

1. **Kharai Camels:** Recently, despite repeated directives from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), illegal salt pans and encroachments into tidal creeks continue to degrade the fragile mangrove ecosystems in Gujarat's Kachchh district.
    - This region is the last remaining natural habitat of the Kharai camel.
    - **About Kharai Camel :** It is one of the few camel species capable of swimming long distances—over 3 km at a time in deep seawater—to reach mangrove grazing areas.
        - **Origin & Name**: Indigenous to Gujarat, the Kharai camel derives its name from the local word "**Khara**", meaning saline, highlighting its unique adaptation to both desert and coastal ecosystems.
        - **Ecological Role**: These camels are primarily found in Kachchh, where they help sustain mangrove ecosystems by grazing without harming the delicate vegetation.
        - **Cultural Heritage**: The Rabari and Fakirani Jat communities have preserved and bred the Kharai camel for over 400 years, making it a vital part of their pastoral traditions.
        - **Nutritional & Medicinal Value**: Kharai camel milk is nutrient-rich and known for its therapeutic benefits. It contains antibodies similar to those in human milk, which aid digestion and enhance immunity.
        - **Conservation Status**: Listed as **Endangered** by **IUCN**.
    - According to **Forest Survey of India (2023)** data, Kachchh recorded the **highest mangrove loss in India**, losing over **61 sq km** of cover since 2021.
2. **World Investment Report :** Recently, the 2025 **World Investment Report** by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) revealed a concerning shift in global foreign direct investment (FDI) patterns.
    - These flows are increasingly bypassing the countries and sectors most vital for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
    - **Key Highlights:** Despite significant growth in Africa (75%) and South-East Asia, overall FDI inflows to developing countries remained stagnant.
        - Investment (2024) in SDG-related sectors in developing nations dropped sharply across key areas : infrastructure, renewable energy, water, sanitation, hygiene, & agri-food systems.

- In contrast, only the health and education sectors recorded a 25% increase in investment.

- **About UNCTAD :** A permanent intergovernmental body, operates under the UN Secretariat but has its own membership, leadership, and budget, and is also a part of the United Nations Development Group.
  - **Established** : 1964 by the UNGA **; HQ:** Geneva, Switzerland
  - **Aim:** Help developing countries benefit more fairly and effectively from globalization. It supports them through economic and trade analysis, consensus-building, and technical assistance.
  - **Key Functions**: Provides policy research and analysis on trade, investment, & development.
    - ✓ Facilitates dialogue among stakeholders to build consensus on economic issues.
    - ✓ Offers technical support to help countries use trade, investment, finance, and technology for inclusive and sustainable development.
  - **Major Reports Published**: Trade and Development Report , World Investment Report and The Least Developed Countries Report

3. **Sugamya Bharat App (SBA):** Recently, the Government of India revamped the **Sugamya Bharat App (SBA),** a flagship initiative under the Accessible India Campaign, to enhance digital inclusion and accessibility.

- **About SBA :** A flagship initiative by the Government of India aimed at improving accessibility for persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) and elderly citizens.
  - **Launched By**: Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
  - **Launched in**: 2021, as part of the broader **Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)**.
  - **Primary Objective**: To empower citizens to report accessibility challenges, promote inclusive infrastructure, and strengthen **Jan-Bhagidari** (citizen participation) in creating a barrier-free India.
- **Key Features of the Revamped SBA :** Redesigned with intuitive navigation to better serve Divyangjan and senior citizens.

- **AI-Powered Chatbot**: Integrated to offer real-time assistance and provide instant information on government schemes and accessibility initiatives.
- **Complaint Redressal System**: Users can upload **geo-tagged photos** to report non-accessible buildings, transport systems, and ICT platforms (websites, TV viewing).
- **Multilingual Support**: Available in **10 Indian languages**, enhancing reach and usability across regions.
- **Resource Integration**: Access to information on government schemes and services specifically designed for persons with disabilities.

