NEXT IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 10-11-2025

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INDIA WITHDRAWS FROM AYNI AIRBASE

In News

- India has shut down its operations at the Ayni airbase in Tajikistan, a key overseas facility that had provided its strategic influence in Central Asia.

Ayni Airbase

- The airbase, originally built during the Soviet era, was in poor condition following the split of the Soviet Union.
  - India invested around $80 million since 2002 to upgrade it with a 3,200-metre runway, hangars, fuel depots, and air traffic control, largely executed by the Border Roads Organisation
- It is situated in **Tajikistan around 20 km from Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor,** which shares a boundary with the **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and with China's Xinjiang province.**

Importance

- Ayni was India's only full-fledged overseas base, and its location offered India a military foothold in central Asia and leverage over Pakistan.
  - It also facilitated evacuation operations after the Taliban's return in 2021.
- It served as a strategic Indian military outpost and initially used during India's support to the Northern Alliance against the Taliban.
  - At its peak, around 200 Indian personnel and Sukhoi-30 MKI jets were stationed there.
- Its presence projected influence in the region dominated by major powers like Russia and China.

Reasons Behind Recent Withdrawal

- India withdrew from the Ayni airbase in Tajikistan in 2022 after its bilateral agreement for rehabilitation and development of the facility concluded.
- The Tajik government reportedly declined to renew the lease due to pressure from Russia and China.
- The withdrawal was carried out quietly and only came to light recently.
- Its loss is seen as a setback for India's long-term strategic influence and regional security posture, especially given the significant investments made over two decades.

Do you know?

- India currently does **not operate any functional overseas military base.** However, in 2024, it inaugurated a **strategic airstrip and jetty on Agaléga Islands in Mauritius**, enhancing its maritime reach in the western Indian Ocean and surveillance capability off Africa's east coast.
- India also maintains a military training team in Bhutan for the Royal Bhutan Army and Bodyguard.
- India operated temporarily from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka during the 1971 war and IPKF mission.
- In contrast, China has an official base in Djibouti and is reportedly building one in Tajikistan, while the U.S. maintains over 100 overseas bases globally, including major installations in South Korea, Qatar, Germany, and Japan.

Source :IE

FUNCTIONAL FOODS

In News

- Society's approach to food is changing, with the next major shift focusing on **functional foods and smart proteins** that promote better health and sustainability.

Functional Foods

- They are **enriched foods** that promote health or prevent disease, such as vitamin-enriched rice or omega-3-fortified milk.
- They leverage several technologies such as **nutrigenomics** (the study of how nutrition interacts with genes), **bio-fortification, 3D food printing, and bioprocessing.**

Smart proteins

- It refers to proteins sourced using **biotechnology that aim to reduce reliance on conventional production.**
- These include **plant-based protein**s (restructured extracts from legumes, cereals, or oilseeds to mimic animal meat and dairy); **fermentation-derived proteins** (produced by microbial systems); and **cultivated meat** (animal cells grown in bioreactors without slaughter).

Need In India

- India faces a deeply uneven nutritional landscape, with **over one-third of children stunted and persistent urban-rural disparities in protein intake**. As incomes rise, the focus must shift from food security to nutritional security, emphasizing diets rich in proteins, vitamins, and antioxidants.
- Achieving this requires **balancing nutrition goals with environmental sustainability** by building a resilient, climate-conscious food system.
- Innovations like functional foods and smart proteins offer scalable solutions by enhancing the nutritional value of everyday diets without exacerbating ecological pressures.

Status In India

- India is making steady progress in functional foods and smart proteins under its BioE3 policy, with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and BIRAC.
- Key developments include bio-fortified crops like zinc-rich rice (IIRR, Hyderabad) and iron-rich pearl millet (ICRISAT), alongside private sector investments from Tata, ITC, and Marico in fortified staples.
- The smart protein sector is expanding, with over 70 brands offering 377 plant-based meat, egg, and dairy products as of 2023. Startups like GoodDot and Evo Foods are leading innovation, while Zydus LifeSciences entered fermentation-based proteins in 2024.
- The DBT has also funded cultivated meat research at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology.
    - However, regulatory clarity from FSSAI and infrastructure for large-scale fermentation and quality testing remain key challenges.

