

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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HIGH MATERNITY DEATHS IN INDIA: LANCET STUDY

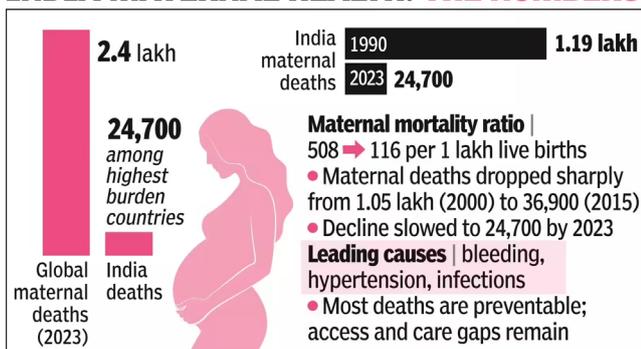
Context

- A study published in The Lancet found that India remains among the countries with the **highest number of maternal deaths globally**.

Major Findings

- The progress **slowed down post 2015** after years of rapid decline.
- Around 2.4 lakh women died globally in 2023 due to pregnancy and childbirth-related causes.
- India accounted for about 24,700 of the 2.4 lakh deaths**, placing it among the highest-burden countries **alongside Nigeria, Pakistan and Ethiopia**.

INDIA MATERNAL HEALTH: THE NUMBERS



- Maternal mortality has declined** significantly since 1990 due to better awareness, institutional deliveries and govt programmes, although progress remains uneven across states.
 - Kerala and Tamil Nadu** are nearing global targets while others such as **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh** continue to report higher maternal mortality.
- In India deaths continue to be driven by largely preventable causes** such as haemorrhage, hypertensive disorders, infections and complications linked to pre-existing conditions.

What is Maternal Mortality?

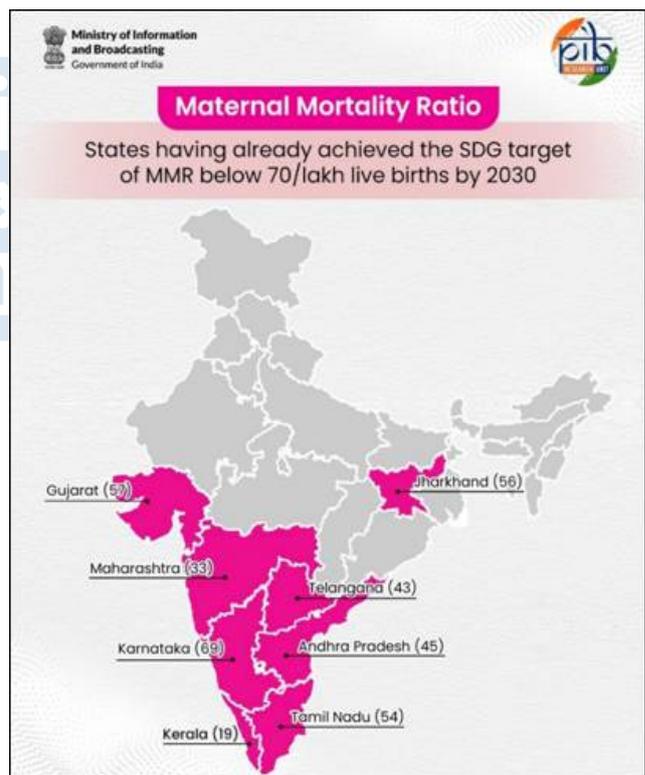
- Maternal death** is the death of a **woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy** from any cause related to or **aggravated by the pregnancy** but not from accidental or incidental causes.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)** is the number of maternal deaths per **1,00,000** live births.
- Maternal Mortality Rate:** This is calculated as maternal deaths to women in the ages **15-49 per**

lakh of women in that age group, reported under **Sample Registration System (SRS)**.

- The **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1** targets reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than **70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030**.

Progress Made by India (National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21))

- In India the MMR declined **from 130 per 100,000 live births in 2014-16 to 97 per 100,000 live births in 2018-20**.
- Institutional births have increased significantly** from 79% (2015-16) to 89% (2019-21) at the national level.
- Institutional delivery is 100%** in Kerala, Goa, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu and more than **90% in eighteen other States/UTs**.
- Even in rural areas**, approximately 87% of births are delivered in institutions, while 94% are delivered in urban areas.



