

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 15 October, 2025



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RAJASTHAN



Guidelines for Implementing GRAP in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- Recently, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) issued guidelines to the state government for implementing the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage I for districts located in the National Capital Region (NCR) of Rajasthan.



Key Points:

- Two districts of Rajasthan namely, Bharatpur and Alwar, are located in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):** The Graded Response Action Plan, or GRAP, is a set of emergency measures to control air pollution that is implemented in areas where there is an increase in the concentration of particulate matter (PM) in the air.
- GRAP was prepared by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on the instructions of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It is divided into four stages, based on the level of the Air Quality Index (AQI).
- The provisions of GRAP were first notified in 2017.

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GRAP Phases:

Stage	Air Quality Category (AQI)	Action Plan
Stage 1	'Poor' - AQI 201–300	■ Covering at construction sites is mandatory. ■ Regular road cleaning and water sprinkling. ■ Open burning of waste is prohibited.
Stage 2	'Very Poor' - AQI 301–400	■ Ban on diesel generators (except for essential services). ■ Increase in parking fees. ■ Enhanced road cleaning and dust control measures.
Stage 3	'Severe' - AQI 401–450	■ Ban on construction and demolition activities (except for essential projects). ■ Ban on brick kilns, stone crushers, etc. ■ Ban on entry of trucks (except those carrying essential goods).
Stage 4	'Severe+' or 'Emergency' - AQI 450+	■ Complete ban on truck entry (except for essential goods). ■ Recommendation to close schools and colleges. ■ Limiting the use of private vehicles. ■ Recommendation to implement odd-even rule.

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Facts for Prelims:

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- **Launched on:** January 2019 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with the aim of improving air quality in 130 cities across 24 states/union territories.
- **NCAP's initial target:** To reduce major air pollutants and improve air quality by 2024 i.e. The concentration of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ was to be reduced by 20 to 30 percent.
- But in the year 2022, the Central Government revised the target of this program. According to the new target, the concentration of particulate matter (PM) is to be reduced by 40 percent by the year 2026.
- **PM_{2.5}** - 40 standards micrograms (µg)/per cubic meter.
- **PM₁₀** - 60 standards micrograms (µg)/per cubic meter.
- **'NCAP 2.0'** program: The first phase of the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) will end in the year 2025-26. The Union Ministry of Forest and Environment will implement the second phase of this program.

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Rajasthan High Court Bans Import of GM Crops



Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan High Court directed the Central Government and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to formulate and implement comprehensive regulations regarding genetically modified (GM) foods.



Key Points:

- The High Court ordered a ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution, and import of GM foods nationwide until effective regulations are formulated and implemented for these products.
- This decision follows a public interest litigation filed in the High Court expressing concern over the sale and import of GM foods in the country without any regulation.
- It is worth noting that the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, clearly provides for regulations for GM foods, but no regulations have yet been enacted.
- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) permitted the import of GM edible oils (soybean and canola oil) between 2007 and 2015.

Facts for Prelims:

Genetically Modified (GM) Crops:

- GM crops are those crops whose DNA have been altered by human intervention to improve or add a specific trait.
- This process is carried out through gene engineering, in which specific changes are made to the plant's chromosomes.

Development and Status of GM Crops in India:

- **Bt Cotton:** This is the most successful GM crop, grown commercially in India in 2002. Bt Cotton was developed to combat the bollworm (Lepidopteran pests).
- **Bt brinjal:** Bt brinjal was approved in India in 2009, but its commercial use was halted by the government in 2010. This was because of several scientific and environmental concerns.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	Sardar@150 Unity March Campaign in Rajasthan ■ Organized by: Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. ■ Event duration: From October 6 to December 6, 2025. ■ Objective: To promote national unity. ■ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary is celebrated every year on October 31 as "National Unity Day."
2.	Thar Strike Exercise: Jaisalmer ■ Location: At an airbase in Jaisalmer. ■ Organized by: Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Army Special Forces. ■ Objective: To strengthen joint operational capabilities in desert warfare conditions, where temperatures exceed 50°C. ■ Paradrop missions were carried out by the Indian Air Force's AN-32 aircraft and the state-of-the-art C-295MW transport aircraft in this joint exercise.
3.	Consumer Care Campaign ■ Event Duration: From October 13th to 19th, 2025 ■ Organizer: Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of Rajasthan ■ Objective: To motivate traders to use correct weights and measures in the larger interest of consumers, as well as to inform consumers about their fundamental rights and protect their interests.

4.

Mukhyamantri Dugdh Utpadak Sambal Yojana

- Recently, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah disbursed the subsidy amount through DBT to milk producers and cattle farmers registered under the Rajasthan government's 'Mukhyamantri Dugdh Utpadak Sambal Yojana'.
- Under this scheme, milk producers are provided a subsidy of ₹5 per liter for selling milk to milk cooperatives affiliated with Saras Dairy.
- The Rajasthan government has allocated a budget of ₹650 crore for the scheme in the budget year 2025-26.