Global Scenario

- Japan pioneered the concept and regulation of functional foods in the 1980s. Smart proteins are a newer innovation, with Singapore becoming the first country to approve cultivated chicken for commercial sale in 2020.
- China has integrated alternative proteins into its food security and innovation agenda, while the European Union is promoting sustainable protein production through its “Farm to Fork” strategy.

Way Ahead

- To advance nutritional security, India must harness the **potential of functional foods and smart proteins**, which can also unlock significant economic and environmental benefits.
- With the global plant-based food market projected to reach up to $240 billion by 2030, **India could emerge as a key supplier**, generating jobs across agriculture, manufacturing, and logistics. Environmentally, bio-based proteins offer a path to lower emissions and resource stress.

Conclusion

- However there are challenges including regulatory gaps, risks of mislabelled products, limited infrastructure, and public scepticism toward lab-grown foods.
- To address these, India needs a clear national regulatory framework under FSSAI, coordinated policy support, and robust public-private partnerships to scale biomanufacturing and localise technologies like precision fermentation. Public awareness and farmer inclusion in new value chains will be critical to ensuring equitable and sustainable growth.

Source :TH

NINE YEARS AFTER DEMONETISATION

Context

- **Currency with the public** has **more than doubled** since the **demonetisation in 2016** was announced by the government.

Demonetisation

- The Prime Minister announced demonetisation on **November 8, 2016.**
- It declared that **all existing Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes** which together accounted for about **86% of the currency** in circulation would cease to be legal tender.
- Demonetisation in 2016 was apparently intended **to eliminate black money, curb counterfeit currency, promote digital payments and formalise the economy.**

Currency with Public

- Currency with the public is arrived at after **deducting cash with banks from total currency in circulation (CIC).**

- **CIC refers to** currency notes and coins issued by the central bank within a country that is physically used to conduct transactions between **consumers and businesses.**

- **Nine years after demonetisation the public currency remains high**, although the government and the RBI have pushed for a **less cash society.**
- However, the **size of the economy also expanded** with a **6% plus growth** every year, bringing the **currency in circulation to GDP ratio below the pre-demonetisation level.**

Does Rise in Currency Show the Real Picture?

- The rise in currency in circulation in absolute numbers **is not the reflection of reality** as **GDP growth has remained strong** and even touched 7.8% in the first quarter of FY2026.
- Since demonetisation in 2016, currency in circulation has risen steadily every year, with the CIC to GDP ratio having surged to **14.5% in 2020-21 from 8.7% in 2016-17.**
  - The ratio has now come down to **11.11% in 2025** from 12.1% in March 2016.
- **A high CIC-to-GDP ratio indicates** that people and **businesses rely heavily on cash for transactions,** while a **lower ratio reflects** a **shift towards digital payments**, banking channels and formal financial systems.
- **A lower CIC-to-GDP ratio,** driven by increased digitalization and reduced reliance on cash, generally enables smoother monetary policy transmission and better inflation control.

CIC-GDP Ratio of India compared to Other Countries?

- After the demonetisation and the Covid period, though India's currency to GDP ratio has improved, **it's higher than other major economies.**
- Japan has a ratio of 9-11%, Eurozone 8-10% and China 9.5%.
  - Russia has a lower ratio of 8.3% and the US 7.96% .
- India's elevated currency-to-GDP ratio of **11.11% stems from** its sizable cash-dependent informal economy, a strong cultural preference for holding cash, limited card usage and comparatively lower adoption.
- At the same time **India is also picking up fast digital payment systems**, in contrast to the highly formalized and digitalised economies of the US, Eurozone, China and Russia.

