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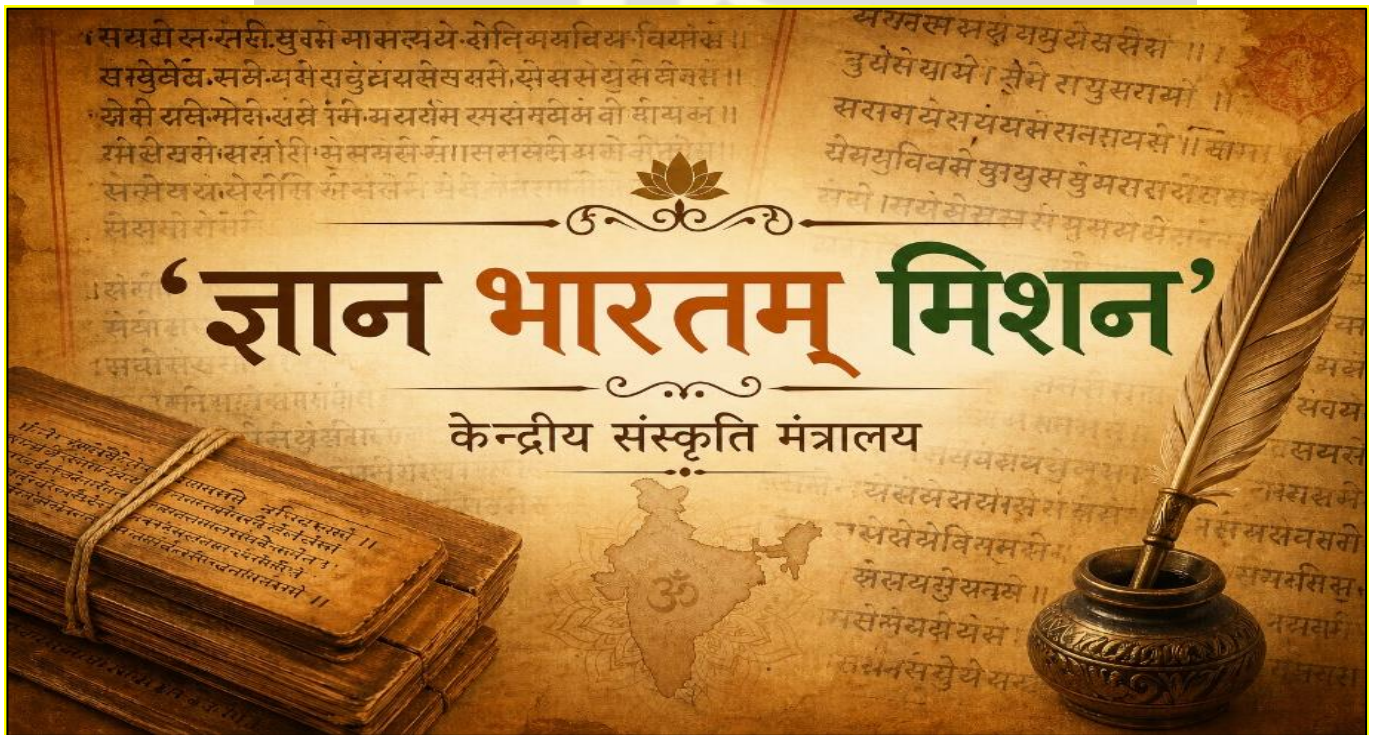


The State's Top 3 Districts under the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission'



Why in News?

- Under the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' launched by the Union Ministry of Culture, Jaipur, Bikaner, and Jodhpur hold the first, second, and third positions, respectively.



Key Points:

- District-wise number of manuscripts:** Jaipur (491,688), Bikaner (339,740), and Jodhpur (190,847).
- It is noteworthy that under the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission,' Rajasthan ranks first nationwide in the survey and digitization of manuscripts.
- Approximately 25 percent of the country's total manuscripts are located in Rajasthan. Currently, 1,381,009 manuscripts are registered in the state.
- A comprehensive campaign for the survey and conservation of ancient texts and manuscripts was launched in Rajasthan on March 16, 2026.

