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E-WASTE (ELECTRONIC WASTE)

- Rapid digitalisation is generating enormous quantities of **electronic waste (e-waste)** as governments and companies replace computers, servers, networking equipment and storage systems.
- These discarded devices contain **copper, aluminium, gold, silver, palladium and critical minerals**.
- Recovering these materials through **urban mining** can reduce dependence on virgin mining, strengthen domestic supplies and lower import dependence.

Urban Mining and the Circular Economy

- Urban mining involves recovering valuable materials from discarded products rather than extracting them from the earth.
- As economies increasingly depend on electronics, batteries, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing, e-waste can become an important secondary source of strategic materials.
- Its benefits include reduced virgin mining, lower import dependence, stronger supply-chain resilience, critical-mineral recovery, safer hazardous-waste management and domestic industrial development.
- Thus, e-waste should be treated not merely as waste but as a resource within a circular economy.

The Long Chain of Recycling

- Advanced e-waste recycling requires collection, segregation, secure data destruction, refurbishment, material recovery, environmentally compliant processing and traceable supply chains.
- These processes involve significant costs. The problem is that public and private procurement often prioritises the lowest visible cost.
- Resale value and immediate savings are easily measured, whereas environmental protection, cybersecurity, mineral recovery & industrial capability are long-term benefits.

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Challenge and The Path Forward

- **Challenge: Environmental Costs Are Economic Costs**
 - Environmental damage eventually becomes an economic burden through health-care expenditure, remediation costs, compliance expenses and lost productivity.
 - Similarly, resource depletion can produce import dependence, while weak domestic capabilities can create strategic vulnerability.
 - Costs excluded from today's transaction are often merely transferred to governments, businesses, citizens or future generations rather than eliminated.
- **The Way Forward: Procurement as Industrial Policy**
 - Public procurement can become an instrument of industrial policy.
 - Instead of asking which option is cheapest, governments should consider which option delivers the **greatest long-term public value**.
 - Many countries are adopting life-cycle costing and value-based procurement for this reason.
 - The same approach can improve **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** systems.
 - Rewarding traceability, recovery efficiency and technological capability rather than merely the cheapest compliance certificate can encourage investment in advanced recycling.

Conclusion

- India's discarded electronics can become either a **strategic national resource** or an **environmental liability**.
- Capturing their value requires changing how economic decisions are evaluated.
- **Responsible procurement, life-cycle costing**, advanced recycling, secure data destruction, refurbishment, traceability & critical-mineral recovery can transform e-waste management into an important pillar of India's resource security and industrial strategy.
- The real question is therefore not simply what costs less today, but which decision leaves behind the smallest unpaid bill for tomorrow.

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MISSION RANGEEN MACHHLI 2031



- It is a Strategic Action Plan for Ornamental Fisheries Development aimed at providing a more organised and scientific approach to India's ornamental fisheries sector.
- The initiative is under the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.
- It will establish uniform operating procedures and management standards for the ornamental fish industry nationwide.
- The strategic action plan covers the entire supply chain, from breeding and hatchery work through to sale in aquariums and export.
 - Standard procedures for breeding, hatchery operations, and production systems.
 - Rules for quarantine, animal health checks, and disease management.
 - Quality assurance and biosecurity standards across all operations.
 - Certification and traceability systems to track fish from farm to market.
 - Guidelines for handling, transport, and trade of ornamental species.
- The plan will also build skills among farmers and traders, improve product quality, help businesses get certified for international markets, and support the sector to grow in an organised and competitive way globally.

Focus Area:

- Lakshadweep has been identified as a dedicated seaweed cluster for cultivation and processing.
- The island's marine resources, which account for roughly 17 percent of India's total oceanic economic zone, are considered well-suited for ornamental fish farming and other high-value fisheries activities.

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BISHKEK DECLARATION - KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND INDIA'S MESSAGE ON TERRORISM

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic and security grouping. It has ten member states:
 - Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.
- India became a full member in 2017. The organisation marked 25 years at the Bishkek summit, making it one of the largest regional groupings by population and geographical spread.
- The SCO's core focus has traditionally been on combating what it calls the "three evils", **terrorism**, **separatism** and **extremism**, alongside cooperation in trade, connectivity and cultural exchange.
- The **2026 Bishkek SCO summit** was the 26th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, held from 31 August to 1 September in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
- The Bishkek Declaration was signed by the leaders of all member states, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping & Russian President Putin.

