy and transparency, allowing disclosure in public interest. The amendment is seen as tipping this balance towards excessive secrecy, limiting citizens' fundamental right to scrutinize government actions.

Judicial and Committee Precedents

- **Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union of India (2017):** Declared **privacy a fundamental right** under the Constitution.
 - ♦ It also laid down the test of **reasonable restrictions** (legality, legitimate aim, proportionality).
 - ♦ It emphasized that **privacy is not absolute** but **must be balanced with other rights**, including the public's right to information.
- **Supreme Court of India vs Subhash Chandra Agarwal (2019):** The Supreme Court considered RTI requests seeking judges' assets, appointment correspondence, etc.
 - ♦ It held that the **office of the Supreme Court**, including Chief Justice and judges, is a **"public authority"** under RTI.

- ♦ The Court also found that asset declarations of judges are **"information"** under RTI and must be disclosed, as withholding them under Section **8(1)(j)** would not override larger public interest in accountability.
- **Group of Experts on Privacy (2012), chaired by Justice A. P. Shah** was constituted under the Planning Commission.
 - ♦ The report recommended that any legislation on privacy should **not dilute or circumscribe the RTI Act**. It emphasised that transparency and privacy must be complementary.

Recommendations

- Define **"personal information"** or **"personal data"** narrowly in relation to RTI context; ensure that information pertaining to public servants' functions, assets, etc., are not automatically exempt.
- **Institutional & Procedural Measures:**
 - ♦ Training of Public Information Officers (PIOs) to ensure good understanding of privacy vs. transparency balance.
 - ♦ Strengthen Information Commissions' capacity to adjudicate contested claims.

Concluding remarks

- The RTI Act was designed to transfer power from public servants to citizens by recognising their right to information as a pillar of democracy.
- Judicial dilution and the DPDP amendment risk turning it into a "Right to Deny Information."
- Protecting the original spirit of RTI requires active defence by citizens, media, and policymakers, to ensure that transparency remains central to India's democratic governance.

Source: TH

SUSHILA KARKI SWORN IN AS NEPAL'S FIRST WOMAN

In News

- Nepal President Ram Chandra Poudel appointed former **Chief Justice Sushila Karki as the country's first woman Prime Minister**.

Background

- Nepal President dissolved Parliament announcing fresh elections for March 5, 2026.
- This decision followed intense **Gen Z-led protests that ousted Prime Minister K.P.**

Sharma Oli, triggered by corruption, misrule, and a controversial social media ban.

- Chief Justice Sushila Karki's appointment, backed by protesters, came after extended consultations involving legal experts, political leaders, and the Army.

Chief Justice Sushila Karki

- She is widely respected for her integrity and anti-corruption stance and now leads an interim Cabinet tasked with **restoring order, investigating recent violence, and preparing for elections.**
- India welcomed the new government, expressing hope for peace and continued partnership.

Brief overview of India-Nepal Relations

- Nepal shares a border with **5 Indian states of Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.**
- The age-old civilizational and cultural ties that exist between India and Nepal are exemplified by the strong people to people link between both the countries.
 - Nepal is a priority partner of India under its **'Neighbourhood First' Policy.**

Defence & Security Cooperation:

- India and Nepal have long standing and extensive mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of defence and security.
- Both nation's armies share excellent and harmonious relationships based on mutual trust and respect.
 - India and Nepal also have the long-standing tradition of awarding the Honorary rank of **General to each others' Army Chief.**
 - The strong relations between both the armies have been further cemented via the Gorkha Regiment.
- Nepal is strategically important as it is located between India and China.

Developmental partnership

- India's development partnership with Nepal includes extensive human resource cooperation, offering over 1,500 scholarships annually for studies in diverse fields such as medicine, engineering, agriculture, and traditional arts.
- Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program** encompasses training, consultancy, study tours, and feasibility studies of Nepali professionals.

Economic and Commercial cooperation

- India is Nepal's largest trade and investment partner, accounting for 33.5% of Nepal's total FDI (USD 670 million) and 64.1% of its overall trade (USD 8.85 billion in FY 2022–23).
- Nepal ranks as India's 17th largest export destination, with Indian exports totaling USD 8.015 billion and Nepalese exports to India at USD 839.62 million.
- India receives 67.9% of Nepal's exports, mainly edible oil, coffee, tea, and jute, while Nepal imports petroleum products, iron and steel, cereals, vehicles, and machinery from India.
 - Around 150 Indian ventures operate in Nepal across manufacturing, services, energy, and tourism sectors.
- India imports surplus electricity from Nepal.

People-to-People Ties

- Over 8 million Nepali diaspora in India (workers, students, professionals).
- Religious linkages: Pashupatinath Temple (Nepal), Janakpur (Sita's birthplace), and Bodhi Gaya (India).

