Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 April 2026

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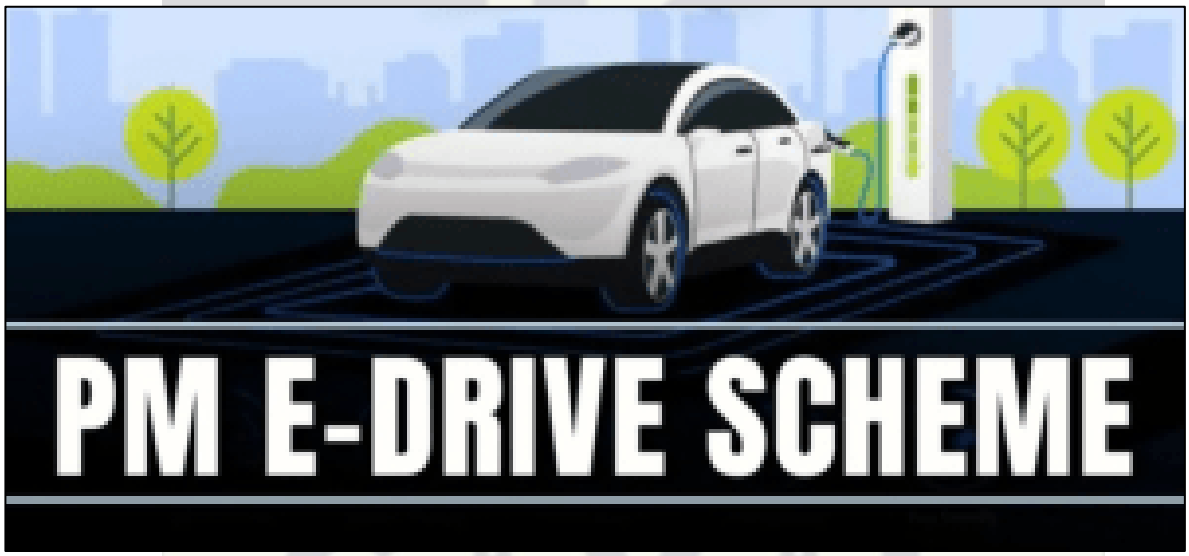
RAJASTHAN

PM E-Drive Scheme in Rajasthan

Why in News?

- The Government of India has sanctioned financial assistance of ₹81.12 crore to the Renewable Energy Corporation to promote EV charging infrastructure in Rajasthan.



Key Points:

- Under this initiative, a total of 591 EV charging stations will be established across 262 locations in the state.
- According to the scheme, 112 charging stations will be set up in Jaipur, 49 in Ajmer, 39 in Udaipur, and 28 in Kota.
- Additionally, 34 charging stations will be established along national and state highways.

PM E-Drive Scheme:

- **Launch Date:** October 1, 2024
- **Objective:** To accelerate the pace of EV adoption by providing subsidies and modernizing charging station and testing agency facilities.
- **Total Budget:** ₹10,900 crore
- It has replaced the previous FAME-II scheme.

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Open Central Asian Handball Championship

Key Points:

- The 5th Open Central Asian Handball Championship will be held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) from March 31 to April 5.
- The Indian men's team participating in this tournament includes Lokendra Singh Rathore (Dausa), Man Singh Shekhawat (Jaipur), Ashlesh Panwar (Jaipur), and Veerabhadra Singh (Banswara) from Rajasthan.

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Rakhi Atal

Why in News?

- Rakhi Atal, a resident of Jodhpur, won three medals in the table tennis competition at the 27th National Deaf Senior Sports Championship, held in Chandigarh on March 25–26.

Key Points:

1. **Women's Singles Event:** Bronze
2. **Women's Team Event:** Silver
3. **Women's Doubles Event:** Bronze

- Prior to this, she represented India at the Summer Deaflympics held in Brazil in 2022.

