

## Prime Minister urges 10-Year national pledge to shed Colonial Mindset rooted in Macaulay's Legacy

Prime Minister highlighted that colonial mindset started taking root when in **1835**, British MP **Thomas Babington Macaulay** launched a major campaign to uproot India from its cultural foundations.

- **Macaulay's Minute on Education in 1835** promoted English education in India at the expense of education in Oriental languages like Sanskrit, Hindi, Arabic etc.
- To promotion of British Education system, **Mahatma Gandhi noted** that India's ancient education system was a beautiful tree that was uprooted and destroyed.

### Colonial Mindset in India: Core Elements

- **Language:** Use of English in courts and universities is seen as aspirational, sometimes hindering access for non-English speakers.
- **Culture:** Colonial rule imposed Western cultural elements including western dress, food, art forms, manners, and values, often projecting Indian knowledge systems as inferior.
- **Laws & Institutions:** Many colonial laws, such as the IPC (Indian Penal Code), Forest Laws, Sedition etc. and criminal procedures, are rooted in establishing control rather than service.
- **Economic System:** Imported economic models and emphasis on private capital led to impoverishment of a large section of population.
- **Knowledge Systems:** Indigenous knowledge systems forgotten due to large emphasis on imported models of research and innovation.

### Cognitive Decolonisation: The Way Forward

- **Policy Measures:** Promoting Indian languages in the National Education Policy, reviving indigenous knowledge systems and reform of colonial era laws.
  - ⊗ Renaming Rajpath, a symbol of colonial rulership, to Kartavya Path, emphasising duty over entitlement.
- **Cultural Revival:** Revitalization of indigenous festivals and crafts nurture pride. Eg: International Yoga Day.
  - ⊗ For instance, the Sengol in the New Parliament Building symbolises India's democratic and historical legacy.
- **Behavioural Shift:** Focus on Atmanirbhar Bharat emphasizing self-reliance in innovation, local governance, and embracing Indian thought in public life. Eg: Mission LIFE.

## SC warns Telangana Speaker for delay in MLA disqualification under Tenth Schedule

In **Padi Kaushik Reddy vs. the State Of Telangana**, the Supreme Court also remarked that **Speaker does not enjoy constitutional immunity** while acting as a tribunal under the Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law).

### About Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law)

- **Introduced in 1985** by the **52nd Amendment**, it lays out **grounds and procedures for disqualifying legislators** who
  - ⊗ **Voluntarily give up membership** of their original political party,
  - ⊗ **Vote against party directives** in the legislature,
  - ⊗ **Join any political party after the expiry of six months** from first sitting, in case of a nominated members,
  - ⊗ **Join any party** after election, in case of independent members.
- **Exception:** Allows a party to merge into another party provided that **at least two-thirds of its legislators** are in favour of the merger.
- **Significance:**
  - ⊗ **Curbs political defections** under the **influence of money and intimidation**.
  - ⊗ **Promotes stability in governments by discouraging "floor-crossing"** ('Aaya Ram Gaya Ram' trend) that erodes voter mandates and weakens democracy.

### Role of the Speaker

- Petitions for disqualification are **decided by the Speaker (or presiding officer)** of the respective House.
  - ⊗ However, Speakers, often drawn from the ruling party, have been **accused of using delays to favor their party's interests**.
- Supreme Court in **Kihoto Hollohan v Zachillhu (1992)** declared that Speaker acts as tribunal and his decisions **subject to judicial review**.

### Other Key Judgements w.r.t. Anti-Defection Law

- **Sadiq Ali v Election Commission of India (1971):** SC laid down the **three-test formula (Party's aims, constitution & legislative majority)** for determining which faction is to be recognised as the original political party by the Election Commission.
- **Rajendra Singh Rana v Swami Prasad Maurya (2007):** Speaker cannot delay disqualification indefinitely.
- **Keisham Meghachandra Singh v Speaker, Manipur (2020):** Speakers **should ideally decide within 3 months**, barring exceptional cases.

