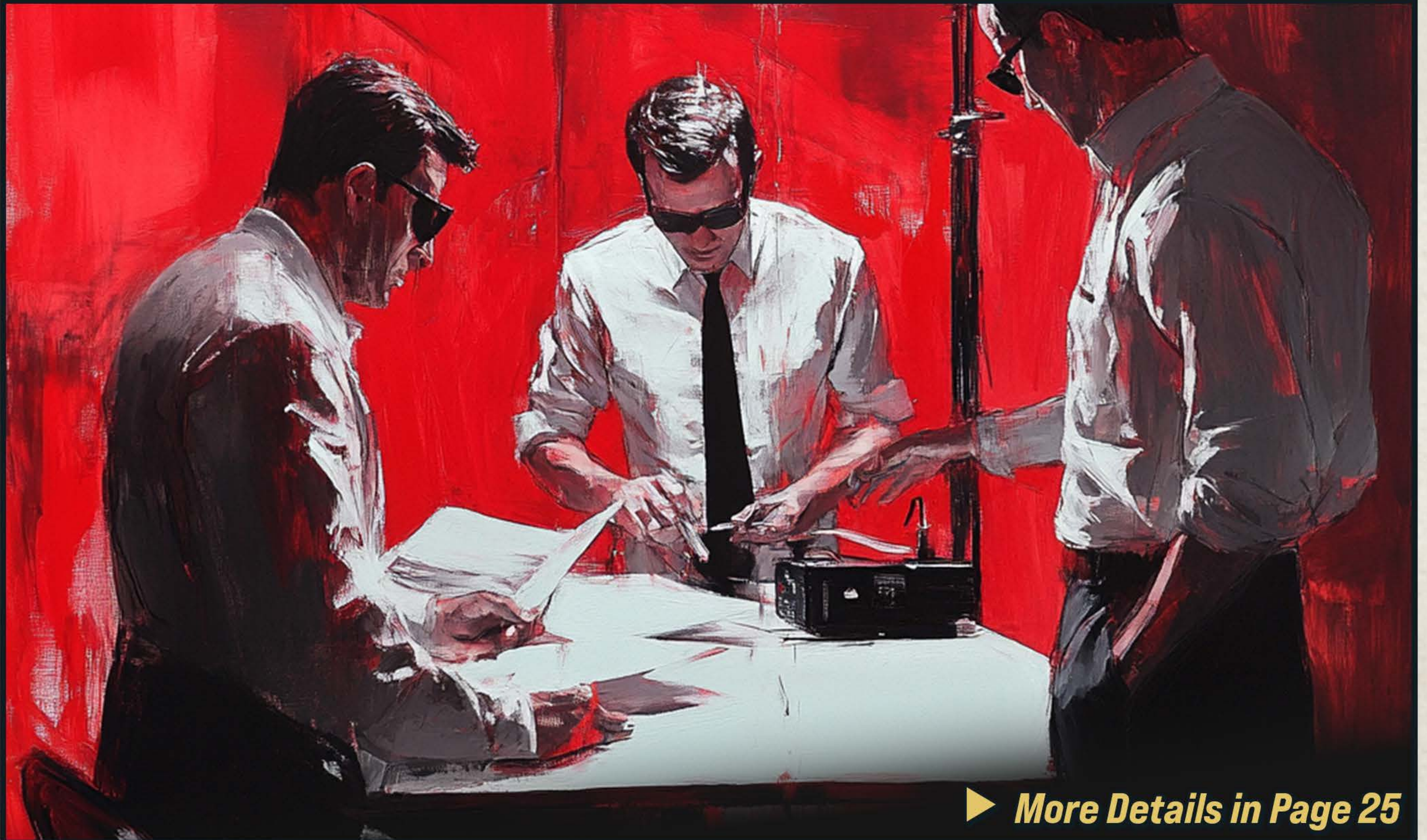


WEEKLY NEWS

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INTERPOL's Silver Notice



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Robotic Telesurgery




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HIGHLIGHTS

- Modified Cashless Treatment
- Polar Vortex

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Dynamic Groundwater Resource Assessment Report 2024

● Why in News?

- ➡ The Ministry of Jal Shakti released the **Dynamic Groundwater Resource Assessment Report 2024**.
- ➡ Conducted annually since 2022 by the **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** and States/UTs.

