



CURRENT AFFAIRS JUNE 2026

INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES

Why in News?

The Central Government has decided to constitute a **High-Level Committee** to address water-sharing problems among **Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka** relating to the **Tungabhadra River**.

1. Tungabhadra River Dispute

The dispute involves two important projects/issues:

A. Upper Bhadra Project

- Located **upstream of the Tungabhadra Dam in Karnataka**.
- **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana** have objected to water impoundment under the project.
- Their concern is that increased impoundment could affect the availability of water in **downstream canals**.
- The **Tungabhadra Board** oversees the project and regulates water supplies to the concerned States in accordance with the **Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal's orders**.

B. Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS)

Telangana has raised concerns regarding its inability to receive its allocated share of water because of:

- **Silt accumulation**
- **Structural impediments**
- Other problems affecting the functioning of the scheme.

The **RDS canal** is an interstate project involving **Karnataka and Telangana** and is located in **Raichur district, Karnataka**.

To compensate for water deficits under RDS, Telangana has developed:



- **Tummilla Lift Irrigation Scheme**
- Expansion of **Mallammakunta Reservoir**.

Tungabhadra River — Important Facts

Feature	Details
Ancient name	Pampa
Formation	Confluence of Tunga and Bhadra
Location of confluence	Shimoga, Karnataka
Source of Tunga & Bhadra	Western Ghats
Major course	Mainly through Karnataka
Inter-State boundary	Forms boundary between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
Tributary of	Krishna River
Confluence with Krishna	Sangamaleshwaram, Andhra Pradesh
Major tributaries	Varada (left bank), Vedavathi (right bank)
Major projects	Tungabhadra Dam, RDS Anicut, Sunkesula Anicut, Bhadra Dam

The river also has important historical/cultural sites along its course, including **Hampi, Hospet, Kurnool, Shimoga, Harihara and Alampur**.

Constitutional Framework

Inter-State river disputes are particularly important from the perspective of **Indian federalism**.



Seventh Schedule

Water-related subjects are divided between the **State List and Union List**.

The States have legislative power regarding:

- Water supplies
- Irrigation
- Canals
- Drainage
- Embankments
- Water storage

However, this is subject to the Union's power concerning the **regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys**.

Article 262

Article 262 specifically deals with **adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers or river valleys**.

It empowers Parliament to:

1. Provide by law for adjudication of such disputes; and
2. Provide that **neither the Supreme Court nor any other court shall exercise jurisdiction** over such disputes.

Major Laws

Parliament has enacted laws under Article 262, including:

Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956

The Act provides for the establishment of **ad-hoc tribunals** to resolve inter-State river-water disputes when negotiations fail or when a State approaches the Central Government.

The **2002 Amendment** prescribed:

- **1 year** for constitution of a tribunal
- **3 years** for delivery of its award.



River Boards Act, 1956

This legislation enables the Union Government to establish **River Boards** for the **integrated development of inter-State river basins**.

Important fact: Despite this provision, **no River Board has ever been constituted under the Act**.

Role of the Supreme Court

Article 262 creates a jurisdictional framework that limits ordinary judicial intervention in inter-State water disputes. However, the Supreme Court has continued to play a role where **constitutional or procedural questions** arise.

The Supreme Court has used, among others:

- **Article 131** – original jurisdiction in disputes between States
- **Article 136** – Special Leave Petition jurisdiction.

Important Cases

1. State of Orissa v. Government of India

The Court held that the jurisdictional bar does not operate where the **Central Government fails to constitute a tribunal within the prescribed period**.

2. Mullaperiyar Dam Case

The Supreme Court clarified that disputes concerning **dam safety**, such as raising water levels, are not strictly "water disputes" within the meaning of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act.

The Mullaperiyar Dam is situated on the **Periyar River** and is operated by Tamil Nadu, while dam-safety concerns were raised by the other concerned State.

3. State of Andhra Pradesh v. Karnataka

The Court cannot adjudicate a **primary water dispute already before a tribunal**, but it can **interpret tribunal awards**.

4. *State of Tamil Nadu v. State of Karnataka (2018)*

The Supreme Court modified the tribunal's award concerning water allocation, bringing the Cauvery dispute involving:

- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu
- Kerala
- Union Territory of Puducherry

to an end.

Major Inter-State River Disputes

The magazine's infographic identifies several important disputes:

River	States concerned
Ravi & Beas	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
Narmada	Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan
Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
Vamsadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha
Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry
Godavari	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha
Mahadayi	Goa, Maharashtra & Karnataka
Periyar	Kerala & Tamil Nadu

The visual on the relevant pages also highlights the geographical and federal nature of these disputes.

Why Are Inter-State River Disputes Difficult to Resolve?

1. Scarcity of water

India has approximately:

- **18% of the world's population**
- but only around **4% of the world's water resources.**

2. Lack of reliable data

States may be reluctant to share hydrological information for political reasons, making it difficult to establish a universally accepted factual basis for allocation.

3. Delays

There can be considerable delays in:

- Constitution of tribunals
- Delivery of awards
- Publication of awards in the Official Gazette.

For example, in the **Godavari dispute**, initial requests were made in **1962**, while the tribunal was constituted only in **1969**.

4. Weak enforcement

Tribunal awards are considered final and binding, but tribunals lack effective **contempt/enforcement mechanisms** and mechanisms for reviewing their decisions, encouraging further judicial intervention.

5. Lack of stakeholder participation

In the **Narmada dispute**, the tribunal's water allocation and framework for the Sardar Sarovar Dam were formulated without adequate stakeholder consultation, contributing to protests.

QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE (QUAD)

Why in News?



The **11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting** was held in **New Delhi** in May 2026. The meeting focused on maritime security, critical minerals, energy security, connectivity and emerging technologies.

About QUAD

The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)** is an informal strategic grouping comprising:

- India
- United States
- Japan
- Australia

Origin and Evolution

- The grouping originated from the need for coordinated humanitarian assistance following the **2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami**.
- It was formally proposed as a dialogue in **2007** by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
- It subsequently became dormant.
- It was revived in **2017**, amid growing concerns regarding challenges to the rules-based international order and developments in the Indo-Pacific.

