

## UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelim Bits 29-04-2025

### 11<sup>th</sup> BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting 2025

**Prelims** - *Current events of national and international importance.*

#### Why in News?

Recently, Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting held under Brazil's Presidency in Brasília, Brazil.

#### BRICS

- Originally conceived as BRIC by Jim O'Neill, the grouping consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
  - **Launched in - 2006.**
  - **Headquarters** - *Shanghai*, China.
  - **Members** - As of June 2024, it has **10 members**.
  - Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia.
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- **Aim** - To *deliberate upon core labour and employment issues* with the aim to attain the sustainable goals of poverty alleviation and employment generation.
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting** - At *Ufa, Russia in 2016* which laid the foundation of *BRICS Employment Working Group (BEWG)*.
  - **2025 meeting** - Slogan of "Strengthening the Cooperation of the Global South for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance".
  - **India in 2025 meet** - It showcased the *National Career Service (NCS) platform*, powered by AI, as a model for bridging skill gaps and connecting millions to employment opportunities.
  - The Sector Skill Council for Green Jobs (SSCGJ) and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) were highlighted as transformative initiatives driving skilling and sustainable practices.
  - **Adopted declarations** - It is in line with 2 pivotal themes
    - Artificial Intelligence (*AI*) and the *Future of Work*
    - The *Impacts of Climate Change on the World of Work* and a Just Transition.
  - **Key Outcomes** - The declaration commits BRICS nations to
    - *Promote inclusive AI policies* that balance innovation with worker protection.
    - Advance *social dialogue* to ensure fair climate transitions.
    - *Strengthen South-South cooperation* on labour governance, digital inclusion, and green job creation.
  - **Significance** - It reaffirmed BRICS' collective resolve to build a future where ***no worker is left behind in the face of AI-driven disruption or climate challenges.***

*The BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' meeting under the Indian Presidency has been convened in 2016 at New Delhi.*

## Quick Facts

- **Skill Council for Green Jobs (SCGJ)** - Established as a not-for-profit, autonomous, industry-led society, was incorporated under the Societies Registration Act XXI, 1860 in 2015.
- It is promoted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- It is aligned to the National Skill Development Mission.

## Reference

[PIB| 11<sup>th</sup> BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers Meeting](#)

**Related News** - [Mission LiFE](#)

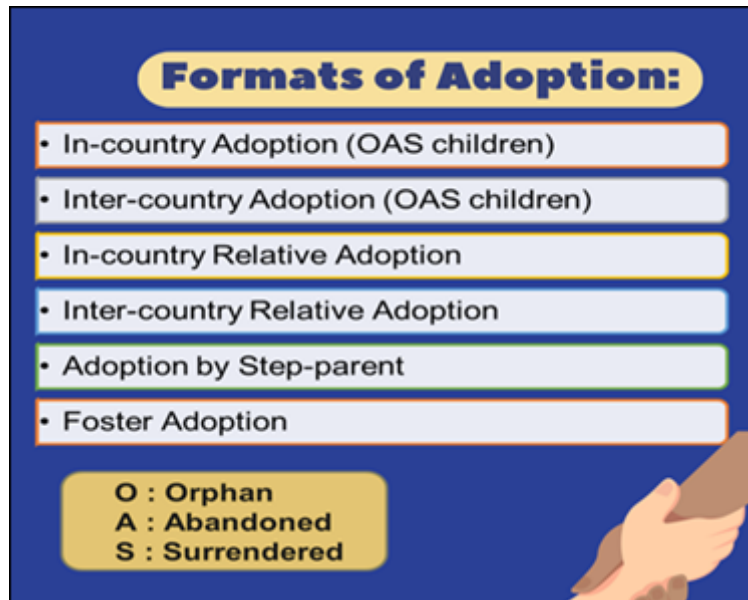
## Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)

**Prelims** - *Current events of national and international importance| Economic and Social Development - Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector initiatives, etc*

