



July - 25

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The three-day Youth Spiritual Summit on the topic of Drug-free Youth for Developed India was concluded with the Kashi Declaration.
- ❖ Six agricultural start-ups incubated at the Agri-Business Incubator of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) have been recognised among the high top-performing ventures under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) – RAFTAAR Agri Business Incubation programme.
- ❖ The Longmatra area under Kiphire district in Nagaland celebrated its first-ever Mango Festival.
- ❖ RBI has, in the exercise of powers conferred under Section 42 of the RBI Act, 1934, included NSDL Payments Bank Limited in the Second Schedule to the Act.
- ❖ The first campus of the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) was recently inaugurated at the NFDC Complex in Mumbai.
- ❖ AI Appreciation Day, observed annually on July 16, celebrates the transformative power of artificial intelligence in shaping our world.
- ❖ The Union Law Ministry inaugurated Mahila Aarogyam Kaksh at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi.
  - It is a first-of-its-kind initiative towards institutionalising workplace wellness within the corridors of government.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### SASCI scheme 2025

- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism has released the operational guidelines for the SASCI scheme.
- ❖ It aimed at developing iconic tourist sites into globally benchmarked destinations by 2026.
- ❖ The projects have been identified based on the project proposals submitted by the concerned State Governments.
- ❖ The projects are also implemented and managed by the very concerned State Government.
- ❖ These projects are to be developed and completed within a maximum 2-year's period, whereas the Government of India will release funds under this scheme up to 31st March, 2026.

- ❖ The SASCI stands for ‘Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale’(SASCI).
- ❖ The sanctioned projects from Tamil Nadu are,
  - Development of Nandavanam Heritage Park in Mamallapuram and
  - Garden of Flowers in Devala, Nilgiris.



### **Second Edition of NEDL**

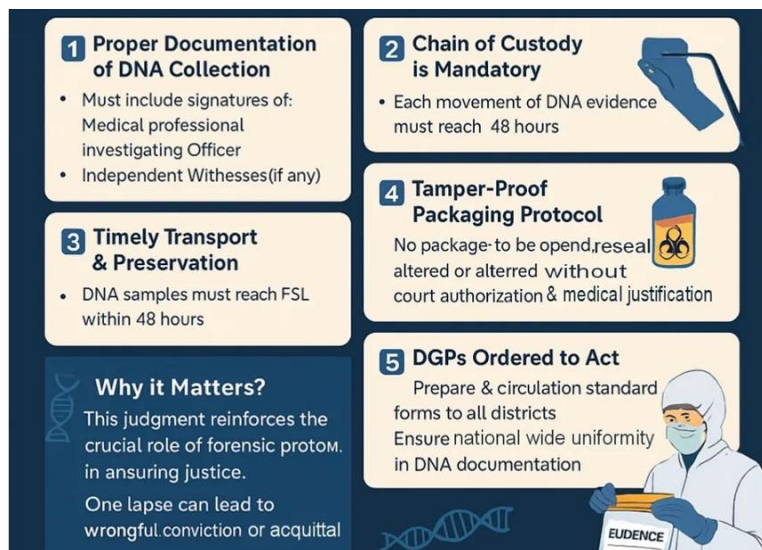


- ❖ The ICMR has released the second edition of the National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) to boost the country’s public health system.
- ❖ It aims to define which diagnostic tests should be standardised and available at all levels of India’s public healthcare system.
- ❖ The mandatory list includes
  - Six core diagnostic tests should be available at village health facilities.

- Fifteen at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (sub-centers),
- Sixty-nine at Primary Health Centres (PHCs),
- Ninety-seven at Community Health Centres (CHCs), and
- Up to one hundred sixty-five tests at Sub-District and District Hospitals.

### **DNA Evidence Handling Guidelines**

- ❖ The Supreme Court laid down a set of procedural guidelines to standardise the management of DNA evidence.
- ❖ These guidelines aim to eliminate inconsistencies in procedures involving one of the most sensitive forms of forensic evidence in criminal law.
- ❖ The Biological samples should be collected by the trained personnel equipped with protective gear.
- ❖ Samples must be transported to designated spaces/forensic labs, and the same shall be documented by the investigating officers within 48 hours.
- ❖ A “chain of custody” log must be maintained that documents each phase of the handling and transfer.



