

April - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan made his first-ever bilateral visit to Sri Lanka and handed over houses under the Indian Housing Project (India-supported housing scheme).
- ❖ Herbalife India and the Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Madras, signed an agreement to set up India's first Centre of Excellence on plant cell fermentation at IIT Madras Research Park.
- ❖ Blue Origin successfully achieved the first landing of a reused New Glenn first-stage booster after launch from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, United States.
- ❖ International Mother Earth Day is observed on 22 April every year by the United Nations to promote environmental protection and sustainable development.
- ❖ World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed on 21 April every year to promote the role of creativity and innovation in sustainable development.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Harnessing Creativity for Global Progress".

NATIONAL NEWS

Vishwa Sutra Initiative



- ❖ Ministry of Textiles launched "Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World" to promote Indian handlooms globally.
- ❖ It is developed by the Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms) in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).
- ❖ It showcases around 30 handloom weaves from different states of India.

- ❖ Each weave is inspired by designs from 30 different countries and cultures.
- ❖ It aims to increase international recognition and market access for Indian artisans.
- ❖ It promotes the “Vocal for Local” campaign of the Government of India.
- ❖ It supports the 5F (Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion, Foreign) value chain in textiles.

River Basin Management Scheme Extension



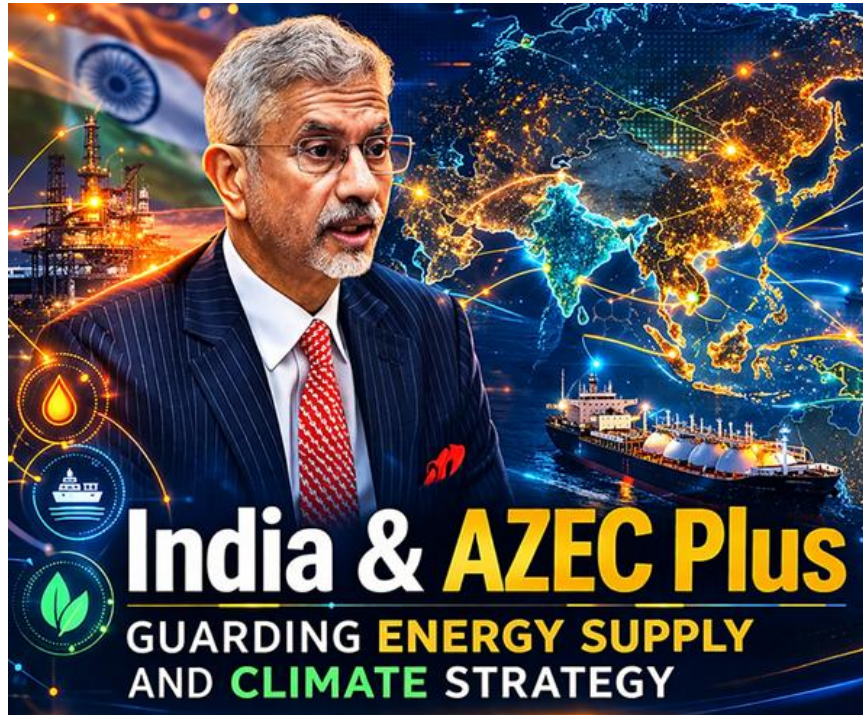
- ❖ The Government of India has proposed to continue the River Basin Management (RBM) Scheme with an outlay of ₹2,183 crore for 2026–31.
- ❖ It is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2014.
- ❖ It is implemented by the Department of Water Resources under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ It focuses on river basins like the Brahmaputra and Indus regions.
- ❖ It aims at flood control, erosion management and water resource planning.
- ❖ It includes agencies like the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the National Water Development Agency (NWDA).
- ❖ It supports basin planning, drainage development and community-based water management.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AZEC Plus Meeting

- ❖ India participated in the AZEC Plus meeting (held online, convened by Japan) to discuss energy supply disruptions and supply chain resilience.

