



FEBRUARY 2025  
VOL 2  
1ST FEB - 28TH FEB

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**FEB  
2025**

**VOL 2**

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

DETAILS OF IMPORTANT  
EVENTS

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## IMPORTANT DATES

IMPORTANT DATES  
RELATED TO JANUARY

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## EXPLANATIONS

DETAILED  
EXPLANATION OF  
EACH EVENT

# 1ST FEB 2025

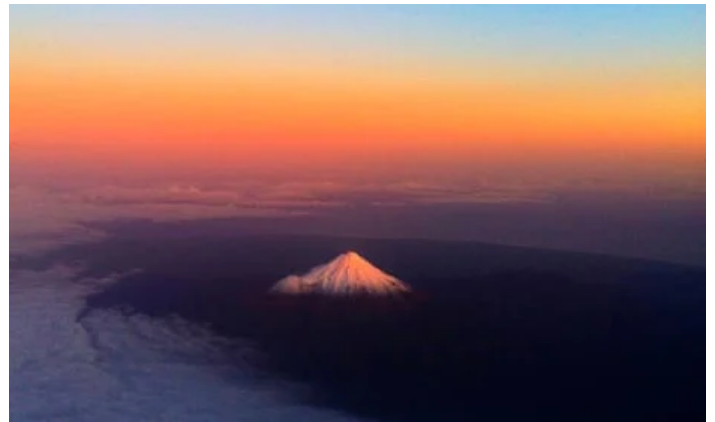
- Recently, two Indian Navy women officers, Lt. Cdr. Dilna K. and Lt. Cdr. Roopa A., successfully navigated through Point Nemo, the most remote location on Earth, during their expedition aboard the sailing vessel INSV Tarini. This historic journey is part of the Navika Sagar Parikrama-II initiative, promoting women's participation in maritime activities.
- The Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025 were recently published by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). This amendment aims to improve transparency and inclusivity in governance. It expands the use of Aadhaar authentication for both governmental and non-governmental entities. The goal is to enhance service delivery and ease of living for residents.



- The saffron reedtail damselfly, scientifically known as *Indosticta deccanensis*, has been discovered in Madhugundi village, Chikkamagaluru district, Karnataka. This finding marks the first record of the species in the northernmost part of the Western Ghats. Previously, it was known to inhabit regions in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

# 2ND FEB 2025

- Recently, New Zealand's Mount Taranaki, also known as Taranaki Maunga, was officially recognised as a legal person. This landmark decision acknowledges the mountain's significance to Indigenous Māori people, granting it all the rights and responsibilities of a human being. The law is part of a broader movement to address historical injustices faced by Māori following colonisation.



- India's Defence Ministry recently conducted a pilot study on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). This study marks the transformative potential of these technologies. It raises critical questions regarding control, accountability, and ethical deployment. The study was carried out in collaboration with the Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses.
- The PM-JANMAN package is initiative launched in November 2023 to enhance the living conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India. The programme aims for 100% saturation of essential services like housing, water, and roads across PVTG habitations. It addresses the socio-economic challenges faced by 75 PVTG communities in 18 states and one Union Territory.

