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SUPREME COURT'S NEW RULING ON THE DEFINITION OF 'INDUSTRY'

Context

- The Supreme Court has ruled that the definition of **"industry" under the Industrial Relations Code (IRC), 2020** must be interpreted independently and will not automatically be governed by the landmark **1978 Bangalore Water Supply judgment.**

The 1978 Bangalore Water Supply Judgement

- In **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. R. Rajappa (1978),** a seven-judge bench, adopted a broad interpretation of "industry" under Section **2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.**
- The judgement evolved the **Triple Test**, under which an activity could qualify as an industry when it involved:
  - Systematic and organised activity;
  - Organised by cooperation between employer and employee;
  - Production and/or distribution of goods or services calculated to satisfy human wants and wishes.
- The interpretation brought several establishments, including **hospitals, educational institutions and municipalities,** within the ambit of labour law.
  - Core sovereign functions, such as **defence, judiciary and law enforcement,** were generally excluded.

Supreme Court Ruling

- The Court held that the meaning of "industry" under Section 2(p) of the IRC, 2020, must be determined from the language, structure and context of the new Code itself.
- The interpretation of the term 'industry' under IRC would be done on a **clean slate.**
- The 1978 judgement will continue to govern pending disputes under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. However, it will not act as the binding foundation for interpreting "industry" under the IRC.

Why was the 1978 judgement reconsidered?

- India's labour market has undergone substantial transformation since **1978** due to:
  - Liberalisation and privatisation;
  - Expansion of the private and service sectors;
  - Changing forms of employment and work arrangements, including the emergence of **gig and platform-based work;**
  - The transition from a predominantly public-sector-orientated economy to a more diversified economy.
- The new Labour Codes were intended to consolidate and modernise India's fragmented labour legislation.

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020

- As per **Section 2(p)** of the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the term "industry" now encompasses any systematic activity carried on by cooperation between employer and worker, regardless of **whether capital is invested or profit** is intended, thereby bringing non-profit and low-capital activities within its ambit.
- **Pro-Labour Benefits:**
  - Extends labour rights to employees in non-profit and non-capital-based organisations.
  - Expands access to formal dispute resolution through Conciliation Officers and Industrial Tribunals.
  - Broadens collective bargaining rights to more workers
  - Statutory benefits (like notice for change of service conditions, retrenchment compensation, and grievance redressal mechanisms) to be given to workers in newly included sectors.

Way Ahead

- The new interpretation should ensure that labour-law reform promotes industrial growth and flexibility without weakening workers' fundamental labour protections.
- Clear legislative and judicial guidance will be essential to prevent uncertainty and preserve industrial peace.

Source: TH, IE

INDIA AND JAPAN: DEEPENING COOPERATION

In News

- **India and Japan** signed a Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) on **Maritime Security Cooperation** and agreed to deepen operational cooperation including information sharing, naval exercises, ship repair and logistics support.

Historical Linkages of India-Japan Ties

- The historical links between **India and Japan go back to the 6th century** with the introduction of Buddhism into Japan, which fostered a strong cultural affinity among the Japanese.
- In 1949, after World War II, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru presented a symbol of optimism to **Tokyo's Ueno Zoo: an elephant.**
- Prime Minister of Japan Nobusuke Kishi visited India in 1957 and Japan gave its first formal yen loans to India in 1958.

