

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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WHO GLOBAL REPORT ON TRENDS IN PREVALENCE OF TOBACCO USE

In News

- The **WHO Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Use 2000–2024 and projections 2025–2030** presents estimates of tobacco use prevalence among the population aged 15 years and older from 2000–2024, with trends projected to 2030.

Key Highlights

- Global Trends:**
 - Decline in Use:** Global adult tobacco use dropped from 26.2% (2010) to 19.5% (2024).
 - Still Prevalent:** Despite progress, 1 in 5 adults globally still consumes tobacco.
 - E-Cigarettes Rise:** Over 100 million people worldwide now use e-cigarettes, posing new regulatory and health challenges.
- India's Progress & Status:**
 - Tobacco Users (2024):** Around 243.48 million Indians aged 15+ use tobacco.
 - Global Standing:** India is the 2nd largest producer (after China) and 2nd largest exporter (after Brazil).
 - Progress:** On track for a 43% reduction in prevalence (2010–2025), exceeding the WHO NCD target of 30%.

India's Measures To Curb Tobacco Consumption

- Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003:** Prohibits smoking in public places, bans tobacco advertising, restricts sales to minors, regulates packaging and labeling.
- Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2019:** Banned production, import, sale, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes and similar devices.
- National Tobacco Control Programme (launched in 2007-08):** Aims to create awareness about harmful effects, aligned with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).
- Tobacco-Free Film Rules (2024):** Enforced new standards for tobacco depiction in films and TV.
- Yellow Line Campaign:** Introduced visible indicators (yellow lines) around schools to reinforce bans on tobacco sales within 100 yards.
- Taxation and Price Interventions:** Incremental increases in excise and GST duties, though experts recommend further hikes to maximize impact.

About Tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*)

- It is an **annual herbaceous plant** native to tropical and subtropical regions of South America and widely cultivated worldwide.
- It requires a **frost-free period of 90–120 days**, with optimal temperatures of 20°C–30°C and at least 500 mm of rainfall; prefers well-drained sandy loam or alluvial soils.
- Every part of the plant (except the seed) **contains nicotine (2–8% nicotine)**, concentrated mostly in the leaves (about 64% of total plant nicotine content).

Source: TH

FISHERIES SECTOR TO GET SUSTAINABILITY LABEL

Context

- About **10 Indian marine and saline fish and shrimp varieties** are set to get the **global Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification soon**. The first batch is set to be submitted for the **certification in 2026**.

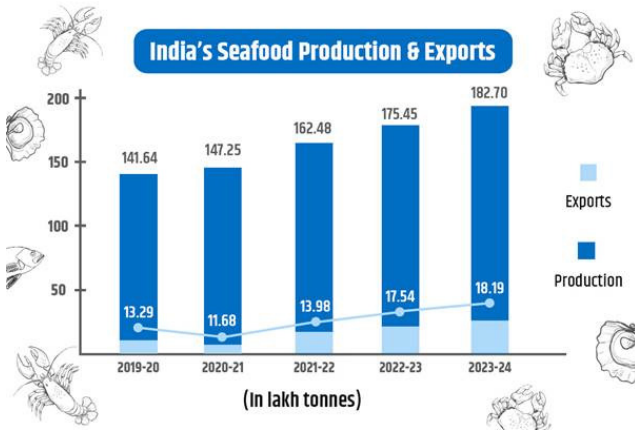
About

- The **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)** is an **international non-profit organisation** that sets globally recognised, science-based standards for sustainable fishing and seafood traceability.
- It is a **market-driven label certification**, known as an **eco-label** which is **voluntary** and ensures sustainability in the sector.
- 20% of global fisheries** are MSC certified at present.
- Ashtamudi clam** was the first variety to get MSC certification, it's going to be re- certified now.
- Significance:**
 - The certification is likely to **increase the revenue of the fisheries sector by 30%** and help fishermen and traders find new markets other than the U.S. in the event of further trade restrictions.
 - The certification will also help fishing communities **begin ecologically sustainable fishing practices** and ensure steady incomes.

