

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S TOP SHIP RECYCLING NATION

Context

- India has become the World's Top Ship Recycling Nation in the year 2025.

What is Ship Recycling?

- Ship Recycling is the process of **dismantling a vessel's structure** for scrapping or disposal whether conducted at a beach, pier, dry dock or dismantling slip.
- It includes a wide range of activities, from removing all gear and equipment to cutting down and recycling the ship's infrastructure.

India's Ship Recycling Landscape

- As per the latest report by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**, India's share of global ship recycling increased to **35.4 per cent in 2025** from 30.1 per cent in 2024.
- Ship recycling in the country rose significantly to **2.99 million gross tonnes** in 2025, up nearly 60 percent from 1.86 million gross tonnes in 2024.
- With this achievement, the target set under **Maritime India Vision 2030** to become the world's leading ship recycling nation has been **achieved five years ahead of schedule**.
- The Alang-Sosiya ship recycling cluster in Gujarat** forms the backbone of the country's recycling capacity and is the largest ship recycling hub in the world.
 - The cluster accounts for approximately **97%** of India's ship recycling activity.

Regulatory Framework Governing Ship Recycling in India

- Ship Recycling Act, 2019:** Provides the overarching legal foundation for regulating ship recycling in India.
 - It gives domestic effect to international standards, designates the **Directorate General of Shipping as the National Authority** and mandates authorisation, certification, inspection and enforcement mechanisms.
- Ship Recycling Rules, 2021:** Operationalise the Act by prescribing procedural and technical requirements including facility authorisation, Ship Recycling Plans, hazardous material management, worker safety, training and reporting obligations.

- Ship Recycling Regulations, 2026:** Strengthen implementation through detailed operational, safety and environmental standards, ensuring uniform compliance and effective monitoring.

Key Government Initiatives

- The Government of India **enacted the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019**, to develop a ship recycling ecosystem aligned with the **Hong Kong International Convention** for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC), which India **ratified in 2019**.
- Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme:** MoPSW launched the Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme, under which ship owners receive a credit note equivalent to 40% of the scrap value of a recycled ship.
 - The credit note can be utilised toward payment of up to **5% of the value of a new vessel** built at an Indian shipyard, thereby promoting both ship recycling and domestic shipbuilding.

Hong Kong International Convention (HKC)

- The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships is the principal international instrument governing ship recycling. It establishes **legally binding requirements** for ships and recycling facilities.
- The Convention **entered into force on 26 June 2025**, making compliance mandatory for Parties.

Ship Recycling Industries Association

- It is an organisation established for the welfare of ship recycling activity in **India**.
- It safeguards the rights of its membership recyclers and ensures safe and eco-friendly recycling activity.

Challenges in Ship Recycling

- Hazardous Waste Management:** Ships contain toxic materials such as asbestos, oil residues, heavy metals, and hazardous chemicals that require safe handling and disposal.
- Infrastructure Constraints:** The recycling facilities require modernization and advanced waste-treatment systems to achieve environmentally sound recycling.
- Worker Safety Concerns:** Ship dismantling is a high-risk activity involving accidents, fires, explosions, and exposure to harmful substances.

- **Global Competition:** India faces strong competition from countries such as Bangladesh and Pakistan, which are operating at lower costs.

Concluding remarks

- India's rise to the top position in global ship recycling is the result of a coordinated strategy focused on sustainability, regulatory reforms, and industry collaboration.
- With strong future demand, increasing compliance with international standards and continued government support, India is well-positioned to strengthen its leadership in ship recycling while advancing the objectives of the **circular economy** and sustainable maritime development.

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

DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

Context

- Recently, Indian CCTV networks linked to defence assets were compromised through a Chinese software platform which made concern about dependence of India's critical digital infrastructure on foreign technology platforms.

What is Digital Sovereignty?

- Digital sovereignty is a nation's ability to control its own digital infrastructure, data, and technological systems.
- India currently lacks this control in **three critical layers**:
 - ♦ **Hardware Layer:** E.g. CCTV systems, routers, and telecom equipment from Chinese manufacturers like Huawei, ZTE carry embedded backdoors vulnerable to state-level espionage.
 - ♦ **Software and Cloud Layer:** E.g. Core government and corporate operations are run on Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, and AWS platforms of the US, these can be subject to American legal jurisdiction including the CLOUD Act, that allows US authorities to access data held by American firms globally.
 - ♦ **Defence and Weapons Systems Layer:** Modern warfare is software-defined. E.g. Fighter jets or defence technologies are governed by code that is controlled by foreign manufacturers answerable to their own governments.

