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PARTNERS FOR MULTILATERALISM (P4M)

Context

- The **Partners for Multilateralism (P4M)** initiative was launched on the margins of the **81st UN General Assembly**, with Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, the European Union, India and Kenya as initial co-sponsors.

What is Partners for Multilateralism (P4M)?

- Partners for Multilateralism is an **open and flexible platform intended to bring together countries** from different regions and political traditions that support international law, multilateral cooperation, peace and inclusive prosperity.
- Its central proposition is that global challenges such as **conflicts, climate change, pandemics, artificial intelligence, economic insecurity and supply-chain disruptions** cannot be effectively addressed by individual countries acting alone.
- Unlike a formal alliance, P4M is envisaged as a **network for dialogue, coalition-building and practical cooperation**, with participation open to additional countries.

Reasons for formation of P4M

- Fragmentation of the international order:** The post-Second World War multilateral system is facing pressure from geopolitical rivalry, unilateral actions, protectionism, sanctions, conflicts and weakening respect for international norms.
- Institutions created largely in the **post-1945 period** do not fully reflect the contemporary distribution of economic, demographic and political power.
 - Developing countries are looking for greater representation in institutions such as the **UN Security Council, IMF, World Bank and global trade architecture**.
- Issues such as climate change, global health, AI governance, cyber risks, financial instability and supply-chain disruptions **transcend national borders**.
 - There is a need to strengthen collective mechanisms for providing global public goods.

Objectives of P4M

- Reform of multilateral institutions:** P4M supports making multilateral institutions more representative and accountable. The declaration

specifically supports efforts such as **UN80** to reform and strengthen the UN system.

- Upholding international law:** The members reaffirm principles including sovereign equality, territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes and prohibition of the threat or use of force.
- Strengthening economic cooperation:** The initiative supports resilient and diversified supply chains, reform of the multilateral trading system and improvements in the international financial architecture.
- Addressing emerging technologies:** P4M identifies AI and digital transformation among the areas requiring stronger international coordination.
- Promoting sustainable development:** The declaration links multilateral cooperation with the **Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals**, global health, climate action and poverty reduction.

India's Role and Relevance

- India has long advocated reformed multilateralism**, particularly greater representation of developing countries in global decision-making.
 - P4M therefore complements** India's broader engagement with platforms such as the **G20, BRICS, G4 and Non-Aligned Movement**.
- Greater voice for the Global South:** India can use the platform to advance issues concerning developing countries, including **development finance, food and energy security, technology access, climate justice** and reform of international institutions.
- Strategic autonomy:** P4M provides India with another diplomatic platform without requiring it to align exclusively with any major-power bloc.

What are the challenges?

- Divergent national interests:** The participating countries differ in their economic structures, strategic priorities and relations with major powers.
- Risk of forum proliferation:** The international system is characterised by overlapping institutions and coalitions.
- Limited enforcement capacity:** P4M is not a treaty-based security alliance and lacks independent enforcement means.

Way Ahead

- It is necessary to ensure that P4M remains strategically inclusive and open to countries from all regions and political systems.
- **Also give greater voice** to developing countries by incorporating their development and financing concerns into the multilateral reform agenda.