India's Seafood Industry

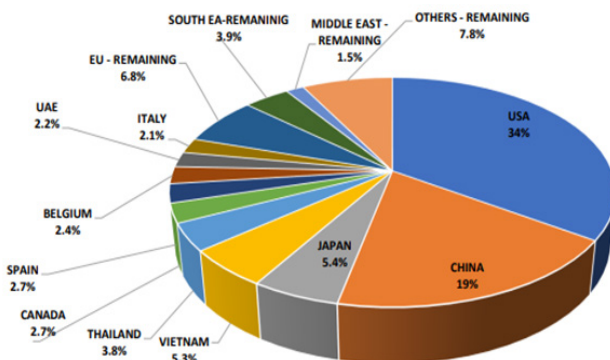
- India is the **second largest fish producing country** with around **8% share in global fish production**.
- India mainly has eight major fish-producing states:** Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

- **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)

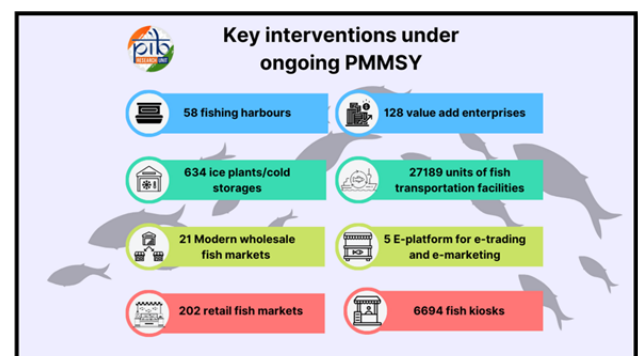


Challenges and existing Issues

- **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.
- **Overfishing:** Excessive catch limits and unsustainable practices are threatening marine biodiversity and long-term productivity.
- **Climate Change and Pollution:** Rising ocean temperatures, acidification, and coastal pollution are disrupting breeding cycles and lowering catch volumes.
- **Infrastructure and Export Hurdles:** Inadequate cold chain infrastructure, poor handling practices, and stringent international quality standards hamper seafood exports.

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.



Source: TH

REFORMING PASSIVE EUTHANASIA IN INDIA

Context

- Despite the legal validity of passive euthanasia, its implementation remains mired in **procedural complexity, institutional gaps, and ethical ambiguity**.

About Euthanasia in India

- Euthanasia — often termed ‘mercy killing’ — refers to the intentional ending of a person’s life to relieve suffering, usually from terminal illness or irreversible conditions.
- **Passive Euthanasia:** Involves withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment (e.g., ventilators, feeding tubes) when recovery is medically impossible. It is legal under specific safeguards.
- **Active Euthanasia:** Involves administering a lethal substance to end life. It remains **illegal under Section 103, 105 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, and physician-assisted suicide is punishable under **Section 108 of the BNS**.

India’s Legal Milestones

- **Aruna Shanbaug Case (2011):** It permitted **passive euthanasia under strict guidelines**, distinguishing it from active euthanasia and emphasized that withdrawing life support in cases of irreversible coma was **not equivalent to killing**.
- **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018):** The **Supreme Court** recognized the ‘**Right to Die with Dignity**’ as a fundamental right under **Article 21** of the Constitution.
 - ♦ It legalized **living wills**, allowing individuals to express their medical preferences in advance should they fall into an irreversible vegetative state.

Medical and Institutional Perspectives

- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** issued **ethical guidelines** emphasizing the role of palliative care and patient autonomy.
 - ♦ It underscored that while medical technology can prolong life, it cannot guarantee dignity.
 - ♦ It advocated for institutional ethics committees to ensure compassionate end-of-life care decisions.

Government Guidelines

- Constitution of Primary and Secondary Medical Boards with experienced physicians;
- Verification of advance directives, ideally linked to Aadhaar for biometric validation;
- Ethical oversight by hospital committees;
- A 48-hour window for decision-making to avoid prolonged suffering.

Ethical and Cultural Dimensions

- **Hinduism** emphasizes *ahimsa* (non-violence) but also accepts prayopavesa—a **form of fasting**

unto death under spiritual discipline.

- **Jainism** permits Sallekhana, a voluntary death through fasting, under specific religious conditions.
- **Islam and Christianity** generally oppose euthanasia, seeing life as sacred and only terminable by divine will.
- **Family-centric Decision-making:** In many cases, families play a central role in end-of-life choices, complicating the implementation of individual autonomy.
- **Healthcare Disparities:** Limited access to palliative care and uneven medical infrastructure make ethical euthanasia difficult to administer uniformly.

