

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 05 March 2026



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RAJASTHAN



'Nationwide HPV Vaccination Campaign' Launched in Ajmer

Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Nationwide HPV Vaccination Campaign' from Ajmer on February 28, 2026, to prevent cervical cancer in women.

स्वास्थ्य एवं
परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
सत्यमेव जयते

NATIONWIDE LAUNCH OF
**HPV VACCINATION
CAMPAIGN**

“
अजमेर से
HPV vaccination अभियान
शुरू हुआ है। ये अभियान देश
की नारीशक्ति को सशक्त
करने की दिशा में
अहम कदम है।”

श्री नरेंद्र मोदी
प्रधान मंत्री



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Key Points:

- **Ministry Concerned:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Target Group:** This campaign is primarily for adolescent girls aged 9 to 14 years. The goal is to cover approximately 11.5 million girls each year.
- **Free and Voluntary:** Vaccination is completely free and voluntary. Consent from parents or guardians is mandatory. 1,000 health institutions across all districts of Rajasthan have been identified for HPV vaccination.
- **Vaccine:** The Gardasil-4 vaccine has been selected for the campaign, which provides protection against HPV types 16 and 18 (cancer-causing), as well as types 6 and 11. This facility will be available only at government health centers, such as Ayushman Arogya Mandir (PHC), Community Health Centers (CHC), district hospitals, and government medical colleges.
- **Digital Tracking:** Beneficiary registration and distribution of certificates are being done digitally through the U-WIN portal.

Facts for Prelims:

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- Persistent infection with high-risk types of human papillomavirus (HPV) causes cervical cancer. HPV is responsible for approximately 99.7 percent of cervical cancer cases worldwide.
- This virus is primarily transmitted through skin-to-skin contact (sexual intercourse).

Amendments to the Approval Process for the 'One District One Product Policy' and the MSME Policy

Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan Department of Industries and Commerce amended the approval process for two policies. Additionally, the department made the application process for three policies online.

Key Points:

- The scrutiny and approval of applications under the Department of Industries and Commerce's 'One District One Product (ODOP) Policy – 2024' and 'Rajasthan MSMEs Policy – 2024' will be handled by the General Managers of the District Industries and Commerce Centers. Previously, this work was performed by the district-level task force committee.
- Three policies with online applications:** One District One Product Policy (ODOP) – 2024, Rajasthan MSMEs Policy – 2024, and Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy – 2024

Facts for Prelims:

One District One Product Policy – 2024:

- Identification of one specific product in each of the state's 41 districts.
- Margin money grant – up to ₹20 lakh for micro and small enterprises.
- Advanced/Software Technology grant – up to ₹5 lakh.
- Quality certification and IPR reimbursement – up to ₹3 lakh.
- Marketing event support – up to ₹2 lakh.
- E-commerce platform fee reimbursement – ₹1 lakh per year (maximum 2 years).
- Cataloging and e-commerce website development – one-time assistance up to ₹75,000.

Tiger Translocation in Rajasthan for the Second Time

Why in News?

- Recently, a tigress was successfully translocated from Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve to Rajasthan's Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve.

Key Points:

- This is the second time a tigress has been brought to Rajasthan from another state under the Inter-State Corridor Scheme.
- Previously, on December 21, 2025, the state's first inter-state tiger translocation was successfully completed from Madhya Pradesh's Pench Tiger Reserve to Rajasthan's Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve.

Facts for Prelims:

Tiger Reserves in Rajasthan:

S.No.	Tiger Reserves	Year of Declaration	Districts Included
1.	Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve	1973	Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Bundi, Tonk
2.	Sariska Tiger Reserve	1978	Alwar, Jaipur, Kotputli-Behror
3.	Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve	2013	Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Chittorgarh
4.	Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve	2022	Bundi, Kota

✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Vishwa Navkar Mahamantra Day 2.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Vishwa Navkar Mahamantra Day 2.0 was inaugurated in Jaipur by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on March 1, 2026.■ The event was organized by the Jain International Trade Organization (JITO).■ The first Vishwa Navkar Mahamantra Day (1.0) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on April 9, 2025.
2.	<p>Amendments to the Rajasthan Stamp Act, 1999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, the state government amended the Rajasthan Stamp Act, 1999. As a result of the amendments, the registration of houses, flats, and plots in the state has become more expensive.■ Surcharge: The surcharge on stamp duty on properties valued above ₹10 lakh has been increased to 13 percent.■ Cow and Disaster Relief Surcharge: Section 3-B of the Act has been amended to clarify the provision for a surcharge for cow protection and relief from natural/man-made disasters.
3.	<p>FIVB Level-1 International Volleyball Coaches Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, the first-ever FIVB Level-1 International Volleyball Coaches Course was held at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.■ Event duration: March 1 to 5, 2026.■ Chief Coach: G.E. Sreedharan (former Indian player and coach), nominated by FIVB.■ Organizers: Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) and Rajasthan State Sports Council.

4.

Rajasthan Tourism Cup – 2026

- **Venue:** Rajasthan Polo Club (RPC) Ground, Jaipur.
- **Winner:** V Polo Team.
- **Runner-up:** Sainte Mesme team.

5.

Two-day National Workshop on Safety of AYUSH Medicines

- A two-day national workshop on safety, side-effect reporting, and monitoring of misleading advertisements of AYUSH medicines was recently organized at the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur.
- **Main objective:** To discuss the safety, quality control, and pharmacovigilance of AYUSH medicines.

6.

Development of 'Pectin' by Central University

- Central University (CURAJ), Ajmer recently succeeded in preparing 'pectin' from fruit and vegetable waste.
- Scientists at the university have produced high-quality pectin using discarded fruit and vegetable waste.
- This technology will help in waste management and provide a cheaper alternative to food products like jams and jellies.

7.

Safina Hussain - TIME Women of the Year 2026 List

- Social activist and founder of Educate Girls, Safina Hussain, has been included in TIME magazine's Women of the Year 2026 list.
- This prestigious list includes 16 women leaders from around the world working towards a more just and inclusive world. Safina Hussain has been honored for her efforts to bring girls back to school and address gender inequality in remote areas of rural India.

- Her organization, Educate Girls, active in several states, including Rajasthan, has so far connected more than 2 million girls to mainstream education. The organization is currently active in approximately 30,000 villages across 12 states.
- **Other Indian Women:** Safina is joined by two other women of Indian origin on this 2026 list: Reshma Kewalramani (President and CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals) and Reshma Saujani (Founder and CEO of Moms First).
- Under Safina Hussain's leadership, Educate Girls became the first Indian non-profit organization to win the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's highest honor for public service, in 2025.

8.

20th All India Hanuman Singh Women's Handball Championship - 2025-26

- **Organized by:** Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.
- **Winner:** Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara (Punjab).
- **Runner-up:** Northern Railway.
- **Rajasthan's performance:** Rajasthan and the Border Security Force (BSF) tied for third place.

9.

74th All India Police Volleyball Cluster

- **Venue:** Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
- **Duration:** February 23 to 27, 2026.
- **Rajasthan's performance:** The Rajasthan Police women's team won the gold medal.

10.

46th Sub-Junior National Boys and Girls Volleyball Championship

- **Venue:** February 24 to March 1, 2026, in Bandel, West Bengal.
- **Organized by:** Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) and West Bengal Volleyball Association.
- **Rajasthan's performance:** Both teams of Rajasthan won bronze medals.

NATIONAL

Innovators Business Environment Index (IBEI), 2026

Why in News?

- Recently, StartupBlink released the Innovators Business Environment Index (IBEI), 2026, which measures fundamental business conditions such as regulation, capital, and infrastructure.



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Key Points:

- The IBEI evaluates national business environments based on accessibility, predictability, and simple systems for innovators.
- **Methodology and Indicators:** Covering 125 countries, this report uses a consistent methodology based on more than 30 measurable parameters;

Three Main Pillars:

1. **Ease of Doing Business:** This measures how simple, fast, and operationally easy it is to start, run, and maintain a business.
2. **Business Incentives:** This assesses how economically attractive a country is to entrepreneurs and investors.
3. **Market Perception:** This measures how a country is viewed globally in terms of governance quality, credibility, transparency, stability, human capital, and international mobility.

Key Indicators:

- **Regulation and Government:** Ease of starting and running a business and regulatory barriers.
- **Access to Capital and Financial Infrastructure:** Availability of financing and credit conditions.
- **Taxation:** Incentives and tax conditions for businesses.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** Internet speed, freedom, and connectivity.
- **Global Mobility and Openness:** International access, market perception, and governance stability.