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- Under this statewide survey, the State Department of Tourism, Art & Literature, Culture, and Archaeology will conduct a survey to discover and catalog ancient texts and manuscripts.
- **Mission Objective:** To create a high-quality digital database of rare manuscripts so that they may be preserved for the future.
- **Nodal Department for Manuscript Survey in Rajasthan:** Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute (Rajasthan Prachya Vidya Pratishthan), Jodhpur.
- **State Nodal Officer for Manuscript Survey in Rajasthan:** Dr. Lata Shrimali, Director of the Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy.
- **Main Cluster Center:** Under the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' in Rajasthan, the Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy, Jaipur, has been designated as the state's main cluster center for the conservation and scientific study of manuscripts.
- **Note:** The Abhay Jain Granthalaya (Library), located in Bikaner, has been declared Rajasthan's first official manuscript conservation center.

Other Important Points:

- **Manuscript:** A document or text that has been written by hand. The word 'manuscript' is derived from the Latin terms 'manu' (hand) and 'script' (to write). In ancient times, before the invention of the printing press or paper, manuscripts served as the primary means of preserving knowledge and information. These were often inscribed on palm leaves, birch bark, cloth, wood, or metal.

Facts for Prelims:

- **Gyan Bharatam Mission:** A flagship initiative of the Union Ministry of Culture, announced in the Union Budget 2025-26. Its primary objective is the survey, documentation, preservation, and digitization of India's vast handwritten heritage (manuscripts).
- To revitalize India's knowledge heritage, the 'First Gyan Bharatam International Conference' was organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, from September 11 to 13, 2025.

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Rajasthan's Largest KUSUM Solar Power Plant: Tala (Kunda ki Dhani)

Why in News?

- Under the Pradhan Mantri KUSUM (PM-KUSUM) scheme, Rajasthan's largest solar power plant has been established in Tala (Kunda ki Dhani) in the Jaipur district.



Key Points:

- This solar power plant, with a capacity of 4.9 Megawatts (MW), spans 24 bighas of land and will enable 437 agricultural consumers to access electricity for farming activities during the daytime.
- Notably, under Component-C of this scheme, there is a provision for setting up solar power plants with a maximum capacity of 5 MW.
- Rajasthan ranks first in the country under Component-A of the PM-KUSUM scheme, while it holds the third position under Component-C.

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Facts for Prelims (PM-KUSUM):

- **Launch:** March 2019
- **Full Name:** 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan' (Prime Minister's Scheme for Energy Security and Upliftment of Farmers)
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- **Objective:** To ensure energy security for farmers and to fulfill India's commitment to increase the share of installed electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources to 40 percent by the year 2030.

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The Country's First Zinc Park – Khankhala (Bhilwara)

Why in News?

- Under an MoU signed during the 'Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit – 2024', a flagship Zinc Park will be established at Khankhala in Bhilwara.



Key Points:

- For this Zinc Park, RIICO will provide master planning services as well as basic infrastructure facilities such as roads, water, and electricity. Meanwhile, Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) will establish its own plant and a Common Facility Center within the park.
- It is noteworthy that during discussions held between HZL and RIICO, HZL had identified Khankhala as the site for developing the Zinc Park.
- The facility to be established at Khankhala will be the country's first Zinc Park.

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- This Zinc Park will be the first of its kind in North India, where only companies associated with the zinc value chain will set up their manufacturing units.
- **Note:** To operationalize this park, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed between Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) and the Tripura Group.

Facts for Prelims:

- Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), a part of the Vedanta Group, is the world's largest integrated zinc producer and ranks among the top 5 silver producers globally.
- **Establishment:** 1966.
- **Headquarters:** Udaipur (Rajasthan).
- In 2024, the company launched 'EcoZen', Asia's first 'Low Carbon Green Zinc' brand.
- Hindustan Zinc Limited is set to become the first Indian company to join the 'International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)' in 2025.