4. **Skills for the Future: Transforming India's Workforce Landscape Report :** Recently, the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC) released a landmark report titled **"Skills for the Future: Transforming India's Workforce Landscape"**, marking a significant step in advancing India's workforce development agenda.
   - **Key Findings:** As per PLFS (2023–24) data, **88% of India's workforce** is engaged in **low-competency occupations**, while only **10–12%** occupy **high-competency roles**, indicating a significant skills gap.
     - Five sectors account for over **66% of vocational training** in India:
       - ✓ Information Technology (IT) and IT-enabled Services (ITeS)
       - ✓ Textile and Apparel
       - ✓ Electronics
       - ✓ Healthcare and Life Sciences
       - ✓ Beauty and Wellness
     - Calls for multifaceted and targeted interventions to build a **workforce** that is adaptable to **future economic and technological changes**.
   - **About IFC :** An international initiative Dedicated to advancing research in the fields of competitiveness, strategy, and economic development.
     - It draws inspiration from Harvard Business School.
     - IFC manages the **Shared Value Initiative** in India, promoting business strategies that generate both economic and social value.
     - Working with the **GOI** to assess the **social progress performance** of **29 states** &**562 districts**,



5. **Rose-Scented Litchi:** Recently, in a landmark development for India's horticulture export sector, the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA),** under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, flagged off the first consignment of rose-scented litchi from Pathankot, Punjab to Doha, Qatar.
   - **About Rose-Scented Litchi :** This is a **distinct cultivar** of regular litchi, not a separate species, known for its **natural rose-like fragrance**.
     - **Scientific Name:** Litchi chinensis(common to both varieties) and belongs to Sapindaceae family.
     - Juicy, translucent aril valued for its sweetness and rich nutrient profile
     - **Origin:** Native to southern China; introduced to India via Myanmar in the 18th century
     - Rich in **Vitamin C, B1, Riboflavin**, and minerals like **calcium and phosphorus**.
   - **Ideal Agro-Climatic Conditions: Temperature:** Thrives between 21°C and 35°C**Rainfall:** Requires 1500–2000 mm annually, with dry, cool winters for optimal flowering
     - **Soil:** Prefers deep, well-drained loamy soil (pH 5.5–7) rich in organic content
     - **Leading Producing States in India: Bihar (**Largest) **West Bengal**, **Punjab (**Prominent for rose-scented litchi), Jharkhand, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh
   - **Global Production Landscape: India** ranks as the **second-largest producer** of litchi globally, after **China**. Other key producers include **Thailand, Australia, South Africa, Madagascar**, and the **United States**.
6. **World Police and Fire Games (WPFG):** Recently, India won the bid to host the prestigious 2029 World Police and Fire Games (WPFG), marking a significant achievement in the country's growing prominence in the global sports arena.
   - **About WPFG**: A biennial international multi-sport event that has been held every two years since **1985**.
     - **Honoring First Responders**: The games celebrate the **strength**, **discipline**, and **camaraderie** of global first responders, including: Police personnel, Firefighters, Emergency medical teams, Disaster response services and Other frontline responders.

- **Diverse Sporting Disciplines**: The event features **over 50 competitive sports**, ranging from:
  - ✓ Athletics and swimming
  - ✓ Martial arts and powerlifting
  - ✓ Tactical and firefighting challenges
- **Spirit of Service and Unity**: WPFG not only promotes athletic excellence but also fosters **international friendship and cooperation** among first responders worldwide.

7. **MY Bharat Portal :** Recently, in a forward-looking move to enhance youth engagement and digital service delivery, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched WhatsApp chatbot integration with the **MY Bharat portal**.
   - **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat):** An autonomous body under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, designed to foster youth-led transformation through technology.
     - **Launched on** : **October 31, 2023**, commemorating the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
     - **Vision & Objectives**: Promote **inclusive youth participation** in nation-building.
       - ✓ Empower youth to become **change-makers** during **Amrit Kaal** leading up to **Viksit Bharat@2047**.
       - ✓ Ensure **equal opportunities** for learning, volunteering, and mentorship.
     - **Key Features**: **Digital Youth Profiles**: Allows youth to showcase their **skills, interests, and activities**, enabling better engagement with development opportunities.
       - ✓ **Experiential Learning**: Hands-on experience through collaboration with **local bodies, NGOs, and businesses**.
       - ✓ **Mentorship & Networking**: Access to mentors and a nationwide network of peers and professionals.
   - **WhatsApp-Based Chatbot: Key Features :** Explore a range of **Experiential Learning Programs**
     - Discover various **Volunteering Opportunities**
     - **Create or Update CVs** and build detailed **Youth Profiles**
     - **Join or Create Organizations** based on interest and cause
     - Access expert **Mentorship Support**
     - **Report Issues** and receive instant assistance through the chatbot