Source: TH

PROGRESSING TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

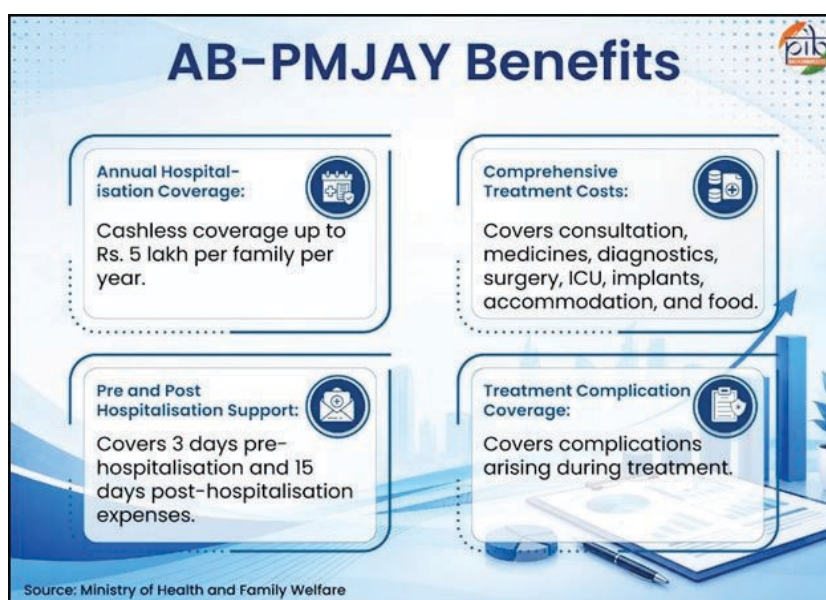
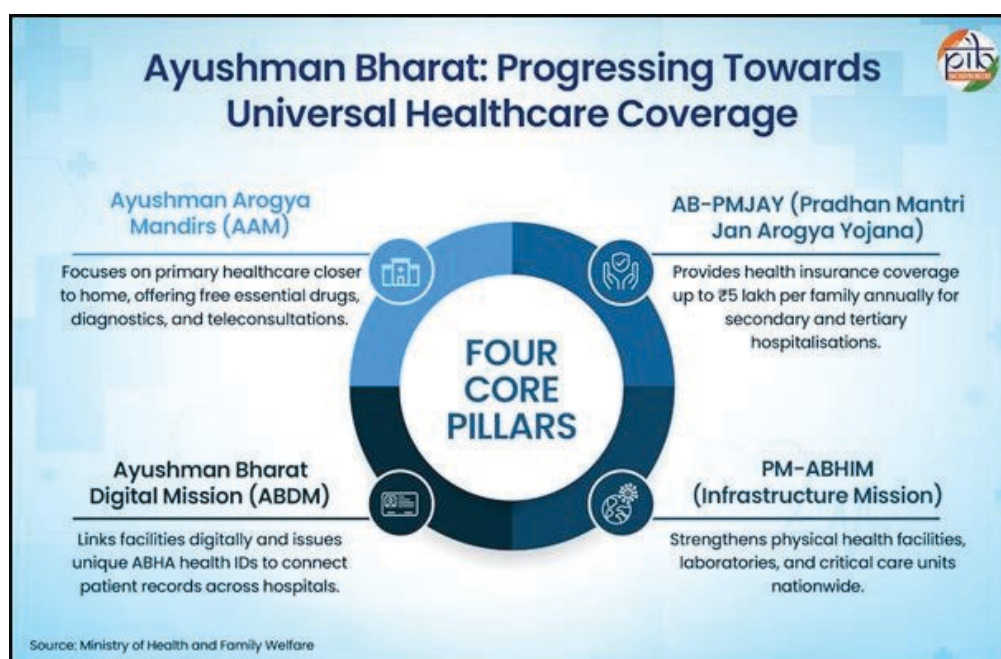
Context

- Eight years ago, **Ayushman Bharat** was rolled out with the idea that **every Indian should**

have access to top-quality and affordable healthcare.

About

- The Government launched the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan-Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in 2018**.
- **Aim:** To achieve universal health coverage.
- It is a **public health assurance scheme** and covers **secondary and tertiary care**.
 - ♦ It is one of the world's largest public healthcare schemes, with about 33% of India's population (over 48.51 crore people) already holding Ayushman cards.



What is Universal Health Coverage?

- It means that all people have **access to the full range of quality health services** without financial hardship.
- **Key components of UHC include:**
 - ♦ **Access to Care:** Everyone should be able to obtain necessary health services when they need them.
 - ♦ **Quality Services:** The care provided should be effective, safe, and of good quality.
 - ♦ **Financial Protection:** Individuals should not face financial difficulties due to medical expenses.
- **UHC** is rooted in the **universal human right to health**, affirmed in **international covenants and the Alma-Ata Declaration (1978)**, which prioritised comprehensive primary healthcare.