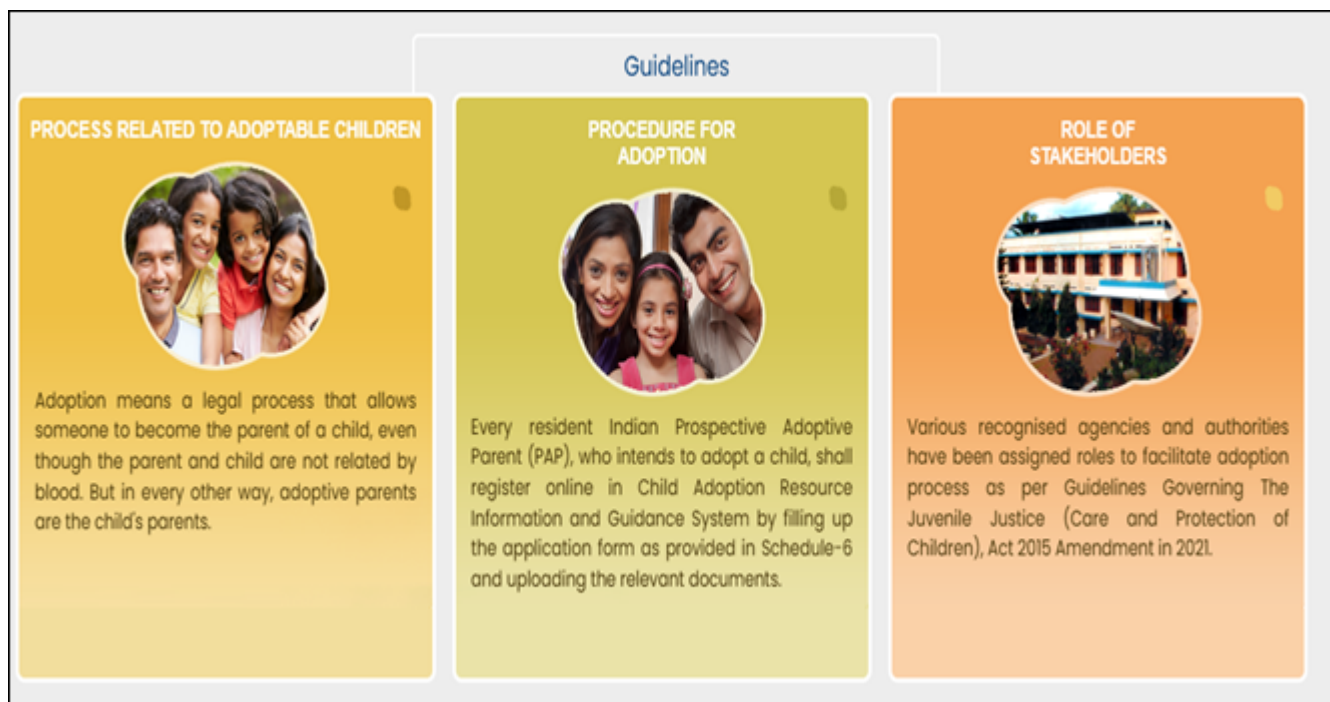
## Why in News?

*In Financial Year 2024-25, India saw a record 4,515 adoptions, the highest in nearly a decade and of these, 4,155 were domestic, marking a powerful shift in societal attitudes.*

- **CARA** - It acts as the nodal body for **adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered Indian children** through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.
- **Set up** - 1990
- **Legality** - It is a statutory body through Section 68 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- It is headed by Member Secretary & CEO
- **Nodal ministry** - Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- **Mission** - To ensure **no child is left behind**.
- **Mandate** - To monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions through Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (CARINGS).