● Key Findings

➡ Groundwater Recharge

Total annual groundwater recharge decreased from **449 BCM (2023)** to **446.90 BCM (2024)**.

Rainfall contributes to **61%** of recharge.

➡ Groundwater Extraction

Extractable resources reduced from **407.21 BCM** to **406.19 BCM**.

Stage of extraction increased slightly from **59.21% (2023)** to **60.47% (2024)**.

➡ Category-Wise Assessment

Safe units: Increased marginally from **73%** to **73.4%**.

Critical units: Constitute **3.05%** of total assessment.

Over-exploited units: Account for **11.1%**, concentrated in:

Northwest: Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Western UP.

West: Rajasthan, Gujarat.

South: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh.

● Definitions

- ➡ **Over-exploited:** Groundwater extraction exceeds annual recharge.
- ➡ **Critical:** Extraction is between **90-100%** of extractable resources.
- ➡ **Safe:** Extraction is less than **70%**.

● **Reasons for Groundwater Depletion**

- ➡ **Irrigation:** Over 60% of groundwater is used for irrigation. Inefficient practices like flood irrigation and cultivation of water-intensive crops (e.g., rice).
- ➡ **Recharge Issues:** Reduced recharge due to loss of vegetation and variations in rainfall.
- ➡ **Climate Change:** Erratic rainfall patterns affecting recharge.

● **About CGWB**

- ➡ **Formation:** Established in 1970.
- ➡ **Role:** Apex organization under the Ministry of Jal Shakti focusing on sustainable groundwater management.
- ➡ **Mandate:** Develop technologies and implement policies for scientific groundwater utilization.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ Promote efficient irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler systems.
- ➡ Encourage cultivation of less water-intensive crops.
- ➡ Enhance groundwater recharge through afforestation and rainwater harvesting.
- ➡ Strengthen policies and initiatives for groundwater conservation.

Prison Rules and Model Prisons Act

● Why in News?

- ➡ The Ministry of Home Affairs has amended the **Model Prison Manual, 2016** and **Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023** to address **caste-based discrimination** in prisons.
- ➡ Changes follow the **Supreme Court's directive** in the Sukanya Santha vs. Union of India & Others case.

● Key Amendments

➡ Prohibition of Caste-Based Discrimination

Prisoners must not face discrimination, classification, or segregation based on caste.
Allocation of duties and work within prisons must be free from caste bias.

➡ Legal Provisions Enforced in Prisons

Amendments align with:

Article 14: Equality before law.

Article 15: Prohibition of discrimination.

Article 17: Abolition of untouchability.

Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 will have binding force in prisons.

Manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning inside prisons are explicitly prohibited.

● Supreme Court Guidelines on Habitual Offenders

- ➡ The definition of habitual offenders must align with state-specific legislative definitions.
- ➡ A habitual offender is:
Convicted and sentenced multiple times within five years for separate offenses.
Sentences not reversed on appeal or review.

● Prisons in India

➡ Governance:

Prisons and persons detained therein are a **State subject** (Entry 4).

Managed under the **Prison Act, 1894** (now replaced by the **Model Prisons Act, 2023**) and state prison manuals.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ Ensure **robust implementation** of anti-discrimination provisions.
- ➡ Conduct **periodic inspections** to enforce compliance with amended rules.
- ➡ **Provide training for prison staff** to prevent caste-based biases and ensure humane treatment of prisoners.



Environment Relief Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2024

● Why in News?

- ➡ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) notified the **Environment Relief Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2024**, revising the provisions of the **2008 Scheme** under Section 7A of the **Public Liability Insurance Act (PLIA), 1991**.

● Key Highlights

- ➡ **Environment Relief Fund (ERF) Amendments**
- ➡ **Administration:** ERF is now under the **Central Government**.
- ➡ **Fund Manager:** **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** replaces United India Insurance Company Limited for a 5-year term starting **January 1, 2025**.

Disbursement Mechanism:

Fund Manager to develop an **online portal** for fund management.

Disbursement to follow the orders of the **District Collector** or the **Central Government**.