Objectives

QUAD seeks to promote a:

- Free and open Indo-Pacific
- Stable and secure regional order
- Inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific
- Rules-based international order
- Regional order based on international law, including the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.

Major Initiatives Announced in 2026

1. Indo-Pacific Connectivity

QUAD pledged to connect all **Pacific Island Forum countries**, including Fiji, through undersea cables and advance port infrastructure in Fiji under the **Quad Ports of the Future Partnership**.

2. Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration Initiative

The initiative initially focuses on the **Indian Ocean Region** and seeks to improve:

- Real-time information sharing
- Maritime domain awareness
- Coordinated maritime surveillance

3. Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security

The initiative focuses on cooperation in:

- Energy technology
- Energy management
- Policy
- International market analysis
- Emergency response

The objective is to promote open and stable energy markets and diversified supply chains.

Exercise Malabar involves the navies of all four QUAD countries, but it is **not formally a QUAD military exercise**.

BRICS

Why in News?

India holds the **BRICS Presidency in 2026**. The **16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting** was held in **Indore**, and it was the first such meeting to include partner countries alongside BRICS members.

Theme: “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.”

BRICS Indore Declaration

The Declaration focused on:

- Food security
- Farmer welfare
- Climate-resilient agriculture
- Agricultural trade



- Digital agriculture.

Major Initiatives

Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems

The forum seeks to protect:

- Farmers' seed rights
- Traditional knowledge
- Indigenous knowledge
- Biodiversity and seed heritage.

It will be coordinated by the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority** under the **PPV&FR Act, 2001**.

BRICS Grain Exchange

BRICS expressed support for the proposed Grain Exchange.

BRICS AGRIN

BRICS AGRIN stands for **Agro-Inputs, Genetic Resources and Information Network**.

It promotes cooperation in:

- Seeds
- Genetic resources
- Agricultural inputs.

BRICS Agricultural Research Platform

The **BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (BARP)** is being strengthened as a **Knowledge-to-Action** hub.

Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture

A BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture is being established.



Digital Agriculture

BRICS will expand **Digital Public Infrastructure in agriculture** and establish a **BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture**, initially coordinated by **IIT Delhi**, to promote AI and digital technologies in agriculture.

About BRICS

- The term **BRIC** was coined by economist **Jim O'Neill** in **2001**.
- It originally represented **Brazil, Russia, India and China**.
- The first BRIC Summit was held in **Russia in 2009**.
- **South Africa** subsequently joined, giving rise to BRICS.

Current Members

Original five:

- Brazil
- Russia
- India
- China
- South Africa

New members:

- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Iran
- United Arab Emirates
- Indonesia

Indonesia is the first Southeast Asian member of BRICS.

Saudi Arabia has not formally decided on membership.

BRICS Partner Countries

- Belarus
- Bolivia
- Kazakhstan
- Cuba
- Malaysia
- Nigeria



- Thailand
- Uganda
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam

BRICS does not have a permanent secretariat or permanent headquarters.

New Development Bank

The **New Development Bank (NDB)** was established at the **6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, in 2014.**

- Headquarters: Shanghai
- Initial authorised capital: **US\$100 billion**
- It finances infrastructure and sustainable development projects in member countries.

The **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** is a **US\$100 billion currency-swap safety net** created to address balance-of-payments pressures.

G7 LEADERS' SUMMIT 2026

Why in News?

The **2026 G7 Leaders' Summit** was held at **Évian, France.**

India participated as an **invited partner country.**

India's Position

India emphasized that the world faces a **shortage of trust**, rather than merely a shortage of resources.

India called for a shift from the traditional **donor-recipient model** towards partnerships based on:

- Solidarity
- Equality
- Mutual benefit.

India's approach was framed around **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** and a **humanity-first** approach.



A **G7+ Ports Network** was announced to combat:

- Maritime drug trafficking
- Illicit financial flows associated with drug trafficking.

About G7

The **Group of Seven (G7)** is an informal grouping of advanced industrial democracies.

Members

- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- United Kingdom
- United States

The **European Union** also participates in the G7.

Russia was part of the grouping from 1998 to 2014, when it was commonly known as the **G8**, but was suspended following the annexation of Crimea.

The G7 has:

- No permanent secretariat.
- A rotating annual presidency.

INDIA-US COOPERATION ON CRITICAL AND RARE EARTH MINERALS

Why in News?

India and the United States signed a framework titled “**Securing of Supply in the Mining and Processing of Critical Minerals and Rare Earths.**”

The framework builds upon earlier initiatives including the **Pax Silica** and **FORGE** initiatives.

Objectives

The framework aims to strengthen cooperation in:

- Mineral supply chains
- Mining
- Processing
- Financing
- Recycling
- Supply diversification.

Critical Minerals

Critical minerals are minerals essential for a country's economy, development or strategic sectors, where supply disruptions can pose significant risks.

Examples include:

- Lithium
- Copper
- Nickel
- Cobalt
- Graphite
- Rare earth elements.

Rare Earth Elements

There are **17 rare earth elements**:

- Scandium
- Yttrium
- 15 lanthanides

Important distinction

All rare earth elements are critical minerals, but not all critical minerals are rare earth elements.

Applications

Critical and rare earth minerals are essential for:

- Defence systems
- Electronics
- Electric vehicles
- Batteries



- Solar technology
- Artificial intelligence
- Robotics
- Space technology.

China's Dominance

According to the figures cited in the source:

- China possesses around **49% of global rare earth reserves**.
- Produces around **69% of rare earth minerals**.
- Controls around **90% of rare earth processing and refining**.
- Accounts for around **99% of gallium refining**.
- Controls more than 90% of graphite and manganese processing.
- Accounts for around 58% of global lithium refining.

INDIA–MIDDLE EAST–EUROPE ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEC)

Why in News?

The ongoing conflict in West Asia has created both **greater strategic importance and greater risks** for the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor.

About IMEC

IMEC is a **multi-modal connectivity project** involving:

- Ports
- Railways
- Roads
- Shipping routes
- Pipelines

It seeks to improve connectivity between:

India → Arabian Peninsula → Mediterranean region → Europe.

IMEC was announced during the **G20 Summit held under India's presidency in 2023**.

Signatories

- India
- United States
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- European Union.

