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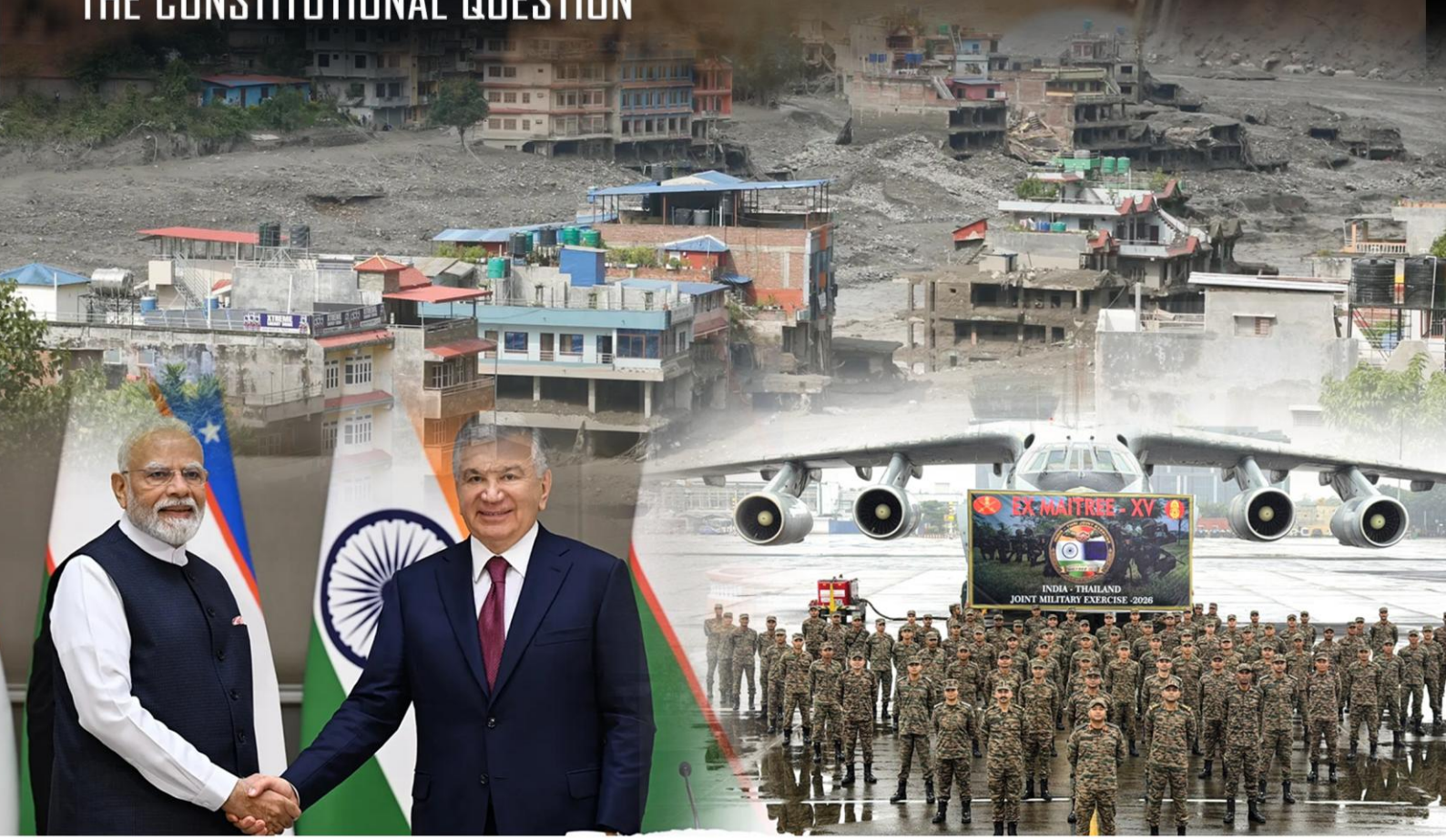
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ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR YOUR IAS/IPS PREPARATION

AUGUST MONTH

CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

- NEPAL FLASH FLOODS: TRIGGERS AND VULNERABILITY
- EXERCISE MAITREE-XV: INDIA–THAILAND JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE
- GOBARDHAN: INDIA'S NATIONAL UNIFIED SCHEME FOR COMPRESSED BIOGAS
- INDIA–UZBEKISTAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: EXPANDING ECONOMIC AND CONNECTIVITY COOPERATION
- SUPREME COURT JUDGES BILL: MONEY BILL ROUTE AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION



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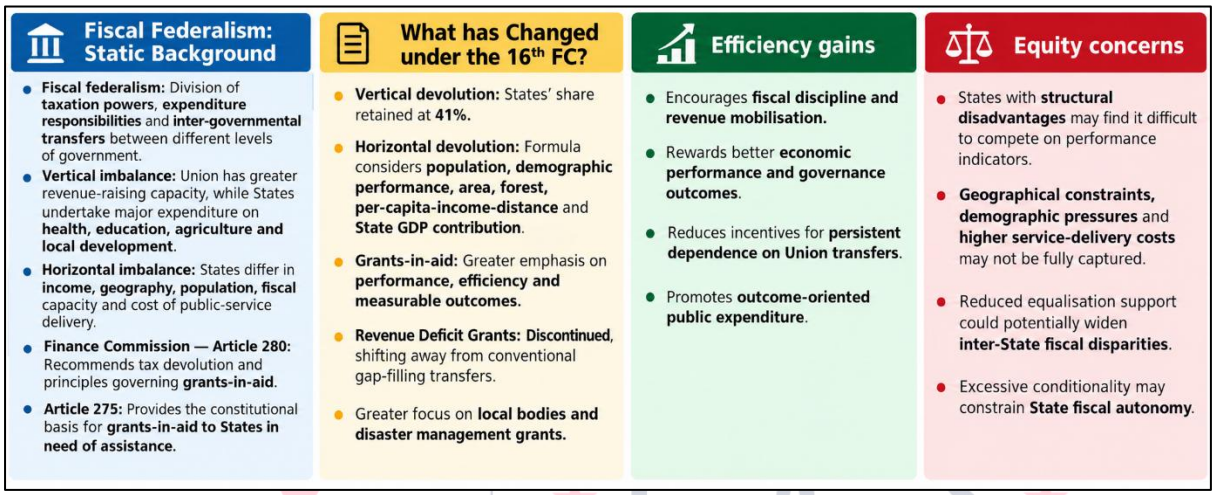
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CONSTITUTION, POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1. Fiscal Federalism: Efficiency versus Equity Concerns – The Hindu

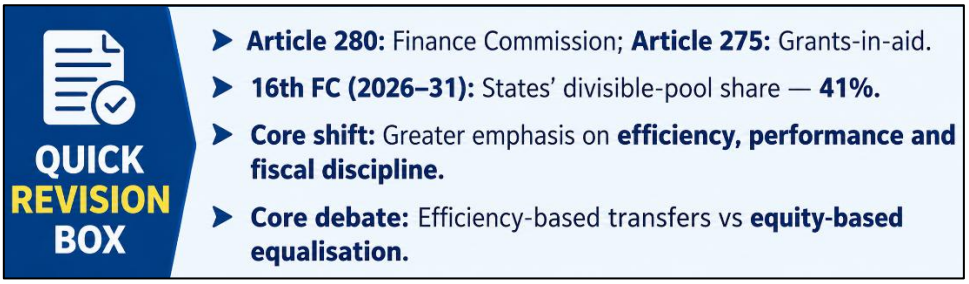
Why in News?

- 16th Finance Commission (FC) recommendations for 2026–31 have renewed the debate over the balance between fiscal efficiency and equity in Centre–State transfers. MockTestZone
- States' share in the divisible pool remains 41%, while the structure of grants-in-aid has been significantly changed.



Way Forward

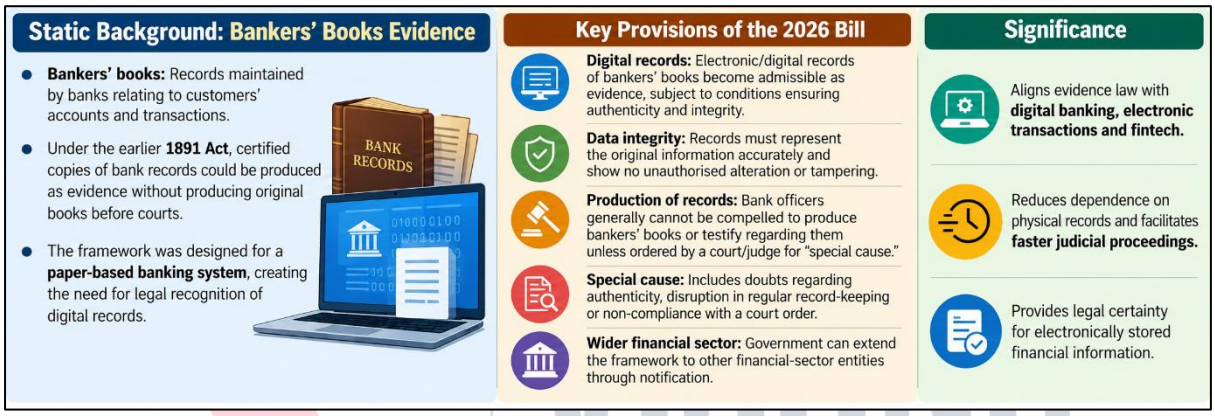
- Combine performance incentives with need-based equalisation.
- Incorporate cost disabilities such as terrain, climate vulnerability and border responsibilities.
- Ensure predictable and transparent transfers.
- Strengthen cooperative federalism through greater Centre–State consultation.



2. Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026: Modernising Financial Evidence – Indian Express

Why in News?

- The Lok Sabha passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026, on August 5, 2026, through a voice vote without debate, amid Opposition protests. The Indian Express
- The Bill subsequently received Rajya Sabha approval on August 10 and Presidential assent on August 13, 2026. PRS Legislative Research
- It repeals and replaces the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891, updating the framework for the digital banking era.



Concerns

- **Privacy:** Banking records contain highly sensitive personal and financial information.
- **Cybersecurity:** Digital evidence requires robust safeguards against alteration, hacking and unauthorised access.
- **Parliamentary scrutiny:** Passing the Bill in Lok Sabha without debate raises concerns regarding legislative deliberation and accountability.
- During the Monsoon Session, nine of 11 Bills passed by Lok Sabha were passed without any MP other than the Minister participating in discussion. PRS Legislative Research

Way Forward

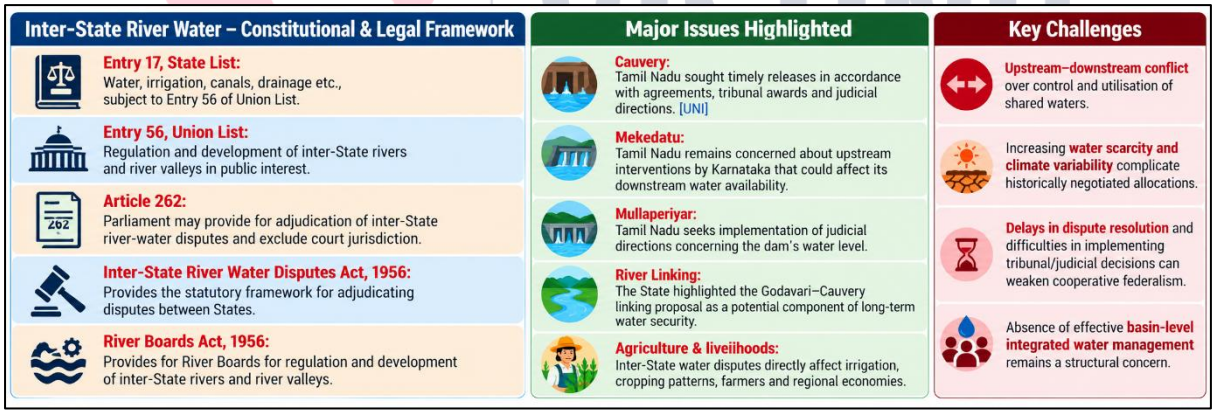
- Establish strong authentication, audit trails and cybersecurity standards.
- Ensure access to financial evidence remains subject to judicial oversight and privacy safeguards.
- Strengthen Parliamentary scrutiny and committee examination of legislation.

Quick Revision Box	
2026 Bill	Replaces the **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891.**
Key change	**Digital/electronic bank records** recognised as admissible evidence.
Special cause	**Basis for compelling production** of bankers' books by court order.
Status	Lok Sabha **Aug 5** → Rajya Sabha **Aug 10** → Presidential assent **Aug 13, 2026.**

3. Inter-State River Water Sharing: Tamil Nadu Reiterates Its Water Rights – Times of India

Why in News?

- In August 2026, the Tamil Nadu government reiterated that it would safeguard the State's "rightful share" in inter-State river waters.
- The announcement came while presenting the State Budget, with specific focus on Cauvery water releases, Mekedatu, Mullaperiyar and river-linking projects.
- Tamil Nadu emphasised pursuing legal, technical and administrative measures to protect its water-sharing interests.



Way Forward

- Strengthen cooperative river-basin management involving all riparian States.
- Base allocations on scientific hydrological data and ecological requirements.
- Ensure timely implementation of tribunal awards and judicial directions.
- Promote dialogue through institutional mechanisms rather than prolonged litigation.



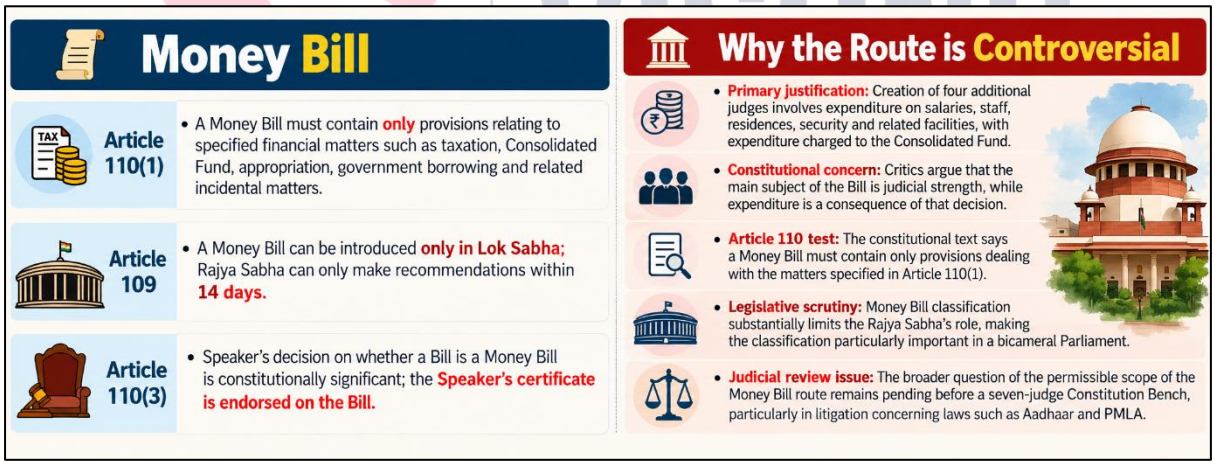
4. Supreme Court Judges Bill: Money Bill Route and the Constitutional Question – Indian Express

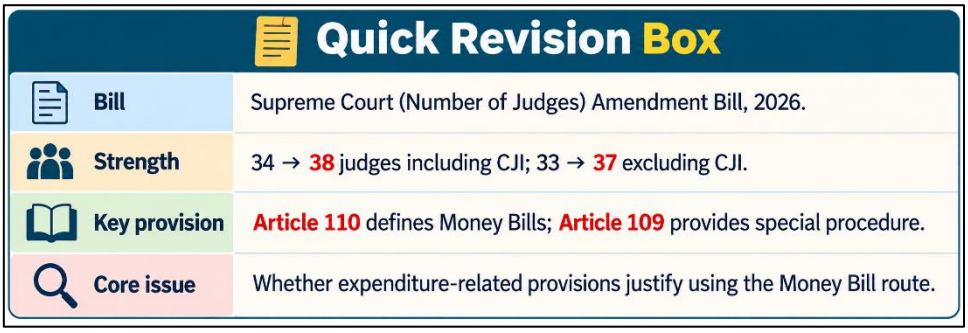
Why in News?

- The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 was passed by Parliament in August 2026, replacing the May 2026 Ordinance.
- The law increases the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges, including the Chief Justice of India — i.e., 33 to 37 excluding the CJI.
- The Bill was introduced and passed as a Money Bill, raising constitutional questions over whether this legislative route is appropriate.
- The President gave assent on August 11, 2026.

Significance

- **Judicial capacity:** Four additional judges can help address the Supreme Court's workload and improve disposal capacity.
- **Institutional balance:** The episode highlights the need to reconcile executive legislative initiative, parliamentary bicameralism and judicial independence.
- **Broader principle:** The controversy concerns not merely the number of judges, but the constitutional boundaries of the Money Bill procedure.

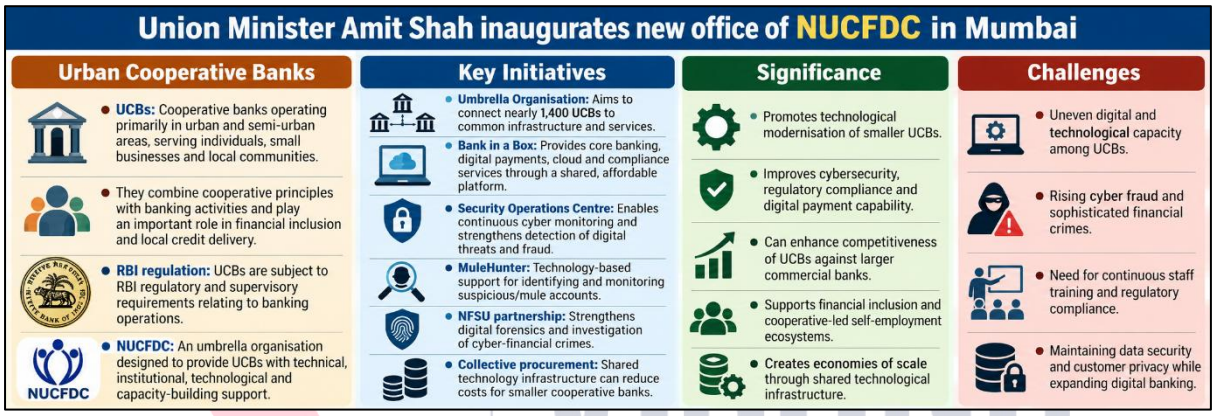




5. NUCFDC: Strengthening Urban Cooperative Banking – News on Air

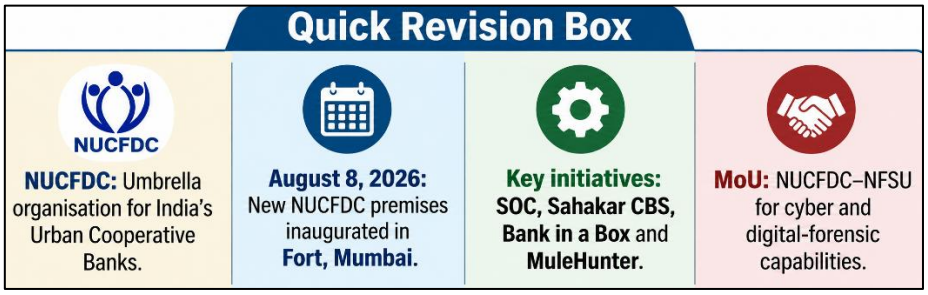
Why in News?

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the new premises of the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) at Fort, Mumbai. Press Information Bureau
- The event also marked the launch of a Security Operations Centre (SOC), Sahakar CBS and other shared digital banking services for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). Press Information Bureau
- An MoU between NUCFDC and National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) was exchanged to strengthen cyber and digital-forensic capabilities.



Way Forward

- Expand common cybersecurity infrastructure and real-time fraud monitoring.
- Strengthen digital literacy and employee capacity-building.
- Ensure robust data governance, audits and regulatory compliance.
- Integrate UCB modernisation with the broader "Sahkar Se Samriddhi" vision.



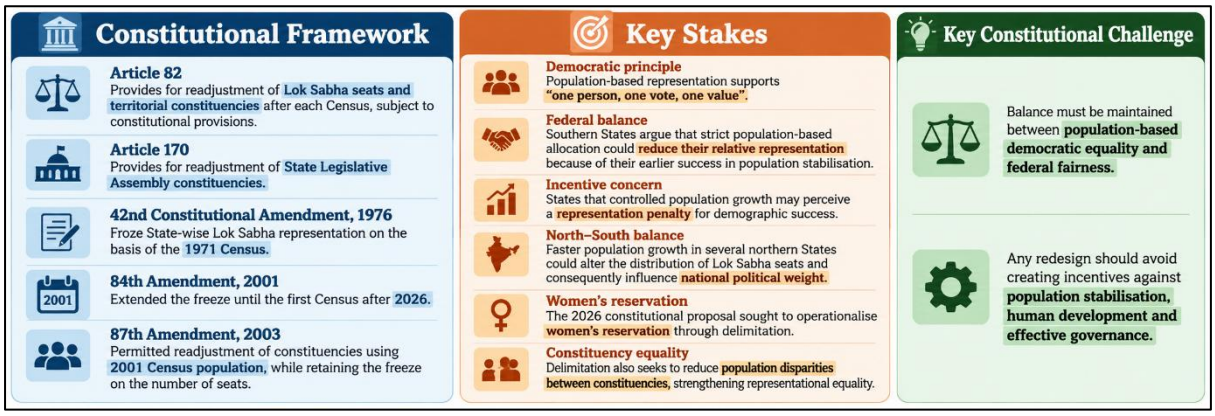
6. The Stakes in India's Delimitation Debate – The Hindu

Why in News?

- The post-2026 delimitation exercise has gained importance with Census 2027, which will provide the population data relevant to future readjustment of parliamentary constituencies. Press Information Bureau
- In April 2026, the government introduced the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, along with the Delimitation Bill, but the constitutional amendment did

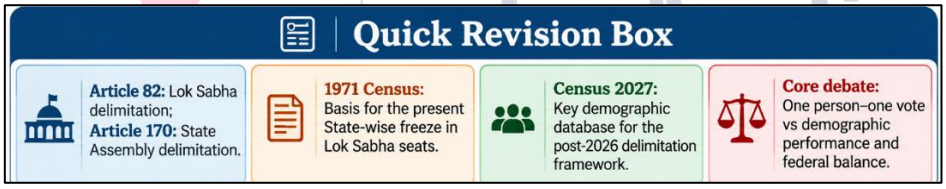
not secure the required majority and the dependent Bills were not proceeded with. Press Information Bureau

- The debate has therefore shifted to the larger questions of political representation, federal balance, population stabilisation and women's reservation.



Way Forward

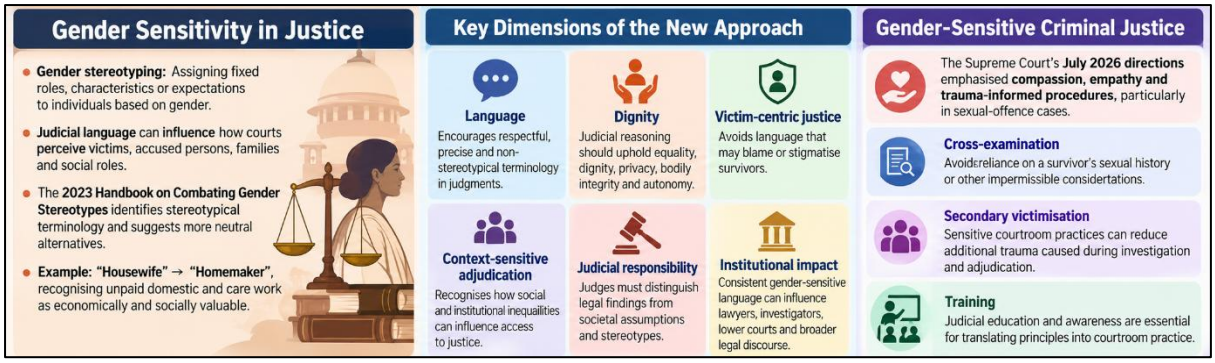
- Build all-party consensus before the next delimitation exercise.
- Consider mechanisms that reconcile population, federalism and demographic performance.
- Ensure transparent criteria and independent institutional oversight.
- Use the exercise to strengthen representational equality without undermining cooperative federalism.



7. Supreme Court's Gender-Sensitive Judicial Language – The Hindu

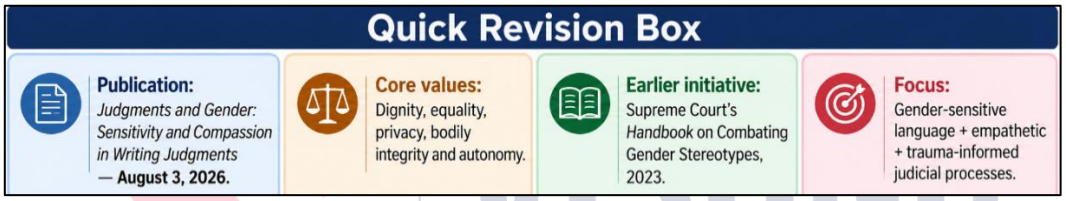
Why in News?

- The Supreme Court released "Judgments and Gender: Sensitivity and Compassion in Writing Judgments" on August 3, 2026.
- The publication seeks to strengthen gender-sensitive, empathetic and constitutionally grounded language in judicial writing.
- It builds on the Court's earlier Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes (2023) and its continuing efforts towards gender-sensitive justice.



Significance

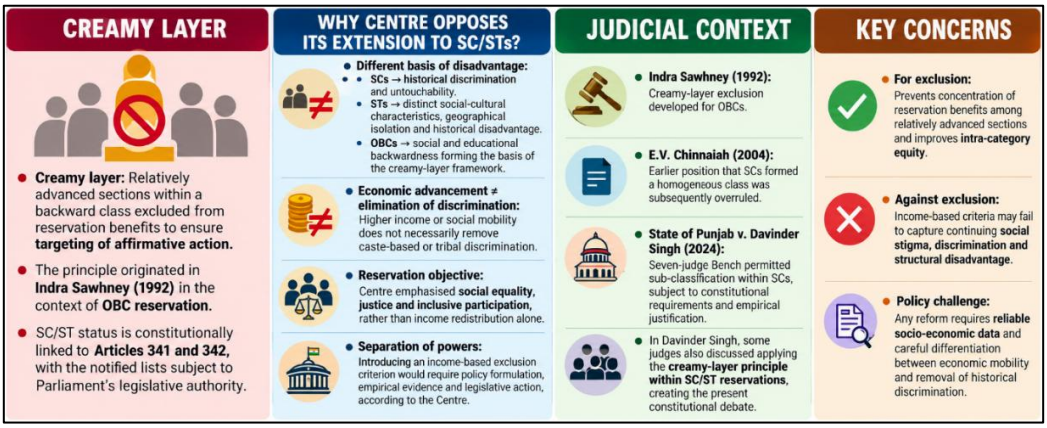
- Strengthens substantive gender equality beyond formal equality.
- Promotes constitutional morality and transformative constitutionalism.
- Makes judicial reasoning more inclusive, dignified and socially aware.
- Helps ensure that legal institutions do not inadvertently reproduce societal stereotypes.



8. Creamy Layer and SC/ST Reservations: Centre's Stand – Indian Express

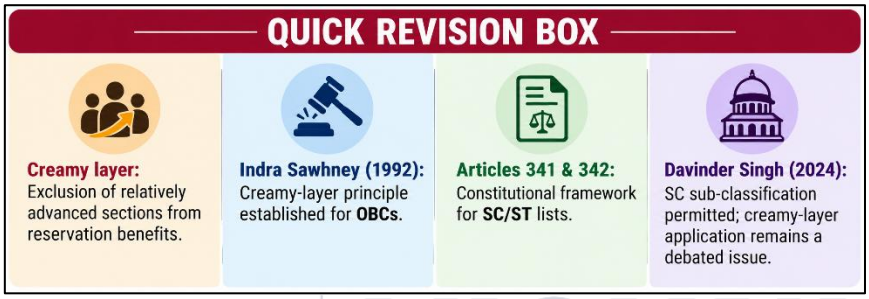
Why in News?

- In August 2026, the Centre told the Supreme Court that the "creamy layer" principle should not be extended to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The Indian Express
- The Centre argued that SC/ST reservations address historical and social discrimination, rather than merely economic backwardness. The Indian Express
- The issue arose in a petition seeking exclusion of economically advanced sections within SC/ST communities from reservation benefits.



Way Forward

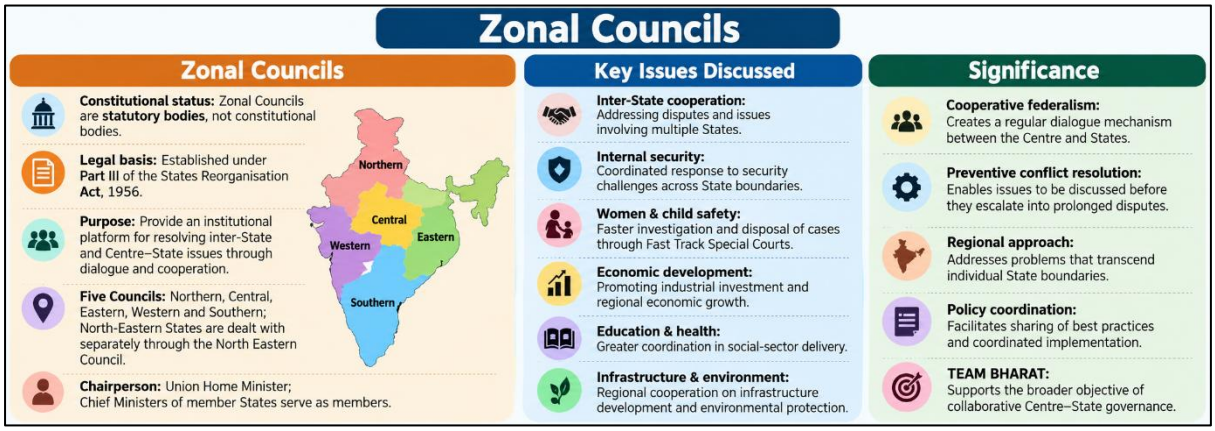
- **Evidence-based criteria:** Develop any intra-category exclusion/sub-classification only on the basis of robust socio-economic and representation data, rather than income alone.
- **Balance social and economic disadvantage:** If exclusion criteria are considered, assess continuing caste/tribal discrimination, social status, occupational mobility and representation, along with economic indicators.
- **Periodic review & safeguards:** Establish a transparent, periodically reviewed framework with safeguards to ensure that genuinely disadvantaged SC/ST sections are not denied affirmative-action benefits.



9. Southern Zonal Council: Strengthening Cooperative Federalism – News on Air

Why in News?

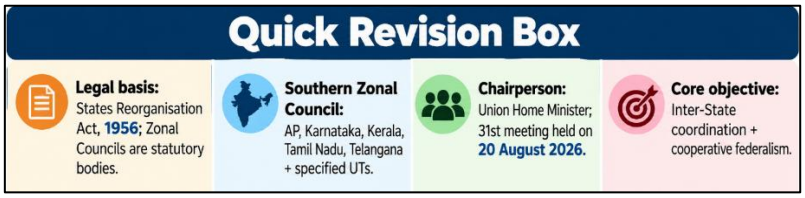
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council (SZC) at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.
- The meeting brought together representatives of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, along with Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. News on Air
- Discussions covered inter-State issues, internal security, economic development, industrial investment, education, health, infrastructure and environmental concerns.

