

8. Short News

1. Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)

A newly established statutory body aimed at strengthening India's maritime security. It is modelled after the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

Legal Basis- Established under Section 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.

Nodal Ministry- Operates under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).

Leadership- Headed by a Director General (DG) of IPS rank. (Currently, the DG of Shipping holds additional charge).

Key Roles- Conducts security assessments and audits. Approves port security plans. Acts as the custodian of security information, with a focus on cybersecurity. Oversees training and certification of Private Security Agencies.

Partner Agency- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is designated as the 'Recognised Security Organisation' for port facilities.

2. WHO South-East Asia Regional Office

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Regional Office complex in New Delhi during the 2nd Global Summit on Traditional Medicine.

Function- Serves as the regional headquarters to coordinate public health initiatives across South-East Asian nations.

Key Releases- A WHO technical report on Yoga training. A book titled *"From Roots to Global Reach- 11 Years of Transformation in Ayush"*.

Significance- Consolidates India's position as a global hub for health diplomacy and policy coordination. The complex also houses the WHO India Country Office.

3. Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

Project Name- National Project for Strengthening Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives.

Objective- To build disaster resilience at the grassroots level by integrating it into local governance (Panchayati Raj Institutions).

Nodal Bodies- Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Budget- ₹507.37 crore.

Key Components

Model Panchayats- Developing cluster-based Model Gram Panchayats in 20 States.

Planning Integration- Incorporating disaster management into Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).

Digital Tools- Using platforms like eGramSwaraj and Gram Manchitra for tracking and planning.

Training- Capacity building for local representatives and community volunteers.

Global Alignment- Aligns with the Sendai Framework (2015–2030) by focusing on local-level resilience.

4. Bharat Taxi

India's first cooperative, driver-owned ride-hailing service (an alternative to Ola/Uber).

Launch- Operations started in Delhi from January 1.

Management- Managed by Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited under the Ministry of Cooperation.

Unique Model

Zero-Commission- It operates on a zero-commission model.

Driver Benefits- Drivers receive up to 80% of the fare directly.

Key Features

No Surge Pricing- Offers transparent and predictable fares.

Multi-modal- Includes cars, autos, and two-wheelers in one app.

Safety- Integrated with Delhi Police; features verified drivers.

5. India's 1st Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Workshop

AIIMS, New Delhi hosted India's first advanced workshop on DBS to build national capacity for treating movement disorders. A neurosurgical procedure where electrodes are implanted in the brain to deliver targeted electrical impulses.

Mechanism- Electrodes in the brain are connected to a pacemaker-like device (Implantable Pulse Generator) in the chest. It modulates abnormal neural circuits to correct neurochemical imbalances.

Applications

Primary- Parkinson's disease, Essential Tremor, Dystonia.

Other- FDA-approved for obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

New Technology (2025)- FDA approved Adaptive DBS (aDBS), a closed-loop system that adjusts stimulation automatically based on real-time brain signals.

About Parkinson's Disease

Nature- A chronic, progressive neurodegenerative disorder first described by James Parkinson in 1817.

Cause- Degeneration of dopamine-producing neurons in a brain region called the substantia nigra.

Symptoms- Primarily affects movement (tremors, stiffness) due to lack of dopamine.

Treatment- Medication Levodopa (increases dopamine). Surgery DBS is used when medication becomes less effective or causes side effects.

