

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDONESIA

Context

- PM Modi paid an official visit to Indonesia.

Major Outcomes of the Visit

- PM Modi was conferred Indonesia's highest civilian honour, the **Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia**, by the Indonesian President.
- India and Indonesia signed key defence agreements, including cooperation on the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system** and **ASTRA beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles**.
- The two countries agreed to **promote joint production of defence equipment**, technology transfer, cooperation in shipbuilding, establishment of **maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities**, exploration of defence research and development partnerships, and strengthening of defence supply chains.
- India and Indonesia signed an MoU on minerals and steel supply chain technology.
 - They also agreed to a strategic joint venture between the **Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and PT Krakatau Steel** to explore the establishment of a stainless-steel slab manufacturing facility in Indonesia.
 - Both sides also welcomed progress towards operationalising **Local Currency Transactions (LCT) guidelines** between the **Reserve Bank of India and Bank Indonesia**, saying the initiative would promote bilateral trade and investment while deepening financial integration.

India-Indonesia Relation: A Brief Overview

- Foundation of Relations:** The shared experience of colonialism, and common post-colonial goals drove India's friendly bilateral relationship with Indonesia in the late 1940s and 1950s.
 - In 1951, India and Indonesia signed a **Treaty of Friendship** which aimed at perpetual peace and unalterable friendship.
- Founding NAM:** India and Indonesia became the voice of independence of Asian and African countries in the UN, which led to **Bandung Conference of 1955**, and the subsequent formation of **Non-Aligned Movement in 1961**.

- India and Indonesia were among the five founding leaders of NAM along with Yugoslavia, Egypt, and Ghana.
- Look East:** Since the adoption of India's 'Look East Policy' in 1991, and its upgradation to 'Act East' in 2014, there has been a rapid development of bilateral relations.
- Trade Relations:** Indonesia is the second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region (after Singapore).
 - Bilateral trade increased from \$4.3 billion in 2005-06 to \$38.84 billion in 2022-23 and \$29.40 billion in 2023-24.
 - India-Indonesia bilateral ties were elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018**. The Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific was also adopted.
- Shared Platforms:** Both nations actively participate in major international forums like BRICS, G20, IORA, and the East Asia Summit, fostering cooperation on global issues.

Significance of Indonesia for India

- Policy Alignment:** India's "Act East Policy" and "Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative" align well with Indonesia's "Global Maritime Fulcrum" vision, creating synergies for regional cooperation in areas like maritime security, connectivity, and economic development.
- Counterbalancing Influence:** Indonesia's strategic location and growing influence can help counterbalance China's growing dominance in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with India's strategic interests.



- **Maritime Security:** Indonesia's strategic location between the Indian and Pacific Oceans makes it a crucial partner for maintaining maritime security and stability in the region.
- **Counter-terrorism:** Cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts is essential, given the shared challenges posed by extremism and transnational crime.
- **Deep-rooted Cultural Ties:** Historical and cultural ties, particularly the influence of Hindu traditions and epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, foster strong people-to-people connections between the two nations.
- **Tourism Potential:** These shared cultural roots can be leveraged to boost tourism and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Challenges in Relations

- **Trade Imbalance:** The trade balance is often skewed in favor of Indonesia, mainly due to high imports of palm oil and coal. Both nations are looking for ways to diversify trade to reduce this imbalance.
- **Regional Tensions:** There are challenges posed by regional tensions and the changing dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, particularly with the rise of China. Both countries are navigating these pressures while maintaining their strategic partnership.

Concluding remarks

- India and Indonesia enjoy a multi-faceted and growing relationship, underpinned by historical ties, economic collaboration, and shared security concerns.
- Both countries have great potential to further deepen their partnership in the coming years, with a focus on regional stability, economic growth, and cultural exchange.

Source: [DD News](#)

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT UPHOLDS UNIFORM LEGAL MARRIAGE AGE

Context

- The Allahabad High Court has held that no personal law, can violate the prohibition on child marriage under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA), as well as the POCSO Act.

Key Observations of the Court

- **PCMA Has Uniform Application:** The Court held that the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** applies to every citizen regardless of religion.
 - ♦ Also the legal age of marriage is determined by the PCMA and cannot vary based on personal laws.
 - ♦ The Court ruled that religious personal laws cannot supersede laws enacted by Parliament.
- There is a relationship between the PCMA, 2006 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
 - ♦ Under POCSO a child means any person **below 18 years** and **sexual activity with a child is a criminal offence**, irrespective of consent.