Why it is a National Security Concern?

- **Legal Jurisdiction Over Data:** Even when data is physically stored in Indian data centres, the foreign parent company can be compelled to surrender it to their home government.
- **Unilateral Service Denial:** The Nayara Energy episode demonstrated how a foreign corporation, enforcing another country's sanctions regime, can deny an Indian company access to its own operational tools.
- **Warfare Risk:** In 1999 Kargil conflict, US denied India GPS access which caused critical operational issues and casualties.
- **Power Transition Theory:** India is rising and the ongoing US-China technology war shows that rising competitors are systematically constrained through export controls, sanctions, and technology denial. India is not immune to this dynamic.

Global Responses

- France has planned to **migrate government departments from Microsoft Teams and Zoom to a sovereign video-conferencing platform by 2027**.
- The Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany are actively exploring domestic **alternatives to Microsoft Office tools**.
- The European Union is building **independent cloud and IT infrastructure to reduce dependence on US platforms**.

India's Initiatives: Progress and Gaps

- **DigiLocker and NIC Cloud (MeghRaj):** Though it represents early steps toward sovereign cloud infrastructure, but remains limited in scale and enterprise-grade capability.
- **Trusted Telecom Policy and Equipment Testing:** India banned Huawei and ZTE from 5G networks but analogous scrutiny of software platforms remains absent.
- **Personal Data Protection Framework:** The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 establishes data governance norms but does not directly address platform sovereignty or the jurisdiction problem.
- **CERT-In Cybersecurity Mandates:** Strengthened reporting requirements, yet incident response remains reactive rather than structurally preventive.

Way Forward

- **Sovereign Cloud Infrastructure:** India should move beyond MeghRaj to a fully capable, enterprise-grade government cloud for its critical infrastructure.
- **Platform Independence for Critical Operations:** Critical departments and ministries should be required to migrate to domestically developed or audited productivity and communication tools within a defined timeline.
- **Technology Indigenisation in Defence:** The Software Defined Warfare framework must be built into the Atmanirbhar Bharat defence roadmap which would ensure that weapons systems procured from foreign vendors come with independently audited & ring-fenced software architectures.
- **Regulatory Reciprocity Doctrine:** Establish a legal framework that gives authorities jurisdiction over data and services relating to Indian users and infrastructure.
- **Investment in Domestic Tech Ecosystem:** Sustained public funding for domestic alternatives in semiconductors, operating systems, and enterprise software analogous to South Korea's industrial policy model.

Source: [TH](#)

INDIA'S NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) SURGES TO \$6.6 BILLION

Context

- The data released by the Reserve Bank of India shows that Net foreign direct investment (FDI) rose to **\$6.6 billion in April 2026**, its highest level in **nearly five years**, driven by a **65% surge** in gross inflows.

What is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ?

- It refers to **investments made by foreign entities** (individuals or companies) in the business interests of another country, typically in the form of **ownership or control of enterprises**.
- At present, **FDI is prohibited** in lottery, gambling and betting, chit funds, Nidhi company, real estate business, and manufacturing of cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes using tobacco.
- **Net FDI:** It represents the difference between **foreign investment entering the country and capital flowing out** through disinvestment and repatriation.

- ♦ **A decline in net FDI** does not necessarily imply a fall in investor interest, as gross inflows may remain strong.

Routes for FDI in India

- **Automatic Route:** It means the entry route through which investment does **not require the prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India** or the Central Government.
 - ♦ Most sectors, such as manufacturing and software, fall under this route.
- **Government Approval Route:** It means the entry route through which investment **requires prior Government approval** and foreign investment received under this route shall be in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the Government in its approval.
 - ♦ Sectors such as telecom, media, pharmaceuticals, and insurance fall under this route.

Sectors/Activities in Which FDI is Prohibited

- **Lottery Business** including Government/private lottery, online lotteries, etc.
- **Gambling and Betting** including casinos etc.
- Chit funds, Nidhi company, Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs).
- **Real Estate Business or Construction of Farm Houses;**
 - ♦ 'Real estate business' shall not include development of townships, construction of residential /commercial premises, roads or bridges and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) registered and regulated under the SEBI (REITs) Regulations 2014.
- Manufacturing of cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes.