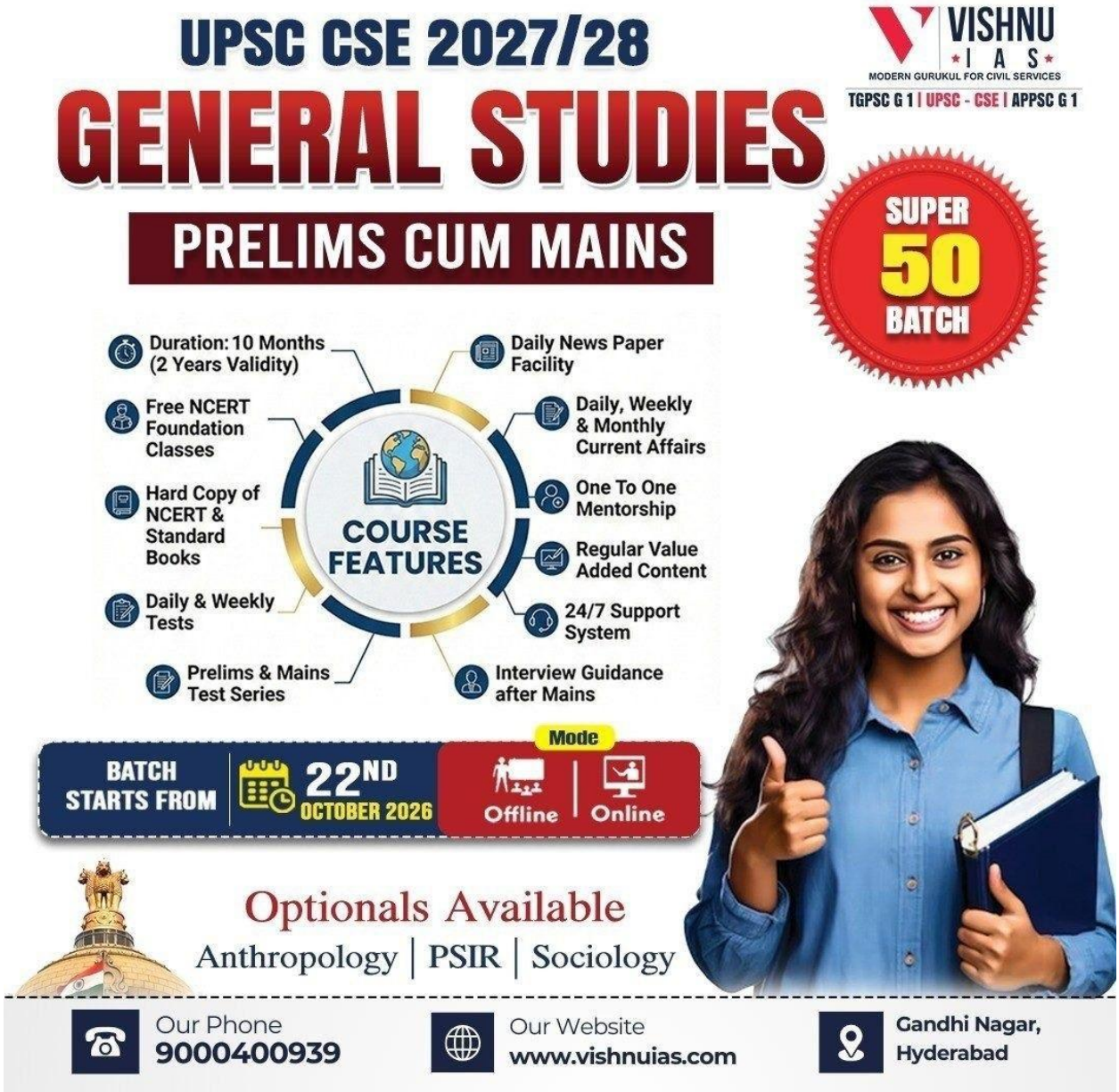


Way Forward:

- Ensure regular follow-up and time-bound implementation of Council decisions.

- Strengthen the Chief Secretaries-level Standing Committee for continuous coordination.
- Use Zonal Councils more actively for river-water management, infrastructure, migration, disaster response and regional security.





INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

10. India–Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership: Expanding Economic and Connectivity Cooperation – The HIndu

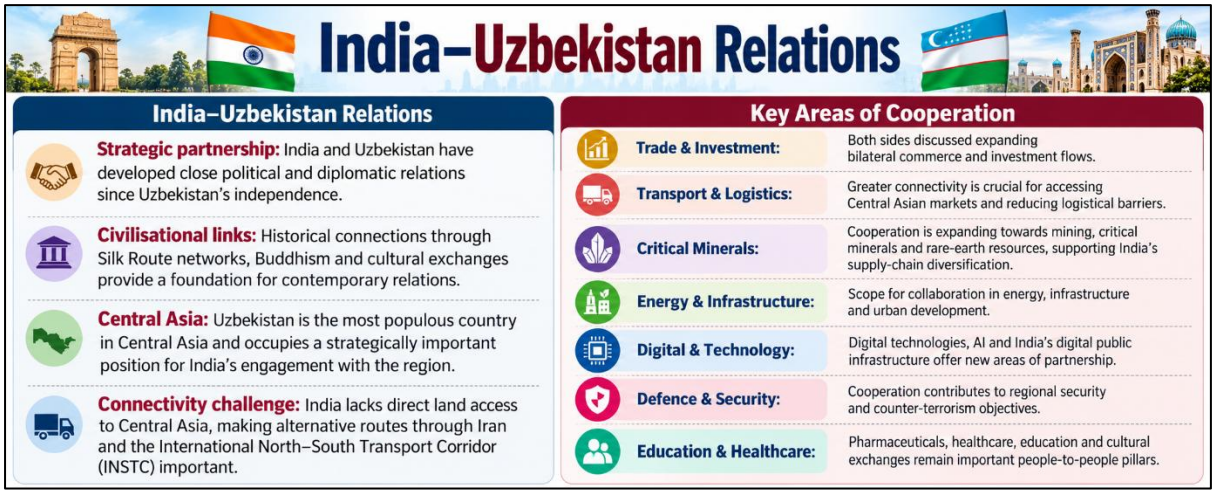
Why in News?



- Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov visited New Delhi and held talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- Discussions focused on strengthening the strategic partnership, expanding trade and investment, improving transport-logistics connectivity and addressing regional and international issues.
- The talks preceded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's August 29–30 visit to Uzbekistan, which further elevated bilateral relations.

Strategic Significance

- Strengthens India's Act East–extended neighbourhood approach towards Central Asia.
- Supports diversification of critical-mineral and energy supply chains.
- Enhances India's role in a region strategically influenced by China, Russia and other major powers.
- Provides opportunities for cooperation on Afghanistan, terrorism and regional stability.
- Greater connectivity can expand India's access to Central Asian markets.



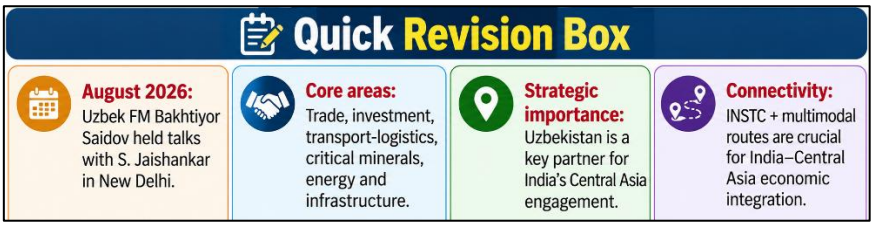
Challenges

- Geographical constraints and limited direct connectivity.

- High transportation costs and logistical bottlenecks.
- Competition from established regional connectivity networks.
- Need to translate diplomatic agreements into time-bound commercial outcomes.

Way Forward

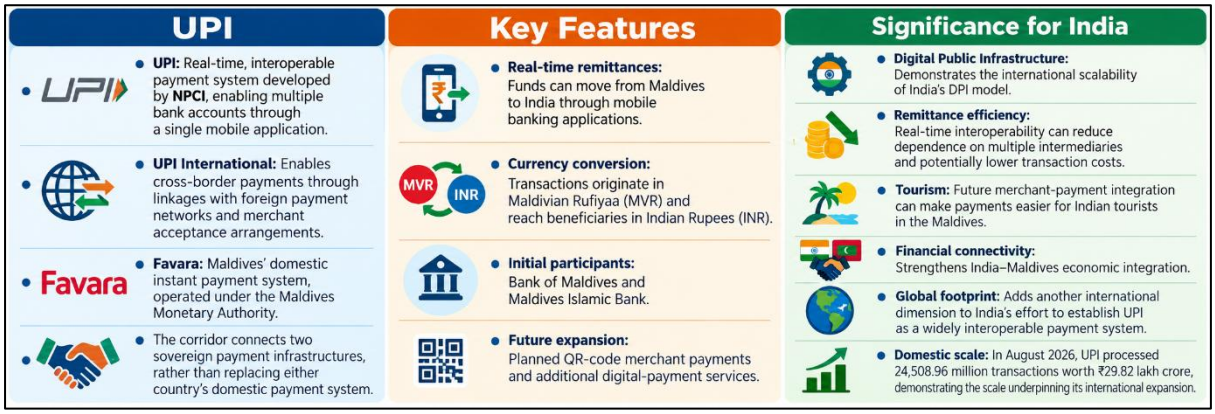
- Accelerate INSTC and multimodal connectivity initiatives.
- Promote greater private-sector participation in trade, mining, pharmaceuticals and digital technology.
- Institutionalise regular diplomatic and business-level mechanisms for implementing bilateral commitments.



11. UPI–Maldives Payment Corridor: Expanding India's Digital Payments Footprint – Economic Times

Why in News?

- The Maldives Instant Payment System (Favara) was integrated with India's UPI, creating a real-time cross-border payment corridor.
- The development was highlighted in August 2026 as an important step in India's internationalisation of UPI and bilateral digital-financial cooperation.
- Initially, the facility enables Person-to-Person (P2P) transfers from participating Maldivian banks to UPI-enabled bank accounts in India.

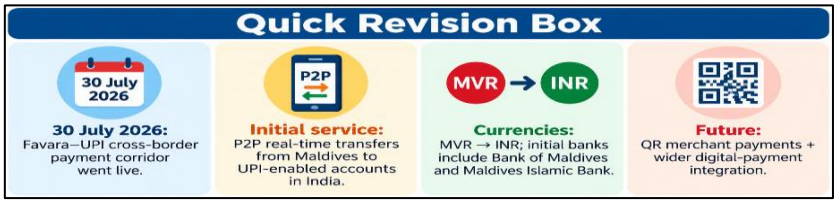


Challenges

- Cybersecurity and fraud risks in cross-border real-time transactions.
- Need for harmonisation of AML/CFT, KYC, consumer protection and data-security standards.
- Exchange-rate and settlement risks require effective regulatory coordination.
- Wider adoption will depend on more participating banks and merchants.

Way Forward

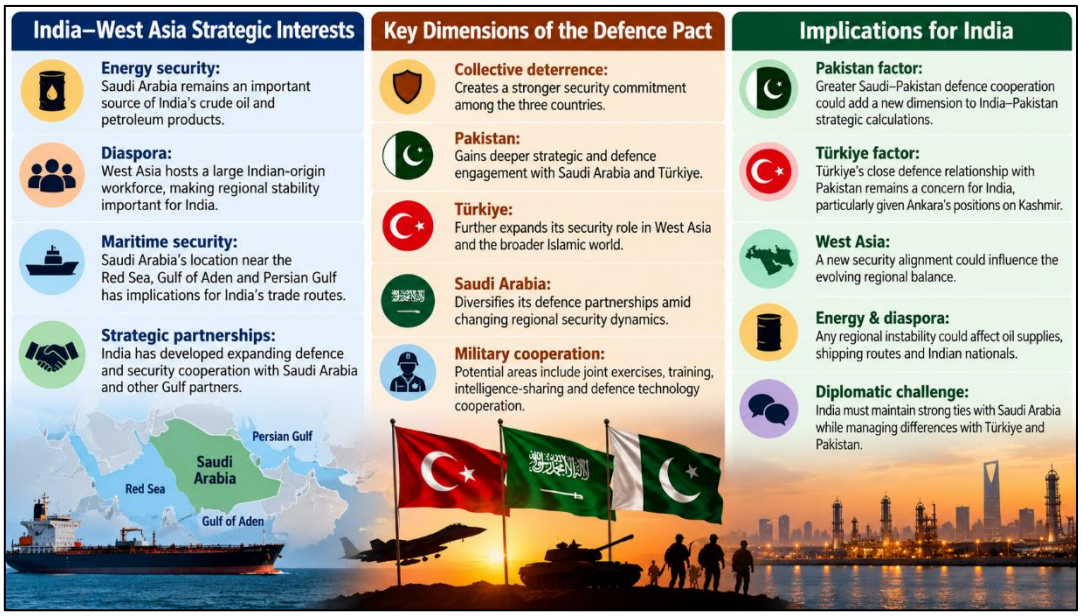
- Expand the corridor to QR-based merchant payments and additional financial institutions.
- Strengthen cross-border cybersecurity, fraud monitoring and regulatory interoperability.
- Develop more payment corridors while ensuring affordability, consumer protection and data security.



12. Turkey–Pakistan–Saudi Defence Pact: Implications for India – Hindustan Times

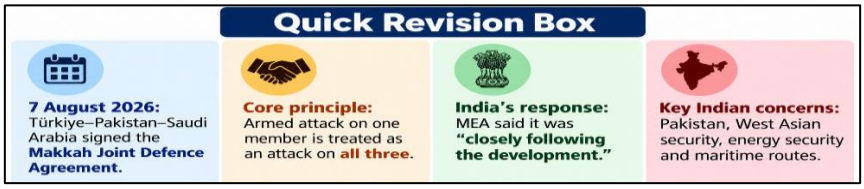
Why in News?

- Türkiye, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, amid heightened security concerns in West Asia. Hindustan Times
- The agreement provides for collective defence, treating an armed attack against one member as an attack against all three, while expanding defence cooperation. Hindustan Times
- India's MEA initially stated that it was "closely following" the development and subsequently said it was assessing its implications for India's national security and regional stability.



India's Strategic Response

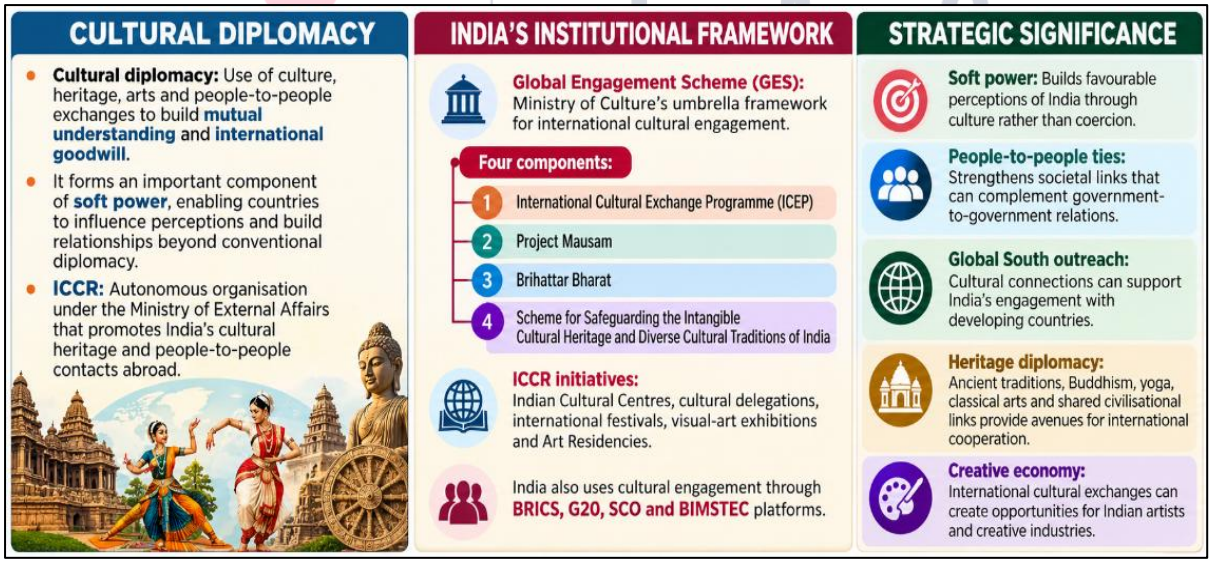
- Strengthen India–Saudi defence and strategic cooperation, including maritime security and defence-industry collaboration.
- Deepen engagement with UAE, Oman, Iran and other regional partners to preserve strategic autonomy.
- Continue close monitoring of the pact while protecting energy security, maritime interests and the Indian diaspora.



13. India's Cultural Diplomacy: Strengthening Global Ties – DD News

Why in News?

- The Ministry of Culture informed the Lok Sabha about India's framework for strengthening cultural diplomacy and international cultural engagement.
- India currently has valid Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEPs) with 98 countries, covering culture, museums, heritage and performing arts.
- The initiative seeks to project India's civilisational heritage, cultural diversity and contemporary creative traditions globally.

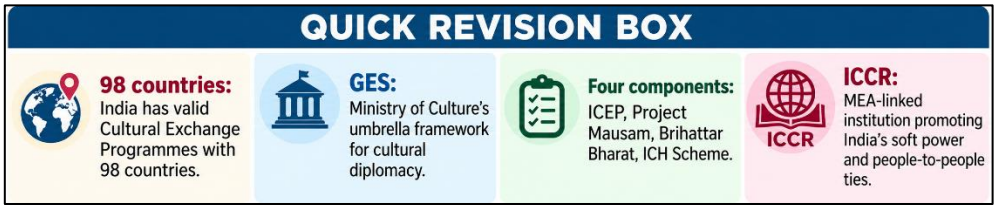


Challenges

- Need to ensure India's cultural diversity is represented beyond a limited set of traditions.
- Cultural diplomacy must balance heritage preservation with contemporary cultural expression.
- Sustained institutional funding, professional cultural networks and measurable outcomes remain important.

Way Forward

- Expand Indian Cultural Centres and artist exchanges in strategically important regions.
- Link cultural diplomacy with tourism, education, creative industries and diaspora engagement.
- Strengthen digital platforms to take India's cultural content to wider global audiences.



14. IPMDA: Securing Unimpeded Maritime Trade – The Hindu

Why in News?

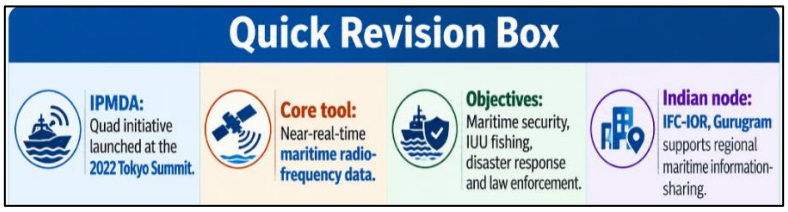
- The debate over protecting uninterrupted global trade has highlighted the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) as a mechanism for improving maritime transparency and security.
- The Indo-Pacific carries around $7 trillion in annual trade, making secure sea lanes critical for global commerce.
- Disruptions around strategic chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb and Strait of Malacca can affect energy supplies, shipping costs and global supply chains.



Way Forward

- Expand IPMDA participation among ASEAN, Pacific Island and Indian Ocean countries.
- Integrate IPMDA data with regional information-fusion centres.

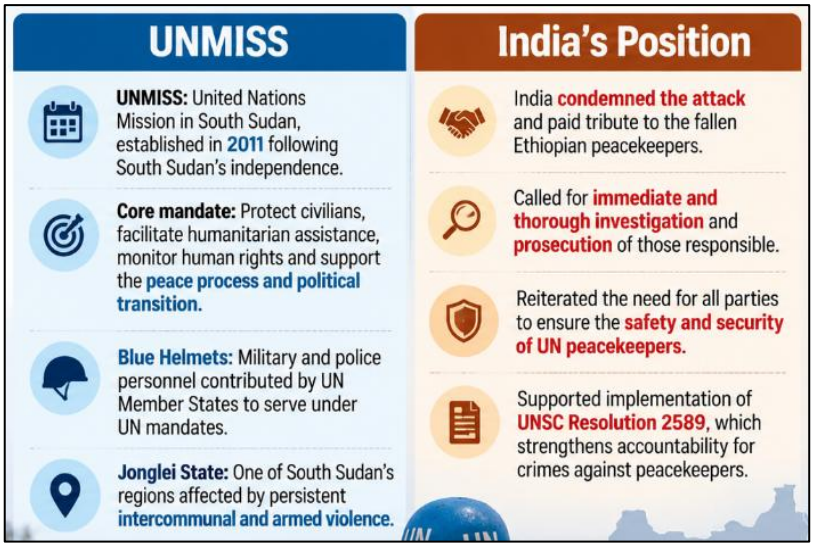
- Strengthen technology, training and maritime law-enforcement capacity of partner countries.

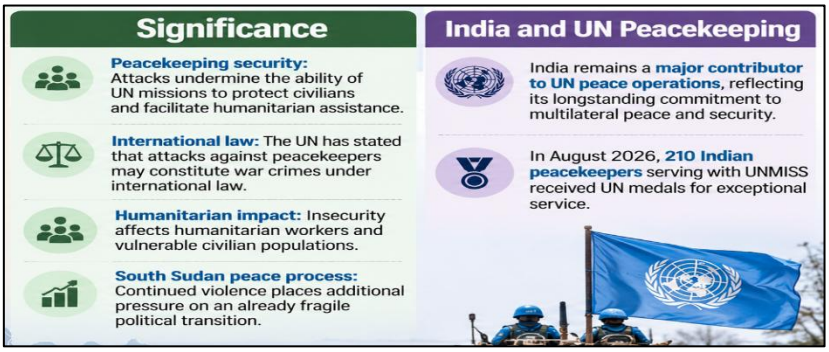


15. Attack on UN Peacekeepers in South Sudan: India Calls for Accountability – News on Air

Why in News?

- An UNMISS patrol travelling towards Pajut in Jonglei State, South Sudan, was ambushed by unidentified armed individuals.
- Two Ethiopian peacekeepers were killed and seven others were injured, including peacekeepers, South Sudanese police personnel and UN civilian staff.
- India strongly condemned the attack and called for respect for the sanctity of UN premises and personnel and full accountability under UNSC Resolution 2589.





Way Forward

- Ensure prompt investigation and prosecution of perpetrators.
- Strengthen protection, intelligence and emergency-response capabilities for UN personnel.

- Support South Sudanese authorities in addressing intercommunal violence and sustaining the peace process.



16. India–UNCERD: Debate over Racial Discrimination – DD News

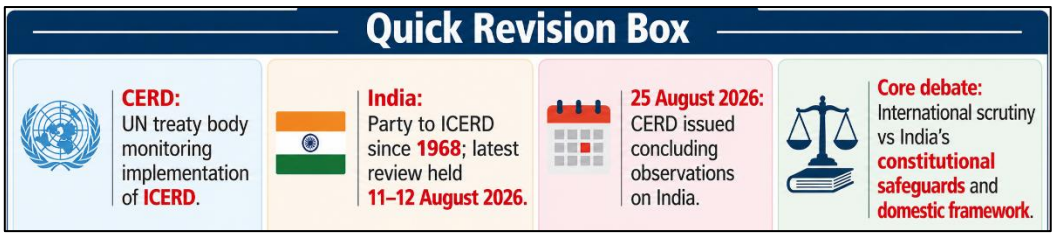
Why in News?

- The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD/CERD) issued its concluding observations after reviewing India's 20th–21st periodic reports.
- The Committee raised concerns regarding alleged discrimination and violence affecting SCs, STs, ethnic and ethno-religious groups and non-citizens.
- India rejected what it described as "politically motivated" and unsubstantiated references, while reiterating its commitment to combating discrimination.



Way Forward

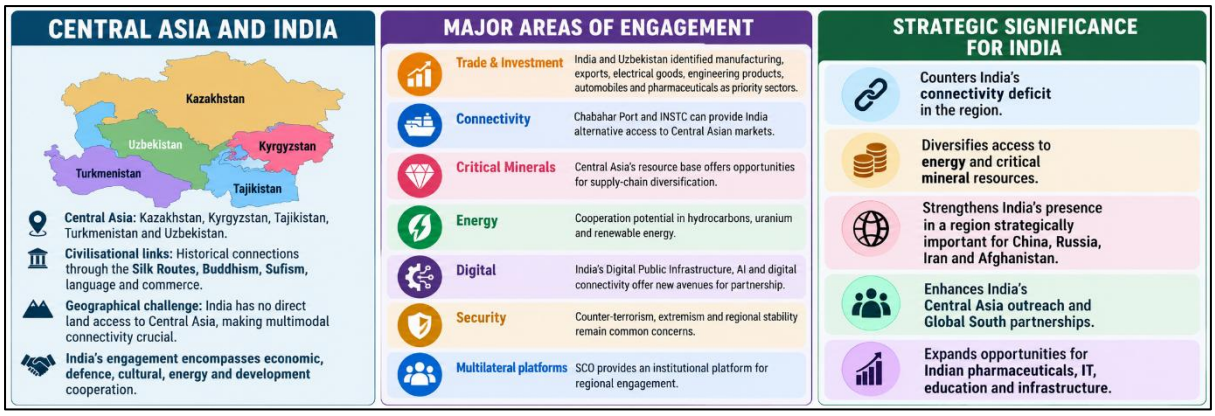
- Strengthen data-driven monitoring of discrimination and hate crimes.
- Improve law-enforcement accountability and victim-access to remedies.
- Maintain constructive engagement with UN treaty bodies while ensuring evidence-based and context-sensitive assessments.



17. India's Return to its Central Asian Neighbourhood – The Hindu

Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, signalling renewed high-level engagement with Central Asia.
- The Uzbekistan visit focused on trade, investment, digital connectivity, defence, energy and supply-chain cooperation.
- In Kyrgyzstan, India reaffirmed its Strategic Partnership and discussed economic cooperation, student exchanges and cultural ties.



Key Challenges

- Limited direct connectivity and high transportation costs.
- Strong presence of China and Russia in regional economic and security architecture.
- Afghanistan's instability complicates overland connectivity.
- Limited scale of India–Central Asia trade.

Way Forward

- Accelerate Chabahar–INSTC multimodal connectivity.
- Deepen cooperation in critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, digital technology and energy.
- Strengthen regular India–Central Asia institutional mechanisms and business-to-business linkages.

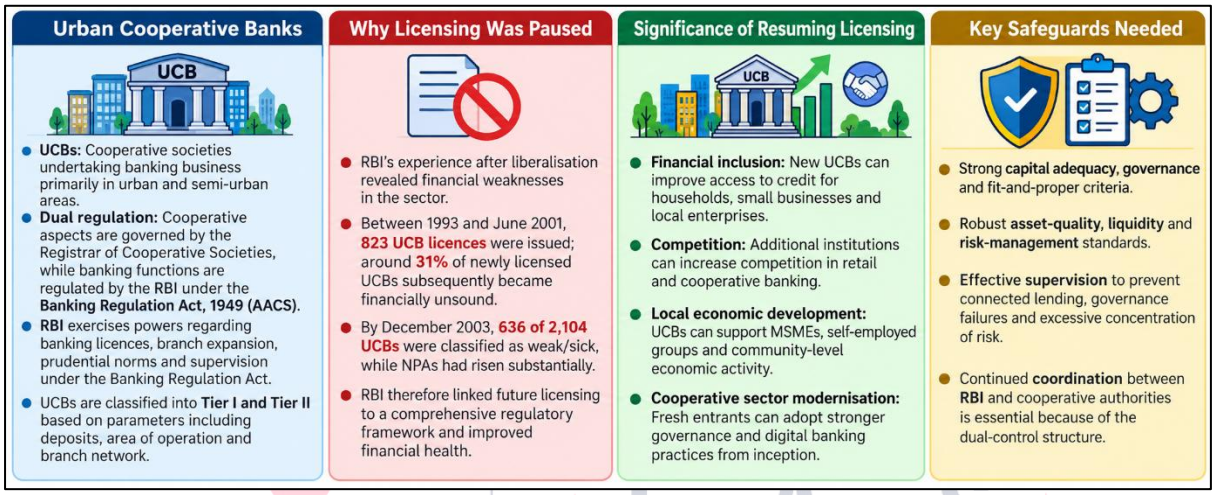


ECONOMY

18. RBI to Resume Licensing of Urban Cooperative Banks – Business Today

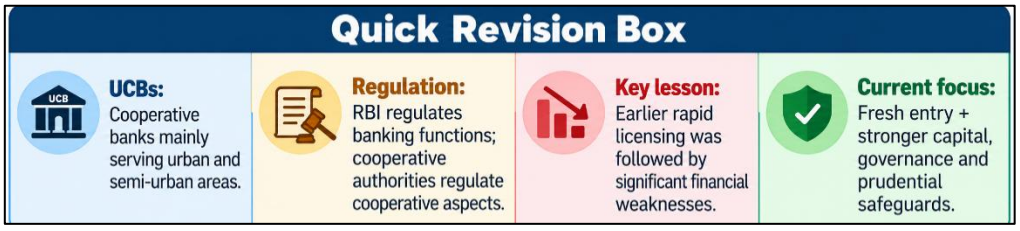
Why in News?

- In August 2026, the RBI indicated that it is preparing to resume fresh licensing of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) after a prolonged pause.
- The move reflects improved regulatory architecture and efforts to strengthen the cooperative banking sector while expanding access to banking services.
- RBI's earlier experience showed significant weaknesses among newly licensed UCBs, prompting a more cautious licensing approach.



Way Forward

- Adopt risk-based and transparent licensing criteria.
- Require credible business models, professional management and adequate capital before granting licences.
- Strengthen deposit protection, cybersecurity and supervisory surveillance alongside expansion.



19. Critical Minerals: The Foundation of Strategic Power – The Hindu

Why in News?

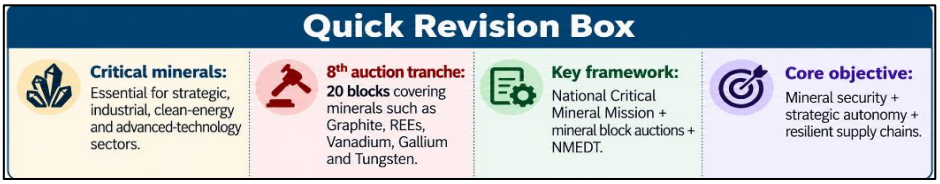
- India intensified efforts to secure critical-mineral supply chains through the 8th tranche of auctions of critical and strategic mineral blocks and initiatives under the National Critical Mineral Mission.

- The 8th tranche covers 20 mineral blocks across critical minerals including Graphite, Rare Earth Elements (REEs), Vanadium, Gallium, Titanium, Tungsten and Molybdenum.
- The government has emphasised that critical minerals are essential for clean energy, emerging technologies, industrial development and national security.



Way Forward

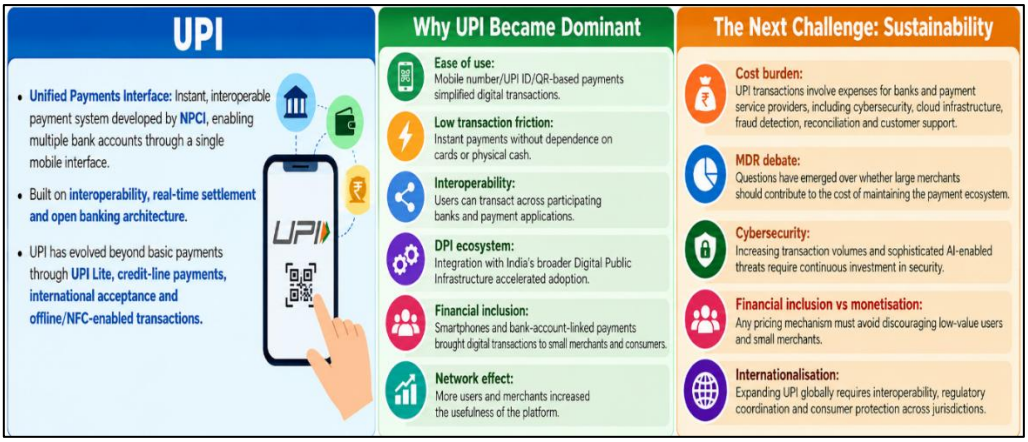
- Move from "mine-to-market" towards complete domestic value chains covering exploration, processing, refining and recycling.
- Diversify overseas mineral partnerships while strengthening domestic resources.
- Promote R&D, urban mining and circular-economy technologies to recover critical minerals from waste.



