

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 08-04-2026

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## CUSTODIAL DEATHS IN INDIA

### Context

- A trial court in Madurai sentenced 9 Tamil Nadu policemen to death for the brutal 2020 custodial killing of a father and son, P. Jayaraj and J. Benicks.

### What is Custodial Death?

- Custodial death refers to the death of an individual **while in police or judicial custody**. This may occur **before trial, during police interrogation, or after conviction**.
- The death may be caused by torture, negligence, denial of medical aid, or even under suspicious circumstances.
- **It violates the Constitutional Rights of;**
  - ♦ **Article 20(1):** No person shall be punished beyond what is prescribed in law.
  - ♦ **Article 20(3):** Protection against self-incrimination; any confession made under duress is inadmissible.
  - ♦ **Article 21:** Ensures protection of life and personal liberty, including in police/judicial custody.
- **Issue of Custodial Death in India:** According to parliamentary data, **11,656 custodial deaths** were recorded between 2016-17 and 2021-22, across India.
  - ♦ Uttar Pradesh topped the list with **2,630 deaths**, while **Tamil Nadu (490)** reported the highest number among the southern States.
  - ♦ However not all custody deaths are due to police excess.

### Reasons of higher Custodial Deaths in India

- **Legal Vacuum:** India has signed but not ratified the **UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), 1997** meaning it is not legally bound to implement its provisions.
  - ♦ **The Prevention of Torture Bill (2010) lapsed** in Parliament, and subsequent efforts to introduce legislation have been shelved or diluted.
- **Procedural Flaws and Delays:** Supreme Court of India, in **K Basu vs. State of West Bengal (1997) Case**, laid down crucial guidelines to prevent custodial abuse.
  - ♦ However, Courts often rely on magisterial inquiries, procedures riddled with procedural flaws and delays.
- **Institutional Incentives:** Confessions extracted through violence are still treated as evidence, despite being inadmissible under **Section 25 of the Indian Evidence Act**.

- **Weak Accountability:** Investigations into custodial deaths are typically conducted by the same department involved.
  - ♦ Even where judicial inquiries are initiated, they are often slow, opaque, and inconclusive.
- **Political Interference:** Policing in India is often influenced by political pressures, which weakens impartial action and shields errant officers.

### International Legal Frameworks for Protection

- **United Nations Charter (1945):** It sets out the purposes and principles of the UN, including the promotion of human rights.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):** It prohibits torture and ensures the presumption of innocence.
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966):** It protects right to life and prohibits torture.
- **The Nelson Mandela Rules, officially known as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners 2015,** establish minimum standards for the humane treatment of all individuals deprived of their liberty.
- **European Convention on Human Rights (1950):** It recognises individual dignity and access to justice mechanisms.

### Recommendations for Reform

- **Law Commission Reports:**
  - ♦ **69th Report (1977) of Law Commission of India:** It proposed introducing Section 26A in the Indian Evidence Act to make confessions before senior police officers admissible.
  - ♦ **273rd Report of Law Commission of India** recommended an anti-torture law, affirming that India's existing legal safeguards are insufficient.
- **Police Reforms:** Implement the Supreme Court's **Prakash Singh vs. Union of India (2006) directives**, including:
  - ♦ Separation of the investigation and law and order functions of the police
  - ♦ Establishment of Police Complaints Authorities.
- **Mandatory Use of Technology:** CCTV coverage in interrogation rooms, and digital records of questioning, must become the norm.
- **Judicial Reforms:** Fast-track courts for custodial crimes, along with stringent penalties for complicit officials, are essential.

### Concluding remarks

- Custodial deaths are not just administrative failures but a symptom of a deeper malaise in India's criminal justice system.

- Despite constitutional guarantees, legal safeguards, and judicial pronouncements, the use of torture and abuse in custody remains widespread.
- India must not only uphold its constitutional values but also fulfill its international obligations by enacting a comprehensive anti-torture law, strengthening institutions, and ensuring accountability.