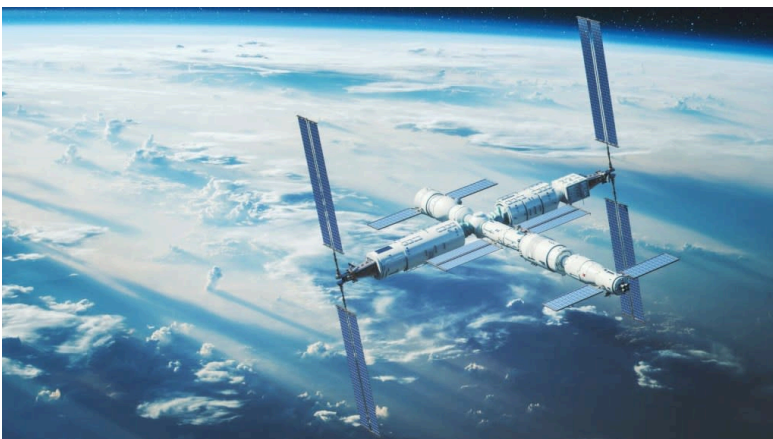


# 3RD FEB 2025



- The Indian Navy recently decided to enhance its carrier-based air power by selecting the Dassault Rafale M fighter jet. This choice comes after an extensive evaluation process that pitted Rafale-M against Boeing's F/A-18E/F Super Hornet. The decision reflects India's strategic shift towards modernising its naval aviation capabilities. The Rafale-M is designed for operations on aircraft carriers, making it suitable for the Indian Navy's needs.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently encountered a setback with the NVS-02 satellite. Launched on January 29, 2025, this marked ISRO's 100th launch. The satellite was intended to be positioned in a designated orbital slot. However, a valve malfunction prevented the necessary orbit raising operations.



- Recently, China's Shenzhou-19 crew aboard the Tiangong space station made advancement in space exploration by successfully conducting the first in-orbit demonstration of "artificial photosynthesis" technology. This breakthrough allows for the production of oxygen and rocket fuel ingredients in space, enhancing future missions, including a planned crewed moon landing by 2030.

# 4TH FEB 2025

- The recent call by billionaire Elon Musk to abolish the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has ignited a heated debate about the future of US foreign aid. Following a freeze on USAID funding imposed by President Donald Trump, numerous internal contractors were placed on unpaid leave. Musk, appointed to lead the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), labelled USAID a criminal organisation and stated it should be shut down. This has raised questions about the agency's role and effectiveness in global aid.



- The resurgence of Eurasian otters in Kashmir's Gurez Valley marks environmental development. Once thought nearly extinct in the region, these otters have been sighted again after decades. A recent video captured in January 2025 showcases otters actively hunting fish in the Kishangana river. This footage represents the first live documentation of the species in Kashmir in over 25 years.
- The Indian rupee recently fell to an unprecedented low of 87.29 against the US dollar. This decline occurred on February 3, 2025, amidst rising fears of a global trade war triggered by US tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico, and China. The dollar index surged over 1%, reflecting the strengthening of the US dollar against a basket of currencies.



# 5TH FEB 2025

- Recently, Uganda initiated a groundbreaking clinical trial for a vaccine targeting the Sudan species of the Ebola virus. This move, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners, follows the confirmation of an outbreak on January 30. The speed of this trial is unprecedented, marking advancement in emergency vaccine research.



- China's Chang'e-7 mission launched in 2025, project aims to investigate the Moon's south pole for potential water resources. The mission employs an innovative flying robot, designed to traverse the Moon's challenging terrain. This initiative is part of China's broader strategy to establish a permanent research base on the Moon.
- The Ross Sea has become a focal point for international marine research. Recent expeditions have brought into light its ecological significance and the need for conservation. Scientists from various countries, including India, are conducting extensive studies to understand the biodiversity of this unique marine environment. The current expedition, led by marine scientist Sherine Sonia Cubelio, is part of a 40-day collaborative effort aimed at assessing living resources in the region.

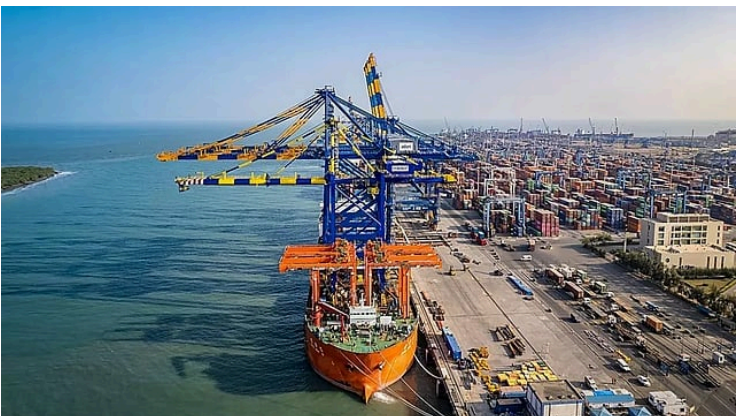
# 6TH FEB 2025

- Recently, the Indian Army's Eastern Command headquarters, Fort William, was officially renamed Vijay Durg. This change reflects India's ongoing efforts to shed colonial legacies and honour its indigenous military history. The decision to rename the fort was made in December 2024, marking a historic shift from British influence in recognition of India's past. Additionally, Kitchener House inside Fort William was renamed Manekshaw House, and St. George's Gate has been renamed Shivaji Gate.