20. UPI: India's Digital Payments Backbone and the Next Challenge – Indian Express

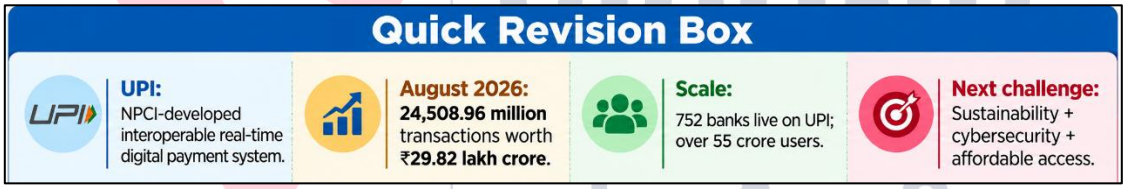
Why in News?

- UPI completed 10 years since its pilot launch in April 2016 and full operationalisation in August 2016.
- UPI accounted for about 86% of India's digital transactions in 2025–26, with more than 55 crore users.
- In August 2026, UPI processed 24,508.96 million transactions, worth ₹29.82 lakh crore, across 752 banks.



Way Forward

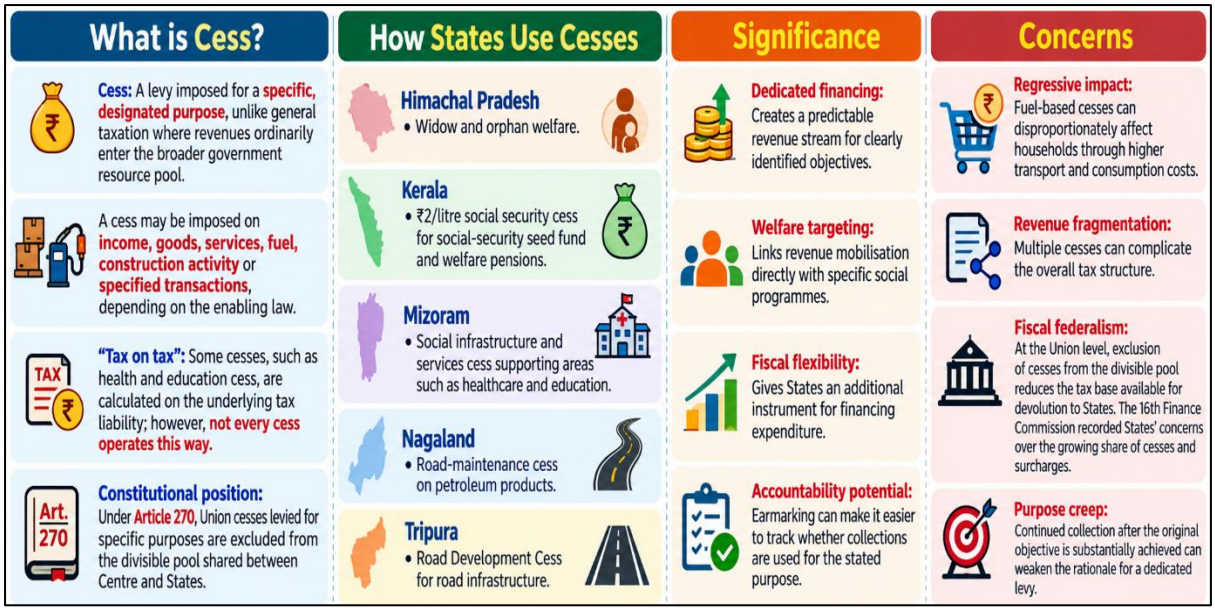
- Develop a sustainable cost-recovery model without undermining affordable digital payments.
- Increase investment in AI-driven fraud detection, cybersecurity and resilient infrastructure.
- Expand UPI internationally while ensuring interoperability, data protection and regulatory harmonisation.



21. Cess: A Targeted Tool for Welfare Financing – Business Today

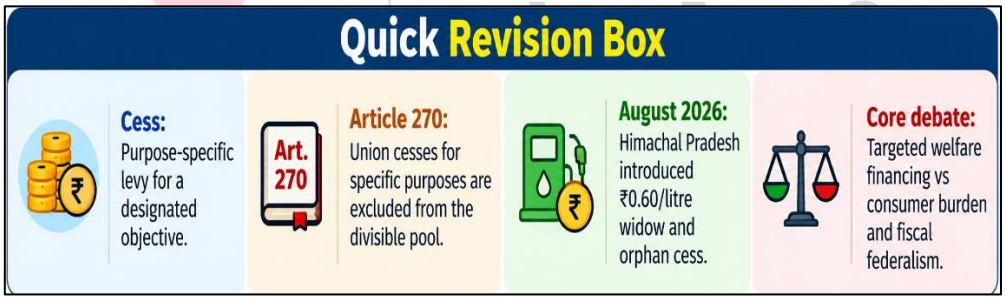
Why in News?

- Himachal Pradesh introduced a ₹0.60 per litre cess on petrol and high-speed diesel to finance welfare measures for widows and orphaned children.
- The development renewed attention on how States use purpose-specific cesses to create dedicated and predictable funding for welfare and infrastructure.
- Similar State-level cesses have been used for social security, employment, healthcare, education and road development.



Way Forward

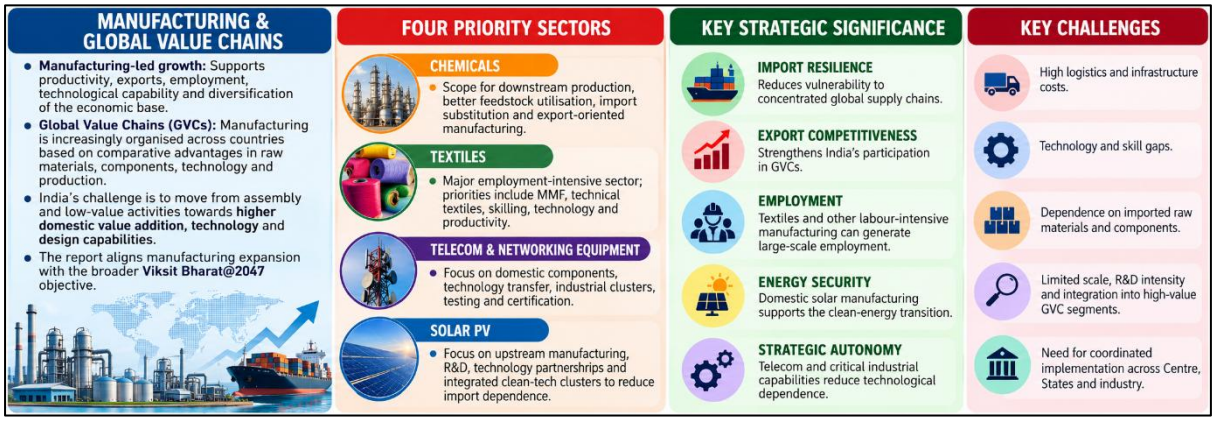
- Ensure clear sunset/review clauses and periodic assessment of whether the stated objective continues to justify the cess.
- Maintain transparent accounting and outcome-based reporting on cess collections and expenditure.
- Minimise regressive effects through targeted exemptions/support and avoid excessive proliferation of purpose-specific levies.



22. NITI Aayog Report: Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub - PIB

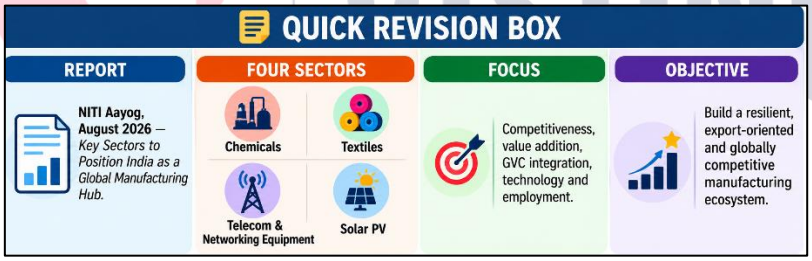
Why in News?

- NITI Aayog released the report "Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub" to identify sectors with high potential to drive India's manufacturing growth and global value-chain integration.
- The report evaluates sectors on market potential, competitiveness, strategic relevance, value-chain opportunities, technology readiness, employment potential and policy support.
- The first volume focuses on Chemicals, Textiles, Telecom & Networking Equipment and Solar PV Manufacturing; eight more sectors are to be covered subsequently.



Way Forward

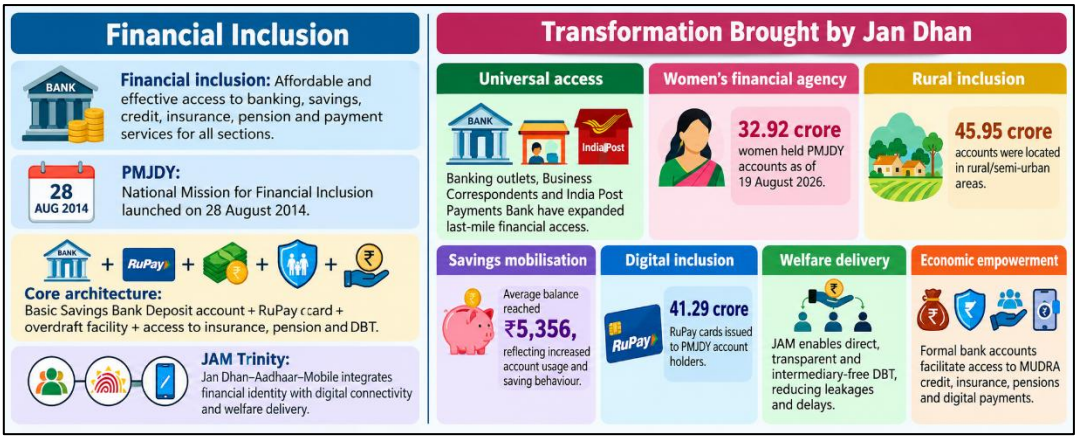
- Develop integrated industrial and clean-tech clusters with world-class infrastructure.
- Promote R&D, technology partnerships, skilling and domestic component ecosystems.
- Improve market access through trade partnerships, competitive logistics and predictable policy support.



23. Financial Democracy: The Jan Dhan Transformation – The Hindu

Why in News?

- PMJDY completed 12 years, marking a major transformation in India's financial inclusion landscape. Press Information Bureau
- As on 19 August 2026, PMJDY had 59.09 crore accounts, with deposits of ₹3.17 lakh crore. Press Information Bureau
- 55.7% of account holders are women and 77.8% of accounts are in rural/semi-urban areas, indicating broad-based access.

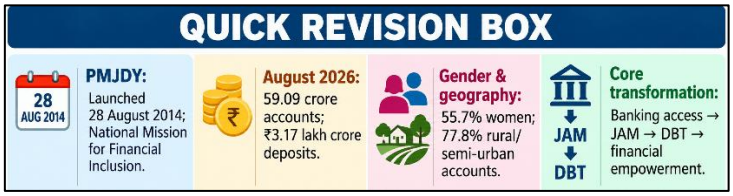


Remaining Challenges

- Dormant/inactive accounts and uneven usage beyond receiving government transfers.
- Digital divide: Connectivity, device access and digital literacy remain constraints.
- Cyber fraud: Growing digital transactions require stronger consumer protection and cybersecurity.
- Credit inclusion: Account ownership must translate into productive and affordable access to formal credit.

Way Forward

- Shift from account ownership to meaningful usage through financial literacy and suitable products.
- Strengthen cybersecurity, grievance redressal and consumer protection.
- Integrate PMJDY with credit, insurance, pensions, SHGs and livelihood opportunities for deeper financial empowerment.

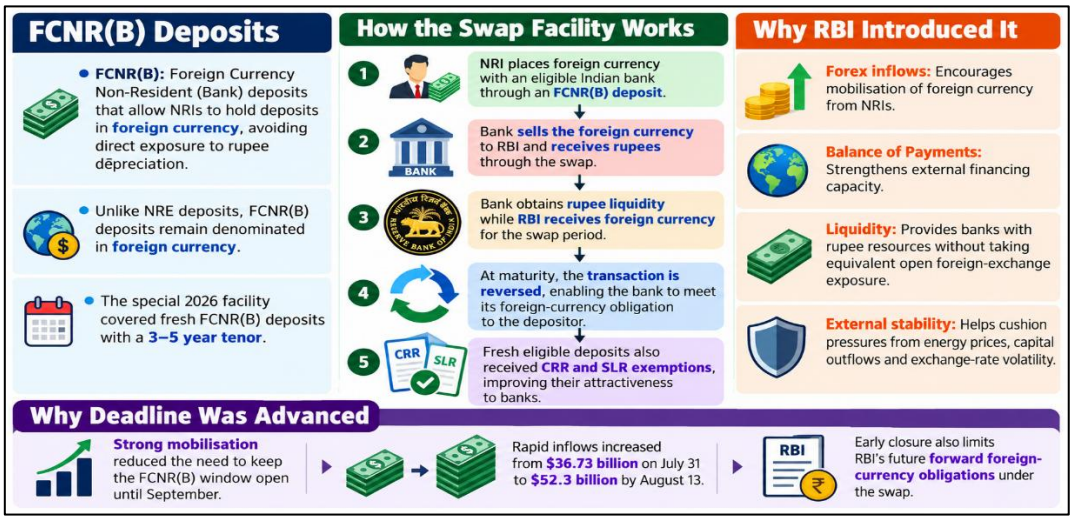


24. FCNR(B) Swap Window: Attracting Forex Inflows amid External Risks – Business Standard

Why in News?

- RBI advanced the closure of its special USD–INR swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits from September 30 to August 31, 2026, citing an "encouraging response" and substantial forex inflows.
- The facility was introduced on 8 June 2026 to encourage stable foreign-currency inflows amid global uncertainty, energy-price pressures and currency-market volatility.

- By 21 August, total inflows under the concessional swap facility reached $72.85 billion, including $65.40 billion through FCNR(B) deposits.

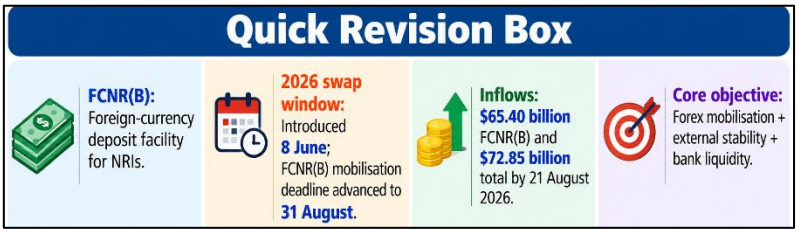


Key Concerns

- Swap inflows are temporary liabilities, not equivalent to a permanent addition to usable forex reserves.
- RBI receives foreign currency but must return it at maturity.
- Rupee liquidity created through swaps requires careful liquidity management.
- Banks may face pressure on net interest margins as deposit mobilisation increases.

Way Forward

- Use temporary forex measures alongside structural export, remittance and capital-flow reforms.
- Maintain adequate liquidity sterilisation and transparent monitoring of currency and maturity risks.
- Diversify external financing sources while maintaining comfortable forex reserves.

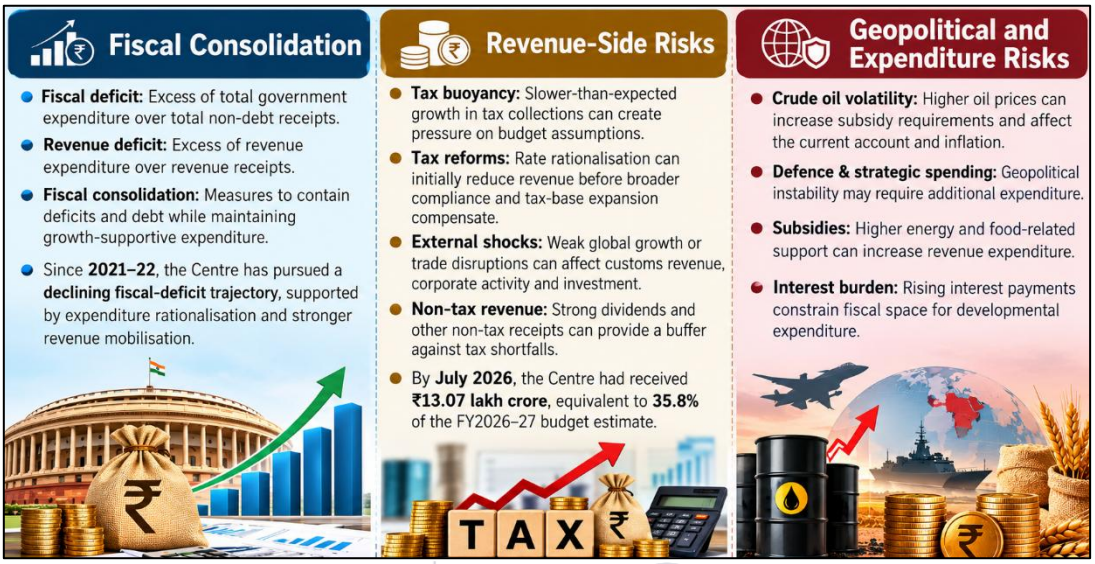


25. Centre's Fiscal Outlook: Geopolitical and Revenue Risks – The Hindu

Why in News?

- Concerns over India's fiscal outlook have increased amid geopolitical tensions, volatile crude prices, tax-revenue pressures and higher subsidy requirements.

- The Union Budget 2026–27 targets a fiscal deficit of 4.3% of GDP, with Central Government debt estimated at 55.6% of GDP.
- The government's medium-term fiscal strategy aims to bring debt towards 50±1% of GDP by 2030–31, while protecting productive capital expenditure.

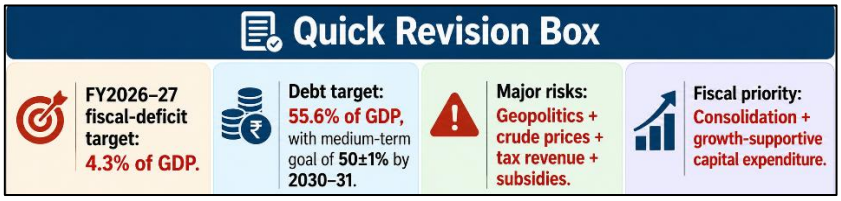


Positive Buffers

- Capital expenditure: Budgeted at ₹12.22 lakh crore, supporting infrastructure and productive capacity.
- Strong non-tax receipts: Can partially offset weaker tax performance.
- Debt trajectory: Continued fiscal consolidation provides greater resilience to future shocks.

Way Forward

- Strengthen tax buoyancy and compliance without excessive rate increases.
- Protect high-multiplier capital expenditure while rationalising poorly targeted subsidies.
- Build adequate fiscal buffers to respond to geopolitical and energy-price shocks.

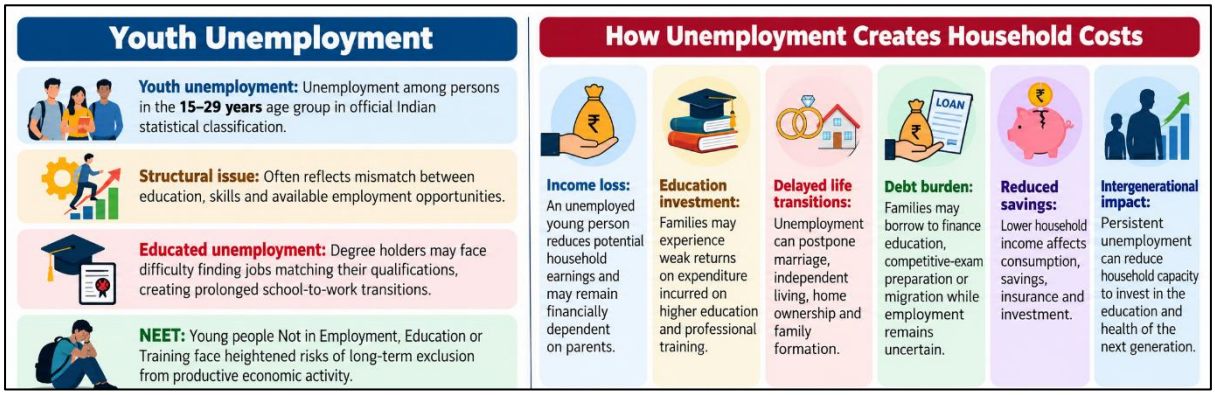


26. Youth Unemployment: A Household-Level Economic Cost – The Hindu

Why in News?

- The debate on youth unemployment has highlighted that joblessness among young people is not merely a labour-market issue but also imposes a direct economic and social burden on households.

- Official PLFS data show that India's overall unemployment rate for persons aged 15+ stood at 5.0% in August 2026, while urban unemployment remained higher at 6.8%.
- Earlier official data also show that youth unemployment is considerably higher than overall unemployment, reflecting difficulties in the transition from education to work.

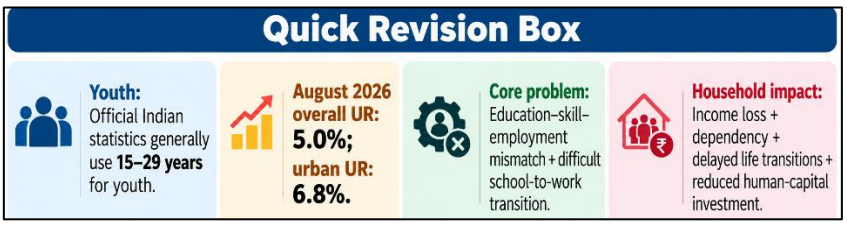


Wider Economic & Social Consequences

- **Human-capital depreciation:** Prolonged joblessness can erode skills and work experience.
- **Lower productivity:** Underutilisation of an educated young workforce reduces the potential demographic dividend.
- **Migration pressure:** Lack of local opportunities can encourage distress migration.
- **Gender dimension:** Young women face additional barriers related to safety, mobility, unpaid care work and social norms.
- **Mental well-being:** Prolonged unemployment can contribute to stress and reduced social participation.

Way Forward

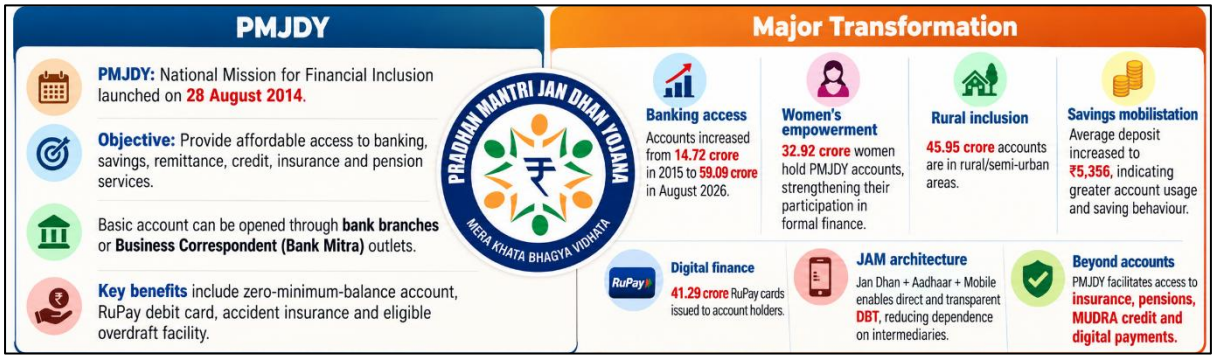
- Align education and skilling with industry demand, particularly through apprenticeships and work-based learning.
- Promote labour-intensive manufacturing and modern services capable of absorbing large numbers of young workers.
- Strengthen career counselling, employment exchanges, mobility support and targeted social protection for vulnerable households.



27. PM Jan Dhan Yojana: 12 Years of Transforming Financial Inclusion - PIB

Why in News?

- PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completed 12 years since its launch in 2014.
- As on 19 August 2026, PMJDY had 59.09 crore accounts with deposits of ₹3.17 lakh crore.
- 55.7% accounts belong to women and 77.8% are in rural/semi-urban areas, highlighting the scheme's outreach to financially underserved groups.

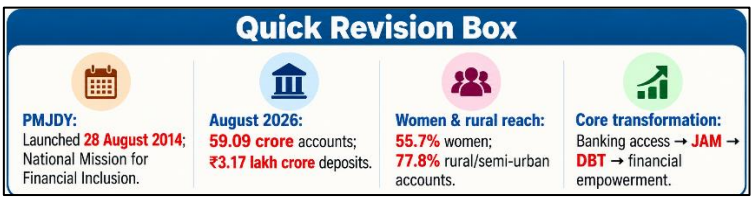


Remaining Challenges

- Account ownership vs active usage: Financial inclusion must translate into regular savings, credit and insurance utilisation.
- Digital divide: Limited connectivity, devices and financial literacy can restrict effective usage.
- Cyber risks: Greater digitalisation increases exposure to fraud and cybercrime.
- Credit gap: Access to bank accounts needs to be complemented by affordable productive credit.

Way Forward

- Shift from "banking the unbanked" to meaningful financial inclusion through financial literacy and suitable products.
- Strengthen cybersecurity, grievance redressal and consumer protection.
- Integrate PMJDY with SHGs, MUDRA, insurance, pensions and livelihood programmes.

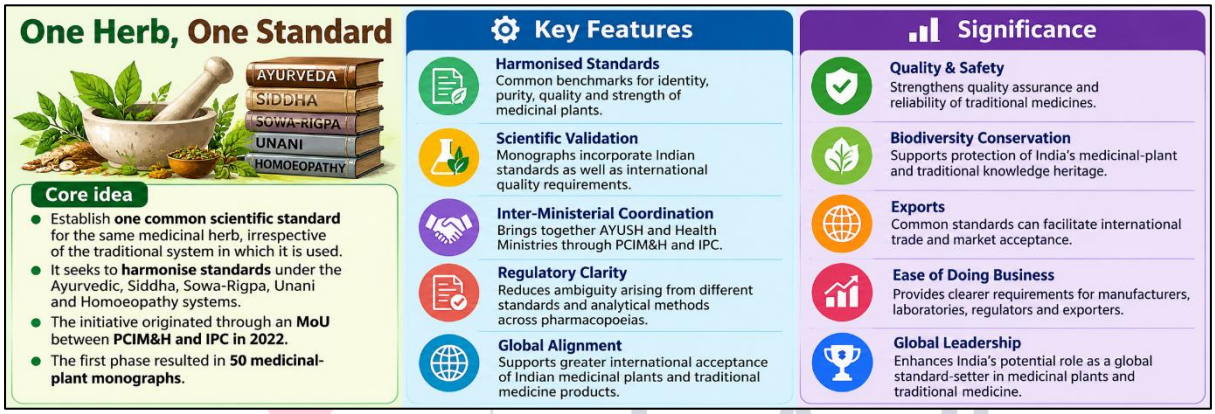


SOCIAL ISSUES & SOCIAL JUSTICE

28. One Herb, One Standard Initiative: Strengthening India's Traditional Medicine Heritage – News on Air

Why in News?

- Recently, the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) under the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare renewed their MoU for the "One Herb, One Standard" initiative.
- The renewed framework will continue for three years, focusing on uniform and scientifically robust standards for medicinal plants used across traditional medicine systems.

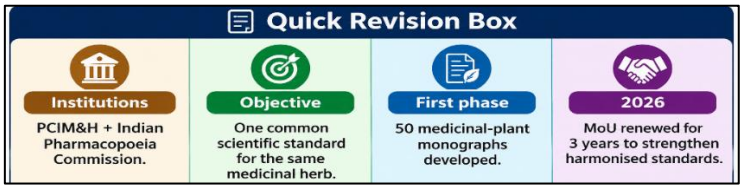


Challenges

- Variability in plant species, geographical origin and cultivation practices.
- Need for stronger testing infrastructure and scientific capacity.
- Ensuring uniform implementation across manufacturers and regulatory authorities.
- Balancing traditional knowledge with modern evidence-based quality standards.

Way Forward

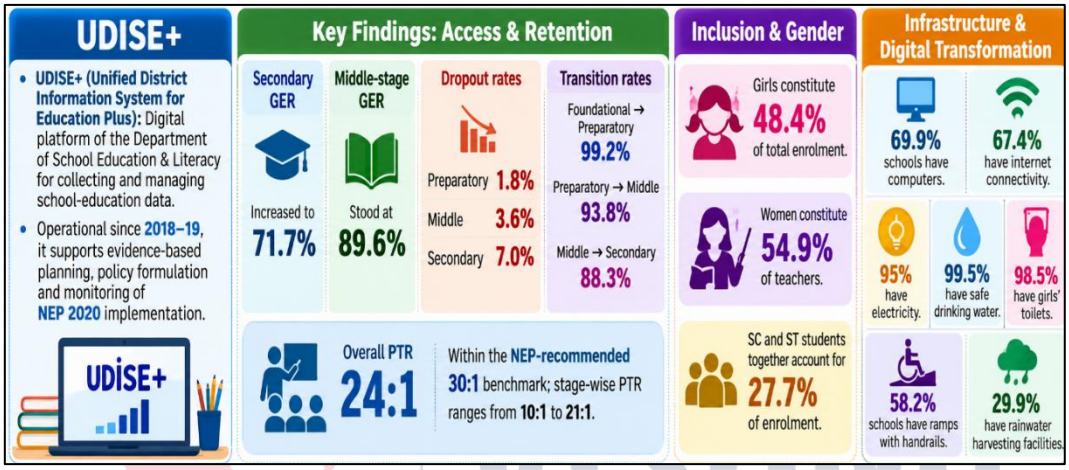
- Expand scientifically validated pharmacopoeial monographs.
- Strengthen laboratory infrastructure, quality-control systems and research.
- Align Indian standards continuously with international benchmarks while preserving traditional knowledge.



29. Beyond the Numbers: How India's School Education System is Changing – DD News

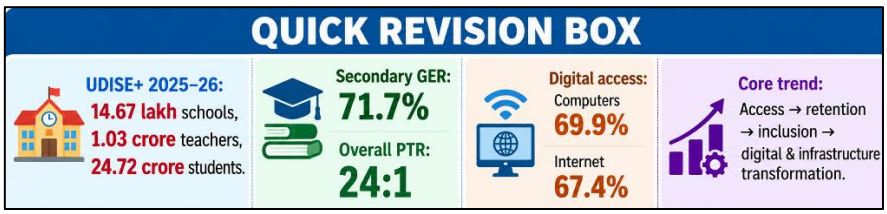
Why in News?

- The UDISE+ 2025–26 Report released by the Ministry of Education highlights broad-based changes in India's school education system. Press Information Bureau
- The system now covers 14.67 lakh schools, 1.03 crore teachers and 24.72 crore students, making UDISE+ a major evidence base for education planning.



Emerging Challenges

- Secondary-stage participation remains substantially below universal coverage.
- Persistent regional disparities, teacher deployment issues and infrastructure gaps require targeted intervention.
- Improving access must translate into learning outcomes, foundational literacy and numeracy, and employability.
- Digital expansion needs to address the digital divide and quality of technology-enabled learning.

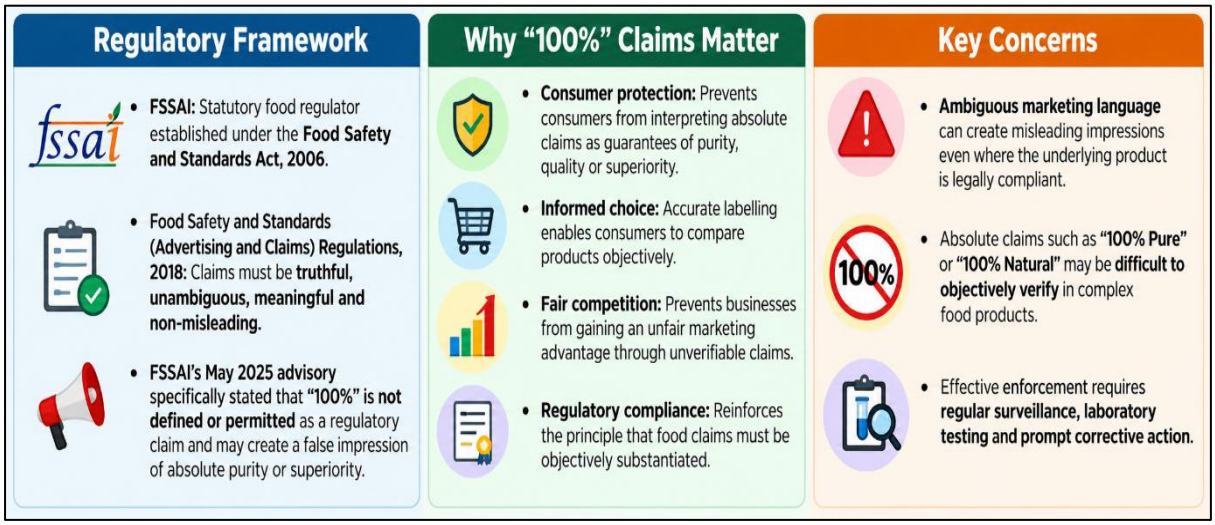


30. FSSAI Crackdown on "100%" Claims in Food Products – NDTV World

Why in News?