Legal Framework

- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006:** The Act clearly states that a "child" is a male under 21 years or female under 18 years. Child marriage involves either party being a child.
- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:** It defines a child as any person under 18 years of age.
- **Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937:** It dictates that matters concerning marriage, dower, divorce, and inheritance among Muslims are governed by Islamic personal law (Shariat).
 - ♦ Under traditional Muslim personal law, a boy or a girl who has attained **puberty** (presumed at 15 years of age) is considered competent and legally eligible to enter into a contract of marriage.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 14:** The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
- **Article 15(3)** empowers the State to create special provisions for women and children.
- **Article 21:** No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
- **Article 44:** The state shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.

Significance of the Judgment

- **Strengthens Child Protection Laws:** The ruling reinforces that child protection statutes have overriding authority over personal practices permitting early marriage.
- **Gender Equality:** The judgment will promote women empowerment by preventing child marriages, ensuring greater access to education and strengthening women's autonomy, dignity, and decision-making capacity.

What are the Concerns?

- **Conflict with Personal Laws:** The decision overriding personal laws raises questions about religious autonomy under **Article 25 of the Constitution**.
- **Implementation Challenges:** Despite legal prohibition, child marriage continues due to social customs, poverty, lack of education, and gender inequality.

Way Ahead

- A balanced approach is required where constitutional values of equality, dignity, and child protection are harmonised with personal laws.
- Along with effective enforcement of PCMA, greater focus should be placed on girls' education, economic empowerment, and social awareness to eliminate the root causes of child marriage.

Source: [TH](#)

INDIA LIFTED THE ENERGY CURBS IMPOSED DURING THE WEST ASIA CRISIS

Context

- The government has **lifted emergency curbs** it had imposed on the supply of natural gas during the West Asia crisis in March.

Background

- On March 12, the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas told Parliament about the **"immediate priority sequence"**.
 - ♦ Domestic piped gas to homes and CNG for vehicles receive **100% supply with no cuts**.
 - ♦ Industrial and manufacturing consumers will receive up to **80% of their previous six-month average**.
 - ♦ Fertilizer plants will receive **up to 70%**, protecting the agricultural input chain ahead of the sowing season.

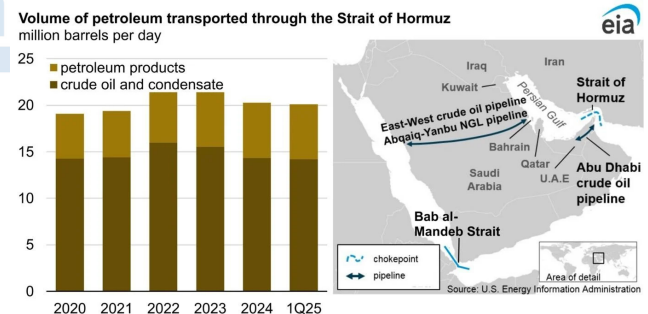
- ♦ Refineries and petrochemical units absorb a managed reduction, with that gas redirected to higher-priority sectors.
- The government cited **"ceasefire and negotiations"** and the resumption of **"sea traffic through the Strait of Hormuz"** to restore gas supplies.

Which sector uses LNG the most?

- **Fertilizer plants** are known to consume a **bulk of India's LNG**. A little less than 30% of natural gas use goes into making fertilizers, while power plants account for 13% and city gas distribution 21%.
 - ♦ Urea, which has around 46% of nitrogen, is the most common nitrogen fertilizer. It is produced by converting natural gas (methane) into ammonia and then combining it with carbon dioxide.

India's Energy Demand

- ♦ India is expected to account for **over 23% of global incremental energy demand by 2050**, the highest for any country.
- ♦ In order to meet this growing demand, India has focused on strengthening its energy systems **through policy reforms, infrastructure expansion, and cleaner energy pathways**.



- **India's LPG imports** account for around 60% of domestic consumption, and about 90% of those imports normally move through Hormuz.
 - ♦ Thus, roughly **54% of normal LPG availability** is under direct exposure if the corridor remains shut.

India's Efforts to Strengthen Energy Security

- **Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025:** It modernises India's upstream regulatory framework by simplifying procedures, enabling integrated energy development, and strengthening investor confidence.
 - ♦ The reform aims to enhance domestic oil and

gas production, improve energy security, and support a stable, transparent policy environment.

- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025:** It provides a modern and transparent regulatory framework for the exploration and production of oil and natural gas.
- **Unified Pipeline Tariff (UPT):** Introduced in 2023, under "One Nation, One Grid, One Tariff," the UPT was launched to address regional disparity in gas transportation costs.
- **Fuel and Gas Infrastructure:** The nationwide fuel retail network expanded from around 52,000 outlets in 2014 to over one lakh by 2025, improving last-mile fuel availability across urban and rural areas.
 - ♦ Under the vision of One Nation, One Gas Grid, **the natural gas pipeline network expanded to over 25,400 km.**
- **Electric Mobility Infrastructure:** Electric mobility infrastructure expanded with 8,932 EV charging stations installed at retail outlets under Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) Phase-II, along with over 18,500 additional charging stations set up by Oil Marketing Companies.
- **The ethanol blending programme has resulted in** foreign exchange savings of about 1.59 lakh crore, reduction of 813 lakh metric tonnes of CO emissions, and substitution of 270 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil since 2014, **reflecting the role of biofuels in reducing import dependence and emissions.**
- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF):** The government has set **indicative blending targets for SAF in Aviation Turbine Fuel** for international flights at 1% from 2027, 2% from 2028 and 5% from 2030.
- India's participation in platforms such as the **Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) and the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group** reflects its emphasis on practical and inclusive approaches to energy transition.
- **India Energy Week** serves as an international platform for dialogue among governments, industry, financial institutions, and technology providers.
- **Alternative Sources:** India is now securing LPG from alternative sources, including the United States, Russia, Norway, and Canada.

Conclusion

- India's energy landscape has undergone a **significant transformation in recent years**, supported by policy reforms, infrastructure expansion, and targeted clean energy interventions.
- Progress across **hydrocarbon governance, gas connectivity, fuel and mobility infrastructure, biofuels, and clean cooking** has strengthened energy access, improved system resilience, and reduced emissions intensity.
- These developments reflect a **transition approach** that emphasises scale, implementation, and inclusion while responding to rising energy demand.

Source: TH

NEWS IN SHORT

PRAMBANAN TEMPLE COMPLEX

Context

- PM Modi visited the majestic Prambanan Temple complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia,

About Prambanan Temple Complex

- Prambanan is the **largest Hindu temple compound in Indonesia** and is dedicated primarily to **Lord Shiva**.
- It was built during the **10th century CE** during the **Mataram Kingdom** period in **Java**.
- The temple complex is located on the border of **Yogyakarta and Central Java** on the island of Java.

Architectural Features

- The complex follows a **three concentric square design**, representing the Hindu cosmological concept of the universe.
- The central area consists of towering temples dedicated to the **Hindu Trimurti: Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma**.
- The walls of the temples contain detailed bas-relief carvings depicting **scenes from the Ramayana**, reflecting the spread of Indian cultural traditions in Southeast Asia.



Source: [TH](#), [UNESCO](#)

EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLGS) 5.0

Context

- The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 has facilitated over 4.11 lakh government-guaranteed loans, with the total guaranteed amount exceeding 1.55 lakh crore, to improve credit access for eligible sectors.

About ECLGS 5.0

- ECLGS 5.0** is the latest version of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, **originally introduced** during the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
- The scheme aims to provide **additional working capital support** to businesses facing temporary financial stress.
 - The scheme launched in **2026** addresses financial stress faced by MSMEs and the aviation sector due to disruptions arising from the ongoing West Asia conflict.
- It allows eligible borrowers to obtain additional loans of up to **20%** of their existing working capital limits.
- The scheme has a total credit support envelope of **₹2,55,000 crore (including Rs.5,000 crore for airlines)**.

Credit Guarantee Structure

- Guarantee coverage:** For MSMEs, the government provides a **100% guarantee** on the additional credit extended by banks. For non-MSME borrowers as well as the airline sector, the guarantee coverage is **90%**.
 - Guarantees are provided through the **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)**.

- Tenure of Loan:
 - For MSMEs/Non MSMEs (except Airline sector): 5 years** from the date of first disbursement including a moratorium of 1 year.
 - For the airline sector: 7 years** from the date of first disbursement including a moratorium of 2 years.
- Tenure of Guarantee Cover:** Maximum period of guarantee cover shall be co-terminus with the tenor of the loan.