Source: IE

## NEW CURRICULUM ON COMPUTATIONAL THINKING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

### Context

- Recently the Union Education Minister launched a new CBSE curriculum on Computational Thinking (CT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for students from Classes 3 to 8, aligning with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020

### What is the New CT-AI Curriculum?

- The initiative is designed to develop foundational **computational thinking skills: logical reasoning, problem-solving, and pattern recognition**, starting from the 2026-27 academic session.
- It is introduced as a **cross-curricular skill**, integrated into subjects such as **Mathematics, Science, Language, and Social Sciences**.
- **For Classes 3–5** the focus is on puzzles, pattern recognition, and problem-solving through text-based activities.
- **From Classes 6–8**, AI concepts, project-based learning, and reflective assessments will be introduced.

### Need for the New CT-AI Curriculum

- **Mainstreaming AI Literacy:** AI is increasingly present in everyday life (search engines, recommendation systems, digital assistants).
  - ♦ Curriculum ensures students become informed users and not passive consumers of technology.
- **Global Competitiveness:** Aligns India's education system with global practices in countries like Singapore and South Korea.
- **Ethical Use of Technology:** Introduces students to ethical concerns of AI, such as bias, privacy, and accountability. It builds responsible digital citizenship from an early age.

### Concern Over Weak Foundational Literacy (LSRW)

- **Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing (LSRW)** are the basic cognitive tools required for all higher-order learning.
  - ♦ **Computational Thinking** is not independent of language, but heavily dependent on reading comprehension, interpretation of instructions and written articulation of solutions.
- **Findings from Annual Status of Education Report 2024** states that more than **50% of Class 5** students in government schools cannot read a **Class 2-level** text.
  - ♦ The reading benchmark has remained consistent since 2006, indicating persistent learning gaps.
- **Findings from PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024: The survey covered 23 lakh students across 88,000 schools.**
  - ♦ Urban private school students performed poorer than rural government school students in **Language and Mathematics at Grade 3 level**.

### Government Initiatives for Learning Improvement

- **NIPUN Bharat Mission:** Aims to ensure universal foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) for every child by Grade 3 by 2026-27, through activity-based learning, teacher training, and parental engagement.
- **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan:** Integrated school education scheme aimed at improving quality, access, and equity from pre-primary to Class 12, with emphasis on inclusive education and gender parity.
- **NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement):** A capacity-building program launched by India's Ministry of Education to improve learning outcomes at the elementary and secondary levels.
- **Digital Initiatives:** DIKSHA portal, PM e-Vidya, and SWAYAM for content dissemination, e-learning modules, and teacher training.
- **TALA (Technology-Assisted Learning and Assessment):** Encourages the use of AI, adaptive assessments, and digital tools for improving learning and tracking student progress.

### Way Ahead

- The introduction of AI and Computational Thinking reflects a **forward-looking education policy** aligned with future economic needs. However, the success of such reforms depends on **strong foundational skills among learners**.

- Hence there is a need to align curriculum rollout with ground-level learning readiness along with ensuring continuous assessment and feedback loops to detect early learning gaps.

Source: TH

## INDIA ACHIEVES HIGHEST-EVER ANNUAL WIND ENERGY ADDITION

### Context

- India has achieved the **highest-ever annual wind energy capacity addition** of **6.05 GW in 2025-26**, taking cumulative installed capacity to over **56 GW**.

### About

- It represents **an increase of nearly 46%** over the capacity in **FY 2024-25**.
- States such as **Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra** have been the primary contributors to capacity addition during the year.
- This milestone reflects **renewed momentum in the sector** driven by improved policy clarity, transmission readiness, competitive tariff discovery, and a strong project pipeline.

