

Daily Current Affairs

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Consumer Justice Report, 2026



Why in News?

- Rajasthan has secured the third position in the Consumer Justice Report, 2026, which assesses the capacity of Consumer Dispute Redressal Commissions at the state and district levels.



Key Points:

- **Objective:** The primary objective of this report is to evaluate the institutional capacity of consumer courts and to highlight deficiencies such as shortages in budget, infrastructure, and staff.
- **Publisher:** India Justice Report.
- **First Place:** Andhra Pradesh (among large states) and Meghalaya (among small states).
- **Rajasthan:** Third Position (Demonstrated strong performance across 11 parameters, including budget, infrastructure, and human resources. Score: 5.82/10).

Mobile Veterinary Unit



Why in News?

- 536 Mobile Veterinary Units have been launched to provide medical facilities to 6.2 million livestock across the state.

मोबाइल वेटरनरी यूनिट में ये हैं सुविधाएं

- पशु चिकित्सा
- छोटे शल्य चिकित्सा
- कृमिनाशक
- ड्रेसिंग
- गर्भ जांच
- टीकाकरण
- कृत्रिम गर्भाधान



यह है प्रक्रिया

- 1962 नंबर पर कॉल करके एमवीयू की सेवा बुक कर सकते हैं
- लोकेशन के जरिए वैन को होती है इतला
- बीमार पशु की लोकेशन पर पहुंचती है वैन



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Key Points:

- To integrate modern technology into this scheme, a chatbot facility is also being made available.
- Through this initiative, livestock owners are being provided with facilities such as online prescriptions, along with audio and video tele-consultations.

MVU:

- **Objective:** To provide free medical facilities for livestock to owners directly at their doorsteps.

Features:

1. MVU services include veterinary care, minor surgeries, deworming, pregnancy diagnosis, and vaccination.
2. Each mobile unit is staffed by one veterinarian, one livestock assistant, and one driver-cum-helper.
3. All vehicles will be equipped with the necessary medical instruments and medicines.
4. **Expenditure Contribution:** 60% by the Government of India + 40% by the State Government.

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Unveiling of the Statue of Lieutenant General Sagat Singh

Why in News?

- The Chief Minister unveiled a statue of Indian Army Lieutenant General Sagat Singh at the Churu district headquarters.



Key Points:

- On this occasion, he addressed the "Shaurya ke Saath Sankalp Diwas" (Day of Resolve with Valor) program. Additionally, the Churu District Stadium has been renamed the Sagat Singh Rathore Stadium.

Lieutenant General Sagat Singh Rathore:

- **Birth:** July 14, 1919, Churu (Kusumdesar)

- **Death:** September 26, 2001

Major Military Achievements:

1. Liberation of Goa, 1961 – Operation Vijay
2. Nathu La and Cho La Clashes, 1967
3. The 1971 Bangladesh War

- **Titles:** 'Invincible Warrior' and 'The Soldiers' General'

- **Honors:** Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)

- **Biography:** 'A Talent for War' – Author: Major General Randhir Singh.

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Chief Minister's Excellence Awards Presented to Officials

Why in News?

- On the occasion of Civil Services Day (April 21), the Chief Minister's Excellence Awards were presented to nine public servants during a ceremony held at HCM RIPA.



Key Points:

Honorees:

- Governance Category** – Aarti Dogra, Siddharth Mahajan
- Flagship Scheme Category** – Dr. Khushal Yadav, Rohitashva Singh Tomar, Rajiv Tomar
- Innovation Category** – Krishna Kunal, Gayatri A. Rathore, Nakate Shivprasad Madan, and P. Balamurugan.



History and Culture



Adi Shankaracharya (8th Century CE)



Why in News?

- The Prime Minister paid tribute to Adi Shankaracharya on his birth anniversary.



Key Points:

Adi Shankaracharya:

- **Birth:** He was born in 788 CE in Kaladi, Kerala.
- He propagated the philosophy of Advaita (Non-dualism).
- According to him, the Atman (Self) and Brahman are not distinct entities, but are one and the same (Supreme, Ultimate, Formless, and Eternal).
- The diversity and distinctions visible in the world constitute Maya (illusion). Liberation (Moksha) is attained only when an individual realizes this oneness.
- He established four Mathas (monasteries) in the four cardinal directions of India: Sringeri (South), Dwarka (West), Puri (East), and Badrinath (North).
- **Literary Works:** Bhaja Govindam, Atmashatkam, Saundarya Lahari, etc.

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Economic Developments

Foodgrain Production in India

Why in News?

- According to the Central Government, India possesses foodgrain stocks that are more than three times the current buffer norms.



