



**UPSC
&
BPSC**

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAGAZINE

(With special focus on BIHAR)

APRIL 2025

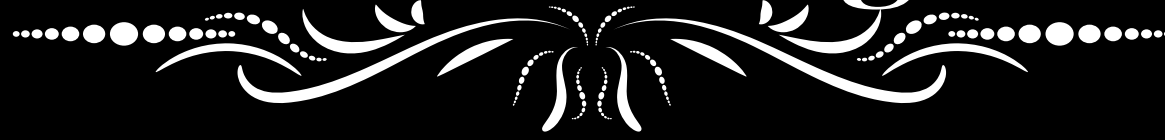
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About This Magazine



In civil services preparation, current affairs are always a key part of success. Whether you're preparing for Prelims, Mains, or the Interview, exams like UPSC/BPSC and other state-level civil services tests need more than just book knowledge. They also require you to stay updated with what's happening in the world.

This monthly current affairs magazine is made to help with that. It brings together important and relevant updates from national and international news, government schemes, the economy, environment, science and tech, major court rulings, and more. Everything is picked from trusted sources like The Hindu, PIB, Indian Express, Yojana, Kurukshetra, and official government sites, so you get accurate and to-the-point content that matches the latest UPSC/BPSC and state exam patterns.

Each topic is chosen with care and includes facts and concepts that matter for Prelims, Mains, and Interviews.

Whether you're just starting out or revising key topics, this magazine is here to support your preparation month by month.

We hope this helps you think clearly, prepare smartly, and move one step closer to your goal.

Thank you,
The ACHIEVERS' IAS ACADEMY, PATNA Team



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Men's Asia Cup Hockey Tournament

- ❖ It is a quadrennial event
- ❖ It was first played in 1982
- ❖ Scheduled in 2025 : 27 August - 7 September
- ❖ It will be held In Rajgir, Bihar.
- ❖ A total of 8 countries will participate in this :-
6 countries- India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia while 2 teams will participate through the qualifying tournament AHF Cup.
- ❖ Winner of the last tournament (2022) : South Korea (Winner of most of titles-5)
- ❖ This tournament will be a qualifying event for the 16th FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, 2026. The winner of this tournament will get a direct entry in the World Cup to be held in Belgium and Netherlands.
- ❖ Hockey World Cup was first conceived by Pakistan's Air Marshal Nur Khan and the inaugural World Cup was held in 1971
- ❖ Most frequent winner : Pakistan (4 Times)

Total toll plazas on NH in Bihar

- ❖ Total number of Highways toll plazas in Bihar – 39 (Total number of Toll Plazas in India : 1044)
- ❖ NHAI earns around 100 crore rupees per month from Bihar in the form of Toll Tax.
- ❖ Most number of vehicles pass through the following toll plazas in Bihar:-
 - Didarganj, Patna – 25,000 per day
 - Mohania – 20,000 per day

Beggar Welfare in Bihar

- ❖ Under the Mukhyamantri Bhikshavritti Nivaran Yojana, a welfare scheme of the Bihar Govt. 9,226 beggars have been rescued from begging.
- ❖ Out of these, 1873 have also been provided permanent employment.
- ❖ For elderly and disabled beggars, facility of beggar rehabilitation homes are provided .
- ❖ Male and female service kutirs have been set up for their counselling.

Increase in the number of Indians seeking asylum in the US

- ❖ This number was 9,000 in 2018, which increased to 51,000 in 2023.

SC: Bulldozing 6 houses in UP inhumane

- ❖ In its decision on 1 April 2025, the Supreme Court termed the demolition of 6 houses by the Prayagraj Development Authority, in 2021, with a bulldozer, as “inhumane and unlawful”.
- ❖ SC commented that authorities must keep in mind that right to shelter” is an integral Part of Article 21.



India's foreign debt

- ❖ India's foreign debt has reached \$717.9 billion by the end of December 2024.

The issue of defense technology transfer by India to Russia

- ❖ A report published in the US New York Times said that during the sanctions imposed on Russia by the European Union in the light of the Russia-Ukraine war, India transferred critical Sensitive Technology provided to HAL by British aerospace manufacturer H. R. Smith Group to Russia, which is a violation of the MoU.
- ❖ India is a member signatory to
 - ✓ International conventions on disarmament and non-proliferation Such as –
 - (i) chemical weapons convention (CWC)
 - (ii) Biological weapons convention (BWC)
 - ✓ India is also member of major multilateral export control regimes.
 - (i) The Missile Technology control Regime (MTCR)
 - (ii) the Wassenaar Arrangement on munitions and military items.
 - (iii) Australia Group on biological and chemical items
- ❖ In view of all these, India maintains a list for export control under Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment's and Technologies (SCOMET).
- ❖ There are 8 categories under SCOMET.
- ❖ Authorisation for export of items given in the Munitions list under Category 6 is given by the Department of Defence Productions.
- ❖ The following measures are taken to further control defence products exports –
 - (1) The defence Products list requiring industrial licences has been rationalized and the manufacture of most of the parts or components does not require an industrial licence.
 - (2) A defence production and Export policy has been formulated
 - (3) A defence Export Promotion scheme was launched in 2018 to promote make in India Products
 - (4) A complete end-to-end online portal for receiving and processing export authorisation permission has been developed.

Expulsion of Afghans from Pakistan

- ❖ Pakistan will expel 30,00,000 Afghans from the country.

Arctic Region

- ❖ Factors due to which significance of Arctic is increasing
 - i. Climate change ice melting.
 - ii. New strategic opportunities emerging.
 - iii. Untapped reserves of natural resources such as fossil fuels, rare Earth element, Phosphates and Copper.
 - iv. Lucrative fishing grounds.
- ❖ The resources of the Arctic region were not accessible till recent due to ice. But now they are becoming accessible due to melting of ice.



- ❖ The Arctic located at the South Pole is de-militarised and environmentally protected by a dedicated international treaty.
- ❖ The Arctic is mainly governed by the UN convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- ❖ Due to this, various countries have been claiming some of the areas and can establish military bases.
- ❖ Various islands in the Arctic are controlled by 8 the ARCTIC COUNCIL countries:-
 - i. Canada
 - ii. Denmark
 - iii. Finland
 - iv. Iceland
 - v. Norway
 - vi. Sweden
 - vii. Russia
 - viii. USA
- ❖ India has an observer status in the ARCTIC COUNCIL
- ❖ US Pituffik Military base.
- ❖ There has also been a dispute between Canada and USA regarding “Northwest Passage”.
 - North West Passage is a potential Arctic shipping route that winds through Canada Arctic Archipelago.
 - Canada considers it part of its internal waters, while Washington considers it to be under international jurisdiction.
 - Canada considers it part of its internal waters, while Washington considers it under international jurisdiction.
- ❖ There are many areas of the Arctic which have been disputed -
 - i. Norway's Arctic island of Svalbard (Russia says it should fall under its own control)
 - ii. GIUK (Greenland – Iceland – UK) gap
 - iii. A critical choke point for NATO's Naval defences.
 - iv. Russia claims it's own right over it.
- ❖ Arctic region hold 13% of the world's undiscovered oil reserves and 30% of untrapped natural gas reserves.
- ❖ It has richest deposit of rare Earth elements.
- ❖ The melting of Arctic sea ice has also prompted interest into the opening of new commercial trade routes.
- ❖ The North East Passage, which never along Russia's Arctic coast is particularly critical for Chinese trade.
- ❖ This route, stretching from the Bering straight to Norway, could reduce the maintime distance between East Asia and Europe by approximately 8000 km compared to the traditional route through the Suez Canal. Navigating commercial shipping through this passage could save Beijing billions in transportation costs.
- ❖ In future it could be a Polar Silk Road
- ❖ China calls itself “near Arctic state”.



HADR Exercise

- ❖ HADR stands for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise. It is India-US tri-service.
- ❖ Its fourth edition is scheduled to take place from 1st April to 13 on India's eastern coast..
 - It is named as a Tiger Triumph.

Marine Le Pen's disqualification

- ❖ Marine Le Pen's disqualification and her 20 associates have also been found guilty for embezzlement for misappropriating over 4 million pound .
- ❖ The court has said that all these people were guilty of using the money given by the European Parliament to pay the workers of their party in France.
- ❖ The name of Le Pen's party is "National Rally" (It is called Rassemblement National in French.)
 - It was founded on 5 Oct 1972. From its inception till 2018, it was known as National Front.
- ❖ They are considered as a right wing party.

'Liberation Day' of the USA

- ❖ USA Preident Mr. Trump has marked 2nd April as America's 'Liberation Day'.
- ❖ The Reciprocal Tariff imposed by Trump on various countries will come into effect only on 2nd April 2025.

Second largest collection of GST

- ❖ India's total gross collection of GST in March 2025 was Rs 1.96 lakh crore.
- ❖ In this, GST collection from domestic transactions was Rs 1.49 lakh crore while revenue from imported goods was Rs 46.919 crore.
- ❖ Break-up of gross GST collected in March 2025:
 - CGST = Rs 38,145 crore
 - SGST = Rs 49,891 crore
 - IGST = Rs 95,853 crore
 - Cess = Rs 12,253 crore
- ❖ After adjusting for refunds, the net GST collection in March 2025 stood at Rs 1.76 lakh crore, showing a growth of 7.3% year-on-year.

Gross GST collection in 2024 – 25

- ❖ Gross GST collection in FY 2024 – 25 was Rs 22.08 lakh crore, which shows a growth of 9.4% compared to the previous financial year.

Defence Export @ 2024 - 25

- ❖ Defence Exports in FY 2024 - 25 = Rs 23,622 crore
- ❖ (This shows a growth of 12.04% over the previous financial year, i.e. an increase of Rs 2539 crore)
- ❖ India aims to increase India's defence exports to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029.
- ❖ In this defence export :
 - Defence Public Sector Undertakings = Rs 15,233 crore
 - Private Sector = Rs 8,389 crore



Only 6 Naxal districts in India

❖ According to the Union Home Minister, in India, there are only 6 districts which are most affected by Left Wing Extremism(LWE) –

State	Districts
1. Chhattisgarh	Kanker
	Bijapur
	Narayanpur
	Sukma
2. Jharkhand	West singhbhum
3. Maharashtra	Gadchiroli

Mr. Trump targets Greenland

❖ 5 important factors due to which Trump target Greenland -

1. 11th largest territory in the world
2. world's largest National Park
3. a sizable military base operated by US.
4. Danes as only 8% of population
5. 95% of its people living along this coast

Annual Turnover of Amul

❖ In FY 25, the turnover of Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation - GCMMF) was Rs. 65,911 crore (i.e 7.75 b.USD)

Waqf Amendment Bill

- ❖ Waqf Amendment Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 8 August, 2024
- ❖ Waqf Property are defined as those properties which are dedicated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law are called wakf properties. These properties can not be put on sale.
- ❖ Waqf is an Arabic word. It is a type of property.
- ❖ The literal meaning of this word is “prohibition” or “to stop or hold something steady”. Waqf properties also cannot be sold, transferred or gifted.
- ❖ Waqf Board has been established to look after Waqf properties.
- ❖ There is one Central Waqf Board and 32 State Boards in the country.
- ❖ Central Waqf Board was formed in 1964. Minority Welfare Minister is its ex-officio Chairman.
- ❖ Wakf Board is a statutory body. Central Wakf Board (Central Wakf Council) is a statutory body under the Wakf Board Act 1954.





- ❖ However, Waqf Board Act 1954 has been repealed. In its place Wakf Board Act 1995 is in force.
- ❖ There are 9.4 lakh acres of land in the country and 8.7 lakh properties are with the Waqf Board.
- ❖ In Bihar, Sunni Waqf Board has about 2900 properties and Shia Waqf Board has 327 properties.
- ❖ The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 provides for renaming the Waqf Act, 1995 as the Unified Waqf Management Empowerment Efficiency and Development Act, 1995 (UMEED).

The Waqf Bill has been referred to the concerned JPC

- ❖ On 8 August the Bill was referred to the JPC
- ❖ JPC consisted of the total 31 MPs including 3 MPs are from Bihar .
- ❖ (1) Sanjay Jaiswal (BJP) (2) Dileshwar Kamat (JDU) (3) Arun Bharti (LSP(R))
- ❖ Before this, JPCs were constituted to study the following Bills/issues-
 - (1) Forest Conservation Amendment Bill 2023
 - (2) Multi State Co-operative Society Amendment Bill 2022
 - (3) Jan Vishwas Amendment and Provisions Bill 2022
 - (4) Biological Diversity Amendment Bill 2021
 - (5) Personal Data Protection Bill 2019
 - (6) Bofors (1987)
 - (7) Harshad Mehta Stock Market Scam
 - (8) Ketan Parekh Share Market Scam 2001
 - (9) Soft Drink Pesticide Issue 2003
 - (10) Land Acquisition 2015
 - (11) VVIP helicopter scam 2013
 - (12) 2G spectrum case 2011
- ❖ The JPC report on Waqf was tabled in both houses of Parliament on 13 February 2025.