- Ukraine's geopolitical landscape has transformed dramatically due to ongoing conflict with Russia. Amidst this turmoil, Ukraine's rich deposits of rare earths and other critical minerals have gained attention from global powers, particularly the United States. These resources are vital for various industries, including defence, technology, and renewable energy.
- The Atacama Desert in northern Chile is renowned for its exceptional conditions for astronomical observation. Its clear, dark skies have attracted multiple world-class observatories. However, a proposed green energy megaproject threatens to disrupt these conditions. This project, backed by AES Andes, aims to construct an extensive energy infrastructure for hydrogen and green ammonia production. Its proximity to the Paranal Observatory, home to the European Southern Observatory's Extremely Large Telescope, poses risks to astronomical research.

# 7TH FEB 2025



- The Iskander-1000 missile, developed by Russia, represents advancement in tactical ballistic missile technology. Following the dissolution of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, Russia has accelerated its missile production capabilities. The Iskander-1000 is designed to extend strike capabilities into Western Ukraine, enhancing Russia's military effectiveness in the region.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently launched the latest version of its Finite Element Analysis of Structures (FEAST) software at IIT Hyderabad. This event, the 8th National Finite Element Developers' Meeting, gathered over 250 experts from academia and industry. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan brought into light the software's significance in structural design for upcoming projects like the Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station.
- The recent directive from the Trump administration raises concerns regarding the future of India's Chabahar port project in Iran. This move is part of a broader strategy aimed at increasing pressure on Iran to curb its nuclear ambitions and military activities. The Chabahar port is crucial for India as it provides a direct route to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.



# 8TH FEB 2025

- The Grameen Credit Score Scheme was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2025 budget. This initiative aims to enhance financial inclusion for Self Help Groups (SHGs) and rural women entrepreneurs in India. It represents a shift in assessing the creditworthiness of millions of women involved in SHGs. The scheme seeks to align these women with the formal financial system of India.



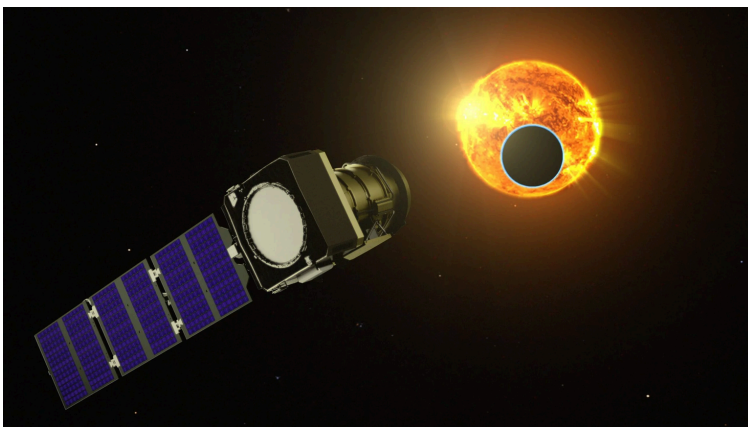
- The recent executive order by US President Donald Trump has raised concerns regarding the future of the International Criminal Court (ICC). This order imposes sanctions on the ICC, which is the only permanent global tribunal for war crimes and genocide. The ICC's role is crucial, especially as it investigates and prosecutes serious international crimes. Trump's action comes in response to the ICC's investigation into alleged war crimes committed by Israeli leaders during the conflict in Gaza.
- The debate surrounding oil exploration in Assam's Dibru Saikhowa National Park has intensified following the denial of permission for extraction activities. Oil India Limited (OIL) sought to conduct research and development (R&D) studies using Extended Reach Drilling (ERD) technology, despite previous rejections based on environmental concerns.

