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INDIA AND POLAND TIES

Context

- The Prime Minister of Poland paid an **official visit to India.**

Recent outcomes of the Visit

- **Trade target**: Both sides agreed to **double bilateral trade by 2030**. Current trade is about $6 billion. Both sides welcomed the conclusion of the India–EU FTA and called for its early signing, ratification and implementation.
- **Defence:** PM Modi invited Polish firms to join in co-development and co-production with India.
- **Critical minerals:** An MoU on geology, mining and critical minerals is under negotiation. Rare-earth processing and battery recycling were named as priority areas.
- **Tech and innovation:** The PM announced an India–Poland Startup Bridge and technology hackathons. The two sides will explore cooperation in AI, semiconductors and quantum technologies.
- **Multilateral:** Poland extended its support for India's candidature for the United Nations Security Council's non-permanent seat for 2028-29 and for a permanent seat in a reformed UNSC.

Poland

- Poland is a country of **Central Europe**.
- **Poland has seven neighbors:** Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia.
- It is a member of both **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and the European Union (EU).**
- **Major Mountain Ranges:** Carpathians, Sudetens.
- **Major Rivers:** Vistula, Oder.



Overview of India-Poland Relations

- **Diplomatic relations** were established in **1954**, the two countries share **common ideologies**, based on their opposition to colonialism, imperialism and racism.
- **Strategic Partnership:** In 2024, during the official visit of the Indian PM to Poland the bilateral relations were elevated to the Strategic partnership.
  - An Action Plan (2024-2028) to implement the future Strategic Partnership was issued during the visit.
- **Historical Relations: During World War II,** the Maharaja of Jamnagar provided refuge to several hundred Polish women and children trying to reach the West, he is known as 'Good Maharaja' in Poland.
- **Economic & commercial Relations:** Over the period 2013-2025, the total bilateral trade with Poland has witnessed an increase of 192% i.e. from US$1.95 billion in 2013 to US$ 6.36 billion in 2025.
  - Poland continues to be **India's largest trading & investment partner in Central & Eastern Europe.**
  - The **India-European Union free trade agreement** has further expanded these opportunities, upon entry into force, it will open up new opportunities for exports from India to Poland.
- **Tourism:** Tourist arrivals from Poland to India have increased significantly over the past decade, rising from around 15,000 in 2014 to 43,316 in 2024.

Significance of Poland for India

- **Gateway to Central and Eastern Europe:** Poland is an important economic partner in Central and Eastern Europe and can help Indian businesses expand into the wider European market.
- **Stronger India–EU relations:** As an influential EU member, Poland can support deeper India–EU engagement in trade, investment, connectivity and technology.
- **Defence technology:** There is scope for joint research, technology transfer, co-development and co-production, subject to mutually agreed arrangements.
- **Cybersecurity:** Both countries can strengthen cooperation in cybersecurity, defence innovation and other critical technologies.

- **United Nations reforms:** Poland has reiterated its support for India's candidature for a permanent role in a reformed UN Security Council.
- **Frontline NATO state:** Poland's closeness to the Ukraine war gives India a direct view of European security concerns.

Conclusion

- Poland is an important partner for India in accessing European markets, diversifying defence and technology partnerships, strengthening India–EU relations and building resilient supply chains.
- Effective implementation of the India–Poland Strategic Partnership Action Plan (2024–2028) will be crucial to translating these opportunities into tangible outcomes.

Source: TH

INDIA-ISRAEL DISCUSSED BILATERAL TIES AND THE SITUATION IN WEST ASIA

Context

- Prime Minister Modi and Israel PM Netanyahu discussed **India-Israel relations and the situation in West Asia over a phone call.**
  - The Israeli Prime Minister invited PM Modi and Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar to jointly light a torch on Israel's Independence Day.

