

6. Short News

India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard

Context – A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for developing India's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.

Key Stakeholders part of the MoU

1. HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering (HD KSOE) – A global leader in shipbuilding partnering in the development of the mega shipyard.
2. National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park, Tamil Nadu (NSHIP-TN) – A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) jointly promoted by V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VoCPA) and SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu).
3. Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) – A separate entity created for implementing a specific project.
4. Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) – Financial partner under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).

India–Republic of Korea (ROK) Maritime Cooperation Framework

1. VOYAGES Initiative – The agreement was signed under the India–Republic of Korea framework “VOYAGES” – Shared Vision for Operation of Yard Assisted Growth with Efficiency and Scale.
2. Strategic Maritime Partnership – The project reflects expanding India–ROK cooperation in shipbuilding, shipping and maritime logistics.

About the Thoothukudi Shipyard Project

1. Annual Shipbuilding Capacity – The proposed shipyard will have an envisaged annual capacity of 2.5 million Gross Tonnage (GT).
2. Employment Generation – The project is expected to create nearly 15,000 direct jobs along with substantial indirect employment opportunities.
3. Anchor Facility for Shipbuilding Cluster – The shipyard will function as the anchor facility of the Thoothukudi Shipbuilding Cluster being developed by NSHIP-TN.
4. Project Preparation Status – The Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) has been completed and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under preparation.
5. National Shipbuilding Mission Approval – NSHIP-TN has received in-principal approval from the National Shipbuilding Mission for the proposed Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster.

Greenfield Project – Project developed from scratch on previously undeveloped land.

Significance of the Project

1. Development of Ancillary Industries – The project is expected to promote ancillary and component manufacturing clusters.
2. Ancillary Industries – Supporting industries supplying parts, services and components to core industries.
3. Localisation of Marine Equipment – It aims to strengthen domestic marine equipment and engineering supply chains.
4. Workforce Skilling – The collaboration may facilitate training of Indian professionals and workers at HD KSOE facilities in the Republic of Korea.
5. Green and Digital Shipbuilding – The project focuses on advanced manufacturing, digital shipbuilding and green shipping technologies.
6. Thoothukudi as Maritime Hub – Thoothukudi is expected to emerge as a strategic maritime and industrial hub under Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047

Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (MAKV 2047)

1. Global Shipbuilding Ambition – MAKV 2047 aims to place India among the top five shipbuilding nations globally.
2. Targeted Shipbuilding Output – India targets a shipbuilding output of 4.5 million GT annually by 2047.

Status of India's Shipbuilding Sector

1. Maritime Base – India has a coastline of 11,098 km, with 12 operational major ports and 217 non-major ports.
2. Growing Shipping Capacity – As of March 2025, India possessed 1,544 ships with a total shipping tonnage of 13.5 million GT.
3. Indian-owned vessels carried only 6.09% of India's overseas trade, indicating limited domestic shipping strength.
4. Expanding Shipyard Network – India currently has around 45 shipyards across public and private sectors engaged in shipbuilding and repair activities.
5. Ship Repair Infrastructure – India possesses 44 dry docks for ship repair.
6. Dry docks are specialised enclosed structures or basins where ships are brought for construction, maintenance, repair, cleaning, or inspection by draining out the water after the vessel enters.
7. Rising Ship Deliveries – Indian shipyards delivered 259 ships during 2024–25, with private sector companies contributing the majority share.
8. Employment Generation – The shipbuilding and ship-repair industry employed nearly 24,875 people in 2024–25.
9. Shipbuilding Policy Package – India launched a comprehensive ₹70,000 crore shipbuilding policy package in September 2025 as part of a four-pillar strategy to accelerate India's emergence as a globally competitive shipbuilding hub.

India's First Alzheimer's Disease-Modifying Therapy

Context – India has introduced its first Alzheimer's disease-modifying therapy with the launch of Donanemab under the brand name Lormalzi.

About India's First Alzheimer's Disease-Modifying Therapy

1. The therapy is based on Donanemab, a monoclonal antibody used for treating early-stage Alzheimer's disease.
2. Mechanism of Action – It targets and removes amyloid-beta protein plaques in the brain to slow cognitive decline.
3. Amyloid-beta plaques are abnormal sticky protein deposits that accumulate between brain cells, contributing to nerve cell damage and cognitive decline.
4. Eligible Patients – The treatment is intended for patients with mild cognitive impairment or early-stage Alzheimer's disease.
5. Administration – The drug is administered as a once-every-four-weeks intravenous infusion for about 18 months.
6. Clinical Benefit – Trials showed the therapy slowed cognitive decline by around 35% in early-stage patients.
7. Potential Risks – The therapy may cause amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA), including brain swelling and bleeding.
8. Significance – The launch marks a major advancement in India's neurological and dementia care ecosystem.
 1. India faces a rising burden of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, which currently affects about 8.8 million people and is projected to reach 16.9 million by 2036.
9. Challenges –
 1. Healthcare Challenges – Effective use requires early diagnosis, MRI monitoring, genetic testing and specialised neurological care infrastructure.
 2. Affordability Challenge – The therapy remains largely inaccessible due to its extremely high cost of around ₹91,688 per vial and a treatment duration extending up to 18 months.