Overview of India-Japan Relations

- **Strategic**: India and Japan elevated their relations from a Global Partnership in 2000 to a Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2014. Annual summits have been held since 2006.
  - The two countries have over 70 dialogue mechanisms, including 2+2 foreign and defence dialogue, economic and security consultations, and cooperation in fields like technology, defence, energy, infrastructure and healthcare.
  - There is synergy between India's Act- East Policy, principle of SAGAR and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and Japan's vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), leading to strategic convergence.
- **Economic Relations:** India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA came into effect in August 2011.
  - It covered trade in products and services, movement of persons, investment, intellectual property, customs and other trade-related topics.
  - The tariffs on 94% of trade items between India and Japan in 2011 were decreased by 2021.
    - India's total trade with Japan in FY25-26 is USD 27.48 billion, with Exports of USD 6.04 billion and Imports of USD 21.44 billion. In 2024-25, India ranked 18th in Japan's total trade with 1.4% share while Japan ranked 17th in India's total trade with 2.1% share.
    - India's primary exports to Japan are Organic Chemicals, Vehicles (Other than railways & trams), Nuclear Reactor, Aluminium and Articles thereof, Fish & other aquatic invertebrates. India's primary imports from Japan are Nuclear Reactors, Copper and Articles thereof, Electrical Machinery and Equipment, Inorganic Chemicals and Iron and Steel
- **Defence**: India-Japan defence cooperation is getting stronger and stronger with rising strategic convergence.
  - The two countries also have regular Army, Navy and Air Force Staff Talks and perform bilateral and multilateral military exercises.
    - Key agreements include the 2014 Defence Cooperation MoU, 2015 agreements on defence technology transfer and secret information, 2018 Navy cooperation arrangement
    - 2020 Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services (RPSS) agreement that has been used in exercises since MILAN 2022.
    - India and Japan are also co-developing UNICORN radio antenna masts for the Indian Navy which is the first collaborative defence equipment development between the two countries.
- **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project**: India's first High Speed Rail (HSR) corridor is being implemented from Mumbai to Ahmedabad with technical and financial assistance from Japan.
  - With 12 stations in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the corridor has a length of 508.17 km.

- The project envisages 'Make in India' as well as 'Capacity Development' to enable the Indian workforce to acquire skills relevant for the Japanese Shinkansen HSR technology.

- **Act East Forum**: Founded in December 2017, it seeks to strengthen India-Japan collaboration under the framework of India's Act East Policy and Japan's vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. It focuses on the economic development of North Eastern India including connectivity, infrastructure, industrial connections and people to people ties. The most recent meeting was held in 2024.
- **India's first high-speed rail project,** Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR), with 12 stops and a length of 508.17 km is under development with the technical and financial aid of Japan. It encourages Make in India and trains Indian workers on Japan's Shinkansen technology.
- **Science & Technology :** The declaration of 2025-26 as the India-Japan Year of Science, Technology & Innovation Exchanges boosted the India-Japan S&T collaboration which began in 1985.
  - ISRO and JAXA cooperate in the domain of space cooperation, including satellite navigation, space situational awareness and lunar exploration.
  - Their flagship project is the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Chandrayaan-5) for which an implementing agreement was signed in 2025 with launch scheduled for 2026-27.
- **Education and Culture** : India and Japan are building closer ties in education and culture with university partnerships, teacher-student exchanges, scholarships and Japanese language programs.
  - There are more than 100 cooperative research projects every year and there are hundreds of students and academics exchanged through programs such as LOTUS and Sakura.
  - The 2025 MoU on Cultural Exchange reaffirmed cultural co-operation in arts, museums and heritage conservation. Japan has a growing community of around 59,000 Indians including IT professionals, engineers and business people.

Importance of the Partnership

- **Geopolitical Balance**: Both countries are proponents of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP), which serves as a significant counterweight to regional unilateralism and reinforces a rules-based maritime order.
  - They promote the shared vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific and deeper engagement with partners in the area, such as Indonesia, beyond bilateral ties.
- **Economic Complementarity:** Japan's advanced technology, strategic capital, and industrial expertise meet India's rapidly rising market, digital public infrastructure, and large, youthful labour.
- **Multilateral:** Both countries are leading efforts to build resilient, decoupled supply chains in crucial sectors through the Quad (with the US and Australia) and venues like the G20.
- **Maritime:** The Cooperation will develop bilateral exercises and incorporate more complicated exercises using unmanned systems and multi-domain operations.
  - It will overall enhance strategic and operational convergence between India and Japan, advancing India's goals in military manufacture and ship building and Japan's interests in secured maritime routes and a stable Indo-Pacific.

