1. **INS Himgiri :** Recently, in a significant boost to India's maritime strength and indigenous shipbuilding efforts, the Indian Navy received **INS Himgiri (Yard 3022),** constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) as part of **Project 17A.**

   - **About INS Himgiri :** A cutting-edge stealth frigate.
     - A **reincarnation** of the erstwhile **INS Himgiri**, a Leander-class frigate decommissioned on **May 2025**, after 30 years of service.
     - The vessel has been **designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** and the construction was **overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team, Kolkata**.
     - **Key Features :** The frigate is powered by a **Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG)** propulsion system, which includes both a diesel engine and a gas turbine. This powers a **Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP)** on each shaft.
       - ✓ An advanced **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)** ensures streamlined control and monitoring of shipboard systems.
     - The ship's **weaponry** includes: **Supersonic surface-to-surface missile systems**
       - ✓ **Medium-range surface-to-air missiles**
       - ✓ **Close-in weapon systems** for rapid response and defense
     - With **75% indigenous content**, the construction of INS Himgiri engaged **over 200 MSMEs**, underscoring India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
   - **About Project 17A : Launched in 2019** by the Indian Navy as a follow-on to the **Project 17 (Shivalik-class)** frigates.
     - Aims to construct a new generation of **stealth-guided missile frigates** with: Enhanced **stealth features**, Advanced **weapons and sensor suites** and Modern **platform management systems.**
2. **Grant-in-Aid to the National Cooperative Development Corporation Scheme** : Recently, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved a new Central Sector Scheme titled **"Grant-in-Aid to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)"**.
   - **About Scheme :** The scheme has an outlay of **₹2,000 crore** spread over **four years (2025–26 to 2028–29)**, with an annual allocation of **₹500 crore**.

- These funds will be used to offer loans to cooperative societies across various sectors for:
  - ✓ Setting up new projects
  - ✓ Expansion and modernization of existing units
  - ✓ Meeting working capital needs
- **Target Beneficiaries:** Expected to benefit approximately **2.9 crore members** of **13,288 cooperative societies** across India, particularly in sectors such as:
  - ✓ **Dairy, livestock, and fisheries**
  - ✓ **Sugar and textile industries**
  - ✓ **Food processing, storage, and cold storage**
  - ✓ **Labour and women-led cooperatives**

- **About NCDC :** Founded in **1963** as a **statutory corporation** under an **Act of Parliament 1963**.
  - Operates under the **Ministry of Cooperation**, Government of India.
  - **Objectives:** To **plan, promote, and finance** cooperative-based activities related to: **Production**, **Processing**, **Marketing** ,**Storage**, **Export and import** of agricultural produce, livestock, and other goods.

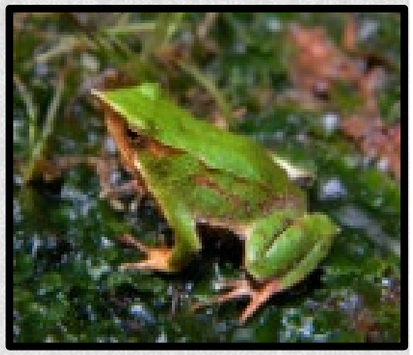
3. **India and Morocco Agreement :** Recently, India and the Kingdom of Morocco established a strategic legal partnership to enhance cooperation in judicial, legal, and institutional domains.
   - **About Collaboration:** This collaboration is marked by two key instruments:
     - **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT):** Facilitates **mutual legal assistance** in **civil and commercial matters** under national laws. It Covers:
       - ✓ **Service of summons** and other judicial documents.
       - ✓ **Taking of evidence** through Letters of Request.
       - ✓ **Execution of judicial judgments** (Morocco), **decrees** (India), settlements, and **arbitral awards**.
     - **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) :** Signed between the **Ministry of Law & Justice (India)** and **Ministry of Justice (Morocco)**. Its objectives includes**:**
       - ✓ Strengthen **mutual legal cooperation** and institutional linkages.
       - ✓ Promote **exchange of legal knowledge**, **expertise**, and **training**.
       - ✓ Support **legal modernization** and capacity building in both countries.