### **Tourism Sector and Vision 2047**

- ❖ The government is committed to raising the contribution of tourism in the country's economy to 10 per cent by 2047.
- ❖ At present, the tourism sector contributes between 5-6 per cent to India's economy.
- ❖ The growth in India's economy is expected to double every 8 years.

- ❖ Now, the size of our economy is \$4 trillion, and it is likely to reach close to \$32 trillion by 2047.
- ❖ India's global tourism ranking has jumped to 8th place (WTTC report 2023).

|             | Total GDP Contribution  |  | Total Travel & Tourism Jobs                       |   |
|-------------|---|--|---|---|
| <b>2019</b> | <b>6.9%</b><br>(of Total Economy)<br>INR <b>17.43TN</b><br>(USD 211.1 BN) | Change in 2020:<br><b>-41.6%</b>   | <b>39.79 MN</b><br>=9.0%<br>(Share of Total Jobs) | Change in 2020:<br><b>-27.3%</b>                  |
| <b>2023</b> | <b>6.5%</b><br>INR <b>19.13TN</b><br>(USD 231.6 BN)                       | Annual Change:<br><b>+18.4%</b><br>(9.7% vs 2019)<br>Economy Change: +71%      | <b>42.94 MN</b><br>=8.9%                          | Annual Change:<br><b>+9.7%</b><br>(7.9% vs 2019)  |
| <b>2024</b> | <b>6.8%</b><br>INR <b>21.15TN</b><br>(USD 256.1 BN)                       | Annual Change:<br><b>+10.6%</b><br>(21.3% vs 2019)                             | <b>45.39 MN</b><br>=9.2%                          | Annual Change:<br><b>+5.7%</b><br>(14.1% vs 2019) |
| <b>2034</b> | <b>7.6%</b><br>INR <b>43.25TN</b><br>(USD 523.6 BN)                       | CAGR (2024-2034):<br><b>+7.4%</b><br>Economy CAGR<br>(2024-2034): <b>+6.2%</b> | <b>62.99 MN</b><br>=11.0%                         | New Jobs<br>(2034 vs 2024)<br><b>17.60 MN</b>     |

## New Bill of Lading Law 2025



- ❖ Parliament passed the Bills of Lading, 2025, replacing the 169-year-old colonial-era Indian Bills of Lading Act, 1856.



- ❖ It aims to reduce ambiguity in shipping documentation, minimize litigation risks, and strengthen India's position in global trade.
- ❖ The new legislation also features the simplified legal language and restructures complex provisions.

### **India's Automotive Mission Plan 2047**

- ❖ The Ministry of Heavy Industries has introduced the Automotive Mission Plan 2047 (AMP 2047).
- ❖ It aims to establish India as a leader in global automotive manufacturing and trade.
- ❖ It will set developmental targets for 2030, 2037, and 2047.
- ❖ This effort involves coordination among ministries like Power, Commerce, Roads, and Environment.
- ❖ It is designed as an industry-led strategy involving the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), component makers, policy planners, R&D agencies, and users.



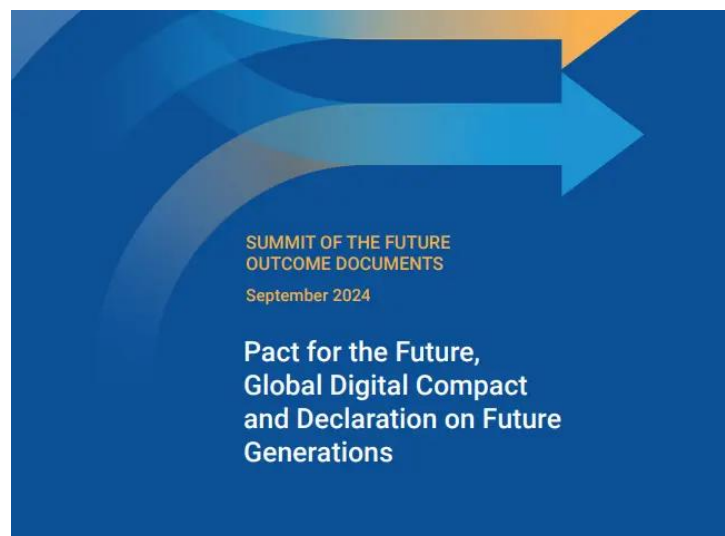
### **NSCSTI 2.0**

- ❖ The Centre has launched the National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutes 2.0 (NSCSTI 2.0) at the Civil Services Officers Institute (CSOI) in Delhi.
- ❖ It was developed by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC).
- ❖ This revamped framework marks a significant step toward building a future-ready civil service.

