

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 20-11-2025

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## RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDER PERSONS IN INDIA

### Context

- India has made significant strides in addressing the **historical marginalisation of the transgender community** through comprehensive legal protections, welfare schemes, and digital accessibility.

### LGBTQIA+

- LGBTQIA+** is an umbrella term for **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual persons**, with '+' representing other identities that are not specifically included in these letters.
- Notably, LGBTQIA+** persons do not conform with traditional gender roles and expectations, display sex characteristics that do not fit the typical male or female binary, and their gender identities that differ from the sex they were assigned at birth.

### India's Position on LGBTQIA+ Rights

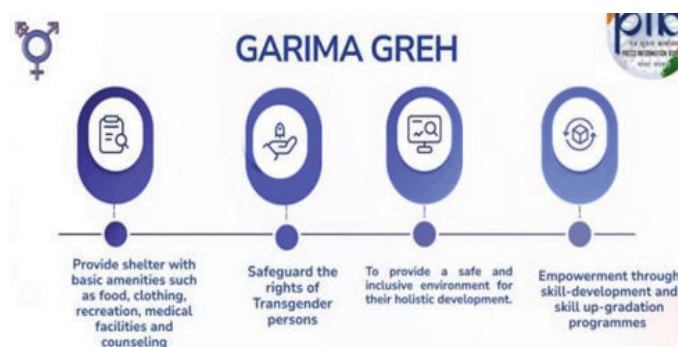
- As per census 2011**, there were 4.87 lakhs persons in India who opted for **"other"** in gender category.
- Decriminalisation:** **Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018)** decriminalised consensual homosexual acts (Section 377 partially struck down).
- Transgender Rights:** **NALSA v. Union of India (2014)** recognised the right to self-identify gender.
  - It recognises **transgender as the "third gender"** upholding their fundamental rights.
- Constitutional Provisions:** Article 14 – Right to equality, Article 15 – No discrimination on grounds of sex and Article 21 – Right to life and personal liberty.
- Legislation:** The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 provides legal recognition of transgender identity.
- Marriage & Adoption:** Same-sex marriage are not yet legal as 2023 Supreme Court judgment refused to legalize it but urged legislature to deliberate.

### Challenges Faced by the Transgenders

- Societal Issues:** Trans persons face deep-rooted societal prejudices, leading to **ostracisation from families and communities**.
- Discrimination** in public spaces, including transport, healthcare centres, and government offices.
- Lack of Access to Education:** High school dropout rates due to bullying, harassment, and gender-based violence.
- Barriers in Employment:** Trans persons face widespread discrimination in hiring and the workplace.
  - Often forced into informal, unsafe, and exploitative sectors, like begging or sex work, due to lack of opportunities.
- Healthcare Exclusion:** Trans persons face lack of gender-affirmative healthcare, discrimination by medical staff, and unavailability of hormonal and surgical services in public hospitals.
  - High mental health burden due to social rejection and isolation.
- Violence and Abuse:** Prone to verbal, physical, and sexual violence both in public and private spaces.
  - Police harassment and custodial violence are frequent, with little legal redress.
- Political Underrepresentation:** Low political visibility and representation in mainstream parties and institutions.
  - Lack of policy-making participation hinders the articulation of their needs.

### Government Initiatives

- The National Portal for Transgender Persons**, launched in 2020, enables online applications for identity certificates and access to benefits.
- The SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme**, introduced in 2022, provides livelihood, skill training, and shelter support through Garima Greh centres and Ayushman Bharat TG Plus health coverage.



- **The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment** has issued "Equal Opportunities Policy for Transgender Persons" to ensure that the Transgender community has equal access to employment opportunities etc.
- **National Council for Transgender Persons:** It serves as a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to safeguard and promote the rights of transgender persons in India.
  - ♦ The council also has five representatives of transgender community, representatives of NHRC and NCW, representatives of State Governments and UTs and experts representing NGOs.
- **Transgender Protection Cells and National Portal Integration:** Setting up district-level cells under District Magistrates to monitor offenses, ensure timely FIR registration, and conduct sensitisation programs, reinforcing legal protections.
- **Violation of Separation of Powers:** Tribunals perform judicial functions. Allowing the executive to control appointments and tenure intrudes into the judicial domain, violating the basic structure of the Constitution.
- **Arbitrary and Discriminatory Provisions:** Some provisions unfairly restricted the pool of qualified candidates, violating Article 14 (Right to Equality).

