

8. Short News

1. Rising Initial Public Offering (IPO)

India is now the world's largest IPO market by number (311 IPOs in 9 months of FY 2025-26) and 3rd largest by value. The process where a private company sells shares to the public for the first time to become a listed company.

Key Features

- Regulator- SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) sets rules.
- Process- Managed by Merchant Bankers; involves underwriting and listing on exchanges (NSE/BSE).

Benefits

- Access to large capital for growth.
- Provides an exit route for early investors/founders.
- Increases company credibility.

Risks- High compliance costs, market volatility, and pressure for short-term performance.

2. SpaceX Crew-11 Mission

First-ever medical evacuation from the International Space Station (ISS) occurred involving Crew-11 members.

Mission Details

- Operated by- NASA's Commercial Crew Program (SpaceX).
- Vehicle- Crew Dragon spacecraft launched on a Falcon 9 rocket.
- Crew- 4 astronauts.

Significance- Proved emergency preparedness capability. Sets vital precedents for medical protocols in future deep-space missions (Artemis/Mars).

3. 77th Republic Day Celebration (2026)

Chief Guests- Two European Union leaders—António Luís Santos da Costa (President, European Council) and Ursula von der Leyen (President, European Commission).

Theme- 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'.

Venue- Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

Significance-

- Highlights the strategic importance of the India-EU partnership.
- Focus on trade (FTA talks), clean energy, and security.

4. Indelible Ink

Controversy- Allegations during Maharashtra civic polls that the ink could be removed using sanitizers/nail polish remover.

About the Ink

Purpose- Prevents duplicate voting ("One person, one vote").

Composition- Contains Silver Nitrate (reacts with skin and light to leave a permanent mark).

Manufacturer- Solely by Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd (Karnataka).

History- Developed by National Physical Laboratory; used since 1962.

Official Stance- Procedural checks exist to prevent fraud even if ink fades.

5. Orbital Datacentres

Google (Project Suncatcher) and ISRO are exploring placing data centers in space.

Concept- Hosting AI infrastructure on satellite constellations in Low-Earth Orbit (LEO).

- Energy- Access to uninterrupted solar power.
- Cooling- Space vacuum can aid thermal management (though technically challenging).
- Sustainability- Reduces carbon footprint on Earth.

Challenges- Maintenance in orbit, heat dissipation in a vacuum, and high costs.

6. Root Wilt Disease (RWD)

Threat- A major disease affecting Coconut plantations in Peninsular India (Kerala, TN, Karnataka).

Pathogen- Phytoplasma (a wall-less bacteria).

Transmission- Spread by insect vectors (sucking pests) and wind.

Symptoms

1. "Rib-like" flaccidity (wilting) of leaflets.
2. Yellowing of leaves.
3. Decline in nut yield.

Cure- No definitive curative treatment exists yet.

7. Elevated Wildlife Corridor in Kaziranga

PM to inaugurate a 34.5 km elevated corridor in Assam.

Purpose- To allow safe passage for animals during annual floods and reduce road accidents.

Kaziranga National Park Facts

- a. Location- Assam (Brahmaputra valley floodplain).
- b. Key Species- Hosts 70% of the world's One-Horned Rhinoceros.
- c. Status- UNESCO World Heritage Site & Important Bird Area.

8. Sukhatme National Award in Statistics

Nominations invited for the 2026 award.

Institution- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Named After- Prof. P. V. Sukhatme (famous for agricultural statistics).

Criteria

- a. Indian citizens aged 45 and above.
- b. Awarded for lifetime contribution to the statistical system.
- c. Presented on Statistics Day (29 June).