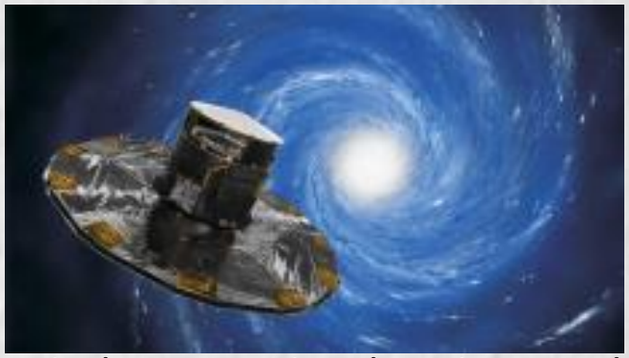
1. **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act:** The Indian Medical Association (IMA), while lauded the Haryana's initiative to register all pregnant women mandatory during their first trimester. However, it has also highlighted that it contradicts the existing **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act** which establishes a woman's reproductive rights as solely her own.
   - **About MTP Act:** It was introduced to liberalise access to abortion since the restrictive criminal provision (in the IPC) was leading to women using unsafe and dangerous methods for termination of pregnancy.
   - **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTPAA) 2021:** It allows **unmarried women** to also terminate a pregnancy for this reason, increased the upper gestation limit from **20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women** (Survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest; Minors; etc.).
     - **Medical Boards:** All state and UT governments will constitute a Medical Board, to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks.
     - Section 5A of the MTP Act **(amended in 2021)** ensures confidentiality by prohibiting the disclosure of names and particulars of women undergoing abortion, except to authorised persons.
2. **Gaia Mission:** Recently, the European Space Agency (ESA) shut down its space observatory mission Gaia.
   - **About Gaia Mission:** Launched in **December 2013**, Gaia has been instrumental in **charting the Milky Way galaxy**, revealing its past and estimating its future.
     - Originally named Global Astrometric Interferometer for Astrophysics (GAIA), later renamed Gaia.



     - Designed for astrometry – mapping the cosmos by precisely measuring locations and movement of stars and celestial bodies.
     - Positioned at Lagrange point 2 (L2), 1.5 million km behind Earth, allowing an unobstructed view of space.

- Equipped with twin telescopes directing light onto a billion-pixel digital camera, the largest flown in space.
- Instruments: **Astrometer** (Measures star positions and movements) → **Photometer** (Analyses brightness and colours) → **Spectrometer** (Determines chemical composition and velocities)

- **Discoveries by Gaia:** Created a precise 3-D map of the Milky Way galaxy and projected its future changes.
  - Confirmed the galaxy's central bar and spiral arms, and revealed that its disc is warped and wobbles due to past collisions with satellite galaxies.
  - Discovered a new kind of black hole, including one near Earth, detected only by gravitational effects.
  - Identified 150,000+ asteroids, mapped their orbits, and projected those that may threaten Earth.

3. **Free Movement Regime (FMR):** In February 2024, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the scrapping of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Myanmar border.

- No official notification by the Ministry of External Affairs or bilateral agreement with Myanmar has been issued so far.
- **About FMR:** Introduced in 1968 for people with familial and ethnic ties across the border.
  - Allows all hill tribes (citizens of India and Myanmar) to travel within 16 km on either side of the Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB).
  - Travelers must produce a border pass with a one-year validity issued by the competent authority.
  - Each visit permits a stay of up to two weeks.
  - Implemented in 2018 as part of the Central government's Act East policy.
  - Jointly implemented by both India and Myanmar for communities living along the IMB.

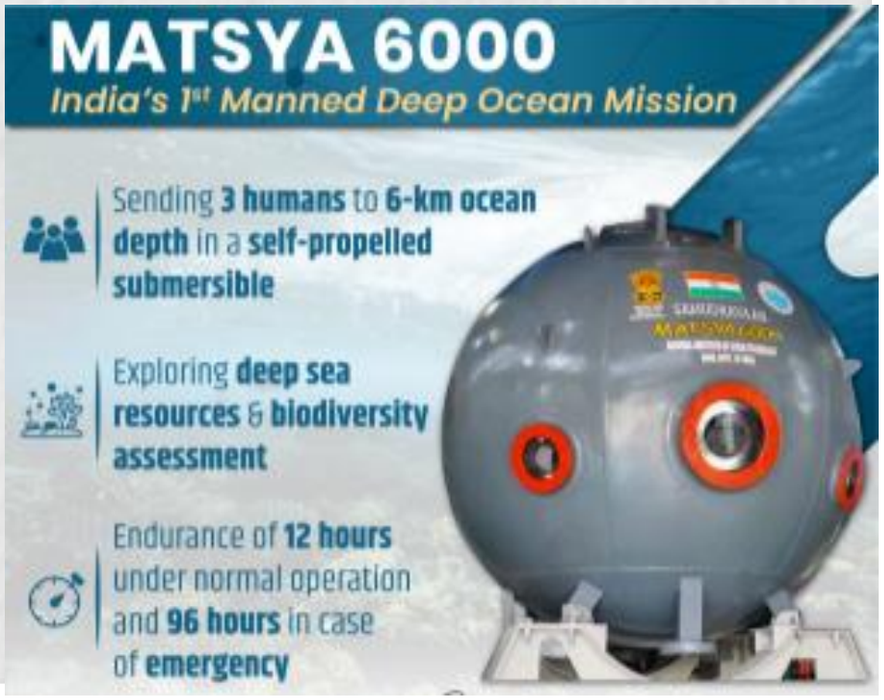


- Facilitates cultural assimilation, including weddings, common festivals, and trans-border trade.
- Reflects physical, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and fraternal linkages among trans-border villagers.

