

26/07/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Sarnath:*

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today expressed that it is a proud moment for every Indian, sharing his delight that Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The “Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath” is nominated under criteria (iii) and (vi), recognizing enduring spiritual significance of Sarnath Cr. (iii), one of the four principal destinations of Buddhist pilgrimage, as demonstrated by the large number of religious buildings and other monuments that were built and rebuilt on-site during the many centuries of its existence and through Cr.(vi) direct and tangible way to the events in the life of the Buddha that are of outstanding significance to the Buddhist community – his first sermon and meeting of his first disciples.

About Sarnath:

- ❖ Sarnath, located near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, is the place where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon (Dhammachakkappavattana/Turning of the Wheel of Dharma) after attaining enlightenment, marking the beginning of the Buddhist Sangha and the proclamation of the Noble Eightfold Path.
- ❖ Sarnath is one of the four holiest Buddhist pilgrimage sites, along with Lumbini (birth), Bodhi Gaya (enlightenment), and Kushinagar (Mahaparinirvana/death), as identified by Buddha himself; his relics were enshrined in stupas at these sacred places.
- ❖ Sarnath was known by the ancient names Rishipatana (Ishipatana), Mrigadava, and Mrigadaya, while the modern name is believed to be derived from Saranganatha ("Lord of the Deer").
- ❖ Sarnath developed through royal, monastic, and lay patronage, preserving monuments from the pre-Mauryan period (5th–4th century BCE) to the 12th century CE, representing a continuous cultural sequence of nearly 16 centuries.
- ❖ The site reflects the architectural evolution through the Mauryan, Kushan, Gupta, and Gahadavala periods, before declining after the 12th century CE and being rediscovered in the 18th century.
- ❖ The UNESCO serial property comprises two components—Chaukhandi Stupa and the Archaeological Remains of Sarnath, including Dhamek Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa, Ashokan Pillar, Mulagandha Kuti Vihara, monasteries, temples, and numerous votive stupas.
- ❖ Chaukhandi Stupa, built around the 5th century CE, commemorates Buddha's visit to Sarnath and is a brick structure topped by an octagonal tower added in 1588 CE by Govardhan, son of Raja Todarmal, to commemorate Humayun's visit.
- ❖ Dhamek Stupa, built around 500 CE, marks the exact spot where Buddha delivered his first sermon.
- ❖ Dharmarajika Stupa was built by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE to enshrine the relics of Buddha.
- ❖ The Ashokan Pillar, bearing one of Ashoka's edicts, was originally crowned by the Lion Capital, which was adopted as the State Emblem of India on 26 January 1950.
- ❖ Numerous monasteries, temples, and votive stupas were constructed at Sarnath between the 3rd century BCE and the 12th century CE.
- ❖ After the Kalinga War, Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism and promoted it by constructing stupas, monasteries, and the Ashokan Pillar at Sarnath.