#### Key Highlights of the Supreme Court's Judgment

- **Minimum Age of 50 for members:** The Act mandated that only persons above 50 years could be appointed as tribunal members. The Court held this to be arbitrary, exclusionary, and violative of Article 14.
- **Four-year tenure for chairpersons and members:** The Act provided only four-year terms for tribunal members. SC held this too short and security of tenure is essential for independence.
- **National Tribunals Commission:** Reiterated SC's earlier direction to the Centre to establish, within four months, an independent commission to oversee tribunal appointments and functions.

#### Conclusion

- Recent years have witnessed significant legal and policy reforms for the transgender community in India.
- As India advances toward a more equitable future, ensuring that transgender persons live with dignity, autonomy, and opportunity remains central to its democratic and human rights commitments.

Source: PIB

## SC STRIKES DOWN SOME PROVISIONS OF TRIBUNALS REFORMS ACT

#### Context

- The Supreme Court struck down several provisions of the **Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021**, which had earlier been introduced through the **Tribunals Reforms Ordinance, 2021**.

#### Why the Supreme Court Struck Down These Provisions?

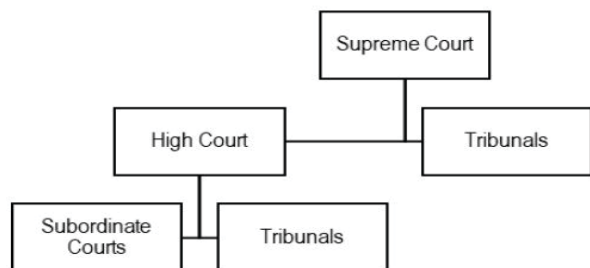
- **Violation of Judicial Independence:** The Act gave the executive a dominant role in the appointment and service conditions of tribunal members.
  - ♦ Since the government regularly appears as a litigant before tribunals, excessive control undermines the independence and impartiality of adjudication.

#### Tribunal System in India

- Tribunals are institutions **established for discharging judicial or quasi-judicial duties**.
- **Objective:** To reduce caseload of the judiciary or to bring in subject expertise for technical matters.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** In 1976, **Articles 323A and 323B** were inserted in the Constitution of India through the **42nd Amendment**.
  - ♦ **Article 323A** empowered Parliament to constitute **administrative Tribunals** (both at central and state level) for adjudication of matters related to **recruitment and conditions of service of public servants**.
  - ♦ **Article 323B** specified certain subjects (such as taxation and land reforms) for which Parliament or state legislatures may constitute tribunals by enacting a law.
  - ♦ In 2010, the Supreme Court clarified that the subject matters under **Article 323B are not exclusive**, and legislatures are empowered to create tribunals on any subject matters under their purview as specified in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- Currently, tribunals have been created both as **substitutes to High Courts and as subordinate to High Courts**.
  - ♦ In the former case, appeals from the decisions of Tribunals lie directly with the Supreme Court.



- ♦ In the latter case appeals are heard by the corresponding High Court.



### Difference between Courts and Tribunals

| Regular Courts   | Tribunals  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jurisdiction:</b> Can hear a wide range of civil and criminal cases.</li> <li>• <b>Procedure and Rules:</b> Civil Procedure Code (CPC) for civil cases and the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for criminal cases.</li> <li>• <b>Composition:</b> Judges are appointed based on their legal qualifications and experience.</li> <li>• <b>Appeal Process:</b> Decisions of regular courts can be appealed to higher courts.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each tribunal is set up to deal with <b>specific types of cases or disputes</b>, such as administrative matters, tax appeals, environmental issues, etc.</li> <li>• The laws establishing each tribunal outline the procedures to be followed, and they are often less formal than those in regular courts.</li> <li>• Tribunals may include <b>both judicial and technical members</b>.</li> <li>• The route of appeal is specified in the law establishing the tribunal.</li> </ul> |

### Concerns of Tribunal System in India

- **Constitutional foundation and competence of tribunals:** The constitutional standing of tribunals has been questioned.
  - ♦ In particular, whether the jurisdiction of High Courts and Supreme Court can be removed.
- **Delay in Adjudication:** Despite the intention to provide speedy justice, some tribunals have faced delays in disposing of cases.
- **Vacancies and Lack of Members:** Delays in appointing members can hinder the effective functioning of the tribunal and contribute to the backlog of cases.