Issues and Concerns

- **Weak Trade:** The bilateral trade is at $27.5 billion. The leaders in both countries recognise this is a tiny fraction of its potential given the size of both economies.
- **Regulatory & Market Friction** : Japanese enterprises confront rigorous regulations and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) compliance, whereas Indian exporters face stringent phytosanitary checks in Japan.
- **Defence Production Bottlenecks**: Despite the high frequency of military exercises, long-term defence co-production arrangements (e.g. the ShinMaywa US-2 amphibious aircraft) have been blocked by pricing, technology transfer concerns and procurement delays
- **Geopolitical positions:** On a number of issues — security in Eurasia, or sanctions on Russia led by the West — India continues to assert its strategic autonomy, while Japan continues to be strongly aligned with the G7.

Conclusion

- The India-Japan partnership has moved from a typical donor-recipient relationship to a strategic partnership of equals with focus on technology cooperation, energy transformation and defence security.
- India and Japan's strategic potential can be unlocked by removing regulatory barriers and converting defensive technology deals into operational hardware.
    - This will ensure long-term stability and economic success across the Indo-Pacific.

Source : TH

GAGANYAAN'S THERMAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Context

- The Gaganyaan mission will require India to demonstrate the safe re-entry of a crew module carrying astronauts, making its Thermal Protection System (TPS) one of the most critical technologies for ensuring crew safety during the return journey to Earth.

Why is Thermal Protection Critical During Re-entry?

- **Handles extreme heat:** During Gaganyaan's return from LEO, the capsule enters the atmosphere at hypersonic speed, converting most of its kinetic energy into intense heat. Plasma temperatures can reach 1,800°C, which could damage the spacecraft.
- **No room for failure:** Once re-entry begins, the mission cannot be aborted, so the TPS must work reliably on its own.
- **Protects astronauts:** Rapid deceleration makes manual intervention impossible. The TPS acts as a passive and failsafe barrier.
- **Maintains habitability:** It keeps the cabin and the underlying aluminium-alloy/CFRP structure within safe temperature limits.

What is a Thermal Protection System?

- A TPS is a combination of specialised materials and structures designed to manage the intense heat generated during atmospheric re-entry and prevent it from reaching the spacecraft's internal structure.
- **Types of Thermal Protection Systems:**
    - **Ablative TPS:** The heat shield deliberately sacrifices its outer material to protect the spacecraft. Extreme heat causes the material to decompose, erode and form a protective layer.
        - **The decomposition releases gases** that move outward and create a cooler boundary layer, reducing heat transfer to the spacecraft. The Gaganyaan uses an Ablative TPS.
        - **Examples:** Carbon-phenolic, silica-phenolic and PICA (Phenolic Impregnated Carbon Ablator).
    - **Radiative TPS:** The material absorbs incoming heat and radiates it back into the surrounding environment, mainly as infrared radiation.
        - It is particularly useful for **reusable spacecraft,** where the heat shield needs to withstand repeated re-entry.
    - **Heat-Sink TPS:** The material absorbs and stores thermal energy, raising its own temperature without undergoing major melting or decomposition. The material essentially acts as a thermal reservoir.
        - Materials such as **copper and aluminium** can function as heat sinks.

Gaganyaan mission

- **Purpose:** To demonstrate the capability to **launch human beings** (three crew members) to **low earth orbit** and bring them back safely to earth by landing.
    - This manned mission will be the **first of ISRO's human spaceflight missions**. The **US, Russia and China** are the only three countries to have conducted human spaceflights yet.
- **Launch vehicle:** The Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) is the launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission.
- **Crew Escape System (CES):** HLVM3 consists of CES powered by a set of quick acting, high burn rate solid motors which ensures that Crew Module along with the crew is taken to a safe distance in case of any emergency either at launch pad or during ascent phase.

- **Orbital Module:** The Orbiter Module will orbit the Earth, and it consists of Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM) connected by a joint. It is designed to keep the crew safe during ascent, orbital phase, and re-entry.
  - **The Crew Module (CM)** is the habitable space with the Earth-like environment in space for the crew.
  - **Service Module (SM):** It will be used to provide the necessary support to CM while in orbit. It is an unpressurized structure containing thermal system, propulsion system, power systems, avionics systems and deployment mechanisms.

