

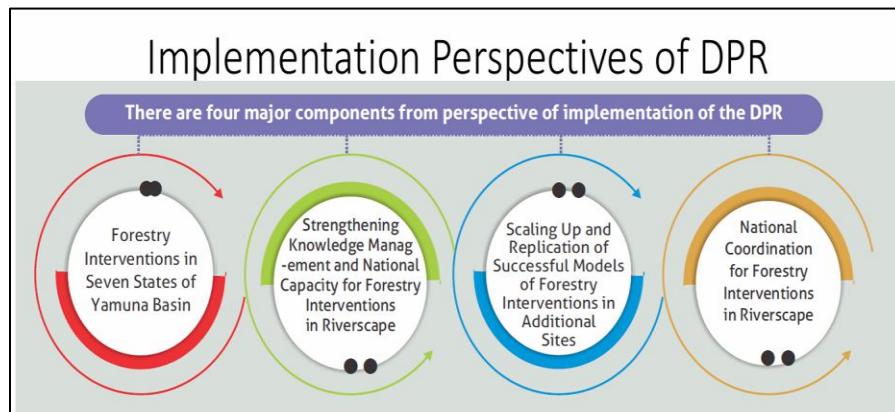
May - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has successfully scaled Mt. Makalu — the world’s fifth highest peak, at an altitude of 8,485 metres from the sea level.
- ❖ The Indian government has selected Bengaluru-based start-up Sarvam to develop the country’s first homegrown Artificial Intelligence (AI) Large Language Model (LLM) under the IndiaAI Mission.
- ❖ The Karnataka government has declared the Hesaraghatta grasslands in the outskirts of Bengaluru as “the Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve”.
- ❖ On the basis of inputs received from Operation Hawk, launched by the US, CBI has successfully dismantled the cybercrime networks involving the online child sexual exploitation with international linkages.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out its "land and go" drill on a 3.5-km stretch of the Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh.
 - This is India's first expressway-integrated airstrip for round-the-clock fighter jet operations.
- ❖ The first Sunday of May (May 04) is observed as World Laughter Day to celebrate the laughter and happiness of people around the world.

NATIONAL NEWS

Urban River Rejuvenation



- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved an action plan for 145 cities, located along different rivers across the country.



- ❖ It will be implemented in 2025 for keeping the stretches of the respective rivers healthy and sustainable.
- ❖ It is formulated under the River Cities Alliance (RCA) which was launched in 2021 aimed at rejuvenating urban rivers across India.
- ❖ Recently, the Government of India has also initiated a comprehensive 30-point action plan aimed at rejuvenating the Yamuna River.
- ❖ The primary aim is to enhance the environmental flow (E-flow) of the Yamuna.
- ❖ A dedicated Special Task Force has been established to remove the floodplain encroachments.
- ❖ A dedicated “Yamuna Kosh” (Yamuna Fund) will be established to support the ongoing initiatives.

Sugar (Control) Order, 2025

Central Government Notifies
Sugar (Control) Order, 2025
w.e.f. 01st May, 2025

Aims to:

- Establish more efficient, transparent & accountable sugar ecosystem,
- Promote stability within the domestic market &
- Enhancing India's position globally.

- ❖ The Government of India has reviewed the Sugar (Control) Order, 1966 and also formulated the Sugar (Control) Order, 2025.
- ❖ The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) portal will be integrated with sugar mills Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)/ Systems, Applications, and Products (SAPAs).
- ❖ Raw sugar is added in the control order and it will be considered in the total stock of sugar across the country.
- ❖ Khandsari units having crushing capacity more than 500 TCD has been included in the Sugar Control Order, 2025.
- ❖ Different kinds of by-products which affects sugar production from sugarcane included in the order.

- ❖ New clause related to Sugar Price (Control) has been incorporated in the sugar control order.
- ❖ Hence there will be no separate Sugar Price (Control) Order.
- ❖ Currently various provisions related to regulation of price of sugar have been mentioned in the Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018.