Challenges Still Faced By India

- High Out-of-Pocket Expenses (OOPE):** Despite policy efforts, families often bear the cost of diagnostics, medicines, and private services during emergencies.
- Sociocultural Barriers:** Gender dynamics, low education levels, restricted decision-making power among women, and stigma around maternal care all delay early care-seeking.

- **Rise in High-Risk Pregnancies:** Trends such as delayed childbirth, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and short inter-pregnancy intervals contribute to riskier pregnancies.
- **Weak Infrastructure in Remote Areas:** Rural, tribal, and hilly regions lack emergency obstetric care, reliable transport, and blood storage facilities.

Government Initiatives to Reduce MMR

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):** Launched in 2005 with the objective of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, JSY promotes institutional delivery among pregnant women especially with weak socio-economic status.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY),** is a maternity benefit program run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
 - ♦ The maternity benefit, of **Rs. 5000/-**, is available to a woman for the first living child of the family subject to fulfilment of conditionalities.
 - ♦ Further under '**Mission Shakti**', the scheme (PMMVY 2.0) provides additional cash incentive for the second child, **if that is a girl child.**
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):** Launched in 2016, PMSMA provides pregnant women a fixed day, free of cost assured and quality Antenatal Care on the **9th day** of every month.
- **LaQshya:** Launched in 2017, LaQshya aims to improve the quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres to ensure the quality care during delivery and immediate post-partum.
- **Capacity building** is taken-up for MBBS doctors in **Anesthesia (LSAS) and Obstetric Care including C-section (EmOC)** skills to overcome the shortage of specialists in these disciplines, particularly in rural areas.
- **Maternal Death Surveillance Review (MDSR)** is implemented both at facilities and at the community level. The purpose is to take corrective action at appropriate levels and improve the quality of obstetric care.
- **Monthly Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)** is an outreach activity for provision of maternal and child care including nutrition.
- **Reproductive and child health (RCH) portal** is a name-based web-enabled tracking of pregnant women and new-born to ensure provision of regular and complete services to them including antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal care.

Innovations in Maternal Healthcare

- **Madhya Pradesh's 'Dastak Abhiyan':** A community-driven campaign that focuses on early detection of maternal health risks and ensures timely medical intervention.
- **Tamil Nadu's Emergency Obstetric Care Model:** A robust referral system that ensures pregnant women receive timely emergency care, reducing maternal complications.

Way Ahead

- India has made significant progress in reducing maternal mortality, successfully achieving the National Health Policy (NHP) target of an MMR below 100 by 2020.
 - ♦ However, continued efforts are required to reach the SDG target of MMR by 2030.
- Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, expanding maternal health programs, and addressing socioeconomic barriers will be critical in further reducing maternal mortality in the country.

Source: TOI

IRANIAN PARLIAMENT MULLS POSSIBLE EXIT FROM NUCLEAR TREATY

Context

- As per the Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Iran's Parliament is reviewing a possible exit from the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).**

About

- The proposed legislation, according to lawmakers, would:
 - ♦ Withdraw Iran from the NPT;
 - ♦ Remove legal commitments tied to the 2015 nuclear deal;
 - ♦ Support cooperation with other countries on civilian nuclear technology.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

- Iran is a **signatory to the NPT**, which aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons while allowing peaceful nuclear activity under monitoring.
- It was signed in **1968** and entered into **force in 1970**, the NPT aims to prevent the **spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament.**
 - ♦ It divides the world into **nuclear-weapon states (NWS)**, recognized as possessing

nuclear weapons at the time of the treaty's signing, and **non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS)**, which agree not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons.

- ♦ The treaty also requires NWS to pursue disarmament negotiations in good faith.
- **India, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan** have not signed the NPT.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) 2015

- **Participants:**
 - ♦ **Iran**
 - ♦ **P5+1:** Five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, UK, U.S.) plus Germany.
 - ♦ **EU:** Participated in negotiations.