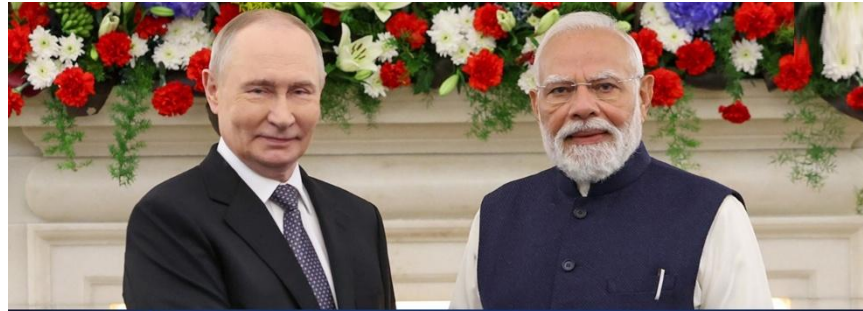
- ❖ The meeting focused on energy security, decarbonisation, and supply chain resilience.
- ❖ India highlighted the need for safe and uninterrupted maritime shipping routes.
- ❖ The platform is part of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), launched in 2023.
- ❖ It aims to promote regional cooperation for a stable and sustainable energy supply in Asia.



RELOS Pact

- ❖ India and Russia have operationalised the RELOS (Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement) to boost defence cooperation.
- ❖ It allows the use of each other's military bases, ports and air facilities in war and peacetime.
- ❖ It permits deployment of up to 3,000 military personnel, 5 warships and 10 aircraft in each other's territory.
- ❖ The pact provides logistics support like refuelling, repair, maintenance and supply of spare parts.
- ❖ Costs can be settled through the exchange of goods and services instead of direct payment.
- ❖ It improves joint exercises, training and long-distance military operations.

- ❖ India gets access to Russian facilities, including the Arctic region, while Russia gains support in the Indian Ocean.

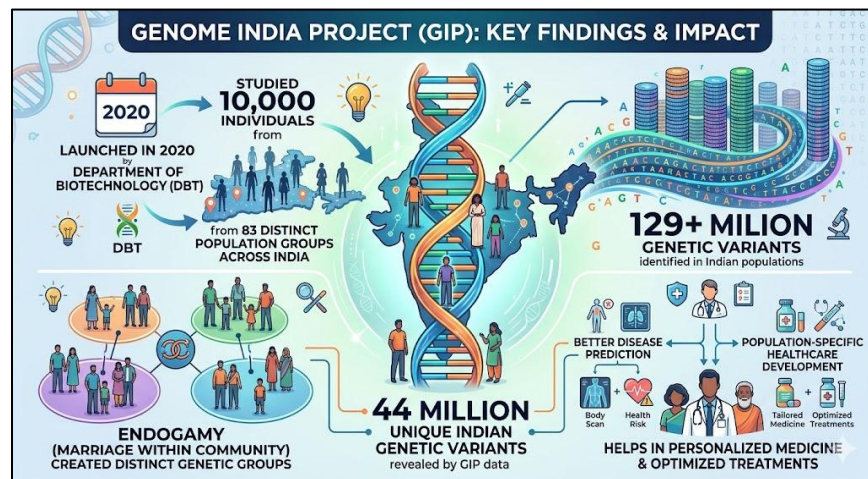


India and Russia have reportedly signed a defence cooperation agreement that **allows both countries** to deploy up to **3,000 military personnel** in each other's territory.

The agreement also includes the use of **naval ships and military aircraft**, along with support for joint exercises, training, and humanitarian operations. It is part of the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (**RELOS**), which aims to improve coordination & support between the two sides.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Genome India Project 2026

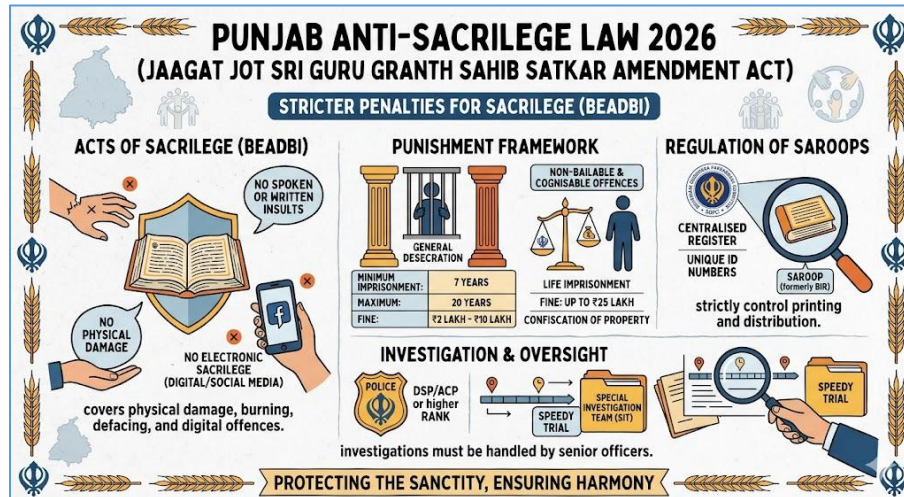


- ❖ Genome India Project (GIP) data revealed about 44 million unique Indian genetic variants.
- ❖ The study identified over 129 million genetic variants in Indian populations.
- ❖ It showed that endogamy (marriage within the same community) created distinct genetic groups.
- ❖ The project was launched in 2020 by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

- ❖ It studied 10,000 individuals from 83 population groups across India.
- ❖ It helps in better disease prediction and the development of population-specific healthcare.

