1. **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI):** Recently, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI), a data-driven tool to help financial institutions identify mobile numbers potentially linked to fraud.
   - **About FRI :** A risk-based classification system that categorizes mobile numbers as Medium, High, or Very High risk based on their association with fraudulent activities.
     - The tool draws intelligence from multiple sources:
       - ✓ Reports filed on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)
       - ✓ DoT's Chakshu platform
       - ✓ Alerts and reports from banks, NBFCs, and UPI platforms.
   - **How FRI Works:** When a stakeholder flags a mobile number, it undergoes multi-dimensional analysis to determine its fraud risk level.
     - This intelligence is then shared with banks, UPI providers, and other financial institutions via the Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP).
     - FRI helps institutions implement additional customer protection measures or block high-risk transactions linked to flagged numbers.

2. **Asiatic Lion :** Recently, Gujarat achieved a major conservation milestone as its latest Asiatic lion census reported a 32% increase in the population over the past five years.
   - As of May 2025, India's Asiatic lion population has risen to 891, up from 674 in 2020. The census was conducted across 58 talukas in 11 districts, including Junagadh, Amreli, and Bhavnagar.



   - **About Asiatic Lions:** The Asiatic lion (Panthera leo persica), also known as the Persian or Indian lion, is a distinct subspecies of lion found exclusively in India.
     - Its last remaining natural habitat is the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat.
   - **Conservation Status:** Due to successful conservation efforts, the IUCN has upgraded the Asiatic lion's status from Endangered (2008) to **Vulnerable (2025).**
     - **CITES:** Appendix I and Wildlife Protection Act (India): Schedule I

3. **Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025:** Recently, the Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025 highlighted that despite rising demand, critical mineral prices fell in 2024 due to a supply surge from China, Indonesia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
   - **Price Trends:** Rapid supply growth, especially in battery metals—has driven prices down.
     - Production of lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite has doubled compared to late 2010s levels.
     - Prices have returned to pre-pandemic levels, reversing 2021–22 spikes.
     - Lithium: Down 80% since 2023 (after 8x rise in 2021–22).
     - Graphite, cobalt, nickel: Prices fell by 10–20% in 2024.
   - **Strong Demand from Clean Energy:** Demand continues to surge despite falling prices.
     - **Lithium:** Demand up 30% in 2024 (vs. 10% average in 2010s).
     - Nickel, cobalt, graphite, rare earths: 6–8% growth.
     - **Driven by:**
       - ✓ EVs and battery storage
       - ✓ Renewable energy and grid infrastructure
       - ✓ In China, grid expansion is now the largest driver of copper demand.
     - 85% of battery metal demand growth is energy-related.
   - The report warns that even short-term disruptions could have serious global consequences. A sustained supply shock may increase battery pack prices by 40–50%, which could:
     - Raise consumer prices and reduce industrial competitiveness
     - Widen manufacturing cost gaps between regions, especially disadvantaging producers outside China
     - Undermine global efforts to diversify battery supply chains if cost disparities persist.
4. **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture :** Recently, civil society organisations in Asia opposed proposed changes to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), warning they could undermine benefit-sharing and exploit agricultural biodiversity.
   - **About ITPGRFA:** A **legally binding** international agreement adopted in November 2001 at the 31st session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) **in Rome.**

- It came into force on June 29, 2004, and currently has 154 Contracting Parties, including India.
- The treaty aims to support food and nutritional security and promote climate-resilient agriculture globally.
- Recognizing the interdependence of countries on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), it establishes a global framework for access and benefit sharing.
- It also acknowledges indigenous peoples and small-holder farmers as vital custodians of the world's food crops.
- **Key objectives include:** Recognizing farmers' contributions to crop diversity worldwide.
  - ✓ Creating a global system for farmers, plant breeders, and scientists to access plant genetic materials.
  - ✓ Ensuring fair sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic materials with the countries of origin.

5. Amrit Railway Stations : Recently, Prime Minister is set to inaugurate 103 newly redeveloped Amrit railway stations via video conference.