Two Main Corridors

East Corridor

Connects **India with the Arabian Gulf**, linking South Asia and the Middle East.

North Corridor

Connects the Gulf region with **European markets**.

CHINA–PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

Why in News?

China and Pakistan agreed to accelerate the upgraded phase of the **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor**, known as **CPEC 2.0**, and to develop Pakistan's **Gwadar Port**.

About CPEC

CPEC is a flagship project of China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.

- CPEC was launched in **2015**.
- **Gwadar Port** was officially inaugurated in **2016** as part of CPEC.
- It connects **Gwadar Port in Pakistan** with **Kashgar in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region**.

Strategic Importance

CPEC provides China with connectivity to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan.

Gwadar is strategically located near important maritime routes and close to the **Strait of Hormuz**.



India's Position

India opposes CPEC because it passes through areas of **Jammu and Kashmir under Pakistan's occupation**.

India considers this a violation of its:

- Sovereignty
- Territorial integrity.

CPEC 2.0

The upgraded phase focuses on accelerating:

- Infrastructure development
- Economic cooperation
- Industrial development
- Gwadar Port development.

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2026

Why in News?

India was ranked **127th among 163 countries** in the **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026**.

About Global Peace Index

The **Global Peace Index** is published by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**, an independent and non-partisan think tank.

It measures the level of peacefulness of countries and examines the economic impact of violence and conflict.

Top-Ranked Countries

The top five countries were:

1. **Iceland**
2. New Zealand
3. Switzerland
4. Slovenia

5. Ireland

Iceland retained the **first position for the 19th consecutive year.**

Lowest-Ranked Countries

The five countries at the bottom were:

1. Russia
2. Sudan
3. Democratic Republic of the Congo
4. Ukraine
5. Israel.

INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2016

Why in News?

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** completed **10 years of implementation**, and the **IBC Amendment Act, 2026** was notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

About IBC

The IBC was enacted based on recommendations of the **Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee (BLRC)** headed by **Dr T.K. Viswanathan**.

It consolidated multiple earlier insolvency and debt-recovery mechanisms into a single framework.

Fundamental Shift

IBC changed India's insolvency regime from a fragmented, largely **debtor-in-possession** framework to a **creditor-in-control** model.

Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process — CIRP

Under CIRP:

1. Insolvency proceedings are initiated.

2. The **Committee of Creditors (CoC)** evaluates resolution plans.
3. Financial creditors take important commercial decisions regarding the future of the stressed company.

Pre-Packaged Insolvency Resolution Process — PPIRP

A faster hybrid insolvency mechanism specifically designed for **MSMEs**.

Target completion period: **120 days**.

IBBI

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** is the statutory regulator created under the IBC.

It regulates:

- Insolvency professionals
- Insolvency Professional Agencies
- Insolvency Professional Entities
- Information Utilities.

Its composition includes a Chairperson, government and RBI representatives and other members nominated by the Central Government.

Achievements

- Bank GNPA declined from **11.5% in FY2018 to 2.3% in FY2026**.
- Creditors realised over **₹4 lakh crore**.
- Resolved cases yielded an average of **170% of estimated liquidation value**.
- More than **30,000 cases** involving defaults of approximately **₹13.78 lakh crore** were settled and withdrawn before admission.
- Average transition from overdue to normal accounts declined from **248–344 days to 30–87 days**.

Major Challenges

- Actual resolution taking around **744 days**, against the statutory 330-day framework.
- High haircuts in some cases.
- Capacity constraints in NCLT/NCLAT.
- Litigation.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Fund remains unoperationalised.
- Technological limitations.

IBC Amendment Act, 2026

1. Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process — CIIRP

A new hybrid, out-of-court mechanism allowing specified financial creditors to initiate early-stage resolution against eligible corporate debtors.

2. Time Limits

- NCLT admission: **14 days**
- Liquidation: **180 days**
- Extension: maximum **90 days**

3. Cross-Border and Group Insolvency

Provides an enabling framework for such cases.

4. Greater Role for Creditors

Creditors can supervise liquidation and may replace the liquidator where necessary.

5. Clean-Slate Principle

Once a resolution plan is approved, previous claims against the corporate debtor are extinguished unless otherwise specified.

SHIPPING SECTOR IN INDIA

Why in News?

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched the **Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI)** for FY2024-25 along with four major digital initiatives.

Logistics Port Performance Index — LPPI

Developed under the **Sagar Aankalan framework**, LPPI benchmarks Indian ports.

It evaluates:

- Dry bulk
- Liquid bulk



- Container cargo

using indicators such as:

- Cargo handled
- Vessel turnaround time
- Berth idle time
- Pre-berthing waiting time
- Container dwell time
- Ship-berth day output.

Category Leaders

- **Dry bulk:** Paradip Port Authority
- **Liquid bulk:** Sikka Port and Terminals
- **Container cargo:** Mundra Port

Four Digital Initiatives

e-Navik

24×7 maritime grievance redressal system for seafarers.

Digital Ship Registration Module

Introduced on the **e-Samudra platform** to simplify vessel registration and flagging.

Medical Practitioner Module

Helps register and monitor doctors authorised to certify seafarers.

Unified Ship Recycling Portal

Linked with the **Ship Recycling Credit Scheme**.

Status of Indian Shipping

- Coastline: **11,099 km**
- Major ports: **12**
- Minor/non-major ports: **200+**
- Ports handle approximately **95% of trade volume and 70% of trade value**.
- India ranks around **18th globally in shipbuilding**.
- India's shipbuilding market share is only around **0.06%**.



- Indian-owned ships accounted for only **4.11% of overseas trade by tonnage in 2023-24.**

Ship Recycling

India became the world's largest ship-recycling nation.

Its global share increased from:

30.1% in 2024 → 35.4% in 2025

The **Alang-Sosiya yards in Gujarat** account for almost **98% of India's ship recycling** and around one-third of the global volume.

Seafarers

India is the **second-largest supplier of seafarers globally**, contributing approximately **12.16% of the global workforce.**

Important Government Initiatives

Sagarmala Programme

Launched in **2015**, it promotes port-led development and use of India's coastline and inland waterways.

