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### 1. Environment: NGT Notice on Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)

The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has issued a notice to the Central Government and the Uttar Pradesh government regarding environmental violations in the **Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)**.

- **What is TTZ?** A defined eco-sensitive area of **10,400 sq. km** created to protect the Taj Mahal from industrial pollution.
- **Significance:** It covers the Agra region and includes three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: **Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri.**
- **Exam Point:** The TTZ was established following a landmark Supreme Court judgment to prevent the yellowing of the Taj's marble due to sulfur dioxide emissions.

### 2. Culture: Piprahwa Buddhist Relics Return to India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a grand international exposition in New Delhi titled **“The Light & the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One.”**

- **Discovery:** The relics were found in **1898** by William Claxton Peppé in Piprahwa, UP.
- **Historical Link:** Excavated from the Piprahwa Stupa, which is identified with **ancient Kapilavastu**, the home of Lord Buddha.
- **Context:** These sacred relics have returned to India after a gap of **over 100 years.**

### 3. Defense: Indian Army Signs ₹293 Cr Deal for Suryastra Rocket System

The Indian Army has signed a ₹293 crore contract with **NIBE Limited** (in collaboration with Israel) for the **Suryastra Rocket Launcher.**

- **Innovation:** It is India's first **indigenously manufactured universal multi-calibre** rocket system.
- **Capabilities:** Precision surface-to-surface strikes up to **300 km.**
- **Special Feature:** Can fire multiple rocket types and **loitering munitions** up to 100 km from a single launcher.

### 4. Science & Tech: Wolf Supermoon 2026 Phenomenon

On January 7, 2026, skywatchers witnessed the **Wolf Supermoon**.

- **Wolf Moon:** The traditional name for the first full moon of January.
- **Supermoon:** Occurs when the moon is at its **perigee** (closest point to Earth), appearing larger and brighter.
- **The Illusion:** The "Moon Illusion" causes it to appear exceptionally large when near the horizon.

## 5. Startup Policy: DSIR Funding Norms Relaxed

The Union Government has eased eligibility for deep-tech startups seeking financial aid from the **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)**.

- **Key Change:** The mandatory **three-year viability** criterion has been removed to support early-stage innovation.
- **Funding Limit:** Startups can receive assistance up to **₹1 crore** under the **IRDPP** (Industrial Research and Development Promotion Programme).

## 6. International: World's First Legal Rights for Insects

In a historic legal move, **Amazonian stingless bees** in Peru have been granted legal rights.

- **The Rights:** Includes the right to exist, flourish, and be legally protected under a municipal ordinance in **Satipo**.
- **Importance:** These bees sustain over **80% of Amazonian flora** and are vital for rainforest health.

## 7. Telecom: TRAI Annual Report 2024–25

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** highlights massive growth in the sector.

- **Global Standing:** India is the **2nd-largest** telecom market.
- **5G Reach:** 5G has expanded to **99.6% of districts**, serving approximately 25 crore users.
- **Connectivity:** Tele-density stands at **85.04%** with over 969 million internet users.

## 8. Biodiversity: Eastern Imperial Eagle Sighted at Mudumalai

A rare winter migratory raptor, the **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, was spotted at the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve**, Tamil Nadu.

- **Status:** Categorized as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.
- **Location:** Mudumalai is located in the Nilgiris and is part of the Western Ghats.

### 9. Social Welfare: UP's First Braille Library

Uttar Pradesh has launched its first dedicated Braille library at **Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University**, Lucknow.

- **Content:** Houses over **4,000 Braille books** aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP).

### 10. Health: Huntington's Disease Awareness & BIMSTEC Training

- **Huntington's Disease:** A rare, hereditary neurodegenerative disorder caused by a mutation in the **HTT gene**. Awareness remains low in India despite its debilitating effects.
- **BIMSTEC Cancer Care:** India launched Phase-II training for BIMSTEC nations (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal) at **HBCHRC, Visakhapatnam**.

### 11. Governance: SAMPANN Portal for Pensioners

The **SAMPANN** (System for Accounting and Management of Pension) portal is streamlining pension services for **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** retirees. It ensures direct bank transfers and transparent digital profile management.

### 12. Obituary: Malayalam Actor Punnappa Appachan

Veteran actor **Punnappa Appachan** passed away at 77. Known as the “**superstar of small roles**,” he acted in over 1,000 films across six decades, debuting in 1965 with *Othenante Makan*.

### Quick Facts Table for Quick Revision

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Key Fact</b>
<b>SAMPANN Portal</b>	Streamlines online pension services for DoT (Telecom) pensioners.
<b>TRAI Report 2024-25</b>	India is the world's 2nd largest telecom market with <b>85.04% tele-density</b> .
<b>Eastern Imperial Eagle</b>	A "Vulnerable" (IUCN) migratory raptor recently spotted at <b>Mudumalai Tiger Reserve</b> .
<b>UP's First Braille Library</b>	Launched at Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow.
<b>Huntington's Disease</b>	A rare hereditary neurodegenerative disorder caused by a mutation in the <b>HTT gene</b> .
<b>BIMSTEC Cancer Care</b>	Phase-II training launched in <b>Visakhapatnam</b> for member nations.
<b>Obituary</b>	Veteran Malayalam actor <b>Punnappa Appachan</b> passed away at age 77.