STATE NEWS

Punjab Anti-Sacrilege Law 2026



- ❖ Punjab Governor gave assent to the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ The Bill was passed unanimously in the Punjab Legislative Assembly on 13 April 2026.
- ❖ It makes sacrilege (beadbi) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib a punishable offence under a stricter legal framework.
- ❖ It provides punishment, including life imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹25 lakh for such offences.
- ❖ The law strengthens the earlier Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008.
- ❖ It aims to deter sacrilege incidents and ensure the protection of the religious sanctity of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

3D Chip Packaging Unit in Odisha

- ❖ Odisha will host the ground-breaking of India's first Advanced 3D semiconductor chip packaging unit.
- ❖ The unit will be set up in Bhubaneswar using glass substrate-based advanced packaging technology.

- ❖ It will introduce 3D heterogeneous integration (advanced chip stacking technology) in India.
- ❖ Odisha becomes the first state in India to have both semiconductor fabrication and advanced packaging units.



Gold Mining Project

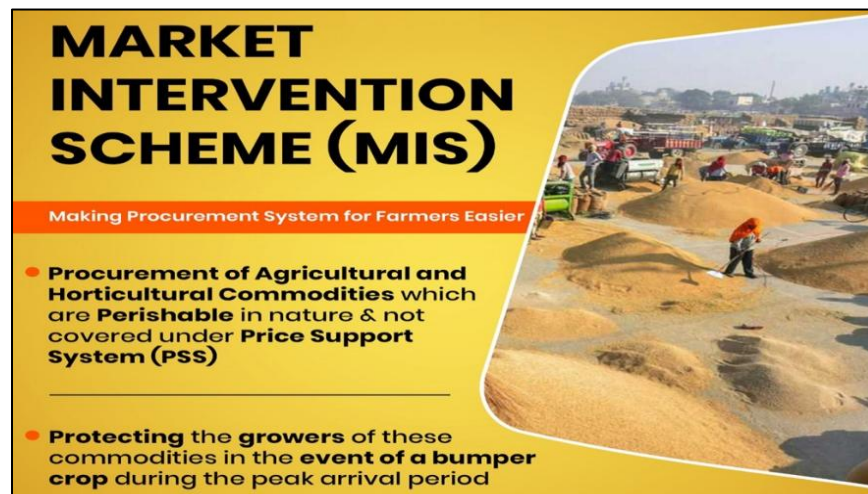


- ❖ India's first large-scale private gold mining project is set to start operations in Andhra Pradesh in May 2026.

- ❖ The Jonnagiri gold project is located in the Kurnool district.
- ❖ It is developed by Geomysore Services India Private Limited with support from private sector partners.
- ❖ It is expected to produce about 1,000 kilograms of gold per year for the next 15 years.
- ❖ The project has estimated gold resources of about 13.1 tonnes, with potential up to 42.5 tonnes.

Market Intervention Scheme - Potato Procurement

- ❖ The Government approved potato procurement in Uttar Pradesh under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for 2025–26.
- ❖ The procurement price is fixed at ₹6.5 per kilogram for potatoes.
- ❖ Around 20 lakh metric tonnes of potatoes will be procured in the state.
- ❖ The Government of India will provide financial support of about ₹203.15 crore.
- ❖ The scheme aims to support farmers when market prices fall due to excess supply or other factors.
- ❖ It also includes the procurement of chickpeas in Andhra Pradesh and pigeon pea in Karnataka.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

9,000-Year-Old Underwater Site

- ❖ The Archaeologists have discovered a 9,000-year-old submerged human settlement beneath Lake Huron, North America.

- ❖ The discovery includes stone structures like hunting pits, drive lanes and tool caches.
- ❖ It is considered the earliest evidence of human activity in the Great Lakes region.
- ❖ Around 80 sites linked to ancient caribou hunting practices were identified.
- ❖ The site lies on the Alpena–Amberley Ridge, an ancient land bridge now underwater
- ❖ The structures were preserved due to clear and low-sediment lake conditions.
- ❖ The findings provide insights into early human survival and adaptation after the Ice Age.