- ❖ Sarnath flourished under the Kushan rulers, while the Gupta rulers renovated the monuments and added stone-carved floral and geometric decorations to the Dhamek Stupa.
- ❖ Harshavardhana restored Sarnath after the Huna invasions.
- ❖ The site suffered major destruction during the 11th-century raid of Mahmud of Ghazni, but was later restored by Mahipala of the Pala dynasty.
- ❖ The Dharmachakra Jina Vihara, the last major monument at Sarnath, was built in the 11th century by Kumaradevi, wife of Govindachandra of the Gahadavala dynasty.
- ❖ The first scientific excavation of Sarnath was conducted by Sir Alexander Cunningham, the first Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), during 1834–36, while the Ashokan Lion Capital and pillar base were excavated in 1904–05 by Friedrich Oscar Oertel.
- ❖ The Sarnath Archaeological Museum preserves the original Lion Capital and numerous important sculptures and artefacts, while the Mulagandha Kuti Vihara, built by the Mahabodhi Society, contains famous frescoes depicting the life of Buddha.
- ❖ Sarnath is one of the most extensively excavated archaeological sites in India, preserving a stratified settlement spanning nearly 16 centuries (5th–4th century BCE to the 12th century CE).
- ❖ Sarnath symbolizes the origin of Buddhist teachings, the establishment of the Buddhist Sangha, and the spread of Buddhism (Dharma) from India to the world.
- ❖ After the declaration of Sarnath as the World Heritage Property, three of the four most significant Buddhist Pilgrim sites; i.e. Lumbini (Nepal), Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (Bihar) and now Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh) are now included in the World Heritage, along with several other important Buddhist sites such as Sanchi, Nalanda, Ajanta (all three in India), Anuradhapur (Sri Lanka) Paharpur (Bangladesh), Taxila and Takht-i-Bahi (both in present day Pakistan), etc.
- ❖ With 45 sites in the List, India ranks 6th globally and 2nd in Asia Pacific Region for the most number of World Heritage Sites. 196 nations have ratified the World Heritage Convention, 1972. India also has 69 sites in the Tentative List of the World Heritage, which is a mandatory threshold for any site to be considered as a World Heritage property in future.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF INDIA											
	Site	Loc	Location	Year	Description Summary		Site	Location	Year	Description Summary	
1		Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra	1983	Buddhist rock-cut caves famous for ancient paintings, sculptures and religious art from different periods.	22		Mountain Railways of India	West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh	1999; extended 2005 and 2008	Historic mountain railway systems demonstrating innovative engineering in challenging Himalayan and hill environments.
2		Ellora Caves	Maharashtra	1983	A remarkable complex of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain rock-cut temples and monasteries, including the Kailasa Temple.	23		Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhi Gaya	Bihar	2002	Sacred Buddhist complex marking the place associated with Buddha's Enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.
3		Agra Fort	Uttar Pradesh	1983	Massive Mughal imperial fortress showcasing Indo-Islamic architecture, palaces, audience halls and mosques.	24		Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh	2003	Prehistoric rock shelters containing ancient paintings and evidence of human habitation spanning long periods.
4		Taj Mahal	Uttar Pradesh	1983	Iconic white-marble Mughal mausoleum built by Shah Jahan in memory of Mumtaz Mahal.	25		Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park	Gujarat	2004	Archaeological landscape containing prehistoric remains, forts, temples, mosques and historic urban structures.
5		Sun Temple, Konark	Odisha	1984	13th-century temple designed as the chariot of the Sun God, representing the excellence of Kalinga architecture.	26		Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus	Maharashtra	2004	Grand railway terminus combining Victorian Gothic Revival architecture with traditional Indian architectural elements.
6		Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu	1984	Pallava-era rock-cut temples, rathas, mandapas and monumental reliefs, including the Shore Temple.	27		Red Fort Complex	Delhi	2007	Mughal imperial palace-fort complex built by Shah Jahan and a major symbol of India's historical heritage.
7		Kaziranga National Park	Assam	1985	Biodiversity-rich floodplain ecosystem renowned for the Indian one-horned rhinoceros and other wildlife.	28		Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	Rajasthan	2010	Astronomical observatory containing monumental instruments designed for precise astronomical observations.
8		Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	1985	Himalayan foothill sanctuary with grasslands and forests supporting several endangered species and rich biodiversity.	29		Hill Forts of Rajasthan	Rajasthan	2013	Group of six monumental hill forts reflecting Rajput military architecture, political power and urban development.
9		Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan	1985	Important man-made wetland and bird sanctuary supporting numerous resident and migratory waterbirds.	30		Rani-ki-Vav	Gujarat	2014	Elaborately decorated stepwell showcasing exceptional craftsmanship and the architectural tradition of subterranean water structures.
10		Churches and Convents of Goa	Goa	1986	Historic churches and convents of Old Goa reflecting Portuguese colonial architecture and Christian missionary influence.	31		Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara	Bihar	2016	Remains of the ancient Buddhist monastic and educational centre of Nalanda, a major institution of learning.
11		Khajuraho Group of Monuments	Madhya Pradesh	1986	Group of Hindu and Jain temples renowned for Nagara architecture and richly detailed sculptures.	32		The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier	Chandigarh	2016	Chandigarh Capitol Complex, part of a transnational UNESCO series representing modernist architectural and urban-planning principles.
12		Group of Monuments at Hampi	Karnataka	1986	Ruins of the prosperous Vijayanagara capital, containing temples, palaces, civic structures and fortifications.	33		Historic City of Ahmadabad	Gujarat	2017	Historic walled city known for its traditional urban fabric, forts, monuments and Hindu, Jain and Islamic architectural heritage.
13		Fatehpur Sikri	Uttar Pradesh	1986	Former Mughal capital built under Akbar, noted for its grand palaces, mosques and distinctive Mughal architecture.	34		Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai	Maharashtra	2018	Architectural ensemble showcasing the transition from Victorian Gothic public buildings to Art Deco urban architecture.
14		Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	Karnataka	1987	Chalukyan temple complex blending northern and southern Indian architectural traditions.	35		Jaipur City, Rajasthan	Rajasthan	2019	Historic planned city founded in the 18th century, notable for its grid-based urban planning and distinctive architecture.
15		Elephanta Caves	Maharashtra	1987	Rock-cut cave temples on Elephanta Island, particularly famous for monumental sculptures dedicated to Shiva.	36		Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple	Telangana	2021	13th-century Kakatiya temple celebrated for its sophisticated architecture, sculpture and distinctive construction techniques.
16		Great Living Chola Temples	Tamil Nadu	1987; extended 2004	Three major Chola temples representing the height of Dravidian temple architecture and Chola artistic achievement.	37		Dholavira: a Harappan City	Gujarat	2021	Well-preserved Harappan urban settlement demonstrating advanced town planning, water management and craft traditions.
17		Sundarbans National Park	West Bengal	1987	Mangrove ecosystem in the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta, famous for Bengal tigers and rich biodiversity.	38		Santiniketan	West Bengal	2023	Cultural and educational centre founded by Rabindranath Tagore, representing an innovative synthesis of education, art and culture.
18		Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	Uttarakhand	1988; extended 2005	High-altitude Himalayan landscapes containing alpine meadows, mountain ecosystems and rare flora and fauna.	39		Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas	Karnataka	2023	Three Hoysala temple complexes renowned for intricate sculpture, detailed ornamentation and distinctive temple architecture.
19		Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh	1989	Important Buddhist complex featuring stupas, monasteries, temples and sculpted gateways from ancient India.	40		Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty	Assam	2024	Royal burial mounds of the Ahom dynasty reflecting distinctive funerary traditions, architecture and cultural practices.
20		Humayun's Tomb, Delhi	Delhi	1993	Monumental Mughal garden tomb that influenced the development of later Mughal architecture, including the Taj Mahal.	41		Maratha Military Landscapes of India	Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu	2025	Serial property comprising strategically located forts that demonstrate the military architecture and defensive landscape of the Maratha Empire.
21		Qutb Minar	Delhi	1983	Historic complex centred on the Qutb Minar and surrounding monuments, including the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque.	42					A major Buddhist pilgrimage site