Waqf Bill passed by Parliament

- ❖ The Waqf Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on 3 April 2025 at 2 am and in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th April 2025.
- ❖ In Lok Sabha it was passed with a margine of 56 votes as it received 288 votes in favour and 232 against while in Rajya Sabha it was passed with a majority of 33 votes as it got 128 votes in favour and 95 votes against it with no abstention.
- ❖ After the President's approval on 5 April 2025, it became an Act (a law).
- ❖ Its name is- Unified Waqf Management Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) Act.

Monasteries / Temples in Bihar

- ❖ Total number of monasteries - temples in the state (Bihar) = 5777
- ❖ How much land do they have- 28,672 acres of land
- ❖ Total registered monasteries - temples = 2499



- Registered monasteries - land near temples = 18,456 acres
- Total non-registered monasteries - temples = 2512
- Non-registered monasteries - land near temples = 4,321 acres

An estimate of Monasteries / Temples in Bihar

- Total number of monasteries - temples in the state (Bihar) = 5777
- How much land they have - 28,672 acres
- Total registered monasteries - temples = 2499
- Registered monasteries - land with temples = 18,456 acres
- Total non-registered monasteries - temples = 2512
- Land held by non-registered monasteries - temples = 4,321 acres

Trump imposed 26% tariff on India

- ❖ Trump imposed 26% tariff on India on 2 April.
- ❖ Tariffs imposed on other countries-
- ❖ Vietnam = 46%, Cambodia = 49%, Indonesia = 32%, Brazil and Singapore = 10%, 31% on Switzerland.

March 2025: PMI 8-month High

- ❖ In March 2025, seasonally adjusted Purchasing Manager Index (PMI) reached at 58.1 which is 8-month High level.
- ❖ In India, PMI is published by HSBC in collaborations with S & P Global to compile the data.

Myanmar earthquake 2025

- ❖ Its centre was in central Myanmar, located 20 Km away from Mandalay, the second largest city of Myanmar.
 - Mandalay is on the eastern coast of the Irrawaddy river.
 - The entire region is located on one of the highly seismically active faults called Sagaing fault.
- ❖ The earthquake had a magnitude of 7.7 at 12.50 pm (local time) on 28 March.
 - Just 11 minutes after the main incident, another earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 occurred.
- ❖ The death toll from this earthquake could reach 10,000.
- ❖ The depth of the source of this earthquake was 10 Km, which also caused heavy damage.
- ❖ South Asia, including Myanmar, is highly prone to earthquakes due to its proximity to the complex assemblage of some of the largest tectonic features on Earth, including Himalayas, The Shillong Plateau, the southern Indo-Burman Range and the Andaman and Nicobar subduction zone.
- ❖ Originating from the collisions of the Indian and The Eurasian plates some 40 million years ago, the Plate boundary is south east Asia is an active tectonic feature that generated one of the largest earthquakes in History of magnitude 9.2 and a transcontinental tsunami in 2004.
- ❖ Tectonic stresses in the plates of this region are the cause of earthquakes.
- ❖ The 1792 earthquake of magnitude 8.5 was also a great megathrust earthquake with its epicentre being the Arakan coast of Myanmar



- ❖ This seismic event caused a tsunami in the Northern Bay of Bengal and also resulted in widespread soil liquefaction in the Chittagong region of Bangladesh.
- ❖ The Large Thrust fault extends up to the Chittagong-Tripura fold belt where moderate intensity earthquakes occur occasionally.
- ❖ Southeast Asia is a tectonic museum that exhibits structure that host earthquakes of varying faulting mechanisms, occurring at depths ranging from as shallow as 5 km to 200 - 400 km.
- ❖ The deeper ones occur in the southern regions closer to Indonesia or the Indo-Burmese regions in the north, bordering the subduction front along the Indo-Eurasian plates. The 2025 Mandalay earthquake in Central Myanmar was sourced from within the continental part of the mountain range. In the tectonics of mountain range. In the tectonics of mountains building, such features develop when sediment piles up and rocks are scraped off from the subducting Indian plate, which get plastered onto the overriding Asian plate.

What is the geodynamic context of the Sagaing fault?

- ❖ Because of the complex interplay of plate motions and the resulting geodynamics in the eastern margin of the Indian Ocean the north-east directed convergence of the India and Eurasia plates takes place in a slanted fashion rather than happening head on. This oblique convergence of the plate causes the overall strain to become partitioned, with the part of deformation being perpendicular to the plate boundary and the other part occur in parallel within the interiors. The north-south running sagaing fault forms the tectonic boundary between the Central Myanmar Lowlands and the Indo-Burman Range. An elongated micro-tectonic block that exist between the Indian plate and the Sagaing fault is the commonly called the Burma plate or the Burma silver. It owes its origin to the strain partitioning occurring at the subduction front.
- ❖ Studies have revealed that this fault, with its subsidiary parallel structures, accommodates much of the strike-slip part of the oblique convergence, with a slip rate of 15-25 mm a year and a accumulated slippage age of 100-700 km. The Sagaing fault accommodates about 50-55% of the overall plate motion in the region. Unlike the vertical motions of fault blocks along the frontal part of the convergence zone, where one tectonic block is pushed up on the other, the movement is horizontal on the Sagaing fault, with the blocks sliding past each other. The San Andreas fault in the Western U.S. is another such example. Unlike thrust faults, where earthquakes originate at either shallow or deeper sources, earthquakes on strike-slips faults are almost always (10-15 km).
- ❖ Classified as a typical ridge-trench transform fault, the Sagaing fault system runs 1,400 km between the spreading centre under the Andaman sea in the south to eastern Himalaya bend in the north. It has a long history of earthquakes. Moderate and occasional strong earthquakes of magnitudes 7 and above are common in central Myanmar, where six strong quakes of 7.0 magnitude or more struck between 1930 and 1956 along the Sagaing fault or an adjacent structure. Analyses of historical earthquakes have revealed that about half of Sagaing fault has ruptured in the last few decades. Thus, the 2025 earthquake is not a surprise even but a part of the earthquakes occurring sequentially on this structure to release the accumulating stresses from the ongoing active plate interactions.



What does the mandalay Earth portend

- ❖ Historical records support the occurrence of an earthquake in 1839, called the Ava earthquake, that killed more than 500 people in Central Myanmar. This event may have originated on one of the segments of the sagaing fault with a hypothesised magnitude of 7.8. Equally interesting is the earthquake of 1927, reportedly felt strongly north of Yangon, Myanmar's largest city with the current population of more than four million people. Records also indicate that an earthquake occurred in 1946, possibly on the Sagaing fault north of Mandalay and with a magnitude of 7.7 like that of the 2025 temblor.
- ❖ The historic city of Bagan in Central Myanmar, densely packed with religious monuments, has also been subjected to several damaging earthquakes. The latest one to hit this town was in 2016.
- ❖ Science helps us understand the process behind earthquakes and provides approximate locations of future earthquakes and their possible magnitudes. The Sagaing fault is not merely a scientific curiosity: it has a tragic impact on the millions who live with the restless fault beneath their feet. Myanmar is struggling to cope with the aftermath of the latest earthquake, with a rising death toll and extensive damage to infrastructure, both complicated by the ongoing civil war.
- ❖ The 2025 Mandalay earthquake suit serve as a warning to India. As the country most prone to earthquakes in South Asia, India should introduce scientifically tested safety measures and procedures to mitigate the impact of earthquakes.

C.P. Rajendran is an adjunct professor at the National institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. This article benefited from the paper by Yu Wang et al., published in JGR Solid Earth on March 15, 2014.

6th BIMSTEC Summit

- ❖ BIMSTEC: - The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- ❖ It was established on 6 June 1997
- ❖ It's members are 7 Countries- Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan. These countries connect South Asia and South East Asia.
- ❖ Date- 4th April 2025
- ❖ Place- Thailand (Bangkok)
- ❖ It is the first summit in the physical format since the end of the pandemic (last summit in the physical format was 4th Summit held in Kathmandu in 2018).
- ❖ This year's theme- "Prosperous, Resilient and Open BIMSTEC".
- ❖ It adopted the declaration of 5th BIMSTEC.
- ❖ As its outcome "vision 2030" Document"
 - ✓ Main focal Points - Economic Integration Resilience to global challenges Collaboration in Infrastructure and technology
 - ✓ PM of India's 21 point Action Plan on BODHI Programme.
 - ✓ BIMSTEC for Organised Development of Human Resource Infrastructure for skill development.
 - ✓ Cancer care capacity building in the BIMSTEC Region
- ❖ Population of BIMSTEC countries = 1.7 billion (22% of total world population)
GDP = 5.2 trillion USD.
- ❖ BIMSTEC acts as a bridge between SAARC and ASEAN countries of South East Asia.
- ❖ BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce and work on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway that will connect India's North-east region.



Anti-Trump judge wins in Wisconsin state of America

- ❖ In a high profile contest, Susan Crawford, candidate for judge in the Supreme Court of Wisconsin state of America, won by defeating Trump-backed candidate Brad Schimel.
- ❖ Musk had also spent a lot of money in this election.

US Senator Cory Booker

- ❖ Cory Anthony Booker- He is a Senator from New Jersey of the Democratic Party of America (since 2013).
- ❖ He has recently come into the limelight globally because he gave a marathon speech in the 100 member US Senate from 7:00 P.M. on 31 March 2025 to 8:06 P.M. on 1 April 2025. (25 hours and 5 minutes long)
- ❖ He continuously spoke about the work done by Biden government and the fatal decisions taken by Trump.
- ❖ Before him, Strom Thurmond had given a speech of 24 hours and 18 minutes on the Civil Rights Act, of 1957.

Seven cities of Bihar included in UDAAN scheme

- ❖ In the 15th Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) meeting of the Aviation Ministry of the Central Government, it has been decided to connect seven cities of Bihar under the UDAN scheme.
- ❖ These seven cities are - Madhubani, Birpur, Saharsa, Munger, Valmiki Nagar, Purnia and Muzaffarpur.
- ❖ It must be noted that Darbhanga was the first city of Bihar to be included in UDAAN.

Tikuli Painting

- ❖ Tikuli painting is type of painting in Bihar.
- ❖ The history of Tikuli art is believed to be around 2500 years old.
- ❖ Traditionally it is painted on Lead (shisha), came in news as recently it was painted on a 24 inch long and 12 inch wide MDF board.
- ❖ The US imposing a tariff of 27% on India will affect the export of artifacts related to this art.
- ❖ During Asiad Games in 1982, Indira Gandhi presented Tikuli painting to all the players as a souvenir. 20,000 paintings were prepared for 5000 players.
- ❖ In 1995, this art gained momentum with the support of Union Ministry of Industry and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ❖ Its annual turnover is around Rs. 9 - 10 crores.

Bihar disbursed 99.21% amount in FY 25

- ❖ In the financial year 2025, 99.21% i.e. 276522 crores were spent by the Bihar government against the total bumper amount of Rs 2,78,725 crore.
- ❖ It shows financial effectiveness of the State govt. and it is a record for the State Govt..



Actor Manoj Kumar died

- ❖ Legend film actor died on 4 April 2025.
- ❖ His original name was Harikrishna Goswami
- ❖ He was born on 24 July 1937
- ❖ Birth place- Abbottabad (Khyber Pakhtunwa, Pakistan)
- ❖ Became famous as Bharat Kumar from the film "Upkaar"
- ❖ First big film: Hariyali Aur Raasta

Budget Session of Parliament

- ❖ During the Budget Session of Parliament (31 January – 4 April 2025), in total 16 bills were passed.
- ❖ Total meetings = 26
- ❖ Total productivity 118%

South Korea's President removed

- ❖ The eight-member bench of the Supreme Court of South Korea has given its consent to the process and decision to remove South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol from office through impeachment.
- ❖ Now he has been formally removed from the post.

Dancing Dust

- ❖ It is the name given by scientists to the picture of the interaction of two tornadoes sent from Mars Planet by NASA's Rover named Perseverance.
- ❖ The first tornado was 210 feet wide and 1300 feet high and it was moving at a speed of 1 meter per second.
- ❖ The smaller tornado was 16 feet wide and 1300 feet high.
- ❖ In this, the bigger tornado appears to be swallowing the smaller tornado.

China's restriction on exports of REE

- ❖ China's commerce ministry also said that it will enforce export Controls on rare earths, which are materials used in high-tech products such as computer chips and EV batteries.
- ❖ Samarium and its compounds are included in this list. These are used in the aerospace manufacturing and defence.
- ❖ One another element gadolinium is used in MRI Scan.
- ❖ The US accounts for about 18% of India's total goods exports.

Tulip bulbs in India

- ❖ India imports around 20-25 lakh tulip bulbs and cut flowers and annually, primarily from Netherlands.



America-China see-saw in trade

- ❖ Currently, USA is the importer of 13% of the world's manufactured goods.
- ❖ China has the largest share in global trade (13 – 15%) while America has around 10%.