- **Independence and Autonomy:** The manner of appointment, removal, and terms of service of members can influence the impartiality and effectiveness of the tribunal.
- **Pendency of cases:** The reasoning for setting up some tribunals was to reduce pendency of cases in courts, several tribunals are facing the issue of a large case load and pendency.
- **Enforcement of Decisions:** There have been instances where the enforcement of tribunal decisions has faced challenges.
- **Costs and Accessibility:** Accessibility to the tribunal system might be a concern for certain sections of society, particularly those facing financial constraints.
  - ♦ The costs associated with legal representation and proceedings can be a barrier for some litigants.

### Way Ahead

- **Recommendations of SC:** In order to ensure that tribunals are independent from the executive, the Supreme Court had recommended that all administrative matters be managed by the law ministry rather than the ministry associated with the subject area.
  - ♦ Later, the Court recommended creation of an independent National Tribunals Commission for the administration of tribunals.
  - ♦ These recommendations have not been implemented.
- **SC Judgement:** The Supreme Court has ruled that tribunals, being quasi-judicial bodies, should have the **same level of independence from the executive as the judiciary**.
  - ♦ Key factors include the mode of selection of members, the composition of tribunals, and the terms and tenure of service.
- **Addressing these concerns** requires continuous evaluation, reforms, and improvements in the functioning of tribunals.
  - ♦ The aim should be to strengthen their independence, enhance efficiency, and ensure that they effectively serve their intended purpose in the legal system.

Source: AIR

## ISRO TESTS BOOTSTRAP MODE START ON CE20 CRYOGENIC ENGINE

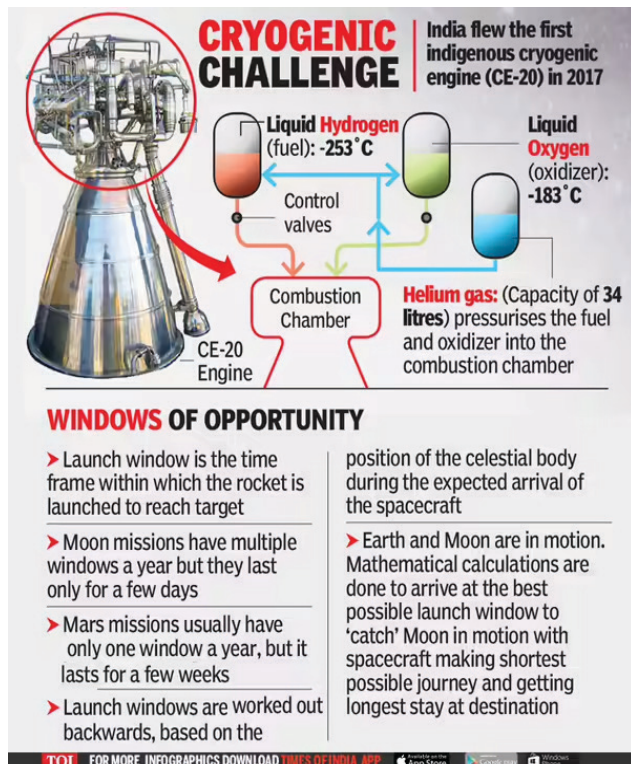
### In News

- ISRO has successfully demonstrated the **bootstrap-mode start of its CE20 cryogenic engine** at the **Mahendragiri High-Altitude Test facility engine**.

- ♦ **Bootstrap-mode** is a self-sustaining start-up sequence where the engine uses its own propellant flow and turbopump dynamics to initiate ignition.
- ♦ This will increase engine efficiency, restart capability, and reduce weight.