- ❖ The NSCSTI 2.0 framework introduces a streamlined and inclusive approach to civil services training.
- ❖ It is adaptable for training institutes at all government levels, including Central, State, and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- ❖ It incorporates the progressive elements such as Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), the Karmayogi Competency Model (KCM), and the Amrit Gyaan Kosh (AGK).



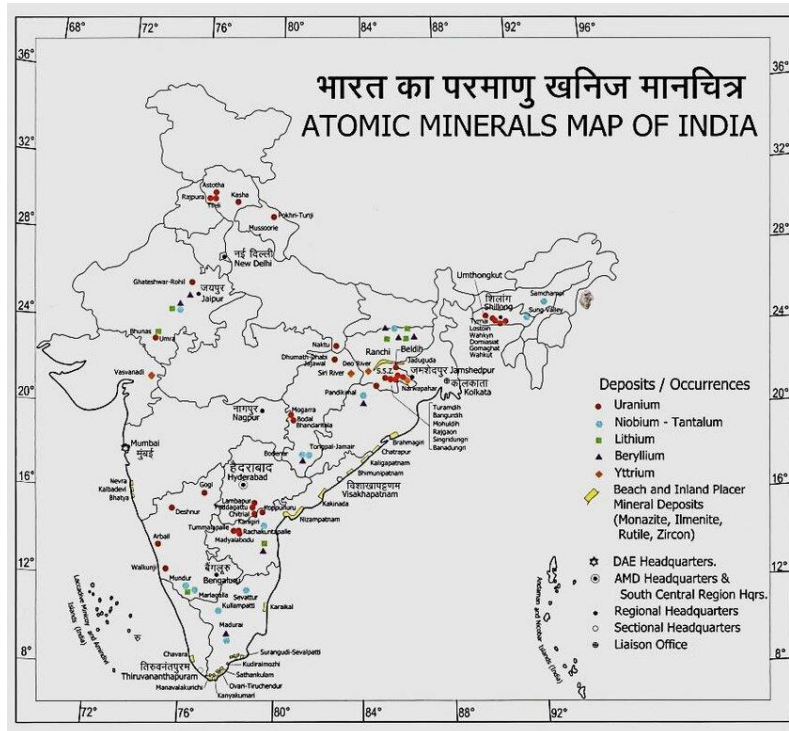
### **‘Pact for Future’ at UN dialogue**



- ❖ India has reiterated its firm support for the Pact for the Future and its key annexes - the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations.
- ❖ It was made during the third informal dialogue to review the agreement.

- ❖ The informal dialogue offered the UN member states a platform to exchange ideas ahead of the 2028 review of the Pact.
- ❖ At the Summit of the Future on 22 September 2024, the world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future and its annexes.
- ❖ This Pact along with its annexes, the Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations, is designed to address 21st-century challenges.

## Offshore Areas Atomic Minerals Operating Right Rules, 2025



- ❖ The new rules are notified under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002.
- ❖ The Ministry of Mines, in the coordination with the Department of Atomic Energy, notified this rule.
- ❖ These Rules will only apply if the concentration of atomic minerals is above a certain minimum level.
- ❖ The Department of Atomic Energy and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) will serve as the nodal oversight agencies.
- ❖ The Foreign firms are very effectively barred from the direct participation unless subcontracted under highly restrictive guidelines and only with the prior security clearance from ministries including defence, home, and environment.

- ❖ Under the rules, exploration will be allowed without a license, but only for notified government agencies.
- ❖ Any later discovery of the atomic minerals above threshold grades, as defined in alignment with the Atomic Mineral Concession Rules, 2016, must be reported to the Directorate of Atomic Minerals Exploration and Research (AMD).
- ❖ Exploration and production plans should comply with the “Offshore Area Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2024”.
- ❖ India has a limited resource of uranium but a large resource of thorium.
- ❖ Most of the uranium deposits in India are small and of far lower grade compared to those in the leading uranium-producing countries in the world.
- ❖ The beach sands of Kerala and Orissa have rich reserves of monazite.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### The Resistance Front - Global terror outfit



- ❖ The US Department of State has designated 'The Resistance Front' as a "foreign terrorist organisation" and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) over the April 22 Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It is an offshoot of the Pakistani terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba.
- ❖ India welcomed this decision and highlighted three evils - terrorism, separatism and extremism – in the World.