Need For Universal Health Coverage in India

- **High Out-of-Pocket Expenditure:** A significant share of healthcare spending is borne directly by households, which can push vulnerable families into financial distress.
- **Unequal Access to Healthcare:** Rural, tribal and remote areas often face shortages of doctors, specialists, diagnostic facilities and quality hospitals, creating geographical disparities.
- **Large Disease Burden:** India faces a dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, requiring accessible preventive, primary and specialised healthcare.
- **Preventive and Primary Healthcare:** UHC can shift the focus from expensive hospital-based treatment towards prevention, early diagnosis and primary healthcare, reducing the burden on tertiary facilities.
- **Demographic and Epidemiological Transition:** With an ageing population and increasing prevalence of chronic diseases, India needs sustainable access to long-term and affordable healthcare.

Constitutional Basis for UHC:

- The **Directive Principles of State Policy** in Part IV of the Constitution provides a basis for the right to health.
- **Article 39 (e)** directs the state to secure the health of workers; **Article 42** emphasises just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief;

and **Article 47** casts a duty on the state to raise the nutrition levels and standard of living, and to improve public health.

- The Constitution also endows the panchayats and municipalities to strengthen public health under **Article 243G**.

Challenges in Adopting UHC in India

- **Resource Constraints:** India faces significant funding limitations in healthcare, with a low public health expenditure compared to many other countries. This affects the ability to provide comprehensive services.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Many areas, especially rural regions, lack adequate healthcare infrastructure, including hospitals, clinics, and trained personnel, making access to care difficult.
- **Healthcare Workforce Shortages:** There is a shortage of healthcare professionals, particularly in rural areas, leading to disparities in access and quality of care.
- **Fragmented Health Systems:** India's healthcare system is a mix of public and private providers, leading to inconsistencies in quality and accessibility.
 - ♦ And, **Health is a State subject**, while financing and flagship schemes are centrally driven, leading to uneven outcomes.

Conclusion

- **AB-PMJAY** expands access to quality and affordable secondary and tertiary healthcare for eligible beneficiaries, while **Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs** bring comprehensive primary healthcare closer to communities.
- **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)** enables individuals to create a unique digital health identity and access their health records across participating healthcare facilities.
- **PM-ABHIM strengthens the health system's infrastructure** and preparedness by supporting the development of health centres, laboratories, and critical care facilities from the grassroots to the district level.
- These initiatives strengthen the continuum of healthcare, **from primary care and digital health services to hospital-based treatment and resilient health infrastructure**.

Source: PIB

INDIA INC'S R&D CHALLENGE: FROM ECONOMIC LIBERALISATION TO GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Context

- Recent corporate R&D data shows that Indian companies are increasing their spend on innovation, but the quantum of investment is still not enough to match global competitors and develop sustainable technological competitiveness.

India's Current State of R&D Growth

- R&D has increased substantially at the corporate level, with R&D spending rising from **around 150 in FY99 to 471 in FY26**.
- Total R&D spending rose from **₹957.8 crore in FY99 to ₹63,529.2 crore in FY26**, recording a **16.8% CAGR**, faster than the 12.9% CAGR in net sales.
- However, intensity remains modest. R&D accounted for **0.91% of combined net sales in FY26**, compared with **0.36% in FY99** and the historical peak of 1.15% in FY17.
 - Only about half of the 471 companies reporting R&D spent at least 1% of sales on it.

Post-1991 Reforms: Shift Towards R&D

- The **1991 BoP crisis** was a reflection of India's inability to match foreign-exchange profits with expenditure. It exposed weak export competitiveness.
- Prior to reforms**, Indian enterprises were predominantly domestic market orientated with limited attention to exports and global competitiveness.
- Liberalisation** sought to improve **efficiency, competitiveness and integration with the global economy**.
- Initially, corporate R&D during the late 1990s and early 2000s focused substantially on **absorbing imported technologies**.
- Subsequently, firms increasingly shifted towards developing indigenous products and solutions.

Why Does R&D Growth Remain Inadequate?

- Low R&D Intensity:** Spending by companies as a whole still lags behind the levels necessary for technical leadership.
- Sectoral Concentration:** Automotive and pharmaceuticals are dominant, but emerging global R&D frontiers such as AI, IT and advanced computing are leading internationally.

