

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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18TH JAPAN-INDIA FOREIGN MINISTERS' STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

In News/Context

- At the **18th India–Japan Strategic Dialogue**, **India and Japan** reaffirmed the upward trajectory of their **Special Strategic and Global Partnership**, with a strong focus on economic security, resilient supply chains, critical technologies, and defence cooperation.

Key Highlights

- Announced the launch of **Japan–India Private-Sector Dialogue on Economic Security (B2B)** in early 2026.
- It will help in identification of five priority areas: semiconductors, critical minerals, ICT, clean energy, and pharmaceuticals.
- Establishment of the **Japan–India AI Strategic Dialogue under the Japan–India AI Cooperation Initiative (JAI)**.
- Japan will invite **500 highly skilled Indian AI professionals by 2030** for joint research.
- Early convening of **Joint Working Group on Mineral Resources to strengthen resilient supply chains**.
- Both emphasised on de-risking the global economy and ensuring stability of critical supply chains.



Significance of Japan for India

- Economic Partner:** Key source of FDI, infrastructure financing, and high-end technology.
- Strategic Ally:** Shares India's vision of a Free, Open, and Inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- Supply Chain Resilience:** Critical partner in de-risking strategies and diversification away from over-concentrated supply chains.
- Technology & Innovation:** Cooperation in AI, semiconductors, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing.
- Global Governance:** Supports India's role in shaping a rules-based international order and reforms in multilateral institutions.

Challenges / Concerns

- Implementation Gap:** Several dialogues and frameworks exist, but translating them into large-scale industrial and technological outcomes remains slow.
- Limited Trade Volume:** Despite strong strategic ties, bilateral trade remains modest compared to potential and Japan's trade with other major partners.
- Technology Transfer Constraints:** High-end defence and semiconductor technologies face export controls, cost issues, and procedural delays.
- Discussions on UNICORN radar technology highlight progress, but such flagship projects often face lengthy negotiations.

- **Supply Chain Vulnerabilities:** Dependence on third countries for critical minerals and components continues in the short term.

Way Ahead

- Converting strategic convergence into co-production, co-innovation, and co-investment is essential to overcome these challenges.

Source: AIR

UN HIGH SEAS TREATY COMES INTO EFFECT

Context

- A UN-backed treaty on biodiversity in international waters, formally known as the **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty**, has entered into force, creating the first legally binding global framework to conserve and sustainably use the high seas.

