

1. Srinivasa Ramanujan: The National Archives of India will launch the book Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician, followed by a panel discussion on the 'Legacy of Ramanujan'.

• **About Srinivasa Ramanujan:** Born on 22nd December 1887, Erode, Tamil Nadu, India.

- Published his first paper in 1911 and began correspondence with G.H. Hardy in 1913, leading to a scholarship from Madras University and a grant from Trinity College, Cambridge.
- Elected to the Royal Society of London in 1918 and became the **first Indian Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.**

• **Contributions to Mathematics:**

- **Contributions:** He had mastered differential calculus by the age of 16.
 - ✓ He made significant contributions to infinite series, mathematical analysis, number theory, and continued fractions.
 - ✓ Contributions to the theory of partitions, on modular forms and hypergeometric series, worked with **G.H. Hardy** on projects of prime numbers and the Riemann zeta function.
 - ✓ His infinite Pi series is one of his most prized discoveries
- **Ramanujan theory:** It deals with the study of integers and their properties. It is characterised by its focus on the study of whole numbers and their properties.

2. Padma Awards: The President conferred the Padma awards to 71 of the 139 individuals recognized for exceptional contributions in various fields. The awards, including Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri, were announced on the eve of the 76th Republic Day.

• **About the Padma Awards:** Instituted in 1954, they are among India's highest civilian honors, announced annually on Republic Day (26th January).

- **Objective:** To recognize exceptional contributions in various fields like Art, literature, education, science, public affairs, social work, medicine, civil service, sports, trade, and more.
- **Categories:** Padma Vibhushan – for exceptional and distinguished service ; Padma Bhushan – for distinguished service of a higher order ; Padma Shri – for distinguished service
- **Eligibility:** Open to all individuals regardless of race, occupation, position, or gender. Government servants including those working with PSUs, **except doctors and scientists**, are **not eligible** for these Awards.
 - ✓ Recipients are recommended by a **Padma committee (headed by Cabinet Secretary)** submitted to the Prime Minister, and the awards are conferred by the President.

3. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) : Recently, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare released new guidelines for establishing **Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs)** under the **NMNF**, marking a significant push to promote natural farming.

- **About BRCs:** Part of the NMNF, launched in November 2024, aimed at reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
 - Cluster-level enterprises that provide bio-inputs like organic fertilizers, biopesticides, and natural growth promoters.
 - Serve as knowledge hubs, offering guidance on natural farming practices and proper use of bio-inputs suited to local soil and crops.
- **NMNF:** Under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
 - **Objective:** To promote natural farming practices in India by enhancing the existing Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) framework.
 - **Coverage:** NMNF aims to develop 15,000 clusters, covering 7.5 lakh hectares, with each cluster involving 50 or more farmers.
 - **Financial Support:** Total budget of ₹2,481 crore, with ₹1,584 crore from the central government and ₹897 crore from states until 2025-26.

4. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI): Recently, SIPRI report revealed that **India's military spending in 2024 was nearly nine times higher** than Pakistan's defense expenditure, however China spends >4 times India's spending. India is the **5th largest military spender globally**.

- **About SIPRI :** It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
 - **Established in:** 1966
 - **Vision:** SIPRI envisions a world where sources of insecurity are recognized, conflicts are preempted or resolved, and peace is enduring.
 - **Provision of Data and Analysis:** SIPRI provides data, analysis, and recommendations sourced from open channels, offering valuable insights into global security trends.
 - **Target Audience:** SIPRI's research serves policymakers, researchers, media, and the general public, contributing to informed decision-making and public discourse.

5. Similipal Tiger Reserve : Recently, the Odisha government declared Similipal Tiger Reserve as the state's second national park after Bhitarkanika, making it the 107th national park in India.

• **About Similipal Tiger Reserve:** Located in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, Similipal is the **only known habitat of wild melanistic tigers** and is home to a significant population of Royal Bengal tigers, elephants, and a rich variety of orchid species, many of which are endemic.

- It lies in the Deccan Peninsular Biogeographic Zone (Chhotanagpur Province, Mahanadi Region).
- Known for scenic waterfalls like Barehipani and Joranda, and peaks such as Khairiburu and Meghashini.
- The forest is a mix of sal, moist deciduous, and semi-evergreen vegetation, supporting rich biodiversity and forest-dependent communities.
- Key ungulates include sambar, chital, barking deer, gaur, and mouse deer.