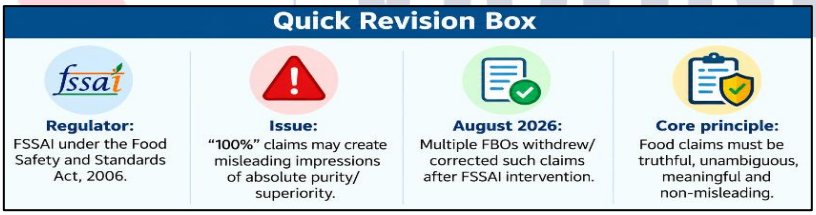
- Recently, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) intensified enforcement against misleading "100%" claims on food labels, packaging and advertisements.
- Following regulatory intervention, Bonn Biscuits, Apis India, Emami, Amway India, Juza Foods and Masterchow Foods withdrew or corrected such claims. NDTV Profit

- Examples included “100% Pure Coconut Oil”, “100%” honey claims, a “100%” claim in Bonn Cummin Flavor Jeera Bite Biscuits, baby-food products and ramen noodles.



Way Forward

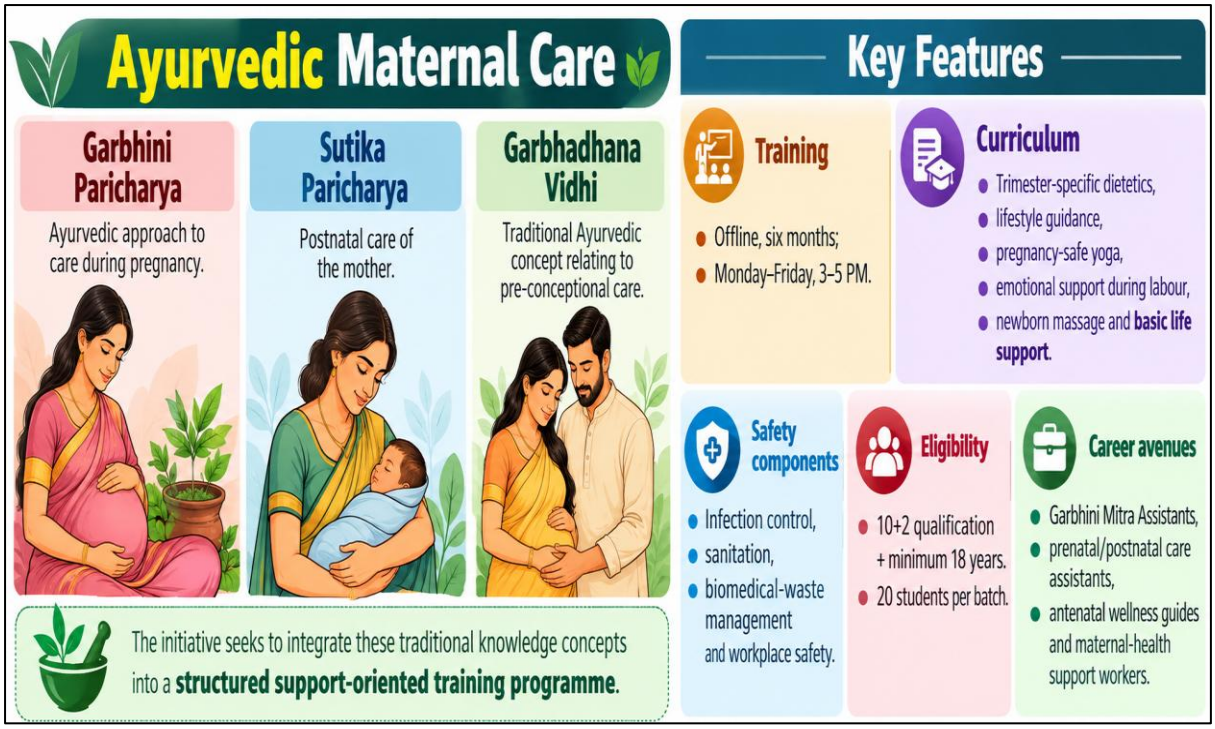
- Strengthen risk-based inspections and market surveillance.
- Promote clear, evidence-based and consumer-friendly labelling.
- Ensure consistent enforcement while providing industry with regulatory clarity.



31. GARBHINI MITRA: Ayurveda-Based Maternal Wellness Support

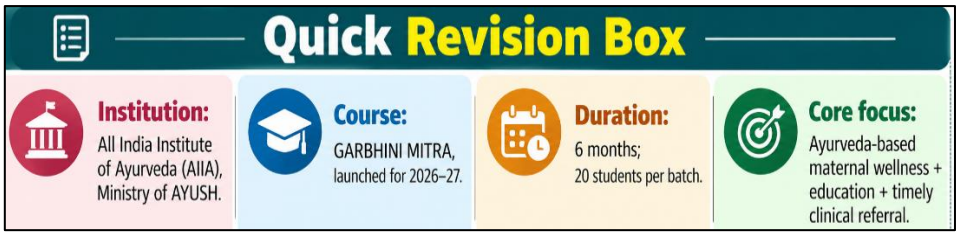
Why in News?

- On 24 August 2026, the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of AYUSH, launched the GARBHINI MITRA Course for the 2026–27 academic session.
- It is a six-month skill-development programme aimed at creating trained personnel for health education, lifestyle guidance and community-level support for pregnant and postnatal women.



Significance & Safeguards

- Community support: Can strengthen awareness and wellness support at the community level.
- Traditional knowledge: Provides a structured mechanism for transmitting Ayurveda-based maternal-care practices.
- Continuum of care: Supports—not replaces—clinical antenatal and postnatal services.
- Referral role: Trained personnel are expected to identify warning signs and facilitate timely referral to qualified doctors and health facilities.
- Clinical safeguards: Routine check-ups, diagnostic tests and monitoring of blood pressure and haemoglobin remain essential.

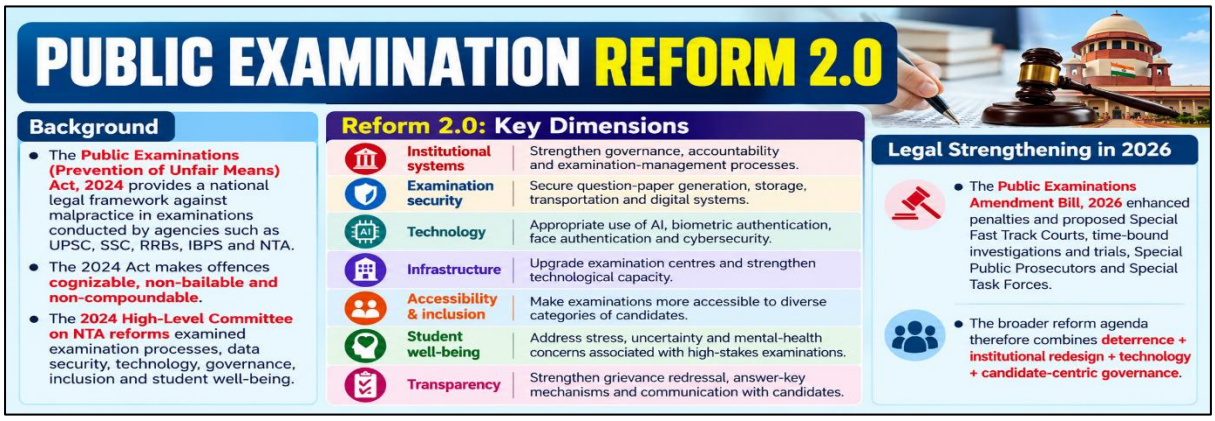


32. Public Examination Reform 2.0: Towards a Secure and Future-Ready Examination System – The Hindu

Why in News?

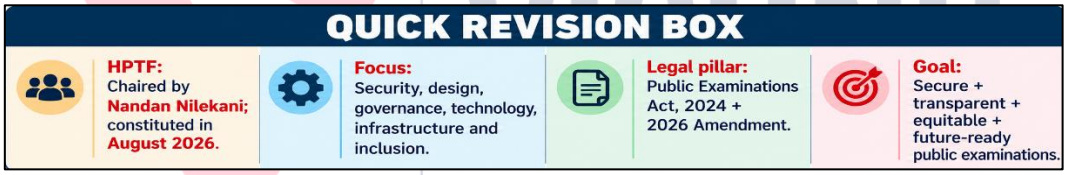
- Recently, the Union Government constituted a High-Powered Task Force (HPTF) chaired by Nandan Nilekani to recommend comprehensive reforms in public examinations, including those conducted by the NTA.

- The initiative seeks to move beyond merely preventing paper leaks towards a robust, secure, transparent, equitable and future-ready examination ecosystem.



Way Forward

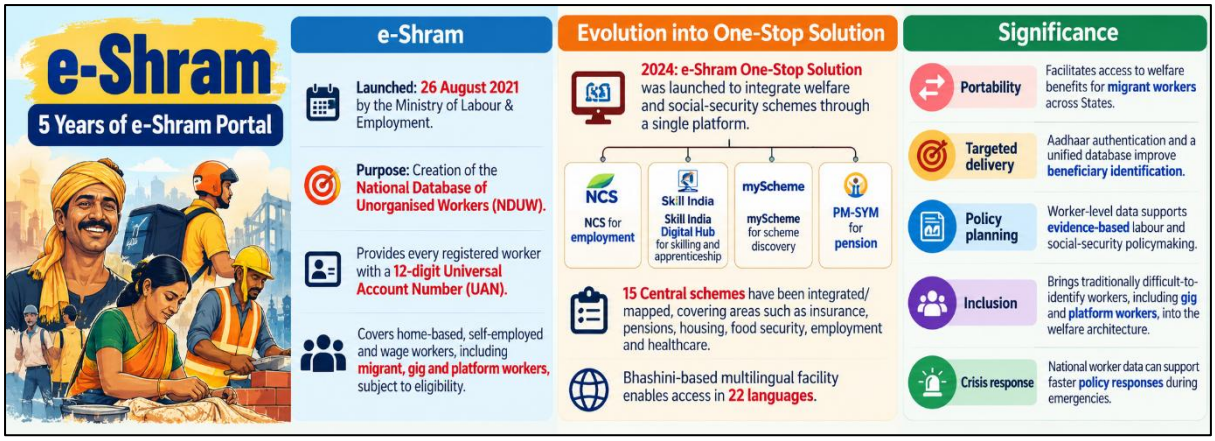
- Build an end-to-end secure examination chain, independent audits, interoperable cybersecurity protocols and robust contingency mechanisms.
- Ensure technology remains transparent, accountable and inclusive, rather than becoming an additional barrier for candidates.



33. 5 Years of e-Shram Portal: Building an Inclusive Social Security Ecosystem - PIB

Why in News?

- e-Shram Portal completed five years on 26 August 2026, marking a major milestone in building a national social-security ecosystem for India's unorganised workforce.
- As of 18 August 2026, 31.89 crore unorganised workers had registered on the portal.
- Women constituted 54.28% of registrations, indicating substantial participation of women workers in the formal digital welfare architecture.

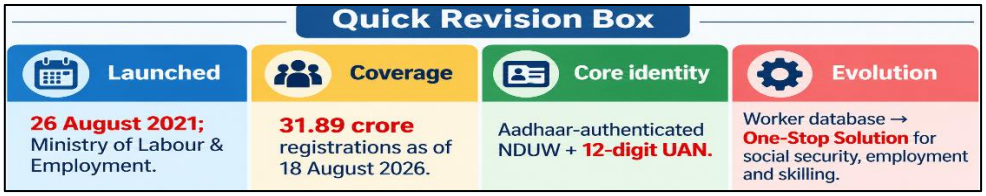


Challenges

- Digital Divide: Limited digital literacy and connectivity can exclude vulnerable workers.
- Data Gaps: Worker details may become outdated due to migration and changing occupations.
- Benefit Uptake: Registration does not always translate into actual scheme utilisation.
- Privacy Risks: Large-scale worker databases require strong data protection and cybersecurity.

Way Forward

- Assisted Access: Expand CSCs, camps and multilingual support for registration and updation.
- Dynamic Database: Enable periodic, simple and worker-friendly profile updation.
- Convergence: Improve integration with welfare, employment, skilling and insurance schemes.
- Data Governance: Strengthen consent, privacy safeguards, cybersecurity and grievance redressal.

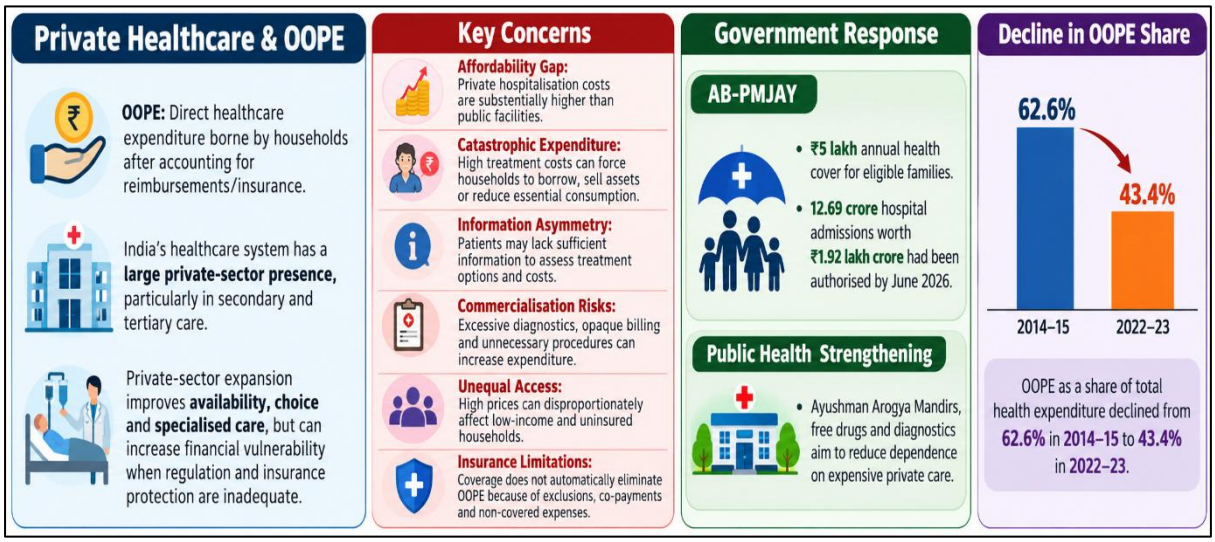


34. The High Cost of India's Private Health-Care Boom – The Hindu

Why in News?

- August 2026 discussions on healthcare affordability have highlighted the sharp cost differential between private and public healthcare facilities.
- The NSO 80th Round Household Social Consumption: Health Survey (2025) provides recent evidence on the financial burden of hospitalisation.

- Average out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) per hospitalisation was ₹50,508 in private hospitals, compared with ₹6,631 in government hospitals.

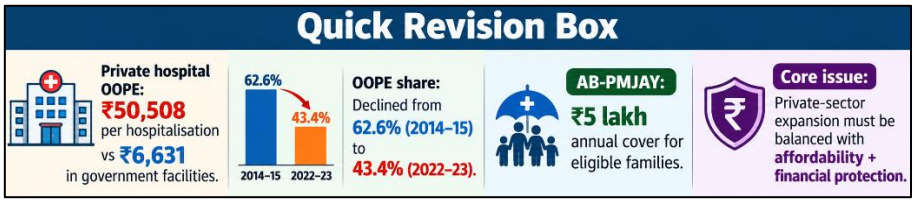


Challenges

- Cost Escalation: High prices for hospitalisation and specialised treatment.
- Regulatory Gaps: Uneven implementation of pricing and transparency norms.
- Insurance Gaps: Exclusions and inadequate coverage can leave significant residual costs.
- Public Capacity: Unequal availability of quality public tertiary healthcare.

Way Forward

- Price Transparency: Mandatory disclosure of treatment packages and expected costs.
- Standardisation: Develop evidence-based reference prices for essential procedures.
- Stronger Regulation: Effective monitoring of billing, diagnostics and treatment practices.
- Public Investment: Expand quality secondary and tertiary public healthcare capacity.

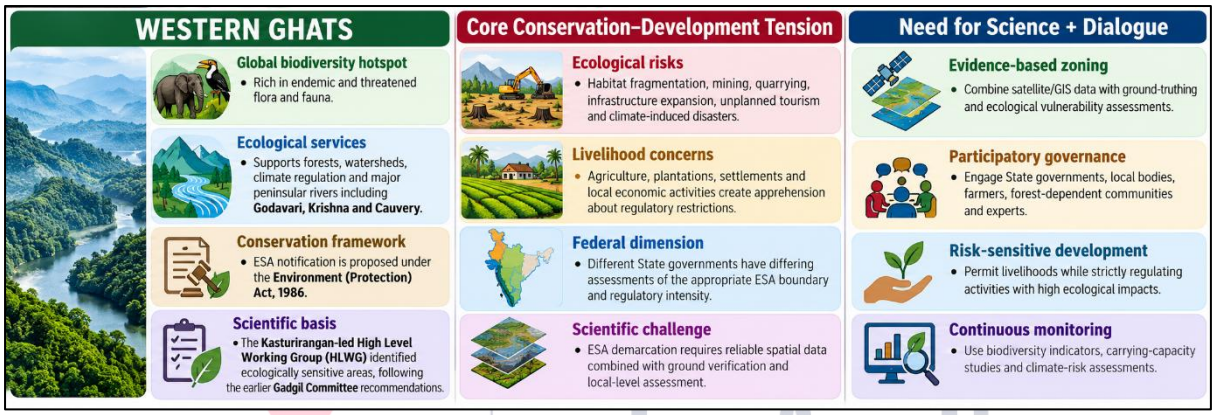


GEOGRAPHY, DISASTER MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENT

35. Western Ghats Conservation with Science and Dialogue – The Hindu

Why in News?

- In August 2026, the debate over conservation of the Western Ghats gained renewed attention following the fresh Draft Notification dated 27 July 2026 on the Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- The proposed ESA covers 56,825.7 sq. km across six States — Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- The continuing challenge is to reconcile ecological protection with livelihoods, development needs and State concerns.

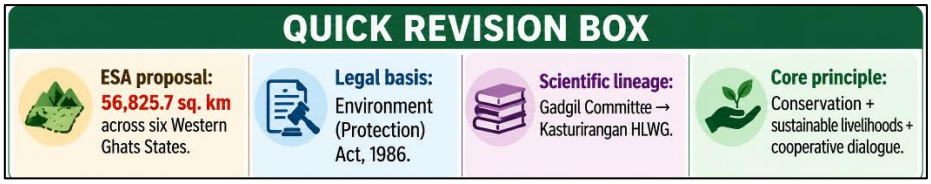


Challenges

- Centre–State differences: Lack of consensus on ESA boundaries and restrictions.
- Livelihood fears: Perception that conservation rules may constrain legitimate economic activities.
- Ecological degradation: Development pressures continue despite prolonged notification delays.
- Trust deficit: Top-down decision-making can weaken community acceptance.

Way Forward

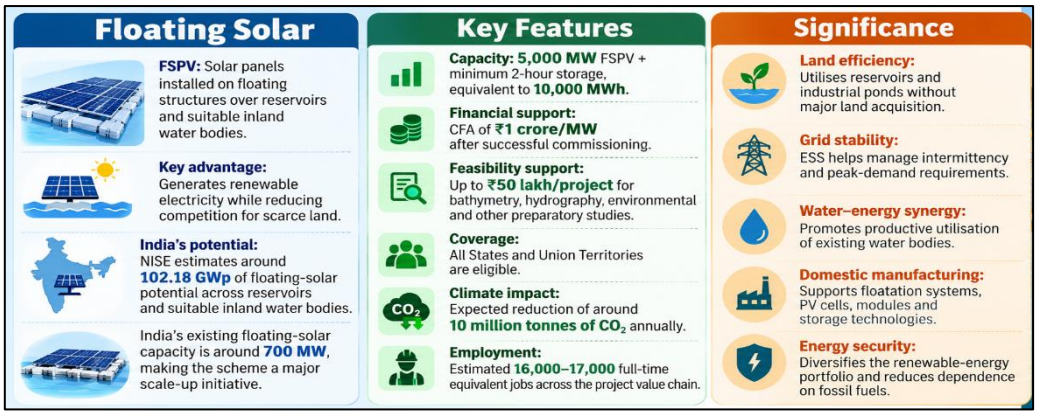
- Ground-truthing: Verify ESA boundaries through field-level scientific assessment.
- Dialogue: Institutionalise sustained Centre–State and community consultations.
- Differentiated regulation: Apply location-specific restrictions based on ecological sensitivity.
- Benefit-sharing: Link conservation with sustainable livelihoods and local economic incentives.



36. Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana: Floating Solar with Energy Storage - PIB

Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) on 31 July 2026, with a total outlay of ₹5,070 crore.
- The scheme targets 5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects with co-located Energy Storage Systems (ESS).
- Projects will be sanctioned during FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, with financial support continuing up to FY 2032–33.

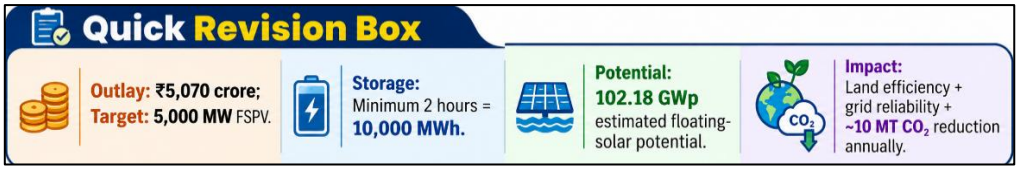


Challenges

- Ecological risks: Potential impacts on aquatic ecosystems and water quality.
- Technical complexity: Anchoring, maintenance and grid integration require specialised expertise.
- Financing: High upfront costs for FSPV and storage.
- Site suitability: Bathymetry, water-level variation and competing reservoir uses require careful assessment.

Way Forward

- Scientific siting: Mandatory environmental and hydrological assessment.
- Technology: Promote durable floating platforms and efficient storage systems.
- Monitoring: Establish long-term ecological and water-quality monitoring.
- Integrated planning: Coordinate renewable-energy, irrigation, drinking-water and reservoir-management objectives.



37. Why Europe's Wildfires Are Getting Bigger, Hotter and Harder to Stop – Indian Express

Why in News?

- August 2026 saw severe wildfire conditions across Europe amid prolonged heat, dryness and drought, particularly in western and southern Europe.
- The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) reported that prolonged hot and dry conditions in western Europe favoured the spread and intensification of extreme wildfires.
- The European Commission has noted that wildfires are becoming larger, more frequent and more destructive, requiring an integrated prevention–preparedness–response–recovery approach.



Challenges

- Longer fire seasons: Narrower windows for prevention and recovery.
- Rapid spread: Extreme heat and wind can overwhelm suppression capacity.
- Human exposure: Expansion of the wildland–urban interface increases vulnerability.
- Cross-border risks: Smoke, resources and fire behaviour can transcend administrative boundaries.

Way Forward

- Prevention-first: Fuel management, fire breaks and climate-resilient forest management.
- Early warning: Satellite monitoring, AI-based risk mapping and rapid detection.
- Integrated response: Combine firefighting capacity with ecosystem and community preparedness.
- Nature-based solutions: Promote mixed forests, agroforestry, landscape restoration and resilient ecosystems.

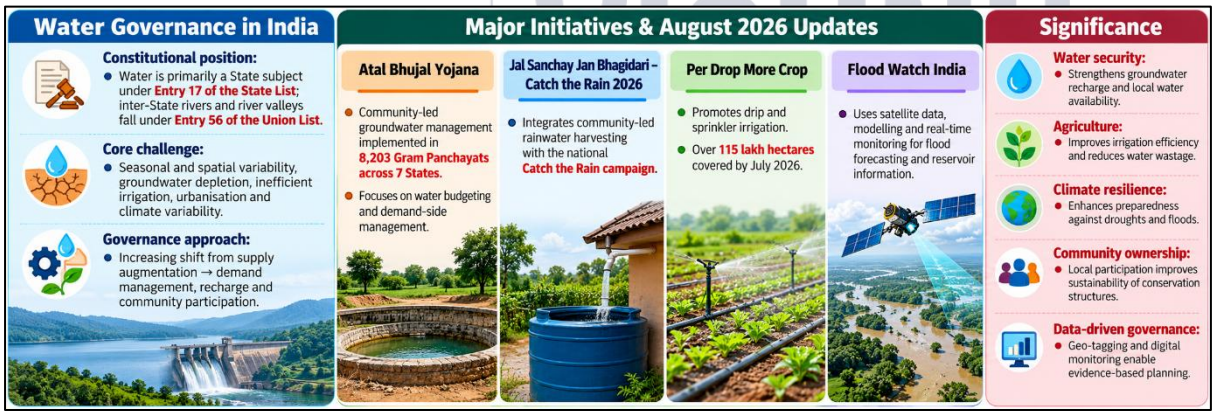
Quick revision box:



38. Water Management and Conservation: From Water Availability to Water Security - PIB

Why in News?

- In August 2026, the Ministry of Jal Shakti highlighted India's expanding focus on water conservation, groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting and efficient water use.
- More than 24.2 lakh water bodies have been identified, enumerated and geo-tagged through the Water Bodies Census.
- As of 28 July 2026, over 2 crore water-conservation and artificial-recharge works had been taken up through convergence across the country.

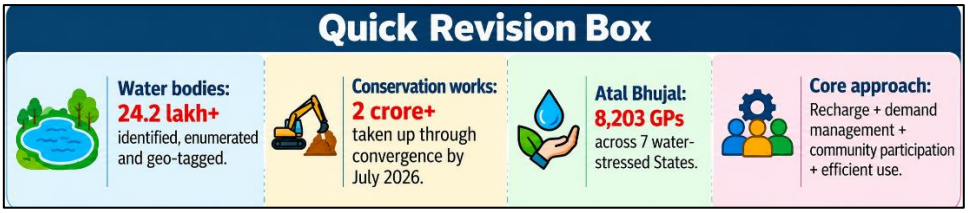


Challenges

- Groundwater depletion: Over-extraction in water-stressed regions.
- Regional imbalance: Uneven availability and distribution of water.
- Demand pressure: Agriculture, urbanisation and industry increase competing demands.
- Fragmented governance: Multiple agencies and State-level approaches can hinder integrated management.

Way Forward

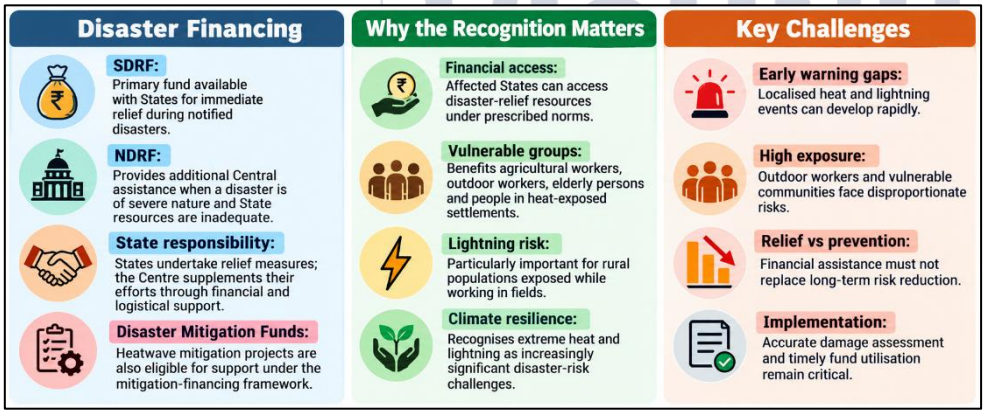
- Water budgeting: Institutionalise village-level demand–supply assessment.
- Efficient irrigation: Scale micro-irrigation and crop diversification.
- Aquifer-based planning: Manage groundwater according to local hydrogeology.
- Convergence: Integrate Central, State, local-body and community resources.



39. Heatwaves and Lightning Recognised as Notified Disasters – Indian Express

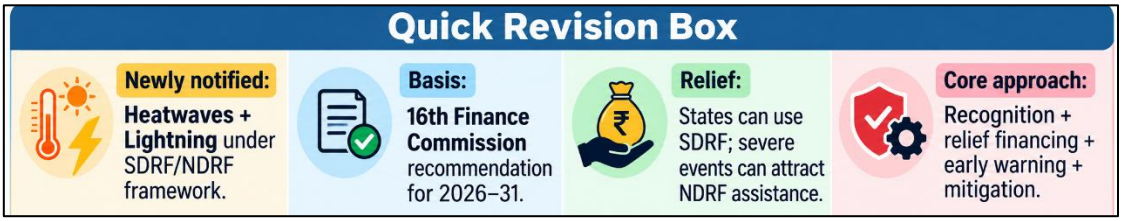
Why in News?

- In August 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs confirmed the inclusion of heatwaves and lightning in the nationally notified list of disasters eligible for relief under the SDRF/NDRF framework.
- The decision follows the recommendation of the 16th Finance Commission (2026–31), which recognised the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.
- A policy framework is now in place for States to provide relief assistance for eligible heatwave and lightning impacts through SDRF/NDRF.



Way Forward

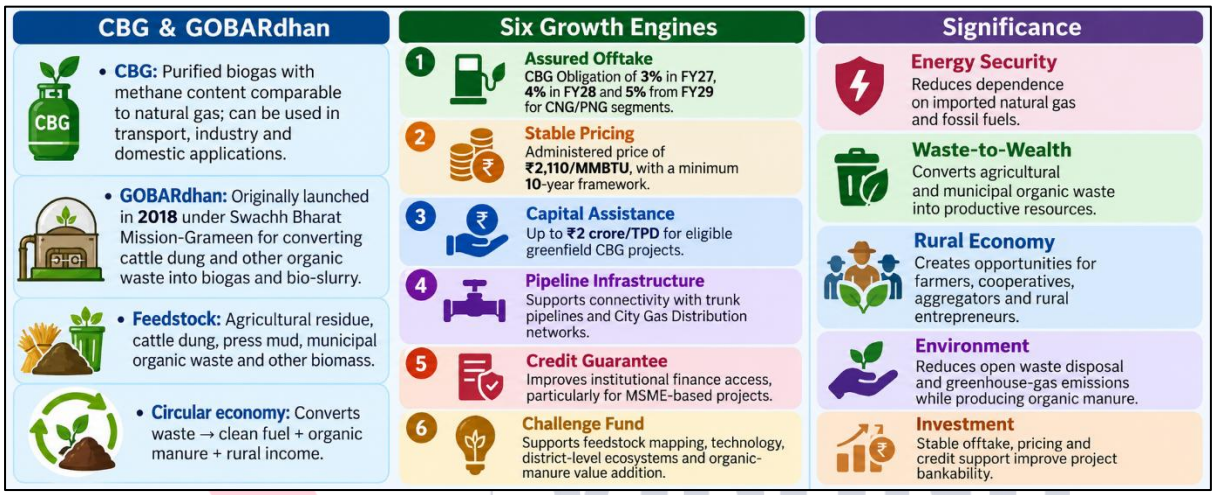
- Heat Action Plans: Strengthen district-level, locally tailored plans.
- Early warning: Expand IMD/NDMA alerts and last-mile dissemination.
- Resilient infrastructure: Promote cooling centres, shaded public spaces and lightning-safe structures.
- Community preparedness: Strengthen awareness, evacuation/shelter protocols and occupational safety.



40. GOBARdhan: India's National Unified Scheme for Compressed Biogas - PIB

Why in News?