Global South

- ❖ Global South is a coalition of nations from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- ❖ It is often referred as a new third world nations , mainly the developing Nations.
- ❖ Countries of Global South can play a neutral role in Russia-Ukraine peace.

India's significance in UN International peacekeeping

- ❖ More than 5000 Indian Peacekeepers are deployed in nine of the eleven active peace operations of the UN.
- ❖ In 2007, India became the first country to deploy an all-woman police contingent to a peacekeeping missions, in war-torn Liberia.
- ❖ More than 160 Indian peacekeepers have paid the ultimate price serving under the UN flag so far the highest number of for any troop contributing country.

"Hands Off!" Protest

- ❖ This protest started in America on 5 April 2025 against the decisions taken by Trump at the beginning of his second term.
- ❖ This protest was carried out by thousands of people in all 50 states of America. About 4 to 6 lakh people have shown interest in it. 1200 demonstrations in all 50 states by 150 groups. Trump as well as Elon Musk are being targeted in this.
- ❖ In its initial phase, it will be organized at large places like National Mall in Washington DC, city centers of states. The protesters allege that the decision of Trump and Musk to close many institutions as the head of DOGE, There is a lot of anger over the administration's cuts which have led to the loss of thousands of jobs. Opponents are also angry about deep cuts in Social Security and health programs.
- ❖ People from the LGBTQ+ community are also participating in it. Labour Unions, civil rights organisations, advocates. These protests are also taking place outside the US in London and Barcelona. People from France, Mexico and Portugal are also participating. In the US, such protests were led by women in 2017 and in 2020 in the form of the Black Lives Matter movement.
- ❖ They say that whatever they want, they are taking it back and are asking the world to stop them. This does not work. Hands off our democracy, Hands off our Social security.

Hands off our rights

- ❖ They have three main demands –
Bad to the billionaire take over and rampant Corruption of the trump administration
End to slashing federal funds for medicaid, social security and people centre programmes.
End to attacks on immigrant, transgender and other communities



- ❖ Social security = 73 million Americans were benefitted
- ❖ Climate
- ❖ Palestinian – Mahmoud Khalil

POEM-4

- ❖ ISRO's PSLV Orbital Platforms Experiment Module (POEM-4) re-entered the Earth's atmosphere. (for detail, see: January magazine 2025)

Indian PM's Srilanka visit

- ❖ India's Prime Minister Mr. Modi was on the visit of Srilanka on 5-6 April 2025.
- ❖ A total of 10 agreements were signed during the official visit of the Indian PM to Srilanka.
- ❖ Out of these, 7 MOUS were signed
 - (1) For the implementation of HVDC interconnection for import/export of power (GOI-GOSL)
 - (2) On cooperation in the field of sharing Successful digital solutions implemented at population scale for digital transformation (India's MoETT-SL's digital Economy min
 - (3) For cooperation in the development of Trincomalee as an energy hub. (GoI, GoSL, Govt. of UAE)
 - (4) On defence cooperation
 - (5) MoU on multi sectoral grant assistance for Eastern Province of Srilanka
 - (6) on cooperation in the field of health and medicine.
 - (7) On Pharmacopoeia cooperation

❖ Projects

- (1) Inauguration of Upgraded railway track of mahoomanthai railway line
- (2) Foundation was laid of the Signalling System for Maho-Anuradhapura railway line
- (3) Virtual Inauguration of Sampur Solar Power Project
- (4) Inauguration of Temperature controlled agricultural warehouse in Dambulla (virtual)
- (5) Supply of solar rooftop systems for 500 religions institutions, across Srilanka (virtual)

❖ Important declartions

- (1) Capacity building training to 700 persons of Srilanka per year
 - (2) Grant assistance for the development of Thiru kones waram temple in Trincomalee, Satha Eliya temple is Nuwara Eliya and sacred city Complex project in Anuradhapura.
 - (3) The exposition of relics of lord Buddha from Gujarat in Srilanka on international Vesak Day 2025
 - (4) Conclusion of bilateral amendatory agreements on debt restructuring.
- ❖ Srilanka is included in the MAHASAGAR
 - ❖ First Indian leader to be conferred with Mitra Vibhushan award (Srilanka's highest bestowed on I foreign leaders)
 - ❖ India's first vertical lift sea bridge in Rameswaram - inaugurated by pm on 5 April 2025.



Scenario of Electricity production in Bihar

- ❖ At present, a total of 8850 MW electricity is being produced from power plants located in Bihar.
- ❖ 4 new power generation units will be started this year

Unit/place	Production capacity	Allotment for Bihar
(1) Third unit of Barh Thermal stage-I	660 MW	401 MW
(2) North Karnpura, Tandwa, hatara, Jharkhand	660 MW	297 MW
(3) Buxar, Chausa	1. 660 MW 2. 660 MW	1. 561 MW 2. 561 MW

- ❖ That is, in 2025, Bihar's electricity quota will increase by 1820 MW.
- ❖ Currently, Bihar gets 7000 MW of electricity every day, out of which 6000 mw is obtained from the central quota.
- ❖ The rest of the electricity has to be procured from the open market.

Bihar's first foreign post office

- ❖ Bihar's first Foreign Post Office is being started in Patna GPO
- ❖ With this, the entire process of custom clearance for sending products abroad by small and micro entrepreneurs of Bihar will be completed at Patna GPO itself and these products can be sent abroad through parcel from here.
- ❖ Earlier, custom clearance had to be taken from Delhi or Kolkata.

Number of IIT institutes in India

- ❖ Total number of IIT institutes is 23.

Imports of the USA

- ❖ In the year 2023, the total purchase of manufactured goods in the US economy was 370 trillion dollars.
- ❖ Out of this, 48% was of imported goods.
- ❖ Items with highest share of imported materials
 1. Textiles, leather and allied products = 89%
 2. Computers and electronic products = 71%
 3. Electrical equipment, components and appliances = 66%.

India delivers @ operation BRAHMA

- ❖ 44.2 tonnes of food
- ❖ India along with other QUAD partner countries committed aid worth 20 million USD as part of Quake response.



Ream Naval Base-Cambodia

- ❖ It has been in the news because the US has said that this base has been established by China on Cambodia's Southern coast in the Gulf of Thailand. This location is near the disputed South China Sea and will give China a strategic advantage.
- ❖ Stability is most important in Nepal
- ❖ 6 lakh people from Nepal left the country in 2024 and went to Malaysia, South Korea and Gulf countries in search of employment.
- ❖ In 2023, Nepal received 11 billion USD in the form of remittances. (This is 25% of Nepal's GDP.
- ❖ In 2022-23, 64% of Nepal's trade was with India (worth 8.85 billion USD)

SC's historic decision on the duties of the Governor

- ❖ On 8 April 2025, the Supreme Court gave a historic decision on the petition of the Tamil Nadu government (Stalin) and gave the following important decisions regarding the Governor -
 - (1) The Governor should act as per the Constitution. Not as per the wishes of the parties.
 - (2) The Governor has no veto power.
 - (3) SC sets a time limit of 1 to 3 months for Governor to take action on future Bills.
 - (4) SC also deemed 10 Bills re-passed by state governments as "receiving Governor's assent" and sent to Governor by Governor to President.
 - (5) SC also declared void the President's assent on 10 Bills in which President had assented to only one of those 10 Bills, rejected 7 Bills and did not consider the other 2
 - (6) Governor should act as a friend, guide and philosopher of the state and not as a hindrance.
 - (7) SC said that "A Governor is envisaged as a Sagacious Councellos" but in this case the opposite is visible.
 - (8) SC called the governor as a "roadblock" for his delaying actions.
 - (9) SC said that Governor has a maximum of one month to withhold assent on the aid and advice of the state cabinet.
 - (10) The SC also said that if the Governor returns a Bill to the state Assembly for the first time without reserving it "for the consideration of the President" and when the same Bill is passed by the Assembly for the second time and sent to the Governor, So the Governor cannot send those bills for the consideration of the President for the second time.
- ❖ If he withholds assent contrary to the cabinet's advice, he has a maximum of three months to return the Bill with a message specifying his reasons.
- ❖ The Governor has three months to reserve a Bill for the President's consideration against the advice of the state Cabinet.
- ❖ The Governor "must grant assent to the Bill repassed by the state legislature under Article 200 within a maximum of one month.
- ❖ SC said that the Governor does not have an "absolute or pocket veto".
- ❖ "Governors Cannot withhold assent Simpliter [in a Summary manner]."
- ❖ 10 laws implemented in Tamil Nadu on the orders of Supreme Court without the approval of Governor or President.
- ❖ The 10 laws regarding which SC had given orders on April 8 have been implemented without the signature of the Governor or the President.
- ❖ These laws will be considered as laws from the date they are presented to the Governor for consideration.



- ❖ SC Bench - (J) J.P. Pardiwala, (J) R.Mahadevan
- ❖ Order - 415 pages
- ❖ SC has set a time limit for the Governor to act on the bills, give assent etc.
 - (1) Regarding reserving the bill for the President's consideration
 - (a) If done with the advice and consent of the State Cabinet, then the maximum time limit is 1 month
 - (b) If done against the advice of the State Cabinet, then the maximum period is 3 months
 - (2) Regarding returning it to the Legislative Assembly for reconsideration
 - (a) Maximum time limit - 3 months
 - (3) If sent to the Governor after reconsideration by the Legislative Assembly, then the time limit = 3 months.
- ❖ The so has reminded about the constitutional truth that the Governor of a state is neither an appendage of the Union nor an independent power Centre, but is Constrained by legal norms and democratic principles.

Case:

- ❖ The state government had sent 12 bills passed by the Legislative Assembly to the Governor, out of which 10 bills were returned by the Governor on 13 November 2023 without giving any reason and the remaining 2 bills were sent to the President.
- ❖ After getting it passed in the special session of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 18 November 2023, the government again sent these 10 bills to the Governor.
- ❖ SC used Article 142 - Complete Justice.

MUDRA loans

- ❖ Total 52 crore people were given loan
- ❖ Total amount = 33 lakh crore rupees
- ❖ SC, ST and OBC community people are 50% of its beneficiaries and the number of women beneficiaries is 70%.
- ❖ Penalty on illegal immigrants in America
- ❖ 998 dollars per day loan
- ❖ If not paid, property will be seized.

X-Y Disorder declared as rare disease

- ❖ The Central Health Ministry has declared 4 diseases including X-Y disorder in the rare category.
- ❖ Under this, free treatment of up to Rs 50 lakh is possible for the people suffering from this disease under the National Rare Disease Policy.
- ❖ In this, the X-Y chromosomes mix together, which leads to abnormal development of reproductive organs.
- ❖ In this, hyper insulin Hypoglycemia and mannosidosis are prominent.: Mannosidosis.

Number of people filing income tax returns

- ❖ During the year 2024-25, the number of people filing income tax returns was 9.19 crores.
- ❖ This number was 8.52 crores in 2023-24 and 7.78 crores in 2022-23.



Glide bomb "Gaurav"

- ❖ Gaurav is a 1000 kg class glide bomb, which has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO. Its release test was done between 8-10 April by dropping it from Su-30 MKI fighter jet.
- ❖ Its range was 100 km with a pin point accuracy.

US-China Tariff war

- ❖ April 2, 2025 liberation Day
- ❖ Trump imposed an additional 34% tariff on all chinese imports.
- ❖ April 4, 2025 - china responded with an additional 34 % on all Us Products
- ❖ April 7, 2025-Trump retaliated with 50% more tariff raising total tariffs on Chinese import to 104%.
- ❖ April 9, 2025 - China retaliated with an additional 50% tariff, raising total tariffs on us imports to 84%.
- ❖ April 9, 2025 - Trump once raised the total tariffs on Chinese Products to 145%.
- ❖ April 11, 2025 - china retaliated by hiking its total tariffs on us import to 125%
- ❖ Trump first imposed a 10% tariff on China on 1 February 2025, then imposed an additional 10% tariff on 4 March. That is, by the so-called Liberation Day, America had imposed a 20% tariff on China.
- ❖ On 11th April 2025, China announced that it will not increase tariffs on the US by 125% (even if the US increases it further) because that is enough to achieve the objective.

Tulsi Gabbard's view on EVM

- ❖ Tulsi Gabbard, Director of America's NIA (National Intelligence Agency), said in a US cabinet meeting convened by Donald Trump on April 10, 2025 that American EVMs are vulnerable to hacking and manipulation
- ❖ Although Gabbard's statement was in the context of America, it has had a worldwide impact.
- ❖ ECI has said in response that Indian EVMS is different from American EVMS. It is like a normal calculator which is not connected to private network internet, wifi or infrared etc. and cannot be operated by remote control.
- ❖ India-USA Import Export
- ❖ In the year 2024, India exported goods worth 77.51 billion USD to America.
- ❖ Whereas India's imports from America (in the year 2020) was 42.19 bUSD.
- ❖ Trade balance = 35 billion USD.