Source : TH

CBSE EASES APAAR ID RULE FOR BOARD STUDENTS

Context

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has provided partial relaxations to schools regarding the submission of APAAR IDs linked to the List of Candidates (LOC) data for Classes 10 and 12.

What is APAAR?

- The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR)** is an initiative under the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and aligned with the **National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCrF).**
- Its goal is to assign every student in India a unique, permanent **12-digit ID** which acts as their lifelong academic identity.
- Purpose and Key Features:**
 - To consolidate all academic achievements** (grades, marksheets, certificates, co-curricular achievements, etc.) in a single digital record linked to the student.

- ♦ **To enable seamless credit transfers**, mobility between institutions, recognition of prior learning, and flexibility in education.

Challenges Reported by Schools

- Since the rollout of APAAR last year, schools have faced several hurdles in generating IDs for students:
 - ♦ **Technical glitches and difficulty** in integration between portals.
 - ♦ **Mismatches** between school records and Aadhaar details.
 - ♦ **Time delays** in updating or correcting Aadhaar-linked information.
 - ♦ **Lack of parental consent** due to privacy concerns.

Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)

- **The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)**, envisaged under **NEP 2020**, is a digital repository of students' academic records.
- **Modeled on the National Academic Depository (NAD)**, it enables students to store, transfer, and redeem credits earned across recognized institutions.
- **Integrated with the APAAR ID**, it facilitates seamless academic mobility, allowing students to move between institutions for higher studies without repeatedly submitting physical certificates.

Source: IE

Bengali, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, and Marathi.

Gyan Bharatam Mission

- National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) is aimed to **preserve, document, and disseminate India's rich manuscript heritage**.
- The Mission has been restructured with the nomenclature '**Gyan Bharatam Mission**' as a **Central Sector Scheme** for the **period 2024-31**.
- **The key objectives of the Mission** include Survey and Documentation, conservation and preservation, publication and research etc.

Source: AIR

DRAFT NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (NIC) 2025

In Context

- Draft National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2025 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for public consultation.

About

- The classification introduces new categories for renewable energy, fintech, digital commerce, AYUSH healthcare, and platform-based services, reflecting the digital and green transformations in the economy.
- This is the first revision in 17 years and captures the vast changes in India's economy and technology landscape.
- It will standardize how industries and activities are categorized which would be vital for government, researchers, and business.

Source: PIB

RBI'S CPI INFLATION FRAMEWORK

In News

- Recently, former MPC members supported retaining **India's current Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) regime**, with a **4% CPI inflation target** within a 2-6% band, citing its role in stabilising inflation expectations and economic growth.

Consumer Price Index

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in retail prices of a fixed basket of goods and services, reflecting the cost of living and consumer purchasing power.

NEWS IN SHORT

"GYAN BHARATAM" PORTAL

Context

- Prime Minister Modi launched the **Gyan Bharatam portal** at the International Conference on **Gyan Bharatam**.

About

- The International Conference on Gyan Bharatam is being held under the theme "**Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage**".
- **Bharatam Portal** is a dedicated digital platform to accelerate manuscript digitisation, preservation, and public access, and address the gathering on the occasion.
- **India's manuscripts exist in nearly 80 languages**, including Sanskrit, Prakrit, Assamese,

- In India, the CPI is compiled by the National Statistical Office using 2012 as the base year.
- It tracks inflation by comparing current prices to past prices, with rising CPI indicating inflation.
- Initially used to adjust workers' wages, CPI now guides monetary policy, inflation targeting by the RBI, and measures real economic growth.
- India also publishes specific CPI indices for industrial workers, agricultural labourers, and rural labourers.

Source :IE

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ANNUAL LICENSING POLICY FOR CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPY

In News

- The annual licensing policy for opium cultivation is announced under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Rules, 1985**.

About

- India is the world's only country legally producing opium gum for medicinal and scientific purposes under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.
- Cultivation is strictly regulated by the **Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**.
- **States permitted:** Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (specific notified tracts).
- **Conditions:**
 - ♦ Farmers must obtain a license each year.
 - ♦ Required to achieve Minimum Qualifying Yield (MQY) of morphine content in latex.
 - ♦ Entire produce must be tendered to CBN; government fixes procurement price
- Opium and derived alkaloids (morphine, codeine, thebaine) are critical for palliative care, pain management, and essential narcotic drugs.

Source: DTE

CICADAS

In News

- Kerala's Silent Valley National Park, a biodiversity hotspot in the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**, has recently reported the return of cicadas.