4. **Schengen Visa:** Recently, the European Commission introduced a **"cascade" system** to offer **faster, long-term Schengen visas** to Indian travellers with a clean visa history.
   - **About Schengen Visa:** A short-term entry permit for **non-EU nationals** to visit or transit through the **Schengen Area**, which includes **29 European countries**.
     - Allows **visa-free movement** across member countries with **no internal borders**.
     - Valid for **up to 90 days within any 180-day period**.
     - Issued for purposes like: Tourism, Business, Family visits, Medical treatment and Cultural/sporting events
     - Not valid for employment.
     - **Member Countries:** Includes **25 of 27 EU states** (excluding **Ireland and Cyprus**). Also includes **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland** from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).
   - **About Cascade Visa System :** Designed to reward **frequent travellers with a clean record**.
     - Indian nationals who have held **two Schengen visas in the last 3 years** can now get a **2-year multi-entry visa**.
     - This can be **upgraded to a 5-year visa**, subject to passport validity.
     - **Tiered Visa Validity Structure:**
       - ✓ **1-year visa**: If the traveller used **three Schengen visas** in the previous two years.
       - ✓ **2-year visa**: If they held a **1-year multi-entry visa** in the previous two years.
       - ✓ **5-year visa**: If they held a **2-year multi-entry visa** in the past three years.
5. **National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC)** : According to **the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC)**, India has made notable strides in malaria control, recording an over **80% decline in cases between 2015 and 2023**.
   - However, the disease continues to linger in **tribal and forested areas**, with districts like **Lawngtlai in Mizoram** and **Narayanpur in Chhattisgarh** still reporting high incidence rates of **56 and 22 cases per 1,000 population**, respectively.
   - **About Malaria** : A **potentially fatal febrile disease** caused by **Plasmodium parasites**, transmitted through the bite of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**. While not contagious, it can also spread via **infected blood or contaminated needles**.

- **Symptoms**: Usually appear **10–15 days** after infection and include fever, chills, and headache. In severe cases, it can lead to seizures, jaundice, breathing difficulties, or death, with partial immunity in endemic areas making diagnosis harder.

- **Approved & Advanced-Stage Vaccines:** RTS,S (Mosquirix) and R21/Matrix-M
- **Next-Generation Vaccine:** Whole-Parasite Vaccines (PfSPZ, PfSPZ-LARC2), Blood-Stage Vaccine (PfRH5) and India's AdFalciVax.
- **About NCVBDC:** Implements the **National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP)**.
  - ✓ The programme aims to prevent and control six major vector-borne diseases: **Malaria**, **Japanese Encephalitis**, **Dengue**, **Chikungunya**, **Kala-azar** and **Lymphatic Filariasis**

6. **Darwin's Frog :** Recently, Chile launched a conservation initiative to protect the endangered **Darwin's frog**, a unique amphibian threatened by **climate change and human activity**. The initiative aims to **discover new populations** and **expand the frog's current habitat range** to ensure its long-term survival.



- **About Darwin's Frog :** Tiny amphibian (about 3 cm) with **leaf-like skin** for camouflage and active during the day and sleeps at night (**Diurnal**)
  - **Unique reproductive behavior**: Males carry tadpoles in pouches in their mouths.
  - **Defense mechanism**: Plays dead when threatened.
  - **Discovery & Distribution:** Discovered by **Charles Darwin** in 1834 on Chile's southern Chiloé Islands.
  - Endemic to the forest streams of Chile and Argentina**.**
  - **Habitat:** Prefers **mature native forests** with a mix of **grassland, moss, woody debris, and young trees/bushes**.
  - **Diet:** Feeds on **insects and other arthropods**.
  - **Species Types: Rhinoderma darwinii** (Southern Darwin's frog) – **Endangered (IUCN)**
    - ✓ **Rhinoderma rufum** (Northern Darwin's frog) – **Critically Endangered (IUCN)**
  - **Forest fires**, **climate change**, **invasive species**, and **urbanization** degrading its humid forest habitat.

7. **Supply and Use Tables (SUT) :** Recently, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** published the **Supply and Use Tables (SUT) for 2020–21 and 2021–22**.
   - **About Supply and Use Tables:** Offer a **comprehensive snapshot** of all economic activities within an economy.
     - They act as powerful **analytical tools** to illustrate the **structure of the economy** and the **interlinkages** among its various sectors.
     - Consist of two interlinked matrices: **Supply Table**: Shows the total availability of goods and services from **domestic production** and **imports**.
       - ✓ **Use Table**: Reflects how these goods and services are utilized, covering **intermediate consumption**, **final consumption**, **gross capital formation**, and **exports**.
     - **Significance:** They integrate the **three GDP measurement approaches**: **production, income, and expenditure**—into a **single unified framework**.
       - ✓ SUTs help in **reconciling and validating economic data** from various sources, enhancing overall data coherence and accuracy.
8. **Dementia :** Recently, a major study by University of Cambridge researchers, published in **The Lancet Planetary Health**, confirmed that long-term exposure to air pollution significantly increases the risk of dementia.
   - **Key Highlights :** Key Pollutants Linked to Dementia Risk : PM2.5 (Fine Particulate Matter), NO_2 (Nitrogen Dioxide) and Soot / Black Carbon PM2.5.
     - Air pollutants may cause **oxidative stress** and **neuroinflammation**, potentially entering the brain via the olfactory nerve or through inflammation caused by heart and lung diseases.
   - **About Dementia:** A **chronic or progressive syndrome** that results in deterioration of cognitive functions beyond normal ageing.
     - Affects memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning, language, and judgement.
     - **Causes :** Damage to brain cells, Head injury, Stroke, Brain tumour, HIV infection etc
     - **Gender Disparity:** Women account for **65% of dementia-related deaths**
       - ✓ **Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)** are **60% higher in women** than men.
     - **Global Impact: 7th leading cause of death** globally