

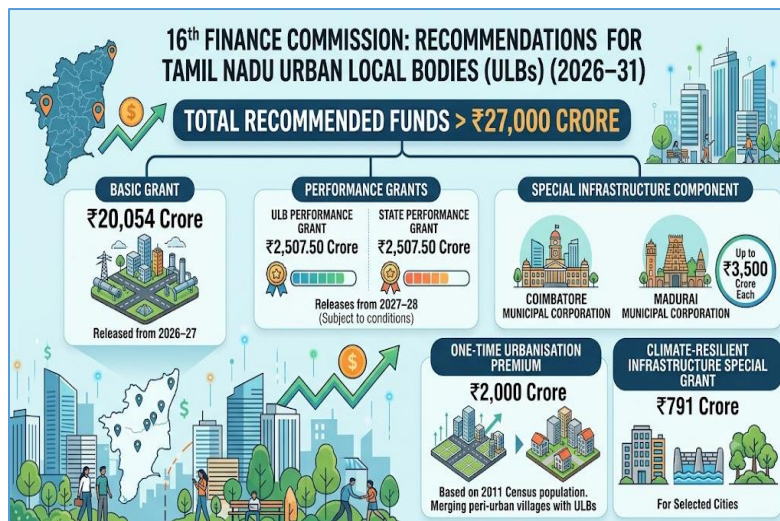
August - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union government launched Kanda Express to transport onions from Nashik, Maharashtra, to major consuming centres such as Delhi, Chennai, Kochi and Guwahati, after onion prices rose sharply.
 - Lasalgaon, Nashik, is a major onion trading hub, while NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India) and NCCF (National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India) procured about 1.2 lakh tonnes for buffer stock to control price fluctuations.
- ❖ Kaziah Liz Mejo of Kerala was crowned Miss Universe India 2026 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed every year on 23 August to remember the tragedy of the slave trade and the struggle for its abolition.
- ❖ National Sports Day is observed every year on August 29 in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Khelega Bharat, Jeetega Bharat."

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Finance Panel Funds - TN ULBs



- ❖ The 16th Finance Commission (FC) has recommended more than ₹27,000 crore for Tamil Nadu's Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for 2026-31, apart from special infrastructure and urbanisation grants.

- ❖ A basic grant of ₹20,054 crore will be released from 2026–27.
- ❖ ₹2,507.50 crore each has been recommended as ULB performance grant and State performance grant, with releases from 2027–28 subject to conditions.
- ❖ Coimbatore and Madurai Municipal Corporations can take up projects worth up to ₹3,500 crore each under the special infrastructure component.
- ❖ A one-time urbanisation premium of ₹2,000 crore has also been recommended for Tamil Nadu, based on 2011 Census population; it will support urbanisation by merging peri-urban villages with adjoining ULBs.
- ❖ The Commission has also recommended a ₹791 crore special grant for climate-resilient infrastructure in selected cities, according to the report shown in the source material.

Jewish Trade Links in Tamil Nadu

- 📌 A 13th century Tamil stone inscription found at **Thanthondreeswarar Temple (Lord Shiva temple) at Anandur near Pochampally in Krishnagiri district**, reveals that **4 Jewish merchant guilds jointly financed the construction of a hall at the temple.**
- 📌 The inscription names 4 guilds, **Soothakar, Mandala Merchants, Tennilankai Valanjiyar & Egu Nutruvar**. Historians say the find provides evidence of **Jewish merchant groups being part of South Indian trade networks during the medieval period.**
- 📌 The inscription also connects Anandur with the historic **Adhiyaman Peruvazhi trade route** & adds to evidence of temples serving as both religious & commercial hubs in medieval Tamil Nadu. **It offers fresh insight into medieval global trade & cultural exchange.**