Comparative Perspective

- Countries like the Netherlands, Belgium, and Canada permit euthanasia under regulated conditions, balancing individual autonomy and medical ethics.
- **UK Model:** In June 2025, the **UK’s House of Commons** passed the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill**, permitting **physician-assisted dying** for mentally competent adults expected to live fewer than six months, with stringent medical certification and oversight.
 - ♦ It reflects a growing global trend toward granting individuals greater autonomy over end-of-life decisions.

Why the UK Model Doesn’t Fit India?

- The UK’s approach depends on **robust institutional support** — a strong **National Health Service**, **universal access to general practitioners**, and **trustworthy regulatory mechanisms**.
 - ♦ In contrast, India’s healthcare system is **fragmented and under-resourced**.
- Social realities further complicate matters: **deep family involvement**, **religious sensitivities**, and **economic dependency** could turn active euthanasia into an instrument of subtle coercion.
- The elderly, disabled, or financially burdened might feel pressured to choose death to relieve their families.

Refining the Passive Euthanasia Framework

- **Digital Advance Directives:** Create a **national digital portal** linked to Aadhaar for registering, updating, or revoking advance directives.
 - ♦ Physicians should verify **mental competence and intent** through the same platform.

- **Hospital-Based Ethics Committees:** Establish committees comprising senior doctors, a palliative care specialist, and an independent member.
 - ♦ Authorise withdrawal of life support within **48 hours**, with exceptional cases referred for higher review.
- **Decentralised Oversight:** Replace ineffective ombudsman systems with **transparent hospital networks** monitored via **digital dashboards**.
 - ♦ Empower **independent medical auditors** or **health commissioners** with statutory authority.
- **Safeguards Against Misuse:** Retain a **seven-day cooling-off period**, **mandatory counselling**, and **palliative care review** to ensure fully informed and voluntary decisions.
- **Building a Culture of Dignified Dying:** **Public trust and awareness** are essential, to make euthanasia laws meaningful. The way forward includes:
 - ♦ Integrating **end-of-life care ethics** into **medical education**.
 - ♦ Launching **public campaigns** to normalise advance care planning.
 - ♦ Ensuring **accessible palliative care** across the country.
- It consists of organs, cells, and molecules that work together to recognize and eliminate harmful substances.
- **Major Components of the Immune System:**
 - ♦ **Organs:** Bone marrow, thymus, spleen, lymph nodes, tonsils.
 - ♦ **Cells:** White blood cells (leukocytes) — lymphocytes, macrophages, neutrophils, etc.
 - ♦ **Molecules:** Antibodies, cytokines, complement proteins.
- These have a role in **identifying and eliminating foreign bodies** that may bring with it disease.
 - ♦ However the immune system also identifies cells that have gone rogue — such as in cancerous tumours — or that have mutated in a way that they harm the bodies they constitute.
 - ♦ **Telling apart benign cells from harmful invaders is the key challenge the immune system must negotiate.**

What are B and T-Cells?

- **B-cells and T-cells** are a specific type of white blood cell called **lymphocytes**.
- They **help the immune system** to fight germs and protect from disease.
- **Types of T cells:**
 - ♦ **Cytotoxic T-cells:** They kill cells infected with viruses and bacteria, and they also destroy tumor cells.
 - ♦ **Helper T-cells:** They send signals that direct other immune cells to fight infection.
 - ♦ **Regulatory T-cells (Tregs):** These cells suppress excessive immune responses to prevent autoimmune reactions and maintain immune tolerance.
 - They play a crucial role in preventing the immune system from attacking the body's own cells and tissues.
- T-cells start in **bone marrow**, mature in **thymus** and eventually relocate to **lymph tissue or bloodstream**.
- **B-cells** make antibodies in response to antigens (antibody generators).
 - ♦ **There are two main types of B-cells:** plasma cells and memory cells. Both types help to protect from infection and disease.

Conclusion

- India's **constitutional promise of dignity** needs to encompass both living and dying and it can uphold its **moral and legal integrity** while easing the suffering of those at life's end, by reforming passive euthanasia through **digitally driven, transparent, and compassionate mechanisms**.

