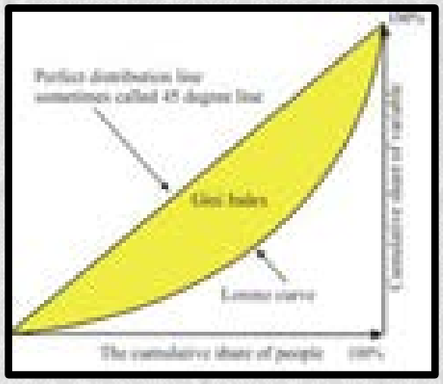
1. **Gini Index :** Recently, the Indian government, in an official release, asserted that India is not only the **world's fourth-largest economy** but also **"one of the most equal societies today**."
    - Citing the World Bank's latest Poverty and Equity Brief, it highlighted that **India's Gini Index** stands at **25.5**, placing it as the fourth most equal country globally, behind the **Slovak Republic, Slovenia,** and **Belarus.**



- **About Gini Index** : Also known as the **Gini Coefficient or Gini Ratio** is a widely used statistical measure to gauge income or wealth inequality within a country.
    - **Origin**: It was developed in 1912 by Italian statistician Corrado Gini.
    - **Scale**: The index ranges from 0 to 1 (or 0% to 100%), where:
        - ✓ **0** indicates perfect equality (everyone has the same income or wealth).
        - ✓ **1** indicates perfect inequality (one person has all the income or wealth, and everyone else has none).
    - **Mathematical Basis**: The Gini Index is derived from the **Lorenz Curve**, which:
        - ✓ Plots population percentiles (horizontal axis) against cumulative income or wealth (vertical axis).
        - ✓ Highlights the distribution gap between perfect equality and actual distribution.
    - **Interpretation**: It reflects the **degree of inequality**, not the absolute level of income or wealth in a country.
    - **Data Concerns**: In countries like India, the accuracy of the Gini Index can be affected by the **source & type of data** used, as regular surveys may not fully capture income & wealth data.
- **About Lorenz Curve :** A graphical representation that illustrates how **income or wealth** is distributed among different sections of a population. Its primary use is to demonstrate the level of inequality in the distribution of income or wealth within a society.

2. **Catastrophe Bonds** : Recently, India has initiated steps to adopt **catastrophe bonds** as a novel financial strategy to strengthen its disaster risk management framework.
    - This move comes in response to the growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, highlighting the need for enhanced climate resilience.

- **About Catastrophe Bonds :** Also called as **Cat Bonds,** are hybrid financial instruments that combine features of **insurance and debt**, allowing at-risk entities (often sovereign governments) to transfer disaster-related financial risk to global investors.
  - o They offer an **innovative alternative to traditional disaster insurance**, by turning hazard exposure into a **tradable security**.
  - o **Structure and Working: Sponsor** (e.g., a government) pays premiums to set up the bond.
    - ✓ **Investors** purchase the bonds, and their principal is held in a special account.
    - ✓ If a **predefined disaster** (like a cyclone or earthquake) occurs, **investors lose part or all of their principal**, which is used for **relief and reconstruction**.
    - ✓ If no disaster occurs, investors receive their **full principal** back, along with a **high coupon (interest) rate**.
- **Rising Climate Vulnerability:** India faces growing exposure to **climate-induced disasters**, including: Floods, cyclones, forest fires and earthquakes.
  - o Disaster insurance coverage remains very low, leaving large sections of the population economically vulnerable.
  - o Public finances are strained due to **heavy reconstruction costs** after each disaster.
- **Cat Bonds Can Help India:** Protect public funds by ring-fencing disaster recovery budgets.
  - o Leverage India's strong sovereign credit rating to secure favourable bond terms.
  - o Transfer risk to global capital markets, ensuring faster access to relief funds when disasters occur.
  - o India's commitment to disaster preparedness, including an annual allocation of ₹15,000 crore ($1.8 bn) for mitigation can help lower the cost of cat bonds (i.e., bond premiums).

3. Syama Prasad Mookerjee : Recently, the Department of Posts, Government of India, issued a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of **Syama Prasad Mookerjee**, a prominent nationalist, educationist, and constitutional thinker.



- **About Syama Prasad Mookerjee** : Born in **Calcutta (now Kolkata)**, Dr. Mookerjee was the son of **Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee**, a renowned educationist and Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University.

- Represented **Calcutta University** at the **Conference of the Universities of the British Empire** in England.
- Became the **youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University** in **1934**, at the age of **33**.
- Started **"Bang Wani"**, a Bengali journal (1922), and **"The Nationalist"** in the 1940s.
- Strong proponent of **nationalism**, **Hindu cultural identity**, and a **united India**.
- Died in **1953** and remembered as **"The Lion of Parliament"** for his powerful debates and principled stance on national issues.

- **Political Journey:** Joined the **Indian National Congress** in the 1920s but resigned due to **ideological differences**.
  - Later joined the **Hindu Mahasabha** and became **Finance Minister** in Bengal's Progressive Coalition government (1937).
  - Served as **Acting President of the Hindu Mahasabha** in 1940 and strongly advocated for **complete independence**.
  - Founded the **All India Bharatiya Jan Sangh** in **1951**, which later evolved into the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**.
  - Appointed **Minister for Industry and Supply** in the **Interim Government** after independence.

