1. **New Income Tax Bill:** The new Income-tax Bill, 2025, recently introduced in Lok Sabha, proposes to **define "virtual digital space**" and grant tax officers powers to access social media, digital accounts, and emails during searches and seizures.
   - **About New Income Tax Bill:** The bill defines **"virtual digital space**" as **"any digital realm that allows users to interact, communicate, and perform activities"** through computer technology.
     - **Inclusion of Virtual Digital Space:** Under **search & seizure operations**, allows officers to examine on oath **anyone in possession or control of digital assets**.
     - **Existing Powers & Digital Evidence Collection:** Under Section 132 of the I-T Act, authorities already seize desktops, hard disks, and collect digital communication (emails, WhatsApp, Telegram, etc.).
     - It mandates providing credentials to facilitate access & seizure of electronic documents.
     - **Section 247 – Powers to Access & Override Access Code:** Grants tax officers' powers to access online investment, trading, banking accounts, emails, and social media.
       - ✓ Enables overriding **access codes** where credentials are unavailable.
     - **Existing Legal Provisions on Searches & Seizures:** Section 132 of the I-T Act, 1961 already allows tax authorities to inspect, seize books of accounts, and electronic records.
       - ✓ Tax authorities can search buildings, places, vehicles, vessels, aircraft, safes, and other repositories for tax evasion.
     - **Purpose of Income-tax Bill, 2025:** Simplifies the six-decade-old Income-tax Act, 1961.
       - ✓ Streamlines provisions, removes obsolete references, and enhances readability.
       - ✓ To be reviewed by **Select Committee of Parliament** before implementation from **April 1, 2026**.
2. **Madhav National Park:** The Park has been recently designated as **India's 58th Tiger Reserve**.
   - **About:** Madhav National Park is Madhya Pradesh's 9th Tiger Reserve.
   - **Location:** Situated in Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh, lies on the northern fringe of the Central Highlands of India, forms part of the Upper Vindhyan Hills, with plateaus and valley sections.
   - **Lakes:** Sakhya Sagar and Madhav Sagar are located in the southern part of the park.
   - **Rivers & Drainage:** The northern area of the park forms the catchment of Amarnadi.
     - The park also forms a catchment of the **Sind River**, which flows along its eastern boundary.

- **Geology:** The eastern part of the park consists of sedimentary rocks of the **Vindhyan system**.
  - Major rock types: **Sandstone, Shale, and Limestone**.
- **Vegetation:** Classified under Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous Mixed Forests and Dry Thorn Forests.
- **Common species:** Kardhai, Salai, Dhaora, and Khair.
  - Understory: Ber, Makor, and Karonda.
  - Jamun and Mahua grow along nullahs.
- **Fauna:**
  - **Herbivores:** Nilgai, Chinkara, Chowsinga, Chital, Sambar, and Barking Deer.
  - **Carnivores:** Leopard, Wolf, Jackal, Fox, and Wild Dog.



3. **MYUVA Scheme:** The Uttar Pradesh government distributed Rs 100 crore in loans to 2,500 beneficiaries from Gorakhpur and Basti divisions under the Chief Minister Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA).
   - Toolkits were provided to 2,100 trainees under the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.
   - **About MYUVA Scheme:** The one of the major objectiveto create 1 lakh young entrepreneurs annually by providing interest-free loans up to Rs 5 lakh.
   - **Target Group:** Educated and skilled youth across Uttar Pradesh.
   - **Focus**: Promotes self-employment and supports new MSMEs.
   - **Eligible Beneficiaries:** Trainees from government-run schemes - Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana → One District One Product (ODOP) Training and Toolkit Scheme → SC, ST, OBC Training Scheme → Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission.
   - **About One District One Product (ODOP) Programme:** Initiative to promote economic development at the district level by branding one product per district.

- **Launched on:** 24 January 2018, on UP's first foundation day.
- **Objectives:** Preserve & develop local arts and skills → Increase income & employment, reducing migration → Improve product quality & skill development → Enhance artistic transformation (packaging & branding) → Link production with tourism (live demos, sales outlets for souvenirs) → Address economic disparities & regional imbalances.