#### About CE20 Cryogenic Engine

- Cryogenic engines use extremely low-temperature propellants — **liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen (below -150°C)**.



- These engines are the **last stage in space launch vehicles and provide higher efficiency** and thrust per kilogram of propellant compared to earth-storable liquid or solid propellants.
- **ISRO's CE20 is India's largest cryogenic engine developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre in Valiamala, Kerala.**
- The CE20 engine powers the **LVM3 upper stage** and is also qualified for the ambitious Gaganyaan human spaceflight missions.

#### LVM3 (GSLV Mk III)

- LVM3 is ISRO's new heavy-lift launch vehicle designed to carry payloads of **up to 4000 kg to the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).**
- **It has three stages:** two solid propellant S200 strap-ons, the liquid L110 core stage with two high thrust **Vikas engines** (human-rated Vikas engine supplied by Godrej Enterprises for Gaganyaan), and the **C25 cryogenic upper stage powered by CE20 engines.**

#### Significance

- Strengthens Gaganyaan readiness.
- Positions India competitively in global heavy-lift and commercial launch markets.
- Advances India's cryogenic engine ecosystem toward reusable vehicles.

Source :ET

## INDIA BECOMING A HUB OF NATURAL FARMING

#### Context

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India, at **South India Natural Farming Summit in Tamil Nadu**, declared that India is poised to become a **global hub for natural farming**, emphasizing its alignment with **traditional wisdom, scientific innovation, and sustainable development.**

#### Highlights of South India Natural Farming Summit

- The Prime Minister of India described **natural farming as India's indigenous idea**, rooted in tradition and suited to the environment.
- He emphasized making natural farming a **science-backed movement**, integrating traditional wisdom with modern research.
- Adoption of **'One Acre, One Season' model**, as practicing natural farming on one acre for one season to experience its benefits.

#### Major Announcements

- PM Modi released the **21st instalment of PM-KISAN**, transferring 18,000 crore to 9 crore farmers across India.
  - ♦ **₹4 lakh crore** has been directly transferred to **small farmers' accounts**, enhancing **agricultural resilience and financial inclusion** till date.

#### About Natural Farming

- It is a **chemical-free agricultural method** that relies on **locally available resources** such as cow dung, cow urine, biomass mulch, and indigenous seeds.
  - ♦ **It avoids synthetic fertilizers and pesticides**, focusing instead on soil regeneration, biodiversity, and ecological balance.
- According to the **NITI Aayog**, Natural Farming is considered as an agroecology based diversified farming system which integrates crops, trees and livestock with functional biodiversity.

- According to the **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)**, the approach integrates livestock, diversified cropping systems, and traditional knowledge to restore soil health and reduce input costs.
- **Pillars of Natural farming:**
  - ♦ Jivamrita & Ghanjivamrita;
  - ♦ Bijamrita;
  - ♦ Mulching and use of botanicals for plant protection;
  - ♦ Wahpsa.

| Natural vs. Organic Farming |                                     |   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Feature                     | Natural Farming                     | Organic Farming                                     |
| External Inputs             | No external inputs allowed          | Certified organic inputs permitted                  |
| Fertilizers & Pesticides    | Uses cow dung, urine, biomass mulch | Uses compost, biofertilizers, neem-based pesticides |
| Soil Amendments             | No mined minerals or supplements    | Allows natural minerals like rock phosphate         |
| Seed Use                    | Indigenous, untreated seeds         | Organic-certified seeds preferred                   |

#### Related Challenges and Concerns

- **Yield Uncertainty:** Studies show mixed results—some report equal or better yields, others note initial drops, especially in high-demand crops.
- **Lack of Awareness and Training:** Many farmers are unfamiliar with natural farming techniques and require extensive capacity building.
- **Market Access and Certification:** Absence of formal certification systems makes it hard for farmers to command premium prices.
- **Transition Period:** Shifting from conventional to natural farming involves a learning curve and temporary yield fluctuations.
- **Scientific Validation:** More long-term, region-specific studies are needed to validate its effectiveness across diverse agro-climatic zones.