Pituffik commander fired

- ❖ After USA VP J.D. Vance's visit to Greenland, Col. Susan Meyers, head of the Pituffik US space force base in Greenland has been removed due to "loss of confidence in her ability to lead".

Trump to impose higher tariffs on Mexico

- ❖ Mexico and the USA have a dispute over the Colorado River.
- ❖ A treaty was signed between the two in 1944 to resolve this dispute.
- ❖ Trump has accused Mexico of violating this treaty.
- ❖ Said that if Mexico does not agree, tariffs and sanctions can be imposed on it.



Executions in Afghanistan

- ❖ On April 11, 2025, 4 people were publicly executed, which is the highest number of executions in a day in Taliban 2.0.
- ❖ 10 people have been executed since 2021
- ❖ All these executions orders are signed by Taliban's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Rapes in DR Congo

- ❖ After the capture of Goma by M23 in the eastern part of DR Congo, about 10,000 people were raped, out of which 35-45% are girls.
- ❖ According to an estimate, every half hour a girl is being raped there.

Women's Kabaddi World Cup

- ❖ It will be organized in the indoor hall of Rajgir Sports Complex between 1-10 June 2025.
- ❖ This competition is being organized in Bihar for the second time. Earlier it was organized in 2012 at Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna.
- ❖ For its organization, an MOU was signed between Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India and Bihar State Sports Authority (BSSA) on 12 April 2025.

Trump exempted laptops and mobiles from reciprocal tariff

- ❖ It will be known as 'Semiconductor Tariff'
- ❖ A type of reciprocal tariff to be imposed by Trump on the computers, Mobile Phones and other electronic goods.
- ❖ Also known as "special Import duty

Madhubani Painting

- ❖ It has 5 distinct styles -
(1) Bharni (2) Kachni (3) Tantrik (4) Godna (5) Kohbar

World's tallest bridge

- ❖ Huajiang Grand canyon Bridge in China is the world's tallest bridge.
- ❖ It was inaugurated on 3 June 2025.

First Global Carbon Tax on shipping

- ❖ On 11 April, 2025, India and 62 other Countries voted in favour of the world's first ever global carbon tax imposed on the shipping industry by the shipping agency of the UN-International Maritime organisation (IMO) [HQ-London]
- ❖ It aims to reduce maritime greenhouse gas emission and promote cleaner technologies.
- ❖ This is for the first time global carbon tax has been imposed on an entire industry.



- ❖ ships will be charged based on the intensity of their emissions for example, vessels using Conventional fuel in 2028 would pay per tonne for the most polluting Position of their emissions and 100 USD per tonne for other emissions that exceeds defined thresholds.
- ❖ It will be started from 2028. After its imposition, ships will have to shift to lower emission or Pay a fee for pollutions they generate.
- ❖ The tax could generate upto 40 billion USD by 2030.
- ❖ Oil rich nations opposed this move.

Genome India Project Report

- ❖ The preliminary results of the Genome India Project were published in the journal "Nature Genetics" on 8 April 2025.
- ❖ This report is based on genetic information of 9772 individuals, including 4696 men and 5076 women.
- ❖ In January 2020, a human genome study of 10,000 individuals was launched, funded by the Department of Biotechnology.
- ❖ Phenotype data of 20,000 people and DNA samples of 10074 people were taken. (Two populations were removed from this due to which only 9772 remained)
- ❖ Many organizations are involved in this such as –
 - (1) Center for Brain Research at IISc. Bengaluru
 - (2) The center for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad.
 - (3) Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology in Delhi
 - (4) National Institute of Biomedical Genomics in Kolkata
 - (5) Gujarat Biotechnology Research Center in Gandhinagar

MAHASAGAR VISION

- ❖ “MAHASAGAR” stands for ‘Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions’
- ❖ It includes 10 countries:
- ❖ Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Shilanka, Tanzania
- ❖ Started in 2015

Budget of various Space Agencies of the World

- ❖ DOGE has recommended to reduce the budget of the NASA.
- ❖ NASA = 25.4 billion USD
- ❖ ISRO = 1.6 billion USD (Rs 13,416.2 crore)
- ❖ Chinese space agency = 15 billion USD
- ❖ ROSCOSMOS = Approx 1.6 billion USD...



Apple iPhone in India

- ❖ The Apple company assembles it's 20% of its iPhone in India.
- ❖ India contributes is 8% in the total sells of the company. In 2023-24, the company has sold phones worth \$8 billion in India.
- ❖ Foxconn has the largest i-Phone assembling plant in India in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Tata Group also plays a large role in iPhone assembling.

Anemia in India

- ❖ According to WHO, more than 53% of women in the age group of 6-59 months and 15-49 years in India suffer from anemia.
- ❖ According to the Nation Health Family Survey 2019-21, 57% of women in India suffer from anemia.
- ❖ India's Coal Imports
- ❖ During April 24 to February 2025, India "Coal imports dropped marginally by 1.4% to 240.77 million tonnes.

Multilateral Exercise AI-KEYME

- ❖ AI-KEYME = Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement
- ❖ It is a Large scale Multilateral exercise
- ❖ Its first inaugural edition started On 13 April (Sunday) off Daz-es-Salaam, Tanzania. It will continue till 18 April.
- ❖ It includes Participation from Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and south Africa alongside the co-hosts India and Tanzania
- ❖ This initiative aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for security and Growth Across Regions

Laser-DEW System of DRDO

- ❖ It is the Mk-II (A) Laser- Directed Energy weapon system.
- ❖ It masters the technology of disabling missiles, drones and smaller projectiles
- ❖ It was successfully tested by DRDO on 13 April (Sunday).
- ❖ Functioning of the system : once detected by a radar or by its inbuilt Electro optic (EO) System Laser-DEW can engage targets at the speed of light and use and intense laser beam to cut through the target, leading to structural failure or more impactful results if the warhead is targeted.

Electric Vehicles in Bihar

- ❖ Total number of EVs registered in Bihar in 2024-25 = 23,096 (Two wheelers = 22, 133 + Four wheelers =963)
- ❖ Overall growth in EVs in Bihar = 113% (Total registered Evs in 2023-24=10,850)
- ❖ Out of above growth in the two wheelers growth = 110.7% in 2024-25 growth in four wheelers = 175%



- ❖ The state govt policy and incentive are causes of growth
 - ✓ Tax exemption, incentives
 - ✓ Support for charging infrastructure.
- ❖ Bihar govts targets to EVs as 15% of total vehicle registration by 2028
- ❖ Top three districts in registration of EVs: Patna, Muzaffarpur East Champaran and Samastipur.

7th Khelo India Youth Games, Bihar 2025

- ❖ These games will be held in 5 districts of Bihar, Patna, Nalanda (Rajgir), Gaya, Bhagalpur and Begusarai between 4-15 May 2025.
- ❖ Its mascot was unveiled on 14 April 2025 by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in the presence of CM at BRT Patna.
- ❖ Its mascot is named “Gajsimha” which symbolizes the strength of an elephant and the heart of a lion. It is derived from the epigraphic heritage of the Pala dynasty of Nalanda and Bodh Gaya which is engraved on their temples and pillars.
- ❖ The logo of KIYG 2025 has been inspired from the rich cultural heritage of Bihar and its orange colour depicts enthusiasm and nature
- ❖ More than 8500 players will participate in this sports festival and 18 different events will be organized in it.
- ❖ The presence of Peepal tree, sparrow, Gangetic dolphin in Gaj Singh's design shows the conservation of nature by Bihar.
- ❖ It also has the map of Bihar, Ashok Chakra, Chhath Puja, Madhubani painting etc.

Sukanya accounts in Bihar

- ❖ The number of Sukanya accounts in Bihar is 22,61,582 in which Rs. 10801 crore is deposited.
- ❖ Bihar ranks sixth in terms of number of Sukanya accounts.
- ❖ Out of these accounts, 18,37,000 accounts are opened in post offices while the remaining 4,24,000 accounts are in banks.

Incident of lightning

- ❖ Incidents of lightning is fastly becoming a serious natural disaster in India & Bihar.
- ❖ In 2020-21, there were 9 lakh incidents of lightning in the country. In 2022-23, this number has reached 13 lakh.
- ❖ In 2022-23, 400 deaths have occurred in Bihar due to lightning.

Space flight only for women

- ❖ 6 women will travel to space in Jeff Bezos' space company Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket where they will stay for 11 minutes and then they will return to Earth.
- ❖ These women are-
 - (1) Lauren Sanchez (Jeff Bezos' fiancée)
 - (2) Katy Perry (Hollywood singer)
 - (3) Gayle King (journalist)



- (4) Karyn Flynn (film producer)
- (5) Amanda Nguyen (Human rights activist)
- (6) Ayesha Bowe (NASA scientist)
- ❖ The name of this project is NS-31.
- ❖ This rocket will reach a maximum altitude of 100 km from the earth (Kármán line - internationally recognized as the boundary of space)

The Golconda Blue Diamond

- ❖ It is a 23.24 carat sparkling blue diamond whose price is between Rs 300-400 crores.
- ❖ It used to be owned by the King of Indore and Baroda.
- ❖ Christie's company will auction Ramko on May 14.

Right to privacy as a fundamental Right

- ❖ Through the judgement. in the K.S. Puttaswamy (2017) the SC has established the right of Privacy as a fundamental right under article 21 of the constitution
- ❖ Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act (Digital Personal Data Protection Act) 2023 amends section 8 (I) (j) of the RTI Act 2005.

Decreasing population of Japan

- ❖ As of October 2024, the population of Japan was 120.3 million (12 crore 3 lakh). This shows a decrease of 8,98,000 from the previous year.
- ❖ Japan has a very low fertility rate. (1.2 per woman)

Women representatives in Bihar

- ❖ Out of 1,36,573 elected representatives in 8054 Panchayats, 71,046 are women which is 52%. At the national level, this percentage is 46.26%.
- ❖ In Vidhan Prabha - In the 243-member Bihar Legislative Assembly, there are 26 women MLAs which is 11%. At the national level, it is 09%.
- ❖ Legislative Council - 10 out of 75 are women - about 13%.
- ❖ Lok Sabha - 5 out of 40 (this is more than 10%) National Star = 74 (out of 543)
- ❖ Literacy - National level = 70.3%.
Bihar = 60.5%

Greenland

- ❖ Capital - Nuuk
- ❖ Situated between Arctic and Atlantic oceans.
- ❖ world's largest island.
- ❖ PM - Mette Frederiksen
- ❖ Total area = 21, 66,086 sq km.
- ❖ Population 56000 approx, out of this 20,000 Live in Nuuk



Retail Inflation

- ❖ Dipped to 3.34%. (in March 2025) It was 3.61%. in March Feb 2025)
- ❖ Rural = 3.25% in March from 3.79 is Feb.
- ❖ Urban = 3.43% in March from 3.32 is Feb.
- ❖ Retail Inflation in March 25 was lowest Since 2019 (August) when it was. 3.2%
- ❖ Last week, the RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points. At present it is 6.00%.
Reverse Repo rate = 3.35%.
- ❖ Gold Price on 15 April 2025 = 96,450 (All time high)
- ❖ March 2025 Import-Export
 - Imports = \$63.51 billion (11.3% increase)
 - Exports = \$41.97 billion (0.7% increase)
 - Trade deficit = \$21.54 billion
- ❖ Passenger vehicle sales in 2024-25 will be 43,01,848 units (number of vehicles) which shows a growth of 2%.
- ❖ In 2023-24, this sale was 42,18, 750 units.
- ❖ 65% of the total vehicles sold in 2024-25 were utility vehicles.

National Herald case

- ❖ The ED filed the chargesheet on 9 April 2025 in case related to the Associated Journals Limited (which owns the National Herald newspaper).
- ❖ The Complaint has been filed under Section 44 and 45 of the prevention of Laundering Act.
- ❖ In this case the accused are
 - (i) Sonia Gandhi (ii) Rahul Gandhi (iii) Sam Pitroda (iv) Suman Dubey etc.
- ❖ The ED probe had started in 2021 on a June 2014 order issued by on based metropolitan court on, Delhi a private complaint filed by Subramanian Swamy
- ❖ ED has so far (till 15th April) seized property worth Rs. 751.9 crores, out of which property worth Rs. 661.69 crores is said to be linked to AJL (Associated Journals Limited) and property worth Rs. 90.21 crores is said to be linked to Young Indian.
- ❖ AJL was given land by the government at concessional rates but in 2008 AJL stopped publishing and the property started being used commercially.
- ❖ ED alleges that Congress waived off the loan of Rs 90.21 crore given to AJL and handed it over to Young India for just Rs 50 lakh.
- ❖ After this, all the shares of Young India were given to the Gandhi family and their close associates. In this way, the Gandhi family took over the property of AJL.
- ❖ Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have 38-38% stake in Young India.
- ❖ In this way, AJL's assets worth about Rs 2000 crore came to the Gandhi family.
- ❖ National Herald newspaper was founded in 1938 by Jawahar Lal Nehru. It was published by AJL.
- ❖ Thus, the allegation is made (by Subramanian Swamy) that Young India Private Limited acquired AJL's assets worth more than Rs 2000 crore for just Rs 50 lakh. According to him, this case is a case of fraud and money laundering.
- ❖ AJL took an interest free loan of Rs 90.25 crore from Congress in 2010 to pay its applications and restart publication which was not repaid.



