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RANK - 597

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IRS SARLA JAKHER
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IRS TANMAY
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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS-

1. **Gnani Artha: India's Move Towards Sovereign AI**
2. **Satluj-Yamuna Link Canal Dispute: Punjab-Haryana Water Conflict**
3. **Glacial collapse and Nepal floods**
4. **Jio Platforms IPO**

1. Gnani Artha: India's Move Towards Sovereign AI

Source: The Hindu

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched **Gnani Artha**, a sovereign AI stack developed by GNANI AI. The initiative combines indigenous AI technologies to strengthen India's technological self-reliance and support the vision of **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**.

Key Highlights

- **Gnani Artha** is a sovereign AI stack developed by **GNANI AI**.
- It comprises:
 - **Evon 3.3** – a large language model (LLM).
 - **Plexus** – an AI platform.
- It was launched by Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The initiative seeks to strengthen India's **technological self-reliance and strategic autonomy**.
- It reflects the shift from India being primarily a technology consumer towards becoming a **technology creator**.

Significance of Sovereign AI

- Sovereign AI refers to developing and deploying AI capabilities with greater domestic control over technology and infrastructure.
- It can strengthen technological autonomy in strategically important areas.
- Indigenous AI systems can contribute to India's broader digital and technological ecosystem.
- AI is also expected to generate new employment opportunities and contribute to economic growth.

Government Initiatives Supporting AI

- **IndiaAI Mission** is supporting the development of India's AI ecosystem.
- **Centres of Excellence for AI** are contributing to AI research and capacity building.
- **Digital Sansad** already uses AI for multilingual access to parliamentary debates.
- Digital Sansad is planned to expand multilingual access to all **Scheduled Languages**.

Viksit Bharat @ 2047

- Gnani Artha aligns with the objective of building a technologically advanced and self-reliant India by 2047.
- Greater indigenous capability in AI can reduce dependence on external technologies.
- The initiative reflects the broader goal of positioning India as a **global technology leader** rather than merely a technology consumer.

Way Forward

- Promote indigenous development of AI models and platforms.
- Strengthen AI research, computing infrastructure and skilled human resources.
- Expand AI applications in governance and public services.
- Ensure that technological self-reliance is accompanied by responsible and inclusive AI development.

UPSC Prelims Question

Q.Consider the following statements regarding **Gnani Artha**:

1. Gnani Artha is a sovereign AI stack developed by GNANI AI.
2. Evon 3.3 is a large language model included in Gnani Artha.
3. Plexus is an AI platform forming part of Gnani Artha.
4. The initiative is associated with India's vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

UPSC Mains Question

India's pursuit of sovereign Artificial Intelligence capabilities is important for technological self-reliance and strategic autonomy. Discuss the significance of indigenous AI ecosystems such as Gnan Artha in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

2.Satluj-Yamuna Link Canal Dispute: Punjab–Haryana Water Conflict

Source: The Hindu

Why in News?

The **Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal** dispute is a long-standing inter-state water conflict between Punjab and Haryana. The Supreme Court is seeking a resolution while both States maintain competing claims over the availability and sharing of Ravi-Beas waters.

Key Highlights

- The **SYL Canal** was planned to transfer surplus **Ravi-Beas waters** to Haryana.
- The proposed canal is **214 km long**:
 - Punjab: 122 km
 - Haryana: 92 km
- Haryana has completed its portion, while the Punjab portion remains incomplete.
- Punjab argues that it has no surplus water and faces severe **groundwater depletion**.
- Haryana claims entitlement based on the **1981 tripartite agreement** and its status as a successor State of undivided Punjab.
- The **Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004**, which sought to annul water-sharing agreements, was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2016.

Background of the SYL Canal

- The dispute concerns the sharing of the waters of the **Ravi and Beas rivers** between Punjab and Haryana.
- The **1981 tripartite agreement**, brokered by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, reallocated **17.17 MAF (million acre-feet)** of Ravi-Beas waters.
- Haryana completed its section of the SYL Canal.
- Construction in Punjab was halted in 1990 amid militancy, during which engineers and labourers involved in the project were killed.

