

1. **Similipal Tiger Reserve:** The Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha has recently implemented an advanced surveillance system, installing 100-150 AI-enabled cameras to monitor and protect its wildlife.
 - Helped in arresting 96 poachers and seizing 86 country-made guns in the last 10 months.
 - **Recent Success:** 6 poachers arrested for hunting a mouse deer (February 16, 2025).
 - **About Similipal Tiger Reserve:** Located in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha (Northern India).
 - **Establishment:** Declared a Tiger Reserve (1956), included under Project Tiger (1973).
 - **Area:** 2,750 sq km (One of India's largest tiger reserves).
 - **Biodiversity:** Flora, 1,076 plant species from 102 families & 96 orchid species recorded.
 - **Fauna:** Mammals include tiger, Asian elephant, gaur, chausingha (four-horned antelope).
 - **Geography:** Hilly Terrain and undulating with dense forests & grasslands.
 - **Major Peaks:** Khairiburu & Meghasani.
 - **Waterfalls:** Barehipani & Joranda.
2. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI):** Several major U.S. corporations, including **Google, Meta Platforms, Amazon, McDonald's, and Walmart**, have recently scaled back their **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** initiatives.
 - **About DEI:** It is an organizational policies to promote representation & participation of diverse groups (race, gender, ability, sexual orientation).
 - **Global Trends:** Google, Meta cut diversity hiring targets, restructure DEI programs, driven by **political & legal pressures**.
 - **Indian Context:** DEI gaining importance, especially gender diversity.
 - 77% of employers believe DEI improves performance, but only 21% have formal policies.
 - Challenges: Caste-based disparities are less addressed in corporate DEI & Gender, sexuality, and disability get more focus.
 - **Educational Initiatives:** Emphasized Diversity, Equality, Inclusivity, and Wellness in higher education, Colleges & universities seen as key platforms to promote justice, equality, fraternity, and dignity.
 - **Need of the Hour:** DEI evolution reflects legal, societal, and corporate shifts.
 - Need for context-specific approaches to ensure inclusivity.

- 3. US-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement:** Recently, the India and the US reaffirm commitment to the bilateral Energy Security Partnership to make the US a leading oil and gas supplier to India.
- **Focus:** To fully realise the US-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement, including building American-designed nuclear reactors in India with localisation and possible technology transfer.
 - **About US-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement:** The “Agreement for Co-operation between the Government of India and the United States of America concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.”
 - **Legal Basis:** Section 123 of the **US Atomic Energy Act, 1954**, hence called the **123 Agreement**.
 - **Objective:** Full civil nuclear energy cooperation, covering nuclear reactors, enrichment, and reprocessing.
 - **Legislative Amendments in India:**
 - **Atomic Energy Act, 1962:** Proposed amendment to allow private sector participation in nuclear power plant operations, currently limited to NPCIL and joint ventures.
 - **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (CLNDA):** Originally created to **compensate victims** of nuclear accidents → Foreign firms cite it as a **barrier to investment** due to liability concerns → Amendments planned to **facilitate US-India collaboration** in nuclear reactors.
 - **US Legislative Challenge – ‘810’ Roadblock:** Part 810 of Title 10, US Code of Federal Regulations restricts US companies from manufacturing nuclear equipment or performing nuclear design work outside the US.
 - **India’s Demand:** Seeks an **exception** to enable SMR manufacturing in India.
 - **Importance of SMRs (Small Modular Reactors) for India:** Supports India’s clean energy transition and technology-led foreign policy.
 - **Global SMR Projects:** Russia – Akademik Lomonosov (2020) & China – HTR-PM (2023)
 - **Western SMR Development:** Companies include Holtec, Rolls-Royce, NuScale, Westinghouse, and GE-Hitachi.
- 4. US-India TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology):** India and the US will create a roadmap by the end of the year to accelerate the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure.

