



FEBRUARY 2025
VOL 2
1ST FEB - 28TH FEB

CURRENT AFFAIRS

**FEB
2025**

VOL 2

IMPORTANT EVENTS

DETAILS OF IMPORTANT
EVENTS

IMPORTANT DATES

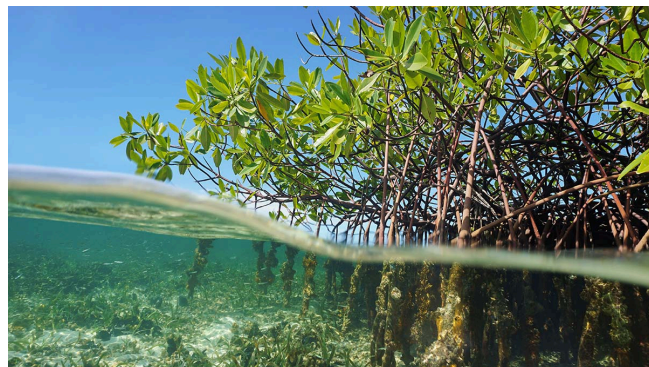
IMPORTANT DATES
RELATED TO JANUARY

EXPLANATIONS

DETAILED
EXPLANATION OF
EACH EVENT

17TH FEB 2025

- Recent developments at the 61st Munich Security Conference (MSC) have brought into light shift in the geopolitical landscape between the United States and Europe. The conference, held in February 2025, was marked by discord and differing priorities among attendees. With the ongoing war in Ukraine, the absence of Ukrainian representatives from crucial negotiations has raised concerns about the future of European security and unity.
- India's green cover has been absorbing more carbon than it emits annually over the past decade. This achievement marks the crucial role of vegetation in mitigating climate change. However, recent studies indicate that this carbon sequestration capacity declines during extreme climate events, such as droughts. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal, have explored this phenomenon in detail.



- Bharat Tex 2025 is global textile event held in New Delhi from February 14 to 17, 2025. During this event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced ambitious targets for India's textile exports, aiming to increase from ₹3 lakh crore to ₹9 lakh crore by 2030.

18TH FEB 2025

- The Kerala government has made strides in health care with the Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi (KASAP). This integrated health protection scheme aims to provide comprehensive coverage for the state's most vulnerable populations. With an additional allocation of Rs 300 crore, the total funding for KASAP in the current financial year has reached Rs 978.54 crore. This scheme is designed to cover over 64 lakh beneficiaries, primarily targeting the poorest 40% of the population.

Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the public sector undertaking Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the Aero India 2025 event. This agreement focuses on the indigenous development of a special grade steel known as MDN100. This steel is designed for aeronautical applications, particularly for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
- In December 2024, the State Administration for Religious Affairs in China introduced new regulations governing Tibetan Buddhist temples. These measures, effective from January 1, 2025, enhance state control over religious practices in Tibet. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) aims to integrate Tibetan Buddhism into the broader Han Chinese cultural framework.



19TH FEB 2025



- On February 18, 2025, Amir Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar visited India for a two-day state visit. This is the Amir's first visit to India in 9 years. India and Qatar share deep-rooted historical ties. The relationship has evolved in recent years, particularly in trade and investment. Indian expatriates form the largest foreign community in Qatar, contributing positively to its development.

- The Asia and the Pacific region is making progress in sustainable development through innovative local solutions. Recent findings from the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2025, released by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), reveal the crucial role of community-driven initiatives. These initiatives are addressing data gaps essential for achieving the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
SDG PROGRESS REPORT**
Engaging communities to close the evidence gap
2025



- Recently, the state of Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a rise in Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) cases, prompting government action. The Chief Minister has ordered an investigation into the outbreak. Earlier this year, Maharashtra also reported rising cases of GBS.

20TH FEB 2025

- India has recently been elected to the Vice Presidency of the International Organization of Aids to Marine Navigation (IALA) during its first General Assembly in Singapore. This election reflects India's growing influence in maritime affairs.