IBEI Ranking 2026/Best Countries to Do Business Globally in 2026:

Rank	Country
1st	United States (with a perfect 100 score)
2nd	Singapore (scored the highest on 8 parameters).
3rd	United Kingdom

- The United Arab Emirates (5th) and Saudi Arabia (9th) rank second and sixth globally, respectively, in taxation, where most countries underperform in this area.
- Japan (8th) ranks first globally in lending rates and credit access, reflecting favorable lending conditions.
- New Zealand (11th) ranks first globally in starting a business, reflecting comparatively low entry barriers.
- Sweden (12th) ranks highest among the top 20 countries in terms of global mobility and openness.
- Cyprus (15th) is the top-ranked country in Western Europe in terms of taxation conditions.
- Denmark (20th) ranks third globally in digital infrastructure, better than any other country in the top 20.
- **India's performance:** India ranked 54th globally with a score of 55.035. India is ahead of China, which ranked 85th.
- The report describes India's business environment as marked by strong regional strengths, reliable access to capital, large market size, and a competitive cost structure.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency: 25th Foundation Day

Why in News?

- March 1, 2026, marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.



Key Points:

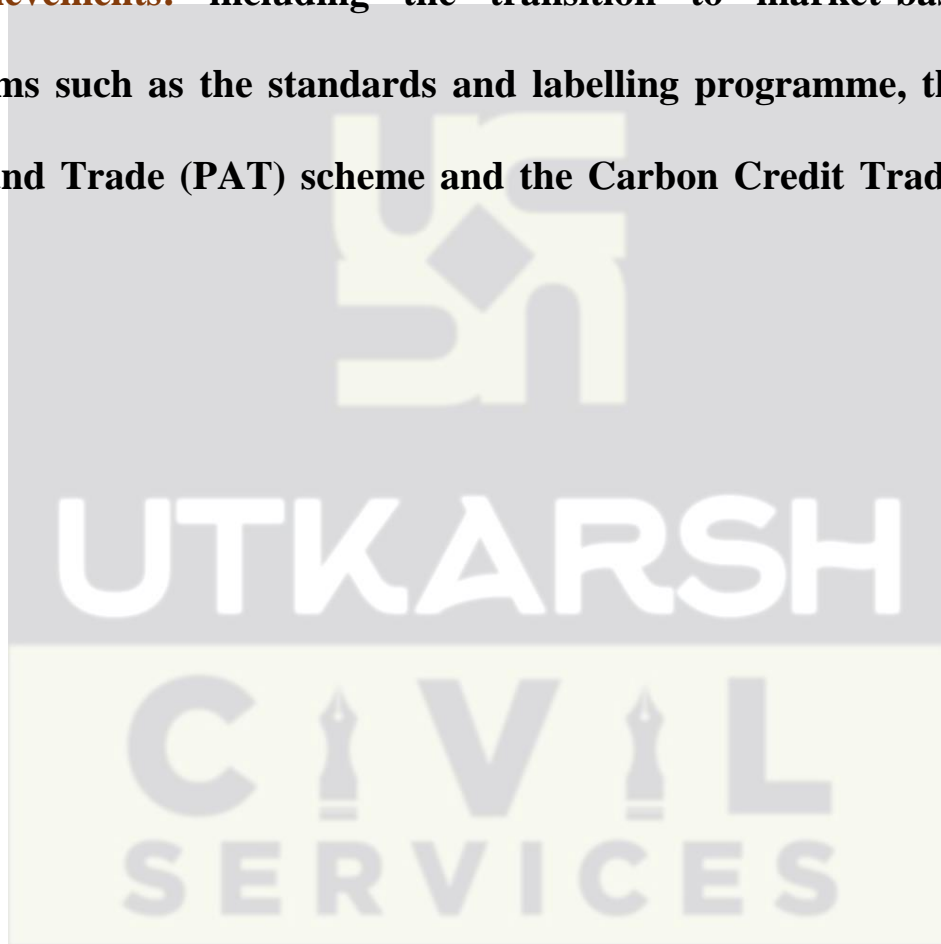
- **Introduction:** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, responsible for promoting energy efficiency and reducing energy intensity in all sectors of the Indian economy.
- **Established:** March 1, 2002 (under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Power, Government of India.