- **Key Facts about Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB):** It's total extension of 1,643 km along with Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
  - **Extends from:** North – Tripoint with China & South – Tripoint with Bangladesh.
  - **Guarded by:** Assam Rifles.

4. **Exercise Prachand Prahaar:** The Army conducted a Tri-Service integrated multi-domain warfare exercise, 'Prachand Prahaar', in the high-altitude terrain of Arunachal Pradesh from March 25 to 27, 2025.
   - **About Exercise Prachand Prahaar:** The exercise aimed to validate an integrated approach to surveillance, command and control, and precision firepower across the three services.
     - It was conducted under the aegis of the Eastern Command to simulate future warfare scenarios.
   - **Objective:** To demonstrate seamless integration of advanced surveillance, strike capabilities, and multi-domain operational planning.
   - **Assets Used:** Long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft, Armed helicopters, UAVs and loitering munitions, and Space-based assets.
   - **Operations Conducted:** Simulated target identification followed by coordinated strikes.
     - Utilized fighter aircraft, long-range rocket systems, artillery (up to 155 mm), swarm drones, kamikaze drones, and armed helicopters.
     - Conducted within an electronically contested environment replicating modern battlefield scenarios.
   - **Continuity:** Builds upon **Exercise Poorvi Prahar (November 2024)**, which focused on the **integrated application of aviation assets**.
   - Highlights the increasing emphasis on **jointness, technological superiority, and readiness to tackle multi-domain threats**.

5. **Nag Anti-Tank Missile System (NAMIS):** Recently, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed contracts worth ₹2,500 crore for Procurement of the tracked version of the Nag Anti-Tank Missile System (NAMIS) for the Indian Army's mechanised formations.
   - Procurement of 5,000 light vehicles for the Armed Forces from Force Motors Limited and Mahindra & Mahindra Limited.
   - **About Nag Anti-Tank Missile System (NAMIS):** It was developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL) of DRDO.
   - **Key Features:** Third-generation fire-and-forget anti-tank missile mounted on a BMP-2 chassis.
     - Advanced sighting system for enhanced firepower and lethality.
     - Provides an operational advantage against enemy armour.
   - **About Light Vehicles for the Armed Forces:**
     - **Procured from:** Force Motors Limited & Mahindra & Mahindra Limited.
     - **Key Features:** Enhanced engine power with 800 kg payload capacity and provides mobility in all types of terrain and operational conditions.
6. **India's Deep Sea Mission/Matsya-6000:** Recently, India completed wet testing of the Matsya-6000 submersible, capable of diving up to 6 km below the surface for underwater mineral exploration.
   - **News highlights:** The first deep-sea manned vehicle launch is planned for later in 2025, making India one of the few nations capable of sending humans to such depths.
     - China unveiled a deep-sea cable-cutting device, capable of severing fortified underwater communication and power lines, highlighting the growing strategic importance of deep-sea technology.
   - **About India's Deep Sea Mission/Matsya-6000:** It is a part of the Deep Ocean Mission (2018) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.



- **About Matsya 6000 Submersible:** It is India's deep-sea submersible, developed for ocean exploration, deep-sea mining, and biodiversity studies.
  - Developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) under the Samudrayaan Mission.
- **Features:** Equipped with advanced life support systems, navigation equipment, and robotic arms for sample collection, and high-resolution imaging systems.
  - Features a 2.1-meter internal diameter Titanium alloy personnel sphere, ensuring safe human transport to a 6000 m depth.
  - Titanium alloy personnel sphere is being integrated in collaboration with ISRO.

7. **Baalpan Ki Kavita Initiative**: The Union Education Ministry recently launched the "Baalpan Ki Kavita" initiative to revive traditional Indian rhymes and poems for young children.
   - **About Baalpan Ki Kavita Initiative**: Launched by the Ministry of Education to revive and restore traditional Indian rhymes and poems.
     - Aims to compile a comprehensive collection of nursery rhymes and poems in all Bhartiya Bhashas (Indian languages) and English.
     - **Objective:** Provide joyful and contextually relevant learning material for young learners.
       - ✓ Help children connect with cultural roots while making foundational education engaging.

8. **GSAT-18 Satellite:** The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has raised concerns over the economic viability of GSAT-18 due to the underutilisation of six transponders until 2027.
   - **About:** It is a communication satellite launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on October 5, 2016.
   - **Launch Vehicle:** Heavy-duty **Ariane-5 VA-231** rocket from **Kourou, French Guiana.**
   - **Weight:** 3,404 kg at liftoff.
   - **Mission Life:** 15 years (until 2032).
   - **Orbit:** Injected into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
   - **Satellite Control:** Managed by ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) in Hassan, Karnataka.
   - **Services:** Provides television, telecommunication, VSAT, and digital satellite news gathering.