

## SHORT NEWS

### 1. Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)

- **What:** 32nd edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX).
- **Who:** Indian Navy (Eastern Fleet: INS Delhi, Satpura, Kiltan, Shakti) and Republic of Singapore Navy.
- **Where:** Singapore.
- **When:** Later this month (July 2025).
- **Significance:** Coincides with 60th anniversary of India-Singapore ties.
- **Key Features:**
  - One of India's longest bilateral naval exercises.
  - Formerly "Exercise Lion King."
  - Evolved from anti-submarine warfare to broader maritime security roles.
- **Phases:**
  - **Harbour Phase:** Exchanges, visits, sports, coordination.
  - **Sea Phase:** Advanced naval drills, live weapon firings, ASW, anti-surface/air ops, tactical manoeuvres.

### 2. Allographa Effusosoredica (New Lichen Species)

- **Discovery:** New lichen species, *Allographa effusosoredica*, found in the Western Ghats.
- **Identified by:** Scientists from MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, Pune (DST institute).
- **Funding:** Part of a research project funded by Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF, formerly SERB).
- **What are Lichens?**
  - Symbiotic association between algae (food producer) and fungi (shelter/absorber).
  - Appear as a single organism.
  - Excellent air quality indicators (don't thrive in pollution).
  - Types: Foliose, Fruticose, Crustose.
- **About *A. effusosoredica*:**
  - A **crustose lichen** with "effuse soredia."
  - Contains **norstictic acid** (rare chemical trait).

- Algal partner: *Trentepohlia* species.
- Morphology mimics *Graphis glaucescens*, raising evolutionary questions.
- **Significance of Discovery:**
  - First Indian *Allographa* species supported by molecular data.
  - Supports theory of locally adapted photobionts.
  - 53rd *Allographa* species reported from India.
  - 22nd *Allographa* from the Western Ghats.

### 3. 8th Economic Census

- **Proposal:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) proposed conducting the **16th Population Census and 8th Economic Census jointly**.
- **Purpose:** To improve efficiency and reduce costs.
- **Joint Execution Instances:**
  - 2nd Economic Census (1980) with 1981 Population Census.
  - 3rd Economic Census (1990) with 1991 Population Census.
- **Technology:** Upcoming census will use an **end-to-end digital data collection and processing system**.
- **Previous Census Status:** 7th Economic Census (2019–2021) not yet released due to data quality issues and COVID-19 delays.
- **What is Economic Census?**
  - Comprehensive count of all **non-farm economic establishments** in the country.
  - Data used for research, analysis, policy formulation (economic growth, employment).
- **History:**
  - First Economic Census: 1977 (excluded Lakshadweep, covered non-agricultural establishments with at least one hired worker).
  - Subsequent: 1980, 1990, 1998, 2005, 6th in 2013.

### 4. Wimbledon 2025

- **Men's Singles Winner:** Jannik Sinner (Italy) - Maiden Wimbledon, fourth Grand Slam.
- **Women's Singles Winner:** Iga Swiatek (Poland) - First Wimbledon, won 6-0, 6-0 (double bagel, second in Open Era Grand Slam final, first at Wimbledon).

- **Other Winners (2025):**
  - Men's Doubles: Julian Cash & Lloyd Glasspool (GBR)
  - Women's Doubles: Veronika Kudermetova (RUS) & Elise Mertens (BEL)
  - Mixed Doubles: Sem Verbeek (NED) & Kateřina Siniaková (CZE)
- **About Wimbledon:**
  - World's oldest and most prestigious tennis tournament.
  - Annual, late June/early July, Wimbledon, London, UK.
  - Only Grand Slam played on natural grass courts.
  - First edition: 1877 (men's singles only).
- **Grand Slam Tournaments (The Four Majors):**
  - Australian Open: Mid-Jan, Hard Courts.
  - French Open (Roland Garros): May–June, Clay Courts.
  - Wimbledon: June–July, Natural Grass Courts.
  - US Open: Aug–Sept, Hard Courts.
- **Top 3 Men – Grand Slam Titles (Singles):** Novak Djokovic (24), Rafael Nadal (22), Roger Federer (20).
- **Top 3 Women – Grand Slam Titles (Singles):** Margaret Court (24), Serena Williams (23), Steffi Graf (22).

## 5. Slovenia

- **Context:** Parliament legalized assisted dying for terminally ill adults (after public referendum).
- **Location:** Central European country.
  - Northern and Eastern Hemispheres.
  - Capital: Ljubljana.
  - Borders: Austria (N), Hungary (NE), Italy (W), Croatia (SE).
  - Coastline: 47-km along Adriatic Sea (SW).
- **Capital:** Ljubljana (cultural, economic, administrative hub).
- **Geography:**
  - Area: 20,271 sq. km.

- **40%+ mountainous:** Julian, Kamnik-Savinja, Karavanke, Pohorje Alps.
- Highest Point: Triglav Peak (2,864 m).
- Major Rivers: Drava, Sava, Mura.
- **Kras (Karst) region:** Part of Dinaric Alps, known for caves/underground rivers.
- Slovene Littoral: Short Adriatic coastline.
- **Forests:** Over 50% of territory (3rd most forested in Europe).
- **International Memberships:**
  - European Union (EU) - adopted Euro.
  - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

## 6. US designates The Resistance Front as Terrorist Organisation

- **Context:** US designated The Resistance Front (TRF) as a terrorist organization.
- **Reason:** Claimed responsibility for Pahalgam terror attack (killed 25 tourists, 1 local).
- **About TRF:**
  - **Shadow outfit of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).**
  - **Formed after abrogation of Article 370 (Aug 5, 2019)** to give Kashmir militancy an "indigenous appearance."
  - Emerged during Pakistan's FATF grey list scrutiny (to avoid direct LeT/Jaish attribution; also People's Anti-Fascist Front - PAFF).
  - First known attack: Grenade attack in Srinagar (Oct 2019) post-Article 370 revocation.
  - Rapid rise by mid-2020.
  - Operates jointly with other outfits, blurred boundaries.
  - Uses aliases (Kashmir Fight, Kashmir Tigers), but cadres are the same.
- **Impact of US Designation:**
  - **Asset Freezing:** TRF assets under U.S. jurisdiction frozen; allies may follow.
  - **Ban on Material Support:** Illegal for U.S. persons to provide funds, training, shelter.
  - **Travel/Visa Restrictions:** TRF members face U.S. travel bans.
  - **Global Financial Scrutiny:** Banks worldwide likely to flag/block suspicious transactions.