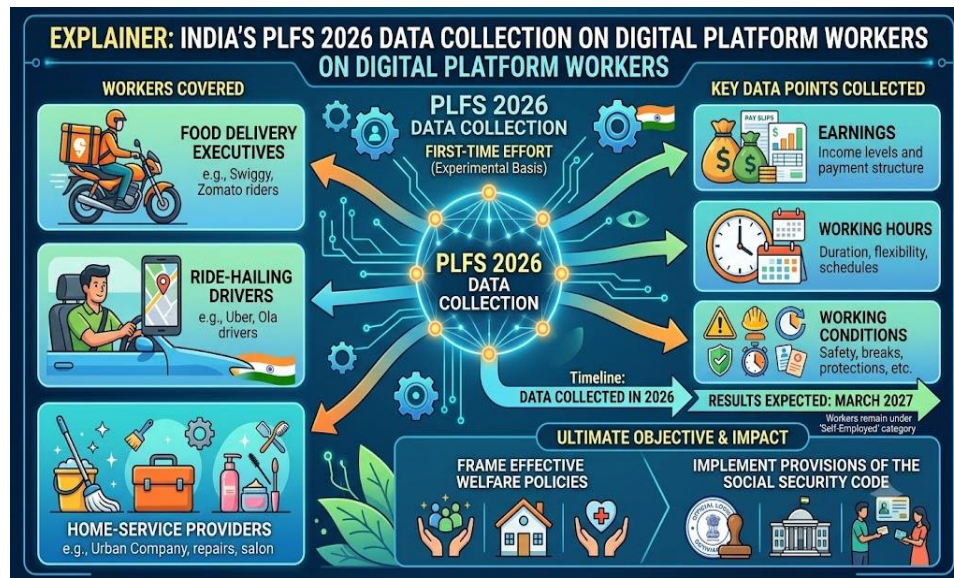
- ❖ A 13th-century Tamil stone inscription found at the Thanthondreeswarar Temple in Anandur, near Pochampally, Krishnagiri district, reveals that four Jewish merchant guilds financed the construction of a hall at the Lord Shiva temple.
- ❖ The inscription provides evidence of the presence and economic role of Jewish trading communities in medieval Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Historians say the record highlights the trade and cultural interactions between Jewish merchants and local communities in 13th-century South India.
- ❖ The discovery is significant because it shows that foreign merchant groups participated in financing Hindu religious architecture during the medieval period.

- ❖ The inscription is written in Tamil and was discovered on the premises of the Thanthondreeswarar Temple, a Shiva shrine.

NATIONAL NEWS

Digital Platform Workers

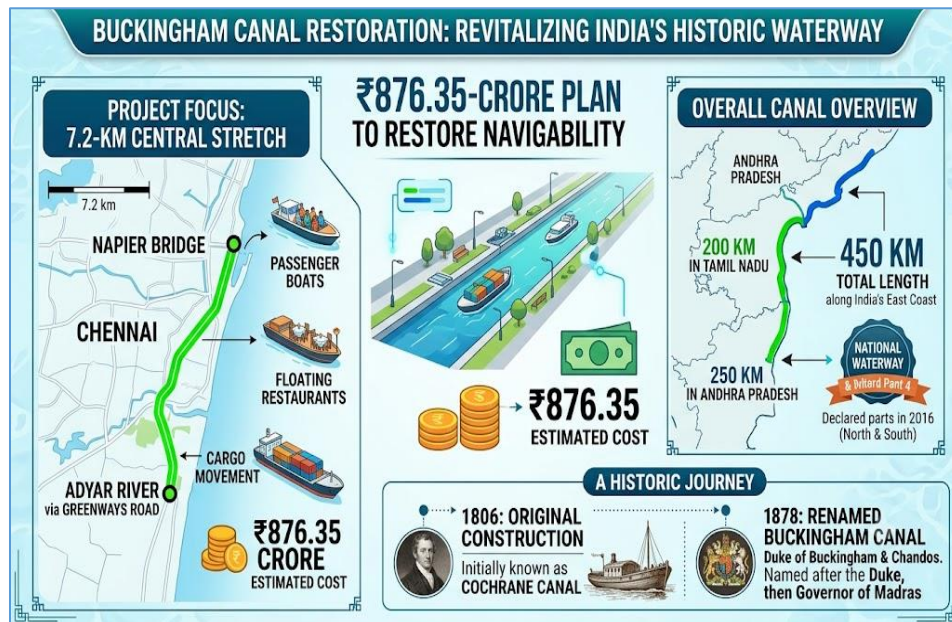
- ❖ India's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2026 is likely to collect separate data on digital and platform workers for the first time.
- ❖ The survey will cover workers such as food delivery executives, drivers and home-service providers.
- ❖ Their earnings, working hours and working conditions will also be recorded.
- ❖ The data is being collected on an experimental basis, while such workers will remain under the broader self-employed category.
- ❖ The PLFS 2026 results are expected in March 2027.
- ❖ The data will help the government frame welfare policies and implement provisions of the Social Security Code.



