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**DAILY  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**

**25th Mar 2026**

**TOPICS:-**

- 1. National AI Skilling Initiative**
- 2. Minor Planet Centre (MPC)**
- 3. Akasha300 3D Printer**
- 4. Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP)**
- 5. GARBH-INi Initiative**
- 6. Other Important News of the day**
- 7. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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## NATIONAL AI SKILLING INITIATIVE

News On AIR

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launches National AI Skilling Initiative, My WAVES, in built TV Tuner and Advanced EPG | DD News On Air



Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw today said that the government's push for democratisation of technology has...

### Why in News

- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** launched the **National AI Skilling Initiative** to strengthen AI capabilities.

### Institutional Framework

- It is implemented through the **Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)**.
- It is developed in partnership with **Google and YouTube**.
- It targets training of **15,000 participants in AI-related skills**.

### Programme Design

- Phase I focuses on **foundational AI courses such as AI Essentials and Generative AI learning paths**.
- Phase II emphasizes **advanced, project-based specialization for creative industries**.
- Training is conducted across **major Indian cities with industry-oriented curriculum**.

### Strategic Significance

- It strengthens the **AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics) sector**.
- It enhances **digital economy readiness and workforce employability**.
- It aligns with India's push for **AI-led innovation and creative industry growth**.

## MINOR PLANET CENTRE (MPC)

The Hindu

### What is the Minor Planet Centre?

Last week, the Minor Planet Centre (MPC) announced 15 new moons had been found, four around Jupiter and 11 around Saturn.



### Why in News

- The **Minor Planet Centre (MPC)** recently reported discovery of **15 new moons around Jupiter and Saturn**.

## Institutional Structure

- It operates under the **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**.
- It is located in **Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA)** at the **Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory**.

## Core Functions

- It serves as the **global repository for observations of small celestial bodies**.
- It tracks **asteroids, comets, and outer planet moons**.
- It monitors **Near-Earth Objects (NEOs)** for potential collision threats.
- It publishes **electronic circulars for global scientific communication**.

## Scientific Relevance

- It plays a crucial role in **planetary defense and space situational awareness**.
- It supports **astronomical research and orbital prediction systems**.

## AKASHA300 3D PRINTER

 India Today

Indian startup delivers Akasha300 3D printer to Isro. It can print rocket parts

India's push toward self-reliance in high-performance engineering received a significant boost with the successful launch and first delivery...



## Why in News

- A Kerala-based startup delivered the **Akasha300 3D Printer to ISRO**, boosting indigenous manufacturing.

## Technological Features

- It is a **high-temperature multi-material extrusion 3D printer**.
- It supports **dual-extrusion with temperatures up to 350°C (upgradeable to 500°C)**.
- It includes **a heated bed (110–150°C) and enclosed chamber (~80°C)**.



## Design Capabilities

- It has a **modular extruder system enabling hybrid additive manufacturing**.
- It integrates **robust motion systems and air filtration mechanisms**.

## Strategic Significance

- It strengthens **Atmanirbhar Bharat in advanced manufacturing technologies**.
- It enhances **ISRO's capability in rapid prototyping and component fabrication**.

## MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MSE-CDP)

**CW** Construction World

### MSME Implements Cluster Development Programme Nationwide

25 Mar 2026 2 Min Read CW Team. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is implementing the Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development...



### Why in News

- The government updated information on the **MSE-CDP scheme in Rajya Sabha.**

### Governance Framework

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of MSME.**
- It follows a **demand-driven cluster-based development approach.**



### Programme Components

- **Common Facility Centres (CFCs)** provide shared infrastructure like testing and training.
- **Infrastructure Development (ID)** supports industrial estates and cluster facilities.

### Developmental Objectives

- It enhances **productivity, competitiveness, and technological upgradation of MSEs.**
- It promotes **green and sustainable manufacturing practices.**
- It strengthens **market access and institutional capacity of enterprises.**

### Economic Significance

- It supports **MSME-led employment generation and regional industrialization.**
- It aligns with **Make in India and inclusive growth strategies.**

## GARBH-INI INITIATIVE

### Why in News

- The government highlighted progress under the **GARBH-INI initiative studying 12,000 pregnant women.**

