

## SHORT NEWS

### 1. Etalin Hydel Project

- **Context:** India is reassessing the project after China began building a large dam upstream in the Himalayas, escalating maritime tensions.
- **Project Name:** Etalin Hydroelectric Project
- **Capacity:** 3,087 MW
- **Location:** Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh
- **Type:** Run-of-the-river (uses natural flow, no large reservoir)
- **Developer:** Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Ltd.
- **Structure:** Concrete gravity dams on Dri and Talo rivers (Dibang tributaries)
- **Purpose:** Generate hydroelectric power.
- **Run-of-the-river:** Electricity from natural river flow/elevation, no big dam/reservoir.
- **About Dibang River:**
  - Right-bank tributary of Brahmaputra River.
  - **Origin:** Near Keya Pass, Indo-China border, Upper Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.
  - **Course:** Flows through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
  - **Merges with:** Lohit and Siang rivers in Assam to form the Brahmaputra.

### 2. Karnataka New Devadasi Legislation

- **Context:** Karnataka is updating its 1982 Devadasi law with a new bill for stronger rehabilitation and rights recognition.
- **New Bill Name:** Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill
- **Key Provisions:**
  - **Legitimacy:** Children born to Devadasis are "legitimate" with full Hindu inheritance rights.
  - **Paternity:** Child can seek father's recognition, DNA tests possible (father bears disapproval burden).
  - **Privacy:** Children not forced to name father for IDs.

- **Maintenance:** Male children (till minority) and female (till marriage) can claim maintenance.
- **Stricter Penalties:** Minimum 2 years (from none), maximum 5 years (from 3), ₹1 lakh fine for involvement.
- **Rehabilitation:** Ensures land, housing, pensions, health support for Devadasis.
- **About Devadasi System:**
  - **Definition:** Dedicating young girls (often marginalized) to temples, leading to exploitation.
  - **History:** Originally respected temple dancers/caretakers (6th-9th centuries CE, South India).
  - **Modern:** Degenerated into caste-based bonded sex work, violating human rights.

### 3. Bharat NCX 2025

- **Context:** Cybersecurity exercise held in New Delhi.
- **Objective:** Enhance Indian cyberspace operational preparedness via simulations.
- **Theme:** "Enhancing the Operational Preparedness of Indian Cyberspace"
- **Nodal Agencies:** National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) & Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU).
- **Strategic Goal:** Prevent cyber threats, reduce vulnerabilities, ensure rapid recovery for national infrastructure.
- **Key Features:**
  - **STRATEX:** Engages top leaders for real-time decision-making in cyber crises.
  - **Collaboration:** CISO Conclave and Startup Exhibition foster public-private partnerships for a secure, self-reliant digital ecosystem.

### 4. Vanuatu

- **Context:** Pacific island nation leading ICJ case for legal clarity on climate change responsibilities due to rising sea levels/extreme weather.
- **Location:** Island nation in South Pacific (Melanesia), east of Australia, west of Fiji.
- **Geography:** Over 80 islands (65 inhabited) in a Y-shape, no land borders, large EEZ.
- **Capital:** Port Vila (on Efate island).
- **Major Islands:** Espiritu Santo, Malakula, Efate.
- **Features:** Volcanic, rugged mountains, high plateaus, coastal plains, coral reefs.

- **Volcanoes:** Active volcanoes include Mount Yasur, Manaro, Garet.
- **Tallest Peak:** Mount Tabwemasana (Espiritu Santo).

## 5. V S Achuthanandan

- **Context:** Veteran CPI(M) leader passed away in July 2025 at 101.
- **Born:** October 20, 1923, Punnapra, Alappuzha.
- **Early Life:** Involved in workers' rights and coir factory activism.
- **Political Career:**
  - Joined CPI in 1940, then CPI(M) in 1964 (after party split).
  - Active in Punnapra-Vayalar revolt (1946) against Travancore Diwan; was jailed.
  - **Chief Minister of Kerala (2006-2011):** Led LDF to victory in 2006, became CM at 82.
- **Legacy:** Remembered as Kerala's "Darling of the masses," a ruthless organiser, fiery opposition leader, and moral compass in politics.