NEXT IAS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

Time: 45 Min

Date: 17-10-2026

Table of Content

IDBI Bank Sale and India's Disinvestment Strategy

How Low-Pressure Systems are Reshaping India's Rainfall?

India's Inland Navigation Ecosystem

China's Announcement No. 48

Integrated Logistics Structure for Theatre Commands

News in Brief

Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026

Press Council of India (PCI)

Special Summary Revision (SSR)

PUFFINS Telescope Mission

INS Samarthak

IDBI BANK SALE AND INDIA'S DISINVESTMENT STRATEGY

Context

- The proposed sale of a 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank to Fairfax Financial for 26,544 crore is expected to take **India's disinvestment proceeds in 2026–27** to 82,301 crore, exceeding the annual target of 80,000 crore.

Disinvestment Policy of the Government of India

- **Government policy on disinvestment consists of;** Strategic Disinvestment/ Privatisation and Minority Stake Sale in CPSEs.
- **Strategic disinvestment** implies the entire or substantial sale of the government shareholding of a CPSE along with the **transfer of management control.**
  - **In case of privatisation,** which is a **subset of strategic disinvestment,** the government equity in CPSE and its management control is transferred to a private strategic buyer(s), and in other cases of strategic disinvestment, the government equity is transferred to another CPSE along with control.
- **Minority stake sales** in certain CPSEs are carried out without transfer of management control through various SEBI-approved methods like Initial Public Offer (IPO), Offer for Sale (OFS), buyback of shares, etc. These methods play an important role in strengthening the capital market through:
  - Increasing the float of well-performing CPSE's;
  - Providing opportunity to retail investors to participate in an extended range of stocks and
  - Increasing liquidity and depth of the capital market.

Disinvestment versus Dividend Income

- **Disinvestment** proceeds arise from the sale of government-owned shares and are classified as **non-debt capital receipts;** they are generally one-time receipts from the particular sale.
- **Dividend** income represents the **government's share of profits distributed by public sector enterprises** and is classified as a **non-tax revenue receipt**; it can recur as long as the enterprises remain profitable and distribute dividends.
- Hence disinvestment should be assessed not only in terms of the immediate sale proceeds but also against the future dividends surrendered, the value of the remaining public stake and the potential efficiency gains from private ownership.

New Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) Policy

- **The New Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) Policy** for Atma Nirbhar Bharat, which provides overall guidance on strategic disinvestment, **was notified in 2021**, with the approval of the Cabinet.
  - The policy intends to minimise the presence of government in the PSEs across all sectors of the economy.
  - Existing CPSEs, Public Sector Banks and Public Sector Insurance Companies to be covered under it.
- **Two-fold classification** of Sectors to be disinvested;
  - **Strategic Sector:** Bare minimum presence of the public sector enterprises and remaining to be privatised or merged or subsidiarized with other CPSEs or closed. Following **4 sectors** to come under it;
    - Atomic energy, Space and Defence
    - Transport and Telecommunications
    - Power, Petroleum, Coal and other minerals
    - Banking, Insurance and financial services.
  - **Non-Strategic Sector:** In this sector, CPSEs will be privatised, otherwise shall be closed.

Significance of Disinvestment

- **Improves operational efficiency:** Private participation can introduce stronger commercial incentives, professional management and improved accountability.
- **Reduces the fiscal burden:** It can reduce the need for government support to loss-making or underperforming enterprises.
- **Promotes competition:** Private participation can improve service quality, encourage innovation and strengthen competition in sectors where adequate safeguards exist.
- **Unlocks public assets:** Disinvestment can help realise the value of government investments and make capital available for alternative public uses.

Challenges in India's Disinvestment Process

- **Uncertain market conditions:** Weak investor sentiment, volatile valuations and sector-specific risks can delay transactions or reduce sale proceeds.

- **Valuation concerns:** Selling public assets below their fair economic value can result in a long-term loss to the public exchequer.
- **Employment concerns:** Employees may face uncertainty regarding job security, service conditions and future restructuring.
- **Revenue uncertainty:** Disinvestment is a one-time source of receipts and cannot sustainably substitute for recurring tax revenues.

