1. **Language in Parliament:** The Lok Sabha recently witnessed a heated debate between the Speaker and an MP over adding Sanskrit to the list of languages with simultaneous interpretation in Parliament.
   - **About Language in Parliament:** Business shall be conducted in **Hindi or English** as per **Article 120**.
     - **Exception:** The Chairman or Speaker may allow a member to speak in their mother tongue if they cannot express themselves in Hindi or English.
   - **Historical Context:**
     - **Original Proposal:** Hindi and English as the official languages in Parliament, with exceptions for those unable to speak in either.
     - **Drafting Committee Proposed Change:** A member suggested adding **Bengali or any regional language** as an option along with Hindi and English.
     - **Concern:** The Speaker had **discretion** to allow regional languages, which might limit members from speaking in their **mother tongue**.
     - **Withdrawal:** The member withdrew his amendment from consideration.
     - **Adoption:** The Assembly accepted the amendment and adopted **Draft Article 99** on 17 September 1949.
   - **About the** official language of the Union is Hindi in Devanagari script, as per Article 343(1) of the Constitution.
     - Section 3 of the Official Language Act, 1963 provides for the continuance of English for official purposes of the Union and for use in Parliament.
     - The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution enumerates the official languages of India.
   - **About the Official Languages Commission:** Established by the President in accordance with Article 344 of the Indian Constitution, was constituted in 1955 via a notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has recently released a draft notification proposing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging made from paper, glass, and metal, as well as sanitary products.

- **About EPR:** It is a policy that holds producers accountable for the environmental impact of their products throughout their lifecycle, mainly used in waste management.
- **Historical Context:** Paper, glass, and metal waste management was previously under the Solid Waste Management Rules.
  - New EPR guidelines introduce responsibility for PIBOs (Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners) for collecting and recycling their packaging waste.
  - Aims to reduce landfill burden and promote circularity in resource utilization.
- **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) Recommendations for improvement**: Align EPR targets with domestic recycling capacities → Expand scope to include writing and printing paper → Ensure ambitious recovery targets (95%) by 2028 → Develop quality standards for raw materials → Integrate informal waste workers into the formal system.
- **Sectors in India where EPR is applied:** e-waste, plastic packaging, batteries, tyres and used oil etc.

3. National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism: The Ministry of Tourism has recently formulated a National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism.

- **About:** Sustainable tourism is a way of traveling that considers the economic, social, and environmental impact of tourism.
- **Key strategic pillars are:** Promoting Environmental Sustainability → Protecting Biodiversity → Promoting Economic Sustainability → Promoting Socio-Cultural Sustainability → Scheme for Certification of Sustainable Tourism → IEC and Capacity Building Governance
- **Travel for LiFE Initiative** launched to **encourage sustainable tourism practices** among tourists and tourism businesses → Promote mindful and deliberate actions for sustainable consumption of tourism resources.
- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)** introduced to develop sustainable and responsible destinations with a tourist & destination-centric approach.
  - These initiatives aim to ensure tourism contributes positively to the economy → Safeguard the environment and benefit local communities.

- **About Ministry of Tourism:**
  - **Nodal Agency**: Formulates national policies & coordinates tourism development.
  - **Headed by**: Union Minister for Tourism & Ministers of State.
  - **Administrative Head**: Secretary (Tourism).
  - **Key Functions:** Policy & Coordination → Regulation & Standards → Human Resource Development → Publicity & Marketing → Research & International Cooperation → Administrative & Legislative Functions