India and Israel Bilateral Relations & Evolving Ties

- **Bilateral Relations:** India announced its recognition of Israel in **1950**. Regular embassies opened in **1992** when full diplomatic relations were established between the **two countries.**
  - In 2017, both countries upgraded the ties to the **Strategic partnership.**
  - **In 2022-23,** the two countries jointly celebrated **30 years of the elevation of bilateral ties to full diplomatic ties.**
- **Defense & Security:** Israel has been a **key supplier of advanced technology** from **AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System)** radars and drones to missile and surveillance systems making it one of **India's largest defense suppliers.**
- **Bilateral Trade: India is Israel's 2nd trading partner in** Asia and the **7th largest** globally.
  - **In FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25** the bilateral trade (excluding defense) was US$ 6.53 billion and US$3.75 billion respectively.
- **Investment:** During April 2000 – March 2024, Israel's direct FDI into India was U.S. $334.2 million.
  - There are over 300 investments from Israel in India mainly in the **high-tech domain, agriculture and water.**
  - **India and Israel signed a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) in 2025,** the **BIA replaces** the earlier investment treaty signed in **1996**, which was terminated in **2017** as part of India's policy overhaul on such agreements.
- **Agriculture & Water Management:** In 1993, the first Agreement on Cooperation in Agriculture was signed.
  - **2006:** Comprehensive Work Plan on Agriculture launched (3-year cycles) – implemented through MASHAV (Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation).
  - **2025:** Revised Agriculture Cooperation Agreement signed, expanding areas of partnership.
  - The **Indo-Israeli Centers of Excellence (CoE)** demonstrate Israeli expertise, technologies and innovation in the horticultural field.
- **Science, Technology, Counter-Terrorism & Innovation:** India-Israel cooperation in Science & Technology (S&T) is overseen by the **Joint Committee on S&T,** established under the Agreement of Science & Technology cooperation signed in **1993.**
  - **A US$ 40 million India-Israel Industrial R&D** and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F) for joint projects was also set up.
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** Both are active members of the **I2U2 group** (India, Israel, USA, UAE), focusing on economic and space collaboration with projects like food parks and space-based environmental tools.

Significance for India

- **Defence & security: Israel** is a **reliable partner** for **critical technologies** for India and can be instrumental in India's Self Reliance and Make in India.
- **Agriculture & water:** Israel is known for its **model of innovation, water conservation, and high-yield farming,** India can adopt these technologies with collaboration.

- **Geopolitics:** It is an important strategic partner for India in West Asia that complements **India's Act West policy.**

West Asia

- West Asia is the westernmost subregion of Asia. It broadly includes the **following countries:**
  - **Arabian Peninsula:** Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.
  - **Levant:** Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Palestine.
  - **Other major countries:** Iraq, Iran and Türkiye.
  - **Other countries often included in broader definitions:** Cyprus and parts of the South Caucasus, depending on the geographical classification.
- The terms **West Asia and Middle East are often used interchangeably,** although their precise geographical boundaries can differ.
- The region is strategically located, bordered by **Africa to the west and Europe to the north,** with significant bodies of water such as the **Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Caspian Sea** surrounding it.



Implications of Crisis in West Asia on India:

- **India's Energy Security:** The conflict directly threatens energy security because a large share of India's crude oil imports comes from the Gulf region.
  - Rising global oil prices increase India's import bill, widen the current account deficit, and may contribute to inflationary pressures within the domestic economy.
- **Indian Diaspora:** Millions of Indian workers reside in Gulf countries, making their safety a key concern during periods of regional conflict.
- **Remittances:** India has nearly one crore expatriates who invest billions of dollars in the economy through remittances, real estate, stock markets, and more, the war can cause a big impact on it.
- **Investments:** The UAE's Golden Visa has successfully attracted new-age tech and start-up millionaires and billionaires from India, many of whom live in Dubai and run enterprises in India.
  - The war could impact these and can crash trillion-dollar brands and investments.

Way Ahead

- India–Israel ties are a **strategic partnership** spanning defence, agriculture, water, innovation, and trade.
- **Defence and agriculture** remain the strongest pillars, while cooperation is expanding into new domains like **food security, startups, and I2U2 multilateralism.**

Source: TH

STRENGTHENING INDIA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY AMID RISING CHINESE IMPORTS

Context

- The Cloth Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) survey is expecting a rise of 52% in the textile industry while **raising concerns of imports from China.**

Textile Sector of India

- **Share in Domestic Trade:** The domestic apparel & textile industry in India contributes approximately **2.3% to the country's GDP, 13%** to industrial production and **12%** to exports.
  - It has expanded to nearly **USD 190 billion** by 2025-26.
- **Share in Global Trade:** India has a **4%** share of the global trade in textiles and apparel.
- **Export:** India is the **6th largest exporter of Textiles & Apparel** in the world.
  - The share of textile and apparel (T&A) including handicrafts in India's total exports stands at a significant **8.21%** in 2023-24.
- **Production of Raw Material:** India is one of the largest producers of cotton and jute in the world.
  - India is also the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world, and 95% of the world's hand-woven fabric comes from India.
- **Employment Generation:** The industry is the 2nd largest employer in the country, providing direct employment to 45 million people and 100 million people in the allied sector.
- **Regions:** Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Gujarat are the top textile and clothing manufacturing states in India.