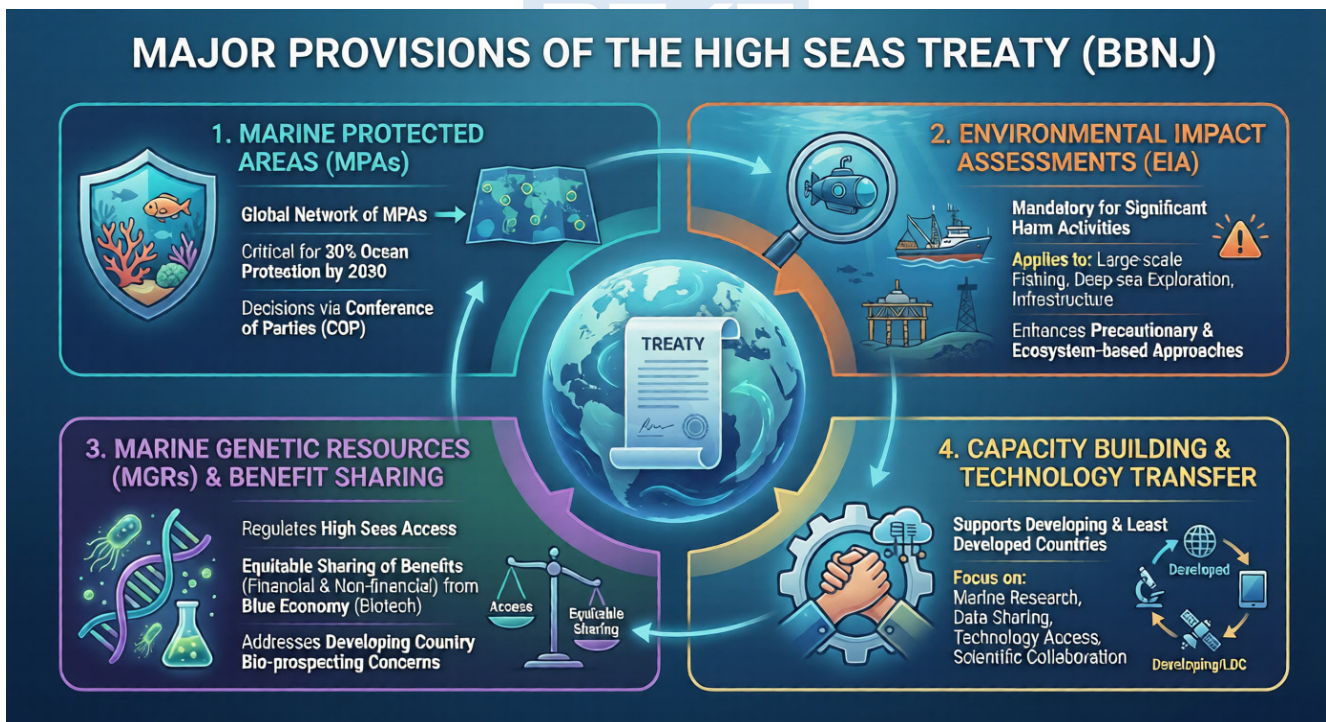
What are the High Seas?

- High seas refer to ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction, i.e., beyond 200 nautical miles (Exclusive Economic Zones – EEZs).

- They cover nearly two-thirds of the global ocean and about half of the Earth's surface.
- Earlier governed mainly by general principles under UNCLOS, with limited biodiversity-specific regulation.

About the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty

- **Adoption & Background:** The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement was adopted in 2023 by an Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, convened under the auspices of the United Nations.
- **Legal Status under UNCLOS:** It is the third implementing agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), after:
 - ♦ 1994 Part XI Implementation Agreement (Deep Seabed Mining)
 - ♦ 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
- **Objective:** To ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), commonly known as the high seas.



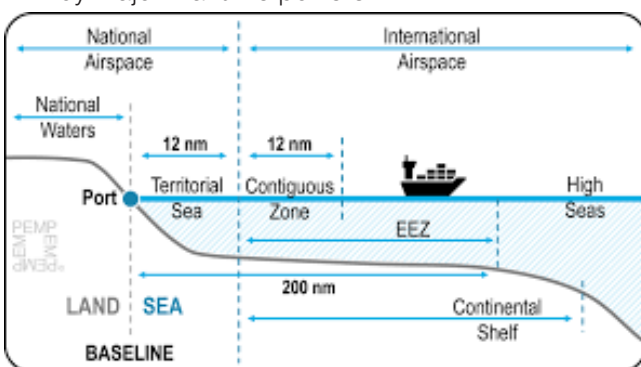
- **Institutional & Financial Mechanisms:** Establishes a Conference of the Parties (COP) as the decision-making body.
 - ♦ Creates a Clearing-House Mechanism for data, knowledge, and cooperation.
- Sets up a Secretariat and a dedicated funding mechanism to support implementation.
- **Membership Status:** 83 countries have ratified the treaty so far & India has signed but not yet ratified the BBNJ Agreement.