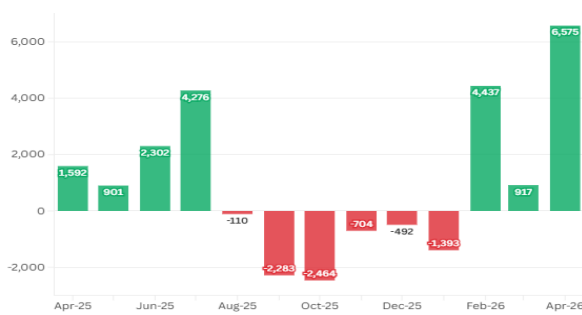
Key Trends in FDI Data

- **Surge in inflows:** Gross FDI in April 2026, or the total amount of **direct investment** that entered the country that month, surged to **\$15.3 billion**.
 - ♦ The gross FDI inflows in the single month of April 2026 was more than **16%** of the amount that came in the entire financial year **2025-26**.
 - ♦ The largest share of equity inflows was received by **financial services, retail and wholesale trade, manufacturing and computer services**. Together, these sectors accounted for more than **80% of total FDI inflows**.

- More than **75%** of the FDI flows came from **Japan, Singapore and Mauritius**.
- **Slower Outflow Growth:** Gross outflows rose at a significantly slower pace, to **\$8.7 billion** in April 2026 from \$7.7 billion in April last year — a growth of 13.7%.
 - Within this, outward FDI by Indian companies rose nearly **42% in April 2026** to **\$4.8 billion**.
 - Around 80% of the flows were directed to the **U.S. and the Cayman Islands** with **Financial, insurance and business services, and the manufacturing sector** accounted for more than **90% of the outward flows**.

Net positive

Net FDI rose sharply in April 2026 due to a surge in gross inflows in \$ million



Source: RBI

What are the Concerns?

- **Sectoral Concentration:** The FDI is concentrated in a few sectors especially in financial services, while labour-intensive sectors are receiving relatively lower investment.
- **Volatility in Net FDI:** Net FDI fluctuates significantly due to changes in repatriation of profits, disinvestment, and outward investments by Indian firms.
- **Uneven Regional Distribution:** FDI is mostly concentrated in a few states with better infrastructure and business ecosystems, widening regional disparities.
- **Global Economic Uncertainty:** Geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions, and global economic slowdowns will affect future investment flows into India.

Way Ahead

- India should continue improving the ease of doing business, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring policy stability to attract sustained and diversified FDI inflows.

- Efforts should focus on expanding FDI into manufacturing, innovation-driven sectors, and less-developed regions to maximize employment generation and balanced economic growth.

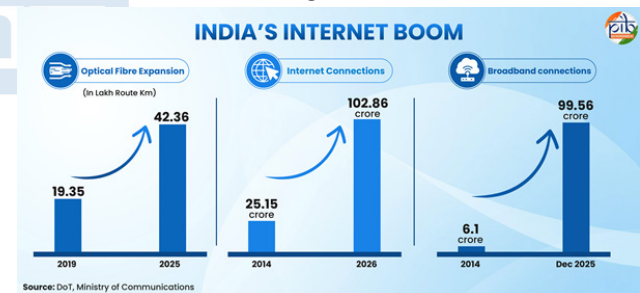
Source: [TH](#), [FE](#), [DPIIT](#)

INDIA'S EMERGING TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM**Context**

- Over the last decade, India has transformed from a large digital market into an emerging global technology power, through Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), indigenous innovation, startup ecosystems, and emerging technology capabilities.

Digital India Programme as the Backbone of Emerging Capabilities

- Digital India Programme, launched in **2015**, laid the foundation for India's emerging technology ecosystem by **strengthening digital infrastructure** across the country.
- **Lower internet costs** expanded access to telemedicine, online education, digital payments, e-commerce, and e-governance services.

**Developing Capabilities for Future Readiness**

- Under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**, launched in **2015** with an outlay of **₹4,500 crore**, India has deployed **38 supercomputers** with a combined computing power of **47 petaflops** across leading institutions.
 - A major achievement is the development of the indigenous **PARAM Rudra series**, built with Indian-designed hardware and software.
- **The Semicon India Programme** launched in **2021** with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore promoted semiconductor manufacturing, display fabrication, chip design, packaging, testing, talent development, and research collaborations.