## Ten Years of last India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

**Absence of IAFS** for a long period warrant reflecting on the **Opportunities and Challenges in India-Africa relations.**

- **Three IAFS** have been held previously in **2008, 2011 and 2015**, with a focus on **broader development cooperation.**

### Opportunities in India-Africa Relations

- **Trade: African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** creates a **single market**, offering **Indian investors immense scale and access.**
  - ⊕ India is Africa's **third-largest trading partner** (after EU and China) with trade surpassing **\$100 billion.**
- **African-led development:** Africa has been **one of the world's fastest-growing regions** over past decade and this growth translates into an expanding consumer base, growing young workforce and presenting vast market opportunities.
- **Soft Diplomacy:** Human resource development through **education and healthcare cooperation.**
  - ⊕ E.g. IITs campuses, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), Pan-African e-Network.
- **Representation in Global Institutions:** India supports African representation in global institutions which boosts India's leadership in global South-South Cooperation.
  - ⊕ E.g. India's push for membership for **African Union in the G-20.**
- **Technological cooperation:** India can aid Africa in **leapfrogging digital infrastructure deficits** through initiatives like Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

#### Kampala Principles (10 Guiding Principles For India's Engagement With Africa)

|                                                                    |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Intensify and deepen Indian engagement with Africa;                | Create local capabilities and opportunities;                                     |
| Greater market access to Africa and greater investments in Africa; | Use of digital tools to support Africa's development;                            |
| Enhance agricultural productivity;                                 | Address climate change challenges;                                               |
| Combating terrorism together and fostering peace and security;     | Free and open oceans for all;                                                    |
| Cooperation on promoting the aspirations of African youth          | Collaboration on establishing a just, representative and democratic global order |

### Challenges

- **Competition and Debt:** India faces competition from **China's investments** that could potentially push African countries in the **debt-trap.**
- **Delays:** India's projects face issues of scale and **bureaucratic drag**, hindering actualization of potential.
- **Geopolitical challenges:** **Political Instability** (rise of military coups) and **maritime insecurity** (piracy and maritime terrorism in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)) hinder investment and long-term project viability.

## Supreme Court issued directions for tiger reserves protection

These directions were issued to address **increasing Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWCs)** due to habitat degradation, unregulated tourism, and corridor fragmentation.

### Directions issued by the Supreme Court

- **Tiger Safari Restrictions:** Permitted **only on non-forest or degraded forest land** in buffer zones;
  - ⊕ No safaris in **core areas or designated tiger corridors.**
  - ⊕ **Night Tourism:** To be banned in **core/critical** tiger habitats.
- **Prohibited Activities:** Commercial mining, polluting industries, major hydro projects, exotic species introduction, low-flying aircraft or commercial firewood extraction **barred in buffer/fringe areas.**
- **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs):** All reserves must have their ESZs notified by the **Union Ministry of Environment** (on the request of states) as per the **2018 guidelines under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.**
- **Tiger Conservation Plans (TCPs):** States must prepare/revise TCPs within stipulated timelines;
  - ⊕ **Core and buffer areas** to be notified **within six months.**
- **Natural Disaster Status:** States to treat **HWCs as a natural disaster** to ensure rapid relief.
  - ⊕ **Compensation:** Uniform ex-gratia of **₹10 lakh** for human deaths due to HWCs.
  - ⊕ **Draft HWC mitigation guidelines:** To be drafted by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** within six months, and **to be implemented by all States.**

### About Tiger Reserves

- **Definition:** Legally protected areas under **Project Tiger (1973)** for long-term conservation of tigers, comprising
  - ⊕ **Core Areas (critical habitat):** Inviolable; no tourism or commercial activity.
  - ⊕ **Buffer Areas (sustainable use zone):** Regulated eco-development; limited tourism.
- **Declaring Authority:** **NTCA** (a statutory body under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**) **approves and notifies** reserves; **States propose sites.**
- **Total Reserves:** 58 tiger reserves across India.

## National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approves research projects to strengthen Scientific River Management

Executive Committee (EC) of NMCG placed a strong emphasis on **research-led river rejuvenation**, approving **major research projects** aimed at strengthening scientific understanding and data-driven planning across the Ganga basin.