Enhancing Competitiveness of MSMEs in India

- ❖ NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC) released a detailed report titled “Enhancing Competitiveness of MSMEs in India”.
- ❖ The share of micro and small enterprises availing credit from scheduled banks rose from 14% to 20%.
- ❖ The medium enterprises saw a rise from 4% to 9%.
- ❖ Only 19% of MSME credit demand was met through formal channels by FY21, leaving an unmet demand of approximately ₹80 lakh crore.

MSME obstacles/challenges	India	South Asia	All countries
Biggest Obstacle	Access to Financial Sources (21.5%)	Political Instability (17.9%)	Access to Financial Sources (15.3%)
Gender Representation (enterprises having female ownership participation) (%)	3.9%	13.8%	32.9%
Annual Labour Productivity Growth (%)	-4.3%	-3.1%	-2.8%
Real annual sales growth (%)	-1.5%	0.8	0.7
Innovation and Technology (firms globally introduce new products or services) (%)	5.8%	24.9%	36%
Customs (number of days to clear direct exports and imports from customs)	Exports - 17.3 days Imports - 31.5 days	Exports - 12 days Imports - 7.4 days	Exports - 14.1 days Imports - 12.3 days

Depot Darpan Portal

- ❖ The “Depot Darpan” portal and mobile application, set to be unveiled this month.
- ❖ It aims to monitor food storage depots in real time, ensuring they adhere to the highest standards of quality and safety.
- ❖ It will empower depot managers to monitor infrastructure, operational efficiency, and financial performance in near real-time.
- ❖ By uploading geo-tagged data on depot infrastructure, the managers will receive automated ratings and actionable insights for timely improvements.
- ❖ The initiative will encompass approximately 2,278 warehouses.

- ❖ It includes those owned by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the Central Ware housing Corporation (CWC), and those hired from the state agencies or private entities.

'Depot Darpan' Portal and App

- 🌟 Government of India announced the launch of 'Depot Darpan' portal and mobile application.
- 🌟 It aims to bring food storage depots across the country in line with the highest quality and performance standards.
- 🌟 This initiative is being driven by the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

VoTan – UNOCT



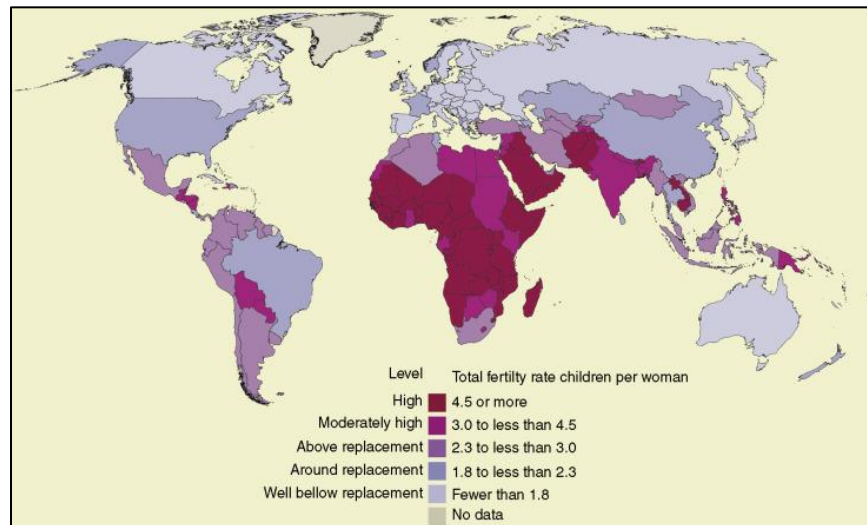
The poster for the VoTan Hybrid Launch Event features the logos of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Spanish Government (Gobierno de España). The central graphic shows the word 'VOTAN' in large blue letters, with a stylized globe and a lit candle integrated into the letter 'O'. Below this, it reads 'Victims of Terrorism Associations Network'. On the right side, the text 'Hybrid Launch Event' is displayed in white on a blue background, followed by the date and time: '28 April 2025, 10am-12pm EDT, NEW YORK • UNHQ'. At the bottom, a button indicates 'WATCH LIVE: webtv.un.org'.