India's Message at the Summit

- **Conflict Has No Borders**
 - PM Modi told the summit that the crisis in West Asia has shown that a conflict in one region does not remain confined there. He noted that it affects global energy security, maritime trade and supply chains.
 - He observed that the Global South bears the brunt of these consequences, and reiterated India's consistent position that the resolution of all tensions and conflicts is possible only through dialogue and diplomacy, not on the battlefield.
 - The remarks came as the war in West Asia, which began in February 2026 with US and Israeli attacks on Iran, entered its sixth month.

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- **On Terrorism**

- PM Modi described terrorism as a grave challenge for all of humanity and argued that the response cannot be limited to an "action-reaction" mindset.
- He called for dismantling the entire ecosystem of terror financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens, and said member states must speak in one voice to declare that there is no room for double standards on the issue.
- He added that countries which use terrorism as an instrument of state policy and provide shelter and support to terrorists must be sent a strong message that terrorism cannot be a strategic asset for anyone.

- **On Connectivity**

- Underlining the need for robust and reliable connectivity, PM Modi said India supports all initiatives that connect markets, facilitate trade and open new avenues for growth.
- He stressed, however, that respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations is paramount in such endeavours, describing this as the core spirit of the SCO Charter.

India's Vision: Security, Connectivity, Opportunity

- PM Modi recalled India's three pillars for the SCO: **S for Security, C for Connectivity, and O for Opportunity.**
- Noting the grouping's 25-year record, he said a solid foundation for cooperation had been laid and the goal for the next 25 years should be to translate cooperation into tangible results.
- India has launched several initiatives within the SCO framework, including a Start-up Forum, a Young Authors' Conclave and a Young Scientists' Forum.
- The first session of the **SCO Civilizational Dialogue Forum**, proposed by India last year, will be held in India this year.

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INDUS WATERS TREATY: THE ROAD AHEAD FOR INDIA AND PAKISTAN

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) has passed two more orders against India in the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) dispute.

- The PCA ruled India's decision to put the Treaty in abeyance was **not permissible** under the Treaty or international law — meaning the Treaty remains fully in force.
- It directed India to halt construction at the Ratle Hydroelectric Project until the technical dispute is resolved.
- This is the fourth award from the Court, all favouring Pakistan.
- The Court, constituted in September 2022, has previously declared itself **competent** to adjudicate and held its decisions "**final and binding**".
- With this order, the Court has likely completed its work, having addressed all issues raised by Pakistan.

Why India Rejects the Court?

- India calls the Court **illegally-constituted**, alleging it was set up by the World Bank in breach of Treaty terms.
- A neutral expert **had already been appointed** to adjudicate the same issue; the Treaty does not permit parallel resolution processes.
- **India refused to appoint its two arbitrators**; the Court nonetheless proceeded with two arbitrators appointed by Pakistan and three "umpires" nominated by Treaty-specified institutions.
- India maintains its decision to hold the IWT in abeyance remains in force, rejecting the Court's award outright.

Why the Court's Orders Carry No Real Force?

- The PCA has no enforcement mechanism — its orders cannot compel material change given India's firm rejection.
- For Pakistan, however, the orders remain valuable diplomatic ammunition to raise the issue at international forums and build a domestic narrative.

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Pakistan's Limited Options Going Forward

- **Best case for Pakistan:** Get the UN Security Council to pass a resolution against India, framing the dispute as a security issue (Pakistan is a non-permanent UNSC member for four more months).
- **Alternative:** Persuade the Security Council or UN General Assembly to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

India's Strategic Response

- **Primary focus:** expeditious completion of projects on the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to **fully utilise its Treaty-permitted rights**.
 - Pursuing eight infrastructure projects worth ₹50,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - One project — diverting Chenab waters to the Beas — exceeds Treaty provisions, which prohibit inter-basin transfer.
- India disengaged from the neutral expert process last year (set up at its own request) to avoid appearing to still operate under the Treaty.
- It continues sharing hydrological data with Pakistan, but only via the High Commission in Islamabad — **not through the Permanent Indus Commission**.
- India has linked the Treaty's abeyance to Pakistan's continued support for cross-border terrorism.
- It has proposed renegotiating the Treaty on a strictly bilateral basis, without third-party involvement (e.g., World Bank) — a condition Pakistan is unlikely to accept.