Key Points:

- India currently holds stocks of approximately 22.2 million metric tonnes of wheat and about 38 million metric tonnes of rice. Thus, the total foodgrain stock in the country stands at approximately 60.2 million metric tonnes.

Foodgrain Production in India

- Agricultural exports rose from \$34.5 billion (FY 2020) to \$51.1 billion (FY 2025). The share of processed food products within this figure has increased to 20.4%, serving as an indicator of value addition.

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- Horticultural production reached 362.08 million tonnes. This exceeds the volume of foodgrain production. Thus, this performance reflects a structural shift towards high-value crops.

India ranks among the world's leading producers:

- India is the largest producer of pulses (25.68 million tonnes), millets, and rice (according to the Union Ministry of Agriculture); and
- It is the second-largest producer of wheat, fruits, and vegetables.

A leader in the production of high-value crops:

- It holds the first position in the production of spices and coconuts;
- It holds the second position in the production of sugarcane, cotton, and tea.

Buffer Stock

- A buffer stock refers to the quantity of foodgrains that the government procures and stores to safeguard against contingencies, thereby meeting emergency requirements, stabilizing prices, and ensuring supply through welfare schemes.
- The norms associated with this are determined on a quarterly basis by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

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Palm Oil

Why in News?

- Amidst a global supply crisis, the demand for imported palm oil in India is likely to rise.



Key Points:

- India is the world's largest importer of palm oil.

Palm Oil:

- Palm oil is derived from the fruit of the African oil palm tree (*Elaeis guineensis*).

Types:

- Crude Palm Oil (extracted from the fruit pulp):** This is primarily used for cooking purposes.
- Palm Kernel Oil (extracted from the seeds):** This is used for non-food purposes (such as cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, etc.).

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Cultivation:

- The oil palm is a species endemic to Africa.
- Currently, Indonesia and Malaysia account for over 85% of the global supply.
- In India, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala are the major oil palm-producing states; together, they account for 98% of the total production.
- Indian initiatives related to oil palm include the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), among others.



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The Food Processing Ecosystem in India

Why in News?

- India's food processing sector has emerged as a crucial link between agriculture and industry, fostering value addition, improving farmers' incomes, and expanding export potential.

Key Points:

The Food Processing Sector

- Food processing refers to the transformation of raw agricultural produce into consumable products, ranging from simple cleaning to complex industrial manufacturing.
- **It operates at three levels:**
 - Primary processing involves the cleaning, grading, and packaging of produce.
 - Secondary processing converts raw materials into intermediate products, such as flour.
 - Tertiary processing yields ready-to-eat or ready-to-cook food products.

Significance

- Food processing extends the shelf life of food products and enhances food safety by minimizing the risk of contamination.
- It promotes nutrition and convenience, making processed and ready-to-eat foods accessible to the urban population.
- The sector bolsters farmers' incomes and rural employment by generating demand for agricultural produce and creating jobs across the value chain.
- It plays a pivotal role in export growth, with the share of processed food exports within total agricultural exports rising from 13.7% to 20.4% (between 2014-15 and 2024-25).

Growth Drivers in the Food Processing Sector

- The demand for processed foods is surging, driven by India's demographic dividend and rapid urbanization; the market is projected to grow from US\$ 263 billion to US\$ 470 billion by 2025.
- Digital transformation has facilitated direct linkages between farmers and markets, while also enabling the expansion of e-commerce and food delivery platforms.
- Supportive policies—such as allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)—and schemes like the PLI-SFPI have significantly boosted investment in the sector.
- The adoption of innovations and agri-tech solutions in health-oriented and millet-based products is leading to improvements in product diversity and quality.

Challenges Facing the Sector

- The supply chain in this sector is fragmented, with over 86% of farmers being small and marginal farmers, which limits scale and efficiency.
- Infrastructure deficits—particularly in cold storage—result in post-harvest losses of up to 25–30%.
- A complex regulatory framework involving multiple agencies increases the burden of compliance and regulatory uncertainty.
- There is a skills gap, as only 3% of the workforce is formally trained.
- Limited access to finance—especially for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)—restricts investment in technology and expansion.
- Products are rejected in global markets due to issues related to quality standards and export compliance.

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- Regulatory pressure is mounting due to environmental concerns—such as plastic packaging—and sustainability-related challenges.
- Volatility in the prices of agricultural produce creates uncertainty in production and pricing.

Government Initiatives

- Key schemes include the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme.
- To boost investment, a special Food Processing Fund of ₹2,000 crore has been established in collaboration with NABARD.