Iran's Commitments:

- **Nuclear Restrictions:** Iran agreed **not to produce highly enriched uranium** or plutonium for nuclear weapons and to ensure its nuclear facilities focus on **civilian purposes**.
- **Centrifuge Limits:** Iran limited the number, type, and level of its centrifuges, and reduced its stockpile of enriched uranium.
 - ♦ Uranium enriched to 5% is for nuclear power; 20% for research or medical use; 90% for weapons.
- **Monitoring and Verification:** Iran agreed to allow the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** unfettered access to nuclear facilities, including undeclared sites.

What Other Signatories Agreed To:

- **Sanctions Relief:** The EU, UN, and U.S. agreed to lift nuclear-related sanctions on Iran, but U.S. sanctions on ballistic missiles, terrorism support, and human rights remained.
 - ♦ The U.S. lifted sanctions on oil exports but kept restrictions on financial transactions.
 - ♦ **UN arms and missile bans on Iran were lifted** after five years, provided the IAEA confirmed Iran's nuclear activities remained civilian.
- **Violation of the Deal:** If any signatory suspects Iran is violating the deal, the UN Security Council can vote on whether to continue sanctions relief.
 - ♦ This "snapback" mechanism remains in effect for ten years, after which the UN sanctions are set to be permanently removed.
- **Trump's Withdrawal:** In 2018, President Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal, leading Iran to resume nuclear activities.
- **Iran's Nuclear Activity:** In 2023, Iran enriched uranium to near weapons-grade levels, raising international concerns.

- ♦ Key provisions of the JCPOA began to expire by late 2023.

Way Ahead

- Lawmakers in Iran have in the past raised the idea of leaving the treaty in response to external pressure.
- The current conflict has brought the issue back to the centre of political discussion.
- There has been no official confirmation yet that Iran will exit the treaty, and the outcome will depend on internal approvals and the course of the conflict.

Source: TH

14TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Context

- The 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) of the World Trade Organization concluded in **Yaoundé** without consensus on extending the e-commerce duty moratorium.

What is the E-commerce Moratorium?

- WTO members agreed in **1998** not to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions, which include:
 - ♦ **Digital goods** such as e-books, software, music, and video games.
 - ♦ **Services** delivered electronically such as streaming platforms.
- The moratorium has been **renewed biennially** at successive Ministerial Conferences. Its expiry on March 31, 2026 allows countries to impose tariffs on digital trade.

Key Issues at Ministerial Conference (MC14)

- **Lack of Consensus on Extension:** Developed countries such as the U.S., EU, and Japan supported a long-term or permanent extension.
 - ♦ **Developing countries**, including India, **opposed the extension** due to concerns over revenue loss and reduced policy space in the digital economy.
 - ♦ **Disagreement over duration** (2 years vs. 5 years) led to a negotiation deadlock.
- **TRIPS Non-Violation Moratorium:** It led to the **expiry of the safeguard against non-violation complaints** under the TRIPS Agreement,
 - ♦ The safeguard since **1995** has protected the policy space of developing countries. Without it, even **WTO-compliant measures, such as compulsory licensing**, can be challenged by developed countries.

- ♦ For India, this increases the risk of disputes over **Section 3(d)** of the **Indian Patents Act, 1970**, which restricts patents for already-known drugs unless the new claims are superior in terms of efficacy. It curbs the evergreening of patents.
- **Fisheries Subsidies:** Members celebrated the **entry into force** of the **2022 Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, which bans support to illegal fishing, to the fishing of already depleted stocks without efforts to restore them, and to unregulated fishing on the high seas.
 - ♦ However the agreement **does not cover subsidies causing overcapacity and overfishing.**
 - ♦ The members agreed to continue negotiations on fisheries subsidies to address unresolved issues at the **15th Ministerial Conference.**