Source: TH

NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE 2025

Context

- The Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology was announced for **three scientists**, for their discoveries on **peripheral immune tolerance**.
- The three scientists Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi **shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine**.

Human Immune System

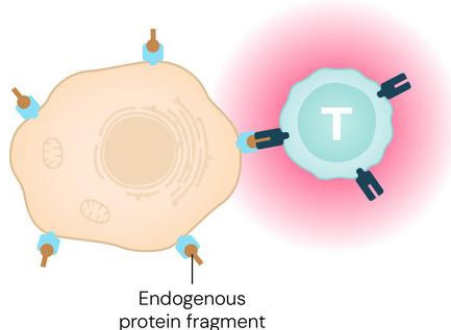
- The **immune system** protects the body from pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites.

Discovery

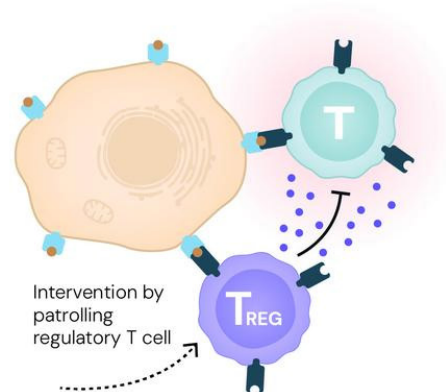
- The laureates identified the **immune system's security guards, regulatory T cells**, which prevent immune cells from attacking our own body.

How regulatory T cells protect us

1 A T cell that has slipped through the test in the thymus reacts to a fragment from one of the body's proteins.



2 Regulatory T cells discover that the attack is a mistake and calm it down. This prevents autoimmune diseases.



© The Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine. III. Mattias Karlén

- Their discoveries have been decisive for our understanding of **how the immune system functions and why we do not all develop serious autoimmune diseases.**

Significance

- The laureates' discoveries launched the **field of peripheral tolerance**, spurring the development of medical treatments for cancer and autoimmune diseases.
- Once the function of these new T-cells were known, researchers realised that **some tumours can attract a large number of these regulatory T cells**, thereby protecting it from the other T cells.
- The discovery of Regulatory T-cells **revolutionized immunology** by revealing that the immune system is not only attack-oriented but **also self-regulating.**
- It has major implications for **treating autoimmunity, cancer, transplantation, and chronic inflammation.**

About Nobel Prize

- **Since 1901**, the Nobel Prize has been awarded in the fields of **physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace**, while a memorial prize in economic sciences was added in **1968**.
 - ♦ In 1895 **Alfred Nobel** gave the largest share of his fortune to a series of the Nobel Prizes.
- From Stockholm, the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** confers the prizes for **physics, chemistry, and economics**, the **Karolinska Institute** confers the prize for **physiology or medicine**, and the **Swedish Academy** confers the prize for **literature**.

- **The Norwegian Nobel Committee** based in Oslo confers the **prize for peace**.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo (Norway), while all **other prizes are awarded in Stockholm (Sweden).**
- The **Nobel Foundation** is the **legal owner and functional administrator** of the funds and serves as the joint administrative body of the prize-awarding institutions.
 - ♦ It is **not concerned with the prize deliberations or decisions**, which rest exclusively with the four institutions.
- **Process of Selection:**
 - ♦ Nominations are invited from qualified individuals (scientists, professors, former laureates, etc.).
 - ♦ Selection Committees review and recommend the winners.
 - ♦ The final decision is made by the respective Nobel institutions.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

MUD VOLCANO

Context

- The Geological Survey of India will send a team to the **Baratang Island (Andaman)** to investigate the **recent eruption of India's only active mud volcano.**

- ♦ The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are in the **subduction zone** due to frequent movement of tectonic plates, which causes tremors most of the time.

Mud Volcanoes

- Mud volcanoes are geological formations where **mud, gases, and water are expelled** from beneath the Earth's surface — not molten lava, unlike true volcanoes.
- **Mud volcanoes are not real volcanoes** and are **not as hazardous as real volcanoes** since they can only emit warm mud and only very locally.
- **Formation:**
 - ♦ It is usually found in regions with **subsurface hydrocarbon deposits**.
 - ♦ When gas pressure builds up below the surface (often due to tectonic compression), it forces mud and fluids upward through faults or fractures.
 - ♦ Over time, this builds a cone-shaped mound — the “mud volcano.”
- Though not explosive like lava volcanoes, **they can cause localized damage due to sudden eruptions or gas emissions**.