Significance of the BBNJ Treaty

- **Governance of the Global Commons:** The treaty provides the first comprehensive legal framework for biodiversity protection in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), which constitute nearly two-thirds of the global ocean.
 - ♦ Earlier, high seas fishing faced weak regulation, enabling overfishing of migratory species like tuna; BBNJ allows ecosystem-based management.
- **Advancement of the “30×30” Target:** Supports the global goal of protecting 30% of oceans by 2030 through Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the high seas.
- **Mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs):** Requires prior EIAs for activities that may cause significant harm to marine ecosystems.
- **Equity through Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs):** Introduces fair and equitable benefit-sharing from marine genetic resources used in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and biotechnology.
- **Capacity Building for Developing Countries:** Promotes technology transfer, scientific cooperation, and funding support.
- **Strengthening Multilateralism:** Reinforces faith in rules-based global order under the United Nations, especially at a time of fragmented global governance.

Concerns and Limitations of the BBNJ Treaty

- **Deep-Sea Mining Excluded:** The treaty does not regulate seabed mining, which remains under the International Seabed Authority (ISA).
- **Implementation Challenges:** Monitoring and enforcement in vast high seas is technically and financially demanding. Like developing countries may struggle to conduct EIAs or participate effectively in COP processes.
- **Non-Universal Ratification:** The United States has signed but not ratified, limiting compliance by major maritime powers.



- **Soft Compliance Mechanisms:** The treaty relies more on cooperation than coercive enforcement, raising concerns over compliance.
 - ♦ **Example:** Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing may persist despite new norms.

Source: Firstpost

SEED ACT 2026 AND ITS IMPACT ON FARMERS

Context

- Recently, the **Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW)** briefed in detail about the features of the **Seed Act 2026** and its impact on farmers.
 - ♦ The Seed Act 2026 is expected to be introduced in the Upcoming Budget Session of Parliament.

Key Reasons For Bringing New Seed Act (Seed Act 2026)

- **Outdated Nature of the Seed Act, 1966:** The Seed Act of 1966 was enacted when seed market was largely public-sector driven; hybrid and genetically improved varieties were limited; and digital systems and traceability were non-existent.
 - ♦ Today, the **seed sector** is vast, private-sector dominated, and technologically advanced.
 - ♦ The old law lacks provisions for digital monitoring, modern certification standards, and effective enforcement mechanisms.
- **Lack of Seed Traceability:** Currently, farmers often do not know who produced the seed, whether it was certified, and who is responsible if crops fail; that makes **grievance redressal extremely difficult**.
- **Rising Menace of Fake and Substandard Seeds:** Farmers across India frequently report losses due to spurious or adulterated seeds, seeds sold under false labels, and poor germination and low yields.
 - ♦ Penalties were minimal, and prosecution was slow and ineffective under the old Act.
- **Protection of Farmers' Rights:** While regulating commercial seed sales, it is equally important to protect farmers' traditional rights to save, use, exchange, and share seeds, and ensure farmers are not criminalised for age-old practices.
- **Growth of the Private Seed Market:** With the rapid expansion of private seed companies, quality control has become uneven, and small farmers are exposed to aggressive marketing without safeguards.

- ♦ The old law does not sufficiently regulate registration of seed companies and dealers, and accountability of private players.
- **Ensuring Food Security and Productivity:** Low-quality seeds directly impact national crop output, food availability, and price stability.
 - ♦ At a time when climate change is increasing risks to agriculture, seed quality becomes even more critical.
- **Regulation of Imported Seeds:** India imports several seed varieties, but weak regulation can lead to introduction of unsuitable or low-quality seeds, and ecological and agronomic risks.

Key Features of the Seed Act 2026

- **Nationwide Seed Traceability:** Every packet of commercial seed sold will carry a **QR code** that farmers can scan.
 - ♦ **Scanning reveals key information:** who produced the seed, where it was sourced, and which dealer sold it.
 - ♦ It aims to **eliminate anonymous seed sales** and quickly detect fake or substandard seeds, enabling faster remedies for aggrieved farmers.
- **Mandatory Registration of Seed Companies and Dealers:** The Act proposes compulsory **registration** of commercial seed producers, traders, and dealers.
 - ♦ Unregistered vendors will not be allowed to sell seed.
 - ♦ It ensures only authorised players operate in the market, reducing the entry of dubious sellers.
- **Strong Penalties for Substandard and Fake Seeds:** The new Act proposes **finest up to ₹30 lakh** and possible **imprisonment** for deliberate violations.
 - ♦ It aims to protect farmers from routine exploitation by unscrupulous vendors.
- **Protection of Traditional Seed Practices:** Government officials have emphasised that traditional farmer practices like saving, sharing, and exchanging seeds within the community will **not be restricted**.
 - ♦ The new act focuses on commercial seed quality, not on traditional, non-branded seed systems.
- **Scientific Evaluation of Imported Seeds:** Imported seeds will undergo rigorous scientific assessment before entering the Indian market,