Buckingham Canal Restoration

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is examining a ₹876.35-crore plan to make a 7.2-km central stretch of the Buckingham Canal navigable again.
- ❖ The Buckingham Canal runs for about 450 km along India's east coast, with 250 km in Andhra Pradesh and 200 km in Tamil Nadu.

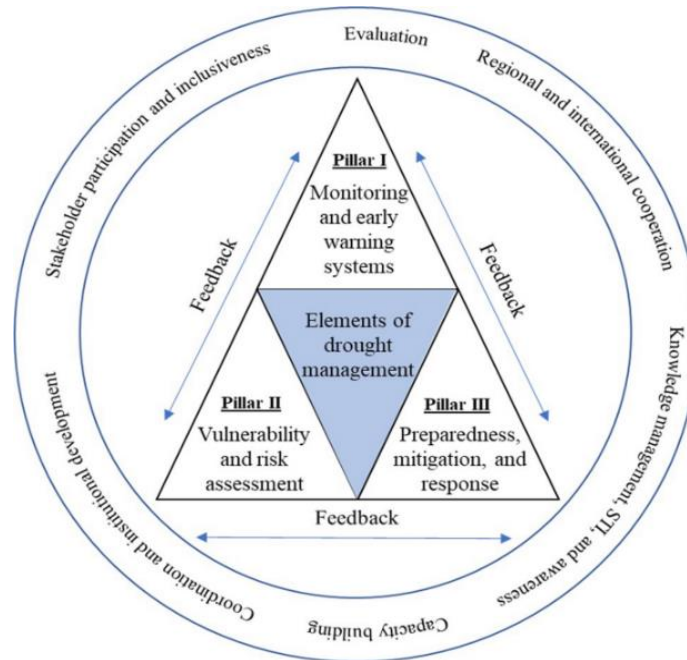
- ❖ It was originally constructed in 1806 by Basil Cochrane and was initially known as Cochrane Canal.
- ❖ It was renamed Buckingham Canal in 1878 after the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, then Governor of Madras.
- ❖ The proposed navigable stretch would run from Napier Bridge to the Adyar River via Greenways Road, with passenger boats, floating restaurants and cargo movement proposed.
- ❖ The North Buckingham Canal (316 km) and South Buckingham Canal (110 km) were declared parts of National Waterway 4 in 2016.



