1. **Job Skills Report 2025:** India has emerged as the global leader in generative AI (GenAI) enrolments surpassing Europe with over 27 million registered learners.
   - **About this report:** Published by **Coursera**. They identify the top skills employees, students, and job seekers are prioritizing for career success. Discover the fastest-growing skills across AI, data science, technology, and business, and see how learners are embracing AI-based learning tools to excel in the future of work.
   - **About Report Highlights:** India's growing focus on GenAI, cybersecurity, and HR technology, positioning India as a leader in building future-ready workplaces.
     - 60% of India's top courses in 2024 centered around artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).
   - **Other Popular Courses**: Courses in finance, project management, and data analytics remained popular, alongside entry-level certificates from Google and IBM, aligned with **India's National Skills Qualifications Framework** (NSQF).
   - **About Generative artificial intelligence (AI):** It is a type of AI that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images, music, and videos and also used to **analyse data and identify patterns**.
   - **About NSQF:** Launched in December 2013 and was rationalized and notified in June, 2023.
2. **Governor's power as Chancellor:** The Governor's role as Chancellor of State universities is inherited from British colonial rule, not mandated by the Constitution, and often politicised, undermining university autonomy.
   - **About the historical background:** Initially set up by the British in 1857, the Governor was appointed as Chancellor to maintain control over universities in Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras. This model continued post-Independence.
   - **Dual Role of Governor**: Governors exercise two roles: acting on ministerial advice **(Article 163)** as Governor and independently as Chancellor, often bypassing State government advice on university matters.
   - **Governor vs. President**: The President, as Visitor of Central universities, consults with the Ministry of Education, while Governors act unilaterally for State universities, lacking legislative oversight.

- **Governance Issues**: Governors' unchecked power in State universities creates administrative paralysis, delays Vice-Chancellor appointments, and undermines university autonomy.
- **Academic Incompetence**: Many Governors lack academic qualifications, relying on opaque advice, leading to poor decision-making.
- **Federalism Concerns**: The Governor's central role in State universities undermines federalism, as universities should be accountable to elected State governments.
- **Commissions' Recommendations**:
  - **Rajamannar Committee (1969-71):** Suggested Governors perform functions as Chancellor on the advice of the State government.
  - **Sarkaria Commission (1983-88):** Recommended consultation with Chief Ministers while maintaining independent judgment.
  - **M.M. Punchhi Commission (2007-10):** Advocated for the Governor to focus on constitutional duties and proposed eminent academics as Chancellors.
  - **Venkatachaliah Commission (2000-02):** Recommended political neutrality and a supportive role for Chancellors.

3. **Space Program Goals (2025)**: India's space program is shifting into mission mode, with significant plans underway for Chandrayaan-4, Bharatiya Antariksh Station, and human spaceflight.
   - **Key Highlights of Missions:**
     - **PSLV-C60 Mission (Dec 30, 2024)**: Laid the foundation for **Chandrayaan-4** & **Bharatiya Antariksh Station**.
     - Deployed **SpaDeX satellites** into a 475-km circular orbit.
     - On **January 16**, ISRO achieved **successful in-orbit rendezvous and docking**.
     - Planned steps: power transfer between satellites, followed by undocking.
   - **POEM4 (Post-PSLV-C60)**: Fourth stage of PSLV-C60 moved to 350-km orbit, carrying **24 payloads**.
     - Tests conducted with payloads like **Relocatable Robotic Manipulator**, **Debris Capture Robotic Arm**, and **CROPS (plant studies)**.
     - Several private and academic payloads demonstrated successful tests, including **Manastu Space's propulsion**, **Bellatrix Aerospace's RUDRA**, and **GalaxEye's SAR imaging**.

- **Transporter 12 Mission (Jan 15, 2025)**: Three Indian payloads launched on **SpaceX's Falcon 9**.
  - **Pixxel Space**: Launched **Firefly hyperspectral satellites**.
  - **Digantara**: Launched **Space Camera for Object Tracking** for space situational awareness.
  - **XDLINX Labs**: Launched **Elevation 1 miniaturised communications satellite**.
- **ISRO Infrastructure**: **Third launch pad** approved at **SDSC Sriharikota** to be built by 2029.
- **Vikas Engine Test**: Successful **restart test** conducted at ISRO's propulsion complex in Mahendragiri, enhancing atmospheric operation capability.

