

## 8. Short News

### 1. Adwa Victory Monument

PM Narendra Modi paid tribute at this monument in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**Significance-** Commemorates the Battle of Adwa (1896), where Ethiopian forces defeated the invading Italian army.

**Key Outcomes-** Ended the First Italo-Ethiopian War. Forced Italy to sign the Treaty of Addis Ababa. Ensured Ethiopia remained independent during the "Scramble for Africa."

**Symbolism-** Stands as a global symbol of anti-colonial resistance and Pan-African pride.

### 2. India-Argentina Agricultural Work Plan (2025-27)

**Parties Involved-** ICAR (India) and INTA (Argentina).

**Goal-** To boost cooperation in agricultural research and technology.

#### Key Focus Areas

**Sustainable Farming-** Zero tillage, micro-irrigation, and fertigation.

**Mechanization-** Collaboration on Cotton harvesting machinery and Drones.

**Value Chains-** specifically improving Oilseeds and Pulses.

**Activities-** Exchange of germplasm (seeds), expert training, and annual monitoring of progress.

### 3. Annatto (Natural Colourant)

CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru has developed new natural colour formulations from Annatto.

**Source-** Extracted from the seeds of the Bixa orellana plant (a tropical shrub).

**Plant Characteristics-** Native to Central/South America; cultivated in India, Kenya, Mexico. Thrives in warm climates with well-drained soil. Produces spiky heart-shaped capsules containing seeds with a reddish waxy aril.

#### Applications

**Food-** Natural alternative to synthetic dyes. Used in butter, cheese, bakery items, and sweets.

**Medicine-** Contains carotenoids like bixin and norbixin.

**New Innovation-** Development of Vitamin-E enriched annatto oil for food/cosmetics under the CSIR-BioCap mission.

### 4. Exercise Desert Cyclone

**Context-** Indian Army contingent deployed to Abu Dhabi for the second edition.

**Participants-** India and UAE (Land Forces).

**Objective-** Enhance interoperability, tactical coordination, and defense cooperation.

**Focus Areas-** Urban warfare and sub-conventional operations (UN mandate). Mechanised infantry tactics. Use of Heliborne operations, drones (UAS), and counter-drone measures.

**Background-** The first edition was held in 2024 in Rajasthan.

### 5. RESPOND Basket 2025

Released by ISRO to invite research proposals from academia.

**Definition-** A curated list of high-priority research problems identified by ISRO/Department of Space.

**Objectives-** Solve complex challenges for future space missions using academic expertise. Foster collaboration between ISRO and universities/research labs. Develop skilled human resources for the space ecosystem.

**Submission-** Proposals to be submitted via the I-GRAS portal by January 31, 2026.

### 6. MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter

Indian Navy commissioned its second squadron (INAS 335) at INS Hansa, Goa.

**Origin-** US-origin, multi-role maritime helicopter (manufactured by Sikorsky/Lockheed Martin).

#### Capabilities

**Missions-** Anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue (SAR), and medical evacuation.

**Weapons-** Torpedoes, air-to-surface missiles, and rockets.

**Tech-** Advanced multi-mode radar, dipping sonar, and secure datalinks.

**Significance-** Enhances India's blue-water capabilities and deterrence against threats like piracy and maritime terrorism.

## 7. India as World's Largest AI Market

**Report-** Bank of America (BoFA) identifies India as the most active market for Large Language Model (LLM) adoption.

**Key Stats-** India leads globally in active users for tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity.

### Drivers of Growth

**Scale-** Second-largest online population (700–750 million mobile users).

**Affordability-** extremely low data costs (~\$2 for 20–30GB/month).

**Demographics-** Young, English-speaking population (60% under 35).

**Future Role-** India is seen as the ideal testing ground for Agentic AI (AI that can independently plan and execute tasks).

## 8. Dismantling Colonial Legacy

**New Installation-** Portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees have been installed at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**Replacement-** These portraits replaced the images of 96 British Aide-de-Camps (ADCs).

**Objective-** This move is part of the government's broader effort to remove symbols of colonial legacy.

### About Param Vir Chakra (PVC)

**Institution-** Established on 26 January 1950 by India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

**Effect-** It was deemed effective retrospectively from 15 August 1947.

**Meaning-** The name translates to "Wheel of the Ultimate Brave."

**Designer-** Designed by Savitri Khanolkar.

**Inspiration-** She drew inspiration from Sage Dadhichi, the Vedic rishi who sacrificed his bones so the gods could forge the Vajra (thunderbolt).

### Medal Design

**Material-** The medal is cast in bronze.

**Center-** Features the State Emblem on a raised circle.

**Symbols-** Surrounded by four replicas of Indra's Vajra, flanked by the sword of Shivaji.

**Ribbon-** It is suspended from a swivelling bar and worn with a 32 mm purple ribbon.

### Key Term- Aide-de-Camp (ADC)

**Definition-** A senior military or police officer appointed as a personal assistant to high constitutional or military authorities (e.g., President, Governors, Service Chiefs).

**Role-** Responsible for handling protocol, logistics, and official coordination.