Source: [PIB](#)

REPORT ON UNIFIED DISTRICT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION PLUS (UDISE+) 2025-26

Context

- The **Union Ministry of Education** released a Report on **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26** on School Education in India.

Major Highlights

- There is an increase of 8.3% in the number of teachers** during the reporting year as compared to 2022-23.
- The Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR)** at the Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, and Secondary levels are now reported at **10, 12, 17, and 21** respectively, recording a significant improvement as compared to the NEP's recommended ratio of **30:1**.
- Dropout Rate:** At the preparatory level, the dropout rate declined from 2.3 percent in 2024-25 to 1.8 percent in 2025-26 and at the secondary level from 8.2 percent to 7 percent.
- Retention rates** increased from 82.8% (2024-25) to 83.7% (2025-26) at the middle level and from 47.2% (2024-25) to 51.9% (2025-26) at the secondary level.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** at the secondary level increased from 68.5% in 2024-25 to 71.7% in 2025-26.
- Improved Female Representation:** It witnessed an increase in the representation of female teachers, with women now comprising 54.9% of the total teaching workforce.

- ♦ The female representation in schools has also shown a positive trend with girls' enrolment reaching 48.4% in 2025-26.
- **Infrastructure Development:** 95.0% of schools are powered with electricity, 98.5% have girls' toilets, and 97.2% have boys' toilets.
- ♦ There is an increase in the number of schools with computer facilities from 64.7 percent in 2024-25 to 69.9 percent in 2025-26.

Source: PIB

NATIONAL ACADEMIC DEPOSITORY (NAD)

Context

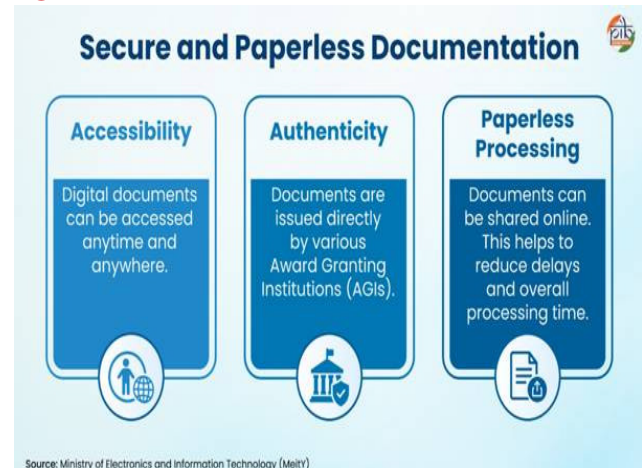
- The Government introduced the **National Academic Depository (NAD)** in 2017, for the digital storage, verification, and authentication and issuance of academic awards.

About

- The **Ministry of Education** is the parent ministry responsible for the NAD.
- ♦ It has designated the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** as the nodal agency for implementing the NAD through **DigiLocker**.
- **The Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) and the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)** manage the credit scores of students and facilitate academic mobility.
- NAD registers Central, State, Private, deemed-to-be Universities, CBSE and other school boards, Institutions of National Importance and other higher education institutions.
- The functioning of NAD:
 - ♦ **Academic Award Creation:** Educational institutions (schools, universities, boards, and other authorised bodies) generate academic awards such as degrees, diplomas, certificates, and mark sheets after completion of a course or examination.
 - ♦ **Digital Upload to Digi Locker/NAD:** The institution securely uploads or issues these verified academic records into the National Academic Depository (NAD) through the DigiLocker platform.

- ♦ **Students Access via DigiLocker:** Once issued, the digital academic documents are automatically linked to the student's DigiLocker account, where they can be securely accessed anytime.

Significance



Source: PIB

KAMARAJAR PORT

Context

- Kamarajar Port has become **India's second major port** after **Visakhapatnam Port** to achieve an **18-metre draft capability** following the successful completion of its **Capital Dredging Phase VI** project.
- ♦ **Draft capability** refers to the maximum depth of water a port can provide for the safe movement and berthing of ships.

About Kamarajar Port

- Formerly known as **Ennore Port**, it is located about **24 km north of Chennai** on the east coast of **Tamil Nadu**.
- It was declared a **Major Port** under the **Indian Ports Act, 1908** in **1999**.
- The **₹440-crore Capital Dredging Phase VI** project deepened the navigation channels and berths, making the port **Cape Compliant**.
- The port can now accommodate **fully laden Capesize vessels** carrying up to **1,70,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT)**.