- ❖ A company Young Indian was formed in 2010 with a paid up capital of Rs 5 lakh.
- ❖ This company acquired all the shareholdings of AJL and its assets worth about Rs. 5000 crores.
- ❖ AJL - Unlisted Public Company Limited by shares incorporated on 20 nov. 1937
 - Registered office- Herald House, 5-A Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
 - But AJL was not a personal property of Nehru.
 - It was started with the support of 5000 freedom fighters who became its shareholders
 - AJL's capital of Rs. 5 lakh was divided into (i) 2000 preferential shares of Rs. 100 each and (ii) 30,000 ordinary shares of Rs. 10 each.
 - AJL's MOU IR was signed by Purushottam Das Tondon, Acharya Narendra Dev, Kailash Nath Katju, Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Govind Ballabh Pant
- ❖ AJL was not under the control of any individual and it had no business other than news
- ❖ According to the annual return filed with the Registrar of Companies, as on 29 Sep 2010, AJL had 1057 shareholders.
- ❖ Motilal Voza was its Chairman and MD since 22 March 2002
- ❖ Three newspapers were published by the AJL till 2008 -
 - (i) National Herald (English)
 - (ii) Qaumi Awaz (Urdu)
 - (iii) Navjeeven (Hindi)
- ❖ AJL also own real estate property-in-New Delhi, Lucknow, Bhopal, Mumbai Indore, Patna and Panchkula
- ❖ The cost of all these will be around 50 billion rupees (50 billion rupees or 580 million USD) Herald House is also its which is a 6 story building.
- ❖ On 21 January 2016, in the Lucknow meeting of AJL, it was decided to relaunch all three newspapers.
- ❖ Young Indian –
 - incorporated on 23 Nov 2010
 - A private company limited by guarantee
 - Capital 5 lakh
 - Reg-office- SA, Herald House, Bahadur Shah Jafar Marg, Delhi
 - On 13 Dec, 2010, Rahul Gandhi was appointed as its director
 - On 22 Jan 2011, Sonia Gandhi was also included in its Board of Directors.
 - shareholders Rahul Gandhi = 38%, Sonia = 38% Motilal Vohra = 12% Oscar Fernandez = 12%
- ❖ Young Indian was declared as Not for Profit company
- ❖ Case / Allegations:
 - On 1 November 2012, Swamy alleged –
 - (1) Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have grabbed land worth Rs 16 billion (190 million USD) of AJL through their company Young India.
 - (2) Through this they have also taken the publication rights of National Herald and Qaumi Awaz in Delhi and UP,
 - (3) The property which was acquired was given only for the purpose of printing the newspaper while the rent is being earned by letting it out.
 - (4) The transfer of Rs 90 crore loan taken by AJL from Congress on 26 February 2011 and all 9 crore shares of the company to Young Indian is illegal. Political Party cannot give loan for commercial purpose as per section 29A of Representation of the People's Act 1951 (also under section 13A of Income Tax Act 1961).



- ❖ Congress says that the loan was given to AJL without interest for the revival of the newspaper and not for commercial purposes.
- ❖ ED will confiscate assets worth Rs 752 crores belonging to AJL and Young Indian in 2023 and immovable assets worth Rs 661 crores on April 11, 2025.

Sudan's humanitarian crisis

- ❖ Fighting continues in Sudan between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Bushars and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, head of the notorious paramilitary force "Rapid Support Forces (RSF).
- ❖ Bushan's army currently occupies Khartoum and also controls the Red Sea city of Port Sudan.
- ❖ RSF has also occupied the western Darfur region. Here RSF is also trying to occupy EL Fashas (a strong area of Burhan's army). Both have declared parallel governments in the areas under their control.
- ❖ These two (Burhan and Dagalo) are fighting with each other right now but after 2019 they both reached a compromise.
- ❖ There was an opportunity in 2019 when civilian rule could be established in Sudan. That three dictatorial governments were abolished
- ❖ An internal interim government was formed under the leadership of the army chief Burhan at that time. After this, power was to be handed over to the civilian government but Burhan joined hands with Dagalo.
- ❖ Their alliance soon broke down and civil war started.
- ❖ Burhan accuses UAE of supporting RSF while Russia itself says Burhan's army receives support from Russia, Turkey, Iran and Qatar.
- ❖ Sudan-In Northeast Africa
- ❖ Populations = 50 million (5 crore)
- ❖ Area = 18,86,068 sq km.
= Third largest country by Area in Africa
- ❖ Largest Nation of Africa is Algeria (world's 10th)
- ❖ Capital of Sudan = Khartoum

Hydrogen factor in Net Zero Economy

- ❖ To achieve the goal of Net-Zero Economy, large scale electrification of "end uses of energy" is required.
- ❖ This means that the use of hydrogen will have to be started in all those places where fossil fuels have been used till now.
- ❖ Apart from electricity generation, fossil fuels are used in industrial processes "to provide heat" and "to provide molecules".
- ❖ The process "to provide molecules" refers to methods such as using carbon molecules from coal for the reduction of iron ore in the steel making process.
- ❖ This involves replacing fossil fuels with hydrogen.
- ❖ For this, nuclear energy will have to be added along with solar, wind and hydro power.
- ❖ Therefore, the Indian government has set a target of establishing 100 GW of installed capacity of nuclear power by 2047.



- ❖ The government is emphasizing on the use of electrolyzers in hydrogen production.
- ❖ The government has defined hydrogen produced by electrolyzers using electricity from solar and wind as green. Various incentives are also provided by the Government.
- ❖ A certification Scheme has also been drafted for green hydrogen, where electrolytic and biomass based hydrogen with CO_2 emission not exceeding 2 Kg $\text{CO}_2/\text{Kg H}_2$ on average is called green.

Exports of India (2024-25)

- ❖ In 2024-25
- ❖ Exports: Merchandise export = 437.42 bUSD
Service Export = 383.51 bUSD

820.93 bUSD
- ❖ Imports : Merchandise Imports = 720.24 bUSD
Service Imports =
194.95 bUSD

915.19 bUSD
- ❖ Trade balance (total-Merchandise + service) = - 94.26 bUSD

India's Gems and Jewellery Exports

- ❖ India's Gems and Jewellery exports grew by 11.72% or 28.5 billion USD in 2024-25.

Maldives bans Israeli Passport holders

- ❖ Maldives has banned the entry of Israeli passport holders in support of Palestine.
- ❖ This has no effect on the economy of Maldives as it is mainly based on tourism.
- ❖ Till 14 April 2025, 7,29,932 tourists have visited there this year. 11% of these tourists are from China (1st place).
- ❖ India ranks sixth.

SC's Interim Order on Waqf Act (Amendment)

- ❖ The new Waqf (Amendment) Act has been challenged in the Supreme Court through more than 70 petitions. (It came into force from April 5)
- ❖ These petitions are being heard by a bench of three judges in the Supreme Court, which includes – (i) CJI Sanjiv Khanna (ii) Sanjay Kumar and (iii) K-V. Vishwanathan.
- ❖ Hearing on this was held on 16th and 17th April
- ❖ Hearing was held for more than 2 hours on 6th April. Answer was sought from the government on the entire matter including issues like (1) Waqf by users (2) inclusion of non-Muslims.
- ❖ On April 17, the court gave the government 7 days to file its reply and passed a stay order that no new appointments should be made in the light of this new law until then.



Heritage Trees In Bihar

- ❖ 14 trees of Bihar which are 70 to 250 years old will be declared as heritage trees.
- ❖ These 14 trees have been selected from 1500 trees identified by Bihar Biodiversity Council.

SHGs in Bihar

- ❖ A report on SHGs as on 31 March 2024 has been released in April 2025 by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.
- ❖ According to this, the total number of SHGs in the country = 17.75 crores, out of which the number of SHGs in Bihar = 12.64 lakhs. On the basis of numbers, Bihar ranks third (1. Maharashtra-16.30 lakhs, 2. West Bengal-15-75 lakhs)
- ❖ Number of members in these SHGs of Bihar = 1.65 crore

52nd CJI

- ❖ Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai will take oath as 52nd CJI on 14 May 2025 after the current CJI Sanjiv Khanna retires on 13 May 2025.
- ❖ He will retire on 23 November 2025.
- ❖ Shri Gavai was appointed as Additional Judge of Bombay High Court on 14 November 2003.
- ❖ He is a Judge of Supreme Court since 24 May 2019.

Organic Product exports

- ❖ In 2024-25, India's Organic product exports rose to 666.96 million USD. (66.7 crore USD) from 494.8 million USD in 2023-24.
- ❖ This increase was due to increase in demand for items such as Pulses, essential oil, fresh fruit and vegetables in developed countries.

SC on Urdu

- ❖ SC bench consisting (J) Sudhanshu Dhulia and (J) Vinod Chandran in a judgment said that language is not a religion. Languages does not even represent religion
- ❖ Language belongs to a community, to a region, to people and not to a religion.
- ❖ Language is culture Language is the yardstick to measure the civilisation-al march of a community and its People.
- ❖ So is the case of Urdu which is the finest specimen of Ganga Jamuni tahzeeb
- ❖ This order was given in an appeal. This case is of Patur municipal corporation of Maharashtra. Here, writing of signboard in Urdu (along with Marathi) was said to be wrong.

SC on Waqf

- ❖ In the hearing on 17th April, SC passed an interim order according to which no appointment will be made in the Central Wakf Council and Board till the next hearing.



- ❖ According to this order, no changes will be made in the declared properties of Waqf.
- ❖ The court issued a notice to the Central Government on the Waqf related petitions and asked it to respond within a week.

Operation chakra

- ❖ CBI has launched Operation chakra to arrest and take action against cyber criminals
- Gold from temples of Tamil Nadu
- ❖ The gold that is not used or brought from 21 temples of Tamil Nadu was melted by the government and converted into 24 carat gold bars and invested in SBI.
- ❖ The weight of this type of army is 1000 kg.

Coal Power Plants & FGD

- ❖ Total number of coal fired Plants = 537
- ❖ The Union Environment ministry has mandated all the coal fired plant to install a class of equipment called Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) in order to reduce Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions.
- ❖ Instead it should only apply to those Plants using imported coal of high 70.5% Sulphur coal
- ❖ These Suggestions has been given by a study commissioned by the office of the Principal scientific Adviser and executed by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru
- ❖ It should have been completed by 2018 (installation of FGD) but it has been extended to 2029
- ❖ The cost of installing FGD is Rs 1.2 crore per MW
- ❖ Total installed coal power capacity in India = 2,18,000 MW

IMF MD

- ❖ Kristalina Georgieva is the MD of the International Monetary Fund.

Central Bank of the USA

- ❖ Trump wants to remove Jerome Powell, the President of America's Central Bank - Federal Reserve Bank of System.
- ❖ However, Powell was appointed by Trump in 2017, who was again appointed by Joe Biden for a second term in 2022.

India' Trade with China & USA

USA CHINA

- ❖ Export 86.5 bUSD 14.3 bUSD
- ❖ Import 45.3 bUSD 113.4 bUSD

Trade balance 41.2 bUSD - 99.1 busd
(Source: Union commerce ministry)



TIME's 100 Most Influential Peoples

- ❖ No one from India is included.
- ❖ Trump, Musk, British PM Keir Starmer and Muhammad Yunus are at the top.
- ❖ Syria's President Jolani (Ahmed al shara) is also included in this.
- ❖ A woman of Indian origin Reshma Kewalramani CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals is included in this.
- ❖ These people are classified as leaders, icons artists and titans.

K2-18b

- ❖ Newly discovered exoplanet K2-18b

World Heritage Day

- ❖ On this occasion, UNESCO added 74 documentary heritage collections to its World Memory Register. Two collections from India – (1) Bhagavad Gita and (2) Natya Shastra of Bharat Uni – were also included.

Import of Gold in India

- ❖ In the year 2024-25, the total import of gold in India increased by 27.27% to \$ 58 billion. In 2023-24, it was \$ 45.54 billion.
- ❖ In March 2025 alone, gold imports stood at \$ 4.47 billion, an increase of 192.13% compared to March 2024.

US attack on Yemen's oil port

- ❖ On April 18, the US launched a major attack on Yemen's oil port Ras Isa, killing 74 people and injuring 171 others.
- ❖ This was the biggest attack on the Dhuti rebels since the US launched attacks on March 15, 2025.
- ❖ Its pictures were released on the Dhuti rebels' satellite channel Al-Masirah.

