

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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## ILLEGAL COAL MINE EXPLOSION IN MEGHALAYA

### Context

- **Illegal coal mine explosion** in East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, killing 18 workers, highlights continued **prevalence of rat-hole mining despite regulatory bans**.

### What is Rat Hole Coal Mining?

- Illegal coal mining is most prevalent in **Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and Meghalaya's Jaintia, Khasi, and Garo Hills**, where coal seams are thin and scattered, making mechanized mining economically unattractive.

Different ways, all illegal!



- **Rat-hole mining** refers to a **primitive form** of underground coal extraction where narrow horizontal tunnels are dug into coal seams. Workers crawl inside these tunnels **to extract coal manually**.
- **Two Main Types:**
  - ♦ **Side-cutting mining**, where horizontal tunnels are drilled into hill slopes.
  - ♦ **Box-cutting mining**, where a vertical shaft is dug first, followed by horizontal tunnels.

### Reasons for the Persistence of Rat-Hole Mining in India

- **Livelihood Dependence and Lack of Alternatives:** The rat-hole mining **historically supported** thousands of livelihoods in Meghalaya, especially in regions with **limited alternative employment opportunities**.
  - ♦ Coal extracted through the rat-hole mining method has been supplied to nearby industries, including cement plants and brick kilns, contributing to local and regional economies.
- **Customary Land Ownership:** Meghalaya operates under the **Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**, which grants **tribal communities customary rights over land and minerals**.
  - ♦ Many local landowners historically **did not view rat-hole mining as illegal**, since mining occurred on privately or clan-owned land.

- **Weak Enforcement and Governance Deficits:** Limited state presence in remote mining areas, understaffed regulatory agencies, and poor monitoring allow illegal mining to continue largely unchecked.
- **Political Economy and Elite Interests:** Coal extraction networks involve mine owners, transporters, contractors, and political intermediaries who benefit economically from continued operations.
  - ♦ These actors often exert pressure on state institutions to dilute or delay regulatory action.
- **Geological and Economic Constraints:** Meghalaya's coal seams are **thin, shallow, and discontinuous**, making large-scale mechanized mining technically and economically unattractive.
  - ♦ Rat-hole mining remains the cheapest and most feasible extraction method under these geological conditions.

### Major Concerns & Issues

- **Worker Safety & Exploitation of Labor:** Lack of ventilation, risk of flooding, cave-ins, and explosions make illegal mines extremely dangerous.
  - ♦ Migrant and impoverished workers are most affected, often working without contracts or legal protection.
- **Environmental Damage:** Illegal mining leads to deforestation, water pollution, land subsidence, and long-term ecological harm.
  - ♦ **Acid mine drainage (AMD)** contaminates rivers and streams, drastically lowering pH levels and rendering water bodies biologically dead.
  - ♦ Unregulated excavation leads to **deforestation, soil erosion, and landscape destabilization**, particularly in the ecologically fragile hills of Meghalaya.
- **Loss of Revenue:** The government loses significant **royalties and taxes**, affecting public finances.
- **Child Labour and Human Rights Violations:** Children have historically been employed due to their ability to navigate narrow tunnels, in direct violation of Indian child labour laws.
  - ♦ Informal employment structures deprive workers of minimum wages, social security, healthcare, and legal resources.

- **Legal Non-Compliance and Regulatory Failure:** Most operations lack environmental clearance, mining leases, and safety approvals mandated under Indian law.
  - ♦ Enforcement remains weak due to jurisdictional conflicts between customary tribal governance and statutory mining laws despite the 2014 NGT ban.
  - ♦ The **absence of mandatory EIA** exacerbates unchecked environmental damage.
- **Governance Gaps and Institutional Weakness:** Remote terrain, limited administrative capacity, and inadequate monitoring enable illegal mining to persist.
  - ♦ Political patronage networks protect mine owners and traders from prosecution.
  - ♦ Fragmented institutional responsibility between state and central agencies dilutes accountability.
- **Ethical and Intergenerational Concerns:** Rat-hole mining shifts environmental and health costs onto future generations while providing limited long-term economic benefits.
  - ♦ The continued degradation of fragile ecosystems threatens biodiversity and regional climate resilience.
- State governments periodically launch **crackdown drives** and task forces to shut down illegal mines.
- Reforms in the coal sector, including **commercial coal mining and transparent auctions**, aim to reduce incentives for illegal extraction.
- Environmental clearance norms and mine safety regulations exist but face **implementation gaps**.