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✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) – Rajasthan Chapter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recently, Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Diya Kumari formally inaugurated the Rajasthan Chapter of the 'Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)' in Jaipur.Objective: The primary goal of this chapter is to strengthen bilateral trade, investment, and economic ties between Rajasthan and the United States at the state level. It will provide a platform for startups and entrepreneurs to access the global market.
2.	<p>Rajasthan's Standing in the Realm of Investment and Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">According to the latest 'India State' report, Rajasthan has emerged as a leading hub in the country for investment and projects.Rajasthan has climbed to the third position in terms of investment in the financial year (FY) 2025, up from the 8th position it held in FY 2024.Growth in Investment: Within a single year, investment in the state has increased nearly fourfold. It has risen from ₹1.10 lakh crore (FY 2024) to ₹4.65 lakh crore (FY 2025).Key Sectors: Infrastructure and Renewable Energy.
3.	<p>Demise of Brigadier (Retd.) Jagmal Singh Rathore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recently, Brigadier (Retd.) Jagmal Singh Rathore who was awarded the Vir Chakra for his indomitable courage during the 1971 India-Pakistan War passed away in Bikaner.Brigadier (Retd.) Jagmal Singh Rathore was born in 1938, in the village of Garbadesar in the Bikaner district.
4.	<p>'Rang De Gulabi' (Paint it Pink) Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Event Date: May 2, 2026Organizer: Jaipur Municipal Corporation.Under this campaign, an initiative unprecedented in the country will be undertaken to paint 500 walls in a single day.

5. Rajasthan at the All India Inter-University Thang-Ta Competition

- Event Venue and Dates: Manipur University, Imphal; from April 6 to April 9, 2026.
- Players from Rajasthan delivered a stellar performance, winning a total of 24 medals (2 Gold, 6 Silver, and 16 Bronze).

Rajasthan's Gold Medalists:

1. Yash Gameti (Udaipur)
2. Priti Kanwar (Ajmer)

6. Conclusion of the National Shootingball (Men's & Women's) Championship

- **Venue & Dates:** Munshibagh Sports Ground, Alwar; April 24 to 26, 2026.
- **Organizers:** Shootingball Federation of India and Rajasthan Shootingball Association.

Winners:

- **Men's Category:** Maharashtra defeated Punjab.
- **Women's Category:** Uttar Pradesh defeated Delhi.

7. Collaboration between ISA and GEAPP for AVVNL Grid Digitization

- Grid digitization work for the Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam (AVVNL) is currently underway through a collaboration between the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP).
- **Note:** Rajasthan is set to become the first state in the country to develop a full-scale 'Digital Twin' (a virtual replica of the actual grid) of its electricity distribution network.

8. Cricket-Related Collaboration between RCA and Denmark Cricket

- Recently, the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) and Denmark Cricket reached an agreement to collaborate on launching a player exchange and development program.



Economic Developments



Sacrifice Ratio



Why in News?

- Recent measures to control inflation in India, the United States, and the United Kingdom highlight the economic costs associated with managing inflation. These costs are measured using the Sacrifice Ratio.



Key Points:

Sacrifice Ratio

- It measures the direct economic cost of reducing inflation.
- It indicates the percentage loss in real GDP for every 1% reduction in the inflation rate.
- This metric demonstrates the delicate balance that exists between maintaining price stability and sustaining economic growth.
- A high ratio implies that tackling inflation gives rise to significant short-term challenges, including rising unemployment and a decline in industrial production.

Inland Waterways

Why in News?

- Inland waterways serve as active conduits for growth.

Key Points:

- Inland waterways are essentially water channels located within a country's interior distinct from the open sea that are suitable for navigation, i.e., water transport. Inland waterways encompass rivers, canals, lakes, lagoons, and estuaries.

Status of Inland Waterways in India

- **Current Status:** Under the National Waterways Act, 2016, 111 inland waterways have been designated as National Waterways. Their combined length totals 20,187 kilometers.
- As of March 2026, 32 National Waterways are operational.
- The Union Budget 2026-27 announced plans to operationalize 20 new National Waterways over the next five years.
- **Growing Share:** Cargo movement via National Waterways reached 145.84 million metric tonnes in the financial year 2024-25.
- **Target:** In accordance with the 'Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision,' India aims to increase the share of inland water transport in total cargo movement from 2% to 5%.
- Additionally, targets have been set to transport 200 million metric tonnes of cargo via inland waterways by 2030, and over 500 million metric tonnes by 2047.