About Alzheimer's Disease

1. Alzheimer is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that gradually damages memory, thinking ability and cognitive functions.

2. Dementia – It is the leading cause of dementia worldwide, especially among elderly populations.
3. Brain Changes – The disease is associated with abnormal accumulation of amyloid-beta plaques and tau protein tangles in the brain.
4. Symptoms – Common symptoms include memory loss, confusion, language difficulties, behavioural changes and impaired decision-making.
5. Stages – The disease progresses from mild cognitive impairment to severe dementia and loss of independence.
6. Cure – There is currently no complete cure, but some therapies can slow disease progression in early stages.

Mizoram Ginger Mission

Context – The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has launched the Mizoram Ginger Mission.

About Mizoram Ginger Mission

1. The Mizoram Ginger Mission is a convergence-led initiative of the Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region aimed at developing the complete ginger value chain in Mizoram.
2. Objective – It aims to improve sustainable cultivation, processing, branding, value addition and export promotion of GI-certified Mizo Ginger.
3. Strategic Focus – The mission is based on four pillars, Convergence, Value Addition, Branding and Market Integration.
4. Key Features –
 1. Farmer Integration – Nearly 20,000 farming households will be connected to an integrated ginger value-chain ecosystem.
 2. Infrastructure Development – The project will establish one integrated processing hub and three spoke centres for post-harvest management and processing.
 3. Institutional Support – The mission involves collaboration with NABARD, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.
5. Expected Impact – The mission aims to enhance farmer income, reduce post-harvest losses and strengthen agro-processing in Northeast India.
6. Brand North East Initiative – The mission forms part of the broader “Brand North East” vision promoting unique regional products such as –
 1. Lakadong Turmeric of Meghalaya
 2. Kiwi of Arunachal Pradesh
 3. Queen Pineapple of Tripura
 4. Coffee of Nagaland
 5. Organic products from Sikkim

About Mizo Ginger

1. GI-Certified Variety – Mizo Ginger is a Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged ginger variety cultivated in Mizoram.
2. Pharma-Grade – It is recognised globally for its superior medicinal and pharmaceutical-grade properties.
3. High Oleoresin Content – Mizo Ginger contains 6–8% oleoresin, significantly higher than the global average of around 3%.
4. Oleoresin – Oleoresin is a concentrated natural extract obtained from spices and plants that contains essential oils, flavour, aroma and active medicinal compounds.
5. Export Potential – Due to its quality and aroma, it has strong export potential in Southeast Asian, Middle Eastern and European markets.
6. Ginger Capital – Mizoram has been declared the Ginger Capital of India by NITI Aayog.

Nicobarese Oppose Proposal for Three Wildlife Sanctuaries

Context – The Nicobarese Tribal Council has opposed the notification of wildlife sanctuaries in Little Nicobar Island, Menchal Island and Meroe Island, linked to the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island development project.

1. The Nicobarese Tribal Council is composed of elected representatives from various villages within the Nicobar Islands

About the Great Nicobar Project

1. It is a large-scale infrastructure initiative aimed at transforming Great Nicobar Island into a strategic hub for logistics, trade, and defence, with significant environmental and social implications.

Key Components of the Great Nicobar Infrastructure Project

1. International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT) – A deep-sea port at Galathea Bay with a handling capacity of around 16 million TEUs.
2. Greenfield International Airport – A dual-use airport for civilian and defence purposes, expected to handle nearly 4,000 passengers per hour by 2050.
3. Integrated Township Development – Development of a modern township to support a population of about 3–4 lakh people with residential, commercial, and institutional infrastructure.
4. Power Infrastructure – Establishment of a 450 MVA gas- and solar-based power plant.