#### Way Forward

- **Strict and consistent enforcement** of mining laws, with accountability for officials enabling illegal operations.
- **Alternative livelihoods** and skill development for communities dependent on illegal mining.
- Use of **technology** (satellite imagery, drones) to detect and monitor illegal mining activities.
- Strengthening **worker rehabilitation, compensation mechanisms**, and environmental restoration.
- Greater coordination between **state agencies, local administration, and communities** to ensure sustainable and lawful mining practices.

Source: TH

#### Current Laws and Regulations Related to Mining in India

- **Mines and Minerals Act, 1957:** It governs the mining of minerals in India, including their exploration, extraction, and management.
  - ♦ Illegal mining, such as rat-hole mining, violates provisions of this Act, leading to penalties and legal action.
- **Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973:** Restricts mining activities to government and authorized entities.
  - ♦ Rat-hole mining is often unregulated and conducted outside this framework, making it illegal.
- **Environmental Protection Act, 1986 (EPA):** Requires environmental clearances for mining activities.
  - ♦ Rat-hole mining bypasses these regulations, causing severe environmental damage.
- **Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012:** It was introduced to regulate mining practices in the state. However, enforcement has been weak, and rat-hole mining continues illegally.

#### Policy Efforts & Initiatives

- The **Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal (NGT)** have banned or restricted unsafe mining practices such as rat-hole mining.

## 16TH FINANCE COMMISSION (FC) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING LOCAL BODIES

#### Context

- The 16th Finance Commission chaired by Arvind Panagariya, recommended ₹7,91,493 crore in grants to rural and urban local bodies along with structural reforms to strengthen local governance.

#### What is the Finance Commission?

- The Finance Commission is a **constitutional body** constituted by the **President of India** under **Article 280**, that recommends how tax revenues collected by the Central government should be distributed among the Centre and various States in the country.
- The Commission is **reconstituted every five years** and usually takes a couple of years to make its recommendations to the Centre.
- The Centre is **not legally bound** to implement the suggestions made by the Finance Commission.

#### Tax Devolution

- The Finance Commission decides what proportion of the Centre's net tax revenue goes to the **States**

**overall (vertical devolution)** and how this share for the States is distributed among various **States (horizontal devolution)**.

- **The horizontal devolution** of funds between States is usually decided based on a formula created by the Commission that takes into account a **State's population, fertility level, income level, geography**, etc.
- The Centre also aids States through **additional grants for certain schemes** that are jointly funded by the Centre and the States.

### Challenges in Local Bodies Financing

- **Low own revenue:** Local bodies' revenue constitutes only around **0.4% of GDP**, which is very low compared to global standards. Property tax collection remains inefficient and under-assessed.
- **Heavy Dependence on Grants:** Most local bodies rely overwhelmingly on transfers from the Centre and states, **limiting fiscal autonomy** and long-term planning capacity.
- **Irregular State Finance Commissions:** Many states fail to constitute SFCs on time, disrupting predictable fiscal devolution and weakens local governance.
- **Capacity Constraints:** Limited administrative and technical expertise affects budgeting, financial management, and efficient utilisation of funds.

### Key recommendations for strengthening local bodies

- **Financial Allocations:** ₹7,91,493 crore allocated for the **2026–31** period.
  - ♦ **Rural-Urban Split:** The grant is divided in a **60:40** ratio between Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- **Mandatory Entry-Level Conditions:** Grants are only released if states meet three critical governance criteria:
  - ♦ **Constitutional Compliance:** Proper constitution of local bodies.
  - ♦ **Financial Transparency:** Timely public disclosure of provisional and audited accounts.
  - ♦ **Timely constitution** of State Finance Commissions (SFCs).

- Urbanisation & Infrastructure Reforms:
  - ♦ **Urbanisation Premium:** A ₹10,000 crore one-time grant to incentivize states to **merge peri-urban villages into larger ULBs** (population >1 lakh) and formulate a Rural-to-Urban Transition Policy.
  - ♦ **Special Infrastructure Component:** ₹56,100 crore for wastewater management in cities with a population between 10–40 lakh.