Challenges in India's Textile Sector

- The sector remains **highly fragmented**, with a **predominance of small and informal enterprises** that face constraints in scaling up, adopting technology, and accessing formal finance.
- **Low labour productivity** and **skill gaps** persist due to outdated production practices, limited formal training, and inadequate industry–academia linkages.
- **India faces high logistics and transaction costs and** delays in customs clearance, reducing export competitiveness.
- **Access to affordable credit** remains a major issue for MSMEs and handloom units.

Why Is China's Textile Manufacturing Model Successful?

- **Integrated supply chains:** China's textile clusters connect spinning, weaving, dyeing, garment manufacturing and accessories under one roof.
  - For example, **Shaoxing in Zhejiang** is a major textile and fabric trading hub.
- **Technology-driven manufacturing:** Chinese textile mills increasingly use automated spinning, digital quality inspection and smart manufacturing systems to improve productivity and consistency.

- **Strong infrastructure and logistics:** Industrial clusters are supported by ports, highways, warehousing and export networks.
  - **The Ningbo-Zhoushan Port** facilitates the movement of textile products and other manufactured goods to international markets.
- **Economies of scale:** Large production capacities allow firms to reduce per-unit costs and fulfil bulk orders.
  - For example, **Guangzhou and its surrounding Pearl River Delta** manufacturing region have extensive garment manufacturing and trading networks serving domestic and international markets.

Initiatives to Promote Textile Sector

- **PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme:** Its objective is to develop 7 mega integrated textile parks across India in **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.**
  - It aims to create a **modern, integrated, world class plug and play** textile infrastructure.
  - **Foreign direct investment (FDI):** Japanese investment aligns well with India's goals under the "Make in India for the World" and "China-plus-one" manufacturing strategies.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:** The Scheme for Textiles was approved to promote production of **Man-Made Fibre (MMF) Apparel**, **MMF Fabrics** and **products of Technical Textiles** in the country to enable the textile sector to achieve size and scale and to become competitive.
- **Exports Promotion Councils (EPCs):** There are eleven Exports Promotion Councils (EPCs) representing various segments of the textiles & apparel value chain from Fibre to finished goods as well as traditional sectors like handloom, handicrafts and carpets.
- **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM):** Launched in 2020 to promote the production, innovation, and export of technical textiles in India.
- **National Fibre Mission:** Aims to improve the productivity, quality, and sustainability of natural and man-made fibres.
- **Handloom and Handicrafts Sector:** Nearly ₹**2,000 crore** has been invested under the **National Handloom Development Programme.**
  - Initiatives such as the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM), India Handmade Portal, GI tagging, Mega Handloom Clusters, and the Weavers' MUDRA Scheme** have expanded market opportunities and strengthened artisans' incomes.

Way Ahead

- **Technology upgradation window:** Provide time-bound interest subsidies or credit guarantees for MSMEs purchasing automated looms and energy-efficient machinery.
- **Improve access to man-made fibres:** Rationalise inverted duty structures, where they exist, and improve domestic availability of competitively priced polyester and viscose inputs to help Indian firms expand into global synthetic apparel markets.
- **Textile supplier network:** Develop digital platforms connecting garment exporters with domestic yarn, fabric, dyeing, accessories and packaging suppliers to reduce sourcing delays.
- **Improve worker productivity:** Expand industry-linked training with courses in advanced machinery operation, garment quality control and digital manufacturing.

Concluding remarks

- China's experience shows that global competitiveness rests on an integrated manufacturing ecosystem, technological advancement and efficient supply chains.
- For India, the **China Plus One strategy** presents an opportunity to strengthen domestic capabilities and attract global investment. By focusing on productivity, innovation, and sustainable manufacturing, India can secure a stronger position in the global textile value chain.

Source: TH

EMISSION GAP REPORT 2026

Context

- **The UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released the **Emission Gap Report 2026.**

About

- It is UNEP's report launched **annually in advance of the annual Climate negotiations.**
- It **tracks the gap** between where global emissions are heading with current country commitments and where they ought to be to limit warming to 1.5°C.

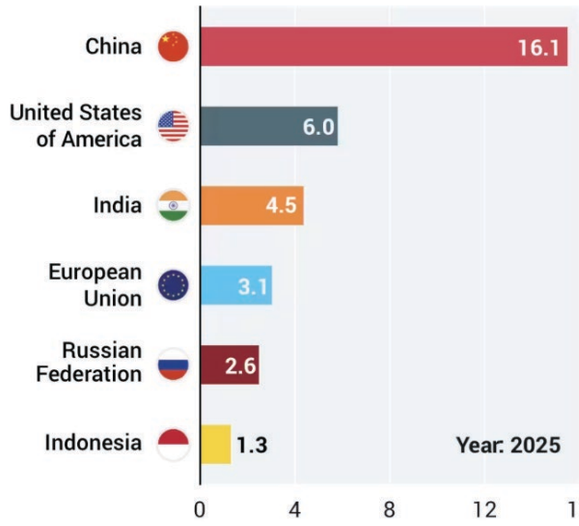
- Each edition **explores ways to bridge the emissions gap.**
- The report assessed countries' **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs),** which they are **required to update every five years,** to determine how much the world might warm if these plans were fully implemented.

About The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

- It is the **leading environmental authority** in the United Nations system established in **1972.**
- **The UN Environment Assembly** is the policy-making organ of UNEP.
- **Headquarter:** Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Major Reports:** Global Environment Outlook, The Rise of Environmental Crime Report, Actions on Air Quality, Frontiers Report, Adaptation Gap Report.

Major Highlights of the Report

- **Global Emissions:** Globally, greenhouse gas emissions in 2025 remained around the same levels as in 2024, around 58.4 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent.
- **Major Sources:** More than two-thirds of all GHGs emissions are from fossil sources; the rest being CO_2 from the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gas emissions (F-gases).
- **Emission Trends:** CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion of oil, coal and gas, and nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases emissions continued to increase in 2025, while methane emissions remained almost the same as in 2024.
- **Major Contributor:** Collectively, G20 members, excluding the African Union, account for **76 per cent of global emissions.**
- **The 1.5 degree Target:** The 1.5 degree Celsius temperature target is now **completely out of reach** and the best that the world can now hope for is to **restrict the global rise in temperatures to 1.8 degree Celsius.**
  - The 1.5-degree target is the central climate goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit long-term global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (1850–1900).
- **India Specific:** Although India is the third largest GHG emitter it's per capita emission is significantly lower than top two countries.



- **Concern:** Every additional fraction of a degree and additional year of warming above 1.5°C increases climate impacts and risks, such as the deadly floods, heatwaves and wildfires,
- **Recommendation:** To establish a pathway back to the 1.5°C target, global GHG emissions must fall substantially from their 2025 levels.
  - GHG emissions would have to be reduced by 18 per cent by 2030, 45 per cent by 2035 and 69 per cent by 2040, all relative to 2025 levels.

Source: DTE

NEWS IN BRIEF

KERALA'S JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Context

- Recent incidents involving the Kadavumbhagam Synagogue in Ernakulam and the heritage Koder House in Fort Kochi have renewed attention to Kerala's declining Jewish community.

About

- Jewish migration to Kerala is associated with the region's flourishing ancient spice trade. The state's Jews are divided into **two distinct communities** — the Malabari or **"black" Jews** and the Paradesi or **"white" Jews.**
- There were two other smaller Jewish communities in Cochin.
  - **The Arab-speaking Baghdadi Jews**, who arrived in the **18th and 19th centuries** from places in present-day **Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan,** gradually came to be considered as **"white" Jews.**

- **Meshuchrarim:** A term used to refer to a group who were part of the Paradesi community, which included **freed slaves brought from parts of Europe** as well as converts and their descendants.

Malabar Jews

- **Malabar Jews,** also known as the Cochin Jews, trace their history to the days of **King Solomon** (10th century BCE, almost 3,000 years ago).
- Initially, they settled in **Cranganore** (present-day Kodungallur in Thrissur district), which the community itself referred to as **Shingly.**
  - After the arrival of the **Portuguese in the 16th century**, Malabar Jews moved further south from Cranganore to Cochin (Kochi).
- **Kadavumbhagam Synagogue** is a historic Jewish place of worship in Ernakulam, traditionally associated with the Malabari Jews of Kerala.