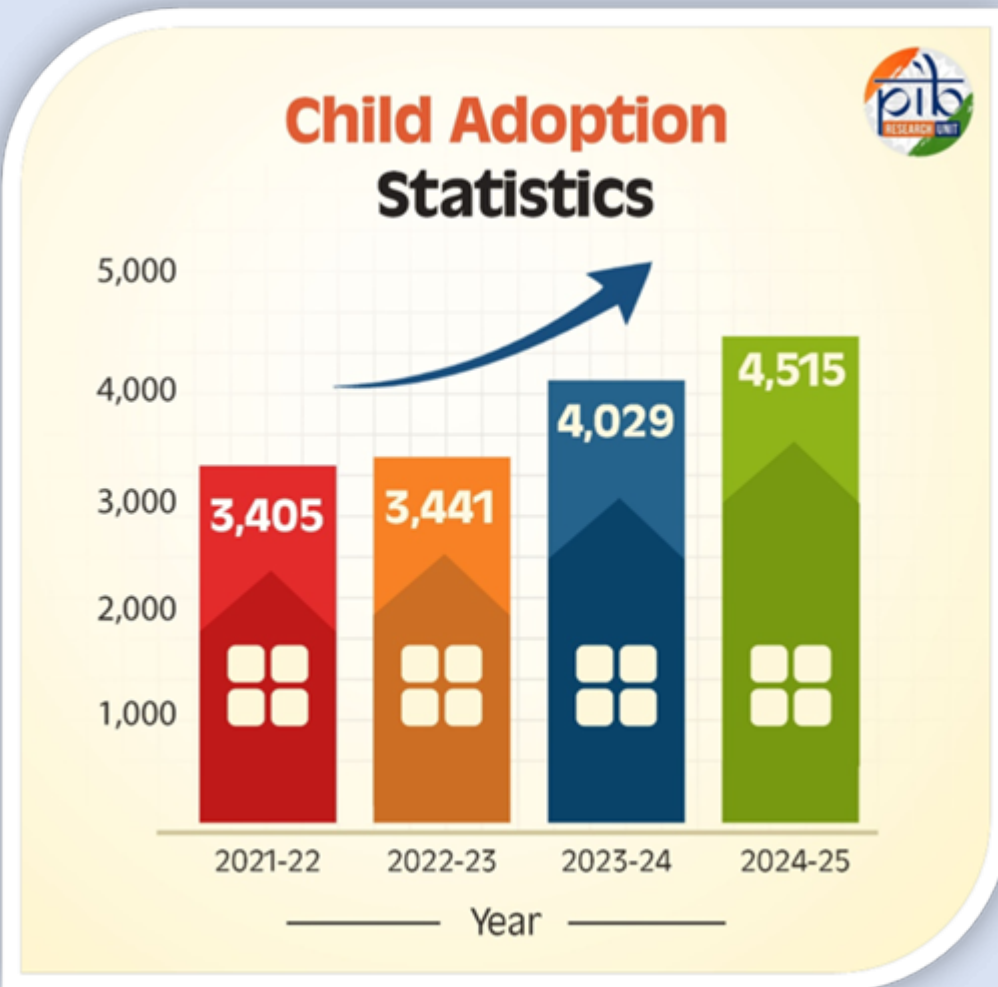
- **Functions** – To promote In-country adoptions and to facilitate Inter-state adoptions in coordination with State Agency.
- To regulate Inter-country adoptions.
- To carry out the functions of the Central Authority under the Hague Convention on protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by India in 2003.
- To frame regulations on adoption and related matters from time to time as may be necessary.



- **Fundamental principle** – Preference shall be given to place the child in adoption with Indian citizens with due regard to the principle of placement of the child in their own socio-cultural environment, as far as possible.
- **Illegal adoption** – It amounts to child trafficking and is a punishable offense under The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2021.

## Recent Status of Child Adoption in India

- **In 2023-24** - Over 8,500 children were identified and added to the adoption pool—many of them from institutions where they had long waited to be seen, chosen, and loved.
- 245 new agencies were added to CARA's network, making adoption more accessible than ever.



## References

1. [PIB| Successful Stories of Child Adoption](#)
2. [CARA| Central Adoption Resource Authority](#)

## Similipal National Park

**Prelims (GS I)** - *Current events of national and international importance| Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change.*

**Mains (GS I)** - *Conservation*

## Why in news?

Recently, the Odisha government officially notified Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) as a National Park.

- **Similipal National Park** - Is the 107<sup>th</sup> national park in India and 2<sup>nd</sup> national park in Odisha.

*Similipal is also a wildlife sanctuary, tiger reserve, UNESCO biosphere reserve and elephant reserve.*

- **Location** - Similipal in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district.
- **Vegetation** - Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests, Semi-Evergreen Forests, Dry Deciduous Forests, Grasslands.
- **Fauna of Similipal National Park:**
  - Royal Bengal tigers (*Panthera Tigris*) - 40
  - Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) - 25% of Odisha's elephant population
  - Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)
  - Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*)
  - Mugger Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*)
  - 360 species of birds

*The tigers of Similipal possess higher-than-normal levels of melanin, giving them coats that are blacker with yellow stripes and are described as pseudo-melanistic tiger.*



*The pseudo-melanistic tiger is a colour variant of the Bengal tiger and its strange coat is a result of a mutation in a particular gene.*

### **Greater Similipal Landscape Programme**

- It is a conservation initiative by the Odisha Forest Department to conserve Similipal national park and its surrounding ecological corridors.
- **Key Components of the programme:**
- **AI-powered camera towers** systems for real-time wildlife monitoring and poaching prevention.
- **V-SAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) communication** networks to ensure surveillance in remote, connectivity-challenged zones.
- Diversifying Tiger population by introduction of two female tigers from Tadoba

Andheri Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra) and to increase tiger population to 100 by 2036.