- ➡ **Investment Strategy:** ERF funds will be invested in **public financial institutions** and **savings accounts** to ensure timely availability.
- ➡ **Environmental Restoration:** Funds can be allocated for restoring damage caused by hazardous substances during various activities (e.g., manufacture, transport, disposal).
- ➡ **Auditing:** Independent auditors, approved by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, will audit ERF accounts.

● Related News: Public Liability Insurance (Amendment) Rules, 2024

- ➡ **Eligibility Expansion:** Claims can now be made by individuals with a **direct and substantial connection** to affected public property.
- ➡ **Environmental Restoration:** Allows **ERF utilization** for restoring environmental damage.
- ➡ **Increased Insurance Coverage:**
 - ₹250 crore for **single accidents**.
 - ₹500 crore for **multiple accidents**.

● **Significance**

- ➡ **Victim Support:** Streamlined relief for victims of accidents involving hazardous substances.
- ➡ **Enhanced Oversight:** CPCB ensures better administration and disbursement.
Proactive Environmental Restoration: Strengthens mechanisms to mitigate environmental damage.
- ➡ **Financial Preparedness:** Improved fund management and increased insurance limits support disaster readiness.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ Develop robust monitoring frameworks for **effective disbursement**.
- ➡ **Ensure capacity building** within CPCB for efficient fund management.
- ➡ Raise public awareness about **claims process** and **environmental restoration initiatives**.

Forest Rights Act (FRA) Implementation in Veerangana Durgavati TR

● Why in News?

- ➡ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has directed the **Madhya Pradesh Government** to investigate alleged violations of forest rights of local communities under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006** in and around the **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**.

● About Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006

- ➡ **Objective:** To recognize and vest forest rights in **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** living on forest lands.
- ➡ **Rights under FRA:**
 - Individual Rights:** Rights for self-cultivation and habitation.
 - Community Rights:**
 - Access Rights:** Grazing, fishing, and water body access.
 - Habitat Rights:** For Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
 - Intellectual Property Rights:** Protection of traditional knowledge.
 - Sustainable Use Rights:** To conserve and manage community forest resources.
- ➡ **Role of Gram Sabha:** Primary authority for initiating the determination of forest rights.
- ➡ **Role of State Governments:** Implementation of FRA through **State Level Monitoring Committees, District Level Committees, and Sub-Divisional Committees**.

● About Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve

- ➡ **Location:** Spans **Sagar, Damoh, and Narsinghpur** districts in Madhya Pradesh.
- ➡ **Constituents:** Includes **Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Veerangana Durgavati Sanctuary**.
- ➡ **Significance:**
 - Unique protected area covering the basins of the **Ganges** and **Narmada Rivers**.
 - Vegetation:** Tropical dry deciduous forests dominated by teak.
 - Fauna:** Hosts species like Nilgai, Chital, Sambhar, Rhesus Macaque, Panthers, and Indian Wolves.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ **Immediate Action:** Investigate and address reported forest rights violations. Ensure community participation in decision-making regarding the tiger reserve.
- ➡ **Long-Term Goals:** Strengthen the role of Gram Sabhas in forest governance. Conduct capacity-building programs for officials and communities to ensure FRA compliance.
- ➡ **Conservation with Inclusion:** Balance ecological conservation with the rights and livelihoods of forest-dwelling communities.



Polar Vortex

● Why in News?

- ➡ The USA and Canada are experiencing **extreme cold spells** due to an **Arctic blast** caused by the southward expansion of the **polar vortex**.

● What is Polar Vortex?

- ➡ **Definition:** A large area of **low-pressure** and **cold air** that spins counter-clockwise around both of Earth's poles.