4. **Australian Bat Lyssavirus :** Recently, the **Australian bat lyssavirus** has drawn attention after some cases were reported, sparking concerns over public health and safety.

- **About Australian Bat Lyssavirus :** A **rare but fatal zoonotic virus** that can be transmitted from bats to humans.
  - It belongs to the **Rhabdoviridae family**, the same family as the rabies virus, and causes a similar illness in humans.
  - The virus was **first identified in 1996** in a fruit bat in **northern New South Wales, Australia**.
  - Detected in various bat species across Australia, including: **Flying foxes**, **Fruit bats** and **Insectivorous microbats.**
  - **Modes of Transmission**: Bites or scratches from infected bats
    - ✓ Exposure of broken skin to bat saliva
    - ✓ Contact of bat saliva with mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth)

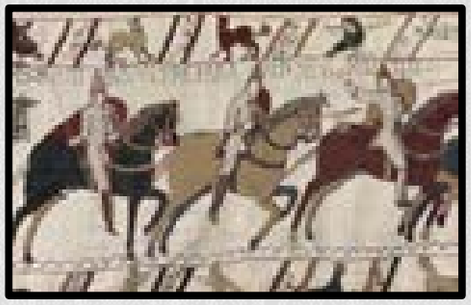
- **Symptoms in Humans**: The disease mimics rabies and progresses rapidly:
  - **Initial symptoms**: Fever, headache, fatigue (flu-like)
  - **Advanced stages**: Severe neurological complications such as delirium, paralysis, convulsions, and eventually loss of consciousness
- **Treatment and Prevention**: **No cure** exists once symptoms begin; the disease is almost always fatal at this stage.
  - Prompt **post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)** using rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin is essential after any potential exposure.

5. **National Overseas Scholarship Scheme :** Recently, the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has sought an increased budget allocation for the National Overseas Scholarship scheme to strengthen its implementation and accommodate a greater number of beneficiaries.
   - **About National Overseas Scholarship Scheme** : Central Sector Scheme to support **low-income students** from **marginalized communities** in pursuing **Master's and Ph.D. degrees abroad**.
     - **Target Beneficiaries**: Students belonging to: Scheduled Castes (SCs), Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans.
     - A total of **125 new scholarships** are awarded annually, subject to fund availability(**30% of scholarships are reserved for female candidates).**
   - **Eligibility Criteria**: Applicant must be **below 35 years of age** as of **1st April** of the selection year.
     - **Academic Requirement**: Must have secured **at least 60% marks** or equivalent grade in the qualifying examination.
     - **Admission Criteria**: Must have an **unconditional offer of admission** to a recognized Master's or Ph.D. program from an **accredited university/institute abroad**.
     - **Income Limit**: The **total family income** (from all sources) should be **less than or equal to ₹8 lakh per annum**.
6. **Nistar** : Recently, the Indian Navy achieved a major milestone with the delivery of '**Nistar**', its first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel (DSV), by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam.
   - **About Nistar :** Name is derived from **Sanskrit**, meaning **liberation, rescue, or salvation**.

- **Design & Classification**: Built in accordance with the **classification rules of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)**.
  - ✓ Represents a **strategic deep-sea capability** possessed by only a few navies worldwide.
  - ✓ Features **approximately 75% indigenous content**, reinforcing the Government of India's vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and the **Make in India** initiative.

- **Features :** Length: **118 metres** and Displacement: Approximately **10,000 tonnes**
  - Equipped with cutting-edge diving systems for **Deep Sea Saturation Diving** up to **300 metres**.
  - Includes a **Side Diving Stage** for operations up to **75 metres**.
  - Designed to serve as the **'Mother Ship' for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV)**, enabling the rescue and evacuation of submarine personnel during underwater emergencies.
  - Fitted with **Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)** capable of conducting diver monitoring and **salvage operations up to 1000 metres** depth.

7. Bayeux Tapestry : Recently, the **Bayeux Tapestry,** one of the world's most iconic **medieval artefacts**, has been scheduled for display in the **United Kingdom** for the first time in nearly a thousand years.



- **About Bayeux Tapestry :** Though commonly called a "**tapestry**," it is actually an **embroidered cloth**, not a woven textile.
  - **Origin and Date**: Created in the **11th century**, believed by many historians to have been **stitched in Kent, England**, shortly after the Norman conquest of England.
  - **Length**: Measures approximately **70 metres** in length.
  - **Narrative Content**: Depicts the events leading up to the **Battle of Hastings in 1066**.
    - ✓ Shows the **Norman invasion** led by **William the Conqueror** and the defeat of the Anglo-Saxon king, **Harold II**.
  - **Visual Detail**: Consists of **58 scenes** , includes **626 human figures** and **202 horses**
    - ✓ Serves as a rich visual record of **medieval warfare, life, customs, and attire**
  - **Cultural Significance**: Considered one of the most iconic and detailed **narratives of medieval history**.