4. **Whip:** The Vice President of India questioned whether party whips limit MPs' freedom of speech, arguing that they make MPs follow the party line without using their own judgment.
   - **About:** The term **'whip'** originated from England's hunting fields, where a "whipper-in" gathered straying hounds. It was later adapted in politics by **Edmund Burke**.
   - **Role of Whips**: The party chief whip informs MPs about important matters and ensures their attendance during voting.
     - The whip acts as a bridge between the party leadership and MPs.
   - **Consequences of Violating a Whip**:
     - Violation can lead to **disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law**.
     - Disqualification is recommended by the party leader to the Presiding Officer.
   - **Enforcement of the Whip**: The **chief whip** plays a crucial role in enforcing the whip system.
   - **Additional whips** and the **Minister of Parliamentary Affairs** also enforce whips, especially for the ruling party.
   - **Importance of the Whip System**: Ensures discipline within parties for parliamentary proceedings.
5. **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS):** The number of cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) crossed the 100 mark in Pune recently.
   - **About: GBS** is a rare neurological disorder where the body's immune system mistakenly attacks the peripheral nervous system—the network of nerves outside the brain and spinal cord.
   - **Symptoms** include weakness, sensory changes, difficulty walking, facial paralysis, difficulty swallowing, and coordination issues.
   - **Causes:** Unknown, but GBS often follows a respiratory or **gastrointestinal infection**.

- Infections with bacteria like Campylobacter jejuni and viruses such as Zika, COVID-19, Epstein-Barr, and others have been associated with GBS.

- **Diagnosis:**
  - **Medical History & Physical Exam:** Assesses muscle/nerve function, reflexes, symptom progression.
  - **Nerve Conduction Velocity (NCV):** Slowed nerve signals indicate damage.
  - **Cerebrospinal Fluid Analysis:** Elevated protein with normal white blood cell count suggests GBS.
  - **Imaging:** MRI helps rule out other conditions.
- **Treatment:**
  - **Plasma Exchange (Plasmapheresis):** Removes harmful antibodies.
  - **Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIg):** Provides normal antibodies to reduce immune activity.
  - **Supportive Care:** Monitors/manage complications like respiratory failure, heart rate issues, autonomic dysfunction.

6. **Wetland City Accreditation:** PM Modi recently congratulated **Indore (MP), and Udaipur** for being the first 2 cities of India added to the list of **31 Wetland Accredited Cities worldwide.**
   - **About:** Wetlands are areas of land that are covered by water or have waterlogged soil for a significant portion of the year.
   - **Wetland City Accreditation Scheme:** A voluntary accreditation system established by the **Ramsar Convention** during the COP 12, 2015.
     - **Aim:** To recognize the importance of wetlands in urban and peri-urban environments and to take appropriate measures to conserve and protect these wetlands.
     - To further promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.
   - **Criteria:** To be formally accredited, a candidate for the Wetland City Accreditation should satisfy the standards used to implement each of the **six international criteria mentioned Operational Guidance for WCA** of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
   - **Validity:** Once granted it is valid for 6 years.

7. **PM YASASVI Scheme:** On Republic Day 2025 eve, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment honoured 400 students from 21 states under the PM Young Achievers' Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM YASASVI).
   - **About PM YASASVI Scheme:** Empower students from OBC, EBC, and DNT communities educationally, socially, and economically.
     - Consolidates earlier schemes like Dr. Ambedkar scholarships (Pre-Matric and Post-Matric) for streamlined benefits.
   - **Scholarship Benefits under the scheme**:
     - **Pre-Matric**: For Class 9-10, ₹4,000 annually.
     - **Post-Matric**: For higher studies, ₹5,000–₹20,000 depending on course.
     - **Top-Class Education**: Funding for tuition, hostel, and study materials (up to ₹1.25 lakh annually for school students; full financial support for college students).
   - **Eligibility**: For OBC, EBC, DNT students with family income up to ₹2.5 lakh/year.
   - **Selection**: Based on **YASASVI Entrance Test (YET)**, conducted by NTA.
8. **Global Risks Report:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) recently released the 20th Global Risks Report 2025.
   - **About the report highlights:** India, Mexico, Morocco, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan highlighted as most vulnerable in both **short-term (1-2 years) and long-term (10 years) horizons.**
     - These nations citing water shortages as a **top-five risk increased from 7 (2024) to 27 (2025).**
   - **Driving Factors**: Overexploitation, mismanagement of natural resources, climate change, and inadequate infrastructure.
   - **Global Impact**: Water insecurity affects human, industrial, and ecosystem needs, escalating regional and global crises.