- The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 has attracted millions of devotees to Prayagraj. However, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has reported alarming levels of faecal coliform bacteria in the Ganga. These bacteria are indicators of water contamination from human and animal waste. The presence of these bacteria poses health risks, especially during a time when many are immersing themselves in the river for religious rituals.
- The Arunachal Pradesh government has recently announced enhancements to the Dulari Kanya Scheme. This initiative aims to support the institutional births of girl children

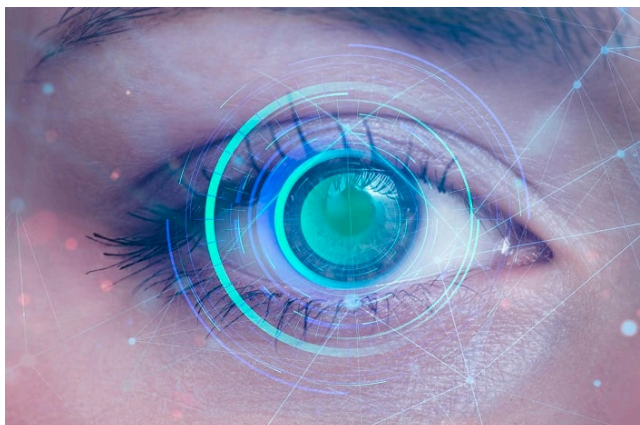


21ST FEB 2025

- India has launched a comprehensive campaign to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The initiative targets individuals aged 30 and above. It aims to screen for conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and specific cancers. This effort is part of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD). The campaign runs from February 20 to March 31. The goal is to achieve 100% screening coverage in the vulnerable population.



- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has launched a new payment mechanism called Bima-ASBA. This initiative aims to simplify premium payments for life and health insurance policies. Starting from March 1, 2025, policyholders can use the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to block funds in their bank accounts. This ensures a smoother transaction process without immediate debits.



- The Government of Kerala has launched Nayanamritham 2.0. This initiative is the world's first government-led programme for AI-assisted chronic eye disease screening. It follows the success of Nayanamritham 1.0. The programme aims to enhance early detection and improve accessibility to quality eye care throughout the state.

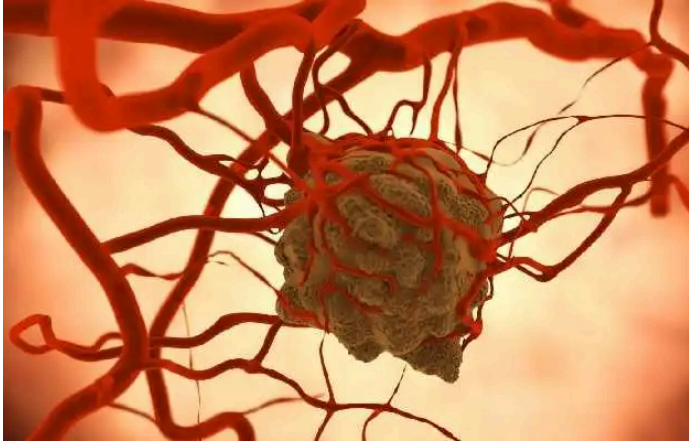
22ND FEB 2025

- The recent ex-gratia compensation disbursement to the families of victims from the New Delhi railway station stampede has sparked debate. The Ministry of Railways provided cash payments of Rs 10 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased. This raised questions about the appropriateness of cash payments in such situations.



- Recent geological studies have revealed that the northern region of Iraq, particularly around the Zagros Mountains, is experiencing slow but geological changes. A research team has identified a sinking oceanic slab beneath the Earth's surface that is gradually pulling this area downwards. This phenomenon is a result of complex tectonic processes occurring over millions of years.
- The Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) government in Assam has recently included Bathouism as an official religion option in various application forms. This decision has garnered praise from experts in the field of Bodo culture and traditional faith. Union Home Minister Amit Shah brought into light this initiative during the 13th Triennial Conference of the All Bathou Mahasabha.