Key Initiatives to Promote Inland Water Transport in India

- **Legislative Initiatives:** The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was established under the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985. The National Waterways Act, 2016, has been enacted.

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Key Schemes:

- **Green Transition Guidelines:** These guidelines aim to reduce the carbon intensity of passenger transport via inland waterways by 30% by 2030.
- **Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme:** Announced in the Union Budget 2026-27, this scheme aims to increase the combined share of inland waterways and coastal shipping in total transportation from 6% to 12% by 2047.

Other Schemes:

- **Waterways Development Project for National Waterway-1 (Varanasi-Haldia stretch)**
- **Waterborne Cargo Promotion Scheme, 2024, etc.**

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INTERNATIONAL

Signing of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

Why in News?

- A historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has been signed between India and New Zealand. This FTA aligns with the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047" (Developed India 2047).





Key Points:

Key Highlights of the India-New Zealand FTA

- **100% Duty-Free Access:** New Zealand has eliminated tariffs on all exports from India. This will provide a boost to labor-intensive sectors such as MSMEs, textiles, leather, footwear, and gems and jewelry.
- **Commitment to Foreign Direct Investment:** New Zealand has committed to investing US\$ 20 billion in India over the next 15 years.
- **Protection of Sensitive Sectors:** India has agreed to open its market for approximately 70% of goods, covering 95% of New Zealand's trade with India.
- Approximately 30% of goods have been excluded from this list to safeguard the interests of farmers and domestic industries.
- **Provision for Rules of Origin:** A robust framework of product-specific Rules of Origin has been established to effectively prevent the misuse of the benefits conferred by this bilateral free trade agreement.
- Rules of Origin are the criteria used to determine the country of origin of a product. These rules are significant because, in many instances, the tariffs and restrictions applicable to imports are determined based on the country from which the goods originate.
- **Talent and Mobility:** Educational opportunities and post-study work visas will be granted to STEM students, while visas will also be issued to skilled professionals. Additionally, an annual quota of 5,000 temporary employment visas has been allocated for skilled Indian nationals seeking work in New Zealand.
- **Globalization of AYUSH:** For the first time, New Zealand has officially recognized India's traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda and Yoga and has included provisions to promote trade in these sectors.

- **Other Provisions:** Partnerships will be established to enhance agricultural productivity. Additionally, market access will be granted in 118 service sectors, and Most Favored Nation (MFN) status will be accorded in 139 sectors.

India–New Zealand Relations

- **Market:** New Zealand is India's second-largest trading partner in the Oceania region.
- **Trade:** Bilateral goods trade reached US\$ 1.3 billion in 2024–25.
- **Trade Balance in India's Favor:** India imports less from New Zealand than it exports to it.
- **Diaspora:** Approximately 300,000 members of the Indian diaspora reside in New Zealand, constituting about 5% of the country's total population. This diaspora serves as a cultural and economic bridge between India and New Zealand.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Why in News?

- Ahead of the Global Big Cat Summit, the International Big Cat Alliance is deliberating on the 'New Delhi Declaration,' which if adopted would become the first international declaration on big cat conservation.

Key Points:

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- It was launched by India in 2023 with the objective of facilitating global cooperation for the conservation of seven big cat species.
- Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- Of the seven big cats covered under the IBCA, five are found in India: the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, and Cheetah.
- It is open to the 97 range countries where these big cats are found.
- **Objective:** To mobilize global knowledge, resources, and best practices to protect big cats and their ecosystems.

Big Cat Conservation Status

Species	Conservation Status	Key Project (Year)	Unique Feature
 Tiger	Endangered (NTCA)	Project Tiger (1973)	Orange coat with black stripes
 Asiatic Lion	Endangered	Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project (2004)	Only social big cat; lives in prides
 Leopard	Vulnerable	—	Rosette spots; excellent climber
 Snow Leopard	Vulnerable	Project Snow Leopard (2009)	Long tail for balance; powerful hind legs
 Cheetah	Extinct (reintroduced)	Project Cheetah (2022)	Fastest land animal; solid spots

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) @2047 Report

Why in News?