### India's Energy Share

- As of 2025**, the country's total installed electricity capacity has crossed **500 GW, reaching 509.6 GW**.
- The total non-fossil power installed capacity** has reached 262.74 GW in 2025 which is 51.5% of the total installed electricity capacity in the country.
- The solar energy installed capacity has reached **132.85 GW in 2025**.
- Fossil-fuel-based sources:** 244.80 GW, about **49 % of the total**, making coal a source of up to almost half the energy needs. Also, coal contributes about **74% of total electricity production in India**.
- Globally, India stands **3rd in Solar Power** installed capacity, **4th in Wind Power** capacity and **4th in total Renewable Energy capacity**.

### India's Energy Targets

- Emissions Intensity Reduction:** India has committed to reducing the emissions intensity (CO<sub>2</sub> per unit of GDP) of its GDP by **47%** by 2035 from 2005 levels.
  - India has already reduced its emissions intensity by about 36% between 2005 and 2020.

- Expansion of Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity:** India has committed to achieving **60%** of its installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2035.
  - India has already achieved more than **50%** non-fossil fuel capacity by 2026, ahead of its earlier target.
- Creation of Carbon Sink:** India has committed to creating a carbon sink of **3.5 to 4 billion tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent through forest and tree cover by 2035.

### Challenges in Transition

- Limited Share in Actual Generation:** Despite rapid capacity addition, RE's share in electricity generation rose only from 19.6% (2013-14) to 22% (2024-25) due to structural issues.
- Intermittency Challenge:** Solar and wind are variable in nature, making round-the-clock supply difficult. Hence, coal remains essential for grid stability and meeting peak demand.
- Limited energy storage:** Large-scale energy storage (like battery systems) remains underdeveloped, restricting the grid's ability to use RE during peak demand or low generation periods.
- Import dependence:** India relies heavily on imported critical minerals (like lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements) for batteries, solar, and wind technologies, exposing it to global supply risks.
- Financial & Policy Hurdles:** High upfront costs for solar, wind, and storage systems.
  - There are delays in policy implementation and regulatory approvals.
- Land & Resource Constraints:** Limited availability of land for large-scale solar/wind projects.
  - Environmental and social conflicts in land acquisition.
- Technological & Skill Gaps:** Need for advanced technologies in storage, smart grids, and hybrid systems.
  - Shortage of skilled workforce in RE installation and maintenance.

### Government Initiatives

- National Solar Mission (NSM):** It was launched in 2010, it has set ambitious targets for solar capacity installation, including grid-connected and off-grid solar power projects.
- National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF):** It was established to support research and innovation in clean energy technologies and projects that help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- **National Wind Energy Mission:** Focuses on the development and expansion of wind energy in India. The target for wind energy capacity is set at 140 GW by 2030.
- **Concessional Custom Duty on certain components and raw materials** used in manufacturing of wind turbines, graded Waiver of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges till 2028.
- **Financial Support & Incentives:** Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for large-scale solar and hybrid projects.
  - ♦ Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar PV manufacturing.
  - ♦ Subsidies for rooftop solar and off-grid systems.
  - ♦ Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to promote green power trading.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Green Energy Corridor to improve RE grid integration.
  - ♦ PM-KUSUM Scheme for solarizing agricultural pumps.
  - ♦ Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to strengthen DISCOMs.
- **Emerging Technologies & Projects:** Support for Battery Storage, hybrid systems, and RTC power.
  - ♦ Promotion of offshore wind and floating solar projects.
  - ♦ Focus on Hydrogen Mission for green hydrogen development.
- **International Partnerships:** ISA (International Solar Alliance) launched by India to promote global solar cooperation.
  - ♦ Collaboration with countries & global funds for clean energy investment and technology.
- ♦ They float in the ocean and wash up on beaches, ranging from pea-sized to basketball-sized.
- These tar balls **contain toxic contaminants**, such as heavy metals, trace elements, and persistent-organic pollutants, and pose environmental and health risks.
- It affects flora and fauna, and the tourism industry due to their deposition on beaches.

### The Tar-balls Management Rules 2026

Source: PIB

## CENTRE PROPOSES FIRST-EVER TAR BALLS MANAGEMENT RULES TO TACKLE MARINE POLLUTION

### Context

- The Centre has, for the first time, proposed **dedicated rules to manage tar balls** that cause on-shore and off-shore marine pollution.