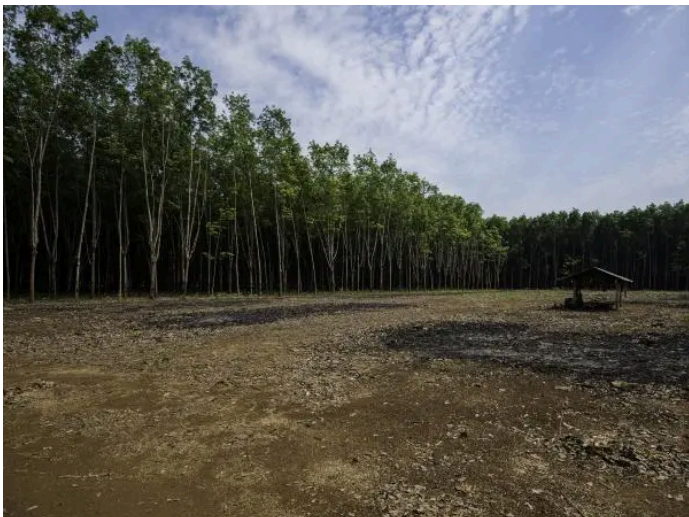
23RD FEB 2025



- Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) presents health challenges worldwide, particularly in low and middle-income countries. In India, the burden of AML is acute, with late-stage diagnoses and limited access to advanced treatment options. Despite global advancements in cancer care, disparities remain evident in patient outcomes, especially in rural areas. Addressing these challenges is crucial for improving survival rates.



- A collaborative initiative involving IIIT-Delhi, CHRI-PATH, Tata 1mg, and the Indian Council of Medical Research has led to the development of AMRSense. This AI-powered tool analyses routine hospital data to provide timely vital information about antibiotic resistance patterns. The findings were published in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia, showcasing a six-year study across 21 tertiary care centres in India.



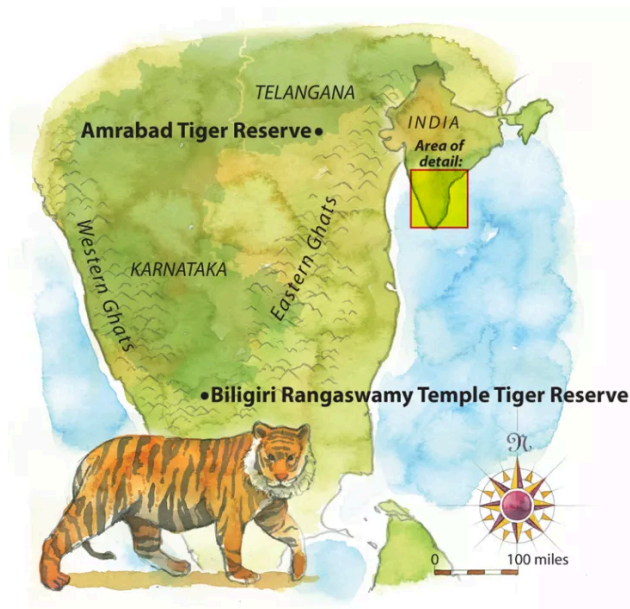
- Recent research marks the impact of developed countries on global biodiversity loss. A study by Princeton University published in February 2025 reveals that consumption patterns in high-income nations are a major driver of species decline in other countries. This research quantifies how agricultural and forestry imports lead to environmental degradation abroad, particularly in tropical regions.

24TH FEB 2025

- Recent research has brought to light a new bat coronavirus named HKU5-CoV-2. This discovery was made at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China. Scientists have noted its similarities to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic. The study has raised questions about potential human transmission and pandemic risks.