5.

"Mati Ka Lal" State-Level Awards Ceremony

- For the first time, the "Mati Ka Lal" State-Level Awards Ceremony will be organized by the "Shriyade Mati Kala Board" to identify and encourage clay artists to promote Rajasthan's exquisite culture through clay art across the country and the world.
- Under this program, two outstanding clay artists will be selected from each district and will be awarded first, second, third, and seven consolation prizes at the state level.
- **Note:** A team of trainers from Rajasthan was sent to the Central Glass and Ceramics Research Institute (CGRI) in Khurja, Uttar Pradesh, from September 15 to 21, 2025, for terracotta pottery training.
- Chairman of the Shriyade Mati Kala Board: Prahlad Rai Tak.

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6.

India's First "Made in India Hydrogen Gas Prototype"

- Recently, India's first Made in India hydrogen gas prototype was developed at the Entrepreneurship and Career Hub (ECH) of the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- This prototype is being used to supply hydrogen gas to government companies.
- **India's first multipurpose green hydrogen pilot project:** Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- **India's first hydrogen bus:** Operated by NTPC in Leh, Ladakh.
- **India's first 'Make in India Green Hydrogen Plant':** Commissioned by Deendayal Port Authority at Kandla Port, Gujarat.
- **India's first hydrogen fuel cell-powered truck:** Developed by Adani Enterprises.

7.

Justice Arun Monga

- Recently, the Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification transferring Justice Arun Monga to the Rajasthan High Court.
- Meanwhile, Rajasthan High Court judges Justice Avneesh Jhingan and Justice Dinesh Mehta were transferred to the Delhi High Court.



INTERNATIONAL



Pasni Port



Why in News?

- Recently, Pakistan has offered the United States the development and operation of the Pasni Port. This port is considered a gateway for the United States to access Pakistan's critical minerals.



Key Points:

- Location:** It is located on the Arabian Sea in the Gwadar district of Pakistan's Balochistan province.

Strategic Importance:

- It is located approximately 70 miles from the Chinese-operated Gwadar Port and approximately 178 miles from Iran's Chabahar Port.
- Its location makes it an ideal hub for trade routes connecting South, West, and Central Asia.

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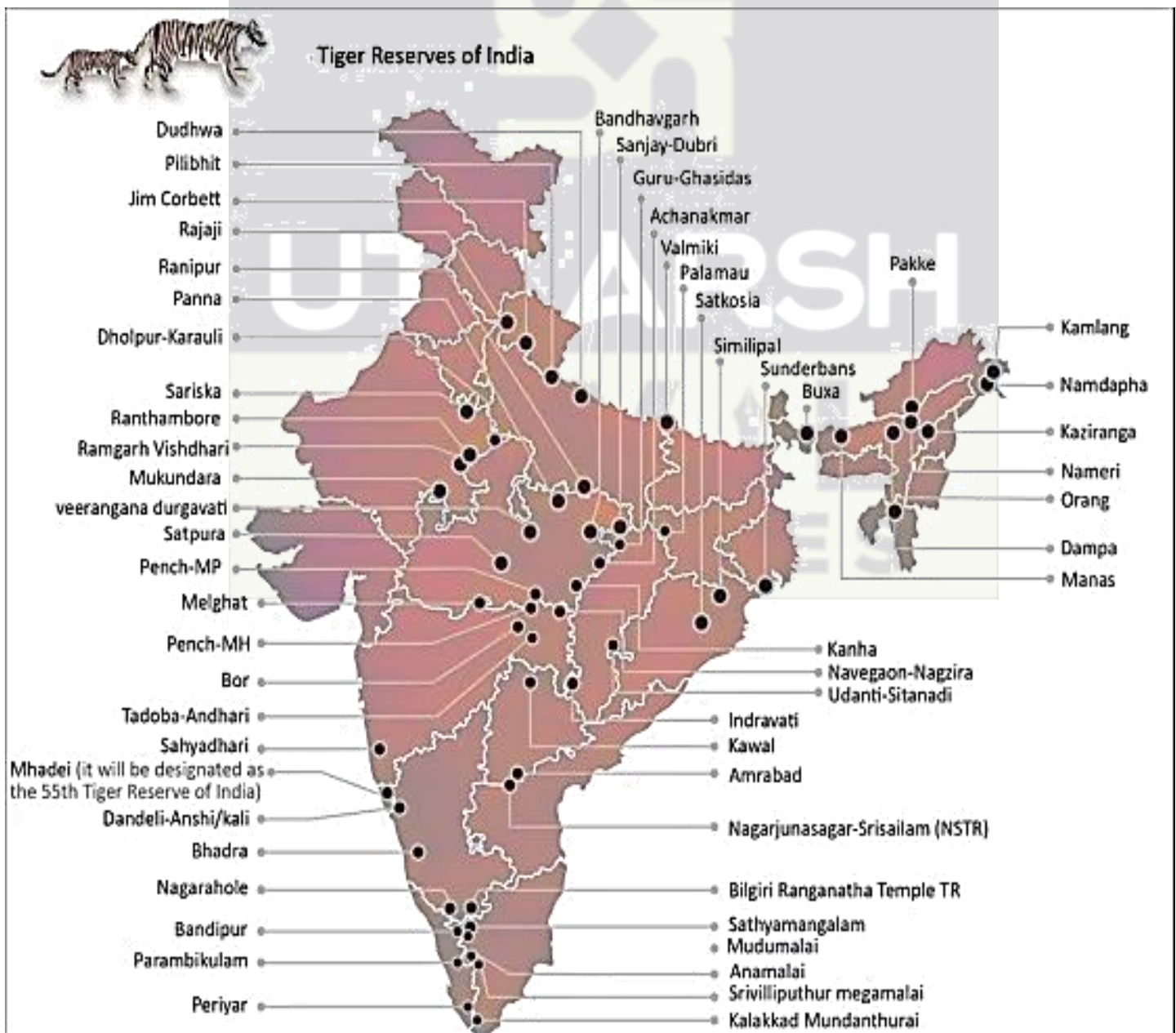
ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Green Status of Species Assessment



