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## **Pampa River Added to National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)**

- The Pampa River in Kerala, the third-longest river in the state, has been added to the National River Conservation Plan.
- The initiative aims to reduce pollution, restore the river's ecological health, and provide sustainable livelihoods.
- It is the third longest river in the state of Kerala after the Periyar River and the Bharathappuzha River.
- Also called the 'Dakshina Bhageerathi' or the Ganga of Kerala, the significance of the river is associated with the Sabarimala temple.
- Pilgrims visiting Sabarimala take a dip in the river here before and after trekking the hill.
- It rises at an altitude of 1650 m in the Pulachimalai Hill on the Peerumedu plateau of the Western Ghats.

### **National River Conservation Plan (NRCP):**

- The NRCP is a flagship program of the Government of India instituted in 1995 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The project seeks to alleviate pollution loads in rivers, improve sewage treatment facilities, and restore ecological health.



## Odisha bans the word 'Harijan' in official communication

- The Odisha government has directed all departments and public institutions in the state to completely stop using the word 'Harijan' in official communications, records, documents, caste certificates and publications.
- The move is aimed at ensuring respect for Scheduled Castes (SC) in line with the Human Rights Commission and constitutional rights.
- The government clarified that only the constitutional term 'SC' will be used for official purposes.

### Instructions:

- Use of the word 'Harijan' prohibited in all documents and communications.
- Use of the word 'SC' in English mandatory.
- Use of its proper translation in Odia and other local languages recognized under Article 341 of the Indian Constitution.

### History of Harijan:

- The word 'Harijan' is derived from two words; 'Hari' meaning 'God' or 'Ishwar' and 'Jan' meaning 'people'. Thus, 'Harijan' literally means 'people of God' or 'children of God'.
- Mahatma Gandhi popularized this term in the 1930s.
- Gandhi founded the "Harijan Sevak Sangh" for the upliftment of these communities.



## **Bengal CM announces scheme Shramashree for migrant workers facing harassment**

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced the introduction of the Shramashree scheme to provide monthly cash incentives to migrant workers who return to the State after facing harassment in other States.
- The scheme is designed to support around 22 lakh Bengali-speaking migrant workers who are registered with Bengal's migrant workers' portal.
- **Financial Assistance:** Migrants returning to Bengal will receive a one-time grant of ₹5,000 to help cover their travel expenses.
- A ₹5,000 monthly financial assistance will be provided for up to one year or until the migrant secures employment.

### **Additional Support:**

- **Free Ration:** Beneficiaries will be granted Khadya Sathi ration cards for food security.
- **Healthcare:** Migrants will be provided with Swasthya Sathi health insurance cards for free healthcare.
- **Education:** Migrants' children will be enrolled in state schools to ensure their education continues without interruption.
- **Accommodation:** For those without housing, community kitchens and accommodation will be provided.
- **Skill Development:** Under the Utkarsha Bangla scheme, returning migrants will receive skills training to enhance employability.
- They will also be given job cards under the Karmashree scheme.



## **Lok Sabha now includes Kashmiri, Konkani, Santali among 22 languages**

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced simultaneous interpretation of parliamentary proceedings in all 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule during the Monsoon Session.
- Earlier, only 18 languages were covered. Now, Kashmiri, Konkani and Santali are added, completing the list.
- Translation technology was reported that the Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence Center at IIT Madras, Pravartak Technologies Foundation, is developing the technology to translate parliamentary debates in real time into 22 Indian languages.
- The Eighth Schedule (COI) of the Indian Constitution provides the list of official languages of India. In Part XVII of the Indian Constitution, Articles 343 to 351 mention official languages.
- According to Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi is the official language of India and the Devanagari script is the official script of the Union.

### **Constitutional amendments related to Official Language:**

- 21st Amendment Act 1967 – Sindhi language.
- 71st Amendment Act 1992 – Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali.
- 92nd Amendment Act 2003 – Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali



## **India's exports rise 7.3% to 37.24 billion dollars in July; Imports up by 8.6%**

- India's merchandise exports registered strong performance in July, rising by 7.3 percent to USD 37.24 billion compared to the same period last year.
- According to provisional data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the key drivers of this growth were engineering goods, gems and jewelry, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and organic & inorganic chemicals.
- In particular, electronics exports performed remarkably, growing nearly 34 percent from USD 2.81 billion in July 2024 to USD 3.77 billion.
- However, despite this positive trend in exports, the country's merchandise trade deficit widened in July to USD 27.35 billion, the highest level in the past eight months.
- This was mainly due to a sharp 8.6 percent increase in imports, raising the import value to USD 64.59 billion.

### **During the current financial year (April–July 2025):**

- Merchandise exports rose to USD 149.20 billion.
- Merchandise imports rose to USD 244.01 billion.
- Combined exports of goods and services during this period are estimated at USD 277.63 billion, reflecting a growth of 5.23 percent compared to the same period last year.



