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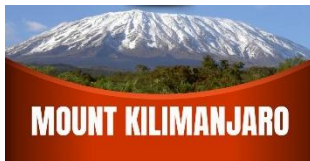
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WHAT IS THE GLOBAL VIRUS NETWORK (GVN)?



- It is a **voluntary consortium of virology laboratories and affiliated scientists** that seek to **prevent and control global viral threats**.
 - It **represents more than 25 countries** and includes experts in every class of virus-causing disease in humans.
 - No single institution in the world has expertise in all viral areas.
 - GVN brings the best medical virologists together to leverage individual strengths and to focus global teams of scientists on key scientific problems.
 - The power of GVN lies in its global reach, the depth of its science, and its commitment to solving viral challenges facing the human population.
 - The GVN has **3 main interest areas**:
 - **Support for cutting-edge research**
 - **Public education**
 - **Advocacy.**
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MOUNT KILIMANJARO



- **Location:** It is located in **northeastern Tanzania**, near the Kenya border.
- It is Africa's tallest mountain (5,895 m) and the **world's largest free-standing mountain** (which means not part of a mountain range).
- It extends approximately east-west for 50 miles (80 km).
- Also called a **stratovolcano** (a term for a very large volcano made of ash, lava and rock), Kilimanjaro is made up of three cones: **Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira.**



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- Among these **cones Kibois**, the tallest of the three volcanic formations, is also a dormant volcano, while the other two are extinct volcanoes.
- **Uhuru Peak**, the highest free-standing peak in Africa, is located on the volcanic cone Kibo.
- Kilimanjaro is also known for its **snow-capped peak**.
- **Vegetation:** The mountain has five main vegetation zones, from the lowest to the highest point: Lower slopes, montane forest, heath and moorland, alpine desert, and summit.
- The **Kilimanjaro National Park** was named a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) **World Heritage Site in 1987**.

NATIONAL E-VIDHAN APPLICATION



- It is an **online platform** designed to **digitize the legislative processes** of all state and union territory assemblies.
- It is one of the **44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs)** under the Digital India Programme of the Government of India.
- It aims to make the functioning of **all State Legislatures paperless** and integrate all Legislative Houses on a single digital platform under the vision of **‘One Nation, One Application’**.
- NeVA is a **device neutral and member centric application** created to equip them to handle diverse House Business smartly by putting entire information regarding member contact details, **rules of procedure**, list of business, **notices, bulletins, bills** etc.
- It assists the **Chair of the House** in conducting proceedings smoothly while enabling members to fulfill their responsibilities efficiently.
- The NeVA platform is **hosted on Meghraj 2.0**, India’s cloud infrastructure, ensuring robust scalability, security, and data integrity.
- **Features of National e-Vidhan Application:**



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- It provides real-time **access to key legislative documents**, such as agendas, bills, and reports.
 - The platform **features a secure digital repository**, safeguarding the confidentiality and integrity of legislative data.
 - The platform **also offers multilingual capabilities**, catering to the linguistic diversity across states and regions, making it accessible to a broader range of users.
 - Its **device-agnostic nature** allows it to be accessed seamlessly across smartphones, tablets, laptops, and desktops.
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STRENGTHENING INDIA'S STATISTICAL ECOSYSTEM

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) has announced plans to use data from the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises and the Periodic Labour Force Survey to develop a District Domestic Product (DDP) framework for more accurate, district-level economic estimation.

Context: Strengthening India's Statistical Ecosystem

- At present, India's national and state-level GDP data often fail to capture regional variations within districts.
- Most District Domestic Product (DDP) estimates rely on **top-down allocation methods**, proportionately distributing state GDP based on outdated demographic indicators like population.
- This approach has long been criticised by experts who highlighted that the current method results in "near-identical growth rates for districts," thus masking true inter-district disparities.
- Recognising this data gap, **MoSPI** announced that beginning **January 2025**, the ministry will work with state governments to introduce a **bottom-up estimation model** using detailed datasets from ASUSE and PLFS.

