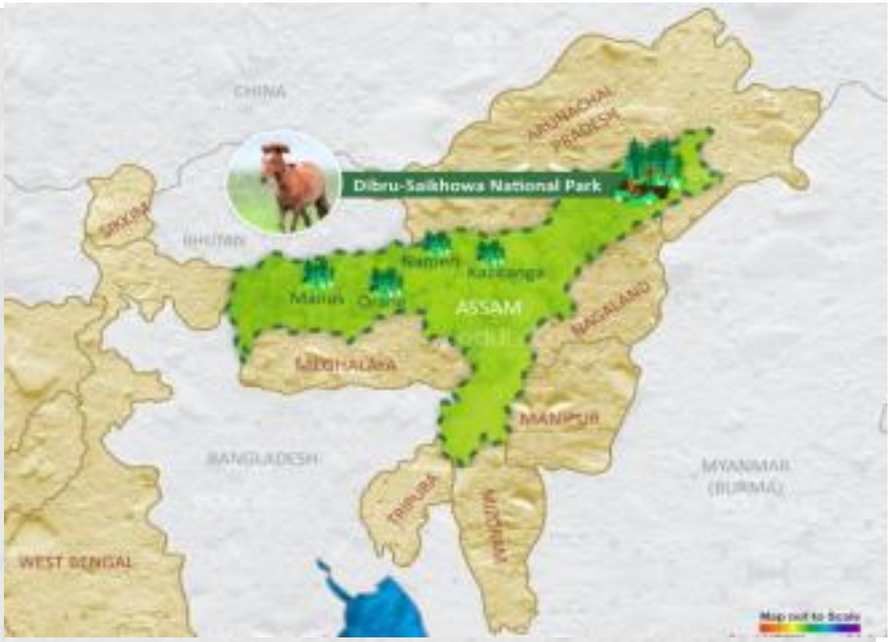
1. **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC):** Israel recently announced it would withdraw from the **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**, citing **bias and anti-Semitism**.
   - **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC): Intergovernmental Body** works under the **United Nations** to **promote and protect human rights** globally.
     - **Establishment:** Created by the **UN General Assembly** on **15 March 2006**, replacing the **Commission on Human Rights**.
     - **Membership:** Comprises **47 members** elected on a **regional group basis**.
     - **Tenure:** Members serve for **three years** and cannot seek **immediate re-election after two consecutive terms**.
     - **Election:** Chosen by the **General Assembly** through a **direct and secret ballot**.
     - **Criteria:** Selection considers **human rights contributions, voluntary pledges, and commitments**.
     - **Geographical Distribution:** Ensures **equitable regional representation.**
   - **Functions: Investigates** human rights violations in **UN member states** → Addresses key issues like **Freedom of association, assembly, expression, and religion** → **Women's rights and LGBTI rights** → **Rights of racial and ethnic minorities**.
   - **Recent Developments:**
     - **UN Experts' Findings**: UN experts called for Israel's **suspension** from the UN, citing its **unlawful occupation** of Palestinian territories and violations of **UN resolutions**.
     - **Previous Boycotts**: Israel had **boycotted the council twice** before and already refused to participate in discussions on **Palestinian human rights violations**.
     - **US Withdrawal**: The move came a day after **US President Donald Trump** signed an **executive order** to withdraw from several **UN bodies**, including **the Human Rights Council**.
2. **Dibru Saikhowa National Park:** Oil India Limited (OIL) was denied permission to explore and extract oil and gas in Dibru Saikhowa National Park, Assam, due to Supreme Court restrictions on mining in protected areas.
   - **About Dibru-Saikhowa National Park:** Located in Dibrugarh & Tinsukia districts, **Assam, India**.
     - **Biosphere Reserve:** Declared in **July 1997**.
     - **National Park status: Given to 340 km² in 1999**.

- **Rivers: Brahmaputra & Lohit Rivers** (**North**) & **Dibru River** (**South**)
- **Climate: Tropical monsoon** (Hot & wet summers, cool & dry winters).
- **Vegetation: Moist semi-evergreen & deciduous forests → Canebrakes & grasslands → Largest Salix swamp forest in NE India**.
- **Biodiversity:** White-winged wood duck, black-breasted parrotbill, capped langur (**Rare species**) Tiger, water buffalo, rich fish diversity.



- **About Supreme Court Rulings & Mining Restrictions:** In **2006,** Supreme Court ruled that **no mining** inside **national parks, sanctuaries, and forest areas → In 2023,** extended **no-mining zone** by **1 km** around national parks and sanctuaries.

3. **Chandrayaan-4 Mission:** The ministry of Science & Technology, GOI, recently stated that the Chandrayaan-4 mission will be launched in 2027.
   - **About Chandrayaan-4 Mission:** Objective to bring back undamaged and uncontaminated lunar samples.
   - **Launch Vehicle:** At least two LVM-3 rockets carrying five mission components, assembled in orbit.
   - **ISRO Vision:** Part of PM Modi's Space Vision 2047, which includes Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035 → Indian Moon landing by 2040.
   - **Previous Chandrayaan Missions like Chandrayaan-1 (2008) & Chandrayaan-2 (2019):** Studied **lunar surface, sub-surface & exosphere**.
     - **Chandrayaan-3 (2023):** First-ever successful soft landing & robotic exploration in the Southern part of the moon.
       - ✓ **Objectives of Chandrayaan-3:** To demonstrate Safe and Soft Landing on Lunar Surface, to demonstrate Rover roving on the moon and to conduct in-situ scientific experiments.