Maritime India Vision 2030

Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047

Targets include:

- 5% share of global shipbuilding by 2030.
- Top 10 shipbuilding nation by 2030.
- Top 5 by 2047.
- Domestic shipbuilding capacity of **3 million GT annually by 2047.**

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION : BASE YEAR REVISION

Major Changes



1. New Base Year

2022-23

2. Expanded Coverage

Newly included:

- Gas supply
- Water supply
- Sewerage
- Waste management.

3. Mining Classification

Minor minerals and rare earth minerals have been incorporated.

4. Expanded Item Basket

839 items → 1,042 products

These are grouped into **463 item groups**.

Examples of Additions

- Magnetic-stripe cards
- CCTV cameras
- Non-woven textile articles
- Aircraft/spacecraft parts
- Stents
- Vaccines other than veterinary vaccines.

Examples of Deletions

- Kerosene
- Fluorescent tubes
- CFLs
- Certain tyre tubes
- Printing machinery
- Sewing machines.

BLUE BONDS

Why in News?

Sagarmala Finance Corporation, India's first maritime-focused state-owned NBFC, is set to launch India's **first blue bonds** during the fiscal year.

Blue bonds are **thematic financing instruments** in which funds are earmarked specifically for:

- Ocean-friendly projects
- Marine conservation
- Sustainable use of ocean resources
- Protection of critical clean-water resources.

World's First Sovereign Blue Bond

The **Republic of Seychelles** issued the world's first **sovereign blue bond** in 2018.

Easy Comparison

Instrument	Funds used for
Green Bonds	Environment/climate-related projects
Blue Bonds	Oceans, marine ecosystems & clean-water protection
Social Bonds	Social-development projects

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN INDIA

Why in News?

The Government constituted a **High-Level Committee on Demographic Change** to examine demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other factors.

Who is an Illegal Migrant?

Under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, an illegal migrant is a foreigner who:

1. Enters India without a valid passport/prescribed travel documents; **or**
2. Enters with valid documents but remains in India beyond the permitted period.

Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019



The CAA created an exemption for:

- Hindus
- Sikhs
- Buddhists
- Jains
- Parsis
- Christians

from **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh**, who entered India **before 31 December 2014**, subject to the Act's conditions.

The CAA provision applies to **six specified communities from three specified countries**.

Major Regional Hotspots

Illegal immigration is particularly discussed in:

- **West Bengal**
- **Assam**
- **Tripura**
- **Mizoram.**

Measures Against Illegal Immigration

Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

The source states that illegal entry may attract:

- **Up to 5 years' imprisonment**
- **₹5 lakh fine**
- **Or both.**

NRC

The **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** was implemented in Assam under the Citizenship Act framework and pursuant to Supreme Court directions.

Foreigners Tribunals



Deal with determination of whether a person is a foreigner.

Important Judgments

Mohammad Salimullah v. Union of India (2021)

The Supreme Court allowed deportation of Rohingyas **subject to due process**.

NHRC v. State of Arunachal Pradesh (1996)

In relation to Chakma refugees, the Court held that **Article 21 applies to foreigners as well**, and they cannot be forcibly removed without due process.

SIPRI YEARBOOK 2026

About SIPRI

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an independent international institute dealing with:

- Disarmament
- Arms control
- Military expenditure
- International security
- Armed conflict.

The SIPRI Yearbook has been published since **1969**.

Key Findings — 2026

Nuclear Weapons

Approximately **12,187 nuclear warheads** were estimated globally as of **January 2026**.

India

India's estimated nuclear arsenal: **190 warheads**

compared with:

- China — **620**
- Pakistan — **170**

Of India's estimated warheads, approximately **12 were deployed on missiles** according to the source.

SIPRI's broader assessment says all nine nuclear-armed states continued to modernise their nuclear arsenals during 2025.

Nine Nuclear-Armed States

1. USA
2. Russia
3. UK
4. France
5. China
6. India
7. Pakistan
8. North Korea
9. Israel

SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE

Why in News?

India and **Vietnam signed a deal concerning BrahMos** during the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

The **Shangri-La Dialogue** is regarded as **Asia's premier defence and security summit**.

Organised by International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

Venue Singapore

Frequency Annual

It brings together:

- Defence ministers

- Military leaders
- Diplomats
- Security experts

to discuss regional and global security challenges.

It also provides a platform for **bilateral meetings and defence cooperation**.

BrahMos

The BrahMos is a:

- Supersonic
- Cruise missile
- "Fire-and-forget" weapon

Speed

Approximately **Mach 2.8**

Range

The source mentions **290 km**.

NETRA AEW&C SYSTEM

Why in News?

DRDO achieved **Final Operational Clearance (FOC)** for India's indigenous **Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C)** system in June 2026.

Netra

Developed by DRDO's Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS)

Platform: **Brazilian Embraer EMB-145I**

Induction

IAF: 2017

Final Operational Clearance: June 2026.

Strategic Significance

Netra gives India an indigenous capability for:

- Airborne surveillance
- Maritime surveillance
- Early warning
- Battle management
- Network-centric warfare

India becomes the **5th country with indigenous AEW&C capability.**

Operational Experience

The system has been used/evaluated in relation to:

- **Balakot strikes, 2019**
- **Operation Sindoor, 2025**

IMPORTANT MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN NEWS

1. RudraM-II

What is it?

An indigenous **air-to-surface missile** launched from an airborne platform.

Developed by DRDO

2. Sukhoi Su-57

Russia offered India its **5th-generation Sukhoi Su-57** and proposed **joint production in India.**

Features

- Stealth
- Supercruise
- Advanced avionics
- Can function as an airborne command centre for UAVs.

Other 5th-Generation Fighters

Country Aircraft

USA F-22 Raptor, F-35 Lightning II

China J-20, J-35

Russia Su-57

India **AMCA — in development**

3. LRLACM

Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile

Developed by DRDO

Successor to the **Nirbhay** programme.

Features

- Indigenous
- Long-range land attack capability
- Terrain-hugging flight
- Uses terrain such as hills and valleys to reduce radar detection.

