

## 7. Short News

### 1. Eustoma (Lisianthus)

Eustoma, commonly known as Lisianthus, is an exotic ornamental flower that has been successfully cultivated for the first time in Odisha through the efforts of the CSIR–National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI).

**Introduction and Appeal** – Valued in the global cut-flower trade for its rose-like blossoms, elegant appearance, and exceptionally long-lasting freshness after being cut (long vase life), Eustoma is often considered a high-value alternative to roses.

**Native Region** – This flower is native to the warmer regions of the Americas, including Mexico, the southern United States, and parts of Central and South America, thriving in warm temperate to subtropical climates.

**Economic Potential for Farmers** – Eustoma presents a lucrative opportunity for Indian farmers.

1. It can be harvested twice a year.
2. It offers potential profits of up to ₹2 lakh per acre per season, translating to a highly profitable annual income.
3. Its popularity in high-end floral arrangements and wedding decor ensures a stable and growing market demand.

### 2. National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Abhiyan 2025

The Union Agriculture Minister recently inaugurated the National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Abhiyan 2025 in Delhi, setting the stage for the upcoming winter crop season.

**Conference Theme** – The guiding theme for the conference was “One Nation – One Agriculture – One Team,” emphasizing a unified and collaborative approach to agricultural development across the country.

**Production Achievements (2024–25)** – The conference celebrated a landmark year with the total food-grain output reaching 353.96 million tonnes, a 6.5% increase over the previous year. Record harvests were achieved in key crops like rice, wheat, maize, groundnut, and soybean.

**Production Target (2025–26)** – An ambitious foodgrain production target of 362.50 million tonnes has been set for the upcoming year, with a special emphasis on increasing the productivity of pulses and oilseeds to reduce import dependency.

#### India's Crop Seasons

Crop Season	Sowing Period	Harvesting Period	Key Crops
<b>Rabi</b>	Winter (October – December)	Spring (April – June)	Wheat, Barley, Mustard, Gram, Peas
<b>Kharif</b>	Monsoon (June – July)	Autumn (September – October)	Rice, Maize, Millet, Cotton, Soybean
<b>Zaid</b>	Summer (March – June)	Early Summer (April – July)	Watermelon, Muskmelon, Cucumber, Fodder

### 3. Port of Hodeidah

The Port of Hodeidah, a critical seaport in Yemen, was recently targeted by Israeli airstrikes, escalating regional tensions.

**Location** – Hodeidah is a major city situated on the Tihamah coastal plain in western Yemen, bordering the Red Sea.

**Economic Lifeline** – It is one of Yemen's principal seaports and serves as a vital lifeline for the war-torn country, handling the majority of its commercial imports (like food and fuel) and humanitarian aid.

**Strategic Importance** – Control over the Port of Hodeidah is a central issue in the Yemeni conflict. Its strategic position influences not only the flow of essential goods but also the broader regional security dynamics in the Red Sea, a crucial global shipping lane.

## 4. Sex Sorted Semen Facility in Bihar

The Prime Minister of India inaugurated a ₹10-crore Sex Sorted Semen Facility at Purnea, Bihar, to boost the region's dairy sector.

**Governing Mission** – The facility was established under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, which is implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

**Indigenous Technology** – It utilizes 'Gausort', an indigenously developed sex-sorting technology, aligning with the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.

**Key Objectives** –

1. To make affordable sex-sorted semen accessible to farmers, especially small, marginal, and landless dairy farmers in Eastern and North-Eastern states.
2. To enhance dairy productivity by ensuring the birth of female calves, which are productive assets.
3. To increase farmers' income by reducing the economic burden of rearing unproductive male calves.

**High Efficacy and Capacity** – The Gausort technology achieves approximately 90% accuracy in producing female calves. The new facility has a capacity to produce 5 lakh doses of sex-sorted semen annually.

## 5. Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 (XPR 25)

INS Nistar, an Indian naval vessel, arrived at Changi Naval Base, Singapore, to participate in the multinational Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 (XPR 25).

**About the Exercise** – Pacific Reach is a premier, biennial multinational submarine rescue exercise. Its primary aim is to enhance interoperability and cooperation among participating navies in responding to submarine emergencies.

**Host and Location** – The 2025 edition is hosted by Singapore and is being conducted in the strategically vital South China Sea.

**Participation** – Over 40 nations are participating as either active members or observers. India's participation includes the INS Nistar and the Submarine Rescue Unit (East).

**Phases of the Exercise** –

**Harbour Phase** – A week-long phase focused on in-depth discussions, tabletop exercises, and knowledge exchange on submarine rescue techniques and procedures.

**Sea Phase** – Involves the practical deployment of assets at sea, where INS Nistar and the Indian Submarine Rescue Unit will engage in simulated rescue operations with other participating navies.