ensuring they meet ecological, agronomic, and quality criteria.

- ♦ It protects local farmers from inferior foreign seeds that may not be suited to Indian growing conditions.
- **Institutional Mechanisms and Federal Cooperation:** The Act may create oversight committees at the **Central and State level** to improve coordination in seed testing, registration, and enforcement across regions.
 - ♦ Agriculture remains a **State Subject (Schedule VII of Indian Constitution)**, meaning states will play a key role in implementing and enforcing the Act alongside the Centre.

Expected Impact on Farmers

- **Boost in Confidence and Crop Productivity:** High-quality certified seeds with verified origin help improve germination rates, reduce crop failures, and increase yields.
 - ♦ Farmers benefit through better production outcomes and reduced risk.
- **Reduction of Fake and Substandard Seeds:** By making traceability mandatory and enforcing registration and penalties, the market will see a significant reduction in **adulterated or fake seeds**.
 - ♦ It is especially important for smallholder farmers, whose limited resources make them highly vulnerable to low-quality inputs.
- **Transparent Supply Chain:** Transparency enables farmers to make informed purchase decisions and, if necessary, seek redressal using digital records.
 - ♦ Over time, trusted seed brands and reliable dealers will gain prominence, improving market discipline.
- **Encouragement of Public and Domestic Seed Innovation:** The Act strengthens the role of Indian agricultural research institutions (e.g., ICAR, agricultural universities), enabling them to play a more defined role in seed development.
 - ♦ Stronger domestic systems may reduce dependency on imported seed varieties and support locally adapted seeds.

Related Concerns & Challenges

- **Implementation Capacity:** Effective enforcement demands well-equipped seed testing labs, trained personnel, and digital infrastructure, especially in smaller towns and rural areas.

- ♦ States vary widely in institutional capacity, which may affect uniform rollout.
- **Concerns Over Corporate Influence:** Stringent registration and regulatory frameworks could concentrate market power among large seed corporations, potentially marginalising small seed producers.
- **Need for Farmer Awareness:** Digital traceability and complaint systems require farmers to be aware of how to use them, necessitating robust outreach and education programmes.

Source: PIB

DECODING DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

In News

- Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's readiness to share its **digital public infrastructure with Commonwealth nations**, viewing technology as a global public good that strengthens democracy.

Digital Public Infrastructure(DPI)

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) refers to a set of shared, secure, and interoperable digital systems built on open standards and governed by enabling rules such as policies, regulations, and institutions.
- DPI **enables governments, citizens, and the private sector to interact** digitally at scale in a trusted, inclusive, and low-cost manner.
- Like physical infrastructure, DPIs are indivisible, non-exclusionary, and create opportunities for public value.
- India's DPI operates as a **three-layered stack: Identity Layer** (Aadhaar for unique ID), **Payments Layer** (UPI enabling real-time, low-cost transactions), and **Data Layer** (Account Aggregator for consent-based sharing).

Significance of DPI

- **Efficient Public Service Delivery:** DPI enables seamless platforms like GeM (surpassing 5 lakh crore GMV) and UMANG (2,300 services, 8.71 crore users), streamlining procurement, welfare delivery, and citizen-government interactions.
- **Financial Inclusion Revolution:** UPI powers 85% of India's digital payments and ~50% of global real-time transactions, providing low-cost, instant access to millions of unbanked populations.
- **Breaking Language Barriers:** BHASHINI supports 35+ Indian languages and 1,600+ AI

models across 22+ languages, making digital services accessible in diverse linguistic contexts.