4. **UNESCO Recognition:** Uttar Pradesh government will apply for UNESCO recognition for five cities as **intangible heritage and creative cities**.
   - **About the Selected Cultural Cities (Elements):** Perfume of Kannauj → Holi of Braj (Lathmar Holi) → Ganga Aarti in Varanasi → Glass Art of Firozabad → Black Pottery of Azamgarh (Nizamabad)
   - **Further Attempts:** Efforts to include **folk art and folk literature of Bundelkhand** in **UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage** list.
   - **Research Areas:**
     - **Kannauj Perfume:** Deg-Bhapka method, historical importance, socio-economic impact, and traditional processes.
     - **Ganga Aarti of Varanasi:** Historical, spiritual, and ritualistic significance.
     - **Holi of Braj:** Emphasis on **Lathmar Holi**.
     - **Bundelkhand's Folk Traditions: Alha singing** and **Rai dance**.
     - **Crafts: Black Pottery of Azamgarh** and **Glass Industry of Firozabad**.
   - **Historical Context & UNESCO Recognition:** In 2017**,** Kumbh Mela recognized by UNESCO as **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** due to efforts of **central and state governments**.
   - **About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (**UNESCO**)**:** Established as a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
     - **Objective:** Establish peace through education, science, and culture.
     - **Role:** Contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Agenda 2030.
     - **Members:** 193 member countries and 11 associate members.
     - **India joined:** 1946.
     - **United States & Israel left:** 2019.
     - **Headquarters:** Paris, France.

5. **Koch-Rajbongshis Community:** The Koch-Rajbongshis of Assam recently demanded for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.
   - **Five other communities**—Adivasis, Ahoms, Chutias, Mataks, and Morans—are also demanding **ST status**.
   - **About:** The Koch-Rajbongshis are one of the largest communities in western Assam and northern West Bengal, currently have **Other Backward Classes (OBC) status**.
   - **Reservation quota in Assam:** OBCs - 27%, ST (Plains) – 10%, Scheduled Caste – 7%, ST (Hills) – 5%
   - **10 existing ST communities in Assam**—Bodo, Rabha, Tiwa, Karbi, Dimasa, Mishing, Sonowal, Hajong, Garo, and Deuri—**oppose granting ST status** to these six groups.
   - **Past Developments:** The Centre **granted ST status to Koch-Rajbongshis for six months in 1996**.
     - It was **revoked after protests**, as they secured: 33 out of 42 medical seats reserved for STs, and 17 out of 21 engineering seats, among others.
   - **Criteria for Inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) List:** Indications of primitive traits → Distinctive culture → Geographical isolation → Shyness of contact with the larger community → Backwardness.
     - These criteria **are not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution**.
   - **Article 342: Procedure for ST Specification**
     - **Clause (1):** The President may notify tribes or tribal communities as Scheduled Tribes.
     - In case of a State, the Governor's consultation is required.
     - This notification grants Constitutional status to the tribe, making them eligible for safeguards under the Constitution.
   - **Clause (2):** The Parliament has the power to add or remove communities from the ST List through legislation.
   - **State/UT-Specific ST List:** The ST List varies across States/UTs. A community recognized as ST in one State/UT may not have the same status in another.

6. **Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS):** It is a potentially fatal lung infection, has recently spread in northern New Mexico.
   - **About HPS:** Hantavirus is a strain of viruses carried by rodents, primarily transmitted to humans through- Inhalation of airborne particles from dried rodent droppings, urine, or saliva.

- Rarely, through rodent bites or scratches.
- In **North America**, **deer mice** are the most common carriers.
- **Initial symptoms**: Fatigue, fever, muscle aches, headache, dizziness, chills, and abdominal issues. If respiratory symptoms develop, the mortality rate is 38% (CDC).
- **Types of Hantavirus Diseases:** Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) & Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS)
- **Treatment:** No specific treatment available.

7. **Rubber Board & Geo-Mapping Initiative:** Rubber Board to begin geo-mapping of rubber plantations in Kerala to enhance market access and ensure better prices for growers.
   - **About the Geo-Mapping Initiative:** Aims to establish a deforestation-free supply chain for rubber products, boosting global marketability.
     - EUDR mandates that all commodities entering the EU market must be deforestation-free after December 31, 2020.
   - **About Rubber Board:** Statutory organization constituted under the Rubber Act, 1947, functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
   - **Functions of the Rubber Board:** Development of the rubber industry through research, extension, and training activities.
     - Maintains statistical data, promotes marketing, and undertakes labor welfare activities.
     - Issues licenses to rubber producers, manufacturers, and exporters/traders (Rubber Board license is mandatory).
   - **Structure of the Rubber Board:** Headed by a Chairman, appointed by the Central Government.
     - **28 members** representing various sectors of the natural rubber industry.
   - **Headquarters:** Kottayam, Kerala.
   - **Functions through five departments:** General Services Extension & Advisory Services → Research Services (Rubber Research Institute of India) → Training (Rubber Training Institute) → Finance