# 9TH FEB 2025

- The Supreme Court of India is currently examining the powers of Governors in the legislative process. This scrutiny arises from petitions filed by the Tamil Nadu government concerning delays in the Governor's assent to state Bills. This situation marks ongoing tensions between state governments and the constitutional role of Governors.



- Recent developments have brought into light the potential for potash mining in Punjab and Rajasthan. The Punjab Mining Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal announced plans to explore potash reserves in Fazilka and Sri Muktsar Sahib districts. These reserves were identified through surveys conducted by the Geological Survey of India. This initiative aims to reduce India's reliance on potash imports and strengthen the domestic fertiliser industry.
- NASA's upcoming mission, Pandora, is set to launch in 2025. This mission aims to study the atmospheres of distant exoplanets. With the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) facing overwhelming demand for observation time, Pandora will fill a critical gap. It will focus on clouds, hazes, and water, which are essential for assessing habitability in distant worlds.

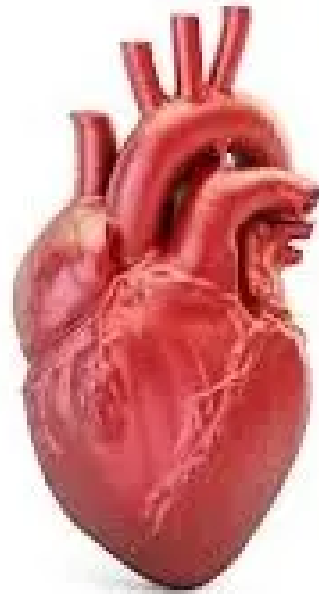


# 10TH FEB 2025

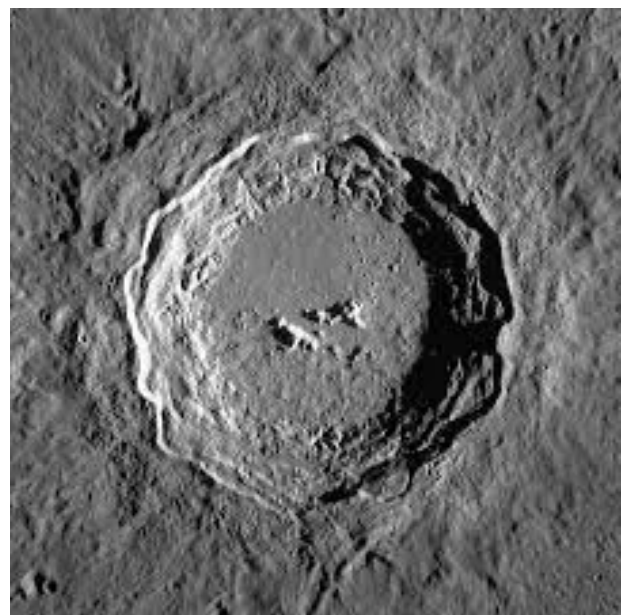
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted an ignition trial of the CE20 cryogenic engine. This engine powers the upper stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3). The test took place at the High Altitude Test Facility in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.



- India's heart failure landscape presents alarming statistics. Recent findings reveal that heart failure patients in India are nearly a decade younger than those in high-income countries. The National Heart Failure Registry (NHFR) indicates a one-year mortality rate of 25%, with variations based on the underlying cause of heart failure.



- India's Chandrayaan-3 mission marked a milestone in lunar exploration. On August 23, 2023, India became the first nation to achieve a soft landing on the moon's south pole. The mission's landing site, known as Shiv Shakti point, is estimated to be around 3.7 billion years old. This age coincides with the emergence of primitive microbial life on Earth.



