

August - 18

NATIONAL NEWS

Cancer as Notifiable Disease

- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) has directed 19 States and Union Territories (UTs) to declare cancer a notifiable disease for early detection and proper patient care.
- ❖ The direction came after the court was informed that 17 of 36 States and UTs have already notified cancer.
- ❖ The case was based on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking nationwide notification of cancer.
- ❖ As a notifiable disease, cancer cases would have to be reported to health authorities, helping improve data collection and surveillance.
- ❖ The Supreme Court also asked the Central Government why mandatory guidelines had not been issued for all States and UTs.
- ❖ The court stressed the need for a uniform policy on cancer notification across the country.
- ❖ Notifiable diseases commonly include Tuberculosis (TB), Dengue, Malaria, Cholera, Hepatitis, Measles, Leptospirosis and Polio.

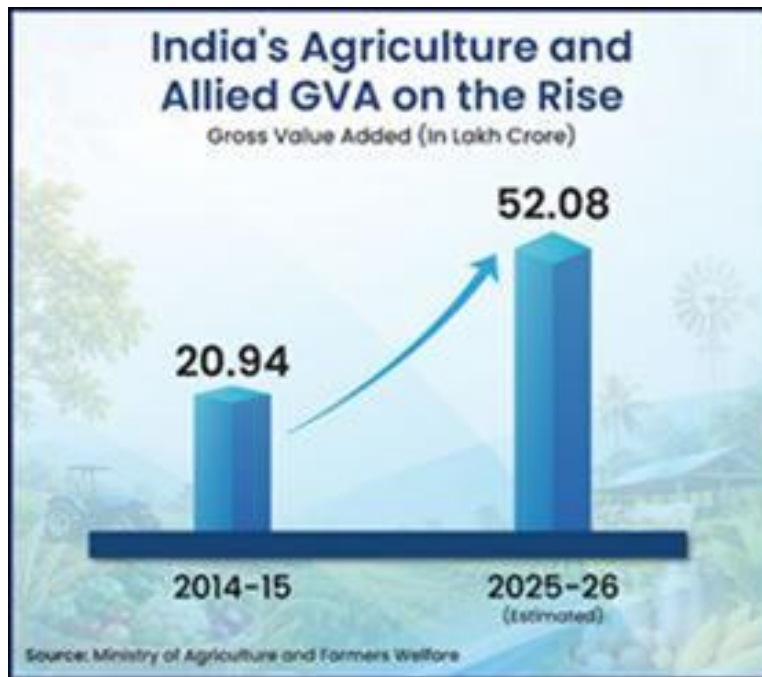


Expansion of India's farm economy

- ❖ India's agriculture and allied sectors have witnessed significant expansion over the past decade, with higher agricultural production, increased farmer support,

wider access to institutional credit and growing adoption of technology and sustainable farming practices.

- ❖ Agriculture remains the backbone of India's economy, providing livelihoods to approximately 46.1 percent of the workforce.
- ❖ Agriculture and allied-sector Gross Value-Added rose from Rs 20.94 lakh crore in 2014-15 to an estimated Rs 52.08 lakh crore in 2025-26.
- ❖ The budget allocation for the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare also increased from Rs 27,663 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,40,528.78 crore in 2026-27.

