

8. Short News

1. FIDE Rating & Youngest Player

Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha (India), aged 3 years and 7 months, became the youngest chess player ever to get an official FIDE rating.

FIDE (International Chess Federation)

Role- Global governing body for chess (rules, rankings, titles).

Headquarters- Lausanne, Switzerland.

FIDE Rating System

A numerical score measuring a player's skill. Play at least 5 games against rated opponents in official tournaments.

Base Rating- Typically starts at 1400.

Key Titles

FIDE Master (FM)- Rating ~2300.

Grandmaster (GM)- Rating 2500 + 3 GM norms.

2. Exercise Garuda Shakti

10th edition conducted at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh).

Participants- Special Forces of India (Parachute Regiment) and Indonesia.

About the Exercise

Type- Bilateral Special Forces exercise (Started in 2012).

Focus- Counter-terrorism, drone/counter-drone ops, combat shooting, and ops in semi-mountainous terrain.

Significance- Improves interoperability (ability to work together). Strengthens trust and defence cooperation between India and Indonesia.

3. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)- Sakhir Declaration

46th GCC Summit held in Manama, Bahrain, adopted the Sakhir Declaration.

About GCC

Established- 1981.

HQ- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Members (6)- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE.

Sakhir Declaration Highlights

Economic- Push for a GCC Common Market and Customs Union.

Digital/Green- Focus on AI, cybersecurity, and clean energy.

Security- Counter-terrorism and joint naval operations.

Regional- Support for Palestine/Lebanon and a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East.

4. RELOS Agreement (India-Russia)

Russia ratified the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) agreement ahead of President Putin's 2025 visit. A military logistics pact allowing India and Russia access to each other's bases for refuelling, repairs, and supplies.

Key Benefits for India

Strategic Reach- Access to Russian naval/air bases, including in the Arctic (Murmansk) and Pacific (Vladivostok).

Operational Boost- Aids long-range patrols and supply chain for Russian-origin equipment (Su-30MKI, S-400, T-90).

Navy & Air Force- Smoother joint exercises (e.g., INDRA) and disaster relief operations.

5. Glucose on Asteroid Bennu

Scientists found Glucose and Ribose in samples from Asteroid Bennu returned by NASA's OSIRIS-REX mission.

Key Findings

Life's Building Blocks- Discovery of sugars (Glucose, Ribose) suggests essential organic molecules

formed in space *before* life began on Earth.

Note- No Deoxyribose (DNA sugar) was found.

About Asteroid Bennu

Type- B-type Near-Earth asteroid (Carbon-rich, primitive).

Composition- Contains ancient material from the early solar system.

Risk- Small chance of impacting Earth between 2175–2199.

6. Türkiye's "Stone Hills" Project

New archaeological findings in **Sanliurfa province** (Türkiye) have revealed life from 11,000 years ago, shedding light on early settled communities.

About the Project

Name- Stone Hills Project (Launched in 2020).

Scope- Covers 12 archaeological sites.

Key Site- Includes Göbekli Tepe (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), known for having the oldest megalithic structures in Upper Mesopotamia.

Neolithic Age (New Stone Age)

Timeline- Began ~12,000 years ago; ended between 4500 BCE and 2000 BCE.

Characteristics- Marked by the Agricultural Revolution, domestication of animals, settled village life, pottery, and weaving.

Neolithic Sites in India

North-West- Burzahom and Gufkral (Kashmir).

East- Chirand (Bihar) and sites in Odisha.

North-East- Meghalaya.

South- Utnur (Andhra Pradesh), sites in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

7. DHRUVA (Digital Address System)

Proposed By- Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications).

Full Form- Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address.

A national framework to create UPI-like address labels (e.g., "name@entity").

These labels act as virtual proxies for physical locations, eliminating the need to share long, complex addresses.

Core Concept- Address-as-a-Service (AaaS)—managing address data to allow secure, consent-based sharing of location info.

Key Feature- Part of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), allowing interoperability and private sector participation.

8. Leprosy (Hansen's Disease)

The Supreme Court has directed the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to address discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.

About the Disease

Cause- A chronic infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*.

Status in India

Burden- India accounts for ~57% of global cases.

High Prevalence States- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha.

Targets- National- Zero transmission by 2027 (National Strategic Plan). Global (SDG 3.3)- End leprosy by 2030. Global Milestone- Jordan was declared the first country to eliminate leprosy in 2024 by the WHO.