- **Enhanced E-Governance:** The three-layered stack (Aadhaar, UPI, Account Aggregator) ensures interoperable, consent-based systems that reduce administrative costs and improve transparency.
- **Global Soft Power & Diplomacy:** India Stack Global and GDPR position India as a digital leader, with MoUs (Armenia, Sierra Leone) exporting DPI solutions to the Global South.

Challenges

- **Cyber Threats:** RBI flagged risks of vendor dependence, **cyber threats, and weak data protection** frameworks .
- **Digital Divide:** Despite progress, rural and marginalized communities face gaps in connectivity and digital literacy.
- **Interoperability & Standards:** Need for global alignment of DPI standards to ensure cross-border adoption.
- **Trust & Accountability:** Concerns about surveillance, misuse of personal data, and lack of robust grievance redressal mechanisms.

Conclusion and Way Forward

- India's DPI journey demonstrates how digital identity, payments, and governance platforms can transform societies.
- It has empowered millions, boosted economic growth, and set global benchmarks.
- However, addressing cybersecurity, privacy, and inclusivity challenges is essential to sustain trust and ensure equitable benefits.
- With continued investment in infrastructure, policy safeguards, and international collaboration, India can consolidate its role as a global leader in digital governance.

Source: [Air](#)

NEWS IN SHORT

THIRUVALLUVAR DAY

In News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Thiruvalluvar, acknowledging the enduring influence of his timeless works and ideals across generations.

Thiruvalluvar

- He flourished around two thousand years ago in Mylapore, present-day Chennai. He was a born Siddha and poet, known simply as Valluvar, or more commonly as Thiruvalluvar, meaning 'the devotee of the Valluva caste'.
 - ♦ The Valluvas traditionally belonged to the Pariah community, now referred to as Harijans, and their vocation involved proclaiming royal orders by beating drums.
- **Birthplace and period:** some traditions state that he was born in Madurai, the capital of the Pandyas, his period has been variously dated between the 4th century BCE and the early 6th century CE.
 - ♦ Scholar Maraimalai Adigal dated his birth to 31 BCE, whereas Tamil scholar Kamil Zvelebil suggested that Thiruvalluvar and the Tirukkural likely belonged to the period between 500 and 600 CE.
 - ♦ In January 1935, the Tamil Nadu government officially recognised 31 BCE as the birth year of Thiruvalluvar.

Teachings and Works

- Thiruvalluvar demonstrated that one could lead a divine life of purity and sanctity while remaining a householder.
- He demonstrated that renunciation of family life was not necessary for achieving spiritual excellence.
- Thiruvalluvar is considered one of the greatest poet-philosophers of the Sangam period.
- His work is held in such high esteem that it has been referred to by several names, including Tirukkural, Uttaravedam, Tamil Veda, Teyvanul (the divine book), and Potumarai (the common Veda).
 - ♦ His magnum opus, the **Tirukkural**, is a collection of 1,330 couplets dealing with morality, governance, economics, and love.
 - ♦ The text is regarded as one of the greatest works of Tamil literature and is admired for its universal values and ethical clarity.

Source : [PIB](#)

JALLIKATTU

Context

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin attended the jallikattu in Alanganallur.

What is Jallikattu?

- Jallikattu, also known as **Eruthazhuvuthal**, is a bull-taming sport traditionally played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival.
- The history of this bullfight dates back to **400-100 BCE** when it was played by the **Ayars**, an ethnic group in India.
- The name is coined from two words, Jalli (silver and gold coins) and Kattu (tied). In this festival, a bull is let loose among a crowd of people, and whoever tames it will get the coins tied to its horn.
 - ♦ The people who participate in the sport try to hold on to the animal's hump to stop it. Sometimes, they run along with the bull.
- **Pulikulam or Kangayam** is the breed of bulls used for the sport. This festival has been part of cultural tourism in the state.
 - ♦ Vadi manjuvira, Vēli vira, and Vaḷam manjuvira are the variants of this sport.