- **Community Engagement** – Integrated with the Ama Similipal Yojana, which focuses on:
  - Livelihood enhancement and skill training for local tribal communities (e.g., Kolha, Santhala, Khadia).
  - Promotion of *eco-tourism and cultural tourism* to generate income while raising conservation awareness.

## Reference

[The Indian Express| Similipal designated Odisha's second national park](#)

## Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

**Prelims** – *Current events of national and international importance*

### Why in News?

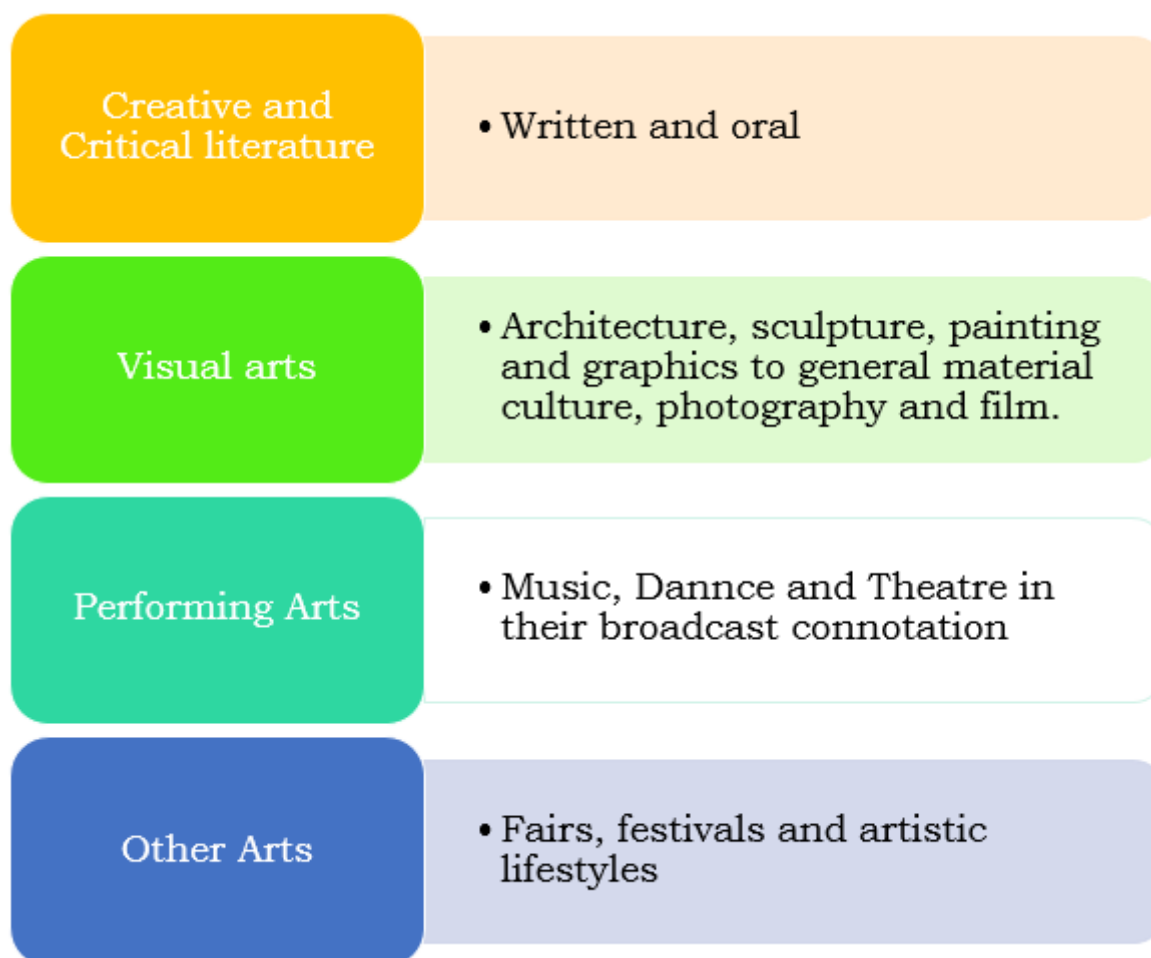
Recently, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) launched *Essential Book on the Preservation and Interpretation of India's Manuscript Heritage*.

