

Proba-3 Mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C59/Proba 3 mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

Key Points

- ❖ The Proba-3 mission is short for **PRoject for On-Board Autonomy 3**.
- ❖ The mission is led by the **European Space Agency (ESA)**. The mission was carried into space by the **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-XL rocket**.

- ❖ The **Proba-3 mission comprises two small satellites: Coronagraph Spacecraft and**

Occulter

Spacecraft.



By blocking the Sun's disc, the Occulter spacecraft will be able to investigate the Sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, using the Coronagraph. The Occulter spacecraft weighs 240 kg and the Coronagraph spacecraft weighs around 310 kg.

- ❖ This was PSLV 61st flight and the 26th of the XL variant.

- ❖ **Proba-1**, an Earth-observation satellite with a novel hyperspectral instrument was launched in 2001; **Proba-2**, a sun-studying spacecraft with more than 20 technology and science payloads that took flight in 2009; and **Proba-V**, which launched in 2012 to map Earth's vegetation (the "V" in the mission's name) using innovative science gear.

IN-SPACE

NCVET recognizes IN-SPACE as an awarding body to boost vocational training in the space sector.

Key Points

- ❖ The National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has officially recognized the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE) as an awarding body.
- ❖ The recognition **aims to strengthen the vocational education and training landscape in the space sector**.

About IN-SPACEe

- ❖ Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) is a **single-window, independent, nodal agency that functions as an autonomous agency in the Department of Space (DOS)**.
- ❖ It is formed following the Space sector reforms to enable and facilitate the participation of private players.
- ❖ IN-SPACE is responsible to promote, enable, authorize and supervise various space activities of non-governmental entities including building launch vehicles & satellites and providing space-based services; sharing space infrastructure and premises under the control of DOS/ISRO; and establishing of new space infrastructure and facilities.

- ❖ The **NCVET, serving as the national regulator for vocational education and training**, plays a vital role in setting standards, developing regulations, and improving the quality and outcomes of skilling initiatives across the country.
- ❖ It is responsible for the recognition and regulation of awarding bodies and assessment agencies that are instrumental in developing a highly skilled workforce to meet industry demands.

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

The Lok Sabha has passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The Bill seeks to amend the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.**
- ❖ The Bill also seeks to **increase the option for nominees per bank account to four**, from the existing one.
- ❖ The bill also proposes to redefine substantial interest for directorships, which could increase to **two crore rupees instead of the current limit of five lakh rupees.**
- ❖ The proposed amendment will strengthen the governance in the banking sector apart from enhancing customer convenience.

Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill 2024

The Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The **Bill amends the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948.**
- ❖ It expands the definition of Mineral oils, which include naturally occurring hydrocarbon, coal bed methane, and shale gas.
- ❖ It **clarifies that mineral oils will not include coal, lignite or helium.**
- ❖ The Bill ensures policy stability, sharing of infrastructure, carbon capture, decriminalisation and easy resolution of disputes.

Nano Bubble Technology

Union Minister launches 'Nano Bubble Technology'.

Key Points

- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Forest, Environment and Climate Change has launched '**Nano Bubble Technology**' for **cleaning and purifying water of National Zoological Park, Delhi** to promote the health of aquatic animals.
- ❖ This technology **can clean dirty pond water by removing algae and similar growths.**
- ❖ This technology is to keep water clean, ensuring the health and well-being of aquatic creatures. Clean water prevents foul smells, algae buildup, and discoloration often caused by dirty pond water. This new technology will improve water quality and benefit the animals.
- ❖ It is **being tested in the zoo for the first time on a trial basis.** If successful, it will be used in the zoo.

Urban Infrastructure Development Fund

Recently, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs informed in Lok Sabha that the government has set up the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) through use of priority sector lending shortfall for creating urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

Key Points

- ❖ **UIDF aims to supplement the efforts of the State Governments** for urban infrastructure development works implemented through Public/State Agencies, Municipal Corporations and Urban Local Bodies, by providing a stable and predictable source of financing.