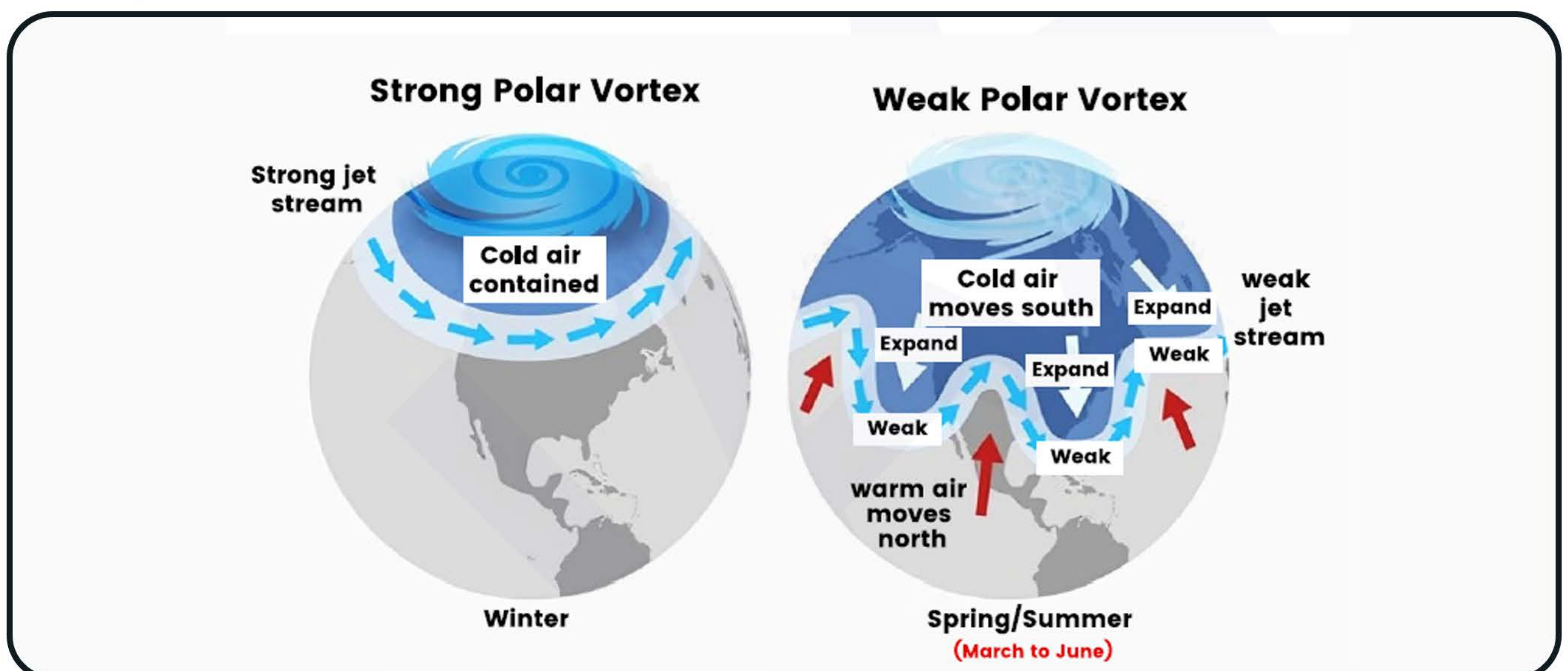
➡ Types of Polar Vortex:

Tropospheric Polar Vortex: Forms in the lowest atmospheric layer (surface to 10-15 km).

Stratospheric Polar Vortex: Forms at higher altitudes (15 km to 50 km). Strongest during autumn and disappears in summer, unlike the tropospheric vortex.

● Impacts of Polar Vortex

- ➡ **Arctic Blast:** Sudden, intense surges of cold air in the USA due to polar vortex disruptions, allowing Arctic air to spill into lower latitudes.
- ➡ **Extreme Weather Events:** A weakened vortex causes the **jet stream** to dip southward, resulting in cold Arctic air entering lower regions and triggering severe weather.
- ➡ **Ozone Depletion:** Trapped cold air accelerates **ozone depletion**, particularly over Antarctica, contributing to the **ozone hole**.
- ➡ **Impact on India:** A weakened polar vortex leads to **increased western disturbances**, causing heavy snowfall in the **western Himalayas** and colder conditions in **northern India**.



● **Way Forward**

- ➡ **Climate Preparedness:** Enhance forecasting systems for extreme weather events to mitigate impacts.
- ➡ **Global Cooperation:** Address ozone depletion and climate change collectively to minimize polar vortex disruptions.
- ➡ **Regional Readiness:** Strengthen disaster management strategies in regions prone to extreme cold events or temperature anomalies.



