1. **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary:** India's Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary would be second cheetah translocation site under Project Cheetah.
   - **About:** Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in northwestern Madhya Pradesh, along the Madhya Pradesh-Rajasthan border, Spans 368 sq. km.
     - The Sanctuary falls within the **Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion**.
     - Declared a **wildlife sanctuary in 1974**.
   - **Chambal River:** Flows through the sanctuary, dividing it into two sections.



   - **Ecological Significance:** Recognized as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA).
   - **Topography & Vegetation:** Characterized by hills, plateaus, and the catchment area of the Gandhi Sagar Dam.
     - **Vegetation Types:** Northern tropical dry deciduous forests → Northern tropical dry mixed deciduous forests → Dry deciduous scrublands.
     - **Dominant Tree Species:** Khair, Salai, Kardhai, Dhawda, Tendu, Palash.
   - **Historical & Cultural Significance:** Houses several archaeological and historical sites, including Chaurasigarh Fort, Chaturbhujnath Temple, Bhadkaji Rock Paintings, Hinglajgarh Fort & Taxakeshwar Temple.
   - **About Cheetah Reintroduction in India:**
     - Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, was the first site for cheetah reintroduction, receiving 8 cheetahs from Namibia and 12 from South Africa (2022–2023).
     - Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary has now been selected as the second habitat to expand the cheetah's range and ensure long-term conservation.

2. **AI Action Summit:** The Summit, co-chaired by India and France, is taking place in Paris on February 10-11, 2025, marking a pivotal moment in global AI governance.
   - **About:** Artificial intelligence (AI) is a field of study that enables machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, can include technologies that allow computers to see, understand, and learn from experience.

- **Background**: Third edition after U.K. (2023) and South Korea (2024).
- **Agenda:** AI safety, innovation, public interest AI, future of work, and AI governance.
  - Opportunity for India to amplify the Global South's voice and position itself as a future host.
- **India's Role in Global AI Discourse:**
  - Actively engaged in AI safety discussions at international forums.
  - Bletchley Park (U.K., 2023): Focus on frontier AI risks; launch of U.K. AI Safety Institute (AISI).
  - Seoul (2024): Expansion to multilateral AI risk management through a network of AISIs (U.S., EU, France, Japan, Singapore).
- **India's Initiatives:** Announced plans to establish an **AI Safety Institute**.
  - **G20 Presidency (2023):** Advocated for a pro-innovation AI governance approach.
  - **GPAI Meeting (Dec 2023):** Stressed equitable access to AI resources.
- **Key Priorities for India at Paris Summit:** Democratising Access to AI Resources → Developing AI Use-Cases for the Global South → Contextualising AI Risks for the Global South.

3. **PM YUVA scheme:** Recently, Union Minister for Education launched 41 new books under the PM YUVA 2.0 scheme at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2025.
   - **About Scheme:** Launched on 29 May 2021 by the Ministry of Education for young writers (up to 30 years) → Organized to select 75 young authors on the theme 'National Movement of India', focusing on: Unsung Heroes, and Role of Unknown Places in Freedom Movement
     - Contestants submitted a 5000-word manuscript for selection → Proposals invited in **22 scheduled languages and English** → Conducted by a committee constituted by the **National Book Trust (NBT)** → Assigned to help selected authors develop their manuscripts into full-fledged books.
   - **Scholarship:** ₹50,000 per month for six months per author → 10% royalty paid by NBT on book publication and sales → Selected books to be translated into different Indian languages to promote '**Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat**'.
4. **Biochars:** It can be a better alternative to stubble burning by enhancing soil fertility and ensuring carbon neutrality in agriculture.
   - **About:** Biochar is black carbon produced from biomass sources (i.e., wood chips, plant residues, manure or other agricultural waste products) for the purpose of transforming the biomass

- -carbon into a more stable form (carbon sequestration). It also offers:
  - **Carbon-Negative Farming:** This method **removes more greenhouse gases** than it emits, surpassing carbon neutrality.
  - **Sustainable Waste Management:** Producing biochar from stubble prevents harmful **carbon emissions** from burning.



  - **Carbon Sequestration:** Biochar locks carbon into the soil, providing a long-term solution for waste management and climate mitigation.
  - **Natural Carbon Storage:** This approach captures CO_2 and stores it in the soil, making it one of the most effective carbon sequestration methods.

5. **Diriyah Giga Project:** Several **Indian firms** are keen to invest in the Saudi Arabia**'s Diriyah Giga project**, as per latest report.



