

Short News

1. Fortified Rice Export

India (via APEDA) exported its first-ever shipment of Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) from Chhattisgarh to Costa Rica. Fortified Rice (FRK) is made by blending rice flour with key micronutrients like iron, folic acid, and Vitamin B12 and shaping it to look like rice grains. These kernels are then mixed with regular rice to boost its nutritional value and help fight malnutrition. The export links India's domestic nutrition mission ("Kuposhan Mukh Bharat") with global outreach. APEDA is a government body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that works to promote and develop exports of agricultural and processed food products.

2. Employees' Enrolment Scheme 2025

The Union Labour Minister launched this scheme on the 73rd Foundation Day of the EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation).

Goal - To help employers voluntarily enroll eligible employees who were previously left out of the EPF (social security) system.

Special Window - It applies to employees hired between July 1, 2017, and October 31, 2025, who were not covered.

Enrollment Period - Employers can declare these employees during a six-month window from November 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026.

Key Benefit - The employee's share of past contributions is waived (if it wasn't already deducted).

Employer's Cost - The employer only needs to pay their own share, interest, and a small lump-sum penalty of just ₹100 per establishment. EPFO is India's main social security body (founded in 1952) and celebrates its Foundation Day on November 1st.

3. National Geo-Spatial Platform

The Survey of India (SoI) is partnering with a private company (C.E. Info Systems) to build this unified platform. This initiative is part of the National Geospatial Policy, 2022.

Goal - To create a single, official digital source for all foundational geospatial data (like maps, satellite imagery, digital elevation models, and official administrative boundaries).

Use - This data will be made easily accessible to the government, industry, and researchers through web services and APIs. The Survey of India (SoI) is India's national mapping agency, established in 1767, and works under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

4. UNAIDS Report on Inequality

A new UNAIDS report warns that growing inequality is making global pandemics worse.

Key Finding - Inequality (within and between countries) makes pandemics like COVID-19, AIDS, and Ebola deadlier and last longer.

Vicious Cycle - Pandemics also deepen inequality, creating a self-reinforcing cycle of vulnerability.

Recommendations

1. Address social determinants (ensure fair access to housing, education, and healthcare).
2. Reform global finance so all nations can invest in public health.
3. Treat health technologies (like vaccines) as public goods.
4. Build local vaccine and drug manufacturing capacity in developing regions.

UNAIDS (launched in 1996) is the UN program that coordinates 11 UN agencies (like WHO and UNICEF) to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030.

5. Semiconductor Manufacturing (Silicon Carbide)

Odisha has launched India's first end-to-end Silicon Carbide (SiC) semiconductor plant. This plant is a major milestone for the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

Silicon Carbide (SiC) - A compound of silicon and carbon, also known as Carborundum. It's an ultra-hard, heat-resistant material with excellent semiconductor properties.

SiC is important - It has a "wide bandgap," making it perfect for high-voltage, high-temperature, and high-frequency electronics. It is excellent at dissipating heat.

Key Applications - Electric Vehicle (EV) inverters, solar inverters, high-voltage power devices, radar systems, and as an industrial abrasive. The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was launched in 2021 by MeitY to build a semiconductor and display ecosystem in India.

6. Typhoon Kalmaegi

Typhoon Kalmaegi (known locally in the Philippines as Tino) made landfall in the central Philippines. It brought torrential rains, strong winds (up to 205 km/h), and storm surges, causing casualties and large-scale evacuations.

Typhoon- It is the name for an intense tropical cyclone that forms over the Western Pacific Ocean.

Global Names for the Same Storm

1. **Typhoon** - Western Pacific Ocean
2. **Hurricane** - Atlantic & Northeast/South Pacific Oceans
3. **Cyclone** - Indian Ocean
4. **Willy-Willies** - Western Australia

