

8. Short News

1. Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF)

Brazil is poised to be the first nation to announce an investment in the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), a new multilateral fund.

Core Objective – The TFFF is designed to support the conservation of endangered forests worldwide.

Financial Goal – It aims to mobilize \$125 billion through a blended finance model, which combines public funding (like Official Development Assistance – ODA) with private capital.

Payment Mechanism – The revenue generated by the fund is used to make results-based payments to tropical forest countries (TFCs). Payments are calculated on a per-hectare basis of standing forest, with adjustments made for any new deforestation or degradation.

Support for Local Communities – A minimum of 20% of all payments are allocated directly to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), with the remaining funds supporting national forest policies.

Fund Structure – It operates through the Tropical Forest Investment Fund (TFIF). Sponsors (high-income countries and philanthropies) provide 20% of the total capital as concessional finance. Market Investors (institutional investors, sovereign wealth funds) provide the remaining 80% through debt instruments. The pooled funds are managed by a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB), such as the World Bank.

Global Support – **China** has indicated it will make an initial contribution, signaling a potential shift in climate finance responsibility beyond traditionally wealthy nations. Other countries showing interest include the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Norway, Singapore, and the UAE.

2. Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) 3.0

Launched by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry to mark the 10th anniversary of the "Make in India" initiative.

Primary Objective – To evaluate and rank industrial parks and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across India to enhance industrial infrastructure and competitiveness.

Development and History – First launched in 2018 (IPRS 1.0). Developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). IPRS 2.0 (2021) enhanced the framework based on pilot findings and global best practices.

Assessment Framework – Parks are evaluated on four main pillars –

1. Internal infrastructure and utilities
2. External infrastructure and facilities
3. Business support services
4. Environmental and safety management

Key Features of IPRS 3.0

Expanded Parameters – Includes new focus areas such as sustainability, green infrastructure, logistics connectivity, digitalization, skill linkages, and enhanced tenant feedback.

GIS-Enabled – Integrates with the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) and state-level GIS systems to provide investors with real-time, plot-level data to identify preferred investment locations.

Categorization – Parks are benchmarked and grouped into three categories – Leaders, Challengers, and Aspirants.

Purpose – To strengthen the "Make in India" mission by promoting best practices, providing reliable data for decision-making, and creating world-class industrial infrastructure.

3. Dadasaheb Phalke Award

The Prime Minister of India congratulated renowned actor Shri Mohanlal Ji for being conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

About the Award – It is India's highest honor in the field of cinema. Instituted by the Government of India to honor Dadasaheb Phalke, the director of India's first full-length feature film, *Raja Harishchandra* (1913). It is conferred annually for "Outstanding Contribution to the Growth and Development of Indian Cinema."

The first recipient was Devika Rani, known as the "first lady of Indian cinema."

Award Components – The honor includes a 'Swarna Kamal' (Golden Lotus) trophy, a cash prize of INR 10 lakh, a certificate, a silk roll, and a shawl. It is presented by the President of India.

About the Recipient, Shri Mohanlal

Profession – A celebrated actor, producer, and playback singer, primarily active in Malayalam cinema.

Career – Spanning nearly five decades, he has acted in over 360 films.

Reputation – Widely regarded as "The Complete Actor" for his exceptional versatility.

Major Accolades – He is a recipient of the Padma Shri (2001), Padma Bhushan (2019), and 5 National Film Awards.

International Recognition – His film *Vanaprastham* (1999) was screened at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

4. Bagram Air Base

The US President has expressed a desire for the United States to reclaim Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan due to its immense strategic value.

Location and Significance – It is the largest and most strategically important military airfield in Afghanistan, located in Parwan province, about 40–60 km north of Kabul. Its location is at the crossroads of Iran, Pakistan, Central Asia, and is close to China's Xinjiang province, making it a unique vantage point for surveillance and military operations in Eurasia.

Historical Context – Originally built by the Soviet Union in the 1950s. It served as the nerve center for US and NATO operations in Afghanistan after 2001.

Current Status – The base was vacated by US forces in July 2021 during the withdrawal from Afghanistan and subsequently fell under Taliban control.

5. Project Vijayak (Border Roads Organisation)

Project Vijayak of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 15th Raising Day in Kargil.

Establishment and Purpose – Established in September 2010 in Kargil. It was a strategic response to the lessons learned from the 1999 Kargil War (Operation Vijay), highlighting the critical need for robust road infrastructure along the Line of Control (LC) for military preparedness.

Area of Responsibility – Initially covered the Kargil and Zaskar regions. Currently manages crucial communication routes, including the Zojila–Kargil–Leh and Nimmu–Padam–Darcha axes. Following a 2019 realignment, its responsibility expanded to include roads and airfields in the Western Shyok and Nubra Corridors, including the vital Siachen Glacier region.

Importance and Achievements – Project Vijayak has constructed over 1,400 km of roads and 80 major bridges across Ladakh's challenging terrain. It plays a crucial dual role in supporting both national defense (military operations) and regional development (civilian connectivity).