- Saudi Arabia shares borders with **Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, and Yemen**.
- **About the project:** Diriyah, known as the **City of Earth**, is being developed near **Riyadh** (Saudi Arabia) and will accommodate **100,000 residents** and office space for **100,000+ people**.
- **Historical Significance:** The project aims to restore the historic birthplace of the Saudi kingdom, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of At-Turaif.
- **India-Saudi Trade:** India ranks among Saudi Arabia's top trading partners, with bilateral trade of USD 52.8 billion (2022-23).
- **Investment Opportunities:** Diriyah, backed by the **Public Investment Fund (PIF)**, offers various investment packages for residential, hospitality, office, education, and healthcare sectors.
- **Tourism Potential:** Diriyah is expected to attract 50 million visitors annually by 2030.

6. **Yashas:** The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Hindustan Jet Trainer HJT-36a has been renamed Yashas after extensive modifications to improve departure characteristics and spin resistance, earlier called Sitara.
   - **About Reason for Renaming:** Due to **large-scale enhancements** in capabilities, the aircraft has been given a new name, signifying its **continued relevance in modern military aviation**.
   - **Recent Upgrades:** State-of-the-art avionics and an ultra-modern cockpit for improved training effectiveness and operational efficiency.
     - Weight reduction and replacement of obsolete imported equipment with Indian Line Replaceable Units (LRUs).
   - **Capabilities:** Suitable for Stage II pilot training, counter-insurgency, counter-surface force operations, armament training, and aerobatics.
     - Can perform stall and spin maneuvers, aerobatics, armament carriage up to 1000kg, and single-point ground refueling & defueling.
   - **Engine & Cockpit Features:** Powered by a FADEC-controlled AL55I Jet engine, offering high thrust-to-weight ratio and optimized thrust management.
     - Features a stepped-up rear cockpit with a drooped nose for enhanced situational awareness and all-around vision.
     - Equipped with a State-of-the-Art Glass Cockpit with Multi-Function Displays (MFDs) and Heads-Up Display (HUD).
7. **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS):** The agriculture ministry has recently revised guidelines for the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), increasing the crop procurement limit from 20 to 25 %.
   - **About:** Market intervention refers to strategies such as collective action used to address market failures and improve market access for smallholder producers, aiming to enhance their income and food security.
     - **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS):** It is a program that protects farmers from selling their perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities at a loss.
     - **Implementation:** When market prices fall below economic levels or there is a bumper crop.
   - **Procurement Agencies:** FPOs, FPCs, State-nominated agencies, Central Nodal Agencies to undertake procurement of TOP crops (Tomato, Onion, Potato) under MIS.

- **Transportation Cost Reimbursement:** Approval given to **NCCF** for reimbursement of transportation cost of Kharif tomato (up to 1,000 MT) from Madhya Pradesh to Delhi.
- **Key Revisions in MIS Guidelines:** MIS made a component of PM-AASHA scheme.
  - **MIS activation condition:** Implemented only when market price drops by at least 10% compared to the previous normal year.
  - **Procurement limit increased:** Production coverage limit raised from 20% to 25%.
  - **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Option:** States can pay the difference between Market Intervention Price (MIP) and selling price directly into farmers' bank accounts instead of physical procurement.
- **Storage & Transportation Support:** Reimbursement of operational cost for storage and transportation of TOP crops between producing and consuming States by Central Nodal Agencies (NAFED, NCCF, etc.).
  - FPOs, FPCs, State-nominated agencies, and other CNAs to also be included in procurement, storage, and transportation arrangements in coordination with implementing States.

8. Lake Sapanca: Recently, IIT Guwahati expert highlighted, changes in lake ecosystems due to environmental shifts must be studied for sustainable rejuvenation.

- **About Turkey's Land Borders (8 countries):** Bulgaria (Northwest), Greece (West), Georgia (Northeast), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran (East), Iraq, Syria (Southeast)
  - **Maritime Borders:** Cyprus, Egypt, Romania, Russia, Ukraine.
- **About:** Lake Sapanca is a freshwater lake, located in the Sakarya Province of Turkey between the Gulf of İzmit and the Adapazarı Meadow.
- **Research Findings:** Land use changes degrade water quality due to **agricultural runoff & wastewater discharge**.
  - **Eutrophication: Urban & agricultural sub-basins** had the highest nutrient loads, leading to **oxygen depletion & harm to aquatic life**.
  - **Seasonal Variation:** Pollution peaked in **low-flow summer months**, worsening water quality and **forested Regions** showed **higher nutrient retention**, improving water quality.
- **Global Context: Turkiye (WWF, 2021):** Declared **water-stressed** due to mismanagement & urbanisation.