1. **Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs:** The menhirs in Telangana's Narayanpet district will soon be the second UNESCO World Heritage Site in the state.



   - It was one of six Indian sites added to the tentative list by the World Heritage Centre in 2025.
   - **About Menhirs:** A standing or upright stone, usually tapered at the top, man-made, sculpted, and placed by humans.
   - The largest surviving menhir, the Grand Menhir Brisé in Brittany, France, once stood at 20.6 m tall.
   - **Etymology:** Derived from Brittonic words — "maen" meaning "stone" and "hîr" meaning "long". Entered the archaeological lexicon in the late 18th century, first used by French military officer and Celticist antiquarian Théophile Corret de la Tour d'Auvergne.
   - **European menhirs:** Associated with the **Beaker culture** (Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age), roughly **4,800 to 3,800 BP**; oldest dated to **7,000 BP**.
   - **Mudumal menhirs:** Dated to roughly 3,500 to 4,000 BP — oldest known menhirs in India.
     - Found either **alone** or as part of a **larger complex of megaliths**. Likely served **ceremonial functions** — markers of **graves** or for **astronomical purposes**.
   - **Astronomical Significance:** Described as a "megalithic astronomical observatory" by the UNESCO dossier.
     - Some menhirs align with the rising and setting sun during the summer and winter solstices, suggesting use as an ancient observatory.
   - **Cultural Significance:** Closely associated with **local legend** — one menhir is worshipped as **Goddess Yellamma**.
   - **UNESCO Recognition:** Reflects the ingenuity of early humans in sculpting and transporting tonnes-heavy stones with precision.
     - Provides insight into cultural beliefs and astronomical knowledge of societies with no written records.

2. **Hyperloop Technology:** Recently, the Union Minister informed that the electronics component technology for the Hyperloop project will be developed at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.

- The 410-meter-long Hyperloop test tube at IIT Chennai is the longest Hyperloop test facility in Asia.
- **About Hyperloop Technology:** It is a high-speed transportation system where pods travel through low-pressure tubes at high speeds, popularised by Elon Musk in 2012.
  - **Working:** Operates in **vacuum-sealed tubes**, reducing friction for faster travel and energy efficiency.
  - **Pods speed:** Up to **1,100 kmph**; operational cruising speed around **360 kmph**.
- **Key Components:**
  - **Low-Pressure Tubes:** Minimise air resistance.
  - **Magnetic Levitation (Maglev):** Pods "float" on magnets, eliminating friction.
  - **Linear Electric Motors:** Propel the pod smoothly and efficiently.
- **Significance:** Delivers high speed, efficiency, and zero direct emissions, making it a green transit solution.
  - Addresses growing demands for efficient and sustainable transportation.
- **India's Hyperloop Project:** Joint initiative of Indian Railways, IIT-Madras' Avishkar Hyperloop team, and TuTr (incubated startup).
- **About Magnetism:** It is related to magnetic fields formed by moving electric charges. It occurs in various forms like electric current in a conductor, charged particles moving through space, and electron mobility in an atomic orbital.

3. Hoopoes: It is a fascinating birds known for their striking plumage and unique behaviour, have been observed across India, Africa, Europe, and Central Asia.



- **About Hoopoes:** Belong to the family Upupidae and species Upupa epops; commonly known as Common Hoopoe or Eurasian Hoopoe.
- **Distribution:** Resident bird of India, seasonally migrates across the subcontinent (e.g., Western Ghats to downhill regions during monsoon).
- **Appearance:** Crown extends like royal headgear, with black-and-white-tipped crest resembling a Japanese fan.

- Plumage is cinnamon-colored with zebra-striped back and wings, creating a regal appearance.
- **Behavior:**
  - **Foraging:** Waddles on the ground, inserting its long, down-curved bill into the earth to probe for insects.
  - **Bathing:** Engages in sunbathing and sand bathing.
  - **Calls:** Named after its call, "Hoo-po, hoo-po-po", which echoes repeatedly.
  - **Fighting:** Males fight over nesting sites, jabbing with bills and flaring crests; fights can result in blindness.
  - **Nesting:** Nests in tree trunks or stone wall holes, lined skimpily with grass, leaves, feathers, and rubbish.
  - **Reproduction:** Breeding season between March and June. Female incubates 5-7 greenish-blue, dirtily speckled eggs; male feeds her during incubation.
- **IUCN Red List category:** Least Concern