Why in News?

- The first IUCN Green Status of Species Assessment for tigers was released. It categorized tiger populations as "critically depleted." This reflects the serious historical and current threats for tigers.



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Key Points:

- These threats include habitat loss, prey depletion, poaching, and regional extinction.
- Tiger population is declining.
- Tigers are now extinct in nine of the 24 areas assessed. Furthermore, tigers are still threatened in areas where they exist.
- The impact of conservation efforts to date and their recovery potential are rated as high and medium, respectively.

IUCN Green Status of Species

- Launched in 2012, it is based on the list of threatened species listed on the IUCN Red List.
- It was made an optional part of the IUCN Red List assessment in 2020.
- **Categories:** Includes Largely Depleted, Moderately Depleted, Slightly Depleted, Fully Recovered, etc.

How does Green Status determine a species' recovery?

- A species' Fully Recovered status is assigned a Green Score (0-100%), indicating how close a species is to being fully recovered.

Tiger

- The tiger is the world's largest wild felid.
- India is home to approximately 75% of the world's wild tiger population.
- **Countries with natural habitats:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, etc.
- **Habitats:** Forests, savannas, shrublands, grasslands, wetlands (inland), etc.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Listed in Schedule I.
- **CITES:** Listed in Appendix I.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indigenous Tejas



Why in News?

- On October 17, 2025, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited will deliver the first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), the Tejas Mk1A, to the Indian Air Force (IAF).



Key Points:

- **Tejas Mk1A:** An advanced version of India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), the Tejas.
- **Developed by:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- **Objective:** This version aims to enhance operational and combat capabilities, survivability, and maneuverability over the baseline Mk1.
- **Speed:** 2200 km/h, nearly twice the speed of sound.

Features of the Tejas MK1A:

1. **High-tech radar:** Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar integration.
2. **Electronic warfare suite (EWS):** Radar-warning and self-protection jamming.
3. **Digital Flight Control Computer:** Advanced Flight Control Computer (DFCC Mk1A) for improved maneuverability and stability.
4. **Missile compatibility:** Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missiles, air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles, and Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missiles (ASRAAM).
5. Integration of Combined Interrogator and Transponder (CIT), Software Defined Radio (SDR), and Operating Data Link (ODL) with existing onboard avionics is planned.
6. It is equipped with a state-of-the-art electronic warfare suite, state-of-the-art AESA radar, self-protection jammer, and radar warning receiver.

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Other important points:

LCA Tejas:

- **Launched on:** 1984
- **Development and management by:** Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)

Features:

1. The lightest, smallest, tailless multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.
2. **Maximum payload capacity:** 4,000 kg.
3. **Maximum speed:** Mach 1.8.
4. **Range:** 3,000 km.

Variants of Tejas:

- **LCA Tejas Mk-1A:** This has a more advanced engine than the LCA Tejas Mk1.
- **LCA Navy:** A twin- and single-seat carrier for the Indian Navy.
- **LCA Tejas Navy MK 2:** This is the second stage of the LCA Navy version.



SCHEMES



Vishwas Scheme



Why in News?

- Recently, the Vishwas Scheme was launched at the 238th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund.