Paradesi Jewish

- Paradesi Jewish or "foreign" Jews, migrated to the Indian subcontinent in the 15th and 16th centuries from the **Iberian Peninsula.**
- They fled to India due to **persecution by the Catholic rulers of Spain and Portugal,** and settled on the Malabar coast alongside pre-settled Jewish communities, as well as in Madras (now Chennai).
- The Paradesi Jews of Cochin were active in Kerala's spice trade, and those settled in Madras were involved in the trade of Golconda diamonds and other precious stones.

Dwindling population of Jews in India

- Since the **1950s,** there has been a steady migration of **Kerala Jews to Israel.**
- **Aliyah:** Following the establishment of **Israel in 1948**, large-scale migration from Kerala to Israel took place.
  - **Aliyah** refers to Jewish immigration to Israel.
- **Queenie Hallegua,** the last woman of Kerala's Paradesi Jewish community died in Kochi in 2024.

Source: IE

KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM (KTS 5.0)

Context

- The Education Minister launched the registration portal for the fifth edition of **Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 5.0).**
  - The theme of this edition is **Thirukkural Payilvom – Let Us Learn the Thirukkural.**

About Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- The programme celebrates, reaffirms and strengthens the age-old civilisational bonds between **Tamil Nadu and Kashi**, the two ancient seats of learning, and reinforces the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.**
- **The first edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam** was held in **2022** as a GoI Event of the **Ministry of Education** in collaboration with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

About Thirukkural

- Thirukkural is a classical **Tamil literary work** that provides ethical, philosophical and practical guidance on individual conduct, social life and governance.
- **Author:** Thiruvalluvar, a revered Tamil poet and philosopher.
- **Composition:** It consists of 1,330 couplets (kurals) divided into 133 chapters, with 10 couplets in each chapter.
- **It is in three parts** — Aram (virtue), Porul (wealth), and Inbam (love) — and these lead the way to Veedu (liberation).

Source: PIB

PRADHAN MANTRI SAMAJIK SAHAYATA YOJANA

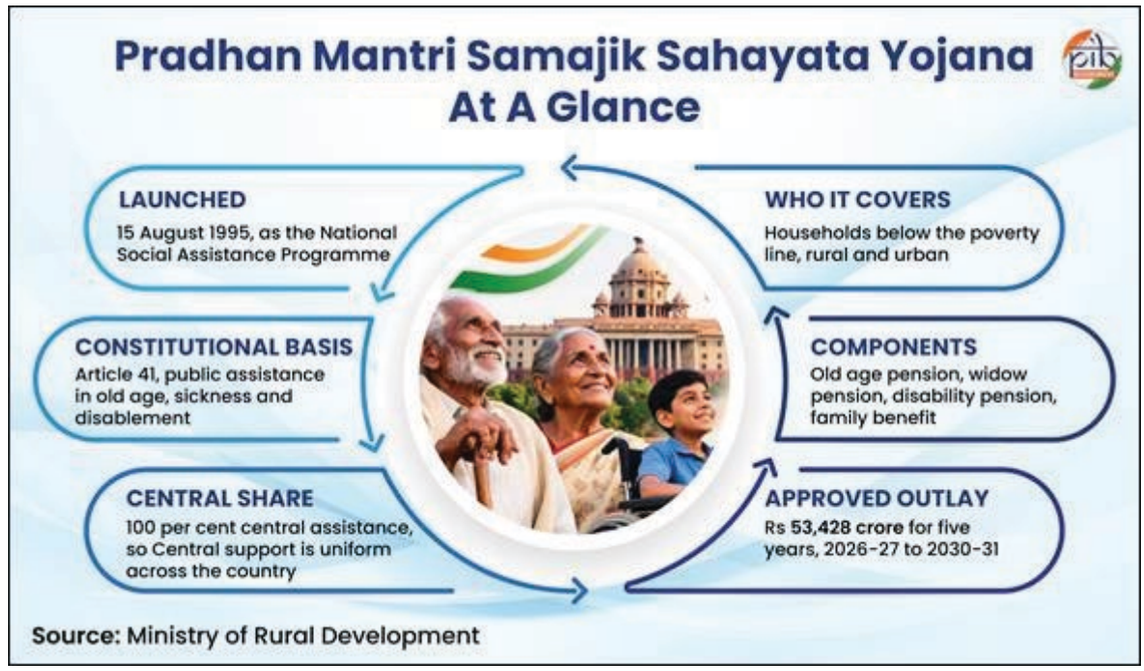
In News

- The **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** has been renamed the **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana**.