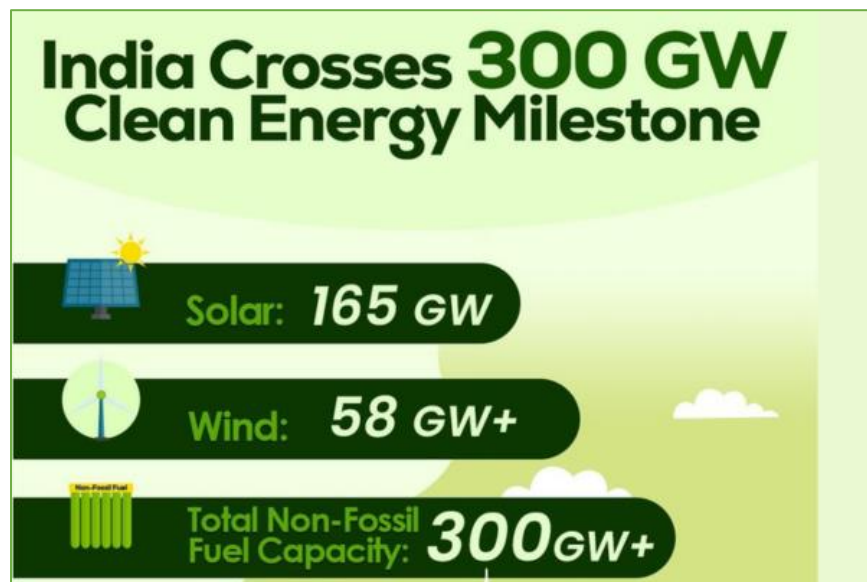
Ministerial Dialogue on 'Accelerating Drought Resilience'

- ❖ India has called for a shift in global drought policy from reactive response to proactive, technology-enabled resilience at the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ It urged countries to strengthen early warning systems, watershed restoration and climate-resilient agriculture.
- ❖ It called for measures including watershed restoration, climate-resilient cropping and stronger early warning systems in drought-prone areas.
- ❖ It also said drought resilience should be supported by disaster funds earmarked for droughts, employment guarantees and emergency water supplies.
- ❖ Approximately 68 percent of India's total sown area is drought-prone
- ❖ It is guided by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

- ❖ The drought warning system is also supported by space-based drought forecasting from the India Meteorological Department and the Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre.



India's Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity 2026



- ❖ India's Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity Crosses 300 GW.
- ❖ It is 60 percent of its non-fossil fuel power generation capacity target of 500 GW.

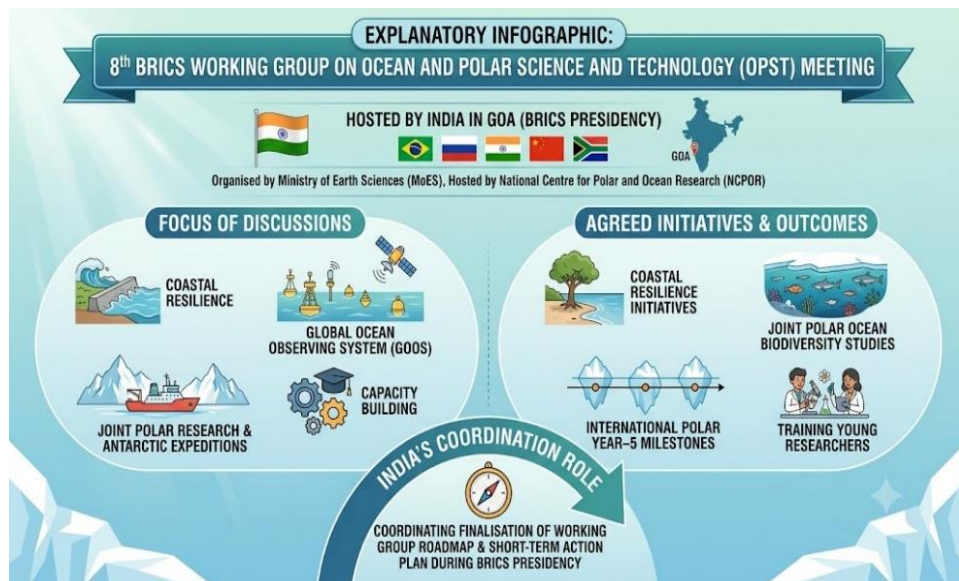
- ❖ Non-fossil fuel capacity includes solar power, wind power, hydro power, bio-power and Nuclear Power.
- ❖ It was said by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- ❖ In the total Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity of the country, solar energy has remained a key growth engine.