2. *Viksit Vibrant Village Programme 2026:*

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will interact with participants of the Viksit Vibrant Village Programme 2026 on 26 July 2026 at 4:30 PM via video conferencing.

About Viksit Vibrant Village Programme 2026:

- ❖ The Viksit Vibrant Village Programme, implemented through MY Bharat, has been conceptualised to realise Prime Minister's vision of treating India's border villages as the first villages of the nation and making them active partners in the journey towards Viksit Bharat.
- ❖ Vibrant Villages Programme-I (VVP-I) approved on 15 Feb 2023 for development of northern border villages.
- ❖ Covers 662 villages across 46 blocks in 19 districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Ladakh.
- ❖ Focus on livelihood generation including tourism, agriculture, skill development, and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Provides infrastructure support like roads, health, education, energy, and telecom connectivity.
- ❖ Aims to reduce migration by creating incentives for people to stay in border villages.
- ❖ 2558 projects sanctioned under VVP-I with an outlay of ₹3431 crore. ❖ Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) approved on 2 April 2025 as a Central Sector Scheme.
- ❖ Total outlay of ₹6839 crore till FY 2028–29.
- ❖ Expands coverage to strategic villages along other international borders beyond the northern region.
- ❖ Implemented across multiple states including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, J&K, Ladakh and others