- Short-term Commercial Focus:** R&D is linked to profitability. 3-year average operating-profit increase is **70% correlated to R&D growth**.
- Weak Innovation Scale:** In 2024 WIPO data, TVS Motors filed 283 patents during 2022-24, against **20,783 by Huawei**.
- IT-sector Vulnerability:** Top Indian IT firms have R&D spend of just **0.58% of sales in FY26** even as AI threatens to automate various traditional services.

Related Efforts & Initiatives

- In the **post-reform economy**, corporations have set up dedicated R&D facilities, and are increasingly treating **R&D as a strategic investment**.
 - The emphasis of policy is changing from the absorption of technology to **indigenous development of products, technology leadership and innovation** as shown in the overall drive for increasing private sector participation in research.
- Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):** It was constituted by the **ANRF Act, 2023** with aims to boost India's research ecosystem and foster collaboration between **academics, government and industry**.
 - Its purpose is to stimulate cross-disciplinary research and to increase the transfer of research into innovation and economic application.
- Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Support:** Recent governmental initiatives have increasingly been focused on **catalysing private sector R&D**, especially in deep-tech and emerging technologies.
 - The goal is to close the gap between public research and commercial innovation by incentivising industry to invest in higher risk, longer term R&D.
- Industry-led R&D Infrastructure:** Indian corporations are increasingly establishing **dedicated R&D centres, technology campuses and product-development facilities**.
 - It represents a shift from merely absorbing imported technology to developing indigenous products and solutions.
- Start-up and Deep-Tech Ecosystem:** India's expanding start-up ecosystem provides a route for converting research into commercially viable technologies.

- ♦ Greater interaction between **start-ups, established corporations, universities and research institutions** can help overcome the traditional gap between invention and commercialisation.
- **Sector-specific Innovation Push:** Sectoral Innovation Push: Innovation is increasingly associated with strategic sectors such as:
 - ♦ AI and sophisticated computing;
 - ♦ Defence and aerospace;
 - ♦ Electric vehicles and alternative-fuel technologies;
 - ♦ Pharmaceuticals and biotechnology;
 - ♦ Semiconductors and electronics; and
 - ♦ Quantum technologies.
- **Academia–Industry Linkages:** A stronger innovation ecosystem requires universities and research institutions to collaborate with companies on **joint R&D, knowledge transfer, patents and product development**.
 - ♦ It can make academic research more responsive to the needs of industry and society.

Way Forward

- Increase **private-sector R&D intensity**, particularly beyond pharmaceuticals and automobiles.
- Promote **industry–university–government collaboration** and commercialisation of research.
- Encourage long-term R&D through stable policy support and risk-sharing mechanisms.
- Strengthen **patent generation and intellectual-property capabilities**.
- Push Indian IT firms towards AI, advanced computing and emerging technologies.
- Link R&D with **export competitiveness**, so that innovation translates into globally competitive products.

Conclusion

- India has moved from a **protected-market model towards greater technological ambition**.
- But, the central challenge remains converting rising R&D expenditure into **globally competitive patents, products and technologies**, moving decisively from '*Made in India*' towards '*Imagined and innovated in India*'.

Source: BS

WOMEN'S GROWING ROLE IN AGRICULTURE

Context

- Maharashtra passed the **Women Farmers' Empowerment Bill in July 2026**, providing women with independent recognition as farmers irrespective of land ownership through a **Woman Farmer Certificate**.

Women's Growing Role in Agriculture

- Women plays a **major role in Indian agriculture**, but their contribution is often treated as an extension of household work rather than as independent economic activity.
- According to recent **PLFS-based estimates cited in the debate**, agriculture employed around **110 million women and 127 million men in 2025**, indicating near gender parity in agricultural employment.
- **Nearly three-fourths** of rural women workers **are engaged in agriculture**, making the sector a major source of livelihood for rural women.
- However, a substantial proportion of women's agricultural work remains unpaid family work, limiting their economic independence and formal recognition.
- **The Agricultural Census 2015–16** recorded women as holders of only about **14%** of operational agricultural land holdings.