- **IGNCA** – It is visualised as a *centre encompassing the study and experience of all the arts*.
- It envisions to place the arts within the context of the natural and human environment.
- **Established in** – ***1987 as an autonomous institution*** under the Ministry of Culture.

*IGNCA was initially conceptualised and launched in 1985 at a function where **5 rocks from 5 major rivers** – Sindhu, Ganga, Kaveri, Mahanadi and the Narmada (where the most ancient ammonite fossils are found) were composed into sculptural forms.*

- **Objectives** – To serve as a major resource centre for the arts, especially written, oral and visual source materials.





- To undertake research and publication programmes of reference works, glossaries, dictionaries and encyclopaedia concerning the arts and the humanities.
- To establish a tribal and folk arts division with a core collection for conducting systematic scientific studies and for live presentations.
- To provide a forum for a creative and critical dialogue through performances, exhibitions, multi-media projections, conferences, seminars and workshops.
- To foster dialogue between arts and current ideas in philosophy, science and technology.
- To promote a network with national and international institutions.
- To conduct related research in the arts, humanities and culture.

## 6 Functional Units of IGNCA

- **Kala Nidhi** - The multi-form library.
- **Kala Kosa** - It is devoted mainly to the study and publication of fundamental texts in Indian languages.
- **Janapada Sampada** - It is engaged in lifestyle studies.
- **Kaladarsana** - It is the executive unit which transforms researches and studies emanating from the IGNCA into visible forms through exhibitions.
- **Cultural Informatics** - It applies technology tools for cultural preservation and propagation.
- **Sutradhara** - It is the administrative section that acts as a spine supporting and coordinating all the activities.

## References

1. [PIB| IGNCA Launches a Book on Manuscripts](#)
2. [IGNCA| Objectives of IGNCA](#)

## Urban Heat Island (UHI)

**Prelims (GS I)** – *Current events of national and international importance| General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change.*

**Mains (GS I)** – *Conservation*

### Why in news?

*A recent study published in Nature Climate Change provides a global perspective on how UHI impacts both heat and cold related mortality.*

- **Urban heat island (UHI)** – A phenomenon that occurs when a city experiences much warmer ambient temperatures than nearby rural areas.



- **Causes** – Existence of Concrete buildings, asphalt roads and reduced vegetation in cities that lead to trap and absorb heat, limiting dissipation of heat.
- Lack of green spaces and high energy use (e.g., air conditioning), that further elevate temperatures.
- **Temperature variation** – Urban areas can be 3-5°C warmer than rural surroundings, sometimes more during heatwaves.
- **Impacts** – Increased energy consumption, air pollution, heat-related health issues and stress on nearby ecosystems.

### Implications of UHI

- **Dual impact of UHI on mortality** – While heat islands increase heat-related deaths *in hot seasons*, they can reduce cold-related deaths in cooler conditions
- **Heat-related mortality** – UHI *increases temperatures in hotter* seasons, leading to



higher heat exposure and subsequent deaths, particularly in summer.

- **Cold-related mortality** – In cooler seasons, the warmer urban temperatures reduce cold-related deaths by mitigating extreme cold exposure.
- Globally, in 2018, the reduction in cold-related mortality was 4.4 times greater than the increase in heat-related mortality due to UHI.
- **Regional and seasonal variations** – Cities at high latitudes experience a greater reduction in cold-related deaths.
- For instance, Moscow saw an 11.5 times greater reduction in cold-related mortality compared to heat-related mortality.
- **Poor air and water quality** – Urban heat islands can have worse air and water quality than their rural neighbours.

## Way forward

- The Common strategies such as urban forests, green roofs and reflective buildings that mitigate the urban heat island could be avoided, since they potentially **increase cold-related deaths** more than they decrease the heat-related deaths.
- Cities need region and season specific strategies to balance UHI mitigation with health outcomes, avoiding unintended increases in cold-related deaths.
- Take a seasonal approach to heat island mitigation is crucial for effective urban planning in the context of climate change and urbanization.
- Using lighter-coloured materials on buildings helps to reduce the heat of the surrounding areas.