Core Principles Advocated by India

- **Development-Centric Multilateralism:** India stressed the importance of an open trading system and reiterated the principle of non-discrimination, as embedded in the **Marrakesh Agreement.**
- **Public Stockholding (PSH) for Food Security:** India demanded a permanent solution on Public Stockholding (PSH). It argued that:
 - ♦ A large proportion of Indian farmers are small and resource-constrained.
 - ♦ The Minimum Support Price (MSP) system is essential for ensuring income security.
- **Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT):** India emphasised the need for effective Special and Differential Treatment provisions for developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to address structural inequalities in global trade.
- **Dispute Settlement Mechanism:** India stressed the need to restore a fully functional, automatic, and binding dispute settlement system.
 - ♦ The current **paralysis of the Appellate Body** undermines the credibility of the WTO.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- **WTO** is the international organization that deals with the rules of trade between countries.
- **History:** **WTO** is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established in the wake of the Second World War.
 - ♦ **The Marrakesh Agreement** establishing the World Trade Organization was signed by 123 countries in 1994, leading to the birth of the WTO on 1 January **1995.**

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Member:** The WTO is run by its 166 members.
- **Mandate:** Its aim is to promote free trade, which is done through trade agreements that are discussed and signed by the member states.
 - ♦ **The preamble** of the Marrakesh Agreement accords primacy to the developmental objectives of this organization.

Organizational Structure of WTO

- **Ministerial Conference:** The WTO's apex decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference, which usually takes place every two years.
 - ♦ All members of the WTO are involved in the Ministerial Conference and they can take decisions on all matters covered under any multilateral trade agreements.
- **General Council:** It is just below the Ministerial Conference that meets several times a year at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva.
 - ♦ It meets as the **Trade Policy Review Body** and the **Dispute Settlement Body.**
 - ♦ **Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council:** It is for the Goods, Services, and Intellectual Property, and it reports to the General Council.

Source: TH

ROCKET RE-ENTRY TRIGGERS ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Context

- A recent study has found that the re-entry of rockets such as the Falcon 9 is altering the chemistry of the upper atmosphere, leading to a tenfold surge in lithium atoms.

Atmospheric Pollution from Space Activity

- Satellites and rockets contain **aluminum alloys and Lithium-ion batteries.** During re-entry these materials burn and vaporize, releasing metals into mesosphere and lower thermosphere (MLT region).
- **Dangers of Space debris:** They are defined as all non-functional, man-made objects, including fragments and elements thereof, in Earth orbit or re-entering into Earth's atmosphere.
 - ♦ According to NASA, debris can travel at speeds of up to **18,000 mph**, which is 10 times faster than the speed of a bullet.

What are the concerns?

- **Impact on Atmospheric Chemistry:** Artificial metals alter the natural composition of upper atmospheric layers. Natural space dust contributes negligible lithium (~80 g/day), while rockets inject significantly higher amounts.
- **Kessler Syndrome:** It is a theoretical scenario in which a **cascade of collisions** between artificial objects in low Earth orbit leads to a rapidly increasing amount of space debris, making the use of near-Earth space impossible for an extended period of time.
- **Threat to Ozone Layer:** Metal particles may trigger chemical reactions that can degrade ozone, affecting protection from harmful ultraviolet radiation.
- **Climate Implications:** Changes in atmospheric composition may affect radiative balance and heat retention properties. This can have long-term implications for climate systems.

International agreements on space debris

- **The Space Liability Convention of 1972:** It defines responsibility in case a space object causes harm.
 - ♦ The treaty says that “a launching State shall be absolutely liable to pay compensation for damage caused by its space objects on the surface of the earth or to aircraft, and liable for damage due to its faults in space.”
- **Zero Debris Charter:** Twelve nations and the European Space Agency (ESA) have signed the **Zero Debris Charter** at the ESA/EU Space Council. It aims to become **debris neutral in space by 2030**.

Missions on Removing Space Debris

- **RemoveDebris mission:** It is the European Space Agency's debris removal demonstration mission in the low Earth orbit (LEO) that aims to test and validate multiple active debris removal technologies.
- **Space Debris Removal System (SDRS):** It is a proposed mission by the Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos) to demonstrate the feasibility of removing space debris from low Earth orbit.

Steps taken by India

- **Project NETRA (Network for space object Tracking and Analysis),** an early warning system, was initiated by ISRO to help detect space hazards to Indian satellites.
 - ♦ The project is expected to give India its own capability in **space situational awareness (SSA)**, something that other space powers already have.

- ♦ The SSA is used to predict threats from debris to Indian satellites.

- **The ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Operations Management (IS4OM)** was established in 2022 to continually monitor objects posing collision threats and to mitigate the risk posed by space debris.