- Shaktikanta Das, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been appointed as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India as of February 22, 2025. This appointment marks a shift in the Indian bureaucratic landscape as Das brings a unique blend of experience in both monetary and fiscal policy.



- The Soliga tribe inhabits the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve in Karnataka. Their relationship with the tiger population is very important to conservation efforts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought into light their contributions during the 119th edition of Mann Ki Baat. He noted a steady increase in tiger numbers, attributing much of this success to the Soligas. Their cultural reverence for tigers encourages harmony between humans and wildlife.

25TH FEB 2025

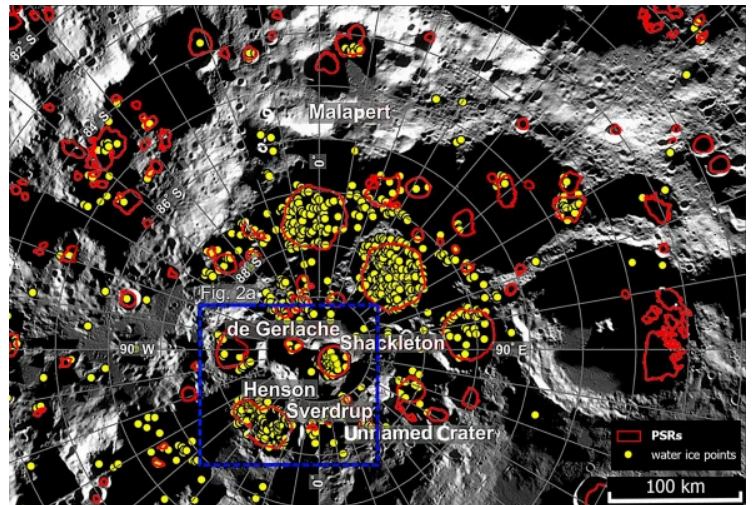
- India's commitment to rural development has gained renewed focus through the African-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO). Recently, at an AARDO meeting, Indian officials brought into light the importance of collective vision and cooperation. They stressed the shared aspirations of communities in Asia and Africa for dignity, opportunity, and progress. This meeting highlighted the significance of food security, climate resilience, and digital empowerment as essential components of rural development.



- The European Union has recently classified caffeine as harmful to humans if swallowed under new chemical safety regulations. This decision has generated discussion, particularly regarding its implications for everyday caffeine consumption.
- Recent reports highlight Kerala's unsustainable waste management practices. The state has been offloading non-biodegradable waste to neighbouring states, primarily Tamil Nadu. This approach is seen as a temporary solution that shifts the burden rather than addressing the root causes. The report titled "Choking on Toxic Smoke – The Brahmapuram Garbage Disaster in Kochi and Municipal Solid Waste Management in Kerala" emphasises the necessity for internal solutions.