ISRO's 'bear' in AXIOM-4 Mission

- ❖ ISRO will send Tardigrades (water bear or eight-legged bear), the toughest life form found on Earth, in the mission AXIOM-4 to be conducted in collaboration with NASA.
- ❖ Tardigrades are also known as moss piglets.
- ❖ It is a small eight-legged microscopic organism living in water that can survive in any conditions. Its length is between 0.3 to 0.5 cm. They can be seen through a microscope.

Pharma Exports

- ❖ India's Pharma export in 2024-25 was 30,467.32 million USD, which was 9.39% higher than last year (in 2023-24 it was 27851.70 million USD)
- ❖ The USA is the largest export destination of Pharma articles from India (about 33%) (8953.37 million USD)



- ❖ Apart from USA, the top five export destinations of Pharma from India are UK, Brazil, France and South Africa.

Engineering, Textile and apparel exports (2024-25)

- ❖ Exports of the Engineering goods grew by 6.74 % to 116.67 billion USD
- ❖ Exports of the Textile and apparel grew by 6.32%.

India Justice Report 2025

- ❖ 4 Pillars of Justice - (1) Police (2) Courts (3) Prisons (4) Legal Aid
- ❖ Overall ranking

		Police	Prison	Judiciary	Legal Aid
1. Karnataka –	1 st rank	3	2	4	1
2. Andhra Pradesh -	2 rank	2	4	5	5
3. Telangana -	3 rank	1	7	2	10
4. Kerala -	4 rank	15	3	1	6
5. Tamil Nadu –	5 rank	13	1	4	16
13. Bihar –	13 rank	10	12	15	12

- ❖ In this report, a total of 68 indicators have been kept in all the four pillars, out of which Police has 25 indicators and Prison, Judiciary, Legal Aid have 16, 14, 13 indicators respectively.
- ❖ Bihar has improved on 47 out of these 68 indicators. (Police 19/25, Prison 10/14 Legal Aid 8/13=47/68),
- ❖ In the case of the third pillar Judiciary, a large number of vacancies are increasing.
- ❖ In UP 50.6% seats are vacant in HC whereas 26.9% seats are vacant in Sub-ordinate courts.
- ❖ In Bihar 35.8% seats are vacant in HC whereas 23.9% seats are vacant in Subordinate courts.
- ❖ The situation is not good in terms of case pendency also. In some courts pendency is upto 70%.
 - The pendency of cases with a duration of more than 5 years in all 25 HCs is 51%.
 - There is 1 Subordinate Court Judge per 1,14,334 population in West Bengal.
- ❖ 76% of the prisoners in jail are undertrials. Many jails have 400% more prisoners than their capacity.
- ❖ There is a shortage of human resources everywhere, short staffed situation everywhere
- ❖ The condition of police stations is 17%. CCTV is not installed in police stations.
- ❖ 3 out of 10 police stations do not have women help desk.
- ❖ In India, there is one civil police personnel available for 831 people.
- ❖ Police Judiciary Jail Legal Aid
- ❖ Per capita expenditure (national) Rs 1275 Rs 182 57 6
- ❖ India Justice Report (I J R) is an initiative of 'Tata Trust'
- ❖ India Justice Report was published for the first time in 2019.



PM's visit to Saudi Arabia

- ❖ From 22 April to 23 April (2 days)
- ❖ Purpose to increase bilateral Cooperation in the field of Energy, trade and Defence.
- ❖ PM returned to India from Saudi's visit abruptly due to the Pahalgam Attack incident.

Wages in MNREGA

- ❖ The Wages in the MANREGA is Rs 245 per day.
- ❖ The central government has released Rs 2102 crore 24 lakh 76 thousand for the payment of outstanding wages of MNREGA workers (payment was stopped from 27 December 2024).
- ❖ This amount includes Rs 411 crore 47 lakh for SC, Rs 43 crore for ST and Rs 1646.88 crore for others.
- ❖ The participation of women in the total workers (in MNREGA) of Bihar was 55.11%.
- ❖ The percentage of SC-ST in the total MNREGA workers of Bihar is 21.72%.
- ❖ The central government has approved 21 crore man days for Bihar for 2025-26. (In 2024-25 it was 17 crore)

Revocation Notices to foreign students in America

- ❖ In America, the Immigration Notice and Custom Enforcement (ICIE) is cancelling the visas of foreign students by sending them revocation notices.
- ❖ Till now the number of such students has reached 1000.
- ❖ The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) found in a survey that visas of 372 students have been revoked out of which 50% are Indian students. 14% are from China.
- ❖ So far, revocation notices have been issued to about 4000 students.

India's first Prototype FBR

- ❖ India's first Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) will be ready by 2026 in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ With its commissioning in 2026, the second stage of India's Three stage nuclear program will begin.
- ❖ It aims to recycle spent fuel to reduce inventory of radioactive waste.
- ❖ This PFBR is the first of its kind nuclear reactor to use Plutonium-based mixed Oxide as fuel and liquid Sodium as Coolant).
- ❖ It will also utilize the spent fuel of Pressurized Heavy water reactors, which form the mainstay of nuclear power in India at Present.

K2-185 Exoplanet

- ❖ It is identified as an Exoplanet which was discovered in 2015 through the Kepler telescope.
- ❖ This planet is located in the Leo Constellation, orbiting K2-18 and is 124 light years away from Earth (38 Parsec distance, 1 Parsec = 3.26 light)
- ❖ In 2019, the Hubble space telescope found signs of water vapor in its atmosphere.
- ❖ In 2024, James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) also found signs of CO₂ and Methane.
- ❖ This exoplanet named K2-185 is 5.2 times wider than Earth and about 9 times larger. These dimensions indicate that it is an exoplanet with a hydrogen-rich atmosphere.



- ❖ Scientists have shown through their modelling studies that it is possible to find methane and CO₂ in any hydrogen-rich atmosphere. If there is an ocean of liquid water on the planet, ammonia cannot be found. However, ammonia may not be found due to other reasons as well.
- ❖ So since only evidence of methane and CO₂ has been found here, not ammonia. So there is a possibility of an ocean of liquid water there.
- ❖ According to a study report of the international research astronomers, which is published on 16 April 2025, this K2-18b exoplanet can be a Hycean Planet. That is, there is a strong possibility of an ocean in its hydrogen-rich atmosphere, although this has not been confirmed.
- ❖ Based on the information obtained from there, it has been studied using computer models that there may be a stratosphere here and there may also be some carbon oxides and cyanide in the middle atmosphere.
- ❖ According to research, its surface conditions are close to the runaway greenhouse threshold under which the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere does not allow the heat to escape from the surface of the planet.
- ❖ This condition makes the conditions of Venus a hellscape.
- ❖ Research (newly published) suggests the presence of two compounds on K2-18b - dimethyl sulphide (DMS) or dimethyl disulphide (DMDS).
- ❖ According to scientists, the presence of DMS could be a biomarker (which could indicate the existence of life).
- ❖ DMS is produced on Earth, mostly in the oceans.
- ❖ Phytoplanktons in oceans produce a molecule called dimethylsulphoniopropionate.
- ❖ When phytoplanktons die, enzymes break down those molecules to produce DMS.
- ❖ DMS is also emitted when bacteria break down plant matter.
- ❖ In 2015, researchers reported that 76% of soil bacteria have a gene that helps produce DMS.
- ❖ These researches are also just showing possibilities, till we reach there, it is not possible to confirm it completely.
- ❖ Due to previous experiences in which the research findings in the cases of TRAPPIST-1 System and exoplanet WASP-12b were wrong, it is difficult to believe in the case of K2-18b also till there is some confirmation.

Important Missions of ISRO in mid 2025

- ❖ Important Missions of ISRO in mid 2025 are as follows
 - (i) Axiom-4: Astronaut shudhanshu shukla's travel to ISS as a part of ISRO-NASA mission-Axiom 4 Mission
 - (ii) NISAR : World's most expensive Indo-US Earth Observation Satellite - NISAR from Indian soil.
- ❖ Group captain Shukla will be the second Indian to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma, who went to space four decades ago.
- ❖ NISAR Satellite (Jointly produced by the ISRO-NASA) will be launched in June by GSLV-Mark 2 rocket.
- ❖ ISRO will put US based AST Space Mobile's Satellites -Blue Bird Block-2 in orbit by heavy lift LVM-3 rocket in July.
- ❖ The cost of NISAR Project is 1.5 billion USD. NISAR Project will provide information about Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces and events like collapse of ice-sheets, biomass, sea level rise, ground water and other natural disasters including earthquakes.



- ❖ NISAR will be the first Satellite of its kind in space to Systematically map Earth using two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in the Earth's surface less than a centimeter across.
- ❖ Under the agreement with NASAN, NASA is providing the mission's L-Band SAR a high-rate telecommunication subsystems for Scientific data GPS receivers, a solid state recorder and a Payload data subsystems
- ❖ While ISRO is providing the satellite bus an S-band SAR, launch vehicle (GSLV-MK-II) and associated Launch services
- ❖ ISRO also plans to launch the PSLV-C61 mission carrying the EOS-09 Satellite, which is equipped with a C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar, capable of Capturing high resolution images of Earth's surface under all weather Conditions, day or night.
- ❖ Test vehicle - D2 (TV-D2) mission is another important mission. It is designed to simulate an abort scenario and demonstrate the Graganyaan Crew Escape System.
- ❖ The mission includes sea recovery operations for the "Crew module. mimicking Procedures planned for India's first human spaceflight.
- ❖ The space journey of Shudhanshu shukla shall provide first hand knowledge on spaceflight operations, launch protocols, microgravity adaptation and emergency preparedness
- ❖ These informations will be helpful in India's first crewed space missions of Gaganyaan.

World's deepest river-Congo

- ❖ River Congo is the deepest river of the world. In its lower course, its depth is 220 meters (720ft)
- ❖ It is also the second largest river by discharge (first is Amazon)
- ❖ It is 9th longest river globally.

World's first marathon of humanoid robots

- ❖ On 19 April 2025, in Beijing, world's first marathon of humanoid robots was organised
- ❖ In this robots ran together with human rumors.

IPS cadre in Bihar

- ❖ The number of sanctioned posts of IPS cadre in Bihar is 240.

Movement 50501

- ❖ On 19 April 2025, protests were held once again in all the states against the policies of Donald Trump in America. This protest has been named "50501" i.e. 50 demonstrations, 50 protests and one movement.
- ❖ Such another protes 'Hans Off' was organised on 5th April 2025 for the same reason.

India's Automobile Exports in 2024-25

- ❖ In 2024-25 India's Automobile export was 53,63,089 units which was 45,00,494 units in 2023-24 (which is 19% more than previous year)



Congo

- ❖ In the DR Congo, Party of the former President (remained on the post for 18 years) has been banned (PPRD Party)

Ramsar sites in India

- ❖ Total number of Ramsar sites in India = 89
- ❖ largest number 20 in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Ramsar, site in Iran, the convention in 1982.
- ❖ Country having largest member of Ramsar Sites = UK=175 (area=12,83,040 hectares Mexico=144)
- ❖ largest area = Brazil (2,67,000 sq km)

Civil Services Day

- ❖ On 21 April Civil Services Day is observed.
- ❖ On this day Prime Minister's Award are conferred on the selected Civil Servants.
- ❖ On 21 April, 2025, the Prime Minister's Award for the year 2023.
- ❖ DM Shashank Shubhankar of Nalanda, Bihar was awarded the Prime Minister's Award 2023.
- ❖ This award was given at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi.

Death of 266th Pope

- ❖ The priest of the Roman Catholic Church died on 21 April 2025. He was the first Latin American to assume the office of Pope.
- ❖ His original name was Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Birth = Argentina (Buenos Aires) (17 Dec 1936), Death - Vatican city (21 April 2025)
- ❖ He was conservative on sexual matters but was considered liberal on social matters. He was accused of insulting homosexuals. His important ideas -
 - (1) The Pope gave religious recognition to divorced Catholics who remarried.
 - (2) The Pope said in 2023 that being homosexual is not a crime
 - (3) He said that death penalty is unacceptable.
 - (4) In April 2014, he apologized for the first time for sexual abuse of children in the churches.
- ❖ He took over as Pope on 13 March 2013.
- ❖ Four cardinals of India will cast their vote in the election of the new Pope.
 - (1) Archbishop Antony Poola of Hyderabad Archdiocese
 - (2) Metropolitan Archbishop Filipe Neri of Goa
 - (3) Cardinal Mar Baselios Cleemis of the Syro-Malankara Church
 - (4) Cardinal Mar George Koovakkad from Kerala.

Generational accord to make the world safer @WHO

- ❖ On April 16, the final draft of the WHO Pandemic Agreement was agreed upon by the Inter governmental Negotiating Body.
- ❖ This agreement has been reached after three and a half years and 13 rounds of meetings.



- ❖ In this, WHO member countries have agreed on measures to prevent, prepare and respond to epidemics.
- ❖ The problem in this whole matter was that while developed countries were reluctant to share diagnostics, treatment and vaccines technology, developing countries were reluctant to share pathogen samples and genome sequences with WHO and research institutes/developed countries. Because they wanted to get a guarantee of their rights on the technologies of vaccines and medicines made using these samples, which WHO and developed countries / institutions were unable to give.
- ❖ Now this draft of the Agreement will be presented in the World Health Assembly in May for adoption.