### About Tar Balls

- Tar balls are **fragments or lumps of oil** weathered to a semi-solid or solid consistency, feel sticky, and are difficult to remove from contaminated surfaces.
  - ♦ They are formed through the **combining of viscous hydrocarbons with debris** that is present in the water column.

- The rules assign responsibilities for **generation, collection, storage, transport, treatment, and disposal** of this pollutant, including its repurposing as fuel in cement production.
- It will cover **persons or companies** that own, control, or operate ships, vessels, and facilities where oil, both crude or fuel, is extracted, explored, transported, and handled.
  - ♦ These entities together have been defined as **'oil facilities'** under the draft rules.
- **Role of Authorities:** It outlines the role of ministries ranging from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to the Ministry of Ports, and Defence ministry regarding **'environmentally sound' management of tar balls.**
  - ♦ **State governments** shall declare pollution in coastal areas due to tar balls as a **state disaster**, and they have to act under the Disaster Management Act.
    - Currently, the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) lays down a framework and responsibilities on how to respond to oil spills.
  - ♦ It proposes the formation of **State Level Crisis Management Groups** under the NOSDCP established by the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG).**
- **Role of ICG:** The ICG is tasked with implementing the NOSDCP to effectively manage oil spills and the formation of tar balls.
  - ♦ The ICG will conduct regular aerial and surface surveillance for oil spills in Indian Exclusive Economic Zones and inform relevant stakeholders for necessary preparedness and response measures.
- **Penalty:** Oil facility owners will be liable to pay an environmental compensation as per the 'polluter pays principle' if they fail to manage oil in an environmentally sound manner and lead to any oil spill.
  - ♦ Compensation will also be levied on transporters, operators of treatment facilities if tar balls are not handled properly.

Source: IE

## SUNDARBANS LOSING ABILITY TO RECOVER

### Context

- A recent study shows that around 10–15 percent of the Sundarbans is undergoing a “**critical slowing down**” process from environmental stress.

### Sundarbans

#### Critical Slowing Down

The study identifies a phenomenon called **critical slowing down (slower recovery of ecosystems after disturbances)**.

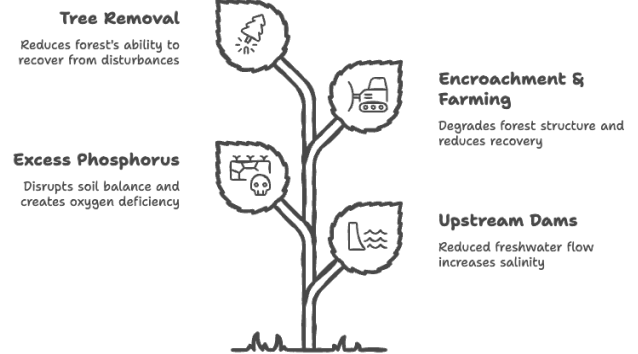
This means ecosystems take longer to return to normal after events like cyclones or temperature changes. It is also associated with increased instability and fluctuations in forest productivity.

- The Sundarbans is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and is ecologically significant.
- The world's largest mangrove forest, spread across the delta formed by the **Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal**.
  - Shared between **India (40%) and Bangladesh (60%)**.
- Key rivers flowing through this area include Muriganga, Raimangal, Harinbhanga, Saptamukhi, Thakuran, and Matla.

### Key Findings

- Climate:** Rising temperatures are reducing species richness and weakening ecosystem stability. Freshwater flow and rainfall matter because reduced freshwater increases salinity. Thus, rainfall plays a role in reducing salinity and improving growth conditions. However, erratic rainfall and extreme weather events are disrupting this balance.
- Ecology:** The forest includes both fast-growing species like **Avicennia officinalis** and **Excoecaria agallocha**. It also includes slow-growing species such as **Heritiera fomes**, **Bruguiera sexangular**, and **Xylocarpus mekongensis**.
  - Decline in canopy height and leaf traits is reducing structural complexity.
  - Forests are becoming more uniform with fewer species, reducing biodiversity.
  - Some parts of the forest are shifting from a **carbon sink (absorbing carbon dioxide)** to a carbon source.

