NEXT IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 10-01-2026

Table of Content

India Needs Localised, Ethical AI: PM

Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector

District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT)" Plan

World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026

DRDO Achieved a Key Milestone in the Development of Hypersonic Missiles

NEWS IN SHORT

Shaksgam Valley

Water Vapor

Somnath Swabhiman Parv

Weimar Triangle

Ministry of Tourism completes 75 projects under Swadesh Darshan

Samagra Shiksha 3.0

Creator's Corner

9th Apex-level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Meeting

National IED Data Management System of NSG

Copper

INDIA NEEDS LOCALISED, ETHICAL AI: PM

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi advocated that **India's AI model** should promote **local and indigenous content** as well as **regional languages.**
  - He also stressed that AI developed in India must be **ethical, unbiased, transparent, and grounded** in strong data privacy principles.

About

- The PM chaired a **roundtable meeting with Indian AI start-ups,** the roundtable was held **ahead of the AI Impact Summit 2026,** scheduled to take place in India in February.
- During the meeting, the Prime Minister highlighted the **importance of artificial intelligence in driving societal transformation.**

India's Technology Sector

- India's technology sector is expanding rapidly, with **annual revenues projected to cross USD 280 billion this year.**
- **Over 6 million people** are employed in the tech and AI ecosystem.
- India has secured the **3rd position globally** in Artificial Intelligence competitiveness, according to Stanford University's 2025 Global AI Vibrancy Tool.
- The country hosts **1,800+ Global Capability Centres,** including more than 500 focused on AI.
  - **GCCs** are mainly offshore centres established by **global level firms/MNCs** to **provide various services to their parent organisations.**
- India has around 1.8 lakh startups, and nearly **89% of new startups launched last year used AI** in their products or services.
  - On the **NASSCOM AI Adoption Index,** India scores 2.45 out of 4, showing that **87% of enterprises are actively using AI solutions.**
- **Leading sectors in AI adoption** include industrial and automotive, consumer goods and retail, banking, financial services and insurance, and healthcare. Together they contribute around 60 percent of AI's total value.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

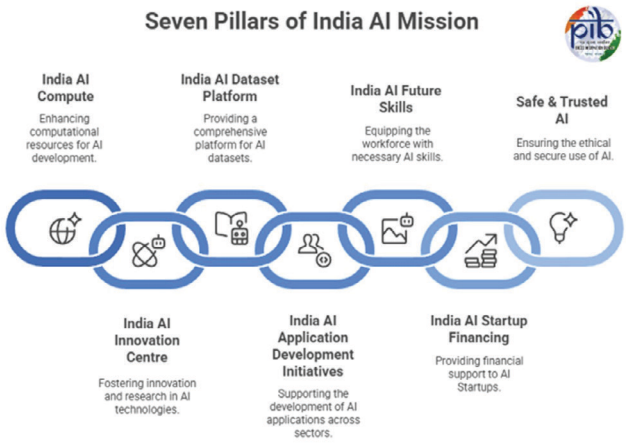
- AI is the **ability of machines to perform tasks** that normally require human intelligence.
- It enables systems to learn from experience, adapt to new situations, and solve complex problems independently.
- AI uses datasets, algorithms, and large language models to analyse information, recognise patterns, and generate responses.
- Over time, these systems improve their performance, allowing them to reason, make decisions, and communicate in ways similar to humans.

Concerns

- **Bias & Discrimination:** AI trained on data may develop biases and can discriminate against certain groups.
- **Data Privacy:** India lacks a comprehensive framework for sensitive citizen data despite the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.
- **Accountability Gap:** If AI makes a wrong decision, it's unclear who is responsible — programmer, operator, or government.
- **Overdependence on Technology:** Risk of ignoring human judgment, empathy, and contextual understanding.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:** AI systems vulnerable to hacking, manipulation, or adversarial attacks.
- **Dependence on Foreign Tech Firms:** Risk of "digital colonization" if India relies too much on external AI companies.

Government Initiatives

- **IndiaAI Mission (2024):** It has a budget of ₹10,300 crore over five years.
  - A key goal is the creation of a high-end common computing facility with 18,693 GPUs.



- **India's AI Models & Language Technologies:** The government is facilitating the development of India's own foundational models, including Large Language Models (LLMs) and problem-specific AI solutions tailored to Indian needs.
  - **BharatGen:** The world's first government-funded multimodal LLM initiative, BharatGen was launched in 2024.