## Reference

1. [The Hindu| Urban Heat Islands](#)
2. [National geographic](#)

## Bajirao Ballal

*Baji Rao I, also known as Bajirao Ballal, was a significant figure in the Maratha Empire passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1740 at Raverkhedi, near the banks of the Narmada River in present-day Madhya Pradesh.*

- **Birth-** Born as **Visaji** on **August 18, 1700**, in Sinnar, near Nashik.
- **His parents** - Were **Balaji Vishwanath Bhat**, the Peshwa of Chhatrapati Shahu, and **Radhabai Barve**.
- **About Baji Rao I** - Baji Rao I served as the **7th Peshwa** of the Maratha Empire and is renowned for his military prowess, strategic thinking, and significant expansion of the Maratha influence.
- He is credited with transforming the Maratha kingdom into a vast empire through a series of successful military campaigns.
- He never lost a battle in his 20-year military career.
- His campaigns extended the Maratha influence significantly into North India, including **Gujarat, Malwa, Rajputana, and Bundelkhand**.
- **Political Influence** - He played a key role in establishing Maratha supremacy in the Indian subcontinent, effectively displacing Mughal dominance.

## Geography

### Netravathi river

*Recently, Kallapu-Sajipa Riverfront Road project along Netravathi river in Mangaluru receives a Rs 40 crore boost from the state government.*

- **This vital road will link** - Mangaluru to key areas including Harekala, Pavor, Innoli, and Ranipura along **Netravathi River**.

**About Netravathi River** - A significant west-flowing river in Karnataka, India, also known as the Nethravathi Nadi.

- **Geographical Significance** - Flows westward and drains into the Arabian Sea south of Mangalore.
- **Origin Point** - Begins in the Western Ghats, specifically the Bangrabalike Valley of Yelaneeru Ghat.
- **Kudremukh Range Connection** - Its source lies within the Kudremukh range of the Chikkamagaluru district.
- **Alternative Origin Mention** - Some sources also cite Gangamoola, a hill in the same district, as a potential origin.

## International Relations and Issues

### World Day for Safety and Health at Work

*The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed annually on April 28th.*

- **Organized by** - **International Labour Organization (ILO)**
- **Established in** - **2003**.
- **Themes** - Revolutionizing health and safety: The role of AI and digitalization at work."
- **Objective** - **Promote the prevention** of occupational accidents and diseases globally.
- **Raise awareness** about the importance of creating and maintaining safe and healthy work environments for all workers.
- **Commemorate** workers who have been injured or lost their lives due to work-related incidents or illnesses (as the date also coincides with the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers).

## Economy

### **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)**

Recently, NICDC was honoured with the Udyog Vikas Award during the Udyog Vikas event organised by Janmabhumi Daily, a leading news daily in the state of Kerala.

- **All About NICDC**

- **NICDC began with** - launch of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) in 2007.

- **Objective to Create Industrial Cities** - Focuses on creating new "Smart City" industrial hubs.

- **Technology Integration** - It integrates next-generation technologies across infrastructure sectors for efficient urban development.

- **Investment Catalyst** - NICDP aims to attract significant investments from large industries and MSMEs.

- **Export Growth Driver** - It serves as a key catalyst in achieving India's \$2 trillion export target by 2030.

- **Under the NICDP, new industrial areas have been sanctioned in** - Uttarakhand (Khurpia), Punjab (Rajpura-Patiala), Maharashtra (Dighi), Kerala (Palakkad), Uttar Pradesh (Agra, Prayagraj), Bihar (Gaya), Telangana (Zaheerabad), Andhra Pradesh (Orvakal, Kopparthi), and Rajasthan (Jodhpur-Pali).

### **Environment**

#### **Tree Shrews of South Asia**

Recent research by the Zoological Survey of India has transformed the understanding of South Asian tree shrews.

- **Published in** - The journal Ecology & Evolution, which marks the need for targeted conservation efforts.

- **Research** - Uncovered morphological distinctions among these small mammals, which have often been misidentified due to their resemblance to other species.

- **Order Scandentia** - Tree shrews belong to the order Scandentia, distinct from true shrews or squirrels. They are characterized by elongated snouts and moist nasal pads.