**ETV** Bharat

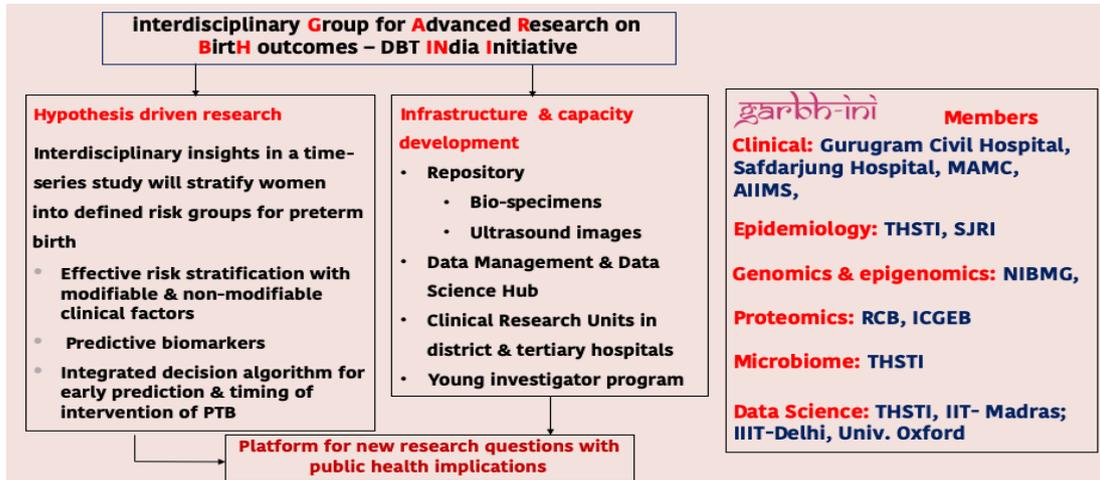
**Every 2 Seconds A Preterm Birth, Every 40 Seconds a Death: India Turns to AI to Fight Crisis**

A baby is born early every two seconds globally, with one dying every 40 seconds. India accounts for 3.6 million preterm births annually.



### Institutional Framework

- It is implemented by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**.
- It is led by **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad**.
- It is part of the **Atal Jai Anusandhan Biotech Mission (UNaTI)**.



### Research Objectives

- It aims to study **preterm birth (PTB)** and **fetal growth restriction (FGR)**.
- It develops **AI-driven predictive tools** for maternal health outcomes.

### Health Significance

- Preterm birth is defined as **birth before 37 weeks of gestation**.
- It contributes significantly to **infant mortality and long-term morbidity**.

### Policy Relevance and Way Forward

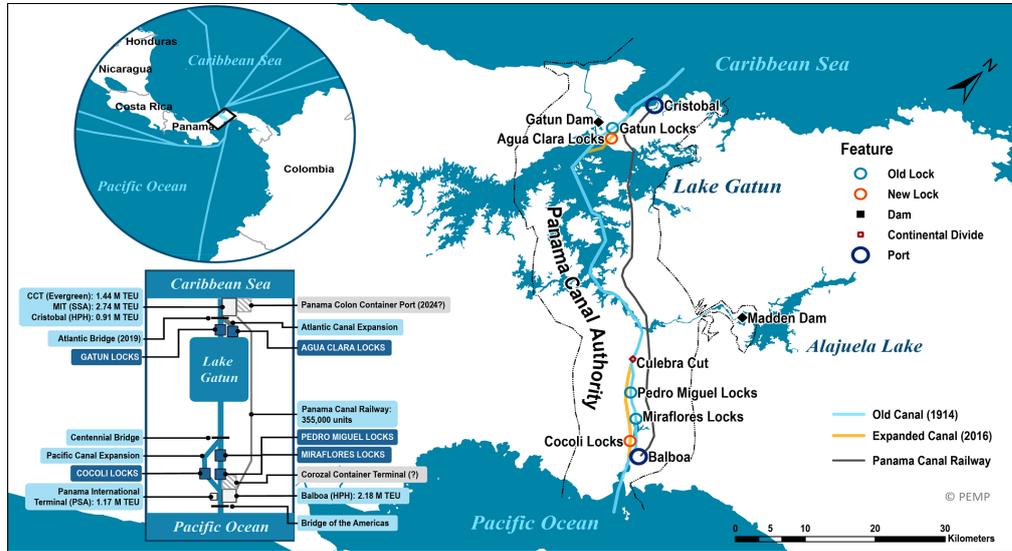
- It supports **evidence-based maternal healthcare policy formulation**.
- Integration with **public health systems like NHM can improve outcomes**.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

<b>Places in News</b>	<h3><u>PANAMA CANAL</u></h3>
	<p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The canal is operating at <b>maximum capacity due to increased LNG traffic linked to geopolitical tensions</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Geostrategic Importance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It connects the <b>Atlantic and Pacific Oceans across the Isthmus of Panama</b>.</li> <li>➤ It is a key <b>global maritime trade route reducing shipping distance and cost</b>.</li> </ul>

### Operational Mechanism

- It uses a **lock system functioning as water elevators** to manage elevation differences.



- Ships are raised or lowered through flooded or drained lock chambers.

### Historical Evolution

- Completed in **1914 by the United States**.
- Full control transferred to **Panama in 1999** after joint administration.