- **Sarvam-1 AI Model:** A large language model optimised for Indian languages, Sarvam-1 has 2 billion parameters and supports ten major Indian languages.
- **Hanooman's Everest 1.0:** A multilingual AI system developed by SML, Everest 1.0 supports 35 Indian languages, with plans to expand to 90.
- **Bhashini** is an AI-powered platform that breaks language barriers by offering translation and speech tools in multiple Indian languages.

- **AI Centers of Excellence:** Establishing dedicated AI hubs and innovation centers across the country to support AI startups and research.
- **India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** Combines public funding with private sector innovation to drive digital transformation.
  - Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker serve as the foundation of India's DPI.
  - Intelligent solutions are being integrated into financial and governance platforms to enhance DPI.
- **e-Courts Project:** Initiated by the Supreme Court of India to modernize judicial functions through digital innovation.
  - **Phase III:** Integrates advanced AI solutions to improve case management and administrative efficiency in courts.

Conclusion

- From expanding computing infrastructure to fostering homegrown models and supporting startups, the country is creating a robust AI ecosystem that benefits citizens and drives innovation.
- Initiatives in agriculture, healthcare, education, and governance demonstrate practical applications with real impact.
- These efforts lay a strong foundation for India to emerge as a global AI leader while advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Source: TH

DIGITALIZING INDIA'S DAIRY SECTOR

In News

- India is increasingly using digital tools to enhance productivity, transparency, and support for farmers in Dairy Sector

Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector

- India is the world's largest producer of milk, accounting for 25% of global output.
- It is modernizing its dairy sector through digital tools that boost productivity, transparency, and farmer welfare.
- The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) leads these efforts by connecting farmers, cooperatives, and stakeholders, improving operations, reducing inefficiencies, and enhancing traceability across the dairy value chain.

Various Steps

- **National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM) :** It implemented by NDDB in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), represents a major step toward a unified digital livestock ecosystem called "Bharat Pashudhan."
  - The Bharat Pashudhan database records field activities such as breeding, artificial insemination, health services, vaccination, and treatment
  - All livestock are tagged with a 12-digit "Pashu Aadhar" to track vaccinations, breeding, and treatment, with over 35.68 crore IDs issued by November 2025.
  - Farmers can access records via the 1962 app or toll-free number for veterinary services and scheme information.
- **Automatic Milk Collection System:** It digitizes milk collection at Dairy Cooperative Societies, recording quantity, quality, and fat content, with instant payments to farmers. It ensures transparency, traceability, and real-time updates, while providing cooperatives with data insights.
  - Operational in 12 states/UTs, AMCS serves over 26,000 societies and 17.3 lakh farmers across 54 milk unions, strengthening India's digital and inclusive dairy ecosystem.
- **The NDDB Dairy ERP (NDERP):** It is a comprehensive, web-based enterprise resource planning system developed and customized specifically for the dairy and edible oil industries.
- **The Semen Station Management System (SSMS)**: It is a comprehensive digital platform designed to streamline the production of Frozen Semen Doses (FSD) and ensure adherence to the Minimum Standard Protocols (MSP) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set by the Government of India.
  - It covers all core operations of semen stations, including bull lifecycle management, semen production, quality control, biosecurity, farm and fodder management, and sales tracking.
  - It is connected to the Information Network for Semen Production and Resource Management (INSPRM), a national portal

that enables real-time data sharing between semen stations and field-level systems like INAPH (Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health).
    - Developed under the National Dairy Plan I (NDP I), a World Bank-funded initiative implemented by NDDB.
- **The Internet-based Dairy Information System (i-DIS)**: It provides a unified digital platform for dairy cooperatives, unions, and federations to collect, share, and analyze data on milk procurement, sales, production, and inputs. With participation from 198 milk unions, 29 dairies, 54 cattle-feed plants, and 15 federations, i-DIS creates a reliable national database, supporting evidence-based planning, benchmarking, and policy-making in India's dairy sector.
- **Milk Route Optimisation**: The NDDB has introduced milk route optimisation using GIS technology to make India's dairy supply chain more efficient and cost-effective.
    - By mapping procurement and distribution routes digitally, cooperatives can reduce transportation distance, fuel costs, and delivery time.
    - Pilot projects in regions like Vidarbha Marathwada, Varanasi, West Assam, Jharkhand, and Indore have shown significant savings.