- The dispute has subsequently remained before the courts and tribunals for decades.

Punjab's Position

- Punjab relies on the **riparian principle**, under which States through which a river flows have a stronger claim over its waters.
- The State argues that its own water availability has deteriorated significantly.
- Around **75–76% of Punjab's agricultural blocks are overexploited**, resulting in severe groundwater depletion.
- Punjab therefore argues that transferring additional water to Haryana could worsen its agricultural and ecological stress.

Haryana's Position

- Haryana maintains that it has a legitimate share in the Ravi-Beas waters.
- It relies on the **1981 agreement** and subsequent legal decisions supporting its entitlement.
- Haryana has already completed its portion of the SYL Canal and therefore expects Punjab to complete the remaining section.
- Southern and south-western parts of Haryana also face significant water stress and declining groundwater levels.

Ravi-Beas Waters Tribunal

- The **Ravi-Beas Waters Tribunal** was constituted in **1986** to re-examine the water claims of the concerned States.
- It is also known as the **Eradi Tribunal**.
- The tribunal is headed by **Justice Vineet Saran**.
- It recently conducted a field inspection to re-verify the claims regarding available water resources.

Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal Dispute

The Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal is one of India's most protracted and politically sensitive inter-state water disputes, primarily involving **Punjab and Haryana**. It involves the construction of a **214-km** canal to share the surplus waters of the **Ravi and Beas** rivers.

While the dispute is decades old, the Supreme Court has recently (August 2026) noted a significant shift, with the Attorney General informing the court that both states are now working towards a "joint voice" and an amicable resolution.



Historical Background

The roots of the conflict lie in the **Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966**, which carved Haryana out of the erstwhile Punjab state.

- **1976:** The Union government issued an executive order allocating **3.5 MAF (Million Acre Feet)** of water to Haryana.
- **1981:** A tripartite agreement was signed between Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan (brokered by PM Indira Gandhi) to re-allocate Ravi-Beas waters.
- **1982:** Construction began near Kapoori village, Punjab. However, it was met with intense agitation (the *Nehar Roko Morcha*) and later stalled in 1990 due to rising militancy, during which two project engineers were killed.
- **2004:** The Punjab Assembly passed the **Punjab Termination of Agreements Act**, which unilaterally scrapped all water-sharing pacts.

Core Arguments of Both States

Dimension	Punjab's Stand	Haryana's Stand
Riparian Principle	Claims sole rights as the rivers (Ravi-Beas) flow through its territory.	Claims status as a successor state of undivided Punjab with legal entitlements.
Water Availability	Argues groundwater levels are depleted; many blocks are "dark zones" with no surplus to spare.	Faces acute water stress in southern districts where the water table has dipped to 1,700 feet.
Legal Status	Contends that the 1981 agreement was based on outdated water flow estimates (17.17 MAF).	Relying on Supreme Court orders (2002, 2004, 2016) directing Punjab to complete the canal.

UPSC Prelims Question

Consider the following statements regarding the **Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal dispute**:

1. The SYL Canal was planned to transfer Ravi-Beas waters to Haryana.
2. Haryana has completed its portion of the canal.
3. The Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 was upheld by the Supreme Court.
4. The Ravi-Beas Waters Tribunal was constituted in 1986.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The SYL was designed to transfer surplus Ravi-Beas waters to Haryana.
- Statement 2 is correct: Haryana completed its portion of the canal.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The Supreme Court struck down the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 in 2016.
- Statement 4 is correct: The Ravi-Beas Waters Tribunal was constituted in 1986.

UPSC Mains Question

The Satluj-Yamuna Link Canal dispute illustrates the challenges of managing inter-State river waters in an era of increasing water scarcity. Discuss the legal, ecological and federal dimensions of the dispute and suggest measures for its sustainable resolution.