Source: TH

CROP CUTTING EXPERIMENTS AND THE CREDIBILITY OF INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL DATA

Context

- The NSO's **'Annual Report on Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS) Scheme, 2023-24'** has flagged serious procedural lapses in **Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs)**, the backbone of India's crop production estimates.

How Production Estimates Are Derived?

- **Final production** = Area under crop × Average yield per hectare.
- Yield is estimated **solely through CCEs**, where crop from a scientifically selected plot is harvested, threshed and weighed to derive yield per hectare, which is then **scaled up to district, state and national levels.**
- CCEs are conducted by **State Agricultural Statistics Authorities (SASAs),** with technical guidance from MoSPI's Field Operations Division.
- Coverage has expanded from **1.73 lakh CCEs (1973-74) to over 11.62 lakh (2023-24)**, yet Nagaland and Sikkim still do not conduct Crop Estimation Surveys.

Crop Cutting Experiments

- **The Improvement of Crop Statistics (ICS) scheme** was launched in **1973-74.**
- **Crop yield assessments and the monitoring of CCEs** were conducted a**cross 19 states and Union Territories (UTs)** maintaining land records.
- Conducting CCEs and compiling the data is the **responsibility of the State Agricultural Statistics Authorities (SASAs),** while the Field Operations Division under MoSPI provides technical guidance to the states.
- Based on this data, the **NSO prepares estimates for the average yield,** the statistical error (Percentage Standard Error), and the **yield per hectare for 33 major crops.**
- These 'Quick Estimates' are used to **verify the data submitted by the states.**

Key Findings of the Report

- **Procedural Non Compliance: Only 72% of CCEs in 2023-24** were conducted **in accordance with the prescribed scientific procedure,** whereas **28% exhibited procedural lapses, violations of rules, or other errors.**
  - This means that approximately one in four CCEs was not conducted in accordance with the prescribed standards.
- **Recording Errors: Serious errors were found in recording ancillary information** in approximately 10% of the cases.
  - **Ancillary details regarding** irrigation, seed variety, fertilisers, etc. play a crucial role in subsequent analysis.
  - If this information is incorrect, **both the analysis and comparison of production could be affected.**
- **Sample Replacement Violations:** National average supervision rates ranged between 80 to 88% across seasons, meaning roughly one in five CCEs went unsupervised.
- **Untrained Personnel:** In Jharkhand, 41% of CCEs were conducted by untrained staff, and in Uttar Pradesh the figure was 40%.

Implications

- **Policy Distortion:** Inaccurate yield data can misguide MSP procurement targets, PDS buffer stock planning and export or import decisions, with cascading effects on farmer incomes and consumer prices.
- **Crop Insurance:** Several states link insurance claim settlements to CCE based yield estimates, errors can result in wrongful denial or excess payout of claims.
- **International Credibility:** Global agencies and trade partners reference India's official production figures & inconsistencies can affect India's standing in trade negotiations and food security assessments.

- **Federal Coordination Gap:** Wide variation in compliance across states points to uneven capacity and oversight within SASAs, reflecting a broader governance challenge in statistical federalism.

Way Forward

- Update GCES plans regularly and ensure timely field selection to curb forced village or plot replacement.
- **Mandate 100% supervision of CCEs** through administrative measures, with real time monitoring using technology such as geo tagging and mobile based reporting.
- **Deploy only trained personnel for CCEs**, backed by periodic refresher training and accountability mechanisms.
- **Strengthen coordination between SASAs** and farmers to reduce non availability of experimental crops at the time of survey.
- Consider **integrating remote sensing and satellite based yield estimation** as a cross validation tool alongside ground level CCEs, as being piloted under **initiatives like the Digital Agriculture Mission.**