Way Ahead

- Disinvestment should be guided by **long-term economic efficiency and the appropriate role of the state,** rather than being driven solely by annual revenue targets.
- **Multiple valuation methods, transparent bidding and adequate competition** should be used to ensure fair returns to the public exchequer.
- Disinvestment receipts should **support capital formation and productive public investment** wherever feasible, rather than becoming a substitute for sustainable fiscal management.

Source: IE

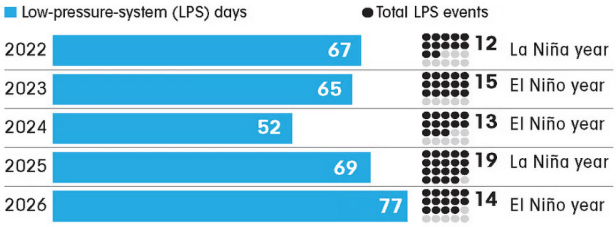
HOW LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEMS ARE RESHAPING INDIA'S RAINFALL?

Context

- Recently, an analysis highlights how prolonged low-pressure system (LPS) activity is concentrating monsoon rainfall over particular regions, contributing to extreme rainfall events even when the country records an overall rainfall deficit.

About Low-Pressure Systems

- A low-pressure system is a region where the **atmospheric pressure is lower** than that of the areas around it.
  - This causes **air to concentrate and ascend**, leading to the **formation of clouds and sometimes rain**, if there is enough moisture.
- Low-pressure systems emerge in the **Bay of Bengal** and migrate inland over the Indian subcontinent, bringing moisture and altering the pattern of **southwest monsoon rainfall.**
- Their rainfall depends on factors such as moisture availability, atmospheric instability, wind patterns, the system's movement and interaction with geographical features such as mountains.



Normal of total LPS during Monsoon is 13, and the normal for LPS days is 55-57. LPS include low-pressure areas, depressions and deep depressions

Monsoon

- The monsoon is a **seasonal reversal of winds** because of **differential heating and the resulting pressure differences** between land and sea.
- **Onset and Retreat:** The monsoon season in India **starts in early June and lasts until September.**
  - The arrival of the southwest monsoon winds, which bring moisture-laden air from the Indian Ocean, marks the onset of the monsoon.
  - The withdrawal or retreat of the monsoon typically **begins in October.**
  - **The northeast monsoon,** occurring from October to December, brings rainfall to parts of southern India.
    - The northeast monsoon is key for **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Karaikal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, and Yanam** in southern India.

Factors Influencing Low-Pressure Systems

- **Monsoon circulation:** The moisture of the southwest monsoon is carried from the Indian Ocean to the subcontinent.
  - The monsoon circulation determines the position of **low-pressure systems,** their path and the amount of rainfall they bring.
- **El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO):** El Niño is a cyclical warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, which might impair the Indian summer monsoon circulation.
  - However, the effects are variable over years and areas and do not predict rainfall results on their own.
- **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):** A positive IOD, characterised by relatively warmer sea-surface temperatures in the western Indian Ocean than in the eastern equatorial Indian Ocean, can sometimes offset the adverse influence of El Niño on Indian monsoon rainfall.

- **Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO):** This eastward-moving pattern of tropical atmospheric convection influences active and break phases of the monsoon, affecting conditions favourable for rainfall-producing systems.
- **Somali Jet:** This strong cross-equatorial low-level wind current transports moisture towards the Arabian Sea and the Indian subcontinent, thereby supporting monsoon circulation.
- **Western Disturbances:** These eastward-moving extratropical weather systems can interact with monsoon circulation and influence rainfall over northwestern India, particularly during the monsoon withdrawal period.

Impact of Prolonged Low-Pressure System (LPS)

- **Rainfall concentration:** Persistent systems can repeatedly bring moisture to the same geographical corridor, producing heavy rainfall in some regions while leaving areas outside their tracks relatively dry.
- **Agricultural productivity:** Delayed rainfall can disrupt sowing and crop establishment, while concentrated heavy rainfall can cause waterlogging, soil erosion and crop damage.
- **Food security:** Uneven rainfall can affect crop yields, agricultural prices and farm incomes, particularly in regions dependent on rain-fed agriculture.
- **Disruption of Hydropower and Reservoir Operations:** Sudden inflows and increased sedimentation can complicate dam operations, increase pressure on reservoir management and affect hydropower generation.
- **Interaction with the Himalayas:** When moisture-laden systems move towards the Himalayan foothills, the forced ascent of air over mountain slopes can intensify rainfall and increase the risk of landslides and flash floods.