- On 6 August 2026, the Union Cabinet approved GOBARdhan – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme with an outlay of ₹23,731 crore.
- The scheme will be implemented during FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36 and aims to increase domestic Compressed Biogas (CBG) production nearly ten-fold.
- It consolidates fragmented CBG interventions under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) into a unified framework.

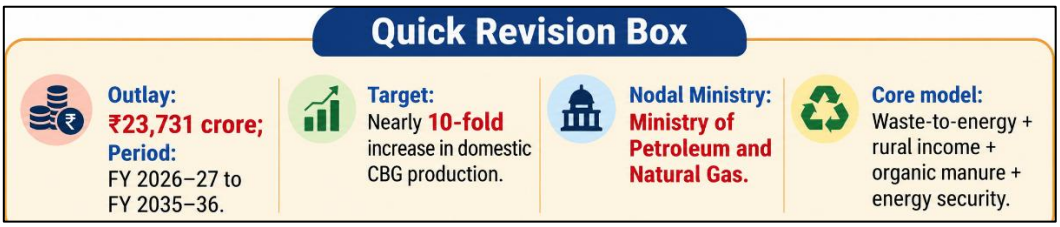


Challenges

- Feedstock: Reliable, year-round biomass aggregation remains difficult.
- Economics: High capital, logistics and maintenance costs can affect viability.
- Infrastructure: Limited pipeline connectivity and decentralised production locations.
- Manure Market: Sustained demand and quality standards for organic manure need strengthening.

Way Forward

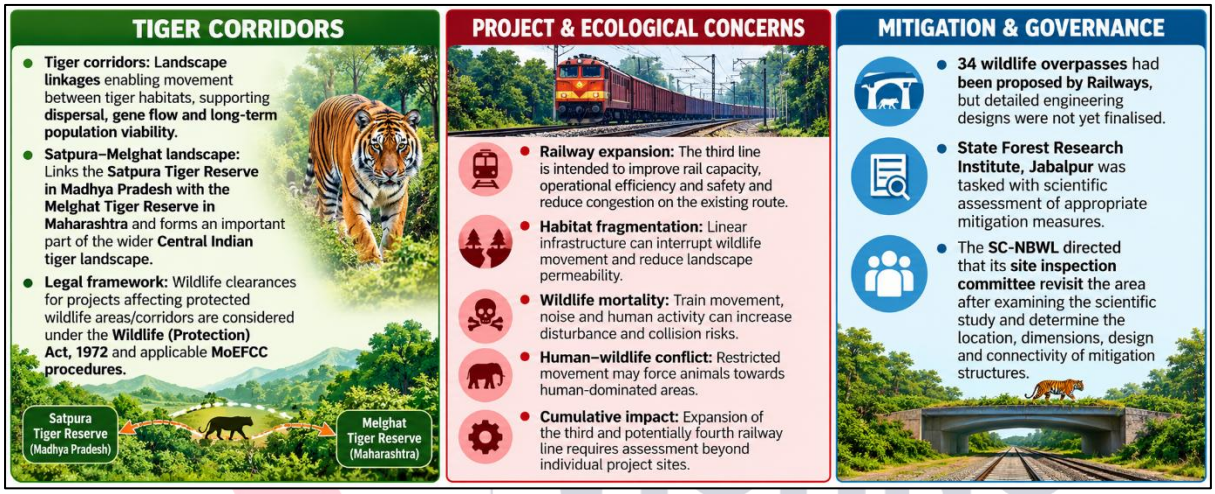
- Feedstock mapping: Develop district-level biomass inventories and aggregation systems.
- Infrastructure: Expand pipeline connectivity and decentralised CBG clusters.
- Technology: Promote efficient digestion, purification and waste-processing technologies.
- Market integration: Strengthen CBG offtake and organic-manure markets.



41. Railway Expansion through the Satpura–Melghat Tiger Corridor – India Today

Why in News?

- In August 2026, the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) recommended in-principle wildlife clearance for a third railway line from Jujharpur to Chichonda in Madhya Pradesh.
- The project involves 206.09 hectares within the notified Satpura–Melghat Tiger Corridor — 74.69 ha forest land and 131.4 ha non-forest land.
- The recommendation remains conditional on scientific assessment and finalisation of wildlife-mitigation structures.

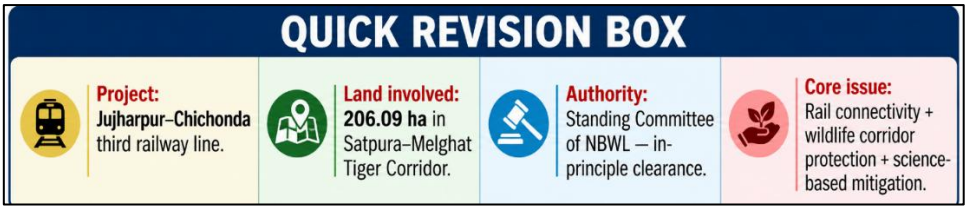


Challenges

- Fragmentation: Maintaining uninterrupted ecological connectivity.
- Cumulative impacts: Multiple linear projects can amplify habitat pressure.
- Design uncertainty: Wildlife crossings require site-specific scientific and engineering solutions.
- Development–conservation conflict: Transport expansion must be balanced with ecological integrity.

Way Forward

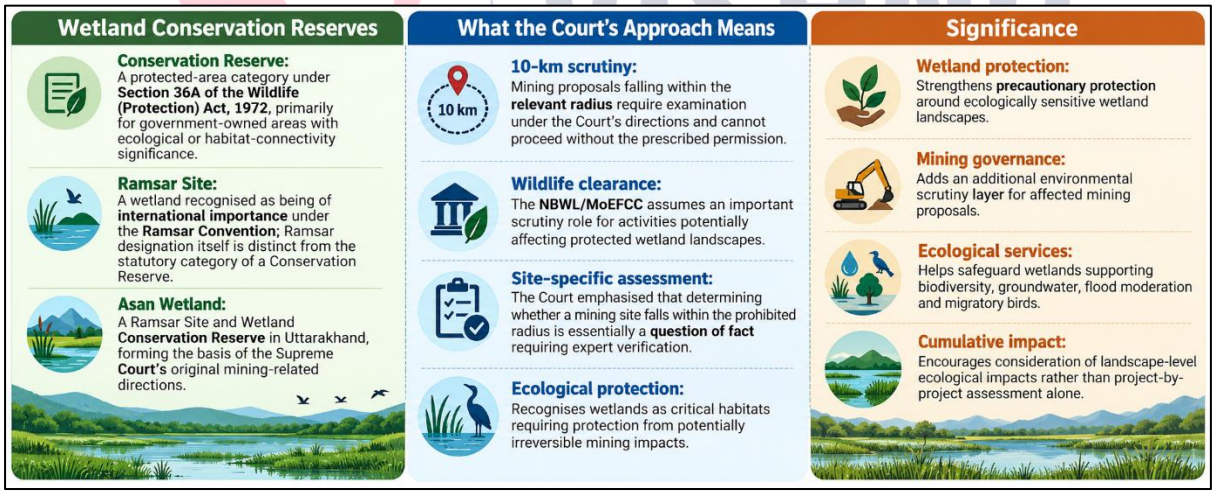
- Landscape-level assessment: Evaluate cumulative impacts before project approval.
- Science-based crossings: Design wildlife structures using movement and habitat data.
- Continuous monitoring: Track wildlife movement, mortality and corridor functionality.
- Mitigation hierarchy: Prioritise avoidance → minimisation → restoration → compensatory measures.



42. Supreme Court Order on Mining around Wetland Conservation Reserves – The Hindu

Why in News?

- On 4 August 2026, the Supreme Court, in T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India, clarified the applicability of its earlier directions concerning mining near the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve. Indian Kanoon
- The Court's 2024 interim direction required prior permission from the Standing Committee of NBWL and/or MoEFCC for mining within 10 km of the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve. Sci API
- The 2026 clarification has wider implications for wetland conservation reserves, particularly where mining proposals fall within the prescribed radius.

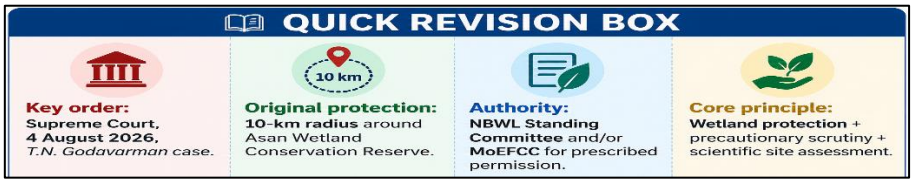


Challenges

- Regulatory overlap: Multiple environmental and wildlife-clearance requirements can create complexity.
- Boundary verification: Accurate demarcation and geospatial mapping are essential.
- Livelihood concerns: Mining restrictions may affect local employment and State revenues.
- Implementation capacity: Effective monitoring is necessary to prevent illegal mining.

Way Forward

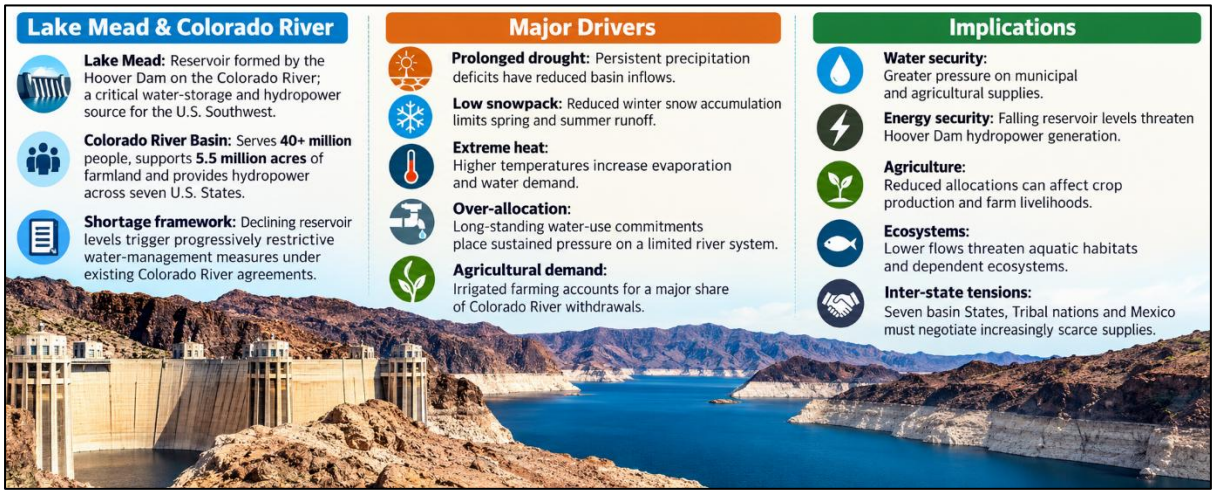
- Scientific mapping: Maintain precise, publicly accessible wetland and protected-area boundaries.
- Cumulative assessment: Evaluate mining impacts at the landscape and watershed level.
- Coordinated regulation: Strengthen coordination among MoEFCC, NBWL and State authorities.
- Community participation: Combine conservation with alternative livelihood opportunities.



43. Lake Mead Water Crisis: Falling to Historic Lows – LiveMint

Why in News?

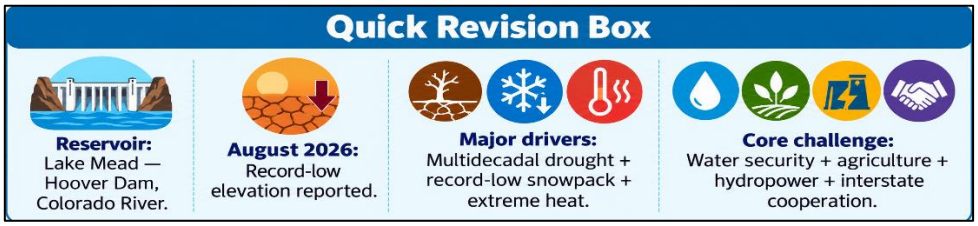
- In August 2026, Lake Mead reached a record-low elevation, highlighting the worsening water crisis in the Colorado River Basin.
- The Bureau of Reclamation reported that Lake Mead and Lake Powell both reached record-low elevations, while their combined storage fell to the lowest level since before Lake Powell began filling in 1963.
- The crisis is occurring amid a 26-year multidecadal drought, compounded in 2026 by the lowest observed winter snowpack on record.



Response & Way Forward

- Flexible operations: New 2027–2036 operating framework seeks greater adaptability to hydrological uncertainty.
- Demand management: Expand conservation, efficient irrigation and urban water reuse.

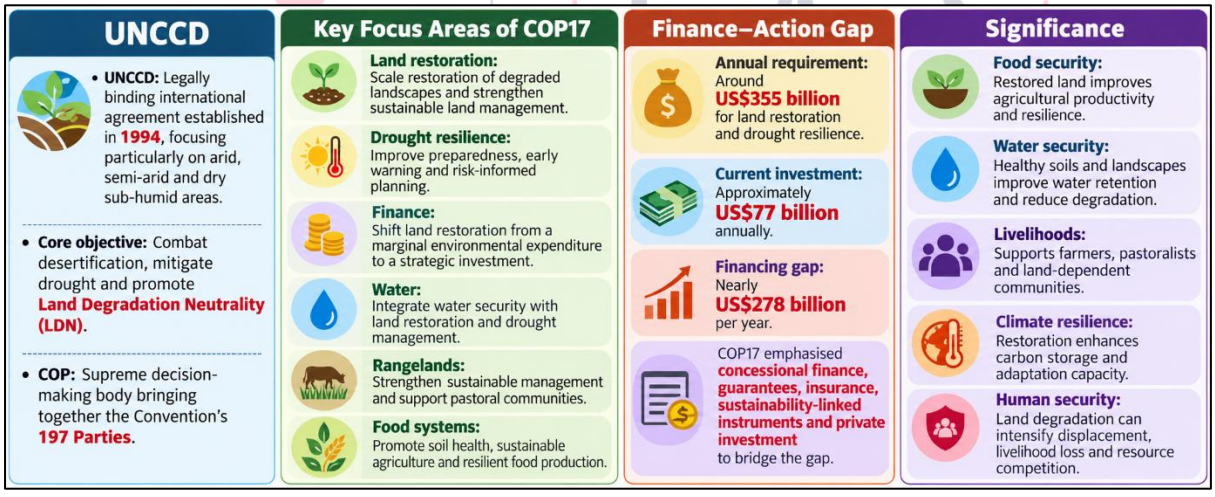
- Climate resilience: Integrate drought projections into reservoir and basin planning.
- Cooperative governance: Strengthen coordination among States, Tribal nations and Mexico.



44. UNCCD COP17: Turning Land Pledges into Finance and Action – Down To Earth

Why in News?

- The 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 17–28 August 2026 under the theme "Restoring Land. Restoring Hope."
- The summit focused on converting political commitments on land degradation, desertification and drought into implementable projects, finance and measurable outcomes.
- UNCCD estimates indicate a requirement of about US$355 billion annually during 2025–2030, against around US$77 billion currently invested, leaving a substantial financing gap.



Challenges

- Finance deficit: Large gap between restoration needs and available investment.
- Implementation gap: National pledges often lack project-level execution mechanisms.
- Fragmented governance: Land, water, agriculture and climate policies frequently operate in silos.
- Local capacity: Restoration requires sustained community participation and institutional capacity.

Way Forward

- Investment pipelines: Convert pledges into bankable, measurable restoration projects.
- Blended finance: Combine public, concessional and private capital.
- Local participation: Empower farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous communities and local governments.
- Monitoring: Use scientific indicators and transparent reporting to track land-restoration outcomes.



45. Nepal Flash Floods: Triggers and Vulnerability – Indian Express

Why in News?

- On 26 August 2026, severe flash floods struck the Bhote Koshi River in Nepal, causing extensive loss of life, displacement and damage to houses, roads, bridges, hydropower facilities and other critical infrastructure.
- The disaster affected areas including Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading and Gorkha, with downstream river systems placed under continuous monitoring.
- Nepal's authorities described the cause as not yet fully determined, cautioning against premature attribution of the disaster to a single factor.

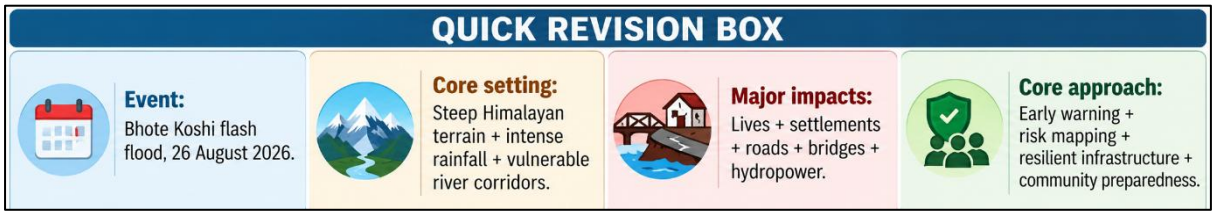


Challenges

- Short warning window: Flash floods can develop within hours.
- Difficult terrain: Mountain geography complicates rescue and evacuation.
- Infrastructure exposure: Critical assets are concentrated in hazard-prone valleys.
- Cascading disasters: Floods can simultaneously trigger landslides and infrastructure failures.

Way Forward

- Early warning: Strengthen real-time rainfall and river monitoring with last-mile alerts.
- Risk mapping: Integrate flood, landslide and GLOF hazard maps into land-use planning.
- Resilient infrastructure: Apply climate- and hazard-resilient standards to roads, bridges and hydropower.
- Community preparedness: Regular evacuation drills, local response teams and disaster-resilient settlements.



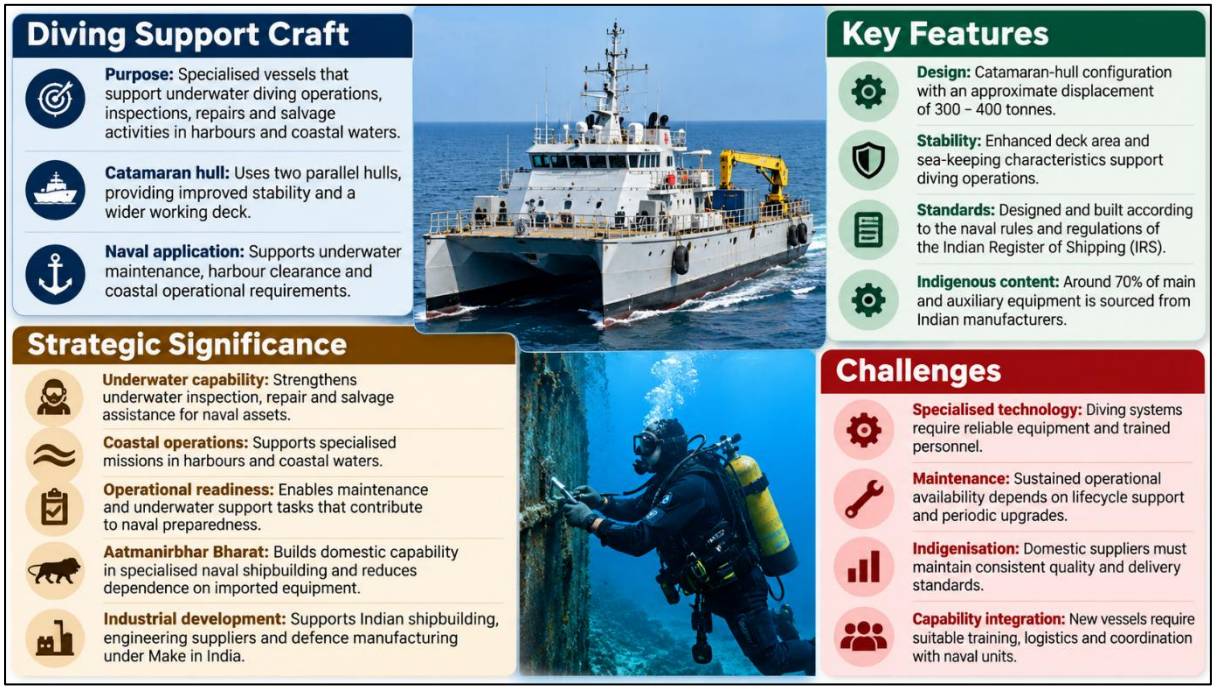


DEFENSE & INTERNAL SECURITY

46. DSC A24: Fifth Diving Support Craft Launched for the Indian Navy - PIB

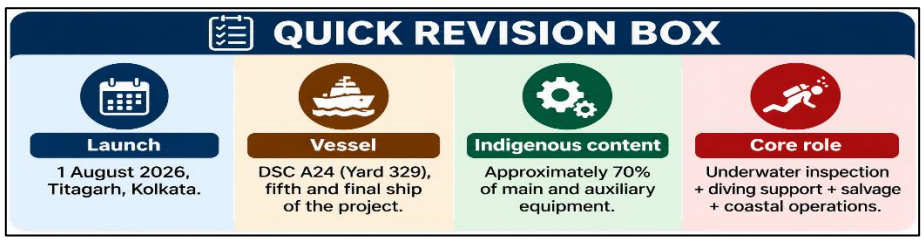
Why in News?

- On 1 August 2026, the fifth and final ship of the Diving Support Craft (DSC) project, DSC A24 (Yard 329), was launched at Titagarh, Kolkata, by Mrs Kamal Singh in the presence of Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Chief of Personnel.
- The vessel is being constructed by Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) for the Indian Navy under a five-ship project contracted in February 2021.



Way Forward

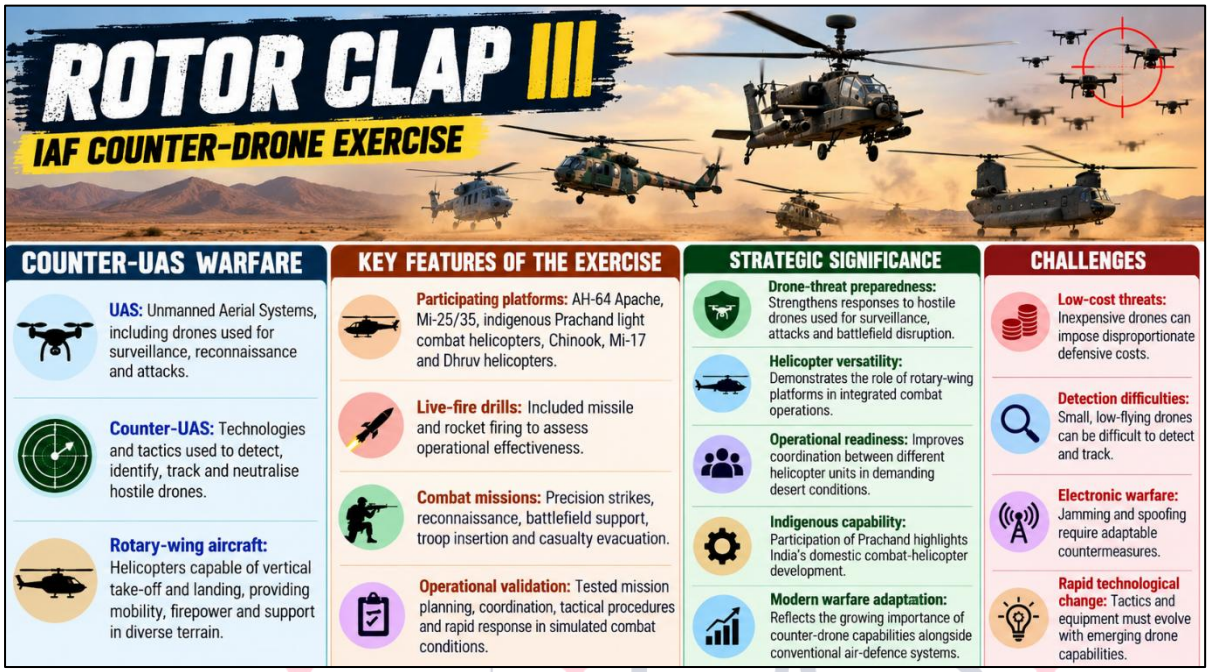
- Technology development: Strengthen domestic underwater systems and diving equipment.
- Crew training: Expand specialised diving, maintenance and salvage training.
- Lifecycle support: Ensure reliable maintenance, spare-parts availability and upgrades.
- Industrial ecosystem: Encourage greater domestic participation in advanced naval components.



47. Exercise ROTOR CLAP III: IAF Strengthens Counter-Drone Capabilities – Times of India

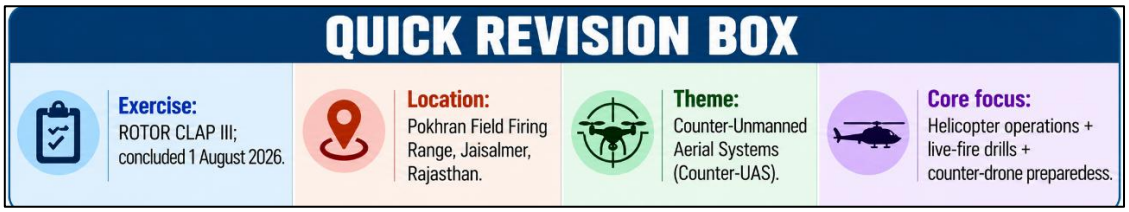
Why in News?

- On 1 August 2026, the Indian Air Force (IAF) concluded Exercise ROTOR CLAP III at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan.
- The exercise focused on Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (Counter-UAS) and tested helicopter-based operational concepts against emerging aerial threats.



Way Forward

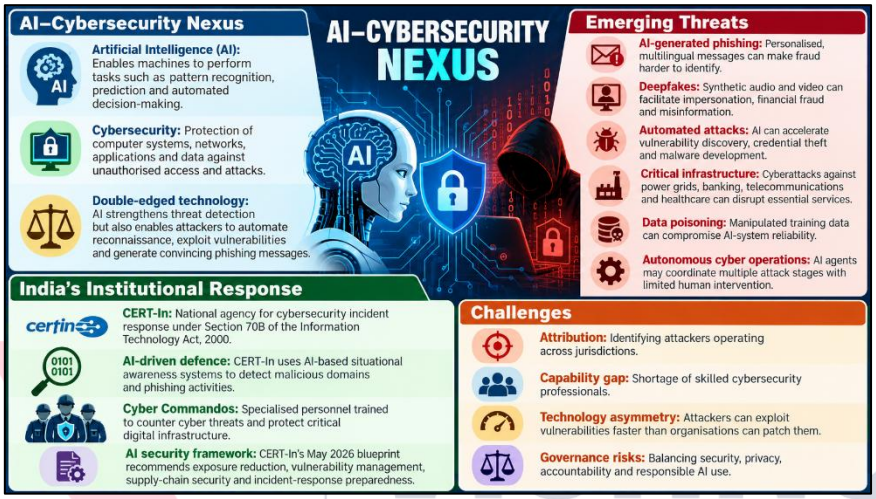
- Layered defence: Integrate radar, electronic warfare, guns and interceptor systems.
- Indigenous R&D: Develop cost-effective detection and neutralisation technologies.
- Joint training: Improve coordination among air, ground and electronic-warfare units.
- Continuous adaptation: Update tactics through realistic exercises and operational feedback.



48. AI and Cybersecurity: The Double Helix of Modern Security Threats – The Hindu

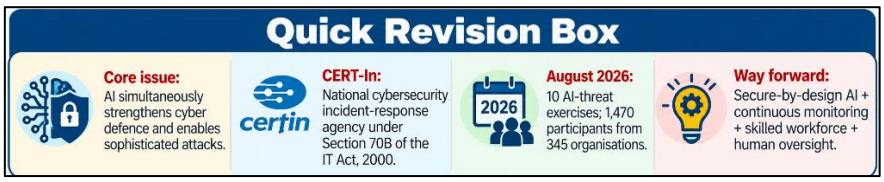
Why in News?

- In August 2026, India's cybersecurity preparedness gained attention amid increasing AI-enabled cyber threats and government initiatives to strengthen digital resilience.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology reported that CERT-In conducted 10 cybersecurity exercises on AI-driven threats, involving 1,470 participants from 345 government and private organisations.



Way Forward

- Secure by design: Integrate cybersecurity into AI systems from development onwards.
- Continuous monitoring: Strengthen threat intelligence, audits and rapid patching.
- Human oversight: Validate AI-generated security alerts before critical decisions.
- Capacity building: Expand specialised training and public–private collaboration.



49. Indian Navy–US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise 2026 - PIB

Why in News?

- The eighth edition of the Indian Navy–US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026 was conducted at the Southern Naval Command, Kochi, from 10–14 August 2026.

- The bilateral exercise aimed to strengthen interoperability, professional expertise and cooperation between the specialist diving and EOD teams of both navies.



Way Forward

- Regular exercises: Sustain joint EOD and salvage training.
- Technology sharing: Strengthen collaboration on unmanned underwater systems and detection equipment.
- Standardisation: Improve compatible procedures and communication protocols.
- Capacity building: Expand specialist training and lessons-learned exchanges.



50. Exercise MAITREE-XV: India–Thailand Joint Military Exercise – News on Air

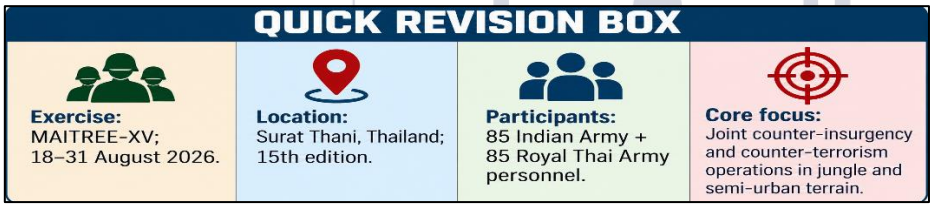
Why in News?

- On 17 August 2026, an Indian Army contingent departed for Thailand to participate in the 15th edition of Exercise MAITREE-XV, conducted from 18–31 August 2026 at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand.



Way Forward

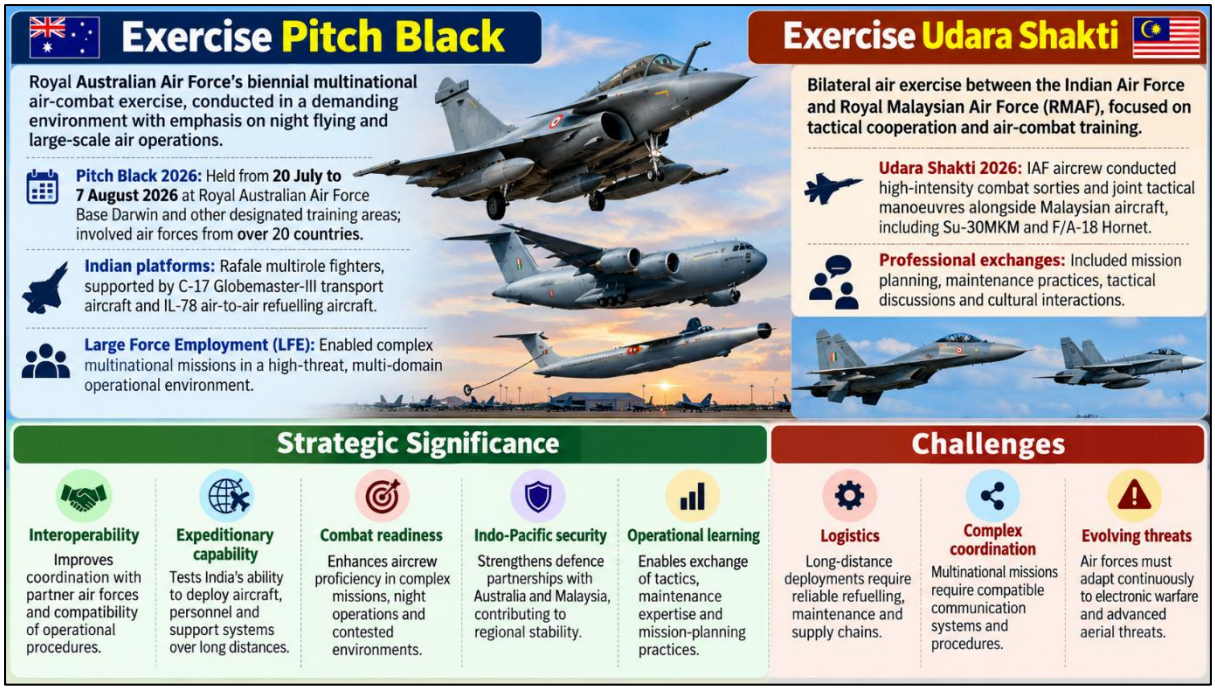
- Regular training: Sustain bilateral exercises and specialised tactical exchanges.
- Technology integration: Improve secure communications and shared operational awareness.
- Joint planning: Develop compatible procedures for counter-terrorism operations.
- Broader cooperation: Expand military exchanges alongside maritime security and regional cooperation.