By sector wise

- ❖ Installed solar capacity has risen to 164.59 GW.
- ❖ Installed wind capacity has reached 58.14 GW
- ❖ Presently, hydropower accounts for 57.24 GW of capacity, while bio-power contributes 11.75 GW.
- ❖ Nuclear power accounts for another 8.78 GW.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRICS Ocean and Polar Science Meeting



- ❖ India hosted the 8th BRICS Working Group on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology (OPST) in Goa during its BRICS Presidency.
- ❖ The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and hosted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).
- ❖ Discussions focused on coastal resilience, the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), joint polar research, Antarctic expeditions and capacity building.

- ❖ BRICS countries agreed on initiatives for coastal resilience, joint polar ocean biodiversity studies, International Polar Year-5 milestones and training young researchers.
- ❖ India will coordinate the finalisation of the working group roadmap and short-term action plan during its BRICS Presidency.

BRICS Sports Ministers Joint Declaration

- ❖ The BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting concluded in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, with the adoption of the BRICS Sports Joint Declaration by consensus.
- ❖ The meeting was held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, focusing on youth development, inclusion, sports technology and cultural exchange.
- ❖ BRICS countries proposed a Working Group on Sports Technology to promote cooperation in sports science, Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital transformation and athlete performance.
- ❖ India's proposal for a BRICS Sports Manufacturing Conclave received broad support; the first conclave is proposed in Udaipur in November 2026.
- ❖ A BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games is proposed in Ahmedabad in October 2026 to showcase the sporting heritage of BRICS countries.
- ❖ The meeting also promoted athlete and coach exchanges, joint competitions and knowledge sharing among BRICS countries.



M23 fighters 2026

- ❖ DR Congo and M23 fighters agree roadmap for peace talks.

- ❖ The Democratic Republic of Congo and the Rwanda-backed M23 armed group have agreed on a roadmap for peace talks
- ❖ The eastern DRC has been riven by decades of conflict, with multiple armed groups fighting over its mineral-rich territory.
- ❖ M23 has seized swathes of the region last year.
- ❖ The two sides signed a U.S.-brokered peace agreement late last year in the Qatari capital Doha, but fighting has continued.
- ❖ The talks also included representatives from the United States, Qatar, Switzerland, the African Union Commission and Togo, serving as African Union mediator.



About M23

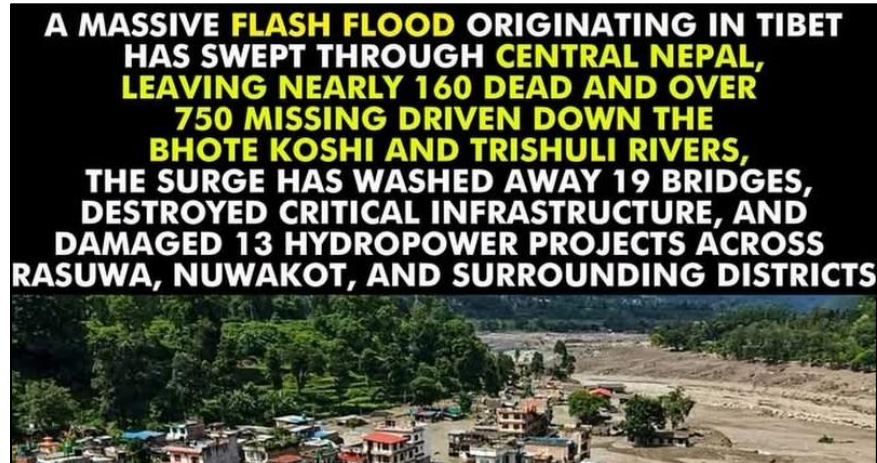
- ❖ March 23 Movement is abbreviated as M23.
- ❖ It is also known as the Congolese Revolutionary Army.
- ❖ It is a predominantly Tutsi rebel group.
- ❖ It is a Rwandan-backed Congolese rebel paramilitary group.
- ❖ It is based in the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- ❖ It operates mainly in the provinces of North and South Kivu, which border Uganda and Rwanda.
- ❖ The 1994 Genocide: After Hutu extremists killed roughly 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda, a Tutsi-led rebel force took power.