Sanctuaries Notified By the Government

1. Leatherback Turtle Sanctuary in parts of Little Nicobar Island.
 1. Leatherback Turtle – It is the world's largest sea turtle, known for its leathery shell instead of a hard bony carapace.
 - It is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN and nests on beaches in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 2. Little Nicobar Island – It is a remote, hilly and forested island in the Nicobar group of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located between Katchal Island and Great Nicobar Island in the southeastern Bay of Bengal.
2. Megapode Sanctuary on Menchal Island.
 1. Nicobar Megapode – An endemic bird species of the Nicobar Islands that builds large nesting mounds using soil and decaying vegetation to incubate its eggs.
 2. Menchal Island – It is a tropical island in the Nicobar group, located northeast of Little Nicobar Island in the eastern Indian Ocean.
3. Coral Sanctuary on Meroe Island.
 1. Coral Reef – They are diverse underwater ecosystems formed by colonies of coral polyps that support rich marine biodiversity and protect coastlines from erosion.
 2. Meroe Island – It is a low-lying tropical island in the Nicobar group, known for its evergreen rainforest cover and distinct maritime ecosystem.

Key Concerns Raised by the Nicobarese Tribal Council Against the Wildlife Sanctuaries

1. Lack of Consultation – Sanctuaries were notified without consulting residents and affected villages.
2. Violation of Forest Rights Procedures – Consent for the project was allegedly taken through Gram Sabhas representing settler families instead of the Tribal Council.
3. Cultural and Spiritual Concerns – Menchal and Meroe islands are considered sacred and associated with ancestral spirits.
 1. Communities worship at several trees, rocks and other traditional sites on these islands.
4. Livelihood Concerns – Communities depend on forests and coasts for forest produce, medicinal plants, wood for huts and canoes.
 1. Menchal and Meroe are important coconut resource regions for the southern Nicobarese.
5. Concerns Over Traditional Rights – Communities fear the sanctuaries would affect ritual hunts, plantation activities and customary use of resources.
 1. Tribal Council argued that the sanctuaries would encroach upon pre-existing community rights.

6. Opposition to Eco-tourism – Tribal Council opposed eco-tourism activities proposed in the sanctuary areas.
 1. They instead demanded basic infrastructure such as toilets, jetties, footpaths, water facilities and cellular towers.

BIRSA 101

Context – The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, along with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), organized a workshop on “BIRSA 101” in New Delhi under the Janja Tiya Garima Utsav 2026 celebrations

About BIRSA 101

1. First Indigenous Gene Therapy – “BIRSA 101” is India’s first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for Sickle Cell Disease.
2. Named After Tribal Icon – The initiative is named after Birsa Munda.
3. Focus on Tribal Health – Developed to provide an affordable treatment pathway for Sickle Cell Disease, which disproportionately affects tribal populations.
4. Government Support – The initiative has received financial assistance of nearly ₹3.75 crore from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

About Janjatiya Garima Utsav 2026

1. Janjatiya Garima Utsav 2026 is a month-long celebration showcasing the Journey of Viksit Bharat.
2. Focus on Tribal Welfare – It highlights initiatives related to tribal empowerment, welfare and development.
3. Technology Theme – The first week is dedicated to “Technology as a Development Driver”, focusing on innovation-led transformation and technological achievements for tribal communities.

About Sickle Cell Disease

1. Inherited Blood Disorder – Sickle Cell Disease is a genetic disorder in which red blood cells become sickle-shaped due to abnormal haemoglobin.
2. Reduced Oxygen Supply – The abnormally shaped cells obstruct blood flow and reduce oxygen supply to body tissues.
3. Major Health Complications – It can cause severe pain, anaemia, organ damage, infections and stroke.
4. High Prevalence in Tribal Areas – The disease is particularly prevalent among tribal populations in central, western and parts of southern India.
5. Government Elimination Mission – India launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission in 2023 with the target of eliminating the disease as a public health problem by 2047.

Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)

Context – India assumed the Chairmanship of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for 2026–2028, reflecting its growing role in global cybersecurity governance.

About Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)

1. CCDB is the technical body responsible for developing and maintaining global IT security evaluation standards under the Common Criteria framework.
2. Parent Organisation – CCDB functions under the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) 1998, an international arrangement for mutual recognition of IT security certifications.
3. India’s Participation – India participates through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the STQC Directorate, the official certification authority.
4. Membership Structure – The CCRA includes 20 certificate-authorising nations and 18 certificate-consuming nations for global recognition of secure IT products.

Key Objectives of CCDB

1. Technical Standardisation – CCDB manages the development of Common Criteria (ISO/IEC 15408) and Common Methodology for IT Security Evaluation (CEM) standards.



2. Mutual Recognition Framework – It ensures certificates issued by one member nation are recognised across all participating countries without re-certification requirements.
3. Secure IT Ecosystem – CCDB defines security evaluation criteria for products such as operating systems, firewalls, smart cards and digital security systems.
4. Emerging Technology Evaluation – It coordinates technical working groups to address cybersecurity standards for emerging digital and critical technologies.

Significance

India's Chairmanship strengthens its global cybersecurity leadership and enables greater influence over international IT security standards and digital trust frameworks.