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# Daily News Analysis

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**WEDNESDAY, 24th DECEMBER 2025**

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## 1. Micrometeoroids and Orbital Debris (MMOD)

- **Prelims** - Micrometeoroids and Orbital Debris (MMOD)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Science and Technology (Space Science and Technology)

### Why in the news?

- The MMOD protection scheme for Gaganyaan follows internationally recognised standards, incorporating passive protective measures such as Whipple shields.

### Micrometeoroids

- **What is it?:** They are typically extremely small meteoroid particles, with sizes ranging from a few micrometers to up to two millimeters.
- **Features:**
  - They originate from collisions between asteroids as well as from comets.
  - They travel at extremely high velocities.

### Orbital Debris

- **What is it?:** They are human-made objects in the Earth's orbit that no longer serve any useful purpose.
- **Features:**
  - Originated from exploded rocket stages, satellites, accidental collisions, and intentional anti-satellite weapon tests.

### Kessler's Syndrome:

- With the increasing density of space debris, there could be a theoretical scenario that collisions between them cause a cascade of further collisions and space debris generation, eventually making space travel impossible.

### Whipple Shields:

- A **passive method of protecting satellites** from the impacts of MMODs.
- They shatter the incoming high velocity debris into a cloud of fragments and thereby protect the satellite from harm from collision with space debris.





## 2. Global Plastic Treaty

- **Prelims** - Global Plastic Treaty
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Environment (Pollution)

### Why in the news?

- Scientists urged governments to take immediate action on plastic pollution, instead of waiting for the Global Plastic Treaty to launch.

### Global Plastic Treaty

- **What is it?:** The Global Plastic Treaty seeks to create a **legally binding international agreement** to end plastic pollution by addressing its full lifecycle, from production to disposal.
- **Origin:** **United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA)** Resolution 5/14 in March 2022 launched the process, tasking the INC to deliver a draft treaty by end-2024
- **Status:** Negotiations, led by the **UNEP's Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)**, have faced repeated stalemates and **failed to finalize the text** due to deep divisions among nations.
- **Key Objectives:**
  - **Reduce primary plastic polymer production** via global caps or targets, **phasing out single-use plastics** and problematic items like polystyrene.
  - **Regulate hazardous chemicals** (e.g., phthalates, BPA) and **promote circular economy** through eco-design, recycling, and bans on open dumping/burning.
  - **Establish compliance mechanisms**, financing for developing nations, and reporting on production/imports/exports.
- **Global Stance:**
  - **High-ambition coalition** (EU, Australia, African/Pacific states) **pushes for production cuts and binding targets**, arguing waste management alone fails.
  - **Like-minded countries** (LMCs: oil producers like Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iran) **prioritize downstream solutions** (recycling), rejecting production curbs as beyond mandate and harmful to development.
  - **India aligns with LMCs**, opposing binding production caps and chemical bans without scientific backing, favoring flexible, nationally determined actions and tech/finance aid for developing nations.



### 3. Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)

- **Prelims** - Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Internal Security (Prevention of Cybercrime) & GS 2 - Citizen Centric Governance

#### Why in the news?

- India's Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) has successfully averted cyber fraud losses of around ₹660 crore.

#### Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)

- **What is it?:** It is a **risk-based analytical tool** designed to assess the likelihood of a mobile number being involved in financial fraud.
- **Launch:** Launched in **2025** by the **Department of Telecommunications' (DoT) Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU)**.
- **Features:**
  - Mobile numbers are classified into **three risk categories: Medium Risk, High Risk and Very High Risk**.
  - The risk classification is based on **multi-source intelligence- National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), DoT's Chakshu platform** and Inputs and intelligence shared by banks and financial institutions.
  - The risk assessment is **immediately shared with all stakeholders** via the DoT's **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)**.



## 4. Ghost Pairing

- Prelims - Ghost Pairing
- Mains - GS 3 - Internal Security (Cybercrime and Frauds)

### Why in the news?

- The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has released an advisory alerting citizens regarding Ghost Pairing attacks.

### Ghost Pairing

- What is it?:
  - Ghost pairing is a **social-engineering-based cyberattack** in which fraudsters secretly **link a victim's WhatsApp account to the attacker's device**.
  - This allows attackers to access **messages, media, and contacts in real time, without hacking the phone or SIM card**.
- How Does it Work:
  - **Impersonation:** Attacker pretends to be a known contact, bank official, tax authority, or government agency.
  - **Bait Message:** Victim receives messages like *"Check this photo"* or *"Your account will be blocked"* containing malicious links.
  - **Urgency & Panic Creation:** Psychological pressure through threats such as account suspension or number deactivation.
  - **Verification Trap:** Victim is tricked into approving a **WhatsApp device-linking request** or sharing a pairing/verification code.
  - **Silent Takeover:** Attacker's device is linked as a **companion device**, granting full WhatsApp access without immediate alerts.
- Key Features:
  - Neither SIM swap required nor password cracking involved.
  - Applicable across **WhatsApp, Telegram, and similar messaging apps**
  - Enables **real-time surveillance and data extraction**
  - Attack fails unless the victim clicks a link or approves pairing.



## 5. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India

- **Prelims** - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance (Corporate Governance) & GS 3 - Economy (Inclusive Growth)

### Why in the news?

- The Supreme Court has placed Corporate Environmental Responsibility within the legal scope of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

### Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India

- **Governed By:** Companies Act, 2013
- **What is it?:** Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India **mandates companies to allocate 2% of their average net profits** from the **preceding three years** toward social, environmental, and economic development activities.
- **Applicability:** Applies to companies meeting any of these thresholds in the prior financial year:
  - **Net worth of ₹500 crore** or more.
  - **Turnover of ₹1,000 crore** or more or
  - **Net profit of ₹5 crore** or more.
  - Qualifying firms must form a **CSR Committee** (with at least three directors, including one independent), formulate a **CSR policy**, and spend the mandated amount on Schedule VII activities.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Companies spend **at least 2% of average net profits** annually.
  - Unspent amounts go to specified funds or accounts, with reporting **mandatory in annual reports**.
  - The **2019 Amendment** introduced **penalties for non-compliance** (up to twice the unspent amount), and allowed contributions to central schemes like **PM CARES**.
- **Eligible Activities:** Schedule VII lists **12 priority areas**.
- **Relevance:** India is the **first country** to legally enforce quantified CSR spending, integrating corporate contributions into national development goals.