- ❖ Rwanda (led by a Tutsi government) faces accusations from the UN and DRC of backing M23 troops and firepower.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Nepal Flash Floods 2026

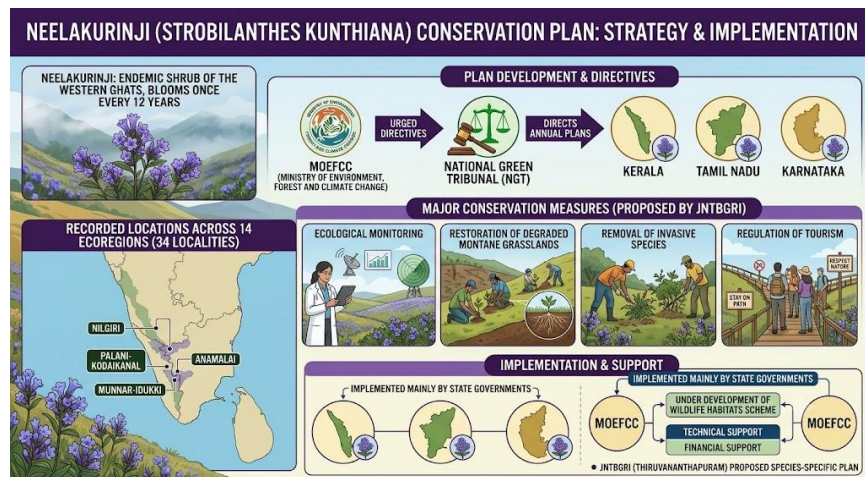
- ❖ A massive flash flood struck Nepal on August 26, 2026, after a sudden surge from the Tibet side affected the Bhote Koshi-Trishuli river system, killing at least 157 people.
- ❖ Experts said an ice-rock avalanche/glacial collapse at high altitude likely triggered the flood, sending water, ice, rocks and debris downstream.
- ❖ The flood caused a rapid rise in the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli Rivers, severely affecting Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading districts.
- ❖ The Bhote Koshi is part of the Koshi River system, while the Trishuli flows into the Narayani River.
- ❖ Increased flows were expected in the Koshi and Narayani river basins, while a possible flood wave in the Gandak River led to alerts in Bihar.
- ❖ The disaster damaged 19 motorable bridges and about 40 km of roads, besides affecting settlements and hydropower infrastructure.



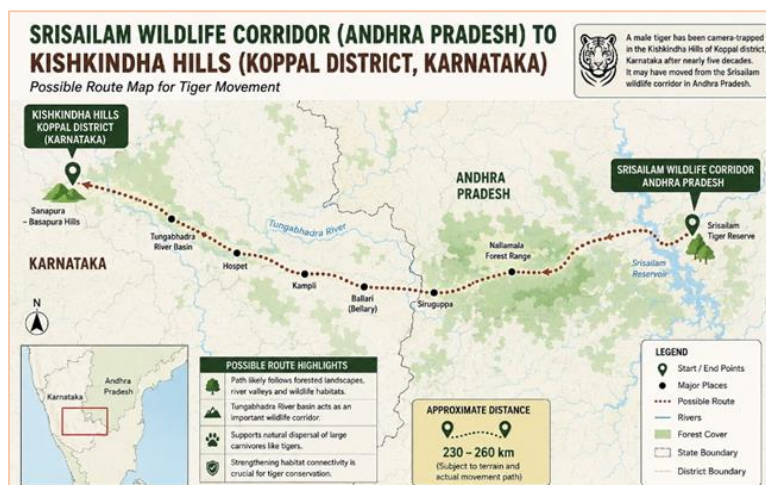
Neelakurinji Conservation Plan

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has urged the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to direct Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to submit annual conservation plans for Neelakurinji.
- ❖ Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) is an endemic shrub of the Western Ghats and blooms once every 12 years.