Issues Faced by Women Farmers

- **Fragmented databases:** Agriculture, land, credit and welfare databases do not always provide a comprehensive picture of women's agricultural participation.
- **Social barriers:** Patriarchal norms restrict women's control over land, income, machinery and agricultural decision-making.
- **Land-record dependence:** Linking farmer identification primarily with land records disproportionately affects women without titles.
- **Absence of a unified definition:** Different agricultural programmes use different eligibility criteria to identify beneficiaries.

Initiatives taken by the Government

- **The National Policy for Farmers, 2007** adopted a broader understanding of farmers that extends beyond landowners to persons involved in agricultural production.

- **The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission** has organised millions of rural women into **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.
 - ♦ SHGs can serve as an important institutional channel for providing women with **access to credit, livelihood opportunities, training and collective agricultural activities**.
- **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana**, implemented under the rural livelihoods framework, focuses on strengthening the capacities and livelihoods of women farmers.
- **Kudumbashree in Kerala** has promoted collective farming through women's groups, creating an alternative institutional pathway for women's participation in agriculture.

Way Ahead

- **National Women Farmer Registry:** India needs a gender-disaggregated farmer database that identifies farmers based on actual agricultural activity rather than land ownership alone.
- **Integrate Farmer IDs:** Women identified as farmers should receive Farmer IDs that can be linked with agricultural schemes, credit, insurance, extension services and market platforms.
- **Women's Access to Productive Assets:** Recognition should be accompanied by access to institutional credit, agricultural machinery, quality inputs, extension services, markets and digital services.

Source: TH

- **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026:** It seeks to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
 - ♦ The amendment makes it an offence to intentionally prevent the singing of the National Song or to cause a disturbance to an assembly engaged in its singing.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 51A(a) Fundamental Duties:** Mandates every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- **Absence of Explicit Constitutional Protection:** Unlike the national anthem, Vande Mataram is not explicitly protected by any constitutional provision.
 - ♦ Its status flows from **Constituent Assembly resolutions**, not from enforceable constitutional text.
- **Articles 19(1)(a) and Article 25** become relevant where compulsory participation conflicts with freedom of expression, conscience or religious belief.

Bijoe Emmanuel Judgment, 1986

- In **Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala (1986)**, the Supreme Court held that respectful non-participation in the National Anthem on grounds of genuine religious belief, is protected under **Articles 19(1)(a) and 25**.
- The Court held that non-participation, by itself, **does not constitute disrespect** to the National Anthem.

NEWS IN SHORT

VANDE MATARAM AND THE RIGHT TO CONSCIENCE

Context

- The Supreme Court observed that the government can determine the scope and length of the National Song, but it cannot violate religious freedom or impose penal consequences on conscientious objectors who decline to sing it.

Constitutional and Legal Status

- **The Constituent Assembly** recognised Vande Mataram the status of the **national song**, with equal honour to the national anthem, but **not identical legal treatment**.

Vande Mataram

- Vande Mataram was composed by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** in Sanskrit.
- It was first published in the literary journal Bangadarshan on **7th November 1875**. It was later included in the novel **Anandamath**, published in 1882.
 - ♦ Anandamath is set against the backdrop of the 1769–73 **Bengal famine** and the **Sanyasi Rebellion**.
- First sung by **Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Indian National Congress session** in Calcutta.
- During the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**, Vande Mataram emerged as the anthem of civil resistance.

- ♦ Vande Mataram, as a political slogan, was used on **7 August 1905**.
- **National Song:** On 24 January 1950, the first two stanzas were adopted as India's National Song.

Source: TH

WORLD RHINO DAY

In News

- **World Rhino Day** is celebrated globally on September 22 every year to raise awareness on the conservation of **rhinoceros species**.

About

- The day was first proposed by **WWF-South Africa in 2010** and observed internationally since 2011, and now coordinated largely by the **International Rhino Foundation (IRF)**.
- This year's theme is **"Keep the Five Alive"**.
- According to the **IRF's 2026 report**, the global rhino population across **all five species stands** at roughly 26,700, and four of the five species remain **threatened with extinction**.
- The four (Black, White, Sumatran, and Javan) are found **only in Africa and Southeast Asia**.