Cryo-Born Baby Corals Successfully Settled on Great Barrier Reef

● **Why in News?**

- ➡ **Global Milestone:** The world's first cryo-born baby corals have been successfully settled on the Great Barrier Reef.
- ➡ **Innovative Conservation:** This groundbreaking achievement highlights advanced techniques in coral conservation, led by Australian researchers.

● **What are Cryo-Born Corals?**

- ➡ **Definition:** Corals created using cryopreservation techniques, involving freezing coral cells and tissues at extremely low temperatures.
- ➡ **Process:**
 - Coral cells contain water, which forms harmful ice crystals during freezing.
 - Cryoprotectants are used to remove water, preventing damage and supporting cell structure during freezing and thawing.

● **Significance of the Breakthrough**

- ➡ **Climate Resilience:** Aims to deploy millions of heat-tolerant corals to mitigate climate change effects on reefs.
- ➡ **Enhanced Breeding:** Overcomes limitations of natural coral spawning (once a year). Enables selective breeding and repeated use of colonies for reproduction.

● **About Coral Reefs**

- ➡ **Biological Classification:**
 - Invertebrates belonging to the class Anthozoa, phylum Cnidaria.
 - Reefs are formed by colonies of polyps secreting limestone skeletons.
 - Symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) provide essential nutrition.
- ➡ **Distribution:**
 - Found in shallow, sunlit waters between 30°N and 30°S latitude.
 - Prefer temperatures of 16-32°C and depths less than 50 meters.

● **Threats to Coral Reefs**

➡ **Climate Change:**

Rising sea temperatures cause coral bleaching.

Ocean acidification weakens coral skeletons.

➡ **Pollution:**

Nutrient runoff from agriculture promotes harmful algae growth.

Marine debris and microplastics cause physical damage.

➡ **Overfishing:** Disrupts reef ecosystems, leading to imbalances in marine life.

➡ **Coastal Development:** Dredging, land reclamation, and construction destroy habitats.

➡ **Unsustainable Tourism:** Physical damage from anchors and unregulated recreational activities.

● **Conservation Efforts**

➡ **India**

National Committee on Wetlands, Mangroves, and Coral Reefs (1986): Provides advisory support for conservation.

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986: Prohibits coral and sand extraction for construction.

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI): Uses biorock or mineral accretion technology to restore coral reefs.

➡ **Global**

CITES: Lists coral species in Appendix II to regulate trade.

World Heritage Convention: Protects designated coral reef sites.

Frozen Coral Repository: Taronga CryoDiversity Bank: Houses trillions of sperm from 32 coral species since 2011.

● **Way Forward**

➡ **Strengthen Cryopreservation Research:** Expand the use of frozen coral repositories globally.

➡ **Implement Sustainable Practices:** Promote eco-friendly tourism and regulate coastal development.

➡ **Enhance Global Collaboration:** Share technology and strategies for reef restoration across nations.

➡ **Raise Public Awareness:** Educate communities about coral conservation and their ecological importance.

BHARATPOL Portal

● Why in News?

- ➡ Union Home Minister inaugurated the **BHARATPOL Portal**, developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ➡ The portal is a major step forward in enhancing India's law enforcement capabilities and strengthening international cooperation to combat crime.

● About BHARATPOL Portal

- ➡ **Developed by:** Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ➡ **Role:** CBI, as the **National Central Bureau (NCB-New Delhi)** for INTERPOL in India, will manage the portal.

● Five Key Modules of BHARATPOL

- ➡ **Connect:** Links Indian law enforcement agencies as an extension of INTERPOL's NCB-New Delhi.
- ➡ **INTERPOL Notices:** Implements a scientific mechanism to locate criminals within India and globally.
- ➡ **References:** Simplifies processes for seeking and providing international investigative assistance.
- ➡ **Broadcast:** Enables immediate access to requests for assistance from 195 countries.
- ➡ **Resources:** Facilitates document exchange and supports capacity-building initiatives.

● Potential Benefits

- ➡ **Unified Collaboration:** Streamlines coordination among central, state, and union territory law enforcement agencies.
- ➡ **Combat Transnational Crime:** Targets cybercrime, financial fraud, human trafficking, and organized crime.
- ➡ **Enhanced Crime Control:** Access to INTERPOL databases aids in analyzing data, strategizing crime prevention, and apprehending criminals effectively.
- ➡ **Simplified Extradition:** Facilitates smoother extradition of convicted criminals from abroad.