Creative Economy

- ❖ Arts, Entertainment (Film, music, televisions... Design, Media, Technology (software technology game development), cultural Heritage (Museum Libraries.....etc)

Vice President on Judiciary

- ❖ The Vice President has raised some questions on the judiciary-
 - (1) There is no system of transparent inquiry in cases of corruption against judges.
 - (2) He also raised questions on the timeline set by the SC for the President and Governors to take decisions on bills. (SC ruled that it can issue orders under the writ of Mandamus to the High Constitutional offices in case of inaction or excessive delay).
 - (3) He also raised questions on the process of formation of Constitutional Bench and minimum number of Judges in it Under Article 145(3), the Constitution has prescribed a minimum number of 5 for a Constitutional Bench. Now, the total number of Judges in the SC (including CJI) has increased to 34, but still it is 5. There must be a change.
 - (4) He has accused the SC of using Article 142 as an attack on democratic forces like a nuclear missile.
- ❖ On the First query – Yes, any one will support it. Yes, there should be transparency
- ❖ The second query may be answered in the light of the Constitutional provision and about the timeline in the light of the office memorandum of MHA 2016 (Feb)
- ❖ In the answer of the third query it can be addressed through amendments in the Constitutional provisions which can be done by the Parliament.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has used this article 142 on the various occasion, for example:
 - (1) Order for compensation to the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy (1989)
 - (2) Sexual harassment at work place (1997)
 - (3) Cancellation of Coal block licences that were allegedly improperly allocated (2014)
 - (4) Permanent commission of women in armed officers (2024)
 - (5) Directives to Public Officials with respect to demolitions (2024).
- ❖ The Indian Constitutional scheme is base on the synthesis of Parliamentary sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy.
- ❖ Judicial review has been declared as “basic structure” of the constitutional count that has reinforced constitutional sovereignty.
- ❖ All the branches governance should uphold the constitutional values through healthy separation of Power rather than confrontation.



China bans export of REE

- ❖ In the atmosphere of tariff war between America and China, China has imposed some restrictions on the export of REE and magnets.
- ❖ REE is a series of 17 substances found in the earth's crust.
- ❖ These elements are not rare but the ability to separate them chemically and make them suitable for industrial applications is rare.
- ❖ Heavy and Light REE are found in China, India, Myanmar, Japan, Australia and North Korea.
- ❖ China has targeted 7 of these 17 REE in its ban -
 - (1) Dysprosium - Its magnetic susceptibility makes it useful for hard disks and car motors.
 - (2) Gadolinium is used for shielding in nuclear reactors and in some medical equipment.
 - (3) Lutetium and its compounds are used in PET scanners and petroleum refineries.
 - (4) Samarium is used in powerful magnets for personal electronics.
 - (5) Scandium-aluminium alloys are used in fighter aircraft.
 - (6) Terbium is used in lighting for personal electronics.
 - (7) Yttrium is used in cancer treatments and superconductors.
- ❖ India imports REE in limited quantity. In 2023-24, India imported 2270 tons of REE.

Second time Docking in SPADEX

- ❖ In the SPADEX / PSLV C-60 mission docking of two satellites SDX 01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target) has been Completed successfully on 21 April 2025.
- ❖ This mission was successfully launched on 30 December 2024.
- ❖ Thereafter the Satellites were successfully docked for the first time on 16 January 2025 at 6.20 AM and successfully undocked on 13 March 2025 at 9.20 AM
- ❖ India became the 4th country to conduct the docking experiments after us, Russia and china
- ❖ This technology is useful in –
 - (1) Spacecraft rendezvous, docking and undocking using two small using two small satellites.
 - (2) Sending an astronaut to the moon and returning samples from the moon.
 - (3) Building and operation of Indian Space station.
 - (4) Transfer of electric Power between docked Spacecraft which is essential for future application, such as in-space robotics, Composite spacecraft control and payload operation after undocking.(for it's detailed background, please see the magazine of January, 2025)

Core Sector output growth in FY 25

- ❖ It was 4.4% in 2024-25.
- ❖ It was 7.6% in 2023-24
- ❖ Core sector growth covers 40.27% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Shaurya Diwas on Kunwar Singh Jayanti

- ❖ On 23 April 2025, the Surya Kiran team of the Air Force will display the fleet of 9 trainer jets on JP Ganga Path (Marine Drive) in Patna.
- ❖ 9 hawk Jet Planes were used in it.
- ❖ This day will thus be celebrated as Shaurya Diwas



Samagra Udyaan

- ❖ On JP Ganga Path in Patna, cost = Rs 387 crore

Bullseye Galaxy

- ❖ A new galaxy named "Bullseye" has been discovered (formal name LEDA 1313424)
- ❖ This discovery is termed as a "Serendipitous discovery"
- ❖ This galaxy has 9 rings (8 rings have been confirmed by the Hubble Space Telescope while 9th has been confirmed by the W. M. Keck observatory in Hawaii)

IMF Projections for India's and global growth

- ❖ IMF has projected the global economic growth at 2.8% for the year 2025.
- ❖ IMF has projected the Indian growth at 6.2% for FY 2025-26.
- ❖ WFP's services in Ethiopia halted
- ❖ Due to Fund cuts by the Trump, the world Food Program (WFP) has said that it is suspending aid for 6,50,000 malnourished women and children in Ethiopia as it is facing Lack of funds.

EU's far right Political Parties v/s Judiciary

- ❖ Important recent court decisions against far right parties/leaders in the EU that have fueled controversy
 - (1) France: Le Pen
 - (2) Romania: He was leading in the first round of the 2024 presidential election against Calin Georgescu. But he will no longer be able to run for president due to a court ruling. This upheaval of Romania's constitutional count was based on the principle of "militant democracy", including Georgescu's alleged anti-democratic behavior, fraudulent campaign financing declaration, and Russian-backed subversion efforts, which led to the annulment of the initial election results.
 - (3) Germany - The Alternative for Germany (AfD) party has been identified by the domestic intelligence agency (BFV) as a suspected threat to democracy and the constitution.

Pahalgam Terrorist attack

- ❖ Deaths = 26 Persons
- ❖ Location: Baisaran in Pahalgam (Anantnag district, Kashmir)
- ❖ An Let offshoot, Resistant Front claims responsibility for the attack.
- ❖ Baisaran is a large grassland situated at a very high altitude, which is called Mini Switzerland.
- ❖ In 2024, 3.5 million tourists had visited Kashmir.
- ❖ Quick decisions taken by the Indian government after the Pahalgam attack: -
 - (1) By May, the number of staff in the High Commissions was reduced from 55 to 30
 - (2) Indus Water Treaty suspended
 - (3) Attari border closed
 - (4) Military officers called back from the Indian High Commission, Pakistani diplomat was also asked to leave India within a week



(5) SAARC visa exemption scheme for migrants

- ❖ Pakistan gets 39 billion cubic meters of water
- ❖ It was mediated by the World Bank.
- ❖ Through this treaty, four provinces of Pakistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan get water.
- ❖ According to the treaty, only 20% of the total water of Indus can be used by India, the remaining 80% goes to Pakistan.
- ❖ This treaty was signed by India-Pakistan on 19 September 1960.
- ❖ The treaty was signed by Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan.
- ❖ There are 6 major rivers in the Indus river system-
(1) Indus (2) Jhelum (3) Chenab (4) Ravi (5) Beas (6) Sutlej
- ❖ After coming into force in 1960, it was never suspended, not even during the wars and tensions of 1965, 1971 or 1999.
- ❖ The suspension of this agreement will postpone the meetings of the Indus Water Commissioners of both the countries at fixed intervals (6-8 months, or once a year).
- ❖ Under the Indus Water Treaty, India can use only 33 million acre feet (MAF) of its water. The remaining water is for Pakistan's use.
- ❖ Under this treaty, Pakistan has been given rights over the water of its three rivers - Indus, Jhelum and Chenab (Western rivers).
- ❖ While India has been given rights over the waters of the eastern three rivers - Beas, Ravi and Sutlej.
- ❖ According to this treaty, no one can opt out of this treaty. It is a permanent treaty.
- ❖ There was no exit clause in IWT. Article XII (3) and (4) provides for amendment through a "duly ratified treaty".
- ❖ India has rights to 33.8 million acre feet (MAF) of water from the three eastern rivers of the Indus river system- Beas, Ravi and Sutlej and Pakistan has rights to 135.6 MAF of water from the three western rivers- Indus, Jhelum, Chenab.
- ❖ As per the treaty, India can store 3.6 MAF of water.
- ❖ In the background:
 - In 1948, Nehru stopped the water of Indus, then Liaquat Ali Khan reached Delhi due to which an agreement was signed in 1948.

Shimla Agreement

- ❖ After India suspended the Indus Water Treaty 1960, Pakistan has said that in response it can suspend the Shimla Agreement 1972 and other bilateral agreements.
- ❖ The Shimla Agreement was signed on 2 July 1972 in Shimla by Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.
- ❖ There are two main points of this agreement-
(1) The future of post-1971 war relations between India and Pakistan, including the return of over 93,000 Pakistani prisoners of war
(2) Resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, where they "to settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations or by any other peaceful means mutually agreed upon between them.)
- ❖ The Shimla Agreement gave Bangladesh formal recognition as a sovereign entity.



- ❖ Other bilateral agreements include those signed after various armed conflicts from 1950 to 1999. Among others, in 1988, India and Pakistan signed an agreement to inform each other about their nuclear installations and facilities on January 1 every year.

Main pollutants	Major Sources	Health Issues
1. Sulphur Dioxide 2. Nitrogen Oxide 3. Black carbon 4. Methane 5. Ammonia 6. Non-methane volatile organic compound emissions	(1) Energy 7.59 million tonne (mainly coal based) (2) Industry 3.15 (3) Buildings (1) Transport 3.42 mt (2) Energy 3.04 mt (3) Industry 1.16 mt (4) Agriculture 0.87 mt 1. Building 4.42 lakh ton 2. Industry 1.47 lt 3. Transport 0.83 lt 4. Energy 0.83 lt 1. Agriculture 19.95 mt 2. Waste 7.6 mt 3. Energy 3.35 mt 1. Agriculture 8.4 mt 2. Waste 1.63 mt 3. Building 1.90 lakh tone 4. Energy 69 kt 1. Building 3.9 mt 2. Solvents 2.869 mt 3. Energy 1.36 mt 4. Transport 8.9 lt	Causes acid rains Swelling in lungs Pollutes the atmosphere. Enters in Lungs. Paint products, Cleaning items

Coral Bleaching

- ❖ International coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) announced that the harmful bleaching of the world's coral has grown to include 84% of the ocean's reefs in the most intense event of its kind in recorded history.
- ❖ It is the 4th global bleaching event since 1988
- ❖ Coral bleaching is the Phenomenon when coral lose their colour and turn white, If occurs when corals are under stress, such as due to rising water temperature and expel the algae (Zooxanthellae) living in their tissue.
- ❖ Corals and algae called Zooxanthellae live in a symbiotic relationship with each other. corals harbor algae in then tissues and the algae provides food and color to the corals.
- ❖ How much area should a police station cover?
- ❖ As per the National Police Commissions recommendation, there should be a police station in every 150 sq. km area in rural areas.
- ❖ In India, there is a police station in an area of 337 sq km. (According to India Justice Report 2025)
- ❖ Population is considered to be the basis in urban areas. As per the recommendation, there should be a police station for every 60,000 population.
- ❖ As per India Justice Report, there is a police station in every 19.6 sq km.



Judges Per million in India

- ❖ The law Commission in 1987 had laid down the benchmark of judicial strength - 50 Judges Per million population.
- ❖ At Present the national average is 15.9 judges (14 in subordinate courts Plus 1.9 in HCS) Per million.

India Significantly reduced extreme poverty : World Bank

- ❖ A world Bank report said that rural poverty dropped from 69% to 32.5%, and urban poverty from 43.5% to 17.2%, reducing the rural-urban gap from 25 to 15 percentage points with a 7% annual decline
- ❖ Over the past decade, India has significantly reduced poverty with extreme poverty declining from 16.2% in 2011-12 to 2.3% in 2022-23, lifting million people above the poverty line, a World bank report said on Friday. Rural extreme poverty dropped from 18.4% to 2.8% and urban from 10.7% to 1.1% narrowing the rural-urban gap from 7.7 to 1.7 percentage points – a 16% annual decline
- ❖ The five most populous states – Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh – accounted for 65% of the country's extreme poor in 2011-12 and contributed to two-thirds of the overall decline in extreme poverty by 2022-23, according to the report.
- ❖ The world Bank's multidimensional poverty measure is at 15.5% in 2022-23. India's consumption based Gini index improved from 28.8 in 2011-12 to 25.5 in 2022-23, though inequality may be underestimated due to data limitations. In contrast, the World Inequality Database shows income inequality rising from a Gini of 52 in 2004 to 62 in 2023. Wage disparity remains high, with the median earnings of the top 10% being 13 times higher than the bottom 10% in 2023-24.