India's Money Supply Dynamics: Demonetisation to Digitisation

- **Demonetisation (2016) triggered a short-term demand shock**: MSME stress, job losses, and liquidity shortage. GDP growth briefly dipped below 6%.
- **Digitisation surge:** Post-2016, UPI transactions crossed 20 lakh crore/month (2025), expanding deep into Tier-2/3 towns, signalling substitution from cash for retail payments.
- **Currency-to-GDP ratio:** Fell from 12% in 2016 to around 10.5% in 2024, implying lower cash intensity though still above advanced economies due to a large informal sector.

RBI's Measures of Money Supply

- Introduced in April 1977, the RBI classifies money supply into four aggregates — **M1, M2, M3, and M4** — arranged by decreasing liquidity.
  - M1 (Narrow Money): Currency with the public + Demand deposits with banks (excluding inter-bank) + Other deposits with RBI.
  - M2: M1 + Post Office Savings Bank deposits.
  - M3 (Broad Money): M1 + Time deposits with commercial and cooperative banks.
  - M4: M3 + All Post Office deposits (both time and demand).

Money Type	Includes	Narrow/Broad	Rank (Liquidity)
M1	Currency with public (coins, currency notes), Net demand deposits held by the public with commercial banks & other deposits with RBI	Narrow Money	1 (Most Liquid)
M2	M1 + savings deposits with post office	Narrow Money	2
M3	M1 + time deposits with the banking system (such as fixed deposits)	Broad Money	3
M4	M3 + all deposits with post office savings organizations, excluding National Savings Certificates	Broad Money	4 (Least Liquid)

- **Policy Use:** Among these, M3 is the principal measure used by the RBI for monetary targeting and macroeconomic assessment, as recommended by the **Chakravarty Committee (1982–85).**

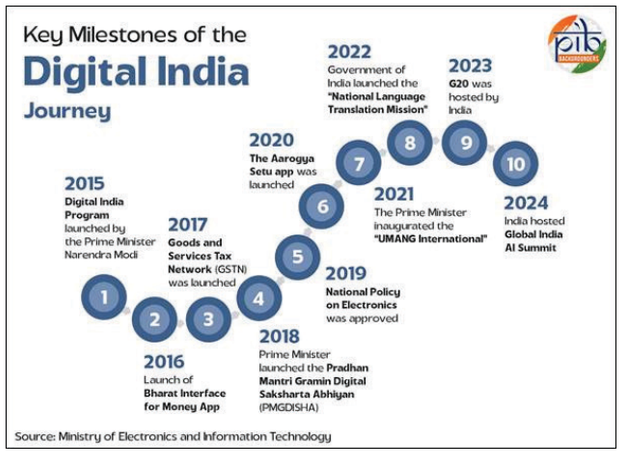
Why M3 Matters?

- It captures both currency and deposits that influence spending, saving, and credit creation.
- It is more stable and reliable for medium-term policy analysis compared to narrower measures.
- It reflects liquidity conditions affecting bank balance sheets and credit transmission.

Digital Economy in India

- Post Demonitisation, the digital economy is growing fast, contributing **11.74%** to the national income in 2022–23 and expected to reach **13.42% by 2024–25.**

- According to the State of India's Digital Economy Report 2024, released by ICRIER, India now ranks **third in the world for digitalisation of the economy.**
- **By 2030,** India's digital economy is projected to contribute nearly **one-fifth of the country's overall economy,** outpacing the growth of traditional sectors.



Source: IE

ADITYA-L1 MISSION TRACKS CORONAL MASS EJECTIONS (CMES)

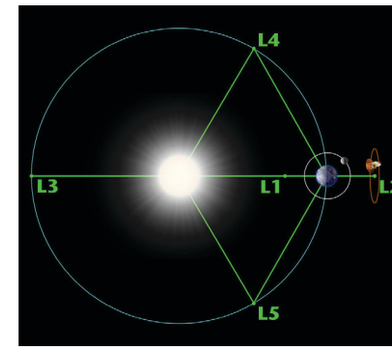
In News

- Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics and NASA have made the first-ever spectroscopic observations of a **coronal mass ejection (CME)** in the visible wavelength range, close to the Sun's surface using the VELC payload on Aditya-L1.