Concluding remarks

- India's monsoon resilience depends not only on the total rainfall received but also on its timing, geographical distribution and intensity.
- Improved understanding of low-pressure systems, combined with better forecasting and region-specific water and agricultural planning, is essential to manage the risks associated with an increasingly uneven rainfall pattern.

Source: DTE

INDIA'S INLAND NAVIGATION ECOSYSTEM

Context

- India is strengthening its **inland waterway network** through **hydrographic surveys, modern navigation infrastructure and digital information systems** as cargo movement on rivers continues to grow.

Inland Waterway Network

- India has **111 National Waterways (NW)** to promote shipping and navigation.
  - The total length of these waterways is **20,187 km, spread across 23 States and 4 Union Territories.** Of these, **32 National Waterways are currently operational.**
- Cargo movement on inland waterways rose from **29 million metric tonnes (MMT) in 2014–15 to 218 MMT in 2025–26.**
  - This represents a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of **20.13%.**
- The growth has already surpassed the target of **200 MMT set under Maritime India Vision 2030.**

Significance of the Inland Waterways

- **Reducing Logistics Costs:** Logistics costs in India account for 14% of GDP, significantly higher than the global average of 8-10%.
- **Decongestion:** Promoting inland waterways will help alleviate congestion and reduce the burden on these critical transport networks.
- **Eco-Friendly Transport:** Reduced fuel consumption and emissions align with India's commitment to **sustainable development goals (SDGs)** and its climate action targets.
- **Economic Benefits:** Increased cargo movement via inland waterways will bolster trade and commerce, especially in regions adjoining National Waterways.

Challenges in Boosting Inland Waterways

- **Infrastructure Deficiencies:** Limited availability of modern terminals, jetties, and navigational aids hampers seamless cargo transportation.
- **Depth and Navigability Issues:** Many river stretches suffer from seasonal fluctuations, affecting their navigability.
- **Competition from Road and Rail:** Despite incentives, the established dominance of road and rail transport limits the shift towards waterways.

- **Regional Disparities:** Inland waterways infrastructure is largely concentrated in certain regions, leaving others underdeveloped.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

- IWAI, is an **autonomous organization** constituted in 1986 under the **Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.**
- IWAI is primarily responsible for **development, maintenance and regulation** of those waterways which have been declared as National Waterways under National Waterways Act, 2016.
- **The head office** of IWAI is located at **Noida.**

Inland Waterways Development Council

- **The Inland Waterways Development Council** was established in **2023** by the Government of India.
- **Objective:** Comprehensive development of inland waterways and the associated Inland Water Transport (IWT) ecosystem for improved cargo efficiency, passenger movement, and river cruise tourism, with active participation from States and Union Territories.

Government Initiatives

- **Hydrography** involves measuring and **describing water bodies and their physical features,** the purpose is to support navigation and other activities.
  - **The Inland Waterways Authority** conducts hydrographic surveys across National Waterways.
  - **Continuous hydrographic assessment** supports navigational channel (fairway) development, dredging plans, navigational safety and informed decisions.
- **Riverine Lighthouses:** India announced its **first four riverine lighthouses on the Brahmaputra,** designated as National Waterway-2.
  - The four lighthouses are being established at **Pandu, Bogibeel, Silghat and Biswanath Ghat.**
- **Digital Navigation & Real-Time Information:** Navigation information is provided digitally to Mariners for enhanced safety through modern hydrographic charts.
  - In 2026, Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) were prepared for 18 operational and tidal waterways.
  - The charts complement physical surveys by translating river information into a navigation-ready format.
- **PANI and IWAI Vessel Tracker:** The Portal for Asset and Navigation Information (PANI) brings river navigation and infrastructure information on a single platform.
  - The IWAI Vessel Tracker and PANI Portal together form a web and mobile-based e-navigation system.
  - It provides real-time vessel tracking, updated navigation routes and depth information.
- **Naudarshika:** Naudarshika is the National River Traffic and Navigation System, launched in 2025 for safe, efficient and sustainable vessel movement.
- **River Information Services:** RIS combines vessel tracking technologies, weather and water sensors and information technology systems.
  - It provides real-time data to vessel operators and authorities. It also supports communication between vessels and control centres.