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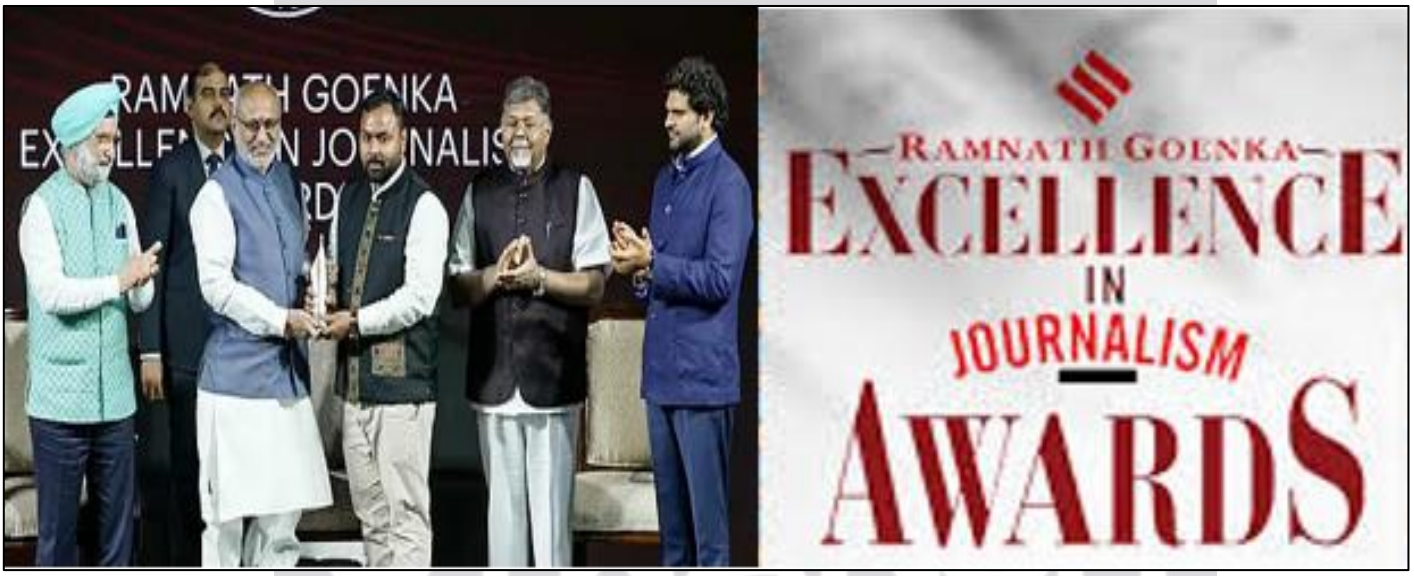
Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards, 2026

Why in News?

- Rajasthan's Avdhesh Akodia and Vijaypal Dudi were honored with the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award, 2026.



Key Points:

- This award is presented in memory of Ramnath Goenka, the founder of the Indian Express Group.

Avdhesh Akodia:

- **Category:** Best Reporting in Hindi.
- **Key Work:** Exposed a kidney trafficking racket operating between India and Bangladesh.
- Exposed loopholes in organ transplantation laws.

Vijaypal Dudi:

- **Category:** Uncovering India Invisible.
- **Key Work:** Exposed the trafficking of tribal children.
- Exposed a syndicate involved in selling children to childless couples.

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History and Culture

Shyamji Krishna Varma (1857–1930)

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister paid tribute to Shyamji Krishna Varma on his death anniversary.

Key Points:

Shyamji Krishna Varma:

- He was a great revolutionary, journalist, and philanthropist.
- He was born in Mandvi (Gujarat).

Key Contributions:

- He founded the Indian Home Rule Society in 1905. Its objective was to encourage young Indians to participate in revolutionary activities.
- He established 'India House' in London. Furthermore, it served as a major hub for revolutionaries in London.
- He served as the first President of the Bombay Arya Samaj. He also influenced prominent revolutionaries such as Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.
- **Literary Work:** 'The Indian Sociologist'—a journal that promoted nationalist ideas.