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- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India.
- **Function:** It serves as India's nodal agency for formulating and implementing energy conservation policies and programs.
- **Key achievements:** including the transition to market-based carbon mechanisms such as the standards and labelling programme, the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme and the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).



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Egypt: Tamil Brahmi Inscriptions



Why in News?

- Researchers have identified approximately 30 Tamil, Brahmi, Prakrit, and Sanskrit inscriptions in tombs located in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, dating from the first to the third centuries AD.



Key Points:

- **Location:** These inscriptions were documented in six tombs within the Valley of the Kings, part of the Theban Necropolis located along the Nile River in Egypt.

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Key Findings:

- **Approximately 30 inscriptions identified (first-third centuries AD):** These are written in Tamil, Brahmi, Prakrit, and Sanskrit, indicating diverse Indian origins.
- **Repeatedly inscribed Tamil name 'Sikai Korran':** Found inscribed eight times in five tombs, indicating the repeated presence of a Tamil person.
- **Other recorded Tamil names:** Names such as Copan, Chattan, and Kiran have been identified, which are associated with the Tamil culture of the Sangam era.
- **Parallel evidence from Berenike:** Similar Tamil names found earlier in the Red Sea port of Berenike further strengthen maritime trade links.
- **Graffiti tradition followed:** Indian visitors carved their names alongside Greek graffiti, following local monumental customs.

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Geography and Geology

Salar de Pajonales

Why in News?

- Recently, scientists studied the Salar de Pajonales, an extremely dry and icy salt flat located 3.5 kilometers above sea level (in the Atacama Desert). Despite being scorched by ultraviolet radiation, the Salar is a near-exact replica of the conditions on Mars.



Key Points:

Salar de Pajonales:

- Location:** It is a large playa (salt flat) in northern Chile, located approximately 3,500 meters above sea level on the western edge of the Altiplano-Puna plateau.

- It is the third largest salar in the Atacama region (after the Salar de Atacama and the Salar de Punta Negra).
- **Environmental conditions:** It is located in the extremely arid region of the Atacama Desert and experiences a variety of extremes, including extreme aridity, high altitude, intense solar and ultraviolet radiation, large temperature fluctuations, and a sulfate-rich mineral composition. These conditions are very similar to those found on Mars.
- **Hydrological and geological features:** It is an inundation basin (without outflow) fed by groundwater. Its surface is dominated by evaporite deposits, including prominent gypsum (calcium sulfate dihydrate) layers and layered microbial structures known as stromatolites.
- **Why is it called a “Mars analog”?**
- Scientists simulate outer space environments using Earth-based “analog” structures. Salar de Pajonales is relevant because:
 - The site contains gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) – a mineral also found on Mars.
 - It contains stromatolites, which are layered rock structures created by microorganisms.
- **Note:** Stromatolites are layered, sedimentary rock structures that form over thousands of years due to the trapping, binding, and cementation of sediments by microorganisms, primarily photosynthetic cyanobacteria.
- **Relevance to Mars exploration:** Missions to Mars have identified gypsum and other water-bearing minerals on the Martian surface.
- If gypsum is found on Earth, it could support microbial life and preserve biosignatures.
- **Gypsum deposits on Mars may contain:** Evidence of ancient life and chemical traces of past microbial ecosystems.

Other important points:

Atacama Desert:



- **Location:** This is the world's driest desert, located in northern Chile. It lies between the Andes Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

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- It forms a continuous strip for approximately 1,000 kilometers along the narrow coast of northern Chile.
- **Borders:** It borders Argentina, Peru (northern border), and Bolivia.
- **Rainfall:** The average rainfall in this region is about 1 mm per year.
- **Temperature:** Temperatures remain relatively mild throughout the year (due to the cold Humboldt Current). The average temperature in the desert is about 18 degrees Celsius.
- The terrain includes salt flats (salares), volcanic cones, sand dunes, and alluvial plains.
- **Natural Resources:** This region has the largest natural reserves of sodium nitrate, which is used to make fertilizers and explosives.
- **Chinchorro Mummies:** The oldest specimens of artificially mummified human remains have been found in the Atacama Desert.