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Purpose and Methodology for Estimating DDP

- The integration of ASUSE and PLFS will allow policymakers to **capture real economic activity at the district level** rather than relying on extrapolated state averages.
- Key features of the initiative include:
 - **Bottom-up estimation:** District-level data will be aggregated upward to form state and national accounts, reversing the current top-down allocation model.
 - **Dual-sector coverage:** The approach accounts for both **enterprise activity** (ASUSE) and **labour participation** (PLFS), ensuring holistic measurement of economic output.
 - **Policy collaboration:** MoSPI is working closely with state governments to align data collection frameworks with local administrative and planning needs.
 - **Inclusion of informal sector:** Since unincorporated enterprises and household-level activities form a large share of India's economy, the new methodology ensures that **informal sector output** is adequately represented.

Challenges and the Way Forward

- While the initiative is promising, implementing district-level GDP estimation faces several challenges:
 - **Data reliability:** Unincorporated sector data can be difficult to capture consistently.
 - **Coordination with states:** States vary in statistical capacity and infrastructure.
 - **Avoiding double-counting:** Integrating enterprise and labour datasets requires precise harmonisation.
 - Nonetheless, experts consider this reform a crucial step toward improving the **granularity, reliability, and timeliness of economic data** in India.
 - With states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka already experimenting with DDP frameworks, MoSPI's bottom-up model may soon standardise district-level measurement across the country.
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AI'S REWRITING OF THE RULES OF EDUCATION

- India stands on the **threshold of a paradigm shift in education**, poised to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) into classrooms as early as Class 3 starting in 2026–27.
- This transformative move, **aligned with the National Education Policy 2020**, reflects a **bold ambition**: to prepare future generations for an AI-powered global economy.
- Also, it is important to **ensure the nation remains competitive in an era defined by automation and digital innovation**.

AI as a Catalyst for Educational Reform

- The integration of AI into the K-12 system is not merely a technological upgrade, it **represents a reimagining of how learning occurs**.
- AI-driven **platforms offer personalised learning pathways**, adjusting instruction based on a student's pace, strengths, and struggles.
- **Such adaptive systems can democratise education by supporting learners with diverse needs**, addressing regional language barriers, and creating more inclusive environments, a particularly critical objective in India's vast socio-educational landscape.

Teachers at the Core of Transformation

- However, **technology alone cannot revolutionise education**. With over one crore teachers nationwide, the success of this initiative hinges on capacity-building and continuous professional development.
- **Pilot programmes have already trained thousands of educators**, equipping them with AI tools for lesson planning and resource design.
- Yet, **the magnitude of upskilling required raises crucial questions**: Are teachers adequately prepared to transition from traditional instructors to AI-guided mentors?
- The answer will determine the **pace and depth** of this reform.

Balancing Technology with Human Insight

- Despite the power of AI, **human educators remain irreplaceable**.



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- **AI can automate administrative tasks** like grading and attendance, offering teachers more time for creative instruction, emotional support, and **personalised interaction**, areas where machines cannot replicate human empathy and intuition.
- **In this hybrid model, teachers evolve into facilitators of higher-order thinking**, supported rather than overshadowed by technology.

The Future Workforce: Promise and Challenge

- The integration of AI into education also **reflects broader shifts in labour markets**.
- While projections suggest millions of jobs may be disrupted, **AI could generate even more employment opportunities by 2030**.
- **Equipping students with AI literacy from early grades** ensures they are prepared not only to navigate but to **thrive in a rapidly evolving digital economy**.
- Yet, this requires not only technical skills but **resilience, creativity, and ethical awareness**.

Bridging the Inequality Gap

- One of the most compelling promises of AI in education is its **potential to expand access and equity**.
- **From generative AI tutors to multilingual learning tools, technology could help close achievement gaps** and extend quality education beyond urban hubs.
- However, **this promise is contingent upon addressing digital infrastructure disparities** and ensuring affordability, without which the AI revolution risks widening existing inequalities instead of reducing them.

