1. **Right to die with dignity:** Karnataka Health Department has recently issued an order enforcing the Supreme Court's ruling on patients' right to die with dignity.
   - **About:** The right to die with dignity is **a fundamental right under Article 21** of Indian Constitution.
     - The state has introduced an **Advance Medical Directive (AMD)** or **living will**, allowing patients to record their wishes regarding future medical treatment.
     - **Beneficiaries:** This will benefit **terminally ill patients**, those in a **persistent vegetative state**, and those not benefiting from life-sustaining treatments, planning for euthanasia.
   - **About Euthanasia:** It refers to the deliberate ending of a terminally ill patient's life by a doctor to alleviate suffering.
     - **Passive Euthanasia:** It involves **withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment** but has led to public confusion. **In India, active euthanasia is a crime.**
       - ✓ **Supreme Court Ruling (2018):** A **five-Judge Bench** ruled that the **right to die with dignity is a fundamental right** (**Common Cause v Union of India Case**).
       - ✓ It said that a terminally ill person can opt for passive euthanasia and execute a living will to refuse medical treatment.
     - **Active Euthanasia:** In India, active euthanasia is a crime.
   - **Empowerment:** The decision empowers terminally ill patients to choose dignified end-of-life care through advance directives or living wills.
2. **Difference in Citizenship laws in India & US:** Recently, U.S. President issued an executive order stating that U.S. citizenship will be granted in the future only to children with parents holding U.S. citizenship or a U.S. green card.
   - **About US Citizenship**: Full and equal membership in a country; described by Hannah Arendt as the "**right to have rights**."
   - **Legal Principles of Citizenship in US**:
     - **Jus Soli (Right of Soil):** Citizenship based on the place of birth, regardless of parents' citizenship. Practiced in many North and Latin American countries (e.g., Canada, Mexico, Brazil).
     - **Jus Sanguinis (Right of Blood):** Citizenship based on the parents' citizenship. Practiced in

- - countries like Egypt, South Africa, Germany, and India.
- **About Citizenship in India**: Governed by the **Citizenship Act, 1955**.
  - **Pre-1987**: Followed **jus soli**, granting automatic citizenship to children born in India.
  - **Post-1987**: Required at least one parent to be an Indian citizen.
  - **Post-2004**: Both parents must be citizens, or one parent must be a citizen with the other not an illegal immigrant.
  - **Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA)**: Accelerates citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Christians, and Parsis from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh (before December 31, 2014).

3. **Congo:** Rwandan-backed M23 rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo entered Goma (capital of North Kivu) and seized the airport.
   - **About the M23 rebels: M23** refers to the **March 23, 2009 accord** that ended a **Tutsi-led revolt** in eastern Congo.
     - Launched the **current rebellion in 2022**.
     - **Accuses Congo's government** of failing to integrate **Congolese Tutsis** into the army and administration.
     - Vows to defend **Tutsi interests** against **Hutu militias**, especially the **FDLR** (founded by Hutus who fled after the 1994 Rwanda genocide).
   - **Rwanda involved: Congo, UN, and Western powers (including the U.S.) accuse Rwanda** of supporting M23 by deploying **troops and weapons** in eastern Congo.
   - **About Democratic Republic of the Congo:** A country in Central Africa. By land area, the DRC is the second-largest country in Africa and the 11th-largest in the world.
     - **Bordered by:** The Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania (across Lake Tanganyika), Zambia, Angola, the Cabinda exclave of Angola, and the South Atlantic Ocean.
   - **Geographical features of DRC:**
     - **Congo River**: Flows through DRC & Republic of the Congo, Africa's 2nd longest river.
     - **Katanga Province**: A mineral-rich region in DRC, known for cobalt, copper, tin, radium, uranium, and diamonds.

- **Sahara Desert**: World's largest hot desert, covering North African countries with arid landscapes & extreme temperatures.
- **Nile River**: World's longest river, flowing through 11 countries, crucial for ancient civilizations & development.