-:19:-

INTERNATIONAL

Operation Epic Fury (US) and Operation Lion's Roar (Israel)

Why in News?

- On February 28, 2026, amid concerns about Iran's nuclear program, Israel launched a preemptive attack on key sites in Tehran, codenamed Operation Lion's Roar. The US supported this operation and designated a part of it Operation Epic Fury, aimed at weakening Iran's military and missile capabilities.
- Iran retaliated with missiles under Operation True Promise 4, targeting Israeli and regional military sites.



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Key Points:

Impact:

Global	India
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Threat to global energy security: This escalation severely impacts the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime chokepoint.■ The strait carries approximately 20 million barrels of crude oil per day (about 20% of global consumption) and 20-30% of global liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments.■ Geopolitical polarization: This conflict threatens to involve other global powers.■ Disruption of global supply chains and commodity and market instability: Militarization of West Asian waters disrupts vital trade routes connecting Asia to Europe, leading to increased freight and insurance costs globally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Energy Security and Economy: India is the world's third-largest crude oil consumer and imports over 85-88% of its needs.■ Approximately 2.5 to 2.7 million barrels of oil per day from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait pass through the Strait of Hormuz.■ 80-85% of LPG and approximately 60% of LNG imports also pass through the Hormuz Canal.■ Security of the Indian Diaspora: Approximately 9 million Indian diaspora live in West Asia.■ Disruption of Connectivity Corridors: Operations at Chabahar Port (Iran) are at risk, and the destruction of the Arabian Peninsula's port infrastructure could seriously threaten the very existence of the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

Other key points:

- **JCPOA Agreement:** The P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), the European Union, and Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015 to curb Iran's growing clandestine nuclear program.
- **Operation Midnight Hammer (June 2025):** Israel launched pre-emptive strikes on Iran's nuclear sites in Natanz and Isfahan.

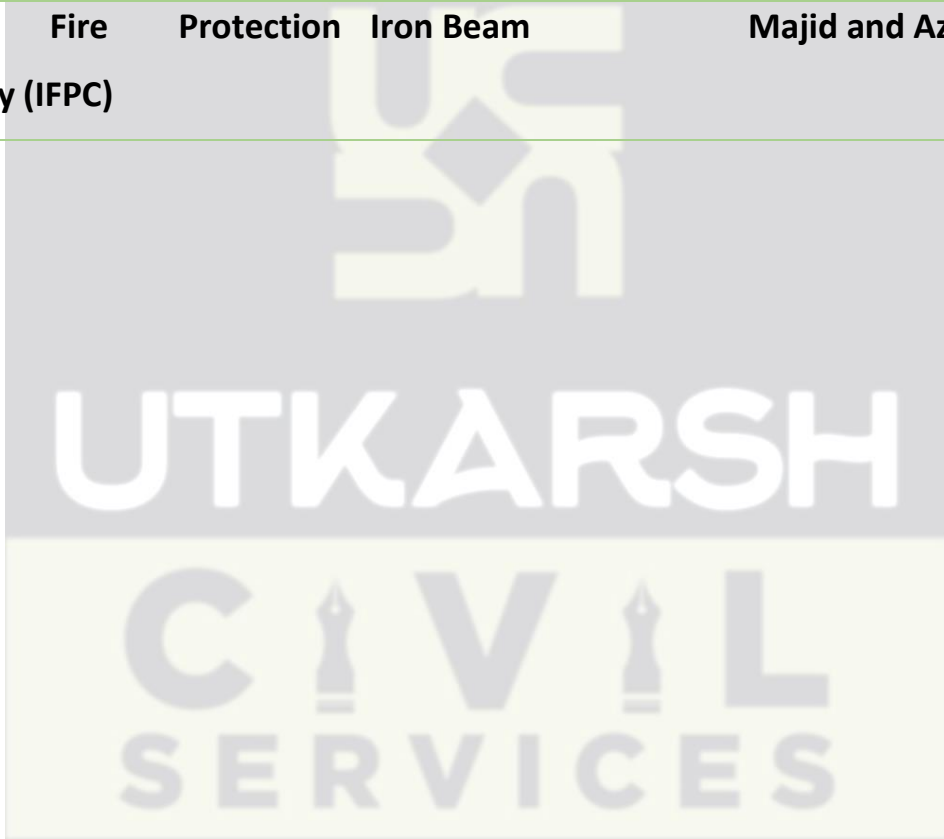
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Missile Defense System:

United States	Israel	Iran
THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense)	Arrow-2 and Arrow-3	Bavar-373
Patriot Missile System	David's Sling	Sevom-e-Khordad
SM-3 and SM-6 (US Navy)	Iron Dome	Tor-M1
Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC)	Iron Beam	Majid and Azarakhsh



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ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Cheetah Reintroduction Project (Project Cheetah)

Why in News?