● **About INTERPOL**

- ➡ **Establishment:** 1923.
- ➡ **Headquarters:** Lyon, France.
- ➡ **Members:** 196 countries.
- ➡ **Purpose:** Promotes global law enforcement cooperation to tackle international crime.
- ➡ **Key Functions:**
 - Issues alerts such as **Red Notices**.
 - Maintains criminal activity databases.
 - Provides training and resources to member nations.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ **Promote awareness among law enforcement agencies** to fully utilize the portal's features.
- ➡ **Strengthen international partnerships** and enhance the sharing of crime-related intelligence.
- ➡ Invest in **advanced training for officers** to maximize the potential of INTERPOL's resources.

Modified Cashless Treatment Scheme by MoRTH

● Why in News?

- ➡ **National Rollout:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) unveiled a nationwide cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims.
- ➡ **Pilot Project:** A similar pilot initiative was launched by MoRTH in 2024.

● Legal Mandate

- ➡ **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:** Provides the legal framework for cashless treatment under the amendments made by the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.

● Key Features of the Scheme

➡ Financial Support:

- Covers treatment costs up to ₹1.5 lakh for a maximum of 7 days.
- Mandatory reporting to the police within 24 hours of the accident.
- For hit-and-run cases: ₹2 lakh compensation to the deceased's family.

➡ Implementing Agency:

- National Health Authority (NHA) coordinates with police, hospitals, and State Health Agencies.
- Utilizes the e-Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) application for implementation.

➡ Coverage: Applicable to all road accidents nationwide.

● Need for the Scheme

➡ Fatalities and Impact:

- Last year, road accidents claimed 1.8 lakh lives.
- 66% of these victims were aged between 18 and 34 years.

➡ Golden Hour Treatment: Ensures timely medical attention within the critical first hour after an accident.

➡ Encouraging Good Samaritans: Incentivizes individuals to provide emergency care without fear of legal or financial repercussions.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Educate citizens about the scheme and the importance of the golden hour.
- ➡ **Enhance Infrastructure:** Equip hospitals with necessary facilities for immediate care.
- ➡ **Strengthen eDAR Integration:** Expand the usage of the e-Detailed Accident Report application for seamless implementation.
- ➡ **Monitor and Evaluate:** Establish regular assessments to improve scheme effectiveness.



Role of Indian Diaspora: 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

● Why in News?

- ➡ External Affairs Minister emphasized the Indian Diaspora's vital role ahead of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention.
- ➡ PBD, a biennial event, commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa on **January 9, 1915**.

● Indian Diaspora Overview

- ➡ **Definition:** Refers to individuals who migrated from the territories of modern India.

➡ Categories:

Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)

Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) (merged with OCI in 2015).

Overseas Citizens of India (OCI)

➡ Current Status:

Total: **35.42 million** Indians abroad (as of May 2024).

NRIs: **15.85 million**.

Largest community resides in the USA: **5.4 million**.

● Key Contributions of Indian Diaspora

- ➡ **Economic:** Significant remittances aid rural socio-economic development. Contributions enhance entrepreneurial ecosystems and foster **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**.
- ➡ **Knowledge Transfer:** Technical expertise and financial support from the diaspora drive innovation in India.
- ➡ **Diplomacy:** Large diaspora populations in regions like **South Asia** and **West Asia** builds bilateral ties. They help shape India's global image positively.
- ➡ **Cultural Promotion:** Enhances India's **soft power** by popularizing **music, cuisine, spirituality**, and more globally.

● **Key Initiatives for Diaspora Engagement**

- ➡ **Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI):** Introduced via Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005, offering a lifelong visa for eligible individuals.
- ➡ **Know India Programme (KIP):** Organized by the Ministry of External Affairs to connect diaspora youth with their Indian heritage.
- ➡ **Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF):** Supports Indians abroad in emergencies or distress.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ Strengthen engagement through innovative programs targeting youth and professionals.
- ➡ Enhance ease of contribution by the diaspora towards India's development via streamlined policies.
- ➡ Expand cultural diplomacy to consolidate India's **global influence** and **soft power**.

Marathi Granted Classical Language Status

● Why in News?