Conclusion

The Indus Waters Treaty dispute has reached a practical stalemate: the Court of Arbitration's unenforceable rulings favour Pakistan on paper, but India's firm rejection and infrastructural push on the western rivers signal that it treats the Treaty as effectively defunct.

With renegotiation unlikely and international escalation improbable, transboundary water-sharing may continue informally, as it does with India's other neighbours.

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WHAT IS RAJA MIRCHA?



- Raja Mircha, also known as **Naga King Chilli** or **Bhut Jolokia**, is a variety of **chilli pepper** cultivated mainly in **Nagaland**
- Scientific name: **Capsicum Chinese**
- It is counted among the **world's hottest chillies** and is known for its **extraordinary pungency and intense, fruity aroma**.
- It is significantly **spicier than most common chillies, including jalapeños and habaneros**. It ranks among the **top 10 hottest chillies** in the world.
- The chilli changes **colour from green to a vibrant red as it matures**.
- Famous for the heat it brings to the table, it has a subconical to conical shape, finely wrinkled skin, and thin flesh.
- The chilli is deeply connected to Nagaland's lifestyle and has been cultivated for generations by farmers in chilli-growing areas of the state.
- It became the **first chilli variety from Nagaland** and the **first product of any kind from the state to receive a GI tag**, in 2008.
- The **GI tag makes the name "Naga Mircha"** exclusive to chillies grown in the region.

INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK

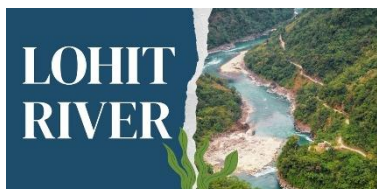


- It has been established under the **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication**, with **100% equity owned by the Government of India**.
- It was launched on **September 1, 2018**.
- It has been set up with the vision to build the **most accessible, affordable and trusted bank** for the common man in India.
- **Mandate:** The fundamental mandate of this bank is to remove barriers for the **unbanked and underbanked and reach the last mile**, leveraging the Postal network.

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- **Functions of India Post Payments Bank:**

- The operation of IPPB is on a smaller scale as compared to other banks and **will not advance loans or issue credit cards to avoid risk.**
- It **accepts deposits, offer remittance services, mobile payments/transfers/purchases and other banking services like ATM/debit cards, net banking and third-party fund transfers.**
- It **accepts deposits up to Rs 2 lakh**, beyond which the account will be automatically converted into a **post office savings account.**



LOHIT RIVER

KEY FACTS ABOUT LOHIT RIVER

- It is a major **tributary of the Brahmaputra River** in northeastern India.
- It **originates in eastern Tibet**, in the Zayal Chu range, and **surges through Arunachal Pradesh for 200 kilometers, joining the Brahmaputra in Assam.**
- Entering India via the Anjaw district, it traverses **deep valleys, dense forests, and remote tribal areas.**
- The river is **fast, fierce, and unpredictable**, descending rapidly from the Tibetan plateau into narrow gorges. By the time it reaches India, it is a powerful force, crashing over boulders and **carving through the Mishmi Hills.**

Why is the Lohit Called the River of Blood?

- Geologically, the **Lohit Valley and Mishmi Hills are rich in laterite**, an iron-heavy soil that **gives the river a reddish hue** during high flow after rainfall.
- Rivers **Dau, Dalai, and Tidding** are its **major tributaries** on the right bank, and **river Lang** is the major tributary on the left bank.
- Being the **principal river of Arunachal Pradesh**, it largely contributes towards the drinking water supply, agriculture, and energy needs.
- A **Hindu pilgrimage** known as **Parshuram Kund** is nestled on the lower reaches of Lohit.