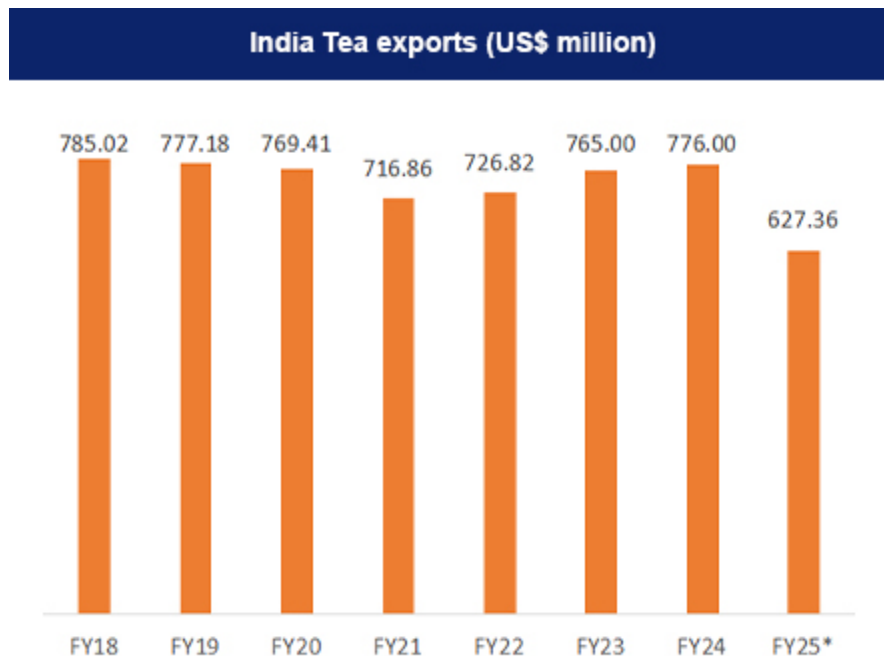


- ❖ Designating an outfit as an FTO makes financing, aiding, advising and helping such an organisation a crime under US law.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### Tea Export Performance in FY 2024-25

- ❖ India's tea exports rose by 2.85% in the 2024-25 financial year.
- ❖ The tea exports from the country had increased from 250.73 million kilograms to 257.88 million kilograms.
- ❖ Exports from North India during the calendar year 2024 stood at 155.49 million kilograms.
- ❖ While from South India, it stood at 100.68 million kilograms.
- ❖ They are registering a rise of 10.28 per cent and 11.02 per cent respectively.

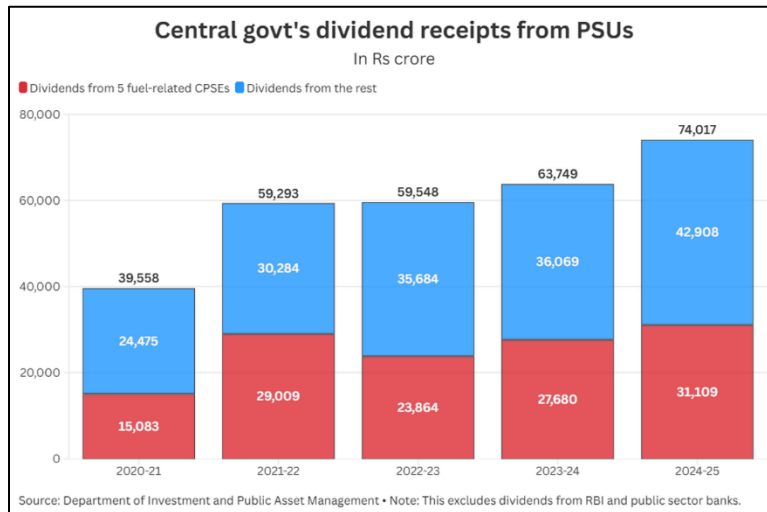


Source: Tea Board of India, Ministry of Commerce, and Industry,  
\*- Until December 2024

### PSU Dividends in 2024/25

- ❖ Over the last five years, the Union government has nearly doubled the dividends it has received from public sector companies to ₹74,000 crore.