6. State of the World's Indigenous Peoples Report : Recently, the UN's **State of the World's Indigenous Peoples** report flagged climate injustice, highlighting the exclusion of Indigenous communities from global climate finance and decision-making, despite their vital role in environmental conservation.

• **Major Findings :**

- **Climate Injustice Highlighted:** Indigenous communities receive less than 1% of global climate finance despite being crucial to biodiversity conservation.
- **Livelihood Threats:** Climate change is severely affecting their agriculture, fishing, and forestry-based livelihoods, leading to food insecurity and displacement.
- **Health & Cultural Risks:** Limited access to healthcare and forced migration due to ecological changes are threatening their health and cultural heritage.
- **Disproportionate Impact:** Climate change exacerbates historical marginalization and inequalities faced by Indigenous Peoples.
- **Role in Conservation:** Though only 6% of the global population, they protect 80% of Earth's remaining biodiversity through traditional land and resource management.
- **Call for Inclusion:** The report urges greater participation of Indigenous communities in climate decision-making and equitable access to climate finance.

7. Sandy Cay Reef : Recently, tensions between China and the Philippines escalated over conflicting claims to the Sandy Cay reef in the South China Sea.

- The Philippines, backed by an international ruling, rejected China's claim amid growing military cooperation with the U.S.
- **About Sandy Cay Reef:** Also known as Tiexian Reef, is a 200 sq metre feature in the Spratly Islands of the South China Sea.
 - It lies near Thitu Island (Pag-asa Island), where the Philippines operates a military facility and a recently established coast guard base.
 - China claims it as a natural feature entitled to a 12-nautical-mile territorial sea, potentially overlapping with Philippine waters.
 - Control over Sandy Cay could enhance China's position around nearby Subi Reef, a major militarized outpost.
 - The recent Chinese Coast Guard assertion of control coincided with the ongoing U.S.-Philippines "Balikatan" joint military drills, heightening regional tensions.



8. BRICS LEMM 2025 declaration: The BRICS Labour and Employment Minister's Meeting 2025 concluded with a landmark declaration addressing challenges in the world of work, including AI's impact and climate change effects.

• **Key Themes and Commitments**

- The declaration focuses on two critical issues: "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work" and "The Impacts of Climate Change on the World of Work and a Just Transition".
- **Inclusive AI Policies:** Promoting policies that balance technological innovation with worker protection, ensuring AI benefits are shared equitably among the workforce.
- **Social Dialogue for Fair Transitions:** Advancing discussions on fair climate transitions, aiming to secure green jobs and a just transition for workers.
- **South-South Cooperation:** Strengthening cooperation on labour governance, digital inclusion, and green job creation.
- **About BRICS:** An informal intergovernmental grouping of emerging economies aimed at boosting cooperation and global influence.

- **Founding members:** Brazil, Russia, India, China
- **Joined in 2010:** South Africa
- **Joined in 2024:** Iran, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia
- The term "BRICS" was coined in 2001 by economist Jim O'Neill in his report, Building Better Global Economic BRICs.

9. Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary : India's first and only sanctuary for the conservation of the Indian grey wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*), Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary, is located in the scenic Latehar district of Jharkhand.

- **About Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary :** It was established in 1976 to protect the Indian grey wolf.
 - It covers approximately 63 square kilometers.
 - The sanctuary is part of the Palamau Tiger Reserve.
 - Wildlife species include spotted deer, wild boar, hyenas, bears, and the Indian grey wolf.
- **About Indian grey wolf**
 - The Indian grey wolf is a subspecies found across Southwest Asia and the Indian subcontinent.
 - It inhabits scrublands, grasslands, and semi-arid agro ecosystems, thriving in warmer temperatures.
 - Unlike other wolves, it lives in smaller packs, is less vocal, and primarily hunts at night.
 - **IUCN Red List:** Endangered (with an estimated population of 2,000–3,000 individuals in India).
 - **CITES:** Listed in Appendix I for the highest level of protection.
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Included under Schedule I for maximum legal protection in India.