### Way Ahead

- Local bodies must be **empowered to expand their own revenue** base through rationalisation of property tax, improved GIS-based assessment, and better user charge recovery.
- The **constitution and implementation of State Finance Commission** recommendations should be made time-bound and rule-based.
- **Dedicated municipal cadres** and **continuous capacity-building programmes** should be institutionalised.
- **Digital accounting systems**, real-time auditing, and public disclosure portals should be standardised across states.

Source: [DTE](#)

## INDIA AND GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL SIGN TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

### Context

- India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have signed the Terms of Reference for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in New Delhi.

### About

- **The terms of reference (ToR)** outline the scope and modalities of a proposed trade pact.
  - ♦ **It defines the scope of the agreement**, including trade in goods, trade in services, investments, and other trade-related issues;
  - ♦ Lay down the **structure and timelines** for negotiations;
  - ♦ **Specify tariff reduction modalities** and dispute settlement mechanisms;
  - ♦ **Provide clarity** on technical standards, rules of origin, customs cooperation, and trade facilitation measures.

### About Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- GCC is a **regional political and economic union** established in **1981**.
- It comprises **six member countries**: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman.
- It is Headquartered at **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.
- It aims to achieve unity among its members based on their common objectives and similar political and cultural identities, rooted in Arab and Islamic cultures.



### Significance of GCC to India

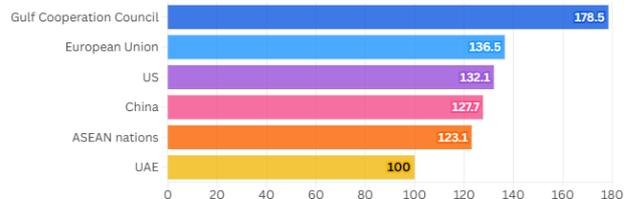
- The GCC countries collectively represent a market of **61.5 million** people (2024) and **US\$ 2.3 trillion** in terms of GDP at current prices, ranking **9th** globally in this category.
  - ♦ It is also home to nearly **ten million** members of the Indian community.
- The free trade agreement between India and GCC will **benefit India's food processing infrastructure, petrochemical, and ICT sectors**, taking the relationship between the two sides to great heights.

### India-GCC Trade Cooperation

- **India's trade with GCC** stood at **USD 178.56 billion** (Exports: USD 56.87 billion; Imports: USD 121.68 billion) in FY 2024-25, accounting for **15.42%** of India's global trade.
  - ♦ In the **last five years**, India's trade with the GCC has expanded with an annual average growth rate of **15.3 percent**.
- **Key exports from India** to GCC include **engineering goods, rice, textiles, machinery, gems and jewelry**.

- **Key sectors of imports** from GCC primarily comprise **crude oil, LNG, petrochemicals**, and precious metals such as gold.
- The GCC region is also a significant **source of FDI for India**, with **cumulative investments** exceeding **USD 31.14 billion** as on September 2025.

The GCC is India's largest merchandise trade partner  
India's total goods trade by country/grouping in 2024-25, in \$ billion



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

### Challenges in India-GCC Free Trade Agreement

- **Persistent Trade Deficit:** India runs a large and structural trade deficit with the GCC, primarily due to heavy imports of crude oil, LNG, and gold. Even with tariff reductions, energy imports will continue to dominate trade flows.
- **Limited Export Diversification:** India's export basket to the GCC is still concentrated in a few sectors.
  - ♦ Many GCC countries are diversifying into manufacturing and services under programs like **Saudi Vision 2030**, which may increase competition for Indian exporters.

- **Competition for Indian MSMEs:** Trade liberalisation will expose India's MSMEs and small manufacturers to competition from Gulf-based re-export hubs like Dubai.

### Way Ahead

- India must **negotiate balanced tariff concessions** with phased reductions.
- **Strong Rules of Origin** should be incorporated to prevent trade circumvention.
- **Export competitiveness** must be enhanced through:
  - ♦ Logistics improvement
  - ♦ Quality standardisation
  - ♦ Production-linked incentives
- **Strategic energy partnerships** should include cooperation in renewables, green hydrogen, and petrochemical value chains, not just crude imports.

Source: [TH](#)

## EASE OF DOING BUSINESS: INDIA'S ONGOING REGULATORY TRANSFORMATION

### In Context

- Union Budget 2026-27 reinforces Ease of Doing Business as pillar of growth and development, while focusing on digitisation, tax certainty, investor access and litigation reduction.

### Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)

- It has emerged as a cornerstone of India's economic reform agenda and is reaffirmed as a key pillar of growth and development.
- The Union Budget 2026-27 focuses on reforms aimed at digital trade facilitation, tax certainty, reduction in compliance and litigation, trust-based customs systems, and an investment-friendly tax regime.
- These measures build on sustained regulatory and institutional reforms undertaken over the past decade to simplify business procedures, enhance transparency, and reduce compliance burdens, thereby strengthening investor confidence across sectors.

### Progress

- During 2014–25, India attracted USD 748.38 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), a 143% increase over the previous 11-year period.
- The number of active registered companies increased from 1.55 lakh in 2020–21 to 1.98 lakh in 2025–26, indicating a growth of ~27% in 5 years.
- Continued Ease of Doing Business reforms (EoDB), aligned with the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision, will remain vital for strengthening global value chain linkages and driving industry-led growth.

### Focus of Budget

- The Budget reinforces India's EoDB agenda through measures aimed at enhancing tax certainty, reducing compliance burden, and promoting trust-based governance.
- Key reforms include rationalisation of MAT, simplification of dispute resolution, and decriminalisation of minor procedural offences.
- The Budget also advances customs and logistics reforms through digital integration and risk-based clearances to lower transaction costs and improve business efficiency.

### Importance

- A business-friendly environment is vital for economic growth, as it attracts foreign direct investment, encourages entrepreneurship, and strengthens India's role as a global manufacturing hub.
- It also promotes job creation by enabling startups and MSMEs to expand more easily.
- It enhances global competitiveness by improving international rankings and supporting initiatives such as Make in India and Digital India.

### Challenges

- Implementation gaps persist in land acquisition, contract enforcement, and judicial processes.
- Regulatory complexity due to overlapping state and departmental rules creates uncertainty.
- Infrastructure bottlenecks in logistics, power, and urban services increase business costs.
- Taxation and compliance burdens, including frequent rule changes, affect investor confidence.

### Various steps of Government

- The government has introduced wide-ranging trade, investment, tax, and regulatory reforms to improve ease of doing business and attract global investment.
- Key trade facilitation measures include a single digital window for cargo clearance, immediate customs clearance for low-risk goods, rollout of a **Customs Integrated System (CIS)**, and expanded use of **AI-based non-intrusive scanning** at ports. Investment reforms allow Persons Resident Outside India (PROIs) to invest more in listed Indian companies and raise overall investment limits.
- **Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT)** is rationalised through exemptions for non-residents, reduced rates, final tax treatment, capital-gains-based taxation of buybacks, and flexible MAT credit usage.
- **Penalty and prosecution regimes** are simplified through integrated assessment, reduced pre-deposit requirements, expanded immunity provisions, decriminalisation of minor offences, graded prosecutions, and retrospective immunity for small foreign asset holdings.
- Broader reforms focus on shifting from clearance to compliance, supported by large-scale decriminalisation under the **Jan Vishwas Acts**, amendments to environmental and forest laws

- The **National Single Window System (NSWS)** has emerged as a major digital reform, integrating approvals from central and state governments
- The Government has implemented the **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)** to improve transparency, simplify regulations, and enhance service delivery across States and Union Territories.
- Other regulatory measures include the RBI's consolidation of over 9,000 circulars into 238 Master Directions, significantly reducing compliance burden.
- The **Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025** allows **100% FDI in insurance**, simplifies registration for intermediaries, eases share transfer norms, lowers capital requirements for foreign reinsurers, and improves insurance penetration.
- **Labour reforms, through consolidation of 29 laws** into four Labour Codes, have simplified compliance, reduced approval timelines, increased operational flexibility, digitised registrations and returns, decriminalised minor offences, and raised thresholds for layoffs and closures.
- **GST 2.0 reforms introduced in September 2025** simplified tax slabs, reduced rates, corrected inverted duty structures, lowered compliance costs, and expanded the tax base to over 1.5 crore registered taxpayers, supporting formalisation and entrepreneurship.

### Conclusion

- India's Ease of Doing Business framework continues to evolve through a combination of regulatory simplification, digitalisation, and trust-based governance.
- The Union Budget 2026-27 proposals, alongside ongoing reforms across taxation, labour, finance, and regulation, signal a sustained commitment to reducing compliance burden and improving predictability for businesses. Strong trends in investment inflows, enterprise growth, and formalisation reflect the broader reform momentum built over the past decade.
- Together, these initiatives strengthen India's competitiveness and promote growth.