#### Key Efforts and Initiatives Related to Natural Farming

- **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF):** It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** focused on chemical-free farming using local livestock, diversified cropping, and traditional knowledge.
  - ♦ ₹2,481 crore (₹1,584 crore from the Centre; ₹897 crore from States) till 2025–26.
- **NITI Aayog's Natural Farming Initiative:** It promotes natural farming for doubling farmers' income and restoring soil health.
  - ♦ It encourages reduction in chemical fertilizer use and supports community-led campaigns like 'Muktikar Abhiyan'.
- **State-Level Programs:** Andhra Pradesh is integrating natural farming into its **Swarnandhra**

**Vision**, emphasizing soil cover, crop diversity, and botanical pest management.

- ♦ Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Himachal Pradesh have adopted similar models under **Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP)**.

#### Other Efforts & Initiatives

- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme:** Farmers have received assistance **exceeding ₹10 lakh crore** in 2025 alone.
- **Reduction in GST on bio-fertilizers:** It has provided further economic relief to cultivators.
- **Integration of Millets and Natural Farming:** Describing millets as a **superfood** with global potential.
- **Promoting Multi-Crop and Integrated Farming Models:** In states like Kerala and Karnataka, farmers cultivate **coconut, areca nut, fruits, spices, and black pepper** on the same land—an embodiment of natural farming's philosophy.

Source: TH

## INDIGENOUS GENE EDITING TECHNOLOGY TO AID CHEAPER, COMMERCIAL CROP BREEDING

#### In News

- Indian scientists at ICAR's Central Rice Research Institute have developed a patented **indigenous Genome-Editing(GE) technology** using **TnpB** proteins as a compact alternative to the globally patented **CRISPR-Cas systems**.

**Do you know?**

- In May 2025, ICAR released **two genome-edited rice varieties** developed by Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)
- IIRR enhanced yields in **Samba Mahsuri rice by editing the cytokinin oxidase 2 gene using CRISPR-Cas12a**, while IARI improved drought and salinity tolerance in MTU-1010 (Cottondora Sannalu) by editing the DST gene with CRISPR-Cas9.
- Despite these advances, commercial cultivation faces hurdles due to intellectual property restrictions on CRISPR-Cas technologies.

**TnpB or Transposon-associated proteins**

- It is Acting as “molecular scissors,” and precisely cuts and modifies plant DNA, enabling desirable traits without introducing foreign genes.
- Unlike bulky Cas9 and Cas12a proteins, the hypercompact TnpB (408 amino acids) can be easily delivered into cells via viral vectors, bypassing tissue culture methods.
- ICAR secured a 20-year Indian patent in September 2025 and has filed for international protection, with adoption by plant breeders seen as the next critical step.

**Features**

- It has smaller proteins compared to CRISPR-Cas, reducing complexity and cost.
- It enables targeted DNA cuts and modifications for crop improvement.
- It reduces dependence on foreign proprietary technologies.
- It is designed for commercial application in crop breeding programs.

**Benefits**

- It cuts down licensing and royalty costs associated with foreign technologies.
  - ♦ It is seen as a potential game-changer because CRISPR-Cas tools are heavily patented by the Broad Institute and Corteva, which may impose license fees on commercial cultivation of genome-edited (GE) crops.
    - Indigenous tools could eliminate these IP barriers.
- It has the potential to deliver high-yield, climate-resilient, and pest-resistant varieties at lower costs.
- It strengthens India's position in the \$165.7 billion bioeconomy, projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030.

- It enhances India's ability to meet rising food demand sustainably.
- It positions India as a leader in affordable GE crop technologies.

**Challenges**

- India's GE crops face strict biosafety and approval hurdles under the Plant Variety and Farmers' Rights Protection Authority Act.
- Concerns around GM/GE crops persist among consumers and activists.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Need for advanced labs, trained personnel, and seed distribution networks.

**Way Ahead**

- India's indigenous gene-editing technology offers a cost-effective alternative to global platforms, with the potential to democratize access to GE crops, enhance food security, and empower farmers.
- To fully realize its promise, there is a need for streamlining regulatory approvals while safeguarding biosafety and farmer rights.
- There is a need for building public trust through awareness, integrating efforts with national bioeconomy and innovation missions, fostering international collaboration.