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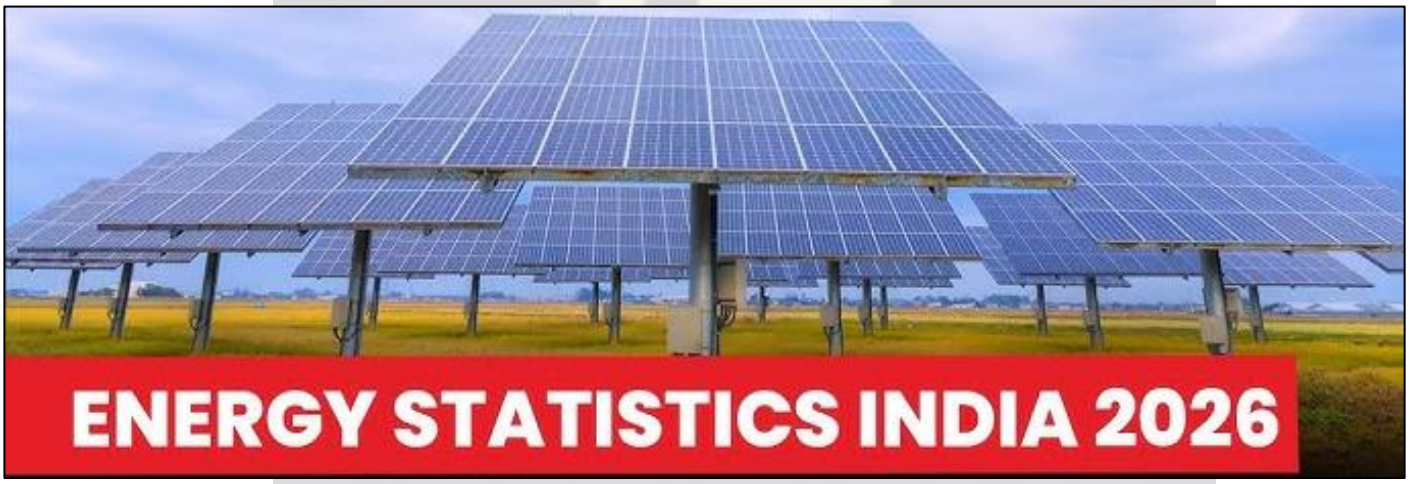
Economic Developments

India Energy Statistics 2026

Why in News?

- The National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has released 'India Energy Statistics 2026'.



Key Points:

Key Highlights of the India Energy Statistics 2026 Report:

- **Total Primary Energy Supply:** It witnessed an increase of 2.95% in the financial year 2024-25. It has reached approximately 9.3 lakh tonnes of oil equivalent.
- **Renewable Energy:** As of March 31, 2025, its production stands at approximately 47 lakh megawatts.
- **Top 3 States:** Rajasthan (23.70%) leads, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- **Largest Components:** Solar energy (approximately 71%) tops the list. It is followed by wind energy and large hydropower projects.
- Coal continues to remain the dominant source of energy.

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Status of the Fertilizer Sector in India

Why in News?

- India is one of the largest importers of fertilizers. The country imports approximately 13–20% of its urea requirement and about 60% of its demand for DAP (Diammonium Phosphate).

Key Points:

- The Gulf region remains a primary source for imports. This region accounts for 20–30% of urea imports and 30% of DAP imports. Additionally, this region supplies approximately 50% of India's LNG imports, which serves as a critical feedstock for urea production.
- **Diversification of Import Sources:** Importing from countries such as Russia, Morocco, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Jordan, Canada, Algeria, Egypt, Finland, and Togo is currently being considered.
- Globally, India is the second-largest consumer and the third-largest producer of fertilizers.
- The total domestic production of fertilizers—including Urea, DAP, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potash (NPKs), as well as Single Super Phosphate (SSP)—rose to 524.62 lakh tonnes in 2025.

