1. **President's Rule:** Manipur CM recently resigned, and asked the Governor to dissolve assembly. He is likely to submit a report to the Centre, possibly **President's Rule could be imposed**.
   - **About:** President's Rule (State Emergency) is imposed under **Article 356** when a state's constitutional machinery fails.
     - It allows the **central government** to take direct control of state governance.
     - It is **one of the three types of emergencies (National, State & Financial Emergency)** under the Indian Constitution.
     - Invoked due to political instability, law & order breakdown, or a hung assembly.
   - **Constitutional Provisions regarding Emergency in India:**
     - **Article 355:** Centre ensures that the government of every state is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
     - **Article 356:** President can take over a state's functions if its government fails constitutionally.
     - **Article 357:** Exercise of legislative powers under proclamation issued under Article 356.
     - **Article 365:** If a state fails to follow the Centre's directions, the President can assume control.
   - **Parliamentary Approval & Duration:**
     - **Approval by Parliament**: Must be sanctioned by both Houses within two months. When Parliament is not in session - proclamation survives until 30 days from the first sitting of the Lok Sabha, provided RS has approved it.
     - **Validity**: Initially for **six months,** extendable up to **3 years (max)** with approval every six months. President can revoke at any time without parliamentary approval.
   - **Supreme Court Judgments & Key recommendations on President's Rule:**
     - **S.R. Bommai Case (1994):** President's Rule is subject to judicial review.
     - **Sarkaria Commission**: Article 356 should be used **only as a last resort.**
     - **Punchhi Commission**: Emergency should be localized, affecting only specific districts, not the entire state.

2. **SRY Gene:** Three cases of females with the SRY gene have been reported recently. These cases reinforce the **SRY gene's primary role** in male development.
   - **About:** SRY Gene found on the **Y chromosome**, it triggers **male development**. In its absence, development follows the **female pathway**.
     - It activates a cascade of genes that trigger the formation of testes in the embryo, which then produce testosterone, promoting male characteristics.
   - **Chromosomal Makeup:** Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, including one pair of sex chromosomes: XX (female) or XY (male).
     - Female's Eggs - carry X chromosome and Male's Sperm either X or Y.
   - **SRY Gene Function:** If the SRY gene is present and functional, the embryo develops into a male; if absent, it follows the female pathway.
3. **Santorini Island:** Greece has declared a **state of emergency** on **Santorini** as **frequent earthquakes** shake the island and nearby **Aegean islands** multiple times a day.
   - **About:** Santorini Island (Thera) is a volcanic crater island that is located in Southern **Aegean Sea**, **southeastern Greece**.
     - Island Group: **Southernmost in the Cyclades**, ~128 nautical miles SE of Greek mainland, ~63 nautical miles N of Crete.
     - **Volcanic Origin:** Part of an exploded volcano, forming the South Aegean Volcanic Arc.
     - **Active Volcano:** One of the few active volcanoes in Greece & Europe. **Caldera,** A sea-filled volcanic caldera with steep, colorful cliffs on three sides.
     - Famous for whitewashed houses, blue waters, dramatic views, and fabulous sunsets. Home to the ancient settlement of Thira.

- **About Volcanic Crater Island:** Formed by volcanic activity, either filling with water or remaining elevated above sea level.

4. **Mount Taranaki:** Taranaki Maunga (Mount Taranaki) in New Zealand has been recently achieved a human status.
   - **About Mount Taranaki**: Official names of the mountains are Mount **Egmont** & Mount **Taranaki**.
   - **Location:** Situated in **Egmont National Park**, North Island, New Zealand.
   - **Features:** It is a **stratovolcano,** a composite cone made of alternating ash and lava layers.
     - Symmetry: One of the most symmetrical volcanic cones in the world.
     - Ring Plain: Surrounded by a circular deposit of volcanic material from lahars and landslides.
     - Formation: Created by subduction of the Pacific Plate beneath the Australian Plate.
     - Magma Source: Likely from a deeper origin than Taupo Volcanic Zone volcanoes.
     - Elevation: 8,261 feet, making it the second highest mountain in New Zealand's North Island.
     - Dormant & Snow-Capped: A dormant volcano covered in snow.
   - **Cultural & Legal Recognition:**
     - **Legal Personhood:** Third natural entity in New Zealand with legal status, after Te Urewera National Park and Whanganui River.
     - **Maori Significance:** Indigenous Maori people revere Taranaki Maunga as a sacred ancestor.
5. **Ranikhet Disease (Newcastle Disease) Outbreak:** Suspected **highly virulent Ranikhet disease** caused the death of nearly **1.5 lakh chickens** in Andhra Pradesh's Eluru, Guntur, Prakasam, and Godavari districts recently.
   - **About Ranikhet Disease:** Highly contagious viral disease affecting poultry (chickens, turkeys, ducks).
     - Caused by virulent avian avulavirus 1 (Newcastle disease virus - NDV) or avian paramyxovirus-1 (APMV-1).
     - Affects respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems of birds.
     - Leads to drop in egg production and fertility issues.
     - Morbidity is high; mortality varies from 50-100%.
     - Minor zoonosis – Can cause mild conjunctivitis in humans, but self-limiting.
   - **Transmission:** Direct contact with infected bird secretions (faeces, saliva).
     - Contaminated feed, water, clothing, and equipment.
     - Virus survives for weeks in the environment, especially in cool weather.

- **Symptoms:** Varies by age of birds.
  - Young birds: Sneezing, gasping, weakness (resembles infectious bronchitis).
  - Rapid spread: Deaths occur quickly and increase daily.
- **Treatment:** No specific treatment available, proper housing and care can reduce disease severity.

6. **Dhimsa Dance:** Tribal families from **Neelabandha**, a hilltop hamlet in **Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh**, received electricity for the first time since Independence.
   - They celebrated the occasion with the **Dhimsa dance**.
   - **About Dhimsa Dance:** It is a tribal dance, performed by Bagata, Valmiki, Poraja, Khond, Gadaba, Kondadora, Mukadora, and Kotia tribes of Andhra Pradesh.
   - **Occasions:** Celebrated during festivals, weddings, and the hunting festival (April), where men and women dance for hours.
   - **Origin:** Traced to Koraput region, Odisha, home to the Ghond Tribe.
   - **Varieties:** There are **12 types** of Dhimsa dance.
   - **Music & Instruments:** Accompanied by wind and percussion instruments like dappu, tudumu, mori, kidgi, gilka, and jodukommulu.
   - **Themes:** Reflect mythologies, folktales, traditions, economic activities, kinship, and marital life.
   - **Performance Style:** Dancers form **circles**, linking arms behind each other.
     - Movements mainly involve **hands and legs** & performed in **small or large groups** as a team.
7. **Baltic Nations:** The three Baltic States disconnected their electricity systems from Russia's power grid recently.
   - **About Baltic Nations:** Located in **Northern Europe**, along the **eastern coast of the Baltic Sea**.
   - **Countries:** Includes Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
   - **Borders:** West & North (Baltic Sea) East (Russia), Southeast (Belarus) Southwest (Poland & Russia's Kaliningrad exclave), **Capitals:** Estonia (Tallinn), Latvia (Riga), Lithuania (Vilnius)
   - **Ethnic Russians:** Around **25% of the population** in **Estonia & Latvia**
   - **Independence:** First gained **independence from the Russian Empire (1918)** after **World War I**.
   - Regained independence from the **Soviet Union (early 1990s)**.
   - **EU Membership:** Became **European Union (EU) members in 2004**.