Source: TH

UNESCO

In News

- UNESCO's executive board voted to appoint Khaled el-Enany, Egypt's former antiquities and tourism minister, as the organisation's next director-general.

About UNESCO

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) was established in 1945, with its constitution coming into force in 1946.
- It aims to promote peace and security through international cooperation in education, science, culture, and communication.
- **Headquartered in Paris, France**, UNESCO has 194 member states and 12 associate members as of July 2025.
 - ♦ In July 2025, the U.S. announced it would withdraw from UNESCO by December 2026.
- India has been a **founding member since 1948**, hosting two UNESCO offices.
- **Key Publications of UNESCO** are Global Education Monitoring Report, United Nations World Water Development Report, UNESCO Science Report: Towards 2030, and Global Ocean Science Report.

Source: TH

DAMAGES FOR ALIENATION OF AFFECTION (AOA)

Context

- Recently, the Delhi High Court (HC), in Shelly Mahajan versus MS Bhanushree Bahl & Anr, has **opened the door for spouses to seek damages, in the civil sphere, from third parties**.

About

- The High Court issued summons in a wife's suit seeking **damages for Alienation of Affection (AoA)**, against her husband's alleged affair partner.
- **AoA** is a term from common law referring to a “heart-balm” tort, which allows a **spouse to sue a third party**, usually the lover, for **wilfully interfering in the marriage** and causing ‘**loss of affection and companionship**’.
- **Notably, the Indian legal framework neither codifies nor prohibits AoA.**
 - ♦ In **Pinakin Mahipatray Rawal versus State of Gujarat (2013)**, the Supreme Court held that “**alienation of affection by a stranger, if proved, is an intentional tort.**”
 - ♦ In **Indra Sarma versus V.K.V. Sarma**, the top court further noted that AoA could even **give children a cause of action against a third party** for alienating their father.
- The doctrine has **never been used to award damages in India**.

Major Takeaway from the Ruling:

- The HC clarified that **while Joseph Shine decriminalised adultery (2018)**, it **did not** grant a licence for ‘**extramarital relationships**’ **free of civil or legal implications**.
- The ruling clarified that **while adultery is decriminalised**, it **still carries civil consequences in India**.
 - ♦ These include **loss of consortium claims, compensation suits like the AoA case, and the personal remedy of divorce**.

Source: TH

MY BHARAT-NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS) AWARDS

Context

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the **MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards** for the year 2022–23 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

About

- Instituted by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** in 1993-94, the MY Bharat-NSS

Awards are conferred annually to acknowledge outstanding voluntary community service.

- For 2022–23, a total of **50 awards** were presented – 10 NSS Units, 10 Programme Officers, and 30 NSS Volunteers – for their exemplary service and leadership.
- Each winning NSS Unit received 2 lakh and a trophy, Programme Officers received 1.5 lakh, a certificate, and a silver medal, while Volunteers were honoured with 1 lakh, a certificate, and a silver medal.

National Service Scheme (NSS)

- NSS, launched in **1969** during the **birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi**, is one of the flagship youth programmes of the Government of India.
- It aims to foster the personality and character development of students through voluntary community service, inspired by the Gandhian ideals of selfless service.
- **The motto of NSS** – “Not Me, But You” (स्वयं से पहले आप) – reflects its core philosophy of prioritising community welfare above individual interest.
- Currently, the NSS has nearly **40 lakh active volunteers** across the country. The volunteers engage in diverse activities addressing issues of social relevance such as literacy and education, health and family welfare, environmental conservation, women’s empowerment, disaster relief, Swachhata (cleanliness) drives, and programmes supporting economic and rural development.

Source: DD News

PM-SETU YOJANA

Context

- The Prime Minister launched the **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs- PM – SETU**.