**Sources:IE****GLOBAL METHANE STATUS REPORT 2025****In News**

- The **Global Methane Status Report** released by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** at COP30 in Belem.

**Key Points of the Report**

- **Methane Emissions Rising:** Despite stronger waste regulations and improved monitoring, global trends remain far short of the target to cut methane by 30% by 2030.
- **Potency and Impact:** Methane is around 80 times more powerful than CO over a 20-year timescale, accounting for approximately one-third of current warming.
- **Methane Emissions:** India emitted about 31 million tonnes of methane in 2020, accounting for 9% of global emissions. It contributes 12% of global agricultural methane—the highest share worldwide.
- **Agriculture Profile:** Livestock (enteric fermentation) is the largest source, followed by rice cultivation, which is projected to increase by 8% in emissions by 2030. Crop residue burning is rising, making India a global hotspot.



### About Methane

- It is a short-lived climate pollutant (12-year atmospheric lifetime).
- It is **80–84 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>** over 20 years, and 28–34 times over 100 years.
- **Main Sources Globally:** Agriculture (40%), energy (35%), and waste (20%).

### Initiatives to Curb Methane Pollution

#### Global Initiatives:

- **Global Methane Pledge (GMP), 2021:**
  - ♦ Voluntary international framework to reduce methane emissions by 30% from 2020 levels by 2030.
  - ♦ Launched at COP26 by the US, EU, and Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).
  - ♦ India has not signed the pledge.
- **International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) – UNEP**
  - ♦ Global scientific and monitoring system using satellite and ground data.
  - ♦ Detects, verifies, and reports methane emissions.
  - ♦ Focuses on oil & gas operations, coal mines, landfills.
- **Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 (OGMP 2.0):**
  - ♦ UN-led framework for companies to measure and reduce methane leaks.
  - ♦ Covers approximately 70% of global oil and gas operations.

#### India's Initiatives:

- **National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA):**
  - ♦ Promotes climate-resilient and low-emission agriculture.
  - ♦ Focus on soil health, water efficiency, and crop diversification, indirectly reducing methane.
- **Technologies & Practices to Reduce Methane from Rice Agriculture**
  - ♦ **System of Rice Intensification (SRI):** Reduces flooding and anaerobic decomposition, lowering methane by 30–70%.
- **Waste Sector Initiatives:**
  - ♦ Swachh Bharat Mission and Solid Waste Management Rules (2016) improve landfill design, promote biomethanation and composting.

Source: TH

## NEWS IN SHORT

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### In News

- India has been re-elected to the **Codex Alimentarius Commission's Executive Committee** for the Asia region during the 48th session, securing this position until the end of CAC50 in 2027.

#### About Codex Alimentarius Commission

- **Established:** 1963 by FAO and WHO.
- **Objective:** Protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade.
- **Members:** 189, including 188 countries and 1 organization (European Union).
- **Meetings:** Annual sessions rotating between Geneva and Rome.

Source: TH

### WATER BUDGETING

#### In News

- NITI Aayog released a report on Water Budgeting in Aspiration Blocks to enhance local water security.

#### About Water Budgeting

- Water budgeting is a systematic estimation of water availability and water demand across all sectors — agriculture, households, livestock, industry, and ecology.
- Not all blocks face the same problem. Some have low rainfall, some have groundwater depletion, some misuse surface water, some face crop-water mismatch.
- It directly supports SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation) and the national push toward water-use efficiency.
- It will strengthen decentralised planning under Jal Jeevan Mission, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, and Atal Bhujal Yojana.

Source: TH

### CLOUDFLARE

#### Context

- Several of the world's largest online services, including X, ChatGPT, and numerous websites that depend on **Cloudflare** were disrupted recently.