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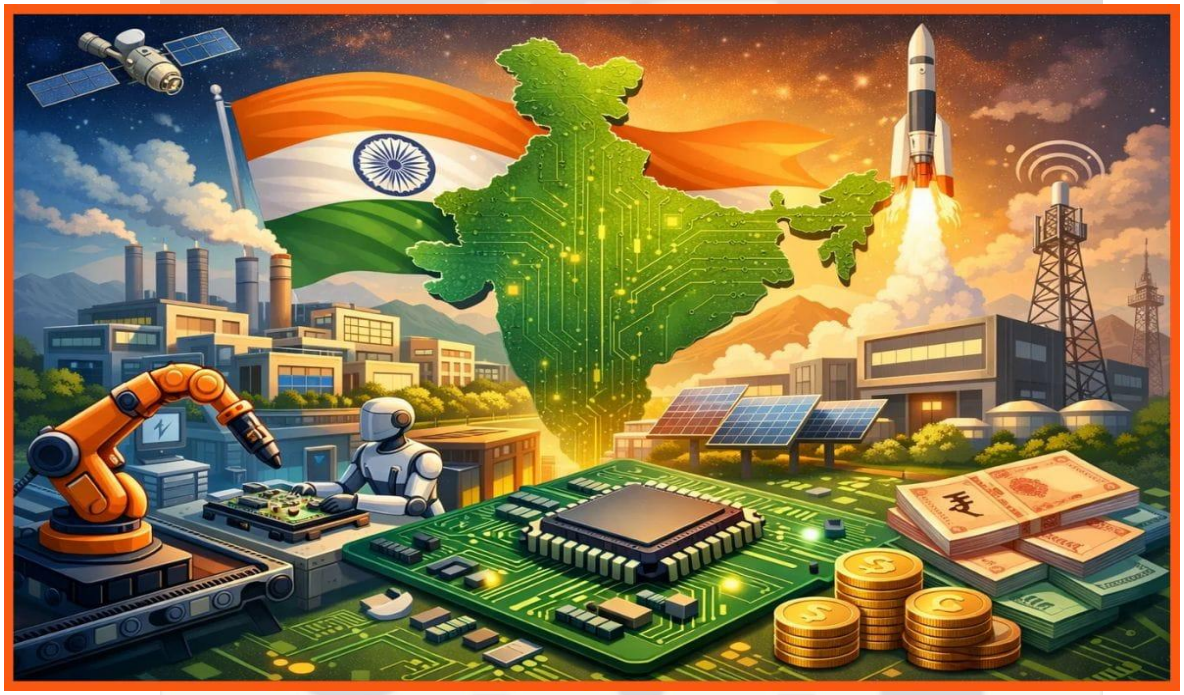
Schemes and Policies

Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

Why in News?

- The Central Government has approved 29 investment proposals worth ₹7,104 crore under the ECMS.



Key Points:

Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme:

- **Launch:** It was launched by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in 2025 (for a period of six years, i.e., Financial Years 2026–2032).
- **Objective:** Its aim is to integrate the domestic electronics industry with global value chains. Under this scheme, the goal is to develop a robust electronics-component manufacturing ecosystem by attracting both global and domestic investment into the value chain.
- **Targeted Sectors:** It focuses on high-value components. Examples include PCBs, camera/display modules, and lithium-ion cells.