Do you know?

- The practice of Jallikattu and other festivals involving animals have long been contested, with animal rights groups and the courts expressing concern over cruelty to animals and the bloody and dangerous nature of the sport that sometimes causes death and injuries to both the animal and human participants.
- However, in 2023, A **five-judge Bench** of the Supreme Court upheld the amendments made by the legislatures of **Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka** to **The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960**, allowing bull-taming sports like jallikattu, kambala, and bullock-cart races.

Source: [IE](#)

CHABAHAR PORT AMIDST US-IRAN TENSIONS

In News

- India has reaffirmed that it remains engaged with both the U.S. and Iran to continue operations at the strategic Chabahar port, countering reports that it plans to exit due to renewed U.S. sanctions.

About the Chabahar Port

- **Meaning:** Chabahar is made of Persian words **Chahar** meaning four; and **bahar** meaning spring.
- Chabahar city is also home to Iran's only deep-seaport with direct access to the ocean.

- **Location:** Off the Gulf of Oman in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan & is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean.
 - ♦ Only about 170 kilometers west of the **Pakistani port of Gwadar.**
- **Consist of two ports:** Chabahar Port consists of two separate ports called **Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.**

Significance of Chabahar Port for India

- **Gateway to Central Asia and beyond:** The port gives access to the energy-rich **Persian Gulf nations' southern coast** & Central Asia and India can bypass Pakistan.
 - ♦ This is partly solved by INSTC.
 - ♦ This port will reduce dependency on the **Suez Canal** and reduce **transportation time.**
- **Trading with Afghanistan:** The **INSTC** allowed India to trade with the outside world via Iran, but India could not do so with **Afghanistan (not a member of INSTC)** in spite of being a very close neighbor.
 - ♦ In May 2016, a trilateral agreement was signed between India, Iran and Afghanistan for **using Chabahar Port.**
 - ♦ It will facilitate India's role in Afghanistan's development.
- **Strategic Importance:** Chabahar Port is also quite near the **Gwadar Port of Pakistan** being **developed by China.** It helps counter CPEC & strengthen maritime power.

Source: TH

INTRINSICALLY DISORDERED PROTEINS (IDP)

In News

- Indian researchers have developed **Disobind**, an **open-source AI-based tool** that predicts interactions of **Intrinsically Disordered Proteins (IDPs)** using protein language models.

What are Intrinsically Disordered Proteins (IDPs)?

- IDPs are **protein regions** that lack a single stable three-dimensional structure under physiological conditions.
- Instead of a fixed shape, they remain flexible and shapeshifting, allowing them to interact with multiple partners.
 - ♦ Traditional protein prediction tools rely on **stable structures**, making IDPs hard to analyse.

- IDPs control which genes are switched on or off by interacting with transcription factors and DNA-associated proteins.
- IDPs are involved in cancer progression, where abnormal interactions drive uncontrolled cell growth.

Source: PIB

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION

In News

- Praveen Vashista was appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission by the President of India.

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- It is India's apex **statutory body** entrusted with ensuring integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration.
- It was established in 1964 following the recommendations of the **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.**
- The **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003**, provides for the appointment of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners. The tenure of the Vigilance Commissioner is of **four years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.**
 - ♦ The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners are **appointed by the President of India** on the recommendations of a High-Powered Committee (HPC) consisting of the **Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People (Lok Sabha).**

Power and Functions

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) mandated under the CVC Act, 2003 to **combat corruption and ensure integrity**, transparency, and accountability in public administration.
- The Commission exercises **superintendence over vigilance administrations** of Central Government ministries, departments, and organizations.
- The Central Vigilance Commission acts as the apex vigilance institution by supervising and guiding anti-corruption inquiries, including cases referred by the Lokpal and whistleblower complaints under the **PIDPI framework.**

- It supervises the **functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** in cases related to offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, issues directions for such investigations, and reviews their progress, including delays in sanction for prosecution.
- It plays a key role in senior appointments by chairing committees that recommend appointments of senior officers in the Directorate of Enforcement and the CBI (SP level and above, excluding the CBI Director).