- ❖ Five fuel-related PSUs accounted for 42% of the total dividends the government has collected since the financial year 2020-21.
- ❖ According to the new rules, every Central PSU must pay a minimum annual dividend of 30% of its Profit After Tax (PAT) or 4% of its net worth, whichever is higher.
- ❖ IOC and BPCL saw their combined dividend payouts to the government increase 255% between 2022-23 and 2024-25, from ₹2,435 crore to ₹8,653 crore.



## Reserve Prices for Wheat and Rice 2025/26

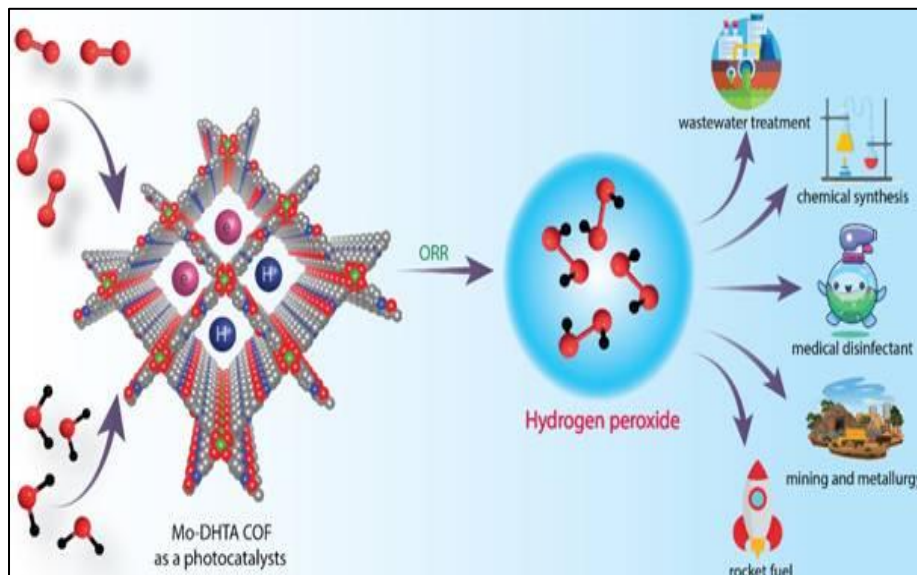


- ❖ The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), a statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and the Public Distribution, has fixed the reserve prices of wheat and rice.

- ❖ It has not announced what quantities of these grains will be sold in the open market, that will be decided by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- ❖ Reserve price is the minimum price at which the FCI sells from the Central Pool under the Open Market Sale Scheme-Domestic (OMSS-D) in the open market through e-auctions.
- ❖ The FCI procures, stores, and distributes foodgrains through the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- ❖ The scheme is used by the FCI to offer grains, mainly wheat and rice, in the open market by e-auction as a mechanism.
- ❖ This mechanism helps to ensure the foodgrain availability, controls inflation, and supports farmers by maintaining minimum price levels.
- ❖ India had recorded a wheat production of 117 million tonnes in 2024-25, a record high.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Green synthesis of hydrogen peroxide