4. **Chandrayaan-5 Mission:** The Centre has recently accorded approval for the ambitious Chandrayaan-5 mission to study the Moon, as announced by ISRO.
   - **About Chandrayaan-5:** This mission is part of India's long-term goal of achieving an Indian landing on the Moon by 2040 and realising India's Space Station by 2035.
     - Chandrayaan-5 is a collaborative effort between India and Japan (JAXA).
     - It aims to explore the Moon's permanently shadowed regions, which may contain water ice crucial for future lunar exploration and habitation.
   - **Payload and Design:** It will carry a 350 kg Japanese rover and an Indian lander.
     - The mission will demonstrate a higher capacity lander, advancing India's space capabilities.
   - **Scientific Goals:** The rover will study the Moon's surface and explore the lunar South Pole, a region of high scientific interest.
   - **International Collaboration:** ISRO will provide the lander, while JAXA will develop the rover.
     - This collaboration marks a significant step in international cooperation for India's space program.
   - **Significance:** Chandrayaan-5 represents a major technological milestone and supports India's pursuit of new scientific discoveries on the Moon.

5. **SBI Ecowrap Report:** The report (published by SBI's Economic Research Department) released recently, provides a detailed analysis of India's economic landscape in February 2025.
   - Key focus: **CPI inflation, industrial growth, imported inflation, and corporate performance**.
   - **About SBI Ecowrap Report:** It analyses the Indian economy, covering GDP growth, and agricultural reforms, formal and informal economies.
   - Highlights a significant moderation in inflation and projects future trends in monetary policy and industrial output.
   - **About Inflation:** Rise in prices of goods and services, leading to decreased purchasing power and erosion of cash value.
   - **Measurement in India:**
     - **WPI (Wholesale Price Index):** Measures price changes at the wholesale level.
     - **CPI (Consumer Price Index):** Measures price changes at the retail level.
   - **Types of Inflation:**
     - **Demand Pull Inflation:** Arises when aggregate demand exceeds aggregate supply.
     - **Supply Side Inflation/Cost Push Inflation:** Occurs when a decrease in aggregate supply raises production costs.
     - **Headline Inflation:** Total inflation, including volatile items like food and energy.
     - **Core Inflation:** Excludes food and energy prices, capturing underlying inflation trends.
     - **Skewflation:** Skewed rise in the price of some items while others remain unchanged.
     - **Stagflation:** Rising prices with falling growth and employment.
   - **Inflation Targeting:**
     - **Target Setting:** Set every five years by the central government in consultation with RBI.
     - **Target Range:** RBI aims to keep inflation between **2% (lower limit)** and **6% (upper limit)** of CPI.
   - **State-wise Inflation Analysis:** Rural inflation > Urban inflation due to higher food prices.
     - **Highest Inflation:** Kerala (**7.3%**), Chhattisgarh (**4.9%**).
     - **Lowest Inflation:** Telangana (**1.3%**), Delhi (**1.5%**).



6. **Digital Transformation Award 2025:** Recently, RBI has been honoured with the Digital Transformation Award 2025.
   - **About Digital Transformation Award 2025:**
     - **Recognition:** Honours central banks and financial institutions for excellence in digital innovation and technology-driven governance.
     - **Presented by:** Central Banking, London — a globally recognized institution focusing on monetary policies, governance, and financial transformation.
     - **Eligibility:** Open to central banks, financial regulators, and monetary institutions that have implemented successful digital reforms.
     - **2025 Winner:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its digital initiatives — **'Saarathi'** and **'Pravaah'**.
   - **RBI's Digital Initiatives:**
     - **About Saarathi Initiative:** Internal workflow digitization system for RBI employees.
     - **Aim:** Enhance record management, automate processes, enable secure digital submissions, and improve data tracking & collaboration.
     - **Impact:** Eliminated manual paperwork, streamlined task tracking, and integrated various RBI departments into a unified system.
   - **About Pravaah Initiative:** Digital regulatory application platform for external users submitting documents to RBI.
     - **Aim:** Digitize over 70 regulatory applications, enhance transparency, and improve cybersecurity in financial documentation.
     - **Impact:** Linked with Saarathi, reduced paperwork, and increased efficiency in RBI's external processing systems.
7. **Supersolid:** In a groundbreaking scientific achievement, researchers have successfully turned **light into a "supersolid"** for the first time.
   - **About Supersolid:** It is a strange state of matter defined by quantum mechanics where particles condense into an **orderly, crystalline solid** but also move like a **liquid with no viscosity**.
   - **Unique Property:** Unlike regular solids, supersolids **change direction and density** depending on particle interactions while maintaining an **organized lattice structure**.
   - **Applications:** Quantum computing, Optical circuits & photonic devices & Fundamental physics research.