Aditya-L1

- It is **India's first space-based solar observatory**, designed to study the **Sun from Lagrange Point 1**, located about 1.5 million km from Earth
  - This position allows uninterrupted observation of solar phenomena without eclipses or occultation.
- It launched in September 2023 to enhance understanding of solar dynamics, including coronal mass ejections (CMEs), solar flares, and their impact on space weather — crucial for satellite operations, communications, and power grids on Earth.
- The mission carries seven indigenously developed payloads, five by ISRO and two in collaboration with Indian academic institutions.
- These instruments are designed to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and corona of the Sun,Solar emissions and magnetic field variations and Solar wind and energetic particle fluxes.

Lagrange Points



- Lagrange Points are positions in space where the g**ravitational forces of two massive bodies** (like the Sun and Earth) and the centripetal force of a smaller object (like a spacecraft) balance each other.
- This allows the smaller object to remain relatively stable with respect to the two larger bodies.
- There are **five such points (L1–L5) in the Sun-Earth system.**

Halo Orbit

- A three-dimensional periodic orbit around a Lagrange point. Unlike a simple circular orbit, it forms a loop-like path (halo) around L1.
- It helps spacecraft avoid direct shadowing by Earth or Moon while maintaining a stable position with minimal fuel consumption.

Strategic Significance

- Aditya-L1 will provide continuous solar monitoring, helping predict space weather events and their terrestrial impacts.
- It supports global solar research and complements missions like **NASA's Parker Solar Probe and ESA's Solar Orbiter.**
- It showcases India's growing capability in observatory-class space science.
- It aligns with India's broader space ambitions, including the upcoming Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission and interplanetary exploration.

Sources:TH

SOIL HEALTH IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND FERTILIZER IMBALANCE: ICAR STUDY

Context

- Recently, the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has revealed alarming evidence that **unscientific fertilizer use** and **climate**

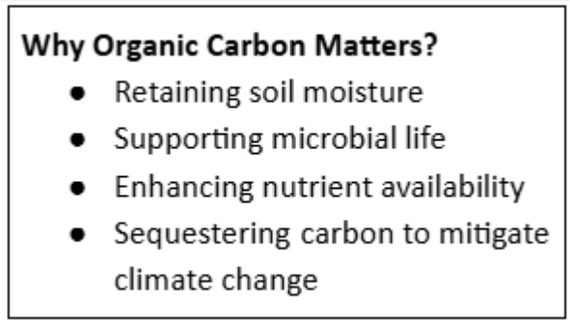
change are causing significant **degradation of organic carbon** in India's arable soils.

Key Findings

- **Unbalanced Fertiliser Use:** The study found that **imbalanced and excessive fertiliser use**—particularly of **urea and phosphorus**—has degraded soil carbon levels.
  - **Haryana, Punjab, and Western Uttar Pradesh** showed the most severe declines due to intensive, unscientific fertilisation.
  - **Bihar**, with more balanced fertiliser application, exhibited **better soil carbon health.**
- **Correlation Between Organic Carbon and Elevation:** Soils in **hilly regions** contain higher organic carbon, whereas **lowland soils** exhibit depletion.
  - Low soil carbon leads to **increased heat reflection**, amplifying the **greenhouse effect** and **global warming** risks.
- **Temperature's Negative Impact:** The study warns that **rising temperatures** could further **reduce soil organic carbon**, worsening **soil health** and **climate impacts**.
  - Hotter regions such as **Rajasthan and Telangana** showed lower **soil organic carbon (SOC) content** due to accelerated organic matter decomposition.
- **Influence of Rainfall and Cropping Systems**:
  - **Rice and pulse based systems** maintain higher carbon levels due to increased microbial activity from water-intensive cultivation.
  - **Wheat and coarse-grain systems** showed lower carbon levels.

Why Soil Health Matters?

- **Supports Agriculture:** Over 54% of India's workforce depends directly or indirectly on agriculture.