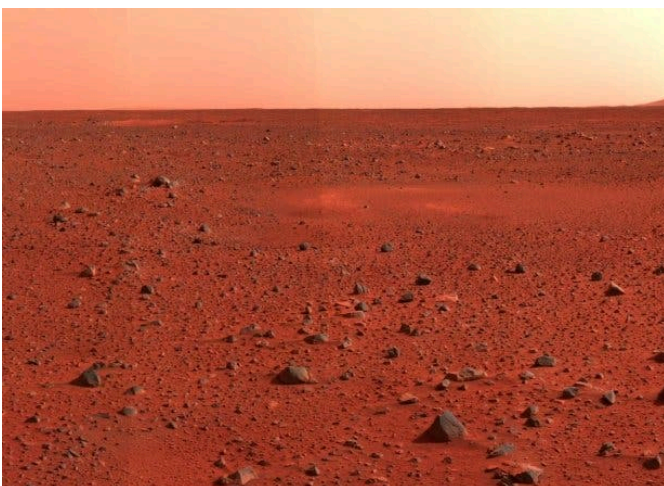
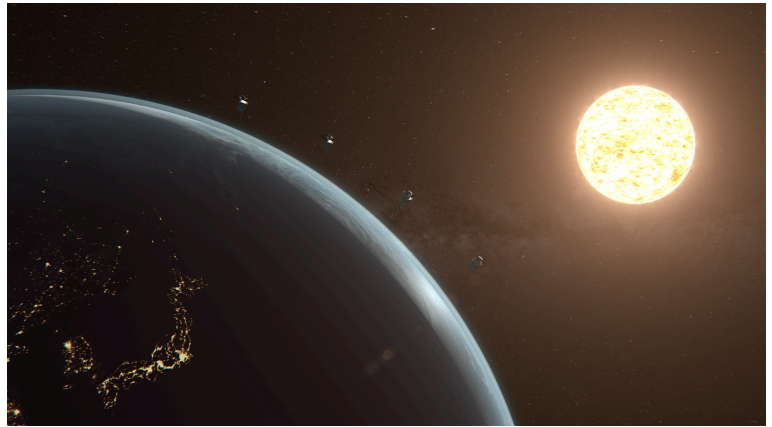
26TH FEB 2025

- Researchers from PRL Ahmedabad, Panjab University Chandigarh, and ISRO's Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems in Bengaluru created the first detailed map of the Moon's south pole. They used data from the Pragyan rover.
- The Caspian Sea, the world's largest enclosed body of water, is facing alarming environmental challenges. Recent reports indicate drop in water levels, which poses a threat to the region's biodiversity and human activities. Environmental activists and officials are calling for immediate collective action among the five bordering nations – Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Iran. The situation demands urgent attention to prevent further degradation.
- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has recently renamed its Recruits Training Centre in Arakkonam to honour Rajaditya Cholan, a notable figure in Tamil history. This renaming, effective from February 24, 2025, commemorates the Chola prince who lost his life in the Battle of Thakkolam in 949 CE. The battle marked moment in the conflict between the Cholas and the Rashtrakutas.



27TH FEB 2025

- NASA's Polarimetry to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere (PUNCH) mission aims to study the Sun's atmosphere and its influence on space weather. Scheduled for launch on February 28, 2025, this mission will deploy four suitcase-sized satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). Each satellite will weigh approximately 64 kg and collectively aim to enhance our understanding of solar winds and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).



- Recent findings from China's Zhurong rover have revealed evidence of an ancient ocean on Mars. Ground-penetrating radar data suggests the presence of sandy beach-like structures beneath the Martian surface. This discovery supports the hypothesis of a large ocean, known as Deuteronilus, that existed approximately 3.5 to 4 billion years ago. During this time, Mars had a thicker atmosphere and a warmer climate, conditions that may have supported life.
- For years, scientists believed that the Mars' red hue was solely due to iron minerals rusting in dry conditions. However, new research indicates a wetter history for Mars. This research combines spacecraft data from the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA with advanced laboratory experiments. The findings suggest that ferrihydrite, an iron oxide requiring water to form, is key to understanding Mars' distinctive colour.

28TH FEB 2025

- Recently, Intuitive Machines launched its second lunar mission, the Athena moon lander, from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. This mission follows the company's historic achievement as the first private entity to successfully land on the moon. The Athena mission, part of the IM-2 programme, aims to explore the moon's resources and deploy a lunar cellular network. This initiative is crucial for future lunar exploration and aligns with NASA's Artemis programme.
- In a surprising development, US President Donald Trump has announced a new immigration initiative called the "Gold Card." This programme offers a direct pathway to US citizenship for foreign investors who contribute \$5 million. The Gold Card replaces the previously existing EB-5 visa programme, which was popular among Indian investors.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has recently launched the Aadhaar Good Governance portal. This initiative aims to streamline the approval process for Aadhaar authentication requests. The portal is part of a broader effort to enhance ease of living and improve service accessibility for citizens.





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