

7. Short News

1. Official Languages of Meghalaya

New Status: Meghalaya has approved an ordinance to make Khasi and Garo official languages alongside English.

Constitutional Context:

Article 345: Allows states to adopt their own official languages.

Eighth Schedule: Meghalaya is pushing for Khasi and Garo to be included in the list of 22 national scheduled languages.

Significance: Protects tribal identity, improves governance accessibility, and preserves unique linguistic roots (Khasi is Austroasiatic; Garo is Tibeto-Burman)

2. India's Nuclear Power Expansion

The Goal: Increase capacity from ~8.8 GW today to 100 GW by 2047.

Strategy: Opening the sector to private companies (e.g., Adani Power) and using Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

Current State: Nuclear energy currently provides only about 3% of India's total electricity.

Challenges: High need for skilled labor, secure fuel supplies, and finding suitable land/sites.

3. Vishwa Sutra Initiative

Objective: Launched by the Ministry of Textiles to take Indian handlooms to the global fashion market.

How it Works: 30 traditional Indian weaves are redesigned using inspirations from 30 different countries (blending local tradition with global style).

The "5F" Vision: Farm -Fibre -Factory -Fashion -Foreign.

Partners: Developed by the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) and NIFT.

4. Jagadguru Basaveshwara

Identity: A 12th-century philosopher and social reformer from Karnataka; founder of Lingayatism.

Key Contributions

Social Justice: Fought against caste hierarchy and gender discrimination.

Anubhava Mantapa: Established what is often called the "world's first Parliament" for spiritual and social debate.

Vachanas: His teachings were spread through simple, rhythmic poetic compositions.

Concept: Promoted Ishtalinga, a personal connection to God (Shiva) regardless of social status.

5. RELOS Pact (India & Russia)

Definition: The Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement.

Function: It creates a standard procedure for Indian and Russian militaries to use each other's facilities (ports, fuel, supplies) during authorized activities.

Scope: It is not a permanent base agreement. It covers exercises, humanitarian missions, and disaster relief.

Duration: Valid for 5 years with the option to extend.

6. PMGSY-III Extension (Rural Roads)

The Update: The Union Cabinet Extended Phase III until 2028-29 with an increased budget.

Core Goal: To provide all-weather road connectivity to rural areas to reduce poverty.

Phases at a Glance:

Phase I & II: Building and upgrading basic rural roads.

Phase III: Consolidating the existing network.

Phase IV (New): Connecting 25,000 new habitations that emerged due to population growth.

Impact: Better access to hospitals, schools, and markets for rural citizens.