**About**

- Cloudflare Inc. is a **US-based company** that delivers **content delivery network (CDN) services, cybersecurity solutions,** and prevention of **distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks, etc.**
  - It takes care of **three things:** security, performance, and traffic management.
- Security:** It protects websites from cyberattacks, particularly DDoS attacks that aim to overwhelm sites with fake traffic. It filters harmful requests much before they can reach a website's servers.
- Performance:** Cloudflare accelerates content delivery by storing cached versions of webpages in data centres installed worldwide.
- Traffic Management:** Cloudflare routes internet traffic efficiently so websites don't crash in moments of sudden spikes.

Source: TH

## BIOLOGICAL TILINGS: NEW INSIGHTS FROM PNAS NEXUS

**Context**

- In a new study, published in PNAS Nexus by researchers in Germany, found that the **prevalence of tilings** in nature is surprisingly more widespread.

**About**

- The tiles spanned a wide range in size** — from nanometre-scale virus capsids to turtle shell plates tens of centimetres across.
- The team thus defined biological tiling as a **repeated arrangement of solid tiles separated by a joint material** — then built a database around this idea.

**Tiling**

- Tiling refers to a **structural pattern** where an organism's body surface or internal structure is made up of repeating, closely fitted pieces called tiles.
- These tiles can be:**
  - Mineral plates (e.g., turtle shells, fish scales);
  - Protein-based units (e.g., virus capsids);
  - Sugar-based structures (e.g., plant cell walls);
  - Or combinations of these materials.
- Tiling is nature's way of building **strong, flexible, and protective surfaces** by arranging many small units in a regular, organized pattern, just like how humans use tiles in flooring or roofing.
- Functions of biological tilings:** Protection (e.g., scales, shells), Flexibility (overlapping tiles), Lightweight strength and Structural support.

Source: TH

## RULES APPROVED UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)

**In News**

- The Union Agriculture Ministry has approved rules to include crop losses caused by wild animal attacks and paddy inundation under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.
  - Farmers must report crop losses within **72 hours through a dedicated crop insurance app**, submitting geo-tagged photos to ensure quick and transparent claim processing.

**About Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**

- Launched in 2016** by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare as a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- Provides financial support to farmers suffering crop loss or damage, aiming to stabilize farmer income and ensure agricultural credit flow.
  - The maximum premium payable by the farmer will be 2% for the Kharif food and oilseed crops. For rabi food and oilseeds crop, it is 1.5% and for yearly commercial or horticultural crops it will be 5%.
- Eligible beneficiaries include farmers, sharecroppers, and tenant farmers growing notified crops in notified areas.
- Premium sharing is 50:50** between Central and State Governments, except for **Northeastern and Himalayan States where it is 90:10**.

**Benefits**

- Comprehensive Coverage:** The scheme covers natural disasters (droughts, floods), pests, and diseases. Post-harvest losses due to local risks like hailstorms and landslides are also included.
- Timely Compensation:** PMFBY aims to process claims within two months of the harvest to ensure that farmers get the compensation quickly, preventing them from falling into debt traps.
- Technology-Driven Implementation:** PMFBY integrates advanced technologies like satellite imaging, drones, and mobile apps for precise estimation of crop loss, ensuring accurate claim settlements.
- Yield Losses (Standing Crops):** The Government provides this insurance coverage for yield losses that fall under the non-preventable risks, such as Natural Fire and Lightning: Storm, Hailstorm, Tornado etc.: Flood, Inundation and Landslide; Pests/ Diseases, etc.; Drought etc.

Source :TH

## FORMER CHILE PRESIDENT MICHELLE BACHELET GETS INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE

### Context

- Michelle Bachelet, the former President of Chile, has been awarded the **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2024**.

### About

- It is an **annual award** established by the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in India**.
- The prize is named in honor of the **late Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi**, and it was instituted in **1986**.
- The award is presented to individuals or organizations that have made **significant contributions** to the promotion of international

understanding and peace, the development of new international economic order, and the strengthening of democracy.

- Categories:** The award is presented in three categories:
  - ♦ **Peace:** Recognizes efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security.
  - ♦ **Disarmament:** Acknowledges contributions to the reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.
  - ♦ **Development:** Honors work in promoting economic and social development.
- The award ceremony typically takes place on **November 19th**, the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi.

Source: IE

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