3. Glacial collapse and Nepal floods

Source: The Hindu

Cause and Event

- Flash floods struck parts of Nepal and Tibet on August 26, 2026, following a major glacier collapse in the Himalayas.
- The collapse occurred at an altitude of around 5,200 metres and sent ice and rock debris into the Lhende Khola, Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river systems.
- The event produced a magnitude 5.2 seismic signal, which was later attributed to the glacial collapse and debris flow rather than an earthquake.
- The debris temporarily blocked the Lhende Khola, forming a natural dam that subsequently breached and released a powerful surge of water, mud and rocks.
- Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading districts of Nepal were severely affected.

Why Glacier Collapse is Increasing?

- The Hindu Kush Himalayas are warming at roughly twice the global average, accelerating glacier retreat and destabilisation.
- Rising temperatures increase the accumulation of meltwater in subglacial channels, which can weaken the glacier structure.
- Failure of underlying bedrock can also contribute to the sudden detachment of ice and rock masses.

- Such collapses can trigger cascading hazards including debris flows, landslides, natural-dam formation and flash floods.
- Firn, the granular and compacted snow that represents an intermediate stage in the formation of glacial ice, is an important component of glacier development.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- Remote seismic monitoring can help detect sudden glacier collapses and associated disturbances in high-altitude regions.
- High-altitude early-warning systems are needed to provide downstream communities with timely alerts.
- Critical infrastructure such as hydropower projects should be appropriately zoned to avoid areas exposed to glacial hazards.
- Monitoring upstream glacial instability is particularly important because downstream communities can be affected within a short period.
- International cooperation and timely sharing of information among Himalayan countries are essential for reducing transboundary disaster risks.

Climate Change Significance

- Increasing glacier instability demonstrates how climate change can convert gradual environmental changes into sudden disasters.
- The event highlights the interconnected risks of glacier retreat, extreme weather, fragile mountain slopes and downstream settlements.
- Adaptation in the Himalayan region therefore requires a combination of climate monitoring, early-warning systems, resilient infrastructure and risk-sensitive land-use planning.

4.Jio Platforms IPO

Source: The Hindu

Key Facts

- Jio Platforms Ltd has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- The IPO is expected to raise approximately ₹37,700 crore, making it potentially the largest IPO in India.
- The issue will consist of a fresh issue of 27 crore equity shares.

- Around ₹27,500 crore from the proceeds is proposed to be used for repayment of debt.
- Reliance Industries Ltd holds 66.43% of Jio Platforms, while Meta Platforms and Google hold 9.98% and 7.73%, respectively.
- As of March 2026, Jio Platforms had over 524 million subscribers, including around 268 million 5G subscribers.

Significance of the IPO

- The proposed IPO would surpass previous major Indian public offerings such as Hyundai Motor India (₹27,870 crore) and LIC (₹21,008 crore).
- At least 35% of the net issue is reserved for retail individual investors, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP).
- The listing would bring one of India's largest unlisted technology and telecom businesses into the public markets.
- The IPO reflects the growing importance of technology and digital businesses in India's capital markets.

Jio Platforms and Telecom Sector

- Jio entered the telecom market in 2016 and significantly transformed India's telecom sector through competitive pricing and rapid expansion of 4G and 5G services.
- Meta Platforms and Google invested in Jio Platforms in 2020, strengthening its global technology partnerships.
- Jio's 5G subscriber base reached about 268 million by March 2026.
- Around 55% of Jio's total wireless traffic is reported to be carried on its 5G network.

Capital Market Context

- The proposed ₹37,700-crore issue would become India's largest IPO if completed at the indicated size.
- The National Stock Exchange is also awaiting SEBI approval for its proposed IPO, estimated at around ₹30,000 crore.
- Large IPOs such as Jio's can deepen India's equity markets by bringing major companies into public ownership and increasing opportunities for institutional and retail investors.