- ❖ The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) launched the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN).
- ❖ This is a key outcome of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

- ❖ The initiative seeks to foster stronger collaboration among victims' associations worldwide.
- ❖ It will enhance the advocacy, and ensure that victims' rights and needs are at the center of counter-terrorism efforts.

Fertility rate requirement 2025

- ❖ The fertility rate should be at least 2.7 children per woman in the developed countries, to prevent human extinction.
- ❖ The conventional replacement level fertility (RLF) of 2.1 children per woman is simply not enough in many parts of the world.
- ❖ However, a female-biased birth ratio, with more females than males born, reduces the extinction risk, helping more lineages survive over time.
- ❖ The world has experienced its peak growth rate in the years 1960s and the global population has continued to increase and is projected to reach 8.5 billion in 2030.
- ❖ At least 40 per cent of more than 6,700 spoken languages in the world threatened to disappear within the next 100 years.



ECONOMY NEWS

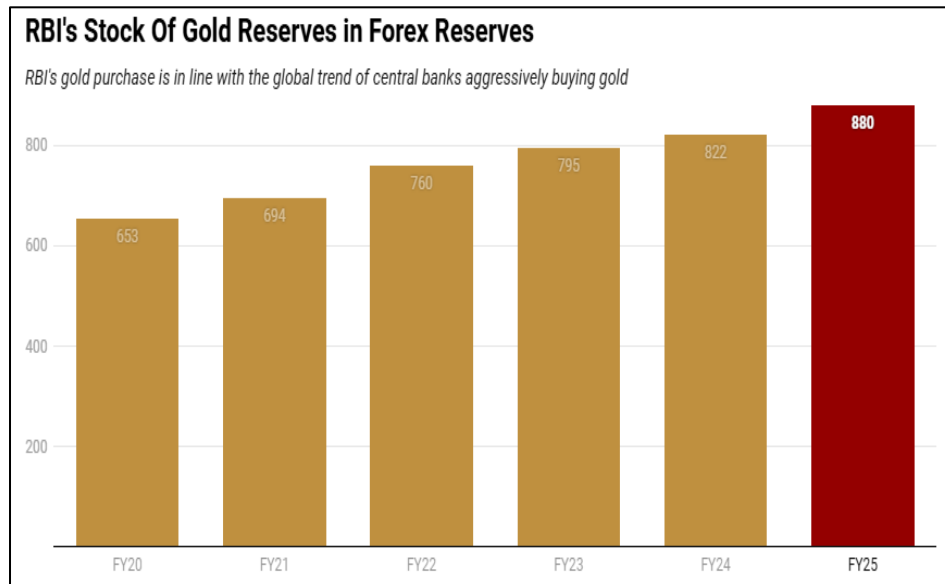
India's Exports in 2024–25

- ❖ India's total exports surged to a historic high of \$824.9 billion in the financial year 2024–25.
- ❖ This figure marks a 6.01 percent increase over the previous year's total exports of \$778.1 billion.

- ❖ Services exports soared 13.6 percent year-on-year, reaching an all-time high of \$387.5 billion.
- ❖ On the merchandise side, India exported goods worth \$437.4 billion during FY 2024–25.
- ❖ Non-petroleum exports stood out, hitting a record \$374.08 billion.