  - Healthy soil ensures higher crop yields and better nutritional quality.
- **Food Security:** Soil rich in organic matter and nutrients produces more resilient and nutritious crops.
- **Environmental Balance:** Healthy soils regulate water, store carbon, and support biodiversity and act as a buffer against floods, droughts, and climate change impacts.
- **Economic Impact:** Poor soil health leads to reduced productivity, increased input costs, and long-term land degradation—affecting farmers' incomes and national GDP.

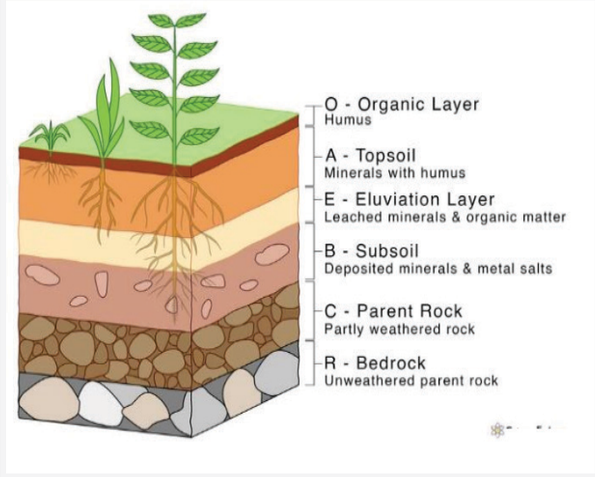


Image: Layers (Horizons) of Soil Profile

Related Efforts & Initiatives

- **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme (2015):** It aims to provide every farmer with a detailed report on the nutrient status of their soil. It aims to promote balanced and judicious use of fertilizers.
  - The government has strengthened soil testing facilities to support the SHC scheme, like *Mobile Soil Testing Labs, School Soil Health Programme, and Digital Tracking.*
- **Soil Health Management (SHM):** It is a part of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), aims to promote integrated nutrient management and organic farming.
- **Integration with Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY):** SHC and SHM schemes have been merged into the **Soil Health & Fertility component of RKVY** for better coordination and impact.

Policy Recommendations

- **Organic Carbon Sequestration Programs:** Promote sequestration in soils with less than **0.25% organic carbon** through improved cropping systems and irrigation support.
- **Carbon Credit Incentives:** Encourage farmers who **trap and store carbon dioxide** in soil

through sustainable practices by offering **financial incentives**.

- **Climate-Resilient Crop Management:** Develop **region-specific crop management strategies** for climate change mitigation and soil restoration.
- **Nationwide Vegetative Cover:** Expand **plantations and cover crops** to reduce soil exposure and carbon loss.

Conclusion

- The ICAR study underscores an urgent need for **balanced fertiliser use**, **adaptive cropping systems**, and **climate-responsive soil management** to restore and preserve India's soil organic carbon.
- The continuing decline could threaten **food security**, **land productivity**, and **climate stability** in the years ahead without corrective action.

Source: TH

THE RULES FOR SUSTAINABLE HARNESSING OF FISHERIES IN THE EEZ

In News

- The Government of India has notified **new Deep-Sea Fishing Rules, 2025**, aimed at realizing the vision of a prosperous and inclusive Blue Economy and unlocking the vast potential of India's **11,099 km coastline** and **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).**