Significance

- Use of AI, IoT sensors, blockchain, and mobile apps enables real-time monitoring of cattle health, milk quality, and supply chain logistics.
- Digital platforms help farmers access direct payments, veterinary services, and market prices, reducing dependence on middlemen.
- Digital records ensure quality assurance, vital for exports and consumer trust.

Key Challenges

- Smallholder farmers contribute most of India's milk, making standardization and digital integration difficult.
- Many rural producers lack training to use apps and digital tools effectively.
- Poor internet connectivity, cold chain facilities, and rural electrification hinder adoption.
- High upfront investment in IoT devices, sensors, and automated systems is unaffordable for small farmers.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- India's dairy sector is undergoing a major digital transformation led by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- By combining cooperative strength with digital innovation, India is creating a traceable, efficient, and sustainable dairy value chain.
- This transformation is not only technological but also social and economic, empowering rural households and enhancing global competitiveness, supported by policy initiatives like Digital India.

Source :PIB

DISTRICT-LED TEXTILES TRANSFORMATION (DLTT)" PLAN

Context

- The Ministry of Textiles has unveiled the **District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) initiative**, a strategic initiative designed to catalyze inclusive and sustainable growth across India's textile landscape.

About

- The Ministry plans to transform **100 high-potential districts into Global Export Champions** and develop **100 Aspirational Districts** into self-sufficient hubs by adopting a district-level, sector-specific approach.
- The Ministry analyzed all districts using a data-driven scoring methodology based on **three key parameters - Export Performance, MSME Ecosystem Workforce Presence.**
- The initiative also emphasizes on Purvodaya convergence in east and northeast zones.

Two-pronged strategy of districts categorization

- **Champion Districts (Scale & Sophistication):** These districts will focus on removing advanced bottlenecks.
    - Interventions include upgrading to **Mega Common Facility Centres (CFCs),** integrating **Industry 4.0**, and facilitating direct Export Market Linkages, etc.
- **Aspirational Districts (Foundation & Formalization):** These districts would aim to **build the ecosystem from the ground up** in setting up foundation and formalization of workforce.
    - This includes basic skilling and certification, establishing Raw Material Banks, and promoting micro-enterprises through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Cooperatives, etc.

Significance of the DLTT Initiative

- The initiative promotes decentralised and district-specific industrial development, moving away from a **one-size-fits-all approach** and ensuring that local strengths, resources, and skills are effectively leveraged.

- DLTT strengthens **India's textile export competitiveness** by enabling districts with proven capacity to scale up, upgrade technology, and integrate directly with global markets.
- The focus on MSMEs and informal enterprises helps in **formalising the textile ecosystem**, improving access to finance, technology, and markets for **small producers, artisans, and micro-entrepreneurs.**
- DLTT enhances **supply chain resilience** by **developing local production hubs,** reducing dependence on concentrated manufacturing regions.

Textile Sector of India

- **Share in Domestic Trade:** The domestic apparel & textile industry in India contributes approx. **2.3 % to the country's GDP, 13%** to industrial production and **12%** to exports.
- **Share in Global Trade:** India has a **4%** share of the global trade in textiles and apparel.
- **Export:** India is the **6th largest exporter of Textiles & Apparel** in the world.
  - The share of textile and apparel (T&A) including handicrafts in India's total exports stands at a significant **8.21%** in 2023-24.
- **Production of Raw Material:** India is one of the largest producers of cotton and jute in the world. India is also the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world and 95% of the world's hand-woven fabric comes from India.
- **Employment Generation:** The industry is the 2nd largest employer in the country providing direct employment to 45 million people and 100 million people in the allied sector.
- **Regions:** Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Gujarat are the top textile and clothing manufacturing states in India.

Other Initiatives to Promote Textile Sector

- **PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme:** Its objective is to develop 7 mega integrated textile parks across India in **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.**
  - It aims to create a **modern, integrated, world class plug and play** textile infrastructure.
  - **Foreign direct investment (FDI):** Japanese investment aligns well with India's goals under the "Make in India for the World" and "China-plus-one" manufacturing strategies.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:** The Scheme for Textiles was approved to promote production of **Man-Made Fibre (MMF) Apparel**, **MMF Fabrics** and **products of Technical Textiles** in the country to enable the textile sector to achieve size and scale and to become competitive.
- **Exports Promotion Councils (EPCs):** There are eleven Exports Promotion Councils (EPCs) representing various segments of the textiles & apparel value chain from Fibre to finished goods as well as traditional sectors like handloom, handicrafts and carpets.