2026 State of the Rhino



rhinos.org

India's Rhino Story

- Of the five living rhino species in the world, **only the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is found in India**.
 - ♦ India Rhino is a **single-horned rhino** (unlike African rhinos, which have two), with thick, folded skin that gives it an almost armoured look.
 - ♦ It's the **largest of the Asian rhino species**, and unlike its Javan and Sumatran.
 - ♦ IUCN Status is vulnerable & under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act.
- It nearly went extinct in the early 1900s due to habitat loss, hunting, and human-rhino conflicts.
 - ♦ **Assam (Kaziranga, Manas, Pobitora, Orang) is home** to 3,260 one-horned rhinoceroses, which account for around **80% of its global population**.
 - ♦ Kaziranga became a **National Park in 1974** later **Tiger Reserve (2006)** and a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1985) giving it much stronger legal protection.
 - ♦ **Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020)** was launched in 2005 to increase Assam's rhino population to 3,000 and spread them across at least seven protected areas.
 - ♦ IRV 2.0, 2021 was launched as a follow-up initiative to conserve 4,500–5,000 rhinos across protected areas by 2030.

Source: PIB

US-DENMARK-GREENLAND AGREEMENT AND ARCTIC SECURITY

Context

- The United States, Denmark and Greenland have signed an agreement to strengthen Arctic and North Atlantic security, including plans for an expanded U.S. military presence in Greenland.

About Greenland

- It is **semi-autonomous** and part of the **Kingdom of Denmark**, with strong defense ties to NATO.
- Location:** Situated between the Arctic and North Atlantic Oceans, northeast of Canada.
- Greenland is the **world's largest non-continental island**, and roughly **80%** of its surface is covered by a massive ice sheet.



- Critical Raw Material (CRM) deposit
- Non-Critical Raw Material (CRM) deposit
- Important Occurrence

Strategic Importance of Greenland

- Military significance:** Greenland is significant for missile warning, missile defence and satellite monitoring, in particular because of its position between North America, Europe and the Arctic.

- Russia and China:** Greater access to the Arctic has heightened geopolitical competition between Russia, China and NATO members.
- Emerging shipping routes:** The melting of Arctic sea ice is creating new marine routes, making the region more geologically and commercially important.
- Critical minerals:** Greenland has large mineral resources, which gives it an economic aspect to its strategic importance.

U.S. Military Presence in Greenland

- The U.S. has maintained a military presence in Greenland for decades.
- The Pituffik Space Base** in northwestern Greenland currently hosts U.S. personnel and supports missile warning, missile defence and space surveillance operations for the U.S. and NATO.

Source: BBC

INTERNATIONAL MOBILE EQUIPMENT IDENTITY (IMEI) NUMBER

In News

- The expanding digital ecosystem brings concern of misuse of the **International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI)** number.

International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number.

- The IMEI is a unique 15-digit number that identifies a mobile device on a telecom network.
- The first eight digits of an IMEI form the Type Allocation Code (TAC), which identifies the device model or type.
- The Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) oversees the global allocation of TAC to manufacturers and brand owners. Manufacturers then assign **unique IMEIs to individual devices**.
- A dual-SIM phone generally has two IMEI numbers, one for each SIM slot.

Tampering issues

- Unlawful IMEI tampering refers to intentionally removing, erasing, changing or altering a mobile device's unique IMEI number.

- It also includes knowingly using, producing, selling/trafficking, controlling, or possessing hardware or software configured to alter or manipulate an IMEI.
- Such practices can hinder device identification, complicate law enforcement and weaken telecom network security.

Legal Protection Against IMEI Tampering

- India has a **robust legal framework** to defend the sanctity of the telecommunication eco-system.
- The **Telecommunications Act, 2023** allows for strict action against manipulation of telecommunication identifiers like IMEI number of mobile smartphones and other telecommunication devices.