### Environment

## HUDSONIAN GODWIT

France 24

[Can nations save the shorebird that flies 30,000 km a year?](#)

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) (AFP) – Chasing an endless summer, one shorebird species undertakes a grueling annual journey from the Arctic to the...



### Why in News

- The population of **Hudsonian godwit (Limosa haemastica)** has declined by nearly **95% over four decades** due to environmental changes.

### Ecological Profile

- It is a large migratory shorebird belonging to the **family Scolopacidae**.
- It breeds in **sub-Arctic wetlands like sedge meadows and muskeg regions**.
- It migrates annually from the **Arctic to Patagonia covering ~11,000 km non-stop**.
- It feeds mainly on **insects and crustaceans in shallow waters**.

### Geographical Distribution

- It is primarily found across **North America and parts of South America.**
- Breeding occurs in **Alaska and Canada**, while wintering occurs in **southern South America.**

### Threats and Conservation Status

- **Climate change and habitat loss** are the primary threats affecting its survival.
- It is listed as **Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List.**

### Science and Technology

## TITANIUM

TH The Hindu

[Ahead of Chandrayaan-4, IIT and PRL team decodes moon's titanium-rich rocks](#)

IIT and PRL researchers unveil insights on titanium-rich lunar rocks, aiding ISRO's Chandrayaan-4 mission to select landing sites.



### Why in News

- Researchers from **IIT-Kharagpur and PRL Ahmedabad** studied **titanium-rich lunar rocks.**

### Chemical and Physical Properties

- It is the **4th most abundant metal and 9th most abundant element in Earth's crust.**
- It is **highly corrosion-resistant and has high strength-to-weight ratio.**
- It is the only element that **burns in nitrogen.**

### Extraction and Ores

- Major ores include **Ilmenite (FeTiO<sub>3</sub>) and Rutile (TiO<sub>2</sub>).**
- It is extracted using the **Kroll Process** involving magnesium reduction.

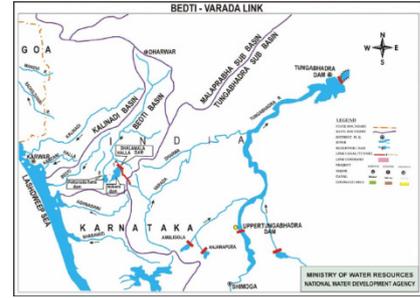
### Applications

- Used in **aerospace, defence, biomedical implants, and alloy manufacturing.**
- Titanium oxide helps in **astronomical identification of red dwarf stars.**

Rivers in  
NewsAGHANASHINI RIVER

## Why in News

- **UNESCO** advised compliance with **World Heritage norms** for the **Aghanashini–Vedavathi river linking project**.



## Geographical Characteristics

- It originates from **Gadihalli in the Western Ghats (Karnataka)** at **676 m altitude**.
- It flows for about **117 km** before **draining into the Arabian Sea at Tadri**.
- It has a catchment area of **1449 sq. km** with heavy **orographic rainfall (2500–6300 mm)**.

## Ecological Significance

- It is one of the few **free-flowing rivers in the world**.
- Its estuary is a **Ramsar Site rich in mangroves and biodiversity**.

## Environmental Concerns

- River linking may affect **hydrological integrity and biodiversity conservation**.
- UNESCO norms emphasize **sustainable management of ecologically sensitive zones**.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS**KALINJAR FORT AREA DECLARED NATIONAL GEO-HERITAGE SITE**

## Why in News

- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** declared the **Kalinjar Fort region (Banda, Uttar Pradesh)** as a **National Geo-Heritage Site**.

## Geological Significance

- The site features the **Eparchaeon Unconformity**, indicating a major geological time gap.
- It shows **2.5 billion-year-old Bundelkhand Granite** overlain by **1.2 billion-year-**

### **old Kaimur Sandstone.**

- It is important for studying **Precambrian geology and Earth's early evolution.**

### **Geographical Context**

- It lies in the **Vindhya Range** within the **Bundelkhand craton**, one of India's oldest landmasses.
- The area exhibits **rocky plateau terrain with ancient sedimentary formations.**

### **Historical and Cultural Importance**

- The fort was ruled by **Guptas, Vardhanas, Chandelas, Mughals, Marathas, and British.**
- The **Chandela rulers** developed it and built the **Neelkanth Mahadev Temple.**
- It is associated with **Samudra Manthan mythology**, where **Lord Shiva consumed poison.**
- **Sher Shah Suri died in 1545** during the siege of the fort.

### **Governance and Tourism Relevance**

- The designation promotes **geo-conservation and scientific research under GSI.**
- It is expected to boost **geo-tourism and link Kalinjar with Khajuraho–Chitrakoot circuit.**
- Sustainable development is required to balance **tourism and ecological protection.**