Key Highlight of the Rules

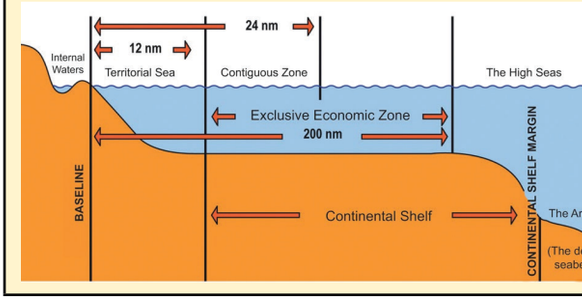
- **Empowering Fishermen and Cooperatives:** Exclusive priority is given to Fishermen Cooperative Societies and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs) for deep-sea fishing licenses using advanced vessels.
- **Ban on Foreign Vessels:** Foreign fishing vessels are completely prohibited from operating within India's EEZ to protect resource sovereignty and small-scale fishers.
- **Mother-and-Child Vessel Model:** Introduced to enable mid-sea transshipment under Reserve Bank of India regulations, this model uses large "mother" vessels supporting smaller "child" boats to reduce shore congestion, extend fishing operations, and improve efficiency.
- **Prohibition of Harmful Fishing Practices:** Fishing methods such as LED light fishing, pair trawling, and bull trawling are banned to protect marine ecosystems.
- **Fisheries Management and Legal Measures:** Minimum legal sizes for fish species will be prescribed, and Fisheries Management Plans developed in consultation with state governments and stakeholders to ensure sustainable exploitation.
- **Digital Access and Monitoring:** Mechanized and large motorized vessels require free access passes through the **online ReALCRaft portal**, which is integrated with the Marine Products Export Development Authority and Export Inspection Council.

Significance

- Boost deep-sea fishing revenue and reduce dependence on near-shore fisheries.
- Empower coastal communities through cooperative governance.
- Promote sustainable resource use and prevent over-exploitation.
- Strengthen India's strategic presence and maritime security in the EEZ.
- Enhance global trade competitiveness of Indian seafood under the "Indian origin" label.

About Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

- **Legal Basis:** Established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- **Extent:** Extends up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline of a country's coastline.
- **Rights:** A nation has sovereign rights for exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management of natural resources (living and non-living) in its EEZ.
- **Significance**: The EEZ is critical for securing marine resources, promoting food security, and ensuring strategic maritime interests.



Source: TH

SHAPING THE DEEP-TECH REVOLUTION IN AGRICULTURE REPORT: WEF

Context

- The World Economic Forum, in collaboration with stakeholders from both industry and academia, has launched a new insights report **'Shaping the Deep-Tech Revolution in Agriculture'.**

About

- The report identifies **seven deep-tech domains** with the **potential to drive agricultural transformation:**
  - **Generative AI**: Using large-language models, predictive analytics for pest, yield, labour optimisation.
  - **Computer Vision:** Real-time image/video data for monitoring crops, detecting diseases/ defects, sorting produce.
  - **Edge Internet of Things (IoT):** On-farm sensors/devices processing data locally for irrigation, fertilisation, pest control especially in remote/low-connectivity areas.
  - **Satellite-enabled Remote Sensing:** Earth observation for soil health, moisture, crop status, supply-chain risks.
  - **Robotics (and Drones/Autonomous systems):** Automating labour intensive tasks like planting, weeding, harvesting; swarm robotics etc.
  - **CRISPR / Gene Editing:** Developing climate-resilient, pest/disease resistant crop varieties faster than conventional breeding.
  - **Nanotechnology:** Precise application of inputs (fertilisers, pesticides), improving efficiency, reducing waste/environmental impact.
- **Concerns:** Rising rural-to-urban migration, intensifying climate extremes, and accelerating degradation of natural resources, particularly soil and water, are collectively threatening productivity and endangering the livelihoods that depend on agriculture.
- **Case studies from India Include:**
  - A variety of rice developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) using CRISPR, tolerating drought/salinity, yields higher and emissions lower.
  - Use of remote sensing + drones + mobile apps in the Indian crop-insurance scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for quicker, more transparent damage assessment.

Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture Initiative

- The report is released by the World Economic Forum's **Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture Initiative (AI4AI).**
- Established in **2021**, AI4AI has been working across multiple regions to help stakeholders **harness emerging technologies** to make agriculture more inclusive, sustainable, and efficient.