Source: DTE

GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES NEW INDIGENISATION LIST

Context

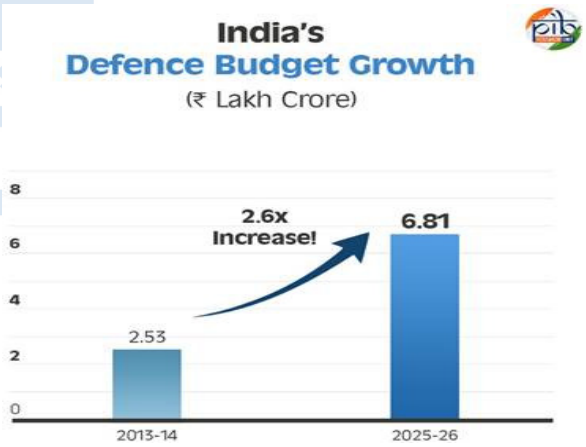
- The Ministry of Defence notified the **sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL),** comprising 405 items with an estimated business potential of Rs 3,070 crore.

About

- The list is notified by the **Department of Defence Production (DDP)** and covers Line Replaceable Units (LRU), sub-systems, sub-assemblies, spares, components and raw materials for key defence platforms.
  - These include Advanced Light Helicopter, Light Utility Helicopter, Chetak and Cheetah helicopters; fighter jets including the Su-30MKIs, Jaguars and MiG-29s; the Light Combat Aircraft and AL-31FP Engine.
- The sixth list marks another step in the Government's efforts to promote **self-reliance in defence manufacturing** under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.**
  - It is expected to strengthen the domestic defence manufacturing ecosystem, promote investment and innovation, and contribute to reducing dependence on imports.
- All listed items **must be indigenised within a specified timeframe,** once successfully developed locally, they will be **procured exclusively from the Indian industry.**

Defence Production in India

- **India's annual defence production** has surged to an **all-time high of Rs 1.78 lakh crore in the Financial Year (FY) 2025-26.** The milestone represents a **15.6% growth over the previous fiscal year.**
- **Sectoral Contribution:** Defence Public Sector Undertakings and other PSUs accounted for approximately **76%** of total production, while the **private sector contributed 24%.**
- **Defence Budget Growth:** Increased from ₹2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14 to ₹6.81 lakh crore in 2025-26.



- India is **exporting defence equipment to more than 80 countries** as of FY 2025-26.
- **Surge in Indigenous Defence Production:** 65% of defence equipment is now manufactured domestically, a significant shift from the earlier 65-70% import dependency.
- India targets **₹3 lakh crore** in defence production by **2029**, reinforcing its position as a global defence manufacturing hub.

Need for Defence Indigenisation Reforms

- **Strategic Autonomy & National Security:** Reduces dependence on foreign suppliers, especially during crises and geopolitical tensions.

- **Addressing Capability Gaps:** India faces complex security challenges across borders and in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Modernisation is required to replace ageing platforms in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- **Reducing Import Bill & Promoting Economic Efficiency:** India is among the world's largest arms importers, indigenous production lowers costs in the long run, reduces foreign exchange outflow, and strengthens the domestic defence economy.
- **Boosting Domestic Defence Industrial Base:** Indigenisation stimulates innovation and growth of DPSUs, MSMEs, and private industry.
- **Faster Procurement & Operational Readiness:** Domestic manufacturing shortens procurement cycles and ensures timely delivery.
- **Improved Customisation & Adaptability:** Indigenous platforms can be tailored to Indian terrain (Himalayan high-altitudes, deserts, maritime zones) which allows continuous upgrades to meet evolving threat environments.
- **Technology Sovereignty:** Developing indigenous technologies ensures freedom in design, production, and future upgrades. It also prevents vulnerability due to sanctions, supply chain disruptions, or technology denials.

What are the Challenges?

- India continues to **depend on imports** for several **advanced defence technologies** and critical components.
- **Research and development expenditure** in the defence sector remains comparatively limited.
- **Technological gaps** exist in areas such as jet engines, semiconductors, cyber warfare, and advanced sensors.
- **Private sector participation** still faces regulatory and procurement-related challenges.
- Achieving global competitiveness in defence exports requires **sustained investment and quality assurance mechanisms.**