- Building on this momentum, the **Union Budget 2026–27** further announced **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0**, with an initial outlay of **₹1,000 crore for FY 2026–27**.
 - The National Quantum Mission launched in 2023** with an outlay of **₹6,003.65 crore** focuses on **four key areas**: Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing and Metrology, and Quantum Materials and Devices.
 - The mission seeks to develop** indigenous quantum technologies, strengthen research infrastructure, build skilled talent, support startups, and foster industry-academia collaboration.
 - The **IndiaAI Mission** approved in **2024** with an outlay of over **₹10,300 crore** focuses on building indigenous AI computing infrastructure and expanding access to high-end GPU facilities.
 - The AI Kosh platform** hosts 12,115 datasets and 306 AI models across 20 sectors, enabling innovation and research at scale.
 - Cloud Computing**: India's indigenous cloud ecosystem began with the launch of **MeghRaj in 2014 by the MeitY**, serving as the Government's national cloud platform.
 - further, **MeghRaj 2.0** strengthened this ecosystem through hybrid cloud architecture, and stronger cybersecurity.
 - Blockchain Technology**: The government initiated the **National Blockchain Framework (NBF) in 2021** with an outlay of **₹64.76 crore**.
 - It aims to create a secure, scalable, and interoperable blockchain ecosystem for citizen-centric governance and digital trust.
 - India's blockchain ecosystem** has expanded through indigenous platforms such as the **Vishvasya Blockchain Stack**, **NBFLite sandbox**, **Praamaanik app verification system**, and the **National Blockchain Portal**.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched **Digital Rupee (e₹) pilots**, while the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) adopted **blockchain-based Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)** to curb spam.
 - Data Centers**: India's data centre sector has witnessed rapid expansion, with capacity growing from about 375 MW in 2020 to nearly **1,500 MW by 2025**.
 - Building India's Semiconductor Talent Pipeline**: The Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme launched in 2022, supports startup incubation, patent generation, technology transfer, and advanced research in Very Large-Scale Integration (VLSI), Application-Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), System-on-Chip (SoC) design, and embedded systems.
- Biotechnology: Next Phase of Innovation-Led Growth**
- India's biotechnology sector crossed the USD 150 billion milestone in 2023 and reached **USD 190 billion in June 2026**.
 - Key initiatives for Biotechnology include the **National Biopharma Mission (NBM)**, approved in 2017 with an outlay of ₹1,500 crore, the **BioE3 Policy** launched in 2023, **BioNEST incubators**, and innovation schemes such as Intensifying the **Impact of Industrial Innovation (i4)** and **Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise (PACE)**.
- Advancing Artificial Intelligence Capacity**
- Under the vision of **"Make AI in India and Make AI Work for India,"** the Government established four Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Artificial Intelligence with a total allocation of ₹1,490 crore. These centres focus on Education, Healthcare, Sustainable Cities, and Agriculture.



Global Innovation Index Rise

- India rose to **38th in the Global Innovation Index 2025** from 81st in 2015. This reflects India's rapid growth as a global innovation hub.
- Initiatives like **Start-Up India, Digital India, and Atal Innovation Mission** boosted entrepreneurship, digital infrastructure, research, and technology development.

The Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA)

- B6GA, formed in **2023**, is an industry-led, government-facilitated initiative bringing together telecom service providers, academia, research institutions, and standards organizations.
- It drives indigenous 6G R&D to build a self-reliant, globally competitive advanced communications ecosystem.



What are the Challenges?

- Digital Divide:** Despite rapid digital expansion, disparities in internet access, digital literacy, and device affordability persist, particularly in rural and remote regions.
- Dependence on Imports:** India continues to rely heavily on imported semiconductor equipment, advanced chips, critical minerals, and high-end technology components.
- Low R&D Expenditure:** India's expenditure on Research and Development remains relatively low compared to leading technology powers, limiting breakthrough innovation.
- Data Privacy Concerns:** The rapid growth of digital platforms and AI applications raises concerns regarding data protection, privacy, algorithmic bias, and ethical use of technology.

Concluding remarks

- India's digital transformation over the past decade has laid a strong foundation for Viksit Bharat 2047.
- By combining inclusive digital infrastructure, indigenous innovation, and trusted governance, India is evolving from a technology adopter to a technology leader, shaping a future that is innovative, secure, and people-centric.