About

- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** to transform 1,000 Government ITIs across India into modern, industry-aligned training institutions.
- **PM-SETU** will follow a hub-and-spoke model, with **200 hub ITIs linked to 800 spoke ITIs**.
- **The scheme will:**
 - ♦ Introduce new, demand-driven courses and revamp existing ones in collaboration with industry;

- ♦ Set up Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) with credible Anchor Industry Partners to manage clusters and ensure outcome-based training;
- ♦ Create pathways for long-term diplomas, short-term courses, and executive programs;
- ♦ Strengthen 5 National Skill Training Institutes in - Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Chennai (Tamilnadu), Hyderabad (Telangana), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), as Centres of Excellence with global partnerships.
- Under the first phase of PM-SETU, **15 hub-and-spoke ITI clusters have been identified** across the country.
- ♦ Each cluster will serve as a centre of excellence in skills, equipped with advanced infrastructure, modern trades, and industry-led training, creating model ecosystems that can be replicated nationwide.

Source: AIR

ALL JAL JEEVAN MISSION PIPELINES TO BE MAPPED ON PM GATI SHAKTI PORTAL

In News

- The Union government is planning to map all drinking water assets, including pipelines under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**, on the **GIS-based PM Gati Shakti platform**.

Background

- Government of India had launched Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a **centrally sponsored scheme in August 2019**, aiming at providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024.
- The Central Government is considering the continuation of the **Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028** with an enhanced total outlay, following announcement in the Union Budget 2025-26 to extend the Mission.
- The proposal focuses on improving infrastructure quality, ensuring effective operation and maintenance of rural piped water supply schemes, and promoting citizen-centric water service delivery, with guidelines for further funding under active review.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP)

- It was launched in 2021 for providing **multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones**.
- It is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by 7 engines, namely:

Source :IE

SECURITIES TRANSACTION TAX

In News

- The Supreme Court of India decided to examine a plea challenging the constitutional validity of the **Securities Transaction Tax (STT)**.

Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

- It is a **direct tax** levied on securities transactions through a listed stock exchange, as imposed under the **Finance Act, 2004**.
- It aims to **combat tax evasion in the stock market**.
- It is charged on the transaction value of securities traded on the Indian stock exchange.
 - It includes - derivatives, shares, and equity-oriented mutual funds.
- It is applied on the buying and selling of securities irrespective of the profit or loss made in the transaction.

Criticism

- The STT is argued to violate fundamental rights to equality, trade, and dignity by imposing double taxation—stock traders pay capital gains tax on profits and also have to pay STT on the same transactions, leading to an unfair additional tax burden.
- Unlike other taxes in India that apply only on profits, STT is charged even when traders incur losses.
- STT is similar to TDS for salaried individuals, but unlike TDS, it is not refundable or adjustable, forcing traders to pay both STT and income tax.

Source :TH

VLGC SHIVALIK

Context

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) received **India's third Very Large Gas Carrier (VLGC)**, Shivalik, under the Indian flag, marking a significant milestone in the country's maritime resurgence and energy security.

About

- Shivalik*, built in **South Korea** and named after the **Himalayan range**, is an **82,000 cubic metre (CBM)** state-of-the-art **LPG carrier** equipped with advanced safety, temperature control, and operational systems.
- The vessel joins the **Shipping Corporation of India Limited's (SCI)** two existing VLGCs — Sahyadri and Anandamayi.
- The arrival of *Shivalik* symbolizes India's march toward **maritime self-reliance** and aligns with the government's vision to make India one of the **top five maritime nations by 2047** under the **Maritime India Vision** framework.

Source: PIB

WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

In News

- India won a record 22 medals, including six gold, nine silver and seven bronze in World Para Athletics Championships 2025.

About World Para Athletics Championships

- It is the premier global championship for para-athletics (track & field for athletes with impairments) outside of the Paralympic Games.
- Prior to 2017, it was called the **IPC Athletics World Championships**. Since 2011, the championships are held biennially (every two years) to provide high-level competition in non-Paralympic years.
- The **first edition was in Berlin, Germany, 1994**.
- Athletes compete in different classes depending on their impairment type and severity (e.g. visual impairment, limb deficiency, cerebral palsy, wheelchair classes).
- In the 2025 Championships, the mascot is **named Viraaj** — a figure embodying strength, resilience, and spirit of para-athletes.

Source: AIR