Reported Range Approximately **1,000 km**

IMPORTANT MILITARY EXERCISES IN NEWS

1. Exercise PRAGATI 2026

Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth And Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region

Multilateral military exercise

India + **12 friendly regional partners:**

1. Bhutan
2. Cambodia
3. Indonesia
4. Laos
5. Malaysia
6. Maldives
7. Myanmar
8. Nepal
9. Philippines
10. Seychelles
11. Sri Lanka
12. Vietnam

2. KHAAN QUEST 2026

India participated in the **23rd edition of Khaan Quest.**

Started in **2003** as a **USA–Mongolia bilateral exercise**

Since 2006, it became a **multilateral peacekeeping exercise.**

3. LAMITIYE 2026

India–Seychelles

A biennial joint military exercise.

Special Feature — 2026

The **2026 edition** saw **India's first tri-services participation.**

4. SEA DRAGON 2026

An annual **US Navy-led multinational Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise.**

Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP)

The programme seeks to strengthen global monitoring of hazardous chemicals and provide scientific data for environmental policymaking.

Its major purpose is to support assessment of the effectiveness of:

- **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**
- **Minamata Convention on Mercury**

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Stockholm Convention is a **legally binding international treaty** aimed at protecting human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Persistent Organic Pollutants

POPs are toxic chemicals that:

- Persist in the environment for long periods.
- Resist degradation.
- Can accumulate in living organisms.
- Can travel over long distances.

Examples include:

- DDT
- Aldrin
- Chlordane

Important Dates

- **Adopted:** 22 May 2001, Stockholm, Sweden
- **Entered into force:** 17 May 2004
- **India ratified:** 2006

India has used the Convention's **opt-out clause**, meaning certain new amendments or newly listed POPs do not automatically become binding on India.

Minamata Convention on Mercury



The Minamata Convention is a legally binding international treaty aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the adverse effects of **mercury and mercury compounds**.

Important Dates

- **Adopted:** 10 October 2013, Kumamoto, Japan
- **Entered into force:** 16 August 2017
- **India:** Party to the Convention

Major Provisions

It provides for:

- Restrictions on new mercury mining.
- Phase-out of existing mercury mining.
- Phase-out or reduction of mercury-added products and processes.
- Control of mercury emissions and releases.
- Regulation of artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

About UNEP

The **United Nations Environment Programme** was established in **1972** following the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.

UNEP is the leading UN body responsible for coordinating international environmental action.

India's 100th Ramsar Site

Why in News?

The **Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary**, also known as **Surha Tal**, was designated as India's **100th Ramsar Site**.

Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh

A natural, perennial oxbow lake.

An oxbow lake is a U-shaped water body formed when a meander of a river becomes separated from the main river channel.

The water body was consolidated in **1991** from land belonging to 45 villages and was known as **Surha Tal**.

It was renamed in **2002** in honour of **Jai Prakash Narayan**, the Indian political leader and social activist.

Area

- Approximately **3,432 hectares**
- During the monsoon, it can expand to approximately **25,000 hectares**.

Ecological Significance

The sanctuary is an important habitat for birds and lies along the **Central Asian Flyway**, making it an important wintering ground for migratory birds.

Ramsar Convention

The **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** is an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

It was adopted in **1971 at Ramsar, Iran**.

A site designated under the Convention is known as a **Ramsar Site** or **Wetland of International Importance**.

Coral Translocation in Great Nicobar Island

Why in News?

The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** identified **four sites** for coral translocation in the **Great Nicobar Island**.

The exercise is linked to the proposed **transshipment port at Galathea**, which forms part of the Great Nicobar Island mega project.

Legal Aspect

The necessary approval under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** is required before handling protected species.

The source specifically notes the relevance of **Schedule I protection** for the coral colonies and giant clams involved.

About Corals

Corals are marine invertebrates belonging to the phylum **Cnidaria**.

Individual corals are made up of tiny organisms called **polyps**.

Conditions Required by Corals

Corals generally thrive in:

- Warm waters of approximately **23°C–29°C**
- Clear, shallow waters
- Adequate sunlight
- Relatively good water quality.

Major Threats

- Rising sea temperatures
- Coral bleaching
- Ocean acidification
- Pollution
- Overfishing
- Declining water quality.

Earlier Indian Coral Translocation Initiative

India's earlier coral translocation project in the **Marine National Park, Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat**, was described as the first such Indian attempt to transplant and restore coral in a turbid environment.

3D-Printed Artificial Reefs

Why in News?

Tamil Nadu is set to deploy India's first **3D-printed artificial reef** under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

What are Artificial Reefs?

Artificial reefs are human-made structures placed underwater to create or restore marine habitats.

They provide surfaces and shelter for:

- Fish
- Corals
- Molluscs
- Other marine organisms.

Development

The 3D-printed reef project involves:

Tvasta, an IIT Madras-incubated start-up, in collaboration with **ICAR-CMFRI**.

Key Features

The 3D-printed structures have:

- Complex geometries
- Crevices and folds
- High porosity
- Species-specific habitat designs
- No iron reinforcement.

Significance

The project can:

- Support coral recovery.
- Create fish habitats.
- Improve marine biodiversity.
- Strengthen coastal resilience.
- Enhance fish stocks.
- Support traditional fishing communities.

Why 3D Printing?

Conventional artificial reefs often use standardised structures. 3D printing allows designers to create **complex and species-specific structures** that can mimic the physical complexity of natural reef environments.

Dam Projects in News

1. Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project

The project is located along the **Uttarakhand–Himachal Pradesh border** on the **River Tons**, a tributary of the Yamuna.

Six states agreed to sign an MoU for implementation:

1. Himachal Pradesh
2. Uttarakhand
3. Delhi
4. Uttar Pradesh
5. Haryana
6. Rajasthan

Funding

For the water component:

- **90%** assistance by the Centre
- Remaining **10%** shared by the six states.

Importance

The project is a **multipurpose** project, meaning it is intended to serve several objectives associated with water resources, including irrigation and water supply, while also having implications for hydropower and flood management.

2. Kirthai-II Hydroelectric Project

River: Chenab

Kirthai-II became the **third hydroelectric project planned on the Chenab to receive approval following the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty framework**, after:



- Sawalkote
- Dulhasti-II

National Family Health Survey–6 (NFHS-6)

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** released the **National Family Health Survey–6**.

About NFHS-6

- Conducted during **2023–24**
- Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Nodal agency: **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai**
- Covered approximately **6.79 lakh households**
- Covered **715 districts**, except Manipur.

