

8. Short News

1. Education- ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram

Achievement- Chandigarh has become a fully literate Union Territory with a 99.93% literacy rate, following Ladakh.

Target Group- Empowers individuals aged 15 and above who missed formal schooling.

Core Focus- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), digital literacy, financial awareness, and critical life skills.

Incentives- Student volunteers earn academic credits and certificates for teaching.

2. Energy & Agriculture- 4th National Agro-RE Summit

Concept- Focuses on Agrivoltaics—using the same land for solar power and farming simultaneously.

Income Boost- Estimated to increase annual farmer income from ₹60,000 to over ₹1 lakh per acre.

PM-KUSUM 2.0- A successor scheme is planned with a 10 GW dedicated component for Agri-PV (solar panels co-located with crops).

Progress- India's non-fossil fuel capacity has surged to 275 GW in 2026, up from 81 GW in 2014.

3. Media- Prasar Bharati's PB-SHABD Service

Service- A logo-free news feed (video, audio, text, photos) for media organizations.

Update- Free access has been extended until March 2027.

Infrastructure- Delivers over 1,000 daily stories in major Indian languages via 1,500+ reporters.

4. Health Emergency- Ethylene Glycol Contamination

Crisis- In Rajamahendravaram, AP, 11-13 deaths occurred due to milk adulterated with Ethylene Glycol (industrial coolant).

Toxicity- The body converts this sweet-tasting chemical into toxic acids, leading to acute renal (kidney) failure.

Comparison- **Diethylene Glycol (DEG)** is similar but has a larger molecular structure; both are dangerous industrial solvents often found as illegal substitutes in medicines or food.

5. Environment- Standing Authority on EIA (SAEIA)

Purpose- To prevent delays in environmental clearances when state-level bodies (SEIAA/SEAC) are non-functional.

Mechanism- If an application is not appraised within 120 days, it is automatically forwarded to the SAEIA via the PARIVESH Portal.

Accountability- Introduces penalties for administrative delays and protections against the arbitrary removal of committee members.

6. Water- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Extension

Timeline- The mission is extended to December 2028 (originally 2024).

New Outlay- Total budget increased to ₹8.69 lakh crore.

JJM 2.0- Shifts focus from building pipes to service delivery (ensuring water actually flows 24x7).

Digital Tool- "Sujalam Bharat" will provide a unique ID to every village to map water systems from source to tap.

7. Safety & Infrastructure- National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA)

Office- New headquarters inaugurated in New Delhi.

Digital Tools-

NETRA- An AI-powered engine for tracking dam safety.

RBSD- A visualization tool for "Dam Break Analysis" (DBA) to predict flood impacts.

8. Economy- Challenges in Glass & Investment

Glass Industry- Faces fuel supply curbs due to West Asia conflicts impacting LNG; centers like Firozabad (Glass City) are particularly vulnerable.

NIIF- India's sovereign wealth fund raised \$750 million for its Second Private Market Fund to boost infrastructure.

9. Space- Asteroid 2024 YR4

Discovery- NASA and the James Webb Space Telescope confirmed this "Near-Earth Asteroid" poses no collision risk to the Moon or Earth in 2032.

10. Defence- SIPRI Report (2021-2025)

India's Rank- Remained the world's second-largest arms importer (8.2% of global share).

Shift- Reliance on Russia dropped to 40% (from 70% a decade ago) as India turns toward France, Israel, and the USA.

Global Leaders- USA (42% share) and France (9.8% share) are the top global arms suppliers.

11. Energy- Coal Gasification

Definition- Converting coal into syngas (Hydrogen + Carbon Monoxide) while still underground (UCG).

Goal- Aims for 100 million tonnes of gasification by 2030 to reduce dependency on imported natural gas.

12. Environment- National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI)

Assessment- Uses ISRO satellite data to measure chlorophyll content along 30,000 km of highways.

Metric- Expressed as a percentage of vegetation within the Right of Way (RoW) of National Highways.

