SHORT NEWS

1. ULPGM-V3 (UAV-Launched Precision Missile)

- **Developer:** DRDO

- **Partners:** Adani Group, BDL, MSMEs, Start-ups

- **Variant:** ULPGM V3 (Extended Range - ULM-ER)

- **Guidance:** Imaging Infrared (IIR) with **fire-and-forget** capability

- **Range:** 4 km (day), 2.5 km (night)

- **Weight:** 12.5 kg

- **Use:** Destroys static & moving targets

- **Significance:** Enhances India's UAV-based strike power and defence indigenization

2. Startup20 Engagement Group

- **Initiated by:** India during G20 Presidency 2023

- **Goal:** Support global startup ecosystems via policy recommendations

- **Editions:**

  - India (2023)

  - Brazil (2024)

  - South Africa (2025)

- **2025 Task Forces:**

  - Foundation & Alliances

  - Finance & Investment

  - Inclusion & Sustainability

  - Trade & Market Access

  - Township & Rural Entrepreneurship

3. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS / NavIC)

- **Developer:** ISRO

- **Purpose:** India-focused GPS alternative

- **Coverage:** India + 1,500 km radius

- **Satellites:** 11 launched; only 4 fully active now
- **Upcoming Launches:**
    - NVS-03 (2025)
    - NVS-04 and NVS-05 (by 2026)
- **Services:**
    - **SPS:** For all users
    - **RS:** Encrypted, for military/government

4. NASA Dynamic Targeting (AI Satellites)

- **Function:** Allows satellites to decide when/where to capture images
- **Advantages:**
    - Reduces data waste
    - Enables real-time decisions
    - Helps with early warnings (wildfires, storms)

5.Coconut Oil Price Surge

- **Current Price:** ₹460/kg (highest among edible oils)
- **Production Use:**
    - 3.9 lakh tonnes for cooking
    - Rest for non-edible industries
- **Top Producers in India:** Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala
- **Reasons for Surge:**
    - El Niño in SE Asia
    - Biodiesel diversion (Philippines)
    - Export curbs (Indonesia)
    - Aging plantations

6. Iran–E3 Nuclear Talks

- **Held in:** Istanbul (July 2025)
- **Participants:** Iran + E3 (France, Germany, UK)

- **Issues Discussed:**
  - Sanctions relief
  - Uranium enrichment
  - "Snapback mechanism" (UN sanctions return if Iran violates deal)
- **E3 Role:** Core members of the 2015 JCPOA nuclear deal
- **Resolution 2231:** UN framework backing JCPOA

7. Kolhapuri Chappals

- **Origin:** Kolhapur, Maharashtra
- **Material:** Vegetable-tanned leather
- **Design:** T-strap, open-toe, braided
- **GI Tag:** Granted in 2019 (covers parts of Maharashtra & Karnataka)
- **Recent Issue:** Prada drew inspiration without crediting Indian origins

8. Revival of Sacred Groves (Sirawas, Rajasthan)

- **Example:** Chudasidh Adavad grove revived
- **Supported by:** KRAPAVIS NGO
- **Importance of Sacred Groves:**
  - Cultural-spiritual importance
  - Biodiversity conservation
  - Natural water conservation
  - Livelihood support
- **SC Directive (2024):** Mandated mapping and protection