Challenges in India's Textile Sector

- The sector remains **highly fragmented**, with a **predominance of small and informal enterprises** that face constraints in scaling up, adopting technology, and accessing formal finance.
- **Low labour productivity** and **skill gaps** persist due to outdated production practices, limited formal training, and inadequate industry–academia linkages.
- **India faces high logistics and transaction costs,** and delays in customs clearance, reducing export competitiveness.
- **Access to affordable credit** remains a major issue for MSMEs and handloom units.

Way Ahead

- **Stronger branding, design, and marketing support is essential** to move districts from contract manufacturing to own-label and geographical indication–based products.
- **Regular impact assessment** and course correction, based on export performance, employment creation, and formalisation indicators, should be institutionalised.
- **Digital platforms and data systems** should be leveraged for real-time tracking of production, skilling outcomes, exports, and market linkages at the district level.

Source: PIB

WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS 2026

Context

- The United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2026 has projected India's GDP growth to **6.6 percent in 2026** from 7.4 percent in 2025, largely due to tariffs imposed by the US on India's exports.
  - The report was produced by the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).**

Key highlights of the report

- **Global Growth Outlook:** World output is projected to slow to **2.7% in 2026** before edging up to **2.9% in 2027**.
  - While domestic demand and policy easing are supporting activity in the **United States and parts of Asia**, growth remains **weak in Europe,** and high debt and climate shocks continue to constrain many developing economies.
- **Trade and Investment Trends:** Global trade performed better than expected in 2025, driven by early shipments ahead of higher tariffs and robust services exports. But growth is projected to **slow in 2026.**
- **Inflation and Cost-of-Living:** Global headline inflation is projected to fall to **3.1% in 2026** from 3.4% in 2025. However, high prices continue to erode real incomes, particularly for low-income households.
- **Financial Conditions and Risks:** Lower interest rates and improved market sentiment have helped revive capital flows, but high asset valuations and elevated borrowing costs continue to pose risks.
  - Many developing economies remain constrained by **heavy debt burdens and limited access** to affordable finance.

Reasons for slowdown in world economy

- **Inflation:** While headline inflation has cooled from its peak, core inflation remains sticky, particularly in services.
- **Rising trade protectionism:** Higher tariffs, trade barriers and policy uncertainty have disrupted global supply chains and dampened trade growth.
- **Structural challenges:** Ageing populations, low productivity growth and slow technological diffusion are weighing on long-term growth.
- **Weak multilateral cooperation:** Fragmentation of global governance and trade rules has reduced policy coordination and growth momentum.

Key recommendations

- **Coordination across macroeconomic policies:** Monetary policy alone cannot manage persistent price pressures.
  - **Better alignment between monetary, fiscal and industrial policies** is essential to stabilise inflation, support investment and protect vulnerable groups.
- **Use fiscal policy strategically and credibly:** Credible medium-term fiscal plans and prudent debt management are essential to rebuild fiscal space.
- **Multilateral cooperation and development finance**: Implementing commitments under the **Sevilla Commitment,** including debt reform and expanded concessional and climate finance, is vital to closing investment gaps and reducing systemic risks.
- **Open rules-based trading system:** Strengthening transparency, predictability and cooperation in global trade remains central to sustaining growth and limiting fragmentation in an increasingly uncertain global economy.

Source: UN

DRDO ACHIEVED A KEY MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYPERSONIC MISSILES

Context

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has achieved a key milestone in the **development of hypersonic missiles**.

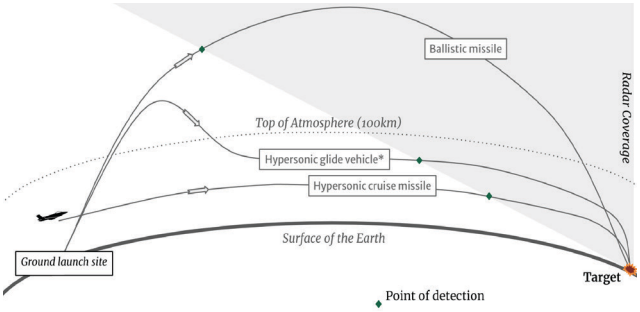
About

- DRDO has successfully conducted an extensive long-duration ground test of its **Actively Cooled Scramjet Full Scale Combustor** at the state-of-the-art **Scramjet Connect Pipe Test (SCPT) facility.**
- The trial achieved a run time of over **12 minutes,** marking a **path-breaking** milestone in the **development of hypersonic missile technology.**
- The test was conducted by the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL),** Hyderabad-based premier facility of the DRDO responsible for the **design and development** of state-of-the-art missile systems and technologies.

Hypersonic Missiles

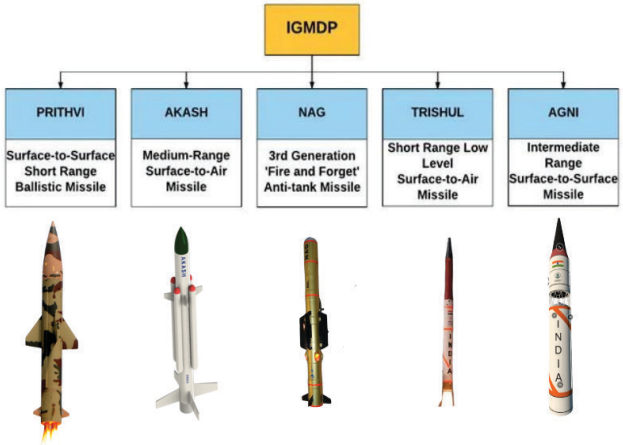
- The Hypersonic Cruise Missile is capable of exceeding **five times the speed of sound** (over 6,100 km/hr) for extended periods.
- The **speed is achieved through** a cutting-edge air-breathing engine, which utilises supersonic combustion to sustain long-duration flight.

- These missiles are also **more maneuverable**, which allows them to more easily evade air defence systems.
- **The two types of hypersonic weapons systems** are Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV) and Hypersonic Cruise Missiles.
  - The HGVs are launched from a rocket before gliding to the intended target while HCMs are powered by air-breathing high-speed engines or 'scramjets' after acquiring their target.



Types of Missile Systems in India

- **Ballistic Missiles:** Ballistic missiles are designed to deliver a payload (usually a warhead) over long distances using a ballistic trajectory.
  - Due to their long-range capabilities and substantial payloads, ballistic missiles serve as deterrents and are integral to a nation's strategic defence posture.
  - Short-Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBM) includes Prithvi I, II, III.
  - Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles (MRBM) are Agni-I, II, III, IV, V.



- **Cruise Missiles:** Cruise missiles are guided missiles that use aerodynamic lift to travel through the atmosphere, typically at subsonic or supersonic speeds.
  - Valued for their precision and flexibility, cruise missiles are often employed in tactical scenarios to eliminate specific targets with minimal collateral damage.
  - The Long-Range Cruise Missile is **Nirbhay.**
  - **BrahMos** is a supersonic cruise missile.

Source: IE

NEWS IN SHORT

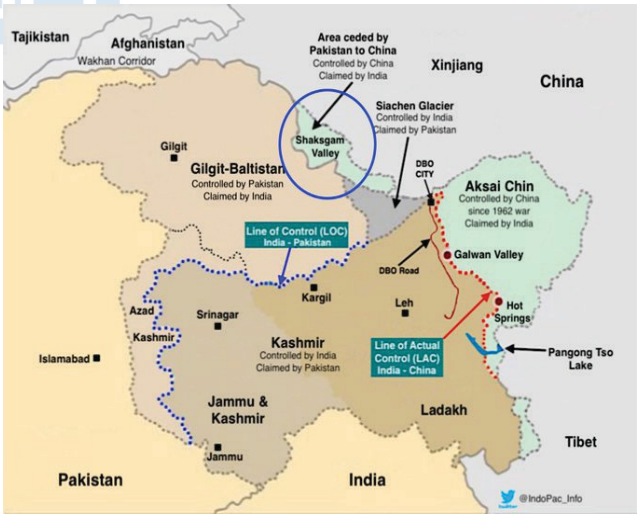
SHAKSGAM VALLEY

Context

- India has reiterated that Shaksgam Valley is part of its sovereign territory and rejected the **1963 China–Pakistan Boundary Agreement**, calling it illegal and invalid.
  - India also reaffirmed its opposition to the **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** as it passes through Indian territory under illegal occupation.