About Cicadas

- It is a conspicuous group of insects, mainly found in warm and temperate biomes across the world.
- They are known for their unique sound production (tymbals), often used to attract mates.
- They act as bioindicators, reflecting the health of ecosystems.
- Cicadas had reportedly declined due to deforestation, climate stress, and human interference.

Source: DTE

COAL GASIFICATION

In News

- The Government has set up a committee to review mining plan guidelines and add provisions for **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)**.

Coal gasification

- Coal gasification is a process that transforms coal into synthesis gas (syngas), a blend of hydrogen (H), carbon monoxide (CO), and carbon dioxide (CO).
- This syngas can be used for generating electricity and manufacturing chemical products like fertilizers.

- ♦ **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)** provides environmental and operational advantages by accessing deep, unmineable coal seams with minimal surface impact, using less water, and producing cleaner fuels like methanol, dimethyl ether, and synthetic natural gas.

Benefits of Coal Gasification

- It can utilize India's abundant coal resources, lowering reliance on imported energy, chemicals, and feedstock.
- It can promote self-reliance through large-scale coal-to-chemical plants, boosting regional economies, especially in interior states.
- It can enable cleaner use of coal by allowing cost-effective capture and reuse of CO and other pollutants for industrial purposes.

Source: PIB

EXERCISE SIYOM PRAHAR

Context

- The Indian Army successfully concluded **Exercise Siyom Prahar** in Arunachal Pradesh,

validating **drone technology's role in modern warfare.**

About the Exercise

- The central focus of the exercise was the development and validation of new **Tactics, Techniques and Procedures** for future battlefields. These included methods of fusing **drone-derived intelligence** with conventional firepower, refining joint targeting processes and ensuring rapid decision-making in dynamic combat environments.
- The outcomes of the exercise are expected to provide lessons for operational integration, employment concepts and force multiplication.

Source: TH

INS ARAVALI COMMISSIONED IN GURUGRAM

In News

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Aravali at the commissioning ceremony in Gurugram in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

INS Aravali

- It was named after the **Aravali Range** and would serve as a **hub of technology** and collaboration, linking platforms and partners across oceans.
- Its motto is "**Maritime Security through Collaboration**," and it aims to strengthen the Navy's operational readiness and maritime security.
- It will enhance information and communication capabilities.

Importance

- It embodies the Prime Minister's vision of **MAHASAGAR — Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**.
- It strengthens India's role as the **Preferred Security Partner in the Indian Ocean Region**.

Do you know?

- The Aravallis, is one the oldest folded mountains on Earth.
- It spans over 800km from Gujarat to Delhi (through Rajasthan and Haryana). The highest peak in the Aravalli Range is Guru Peak on Mount Abu.
- The Aravallis have an impact upon the climate of northwest India and beyond.

Source :TH

F404-IN20 ENGINE

Context

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has ordered **99 F404-IN20 engines** from the US firm **GE Aerospace for the LCA Mk-1A fighter aircraft**.
 - India signed a **contract in 2021** with GE for F404-IN20 engines for HAL to use in the Tejas Mk1A.

About F404-IN20

- The F404-IN20 is a variant of the GE (General Electric) F404 family of afterburning turbofan engines. It is tailored for India's LCA Tejas Mk1/ Mk1A fighter jets.
 - It is the highest thrust version in the F404 line.
- Key Specifications:**
 - The F404-IN20 produces a **maximum thrust of about 84 kN** with afterburner.
 - The engine operates at a **pressure ratio of around 28:1**, enabling efficient compression and power output.
 - It is equipped with **Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC)** for precise management of performance and fuel efficiency.
 - The design incorporates a **higher-flow fan, advanced hot-section materials, and single-crystal turbine blades**, which improve durability and reliability.

Source: HT

DISASTER RISK INDEX (DRI)

Context

- Himachal Pradesh CM urged reframing of the **Disaster Risk Index (DRI)**, arguing the Himalayan region faces unique hazards not captured adequately.

Disaster Risk Index (DRI)

- The Disaster Risk Index (DRI) generally refers to a **measure combining hazard exposure, vulnerability, and capacity/resilience of geographic units**.
- In India, the DRI is used to **identify which states/ UTs are most vulnerable** to disasters — **not just based on natural hazards** but also:
 - how many people are exposed,
 - how much population/agriculture/ economy might be affected, infrastructure preparedness, etc.

- Prepared by the **15th Finance Commission (2017–2025)**.
- **14 hazard types considered:** Earthquake, Cyclone, Flood, Drought, Landslide, Tsunami, Avalanche, Heat Wave, Cold Wave, Coastal Erosion, Forest Fire, Fire, Industrial Hazards, Lightning.
- The indices are worked out at the district (census district) level (640 districts, per Census 2011) and then aggregated to State/UT level.

Source: [TM](#)