- **Dietary Habits** - Their primary diet consists of insects and fruits, making them omnivores playing a role in controlling insect populations and seed dispersal.

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#### **Tree shrews**

Also known as banxringis, are small mammals native to the tropical forests of South and Southeast Asia.

#### **Classification of Tree shrews.**

They belong to the order Scandentia, which is divided into 2 families:

- **Tupaiaidae**: This family contains 19 species of "ordinary" tree shrews in four genera: *Anathana*, *Dendrogale*, *Tupaia*, and *Urogale*.

- **Ptilocercidae**: This family contains only one species, the pen-tailed tree shrew (*Ptilocercus lowii*).

**Ecological Importance** - As seed dispersers and insect predators, tree shrews contribute significantly to the health and balance of forest ecosystems.

### **Security**

## Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR

*Recently, IOS SAGAR reached Port Louis Harbour, Mauritius after finishing Phase I of joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance with the National Coast Guard (NCG) Mauritius. This surveillance was part of its deployment to the South Western Indian Ocean.*

- **Participating Nations** - Involves India and 9 African partner nations: Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and South Africa.
- **Regional Engagements** - The deployment included port calls at Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania), Nacala (Mozambique), Port Louis (Mauritius), Port Victoria (Seychelles), and Male (Maldives), fostering regional maritime cooperation.
- **EEZ Surveillance** - Joint surveillance exercises were conducted within the EEZs of Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius, and Seychelles, enhancing maritime security and domain awareness.
- **Capacity Building** - Furthermore, African personnel received training at Indian naval institutions in Kochi, focusing on essential naval operations, watch keeping procedures, and security protocols.

## Science

### Dr. K. Kasturirangan: A Legacy of Space and Education

*Recently, former ISRO Chairman Dr. Kasturirangan's passing on April 25, 2025, at 84, marks the loss of a visionary who profoundly impacted India's space program and education system, inspiring generations.*

- **Early Life and Education** - Born in Ernakulam, Kerala, in 1940, Dr. Kasturirangan earned degrees in Physics from Bombay University and a doctorate in High Energy Astronomy in 1971.
- **Leadership at ISRO** - As ISRO Chairman (1994-2003), he spearheaded the operationalization of PSLV and successful GSLV testing, marking a period of significant technological progress.
- **Chandrayaan-1 Mission** - Dr. Kasturirangan conceptualized India's first lunar mission, Chandrayaan-1 (launched 2008), which famously discovered water molecules on the moon.
- **Contributions Beyond ISRO** - Post-ISRO, he served in the Rajya Sabha and Planning Commission, notably chairing the committee for the transformative New Education Policy 2020.
- **Awards and Recognition** - His immense contributions were recognized with India's highest civilian honors: Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan.

## Miscellaneous

### National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)

*Recently, NIELIT signs MoUs with 8 Visionary Organizations to Propel Digital India Initiatives.*

- **NIELIT Status** - Operates as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Mission** - To Provide Advance education, specialized training, and foster research and development in the fields of Electronics, Information Technology, and cutting-edge technological domains.
- **Also recognized** - As a National Examination Body for accrediting institutions and organizations conducting non-formal sector courses in IT and Electronics.
- **Organisations with whom NIELIT has signed MoU** - Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), ERNET India, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, SKYROOT Aerospace, Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) and Kyndryl India.

## World Veterinary Day 2025

Recently, World Veterinary Day 2025, was observed on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

- The 2025 theme, "Animal Health Takes a Team," underscores the collaborative spirit within veterinary medicine.
- **First initiated by**- World Veterinary Association (WVA) in year 2000.
- **In India initiated by** - Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- **Aims to** - Honor the dedication of veterinary professionals but also emphasizes their crucial contributions to animal well-being, human health, and environmental protection.
- **Livestock Statistics** - India is home to over 536 million livestock, the largest in the world and nearly 70% of rural households depend on animals for income, food, and security.

## Prestigious French Award

Recently, Mumbai filmmaker Payal Kapadia received the 'Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres' from the French Government for her cinematic contributions.

- **Joining Illustrious Company** - This honor places Payal Kapadia alongside prominent Indian artists like Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, and Lata Mangeshkar.
- **About 'Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres'**
- **French Recognition** - Prestigious French award for significant contributions to arts and literature.
- **Order of Merit** - One of France's four ministerial orders, ranking below the Ordre National du Mérite and Légion d'Honneur.