About Shaksgam Valley

- Also known as the **Trans-Karakoram Tract.**
- Lies north of the Siachen Glacier, in the region of Ladakh.
- Historically part of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Currently under Chinese control, Pakistan illegally ceded Shaksgam Valley to China following the **1963 China–Pakistan Boundary Agreement.**



Source: TOI

WATER VAPOR

Context

- As per the recent study**, water vapour** contributes more to atmospheric heating than **aerosols**, highlighting its dominant role in the regional climate system.

Key Points

- The **radiative effect of water vapour** is strongly modulated by aerosol presence, indicating a tight aerosol–water vapour coupling.
- **Water vapor radiative effects (WVRE)** is strongest in clean (low-aerosol) atmospheric conditions, both at the surface and within the atmosphere.
- **The Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP)** is a global hotspot of aerosol loading due to:
  - High population density;
  - Industrial and vehicular emissions;
  - Biomass burning and dust transport.

Water Vapour

- Water vapour is the most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.
- It is a condensable gas, easily changing from gas to liquid.
- Its concentration decreases with altitude and from the equator towards the poles.
- It can constitute up to 4% of air by volume in warm tropical regions.
- In cold, dry deserts and polar regions, it may be less than 1%.

Source: TH

SOMNATH SWABHIMAN PARV

In News

- Somnath Swabhiman Parv is being organised to commemorate the temple's reopening.

The Somnath Swabhiman Parv

- It marks 1,000 years since the first recorded attack on Somnath Temple and 75 years since its reopening in 1951.
  - The temple was rebuilt through the collective resolve of devotees like Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar.
- It is a four-day event which celebrates resilience, faith, and India's civilisational continuity, featuring 72-hour Akhand Omkar chanting, devotional music, spiritual discourses, and cultural programs.
- It highlights Somnath as a symbol of revival and national pride rather than a remembrance of destruction.

Somnath

- The Somnath temple located in Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Saurashtra on the western coast of Gujarat, is believed to be the first among the twelve jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva
- Somnath is revered as the first among the 12 Aadi Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.
- The present temple complex comprises the Garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum), Sabhamandap (assembly hall) and Nrityamandap (dance hall), rising majestically alongside the Arabian Sea.
- **Features**: The temple is crowned by a 150-foot Shikhar, with a 10-tonne Kalash at its summit. The Dhwajdand (flagpole), standing 27-foot tall, marks the temple's unwavering identity.
  - The complex is adorned with 1,666 gold-plated Kalash and 14,200 Dhwajas, symbolising generations of devotion and craftsmanship.
- **Attacks:** Over centuries, it was repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt, beginning with the first recorded attack by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026, symbolising India's enduring faith, identity, and civilisational pride.
- **Reconstruction:** The present temple was reconstructed in Chaulukya style of Hindu temple architecture and completed in May 1951. The reconstruction was completed by Vallabhbhai Patel.

Source :PIB

WEIMAR TRIANGLE

In News

- India participated for the first time in the **Weimar Triangle format**, a significant diplomatic development.

About the Weimar Triangle

- It is a trilateral political and diplomatic **grouping of France, Germany & Poland established in 1991** named after Weimar, where the three foreign ministers of these nations first met.
- It aims to build a united, secure, and resilient Europe & strengthen political, security, and economic cooperation among Western and Central European powers.

Why Does India's Participation Matters?

- Reflects India–Europe strategic convergence, beyond bilateral ties.
- Indicates European support for India's:
  - Energy security needs
  - Independent foreign policy decisions
- Expands India's engagement with key European security platforms, even outside formal EU structures.

Source: TH

MINISTRY OF TOURISM COMPLETES 75 PROJECTS UNDER SWADESH DARSHAN

Context

- The Ministry of Tourism Completes 75 Projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

About

- The Ministry of Tourism launched the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** in 2015 for the development of **theme-based tourist circuits.**
  - **The scheme adopts an integrated approach to tourism development,** focusing on infrastructure creation, destination management, and visitor experience.
- A total of **76 projects** have been sanctioned for a total amount of **Rs. 5290.33 Crore** under the scheme.
- **Theme-Based Tourist Circuits:** It identifies various thematic circuits based on specific themes such as;
  - Spiritual circuits (e.g., Char Dham Yatra, Buddhist circuit)
  - Cultural circuits (e.g., North East Circuit, Tribal Circuit)
  - Heritage circuits
  - Wildlife circuits
  - Coastal circuits
- The scheme has now been revamped as **Swadesh Darshan 2.0** with the objective to develop **sustainable and responsible destinations**.