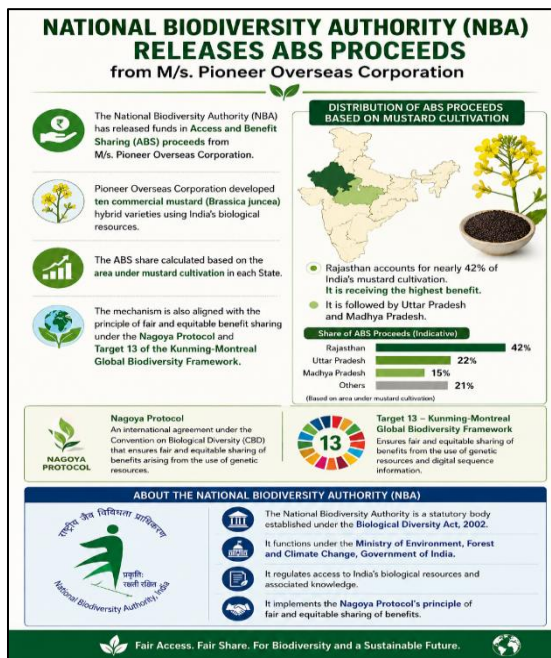


Harvesting Higher Production

- ❖ Foodgrain production increased from 265.05 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 376.56 million tonnes in 2025-26, according to the Third Advance Estimates.
- ❖ Horticulture production rose from 280.70 million tonnes to an estimated 377.78 million tonnes during the same period.
- ❖ While oilseeds production increased from 27.51 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 43.06 million tonnes in 2025-26.
- ❖ Direct support to farmers has also expanded through schemes such as PM-KISAN.
- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, more than 92.46 crore farmer applications have been insured since the scheme's launch in 2016-17.
- ❖ India holds the leading global position in milk production, accounting for nearly 25 percent of global output.

- ❖ Poultry and meat production have also expanded, with India ranking second in egg production and fourth in meat production globally.

NBA funds for Mustard Genetic Resources

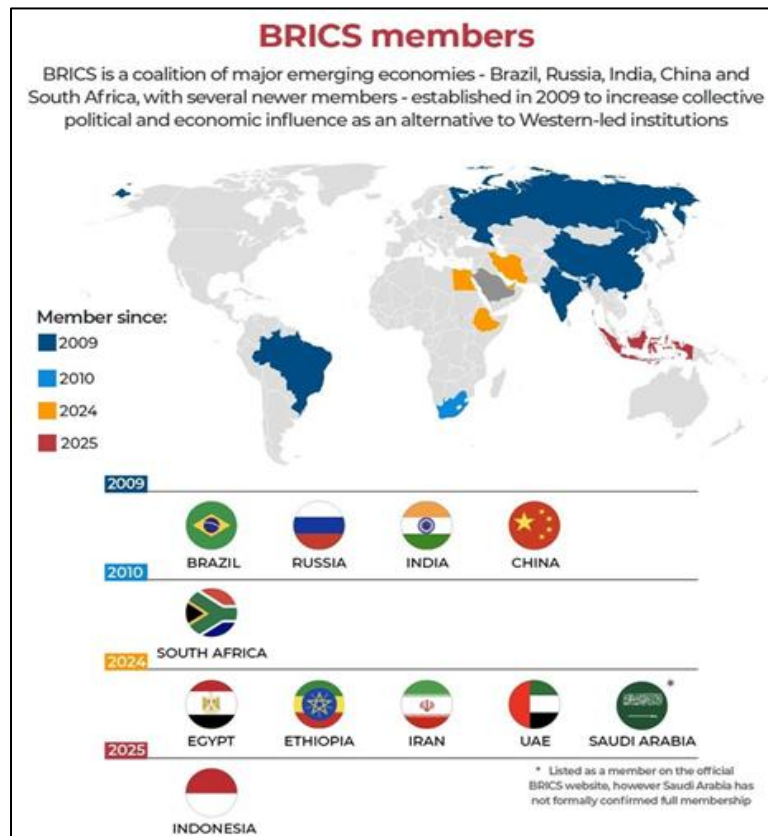


- ❖ The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has released funds from Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) proceeds from M/s. Pioneer Overseas Corporation.
- ❖ Pioneer Overseas Corporation developed ten commercial mustard (*Brassica juncea*) hybrid varieties using India's biological resources.
- ❖ The ABS share is calculated based on the area under mustard cultivation in each State.
- ❖ The mechanism is also aligned with the principle of fair and equitable benefit sharing under the Nagoya Protocol and Target 13 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- ❖ Rajasthan accounts for nearly 42 per cent of India's mustard cultivation.
- ❖ It is receiving the highest benefit.
- ❖ It is followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

8th BRICS Oceanic-Polar Science and Tech

- ❖ As part of India's BRICS Presidency 2026, the 8th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology (OPST) was held in Goa.