Way Ahead

- The detection of a lithium plume from a single rocket re-entry highlights a previously overlooked dimension of space activity which is its atmospheric footprint.
- As the scale of space operations expands rapidly, proactive monitoring, sustainable design, and global regulatory efforts will be essential to prevent long-term disruption of Earth's atmospheric system

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

CENSUS 2027

Context

- India is set to conduct its next population Census digitally, with the exercise scheduled to commence in 2026 and conclude by March 1, 2027.

Census in India

- **A census is a survey of the population** of an area that includes collecting details of a country's demographics including **age, sex and occupation**.
 - ♦ It is typically conducted **every ten years** and was scheduled for **2021** but had to be postponed due to the Covid pandemic.
 - ♦ The government has made it mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.
 - ♦ The NPR is prepared under the provisions of the **Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003**.
 - ♦ It is mandatory for every “**usual resident of India**” to register in the NPR.
- **History:** Under **W.C. Plowden**, the Census Commissioner of India, the first synchronous decennial (every ten years) census was conducted in **1881**.
 - ♦ **Independent India's first census** was held in **1951** and since then it has happened in the first year of every decade.

- The **Constitution mandates** that enumeration is carried out but the **Census of India Act of 1948** does not specify its timing or periodicity.
- The population census is conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Major Features of Census 2027

- **First Digital Census:** The Census will be conducted using digital devices such as mobile phones and laptops.
- **Multilingual Access:** The self-enumeration portal will be available in **16 languages**.
- **Caste Enumeration:** This will be the **first Census since 1931** to capture granular caste data, beyond the broader classifications of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Key Structural Changes in Administrative Units

- India now has **36 States and Union Territories**, marking an increase of one since **Census 2011**.
- The number of districts has increased significantly from **640 to 784**, reflecting administrative reorganization.
- **Urban Expansion:**
 - ♦ **Statutory towns** increased from **4,041 to 5,128**, indicating formal urban growth.
 - ♦ **Census towns** rose from **3,892 to 4,580**, reflecting rural areas transitioning into urban-like settlements.

Source: TH

ARAB LEAGUE

Context

- The **Council of the League of Arab States** has issued a strong condemnation of Iran's attacks on several Arab countries.

About

- The Arab League, officially known as the **League of Arab States** was established in **Cairo in 1945** initially with **seven members**.
 - ♦ **Seven founding member states:** Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen.
 - ♦ **Currently it has 22 member states.**
 - ♦ **The member nations are located in the Middle East and North Africa.**
- It has pledged to cooperate on **economic and military affairs**.
- The **League Council** is the **highest body** and is composed of **representatives of member states**.

- The league makes decisions on a **majority basis**, but there is no mechanism to compel members to comply with resolutions.
- There are **four nations that were conferred observer status:** Brazil, Eritrea, India, and Venezuela.

Source: AIR

INDIA ACCOUNTING STANDARD FRAMEWORK FOR INSURERS

In News

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has introduced the **Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)** based Financial Reporting Framework for the **Insurance Sector from April 1, 2026**.

About

- Pre-2026, Insurers followed **Indian GAAP (I-GAAP)** under the **Insurance Act, 1938** — a rule-based, premium-recognition framework unique to the insurance sector.
- Most listed companies and NBFCs had already migrated to Ind AS & the insurance sector was the last major holdout.

Key Provisions

- **Applies to all categories** — Life, General, Stand-Alone Health, Reinsurers.
- Sets framework for recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of financial statements.
- **Parallel reporting for 2 years** — Insurers must submit financial statements under both Ind AS and the existing framework simultaneously.
- During forbearance Insurers must still submit **Ind AS-based financial information to IRDAI**.

What is Ind AS?

- Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) — India's accounting framework converged with IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards).
- Notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).
- Two key standards for insurers:
 - ♦ **Ind AS 109** — Financial Instruments (notified February 2015)
 - ♦ **Ind AS 117** — Insurance Contracts (notified August 2024); India's equivalent of global IFRS 17.
- Replaces existing **Indian GAAP (I-GAAP) framework** under the **Insurance Act, 1938**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

- IRDAI is a **statutory body formed under an Act of Parliament, i.e., Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (IRDA Act, 1999)** for overall supervision and development of the Insurance sector in India.
- The powers and functions of the Authority are laid down in the same Act, 1999 and Insurance Act, 1938.
 - ♦ **Section 14 of the IRDA Act, 1999** specifies the Duties, Powers and Functions of the Authority.

