

1. PM Modi to Launch 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' for Manuscript Heritage**Massive Overhaul of Manuscripts Mission**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the revamped National Manuscripts Mission (NMM), renamed as the Gyan Bharatam Mission, on June 9, 2025.

The mission, announced in the 2025–26 Union Budget, aims to survey, document, and conserve over one crore manuscripts housed in institutions, museums, libraries, and private collections.

Why the Revival Was Needed

The original National Manuscripts Mission, launched in 2003 under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, failed to meet expectations.

Digitisation Progress So Far

- 52 lakh manuscripts have been recorded in metadata.
- Over 3 lakh manuscripts have been digitised.
- But only 1.3 lakh are uploaded, and just 70,000 are publicly viewable.

A major hurdle has been the lack of an access policy, which has discouraged private owners from allowing public viewing. Notably, 80% of manuscripts in India are privately held.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: The Hindu

2. India Imposes Restrictions on Bangladeshi Exports via Land Ports**Background: A Reciprocal Move**

India has restricted Bangladeshi exports through land ports in response to Bangladesh's April 13 decision to stop Indian yarn exports via land routes, allowing them only through seaports.

New Indian Rules

- From now on, Bangladesh can export ready-made garments to India only via the seaports of Kolkata and Nhava Sheva (Mumbai).
- These shipments will undergo mandatory inspections at the ports.



- Exports through land ports in Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, and Mizoram are no longer permitted for these items.

Additional Items Restricted via Land Ports

India has also restricted the import of certain non-essential and locally producible items through northeastern land ports. These include:

- Ready-made garments
- Plastic products
- Wooden furniture
- Juices and carbonated drinks
- Fruit-flavoured drinks
- Bakery and confectionery items
- Cotton yarn and dyes

These restrictions will also apply to Fulbari and Changrabandha land ports in northern West Bengal.

Why the Restrictions?

- India accuses Bangladesh of “cherry-picking” trade policies by selectively allowing exports.
- Officials said Bangladesh has also stopped Indian rice exports via Hili and Benapole from April 15.
- The move aims to protect India’s local manufacturing, especially in the Northeast.

Strategic and Political Angle

India's decision follows a controversial statement by Bangladesh's interim Prime Minister Muhammad Yunus during his visit to China. He described India’s Northeast as “landlocked” and suggested Chinese companies could access the region through Bangladesh, portraying Bangladesh as a “gateway to the ocean”.

Impact and Significance

- 93% of Bangladeshi garment exports to India currently go through land ports, so the new policy will have a significant impact on trade.
- Indian state governments, especially in the Northeast and West Bengal, have already been briefed.
- Officials say the decision is part of a broader economic message and geopolitical response.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Bilateral Relations

Source: Indian Express

3. Perito Moreno Glacier: Once Stable, Now Crumbling

A Sudden Shift After Decades of Stability

The Perito Moreno glacier in Argentina, known for its unusual stability amid global warming, began showing signs of significant retreat around 2020. Once steady while other glaciers melted, it is now rapidly losing mass.

A Landmark of Ice and Tourism

Located in Los Glaciares National Park near El Calafate, the glacier covers 250 sq km — roughly the size of Patna, Bihar. It stretches 30 km long and rises 60 m above water. Formed during the last Ice Age, it is a major source of freshwater and a key tourist attraction due to spectacular ice calving events.



Growing Ice Calving Events Raise Alarms

Ice calving — where chunks of ice break off and fall into the water — is not new for Perito Moreno. But in recent years, the chunks have grown much larger. In April 2025, a block the size of a 20-story building broke off. According to park officials, such large-scale events were rare until just 4–6 years ago.

Recent Retreat and Scientific Warnings

A 2024 government-backed report showed the glacier has been retreating rapidly since 2015, losing about 0.85 meters of mass annually — the fastest rate in nearly 50 years. Between 2020 and 2023, it lost over 700 meters of mass.

Experts attribute this to climate change, with warming air temperatures and decreased snowfall in the region. Glaciologist Lucas Ruiz notes the glacier is now visibly feeling the delayed effects of climate change.

A Global Pattern of Glacier Loss

Perito Moreno joins a growing list of glaciers melting due to rising temperatures. A 2025 study in *Nature* found that glaciers worldwide have been losing 273 billion tonnes of ice annually for 25 years — enough to supply the global population's water needs for 30 years. This melt has already raised sea levels by 2 cm.

A UNESCO report in March 2025 added that glaciers (excluding Greenland and Antarctica) have lost over 9,000 billion tonnes of ice since 1975 — comparable to a block the size of Germany with 25 meters thickness.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Environment

Source: Indian Express

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