- ❖ The meeting is being hosted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- ❖ The Delegates from 11 member countries are discussing a medium-term (5 year) roadmap for cooperation in marine sciences and polar exploration. The BRICS OPST Working Group was established in 2018 to promote scientific cooperation, knowledge exchange, capacity building and collaborative research among member countries.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition

- ❖ Saudi Arabia has launched the Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition (MMDC) to strengthen maritime security in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb Strait and Gulf of Aden.
- ❖ The coalition was formed after attacks on commercial shipping and a regional summit held in Riyadh on 30 July 2026.
- ❖ 14 countries initially signed the declaration, including Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Pakistan, Egypt, Bangladesh, Yemen, Somalia, Djibouti and Comoros.

- ❖ The MMDC is headquartered in Riyadh, with joint maritime operations and coordination centres.
- ❖ Saudi Rear Admiral Abdullah bin Salem Al-Shehri was appointed as its first commander.



Saudi Arabia announced a 14-nation maritime coalition to protect shipping and energy routes in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Bab al-Mandab Strait

US Transshipment Report

- ❖ The United States named India in a "shadow transshipment network" report released.
- ❖ Transshipment means goods are sent through an intermediate country before reaching the final destination.
- ❖ The US alleged that some Chinese goods entered the American market through third countries to avoid tariffs (taxes on imports).
- ❖ India was placed in Tier 1 – Diversified Scale Leaders in the US transshipment risk framework.

- ❖ The report identified the Pune–Gujarat–Chennai industrial corridor as a possible route for certain China-linked products.
- ❖ The US plans to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems to detect and track suspicious trade shipments.



India named in US 'shadow
transshipment network':
What Trump report means
for trade ties

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Black-Necked Crane Festival - Ladakh

- ❖ Ladakh is hosting its first-ever Black-necked Crane Festival to promote conservation of this threatened species.
- ❖ The festival is being held in Ladakh, where the Changthang Cold Wildlife Sanctuary is the only breeding ground of the Black-necked Crane in India.
- ❖ The cranes breed in Tso Kar and Hanle wetlands in the Changthang region of eastern Ladakh, at about 2,500–5,000 metres above sea level.

- ❖ The Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*) is the only high-altitude crane species in the world and is listed as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ It is the State Bird of Ladakh and is considered sacred in the region.
- ❖ Around 16,000 Black-necked Cranes are found across India, Bhutan, Nepal and China.



Asia's First Desert-Themed Night Safari



- ❖ The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) approved the proposal for the Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari at Deesa in Gujarat's Banaskantha district.
- ❖ It aims to develop Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari.

- ❖ The proposed park will also house species from other desert ecosystems.
- ❖ African species listed in the plan include Angolan giraffe, Grevy's zebra, scimitar oryx, African kudu, springbok, addra gazelle, black rhinoceros, chimpanzee, meerkat, African cheetah, African lion, fennec fox, bat-eared fox and ostrich.
- ❖ Kangaroos, emus and wallabies are among the Australian species planned for the park.
- ❖ The proposed Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari is located in Gujarat, while the well-known Desert National Park is located in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Desert National Park is a national park in the Indian state of Rajasthan, near the towns of Jaisalmer and Barmer.
- ❖ Sand dunes form around 44% of the park.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Employment Trends for Youth 2026: Back to the future



- ❖ A new report by the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) has warned that worldwide youth unemployment reduced after the COVID-19 pandemic but is now beginning to worsen again.
- ❖ It shows that youth unemployment, which reached a two-decade low in 2023, has begun to rise.

- ❖ Rates also increased across high-income, lower-middle-income and low-income economies.
- ❖ The Arab States and North Africa continue to record the world's highest youth unemployment rates.

