

Short News

1. Nigeria Conflict

What's happening? Nigeria faces complex internal violence from jihadist insurgencies, herder-farmer clashes, and criminal banditry.

Impact – Over 10,000 civilians were killed between 2023–2025.

Location – West Africa, bordering Benin, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon.

Geography – Features arid savannas (north) and rainforests (south).

Highest Peak – Chappal Waddi (2,419 m).

Major Rivers – The Niger and Benue Rivers.

2. QS World University Rankings 2026

Who runs it? Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a UK-based analytics company.

Global #1 – MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) retained the top spot.

India's Top (Global Rank)

1. **IIT Delhi** (123rd)
2. **IIT Bombay** (129th)
3. **IIT Madras** (180th)

India's Representation – 54 institutions were included, the fourth-highest number globally.

Asia Rankings

Asia #1 – University of Hong Kong.

India's Performance – Most top Indian institutes (like IIT Delhi, IISc) dropped in the Asia rankings despite improving scores, showing increased competition.

3. Umngot River

Where – Meghalaya (also known as the Dawki River).

Why Famous? One of India's cleanest rivers, with crystal-clear, emerald-green water that makes boats look like they are floating in mid-air.

The Problem – The water has turned murky and turbid.

The Cause – Construction and demolition waste from the Shillong–Dawki highway project.

River's Path – Flows from Meghalaya into Bangladesh (where it's called the Shari Goyain River).

Action Taken – The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board (MPCB) used the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, to order a stop to the dumping.

4. GW250114 Wave Event

What is it? A gravitational wave signal from the merger of two black holes, detected on January 14, 2025.

Detected by – The LIGO–Virgo–KAGRA network (detectors in the U.S., Italy, and Japan).

Why is it important? It is the clearest gravitational wave signal ever recorded.

What did it prove?

1. It provided strong evidence for Stephen Hawking's black-hole area theorem (the total surface area of a black hole can never decrease).
2. It supported Roy Kerr's 1963 solution for rotating black holes.

India's Role – The **LIGO-India** observatory is currently under construction in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra.

5. Revised EU Emission Targets

Main Goal – The EU aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

New 2040 Target – A new, legally binding target to cut net greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040 (compared to 1990 levels).

Existing 2030 Target – A 55% reduction in emissions by 2030.

Governing Law – The European Climate Law (2021) makes these goals legally binding.

India's NDC (for comparison) - Aims to reduce emissions intensity by 45% by 2030 (from 2005 levels) and get 50% of electric power from non-fossil fuels by 2030.

6. Survey Vessel-Class Ship Ikshak

What is it? **INS Ikshak**, the third Survey Vessel (Large) [SVL] ship, commissioned into the Indian Navy.

Built by - Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

Key Feature - 80% indigenous content (part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative).

Primary Role - To conduct hydrographic surveys (mapping seabeds, ports, and navigational channels) to ensure maritime safety.

Secondary Role - Can be converted into a 40-bed hospital ship for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions.

