1. **Forest Rights Act (FRA):** Recently, under the **Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA)**, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken key steps to strengthen the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. It has:
   - **Sanctioned 324 district-level FRA cells** across 18 States and Union Territories, and
   - **Approved 17 State-level cells** to enhance coordination and support.

   • **About Forest Rights Act (FRA:** It recognizes the rights of the **forest dwelling tribal communities** and **other traditional forest dwellers**, who have been residing in such forests for generations, but whose rights could not be recorded. It grants **several rights to ensure their control over forest resources** which are:
   - The **rights to hold and live in the forest land** under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood,
     - ✓ **Right of ownership:** Access to collect, use and dispose of **minor forest produce,**
     - ✓ **Community rights:** such as nistar;
     - ✓ **Habitat rights:** For primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities;
     - ✓ **Right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage:** Any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.
   - **Criteria to claim of these rights: A**ny member or community who has for **at least three generations (75 years)** had occupied forest land **before the 13th day of December, 2005.**
   - **Nature of the rights:** Such rights shall be **heritable but not alienable or transferable** and shall be registered jointly in the name of both the spouses

   • **About DAJGUA**: A centrally sponsored initiative aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities through 25 coordinated schemes across 68,000 villages.
   - **Objective:** Targets long-term sustainability through access to essential services and infrastructure.
2. **Operation Rising Lion:** Recently, as part of its ongoing military campaign **Operation Rising Lion**, Israel launched a **second wave of airstrikes**, targeting key components of Iran's nuclear and military infrastructure.
   - Among the most significant strikes was a confirmed explosion at the **Natanz uranium enrichment facility**, a central site in Iran's nuclear programme..

- **About Operation Rising Lion :** Launched by the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** as a proactive military response to perceived threats from Iran.
  - **Primary Targets:** Iran's nuclear infrastructure, including uranium enrichment facilities
    - ✓ Ballistic missile production sites
    - ✓ Military command and control centres
    - ✓ Aimed at weakening Iran's defence and nuclear capabilities from the outset.

3. **Khankhuuluu Mongoliensis :** Recently, scientists confirmed that a previously misidentified fossil from Mongolia belongs to a new dinosaur species, **Khankhuuluu mongoliensis**, or the "**Dragon Prince of Mongolia**."
   - This agile predator lived around **86 million years ago**, predating **Tyrannosaurus rex** by approximately **20 million years**.

- **About Khankhuuluu :** A **medium-sized predator**—about **4 meters long** and **750 kg in weight**, comparable to a modern horse.
  - **Timeframe:** Lived during the Late Cretaceous period, well before the reign of **Tyrannosaurus rex** (T. rex.),one of the most well-known and iconic dinosaur species.
  - **Agility Over Power:** Unlike its massive successor, it was built for **speed and** maneuverability (ability to move quickly and easily, especially when changing direction or navigating tight spaces**)**, with a **light frame**, **long, shallow skull**, and **tiny vestigial horns**.
  - **Feeding Behavior:** Classified as a **mesopredator** (a mid-ranking predator in the food chain) it likely hunted smaller prey using its agility rather than brute force.

4. **AviList :** Recently, the global birding and scientific community marked a major milestone with the launch of **AviList—the world's first unified global checklist of bird species**.
   - **About AviList**: Result of a four-year collaboration led by the **Working Group on Avian Checklists**, with contributions from major global ornithological institutions: **BirdLife International → Cornell Lab of Ornithology → American Ornithologists' Society → International Ornithologists' Union (IOU) → Avibase** (Global bird database)

- The checklist unifies globally accepted bird taxonomies, covering **11,131 species**, **19,879 subspecies**, **2,376 genera**, **252 families**, and **46 orders** in a single comprehensive framework.

- **Why AviList Matters:** According to **BirdLife International**, the launch of AviList holds significant global value by:
  - **Eliminating taxonomic confusion** through the replacement of multiple overlapping checklists with a single, authoritative global list
  - **Enhancing conservation planning** by enabling consistent species prioritization across regions and organizations
  - **Facilitating seamless data integration** across platforms such as **eBird**, **Avibase**, and other global biodiversity databases
  - **Supporting scientific research and policymaking** with standardized, reliable taxonomic data
  - **Promoting collaboration and consistency** among birdwatchers, researchers, and conservation professionals worldwide

5. **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):** Recently, **Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL)**, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways, entered discussions with Russia's state-owned atomic energy firm **Rosatom** to explore the development of **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**.
   - The aim is to meet the energy needs of four major infrastructure projects, including the **Rishikesh-Karnaprayag railway line**.

