

1. **Earthquake/ Sagaing fault:** A powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.7 and at least six aftershocks struck central Myanmar recently.

- **About:** Earth's lithosphere consists of tectonic plates that have been moving for three-four billion years.
 - Earthquakes occur when two tectonic plates slip past each other, releasing elastic strain energy as seismic waves.
 - The Myanmar earthquake resulted from "strike-slip faulting" between the **Indian and Eurasian plates**.
- It occurred along the **Sagaing Fault**, which runs **north to south through Myanmar** and is prone to earthquakes.
 - A fault is a fracture or zone of fractures between two rock blocks, allowing them to move relative to each other, sometimes causing earthquakes.
 - The Sagaing Fault marks the **tectonic boundary** between the **Indian plate (west) and Eurasian plate (east)**.
 - The Indian plate is **moving north** along the fault compared to the Eurasian plate, as per Bill McGuire (UCL).
 - It was the strongest earthquake in the world in the last two years, as per the United States Geological Survey (USGS).



2. **Contempt of court:** Over 1.45 lakh contempt cases are pending in Supreme Court and High Courts, as per Law Minister of India.

- **About:** Contempt of court is indeed an offense that involves showing disrespect or disregard for the dignity and authority of a court. It encompasses various actions or behaviours that undermine the integrity of the judicial system or impede the administration of justice.
- **Statutory Basis:** Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. It divides contempt into civil and criminal.
 - **Civil contempt:** It refers to the wilful disobedience of an order of any court.
 - **Criminal contempt:** It includes any act or publication which:
- **Scandalises the court:** 'Scandalising the Court' broadly refers to statements or publications which have the effect of undermining public confidence in the judiciary.

- Prejudices any judicial proceeding, and interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner.

- **The constitutional basis:**

- **Article 19(2):** Contempt of court was included as one of the reasonable restrictions on the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(2) of the Constitution.
- **Article 129:** It states, "The Supreme Court shall be a **court of record** and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself."
- **Article 215:** Similar to Article 129, Article 215 empowers the High Courts to punish for contempt of themselves within their respective jurisdictions.

3. **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** IAEA-backed nuclear expansion in Africa sees China's dominance, impacting global energy geopolitics and India's access to uranium resources.

- **About IAEA:** It was founded in 1957 as an autonomous agency under the United Nations (UN), set up as the world's "**Atoms for Peace**" organization within the United Nations family.
 - **Objective:** To promote peaceful use of nuclear energy and prevent its misuse.
 - **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria.
- **Functions:** Provides technical assistance to countries developing nuclear energy.
 - Enforces nuclear safeguards to prevent weapons proliferation.
 - Conducts safety assessments and promotes nuclear security.
- **India & IAEA:** India has signed civil nuclear agreements under IAEA guidelines, including safeguards for reactors and uranium supply agreements.
- **IAEA's Role in Africa:** Supports nuclear infrastructure development in African nations.
 - Assists in training personnel and ensuring safety compliance.
 - China's nuclear expansion in Africa aligns with IAEA standards, but raises concerns over geopolitical influence and energy security.

4. **Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme:** Recently, the Union Cabinet, chaired by PM, has approved the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme.

- **About Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme:** Launched under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), GOI.

- **Objective:** To develop a **robust component ecosystem** by attracting **large investments** (global/domestic) and increasing **Domestic Value Addition (DVA)**.
- **Salient Features:** Differentiated incentives to Indian manufacturers to overcome disabilities and achieve economies of scale.
- **Target Segments & Incentives:**
 - **Sub-assemblies:** Turnover-linked incentives for Display module sub-assembly & Camera module sub-assembly.
 - **Bare Components:** Turnover-linked incentives for Non-SMD passive components, Electro-mechanicals, Multi-layer PCBs, Li-ion cells (excluding storage & mobility), and Enclosures for Mobile, IT hardware, and related devices.
 - **Selected Bare Components:** Hybrid incentive for HDI/MSAP/Flexible PCB and SMD passive components.
 - **Supply Chain & Capital Equipment:** Capex incentive for parts/components used in sub-assembly & bare components and capital goods used in electronics manufacturing.
- **Tenure of the scheme:** 6 years, with a 1-year gestation period.
 - Incentive pay-out linked to employment target achievements.

5. **Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project:** Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM, has approved the inclusion of the Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project of Bihar.
- **About:** Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project approved under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana - Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).
 - **Aim:** To divert surplus water from the **Kosi River to the Mahananda basin** for enhanced irrigation in Bihar.
 - **Project Scope:** Remodelling of the existing Eastern Kosi Main Canal (EKMC) up to 41.30 km.
 - Extension of EKMC up to river Mechi at 117.50 km.
 - **Districts Benefited:** Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj, and Katihar in Bihar.
 - **About:** Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) was launched in 2015-16 to enhance on-farm water access, expand irrigated cultivable areas, and improve water-use efficiency.
 - **PMKSY Implementation (2021-26):** Focuses on major and medium irrigation projects.
 - Kosi Mechi Intra-State Link Project is the tenth project under this initiative.

- 6. Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC):** WHO's GTMC in Jamnagar, the first global WHO Traditional Medicine Centre, aims to emerge as a global wellness hub.
- **About Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC):** Serves as a key knowledge hub for Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) on a global scale.
 - Promotes evidence-based research, training, and awareness of Traditional Medicine.
 - **Promotion of International Cooperation in AYUSH:** The Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for the Promotion of International Cooperation (IC) in AYUSH aims to: Boost export of AYUSH products & services → Promote international recognition and development of the AYUSH system → Foster stakeholder interaction and market development at the global level → Establish AYUSH Academic Chairs in foreign universities.
 - Organize international training workshops, symposiums, and events.
 - Ministry of Ayush supports **AYUSH entrepreneurs, AYUSH drug manufacturers, and healthcare providers** through international collaborations.
 - Participation in international exhibitions, conferences, and trade fairs through organizations like CII, FICCI, ITPO, ASSOCHAM, and Pharmexcil.
- 7. SMILE Program:** Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) Program aims to enhance India's logistics infrastructure, reduce costs, and increase efficiency.
- Supports the implementation of National Logistics Policy and PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan by strengthening multimodal logistics, standardizing warehousing, and promoting digitalization in trade logistics.
 - **About SMILE Program:** Establishes a comprehensive policy framework to improve logistics efficiency through:
 - Strengthening institutional bases for multimodal logistics at National, State, and City levels.
 - Standardizing warehousing and logistics assets to enhance supply chains and attract private sector investment.
 - Improving efficiency in external trade logistics.
 - Adopting smart systems for efficient and low-emission logistics to enhance supply chain resilience, especially for India's manufacturing sector.

- **Aims:** To study and identify policy, infrastructure, and digital interventions to enhance India's competitiveness in Logistics Performance Index (LPI) and create job opportunities.
- **Focus on gender inclusion:** Includes measures for gender responsiveness in trade.
 - Develops a gender audit mechanism for land ports under the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (2020-23).
 - Assesses operational Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) to ensure compliance with minimum gender-responsiveness requirements.
- **Aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat:** Strengthens domestic manufacturing, improves logistics efficiency, and enhances global trade integration.
 - Enhances competitiveness of Indian industries by reducing inefficiencies in logistics.
 - Supports private investment and digital transformation for long-term economic resilience and growth.

8. Exercise INDRA: 14th edition of India-Russia bilateral naval exercise INDRA to be held off Chennai from 28 Mar to 02 Apr 2025.

- **About Exercise INDRA:** Initiated in 2003, symbolizes the long-term strategic relationship between the two navies.
- **Participating Ships & Aircraft:**
 - **Russia:** Pechanga, Reziy, Aldar Tsydenzhapov.
 - **India:** INS Rana, INS Kuthar, Maritime Patrol Aircraft P-8I.
- **Phases of Exercise:**
 - **Harbour Phase (28-30 Mar 2025, Chennai):** Includes Opening Ceremony, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), reciprocal visits, sports fixtures, and pre-sail briefings.
 - **Sea Phase (31 Mar-02 Apr 2025, Bay of Bengal):** Includes tactical manoeuvres, live weapon firings, anti-air operations, underway replenishment, helicopter cross-deck landings, and exchange of sea-riders.
- **Objectives:** Enhance naval interoperability and operational synergy.
 - Strengthen maritime cooperation and diplomatic ties.
 - Exchange best operational practices.
 - Build bridges of friendship between India and Russia.