Conclusion

- **Safe navigation on India's waterways** is built on continuous knowledge, reliable infrastructure and timely information.
- **Hydrographic surveys** help understand changing river conditions, while navigation aids provide visible guidance on the water.
- **Digital platforms** are adding another layer of precision through real-time depth, route, weather and traffic information.
- Together, these systems are making **inland navigation more predictable and responsive.**

Source: PIB

CHINA'S ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 48

Context

- China announced a draft plan, titled **Announcement No. 48**, to **regulate the export of more than 40 advanced technologies** related to artificial intelligence (AI), biomedicine and solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing.
  - **14 technologies:** Proposed for outright export prohibition.
  - **26 technologies:** Proposed for export restrictions requiring government licensing.

Why Is China Tightening Controls?

- **Strategic advantage:** Protects its position in solar manufacturing and advanced technologies.

- **National security:** Limits the transfer of technologies with potential military or cybersecurity applications.
- **Geopolitical leverage:** Provides a potential bargaining tool amid Western restrictions on advanced semiconductors and related technologies.

Key Provisions

- **Solar technology:** Restricts the transfer of advanced perovskite and tandem solar manufacturing technologies, along with selected polysilicon processing and wafer-manufacturing technologies.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Targets technologies related to malicious cyber-code generation, foundation-model parameters, intelligent agents and specialised computing systems.
- **Biomedicine:** Covers designated gene-editing platforms, cell-therapy processes and nucleic-acid therapeutics.

Implications for India

- **Chinese Control Over Supply Chain:** China controls 75–95% of the global solar PV supply chain, including 91% of polysilicon and over 97% of wafers, making it the primary supplier worldwide.
- **India's Reliance on China:** Despite some decline, India still relies on China for over 50% of its solar cells and modules, with imports worth nearly $4 billion in FY2024.
    - India lacks manufacturing strength in upstream components like polysilicon and ingots, and efforts to build local capacity face cost and technology barriers.
    - It highlights India's dependence on imported capital equipment and critical technological know-how.
- India is trying to **develop domestic solar manufacturing, restrictions on access to Chinese manufacturing technology** could make this process more difficult.
- **India must diversify its supply chain, invest in R&D, forge global partnerships** (e.g., with the US, EU, Japan), and **strengthen domestic manufacturing** to build energy resilience.

Source: TH

INTEGRATED LOGISTICS STRUCTURE FOR THEATRE COMMANDS

Context

- **The Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** is developing an **integrated logistics structure** for the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force **to support the proposed Integrated Theatre Commands.**
    - The initiative aims to **move away from separate service-specific logistics systems** towards a common framework.

Military Logistics

- Military logistics refers to the **planning and management** of the supplies, equipment, fuel, transportation, storage and maintenance required by the armed forces to conduct military operations.
- For example, soldiers deployed in Ladakh need food, ammunition, fuel, winter clothing and spare parts. Military logistics ensures that these supplies reach them at the right place and time.

Proposed Framework

- Currently, the Army, Navy and Air Force largely manage their logistics **through separate systems.** The proposed reform aims to **integrate these systems so that the three services can coordinate and share resources more efficiently.**
    - **Tri-Services Logistics Management Application (TLMA):** Under development to provide real-time visibility of inventories across the three services and integrate their existing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software.
    - **National Defence Codification System (NDCS):** Intended to standardise the identification and classification of defence items, making it easier to identify, track and manage supplies.
    - **Joint logistics infrastructure:** Plans include joint logistics nodes, joint ammunition depots, air stores, supply parks and material organisations.
    - **PM Gati Shakti Defence Portal:** Under development to provide a common logistics interface across the services and theatre boundaries, aligned with the National Logistics Policy and Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP).

- **AI-enabled logistics:** Artificial intelligence and machine learning are being incorporated to improve logistics planning and predict maintenance and spare-parts requirements.

Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs)

- **Background:** It was proposed as a part of the **Shekatkar Committee (2016) recommendations.** It received a major push after the appointment of the **first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in 2020 (Gen. Bipin Rawat).**
- The broad consensus among services is for the **creation of three theatre commands.**
  - **A China-focused Northern Theatre Command** in Lucknow, a **Pakistan-centric Western Theatre Command** in Jaipur and a **Maritime Theatre Command** in Thiruvananthapuram.
  - If approved, this would mark the **biggest military reform** in India since independence, aligning with the **'one border, one force' concept.**

Need for the Theatre Command

- **Hostile Neighborhood:** India has a hostile neighbourhood due to land sharing borders with China and Pakistan. The prospect of high technology, multi-domain warfare where adversaries are nuclear-armed requires a swift and dynamic response.
- **Optimal use of Resources:** The forces will be able to pool their resources efficiently, resulting in the optimum utilisation of platforms, weapon systems, and assets. This will also prevent duplicate purchases for the three services.
- **Better Coordination:** Currently, India's multiple military commands are all located in different geographical areas. This, at times, causes communication hindrances during joint operations and exercises.
  - With a unified command structure, these communication processes could be simpler and more efficient.
- **In Practice in other Nations:** Armed forces of major military powers, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, China and France all operate under theatre commands.
- **Efficient Planning:** Having a unified command structure with representatives from all three services will also lead to more efficient planning for both peacetime and wartime strategies.

Steps Taken for Implementation

- **The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) with CDS as Secretary** was created in **2020** to facilitate optimal utilization of resources and promote jointness among the three Services.
- **The Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control & Discipline) Act, 2023** promotes jointness in the Indian Armed Forces by empowering commanders of tri-service formations with authority over personnel from all three Services.
  - This unifies the disciplinary chain, speeds up decision-making, and fosters operational and cultural integration.
- **Three Joint Logistic Nodes (JLNs)** have been established and are operational from **2021** at Mumbai, Guwahati and Port Blair for Logistics Integration between the three services.
- **Tri-services Future Warfare Course:** The course intends to acquaint the officers with the operational and technological aspects of modern warfare.
- **Joint exercises:** The Indian Armed Forces conduct tri-service integrated multi-domain exercises focused on coordinated operations involving the Army, Air Force, and Navy (Exercise Prachand Prahar, Exercise Desert Hunt).
- **Defence Communication Network (DCN):** The network provides converged voice, data and video services to the three Services based on secured systems with adequate redundancy.
- **Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS):** It provides the backbone for real-time coordination, enabling synchronized responses across multiple units of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Conclusion

- Integrated Theatre Commands are a transformational reform aimed at **modernizing India's defence posture.**
- While challenges exist, effective theatreisation can significantly enhance India's **combat readiness, inter-service synergy, and strategic effectiveness,** especially in light of evolving threats from China and Pakistan.

Source: IE

NEWS IN BRIEF

CENSUS (AMENDMENT) RULES, 2026

Context

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026, expanding the categories of persons eligible for appointment as Census enumerators.

About

- The amendment modifies **Rule 3** of the **Census Rules, 1990**, framed under the **Census Act, 1948**, by revising the eligible categories listed in its table.
- Under the revised rules, the following categories may be appointed as enumerators:
  - **Teachers:** From government, local authority, aided or unaided private educational institutions, societies and trusts.
  - **Clerks and officials:** From Central and State governments, local authorities, public sector undertakings, statutory bodies, banks, companies, institutions, societies and trusts.
  - **Other suitable persons:** Anyone considered suitable by the respective State Government or Union Territory administration.
- These amendments aim to enhance the representation of enumerators and ensure a broader pool of qualified individuals for Census operations.

Role of Census Enumerators

- Enumerators play a crucial role in conducting the Census of India, as they are responsible for visiting households, collecting accurate demographic, social, and economic information, and ensuring that every individual is counted.
- They serve as the primary link between citizens and the census administration, helping to gather reliable data that supports government planning and policy-making.

