

9. Short News

1. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

Puducherry became the first UT to achieve zero maternal mortality in 2024–25.

Definition – MMR is the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births that occur during pregnancy or within 42 days after.

India's Progress – India's MMR has improved, falling from 130 (2014–16) to 93 (2019–21).

SDG Target – India's goal is to reduce MMR to 70 by 2030, a target already met by eight states.

2. Sovereign Credit Rating

Japan's R&I upgraded India's rating to 'BBB+' (Stable), the third such upgrade in 2025.

Definition – An assessment of a country's ability to repay its debt.

Importance – Higher ratings lower borrowing costs and attract foreign investment.

Reasons for Upgrade – Strong economic growth, controlled fiscal deficit, and stable external finances.

3. ICGS Adamya

The first of the new Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard.

Key Feature – Indigenously built by Goa Shipyard Limited with over 60% local content.

Capabilities – It has a top speed of 28 knots and is armed with a 30 mm CRN 91 gun.

Meaning – "Adamya" is a Sanskrit word meaning "indomitable".

4 Aflatoxin

Indonesia suspended imports of Indian groundnuts due to aflatoxin contamination.

Definition – A toxic and cancer-causing substance produced by fungi (*Aspergillus*) that grows on crops in warm, humid conditions.

Sources – Commonly found in groundnuts, maize, cottonseed, and spices.

Health Risk – Aflatoxin B1 is a Group 1 carcinogen that can cause liver damage and cancer.

Economic Impact – The suspension hurts Indian farmers as Indonesia buys one-third of India's groundnut exports.

5. UNSC Resolution 1267

The US, UK, and France put a hold on Pakistan's bid to list the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) as a terrorist group.

Purpose – This resolution creates a sanctions committee to target individuals and groups associated with Al-Qaeda and ISIL.

Sanctions – Measures include asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes.

Reason for Hold – The BLA is not linked to Al-Qaeda or ISIL, which is the primary focus of this committee.

6. NE-SPARKS Programme

The union minister for the North Eastern Region met with students from the Northeast visiting ISRO.

Full Form – North East Students' Programme for Awareness, Reach, and Knowledge on Space.

Objective – To inspire meritorious students from the Northeast to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Organisers – A collaboration between the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and ISRO.

7. Kadamb Tree

PM Modi planted a Kadamb sapling, a gift from King Charles III, on his 75th birthday.

Description – A large, fast-growing tropical tree native to South and Southeast Asia.

Cultural Significance – It is considered sacred in Indian tradition and is closely associated with Lord Krishna.

Uses – The tree has medicinal properties used in Ayurveda and is ecologically beneficial.