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History, Art and Culture

Nazca Civilization

- **Located in –** Southern Peru, South America.
- **Created between –** 200 BC and 650 AD.
- **Nazca Lines –** It remains one of archaeology's greatest mysteries.
- These enormous desert patterns *depict animals, plants, geometric shapes, and human figures*, visible only from the air.
- Decades of study have yet to explain why the Nazca civilisation created these designs.
- **AI –** "Archaeologists use AI to uncover hidden Nazca geoglyphs; in 6 months, 303 new figures were found, nearly doubling known sites.
- This marks a *3rd era of discovery* such as ancient builders, aircraft revealing scale, and now AI mapping the bigger picture."

Return of Thirumangai Alvar Statue

- **Origin –** Sundararaja Perumal Temple, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu.
- **Period –** 16th century bronze statue of Saint Thirumangai Alvar.
- **Acquisition by –** Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, in 1967 from private collector J.R.Belmont.
- **Discovery –** Independent French scholar linked the bronze to a 1957 photograph from the temple archives.
- **Return –** Ashmolean Museum returned the statue to the Government of India (High Commission in London) after detailed provenance research.

Geography

Red Sand Dunes of Theri Kaadu

- Theri Kaad is a little-known desert of striking red sand dunes formed by *iron-rich soil.*
- **Located in –** Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu.
- Unlike Rajasthan's golden sands, these dunes glow rust-red under the sun.
- The landscape, dotted with palm trees and small villages, creates a rare coastal-desert contrast.

Social Issues

UN Report on Women

- **Key findings**
  - Women hold only 64% of men's legal rights.
  - No country has achieved full legal equality for women and girls.
  - 54% of nations lack consent-based rape laws.
  - 3 in 4 countries still allow child marriage.
  - 44% of countries lack equal pay laws.
- **Highlight –** The rising digital violence and sexual violence in conflicts, which increased 87% in two years.
- **Urgent action –** At 70th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), UN Women is urging decisive measures under the theme *'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls.'*

Women Empowerment – Gender Empowerment Casebook

- **Legal Aid –** *NyayaSakhi (SWATI, Maharashtra)* – AI-supported legal assistant for domestic violence survivors, offering guidance on rights, remedies, and case timelines.
- **STEM Promotion –** *AtenIA (Peru)* – "Phygital" mentoring model (books + conversational AI) that redirects biased prompts to highlight women's leadership in STEM; intention to pursue STEM rose from 9% to 76%.
- **Digital Literacy –** *YASHODA AI* – Empowers rural and semi-urban women to spot AI-driven harms such as deepfakes and financial scams.
- **Agricultural Advisory & Credit –** *MetsaQ (Odisha)* – Voice-based advisories via small language models, partnered with SHGs; 42% women users, with 34% farmers accessing formal credit.

Pad Yatras

- **Held under –** Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- **Organized at –** 30+ locations across India with thousands of participants.
- **Objective** – To raise awareness about affordable, quality generic medicines.
- **Awareness –** Medicines at Jan Aushadhi Kendras cost 50–80% less than branded alternatives, reducing healthcare expenses without compromising quality.

Global Burden of Disease data (1990–2023)

- **India's burden (2023)**
  - **Type 2 diabetes –** ~21 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), 5.8 lakh deaths.
  - **High systolic BP –** ~3.8 crore DALYs, 15.7 lakh deaths.
  - **Rising risks –** High BMI (2.7–2.9% annually), LDL cholesterol, MASLD.
- **Regional trends –**
  - India overtook China in DALYs for diabetes, topping the list.
  - For other risk factors, India ranks second but is closing the gap with China.
  - Together, both countries represent the heaviest global burden.

Polity & Governance

Appointment of Lieutenant Governor (LG)

President appointed Taranjit Singh Sandhu as the new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, succeeding Vinai Kumar Saxena.

- **Constitutional Basis**
  - **Articles 239-241 –** Part VIII governs Union Territories (UTs).
  - **Article 239 –** Every UT is administered by the President of India through an Administrator appointed by him, with a designation specified by the President.
- **Appointment Process**
  - **Article 239AA –** Specifically mandates that Delhi's Administrator shall be designated as the LG.
  - **Article 74 –** President acts on the aid & advice of the Council of Ministers, Central Government recommends LG.
- **Tenure & Removal**
  - Holds office "during the pleasure of the President."
  - No fixed term or constitutional grounds for removal.
  - Central Government can advise the President to transfer, remove, or seek resignation of an LG at any time.

Agriculture

Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture (Casebook)

- **Yield Prediction –** *MapMyCrop* utilizes multi-sensor satellite imagery to forecast sucrose peaks in sugarcane, resulting in a 57% improvement in yield.
- **Soil Chemistry –** *Chemistry-Aware Crop Yield Prediction* employs physics-guided machine learning with satellite data to identify toxicities and nutrient imbalances, facilitating a *28% reduction in nitrogen use while increasing yields.*
- **Advisory Systems –** *MahaVISTAAR (Maharashtra) and FarmAdvice (Africa)* utilize natural language processing and voice-first interfaces to provide expert-reviewed guidance in local dialects regarding pest outbreaks and weather anomalies.

Science

Linking Patients' Digital Health Records (ABHA-IDs)

National Medical Commission (NMC) has directed medical colleges to link all patients' ABHA) IDs.

- **Objectives –**
  - To ensure objective verification by eliminating fake patients.
  - To increase transparency in medical college evaluations.
  - To strengthen the digital health ecosystem with secure, paperless records.
- **Additional directives –**
  - Submit Health Facility Registry (HFR) IDs of hospitals.
  - Confirm integration of hospital software with the ABDM platform and PM-JAY portal.
- **Notes**
  - **ABHA-ID –** A unique 14-digit number under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) that enables digital health record linkage for Indian patients.
  - HFR serves as a centralized repository of public and private healthcare facilities in India.

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering