1. **Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme :** Recently, in a major push to address unemployment and promote formal job creation, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved the **Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme**.
   - **About ELI Scheme :** Aims to generate over 3.5 crore new jobs in the next two years, with a special thrust on the manufacturing sector.
   - **Dual-Structured Design:**
     - **Support for First-Time Employees :** Encourage youth to join the formal workforce.
       - ✓ **Target Beneficiaries:** 1.92 crore young individuals entering formal employment for the first time.
     - **Incentives for Employers Hiring Additional Workers:** Stimulate demand-side job creation by encouraging employers to expand their workforce.
       - ✓ **Coverage:** All sectors, with **extended benefits for the manufacturing sector**.
   - **Key Expected Outcomes: Formalization of Workforce:** Integration of millions into the EPFO ecosystem, ensuring social security.
     - **Boost to Manufacturing:** Extended incentives support the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat missions.
     - **Inclusive Job Growth:** Special focus on benefiting **youth, gig workers transitioning to formal jobs**, and **women entering the workforce**.
2. **RailOne App :** Recently, in a significant step towards digitizing passenger services and enhancing user experience, the Union Railway Minister launched the **RailOne** mobile application—an integrated, all-in-one platform developed by the **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**.
   - **About RailOne App :** Aims to consolidate all major passenger-facing services of Indian Railways under a single interface. With a **clean, user-friendly design**, it offers a **unified digital experience**, eliminating the need for multiple apps.
   - **Key Features: Centralized Services:** RailOne consolidates multiple railway services in one app, offering users a comprehensive interface for all key functionalities.
     - The app is available for download on both the **Google Play Store** and **Apple iOS App Store**.
     - Features a **single sign-on system**, allowing users to log in using **mPIN** or **biometric authentication**.

- Compatible with existing **RailConnect** and **UTS** (Unreserved Ticketing System) login credentials.
- Includes **Railway e-wallet (R-Wallet)** support for convenient digital transactions.

- **About CRIS :** An autonomous organization under the **Ministry of Railways**, Government of India.
  - It brings together a unique blend of **skilled IT professionals** and **experienced Railway personnel**, enabling effective development and management of complex railway IT systems.
  - **Core Function:** Specializes in designing, developing, and maintaining software solutions for various **critical functional areas** of Indian Railways.
  - **Focus Areas:** Passenger reservation, freight operations, unreserved ticketing, crew management and real-time train information systems

3. **Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors :** Recently, a report titled **'Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors'**, released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, has highlighted significant shifts in India's agricultural production patterns and consumer preferences over the past decade.

- **Key Highlights :** A significant rise in the Gross Value of Output (GVO) for various crops, with notable increases seen in strawberries, parmal (parwal), pumpkin, pomegranates, mushrooms, and dry ginger, the latter driven largely by improved processing.
  - **Consumption Trends & Preferences:**
    - ✓ **Shift away from cereals** in both rural and urban consumption patterns.
    - ✓ **Rising fruit consumption** across income groups, especially in rural areas.
    - ✓ **Rural households consuming fresh fruits** increased from **63.8% to 90.3%**, indicating broader access to nutritious food.
- **Engel's Law in Action:** With rising incomes, the share of monthly consumption expenditure on food declined — from approximately **53% to 47%** in rural areas and from **43% to 40%** in urban areas between 2011–12 and 2023–24.
- **About GVO :** It shows the total value of goods produced in the economy.
  - This is calculated before subtracting the cost of inputs used during production.

4. **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary:** Recently, the **Kerala State Wildlife Board** renamed the **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Kannur district** as the **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**, marking it as **India's first protected forest solely dedicated to butterflies**.
   - **About Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary :** Situated in the **Kannur district** of **Kerala**, along the **Western Ghats**.
     - **Area:** Covers approximately **55 sq. km** of tropical and semi-evergreen forests.
     - **River System:** Drained primarily by the **Cheenkannipuzha River**.
     - **Biodiversity:** Hosts **over 266 species of butterflies**, accounting for more than **80% of all butterfly species in Kerala**.
       - ✓ Includes both **endemic and endangered** butterfly species.
     - **Other Wildlife:** Besides butterflies, Aralam is also home to **elephants, giant squirrels, leopards**, and a wide variety of **bird species**.
   - **Seasonal Butterfly Migration:** Between **October and February**, the sanctuary witnesses a vibrant butterfly migration from the lower slopes of the Western Ghats.
     - The peak of this migration occurs during the season of the **Common Albatross butterfly**, creating a spectacular display of butterflies fluttering among tall trees, wildflowers, and orchids.
   - **Butterfly Migration Study:** Held every **January or February**, this study documents and celebrates the migration, helping deepen scientific understanding of these important pollinators.
5. **MethaneSAT :** Recently, in a setback to global climate monitoring efforts, **MethaneSAT**, a satellite launched to detect methane leaks, has gone missing in space, according to the **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**, which is spearheading the project.
   - **About MethaneSAT:** To track and measure **methane emissions** on a global scale, with a particular focus on the **oil and gas sector**.
     - It aims to provide **greater detail** and a **wider field of view** compared to previous satellites, helping identify emission trends over time.
   - **Key Capabilities:** Orbits the Earth **15 times a day**, capturing extensive methane data from around the globe.