# 11TH FEB 2025

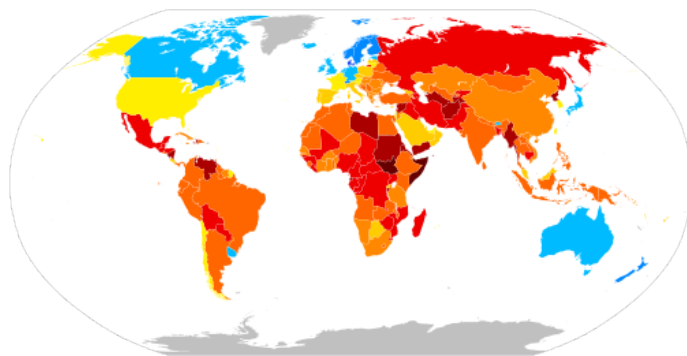
- The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) is a monetary tool introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to manage liquidity in the banking system. It was established on April 8, 2022, to absorb excess funds from commercial banks without the need for collateral. This move came in response to a massive liquidity surplus following extraordinary measures during the pandemic.



- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has raised concerns regarding the Morand-Ganjali Irrigation Project in Madhya Pradesh. This project threatens vital tiger habitats and disrupts ecological corridors between the Satpura and Melghat Tiger Reserves. The NTCA has urged authorities to consider alternative sites to reconcile development needs with conservation efforts.
- On February 10, 2025, the United Kingdom officially launched the Defence Partnership–India (DP-I). This initiative aims to deepen defence collaboration between the UK and India. The announcement coincided with the Aero India event, where several key agreements were signed. These agreements focus on advanced defence technologies and manufacturing capabilities.

# 12TH FEB 2025

- The recently released Devolution Index Report marks a very important moment for rural local self-governance in India. This comprehensive document evaluates the status of decentralisation across various states and Union Territories. It aims to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and realise the vision of “Local Self Government” as enshrined in the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.
- In 2024, India ranked 96 out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). This was a decline from its previous rank of 93 in 2023. The CPI measures perceived levels of public sector corruption based on expert assessments and business opinions. The scale ranges from zero, indicating high corruption, to 100, indicating a very clean public sector. India’s score fell to 38, down from 39 in 2023 and 40 in 2022.
- The recent ruling by the Delhi High Court has implications for the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA). The court quashed show cause notices issued to auditors and Chartered Accountants (CAs) without undermining the NFRA’s disciplinary authority. The decision focused on procedural lapses rather than the merits of the cases.



# 13TH FEB 2025



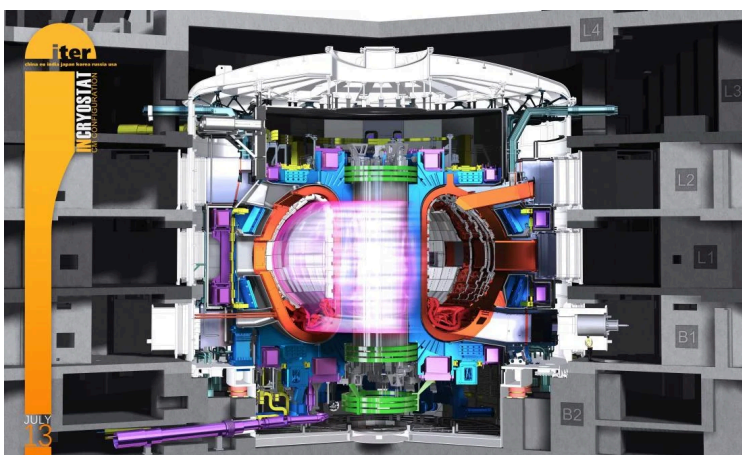
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new digital platform named Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant (MITRA). This initiative aims to assist investors in tracking inactive or unclaimed mutual fund folios. The platform responds to concerns where investors lose track of their investments due to outdated contact information or lack of awareness regarding investments made in their name.
- The recent decision by the Karnataka state government to construct a village for tribal communities within the buffer zone of Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary has sparked debate. This initiative is intended to address the housing needs of over 570 tribal families.