Background of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

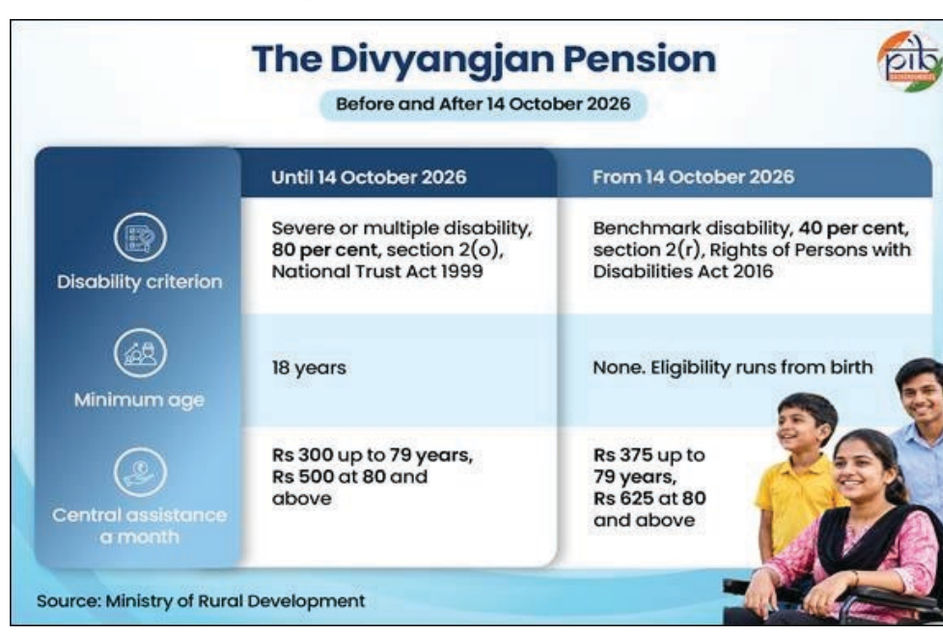
- It was **launched in 1995** and gives effect to **Article 41 of the Constitution**, which directs the State to provide public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disability.
  - It is a fully **funded centrally sponsored scheme** and carries 100 per cent central assistance.
  - It ensures that a person below the poverty line receives at least the minimum support anywhere in the country.
  - It covers both rural and urban areas, and the basic condition across its components is that the household is below the poverty line.
- **Components**: The programme has following components. There are monthly pensions, for the

old aged, for widows and for persons with disabilities. The fourth is a one-time family benefit on the death of a household's primary breadwinner.



Latest Developments

- **Extension**: The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for five years, from 2026-27 to 2030-31, with a total outlay of 53,428 crore.
- **Revised nomenclature:** Under the revised nomenclature, the four components have been renamed the Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana for old-age pensions, Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana for widow pensions, Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana for disability pensions, and Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana for family benefits.
- **Change in Eligibility of Disability Pension:** The scope of eligibility has been expanded under the revised Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme by reducing the threshold of disability from 80% to at least 40% under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and also by removing the minimum age limit which will allow the beneficiaries to get the benefit from the time of birth itself.



Source :PIB

SHAMONDA VIRUS

In News

- French health authorities reported the first known human case of **Shamonda infection**.

About

- Shamonda is a **midge-borne animal virus** from the Simbu serogroup of orthobunyaviruses. The same group includes Schmallenberg virus and Akabane virus.
- It **mainly infects cattle.** The usual signs are fever, diarrhoea and a drop in milk yield.
- It was first detected in **Nigeria in the mid-1960s.** Until 2026 it was reported only sporadically in West, East and Southern Africa and in Japan.
- It spreads through the bites of Culicoides midges, the same vector that carries bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease.