Key Points:

- The Central Board of Trustees is a tripartite board. It comprises representatives of the government (both central and state governments), employers, and employees.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) provides assistance to the Central Board of Trustees.
- This board administers the following three schemes:
 - o Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952
 - o Employees' Pension Scheme 1995
 - o Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme 1976.

Vishwas Scheme

- **Objective:** To reduce litigation by paying lower penalties.
- A major reason for litigation has been the excessive penalties imposed on delayed deposits into the Provident Fund (PF).
- Provident Fund (PF) is a type of retirement savings scheme. In this, both the employee and the employer contribute a fixed percentage of the employee's salary every month.
- **Duration:** The scheme will be operational for 6 months and can be extended for another six months.



ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Key Initiatives Launched by RBI



Key Points:

- Recently, RBI has launched some important initiatives.

Key Initiatives:

- **Unified Lending Interface (ULI):** This is being envisioned as a digital public infrastructure (DPI).

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- It will collect data from various sources and make it available to lenders so they can better assess a borrower's ability to repay their loan.
- Its aim is to make loan disbursements more efficient and transparent.
- **CBDC Retail Sandbox:** This is a testing platform for fintech companies where they can develop and test new technological solutions.
- CBDC is a digital form of fiat currency issued by the central bank.
- **Tokenization of Certificates of Deposit (CDs):** This process will promote faster settlement, improved liquidity, and transparency.
- Tokenization is the process of creating a digital token of a physical asset (such as a stock) and storing it on a blockchain or distributed ledger.
- Certificates of Deposit (CDs) are negotiable money market products issued in dematerialized form or as promissory notes in exchange for funds deposited with a bank or other financial institution.
- Their maturity period is up to a maximum of 1 year (minimum – 7 days).



INDEXES AND REPORTS

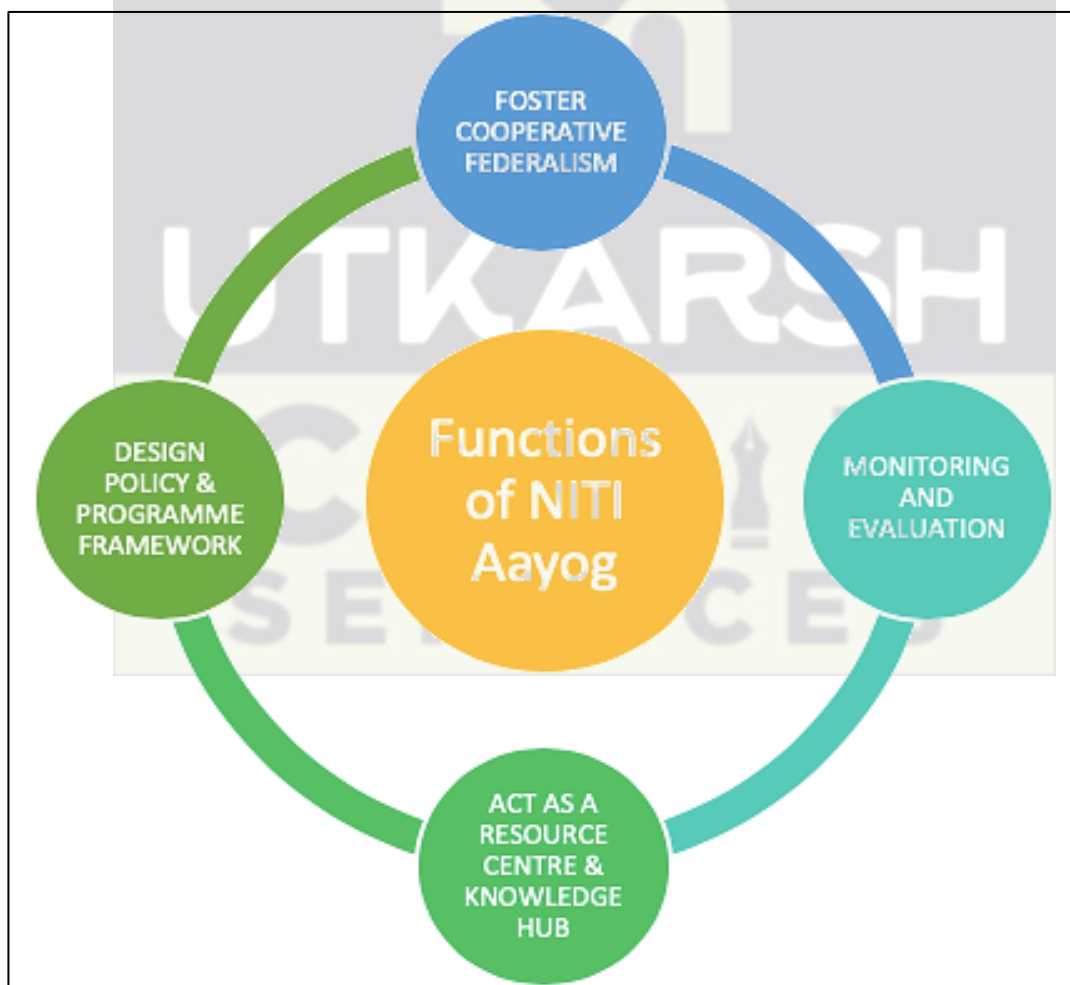


India's Blue Economy: Strategy for Harnessing Deep-Sea and Offshore Fisheries Report



Why in News?