- Recently, nine cheetahs from Botswana were brought to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh by C17 Globemaster aircraft of the Indian Air Force's 81 Squadron (Skylords).
- This is the third batch of cheetahs to arrive from an African country.



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Key Points:

- **Total Population:** With the release of six females and three males, the total number of cheetahs in India has increased to 48. Of these, 28 are cubs born in India and 20 are adult cheetahs relocated from African countries under the Central Government's Project Cheetah.
- Botswana is home to approximately 24% of the global cheetah population, numbering 7,100.
- The first batch of cheetahs (8 cheetahs) from Namibia was reintroduced in September 2022, followed by 12 cheetahs from South Africa in February 2023.

Other important points:

- **Project Cheetah:** It is the world's first intercontinental carnivorous wild animal translocation project.
- **Launch:** Launched in September 2022, under Project Tiger.
- **Objective:** The project is being implemented to reintroduce cheetahs, which were declared extinct in India in 1952.
- **Implementing Agency:** National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- In 2023, a steering committee was formed to oversee and guide the implementation of the project.
- Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh) currently serve as the primary habitats for translocated cheetahs, while Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh) has been identified for future expansion of the cheetah landscape.

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Other Sanctuaries in India:



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Oleum Gas Leak

Why in News?

- Recently, a massive leak of oleum gas occurred at Bhageria Industries Limited in Boisar, Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- Nickname:** Fuming sulfuric acid; a highly corrosive chemical consisting of sulfur trioxide (SO_3) dissolved in concentrated sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4). It releases dense white smoke when exposed to moist air.
- Chemical name:** Oleum (fuming sulfuric acid).
- Chemical representation:** $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot x\text{SO}_3$
- When $x = 1$, the compound is disulfuric acid ($\text{H}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_7$), also known as pyrosulfuric acid.

Production:

- Burning sulfur to produce sulfur dioxide (SO_2).
- Oxidation of SO_2 to form sulfur trioxide (SO_3).
- Absorption of SO_3 in concentrated sulfuric acid to form oleum.

Gas Properties:

Physical Properties:

- Appearance:** When dispersed in air, it appears as a dense, white cloud-like smoke.
- Freezing Point:** Its freezing point varies greatly with concentration; it can be solid at room temperature or liquid at temperatures as low as 0°C .

Chemical Properties:

- o **Dehydration:** It is an extremely strong dehydrating agent.
- o **Corrosiveness:** It is highly corrosive, but lacks free water to attack surfaces, making it less corrosive to some metals than dilute acid in its pure form.
- o **Hydration:** It has a very high enthalpy of hydration; when the SO_3 present in oleum comes into contact with water/moisture, it forms a fine mist of sulfuric acid.
- o **Health effects:** Severe eye irritation, respiratory obstruction and dispersion of sulphuric acid mist.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES

Rare Disease Day, 2026

Why in News?

- Rare Disease Day is celebrated globally every year on February 28 (or February 29 in leap years).



Key Points:

- **Objective:** It aims to achieve equality in social opportunities, healthcare, and access to diagnosis and treatment for patients suffering from rare diseases.
- **Origin:** 2008
- **Coordination:** It is carried out by EURORDIS (European Organisation for Rare Diseases) in partnership with more than 70 national partner patient organizations.
- **The theme of Rare Disease Day, 2026 is:** “Beyond Your Imagination”.