The Way Forward

- Develop integrated food processing clusters in close proximity to production centers.
- Adopt technology-driven supply chains utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT).
- Implement financial reforms, such as sector-specific credit schemes and credit guarantees.
- Strengthening quality standardization and global compliance will enhance export competitiveness.
- Simplify regulatory processes through a single-window clearance system.
- Promote sustainable processing practices and eco-friendly packaging.
- Increase investment in Research and Development (R&D).

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Disability-Friendly Prison Reforms



Why in News?

- The Supreme Court has directed a High-Powered Committee, headed by former Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, not to limit the scope of its study merely to streamlining open-prison correctional facilities, but to extend it further.



Key Points:

- The panel has now been tasked with formulating a plan to make prisons across India disability-friendly, while simultaneously upholding security requirements.
- The Court emphasized a humane and rights-based approach. According to the Court, it must be ensured that the rights enshrined under Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 21 (Right to Live with Dignity) are not violated during the period of incarceration.

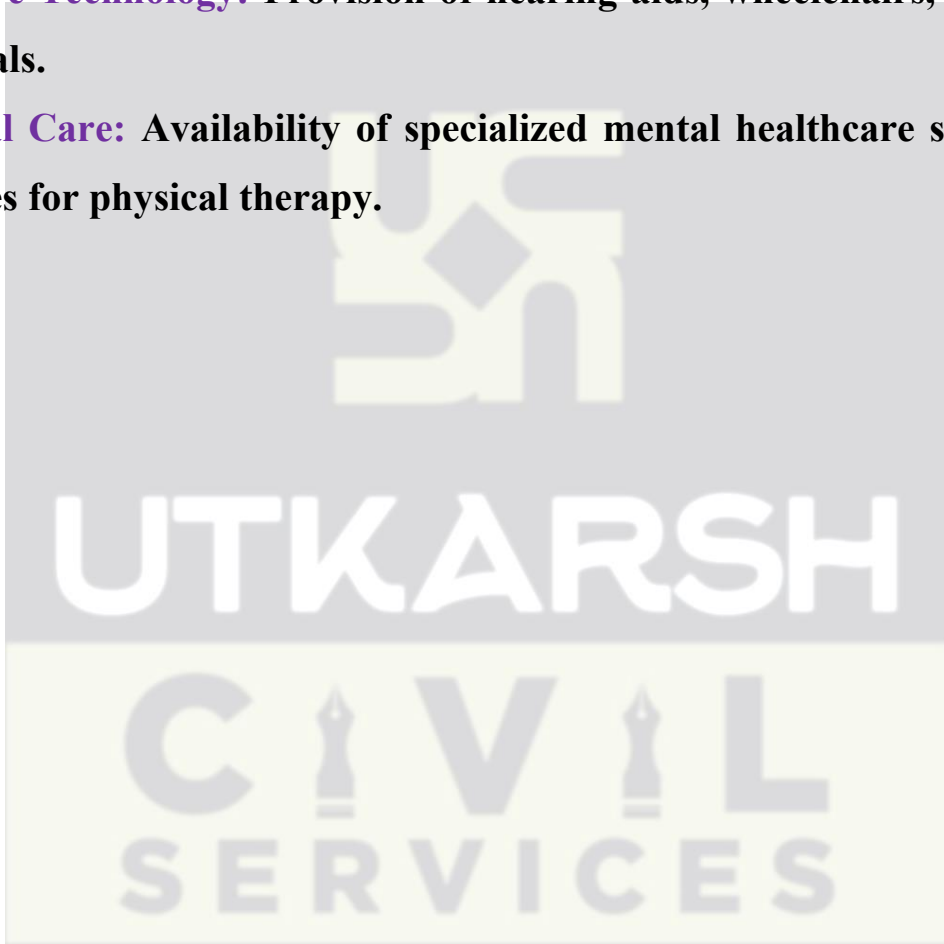
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Supreme Court's Directives:

- **The Committee has been tasked with preparing a blueprint for the following:**
 - o **Ease of Mobility:** Provision of ramps, accessible restrooms, and tactile flooring.
 - o **Assistive Technology:** Provision of hearing aids, wheelchairs, and Braille materials.
 - o **Medical Care:** Availability of specialized mental healthcare services and facilities for physical therapy.



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Schemes and Policies

SMILE Scheme

Why in News?

- The SMILE scheme is transforming lives across India by promoting the inclusive rehabilitation and social reintegration of vulnerable communities.