- ➡ **Marathi Recognized as a Classical Language:** Official recognition highlights its historical significance and cultural influence.
- ➡ **Expansion of Classical Languages:** Recent approvals also include Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali.

● Classical Language in India

➡ Background:

The concept introduced in 2004.

Criteria revised in 2024 to ensure a comprehensive framework.

➡ Criteria for Recognition:

Antiquity: Texts/records over 1500–2000 years old.

Heritage: Ancient literature considered a legacy by generations.

Diverse Evidence: Includes prose, poetry, epigraphs, and inscriptions.

Continuity: The classical form may differ from its current version or have distinct offshoots.

- ➡ **Languages with Classical Status:** Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Telugu and Kannada (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

● Benefits of Classical Language Status

- ➡ **Preservation and Documentation:** Encourages digitization and archiving of ancient texts. Generates employment in translation, publishing, and digital media.
- ➡ **Academic Incentives:** Two international awards annually for eminent scholars. Funding for research and language development.
- ➡ **Cultural Impact:** Enhances global awareness of India's linguistic diversity.

● About Marathi Language

- ➡ **Origins:** Indo-Aryan language evolved from **Maharastri Prakrta**, spoken during the Satavahana era.
- ➡ **Earliest Literary Work:** Gathasaptasati: A collection of poetry attributed to Satavahana King Hala.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ **Increased Research:** Promote academic studies and research in Marathi and other classical languages.
- ➡ **Global Outreach:** Organize international conferences and cultural events.
- ➡ **Digital Accessibility:** Enhance online repositories and platforms for language learning.



Trade's Role in Tackling Food Insecurity: UNCTAD Report

● Why in News?

- ➡ **UNCTAD Report** examines the role of trade in reducing food insecurity and preventing famine.
- ➡ The report highlights key drivers of food insecurity and provides actionable recommendations for leveraging trade to mitigate these challenges.

● Role of Trade in Addressing Food Insecurity

➡ Ensuring Sustainable Supplies:

Trade can maintain food availability.

Example: Africa imports 30% of its cereal needs.

➡ Stabilizing Prices and Markets:

Trade initiatives reduce price volatility.

Example: **Black Sea Initiative** facilitated food and fertilizer exports during the Russia-Ukraine war.

● Challenges in Trade and Food Security

- ➡ **Higher Costs:** Non-tariff measures like sanitary standards can increase food import costs by 20%.
- ➡ **Import Dependency:** Dependency on imports makes countries vulnerable to global price hikes and supply disruptions.
- ➡ **Rising Transportation Costs:** Disproportionately affects developing and least-developed countries.

● Recommendations from the Report

- ➡ **Short-Term Solutions:** Establish a **Short-Term Export Facilitation Mechanism** for combating severe food insecurity at global forums like WTO.
- ➡ **Reducing Barriers:** Lower trade barriers and enhance export capacities in food-insecure countries.
- ➡ **Investing in Infrastructure:** Develop ports, transport networks, and storage facilities to minimize supply chain vulnerabilities.

● **Recommendations from the Report**

- ➡ **Climate-Smart Farming:** Promote sustainable agricultural practices in developing countries to enhance resilience.

● **Facts and Figures**

➡ **Hunger Statistics (2023):**

~280 million faced acute hunger.

~733 million faced chronic hunger.

Without action, 582 million could face chronic hunger by 2030.

➡ **Drivers of Hunger:**

Armed Conflict: Impacted 5 million people in 20 countries (2022).

Climate Change: Agricultural productivity reduced by 21% since 1961.

Urbanization: Blurred rural-urban lines affecting agrifood systems.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ **Enhance global collaboration** on trade and food security policies.
- ➡ **Support developing nations** with technology, funding, and capacity building to address long-term food insecurity.

India's First Robotic Telesurgeries with SSI Mantra

● Why in News?

- ➡ **Pioneering Telesurgery:** India's indigenous robotic system, **SSI Mantra**, successfully performed two world-first robotic cardiac telesurgeries.
- ➡ **Key Achievement:** Achieved a latency of only 40 milliseconds during telesurgery operations.

● About Telesurgery

- ➡ **Definition:** Utilizes robotics and cameras to enable surgeons to perform operations remotely through high-speed data connections.