India Reduced Extreme Poverty: WB

- ❖ According a report of world Bank (25 April), India has reduced poverty with extreme poverty declining from 16.2% in 2011-12 to 2.3% in 2022-23, lifting Poverty 171 million people above the poverty line.
- ❖ Rural extreme poverty dropped from 18.4% to 2.8% and urban from 10.7% to 1.1% narrowing the rural-urban gap from 7.7 to 1.7 Percentage Points - a 16% annual decline, according to the multilateral agency's Poverty and Equity Brief.
- ❖ India also transitioned into the lower middle income category. Using the 3.65 dollar per day LMIC (Lower middle Income country) Poverty line, Poverty fell from 61.8% to 28.1%, lifting 378 million people out of poverty.
- ❖ According to it, rural poverty dropped from 69% to 32.5% and urban poverty from 43.5% 17.2% reducing the rural-urban gap from 25 to 15 percentage point with a 7% annual decline.
- ❖ 5 most populous states - UP, Maharashtra, Bihar, WB and MP accounted for 65%. of the country's extreme poor in 2011-12.

Animal situation in Bihar

- ❖ The number of camels in the state was 8860 in 2012 which has reduced to just 88 in 2019 i.e. a decrease of 99.01%.
- ❖ Similarly, the number of mules has also decreased by 94.05% from 25060 in 2012 to just 1491.
- ❖ The number of rabbits has increased by 77.95% from 18760 in 2012 to 33383.
- ❖ Between the livestock census of 2012 and 2019, it was found that the rearing of dairy animals has increased in Bihar



- 25.89% increase in cow rearing, 02.02% increase in buffalo rearing, 05.49% increase in goat rearing
- ❖ The number of animal hospitals in Bihar is 1137.

UNSC Condemns Pahalgam attack

- ❖ UNSC expressed its deepest sympathy to the families of the victims and to the government of India and Nepal.
- ❖ UNSC includes china as Permanent members and Pakistan as a non-Permanent member. At Present India is not a member of the UNSC

Kailash Mansarovas Yatra

- ❖ After 2019, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra will start since to June 30, 2025.
- ❖ This Yatra was suspended by China in 2020 due to COVID-19 and later remained suspended due to Galvan incident.
- ❖ This Yatra was started in 1981 under a bilateral agreement.
- ❖ This reflects return of normalcy in the India China relationship.

India now claims Continental shelf in the ocean

- ❖ Any country (which has a coastline) has a territorial sea of 12 nautical miles and an EEZ of 200 nautical miles (thus the area of Indian EEZ is 2.0 million sq. km)
- ❖ In 2009, India claimed 1.10 million sq. km in the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea in a UN body called Commission-on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).
- ❖ India's claim was objected to by Myanmar and Sri Lanka on one hand and by Pakistan on the other hand on the basis of the dispute over Sir Creek (a strip of water in the marshes of the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat). The basis of the objection is the overlap of 100 nautical miles.
- ❖ As a result, the CLCS rejected India's claim in March 2023.
- ❖ Now on 3 April 2025, India presented its previous claim on the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean intact but changed its claim on the Arabian Sea by dividing it into two parts.
- ❖ India divided its stake in the Arabian Sea into two parts, in one part it claimed the Central Arabian continental shelf. This could lead to an issue of overlapping of continental shelf with Oman (although according to an agreement reached in 2010, India and Oman should not have any problem with this).
- ❖ The new claim for the Arabian Sea is 10,000 sq. km. more than the old claim.
- ❖ If this claim of 1.2 million sq.km. is accepted then India's EEZ will become 3.2 million including the previous EEZ (2 millions sq.km.) which will be almost equal to India's area of 3.274 million sq.km.

Details of visitors in Bihar's jails

- ❖ Bihar ranks first in the country in keeping digital records of those who visit prisoners in its jails.
- ❖ The total number of jails in Bihar is 59 in which 7,20,893 visitors took place in 2024-25. Most of the visitors came to Adarsh Central Jail, Beur.



OHISAMA Project

- ❖ This is a Japanese project under which a satellite named odisama will be placed in space. This satellite will absorb sunlight and send it to the earth in the form of electricity through microwaves.
- ❖ On earth, this electricity will be received by a special antenna.
- ❖ Weight of satellite = 180 kg, area of solar panel = 122 sq.ft
- ❖ It will send 1 Kw of electricity from a height of 400 km.
- ❖ A fine of Rs 3 lakh has been imposed on Pakistani citizens who do not leave India by the deadline.

Balikatan Exercise

- ❖ It is a annual military exercise between the Philippines and the USA
- ❖ In the language of Philippines, Tagalog, 'Balikatan' means 'shoulder-to-shoulder'.
- ❖ Philippines was under control of the USA since 1898 spanish-American war. Philippines got independence from the USA in 1946

Explosion at Iranian port Sahid Rajaei kills 40

- ❖ A massive explosion occurred on 26 April 2025 at a part of Iran's largest commercial port, Bandar Abbas, known as Sahid Rajaei, killing at least 40 people and injuring more than 1205.
- ❖ According to reports, the explosion was caused by containers kept at the port that contained dangerous chemicals such as Sodium Perchlorate (which is used to propel ballistic missiles).

Agreement on Rafale Marine

- ❖ The Government of India and the Government of France signed an agreement on 28 April 25 in New Delhi for the purchase of 26 "Rafale Marine" for the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The supply of these aircraft will start from 2028 by France and it will complete all the supplies by 2030.
- ❖ The agreement was signed by Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and French Defense Minister Sebastian Lecanu.
- ❖ These Rafale aircraft will be deployed in the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.
- ❖ Currently India has two aircraft carriers -
 - (i) INS Vikrant and
 - (ii) INS Vikramaditya
- ❖ India has currently deployed MIG 29 aircraft on these. But these are old and their maintenance is also costly.
- ❖ Rafale Marine is a fighter aircraft weighing 15,000 kg, 10.80 m wide, 5.34 m high and has a fuel capacity of 11200 km.
- ❖ The entire deal is worth Rs 63000 crore.
- ❖ Features of Rafale Marine -
 - (a) It has the capacity to carry 9 tonnes of weapons.
 - (b) It is equipped with nuclear missiles and nuclear submarine destroying missiles
 - (c) It is equipped with 30 mm auto cannon gun.
- ❖ Rafale Marine is more modern than China's J-20 and Pakistan's F-16



Black out in France, Spain and Portugal

- ❖ Date is 28 April 2025

Climbers to Mt. Everest

- ❖ 402 climbers from 53 countries have been granted permission to scale mt. Everest in 2025
- ❖ Among 402, 74 are women
- ❖ The permission is granted by the Department Tourism, Nepal

World's cumulative Military expenditure in 2024

- ❖ According to Stockholm International peace Research Institute, global military expenditure marked 9.4% increase from 2023 to reach 2.7 trillion USD
- ❖ SIPRI says it is steepest year-on-year rise since the cold war.
- ❖ According to the SIPRI's study report released on 28th April 2025, India's military expenditure ranks 5th in the world after US, China, Russia and Germany.
- ❖ In 2024, India's military expenditure was at 86.1 billion USD (in shows growth of 1.6% from 2023)
- ❖ Pakistan comes at 35th position in the world in terms of its military expenditure in 2024 which was 10.2 billion USD.
- ❖ Annual military expenditure of Top 4 countries
 1. USA = 1000 billion USD
 2. China = 314 billion USD
 3. Russia = 149 billion USD
 4. Germany = 88 billion USD

68 people killed again in US attack on Yemen

- ❖ Just last week, at least 74 people were killed in an attack by the US in Yemen as part of its campaign against the Houthis.
- ❖ Now on 28 April 2025, 68 people were killed in an attack on the city of Sada in Yemen.

China and Philippines Reef dispute

- ❖ There is a dispute going on between China and Philippines over sandy cay reef. (sandy cay is in south china sea)

India's fifth maritime fisheries census

- ❖ In this an app-VyASNAV will be used (village jety appraisal Navigator) IIP in FY25
 - ❖ According to the data released by the NSO IIP (India) grew by 4%. during 2024-25.
 - ❖ In 2023-24, it was 5.9%. While it was 5.2% in 2022-23 and 11.4% in 2021-22
- India's IIP growth - Year Growth:
- 2021-22 11.4%
 - 2022-23 5.2%



- 2023-24 5.9%
- 2024-25 4.0%
- ❖ Now onwards, the IIP date will be released on the 28th of every month as the NSO has advanced the release of the macroeconomic data by two weeks.

Elections in Canada

- ❖ In the elections held in Canada on 28 April 2025, PM Mark Carney and his liberal party have emerged as the largest party by winning 167 out of 343 seats. (Majority is less than 1726)
- ❖ The opposition conservative party has won 145 seats, Bloc Quebecois has won 23 seats. Green Party has got 1 seat.
- ❖ Pro-Khalistan Sikh Jagmeet Singh's New Democratic Party has lost badly. It has got 7 seats.)
- ❖ Conservative Party leader = Pierre Poilievre also lost his seat

Some important economic figures

- ❖ India's IIP grew at the rate of 4% in the financial year 2024-25.
- ❖ This growth rate is the lowest in the last 4 years. It was 5.9% in 2023-24.
- ❖ There are many reasons for the growth rate of 5.9% in 2023-24 to decrease to 4% in 2024-25.
 - (1) The mining sector has decreased from 7.5% to 2.9% in these two years.
 - (2) Manufacturing has decreased from 5.5% to 4%.
 - (3) The electricity sector had a growth rate of 7% which decreased to 5.1% in 2024-25.
 - (4) The growth rate of consumer non-durables was 4.1% in 2023-24 which decreased to -1.6% in 2024-25.
 - (5) The growth rate in the consumer durables sector was recorded at 3.6% in 2023-24, which increased to 8% in 2024-25. This shows that urban private consumption has picked up.
- ❖ However, rural consumption remained low due to high food inflation.
- ❖ There is a situation of stagnant growth in terms of exports. This is a matter of concern.
- ❖ Contribution of MSME in India's exports As of May 2024 (updated), the contribution of MSME in India's exports was 45.79%, which was worth Rs 12.39 lakh crore in 2024-25. (It was only Rs 4 lakh crore in 2021).

Plastic wastage in India

- ❖ India releases 9.3 million tonnes Plastic Pollutants per year.

Malta's Golden Passport Programme

- ❖ The European Court of Justice ordered Malta to close its golden Passport Programme.
- ❖ Malta's Golden Passport is criticised for facilitating white collar crime and Sanctions evasion.
- ❖ Malta has defended it, saying it has brought 1.4. billion euros to the nation since 2015.



USA's Priority watch list

- ❖ USA's US Trade Representative's office has put India among 8 nations list known as "Priority watch list." related to violation of Intellectual Property rights.
- ❖ In the 8 nation list, other countries are Mexico, China, Chile, Argentina, Indonesia, Russia, Venezuela.

Decision to conduct caste census by the Government of India

- ❖ In the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs on 30 April 2025, it was decided to conduct caste census in the country.
- ❖ This meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Before this, caste census was conducted in the country in 1931.
- ❖ At the time of the first census in the country after independence, it was decided to count only SC and ST.)
- ❖ Main facts of 2011 census - (at national level)
 - Male = 62.37 crore
 - Female = 58.65 crore
- ❖ Total population 121.02 crore
- ❖ Sex ratio = 940 women per 1000 men
- ❖ Literacy rate = 74.04%
- ❖ Rural population = 83.3 crore (68.84%)
- ❖ Urban population = 37.7 crore (31.16%)
- ❖ Population density: 382 persons per sq km

Sugar production in Bihar

- ❖ In 2024-25, 624.00 lakh quintals of wheat were crushed in Bihar, which shows a decrease of 53.2 lakh quintals as compared to 677.20 lakh quintals in 2023-24.
- ❖ In the same period, sugar production was 68.77 lakh quintals
- ❖ Bihar ranks fifth in the country in sugar production – (1) UP (2) Maharashtra (3) Karnataka (4) Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Maximum number of sugar canes grown in Bihar are of CO238 variety. It is affected by a disease called Red Rot.

Drug addiction: Charas worth Rs. 1.77 crore seized in Sikta

- ❖ Charas worth Rs 1.77 crore has been seized in an operation by SSB and police from the rural area of Sikta police station in West Champaran.
- ❖ A minor has been arrested for this.

Increase in FRP of sugarcane

- ❖ For the year 2025-26 starting from October 2025, the central government has increased it by 4.41% from Rs. 340 per quintal to Rs. 350 per quintal.



Bonded labour in India

- ❖ According to a statement made in Parliament by the then Union Labor Minister Bandaru n 2021, there are an estimated 1.84 crore bonded laborers in India.
- ❖ Out of these, 12,760 bonded laborers were freed between 2016 and 2021



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