RBI's Gold Reserves in FY25

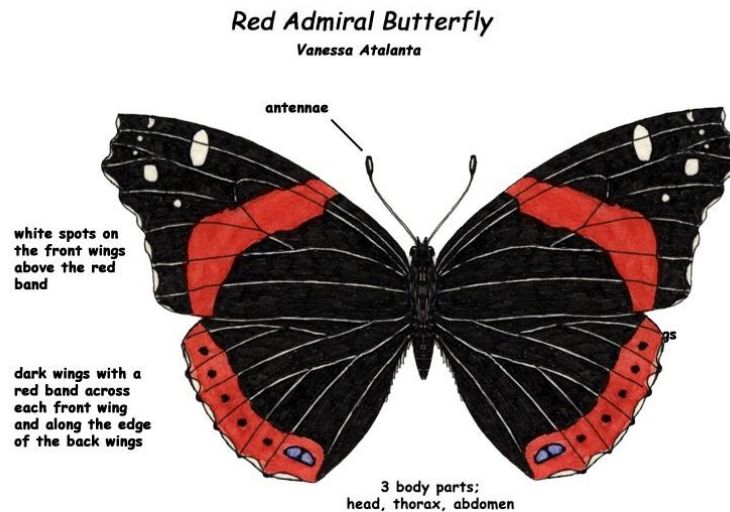


- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bought 57.5 tonnes of gold in FY25.
- ❖ This was the second-highest level of gold purchase in any financial year by the central bank after it started accumulating gold in December 2017.

- ❖ RBI's aggregate gold holdings reached 879.6 tonnes by March 2025.
- ❖ It is an increase from 822.1 tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

European Red Admiral Butterfly

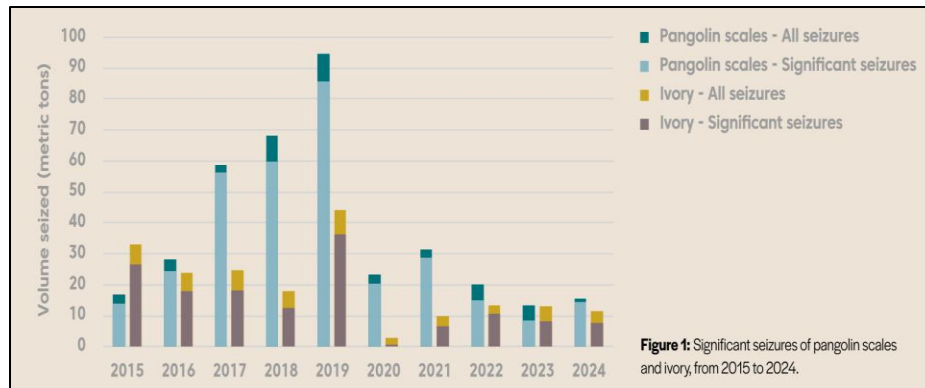


- ❖ The European Red Admiral (*Vanessa Atalanta*), a widely distributed migratory butterfly species, has been sighted and documented in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The species was observed near Dharamshala in the Dhauladhar mountain range, marking its maiden appearance in the country.
- ❖ With this, the total number of butterfly species documented in Himachal Pradesh to 440.
- ❖ The European Red Admiral is well known for its extensive migratory patterns across Europe and North America.
- ❖ Though historically unreported from India, the species has previously been documented in parts of Central and South Asia.
- ❖ Its last confirmed record in South Asia was from Balochistan in 1929.
- ❖ Then, it was rediscovered in Pakistan's Lower Chitral region in 2022 after a 93-year gap

Wildlife Justice Commission report

- ❖ The report "Disruption and Disarray: An Analysis of Pangolin Scale and Ivory Trafficking, 2015–2024" was published by the Wildlife Justice Commission.

- ❖ Global trafficking of pangolin scales and elephant ivory has sharply declined since 2020.
- ❖ In 2019, global pangolin scale seizures reached an all-time high of more than 100 tonnes.
- ❖ Elephant ivory seizures that year also peaked at 50 tonnes.
- ❖ Between 2015 and 2024, over 370 tonnes of pangolin scales were seized globally.
- ❖ By 2024, the volume of seized pangolin scales and ivory had declined by 84 per cent and 74 per cent respectively compared to 2019 levels.



STATES' NEWS

Interstate Cheetah Conservation Corridor



- ❖ Rajasthan is all set to become a part of India's first cheetah reintroduction project, currently operational in Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ A wildlife corridor is spanning 17,000 square kilometers.
- ❖ It will be developed across both states, allowing the cheetahs to roam freely in a protected and connected habitat.
- ❖ The corridor will link Palpur Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh with the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.

