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National and International News

<p>The Indian Railways' revenue problem</p>	<p>Context The Indian Railways (IR) has been on a spending spree with respect to capital expenditure (capex), particularly after the government merged its rail budget with the main budget.</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its operating ratio, which is the ratio of ordinary working expenses to the gross traffic receipts, has shown no improvement. • A lower ratio implies better profitability and surplus for capital investment. • The problem is that the IR's freight segment is profitable whereas the passenger segment makes huge losses. <p>Did you know? The 11 commodities in the IR's transport basket account for 90% of tonnage and revenue, of which coal is around 45% and iron ore and cement are around 10% each.</p>
<p>Police stations to install DNA systems</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2022, the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act (CrPI) was passed by Parliament. • The Act enables police and central investigating agencies to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples including retina and iris scans of arrested persons. <p>About NAFIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police across States have been trained to record finger impressions through the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS). • NAFIS is under the NCRB • It is a separate project that was launched in 2022. • It assigns a unique ten-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN) to all suspects arrested by the police. • State police have their own fingerprint database.




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAFIS integrates the data on a common platform, enabling the police to run a countrywide search to match fingerprint impressions lifted from a crime scene.
<p>Merely liking a post not an offence under IT Act: Allahabad HC</p>	<p>Context The Allahabad High Court held in a recent judgment that liking a post on Facebook or X (formerly Twitter) cannot be punishable under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act because it does not amount to “publishing or transmitting” the post</p>
<p>Dark pattern sales by airlines, online agents deemed ‘cybercrime’</p> 	<p>Context The practices by airlines and online travel agents that entail tricking consumers into making unintended purchases — such as paying for seats — while booking flight tickets according to one government official is called a “cybercrime”</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is considered as a dark pattern • A dark pattern is one where an entity nudges consumers to buy products they didn’t intend to, which is an unfair trading practice, and can constitute a cybercrime
<p>Sensex sinks 1.4% to 4-month low on geopolitical</p>	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex extended losses to a sixth session, sliding 1.4% to its lowest close in four months as investors turn skittish amid mounting geopolitical tensions over the possibility of the Israel-Hamas conflict widening across the oil-rich West Asian region • The rising U.S. bond yields that could signal more capital outflows from emerging markets. <p>About Sensex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benchmark index of the Bombay Stock Exchange in India is known as the Sensex. • The Sensex Index comprises 30 of the BSE’s largest and most actively traded stocks, and it serves as a barometer for the Indian economy. • It is market capitalization-weighted and float-adjusted.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sensex is re-evaluated two times a year, one in June and the next in December. • It is the oldest stock index, established in 1986 by one of the leading index producers, Standard & Poor's (S&P) in India. • The Sensex was used by analysts and investors to track India's economic cycles as well as the growth and decline of specific sectors.
<p>UN chief Guterres meets Nepal Prime Minister</p> 	<p>Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres met Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' • This was his first official visit to the Himalayan nation. • He urged that developed countries must step up to support sustainable development, and help developing economies, including Nepal, to tackle the climate crisis.



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