Defence Acquisition & Indigenisation Reforms

- **DAP 2020 with Focus on Indian-IDDM:** It gives the highest priority to the **'Buy (Indian–Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)' category** to ensure that major defence purchases are made from Indian sources.
- **Simplified 'Make' Procedure:** Encourages Indian industry to design, develop, and manufacture defence products, reducing import dependence.
  - **Under Make-I,** the government funds up to 70% of development costs and reserves certain projects for MSMEs.
  - **The Make-II category** (industry-funded) offers relaxed eligibility, minimal paperwork, and accepts proposals from industry or individuals.
  - **So far, 62 projects** for the Army, Navy, and Air Force have received 'Approval in Principle'.
- **Liberalised FDI in Defence:** Foreign Direct Investment limit raised to **74%** via automatic route for new defence industrial licences, and up to **100% by government approval** in cases involving access to advanced technology.
- **Defence Industrial Corridors:** Two corridors, Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) and Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), are the lifelines of this transformation.
  - In 2025, they have attracted investments worth over ₹9,145 crore, with 289 MoUs signed.
- **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS):** DTIS aims to boost indigenisation by providing financial assistance for setting up **eight Greenfield testing and certification facilities** in the aerospace and defence sector.
  - **Seven test facilities** are already approved in areas like unmanned aerial systems, electronic warfare, electro-optics, and communications.
- **Boosting Innovation: iDEX & TDF Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), launched in 2018,** supports startups, MSMEs, academia, and innovators with grants and funding to develop technologies for defence and aerospace.
  - **Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme** also funds industries, especially Start-ups and MSMEs upto an amount of Rs. 10 Crore, for innovation, research and development of defence technologies.
- **Strategic Partnership (SP) Model:** Introduced in 2017 to create long-term partnerships between Indian companies and global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).
  - These partnerships focus on technology transfer and setting up manufacturing infrastructure in India.
- **Indigenisation Portals: SRIJAN Portal** (launched in 2020) lists defence items previously imported, inviting industry to develop them locally.

- **Ease of Doing Business in Defence:** Defence products requiring industrial licences have been rationalised, and most parts/components no longer need a licence.
  - Industrial licence validity has been extended from 3 years to 15 years, with a possible 3-year extension, making investment planning easier.

Way Ahead

- India should **strengthen indigenous research and development capabilities** in emerging defence technologies.
- Greater collaboration **between DRDO, private industries, startups, and academic** institutions is required.
- **Defence industrial corridors and manufacturing clusters** should be expanded further.
- **Specialised skill development and training programmes** should be launched to create a skilled workforce for emerging defence technologies.

Source: IE

NEWS IN SHORT

SOUTH ZONE COUNCIL

Context

- The **31st Southern Zonal Council meeting** was held in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.

About

- **Zonal Councils** are **statutory bodies** established under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, to promote cooperation and coordination on issues involving two or more States or between the Centre and States.
- The **Union Home Minister** is the Chairman of the Zonal Councils, while the **Chief Minister of one of the member States** serves as Vice-Chairman on a rotational basis.
- Zonal Councils are **advisory bodies**. A **Standing Committee comprising Chief Secretaries** of member States also examines issues before they are placed before the Zonal Council. Unresolved matters can subsequently be taken up by the full Council.

Historical Background

- The idea of Zonal Councils was proposed by **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956** and five Zonal Councils were established. These are:
  - The **Northern Zonal Council,** comprising the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh;
  - The **Central Zonal Council,** comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;
  - The **Eastern Zonal Council,** comprising the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Sikkim and West Bengal;
  - The **Western Zonal Council,** comprising the States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli;
  - **The Southern Zonal Council,** comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- **North Eastern Council:** The North Eastern States i.e. (i) Assam (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Manipur (iv) Tripura (v) Mizoram (vi) Meghalaya and (vii) Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1972**.
  - The State of Sikkim has also been included in the North Eastern Council vide North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002 notified in 2002.

Source: AIR

PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATIYA VIKAS MISSION (PMJVM)

Context

- The Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) is unlocking India's tribal forest economy.

About PMJVM

- Launched in **2021-22**, PMJVM is a **Central Sector Scheme** of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- The scheme is implemented through Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and State Implementing Agencies.
- It seeks to enhance livelihood opportunities for tribal communities by promoting value addition, entrepreneurship and market linkages for tribal products.
- It also provides **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for identified Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** through direct procurement from tribal gatherers.