Source: TH

AP POISED FOR A LEAP IN SHIPBUILDING, SHIP REPAIR CLUSTER

Context

- **Andhra Pradesh** is emerging as a **major shipbuilding and repair hub** under India's maritime vision.

About

- The state has a **long coastline, policy support, and defence-industrial ecosystem** to transform a long-neglected potential into a strategic and economic opportunity.
- Government of India (GoI) identified Dugarajapatnam in Tirupati district as one of the **five key sites** for its ambitious **shipbuilding cluster initiative**, **Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Odisha and Maharashtra** being the others.

India's Maritime Sector

- It currently contributes **4% to India's GDP** and **just 1% of global tonnage**, the vision is to raise its share to **12% of national GDP**.
 - ♦ India has a clear goal of ranking among the **top 10 maritime nations by 2030 and among the top 5 by 2047 from the current position of 16th**.
- **Indian seafarers** already represent **12% of the global workforce**.
 - ♦ India has a goal to expand this to around **25%**, making shipbuilding and repair central to this transformation.
- **The maritime sector** handles **95% of India's trade by volume**, underscoring its pivotal role in the economy.

- **Cargo management** at Indian ports **rose by 4.45% in FY24**, reaching 819.22 million tonnes.
- Currently, **India holds only 0.06%** of the global shipbuilding market, a stark contrast to the dominance of China, South Korea, and Japan, which collectively control 85% of the industry.

Source: TH

"BHAVASAGARA" REFERRAL CENTRE

In News

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has officially designated the **"Bhavasagara" Referral Centre of the Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE)**, Kochi, Kerala, as India's National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna.
 - ♦ The recognition has been granted under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.

About

- The designation establishes **"Bhavasagara" Referral Centre** as a critical **national facility** for the **preservation, study, and documentation** of India's **deep-sea biological heritage**.
- The Centre currently houses an extensive collection of **more than 3,500 taxonomically identified and geo-referenced voucher specimens**.
- Under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, the Repository is authorised to:
 - ♦ **Preserve representative biological samples** (such as **DNA sequences**)
 - ♦ **Act as the official custodian** for any new deep-sea species
 - ♦ **Capacity Building:** Aligning with the goals of the **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)**.

Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE)

- Established in 1998, **Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE)** is a premier institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India**.
- It is dedicated to the **exploration, management, and conservation of marine living resources**.
- CMLRE works in India's **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**, and the adjacent deep seas.

Source: TH

GRSE DELIVERS 3 FRONTLINE NAVAL PLATFORMS TO INDIAN NAVY

Context

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** delivered three frontline naval platforms, **INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray**, to the Indian Navy.
- With this GRSE has reached the milestone of building **118 warships**, including **80** delivered to the Indian Navy, strengthening India's indigenous defence ecosystem.

INS Dunagiri (Advanced Stealth Frigate)

- It is the **second ship under Project 17A** built by GRSE. The 149-metre, 6,670-tonne frigate is equipped with:
 - ♦ **BrahMos** for precision strikes.
 - ♦ Advanced AESA radar and integrated combat management systems.
- It operates on a **Combined Diesel and Gas (CODAG) propulsion system**.

- It is capable of **multi-dimensional warfare** across air, surface, and sub-surface domains.

INS Sanshodhak (Survey Vessel – Large)

- It is the **fourth and final vessel** in its class. It is designed for
 - ♦ **Hydrographic surveys** in coastal and deep waters.
 - ♦ Collection of oceanographic data.
- It also supports **Helicopter operations, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions and Limited combat roles**.

INS Agray (ASW Shallow Watercraft)

- It is designed specifically for **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)** in littoral waters. It features:
 - ♦ ~88% indigenous content
 - ♦ Lightweight torpedoes and ASW rockets
 - ♦ 30 mm naval gun
- Its **shallow draught and waterjet propulsion** enhance manoeuvrability in coastal areas.

Source: AIR