- The initiative aims to **boost investments in next-generation data centres** and expand access to **US-origin AI infrastructure** in India.
 - **About US-India TRUST:**
 - **Objective:** Enhance government-to-government, academia, and private sector collaboration for promoting critical and emerging technologies.
 - **Key Areas:** Defence, AI, semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, energy, and space.
 - **Technology Security:** Encourages the use of verified technology vendors and ensures the protection of sensitive technologies.
 - **AI Infrastructure and Industry Collaboration:**
 - **Focus Areas:** Enabling industry partnerships and investments in next-generation data centres.
 - Cooperation on AI compute and processors for innovation in AI models and applications.
 - Addressing protections and controls to safeguard AI technologies and reduce regulatory barriers.
 - **Significance:** Comes amid US restrictions on GPU exports and the Stargate Project (US companies investing \$500 billion in AI infrastructure).
 - India plans to develop foundational AI models over the next 10 months, requiring AI infrastructure.
 - India has started allocating 19,000 GPUs for startups, academia, and researchers.
5. **INS Sujata:** Recently, ICGS Veera (1st Training Squadron) and INS Sujata has arrived at Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia, as part of a Long Range Training Deployment to South East Asia.
- **Engagements:** PASSEX (Passage Exercise) with **Royal Cambodian Navy (RCN)**.
 - **Objective:** Strengthen **India-Cambodia maritime relations** under the 'Act East' policy.
 - **Previous Engagement:** Cambodian Navy participated in **Ex-MILAN 24 (Feb 2024)** at Visakhapatnam.
 - **About INS Sujata:** Sukanya-class Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) for coastal & offshore patrolling, surveillance, and training cadets.
 - **Commissioning:** 3 November 1993.

6. UN Global Compact Network India (GCNI): NTPC Ltd. won the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category, presented at a UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) event in Chennai.

- **About UN GCNI:** Established in November 2000, registered as a non-profit society in 2003.
- **Role:** Indian Local Network of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), New York.
- **Significance:** First Local Network globally to attain full legal recognition.
- **Mission:** Align Indian businesses, civil organizations, and the public and private sectors with the **Ten UNGC Principles** (Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption).
- **Membership:** Largest corporate sustainability initiative in India with 500+ members.
- **Regional Presence:** Chapters in **Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, and Bangalore**.
- **Key Initiatives:** India CEO Forum on Human Rights → Women Empowerment Principles → Collective Action Projects → National Conventions to promote corporate sustainability.
- **Governance Structure:**
 - **Governing Council:** Elected biennially by **General Body members**.
 - **Secretariat:** Led by an **Executive Director**, supported by sub-committees focused on UNGC principles.

7. National Games of India: Recently, 38th National Games of India concluded in Uttarakhand.

- **About National Games of India:** The National Games continue to foster sports excellence and national unity among Indian athletes.
- **History:** Originated as Indian Olympic Games (1924, Lahore) to select athletes for 1924 Paris Olympics, renamed National Games in 1940 (9th edition, Bombay).
- **Modern Era:** First **modern National Games** held in **New Delhi (1985)**, modeled after the Olympics.
- **Hosted by various states:** Kerala (1987), Maharashtra (1994), Karnataka (1997), Goa (2023), Uttarakhand (2025).
- **Purpose:** Identifies and nurtures national sports talent for global competitions like the Olympics.
- **Recent Editions:** 37th National Games (2023) – Hosted in Goa, 39th National Games (2026) – Scheduled in Meghalaya.

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- A detailed map of Lake Victoria and its surroundings. The lake is centrally located, colored light blue. To the north are Uganda and Kenya; to the east is Tanzania. To the west, parts of Rwanda and Burundi are visible. Major cities like Kampala, Jinja, Masaka, Kisumu, Musoma, Mwanza, and Mbale are marked. The Equator passes through the northern part of the lake. Rivers such as the Nile, Kagera, Mara, and Katonga are shown. National parks like Ruwenzori, Serengeti, and Olduvai Gorge are labeled. An inset map shows the location of Lake Victoria within Africa. A scale bar at the bottom indicates distances in miles and kilometers. The copyright notice '© 2009 EB, Inc.' is present in the bottom right corner.