Source : [PIB](#)

RESERVE BANK – INTEGRATED OMBUDSMAN SCHEME (RB-IOS), 2026

In News

- The Reserve Bank of India has notified changes under the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2026.

About

- It is a unified grievance redressal framework for customers of RBI-regulated entities such as banks, NBFCs, payment system operators, etc.
- It aims to provide simple, speedy, and cost-free resolution of customer complaints.
- There is no cap on the amount involved in a dispute that a complainant can bring before the RBI Ombudsman.
- The Reserve Bank of India may appoint one or more of its officers as RBI Ombudsman and RBI Deputy Ombudsman. The general tenure is three years.
- The regulated Entity or the complainant may file an appeal within 30 days. Appeal lies before the Appellate Authority designated by RBI.
- Every Regulated Entity must appoint a Principal Nodal Officer at its Head Office.

Source: ET

ROOT WILT DISEASE

In News

- Coconut cultivation in peninsular India is facing a serious threat due to phytoplasma-induced Root Wilt Disease (RWD).

About Root Wilt Disease (RWD)

- Root Wilt Disease of coconut is caused by phytoplasma, a cell wall-less bacterial pathogen,

and is classified as a non-fatal but debilitating disease.

- It was first reported more than 150 years ago in Erattupetta, Kerala, and despite long-term research efforts, no definitive curative treatment has been developed so far.
- The disease is characterised by gradual yellowing and wilting of leaves, followed by a sharp decline in nut yield and eventual shedding of all nuts.
- Root Wilt Disease spreads through insect vectors, mainly sucking pests, and its transmission is further facilitated by wind movement and large, uninterrupted coconut plantations.

About Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*)

- It is a major perennial horticultural plantation crop of India, predominantly grown in the humid tropics and coastal regions.
- It thrives in well-drained sandy loam soils, high humidity, and temperatures between 27–32°C. It requires plenty of sunlight.
- India is one of the leading producers of coconut globally. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka together contribute about 82–83% of India's coconut production.

Source: TH

ELEVATED WILDLIFE CORRIDOR IN KAZIRANGA

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate a **34.5-km elevated wildlife corridor** in Assam's Kaziranga.
 - ♦ This aims to enable safe animal movement, especially during annual floods.
 - ♦ Also, this would improve connectivity between Guwahati, Kaziranga National Park, and Numaligarh.

About Kaziranga National Park

- It is the largest undivided representative area of **Brahmaputra valley floodplain grassland**, where various stages of **biotic succession** in the grassland ecosystem are explicit.
- The Park is the abode of more than **70% of One Horned Rhinoceros** in the world.
- It is **one of the oldest wildlife conservancy reserves of India**, first notified in 1905 and constituted as a Reserved Forest in 1908.

- It was declared a **Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950, and notified as Kaziranga National Park in 1974 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, of 1972.**
- It was declared a **World Heritage Site back in 1985.** It is recognized as an **Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.**

Source: IE

SUKHATME NATIONAL AWARD IN STATISTICS

In News

- The Government has called for nominations/ applications for Sukhatme National Award in Statistics – 2026.

About Sukhatme National Award in Statistics

- Instituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in the year 2000.

- Named after P. C. Mahalanobis' contemporary and eminent statistician Prof. P. V. Sukhatme, known for contributions to agricultural and official statistics.
- It is given to Indian citizens of age 45 and above only. It is awarded in alternate years.
- The award aims to recognize exceptional and outstanding lifetime contributions in the field of Statistics, especially for improving the system of official statistics in India.
- The award will be conferred on 29 June 2026, coinciding with Statistics Day.

Source: PIB

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