- The recent identification of the Crocodile Catfish in the Bahini River (a tributary of Brahmaputra) has sparked ecological concerns in Guwahati. This invasive species poses threat to local fish populations and the overall aquatic ecosystem. The State Fishery Department is actively analysing samples to determine the extent of the impact. This discovery marks ongoing issues related to invasive species in Assam's waterways.



# 14TH FEB 2025

- Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched in April 2022 to combat water scarcity in India. As of January 2025, the initiative has successfully constructed or rejuvenated over 68,000 ponds, far exceeding its initial target. The mission aims to create 75 ponds in each district, totalling 50,000 nationwide. This initiative plays important role in improving water availability, promoting environmental sustainability, and enhancing community well-being.



- The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently released the report titled “India Gas Market Report: Outlook to 203”. It revealed that India’s natural gas demand is expected to grow by 60% by 2030, reaching 103 billion cubic meters (bcm) annually, making it one of the world’s largest consumers. After slow growth for over a decade, gas demand grew by over 10% in 2023 and 2024, marking a turning point.
- The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) aims to harness fusion energy. Recently, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi visited the ITER facility in France, accompanied by French President Emmanuel Macron. The visit brought into light the progress of ITER, especially the assembly of the world’s largest tokamak. This initiative is crucial for demonstrating fusion as a viable, carbon-free energy source.

# 15TH FEB 2025



- The recent outbreak of Sudan virus disease in Uganda has garnered global attention. The World Health Organization and the Ugandan government confirmed this outbreak, marking the ninth recorded since 1976. The index case (first identified case) is a 32-year-old male nurse from Kampala. As of February 11, there are nine confirmed cases, with the index case being the only reported death. This situation marks the ongoing challenges posed by viral infections in a rapidly changing world.

- The US-India Energy Security Partnership aims to enhance bilateral energy ties. This agreement positions the US as a leading supplier of oil and gas to India. The partnership addresses trade deficits and promotes collaboration in nuclear energy. Both nations are committed to advancing the US-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement. This agreement focuses on building American-designed nuclear reactors in India, emphasising localisation and technology transfer.



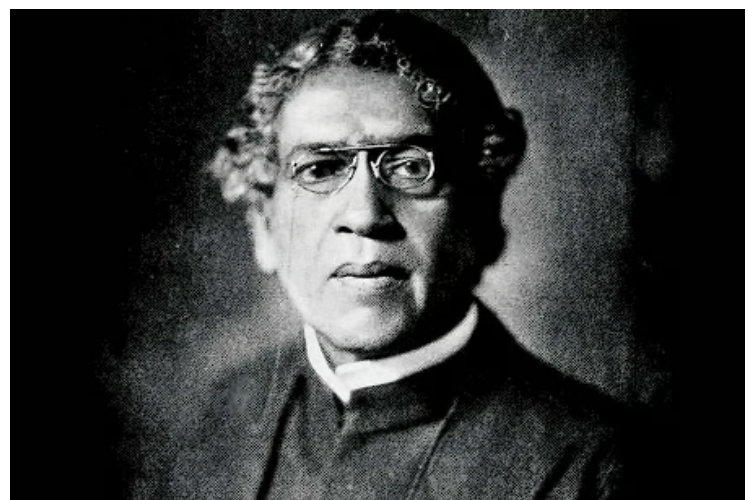


# 16TH FEB 2025



- The Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative was launched by the United Nations in 2022. Its aim is to protect vulnerable populations from hazardous weather and climate events by implementing effective early warning systems (EWS) by the end of 2027. As climate-related disasters become more frequent and severe, the need for robust EWS is increasingly urgent.

- India's BrahMos cruise missile programme is undergoing advancements with the development of the BrahMos NG (Next Generation) missile system. This new iteration is expected to begin production by 2027-28, following its first flight tests anticipated next year. The BrahMos NG aims to enhance the capabilities of its predecessor while being lighter and more compact.
- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has recently launched the J. C. Bose Grant (JBG). This initiative aims to honour the exceptional contributions of senior Indian scientists and engineers. It provides extra-mural funding opportunities to enhance research in advanced scientific and technological fields.





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