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INTERNATIONAL

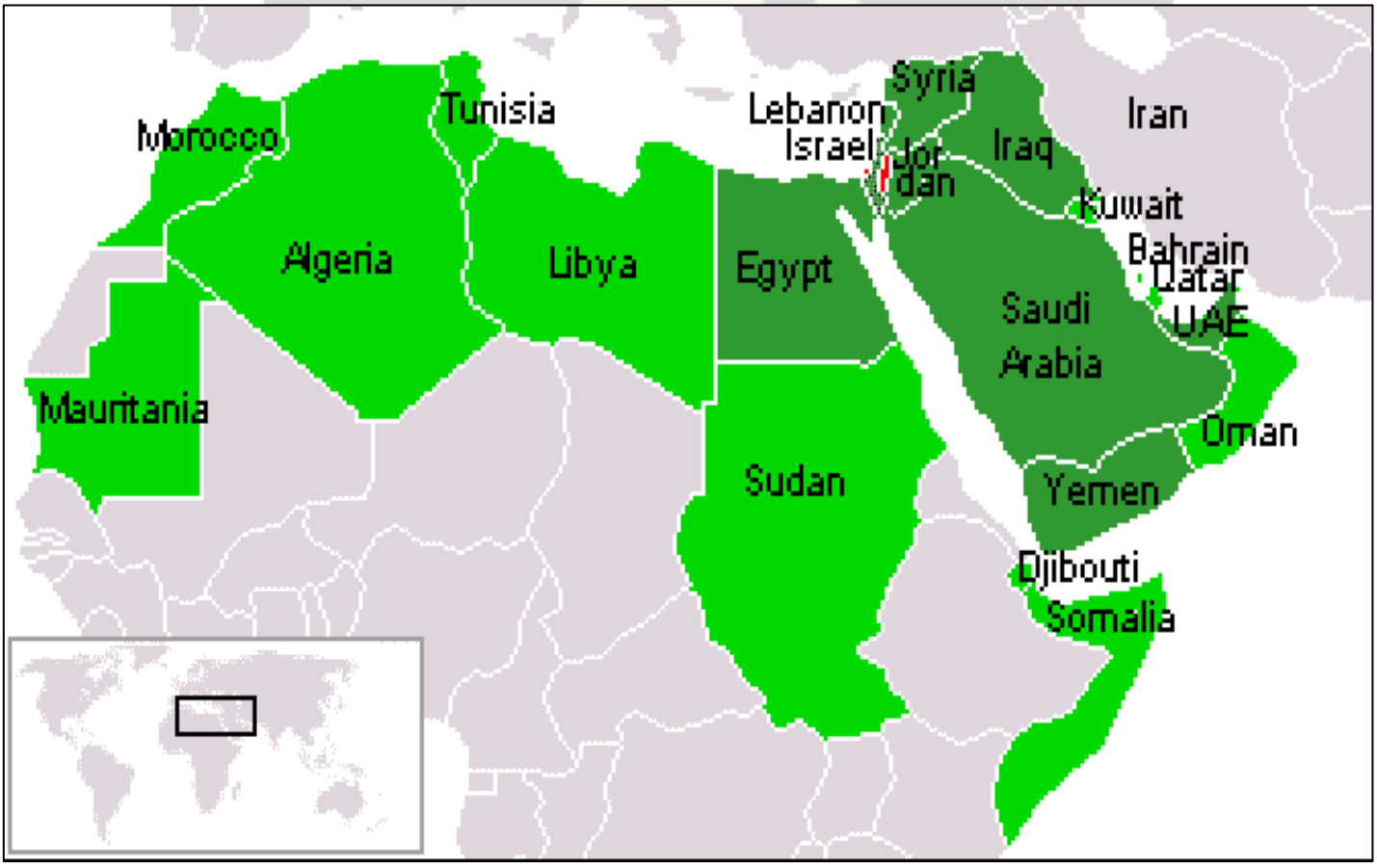
Arab League

Why in News?

- The Council of the League of Arab States has strongly condemned Iran's attacks on several Arab countries.

Key Points:

- The Arab League, officially known as the League of Arab States, was founded in Cairo in 1945.



- **Seven founding member states:** Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen.
- Currently, it has 22 member states.

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- The member states are located in the Middle East and North Africa.
- The League Council is the supreme body and comprises representatives from the member states.
- The League makes decisions based on a majority vote, but there is no mechanism to compel members to comply with resolutions.
- **Observer Status:** Brazil, Eritrea, India, and Venezuela.

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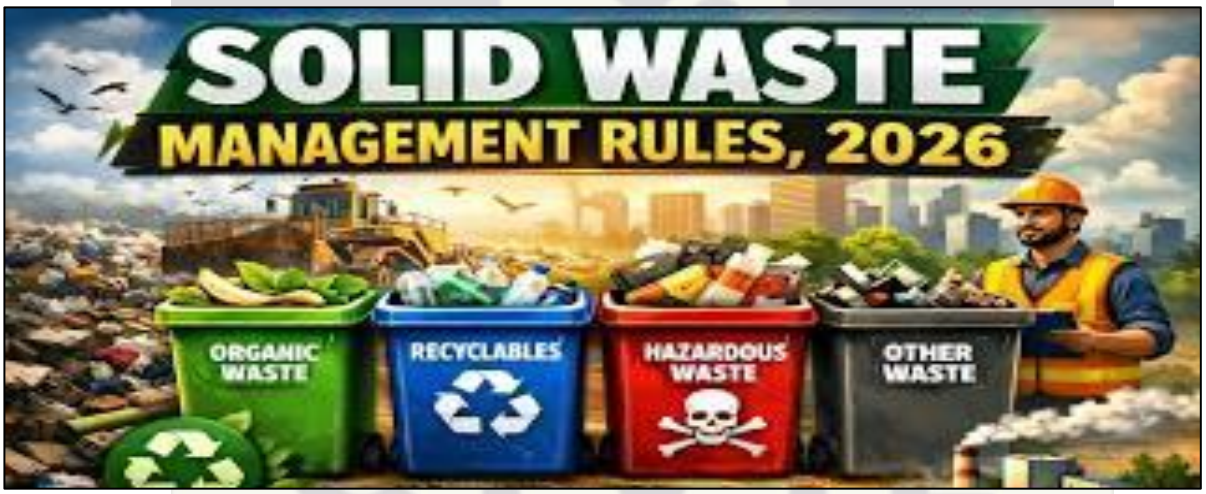
ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026

Why in News?