- NITI Aayog released the India's Blue Economy: Strategy for Harnessing Deep-Sea and Offshore Fisheries report. India aims to achieve a US\$100 billion blue economy by 2030.



Key Points:

- **Current Status:** The total potential of fisheries resources is estimated at 7.16 million tons.

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- **Infrastructure and Technology Lack:** Only 90 fishing harbors have the capacity to handle large deep-sea fishing vessels.
- Efficient exploitation of deep-sea resources also remains a technical challenge.
- **Regulatory Gaps:** Currently, India lacks regulatory laws for fishing and related activities within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This is contributing to the problems of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

Other Initiatives

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** This is a five-year scheme (from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25).
- Under PMMSY, the government provides financial assistance of up to 60% to traditional fishermen for purchasing or modifying deep-sea and offshore fishing vessels.
- This includes the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), the National Fisheries Policy 2020, etc.

Civil Registration System (CRS) Report



Why in News?

- This report is compiled by the Director General of Registration of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Central Government.



Key Points:

- **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB):** Currently, there are 928 girls per 1,000 boys.
- **Highest:** Arunachal Pradesh (1,085)
- **Lowest:** Jharkhand (899).
- **Institutional Deaths and Births:** These are 74.7% and 24%, respectively.
- **Birth Statistics:** The number of registered births has decreased by 0.9% compared to 2022.
- **Birth Registration Level:** Up to 98.4%.
- Birth registration rates have increased in urban areas compared to rural areas.
- **Death Statistics:** The number of registered deaths has increased by 0.1% compared to 2022.
- **Death registration level:** Up to 97.2%.
- Death registration in rural areas is higher than in urban areas.
- Infant mortality rate has increased compared to 2022.
- 100% birth registration has been achieved in 21 states/union territories and 100% death registration in 19 states/union territories.
- Birth and death registration has been higher for males than for females in both rural and urban areas.

Civil Registration System (CRS)

- This is an integrated process that records important life events such as births, deaths, and stillbirths, but excludes marriages and divorces.
- Under the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969, reporting births and deaths to the Registrar is mandatory.
- Amendments made in 2023 have made digital registration and creation of national and state databases etc. possible.



PERSONALITY



Former Goa Chief Minister Ravi Naik Passed Away



Why in News?

- He began his political career with the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) in the 1980s. He then joined the Congress Party and became a prominent figure in Goa politics.



Key Points:

- Naik served as Chief Minister of Goa twice (for approximately 850 days)—first briefly in 1991 and second in 1994.
- Naik also served as a Lok Sabha MP from 1998 to 1999.
- Ravi Naik joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) shortly before the 2022 Goa Legislative Assembly elections. He was subsequently appointed Agriculture Minister in Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's government.

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Other Key Points:



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🏆 AWARDS 🏆

Global Sustainability Award 2025



Why in News?

- Dr. Sonali Ghosh, Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, has been awarded the prestigious Kenton R. Miller Award for innovation in the sustainable management of protected areas.



Key Points:

- **Ceremony Venue:** To be held in Abu Dhabi on October 10, 2025.
- **Awarded by:** The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), a unit of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), is awarded biennially.
- **Recipients:** Dr. Sonali Ghosh (India) and Roque Simón Sevilla Larrea (Ecuador)
- Dr. Ghosh is the first Indian to receive this honor.
- **Dr. Ghosh's Contributions:** According to the IUCN, Dr. Ghosh was honored for her community-based conservation model.
- The award is named after renowned environmentalist and former IUCN Director-General Kenton R. Miller.
- **Establishment of the award:** 2006
- **Purpose:** To honor individuals or teams who have innovated in the planning, management, finance, governance, monitoring, capacity building, and communication of protected areas.