● About SSI Mantra

- ➡ **Regulatory Approval:**
 - Only robotic system globally approved for telesurgery and tele-proctoring.
 - Approved by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ➡ **Major Milestone:** Performed robotic beating heart **Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass (TECAB)**, one of the most complex cardiac surgeries.

● Applications of Robotics in Healthcare

- ➡ **Safety & Monitoring:** Telepresence systems equipped with computer vision monitor patient vitals.
- ➡ **Robotic Prosthetics:** Advanced prosthetics, such as robotic limbs and exoskeletons, enhance mobility for amputees.
- ➡ **Sanitation & Disinfection:** Robots using ultraviolet-C (UV-C) light or hydrogen peroxide vapour (HPV) for sterilization.
- ➡ **Medical Transportation:** Robots designed to deliver supplies, medications, and meals to patients.

● **Challenges in Robotics Integration**

- ➡ **High Initial Cost:** Advanced systems require significant investment.
- ➡ **Skill Gap:** Limited availability of trained personnel to operate complex systems.
- ➡ **Ethical Concerns:** Issues around accountability for errors during robotic procedures.
- ➡ **Patient Trust:** Overcoming skepticism and gaining patient confidence in robotic systems.

● **Indian Initiatives for Robotic Healthcare**

- ➡ **National Health Policy, 2017:** Recognized the vital role of technology in healthcare delivery.
- ➡ **Draft National Strategy on Robotics, 2023:**
 - Promotes robotics in healthcare.
 - Provides for the establishment of the **Robotics Innovation Unit (RIU)**.
- ➡ **Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK):** Located in IISc Bengaluru, it fosters advancements in AI and robotics.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ **Skill Development:** Invest in training healthcare professionals for robotic systems.
- ➡ **Cost Reduction:** Encourage domestic production to make robotic solutions affordable.
- ➡ **Ethical Framework:** Develop comprehensive guidelines to address accountability and ethical concerns.
- ➡ **Public Awareness:** Conduct campaigns to build trust in robotic healthcare technologies.

INTERPOL's Silver Notice

● Why in News?

- ➡ INTERPOL has introduced its first-ever **Silver Notice** to target **criminal assets**.
- ➡ The pilot phase involves **52 countries**, including **India**, and aims to combat **transnational organized crime**.

● About the Silver Notice

- ➡ **Purpose:** Aims to locate, identify, and obtain information about **laundered assets** like properties, vehicles, financial accounts, and businesses.
- ➡ **Focus Areas:** Assists in tracing assets linked to crimes such as:
 - Fraud
 - Corruption
 - Drug trafficking
 - Environmental crime
- ➡ **Significance:** Adds to INTERPOL's **color-coded Notices** suite for combating international crime.

● About INTERPOL Notices

- ➡ **Definition:** International requests for cooperation or alerts allowing **police** in member countries to share critical **crime-related information**.
- ➡ **Types:** INTERPOL has **8 Notices** apart from the INTERPOL-UNSC Special Notice.
- ➡ **Issuing Authority:** **General Secretariat** of INTERPOL.
- ➡ **Requesting Authorities:**
 - Member countries** via their National Central Bureaus.
 - International Criminal Tribunals** and the **International Criminal Court** for crimes like **genocide** and **war crimes**.
 - The **United Nations** for implementing **UN Security Council sanctions**.

● About INTERPOL

- ➡ **Founded:** Established in **1923** as the **International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC)** during the 2nd International Criminal Police Congress in Vienna, Austria.
- ➡ **Role:** The only organization mandated to share **police information** globally with a robust **technical infrastructure**.



● **About INTERPOL**

➡ **India's Membership:**

Joined in **1949**.

The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** acts as the **National Central Bureau** for INTERPOL in India.

● **Way Forward**

- ➡ **Enhancing Asset Tracing:** Expand the Silver Notice framework for wider application beyond the pilot phase.
- ➡ **Strengthening Cooperation:** Encourage deeper collaboration between member nations for more effective tracking of transnational crimes.
- ➡ **Capacity Building:** Provide training to member countries on using the Silver Notice to combat organized crime effectively.
- ➡ **Integration with National Systems:** Align the Silver Notice with national crime databases for efficient information sharing.





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