Source : [PIB](#)

## NEWS IN SHORT

### DEVNIMORI RELICS

#### In News

- The Exposition of the **Holy Devnimori Relics** was recently inaugurated at Gangaramaya Temple, marking an important cultural and spiritual event in **India–Sri Lanka Buddhist ties**.

#### About Devnimori Relics

- **Location:** Devnimori is a Buddhist archaeological site located near Shamlaji in Aravalli district of Gujarat.
- **Discovery & Excavation:** First explored in 1957 by archaeologist Prof. S. N. Chowdhry.
- Excavations revealed significant evidence of early Buddhist worship and monastic traditions.
- **Key Archaeological Findings:** Sharira Stupa specifically meant for enshrining bodily relics (sarira) of the Gautama Buddha or eminent monks.
  - ♦ Relic Caskets containing sacred ashes, a copper box, gold and silver foil.
- **Chronology:** Dated to 3rd–4th Century CE, corresponding to the post-Mauryan / early Gupta period.

Source: TH

### RAJYA SABHA ADOPTS THE MOTION OF THANKS

#### Context

- The Rajya Sabha adopted the Motion of Thanks to President Droupadi Murmu for her Address to the Joint Session of Parliament.

#### Motion of Thanks

- **Article 87** of the Indian Constitution mandates a **“Special Address”** by the President to both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the **first session after each general election** and at the **start of the first session of each year**.
  - ♦ In this address, the **president outlines the policies and programmes of the government** in the preceding year and ensuing year.
- This address of the president, which corresponds to the **‘speech from the Throne in Britain’**, is discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion called the ‘Motion of Thanks’.

- At the end of the discussion, **the motion is put to vote** and it must be passed in the House. Otherwise, it amounts to the defeat of the government.

Source: [TH](#)

## SUPREME COURT FLAGS NON-COMPLIANCE IN DGP APPOINTMENTS

### Context

- The Supreme Court has expressed concern over States appointing “Acting” police chiefs of their choice instead of regular Directors-General of Police (DGPs) with a fixed tenure, allegedly in violation of its 2006 judgment in the **Prakash Singh vs Union of India case**.

### Key Directives on DGP Appointment

- The DGP must be selected from among the **three senior-most** and meritorious officers empanelled by the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.
- The DGP must be **given a minimum fixed tenure of two years**, irrespective of the date of superannuation.
  - The concept of “Acting DGP” was rejected by the Court.
- The objective was to ensure that the office of DGP remains free from political or external pressures.

### Constitutional and Governance Issues

- Federal Concerns:** Police is a **State subject (Entry 2, State List)** under the **Seventh Schedule**. However, the Supreme Court’s directions are binding under Articles 141 and 142.
  - The issue highlights tensions between federal autonomy and judicially mandated reforms.
- Rule of Law and Police Independence:** Frequent ad-hoc appointments weaken institutional autonomy.
  - Lack of fixed tenure undermines accountability and professional policing.
  - Political influence in appointments can affect impartial law enforcement.

Source: [TH](#)

## AD HOC JUDGES

### Context

- The Supreme Court Collegium has approved the appointment of five former judges as **ad hoc judges** in the Allahabad High Court.

### About Ad Hoc Judges

- Article 224A** of the Indian Constitution provides for the appointment of retired High Court judges as ad hoc judges to address issues such as case pendency and judicial vacancies. However, this provision has been invoked only rarely.
- Ad hoc judges are appointed for a limited period, generally ranging from two to three years, and their appointment does not affect the seniority of High Court judges for elevation as Chief Justices or to the Supreme Court.
- The mechanism is relatively simpler than fresh judicial appointments, as background verification is generally not required for retired judges who have already served on the bench.
- Ad hoc judges exercise the same judicial powers and receive pay and allowances equivalent to permanent High Court judges, excluding pension benefits.

### Apex Court’s Guidelines for the Appointment of Ad hoc Judges

- If a high court has vacancies that are **more than 20%** of its sanctioned strength;
- If over **10% of the high court’s** cases are pending for more than five years;
- If the rate of disposal of cases is lower than the rate of institution of cases (‘case clearance rate’).

### Do You Know?

- Article 127 of the Constitution deals with the appointment of ad hoc judges in the Supreme Court.