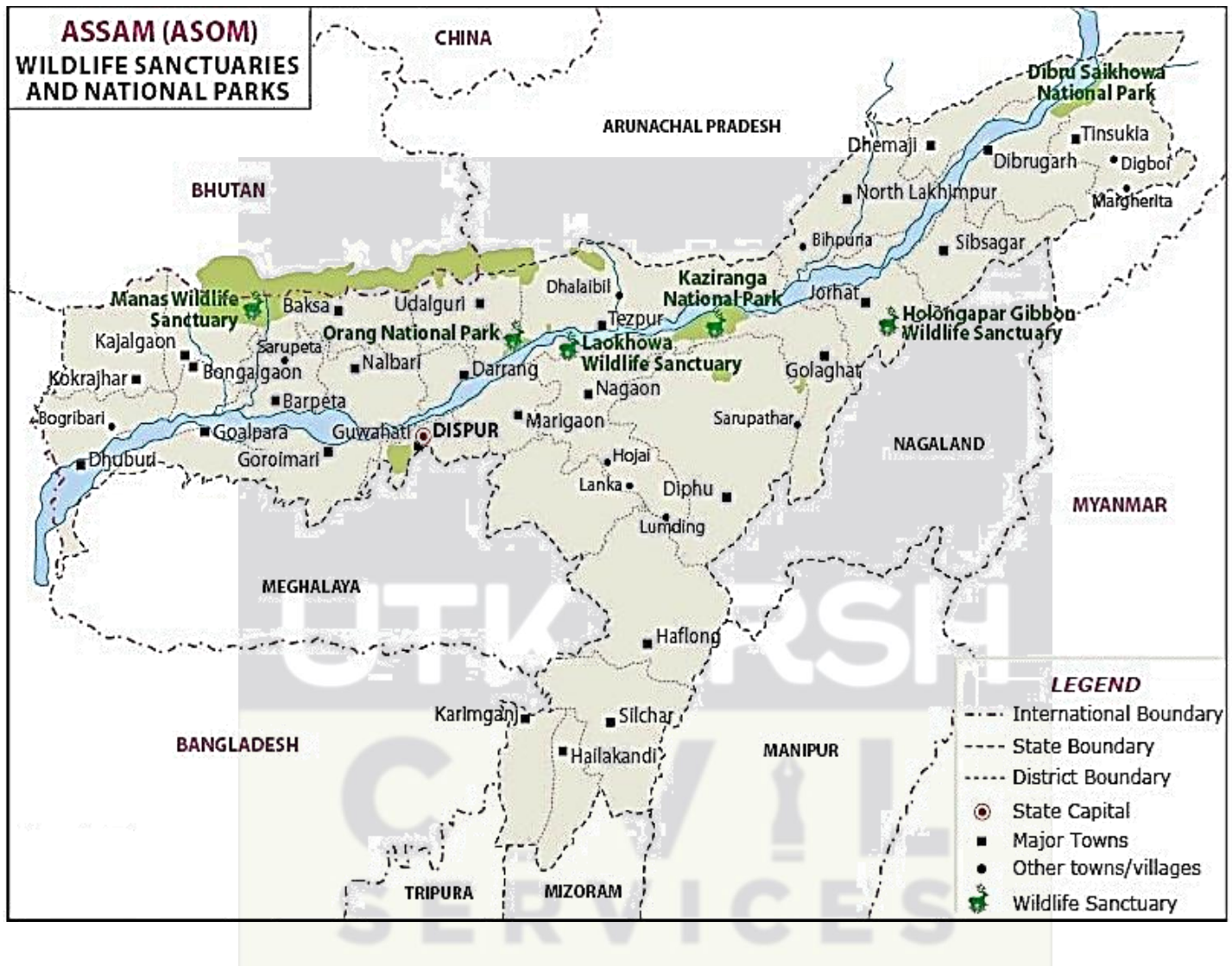
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Other key points:

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve:



SPORTS

Irani Cup, 2025



Key Points:

- The Vidarbha team defeated the Rest of India by 93 runs in the final of the Irani Cup at the VCA Stadium in Nagpur, winning the trophy for the third time (2018, 2019, and 2025).



Year	Winner	Runner-up
2022–23	Rest of India	Madhya Pradesh
2023–24	Rest of India	Saurashtra
2024–25	Mumbai	Rest of India
2025–26	Vidarbha	Rest of India

- **Man of the Match:** Atharva Tayade

Other Important Points:

Irani Trophy

- It was established in honor of BCCI Treasurer and President Zal R. Irani.
- In this, the current Ranji Trophy champion team plays a five-day match against the Rest of India team.
- The Irani Trophy was first held in 1959-60.
- Rest of India team has won the Irani Cup maximum number of times i.e. 26 times.

Japan Squash Open Winner: Joshna Chinappa



Why in News?

- Two-time Asian champion Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa won the women's singles title at the Japan Open squash tournament held in Yokohama.



Key Points:

- She won her 11th PSA Tour title by defeating Haya Ali of Egypt in the tournament final.