- ❖ It has been recorded across 34 localities in 14 ecoregions, including the Nilgiri, Palani-Kodaikanal, Anamalai and Munnar-Idukki landscapes.
- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, proposed a species-specific conservation action plan.
- ❖ Major conservation measures include ecological monitoring, restoration of degraded montane grasslands, removal of invasive species and regulation of tourism.
- ❖ The conservation plan will be implemented mainly by the State governments under the Development of Wildlife Habitats scheme, with technical and financial support from the MoEFCC.



Tiger in Kishkindha Hills



- ❖ A tiger has been camera-trapped in the Kishkindha hills of Koppal district, Karnataka.

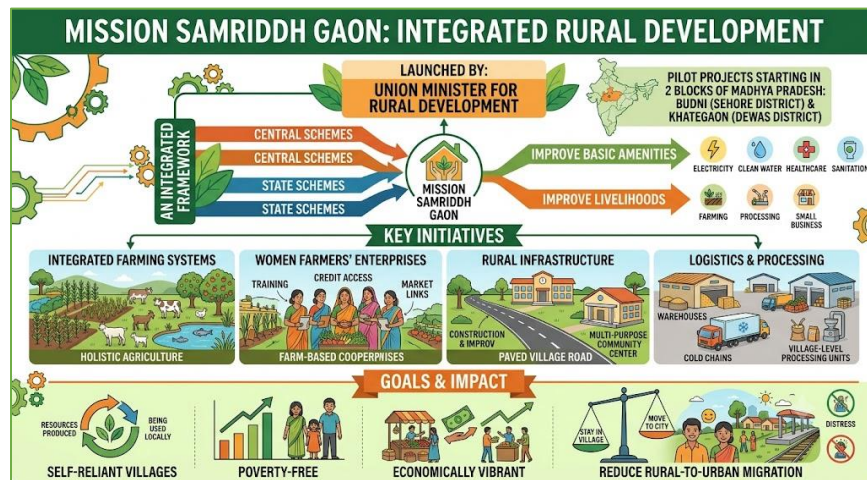
- ❖ It was last reported nearly after five decades in this forest area of the region.
- ❖ It might have moved here from the Srisaillam wildlife corridor in Andhra Pradesh.

About Kishkindha hills

- ❖ This hill is located on the northern bank of the Tungabhadra River.
- ❖ The surrounding plateau is estimated to be roughly 3,000 million years old, making it one of the oldest surface features on Earth.
- ❖ It sits just across from the historic site of Hampi in Karnataka.

STATE NEWS

Mission Samriddh Gaon



- ❖ Union Minister for Rural Development launched Mission Samriddh Gaon, with pilot projects beginning in two blocks of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The mission is an integrated rural development framework that brings together Central and State welfare schemes to improve basic amenities and livelihoods.
- ❖ The pilot will cover Budni block in Sehore district and Khategaon block in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It promotes integrated farming systems, women farmers' enterprises, rural infrastructure, warehouses, cold chains and village-level processing.
- ❖ The mission aims to create self-reliant, poverty-free and economically vibrant villages and reduce distress-driven rural-to-urban migration.

Uranium Mining - Meghalaya

- ❖ The Meghalaya Assembly adopted a resolution opposing uranium mining and uranium ore-processing facilities in the State.

- ❖ Chief Minister of Meghalaya moved the resolution in the 60-member Assembly.
- ❖ The resolution referred to a 2019 Supreme Court order recognising the rights of private and community landowners over land and minerals beneath it.
- ❖ Meghalaya's Sixth Schedule framework protects community, clan and individual ownership of land and resources.
- ❖ Meghalaya has an estimated 9.22 million tonnes of uranium deposits, about 16% of India's total reserves, ranking third after Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.