- **About SMRs:** Next-generation nuclear reactors with a **maximum output of 300 MWe**, capable of producing **7.2 million kWh of electricity per day**. In contrast, **traditional large-scale nuclear plants** exceed **1,000 MWe**, generating about **24 million kWh daily**.
  - **Key Features of SMRs :** Significantly smaller in physical size compared to conventional reactors.
    - ✓ Designed for **factory assembly** and easy **transport to site**, reducing on-site construction time.
  - **Reactors**: Operate on **nuclear fission**, converting heat into usable energy.

- **Rising Relevance of SMRs:**
  - **Compact Design**: Their small physical footprint makes SMRs ideal for deployment in remote regions or locations with limited space.
  - **Cost-Effective**: SMRs require lower capital investment compared to large-scale nuclear plants, making them economically attractive.
  - **Factory-Fabricated**: These reactors are built off-site in factories, allowing faster, more efficient, and standardized deployment.
  - **Flexible Location**: Unlike traditional reactors, SMRs can be installed in areas where large nuclear facilities are not feasible.
  - **Scalable Power Supply**: Their modular design allows incremental power additions, aligning with evolving energy demands.
  - **High Safety Standards**: SMRs incorporate advanced safeguards, offering enhanced safety, security, and non-proliferation benefits.

6. Black Box : Recently, investigators recovered the **black box** from Air India flight **AI171**, which crashed while en route to **London**. This crucial device is expected to help uncover what happened in the final moments before the accident.

- **About Black Box** : Invented by **Dr. David Warren**, an Australian scientist.
  - It is a bright orange or yellow box to make it easier to locate after a crash. It's a highly durable flight recorder designed to capture critical flight data and cockpit audio, playing a key role in investigating air accidents.
  - **Key Features: Built for extreme conditions**: Withstands explosions, deep-sea pressure, and high temperatures.
    - ✓ **Material strength**: Constructed from steel or titanium with protective insulation.
    - ✓ **Strategic placement**: Usually located in the aircraft's **tail section**, which is less prone to severe damage in crashes.
  - **Types of Black Boxes:**
    - ✓ **Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR)**: Records conversations between pilots, radio communications, cockpit alarms, and engine sounds.

- ✓ **Flight Data Recorder (FDR)**: Captures over **80+ flight parameters**, including: Altitude, airspeed, and vertical acceleration, Flight direction, pitch, roll and Autopilot engagement and system warnings.

7. **Exercise Shakti :** India and France are set to commence the **8th edition of Exercise Shakti** at La Cavalerie, France. This joint military exercise is a significant step in enhancing bilateral defence cooperation and operational readiness.
   - **About Exercise Shakti:** Bilateral Army-level military exercise between India and France
     - o **Frequency**: Held **biennially**, alternately in India and France
     - o 7th edition (previous edition was hosted in India)
   - **Key Objectives:** Strengthen joint operational capabilities in Multi-Domain Operations under sub-conventional conflict scenarios.
   - **Strategic Importance:** Enhances **military-to-military ties** through collaborative planning and execution
     - o Reinforces the **India-France Strategic Partnership** in defence and security
     - o Contributes to regional and global security architecture through **joint preparedness**
   - **Other India-France Joint Military Exercises**
     - o **Garuda**: Joint air exercise between the **Indian Air Force** and the **French Air and Space Force**, focused on aerial combat and interoperability.
     - o **Varuna**: Naval exercise between the **Indian Navy** and the **French Navy**, aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation and naval operations.
     - o **Desert Knight-21**: Bilateral air exercise held in **Jodhpur** (Jan 20–24, 2021); unique for featuring **Rafale jets** from both sides, enhancing air combat tactics.
     - o **FRINJEX-23**: The **first joint army exercise**, conducted at **Pangode Military Station, Kerala**, focusing on joint humanitarian and disaster relief operations.