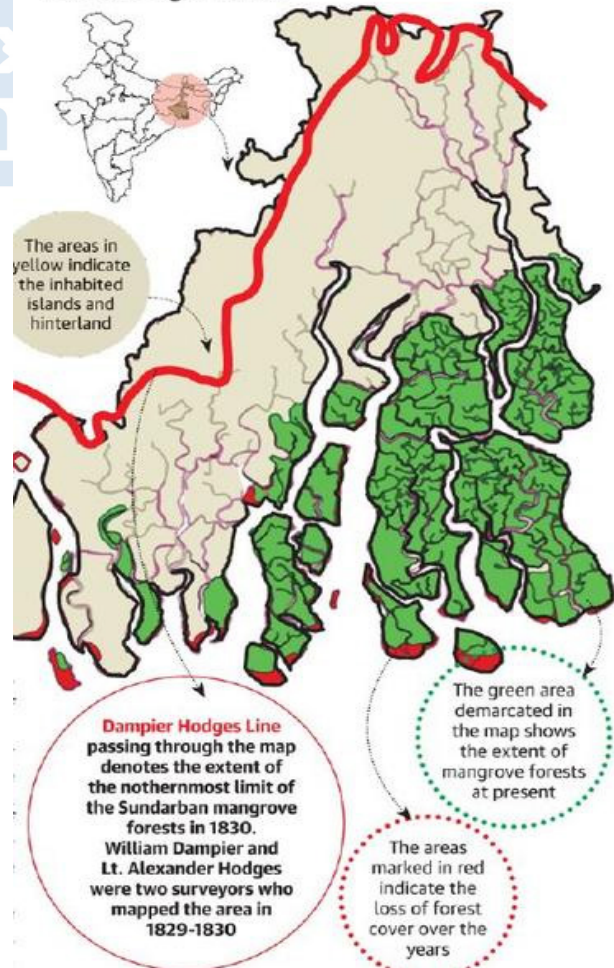
### Human Induced Factors



Made with Canva

- Cyclones as Factor:** Major cyclones such as **Sidr, Rashmi, and Aila** of the Bay of Bengal have significantly reduced forest resilience.
  - Large areas shifted from **high resilience (strong recovery capacity)** to moderate and weak categories.
- Affected Zones:** The most affected regions are in the **central and south-eastern Sundarbans (seaward and cyclone-prone areas)**.

### Bird's-eye view



- ◆ In India, the western Sundarbans show lower resilience compared to Bangladesh, especially near northern boundaries.

### Way Ahead

- The Sundarbans is vital for biodiversity, coastal protection, and **carbon storage (absorption of atmospheric carbon dioxide)**.
- Declining resilience threatens ecosystem stability, livelihoods, and climate regulation functions.
- Protecting **mature trees** is essential to maintain resilience.
- **Strengthening patrolling** can reduce illegal logging and forest degradation.
- Involving local communities can improve awareness and conservation efforts.
- Policies should integrate **climate impacts (effects of climate change on ecosystems)** for long-term protection.

Source: TH

## NEWS IN SHORT

### SUPREME COURT HEARING ON SABARIMALA CASE

#### Context

- A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India has begun hearings on petitions concerning women's entry into religious places, including the Sabarimala Temple.

#### Background

- **In 2018**, a Constitution Bench (4:1 majority) **allowed entry of women** of menstruating age into the temple, declaring the restriction unconstitutional.
- Due to widespread protests, in 2019, the matter was referred to a larger bench. The Court started reviewing this, along with other issues of women's entry into religious spaces.
- **Significance:** The issue reflects tension between Fundamental Rights on equality/non-discrimination (**Articles 14, 15, 17**) and Religious Freedom (**Articles 25, 26**).
  - ◆ It also raises questions on **Judicial activism vs restraint** and **Secularism in India (principled distance model)**.