Source: [IE](#)

## FRONTIER NAGALAND TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY

### In News

- The Government of India, the Government of Nagaland, and representatives of the Eastern Nagaland Peoples’ Organisation (ENPO) have signed a historic agreement for the **creation of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)**.

### About Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority

- FNTA will cover six districts—Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator inhabited by eight major Naga tribes represented by ENPO.
- The agreement provides for **devolution of powers over 46 subjects to FNTA**, enhancing administrative and developmental autonomy.

- A **Mini-Secretariat**, headed by an Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary-level officer, will be established to ensure effective governance.
- FNTA aims to promote balanced regional development, financial autonomy, and participatory decision-making in a historically underdeveloped region.
- However, the arrangement does **not dilute Article 371(A) of the Constitution**, which safeguards Naga customary practices, land rights, and social institutions.

Source: TH

## VIZHINJAM PORT

### In News

- Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala has risen to the 83rd position globally in container handling, reflecting the rapid scale-up of India's newest deep water transshipment hub.

### Vizhinjam port

- Vizhinjam Port is a strategic maritime project near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.
- It is strategically located near one of the world's busiest sea trade routes.
- It boasts a natural deep draft of nearly 20 meters, enabling it to accommodate some of the world's largest cargo ships.
- It is expected to significantly reduce India's reliance on foreign ports for trans-shipment, which previously accounted for 75% of such operations, thereby retaining revenue within the country and creating new economic opportunities for Kerala and its people.
- It is set to become a key player in regional trade, potentially serving as a gateway for commerce between Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Source :[Air](#)

## INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS)

### Context

- The International Space Station (ISS) is scheduled to be de-orbited in **2030**, marking the end of nearly three decades of continuous human presence in space.

### What is the International Space Station (ISS)?

- The International Space Station (ISS) is a modular, habitable, microgravity laboratory in low Earth orbit, orbiting **400 km** above Earth.
- It was launched in **1998**, and has been continuously inhabited since **2000**, making it one of the longest-running human space missions in history.
- **It is operated collaboratively by five major space agencies:** NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), ESA (Europe), JAXA (Japan) and CSA (Canada).
- **Key Features:**
  - ♦ It is the largest human-made structure in space, with a mass exceeding **400,000 kg**, and a structure nearly **109 meters long**.
  - ♦ Power is supplied by **solar arrays** generating **tens of kilowatts** of electricity.
- The ISS plays a crucial role in studying the effects of **long-term space radiation and microgravity on the human body**, helping scientists understand bone loss, muscle atrophy, and immune system changes.
- The ISS supports the **emerging Low Earth Orbit economy** by allowing private companies to test technologies. It also acts as a testing ground for long-duration spaceflight, essential for future missions to the Moon and Mars.

Source: [TH](#)

## NDMA'S FIRST-EVER GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFICATION OF DISASTER VICTIMS

### In News

- Recently, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has released the country's first-ever Standard Operating Procedure with guidelines for the identification of victims in the event of "mass fatality incidents".

### National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- Headed by the Prime Minister of India, it is the apex body for Disaster Management in India.
- It was established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- It is responsible for formulating policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management and promoting an ethos of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response.

**Latest guidelines**

- The guidelines recommend creating a **National Dental Data Registry** to use teeth and jaws for victim identification and advocate the use of **forensic archaeology for long-term identification**.
- They outline the roles of stakeholders, composition of identification teams, and address challenges like manpower shortages, logistical gaps, coordination issues, and rapid decomposition or body displacement.
- They emphasize **humanitarian forensics**, ensuring sensitivity to cultural norms and providing emotional support to families.
- The **identification process** is structured in four stages: recovery of remains, post-mortem data collection, ante-mortem data collection from families, and reconciliation to release remains.
- NDMA plans to set up **specialised teams** in each state, train experts across forensic fields, and implement the guidelines nationwide on a war footing.

Source :[E](#)

**BHARAT GENAI****In News**

- The model under the Bharat GenAI initiative would be completed in all 22 Constitutionally recognised Indian languages within this month.

**What is Bharat GenAI?**

- Bharat GenAI is India's first government-owned sovereign Large Language Model (LLM).
  - ◆ It is a key outcome of the IndiaAI Mission, launched in March 2024.
- It is designed specifically for Indian languages, culture, and societal needs, unlike global AI models largely trained on Western datasets.
- It is a national foundational model, meaning it can support multiple downstream applications.

Source: [PIB](#)