## 6. U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Following Israeli airstrikes in Doha on September 9, 2025, India defended Qatar's sovereignty at a session of the U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

**About the UNHRC** – It is an inter-governmental body within the UN system, reporting to the UN General Assembly. Established in 2006, it replaced the former UN Commission on Human Rights. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. It consists of 47 member states elected by the UN General Assembly for three-year terms, with membership distributed geographically.

**India's Stance** – India's Permanent Representative at the UNHRC condemned the airstrikes as a violation of Qatar's sovereignty. India expressed deep concern that such actions threaten regional and global stability. It reiterated its long-standing position that disputes must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

**Broader Implications** – This stance showcases India's strategic balancing act in West Asia, maintaining good relations with Arab states and Israel while positioning itself as a neutral advocate for stability and peace.

## 7. Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

The Prime Minister launched the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan, India's largest-ever health mobilization campaign for women and children.

**Aim** – To provide comprehensive preventive, promotive, and curative healthcare to women, adolescent girls, and children, with a focus on tackling malnutrition and lifestyle-related diseases.

**Whole-of-Government Approach** – The campaign is jointly led by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD), with convergence from numerous other ministries to ensure wide reach.

**Massive Scale and Coverage** – The campaign aims to organize over one lakh health camps nationwide between September 17th and October 2nd, 2025. It will leverage the entire public health network, from Ayushman Arogya Mandirs to district hospitals, and mobilize a vast grassroots workforce including ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, and SHGs.

**Key Services** – The camps will offer a range of services including screening for diseases, maternal and child health check-ups, awareness drives on nutrition and wellness, specialist consultations, and integration of AYUSH services.

## 8. PM MITRA Park Scheme

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the country's largest PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Park in Bhainsla village, Madhya Pradesh.

**Governing Ministry** – Launched by the Ministry of Textiles in 2021 for a six-year period (2021–28).

**The 5F Vision** – The scheme is inspired by the Prime Minister's 5F formula – Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign, aiming to create an integrated ecosystem covering the entire textile value chain.

**Aim and Implementation** – The goal is to establish seven large-scale, modern, integrated textile parks with world-class infrastructure. Each park will be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), a joint venture between the Central and respective State Governments.

**Expected Outcomes** – These parks are expected to reduce logistics costs, improve the competitiveness of the Indian textile industry, attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and generate large-scale employment.

## 9. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

The Central Government transferred financial assistance to over 15 lakh women under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

**Implementing Ministry** – Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).

**Aim** – It is a maternity benefit program designed to provide partial wage compensation to women for wage loss during pregnancy and lactation, and to promote better health and nutrition for mother and child.

**Beneficiaries** – Pregnant and lactating mothers for their first live birth. The benefit has been extended to the second child, if the second child is a girl. It excludes women in regular government employment who already receive maternity benefits.

**Cash Incentive** – A cash incentive of ₹5,000 is provided in three installments for the first child. An enhanced sum of ₹6,000 is provided in a single installment for the birth of a second girl child.

**Funding** – It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with costs shared between the Centre and the States.

## 10. Stablecoins

Citing risks to financial stability, the Bank of England recently proposed imposing ownership limits on stablecoins.

**Definition** – Stablecoins are a type of cryptocurrency designed to maintain a stable value by being pegged to a stable asset, such as a fiat currency (like the US Dollar), a commodity (like gold), or another financial instrument.

**Types** – They can be fiat-backed (e.g., Tether, USDC), crypto-backed (e.g., DAI), or algorithmic (which use complex rules to manage supply and maintain the peg).

**Key Risks Identified by Regulators** –

**Run Risk** – A loss of confidence could trigger sudden mass withdrawals, causing the stablecoin to "de-peg" and collapse, as seen with TerraUSD in 2022.

**Financial Stability** – If widely adopted, they could drain deposits from the traditional banking system, impacting credit creation.

**Illicit Finance** – Their ability to facilitate fast, cross-border transactions increases the risk of their misuse for money laundering and terror financing.

## Difference Between Stablecoins and Other Cryptocurrencies

Feature	Stablecoins (e.g., USDC, Tether)	Volatile Cryptocurrencies (e.g., Bitcoin, Ethereum)
<b>Primary Purpose</b>	Medium of exchange, store of value, enabling fast settlement.	Speculative investment, decentralized finance (DeFi) asset.
<b>Volatility</b>	Low. Designed to be stable, pegged 1 - 1 to an underlying asset.	High. Subject to sharp, unpredictable price fluctuations.
<b>Underlying Value</b>	Backed by real-world reserve assets (e.g., cash, bonds).	Value is derived purely from supply and demand dynamics.
<b>Use Case</b>	Used for trading on crypto exchanges, remittances, and as a bridge to the traditional financial system.	Used as a long-term investment ("digital gold") or for transactions on their native blockchains.