Conclusion

- **India's initiative to embed AI into school education marks a watershed moment** for its learning ecosystem.
 - It **embodies aspiration, innovation, and foresight**, yet also raises critical questions about readiness, inclusivity, and ethical implementation.
 - **The future of India's education system will depend on thoughtful policy**, teacher empowerment, and equitable access.
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TAKEAWAYS FROM XI-TRUMP MEETING

- **Trump's Recognition of China's Power**
 - Trump referred to the meeting as “G-2”, equating the US–China relationship to elite global groupings like the G-7 and G-20.
 - This was seen as a symbolic recognition of China's global power, something no previous US president had done publicly — a clear diplomatic win for Beijing.
- **Controlled Diplomacy Over Confrontation**
 - Both leaders showed mutual deference and restraint, a departure from Trump's usual brashness.
 - Their conduct reflected a shared understanding of the delicate balance between the world's two largest economies and the global impact of their relationship.
- **Deal on Rare Earth Exports**
 - The key takeaway from the Trump–Xi meeting was about **rare earth exports**.
 - President **Trump announced** that China had agreed to **continue exporting rare earth minerals** for one year — a relief for global industries that depend on them.
 - In return for China's cooperation, Trump cut tariffs on Chinese goods by 10%, lowering total US tariffs from 57% to 47%.
 - This move was meant to ease pressure on Chinese businesses and encourage Beijing to compromise.
 - While the agreement eased tensions, it only postponed the core issue — China still dominates the rare earth supply chain.
 - The deal gives the US and its allies more time to diversify sources and reduce dependency on China.

Implication for India in the G-2 world

- In his first term (2017), Trump took a hard stance on China, calling it a strategic rival, strengthening alliances, and supporting frameworks like the Quad and Indo-Pacific strategy, where India played a central role.



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- Now, in his second term, Trump’s approach is commercial, focusing on trade deals and domestic investments, even pressuring allies like Japan and South Korea to invest heavily in the US.
 - After the meeting, US President left behind a sense of uncertainty about America’s future with China — the world’s two largest powers.
 - Calling his meeting with Xi Jinping a “G-2” **summit**, Trump sparked concern among allies that the US is leaning toward a China-first, business-focused policy.
 - **Implications for India and the Region**
 - For India, the message was clear: **the US focus remains on managing China.**
 - The question now is whether Trump prefers working with allies like India, Japan, and Australia (under the Quad) or handling China alone.
 - For India and other Asian nations, this marks a new phase in US–China relations — a mix of competition and cooperation.
 - **Trade Disadvantage for India**
 - After Trump reduced tariffs on China to 47%, **India now has the highest tariff rate at 50%, putting it at a trade disadvantage.**
 - This makes a US–India trade deal more urgent.
 - Until then, a US rival (China) enjoys better trade terms than a US partner (India).
 - **India’s Strategic Path Forward**
 - As Trump’s trade-driven strategy reshapes the region, India must rethink its assumptions about both American intent and Chinese ambition, while identifying space for its own strategic autonomy.
 - For India, the challenge is to navigate this shifting US–China balance with agility.
 - Delhi must:
 - Engage the US where interests align,
 - Explore economic opportunities with China where possible, and
 - Deepen partnerships with Asia and Europe to strengthen its independent position.
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WHY US SANCTIONS MATTER FOR INDIA?

- US sanctions carry real weight because they make banks, insurers, and investors cautious, cutting off access to funding and financial systems.
 - Most Indian refiners — including Reliance Industries (RIL) and public sector companies — rely heavily on the US market, banking network, and technology partners. Losing that access would seriously impact their global operations.
 - **India's Heavy Exposure to the US**
 - RIL, which buys nearly half of India's Russian oil, has subsidiaries, partnerships, and investments in the US with firms like Google, Meta, and Intel.
 - Public sector refiners also depend on dollar-based payments and the American banking system to buy crude oil, pay shippers, and insurers. Any disruption in US dollar transactions could severely hurt India's refining sector.
 - **Impact on Russian Oil Imports**
 - To **avoid secondary sanctions**, Indian refiners and banks are expected to act with **extreme caution**, likely leading to a **sharp drop in Russian oil imports**.
 - Government-owned refiners are already reviewing **compliance risks**, and **RIL** has said it will **fully follow government guidance**.
 - Some refiners may try to buy Russian oil through third-party traders not directly targeted by sanctions.
 - **India's Official Stand**
 - The Indian government has reiterated that it will **buy oil from wherever it gets the best price**, as long as the oil itself is **not under sanctions**. However, the new US restrictions on **Rosneft and Lukoil** — which supply **over two-thirds of India's Russian oil** — could **seriously limit India's access to cheap Russian crude** in the near term.
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