## GRSE delivers survey vessel 'Ikshak' to Indian Navy

- INS Ikshak was inducted into the Indian Navy on 14 August 2025. It is the third ship among the four Survey Vessel (Large) [SVL].
- It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata, a defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence.
- The contract for these four ships was signed in 2018; the first ship, INS Sandhayak, was commissioned in February 2024, and the second, INS Nirdeshak, in December 2024.
- Ikshak is the 102nd ship designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) of the Indian Navy.
- It is the first SVL ship to have dedicated accommodation for women officers and sailors.
- INS Ikshak has a displacement of about 3,400 tonnes and an overall length of 110 metres.
- The ship is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment, including Data Acquisition and Processing System, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, Remotely Operated Vehicle, DGPS Positioning System, Digital Side-Scan Sonar, etc.
- It is powered by two diesel engines and has a speed of more than 18 knots.
- So far, GRSE has delivered 75 warships to the Indian Navy, and INS Ikshak is the 802nd ship built by the shipyard.
- GRSE Headquarters: Kolkata.



## LS passes Bill encouraging e-sports, online social gaming, prohibits harmful online money gaming



- The Lok Sabha has passed the Online Gaming Promotion and Regulation Bill, 2025, aimed at promoting e-sports and online social gaming, while imposing a complete ban on harmful online money gaming.
- The bill also provides for the establishment of an Online Gaming Authority to regulate the sector.

### Key Provisions of the Online Gaming Bill, 2025:

- The bill has three categories: E-sports, Online Social Games, and Online Money Games.
- Promotion of e-sports and social gaming to encourage innovation and safe participation.
- A new Online Gaming Authority will provide policy support, regulatory oversight, and strategic development.
- Complete ban on harmful online money games involving monetary deposits or stakes.
- **Penalties:** Up to 3 years' imprisonment and ₹1 crore fine for violations; repeat offenders may face 3–5 years in jail and fines up to ₹2 crore.

- Focus on protecting youth from addiction, fraud, and misleading monetary schemes.

### **Online Gaming Regulation in India:**

- **E-sports:** Recognized as a sport by the government and promoted under the Digital India framework.
- **Proposed Online Gaming Authority:** A central regulator to standardize rules across states.
- **Legal Framework:** Establishes a uniform, national-level law on gaming.
- **Prohibited Section:** Real Money Gaming (RMG) apps like poker, rummy, and card-based games that provide financial returns.
- **Penalty Mechanism:** Strong deterrents to prevent recurrence of financial fraud and social exploitation.

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## **CRED Set to Enter Co-Branded Credit Card Space in Partnership with IndusInd Bank**

- Fintech unicorn CRED is preparing to launch a co-branded credit card in partnership with IndusInd Bank.
- The new co-branded credit card is expected to be launched within the next 12 weeks.
- CRED's platform currently provides services such as credit card bill payments, credit score monitoring, loans, commerce, bill reminders, hidden charges detection, and cashback rewards.
- The company also offers access to insurance management, FASTag recharge, select shopping, and travel offers.



## **Dubai Launches 'One Freezone Passport' to Streamline Business Licensing and Attract Global Investment**

- Dubai has launched the “One Freezone Passport”, a unified licensing system enabling companies to operate across all of the emirate’s free zones under a single license.
- The reform, unveiled by the Dubai Free Zones Council, is expected to significantly lower costs, reduce bureaucracy, and accelerate business expansion.
- Previously, companies were required to obtain separate licenses for each free zone in which they wished to operate.
- The launch directly supports the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, which aims to double Dubai’s GDP by 2033 and position it as one of the top three global economic cities.



## **Mohamed Salah Makes History with Third PFA Player of the Year Award**

- Liverpool's Mohamed Salah has become the first man to have won the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Player of the Year award a third time.
- Arsenal's Mariona Caldentey was voted the women's player of the year at the PFA's award ceremony
- Salah, who was previously voted the Player of the Year in 2018 and 2022, powered Liverpool to the Premier League title by scoring 29 goals and providing 18 assists last season.

### **Other winners:**

- Women's Player of the Year - Mariona Caldentey (Arsenal & Spain)
- PFA Premier League Team of the Year – Liverpool



## India successfully test fires long-range ballistic missile Agni-5

- India successfully test fired its long range ballistic missile Agni-5 that can hit a target at a distance of around 5,000 km.
- Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Agni-5 was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha.
- The launch was executed under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.
- Agni-5 has a range of up to 5,000 km (approx. 3,100 miles), enabling India to extend its long-range strike capabilities across Asia and parts of Europe, including China and even up to Turkey.
- Being nuclear-capable, Agni-5 reinforces India's strategic deterrence posture through enhanced reach and precision.
- During its flight, Agni-5 can reach a maximum speed of around Mach 24 (about 29,400 km/h or 18,300 mph).
- Agni-5 was tested by the Defense Research and Development Organization for the first time in 2012.
- After half-a-dozen developmental trials, it was handed over to the Strategic Forces Command that carried out the first user trial in 2021.
- The nuclear-capable, 17.5 meter long missile weighing 50 tons is a three stage rocket that incorporates several key home grown technologies.