- **About ABSS:** Launched in February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways, ABSS is an ongoing mission to redevelop railway stations across India.
  - Focuses on the long-term, phased development of stations through detailed master plans.
  - Adopts a holistic approach, considering the unique needs of each station.
  - Aims to transform stations into modern, well-equipped hubs and eventually into vibrant city centres.
- **Key Features: Modern Passenger Amenities**: Clean waiting areas, upgraded restrooms, amenities for differently-abled passengers, and food outlets.
  - **Traffic Circulation**: Separate entry/exit points, widened roads, footpaths, and improved parking.
  - **Inter-modal Integration:** Seamless connectivity with buses, taxis, and auto-rickshaws.
  - **Upgraded Signage:** Clear, multilingual signs to assist passengers.
  - **Sustainability Measures:** Energy-efficient lighting and appliances.

- **Eco-friendly Infrastructure:** Rainwater harvesting systems, Green spaces ,Ballastless tracks to reduce noise and vibration and Roof plazas for commercial and passenger use.

6. **International Booker Prize 2025:** Recently, Heart Lamp, a collection of 12 short stories by Kannada writer, lawyer, and activist **Banu Mushtaq,** won the International Booker Prize 2025.
    - This marks a historic first for both Kannada literature and for a short story collection in the prize's history.
    - Translated into English by **Deepa Bhasthi,** the collection spans stories written between 1990 and 2023, offering poignant insights into the lives of Muslim women facing patriarchy, poverty, and spiritual longing.
    - **About the International Booker Prize:** Awarded annually for a single fiction book translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.
        - **Prize Money:** £50,000, shared equally between the author and the translator.
        - Launched in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize, initially held biennially.
        - Became an annual prize in 2016, open to living authors of any nationality.
        - Renamed the International Booker Prize in 2019.
        - **Eligible Works:** Both novels and short story collections.
        - **First Indian Winner:** Geetanjali Shree for her Hindi novel Tomb of Sand in 2022.
        - In 2024, Alhierd Bacharevič won the International Booker Prize for his novel Alindarka's Children, translated into English by Jim Dingley and Petra Reid.
7. **Golden Dome Missile Defense System:** Recently, U.S. President unveiled the finalized design of the Golden Dome missile defense system—a multi-domain shield inspired by Israel's Iron Dome, spanning land, sea, and space.
    - **About Golden Dome Missile Defense System:**A next-generation missile defense initiative unveiled by Donald Trump in January 2025, aimed at creating a comprehensive shield using space-based and terrestrial technologies.
        - **Purpose and Objectives:** Defend the U.S. mainland against long-range missile threats, including ICBMs from nations like Russia and China.
            - ✓ Realize space warfare capabilities by enabling early interception of ballistic and hypersonic missiles.

- **Strategic Importance:** Poised to make the U.S. the first nation to operationalize a fully space-based missile shield.
  - Reinforces U.S. supremacy in missile defense amid intensifying global tensions and arms races in space militarization.
  - Inspired by Israel's Iron Dome,the Golden Dome extends protection to long-range and space threats, offering full defense for the entire U.S. mainland rather than just a limited region.

8. **Kurma Mela:** Recently, over seven lakh Olive Ridley turtles arrived for mass nesting (arribada) at Odisha's Rushikulya beach, a remarkable event celebrated as a sign of ecological recovery.
   - **Olive Ridley Turtles :** Scientific Name: Lepidochelys olivacea **{Vulnerable (IUCN Red List)}**
   - **Nesting Patterns & Ecological BehaviorsArribada Phenomenon:** A rare mass nesting behavior where thousands of females nest synchronously, often over just a few nights.
     - **Philopatry:** Turtles exhibit strong site fidelity, returning to the exact beach of their birth, guided by the Earth's geomagnetic imprint.
     - **Site Selection Cues:** Factors like nutrient-rich cold-core eddies, beach gradient, salinity, rainfall, and predation risks influence where they choose to nest.
     - **Temperature-Linked Sex Ratio:** Warmer sand temperatures lead to a higher number of female hatchlings, making climate a key determinant of population dynamics.
   - **Habitat Range:** Tropical and subtropical oceans, primarily nesting along Mexico and Central America's Pacific coastlines
   - **Indian Significance:** Odisha is a key global nesting region, supporting some of the largest turtle congregations worldwide. Locations :
     - Gahirmatha Beach
     - Devi River Mouth
     - Rushikulya River Mouth