- Approved Scientific River Management Projects span critical areas—from **Monitoring of Key Himalayan Ganga Headstream glaciers**, **Digital Twin development for the Ganga**, and **high-resolution SONAR-based riverbed surveys**, to **managed aquifer recharge via paleochannels** and the creation of a **historic geospatial river database**.

### River Basin Management

River Basin Management (RBM) refers to **management of all natural and artificial structures and processes** that are directly or indirectly connected to all water resources of the river basin. **Key components include:**

- **Institutional Arrangement:** Creation of necessary governance bodies such as National Ganga Council, NMCG, State Ganga Committees etc.
- **Information System:** Building a geospatial river database utilizing historical maps, high-resolution riverbed surveys, remote sensing satellite data etc.
  - ⊕ For instance, NMCG has approved creation of Geospatial River Database for Ganga River.
- **Basin-wide Policies:** Identification of protected areas, assessment of future water supply and demand, and implementing appropriate water conservation and recharge measures.
- **Stakeholders:** Mobilise all primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders, including national agencies and local governments, civil society organisations and the rest of the private sector.
- **Performance Indicators:** Establish monitoring network analysing water quality, pollution levels, mapping ecological hazards, financial sustainability and institutional capacity etc.
  - ⊕ For instance, Digital Twin model for Ganga Basin will model the river management in real time.

#### Water and River Basin Management – Important Task



##### Water Budget

A local or regional level water budget should be based on incoming and outgoing water, their various uses, and other requirements.



##### Determination of Threshold Limit

For sustainable use of water resource based on scientific principles.



##### Identification of Factors and Coordination of their Effects

Co-ordination of possible effects of manmade and natural changes like human use, climate change, LULC change, etc.



##### Identification of Threats from All Perspectives and Their Solution

Identification of threatened water resources on a priority basis and taking necessary steps.



##### Identification of Local and Regional Water Resources

Compilation of complete information about condition of all local and regional water bodies.



##### Participation of All Stakeholders

Identification of various issues related to water quantity, quality, and aquatic organisms.

## Also In News



### 16th Finance Commission

16th Finance Commission Submits 2026-31 Report to the President of India.

#### About 16th Finance Commission

- **Constituted by the President** under **Article 280 (1)** of the Constitution.
- **Chairman:** Arvind Panagariya (former vice-chairman of NITI Aayog).
- **Terms of Reference:**
  - ⊕ **Distribution between the Union and States** of the **net proceeds of taxes** and allocation between the States of such proceeds.
  - ⊕ Principles for governing the **grants-in-aid and revenues of the state** under **Article 275** of the Constitution.
  - ⊕ Measures needed to **augment the Consolidated Fund of a State** to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities based on state finance commission recommendation.



### Precision Biotherapeutics

**Precision biotherapeutics** are emerging as the **next frontier in personalised medicine**.

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has identified Precision Biotherapeutics as one of the six focus areas **under the BioE<sup>3</sup> Policy**.

#### About Precision Biotherapeutics

- **Definition:** Precision biotherapeutics is the **targeted application of biological agents (proteins, cells, or gene therapies derived from living systems)** tailored to an individual patient's genetic profile, environment, and lifestyle.
- **Technologies:** Includes gene editing, mRNA platforms, monoclonal antibodies and personalised cell-based therapies.
- **Advantages:** **Improves efficacy** and **reduces adverse effects** through targeted intervention, esp. in **rare genetic disorders and autoimmune diseases**.





## Leopards

To tackle rising human-leopard conflict, MoEFCC has granted approval to Maharashtra's **leopard birth control programme** (first time in India).

### About Leopards (*Panthera pardus*)

- **Habitat Distribution:** India, Nepal, Bhutan, and parts of Pakistan, excluding mangrove forests and deserts.
- **Size:** It is the **smallest** of the big cats.
- **Prey:** smaller species of herbivores, such as the chital, hog deer and wild boar.
- **Uniqueness:** **nocturnal**, spends most of its resting time on **top of trees**, using land only to move locations.

