

7. Short news

1. Operation Golden Sweep

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a major international gold smuggling syndicate under Operation Golden Sweep, seizing 10.5 kg gold worth ₹12.58 crore.

About Operation Golden Sweep – The DRI launched Operation Golden Sweep based on specific intelligence inputs to counter transnational gold smuggling through Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.

Agencies Involved – The operation was conducted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence with close coordination among airport authorities and intelligence units.

Objective of the Operation

1. **Countering Transnational Gold Smuggling** – The primary goal was to dismantle a sophisticated smuggling syndicate exploiting international transit passengers and corrupt airport staff.
2. **Protecting Economic and National Security** – The DRI aimed to safeguard India's economic interests by preventing illegal inflows of gold that undermine fiscal stability and promote black-market activities.

Significance – The operation dismantled a multi-layered smuggling network spanning multiple countries, exposing insider threats in sensitive infrastructure.

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) – The DRI is India's premier agency for combating smuggling, economic offenses, and customs fraud. established in 1957 .

Nodal Body – DRI functions under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance.

Role and Functions –

1. Investigates smuggling of gold, narcotics, and high-value contraband.
2. Enforces customs laws and protects India's economic interests.
3. Conducts intelligence-based operations and dismantles transnational crime networks.
4. Coordinates with international agencies to curb cross-border economic offenses.

2. International Purple Fest 2025

Recently, three landmark initiatives were launched to enhance accessibility in listening, reading, and writing for persons with disabilities at the International Purple Fest 2025.

About International Purple Fest 2025

Introduction – The International Purple Fest 2025 is a global celebration of inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment for persons with disabilities. The third edition of the event was held in Goa from October 9 to 12, 2025

Hosted by – Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa. It was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, and United Nations India.

Objective – To promote inclusive thinking, universal design, and equal participation for persons with disabilities in education, employment, and society. **2025 Central Focus** – "Cultivating Inclusive Thinking as the Foundation for Universal Design."

Key Initiatives Launched

IELTS Training Handbook for Persons with Disabilities – Developed by Believe in the Invisible (BITI) with DEPwD support, the handbook makes IELTS preparation inclusive and accessible for persons with visual, hearing, locomotor, and other disabilities.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Certification – The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) introduced RPL certification for Children and Siblings of Deaf Adults (CODA & SODA) under the Skill Training Initiative of DEPwD.

Specialized Training in ASL and BSL – ISLRTC announced a Basic Training Programme on American Sign

Language (ASL) and British Sign Languages (BSL) to expand global exposure and professional opportunities for Indian Sign Language interpreters.

Significance – The Fest embodies India’s vision of building an inclusive, equitable, and barrier-free society for all individuals, regardless of ability.

3. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR)

The world observed the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) on 13th October emphasizing the importance of building disaster-resilient communities and promoting global awareness on disaster preparedness.

About the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) – IDDRR was established in 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to promote a global culture of risk awareness and disaster prevention.

Objective – To encourage governments, organizations, and citizens worldwide to participate in efforts that reduce disaster risks and enhance community resilience.

2025 Theme – “Fund Resilience, Not Disasters” – It highlights the need for increased investments in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and calls for all development and private investments to be *risk-informed and resilient*. It stresses the economic and social importance of funding resilience measures rather than reacting to disasters after they occur.

About the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) – The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) serves as the nodal UN agency coordinating international efforts in disaster risk management and reduction. UNDRR leads implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), which aims to substantially reduce global disaster mortality, economic losses, and infrastructure damage.

Key Initiatives – Promotes early warning systems, community-based disaster preparedness, and risk-informed development planning. Partners with governments, private sector, and civil society to integrate disaster risk considerations into national policies and sustainable development agendas

4. Bharat Taxi

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has partnered with Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited to launch Bharat Taxi, India’s first cooperative-driven national ride-hailing platform by December 2025.

About Bharat Taxi – Bharat Taxi is a first-of-its-kind, cooperative-driven ride-hailing initiative that aims to offer transparent, citizen-centric, and technology-enabled mobility services across India.

Promoters and Support – The platform is being jointly promoted by key cooperative and financial institutions including NCDRC, IFFCO, AMUL, KRIBHCO, NAFED, NABARD, NDDB, and NCEL.

Vision and Alignment – Bharat Taxi aligns with the Digital India programme’s goal of fostering inclusive, tech-enabled, and citizen-first public services through cooperative empowerment and digital innovation.

Objective – The initiative seeks to transform India’s mobility ecosystem by creating a trust-based, cooperative alternative to global ride-hailing platforms, ensuring fair income distribution and service transparency.

Key Features of the initiative

Platform Integration – it will enable integration with national digital platforms such as DigiLocker, UMANG, and API Setu, allowing secure and seamless digital access for users.

Security and Compliance – NeGD will ensure cybersecurity, privacy protection, and adherence to national data protection norms, supporting robust technical infrastructure.

User Accessibility and Inclusivity – The platform will incorporate multilingual UI/UX design and inclusive accessibility features, ensuring equitable service for all citizens.

Significance – The initiative represents India’s move towards a cooperative-led, secure, and interoperable digital public mobility platform, reinforcing NeGD’s commitment to inclusive digital governance and citizen empowerment.