4. **India's 21st Livestock Census:** The Census was started in October 2024 expected to conclude the result by **July 2025**.
   - **About:** The Livestock Census is a 5-yearly headcount of the domesticated animals and poultry.
     - Conducted by the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
     - Covers **16 species** and **219 breeds** of livestock.
     - **Data Collection:** Mobile app with image upload, location tracking, and breed identification.
   - **Purpose:** Aims to provide **updated livestock data** for better policies on **disease control, breed improvement, and rural livelihoods**.
     - Recognizes the **livestock sector's role** in **nutrition, employment, and income generation**.
   - **Trends & Emerging Patterns:**
     - **Past Trends (2019 Census): Decline** in camels (-37.1%), pigs (-12.03%), horses (-45.2%), donkeys (-61.2%).
     - **Increase** in poultry (+16.08%).
   - **Possible 2024 Trends: Cattle numbers may rise**, but **buffalo numbers may decline in households** while increasing in farms.
     - **Haryana's Cow Protection Act (2015, 2019)** restricted **cattle trade and slaughter**.
     - **Women in Livestock Farming: Over 70% of livestock farmers are women**.
5. **VSHORAD missile system:** Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently successfully conducted three successive flight-trials of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
   - **About VSHORADS System:** It is indigenously developed Man Portable Air Defence system by Research Center Imarat (RCI) with DRDO labs and industry partners.
   - **Performance & Validation:** Telemetry, Electro-Optical Tracking System, and Radar confirmed **pin-point accuracy.**
     - Established **VSHORADS' unique capability** to **neutralize drones and other aerial threats**.

- Designed to meet requirements of **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force**.

- **About Telemetry:** It is the process of collecting, transmitting, and analysing data from remote locations.
  - It uses sensors to measure physical and electrical data, which is then sent to a central location for analysis.
- **About Electro-Optical Tracking System:** It is a high performance electro optical stabilized gimbal system integrated with video tracker which facilitates battlefield surveillance, target acquisition and auto tracking during day as well as night on a static and dynamic platform.
  - It consists of **EO sensors** viz. **Thermal Imager**, **Day TV** and **Eye Safe Laser range** finder and beam directing optical channels as payloads.
  - Continuous target tracking capability facilitates high precision pointing on the target.
- **About Radar:** It is a system that uses radio waves to detect and track objects, measure their distance, and determine their direction and velocity.
  - The acronym RADAR stands for **Radio Detection and Ranging**.

6. **Sahbhagita Mission**: Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Forest, Environment, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has recently inaugurated the Regional Workshop on Wetland Conservation under Mission Sahbhagita for North Indian States.
   - **About the mission:** MoEF&CC launched Mission Sahbhagita in 2022 with a mission of 'a healthy and effectively managed network of wetlands of national and international importance.
   - **India's Wetland Conservation Efforts:** Currently, **89 Ramsar Sites** (4 new ones added recently).
   - **Uttar Pradesh has 1,33,434 wetlands** (5.16% of its area) and **10 Ramsar Sites** (2nd highest after Tamil Nadu).
   - **13 wetlands in UP**: Conserved under the **National Aquatic Ecosystem Conservation Plan**.
   - **About World Wetlands Day 2025 (2nd February):**
     - **Theme:** "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future."
     - **Significant due to COP15 (15th Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands).**
     - **COP15 scheduled for 23-31 July 2025** in **Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**, under the same theme.
     - The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention), adopted in 1971.

- UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 75/317 on 30 August 2021, establishing World Wetlands Day as a UN International Day.
- **World Wetlands Day 2025 Celebrations in India: At Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary, Gonda, UP**, is among the **largest floodplain wetlands**, sheltering **over a lakh birds**.

7. National Gene Bank: Union Finance Minister, GOI has recently announced the establishment of India's second National Gene Bank, as part of the Union Budget 2025-26.

- **About Gene Bank:** A **repository of genetic material** (seeds, pollen, or tissue samples) from various plant species.
  - A plant gene is a sequence of DNA in a plant's genome that codes for proteins. These proteins control the plant's basic functions, such as development and responses to environmental factors.
- **Purpose:** To **protect plant species from extinction** and **preserve vital crop varieties for future generations**.
- **India's First National Gene Bank:** Established in 1996 by **ICAR-NBPGR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources)** in New Delhi.
  - **12 regional stations** across India for **collection & storage of crop germplasms** (genetic material for research, conservation, and breeding).
  - **Aim:** To ensure **future food and nutritional security** and support **genetic resource conservation** in both **public and private sectors**.
- **Current Status (as of January 15, 2025):** 0.47 million accessions (plant materials for breeding) stored.
  - **Major stored categories:** Cereals, Millets, Legumes, Oilseeds, & Vegetables.