Government of India Initiatives

- **India Digital Ecosystem of Agriculture (IDEA):** It is a framework designed to lay down the architecture for a federated farmers' database, facilitating innovative agri-focused solutions using emerging technologies to enhance the agricultural ecosystem.
- **National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A):** Funds are allocated to states/UTs for projects involving modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Robotics, Drones, Data Analytics, and Blockchain in agriculture.
- **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM):** A pan-India electronic trading portal connecting Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities, providing digital services to traders, farmers, and mandis.
- **Mobile Apps by ICAR:** More than 100 mobile apps developed by ICAR, State Agricultural Universities, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras are offering valuable information to farmers on crops, horticulture, veterinary, dairy, poultry, fisheries, and natural resources management.
- **Soil Health Card Scheme:** The Soil Health Card Scheme aims to assess the nutrient status of soil and provide customized recommendations for nutrient management to farmers.
- **'Kisan e-Mitra'** is a voice-based AI-powered chatbot developed to assist farmers with responses to their queries on the PM KisanSammanNidhi scheme.
- **The National Pest Surveillance System,** for tackling the loss of produce due to climate change, utilizes AI and Machine Learning to detect pest infestation in crop issues, enabling timely intervention for healthier crops.
- **Namo Drone Didi:** It is a Central Sector Scheme for a period of 3 years (2023-24 to 2025-26) with the major aims and objectives promoting advanced technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhanced crop yield and reduced cost of operation.
- **Promotion of Precision Farming:** Initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) promote precision farming techniques, including drip irrigation and fertigation, which enable more efficient use of fertilizers, including urea, by delivering nutrients directly to plants' root zones.

Conclusion

- Global agriculture is at a critical juncture: challenges include climate change, natural-resource degradation (soil, water), aging and shrinking farming populations, and growing food demand.

- **Conventional methods alone will not suffice** to meet the scale and urgency of feeding a growing population while maintaining sustainability.
- The report argues that deep-tech applied to agriculture can help **future-proof farming systems:** increase productivity, build resilience, and improve sustainability.

Source: BL

NEWS IN SHORT

CHITTARANJAN DAS

In News

- Lok Sabha paid floral tribute to freedom fighter Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, on his birth anniversary.

About Chittaranjan Das (1870 – 1925)

- **Overview:** He was popularly known as "Deshbandhu (Friend of the Nation)," and was a key nationalist leader, lawyer, freedom fighter, and social reformer of the Indian independence movement.
  - He defended Aurobindo Ghosh in the Alipore Bomb Case (1908) and later joined the freedom movement full-time.
- **Key Contributions:** He was a participant of the Non-Cooperation Movement (1919–22) led by Mahatma Gandhi.
  - He founded the **Swaraj Party in 1923 with Motilal Nehru** to enter legislative councils and resist colonial rule from within.
  - Chittaranjan Das was **first elected Mayor of Calcutta (1924)**, worked for urban reforms and Indian empowerment in municipal administration
  - He wrote poems, essays, and books including **'India for Indians' and 'Freedom through Disobedience'.**

Source: AIR

THE GLOBAL PEACE PRAYER FESTIVAL

Context

- The Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF) was inaugurated at Thimphu, by the Royal Government of Bhutan.

About

- The 16-day festival is a global initiative **dedicated to prayers for world peace and healing of humanity amid ongoing global conflicts.**
- This was the **first-ever** Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF) where religious leaders and scholars from **three main branches of Buddhism** — Mahayana, Theravada, and Vajrayana were present.
- One of the key events of the festival is **Jabzhi**, a profound Vajrayana Buddhist ritual believed to **cleanse negative karma** and dispel destructive forces.
- In a spiritual gesture, the **Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha**, enshrined at the National Museum in New Delhi, arrived in Thimphu as a "goodwill gift" from India for GPP.
- The Global Peace Prayer Festival stands as a **universal call for peace on earth,** celebrating Bhutan's unique spiritual heritage and reaffirming the shared Buddhist values that have long guided India–Bhutan relations.

Source: TH

ANGOLA

In News

- President Droupadi Murmu is on a State Visit to Angola, marking the first-ever visit by an Indian President to the southern African nation, to strengthen bilateral cooperation under the India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) framework.