3. *Gajanan Maharaj:*

Context: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, has urged the Government of India to commemorate the 150th Prakat Din of the revered saint Shri Sant Gajanan Maharaj by issuing a ₹150 commemorative coin and a commemorative postage stamp.

About Gajanan Maharaj:

- ❖ Sant Gajanan Maharaj (23 February 1878* – 8 September 1910) was a revered Hindu saint, guru, and mystic, primarily associated with Shegaon, Buldhana district, Maharashtra (his birth date and early life remain uncertain; 23 February 1878 is traditionally regarded as his day of appearance).
- ❖ He is believed to have first appeared at Shegaon in February 1878 as a young ascetic, and his origins remain unknown.
- ❖ He attained Sanjeevana Samadhi (voluntary withdrawal from the physical body) on 8 September 1910, commemorated annually as Shree Punyatithi Utsav.
- ❖ His first appearance day is celebrated every year as Prakat Din Sohla.
- ❖ His teachings emphasized spirituality, devotion (Bhakti), compassion, selfless service (Seva), simplicity, and human welfare.
- ❖ His life and teachings are primarily recorded in Shri Gajanan Vijay, a revered devotional text written by Das Ganu, one of his prominent devotees.
- ❖ Another important biography is Shree Gajanan Maharaj Charitra-Kosh, written by Bhargavram (Dasbhargav) Yeodekar, which discusses various traditions regarding his mysterious origins.

- ❖ Shri Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon, inspired by his ideals, is renowned for its contributions to education, healthcare, rural development, social welfare, and humanitarian service.
- ❖ Gajanan Maharaj was popularly known by names such as Gin Gine Buwa, Ganpat Buwa, and Awaliya Baba.
- ❖ Tradition holds that he visited Nashik and nearby pilgrimage centres, including Kapiltirtha, where he is believed to have stayed for several years.
- ❖ Numerous miracles are attributed to Gajanan Maharaj, and these are extensively described in Shri Gajanan Vijay and Gajanan Maharaj Charitra-Kosh.
- ❖ Shegaon has become one of Maharashtra's most important spiritual pilgrimage centres due to the life, teachings, and Samadhi of Sant Gajanan Maharaj.

4. Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme:

Context: The Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme supports non-farm enterprises through training, finance, mentoring, and community-led institutional support. By June 30, 2026, SVEP had supported 4.32 lakh rural enterprises across the country.

About Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme:

- ❖ Launched in 2016, SVEP is a sub-scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- ❖ The programme supports Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their family members in establishing small enterprises in the non-farm sector.
- ❖ It provides financial assistance, institutional support, business management training, soft skill development, and business development services. This promotes sustainable livelihoods and self-employment opportunities in rural areas.
- ❖ SVEP also facilitates access to banking linkages and convergence with government schemes.
- ❖ The strategic focus has been on achieving long-term economic growth and wider social benefits.
- ❖ A key feature of SVEP has been community-based decision-making for funding and supporting enterprises locally.
- ❖ The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is one of the world's largest livelihood initiatives. It mobilizes rural poor households into Self-Help Groups (SHGs), predominantly women.
- ❖ The focus is on providing them with sustainable livelihoods, access to financial services, and skill development. As of mid-June 2026, more than 10.29 crore rural households have been mobilized into SHGs under DAY-NRLM.

5. Son River:

Context: Bihar and Jharkhand are set to sign an agreement to resolve the Sone River water-sharing dispute pending since Jharkhand's creation in 2000.