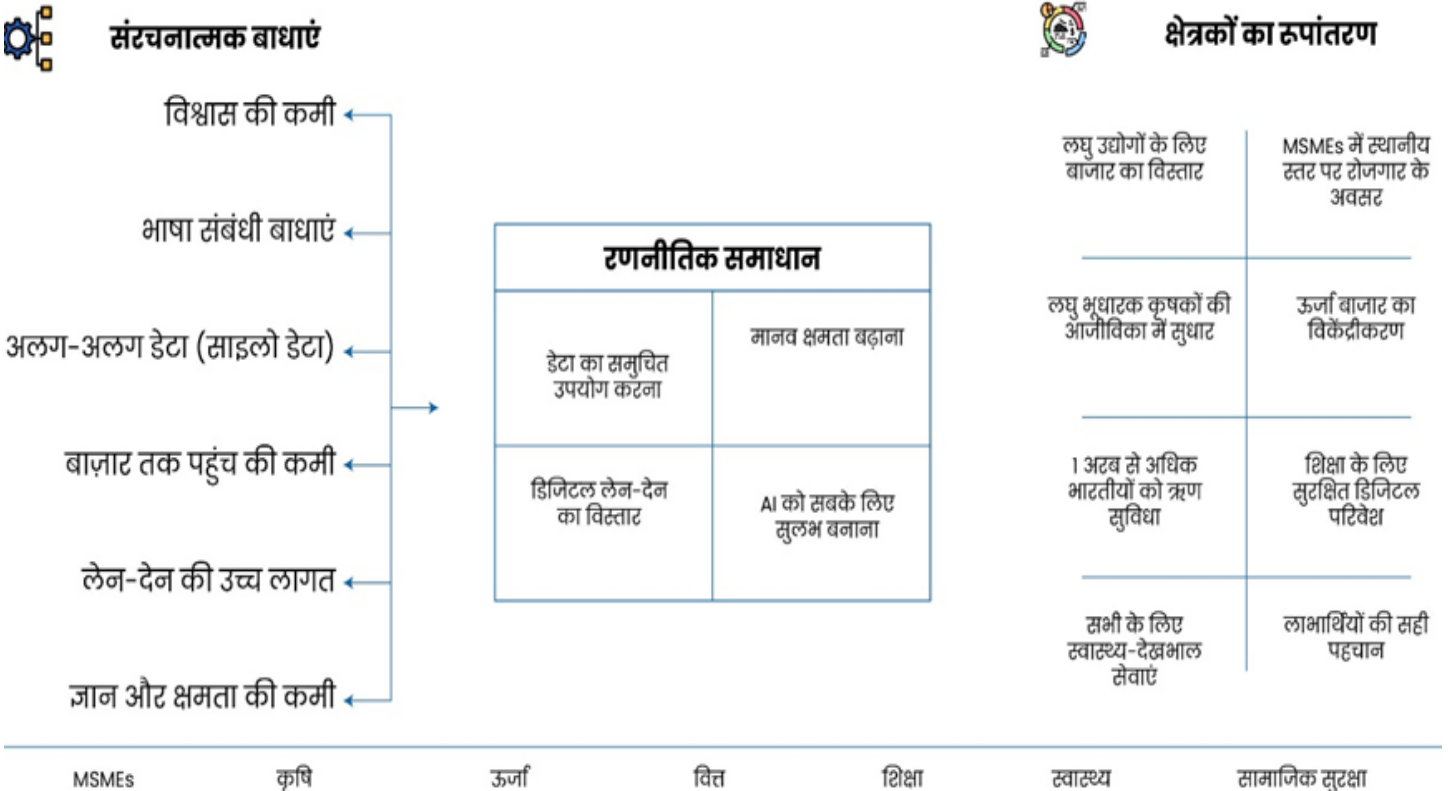
- NITI Aayog has released the 'Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) @2047' report. This report recommends a two-phased approach under the DPI 2047 roadmap: DPI 2.0 (2025–2035) and DPI 3.0 (2035–2047). The report places a detailed focus on DPI 2.0.