Additional Information

- India currently has 14 major ports and approximately 200 non-major ports. The **Vadhavan Port (Greenfield Port, Maharashtra)** and **Galathea Bay Port (Andaman & Nicobar)** have been notified as major ports but are not yet operational.
 - Major ports:** Wholly owned and managed by the Union Government.
 - Non-major ports:** Respective State Maritime Boards / State Governments.
- 95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value is conducted through maritime routes.
 - Major ports alone handle 53% of the total maritime cargo traffic in the country.
- 100% FDI is allowed under the automatic route for port construction and maintenance.

Source: [PIB](#)

MIZORAM'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM NOTIFIED AS INDIA'S 21ST DESIGNATED REPOSITORY

Context

- Mizoram's Natural History Museum has been notified as India's 21st Designated Repository under **Section 39** of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

What are Designated Repositories?

- Designated Repositories are an important component of **India's biodiversity governance framework**, preserving authenticated biological specimens for scientific research and conservation.
- The repositories are entrusted with maintaining biological materials in safe custody, and any person **discovering a new taxon is required to notify the designated repository** and deposit the corresponding voucher specimens.

Significance

- The designation advances **National Biodiversity Target 4** of India's **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2030)** by strengthening ex situ conservation.

- It also aligns with **Target 4 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, which aims to ensure the conservation and management of threatened species and maintain genetic diversity.

About Mizoram's Natural History Museum

- Established in 2022** under the aegis of Mizoram University, the Natural History Museum is located within the **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot** and has specialised taxonomic expertise.
- The museum's **expertise in pteridophytes, macrofungi, moths, beetles and other lesser-studied taxa** fills an important gap in India's network of Designated Repositories and strengthens the scientific documentation of the region's rich biodiversity.

Source: [AIR](#), [PIB](#), [PIB](#)

WHITE GUT DISEASE

Context

- The Fisheries department sounded an alarm about the outbreak of White Gut Disease (WDG), also known as White Feces Disease (WFD), in shrimp ponds in West Godavari district.

About White Gut Disease

- It is a disease **affecting farmed shrimp**, particularly **Pacific white shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei)**, which is widely cultivated in India.
- Symptoms:** It is characterized by the **appearance of floating white fecal strings** in shrimp ponds and **discoloration of the shrimp intestine**.
- Causes:** It is not caused by a single pathogen but is considered a **multifactorial disease**, resulting from interactions among pathogens, poor water quality, environmental stress, and management practices.
 - Microsporidian parasite:** Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei (EHP) (commonly associated).
 - Bacterial infections:** Mainly Vibrio species.
 - Poor pond hygiene** and accumulation of organic waste.
 - Deterioration in water quality** (high ammonia, nitrite, low dissolved oxygen).

Source: [TH](#)

FINERENONE

In News

- Researchers found that patients having kidney disease and taking finerenone lost kidney function more slowly.

About

- Finerenone (sold as Kerendia and Lyvelsa) is a **nonsteroidal mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist (MRA)** primarily prescribed to reduce the risk of kidney function decline, kidney failure and heart failure hospitalization in patients.
- **Overactive mineralocorticoid receptors (MR)** in the body can trigger inflammation and fibrosis (scarring) in the heart, kidneys, and blood vessels. Finerenone blocks these receptors, protecting the organs from these harmful, progressive processes.
- The most common side effect is **hyperkalemia**, which means increased potassium levels in the blood.

Source: TH

SCIENTIST WON COLLIER DOLITTLE CHALLENGE AWARD ON ZEBRA FINCHES COMMUNICATION

Context

- An American scientist, **Dr Julie Elie at the University of California** has won the the **Collier Dolittle Challenge award** for her work on **how zebra finches communicate with each other**.

About Zebra Finches

- The Zebra Finch is a **small, colorful songbird native to Australia**.
 - ♦ They can also be found **natively in parts of Indonesia and East Timor**.
- It is one of the **most widely studied bird species** in the world because of its **simple care requirements, social behavior, and vocal learning abilities**.



- **Scientific Name:** *Taeniopygia guttata*.
- **Family:** Estrildidae (Waxbills and Grass Finches).
- **Habitat:** Grasslands, scrublands, and areas near water sources.
- **IUCN Status:** Least Concern (LC).

Source: IE