4. **Semaglutide & Tirzepatide:** Recently, a 32-year-old businessman from Agra (105 kg) developed **gastroparesis** after self-injecting tirzepatide (bought from Dubai) without medical supervision.
   - He took the highest dosage (15 mg) within a month, leading to severe complications and bariatric surgery.
   - **About Gastroparesis & Associated Risks:**
     - Gastroparesis is the partial **paralysis of stomach muscles**, leading to delayed digestion.
     - Causes include diabetes, tissue disease, neurological disorders, or drug overuse.
     - Poses risks during life-saving surgeries due to undigested food in the stomach.
   - **Semaglutide**: Used for weight loss and blood sugar control in type 2 diabetes. It helps reduce major cardiovascular events and chronic kidney disease risks.
   - **Tirzepatide (Zepbound)**: Approved for weight loss and weight maintenance.
     - Works by reducing appetite and slowing gastric emptying, making one feel full for longer.
   - **Other Side Effects:** Loss of muscle mass in gluteal & facial areas instead of the abdomen → Mental health issues, including suicidal thoughts in some cases → Rebound weight gain after stopping the medication → Long-term effects unknown, as these drugs are not yet available in India.
5. **SHAKTI-based Semiconductor Chip:** Recently, IIT Madras & ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU) have jointly developed an Atmanirbhar Aerospace-Grade SHAKTI-based semiconductor chip.
   - **About Semiconductor:** It is a material that has electrical conductivity between that of a conductor and an insulator. It is a crucial component in the field of electronics as it **can control** the **flow of electrical current**.
     - They are typically made from materials such as silicon or germanium, which have

- properties that allow them to be easily manipulated for specific electronic purposes.

- **Project Objective**: To promote **indigenous microprocessor-based product development** with **RISC-V technology**, an **open-source Instruction Set Architecture (ISA)**, and enhance **security and visibility** for users.
- **Previous SHAKTI Developments**: RIMO (2018), MOUSHIK (2020) & New SHAKTI Chip (2024)
- **About:** The SHAKTI class of systems are based on RISC-V, an open-source Instruction Set Architecture (ISA), for designing custom processors. 'SHAKTI' is backed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, GOI, under its 'Digital India RISC-V' initiative (DIRV).
  - It aims to promote indigenous development of microprocessor based products that offer best-in-class security and visibility for users adopting RISC-V technology.

6. **United States Agency for International Development (USAID):** Recently, President Donald Trump announced a 90-day pause on U.S. foreign development assistance for assessment.
   - **About USAID:** Established in 1961 through an Act of Congress.
   - **Mission:** Promote democratic values, economic development, health, education, food security, humanitarian aid, climate change, and governance.
   - **Major Programs:** PEPFAR (HIV/AIDS relief), Feed the Future (Hunger and food security) & Power Africa (Expanding electricity access)
   - **Water for the World Act:** Clean water and sanitation.
   - **Top USAID recipients:** Ukraine, Ethiopia, Jordan, Somalia, Congo, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, Yemen, South Sudan.
   - **USAID's role in India:** Active since **1951**; focus shifted from **food aid to infrastructure, economic reforms, and health**.
7. **Su-57 E Aircraft**: Rosoboronexport, Russia's state-owned defence exports company has recently offered India the Su-57E fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) during Aero India 2025.
   - **About Su-57E Aircraft:** Fifth-Generation Fighter, is a stealth, twin-engine multirole fighter, developed by Sukhoi.
   - **Features: Stealth Technology**, equipped with a serrated exhaust nozzle, reducing radar and infrared signatures for enhanced stealth.
   - **High Weapon Payload**: Can carry up to 7.4 tons of air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles.



- **Speed**: Achieves a maximum speed of Mach 1.8.
- **Altitude**: Operates at a maximum altitude of 54,100 feet.
- **Combat Range**: Has a combat range of 1,864 miles, allowing for long-range missions.
- **Local Production**: Rosoboronexport and United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) propose localizing FGFA production at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), potentially starting in 2025.
- **Technology Transfer**: Russia has offered fifth-generation technologies to India, including Engine technology, Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars, Optics, AI elements, Software communication, and Air weapons.

8. **Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP):** Recently, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) had a session on "Conceptual Framework of Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP) Measurement", chaired by Principal Scientific Advisor.
   - **About GDKP:** It is a proposed metric to measure the contribution of knowledge to economic and social life, supplementing Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
   - **Revival of GDKP Concept**: The government is revisiting the idea of Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP), which was shelved in 2021, to supplement Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a metric.
   - **Objective**: Develop a framework to capture the impact of knowledge on economic & social life.
   - **Focus**: Shift from economic indicators to a knowledge-centric measurement approach.
   - **Significance**: A refined methodology for GDKP would better capture contributions from knowledge-driven sectors, innovation, and intellectual assets.
   - **NITI Aayog's Proposal:** In 2021, NITI Aayog had presented a concept note on GDKP.