

7. Short news

1. Biomass Pellet Plant

A new biomass pellet plant was inaugurated in Rewari, Haryana.

About Biomass Pellets – Biomass pellets are compressed biofuel units made from agricultural residues, designed to replace coal in thermal power plants for cleaner combustion.

Produced Using – Torrefied or processed crop residues such as paddy straw, mustard straw, cotton stalks and organic waste.

Feature – The compression process creates uniform, high-density fuel that is an efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels for heating, cooking, and power generation.

Significance

1. Enables co-firing with coal, reducing carbon emissions and air pollution
2. Creates additional income streams for farmers through residue procurement
3. Generates rural employment and supports circular bioeconomy
4. Helps reduce dependence on fossil fuels and supports India's net-zero goals

Government Initiatives to Promote Waste-to-Energy

Mandatory Biomass Co-Firing Policy – All coal-based thermal power plants must co-fire 5% biomass/MSW (municipal solid waste) charcoal, while NCR plants must use 7%. At least 50% of biomass in NCR plants must be sourced from local paddy residue, directly reducing stubble burning.

Strengthening Waste Supply Chains – Government expanding source segregation systems, regulatory frameworks, and MSW-charcoal processing capacity. Policy push aims to build a robust waste-to-energy ecosystem, addressing challenges of wet and unsegregated waste.

2. Mahabharata Anubhav Kendra

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Panchjanya' and visited the Mahabharata Anubhav Kendra in Kurukshetra, Haryana.

About 'Panchjanya' – 'Panchjanya' is a monument dedicated to the sacred conch of Lord Krishna, symbolising divine power and righteousness in the Mahabharata.

Significance

1. Represents the spiritual and cultural legacy associated with Kurukshetra, the land of the Bhagavad Gita.
2. Reinforces the historical importance of Krishna's call to duty and dharma.
3. Adds a major cultural landmark to Kurukshetra, strengthening heritage tourism and pilgrim routes in Haryana.

About Mahabharata Anubhav Kendra

The Mahabharata Anubhav Kendra is an immersive experiential centre created to bring alive key episodes of the Mahabharata for visitors through modern storytelling.

Location – Kurukshetra, the traditional battleground of the Mahabharata and the place where the Bhagavad Gita was revealed.

Features – Digital installations, thematic galleries, interactive displays, and artistic recreations of major events from the Mahabharata. Designed to highlight the timeless philosophical, cultural, and moral teachings of the Mahabharata.

Significance – Serves as an educational and cultural hub for students, researchers, and pilgrims.

3. Fujiwhara Interaction

Weather models indicate the possibility of two cyclonic storms forming in the Bay of Bengal, with a rare chance of a Fujiwhara-type interaction.

About Fujiwhara Effect

Definition – The Fujiwhara Effect, also known as the *Fujiwhara interaction* or *binary interaction*, is a natural atmospheric phenomenon that occurs when two nearby cyclones or hurricanes begin to interact with each other in mid-to-upper atmospheric layers.

Mutual Orbiting – During the Fujiwhara interaction, the centers of the two cyclones start rotating around a common point between them. This orbiting takes place in a counterclockwise direction.

Determining Factor – The location of this central rotation point depends on the intensity and relative mass of the cyclonic vortices.

Discovery – It was first identified and described in 1921 by Japanese meteorologist Dr. Sakuhei Fujiwhara, after whom the phenomenon is named.

Occurrences – The interaction typically occurs when two cyclones come within ~1,400 km of each other (distance varies with size and intensity).

Possible Outcomes –

1. **Intensification** – The interaction may also enhance the development of a more powerful cyclone.
2. **Merger** – A stronger cyclone may absorb the weaker one.
3. **Repulsion** – In some cases, the systems may move apart after interaction.
4. **Track Alteration** – Their movement may become erratic, complicating forecasts.

The Fujiwhara Effect can alter or divert the original paths of one or both cyclones.

4. National Gopal Ratna Awards 2025

Recently the National Gopal Ratna Awards 2025 were Conferred on National Milk Day, along with major initiatives to strengthen India's dairy sector.

About the National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA)

One of the highest national recognitions in the livestock and dairy sector, awarded annually on National Milk Day. Aims to promote excellence in breed improvement, milk production, and scientific dairy practices. Launched under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) in 2021 to advance indigenous cattle and buffalo development.

Objectives

1. Recognize and reward dairy farmers, cooperatives, and stakeholders for outstanding contributions.
2. Promote scientific management of native breeds and sustainable dairy practices.
3. Encourage innovation in breeding, feed management, and production efficiency.
4. Strengthen India's leadership as the world's largest milk producer.

Awards and Benefits – Certificate of Merit and Memento for all winners.

Categories of the Award

1. Best Dairy Farmer rearing Indigenous Cattle/ Buffalo Breeds
2. Best Artificial Insemination Technician
3. Best Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS) / Milk Producer Company / Dairy Farmer Producer Organization

Special Category Awards – Special Award in each of the above three categories for winners from the North Eastern Region (NER) / Himalayan States.

Other Initiatives to be Launched

1. Breed Multiplication Farms to enhance high-quality livestock production.

2. Guidelines for Minimum Veterinary Infrastructure for uniform national standards.
3. Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025 for data-driven policy planning.
4. Flagging off 20 NPDD-assisted milk tankers to strengthen dairy logistics and supply chains.

About National Milk Day

Introduction – National Milk Day is observed every year on 26 November to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the “Father of the White Revolution.”

Significance – The day honours India’s millions of dairy farmers whose efforts ensure national food security and drive the country’s leadership in global milk production.

India’s Dairy Sector – India contributes nearly one-fourth of global milk output, with the sector growing 70% in the last 11 years (since 2014) employing over 8 crore farmers and enabling inclusive, women-led rural growth.

5. Exercise Ajeya Warrior-25

India and the United Kingdom have begun the eighth edition of Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-25 in Rajasthan to enhance joint counter-terror operational capabilities.

About Ajeya Warrior-2025 – AJEYA WARRIOR is a biennial India-UK joint military exercise aimed at strengthening professional cooperation and improving interoperability between the two armies.

Venue – Foreign Training Node, Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.

Focus Area – The exercise is held under a United Nations mandate and focuses on counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban environments. It includes joint mission planning at brigade level, integrated tactical drills, simulation-based scenarios, and company-level field exercises. The exercise features equal participation of 240 personnel from both armies, with the Indian Army represented by the Sikh Regiment.

Significance – The exercise strengthens operational coordination, facilitates sharing of best practices, and reinforces India-UK defence cooperation to support regional stability and global missions.