#### About Sabarimala Temple

- **Location and Deity:** The Sabarimala Temple is located in the Pathanamthitta district of Kerala on the banks of the **sacred Pamba River (also**

**known as Pampa), within the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Western Ghats.**

- ◆ It is dedicated to **Lord Ayyappa**, also known as **Dharmashasta**.
- ◆ The temple is situated on a **hilltop** at an elevation of about **1,260 metres**.
- **Religious Significance:** It is one of the largest annual pilgrimage centres in the world. Devotees undertake a rigorous **41-day 'Vratham' (penance)** before visiting.
  - ◆ The temple symbolises celibacy (**Naishtika Brahmacharya**) of **Lord Ayyappa**.

Source: TH

### GOVT. PLANS ₹2.5 LAKH CRORE CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME

#### Context

- The government is considering a **₹2.5 lakh crore credit guarantee scheme** to support businesses, especially MSMEs impacted by the West Asia crisis.

#### About

- The scheme will be an expansion of the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) framework**.
- The scheme is expected to be valid for **four years** and about Rs 100 crores cover would be given to different sectors and sub-sectors.
- The guarantee on bank loans would be provided by the **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the government.
- Under the scheme, a credit guarantee of about **90% on loans of up to ₹100 crore** would be **provided to lenders** in case of default by borrowers.

#### Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

- It was launched in **2020** as part of the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan** to support eligible MSMEs and other eligible business enterprises **due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- ECLGS covered almost all the sectors of the economy, and a **100% guarantee was provided to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs)**.
  - ◆ **The structure of the scheme** permitted easy access to credit, the interest rate was also capped with a view to lowering the cost of credit and loans were sanctioned without any processing charges.
- The Scheme continued **till March 31, 2023**.

Source: TH

## UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC)

### In News

- Russia and China vetoed a UN Security Council resolution aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

### About the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- **Brief:** The UNSC is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, carrying the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. It is the only UN body empowered to issue legally binding resolutions that all UN member states are obligated to comply with under international law.
- **Structure and Composition:** The Council has 15 members divided into two categories:
  - ♦ **Permanent Members (P5) with Veto Power:** China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. A single veto from any P5 member is sufficient to block any substantive resolution, regardless of how many other members support it.
  - ♦ **Non-Permanent Members (10 seats):** Elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms, distributed geographically.
- **Headquarters:** New York, USA
- **How Does It Work?**
  - ♦ **Voting:** Each member holds one vote. A resolution requires a minimum of 9 affirmative votes with no P5 veto to pass.
  - ♦ **Presidency:** Rotates monthly among the 15 members in English alphabetical order.
  - ♦ **Binding Nature:** Under Article 25 of the UN Charter, all member states agree to accept and implement UNSC decisions.

### UN Security Council Functions



Source: TH

## AMENDMENTS TO MINERAL CONCESSION RULES

### Context

- The Ministry of Mines has notified the **Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026** to operationalise recent reforms in the mining sector.
  - ♦ The new rules are based on changes made in the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act)** through the 2025 amendment.

### Key Features of the Amendment Rules

- **Inclusion of Contiguous Area:** Mining Lease (ML) or Composite Licence (CL) holders of deep-seated minerals are allowed a one-time extension to include adjoining (contiguous) areas.
  - ♦ The extension is capped at **10% of existing area for ML and 30% of existing area for CL**. This aims to ensure optimal extraction of mineral deposits that may otherwise remain unviable.
- **Provisions for Minor and Major Minerals:** The rules provide a clear method to deal with cases where major minerals are found in old minor mineral leases granted before 2025.
  - ♦ **Minor minerals** specifically include building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, and ordinary sand.
  - ♦ **Major Minerals** cover all minerals other than minor minerals; examples include Coal, Iron Ore, Zinc, Limestone, Bauxite, and Gold.
  - ♦ Minor minerals are regulated by **State Governments; major minerals fall under the purview of the Union Government.**

