

8. Short News

1. Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II)

Context- Launched by the Union Home Minister in Assam to boost development in border regions.

Objective- To fill infrastructure gaps, stop out-migration, and improve livelihoods in border villages to ensure national security.

Coverage- Extends to villages along the international land borders with Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Pakistan (spanning 15 states and 2 UTs).

Budget- ₹6,839 crore allocated until FY 2028-29.

Key Features-

1. **Saturation Approach-** Ensuring every household benefits from all existing government welfare schemes.
2. **Infrastructure-** Focus on all-weather roads (PMGSY-IV), 4G/5G telecom connectivity, and 100% electrification.
3. **Livelihood-** Promoting local tourism, cooperatives, and "SMART" classes for education.

2. Trump's Board of Peace

Context- An inaugural meeting was held in Washington D.C. to initiate the reconstruction of Gaza.

Origin- Established in January 2026 at Davos; it stems from a 20-point peace plan endorsed by UNSC Resolution 2803.

Mandate- To oversee the \$70 billion reconstruction of Gaza, demilitarize the region, and ensure the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

Key Developments-

1. **Financial Pledges-** The U.S. pledged \$10 billion, while nine other countries jointly pledged \$7 billion.
2. **Stabilization Force-** A proposed armed force to maintain security, with Indonesia pledging 8,000+ troops.

Leadership- Donald Trump serves as Chairman with exclusive authority over key decisions.

India's Stance- India participated in the first meeting only as an observer and has not joined as a full member.

3. "Bio-AI Mulankur" Hubs

Context- Announced by the Science and Technology Minister during the India AI Impact Summit.

Function- These hubs are closed-loop platforms that use AI to predict biological outcomes, which are then validated in labs.

Target Areas- Genomics diagnostics, synthetic biology, biomolecular design, and Ayurveda research.

Policy Alignment- Supports the BioE3 Policy (Economy, Environment, and Employment) and the Bio-RIDE scheme to make India a global biomanufacturing hub.

4. Bharat GI

Context- A national initiative to promote Indian Geographical Indication (GI) products globally.

Implementation- Launched by the DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce).

Strategy- Acts as an umbrella brand for products like Coorg Coffee and Darjeeling Tea.

Technology- Uses AI-driven traceability (to prove authenticity) and market analytics to connect local artisans directly with international buyers.