Joshna Chinappa's sporting achievements:

- She was the youngest Indian women's national champion.
- At the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Joshna won the silver medal in the women's doubles event.
- In 2014, she won the gold medal in the doubles category at the Commonwealth Games, giving India its first medal in squash at the Commonwealth Games.
- She won her first WSA title by winning the Winnipeg Winter Open trophy in February 2014.
- Joshna won the bronze medal at the Asian Championships in 2004.
- In 2003, she became the first Indian squash player to win the British Squash Championship in the Under-19 category.

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✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S.No.

News

1.

India's first AI hub

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



What is AI?

AI, or Artificial Intelligence, is the development of computer systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.

How AI Works?

AI works by using algorithms and data to train models that can perform tasks, make predictions, or generate outputs similar to human intelligence.

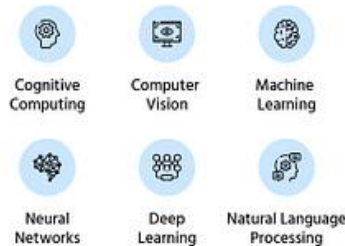


How Does AI Impact Society?

AI impacts society by transforming industries, revolutionizing automation, and raising ethical concerns about privacy, job displacement, and biases.

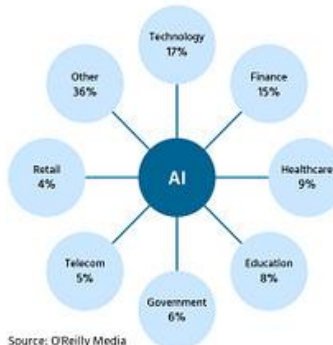
Major Fields of AI

Key fields of AI include cognitive computing, computer vision, machine learning, neural networks, deep learning, and natural language processing.



Global AI Adoption by Industry

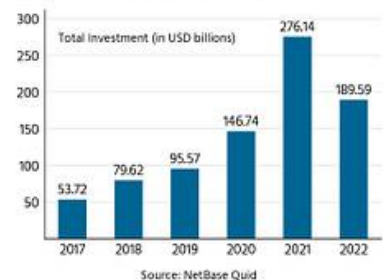
AI adoption is on the rise across various industries, with the technology sector leading the way at 17%, followed by finance at 15% and healthcare at 9%.



Source: O'Reilly Media

Global Corporate Investment in AI

Corporate investment dips in 2022 from 2021 highs, still up 13-fold in last decade; biggest event is Microsoft's \$19.7B Nuance acquisition.



Source: NetBase Quid

Global AI Adoption by Continent

AI production highest in Oceania (31%), followed by North America and Europe (27%), Asia and South America (24%, 22%). Africa has the lowest (13%).



Source: O'Reilly Media

- **Bharti Airtel (Bharti Airtel Share Price) has entered into a strategic partnership with Google to establish India's first artificial intelligence (AI) hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Google's AI hub in Visakhapatnam will invest approximately \$15 billion (USD) over five years (2026-2030), including gigawatt-scale data center operations, powered by a robust subsea network and clean energy, to power India's most demanding AI workloads.**

2.

Linthoi Chanambam: Judo

- Judo player Linthoi Chanambam won India's first medal at the ongoing Judo Junior World Championships in Lima, Peru.
- 19-year-old Chanambam won the bronze medal in the women's 63 kg category, defeating Joni Geelen of the Netherlands.



3.

Centers of Excellence for Classical Languages

Criteria for inclusion of a language as a classical language



The earliest texts in the language must be very ancient. In fact, the language must have a recorded history of 1500-2000 years.



The language concerned must have a corpus of ancient literature/texts of its own. Furthermore, generations of speakers of that language must consider these ancient literature/texts as their heritage.



Apart from poetry, inscriptions and epigraphic evidence, the language concerned must also have its own knowledge texts, especially prose texts.



Classical languages and their literatures may differ from their current forms. This means that the original language and literature may have a different form than the branches that descended from it.

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs has established Centers of Excellence for the Study of Pali, Prakrit, and Avesta Pahlavi at the University of Mumbai and Prakrit at Gujarat University.
- **Objective:** To integrate advanced research, translation, digitization of manuscripts, and traditional knowledge with modern pedagogy.
- The Ministry of Minority Affairs is providing assistance to universities across the country to establish Centers of Excellence for the promotion and preservation of heritage and classical languages under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PM-JVK).
- The Jain Study Center was launched at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore, at a cost of ₹27.16 crore under the PM-JVK.

Other Important Points:

- **Classical Languages:** In 2004, the Government of India began designating languages as "classical languages."

11 Classical Languages:

Classical Language	Year
Tamil	2004
Sanskrit	2005
Telugu	2008
Kannada	2008
Malayalam	2013
Odia	2014
Marathi	2024
Pali	2024
Prakrit	2024
Assamese	2024
Bengali	2024

4.