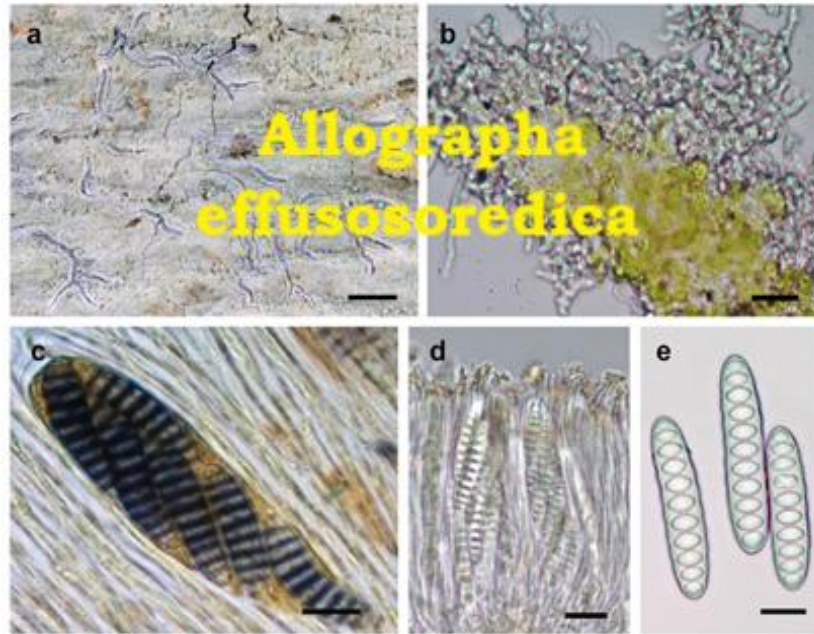


- ❖ Sunlight and water could now be turned into a powerful disinfectant - Hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) - using a photocatalyst.
- ❖ For this, the S. N. Bose Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBCBS) has developed a novel approach for using a cutting-edge material called Mo-DHTA COF.
- ❖ This innovation offers a cleaner, more efficient, and recyclable route for hydrogen peroxide production.

- ❖ Traditional photocatalysts like metal oxides, graphitic carbon nitride (g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>), polymers and metal organic frameworks (MOFs) face limitations due to wide band gaps and limited stability.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### New Lichen Species - *Allographa effusosoredica*



- ❖ The Indian scientists have recently uncovered a previously unknown species of lichen, *Allographa effusosoredica*, from Western Ghats.
- ❖ The study was done by MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, Pune.
- ❖ It marks the first Indian *Allographa* species supported by molecular data.
- ❖ It becomes the 53rd species from the genus reported from India and the 22nd from the Western Ghats alone.
- ❖ It is characterized by effuse soredia (a type of asexual reproductive structure) and a rare chemical, norstictic acid, which differentiates it from similar species.
- ❖ The lichen's photobiont partner was identified as a *Trentepohlia* species, thus enriching the knowledge of algal diversity in tropical symbioses.
- ❖ Morphologically, it closely resembles *Graphis glaucescens*, although it is genetically aligned with *Allographa xanthospora*.
- ❖ Lichens are not just one organism but two (sometimes more) living in intimate symbiosis:
  - A fungus that offers structure and protection, and



- A photobiont (usually a green alga or cyanobacterium) that captures sunlight and makes food.

## STATES' NEWS

### Endangered Plant Conservation Program – Uttarakhand

- ❖ Uttarakhand has launched a unique program to revive 14 critically endangered "Red Category" plant species.
- ❖ It aims to reintroduce the rare flora to their natural habitats after four years of scientific cultivation and habitat mapping.
- ❖ The region boasts around 69 per cent forest cover and a strong national presence in wildlife conservation.



### Kerala's KITE Initiative



- ❖ The UNICEF has recognised Kerala's KITE initiative as a global best practice in responsible EdTech.



- ❖ It has attracted national and global recognition for its ethical incorporation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education.
- ❖ The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) serves as the technological division of Kerala's General Education Department.

### First Conviction in Digital Arrest Scam - West Bengal

- ❖ It is India's first digital arrest conviction in a digital arrest cyber fraud case.
- ❖ In this verdict, 9 were sentenced to life by the court in West Bengal.
- ❖ The verdict was delivered by the Kalyani court in Nadia district.
- ❖ They have been convicted under sections 316(2)/317(4)/318(4)/319(2)/336(3)/338/340(2)/351(2)/3(5)/61(2) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sections 66C and 66D of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

**"Cybersecurity Thought of the Day"**

**Landmark Cybercrime Verdict:  
First Sentence in a Digital Arrest Case**

For the first time in India, the Kalyani court of West Bengal has sentenced nine cyber criminals to life imprisonment for orchestrating a "digital arrest" scam- a major milestone in the realm of cyber law.

**Case Summary**

- ❖ **Victim:** Retired professor Partha Kumar Mukhopadhyay.
- ❖ **Fraud Amount:** 1 crore extorted via coercive WhatsApp calls.
- ❖ **Modus Operandi:** Fake identity as Mumbai Police, threats of digital arrest, forged documents, psychological pressure.
- ❖ **Call Origin:** Cambodia, using Indian SIM cards.
- ❖ **Gang Network:** Spread across Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, and Rajasthan.
- ❖ **Total Victims:** Over 108 individuals, estimated fraud exceeding 100 crore.