Major Findings

Indicator	NFHS-5	NFHS-6
Population below 15 years	26.5%	25.5%
Population aged 60+	11.8%	12.9%
Total Fertility Rate	2.0	2.0
Institutional deliveries	88.6%	90.6%
Births attended by skilled health personnel	89.4%	91.3%
Households covered under health insurance/financing schemes	41.0%	60.2%
First-trimester ANC	70.0%	76.2%
Four or more ANC visits	58.5%	65.2%
Full immunisation	83.8%	87.1%
Contraceptive prevalence rate	66.7%	69.1%
Unmet need for family planning	9.4%	8.5%
C-section deliveries	21.5%	27.2%

Demographic Transition

NFHS-6 indicates continuing demographic transition in India:

- The share of children below 15 years has declined.

- The proportion of elderly people has increased.
- Total fertility rate remains at **2.0**, below the replacement level of approximately 2.1.

This indicates that India is gradually moving towards an ageing population structure.

Significance

NFHS data is important for:

- Health-policy formulation
- Monitoring maternal and child health
- Nutrition programmes
- Population policy
- Women's empowerment
- Family-planning programmes
- Assessing progress towards Sustainable Development Goals.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

Why in News?

The **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** completed **10 years**.

About PMSMA

PMSMA is a flagship maternal-health programme under the **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)** strategy.

Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Objective: To provide free, assured and specialist-led antenatal care to pregnant women through public health facilities.

Target beneficiaries: Pregnant women in their second and third trimesters.

9th day of every month

Designated public health facilities provide an assured package of free antenatal services.

Every pregnant woman should receive at least one antenatal examination during the second or third trimester by an obstetrician, gynaecologist or trained medical officer.

Extended PMSMA

e-PMSMA was introduced in **January 2022**.

It strengthens follow-up of **High-Risk Pregnancies** up to 45 days after delivery and provides cash-based incentives for beneficiaries and ASHA workers.

Human Trafficking in India

Why in News?

The Supreme Court, exercising powers under **Articles 32 and 142 of the Constitution**, described human trafficking as a direct assault on constitutional dignity and linked it to the protection provided by **Article 23**.

Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits:

- Trafficking in human beings
- Begar
- Other similar forms of forced labour.

It is a **Fundamental Right** and forms part of the Right against Exploitation.

Supreme Court and Consent

The Supreme Court emphasised the importance of **consent** in distinguishing trafficking from voluntary adult sex work.

Police and rescue authorities should not automatically criminalise vulnerable persons engaged in sex work where the activity is consensual, as misuse of anti-trafficking mechanisms can further harm vulnerable individuals.

Human Trafficking in India

According to **NCRB Crime in India 2024**:

- **6,018 victims** were reported to have been trafficked.
- This included **2,297 children**.

Indian Legal Framework



Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

- **Section 143:** Deals with trafficking of persons.
- **Section 144:** Deals with exploitation of a trafficked person, including sexual exploitation.

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Trafficking offences are treated as **cognizable and non-bailable** under the framework described in the source.

Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956

Addresses prostitution and trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

National Investigation Agency

The NIA can investigate trafficking cases having inter-state, national or international ramifications.

International Framework

The **Palermo Protocol** supplements the **UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**.

Constitutional Protection of Victims

The right to rehabilitation is connected with **Article 21**, particularly the right to live with dignity.

Victim-protection mechanisms should include:

- Shelter
- Mental-health support
- Legal aid
- Vocational training
- Rehabilitation

Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs)

Why in News?

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. launched India's first flex-fuel car, capable of running on any blend of ethanol and petrol ranging from **E20 to E100**. India has also given full legal recognition to **E100 fuel**, facilitating the adoption of flex-fuel vehicles.

What are Flex Fuel Vehicles?

Flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) are internal-combustion-engine vehicles designed to operate on:

- Pure petrol
- Pure ethanol
- Any mixture of petrol and ethanol, such as **E20, E85 or E100**.

Unlike conventional petrol vehicles, FFVs can automatically adapt to different ethanol concentrations.

Why is Ethanol Suitable?

Ethanol has:

- **Higher octane rating** than petrol → helps prevent engine knocking.
- **Lower energy density** → more fuel is required to travel the same distance.

Green Hydrogen

Why in News?

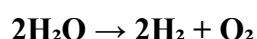
The Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy launched the **Green Hydrogen Certification Portal of India**.

The portal facilitates certification and regulatory compliance under the **Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India** and the **SIGHT programme** under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

What is Green Hydrogen?

Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced using **renewable energy**, such as solar or wind power.

The principal process is **electrolysis**:



Electricity from renewable sources is used to split water into hydrogen and oxygen.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

Launched: 2023

Major Components

1. Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India

Provides a methodology for:

- Measuring
- Reporting
- Verifying
- Certifying

green hydrogen production.

The scheme defines green hydrogen as hydrogen whose total greenhouse-gas emissions across its production cycle do not exceed **2 kg CO₂ equivalent per kg of H₂**, averaged over 12 months.

2. SIGHT Programme

Provides financial incentives through two streams:

- Electrolyser manufacturing
- Green hydrogen production.

3. Hydrogen Hubs

Promotes geographically concentrated production, infrastructure and end-use.

4. Sectoral Pilot Projects

Supports applications in difficult-to-decarbonise sectors such as:

- Steel
- Clean mobility.

Green Hydrogen Train

Germany's **Coradia iLint** was the world's first commercial hydrogen train in 2018.

Synthetic Biology

What is Synthetic Biology?

Synthetic biology involves redesigning organisms to give them **new or useful abilities**.

It combines advances in:

- Genetics
- Cell biology
- DNA engineering
- AI.

Examples include:

- Engineering microorganisms for pollution cleanup.
- Modifying rice to produce beta-carotene to help address Vitamin A deficiency.

Synthetic Biology vs Genome Editing

Synthetic Biology

Often involves engineering larger DNA sequences

May insert long stretches of DNA

Can introduce entirely novel genetic constructs

Genome Editing

Usually involves smaller changes

Can delete/add small DNA sequences

Typically modifies an organism's existing DNA

Applications

Human Health

- Personalised cell and gene therapies
- Targeted delivery of therapeutic agents
- Regenerative medicine
- 3D organ bioprinting
- Xenotransplantation.