About Angola (Capital: Luanda)

- **Location:** Angola is located on the west coast of Southern Africa, bordered by Namibia (south), Zambia (east), the Democratic Republic of Congo (north), and the Atlantic Ocean (west).
- **Political Overview:** Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975 after years of anti-colonial struggle led by the MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola).
- **Economic Profile:** It is Africa's second-largest oil producer after Nigeria. Diamonds form another major export sector.
- **Geographical Profile:** Roughly square-shaped, rising from a narrow coastal plain to a central plateau averaging 1,000–2,000 m in elevation.
  - Highest Point is Mount Moco near Huambo & major rivers are Cuanza, Cunene, and Cuango.

India–Angola Relations

- The diplomatic ties established in 1985 and India's Embassy in Luanda opened in 1986.
- Trade Value is over $4 billion, majorly led by crude oil imports from Angola and Indian exports of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, machinery, and textiles.
- Angola benefits from Indian Lines of Credit, ITEC programs, and the Pan-African e-Network for tele-education and telemedicine.

- Cooperation extends to defense training, renewable energy, and agro-industries.

Source: TH

ASSAM PROHIBITION OF POLYGAMY BILL-2025

Context

- Assam Chief Minister announced that the **Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill-2025** will be tabled in the Assembly.

About

- It proposes to make the **act of marrying multiple times** while **a spouse is still alive** a **punishable offence**, with a **prison term of up to seven years.**
- The offence has been made a **cognizable offence**, meaning they will not be given bail immediately.
- This law **will not apply** to the state's Scheduled Tribe communities and in the tribal districts under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.
- **Special Fund:** The Bill also contains a provision for the state government to set up a special fund to offer compensation to women who are "victims of polygamy".
- The bill is part of a broader campaign to **reshape Assam's social fabric and gender justice.**

Source: IE

INDIA DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC FUND (IDSF)

Context

- **The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has suggested setting up an **India Development and Strategic Fund (IDSF)** to support long-term growth and global economic security.

India Development and Strategic Fund (IDSF)

- **Aim:** To create a **"twin-arm"** national fund to mobilise domestic and global savings and recycle capital from mature assets into new productive capacity.
  - It will build an enduring financial engine for **long-term national development beyond annual budgets.**

CII suggested that IDSF will have two arms:

- **Development Investment Arm:** It will focus on Long-term domestic priorities.
  - **Sectors:** Infrastructure, Clean energy, Logistics and industrial corridors, MSME scale-up, Education & skilling, Healthcare, Urban infrastructure.
  - **Role:** Acts as anchor investor, attracting pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and institutional investors (both domestic and foreign).
- **Strategic Investment Arm:** It will focus on securing critical overseas assets vital for India's economic and security interests.
  - **Targets:** Energy assets, Critical minerals, Frontier technologies (AI, semiconductors).

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- **Type:** Non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization.
- **Established:** 1895 (as Engineering and Iron Trades Association; renamed CII in 1992).
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Membership:** Over 9,000 direct members (private and public enterprises, SMEs, MNCs) and 300,000 indirect members (through sectoral associations).
- **Coverage:** All sectors of economy across 62 offices in India and 8 overseas offices.
- CII charts change by working closely with governments and thought leaders and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry.

Source: BS

BOXFISH

In News

- Engineers at the University of Colorado Boulder have developed a mathematical model to replicate the **ornate boxfish's skin patterns.**
  - Their work builds on Alan Turing's 1952 theory of pattern formation, which explains how diffusion and chemical reactions can create natural designs like leopard spots and seashell swirls—known as **Turing patterns.**

About Boxfish

- They are small, shallow-water marine fishes from the family Ostraciontidae, known for their r**igid, boxlike carapace** made of fused plates, which encases most of their body except the eyes, mouth, fins, and tail.
- They are **found in warm tropical seas** worldwide.
- They are brightly colored and sometimes called **cowfish due to hornlike head projections.**
- Though edible and often dried as curios, boxfish release a toxic substance when handled that can harm nearby fish.

Source :IE