Source: PIB

## MISSION MITRA

### In News

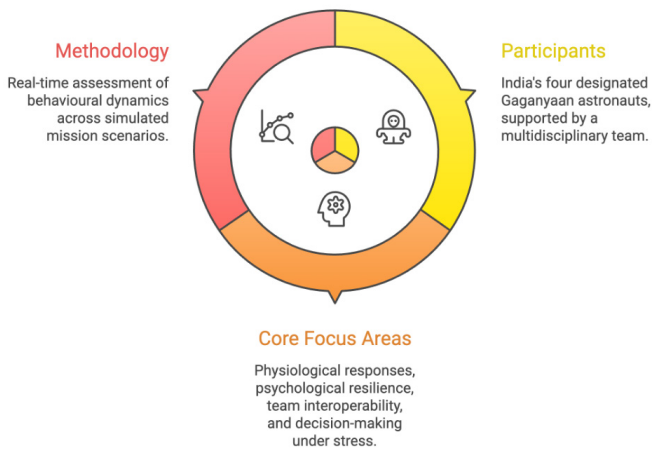
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in collaboration with the IAF-Institute of Aerospace Medicine, has launched Mission MITRA in Leh, Ladakh.

### What is Mission MITRA?

- **About:** MITRA stands for Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment. It is a structured scientific study designed to simulate and evaluate the human dimensions of long-duration spaceflight missions in a controlled yet extreme terrestrial environment.
- **Nature:** First-of-its-kind team behavioural and physiological study in India's human spaceflight

programme.

### Mission MITRA Features



Source: TH

## LUNAR RING PROJECT

### Context

- Japan's **Shimizu Corporation** has proposed an ambitious mega-project called the "**Lunar Ring**"—a massive belt of solar power plants along the Moon's equator.

### About the Project

- The project **envisions a solar panel belt stretching 11,000 km and about 400 km wide around the Moon.**
- The structure would be constructed by **robots using lunar regolith (soil)**, reducing the need to transport materials from Earth.
- It would continuously capture solar energy and beam it to Earth via **microwaves**, enabled by the Moon's near-constant sunlight and lack of atmosphere.
- It is a **variant of space-based solar power (SBSP)** that involves capturing solar energy in space using satellites with photovoltaic cells or mirrors and transmitting it wirelessly via microwaves or lasers to Earth-based receivers.
- Key Challenges:** High cost of transporting infrastructure, technological constraints, energy dissipation & operational risks due to space debris.

Source: TH

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES TWO INSTITUTIONS AS REPOSITORIES

### Context

- The National Biodiversity Authority, in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change, has enabled the notification of **two institutions as designated repositories** under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

### About

- The two institutions are** Referral Centre Bhavasagara at Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi, and MACS Collection of Microorganisms and National Fungal Culture Collection at Agharkar Research Institute, Pune.
- The BDA 2002 empowers the Central Government to **designate institutions as repositories** for different categories of biological resources.
  - These repositories are entrusted with **maintaining biological materials** in safe custody, and any person discovering a new taxon is required to notify the designated repository.

### Additional Information

#### National Network of Repositories

- So far, **18 institutions** have been designated as national repositories under Section 39 of the Act.
- With the addition of these two institutions, the national network of repositories is further strengthened, **enhancing the conservation and systematic documentation of biological resources.**
- This will ensure that biological materials are preserved **under appropriate scientific conditions and made accessible for research and innovation.**

#### National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

- It is a **statutory authority** set up under India's Biological Diversity Act (2002).
- It came into existence in **2003, with its headquarters in Chennai.**
- It provides facilitative, regulatory, and advisory functions to the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the country's biological resources.
- Under the **Biodiversity Act, 2002 and Biodiversity Rules, 2004**, the following two other entities have been established to complement the NBA:
  - State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) at the State level, and
  - Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at the local village level.

Source: PIB