Food Security & Soil

Engineered microorganisms can function as:

- Biofertilisers
- Biopesticides
- Bioherbicides
- Engineered probiotics.

Biosensors can also monitor pollutants in soil.

Climate & Circular Economy

- Biological carbon sequestration
- Enzyme-based plastic decomposition
- Production of biodegradable plastics
- Microorganism-based materials.

James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

Why in News?

NASA's **James Webb Space Telescope** detected **methane** on the interstellar comet **3I/ATLAS** for the first time.

About JWST

The **James Webb Space Telescope** is designed to study the origins and evolution of the Universe, including:

- Formation of stars
- Formation of planets
- Earliest galaxies.

JWST is a collaboration between:

- **NASA**
- **ESA — European Space Agency**
- **CSA — Canadian Space Agency.**

Fibre-Optic Drones

Fibre-optic drones, also called “**invisible drones**”, are increasingly being used in conflicts.

What are Fibre-Optic Drones?

They are generally **FPV (First-Person View) drones** connected to the operator through a thin **fibre-optic cable** rather than relying on conventional radio communication.

Commands and live video are transmitted as **pulses of light** through the fibre.

Why are They Difficult to Jam?

Traditional drones generally rely on radio-frequency communication.

Electronic warfare systems can interfere with or jam such radio communications.

Fibre-optic drones instead use a **physical cable**.

Therefore, they are much more resistant to conventional electronic warfare and radio-frequency jamming.

How Does Fibre Optics Work?

Optical fibre uses extremely thin strands of:

- Glass
- Plastic

to transmit information as light.

The underlying principle is **Total Internal Reflection (TIR)**.

BGP Hijacking and Internet Routing Security

Why in News?

The founder of Telegram claimed that access to the application was being compromised through **BGP hijacking**.

BGP = Border Gateway Protocol

It is essentially the **routing system of the Internet**.

It tells networks around the world how to reach particular **IP addresses**.

BGP hijacking is a technique in which an attacker **falsely advertises a route to a website, service or IP prefix**, causing Internet traffic to be misdirected.

It is also called:

- **Prefix hijacking**
- **Route hijacking**
- **IP hijacking.**

What Can Happen?

Incorrect BGP announcements can potentially cause traffic intended for a legitimate network to be routed through another network.

This can result in:

- Service disruption
- Traffic interception
- Redirection
- Loss of connectivity.

Harappan Artefacts

Why in News?

Harappan artefacts have been highlighted in the context of India's ancient material and cultural heritage.

Important Harappan Artefacts

1. Priest-King Sculpture — Mohenjo-daro

- Made of **steatite**.
- Shows sophisticated sculptural skills.
- Its clothing and representation have been associated with the presence of an **elite class and social hierarchy**.

2. Pashupati Seal — Mohenjo-daro

Depicts a **three-faced figure/deity seated on a raised platform and surrounded by animals.**

It has been interpreted as evidence relating to:

- Religious beliefs
- Animal symbolism
- A **possible proto-Shiva** tradition.

3. Mother Goddess Figurines

Terracotta female figurines have been found at sites including:

- Harappa
- Mohenjo-daro

They have traditionally been associated with:

- Fertility beliefs
- Household worship.

4. Fire Altars

Fire-altar structures are associated particularly with:

- **Kalibangan**
- **Lothal**

They indicate possible **ritualistic practices.**

5. Games and Toys

Examples include:

- **Stone gameboard — Dholavira**

- Terracotta plough models — Banawali and Cholistan.

These provide clues about recreational activities as well as agricultural practices.

6. Pottery

Examples include:

- Terracotta pots from **Dholavira**
- A design on pottery from **Lothal** interpreted as depicting the story of the **thirsty crow**.

7. Bronze Bull & Copper Mirror

Harappans possessed considerable expertise in **copper metallurgy**.

Copper mixed with tin produced **bronze**, which was harder than copper and was used for:

- Tools
- Pots
- Figurines.

Examples include:

- **Bronze Bull Figurine**
- **Copper mirror**.

Site	Important association
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Mohenjo-daro	Priest-King, Pashupati Seal
---------------------	-----------------------------

Harappa	Mother Goddess figurines
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Kalibangan	Fire altars
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Lothal	Fire altars, pottery depiction
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Site	Important association
Dholavira	Stone gameboard, pottery
Banawali	Terracotta plough model

Gyan Bharatam Mission

Why in News?

The **Gyan Bharatam National Survey of Manuscripts** has mapped **over 1 crore manuscripts** from across India.

What is Gyan Bharatam Mission?

It is a flagship initiative for preserving India's **manuscript heritage** through:

- Survey
- Documentation
- Conservation
- Digitisation

What is a Manuscript?

The source defines a manuscript as a handwritten composition on materials such as:

- Palm leaf
- Birch bark
- Cloth
- Paper
- Metal

that is at least **75 years old** and possesses significant historical, scientific or aesthetic value. India is estimated to possess **over five million manuscripts**.

Important Digital Tools

Kriti Sampada

- Digital repository.
- More than **44.07 lakh manuscripts** had been documented through it according to the source.

Manus Granthavali

- Software designed to ensure **accurate and uniform documentation** of manuscripts.

Technology

The initiative also uses:

- AI
- Handwritten Text Recognition
- Script decipherment
- Digital repositories
- Multilingual platforms.

The **Gyan-Setu** initiative is described as a National AI Innovation Challenge.

UNESCO Connection

The **UNESCO Memory of the World Programme** recognises documentary heritage of outstanding significance.

Indian entries mentioned in the source include:

- **Rigveda manuscripts — 2007**
- **Tarikh-e-Khandan-e-Timuriyah — 2011**
- **Gilgit Manuscripts — 2017**
- **Nāṭyaśāstra manuscript and Bhagavad Gita — 2025.**

Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)

Why in News?

India and China are discussing **joint UNESCO nominations** concerning Xuanzang's travelogue, *The Great Tang Records on the Western Regions*.

Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang) was a:

- Chinese Buddhist monk
- Scholar
- Traveller
- Translator

of the **Tang period**.

He undertook a famous **16-year pilgrimage to India**.