Source: [PIB](#)

WESTERN GHATS & ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS (ESAS)

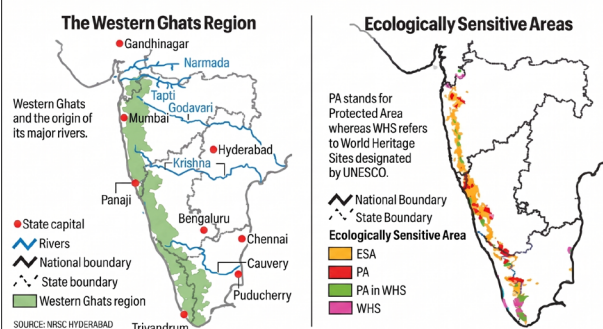
Context

- Centre is finally ready to finalise and notify the demarcation of **Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA)** in the **Western Ghats region**, and may soon receive stronger legal protection in **three Indian states i.e. Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra**.

About Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)

- The **Western Ghats**, stretching **over 1,500 km** along India's western coast across six states i.e. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
 - They constitute one of the **world's eight 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity**, spread over approximately **1,64,280 sq km**.
 - It holds vital importance for the **regulation of Indian Monsoon**, climatic regulation, soil conservation and providing water security to millions of people.
 - This area is considered as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** due to its unique biological diversity and endemism.
- ### Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)
- An ESA means that region declared under **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** for the conservation of ecologically sensitive ecosystems.
 - Such areas are **notified by MoEFCC** considering their biodiversity, environmental sensitivity and ecological significance, and the need for regulating developmental activities.
 - Those activities which have adverse impacts on the environment such as **mining, quarrying, pollution intensive industries and construction activities** are either banned or regulated.
 - The objective is to ensure a balance between **environmental conservation and sustainable development** while safeguarding ecosystem services and local livelihoods.

THE EXTENT OF DEMARCATION



Other Regions in India Designated ESAs

- Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan (Aravalli Range)
- Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape, Assam
- Gir National Park, Gujarat
- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan
- Sundarbans, West Bengal
- Great Indian Bustard habitats in Rajasthan and Gujarat
- Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone, Uttarakhand
- Chilika Lake, Odisha, and Deepor Beel, Assam

Ecological Significance of the Western Ghats

- **Biodiversity Hotspot:** The region is home to **nearly 30% of India's flora and fauna** and exhibits **high endemism**.
 - ♦ Several endangered species including **Lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr, Malabar civet, Great Indian hornbill** inhabit the Western Ghats.
- **Water Security and Climate Regulation:** Western ghat **acts as a water-divide** and serves as a wind barrier, affecting rainfall patterns over peninsular India.
 - ♦ Major rivers like **Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, Tungabhadra, Periyar** originate from the Western Ghats.
 - ♦ Dense forests help in groundwater recharge, carbon sink, and disaster management.
- **Socio-Economic Significance:** The Western Ghats sustain millions by agriculture and plantations unlike Himalayas.
 - ♦ The region is known for export crops like **pepper, cardamom, coffee, tea, cinnamon, rubber, and spices**.
 - ♦ The ecosystem supports **tourism, hydroelectricity generation**, and livelihood.

Evolution of ESA Delineation: Gadgil vs Kasturirangan

- **Gadgil Committee (Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, 2011):** It defined the Western Ghats region as 1,29,037 sq km and proposed declaration of the whole Western Ghats as ESA.
 - ♦ It suggested a graded regulation regime with strict norms on mining, pollution industries, and mega infrastructure projects and promoted participatory bottom-up approach involving local bodies.

- **Kasturirangan Committee (High-Level Working Group, 2013):** It adopted a more balanced approach.
 - ♦ It defined the total Western Ghats landscape as 1,64,280 sq km and recommended designation of approximately 60,000 sq km as ESA.
 - ♦ It differentiated between **Cultural Landscape (60%) and Natural Landscape (40%)**.
 - ♦ It suggested ban on mining and quarrying, prohibition on red category polluting industries, restriction on thermal power plants, and regulation of large scale constructions and township projects.



Why Has ESA Notification been delayed?

- **State Government Opposition:** State governments feel ESA notification might hinder industrialization and infrastructure development, impede plantation agriculture and livelihoods, and limit revenue generation from mining and quarrying activities.
- **Disputes over Boundaries:** The Centre's draft notification had proposed 56,825 sq km as ESA.
 - ♦ States were making demands for exclusions through ground level survey findings.
 - ♦ Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra are demanding huge reductions in the area.
- **Challenges in Data Reconciliation:** Difference in satellite imageries, village wise data, revenue records, land uses have made consensus difficult.

Recent Developments

- **Expert Committee (2022):** MoEF&CC has formed an expert committee headed by former Director General of Forests for reevaluation of objections raised by states.
 - ♦ Some major tasks are reconciliation of village wise data, field verification, and review of proposals for monetary incentives to states.