Suggested Measures

- Manufacturers and importers need to register and assure genuine and unique IMEIs through the Device Setu-ICDR portal and vendors need to validate IMEIs and refrain from dealing in altered devices.
- Consumers must buy from licensed merchants, safeguard devices, utilise authorised repair centers and validate IMEIs. In case of loss or theft, they should report the police, get a replacement SIM and ban the device through Sanchar Saathi/CEIR to assist prevent fraud and boost telecom security.

Source: PIB

COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)

Context

- The External Affairs Minister called for greater solidarity among Global South countries at the **India - Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.

About

- The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is a **regional bloc of 33 Latin American and Caribbean states**.
- It was formed at the **Unity Summit**, which consisted of the **21st Summit of the Rio Group and the 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Summit** on Integration and Development (CALC) in **2010**.

- **Aim:** To unite all of the Latin American and Caribbean states in order to strengthen the political, social and cultural integration of the region.
- It is a **successor of the Rio Group and the 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC)**.
- **India-CELAC bilateral trade** reached **\$50 billion in 2025-26**.
 - ♦ India reaffirmed its commitment to **deepening its partnership with CELAC countries across a broad range of areas**.
 - ♦ The meeting reflected **India's growing engagement in the Latin America & Caribbean region** and the mutual desire to take the partnership to greater heights.

Source: MEA

NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM

In News

- Recently, the National Single Window System **completed 5 Years**.

National Single Window System (NSWS)

- It was launched in 2021 and is implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- It consolidates approvals granted by Central Ministries, State Governments and regulatory authorities on a uniform digital platform.
- It provides a single window to the investors to identify, apply and track approvals.
- It has major features like Know Your Approvals, Common Registration Form, Applicant Dashboard, Document Repository and E-Communication Module.

Importance

- It streamlines approvals, lowers duplication and compliance load and shortens approval times by enabling one-time submission, online processing and real-time tracking, and improves transparency and coordination.
- It is harnessing its increased integration of Central Ministries, States and regulatory authorities to enhance India's Ease of Doing Business and create a more seamless investment ecosystem.

Source :PIB

INDIA'S FIRST BLUE BOND SET FOR LAUNCH

Context

- Sagarmala Finance Corporation plans to raise 6 billion through **India's first blue bond**.

What are Blue bonds?

- A **blue bond is a debt instrument** that national governments, development banks and corporations issue to raise finance for **marine and ocean-based projects** that have long-term sustainability objectives and benefits.
- Blue bonds work like conventional bonds wherein an investor lends capital to the bond issuer who pays back the initial investment plus an interest rate every year until the end of the bond's term.
- Seychelles** issued the **world's first sovereign blue bond**, through World Bank's **SWIOFish3 project**, to safeguard its ocean economy.

Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL)

- It was incorporated in **2016** under the **Companies Act, 2013**, by the Ministry of Shipping.
- Formerly known as **Sagarmala Development Company Limited (SDCL)**, SMFCL received a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence in 2025**, becoming India's first NBFC in the maritime sector.

Source: BS

EXERCISE TARANG SHAKTI

Context

- The second edition of the Indian Air Force's multinational air exercise TARANG SHAKTI 2026 is going to conduct at Air Force Station, Jodhpur, and adjoining air bases.

About

- The exercise aims to expose all participants to planning and execution of multinational joint combat operations in a realistic contemporary battlespace and derive tactically viable solutions.
- Eight friendly foreign countries** such as Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece, Sri Lanka, UAE and USA will participate with air assets, while **32 nations** will be attending as observers.
- The **first edition** was held in **2024** and was conducted in **two phases** at Sulur in Tamil Nadu and Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Source: AIR

KHAIR TREE

Context

- In the forests of Western Odisha, the khair tree has become a part of an alleged Rs 120 crore interstate smuggling network.

About

- The Khair tree belongs to the **Fabaceae family**, which includes several **nitrogen-fixing species known for improving soil fertility**.
- The Khair tree (Acacia catechu)** is one of the most important native tree species found across the **Indian subcontinent**.
- Khair has long been valued for its **durability, medicinal properties**, and its role in traditional industries.
- Katha, the catechu extract** made from the **heartwood of the Khair tree, is commonly** used in paan and is a staple of paan shops across India.

Source: IE