Source: TH

EMUDHRA EXITED DIGITAL CERTIFICATES BIZ

In News

- **Digital security firm eMudhra** is exiting its global business of issuing **security certificates for websites** including India's tax portal after major browser makers blocked them for vulnerabilities that sparked worldwide cybersecurity concerns.

eMudhra Certificates

- eMudhra is a **Bengaluru-based Certificate Authority (CA)**. It issues digital certificates that prove a website or software publisher is genuine.
- Browsers use these **certificates to confirm a site's identity and set up an encrypted (HTTPS/ TLS) connection**. Code-signing certificates do the same job for software, showing that it comes from a real publisher and hasn't been tampered with.
- eMudhra was **founded in 2008** and is licensed by the **Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) under the IT Act, 2000.**
- It became India's very first **eSign Service Provider in 2015**, as per the company website, which also stated that it had issued over 60 million certificates by 2022-23.
- It also runs a digital document signing service in the country, along with enterprise Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) solutions, and other identity and authentication solutions.

Reason for Blocking

- The eight intermediate certificates were created in a **key-generation ceremony** on April 30, 2025. A flaw in a key wrap/unwrap step produced a second, weak set of keys alongside the strong ones, and the weak ones were published to browser root stores.
- **All eight certificates used P-384 private keys** with values smaller than 256, so anyone could recover them by testing just 256 numbers.
- An intermediate's private key can sign a valid certificate for any website. That opens the door to fake sites, man-in-the-middle attacks and malicious software signed as genuine.

Source :IE

PHP2SHELL

Context

- Two critical flaws in PHP, a programming language used by websites, led to emergency security updates and precautionary shutdowns worldwide.

About PHP

- **PHP, short for Hypertext Preprocessor,** is an **open-source programming language** used to develop dynamic websites and web applications.
- It helps websites process information, whether someone is **logging into an account, submitting an application or making an online purchase.**
- PHP is free to use and maintained by volunteers.
    - WordPress, which powers more than **40% of websites worldwide,** is powered by PHP. These websites include blogs, government portals, news websites and online shops.

What is PHP2Shell?

- PHP2Shell is the name given to **two critical vulnerabilities in PHP** that could allow **attackers to remotely execute malicious code on affected web servers** without logging in or accessing sensitive information stored in the server's memory.
- The flaws exist in PHP itself and may be exploitable before a website's own authentication checks are performed, depending on the affected configuration and attack conditions.

Source: IE

CHEMICAL SIGNATURES OR BIOMARKERS

Context

- **Chemical signatures or biomarkers are** being studied to improve the diagnosis of several diseases, particularly those affecting the brain and nervous system.

About

- **Chemical signatures/biomarkers** are a unique pattern of molecules, elements, isotopes that can be measured in the body.
  - The outcomes can **indicate the presence of a disease or an underlying biological process.**
  - They may be detected in **blood, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and other biological samples.**
  - They enable doctors **to identify diseases before prominent symptoms appear.**
- **Applications:**
  - **Alzheimer's disease:** Amyloid-beta and tau proteins, including phosphorylated tau (p-tau217), can help identify biological changes associated with Alzheimer's disease.
  - **Parkinson's disease:** Alpha-synuclein is a protein being studied as a biomarker for detecting and understanding the disease.
  - **Autoimmune encephalitis:** Detection of specific antibodies can help identify cases in which the immune system attacks the brain.
  - **Cancer detection:** Changes in metabolites and proteins may help researchers identify molecular patterns associated with certain cancers.

Source: TH

SAKHAROV PRIZE 2026

Context

- The European Union has awarded the International Criminal Court (ICC) its top human rights honour, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. The recognition comes amid US sanctions targeting the Court.

About the Prize

- Established in **1988**, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is named after Soviet dissident and Nobel Peace laureate **Andrei Sakharov**.
- It honours individuals and groups defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- The final winner or winners of the Sakharov Prize are chosen by the **Conference of Presidents**, a European Parliament body led by the president, which includes the leaders of all the political groups represented in the Parliament, making the choice of laureates a truly European choice.
- The award carries an **endowment of €50,000** and is presented at the **European Parliament in Strasbourg** (France) each December.

Do you know?

- Several Sakharov laureates, including **Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai,** and **Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado**, later went on to win the **Nobel Peace Prize**.

International Criminal Court

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an **international tribunal seated** in The Hague, Netherlands, and is legally independent from the United Nations.
- Established in **2002** under the multilateral **Rome Statute**, the ICC is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.
- The ICC currently has **125 States Parties**, with **Ukraine being the latest to join**.

ICC vs ICJ

- ICC is distinct from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), an organ of the United Nations that hears disputes between states.

Source: DW

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