About Son River:

- ❖ The Son River is a perennial, right-bank tributary of the Ganga, originating from the Amarkantak Hills of the Maikal Range in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It flows through Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Bihar before joining the Ganga.
- ❖ Its major tributaries are Banas, Gopad, Rihand, Kanhar, and North Koel.

- ❖ It is popularly known as "Hiranyavaha" (Stream of Gold) due to its golden-coloured sand, traditionally believed to contain gold dust.
- ❖ The river has significant ecological value as it hosts the Son Gharial Sanctuary, established under Project Crocodile to conserve the critically endangered gharial and the mugger crocodile.
- ❖ The Bansagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh is the major dam constructed across the Son River.

6. *Bhargavastra:*

Context: Bhargavastra is an indigenous, vehicle-mounted, multi-layered Counter-Swarm Drone System developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Ltd. (SDAL) for the Indian Army. It was demonstrated in Nagpur on 24 July 2026 during a Make-II programme status review.

About Bhargavastra:

- ❖ Bhargavastra is an indigenous hard-kill counter-drone system designed to detect, track, and destroy hostile UAVs.
- ❖ It can detect small drones beyond 6 km and larger UAVs up to 10 km.
- ❖ The system can simultaneously detect, track, and engage up to 64 targets.
- ❖ It is designed for rapid deployment on mobile platforms.
- ❖ It uses guided micro-munitions for precise engagement of identified threats.
- ❖ It employs a dual-layer kill mechanism—unguided micro-rockets (20 m lethal radius) followed by precision-guided micro-missiles (up to 2.5 km interception range).
- ❖ It integrates radar, Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) sensors, and passive radio-frequency detectors for target detection and tracking.
- ❖ Counter-drone systems are designed to detect, track, identify, and neutralize hostile UAVs.
- ❖ Weaponized drones are UAVs equipped with explosives, sensors, or attack payloads.
- ❖ Loitering munitions are weapons that remain airborne before striking a target.
- ❖ Drone swarms are multiple drones operating in a coordinated manner.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the District and Subordinate Courts, a sum of Rs. 810 crore has been allocated in the union budget 2026 for judicial infrastructure. In addition, sum of Rs. 1200 crore has been allocated in the union budget 2026 for the eCourts Project Phase-III being implemented for digitisation of courts including necessary training and capacity building programmes.
- ☐ 775 Fast Track Special Courts Functional Across 29 States/UTs; Centre Extends FTSC Scheme Till September 2026. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme to set up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) courts was launched in October 2019, for the expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

- ☐ The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), established by the UN General Assembly in 1966, is the UN's core legal body responsible for harmonizing and modernizing international trade law to reduce legal barriers and facilitate cross-border trade. It has 70 member States, elected by the UN General Assembly for six-year terms. India, a founding member since 1966, is one of only eight countries to have enjoyed continuous membership since its inception. Recently, a conference was held in New Delhi to commemorate the 60th anniversary of UNCITRAL.
- ☐ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has released its bi-monthly Rural Economic Conditions & Sentiments Survey, which highlights growing stress in rural India. About 52.6% of rural households reported no income growth, while only 27.7% experienced an increase, the lowest ever recorded. Households spent 66.5% of their monthly income on consumption, reducing their capacity to save, with financial savings falling to a record low of 17.8%. On the credit front, 51% of households relied on formal sources, whereas 23.6% depended exclusively on informal credit.
- ☐ The United States and Saudi Arabia have signed a 30-year peaceful civil nuclear cooperation agreement. Reportedly, deal would take effect only if Saudi Arabia joined the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords under which several Arab states established ties with Israel. The agreement is based on a Section 123 Agreement under the US Atomic Energy Act.
- ☐ Biofouling is the accumulation of aquatic organisms—including microorganisms, plants, and animals—on surfaces and structures immersed in or exposed to water, such as ship hulls. It may also include pathogens and facilitates the spread of non-native invasive species to new ecosystems. Recently, concerns have arisen that the prolonged anchorage of vessels in the Persian Gulf is increasing biofouling, thereby raising the risk of invasive marine species spreading across regions.
- ☐ India's first domestic benchmark-based natural gas futures contract will launch on 27 July 2026 on the National Stock Exchange. The contract has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India and will trade under the ticker symbol NATGASIND.
- ☐ The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs ordered GitHub to remove the Bluetooth-based chat application Bitchat on 23 July 2026. Bitchat is an open-source, peer-to-peer messaging application that uses Bluetooth Low Energy mesh networks. The app enables encrypted communication between nearby devices, usually within a range of 30 to 100 metres, without internet access, mobile networks, user registration, phone numbers, or central servers.
- ☐ Anahat Singh became the first Indian to be crowned World junior squash champion after she defeated Ruqayya Salem of Egypt in the summit clash at Ontario on Saturday.
- ☐ Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels said on Saturday they fired missiles and drones at Saudi Arabia in response to Saudi airstrikes on the strategic Red Sea city of Hodeida, in another escalation over vital shipping routes in West Asia while the U.S. and Iran vie for control of the Strait of Hormuz. Houthis said they targeted facilities in the Red Sea Saudi cities of Yanbu and Jizan that belong to Aramco, the world's largest oil company.
- ☐ Toxic gases, generated by a sudden explosive release of suspected methane trapped or embedded in rocks on July 20, claimed the lives of 25 workers in an under-construction Head Race Tunnel