- The Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, will come into force on April 1, 2026. These rules were notified by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.



Key Points:

- The SWM Rules, 2026, will supersede the 'Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016'.

Key Provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026:

- **Mandatory Four-Tier Segregation:** Solid waste must be mandatorily segregated into four categories at the very source of its generation.
- **Accountability of Bulk Waste Generators:** If the disposal of waste is not feasible at the source of generation, bulk waste generators are required to obtain an Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR) certificate under the EBWGR framework.

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- **'Polluter Pays' Principle:** This principle will be applicable in cases involving violations of the rules and improper waste management.
- **Centralized Online Portal:** To monitor the entire process, from waste generation to its final disposal.
- **Duties of Local Bodies:** To undertake the collection, segregation, and transportation of solid waste in coordination with waste sorting centers.
- **Limiting Landfill Usage:** The use of landfills has now been strictly restricted to only those types of waste that can neither be recycled nor utilized for energy generation.

Solid Waste Generation in India

- **Current Status:** According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), approximately 1.85 lakh tonnes of solid waste was generated daily in India during the year 2023-24.
- Approximately 61% of this is processed, while the remainder goes to landfills.
- **Challenges:** Lack of proper collection and segregation at the source of waste generation; limited availability of land for disposal; unregulated disposal of e-waste; scarcity of financial resources among local bodies; etc.

Problems:

- Emission of methane gas, which contributes to global warming and causes incidents of fires and explosions at landfills.
- Seepage of leachate (toxic liquid leaking from landfills) into the ground, resulting in groundwater contamination.
- Open burning of waste releases fine particulate matter (PM). This leads to the formation of smog and can cause severe respiratory illnesses in people.

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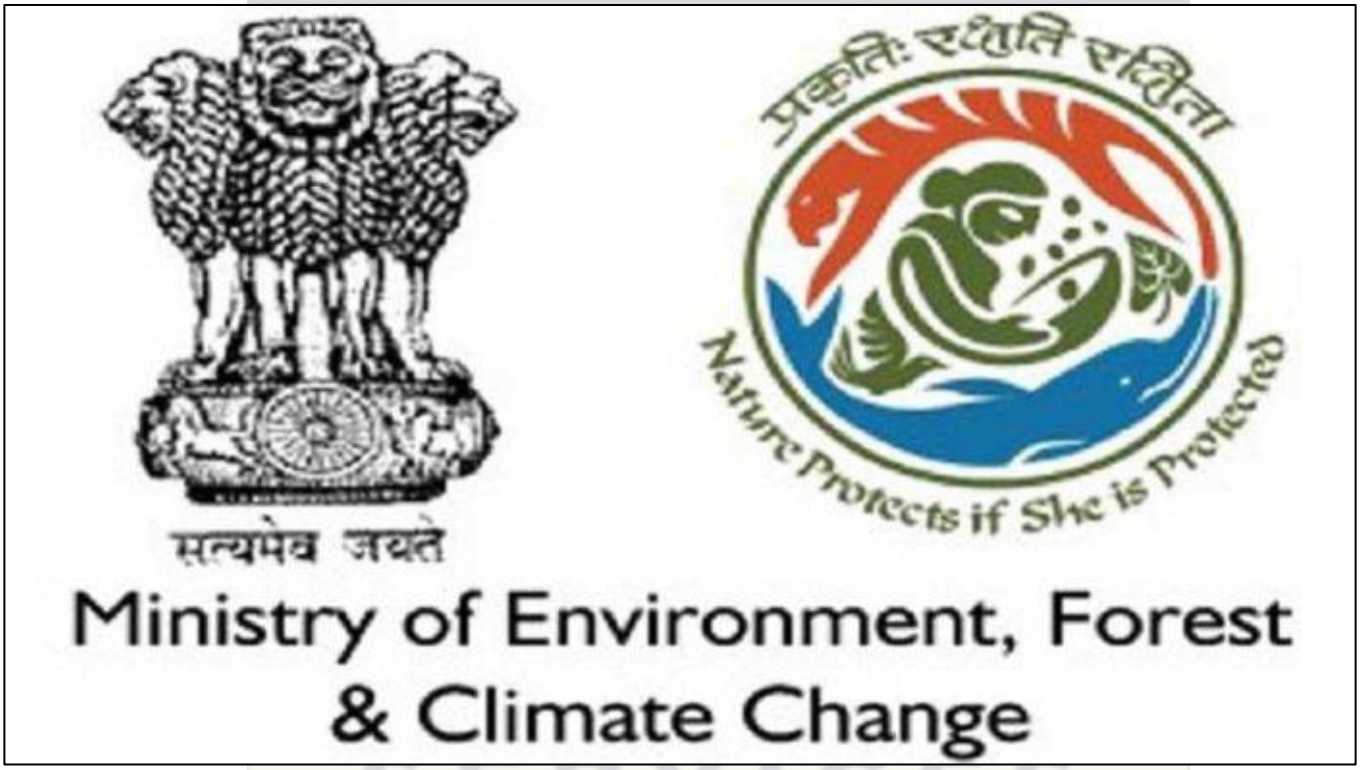
Bhavasagara

Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has officially accorded the status of 'National Repository for Deep-Sea Organisms' to the 'Bhavasagara Referral Centre'.



Key Points:

- This recognition has been granted under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Bhavasagara:

- It is located at the 'Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology' (CMLRE) in Kochi (Kerala).
- CMLRE functions under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Objective:** It will serve as a pivotal national hub for the conservation, study, and documentation of India's deep-sea biological heritage.

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- **Significance:** It strengthens India's "Blue Economy" and marine biodiversity framework.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Secure Preservation:** Conservation of biological specimens and DNA sequences for future scientific reference.
- **Preservation of Type Specimens:** Acting as the official custodian for new deep-sea species discovered within Indian waters.
- **Capacity Building:** Developing expertise in the taxonomy of deep-sea species to facilitate progress aligned with the UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021–2030).
- **Status of Deep-Sea Fauna:** According to the Zoological Survey of India, as of 2021, 4,371 deep-sea species have been identified in India; of these, 1,032 species belong to the Kingdom Protista, and 3,339 species fall under the Kingdom Animalia.

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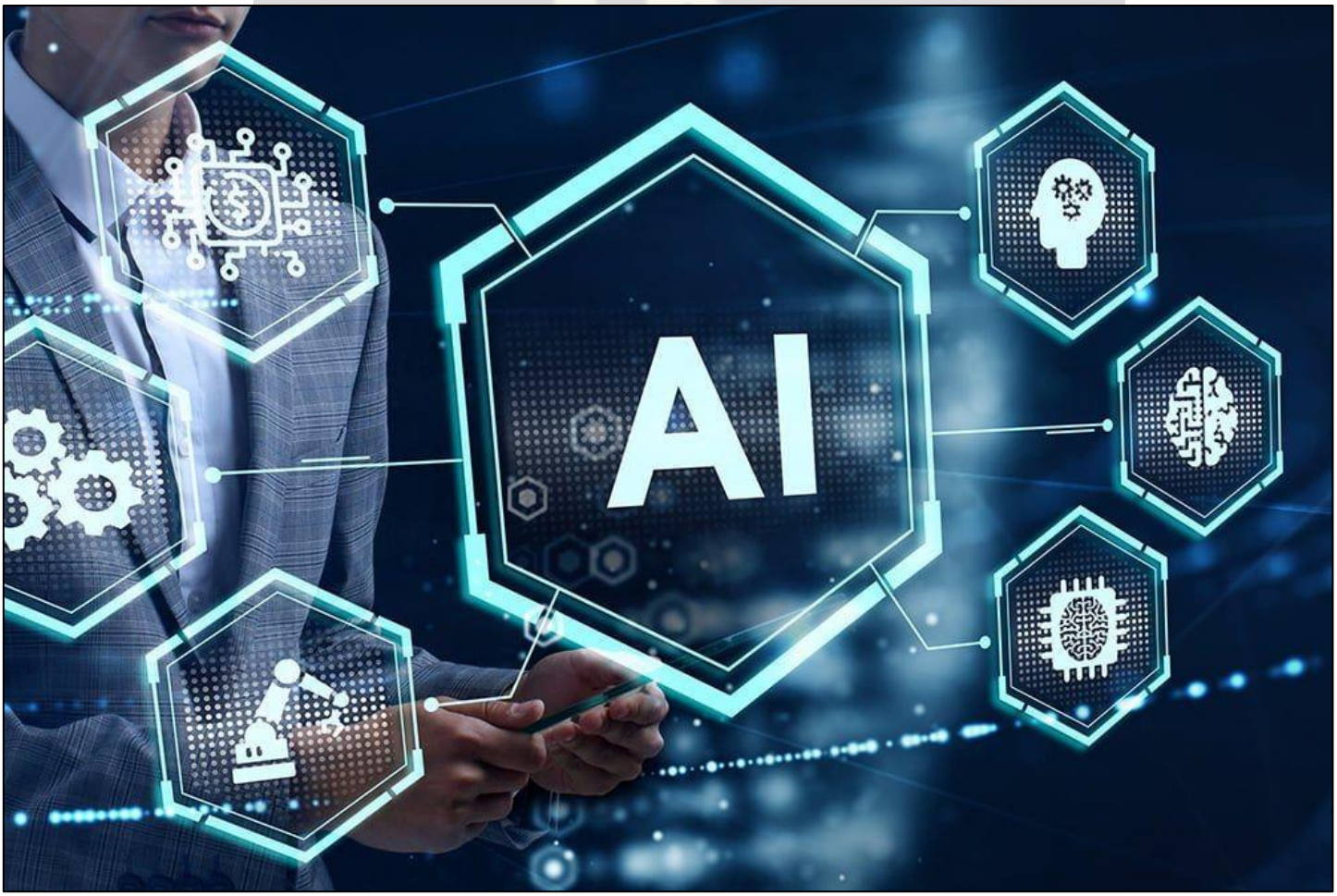
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Report on the Impact of the Rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Why in News?