51. IAF Concludes Exercises Pitch Black and Udara Shakti 2026

Why in News?

- On 22 August 2026, the Indian Air Force (IAF) announced the successful conclusion of its participation in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia and Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 in Malaysia.
- The two deployments strengthened India's operational reach, air-combat coordination and defence partnerships across the Indo-Pacific region.



Way Forward

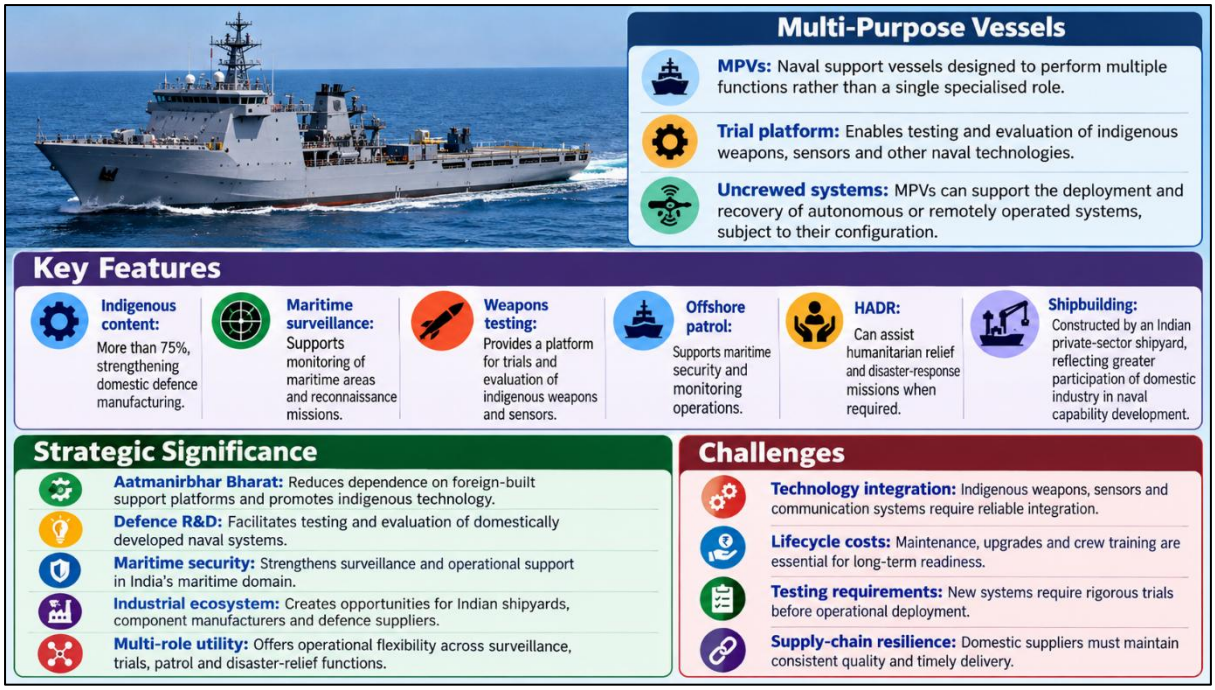
- Regular exercises: Sustain multinational and bilateral operational training.
- Indigenous capability: Strengthen domestic aircraft, support systems and maintenance ecosystems.
- Joint planning: Expand tactical exchanges and interoperability in complex operational scenarios.



52. INS Samarthak: India's First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel – Times of India

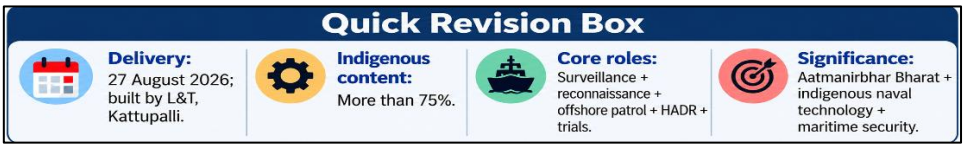
Why in News?

- On 27 August 2026, the Indian Navy received Samarthak, its first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu.
- The vessel is designed as a versatile trial and evaluation platform for maritime surveillance, reconnaissance, offshore patrol and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.



Way Forward

- Indigenous R&D: Expand development and testing of domestic naval systems.
- Industry collaboration: Strengthen partnerships among the Navy, shipyards, research institutions and MSMEs.
- Lifecycle support: Ensure regular maintenance, upgrades and specialised training.
- Operational evaluation: Use trials to improve the reliability and effectiveness of indigenous technologies.





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

53. India Produces Smart Scientists but Struggles to Retain Them – The Hindu

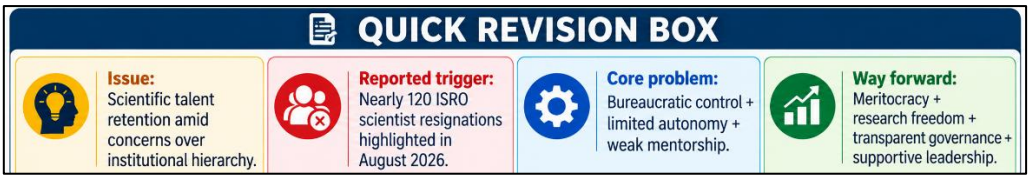
Why in News?

- India's scientific talent-retention challenge came into focus in August 2026, amid concerns over scientists leaving premier research institutions, including reports of nearly 120 ISRO scientists resigning.
- The debate highlights that scientific excellence depends not only on funding and infrastructure but also on professional autonomy, merit-based leadership and a supportive research culture.



Way Forward

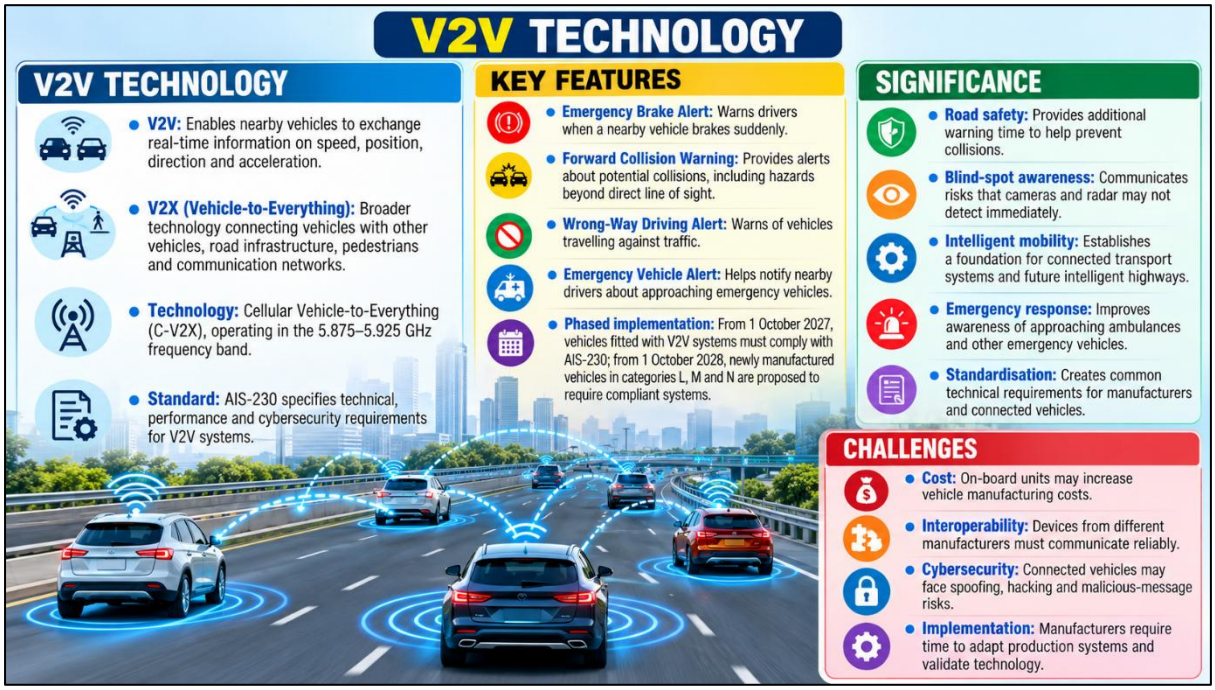
- **Autonomy:** Protect investigator-led research and constructive scientific dissent.
- **Transparent governance:** Introduce merit-based promotions, independent reviews and effective grievance mechanisms.
- **Mentorship:** Train research leaders in collaborative, inclusive management.
- **Career flexibility:** Expand competitive grants, mobility opportunities and industry–academia partnerships.



54. V2V: India's Connected Vehicle System to Make Roads Safer – Business Standard

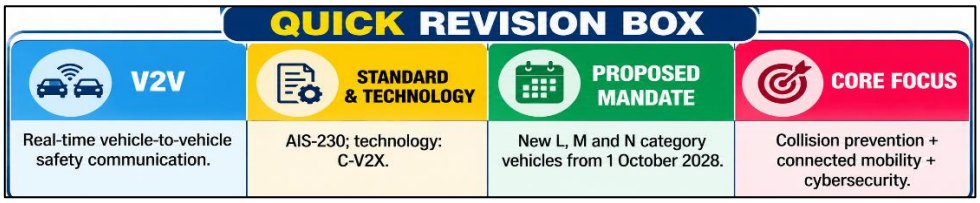
Why in News?

- On 3 August 2026, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a draft notification proposing phased implementation of Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication systems through amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
- The proposal envisages mandatory V2V systems in newly manufactured vehicles from 1 October 2028, subject to finalisation of the rules.



Way Forward

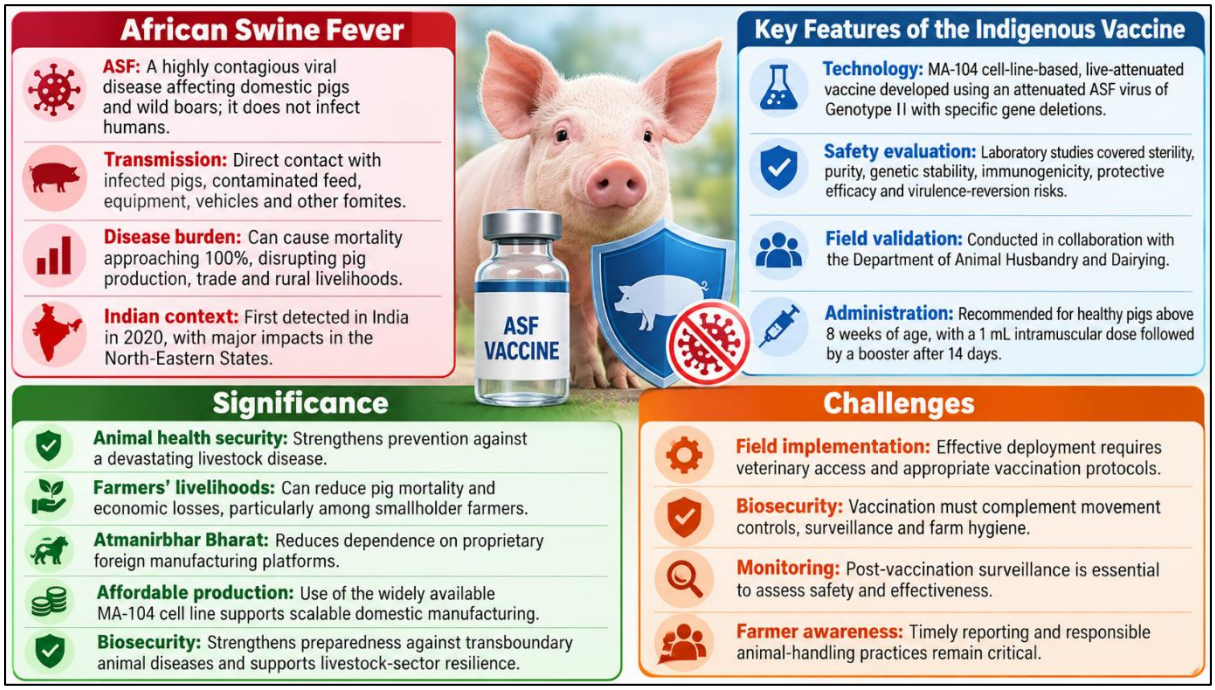
- **Security:** Strengthen authentication, encryption and software updates.
- **Affordability:** Encourage cost-effective domestic components and manufacturing.
- **Testing:** Conduct real-world trials across highways, cities and varied weather conditions.
- **Awareness:** Educate drivers about alerts and their limitations.



55. Indigenous African Swine Fever Vaccine: Strengthening India's Biosecurity - PIB

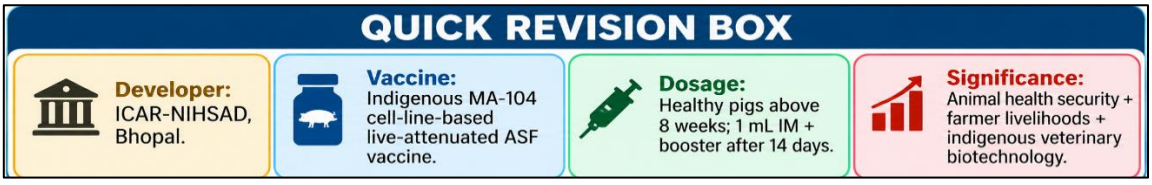
Why in News?

- On 4 August 2026, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan dedicated India's first indigenous African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccine to the nation during the ICAR Foundation Day celebrations.
- The vaccine was developed by ICAR–National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD), Bhopal, marking a major advance in indigenous veterinary biotechnology.



Way Forward

- **Scale-up:** Establish reliable domestic production and distribution.
- **Surveillance:** Strengthen laboratory diagnosis and post-vaccination monitoring.
- **Integrated control:** Combine vaccination with farm-level biosecurity and disease reporting.
- **Farmer support:** Improve veterinary outreach, awareness and outbreak-response mechanisms.



56. Agni-IV: Strengthening India's Strategic Deterrence – Times of India

Why in News?

- On 6 August 2026, India successfully test-fired the Agni-IV intermediate-range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- Conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), the test validated the missile's operational and technical parameters.

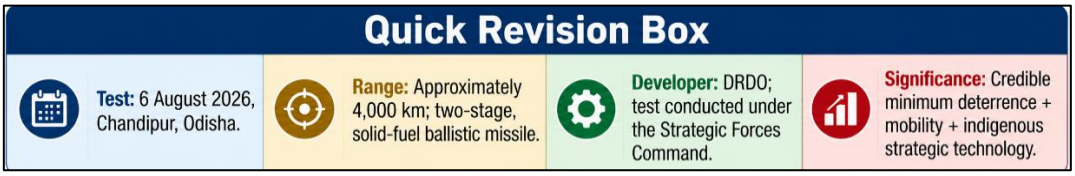
Agni Missile Programme

- **Developer:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Agni-IV:** Nuclear-capable, two-stage, solid-fuel ballistic missile with a range of approximately 4,000 km.
- **Strategic Forces Command:** Responsible for managing and administering India's strategic nuclear forces.
- **Strategic doctrine:** Supports India's policy of credible minimum deterrence and a survivable retaliatory capability.



Way Forward

- **Reliability:** Continue rigorous testing and maintenance.
- **Indigenisation:** Strengthen domestic supply chains for advanced components.
- **Command and control:** Maintain secure, robust strategic communication systems.
- **Responsible deterrence:** Combine credible capability with restraint and strategic dialogue.



57. India's First Privately Built FFSC Rocket Engine: Significance for Space Technology – The Hindu

Why in News?

- On 7 August 2026, Bengaluru-based Astrobase Space Technologies unveiled EVEREST, an 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) rocket engine using liquid oxygen and methane propellants.
- The development marks a major step in India's private-sector capabilities in advanced rocket propulsion and reusable launch systems.

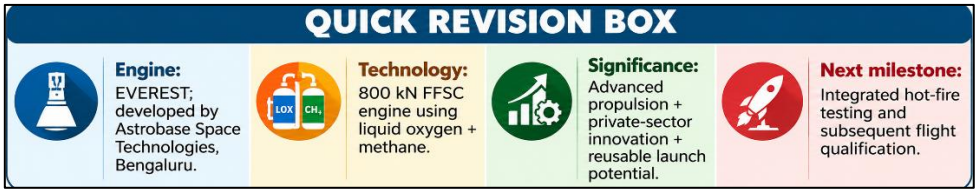
FFSC Technology

- **Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC):** A rocket-engine cycle in which fuel and oxidiser pass through separate pre-burners to drive their respective turbopumps before entering the main combustion chamber.
- **Methalox propulsion:** Uses liquid methane as fuel and liquid oxygen as oxidiser; methane combustion generally produces less soot than kerosene-based propulsion.
- **Thrust:** EVEREST is designed to deliver 800 kilonewtons (kN) in vacuum, with a reported throttling range of 50–110%.



Way Forward

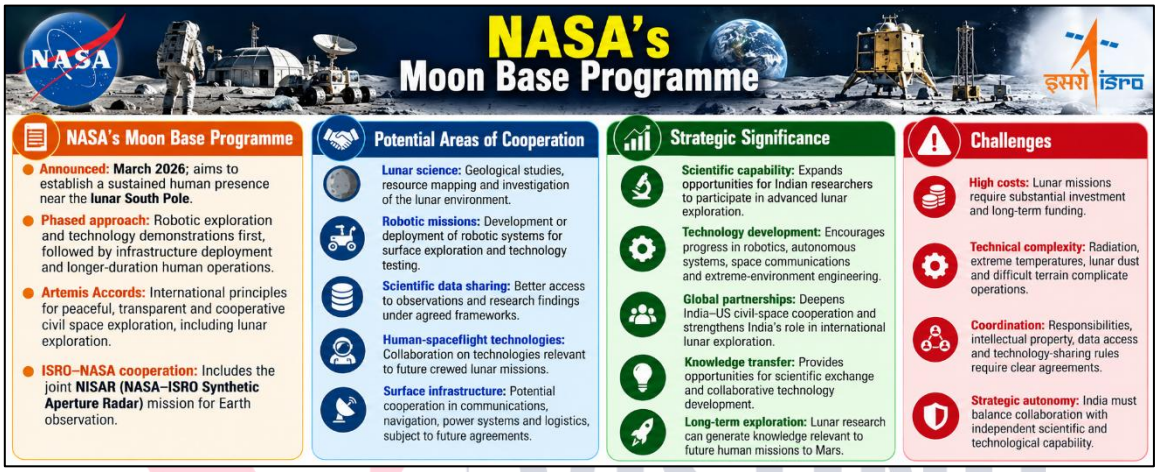
- **Testing:** Complete hot-fire campaigns, endurance trials and flight qualification.
- **Public–private collaboration:** Leverage IN-SPACe and India's space ecosystem to support infrastructure and innovation.
- **Manufacturing:** Strengthen indigenous supply chains for precision components and advanced materials.
- **Reusability:** Validate recovery, refurbishment and rapid-turnaround capabilities.



58. NASA Invites ISRO to Join Its Moon Base Programme – DD News

Why in News?

- On 5–6 August 2026, the 9th India–US Civil Space Joint Working Group (CSJWG) meeting was held at ISRO Headquarters, Bengaluru.
- During the meeting, NASA invited ISRO to join its Moon Base programme, building on bilateral cooperation under the Artemis Accords. Both sides also agreed to advance discussions on open scientific data sharing.



Way Forward

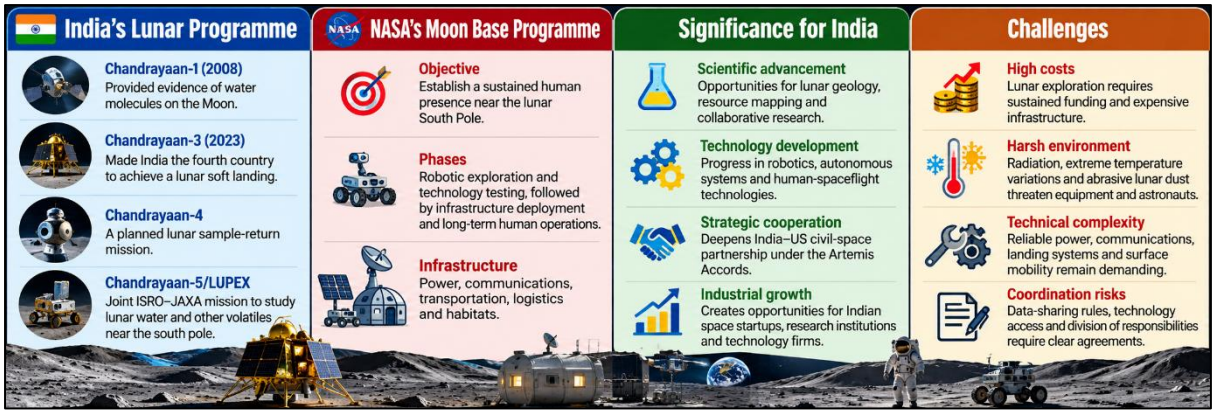
- **Define deliverables:** Identify specific scientific and technological contributions for ISRO.
- **Joint research:** Expand collaboration among space agencies, universities and industry.
- **Capacity building:** Invest in lunar robotics, surface systems and deep-space communications.
- **Transparent governance:** Ensure cooperation follows international space law and agreed data-sharing principles.



59. India's Lunar Future – The Hindu

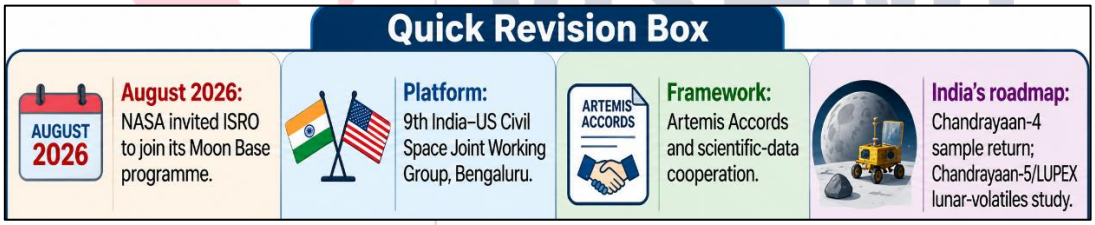
Why in News?

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Way Forward

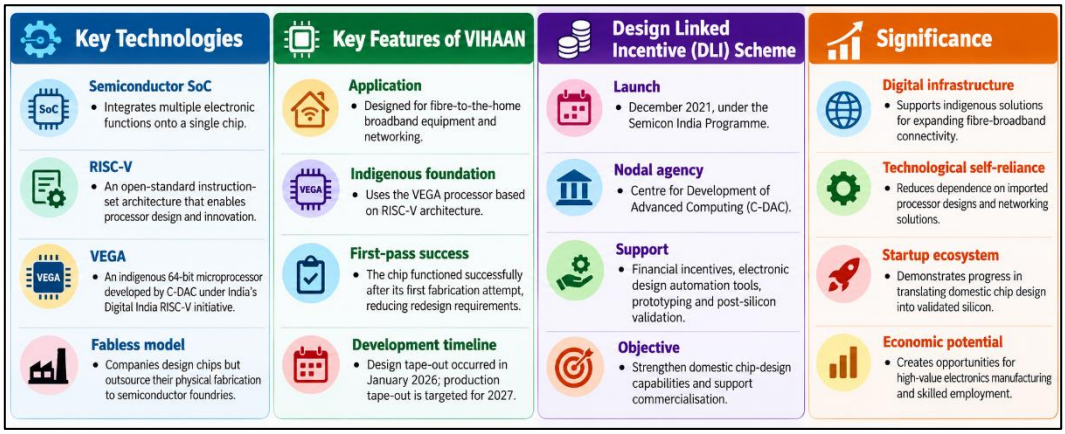
- **Clear agreements:** Define ISRO's contributions, responsibilities and scientific objectives.
- **Indigenous capability:** Strengthen domestic expertise in lunar robotics, propulsion and surface systems.
- **Joint research:** Expand collaboration among space agencies, universities and private industry.
- **Responsible exploration:** Ensure transparent data sharing, peaceful cooperation and compliance with international space law.



60. VIHAAN: Indigenous Broadband Chip Achieves First-Pass Silicon Success - PIB

Why in News?

- On 15 August 2026, PIB reported that Chennai-based Aheesa Digital Innovations achieved first-pass silicon success with VIHAAN, a broadband networking System-on-Chip (SoC) supported under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme.

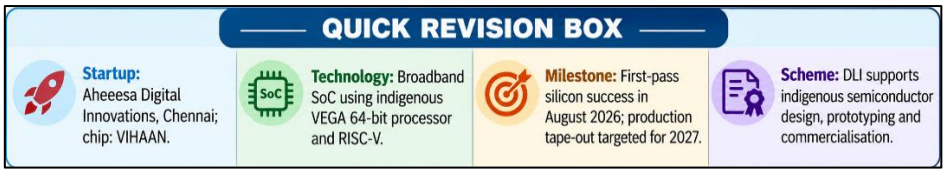


Challenges

- High fabrication and testing costs.
- Dependence on external foundries for manufacturing.
- Need for reliability, security and interoperability testing.
- Difficulty scaling from prototypes to commercially competitive products.

Way Forward

- Strengthen domestic fabrication and advanced packaging capacity.
- Expand DLI support for testing, validation and commercialisation.
- Promote industry–academia collaboration and semiconductor skill development.
- Encourage procurement and adoption of validated indigenous chip solutions.



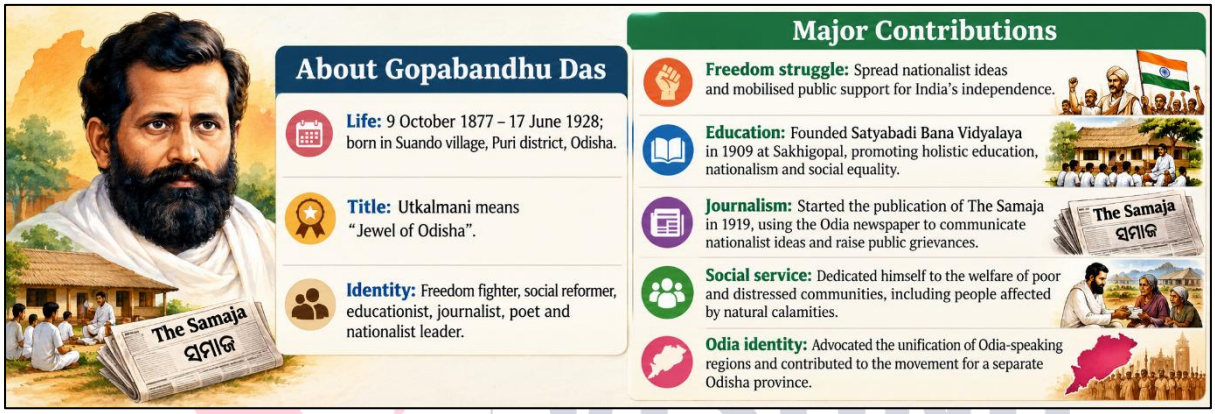


HISTORY & CULTURE

61. Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das: Freedom Fighter and Social Reformer – News on Air

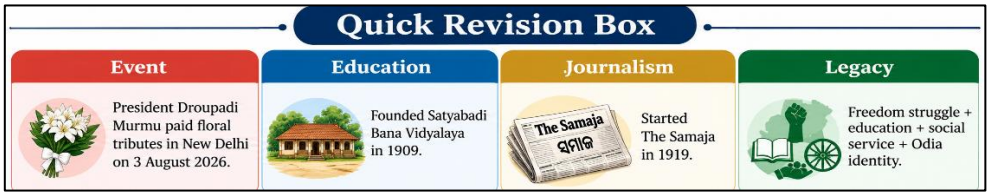
Why in News?

On 3 August 2026, President Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes at the statues of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das and Lala Lajpat Rai at Lajpat Bhawan, New Delhi, recognising their contributions to India's freedom struggle.



Significance of the Commemoration

- **National recognition:** Highlights Odisha's contribution to India's freedom struggle.
- **Educational legacy:** Emphasises holistic, inclusive education and character-building.
- **Linguistic identity:** Highlights regional leaders' role in linguistic and cultural mobilisation.
- **Journalistic legacy:** Demonstrates how the vernacular press supported nationalism and public awareness.

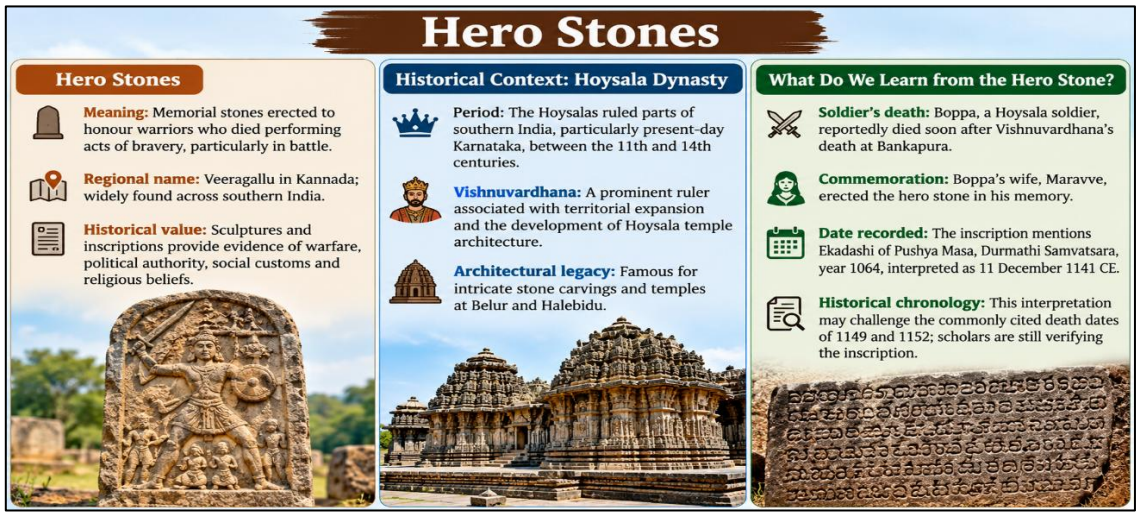


62. Hero Stone Discovery Sheds Light on Hoysala Ruler Vishnuvardhana – The Hindu

Why in News?

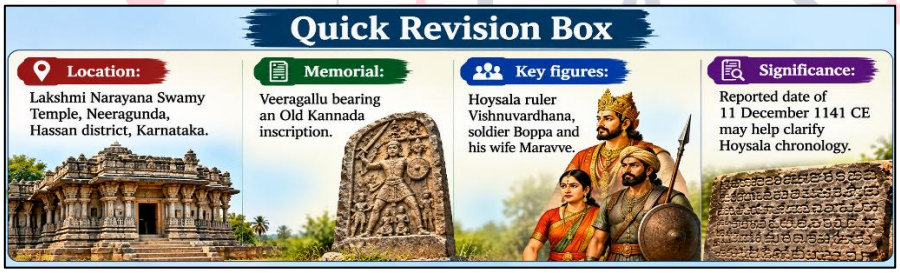
- In August 2026, a 12th-century Veeragallu (hero stone) was reported from the Lakshmi Narayana Swamy Temple at Neeragunda village, Arsikere taluk, Hassan district, Karnataka, during restoration work.

- Its Old Kannada inscription may help resolve the historical debate over the death date of Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana.



Significance

- **Political history:** May help refine the chronology of the Hoysala dynasty.
- **Military history:** Documents a soldier's death and traditions of loyalty and sacrifice.
- **Social history:** Highlights women's roles in commemorating deceased family members.
- **Epigraphy:** Demonstrates how inscriptions serve as primary sources for reconstructing historical narratives.