Census of India

- India conducts a population Census once **every 10 years** under the **Census Act, 1948**.
- The last such exercise was conducted in 2011, while the 2021 census was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Source: DD

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA (PCI)

Context

- The Press Council of India (PCI) has issued detailed guidelines to facilitate **"orderly and effective coverage of protests and demonstrations".**

Guidelines

- Journalists to visibly display a valid press identity card issued by their media organisation.
- Maintain neutrality and professionalism.
- Remain respectful, follow police orders, avoid arguments during tense situations, and comply with lawful instructions
- It advised journalists to maintain a reasonable and safe distance from confrontations.
- Exercise particular care when filming or identifying minors, vulnerable individuals, injured people, and private citizens in distress.

Press Council of India (PCI)

- It is a **statutory autonomous body** set up under the **Press Council Act, 1978.**
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- **Objective:** Preserving the freedom of press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India and also to inculcate the principles of self-regulation among the press.
- PCI has formulated **'Norms of Journalistic Conduct'** which the Journalists and Newspapers have to follow.
- The Council takes **cognizance, suo-motu or on complaints,** of the contents in print media which are in violation of the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct'.
- **Composition:** It is **headed by a Chairman** who by convention, is a **retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.**
  - **It comprises 28 members** and the Council is re-constituted as per the provisions under section 5(3) of the Press Council Act, 1978.

Source: TH

SPECIAL SUMMARY REVISION (SSR)

Context

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in 17 States and Union Territories, including five states scheduled to hold Assembly elections in early 2027.

What is the Special Summary Revision (SSR)?

- **Article 324** of the Constitution empowers the ECI to supervise, direct and control the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections.
- The preparation and revision of electoral rolls are governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.
- Under **Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**, electoral rolls may be revised before general elections and annually as directed by the ECI.
- SSR is a periodic exercise to update existing electoral rolls by:
  - Adding newly eligible voters.
  - Correcting errors in existing entries.
  - Removing entries of deceased, duplicate or permanently shifted electors, following the prescribed procedure.

How is SSR different from SIR?

- **Special Intensive Revision (SIR):** Requires existing electors to submit enumeration forms to be included in the draft electoral roll. Certain electors may also be required to provide documents to establish their eligibility, including citizenship.
- **Special Summary Revision (SSR):** Existing electors are generally retained on the draft roll by default, without fresh enumeration forms. The focus is on enrolling eligible new voters and updating existing entries.
- During SSR, deletions of deceased or duplicate electors must follow the prescribed statutory procedure, including notices and hearings wherever required.
- Unlike the SIR process, SSR does not envisage the same exercise of issuing centrally generated notices to electors flagged for logical discrepancies in submitted documents.

Source: IE

PUFFINS TELESCOPE MISSION

In News

- Bengaluru-born astronomer Dr. Ramya Anche has been selected as Principal Investigator of NASA's $20-million **PUFFINS space telescope mission.**

About PUFFINS (Polarimetry in the Ultraviolet to Find Features in Interstellar dust)

- **Type:** Small Satellite (SmallSat) mission in Low-Earth Orbit.
- **Organisation:** Funded by NASA's Astrophysics Pioneers programme and led by the University of Arizona's Steward Observatory, with support from McDonald Observatory, University of Texas.
- **Objective:** To study the composition, structure and magnetic alignment of interstellar dust grains and their role in star and planet formation.
- **Ultraviolet Spectropolarimetry:** It measures the polarisation of ultraviolet starlight across different wavelengths to study dust properties.
- **Small Dust Grains:** Investigates interstellar particles smaller than approximately 50 nanometres.

Significance

- The mission will improve understanding of interstellar dust, galactic magnetic fields and the processes governing star and planetary system formation.

Source: TH

INS SAMARTHAK

In News

- The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Samarthak**, the lead ship of the indigenously designed **Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs)**, strengthening India's naval capabilities and indigenous shipbuilding.

About INS Samarthak

- It is a multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), a 107-metre auxiliary naval platform built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard, Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu.
- It supports fleet operations, tests indigenous weapons and sensors, and operates as a mothership for autonomous systems.
- It supports the launch, control and recovery of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and unmanned surface vehicles (USVs).
- It performs auxiliary tasks, reducing the workload and machinery wear on frontline combatant warships.

Source: TH