Other Key Points:

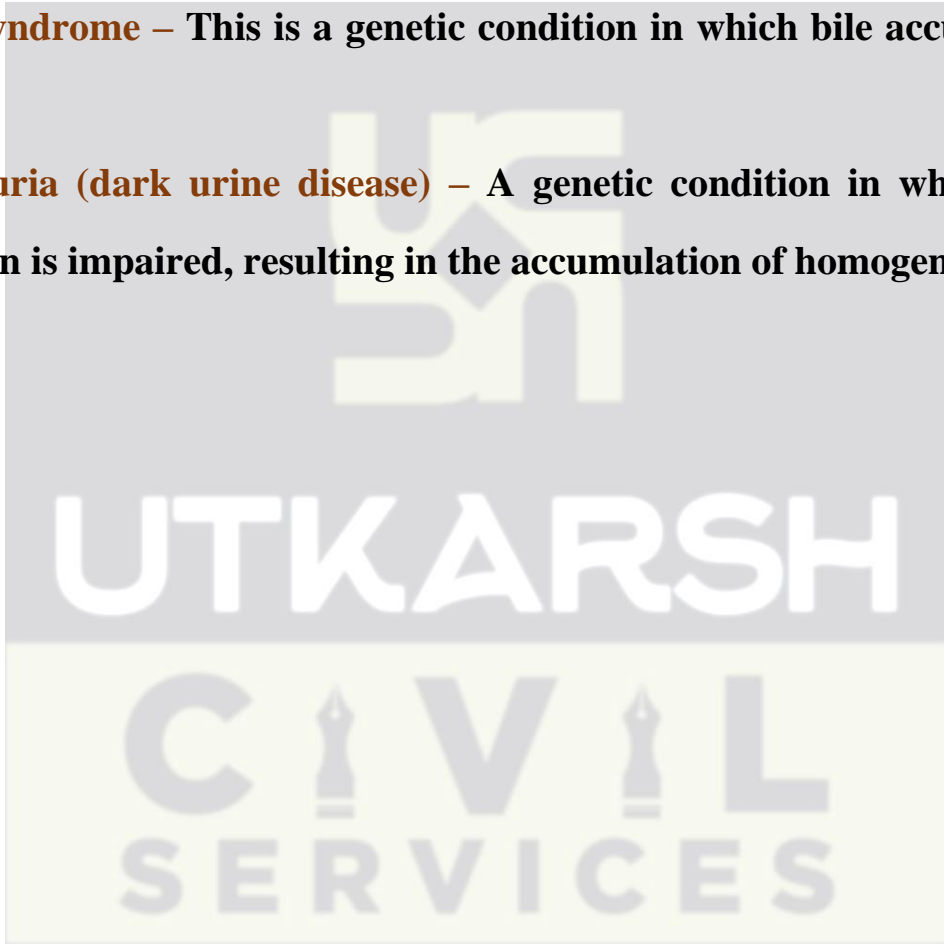
- **Rare Diseases:** Rare diseases are broadly defined as diseases that occur less frequently in the population, whose prevalence varies between countries.
- The World Health Organization defines rare diseases as conditions that are often debilitating and lifelong, with a prevalence of 1 or less per 1,000 people.
- There is no standard definition in India, but the Organization for Rare Diseases India (ORDI) suggests that a disease is considered rare if it affects 1 or less in 5,000 people.
- **The Organization for Rare Diseases India (ORDI) has listed 263 rare diseases in India. The top 10 of these are:**
 1. **Acanthocytosis chorea** – a neurological disorder that affects movement of many parts of the body.
 2. **Achalasia cardia** – a rare disorder that makes it difficult for food and liquids to pass through the swallowing tube (esophagus) connecting the mouth and stomach.
 3. **Acromesomelic dysplasia** – This is an inherited, skeletal disorder characterized by short stature, also known as short-limb dwarfism.
 4. **Acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (AIDP)** – A general classification of diseases affecting the nervous system.
 5. **Acute lymphoblastic leukemia** – Cancer of the blood, specifically of the white blood cells.
 6. **Addison's disease (adrenal insufficiency)** – The adrenal glands in the body do not produce enough of certain hormones, cortisol and aldosterone.

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7. **Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD)** – A genetic condition that damages the myelin sheath (membrane) that covers nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain.
8. **Acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy** – An autoimmune disease of the peripheral nervous system, recognized over a century ago.
9. **Alagille syndrome** – This is a genetic condition in which bile accumulates in the liver.
10. **Alkaptonuria (dark urine disease)** – A genetic condition in which protein breakdown is impaired, resulting in the accumulation of homogentisic acid.



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