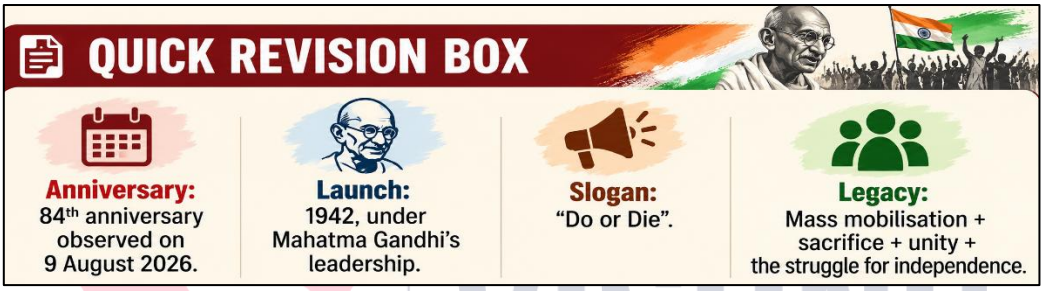


63. 84th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement - PIB

Why in News?

- On 7 August 2026, the Rajya Sabha Chairman made an official reference commemorating the 84th anniversary of the Quit India Movement, observed on 9 August 2026.
- The reference honoured freedom fighters' sacrifices and reaffirmed the ideals of patriotism, unity and national service.

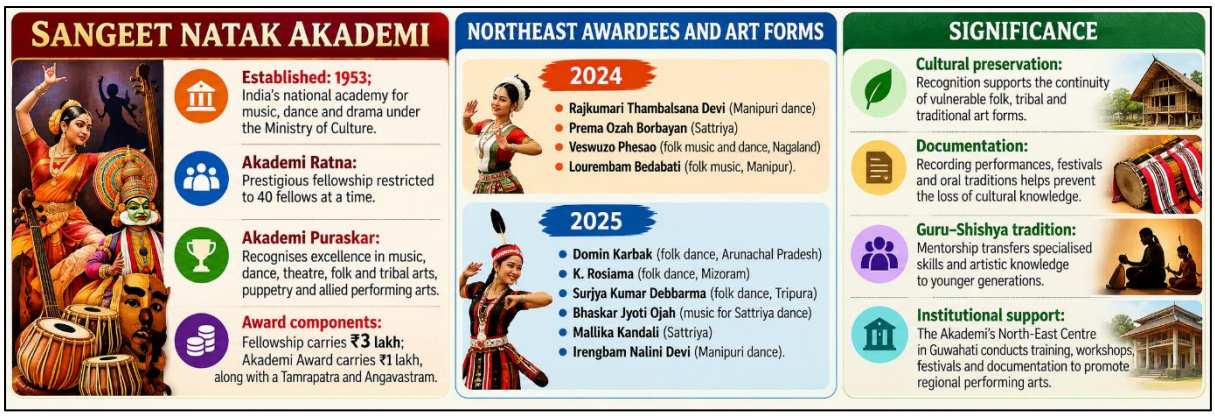


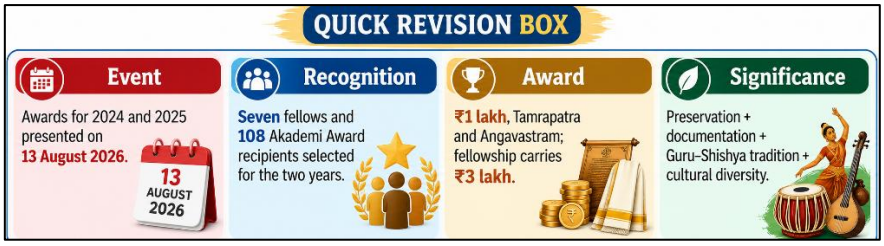


64. Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards: Recognition for Northeast India's Artists – Times of India

Why in News?

- On 13 August 2026, President Droupadi Murmu presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2024 and 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Ten awardees from Northeast India were recognised for contributions to classical, folk and traditional performing arts.



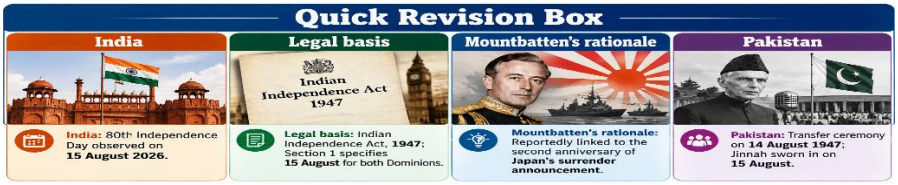


65. Why India Celebrates Independence Day on 15 August and Pakistan on 14 August – Indian Express

Why in News?

- On 15 August 2026, India observed its 80th Independence Day, marking 79 years since independence in 1947. The occasion renewed interest in the historical reasons behind India's and Pakistan's different Independence Day dates.

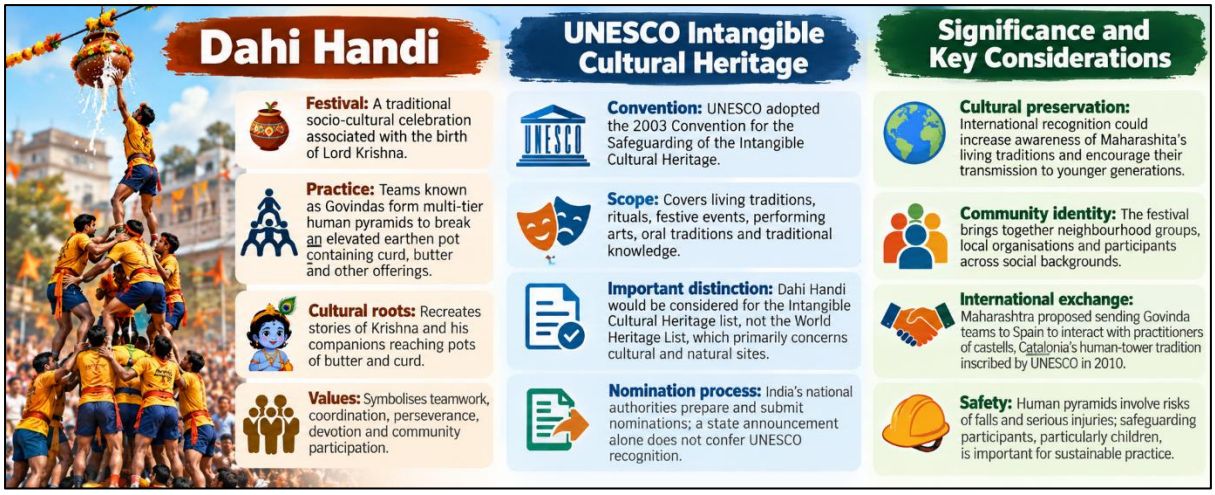


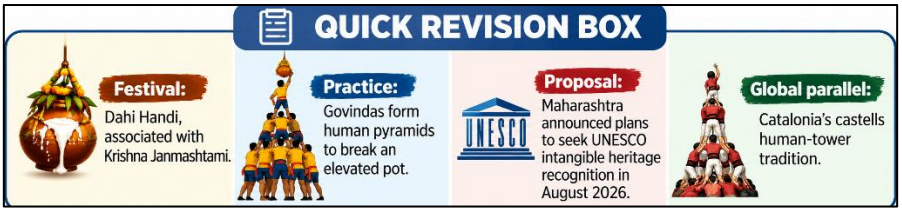


66. Maharashtra Seeks UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Recognition for Dahi Handi – The Print

Why in News?

- In August 2026, Maharashtra Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar announced plans to seek UNESCO recognition for the Dahi Handi festival, celebrated during Krishna Janmashtami. The proposal is an intended initiative, not an approved UNESCO inscription.


Dahi Handi
Festival: A traditional socio-cultural celebration associated with the birth of Lord Krishna.
Practice: Teams known as Govindas form multi-tier human pyramids to break an elevated earthen pot containing curd, butter and other offerings.
Cultural roots: Recreates stories of Krishna and his companions reaching pots of butter and curd.
Values: Symbolises teamwork, coordination, perseverance, devotion and community participation.
UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage
Convention: UNESCO adopted the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
Scope: Covers living traditions, rituals, festive events, performing arts, oral traditions and traditional knowledge.
Important distinction: Dahi Handi would be considered for the Intangible Cultural Heritage list, not the World Heritage List, which primarily concerns cultural and natural sites.
Nomination process: India's national authorities prepare and submit nominations; a state announcement alone does not confer UNESCO recognition.
Significance and Key Considerations
Cultural preservation: International recognition could increase awareness of Maharashita's living traditions and encourage their transmission to younger generations.
Community identity: The festival brings together neighbourhood groups, local organisations and participants across social backgrounds.
International exchange: Maharashtra proposed sending Govinda teams to Spain to interact with practitioners of castells, Catalonia's human-tower tradition inscribed by UNESCO in 2010.
Safety: Human pyramids involve risks of falls and serious injuries; safeguarding participants, particularly children, is important for sustainable practice.

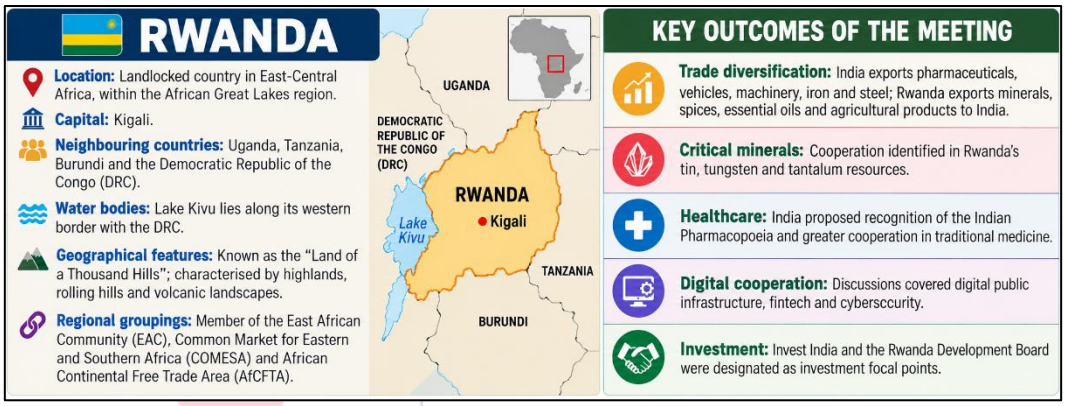

QUICK REVISION BOX
Festival:
Dahi Handi, associated with Krishna Janmashtami.
Practice:
Govindas form human pyramids to break an elevated pot.
Proposal:
Maharashtra announced plans to seek UNESCO intangible heritage recognition in August 2026.
Global parallel:
Catalonia's castells human-tower tradition.

PLACES IN NEWS

67. India–Rwanda First Joint Trade Committee Meeting - PIB

Why in News?

- On 30–31 July 2026, India and Rwanda held their first Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting in New Delhi; the outcomes were reported by PIB on 1 August 2026.
- Both countries agreed to deepen bilateral trade, diversify exports, strengthen investment and address market-access barriers.



Significance

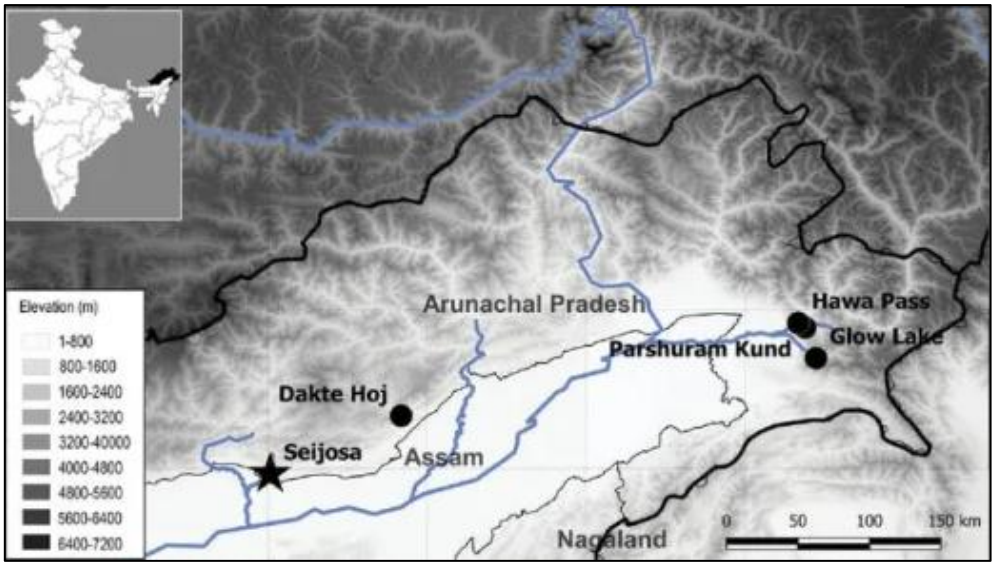
- **Regional gateway:** Rwanda offers Indian businesses access to wider East African and African markets.
- **Economic partnership:** Supports India's trade diversification and stronger engagement with Africa.
- **Development cooperation:** Creates opportunities in healthcare, agriculture, renewable energy, manufacturing and skills development.
- **Follow-up:** The next JTC session is planned in Rwanda after one year.



68. Glaw Lake: Arunachal Pradesh's First Ramsar Site - PIB

Why in News?

- On 3 August 2026, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced Glaw Lake's designation as India's 101st Ramsar Site, making it Arunachal Pradesh's first.



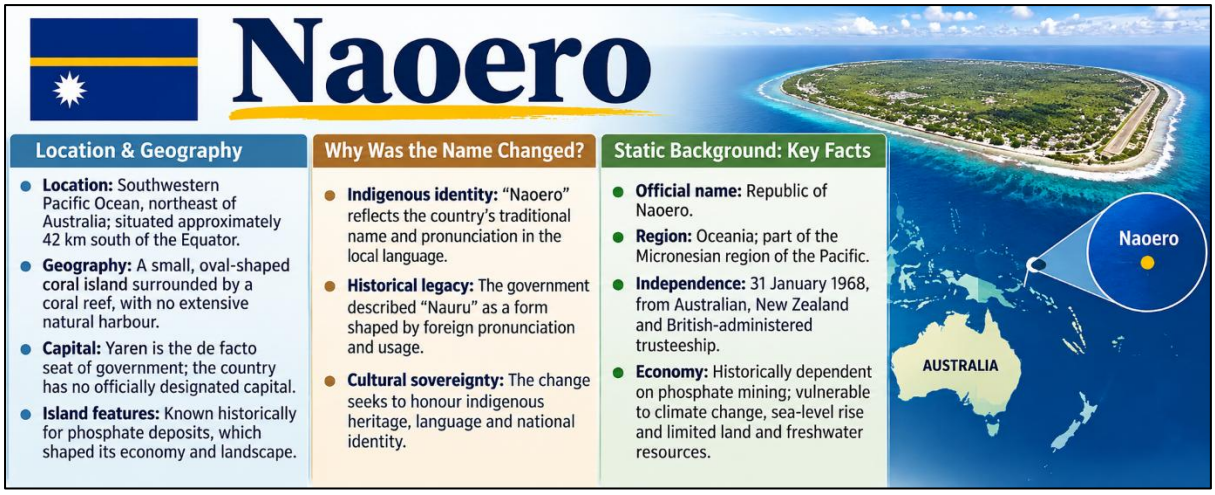




69. Nauru Renames Itself Naoero – The Hindu

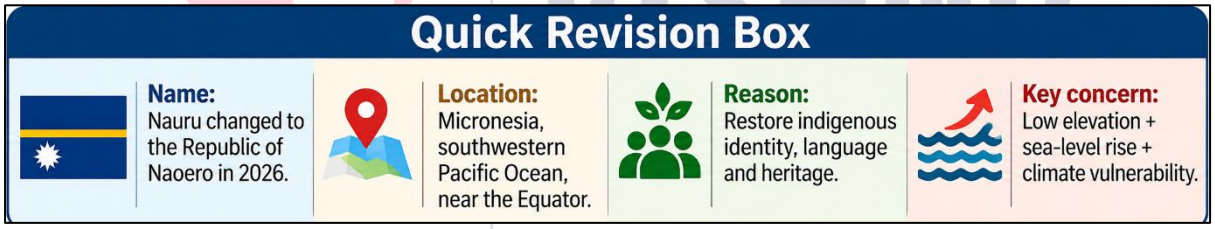
Why in News?

- In August 2026, the Pacific island nation formerly known as Nauru was officially using the name Republic of Naoero, reflecting efforts to restore its indigenous name and strengthen national identity.
- The United Nations records that the country informed it of the name change on 26 June 2026.



Significance

- **Decolonisation:** Reflects a broader effort by countries to restore indigenous names and cultural identity.
- **International administration:** Requires updates to country references in diplomatic records, official documents and international databases.
- **Climate vulnerability:** Highlights the challenges faced by low-lying Pacific island states amid rising sea levels.



70. Danube River Hits Exceptionally Low Levels Amid European Heatwaves – NDTV World

Why in News?

- In August 2026, prolonged drought, deficient rainfall and recurrent heatwaves pushed the Danube and other major European rivers to exceptionally low levels.
- The European Commission's Joint Research Centre reported on 12 August 2026 that the Danube, Loire, Po and Rhine had reached record-low levels during the month.



Impacts

- **Navigation:** Exposed sandbanks and shallow channels restricted cargo vessels and river cruises; in late August, flow near Romania's border fell to about 1,600 m^3/s against an August average of around 3,900 m^3/s.
- **Energy security:** Low river flows can constrain hydropower and cooling-water availability for thermal and nuclear power plants.
- **Agriculture and ecosystems:** Drought stresses crops, reduces freshwater availability and threatens river habitats.
- **Economic disruption:** Shipping delays raise transport costs and affect industries dependent on inland waterways.

QUICK REVISION BOX	
River:	**Danube,** Europe's second-longest river; drains into the Black Sea.
August 2026:	Exceptionally low flows amid heatwaves and prolonged rainfall deficits.
Key impacts:	Navigation disruption + energy stress + agricultural and ecological damage.
Geographical highlights:	Black Forest source region; Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade; Danube Delta.

71. China Conducts Military Exercises Near the Philippines – DD News

Why in News?

On 1 August 2026, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command conducted joint naval-air exercises around Scarborough Shoal, intensifying tensions with the Philippines in the South China Sea.



Significance:

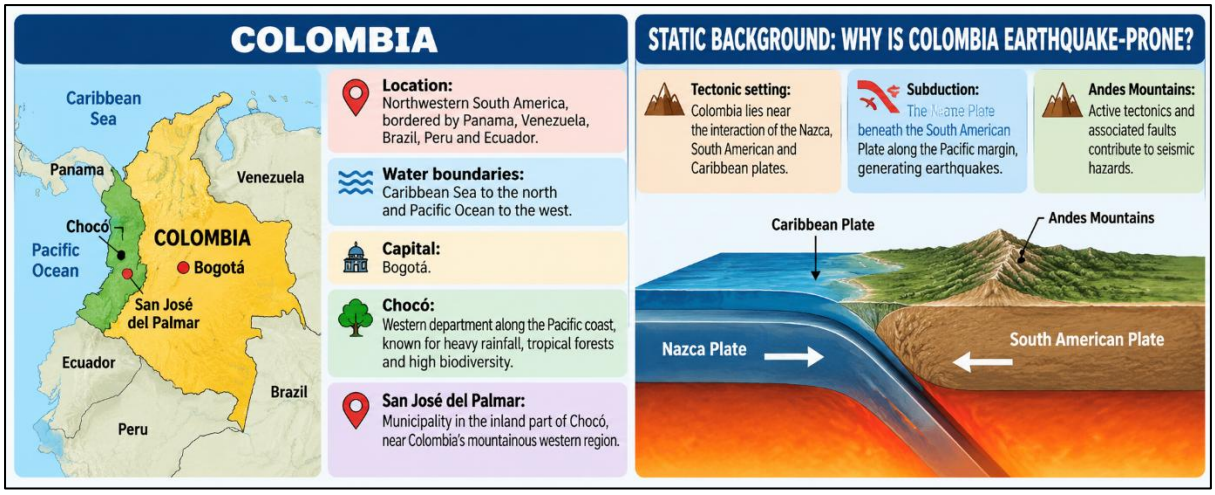
- **Regional security:** Military activity raises the risk of confrontation and miscalculation.
- **Economic impact:** Disputes threaten fishing livelihoods and confidence in regional maritime trade.
- **International law:** Highlights competing interpretations of maritime rights and UNCLOS.
- **Indo-Pacific stability:** The dispute affects ASEAN relations and regional security cooperation.



72. Colombia Earthquake: 7.4-Magnitude Tremor Strikes Chocó – NDTV World

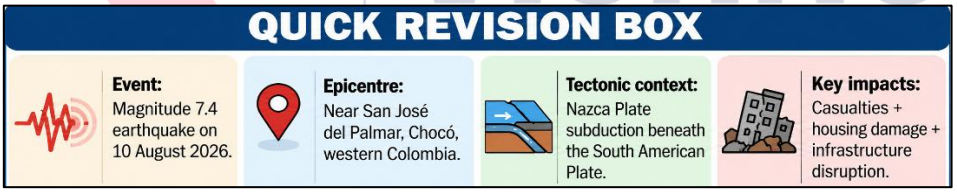
Why in News?

- On 10 August 2026, a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck western Colombia, with its epicentre near San José del Palmar in Chocó department.
- The initial death toll reported in early coverage was 111; subsequent official updates recorded substantially higher casualties as rescue and assessment operations continued. Colombia's Geological Service reported a focal depth of approximately 103 km.



Impacts and Disaster Management

- **Humanitarian crisis:** Official reporting later recorded hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and extensive housing damage.
- **Infrastructure:** Damage to roads, bridges, homes and public facilities complicated rescue and relief operations.
- **Response:** Colombia's National Unit for Disaster Risk Management coordinated emergency response, rescue operations and recovery assessments.
- **Preparedness:** Seismic-resistant construction, early-warning systems, public drills and resilient infrastructure are essential to reduce future losses.



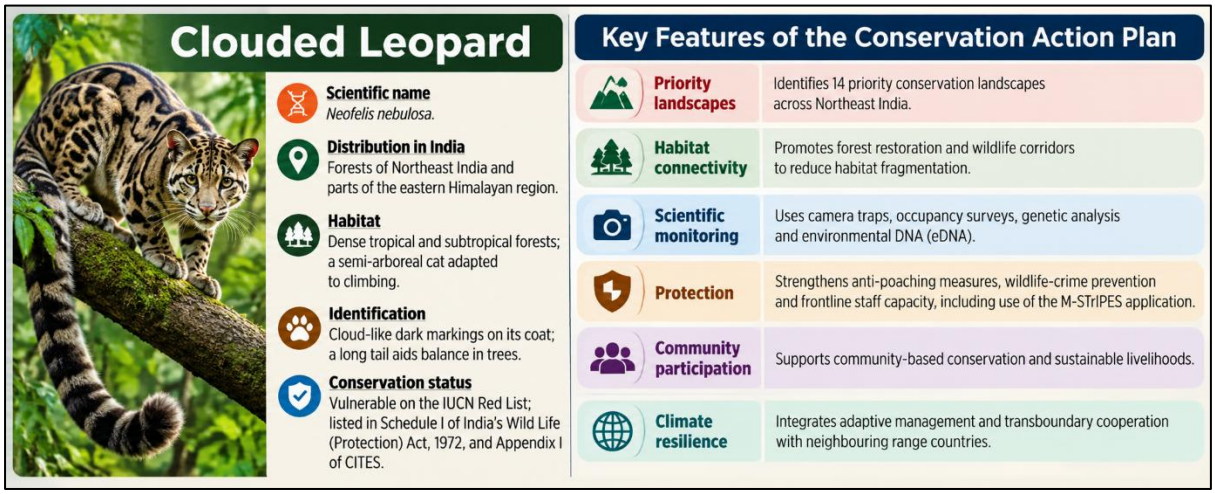


SPECIES IN NEWS

73. Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan: India Strengthens Protection – News on Air

Why in News?

- On 4 August 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change highlighted India's dedicated Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP) on International Clouded Leopard Day.
- Prepared under the Government of India–GEF–UNDP initiative, the plan was released at the 91st meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife in Coimbatore in July 2026.



Significance

- **Ecosystem protection:** Conserving this forest-dependent predator helps protect wider biodiversity.
- **Landscape approach:** Connects isolated habitats and supports movement of wildlife.
- **Institutional support:** The species is covered under the Species Recovery Programme of the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats scheme.

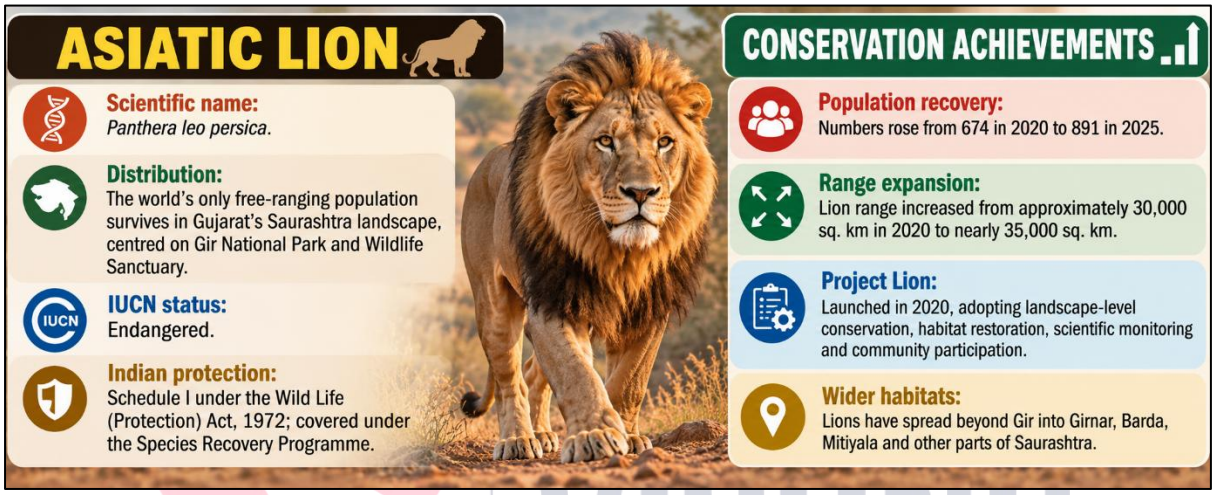
Quick Revision Box

Species	Status	August 2026	Key measures
Clouded leopard — *Neofelis nebulosa.*	**Vulnerable** (IUCN); Schedule I under India's wildlife law.	Dedicated Conservation Action Plan highlighted on 4 August.	14 priority landscapes + habitat connectivity + scientific monitoring + community participation.

74. The Road Ahead for the Asiatic Lion – The Hindu

Why in News?

- On 10 August 2026, World Lion Day, the Union Environment Ministry highlighted India's conservation success: the Asiatic lion population increased from 523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025. However, long-term survival requires habitat connectivity, disease management and expansion of secure habitats.

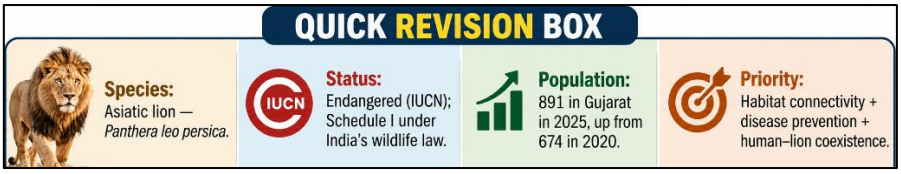


Key Conservation Challenges

- **Single wild population:** Concentration in one geographic region increases vulnerability to disease outbreaks and disasters.
- **Habitat fragmentation:** Roads, settlements, agriculture and mining can disrupt movement corridors.
- **Human–lion conflict:** Livestock losses and accidental encounters require effective mitigation.
- **Health risks:** Disease surveillance, veterinary capacity and genetic monitoring remain essential.

Way Forward

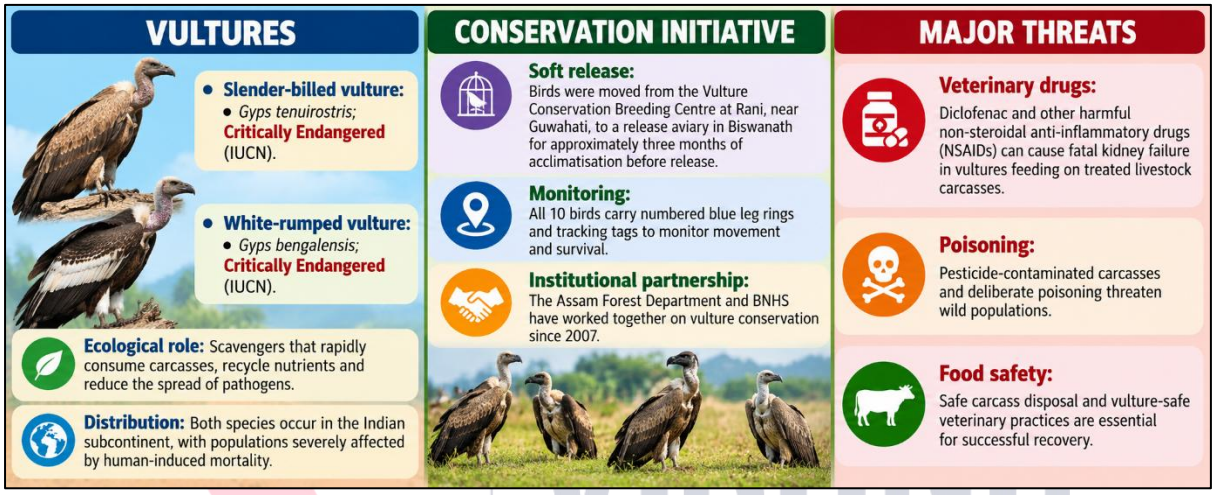
- Secure wildlife corridors and satellite habitats; strengthen disease surveillance, rescue infrastructure, community participation and scientific population monitoring.



75. Vulture Conservation in Assam: Ten Captive-Bred Birds Released into the Wild – Indian Express

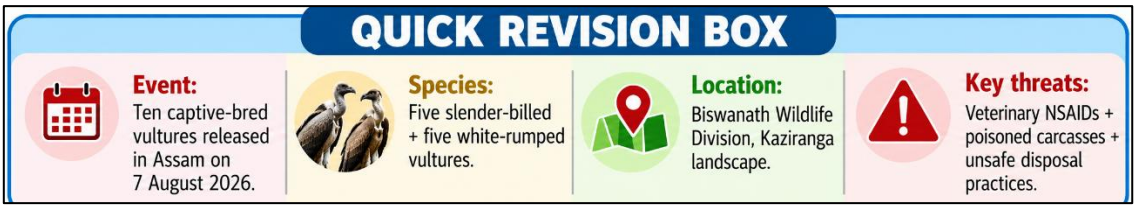
Why in News?

- On 7 August 2026, the Assam Forest Department and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) released 10 captive-bred vultures into the wild in the Biswanath Wildlife Division of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- The release comprised five slender-billed vultures and five white-rumped vultures, marking a major milestone in India's vulture reintroduction efforts.