Source: PIB

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA 3.0

Context

- The Union Minister for Education chaired a consultation meeting with the stakeholders on **Samagra Shiksha 3.0,** titled 'Reimagining Samagra Shiksha'.

About

- The meeting aimed to **develop a strategic, consultative, and implementable roadmap for Samagra Shiksha 3.0** through collaborative deliberations with States, UTs, and sectoral stakeholders.
- The discussions focused on **emerging challenges, best practices, and priority interventions** required to strengthen governance, infrastructure, teacher training, and student entitlements in the next phase of the scheme.

Samagra Shiksha

- **Launch:** It was launched in the Union Budget, 2018-19.
- **Aim:** To treat school education holistically without segmentation from pre-nursery to Class 12.
- **It subsumes the three erstwhile Schemes of** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- **The main outcomes of the Scheme are envisaged** as Universal Access, Equity and Quality, promoting Vocationalisation of Education and strengthening of Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs).
- The Scheme is implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the **Ministry of Education.**

Source: TH

CREATOR'S CORNER

In News

- Prasar Bharati launched "Creator's Corner" on DD News to spotlight Digital Talent.

"Creator's Corner"

- It is a new segment on DD News aimed at providing a national platform to emerging digital content creators from across India.
- It would empower creators from small towns and linguistic communities who are producing, editing and distributing content independently.
- It will feature content on a wide range of themes including News and Current Affairs, Culture, Travel, Cuisine, Art and Literature, Music and Dance, Health and Wellness, Education, Science and Technology, inspiring stories, Environment and Sustainable Development, and Entertainment.

Significance

- It aligns with the Centre's push to recognise and mainstream the country's growing creator economy.
- It seeks to build a vibrant, responsible and inclusive ecosystem that recognises creators as full-fledged content producers.
- It aims to promote the digital economy by encouraging the creation of quality content and expanding its reach through a partnership between Prasar Bharati and individual content creators.

PIB

9TH APEX-LEVEL NARCO COORDINATION CENTRE (NCORD) MEETING

In News

- The Home Minister chaired the 9th apex-level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting in New Delhi and reviewed the collective national effort to combat the drug menace in the country.

About NCORD

- NCORD serves as India's key coordination mechanism for combating drug trafficking and abuse through enhanced collaboration between central and state agencies.
- **Established in 2016 and restructured in 2019** under the Ministry of Home Affairs, it enforces the NDPS Act, 1985, via a structured four-tier system (Apex Level Committee, Executive Level Committee, State Level Committees & District Level Committees)

Key Initiatives

- **NCORD Portal:** By Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) acts as a knowledge management system for intelligence sharing and monitoring.
- **MANAS Helpline (1933):** 24x7 toll-free service for drug-related information and support.
- **NIDAAN Database:** Tracks arrested narco-offenders to disrupt networks.

Source: PIB

NATIONAL IED DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF NSG

In News

- The Home Minister launched the **National IED Data Management System (NIDMS)**, marking a significant step towards strengthening the country's counter-IED and internal security architecture.

National IED Data Management System (NIDMS)

- It is developed by the **National Security Guard (NSG).**
- It is a secure national digital platform through which accurate and organized analysis of bomb explosion-related incidents across the country can be conducted.
- It is aimed at enabling the systematic collection, collation and dissemination of data related to Improvised Explosive Devices(IED).
- It will enable ATS units, the police, and the CAPFs across the country to access and use a wide range of data available online. He added that the system will function as a two-way platform.

Source :Air

COPPER

Context

- Global copper demand is projected to rise nearly **50% by 2040**, driven by artificial intelligence, clean-energy transition and rising defence expenditure.

About Copper

- Copper (Cu) is a **reddish-orange, soft** and **highly malleable metal** with **atomic number 29,** known for its exceptional electrical and thermal conductivity.
- These properties make it vital for **electrical wiring, power transmission, plumbing and electronic applications.**
- Copper is also a key component of important alloys such as **brass (copper–zinc) and bronze (copper–tin),** which enhance strength and corrosion resistance.
- India has significant **copper ore resources** primarily in **Rajasthan's Khetri belt, Madhya Pradesh's Malanjkhand** , and **Jharkhand's Singhbhum belt.**

Source: FP

■■■■