His Indian Journey

Harshavardhana

- Visited the court of **Harshavardhana**.

Kannauj

- Participated in religious debates at Kannauj.

Nalanda

- Studied at **Nalanda Mahavihara**.
- His teacher was the renowned monk **Shilabhadra**.

Xuanzang's account provides information about:

- Harsha's empire
- Criminal punishments
- Highway robbery
- Trade routes
- Duties at barriers
- Social and religious systems
- Nalanda University.

Why is it Historically Important?

Foreign travellers' accounts are valuable because they provide **external observations of Indian society, administration, religion, economy and education**.

Udant Martand

Why in News?

Hindi Journalism Day is celebrated on 30 May to commemorate the first publication of **Udant Martand**.

Udant Martand means "**the rising Sun**."

It was the **world's first Hindi newspaper**.

Key Facts

- **Year:** 1826
- **Place:** Calcutta
- **Editor:** **Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla**
- Shukla was a lawyer from **Kanpur**.

On **16 February 1826**, **Jugal Kishore Shukla** and **Munnu Thakur of Banstala Gali, Calcutta**, obtained government permission to start a Hindi newspaper.

Significance

Udant Martand:

- Marked the beginning of **Hindi journalism in India**.
- Promoted Hindi as a language of public communication.
- Became a symbol of cultural identity and national awakening during British rule.

Sangeet Natak Akademi

Why in News?

The **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (Akademi Ratna)**, **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar)** and **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** for **2024 and 2025** were announced.

About Sangeet Natak Akademi



The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** is India's apex national institution for:

- Music
- Dance
- Drama.

Established **1953**

Ministry **Ministry of Culture**

Nature **Autonomous body**

Legal status **Society under Societies Registration Act, 1860**

Chairman **Appointed by President of India**

Important Awards

Akademi Ratna

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship — the Akademi's fellowship.

Akademi Puraskar

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

Gallantry Awards

Why in News?

The **President of India** presented **Gallantry Awards** to **Armed Forces and Police personnel**.

What are Gallantry Awards?

They recognise acts of:

- Bravery
- Valour
- Self-sacrifice

during **wartime** as well as **peacetime**.

Who Confers Them?

They are conferred by the **President of India**, who is the **Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces**.

When are they Announced?

Officially announced twice a year:

- **Republic Day — 26 January**
- **Independence Day — 15 August.**

The **Ministry of Defence** invites recommendations twice a year from the Armed Forces and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Wartime vs Peacetime Gallantry Awards

Wartime Gallantry Awards

Rank	Award
1st / Highest	Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
2nd	Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)
3rd	Vir Chakra

Peacetime Gallantry Awards

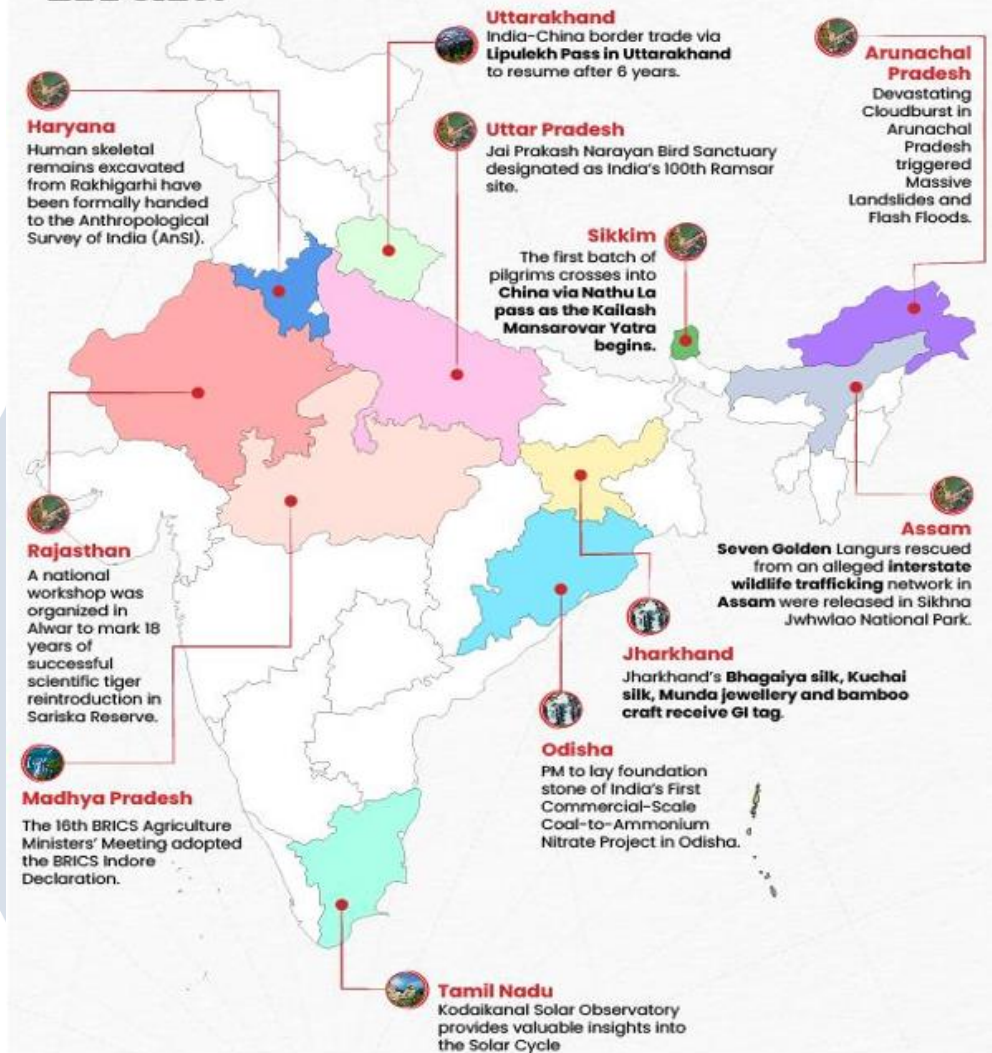
Rank	Award
------	-------



Rank	Award
1st / Highest	Ashoka Chakra
2nd	Kirti Chakra
3rd	Shaurya Chakra



Places in News India



Places in News World

