

8. Short News

1. Tiger's Green Status Assessment

Released by IUCN as part of its first Green Status report. Assesses how recovered a species is and how effective conservation has been. Tigers are classified as "Critically Depleted" but show recovery potential. If restored to all historic habitats, tiger numbers could reach 25,000 (current ~5,500). India has over 3,600 tigers – about 75% of global population. Green Status categories include – Extinct in the Wild, Critically Depleted, Largely Depleted, Moderately Depleted, Slightly Depleted, Fully Recovered, Non-Depleted, Indeterminate. Conservation has prevented extinction in six spatial units.

Legal protection – IUCN–Endangered, WPA 1972–Schedule I, CITES–Appendix I.

Major threats – Habitat loss, fragmentation, poaching, prey depletion, climate change.

2. LEAPS 2025 (Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield)

Launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry (DPIIT) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Marks 4th anniversary of PM GatiShakti.

Aim – Benchmark logistics excellence and enhance global competitiveness. Supports National Logistics Policy (NLP) and PM GatiShakti framework. Recognises best practices in logistics innovation, sustainability, and efficiency.

Covers logistics sectors – air, road, rail, maritime, warehousing, MSMEs, startups, and academia. Includes 13 award categories under 5 segments (Core Logistics, MSME, Startups, Institutions, Special Categories).

Focus on Green Logistics, ESG, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Viksit Bharat 2047.

3. World Food Day 2025

Observed on 16 October every year. Marks the founding of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) in 1945. First celebrated in 1981 with theme "Food Comes First."

2025 Theme – "Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future."

Objective – Promote food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.

India's achievements –

1. Foodgrain output increased by 90 million tonnes in the last decade.
2. Leader in milk and millet production; second in fish, fruits, vegetables.
3. Honey and egg production doubled since 2014.

Key programmes – NFSA, PMGKAY, PM POSHAN, Rice Fortification, SMART-PDS.

4. Chiron – Icy Celestial Body

(2060) Chiron orbits between Saturn and Uranus; belongs to Centaurs group. Has both asteroid-like and comet-like properties. Completes one solar orbit in ~50 years.

Composition – Rock, water ice, organic compounds. Displays occasional gas and dust jets (cometary activity). Newly observed ring system – 4 rings – Inner rings at 273 km, 325 km, 438 km. Outer ring at 1,400 km from center. Rings are water ice + rocky material, evolving in real time.

Possible origins – moon collisions or debris ejection.

Importance – Shows that ring systems can form around small bodies, not just giant planets.

5. Green Crackers

Approved by Supreme Court of India for use in Delhi-NCR. Developed by CSIR–NEERI under India's Green Crackers Initiative.

Aim – Reduce pollution, not make crackers completely pollution-free.

Emission reduction – ~30% less PM and harmful gases.

No toxic chemicals – Barium nitrate, arsenic, mercury, lithium banned.

Noise limit – Up to 120 dB (less than traditional crackers). Must carry CSIR–NEERI certification, green logo, and QR code for authenticity. Licensed manufacturing under PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation).

6. Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' (India–Indonesia Naval Exercise)

5th edition held at Visakhapatnam.

Origin – 2018.

Objective – Strengthen interoperability, maritime cooperation, and security coordination.

Participants –

India – INS Kavaratti (Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette).

Indonesia – KRI John Lie (Corvette with helicopter).

Two Phases – Harbour Phase and Sea Phase.

Harbour Phase – Professional exchanges (SMEE), cross-deck visits, cultural and sports events.

Sea Phase – Air Defence, helicopter manoeuvres, anti-submarine warfare drills, VBSS operations (anti-piracy/anti-smuggling).

Related exercises

1. Garuda Shakti (Army)
2. IND-INDO CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol)
3. Komodo and Milan (Multilateral naval exercises).