- Equipped with a **high-resolution infrared sensor** and a **spectrometer**, allowing it to detect methane concentration differences as small as **three parts per billion**.
- Features a **wide viewing area** of approximately **200 km by 200 km**, enabling it to identify large methane emitters, often referred to as "**super emitters**."

- **Google** will provide **cloud computing and AI technology** to process and analyze the data collected by MethaneSAT.
  - The processed findings will be made available to the public through **Google's Earth Engine platform**.

6. **India-UAE :** Recently, India and the UAE explored collaboration in **green steel production** and **high-grade aluminium development**, aiming to strengthen industrial ties under their **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.
   - **About Green Steel :** Refers to **steel production that does not rely on fossil fuels**, aiming for a low-carbon manufacturing process.
     - **Alternative Energy Sources:** It uses **low-carbon energy options** such as: **Green hydrogen** (from renewable sources), **Blue hydrogen** (from natural gas with carbon capture), **Coal gasification** and **Electricity** from renewable sources
     - **Environmental Benefits:** Reduces greenhouse gas emissions, lowers production costs over time and enhances steel quality
     - **Role of Hydrogen:** The use of **low-carbon hydrogen** is central to minimizing the steel industry's carbon footprint.
   - **About Aluminium** : A **chemical element** with the **symbol Al** and **atomic number 13**. It is the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust.
     - **Key Properties: Lightweight** and **silvery-white** in appearance, High **corrosion resistance** and Fully **recyclable**, making it environmentally sustainable
   - **Applications:** Transportation, Construction, utensils , defence etc.
   - **About CEPA:** India's first comprehensive **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** in over a decade.
     - Aimed at boosting **bilateral trade and investment** between India and the UAE.
     - Signed in **February 2022**, the agreement spans multiple sectors :**Trade in Goods and Services**, **Pharmaceuticals**, **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**, **Investment & Digital Trade**

7. **INS Udaygiri :** Recently, in a major boost to India's maritime strength and indigenous defence manufacturing, the **Indian Navy received INS Udaygiri**, the **second stealth frigate** built under **Project 17A**.
   - **About INS Udaygiri:** The second of seven stealth frigates being constructed under Project 17A.
     - A **modern reincarnation** of the **erstwhile INS Udaygiri**, a steam-powered ship that served the nation for **31 years** before being **decommissioned on 24 August 2007**.
     - Project 17A is the **successor to the Shivalik-class (Project 17)** frigates currently in service, incorporating advanced stealth and combat capabilities.
     - These **multi-mission stealth frigates** are designed to operate in **Blue Water environments**, equipped to counter both **conventional and non-conventional threats** in areas critical to **India's maritime interests**.
   - **About Project 17A (Alpha frigates)** : Launched by the **Indian Navy in 2019**. These frigates feature **enhanced stealth**, **advanced weapons and sensors**, and **modern platform management systems**.
     - Around **75% of the equipment and systems** for Project 17A ships are sourced from **indigenous firms**, including **MSMEs**, aligning with the vision of **Aatma Nirbhar Bharat**.
8. **Myogenesis Experiments**: Recently, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla launched groundbreaking **Myogenesis experiments** on the **International Space Station (ISS)**, representing a major advancement in **India's space-based biological research**.
   - **About Myogenesis**: Biological process through which **muscle fibers are formed**, essential for **body movement**, **posture maintenance**, and **metabolic regulation**.
     - It plays a vital role in **embryonic development**, and is equally important for **muscle repair and regeneration** throughout life.
   - **Key Transcription Factors :**
     - **MyoD:** A master regulator that activates **muscle-specific genes** during differentiation.
     - **Myf5:** Controls early stages by regulating **myoblast specification and proliferation**.
     - Both are part of the **Myogenic Regulatory Factors (MRFs)** family, crucial for directing the myogenic process.