

8. Short News

1. 195th Birth Anniversary of Savitribai Phule

Significance- Celebrated as the first female teacher of modern India (born 1831), she was a pioneering social reformer who fought against caste discrimination and gender inequality.

Educational Legacy- Alongside her husband Jyotirao Phule, she established India's first school for girls at Bhide Wada, Pune, in 1848.

Social Reform- She founded the Mahila Seva Mandal (1852) to raise awareness about women's rights and established the Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha, a shelter for pregnant rape victims and widows to prevent infanticide.

Literary Works- Her notable writings include *Kavya Phule* (1854) and *Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar* (1892).

2. Rani Velu Nachiyar (Freedom Fighter)

Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to the Queen of Sivagangai (1730–1796) on her birth anniversary.

Historical Feat- She is recognized as one of the first Indian queens to wage an organized armed struggle against the British East India Company.

Resistance- After her husband was killed by the British in 1772, she organized an army and successfully recaptured Sivagangai in 1780, ruling it for a decade. She is revered as a symbol of anti-colonial resistance in South India.

3. Magh Mela 2026 (Culture)

Location & Timing- This annual festival is held on the banks of the Sangam (confluence of Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati) in Prayagraj, lasting from Paush Purnima to Mahashivratri.

Key Ritual (Kalpavas)- A significant aspect is the vow of Kalpavas, where devotees live a strictly austere life on the riverbanks for the entire month, practicing meditation, early bathing, and charity.

4. Repealing and Amending Act, 2025

Objective- To streamline India's legal code by removing 71 obsolete laws (dating from 1886 to 2023) and correcting inconsistencies in existing statutes.

Two-Pronged Approach

Repeal- It eliminates redundant enactments and amendment acts that have already been incorporated into principal laws.

Amend- It updates foundational laws like the *General Clauses Act (1897)* and *Disaster Management Act (2005)*.

Savings Clause- A clause is included to ensure that the repeal does not affect any rights, privileges, or legal proceedings established under the old laws.

5. Galaxy Frogs (Biodiversity)

Current Threat- A new study highlights that Galaxy Frogs (*Melanobatrachus indicus*) are vanishing from the Western Ghats due to habitat disturbance caused by photo tourism.

Species Profile- They are one of the rarest amphibians, endemic to the wet evergreen forests of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Unique Traits- These frogs live exclusively under rotten logs, do not produce mating calls (using spots for communication instead), and require highly specific temperature and humidity conditions to survive.

Conservation Status- Listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

6. Geography of Gambia

A tragic boat accident occurred off the coast of this West African nation, which is a key departure point for migrants aiming for Europe (via the Canary Islands).

Unique Geography- Gambia is a narrow country almost entirely surrounded by Senegal, except for a short strip of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

River-Centric- The country is geographically centered around the River Gambia, which runs east to west through the nation, defining its ecology and transport.

7. Tribal Status Row in Assam

The Issue- The Coordination Committee of Tribal Organisations of Assam (CCTOA) has opposed the state government's proposal to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities (including Tai Ahom, Koch-Rajbongshi, and Tea Tribes).

Arguments Against

Criteria Violation- Critics argue that ST status should be based on primitive traits and social backwardness, not political demands.

Reservation Cap- There are fears that adding these populous groups will dilute the benefits for existing tribes and breach the 50% reservation ceiling set by the Supreme Court.

8. World's First Carbon Tax (CBAM)

Implementation- The **European Union** has begun implementing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), effective from January 1.

Mechanism- It imposes a "carbon tariff" on imports of carbon-intensive goods (such as steel, cement, aluminum, and fertilizers) entering the EU.

Purpose- The goal is to prevent "Carbon Leakage" (companies moving production to countries with weaker climate laws) and to push global industries toward cleaner production methods in line with the EU's "Fit for 55" climate targets.

