1. **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA):** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has recently imposed a penalty of over ₹3.44 crore on BBC World Service India for alleged FDI violations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).
   - **About FEMA:** Introduced in 1999 to regulate foreign exchange transactions & promote external trade, and **empowers the central government** to control foreign payments & ensure legal transactions.
     - **Applicable to** Indian citizens, agencies, companies abroad owned by Indians (≥60% ownership).
     - **Covers:** Foreign exchange, foreign security, exports-imports, banking, financial & insurance services.
     - **Prohibited transactions:** Remittances from lottery winnings, racing/riding income → Commissions on equity investment of Indian firms abroad →Transactions with residents of Bhutan & Nepal.
2. **Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO):** India has recently assumed the Chairmanship of the Bay of Bengal (BOB) Inter-Governmental Organisation from Bangladesh during the 13th Governing Council Meeting held in Malé, Maldives.
   - **About BOBP-IGO:**
   - **Establishment:** BOBP-IGO is a regional fisheries advisory body comprising member countries bordering the Bay of Bengal.
   - **Objectives:** Promote sustainable management and utilization of coastal and marine fishery resources, and enhance the livelihoods of small-scale fishers in the region.
   - **Key Activities:** Facilitating regional cooperation among member countries → Conducting training and capacity-building programs → Engaging in research and policy advocacy → Addressing issues such as Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
   - **Recent Developments:** India, as the new Chair, has pledged to strengthen regional collaboration focusing on marine resource management and the protection of marine ecosystems.
   - **Collaborations:** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), & the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

3. **Bharat Tech Triumph Program (TTP):** To support this expansion of digital and online gaming, the Bharat Tech Triumph Program (TTP) has recently been launched as part of the Create in India Challenge Season 1.
   - **About Bharat Tech Triumph Program (TTP):** It's **objective to** identify and showcase India's gaming talent on the global stage.
   - **Organizers:** Interactive Entertainment and Innovation Council (IEIC) in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).
   - **Participation:** Open to developers, studios, startups, and tech companies in gaming, esports, and business solutions.
   - **Evaluation:** Assesses product quality, pitch, and team strength to gauge success potential.
   - **Rewards:** Winners get a fully sponsored opportunity to showcase their innovations at Game Developers Conference (GDC) 2025, San Francisco, and WAVES event in India.
4. **F-35 Lightning II & Sukhoi Su-57:** India is evaluating advanced fifth-generation fighter jets to enhance its air defense capabilities. The American **F-35 Lightning II** and the Russian **Sukhoi Su-57** are prominent contenders, both showcased at the **Aero India 2025** airshow in Bengaluru.
   - **About F-35 Lightning II:**
     - **Manufacturer:** Lockheed Martin, USA.
     - **Engine:** Single-engine, single-seat stealth multirole fighter.
     - **Speed:** Top speed of Mach 1.6.
     - **Range:** Combat range of approximately 1,500 kilometers.
     - **Features:** Advanced stealth capabilities, multirole versatility, and integration with allied defense systems.
   - **About Sukhoi Su-57:**
     - **Manufacturer:** Sukhoi Company, Russia.
     - **Engine:** Twin-engine, single-seat stealth multirole fighter.
     - **Speed:** Top speed of Mach 2.
     - **Range:** Combat range of about 1,900 kilometers.
     - **Features:** Emphasis on agility, speed, and advanced avionics; designed for air superiority and strike missions.

- **About Mach:** It is a unit that measures the speed of an object relative to the **speed of sound** in air. **Mach 1** equals the speed of sound (~1,235 km/h at sea level). Speeds above **Mach 1** are **supersonic**, while those above **Mach 5** are **hypersonic**.

5. **Mount Etna:** Thousands of tourists have recently gathered at Mount Etna to witness its spectacular eruptions, but some are blocking streets, hindering rescue services from aiding those in need.



- **About Mount Etna:** Also Known As 'Aetna'.
- **Location:** Active stratovolcano in the Metropolitan City of Catania, eastern coast of Sicily, Italy.
- **Tectonic Setting:** Lies above the African and Eurasian Plate convergence.
- **Activity:** Among the most active volcanoes in the world.
- **Elevation:** One of Europe's tallest active volcanoes and Italy's highest peak south of the Alps.
- **Size:** Covers 1,190 sq.km, With a 140 km basal circumference.
- **Significance:** Designated as a Decade Volcano by the United Nations due to frequent eruptions near populated areas, recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

6. **'Khoya-Paya' initiative:** During a startup conclave in Agra, UP Chief Minister has highlighted the success of the 'Khoya-Paya' initiative implemented during the Maha Kumbh.
   - **About 'Khoya-Paya' Initiative:** Launched in 2015.
   - **Purpose:** A web platform enabling citizens to report, track, and share information about missing and found children.
   - **Functionality:** Allows real-time reporting of missing children by parents and guardians → Facilitates uploading of information regarding found children by citizens → Aims to bridge the information gap between missing and found children through public participation.
   - **Impact:** By October 2016, the portal had reported nearly 6,000 missing children cases, showcasing its effectiveness in assisting authorities and families in locating and reuniting children.
   - **Significance:** The 'Khoya-Paya' initiative exemplifies the integration of technology with community involvement to address the critical **issue of missing children** in India.

7. **Whale Stranding:** Recently, Australia has witnessed multiple incidents of whale strandings, including a significant event in Tasmania where numerous false killer whales were found beached.
   - **About Whale Stranding:** It is also known as beaching, occurs when whales are found ashore, typically on beaches.
   - **Species Affected:** While it primarily involves whales, other marine animals like dolphins and porpoises can also experience stranding events.
   - **Types:**
     - **Single Strandings:** Involve an individual whale.
     - **Mass Strandings:** Involve groups of whales, often from species with strong social bonds.



   - **Causes:**
     - **Natural Factors:** Navigational errors, extreme weather conditions, and illness.
     - **Human-Induced Factors:** Pollution, ship collisions, and underwater noise pollution.
   - **Recent Incidents:** In Tasmania, Australia, authorities began euthanizing around 90 false killer whales that survived a mass stranding on a remote beach.
     - In New Zealand, approximately 477 pilot whales died after stranding themselves on two remote beaches.

8. **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor:** A mosque in Meerut was recently demolished to facilitate the construction of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor. Authorities stated that the mosque obstructed the progress of the Rapid Rail project, necessitating its removal.
   - **About Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor:** With **semi high-speed rail connectivity** at its core, the RRTS is an **integrated, mass transit network.**
   - **Aim:** To ensure "balanced and sustainable urban development" through **better connectivity and access across the NCR.**
   - **Objective of RRTS project:**
     - To enhance **multi-modal connectivity** at the existing transportation hubs within it.

- To **nudge commuters** towards public transportation and have a **positive impact on relieving the congestion** both on its road/highways as well as existing metro and railway networks.
- To give a **push to employment generation** and the opening up of newer commercial hubs along the current contours of the NCR.
- **Shorter travel times** are expected to increase the **overall economic productivity** of the region.

- **Identified Corridors:** The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has identified eight rail-based rapid transit corridors: (Delhi – Gurgaon – Rewari – Alwar), (Delhi – Ghaziabad – Meerut), (Delhi – Sonipat – Panipat), (Delhi – Faridabad – Ballabhgarh – Palwal), (Delhi – Bahadurgarh – Rohtak), (Delhi – Shahadra – Baraut), (Ghaziabad – Khurja), and (Ghaziabad – Hapur).