Significance

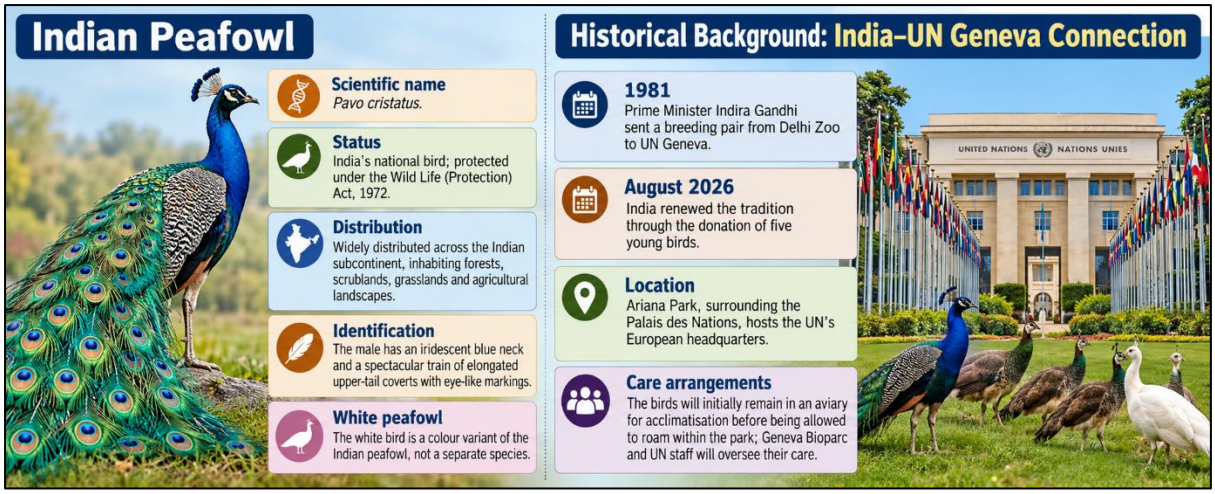
- **Species recovery:** Reintroduces captive-bred birds into suitable natural habitats.
- **Ecosystem health:** Restoring scavenger populations supports natural carcass disposal and ecological balance.
- **Conservation model:** Combines captive breeding, soft release, satellite tracking and community awareness.



76. India Gifts Five Peacocks to the United Nations: Reviving a Historic Tradition – NDTV World

Why in News?

- On 7 August 2026, India gifted five Indian peafowl to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland, reviving a tradition dating back to 1981.
- The gift comprised four blue peafowl and one white-feathered male, welcomed at the Palais des Nations in Ariana Park.



Significance

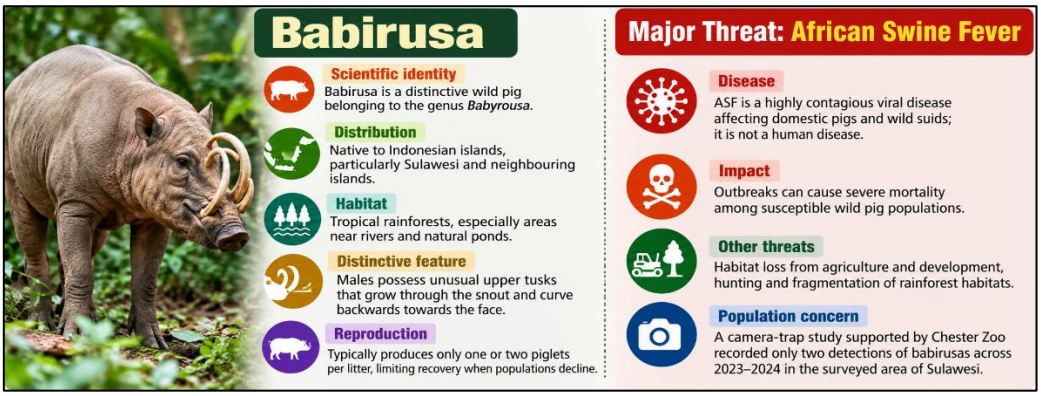
- **Cultural diplomacy:** Uses India's national bird to strengthen goodwill and international engagement.
- **Biodiversity awareness:** Highlights India's natural heritage and wildlife conservation.
- **Multilateral cooperation:** Symbolises India's longstanding association with the United Nations.
- **Animal welfare:** Appropriate acclimatisation, veterinary care and protection from predators are essential for the birds' well-being.



77. Babirusa Piglet Born at Chester Zoo Amid African Swine Fever Threat – Down To Earth

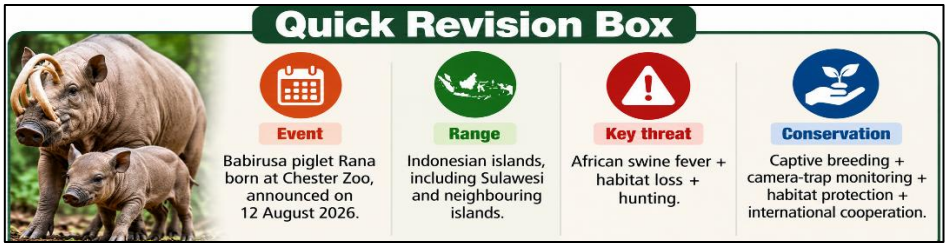
Why in News?

- On 12 August 2026, Chester Zoo in the United Kingdom announced the birth of a rare babirusa piglet named Rana, offering hope for a species facing severe population declines in the wild due to African swine fever (ASF).



Conservation Significance

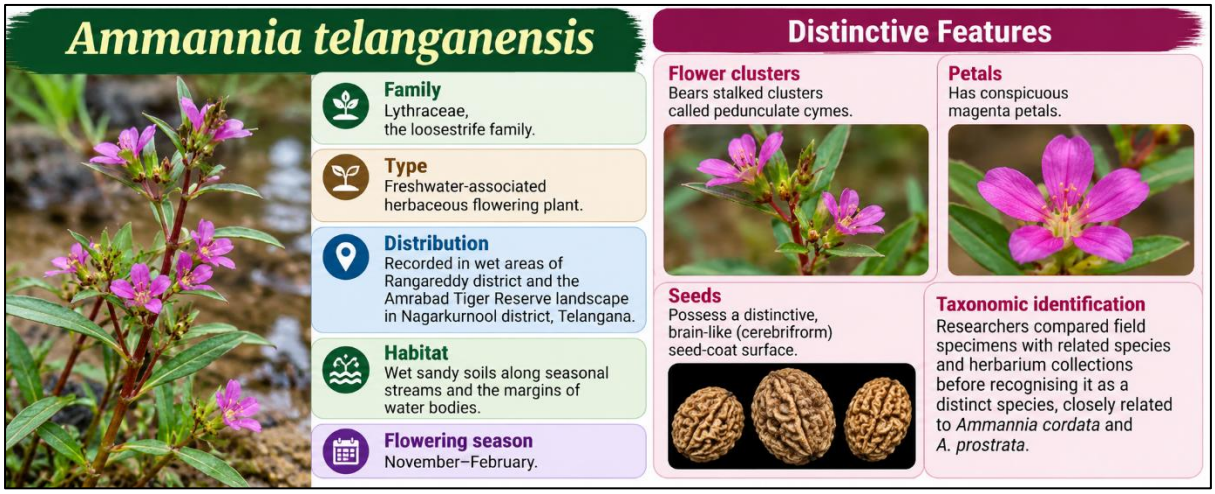
- **Ex-situ conservation:** Rana's birth strengthens managed breeding populations outside natural habitats.
- **International cooperation:** Chester Zoo collaborates with Indonesian partners through the Action Indonesia Global Species Management Plans.
- **In-situ protection:** Camera-trap monitoring, habitat protection, disease surveillance and community participation are essential to safeguard wild populations.
- **Ecological role:** Babirusas disperse seeds while foraging and can indicate the health of forest ecosystems.



78. Ammannia telanganensis: New Plant Species Discovered in Telangana – Indian Express

Why in News?

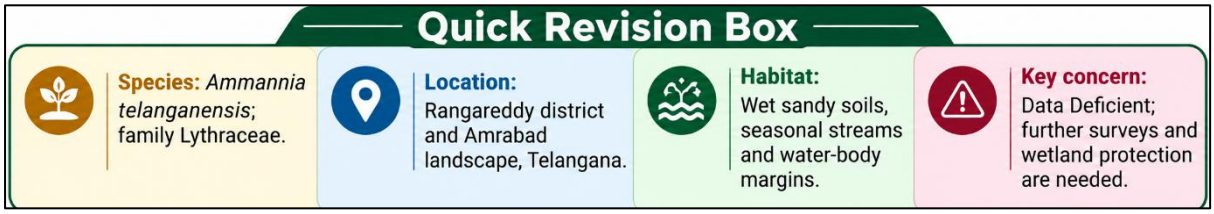
- In August 2026, researchers reported a new flowering plant species, Ammannia telanganensis, named after Telangana, in the botanical journal Phytotaxa.
- The discovery was made by researchers associated with the Botanical Survey of India's Deccan Regional Centre, the University of Hyderabad and Andhra University.



Ecological and Scientific Significance

- **Plant diversity:** Adds to documentation of Telangana's native flora.
- **Wetland conservation:** Highlights the importance of seasonal streams, small wetlands and freshwater margins, including habitats threatened by urbanisation.

- **Taxonomy:** Demonstrates the importance of field surveys, herbarium records and morphological analysis in discovering species.
- **Conservation status:** Classified as Data Deficient, as population size, trends and threats require further study. The reported geographic range warrants additional surveys to assess conservation needs.



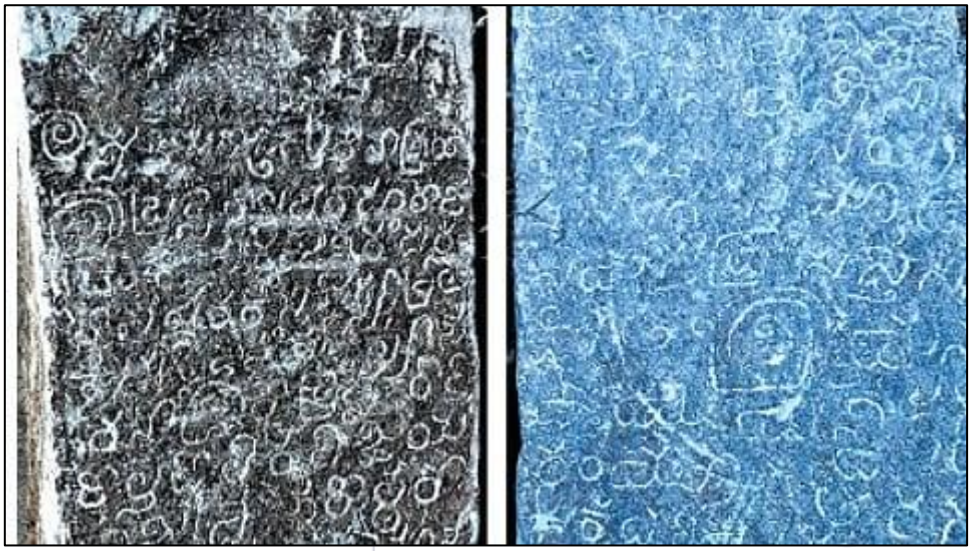
VISHNU IAS

Telangana Regional Current Affairs

79. Kalyani Chalukya-Era Donation Inscription Discovered in Telangana – Indian Express

Why in News?

- In August 2026, researchers identified an inscription dating to 1077 CE at the Siddheshwara Temple in Nandivanaparti village, Yacharam mandal, Rangareddy district, Telangana.
- The inscription records a religious donation during the reign of Tribhuvanamalla Vikramaditya VI, a prominent ruler of the Kalyani Chalukya dynasty.



Historical Background: Kalyani Chalukyas

- **Period:** Approximately 10th–12th centuries CE; the dynasty exercised significant influence across the Deccan.
- **Capital:** Kalyana, present-day Basavakalyan in Karnataka.
- **Notable ruler:** Vikramaditya VI (1076–1126 CE), associated with political expansion and cultural patronage.
- **Regional influence:** The dynasty supported temples and religious institutions and relied on powerful regional officials for administration.

What Does the Inscription Reveal?

- **Date:** Shaka year 998, corresponding to 7 April 1077 CE.
- **Language and script:** Kannada language written in the 11th-century Telugu-Kannada script.
- **Royal eulogy:** The first face contains a prasasti praising Vikramaditya VI, listing titles such as Maharajadhiraja and referring to Kalyana as the capital.
- **Religious donation:** The second face records a donation by the ruler's Mahamandaleshvara, identified in the reported reading as Mogata Rasara, to Iinjakeshvara.

- Missing details: Damage to the inscription has obscured the exact nature of the donated gifts.

Historical Significance

- **Political administration:** The title Mahamandaleshvara highlights the role of powerful regional officials under the Chalukyas.
- **Religious patronage:** Documents links between political authorities and local religious institutions.
- **Epigraphical evidence:** Provides primary evidence for reconstructing medieval Telangana's political, religious and cultural history.
- **Conservation:** Further documentation and comparison with contemporary inscriptions could clarify the donor's identity and the endowment's details.

80. Ammannia telanganensis: New Flowering Plant Species Discovered in Telangana – Indian Express

Why in News?

- On 26 August 2026, The New Indian Express reported the discovery of Ammannia telanganensis, a freshwater flowering plant named after Telangana.
- The species was described in the international taxonomy journal Phytotaxa by researchers associated with the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), University of Hyderabad and Andhra University.



Taxonomy and Habitat

- **Family:** Lythraceae.
- **Genus:** Ammannia, comprising herbaceous plants associated with wet and aquatic habitats.
- **Locations:** Rangareddy district and the Amrabad landscape in Nagarkurnool district, Telangana.
- **Type specimen:** Collected near Vatwarlapalle in the Amrabad area on 4 January 2025; additional specimens were collected from Narsingi and Gachibowli.
- **Habitat:** Wet sandy soils along seasonal streams and the margins of water bodies.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** November–February.

Distinctive Botanical Features

- Researchers distinguished the species from related plants, particularly Ammannia cordata and Ammannia prostrata, through field surveys, herbarium comparisons and taxonomic literature.
- Key features include stalked flower clusters (pedunculate cymes), magenta petals, distinctive leaves and bracts, and seeds with a brain-like (cerebriform) surface pattern.
- The findings also raise questions about the identification of some specimens previously classified as A. cordata.

Conservation Significance

- **Conservation status:** Data Deficient (DD), as population size, population trends and threats require further assessment.
- The study reports an estimated extent of occurrence of 2,114.6 sq km and area of occupancy of 16 sq km; these figures alone do not establish the species' overall conservation status.
- Researchers recommend further field surveys and protection of remaining wetlands, seasonal streams and small freshwater habitats, particularly in rapidly urbanising areas.

81. Smart Ration Cards: Statewide Distribution Launched in Telangana – TG State Portal

Why in News?

- On 15 August 2026, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy formally launched statewide distribution of new Smart Ration Cards at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium, Sangareddy.
- The programme aims to facilitate welfare delivery and access to subsidised food grains through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Static Background: Public Distribution System (PDS)

- The PDS distributes essential commodities, particularly food grains, to eligible households through Fair Price Shops.
- The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 provides the statutory framework for subsidised food-grain entitlements to eligible persons.
- In Telangana, the Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies Department oversees ration-card issuance and implementation of the e-PDS system.

Key Features and Coverage

- **Coverage announced:** Approximately 1.06 crore families, benefiting around 3.42 crore people.
- **Food entitlement:** The launch announcement stated that each beneficiary would receive 6 kg of fine rice per month free of cost.

- **Technology:** Telangana's SMART-PDS platform supports digital transaction records and technology-enabled monitoring. Its stated objectives include reducing food-grain leakage, improving transparency and facilitating access for migrant beneficiaries.

Significance and Implementation Priorities

- **Food security:** Supports access to essential food grains for eligible households.
- **Targeted welfare:** Updated cards can help identify beneficiaries and streamline delivery.
- **Transparency:** Digital records and authentication mechanisms can strengthen monitoring and accountability.
- **Key priorities:** Accurate beneficiary databases, grievance redressal, protection against exclusion errors and reliable food-grain supplies are important for effective implementation.

82. Telangana Receives ₹265.12 Crore for Agricultural Development under PM-RKVY and Krishonnati Yojana - PIB

Why in News?

- On 13 August 2026, Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan approved ₹265.12 crore for Telangana under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and the Krishonnati Yojana.
- The approval followed a review of Telangana's 2026–27 annual action plan, expenditure progress and implementation of agricultural programmes.

Financial Allocation and Expenditure

- **Total allocation:** ₹265.12 crore.
- **PM-RKVY component**: ₹157.66 crore.
- **Krishonnati Yojana component**: ₹107.46 crore.
- The Project Approval Committee approved Telangana's 2026–27 annual action plan of ₹651.06 crore, including a proposed Central share of ₹390.63 crore.
- The first sanction was ₹157.65 crore, issued on 12 May 2026. Telangana had spent ₹96.05 crore, or 60.93%, of this amount at the time of review.

Agricultural Schemes

- **PM-RKVY:** Supports state-level agricultural development interventions, including productivity improvement and agricultural infrastructure, based on approved plans.
- **Krishonnati Yojana (KY):** An umbrella framework supporting agricultural development and productivity through designated schemes and interventions.
- Both programmes involve Centre–State coordination, with funding and implementation monitored through approved action plans and expenditure reviews.

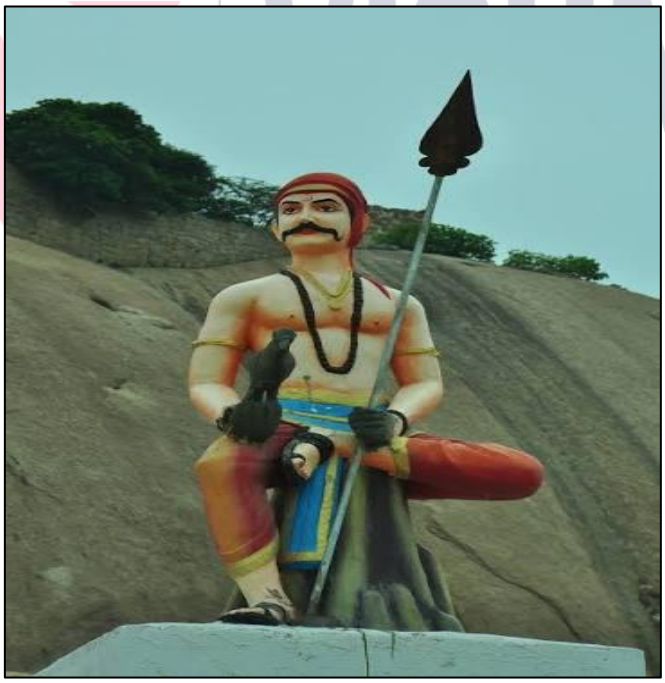
Telangana-Specific Initiatives and Implementation Priorities

- **Farmer ID and fertiliser distribution**: The Union Minister appreciated Telangana's model for improving transparency and efficiency in farmer services.
- **Oilseeds and pulses:** The Centre flagged relatively slower expenditure under these missions and called for closer monitoring of implementation.
- **Centre–State coordination:** The allocation reflects the role of joint planning, expenditure reviews and performance monitoring in agricultural programme implementation.
- **Expected impact:** Timely utilisation can support agricultural productivity, infrastructure development and farmer welfare; actual outcomes will depend on implementation and delivery at the state level.

83. Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud – Telangana State Portal

Why in News?

- On 18 August 2026, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy unveiled Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud's statue at Tank Bund, Hyderabad, on his 376th Jayanti.



Early Life and Historical Background

- **Period:** Late 17th and early 18th centuries; he lived during the reign of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.
- **Regional association:** Belonged to the historical Telangana region and is associated with present-day Warangal district.
- **Social background:** Remembered as a leader who emerged from a non-royal background and challenged established political and social hierarchies.
- Detailed, verified information about his childhood and formal education is limited in the cited official historical material.

Major Contributions

- **Resistance to Mughal rule:** Challenged Mughal authority in Telangana through military campaigns.
- **Guerrilla warfare:** Organised and trained a small army to conduct guerrilla attacks against stronger opponents.
- **Fort-building:** Established a power base at Khilashapur and constructed or controlled forts at places including Sarvaipeta, Thatikonda, Vemulakonda and Shahpuram.
- **Regional administration:** His control extended across several parts of present-day Telangana, including areas around Bhuvanagiri and Warangal.
- **Development works:** The Telangana SCERT textbook cites an existing check dam at Thatikonda as evidence of development-oriented activity during his rule.

Personality and Legacy

- **Leadership:** Remembered for military organisation, strategic resistance and determination.
- **Social significance:** Commemorated as a symbol of Bahujan identity, self-respect and resistance to oppression.
- **Heritage:** Khilashapur Fort, in Jangaon district, remains associated with his legacy; Telangana's Department of Heritage lists conservation works at the fort.

84. Telangana Irrigation Projects: Environmental Clearances and Inter-State Coordination – Telangana State Portal

Why in News?

- On 5 August 2026, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and sought expedited environmental clearances for the Palamuru–Rangareddy, Gouravelli, Seethamma Sagar and Dindi irrigation projects.
- The Chief Minister also urged Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil to facilitate Maharashtra's consent to increase the proposed height of the Tummidihatti barrage on the Pranahita River.

River and Projects

- **Pranahita River:** A major tributary of the Godavari River system, associated with the inter-State water interests of Telangana and Maharashtra.
- **Tummidihatti barrage:** Proposed on the Pranahita River; Telangana sought a height of 150–152 metres, compared with the earlier agreed height of 148 metres.
- **Palamuru–Rangareddy:** A lift-irrigation project intended to supply water to drought-prone and upland areas of southern Telangana.
- **Dindi:** A lift-irrigation project intended to improve water availability in parts of the Nalgonda region.

- **Gouravelli and Seethamma Sagar:** Projects intended to strengthen irrigation and water availability in Telangana.

Key Developments and Financial Implications

- The State Government reported expenditure of ₹36,437 crore on Palamuru–Rangareddy, ₹3,187 crore on Dindi, ₹1,835 crore on Seethamma Sagar and ₹1,350 crore on Gouravelli.
- According to the State Government, pending clearances had stalled works and contributed to rising project costs. These figures and assessments were presented by the Chief Minister during the meeting.
- Telangana argued that a 150–152 metre Tummidihatti barrage could enable gravity-based water supply, reducing dependence on pumping and associated electricity expenditure. The State also maintained that the higher height would not significantly increase submergence in Maharashtra.

Environmental and Federal Dimensions

- **Environmental clearance:** Irrigation projects must comply with applicable environmental regulations and approval requirements; requests for expedited clearance do not themselves constitute approval.
- **Inter-State cooperation:** Raising Tummidihatti's height requires consultation with Maharashtra because of potential implications for submergence and water management.
- **Institutional mechanism:** The Union Jal Shakti Minister indicated that discussions would begin between officials of both States under the Central Water Commission (CWC), followed by a meeting of their Irrigation Ministers.
- **Development implications:** Timely decisions could support irrigation expansion, agricultural livelihoods and water access in the erstwhile Adilabad region, while requiring due consideration of environmental safeguards and inter-State concerns.

85. AgriStack Incentives: Telangana's Digital Agriculture Initiative - PIB

Why in News?

- On 31 August 2026, The Times of India reported that Telangana had secured cumulative Central incentives of ₹599 crore under AgriStack-related initiatives, including a fresh ₹175-crore incentive for a digital fertiliser-distribution system.
- Verification note: The specific ₹599-crore cumulative figure and ₹175-crore incentive could not be independently confirmed in the official government sources located. They should therefore be attributed to the newspaper report rather than presented as officially verified figures.

What Is AgriStack?

- AgriStack is a farmer-centric Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) initiative of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

- It aims to create integrated digital records of farmers, landholdings, crops and other agricultural information to facilitate efficient delivery of government services.
- Its three foundational components are:
    - Farmer Registry: Digital identification and profiles of farmers.
    - Geo-Referenced Village Maps: Spatial information relating to village land parcels.
    - Crop Sown Registry: Digital records of crops cultivated.
- State governments and Union Territories create and maintain these registries. Farmer IDs are generated by synchronising farmer details with digitised land records.

Telangana's Initiative and Significance

- **Digital fertiliser distribution:** Linking farmer records with land and crop information can help improve the targeting and monitoring of fertiliser distribution.
- **Transparency:** Digital transaction records can strengthen accountability and help identify irregularities in the distribution chain.
- **Targeted delivery:** Reliable farmer databases can support better coordination of agricultural inputs and welfare schemes.
- **Inclusion concerns:** Tenant farmers, cultivators without updated land records and farmers facing digital-access barriers may require alternative verification and grievance-redressal mechanisms.
- **Data protection:** AgriStack must maintain accurate records, protect personal information and ensure appropriate consent and authorised access. The Union Government has stated that its design incorporates safeguards under the Digital Personal Data Protection framework.

86. Mulkanoor Inscription: Evidence of Kalyani Chalukya Links in Telangana – Deccan Chronicle

Why in News?

- On 14 August 2026, reports highlighted the identification of a partly damaged inscription at Mulkanoor, Bheemadevarapalli mandal, Hanamkonda district, Telangana, associated with the Kalyani Chalukya period.
- The inscription reportedly records a land grant by a feudatory, providing evidence of historical political and administrative connections in the Warangal region. The specific discovery could not be independently verified through an official government announcement.

Kalyani Chalukyas

- **Period:** Approximately 10th–12th centuries CE; the dynasty ruled from Kalyana, in present-day Karnataka.

- **Important ruler:** Tribhuvanamalla Vikramaditya VI (1076–1126 CE), one of the dynasty's prominent rulers.
- **Regional administration:** The Chalukyas exercised authority through subordinate chiefs and feudatories, who administered territories and supported religious institutions.
- **Official historical resource:** The Telangana government's Epigraphia Telanganica project documents inscriptions from early Telangana history, including records of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyana.



Inscription: Key Features

- **Location:** Mulkanoor, Bheemadevarapalli mandal, Hanamkonda district.
- **Language and script:** Kannada language written in Telugu-Kannada script, according to the published report.
- The decipherable portion reportedly refers to a land donation by a Mahasamanta (a high-ranking feudatory or subordinate chief).
- **Limitation:** Damage to the inscription has restricted decipherment; its precise date and the full details of the grant remain uncertain in the available report.

Historical Significance

- **Epigraphy:** Stone inscriptions serve as primary sources for reconstructing political, social and economic history.
- **Land administration:** Grant records can reveal landholding arrangements, local authority and patronage of religious institutions.
- **Regional history:** The discovery may add to evidence of Kalyani Chalukya influence in the Warangal region.
- **Heritage documentation:** The Telangana Department of Heritage undertakes inscription studies, archaeological exploration and monument conservation.

87. Gollala Gudi Declared a Monument of National Importance – News on Air

Why in News?

- On 31 August 2026, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Ministry of Culture, notified Gollala Gudi at Palampet, Mulugu district, Telangana, as a Monument of National Importance.
- The declaration was issued through Notification S.O. 4802(E) under Section 4(3) of the Ancient

Gollala Gudi

- **Dynasty:** Associated with the Kakatiya period, known for distinctive temple architecture and stone craftsmanship.
- **Location:** Palampet, Mulugu district, south-west of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple.
- **Architectural type:** Trikutalaya — a temple complex with three sanctums (garbhagrihas) and an east-facing mandapa (pillared hall).



Architectural Features

- **Sculptural decoration:** Parapet sculptures, carved hamsas (swans), and jali (lattice) work on the entablature and doorways.
- **Detached shrines:** Two shrines in front feature carved dvarapalas (guardian figures).
- **Deity sculptures:** Niches contain images of Vishnu, Lakshmi, Ganesha and Mahishasuramardini.
- **Protected area:** The Gazette schedule identifies 0.25 acre in Revenue Survey No. 417/3 (part), Palampet, under ASI ownership.

Significance of the Notification

- **Heritage conservation:** Places the monument under national-level protection and conservation arrangements administered by ASI.
- **Cultural tourism:** Adds another heritage attraction near Ramappa Temple, potentially strengthening tourism in Mulugu district.
- **Historical value:** Supports the documentation and preservation of Kakatiya-era architectural and sculptural traditions.

88. PM Gati Shakti and LEADS Workshop Hosted by Telangana – Invest Telangana

Why in News?

- On 26 August 2026, Telangana hosted the PM Gati Shakti and LEADS 2025 Dissemination Workshop for Southern States and Union Territories, bringing together government officials, industry representatives and logistics stakeholders.
- The workshop was organised by the Government of Telangana, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and BISAG-N.

PM Gati Shakti and LEADS

- PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan: Launched in 2021, it promotes integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure projects through a geospatial digital platform.
- LEADS: Stands for Logistics Ease Across Different States. It is an assessment initiative of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry that evaluates States and Union Territories on logistics infrastructure, services and operational efficiency.

Key Highlights of the Workshop

- **Regional participation:** Representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep participated alongside Telangana stakeholders.
- **Core discussions:** Integrated infrastructure planning, multimodal connectivity, supply-chain efficiency and inter-State coordination.
- **Telangana's initiatives:** The State highlighted plans for a State Logistics Policy, a State Integrated Logistics Master Plan, and City Logistics Plans for Hyderabad and Warangal.
- **LEADS performance:** Telangana was identified as a High Performer among landlocked States in LEADS 2025.

Significance for Telangana

- **Industrial competitiveness:** Better connectivity can reduce freight delays and logistics costs, supporting manufacturing, exports and investment.
- **Multimodal transport:** Coordinating road, rail, warehousing and logistics parks can improve cargo movement and first- and last-mile connectivity.
- **Implementation priorities:** Effective outcomes depend on interdepartmental coordination, data sharing, timely infrastructure execution and sustainable logistics practices.

89. Telangana's Urban Transformation and Jobs Programme — Proposed ₹4,000-Crore Initiative – Indian Express

Why in News?

- On 8 August 2026, reports stated that the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, had cleared the Project Preparation Report for Telangana's proposed Urban Transformation and Jobs Programme.
- Important verification note: I could not independently locate an official DEA, Telangana Government or World Bank announcement confirming this specific clearance and its financial figures. The details below should therefore be treated as reported, not officially confirmed.

Urban Transformation

- **Urban infrastructure:** Includes water supply, sewerage, stormwater drainage, public spaces and urban mobility.
- **Municipal finance:** Refers to the revenue mobilisation, budgeting and financial management capacity of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- **City Economic Regions:** A regional-development approach connecting urban centres with surrounding areas to encourage investment, connectivity and employment.

Key Features of the Proposed Programme

- **Estimated outlay:** ₹4,000 crore, equivalent to approximately US$430 million, according to the report.
- **Proposed World Bank contribution:** US$301 million, or approximately ₹2,800 crore.
- **Infrastructure focus:** Improving basic services and developing liveable, climate-resilient Tier-II and Tier-III urban clusters.
- **Governance reforms:** Strengthening municipal finances, digital governance and access to infrastructure financing.
- **Economic development:** Improving regional connectivity, encouraging private investment and supporting job creation.

Significance and Implementation Considerations

- **Economic growth:** Better urban infrastructure can improve productivity, attract investment and support employment.
- **Climate resilience:** Improved drainage and resilient infrastructure can reduce urban flood risks.
- **Fiscal accountability:** Loan terms, counterpart funding, project selection and measurable outcomes will be important.
- **Approval status:** Clearance of a Project Preparation Report is not equivalent to final project approval, loan signing or disbursement.

90. Telangana's August 2026 Monsoon Deficit: Agriculture and Water Management Concerns – Indian Express

Why in News?

- Telangana recorded 134.5 mm rainfall against the normal 215.8 mm in August 2026, representing a 38% monthly deficit, according to figures attributed to the Telangana Development and Planning Society (TGDPS).
- For 1 June–31 August 2026, cumulative rainfall stood at 473.8 mm against the normal 573.5 mm, a 17% seasonal deficit.
- The 38% figure refers to August alone; the 17% figure covers the cumulative June–August period.

Monsoon and Rainfall Monitoring

- **Southwest monsoon:** The principal rainy season for much of India, critical for agricultural operations, soil moisture, reservoir inflows and groundwater recharge.
- **TGDPS:** Telangana Development and Planning Society supports weather monitoring, forecasting and dissemination of real-time weather information through its monitoring network.
- **Rainfall deficit:** The percentage shortfall between actual rainfall and the climatological normal for a specified period.

Agricultural and Geographical Implications

- **Rain-fed agriculture:** Prolonged dry spells can reduce soil moisture, affect crop growth and increase irrigation requirements.
- **Uneven distribution:** State-level averages can conceal district-level shortages, making local rainfall monitoring essential.
- **Reservoir management:** Rainfall forecasts and storage assessments are important for balancing irrigation, drinking-water demand and other uses.
- **Climate adaptation:** Contingency crop planning, micro-irrigation, soil-moisture conservation and timely agricultural advisories can reduce exposure to rainfall variability.

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