- ❖ The Fund is managed by the National Housing Bank.
- ❖ It focuses on basic services like sewerage and Solid Waste Management, water supply and sanitation, construction and improvement of drains/storm water drains

Windfall tax

The Indian government has abolished the windfall tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), crude oil, petrol, and diesel, effective immediately.

Key Points

- ❖ A **windfall tax** is an additional levy imposed on extraordinary or unexpected profits made by companies or industries.
- ❖ India introduced the windfall tax on domestic crude oil production in **July 2022**, following a sharp rise in global crude oil prices.
- ❖ The tax aimed to capture excess revenue generated from these unexpected gains.
- ❖ Since its implementation, the tax has been a subject of controversy. While it initially sought to balance government revenue amid fluctuating oil prices, industry players argued that it negatively impacted profitability and disincentivised production.

Person In News- Worldwide

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

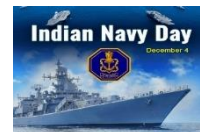
- ❖ She became the eighth President of Namibia.
- ❖ She became the first female president of Namibia.
- ❖ Namibia is a country in Southern Africa. Its western border is the Atlantic Ocean. It shares land borders with Angola and Zambia to the north, Botswana to the east and South Africa to the east and south.



Important Days/Dates

4th December

- ❖ **Navy Day**
- ❖ Navy Day is celebrated on the 4th of December every year to recognize the achievements and role of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It was on this day in **1971**, during **Operation Trident**, the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels including PNS Khaibar, killing hundreds of Pakistani Navy personnel.



Species in News

African openbill stork

- ❖ African openbill stork was observed in the Kanjani Kole fields, Kerala. The observation was made by Subin K.S., a birdwatcher from Thrissur.
- ❖ **Scientific name:** *Anastomus lamelligerus*,
- ❖ **Appearance:** African openbill stork is a medium-sized, all-dark stork with a mostly greenish gloss and a uniquely-shaped bill that creates a diagnostic gap between the two halves of the bill. Its flight is slow and laborious.
- ❖ The long neck and feet separate it from other dark waterbirds.
- ❖ **Habitat:** It prefers still waters in shallow lakes, swamps, and seasonal pans, where it uses its odd bill to extract snails and mussels from their shells.
- ❖ **Conservation status:** The IUCN lists the African openbill as Least Concern.



Important News- Other States

Assam	The Assam Chief Minister has inaugurated the Assam State Commission for the Right to Public Services at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra. The initiative marks a historic step toward bolstering transparency and greater accountability in the provision of public services.
--------------	--

Important News- Worldwide

South Korea

- ❖ South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has announced the lifting of **emergency martial law after the National Assembly voted to end it**, following fierce backlash from lawmakers across the political spectrum. The law was imposed calling it a necessary measure to protect the country from North Korea's communist forces and to eliminate anti-state elements.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ **'Brain rot' has been named Oxford Word of the Year 2024.** Defined as "mental deterioration caused by overconsumption of trivial or low-quality online content," the term saw a 230% rise in usage between 2023 and 2024. The first recorded use of 'brain rot' was found in 1854 in Henry David Thoreau's book *Walden*, which reports his experiences of living a simple lifestyle in the natural world.

- ❖ The Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, is developing the National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap) to integrate State Legal Metrology Departments and their portals into a unified National System.
- ❖ This initiative aims to streamline processes for issuing licenses, conducting verifications and managing enforcement and compliance.
- ❖ The **Vigyanika: Science Literature Festival, one of the most prominent events of the IISF 2024** was held in New Delhi. The event was specifically focused on the theme "From Folklore to Future: An Indian Literary Exploration".
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has reclassified packaged drinking water and **mineral water as a 'High-Risk Food Category'**.
- ❖ India has been chosen as the **host country for the first-ever Women's T20 World Cup for the Blind in 2025**. The decision was made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC).

○○○○