AI-Powered Real-Time Forest Alert System

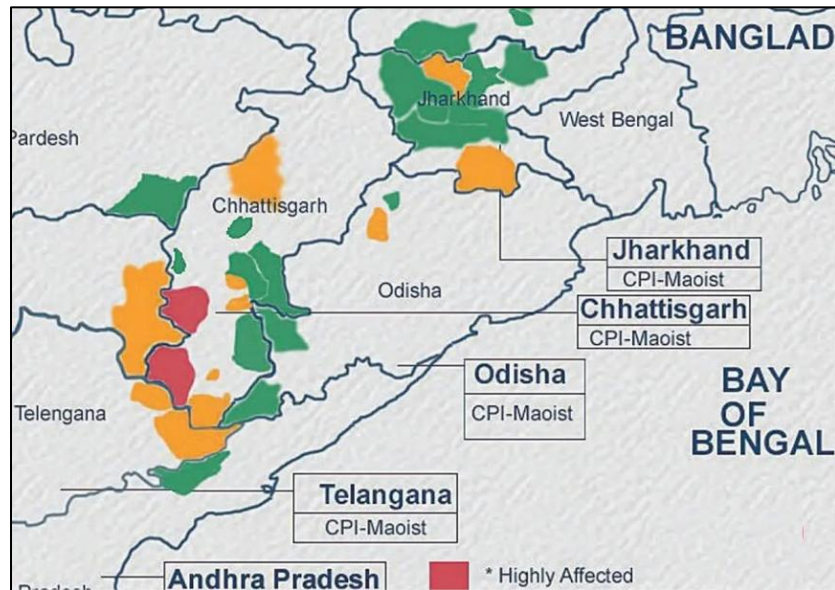
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh forest department plans to deploy an Artificial Intelligence alert system to fight deforestation,
- ❖ It is India's first such system.
- ❖ The Real-Time Forest Alert System is being rolled out as a pilot project in Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Burhanpur, and Khandwa districts.
- ❖ A cloud-based system, it integrates satellite data, machine learning algorithms, and real-time field feedback to monitor forest areas with unprecedented precision.
- ❖ According to the 2023 report by the Forest Survey of India, Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest and tree cover at 85,724 sq km.
- ❖ MP also reported the highest loss of forest land at about 612.41 sq km.



Operation Kagar

- ❖ Operation Kagar was launched by the centre in 2024 to eradicate Naxals and dismantling the political ideology of Maoism.

- ❖ Over 140 Maoists were killed by security forces in Chhattisgarh in the first three months of 2025.
- ❖ The central government is working towards a Naxal-free India, setting a target to eliminate Naxalism by 31st March 2026
- ❖ The hill range divides Telangana and Chhattisgarh known as 'Carregutta' and 'Black Hills'.
- ❖ The inhospitable hills stand at an altitude of 5000 metres and remain almost inaccessible even for a majority of the local population.
- ❖ It is being assumed that Maoists continued activities from here at some point in time.
- ❖ The Naxal movement is most active in the "Red Corridor," spanning parts of several Indian states, including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, and Bihar.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Firefighters Day 2025 - May 04

- ❖ It is observed to honour the courageous men and women who put their lives in danger to protect communities from catastrophes.
- ❖ May 4th was chosen as it is the feast day of St. Florian, the patron saint of firefighters.
- ❖ He was a Roman officer who organized firefighting brigades and is remembered for his courage and dedication to protecting lives.

- ❖ On December 2 of 1998, 5 Geelong West Fire Brigade members of Victoria of Australia lost their lives.
- ❖ This day was eventually established as a result of this horrific event.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Forbes W-Power List 2025



- ❖ The Forbes India, in collaboration with L'Oréal Paris, proudly presents the 2025 edition of W-Power.
- ❖ It lists, who have turned ideas into enterprises, challenges into catalysts, and barriers into blueprints for change.



- ❖ Gita Gopinath, Leena Nair, Smriti Mandhana, PV Sindhu, Manu Bhaker and many others featured in the list.