- **Other Space Missions:**
  - **Gaganyaan Mission (2026):** Objective to send Indian astronauts to low-earth orbit and return safely, first Uncrewed Mission carrying Vyommitra (female robot astronaut) in 2024.
  - **Samudrayaan Mission (2026):** Objective to carry three scientists in a submersible to 6,000m depth in the deep ocean.
    - ✓ **Developments:** NIOT Chennai developed 6,000m depth-rated ROV & underwater instruments.
- **ISRO's Infrastructure & Expansion:** Launch Pads- First Launch Pad (1993) → Second Launch Pad (2004) → Third Launch Pad (Upcoming) for heavier rockets.
  - **New Launch Site:** Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, for small satellite launches.
- **India's Space Economy & Growth:** Current Valuation of $8 billion, and projected Valuation (Next Decade) upto $44 billion.

4. **Shatavari**: The Ministry of Ayush recently launched the **"Shatavari – For Better Health"** campaign to raise awareness about medicinal plants.
   - **About Shatavari:** Also known as Asparagus racemosus, native to the Indian subcontinent, can be found in Sri Lanka, India, and the Himalayas.
     - Can grow in humid tropical jungles and arid conditions.
     - A medicinal herb used in Ayurveda and other traditional medical systems.
   - **Shatavari's Importance**: **Supports women's health** and **enhances immunity**, and identified as a **key resource** for women's well-being under the **Panch Pran Goal** of making India a **developed nation by 2047**.
   - **Government Initiatives**: **Central Sector Scheme** for conservation, development, and sustainable management of medicinal plants.
   - **Agro-Economic Potential**: Shatavari's cultivation and medicinal benefits will be promoted for **wider public adoption**.

5. **SARAT (Search and Rescue Aid Tool) Version 2:** The Union Minister, GOI recently stated that **SARAT (Search and Rescue Aid Tool) Version 2** improves efficiency, response time, and success rates in **Indian search-and-rescue operations**.
   - **About: SARAT** is designed to track objects/persons lost at sea using predicted **ocean currents** and **surface winds** at the last known location to estimate their probable location.
     - A **mobile app** has also been developed for easy access.
   - **Key Improvements in SARAT Version 2**:
     - **More Accurate Search Areas**: Now based on the **Last Known Position (LKP)** instead of the **minimum longitude** in the earlier version.
     - Ensures **precise and aligned** search area computation.
     - **Exportable Search Data & Enhanced Visualization**: Digital format enables **integration with rescue planning maps**.
     - **New features**: Individual & mean particle trajectories, **color-coded search regions**, and **LKP marker** for improved interpretation.
   - **Training & Capacity Building**: **INCOIS initiatives** to train **Indian Coast Guard (ICG) & SAR agencies** for effective SARAT use.

6. **e-Courts Mission Mode Project:** The Government recently allocated ₹7210 crore for **Phase-III** of **e-Courts Mission** to strengthen court infrastructure at **district and sub-district levels**.
   - **About the e-Courts Project:** Conceptualization based on the National Policy and Action Plan (2005) for ICT implementation in the Indian Judiciary.
   - **e-Courts Mission Mode Project:** Pan-India Project for District Courts, monitored and funded by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.
   - **Key Initiatives:** Advanced e-Sewa Kendras in all court complexes→ Interlinking of all courts (High Courts, District, and Subordinate Courts)→ ICT enablement for a cost-effective, transparent, and accountable justice system→ Paperless courts developed in a phase-wise manner → Expansion of virtual courts for digital hearings→ Live streaming of court proceedings → Digitisation of court records and E-filing of cases→ Video conferencing facilities in courts.
   - **Futuristic Technologies:** Integration of AI, Blockchain, and other technologies.

7. **In-vitro fertilisation (IVF):** Scientists produced the **first kangaroo embryos** using **in vitro fertilisation (IVF)**, a technique used in humans and domesticated animals.
   - **About:** The IVF is a procedure that helps people conceive by combining eggs and sperm in a laboratory setting.
   - **Objective**: A crucial step towards the conservation of endangered marsupial species, led by researchers at the University of Queensland, Australia.
   - **Conservation Concerns**: Australia has the highest mammal extinction rate globally.
     - 87% of unique endemic mammal species lost in under 250 years.
     - 38 species extinct since colonization; 52 critically endangered or endangered (2022 study).
   - **Future Goals**: Support conservation of koalas, Tasmanian devils, northern hairy-nosed wombats, and Leadbeater's possums.
     - Refining techniques to collect, culture, and preserve marsupial eggs and sperm.
     - Develop genetic preservation methods for long-term survival of marsupials.
     - Birth of a marsupial via IVF could become reality within a decade.
   - **Previous Success**: IVF has been used in conservation efforts for endangered species.
     - In 2024, the first IVF pregnancy in a rhinoceros was achieved in Kenya.
8. **Cocoa Production**: A new study suggests that ongoing climate change is likely to affect cocoa production in West and Central Africa. The area is responsible for over 70 % of the world's cocoa production.
   - **About Cocoa:** It is grown for **chocolate production** worldwide, the **native region** includes **Amazon Basin, South America**.
   - **Climatic & Soil Requirements:** Found in the humid tropics, between 20° N and 20° S latitude.
     - Grows up to 300 m above mean sea level and requires 1500-2000 mm annually.
     - **Temperature**: Thrives in 15°C-39°C, with 25°C as optimum.
     - **Soil**: Prefers deep, well-drained soils (clay loam & sandy loam).
   - **Production:** Over 70% of the world's cocoa comes from West and Central Africa.
     - **Regional Impact on Yield**: Ivory Coast & Ghana (Northern edge) → 12% reduction Nigeria→10% reduction→ Cameroon: 2% reduction.
     - **Cocoa prod. In India:** In the states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.