

Short News

1. Access to Knowledge vs. Copyright

The Delhi High Court has ordered the blocking of Sci-Hub and Libgen, which provide free access to paywalled research papers and books.

Core Issue

Publishers claim copyright infringement, while users argue for "fair dealing" for research, citing extremely high subscription costs.

Government Solution

The "One Nation One Subscription" initiative aims to provide nationwide access to thousands of international e-journals for academic institutions.

2. Finland in News

PM Modi spoke with Finland's President, who reaffirmed support for an early India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Location

A Nordic country in Northern Europe, bordering Sweden, Norway, and Russia.

Geography

Known as the "land of a thousand lakes" and is over 70% forested.

Biodiversity

It is home to the endangered Saimaa ringed seal.

3. Exercise Bright Star 2025

Over 700 personnel from the Indian Armed Forces will participate in this exercise.

What it is

A large, biennial, tri-service multilateral military exercise.

Host

Egypt, in partnership with the US Central Command (CENTCOM).

Significance

It enhances military cooperation and interoperability between India and other friendly nations.

4. UMEED Portal

The Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched a new module on the portal.

New Feature

Provides maintenance support via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to widows, divorced women, and orphans from Waqf properties.

About the Portal

UMEED is a portal designed to digitize and manage Waqf properties across India, ensuring transparency and providing legal guidance.

5. PM SVANidhi Scheme Restructured

The scheme for street vendors has been extended until 2030 with enhanced benefits.

Key Changes

1. The first loan amount has been increased from ₹10,000 to ₹15,000.
2. A UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card will be offered to eligible beneficiaries.
3. Coverage is being expanded beyond cities to include peri-urban areas.

Nodal Ministry

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

6. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completes 11 Years

The flagship financial inclusion scheme has completed 11 years.

Purpose

To provide universal access to banking services for the unbanked.

Key Achievements

1. Over 56 crore zero-balance accounts have been opened.
2. 56% of these accounts are owned by women.
3. It is a key part of the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) trinity for Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT).

7. BRIGHT STARS

Over 700 personnel from the Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force) will participate. Exercise Bright Star is one of the largest tri-service multilateral military exercises in the Middle East.

Host

It is hosted by Egypt in partnership with the United States.

Frequency

The exercise is held biennially (every two years).

Significance for India

Participation helps enhance military cooperation and interoperability with friendly nations, underscoring India's commitment to regional peace and stability.