Key Points:

- Launched in 2022, the Scheme for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) is implemented by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- This is India's first integrated national framework designed to provide support to vulnerable groups at every stage—ranging from identification and rescue to healthcare, rehabilitation, education, counseling, skill development, and long-term economic independence.
- The second component of this scheme is dedicated to the empowerment of transgender persons.
- **Objective:** To make religious, tourism, and historical urban areas "beggar-free."
- **Progress:** As of January 2026, a total of 30,257 individuals found engaged in the act of begging have been identified, and 8,129 individuals have been rehabilitated across various cities.

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ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Methane Emissions

Why in News?

- The report titled "Spotlight on the Top 25 Methane Plumes in 2025: Landfills" lists two waste sites in India among the top global methane emitters. This report was released by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Key Points:

- These sites include waste centers located in Secunderabad (Telangana) and Mumbai (Maharashtra). These centers emit 4.9 tons of methane per hour.

Methane:

- It is a potent greenhouse gas. After carbon dioxide, it is the second-largest contributor to global warming.
- Although methane persists in the Earth's atmosphere for a shorter duration compared to carbon dioxide, it is nonetheless far more potent at trapping heat.

Earth Day

Why in News?

- Earth Day was observed on April 22. The theme for 2026 is 'Our Power, Our Planet,' which focuses on renewable energy.



Key Points:

Earth Day:

- Celebrated annually on April 22, this day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

History:

- **The First Earth Day (April 22, 1970):** It began as a nationwide mass protest in the United States demanding sustainable change.
- This led to the formation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the enactment of the Clean Air Act.
- **Global Level (1990):** In 1990, the movement expanded internationally to broaden the scope of the environmental movement worldwide, as well as to educate and mobilize people regarding environmental issues.

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Shekha Lake Bird Sanctuary

Why in News?

- India has designated the Shekha Lake Bird Sanctuary, located in Uttar Pradesh, as its 99th Ramsar site; this brings the total number of sites on this list within Uttar Pradesh to 12.



Key Points:

Shekha Lake Bird Sanctuary

- It is a freshwater wetland ecosystem formed by the Upper Ganga Canal in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.
- It serves as a crucial habitat for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway and acts as a wintering ground for species such as the Bar-headed Goose, Painted Stork, and various types of ducks and waterbirds.

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India's Latest Additions to the List of Ramsar Sites

- **Siliserh Lake (Rajasthan): 95th Ramsar Site**
- **Kopra Reservoir (Chhattisgarh): 96th Ramsar Site**
- **Patna Bird Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh): 97th Ramsar Site**
- **Chhari-Dhand Conservation Reserve (Gujarat): 98th Ramsar Site**

What is the Ramsar Convention?

- **The Ramsar Convention is one of the oldest intergovernmental agreements signed by member nations to conserve the ecological character of wetlands of international importance.**
- **It was signed on February 2, 1971, in Ramsar, Iran, and came into force in 1975.**
- **India became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.**