Key Points:

DPI 2.0 (Key Highlights of the Report)

- Scope of Expansion:** It presents a roadmap for transformation across 8 sectors.

DPI 2.0: संरचनात्मक बाधाओं से रूपांतरण तक की पूरी प्रक्रिया



Key Modes of Implementation:

- **Aggregate Demand through District Programs:** Localized solutions will be developed by linking Digital Public Infrastructure to district-level development goals.
- **Expansion of Technology-led Entrepreneurship:** Technology-led entrepreneurship will be promoted to facilitate the provision of products and services linked to DPI.
- **Leveraging Advancements in AI:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be made accessible to all.
- **Implementing Strategic Initiatives Across Various Sectors:** Strategies will be implemented across different sectors to ensure the optimal utilization of data, universal access to AI, enhancement of human skills, and the promotion of digital transactions.

Key Recommendations for DPI 2.0:

- Implementation should be decentralized and led by the states;
- In the initial phase, focus should be placed on agriculture and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs);
- A fair institutional framework should be established to facilitate global collaboration.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

- **Definition:** DPI is a design approach that leverages technological and market innovations to drive large-scale socio-economic development.

Key Impacts of DPI:

- **GDP:** In 2022, the contribution of DPI to India's GDP stood at 0.9%, and it is projected to reach 4.2% by 2030.

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- **Opening Doors of Opportunity in New Sectors:** The number of MSMEs registered under GST surged to 1.5 crore in December 2024. In 2017–18, this figure stood at 5 lakh.
- **Financial Inclusion:** India enabled 80% of its population to open bank accounts in just eight years a feat that, according to the Bank for International Settlements, could otherwise have taken 47 years.
- **The 'Hockey Stick' Effect:** There was a rapid expansion of new services that were previously unimaginable. Consequently, growth began to accelerate suddenly and sharply resembling the shape of a 'hockey stick' signifying that the emergence of novel digital services triggered a sudden and rapid surge in growth.

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INDEXES AND REPORTS



Services Production Index (SPI)



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released a concept paper for the compilation of the Services Production Index.



Key Points:

- While the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) records activities related to manufacturing, there was no existing index to capture short-term activities within the services sector. This led to a problem of data deficiency in assessing overall economic performance.

Key Features of the Proposed Services Production Index

- **Proposed Base Year:** 2024-25
- **Data Sources:** Goods and Services Tax (GST) data, administrative data from sector-specific ministries, and an annual survey of corporate enterprises within the services sector.
- **Coverage:** This index is specifically designed to monitor activities within the formal sector, encompassing sub-sectors such as wholesale and retail trade, transport, banking, insurance, real estate, communications, etc.

SIPRI Report: Trends in Global Military Expenditure, 2025

Why in News?

- SIPRI has released its report titled Trends in Global Military Expenditure, 2025.

Key Points:

- SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) is an independent international institute dedicated to research on conflict, arms control, and disarmament.
- **Established:** 1966 in Stockholm (Sweden).
- In 2025, the top 5 countries with the highest military spending accounted for 58% of the total global military expenditure. These countries are: the United States, China, Russia, Germany, and India.
- With a total military expenditure of \$92.1 billion, India ranks as the fifth-largest military spender in the world.
- India's military expenditure recorded an increase of 8.9% compared to the previous year.

Global Network Against Food Crises

Why in News?

- The Global Network Against Food Crises has released the Global Report on Food Crises 2025. This marks the 10th edition of the Global Report on Food Crises.

Key Points:

- According to the report, in 2025, more than 266 million people across 47 countries faced high levels of acute food insecurity.
- The primary driver of this is conflict. Previously, extreme weather events were the leading cause.

Global Network Against Food Crises

- **Establishment:** It was established in 2016 at the World Humanitarian Summit by the Food and Agriculture Organization, in collaboration with the European Union and the World Food Programme.
- **Objective:** This is a multi-stakeholder initiative comprising actors from the humanitarian and development sectors. Through this network, various organizations have united in their commitment to address the root causes of food crises and to promote sustainable solutions.