### Conservation status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Near Threatened
- **CITES:** Appendix-I
- **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule-I



## UN CyberCrime Treaty

Amidst rising digital arrest scams, the Supreme Court asked the Centre to decide on ratifying the **United Nations Convention against Cybercrime** (or UN CyberCrime Treaty).

### About UN CyberCrime Treaty

- **Overview:** It is the **first universal legally binding framework** for the collection, sharing and use of **electronic evidence for all serious offences**.
  - ⊕ It **criminalize cyber-dependent crimes** and also offences related to **online fraud, online child sexual abuse, non-consensual dissemination of intimate images**, etc.
  - ⊕ Convention was **adopted by the General Assembly** of the United Nations on 24 December 2024.
- **Secretariat:** UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).



## AJEYA WARRIOR

The eighth edition of the **India-UK Joint Military Exercise "Ajeya Warrior-25"** commenced in Rajasthan.

- Held **biennially since 2011** between Indian Army and British Army.
- Conducted under a **United Nations mandate**, it focuses on counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban environment.



## Sentinel-6B

The Sentinel-6B satellite was launched from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California on a Falcon 9 rocket.

### About Sentinel-6B Satellite

- Joint mission between the United States' NASA, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and the European Space Agency.
- **Purpose:** It is an **ocean-tracking satellite** with six onboard science instruments that will measure the rising sea levels and its impacts on Earth.
- **Expected Benefits:**
  - ⊕ Help scientists understand sea-level rise – crucial information for shaping climate policy and protecting coastal lives.
  - ⊕ Improve the accuracy of weather forecasts, including storm and flood predictions.



## LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas)

India signed its first structured LPG supply deal with the **United States** to import **2.2 MTPA of LPG** (around 10% of India's demand) for year 2026.

### About LPG

- **Composition:** Contains **50-60% propane** and **40-50% butane**, varying with season and supply.
- **Production & Import:** **Domestic production** is ~12.8 MT (35%); **imports exceeded** ~21 MT (65%).
  - ⊕ **Import Sources:** **Qatar** as the largest source, followed by the **UAE, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia**.
- **Households account for over 90%** of India's LPG demand.



## Earth System Sciences Council (ESSC)

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (**MoES**) has constituted the Earth System Sciences Council (**ESSC**) to unify and streamline governance across its autonomous institutions.

### About ESSC

- **Purpose:** Integrates **five** autonomous MoES institutes under a coordinated framework to improve governance and collaboration.
- **Governance:** Chaired by the Union Minister for Earth Sciences to **break institutional silos and promote a whole-of-government approach**.
- **Structure:** Institutes retain their mandates but follow common committees, a unified annual report and shared administrative oversight.
- **Significance:** Strengthens climate services, disaster preparedness, ocean and atmospheric research, and enhances public outreach.



## Initial Public Offering (IPO)

India's **Chief Economic Advisor** raised concerns regarding use of **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** as an exit route for early-stage investors rather than an instrument for raising long-term capital.

### About Initial Public Offer (IPO)

- An IPO is the **selling of securities of private companies to the public in the primary market (for the first time)**.
- IPO transforms a **privately-held company into a public company**.
- It is the largest source of funds with **long or indefinite maturity** for the company.
- **Types of IPO:** Fixed Price Issue and Book Building Issue (no fixed price, but a price band).



## Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)

Union Environment Minister of India addresses **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)** Industry Leaders' Roundtable at CoP30, Belém, Brazil.

### About LeadIT

- Launched jointly by **India and Sweden** and supported by the **World Economic Forum** at the **UN Climate Action Summit in 2019**.
- **Aim:** It was the **first global high-level initiative** aimed to **achieve net-zero carbon emissions from high-emitting industries by 2050**.
- LeadIT drives **just and equitable industry transition** by fostering **public-private partnerships**, mobilising resources and supporting **knowledge-sharing**.
- **LeadIT 2.0 (2024-2026)** was adopted at the annual LeadIT Summit at COP28.
- **Members:** 18 member countries and 27 companies.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



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