- A Parliamentary Standing Committee has presented a report on the 'Impact of the Rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI)'.



Key Points:

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology (ICT) has highlighted the following points in its 27th Report (2025-26):

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India's Global Standing in the AI Sector:

- **Ranking:** India ranks 10th in the 'Tortoise Global AI Index' and 4th in the 'Stanford AI Index'.
- **Diffusion of Skill Development:** India ranks first globally in the diffusion of AI-related skills.
- **Workforce Growth:** Due to AI, approximately 4.7 million new technology-related jobs are likely to be created by 2027, and the nature of about 38 million existing jobs is expected to transform by 2030.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** India possesses the world's largest base of internet users (over 900 million). Additionally, it holds the top position globally in terms of scientific publications on AI and ICT service exports.

Challenges to AI Adoption in India:

- Lack of high-performance computing infrastructure;
- Limited access to clear and high-quality datasets;
- Shortage of technical skills at the grassroots level.
- **Sector-Specific Challenges:** For instance—the utilization of AI in the agricultural sector remains very low, for several reasons:
  - High initial costs;
  - Lack of high-speed internet connectivity in villages;
  - Scarcity of AI tools available in local languages and dialects;
  - Farmers often lack complete trust in AI-generated advice, primarily because the underlying mechanisms of how AI functions remain unclear to them.
- **Cybersecurity:** AI is being misused for malicious purposes, such as the creation of deepfakes, the generation of content depicting child sexual exploitation and abuse, and the use of 'mule accounts' to facilitate financial crimes.

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- **Risks in the Defence Sector:** The deployment of lethal autonomous weapon systems and AI-based decision-making systems heightens the risk of unintended and fatal consequences.

Key Recommendations of the Committee

- **Enactment of legislation and IT rules covering broad aspects of AI:** Such as—labeling of content generated using Artificial Intelligence (AI); and establishing age limits on certain social media platforms to safeguard vulnerable groups, such as women and children.

Expedited implementation of the IndiaAI Mission.

- **Strengthening the cybercrime prevention mechanism ('Surakshini'):** A technology that utilizes an automated hash-matching system.

Other Measures:

- **Combating Financial Fraud:** For instance—employing state-of-the-art AI technology to identify 'mule accounts'.
- **Security Measures in the Defence Sector:** Clear definitions and boundaries must be established regarding the degree of AI autonomy permitted in weaponry. This is to ensure that human control over such systems is always maintained.

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