SpaceX's 11th Starship Rocket

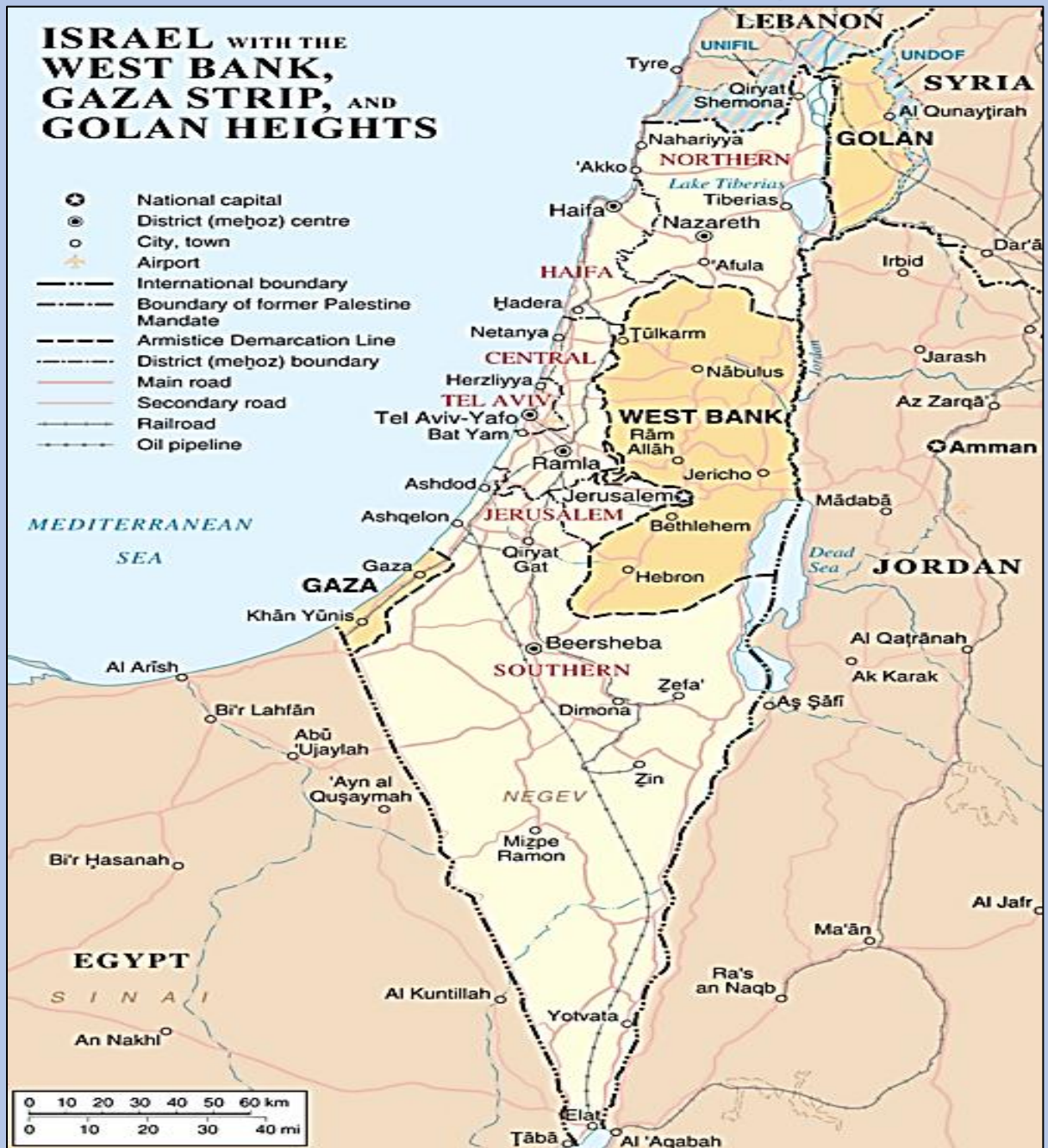
- Elon Musk's space company SpaceX launched its 11th Starship rocket from Texas, successfully landing in the Indian Ocean.
- SpaceX will begin testing a new, advanced Starship version designed for missions to transport people to the Moon and Mars.
- NASA and SpaceX aim to land humans on the Moon in 2027 under a US\$3 billion deal as part of NASA's Artemis program. This is the first attempted human landing on the Moon since 1972.



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5.

Presidential Medal of Honor Award, 2025



- Israel will honor US President Donald Trump with its highest civilian honor, the Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor, for his key role in brokering a ceasefire in Gaza and securing the release of Israeli hostages.
- The Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Israel or humanity. The award was previously presented to former US President Barack Obama in 2013.