STATE NEWS

Parichha Weir - ICID Heritage Recognition



- ❖ A 140-year-old irrigation structure in Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh has secured a place on the global heritage map after the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) selected the historic Parichha Weir as a World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS).
- ❖ The Parichha Weir was constructed in 1886 across the Betwa River.
- ❖ The roots of the project go back to 1855, when Captain Strachey proposed a canal system for Bundelkhand.
- ❖ It forms the headworks of the Betwa Canal System.
- ❖ Betwa Canal System is an extensive irrigation network developed to bring water to the drought-prone areas of Bundelkhand.
- ❖ The heritage recognition will be formally presented in France in October during the 26th ICID International Congress and 77th International Executive Council meeting.
- ❖ In 2022, the Sukwa-Dukwan Weir in Jhansi was included in the ICID heritage list.

The WHIS Programme

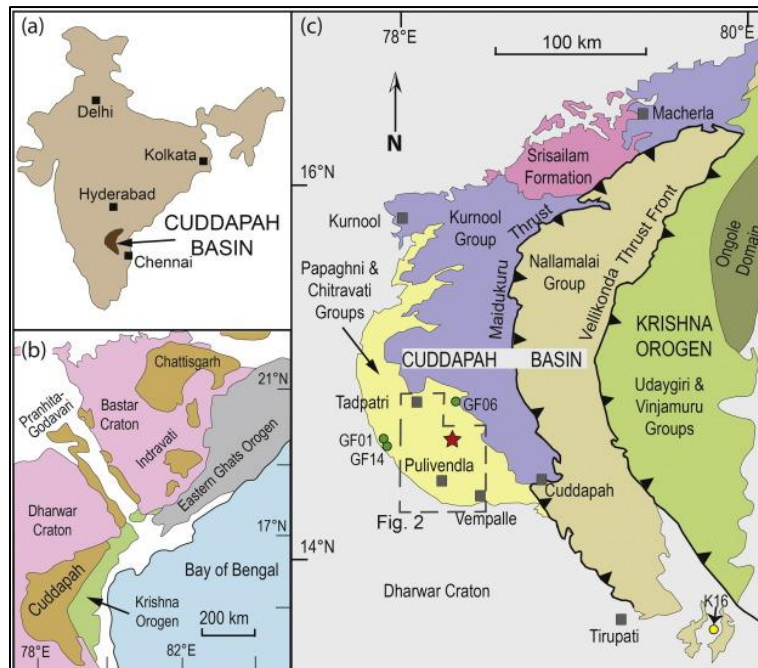
- ❖ It recognizes irrigation structures that are more than 100 years old and continue to serve their original purpose.
- ❖ It will be given by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)
- ❖ ICID, established in 1950, is a global organization concerned with irrigation and drainage.

- ❖ It is a leading scientific, technical, and professional not-for-profit international organization working in the field of irrigation, drainage, and flood management to promote and achieve sustainable agriculture water management.

The Betwa River

- ❖ It is a 590-kilometer-long river in central and northern India.
- ❖ It is a key right-bank tributary of the Yamuna River.
- ❖ It rises in the Vindhya Range in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh and flows northeast through Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh before joining the Yamuna near Hamirpur.

Lithium and Gallium Exploration Pact



- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) for extensive exploration of lithium and gallium deposits in the Vempalle area of Kadapa Basin.
- ❖ Lithium concentration is estimated to be as high as 1,000 parts per million (ppm), while gallium levels are estimated at up to 250 ppm.
- ❖ The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) is a geoscientific research organization established in 1961 under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ❖ CSIR is India's largest Research and Development organization.

- ❖ CSIR was established as an autonomous body in 1942 under the aegis of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- ❖ The Kadapa Basin (historically known as the Cuddapah Basin) is a large, crescent-shaped sedimentary basin located in Andhra Pradesh, India, renowned for its massive mineral wealth and ancient Proterozoic rock formations.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Triumph of the Indian Republic - Book by Ramnath Govind

- ❖ "Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles" is the official autobiography of Ram Nath Kovind, the 14th President of India, who served from 2017 to 2022.
- ❖ The book was formally released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ❖ Ramnath Govind is the first person from Uttar Pradesh as well as the first member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to become the President of India.