- **Draft Notification (July 2024):** It has introduced an important provision like:
 - ♦ ESA boundaries can now be finalized either state-wise or through combined notification.
 - ♦ It intends to avoid delays in states where a consensus is possible.

Why is the Protection of Western Ghats Crucial?

- **Increasing Ecological Threats:** The Ghats are being threatened by deforestation, quarrying and mining, expanding infrastructure, unregulated tourism and climate induced extreme rainfall events.
 - ♦ Recent landslides in Kerala and Karnataka have underscored the vulnerability of the ecosystem.
- **Ecosystem Services:** Western Ghats offer valuable ecosystem services including water provisioning, floods moderation, carbon sink, pollination and soil conservation.
 - ♦ These services not only serve six states but also the whole nation.
- **Imperative of Sustainable Development:** Protection of the region does not mean exclusion of people.
 - ♦ Instead, it means promotion of sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, community involvement, compensation mechanisms and payment for ecosystem services.

Way Forward

- There needs to be a balanced approach to integrate protection and development. Key measures include:
 - ♦ Boundary delineation of ESA through scientific and participatory consultations.
 - ♦ Offering financial incentive and compensations to states and communities.
 - ♦ Devising decentralized environmental governance through Panchayati Raj Institutions.
 - ♦ Promoting sustainable livelihood and climate resilient agriculture.
 - ♦ Stringent regulation of mining and polluting industries in ecologically sensitive regions.

Source: IE

NEWS IN SHORT

KHEER BHAWANI MELA

Context

- In Kashmir Valley, the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani is being celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami.

About

- This is one of the most important festivals for the **Kashmiri Pandit community** during which devotees offer Kheer (rice pudding), milk, flowers, and aromatic leaves to **Mata Ragnya Devi**.
- The mela symbolizes faith, resilience, cultural reconnection, and communal harmony.

About Kheer Bhawani Temple

- It is dedicated to **Goddess Ragnya Devi**, who is considered an incarnation of Goddess Durga.
- The original temple was built by **Maharaja Pratap Singh** around 1912 in Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir. It was later embellished and **renovated by Maharaja Hari Singh**.
- A distinctive feature of the temple is a hexagonal spring located at its center, revered for its sacred water.
 - Both the temple and the festival derive their name from the **sweet dish 'kheer'**, which is distributed as prasad (a religious offering) to devotees.

Source: [AIR](#)

KHURASANI IMLI

Context

- The **fruit of Mandu's Baobab tree**, known locally as Khurasani Imli, has secured a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

About Khurasani Imli

- Khurasani Imli is the fruit of the Baobab tree (*Adansonia digitata*), a species native to **Africa and Madagascar**.
 - ♦ It is popularly known as the "Tree of Life" because of its multiple uses and exceptional resilience.
 - ♦ In India, baobabs occur in the **semi-arid regions of central India** and **parts of the Western Ghats**.
- **Mandu in Madhya Pradesh** is one of the few places in India where Baobab trees are found in large numbers.

- Historical accounts suggest that the seeds were brought to **Mandu** by **Afghan rulers** or **Arab traders** around the 14th–15th century.
- The tree is known for its **distinctive bottle-shaped trunk** and its ability to **store large quantities of water**.
- The fruit is rich in **Vitamin C, antioxidants**, and has **traditional medicinal uses**.



Source: [ET](#)

AI AGENT LOOPS

Context

- AI experts suggest that AI Agent Loops are going to transform human-AI interaction by automating workflows and reducing the need for manual prompting.

What Are AI Agent Loops?

- An AI agent loop is a **recurring automated workflow** that repeatedly **guides and supervises AI agents** without requiring users to write prompts at every step.
- Instead of a human constantly telling the AI what to do next, the **system itself generates instructions, evaluates progress, and assigns new tasks** until the desired objective is achieved.

Key Components of an AI Agent Loop

- **Automations:** They are the foundation of a loop and ensure that a loop can be repeated rather than a one-off event. It enables the AI agent to go off on a schedule and do discovery and triage by themselves.
- **Worktrees:** This is a key component as they enable two AI agents to work in parallel with each other, avoiding any overlap.
- **Skills:** They can, for instance, be instructions for the AI agent to write down the project knowledge the agent would otherwise just guess.
- **Plugins and connectors:** They are used to give the AI agent access to the tools you already use.
- **Sub-agents:** They let users set up AI agents in such a way that one of them has the idea while another one checks the work.

Source: [IE](#)