**Court Proceedings**

- ❖ **Trial Duration:** Just 8 months after the October 2024 incident
- ❖ **Convicts:** Imtiyaz Ansari, Shahid Ali Shaikh, Shahrukh Rafik Shaikh, Jatin Anup Ladwal, Rohit Singh, Rupesh Yadav, Sahil Singh, Pathan Sumaiya Banu, and Faldu Ashoke.
- ❖ **Charges:** Criminal breach of trust, forgery, identity theft, impersonation under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the IT Act.
- ❖ **Verdict:** Life imprisonment for all accused.

**Why It Matters**

- ❖ India's first conviction of its kind- a powerful legal precedent.
- ❖ Prosecutors labeled it "economic terrorism".
- ❖ Highlights the strength of inter&state coordination in cybercrime investigations.
- ❖ Reinforces the need for public vigilance and digital awareness.

Cybercrime is evolving, so must our defense strategies. This verdict is not just justice for one professor, but a wake&up call for every citizen, policymaker, and enforcement authority. Deterrence is key to cybersecurity, instilling fear among cybercriminals is essential.

**Report scams to the National Cyber Crime Portal (1930)  
or local law enforcement agencies.**

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Gita Gopinath

- ❖ Gita Gopinath, the First Deputy Managing Director (FDMD) of the International Monetary Fund, is set to leave the organisation.
- ❖ She joined the Fund as a Chief Economist in 2019.

- ❖ She is the first woman to hold the position, and was later promoted to be the FDMD in 2022.



### **International Mathematical Olympiad 2025**



- ❖ The 66th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2025 is being held at the Sunshine Coast in Australia.
- ❖ The Indian team has secured 3 Gold Medals, 2 Silver Medals and 1 Bronze Medal.

- ❖ India was positioned seventh among 110 countries, matching its best-ever rank achieved previously in 1998 and 2001.
- ❖ This is only the second time that India has won three gold medals at the IMO — the first being in 1998.
- ❖ This is the third consecutive year that India has ranked among the top 10 at the IMO, with Rank 9 in 2023, Rank 4 in 2024, and Rank 7 in 2025.

### **Communist Leader VS Achuthanandan**



- ❖ Former Kerala Chief Minister and the very icon of the Communist movement VS Achuthanandan (101), died.
- ❖ He is the founder and leader of CPM after the split in the undivided party in 1964.
- ❖ He had been the Leader of the Opposition from 2001 to 2006.
- ❖ In 2006, he led the CPM-led Left Democratic Front to victory and served as Chief Minister till 2011.
- ❖ He was a seven-time MLA and had contested 10 elections during his political career.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Snake Day 2025 - July 16**

- ❖ It aims to highlight Snake's beauty, diversity, and ecological value.



- ❖ Over 3,000 snakes live worldwide and around 600 are venomous
- ❖ This year's theme is "Respect, Don't Fear: Protecting Nature's Silent Guardians".



"On this World Snake Day, let us challenge the fears we've inherited and choose to see snakes not as threats, but as vital creatures that have survived for millions of years. Their silent presence in nature is not a sign of danger, but of delicate balance. Through understanding, we replace fear with respect."

### **World Day for International Justice 2025 - July 17**



- ❖ It is observed to commemorate the historic adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998 and the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- ❖ The ICC was created to prosecute the individuals responsible for the most serious crimes of concern to the global community.

- ❖ This observance promotes global accountability, honours victims, and reinforces international cooperation in the pursuit of justice.
- ❖ Currently, around 125 countries are States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- ❖ Ukraine became the 125th ICC State Party on 1 January 2025.

## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **Global Leader in Fast Payments**

- ❖ Recently, the International Monetary Fund released a report titled Growing Retail Digital Payments: The Value of Interoperability.
- ❖ India has emerged as the global leader in fast payments.
- ❖ Currently, UPI processes over 18 billion transactions every month in India.
- ❖ Today, UPI accounts for 85 per cent of all digital transactions in India.
- ❖ In June alone, it handled over Rs 24.03 lakh crore in payments.