(HRT) of the NHPC's 500 MW Teesta Stage VI Hydropower Project at Samardung in Sikkim's Namchi district.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS IN INDIA (2014 – 2023)

The Constitution of India was amended eight times during the last twelve years and the details of the said Constitution Amendment Bills, as enacted, are as under:

S. No.	Constitution Amendment Act	Year	Subject / Main Focus	Description (Summary)
1.	 The Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014	2014	National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)	To establish the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) to replace the collegium system for appointing judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.
2.	 The Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Act, 2015	2015	Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh	To give constitutional effect to the land boundary agreement between India and Bangladesh.
3.	 The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016	2016	Goods and Services Tax (GST)	To provide for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India.
4.	 The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018	2018	National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)	To give constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes.
5.	 The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019	2019	Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)	To provide reservation for Economically Weaker Sections in Government jobs and educational institutions.
6.	 The Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Act, 2019	2019	Extension of Reservation for SCs and STs	To extend the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for another ten years, until January 25, 2030.
7.	 The Constitution (One Hundred and Fifth Amendment) Act, 2021	2021	Articles 342A, 338B and 366 (Consequential Amendments)	To make amendments in Article 342A and consequential amendments thereto in Articles 338B and 366 of the Constitution.
8.	 The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023	2023	Reservation of Seats for Women	To provide reservation of seats for women in the House of People (Lok Sabha) and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.



These amendments reflect India's commitment to strengthening democracy, promoting social justice, ensuring inclusive growth and adapting to the changing needs of the society.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

With reference to biofouling, which of the following defines it appropriately,

- Chemical contamination of seawater by oil spills
- Accumulation of aquatic organisms on submerged surfaces
- Excessive algal growth due to nutrient enrichment
- Corrosion of metal surfaces due to seawater

The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) functions under the:

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- National Informatics Centre
- Ministry of Communications
- Ministry of Home Affairs

With reference to 'Bhargavastra', consider the following statements:

- It is an indigenous hard-kill counter-drone system.
- It is capable of simultaneously detecting, tracking, and engaging multiple aerial targets.
- It neutralizes hostile drones through electronic jamming.
- It is designed for rapid deployment on mobile platforms.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

With reference to the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2016 as a sub-scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
2. It promotes establishment of small enterprises in the non-farm sector.
3. It provides financial assistance to rural women entrepreneurs between age of 18-40 years.
4. It facilitates access to banking linkages and convergence with government schemes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO (CSP 2024)

- 1.Shantiniketan
- 2.Rani ki Vav
- 3.Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
- 4.Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya

How many of the above properties were included in 2023?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four.

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