Source: PIB

CORE SECTOR GROWTH SLOWS

Context

- Economic activity in **India's core industrial sectors saw growth slow to 5.4%** in July 2026 from 6% in June.

About

- This was driven by a significant slowdown in the **fertilisers, iron ore, and steel sectors,** accompanied by a **continued contraction in the natural gas and crude oil sectors.**
- **Nine core industries** are Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Petroleum Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, Iron ore and Electricity.
- **Index of Core Industries (ICI):** It is a **production volume index** to provide **an advance indication on production performance of industries of 'core' nature** before the release of **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** by the Central Statistics Office.
- The Index is compiled and released by **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP),** Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Source: TH

DISTRICT COLLECTORS IN 8 STATES EMPOWERED TO GRANT CITIZENSHIP UNDER CAA

Context

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has transferred the processing of **pending citizenship applications** under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to **District Collectors in eight States and Union Territories (UTs).**
  - District Collectors in **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh** have been authorised.

About

- It amended the **Citizenship Amendment Act, 1955,** making two key changes to facilitate citizenship to undocumented migrants belonging to six non-Muslim communities — **Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian** from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan,** who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.
- It **reduced the period to qualify for citizenship** from the existing requirement of continuous stay of 11 years to continuous stay of **five years.**
- However, Pakistani Hindus were anyway eligible for citizenship under **Section 5 and Section 6 (1)** of the Citizenship Act, 1955. The CAA only helped fast track the application process.
- The Rules grant the final authority to accord citizenship to an **empowered committee** headed by the Director, Census Operations, while the scrutiny of applications filed online on the portal was done by a **district level committee (DLC)** headed by Department of Post officials.
  - On successful verification of documents, the DLCs administered the oath of allegiance to the applicants.

Source: TH

EXPANSION OF NAMASTE SCHEME

In News

- The government is considering extending the **National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) initiative** from urban to rural areas for mechanisation of **sanitation operations and death during hazardous cleaning** for the years 2026-27 to 2030-31.

About NAMASTE Scheme

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in convergence with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have launched NAMASTE scheme in 2023 to ensure safety and **dignity of sanitation workers.**
- The focus is on prevention of hazardous cleaning and **promotion of safe cleaning practices** through trained and certified sanitation workers.

- Under the NAMASTE Scheme, sanitation workers are being identified, profiled and **provided with a range of benefits** including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), health insurance, Ayushman Bharat coverage, occupational safety training etc.

- It helps manual scavengers and septic tank workers (SSWs) to **set up their own sanitation-related projects** by providing capital subsidies of up to 50% of the total project cost, and aid in setting up emergency response sanitation units in urban local bodies.

Source :TH

GISAT-1A

In News

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO is preparing to launch **GISAT-1A Satellite.**

GISAT-1A (Geo Imaging Satellite)

- It is also referred to as **EOS-05** under the new nomenclature .
- It is a replacement satellite for the **2021-launched GISAT-1 (or EOS-03)**, which missed the orbit after the final propulsive segment of the rocket failed to ignite.
- It is scheduled to launch aboard the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).**
  - The mission will be Isro's first launch since the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission failed in January 2026.
- **Purpose** : GISAT-1A is designed for high-frequency imaging of large areas of the Indian landmass.
  - Its applications include monitoring natural disasters, agriculture, forestry and other changes on the ground.
  - The satellite has a planned 10-year mission life.

Source :IE

SATKOSIA TIGER RESERVE

Context

- The Odisha government has formed a high-level inquiry committee to look into the displacement of villages from the **Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR)** amid allegations that the villagers were forcibly evicted.

About Satkosia Tiger Reserve

- **Location:** Odisha, at the meeting point of the **Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats.**
- **Established:** In **2007 under Project Tiger.**
- **Area:** The reserve includes the **Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary and Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary,** which together span an area of around 1,000 sq km.
  - The Mahanadi River flows through the reserve and forms the spectacular Satkosia Gorge.
- **Flora:** Mixture of deciduous forests including Sal (Shorea robusta) and riverine forest.

Source: TH

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