### **Indian millet standards**

- ❖ India's millet standards and its role in Codex committees received recognition at the 88th Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC88) held in Rome.
- ❖ Codex Alimentarius is a compilation of the globally accepted high food standards, guidelines, and codes of conduct.
- ❖ It encourages food safety, protects consumers, and supports fair-trade practices in global food trade.

- ❖ India has held the position of Chair for the Codex Committee on the Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) since 2014.



### **Sale of NWA 16788**

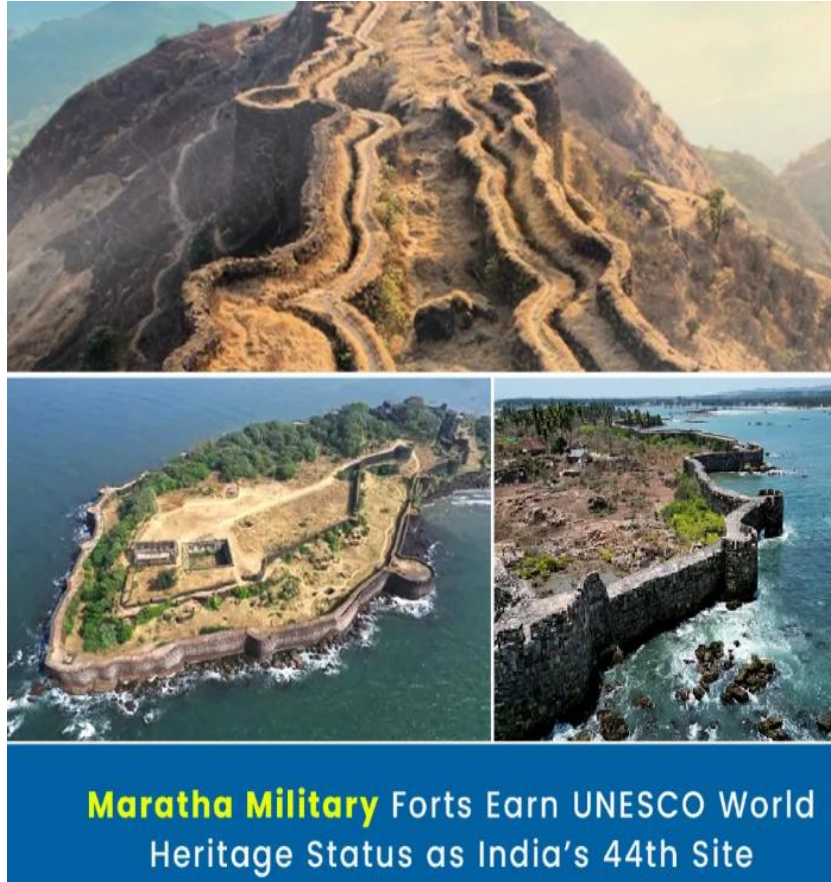


- ❖ A rare piece of Mars - the largest ever found on Earth - sold at a New York auction for a \$4.3m (£3.2m) bid.



- ❖ The meteorite known as NWA 16788 and weighs 54lb (24.5kg).
- ❖ It was discovered in a remote region of Niger in November 2023.
- ❖ It is 70% larger than the next biggest piece of Mars that has been recovered.

### India's 44th UNESCO Heritage Site



- ❖ The Maratha Military Landscapes of India were inscribed in July 2025.
- ❖ These Maratha Military Landscapes include twelve majestic forts, eleven of which are in Maharashtra and one is in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It is now marking India's 44th UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ❖ Maratha Military Landscapes of India spanned from the 17th to 19th centuries CE.
- ❖ Spread across the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the selected sites now include Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarna durg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, along with Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.



- ❖ In 2024, UNESCO included Assam's 'Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty' on its prestigious World Heritage list, making it India's 43rd designated site.
- ❖ Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the nodal agency for heritage management and proposals.
- ❖ India is a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (2021–2025).

### AK-203 Rifles – Amethi

- ❖ The Indian armed forces are set to get a new batch of AK-203 assault rifles.
- ❖ The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) is a joint venture company that has been established for the indigenous production of AK-203, named 'Sher' in India, in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi.
- ❖ The AK-203 rifles are significantly more modern compared to the AK-47 and AK-56 rifles.
- ❖ They are one of the most lethal rifles in the Kalashnikov series.