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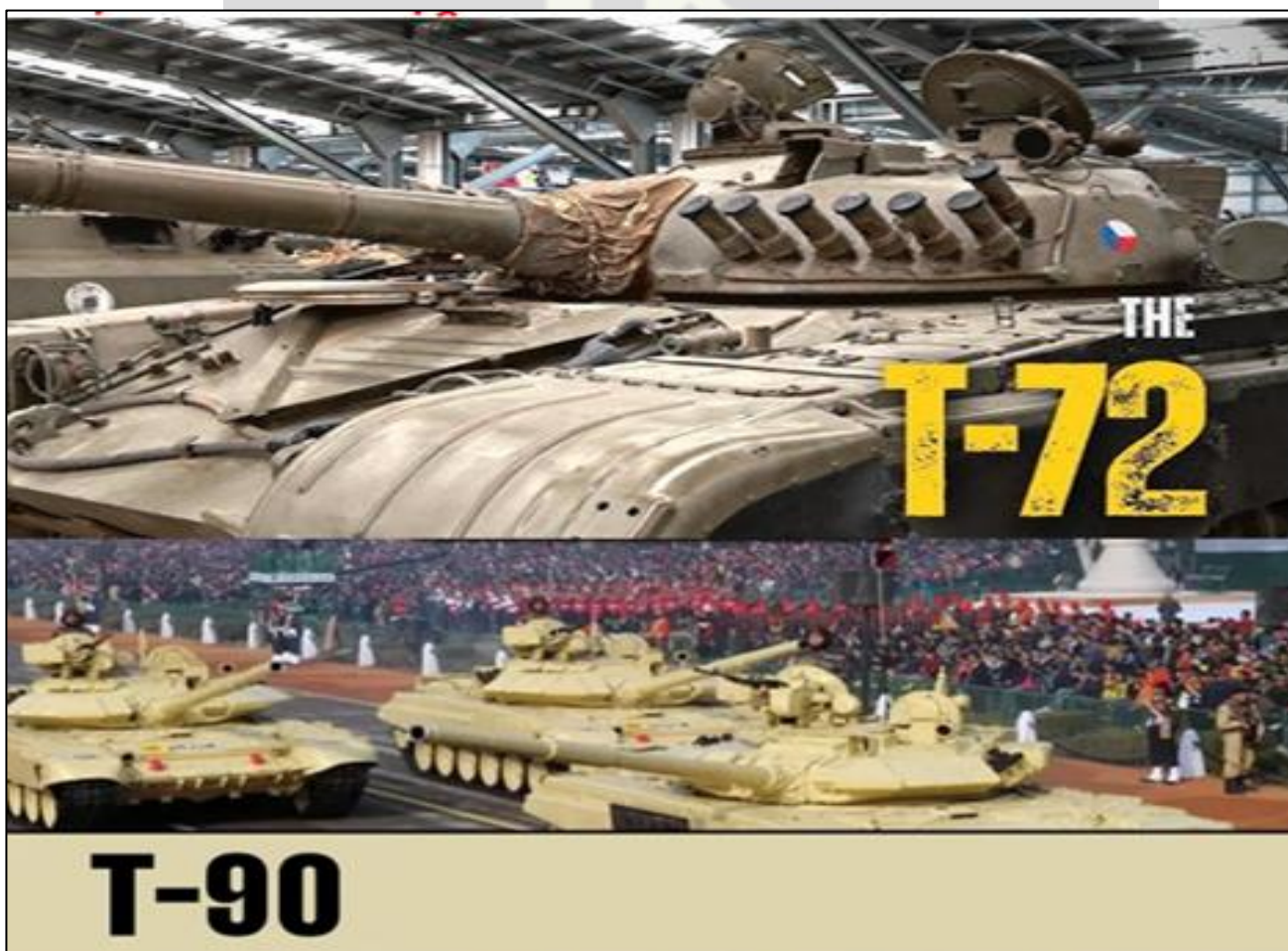
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🕒 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🕒

Trawl Assemblies for T-72 and T-90 Tanks

📣 Why in News?

- The Ministry of Defence has signed contracts with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Electro Pneumatics and Hydraulics (India) Private Limited for the procurement of Trawl Assemblies for T-72 and T-90 tanks.



📌 Key Points:

Trawl Assembly:

- This is a mine-clearing device designed for combat tanks such as the T-72 and T-90. It is used to safely breach minefields.

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About the Tanks:

- **T-72 (Ajeya):** This is a Main Battle Tank of the former Soviet Union, inducted into service in 1973. Approximately 25,000 units of this tank were produced.
- The T-72 features an NBC (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) protection system. It has been developed to operate in deep water, including while fording submerged rivers.
- **T-90:** This is a Russian Main Battle Tank and a modernized variant of the T-72. It entered service in 1992.
- India is the largest operator of the T-90. The "Bhishma" variant of this tank is utilized here.

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Global Electricity Review 2026 Report



Why in News?

- Ember has released its seventh annual 'Global Electricity Review 2026' report.



Key Points:

- This report presents a comprehensive analysis of electricity generation at both global and national levels for the year 2025. Furthermore, it highlights how clean energy is rapidly meeting the growing demand for electricity.

A Glance at the Report's Key Highlights

- **Solar Energy – Meeting the Demand:** In 2025, solar energy met approximately 75% of the global increase in electricity demand. Thus, solar energy emerged as the primary contributor within the clean energy sector.
- **Share of Renewable Energy:** In 2025, renewable energy sources contributed a record 33.8% to global electricity generation—surpassing even the contribution of coal (33.0%). This marks the first time such an event has occurred in over a century.
- **Decline in Fossil Fuel Contribution:** Fossil fuel-based electricity generation recorded a marginal shift of -0.2%, indicating a stagnation or decline in this sector.

Facts Related to India in the Report:

- **Reduction in Fossil Fuel-Based Generation:** India recorded a 3.3% decline in electricity generation from fossil fuel sources.
- **Rapid Expansion of Clean Energy:** Renewable energy generation witnessed a 24% increase. In India, solar energy has now overtaken hydropower to become the largest source of clean energy.
- **Record Solar Capacity Addition:** India added 38 GW of solar capacity in 2025, surpassing even the United States for the first time in this regard.
- **Success in Making a Global Impact:** Together with China, India played a pivotal role in curbing the rising global usage of fossil fuels.